Secret Harbor
Salt Marsh Restoration
at Cypress Island NRCA

“Before, During, and (almost) After”

Note: Photos are from a variety of sources, including Herrera Environmental Consultants, Puget Sound Corps crew, and DNR staff
Project Background

- Former Secret Harbor School Property acquired by DNR in multiple transactions; last in 2008
- Building demolition: 2008-2009
- Contaminated soil cleanup: 2011-Present
- Salt marsh restoration:
  - Design commenced in Spring 2011
  - Construction commenced in Fall 2013
  - Expected completion in Fall 2014
Salt Marsh and Estuary ... Before
**Restoration Design**

- Provide continuum of upland, riparian, freshwater and salt water habitats
- Restore hydrologic connection and nearshore processes to estuary
- Restore hydrologic connection to tributary streams/wetlands
- Restore native vegetation to disturbed areas
**Restoration Planting**

- Approximately 15,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses on 4.5 acres
- Approximately 210 pounds of native seed on 2.0 acres
- Passive revegetation in salt marsh area
Dike and Fill Removal
Pond and Ditch Fill
Estuary Restoration
Estuary Restoration
Distributary Channel Construction
Stream Channel Construction
Dike Breach
Post-Construction (Almost)
Tidal Influence
Current Conditions