

Port Gamble Bay Cleanup CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

09/15/2016



Clean capping material being loaded onto a barge for placement in SMA-3.



Barge and crane placing clean capping material in SMA-3. Photo courtesy of Terry Moyemont.

The site is closed to the public but can be observed from the Port Gamble bluff. Be careful around the truck traffic.

This newsletter provides a weekly update on the latest construction actions. We regularly receive inquiries about work taking place in Port Gamble and the bay and welcome your inquiries and concerns. For the last few months, cranes mounted on barges have been spreading clean material (capping) onto the bottom of a portion (SMA-3) of the bay. The purpose of the capping material is to enhance the natural recovery of this portion of the bay.

The barge locations within this 61 acre area of SMA-3 are dictated by where the cover of sand is being placed at any one time. We are currently using two sets of barges for this activity, and they provide an essential role in this cleanup. We apologize for any inconvenience of noise or disruption during this time as the cleanup continues. We are ahead of schedule, and capping activity in the central bay should be done within a month. Thank you for your patience.

We recently received a question about cloudy water along the shoreline on a very windy day. We regularly monitor water quality, including turbidity associated with the capping. Best management practices are used to assure that the cleanup action meets our permit requirements. There have been no exceedances so far this season. We will be sending our water quality team to check on that location. We anticipate more shoreline turbidity as fall and winter winds arrive.

You may also have noticed that berms have been created on the old mill site. They are being built to contain this season's dredged sediments. Otherwise, the millsite work is quite quiet, as we wait for the opening of the fish window to begin subtidal dredging.

Some key planned actions during the next few weeks include:

- Vessel activity is primarily focused in the central bay south of the mill site, with daily moves to load the barges.
- In-water dredging is scheduled to begin October 17th in both SMA-1 and SMA-2.

Questions or concerns?

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