Pacific Northwest Salmon Center Belfair, Washington

Landscape Architect:	Bruce Dees & Associates
Client:	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Architect:	Miller Hull Partnership
Engineer:	ESA



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

outh Hood Canal, where the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center is located, is suffering from low (dissolved) oxygen content that threatens Wild Salmon populations. The Center is dedicated to combat this serious issue. This project will provide the public with a facility that showcases the methods necessary to support and sustain healthy Salmon habitat through a diverse group of partners.

The Center's master plan was influenced by key environmental data including hydrological modeling based upon historical high tide elevations dating back to the 1800's. The Center's framework is centered on the following four critical strategies:

- Education: A comprehensive environmental research and learning center, partnering with institutions of higher learning to provide a distinctive environmental sustainability resource serving the Pacific Northwest.
- Science: Leadership in using the best applied science as the foundation for policy and management decisions that affect Wild Salmon and their habitat, as well as the preservation of the Hood Canal ecosystem.
- Interpretation: Interactive demonstrations throughout the site of natural processes.
- Stewardship: Educating the public on how people can coexist with nature
 - to maintain high quality habitat for future generations.

The social focus of the Center's regional target audience includes school groups, families with children, day trippers and state park visitors.





1891 Pre-Dike Conditions Analysis of historical data, including the 1891 T-Sheets and aerial photographs, provided a good indication of the original extent of salt marsh and intertidal zone.

JURY COMMENTS

This project solves many environmental and habitat problems in the Hood Canal through a thorough analysis and understanding of the site. The jurors appreciated the multi-use solutions that provided for habitat improvements, estuary restoration, storm water treatment, public access and educational programs. The jury commends the landscape architect for the sensitive approach to the site, and its linkages to other open spaces.





2010 Existing Conditions Current aerial of the existing conditions show the extent of the salt marsh lost to dike construction. This is critical marshland associated with the Union River Estuary.

Post-Reclamation Conditions A new set-back dike will protect the Center facilities while increasing pre-1891 marsh limits. Wet area inside the dike will be shallow to limit access to Salmonid predators.