

# Washington Department of Natural Resources

## Whiteman Cove Restoration

### Fact Sheet

January 22, 2019

#### **History of Whiteman Cover Conversion**

In 1962, the Washington State Department Fisheries converted the Whiteman Cove estuary into a saltwater “lake” for rearing young salmon. The conversion included closing the natural tidal entrance to the lagoon with fill and installing two large culverts with structures to control the flow of tidal water into and out of the “lake” to maintain water levels. The Department of Fisheries discontinued using Whiteman Cove as a salmon rearing facility after 1970. DNR is responsible for the north culvert and the YMCA the southern culvert. A roadway, constructed over the filled entrance and isthmus is the current entrance to YMCA Camp Coleman.

#### **Culvert Injunction**

In 2013, the US District Court ordered a “Permanent Injunction regarding culvert correction” (No. C70-9213 Subproceeding No. 01- (Culverts) against the State of Washington to correct culverts located on State property to provide fish passage (language in the order excludes “tide gates” as a structure under the meaning of “culvert”). The Squaxin Island Tribe identified the culverts at Whiteman Cove as required restoration under the ruling. DNR agreed to include the culverts on the list of sites requiring correction. After an appeal by the State of Washington, the U.S Supreme Court upheld the U.S. District Courts ruling in 2018.

#### **Current Plans**

DNR, in fulfilling its obligation under the court order and subsequent Supreme Court ruling, beginning the process for the restoration of Whiteman Cove and conversion back to an estuary. Estimated timeframe to complete restoration is 2-4 years.

#### **Stake Holders:**

- Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.
- YMCA of Greater Seattle/Camp Coleman
- Whiteman Cove Property owners
- Seattle Shellfish LLC
- WS Parks/Joemma State Park

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Existing condition

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Post construction (low tide)



Post construction (High tide)