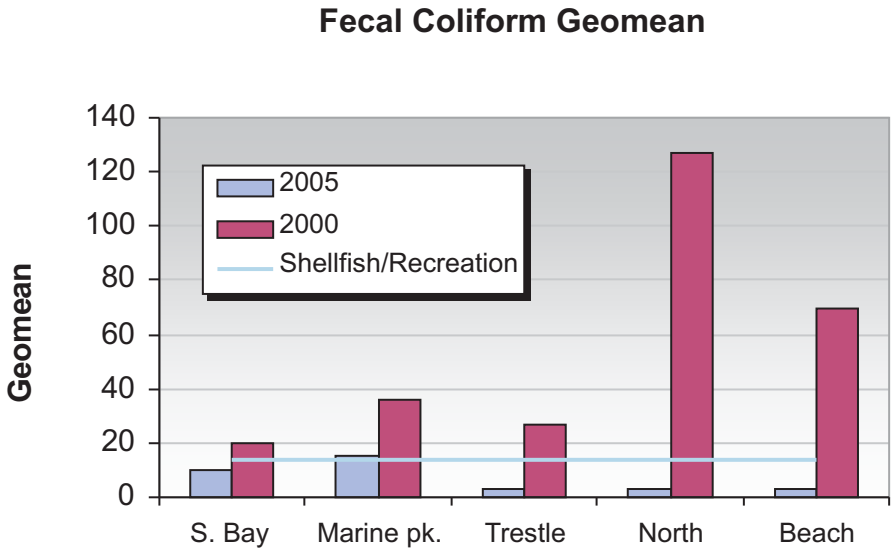

Thanks Grateful Dogs!

Fecal coliform are a type of bacteria found in the feces of warm blooded animals. While small amounts are usually not dangerous, in large doses, fecal coliform can cause illness and even death. Studies have shown that a single gram of dog feces can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria (Johannes 2005) and any fecal coliform found in Post Point Lagoon are likely the result of dog waste being washed into the basin during rain events.

Over the past 5 years, fecal coliform levels in Post Point Lagoon have dropped significantly. Partly owing to the fencing that restricts dogs from going to the bathroom in the long grass along the shores of the lagoon, and largely owing to the diligent efforts of concerned dog owners, the three sites within Post Point Lagoon (Trestle, North, and Beach) are all below state standards for recreational contact, and even for shellfish harvest!

For information contact:
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Environmental Resources
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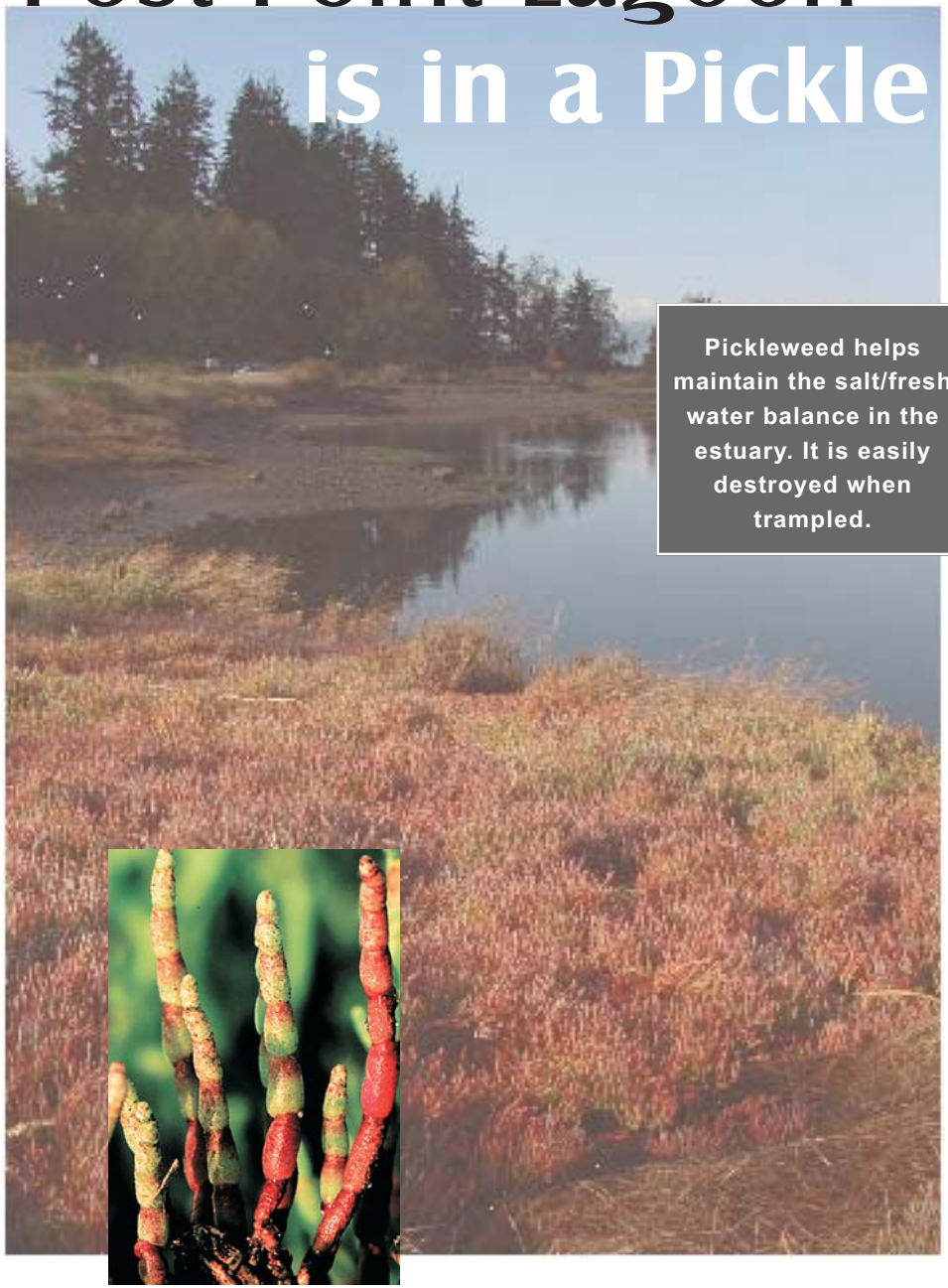
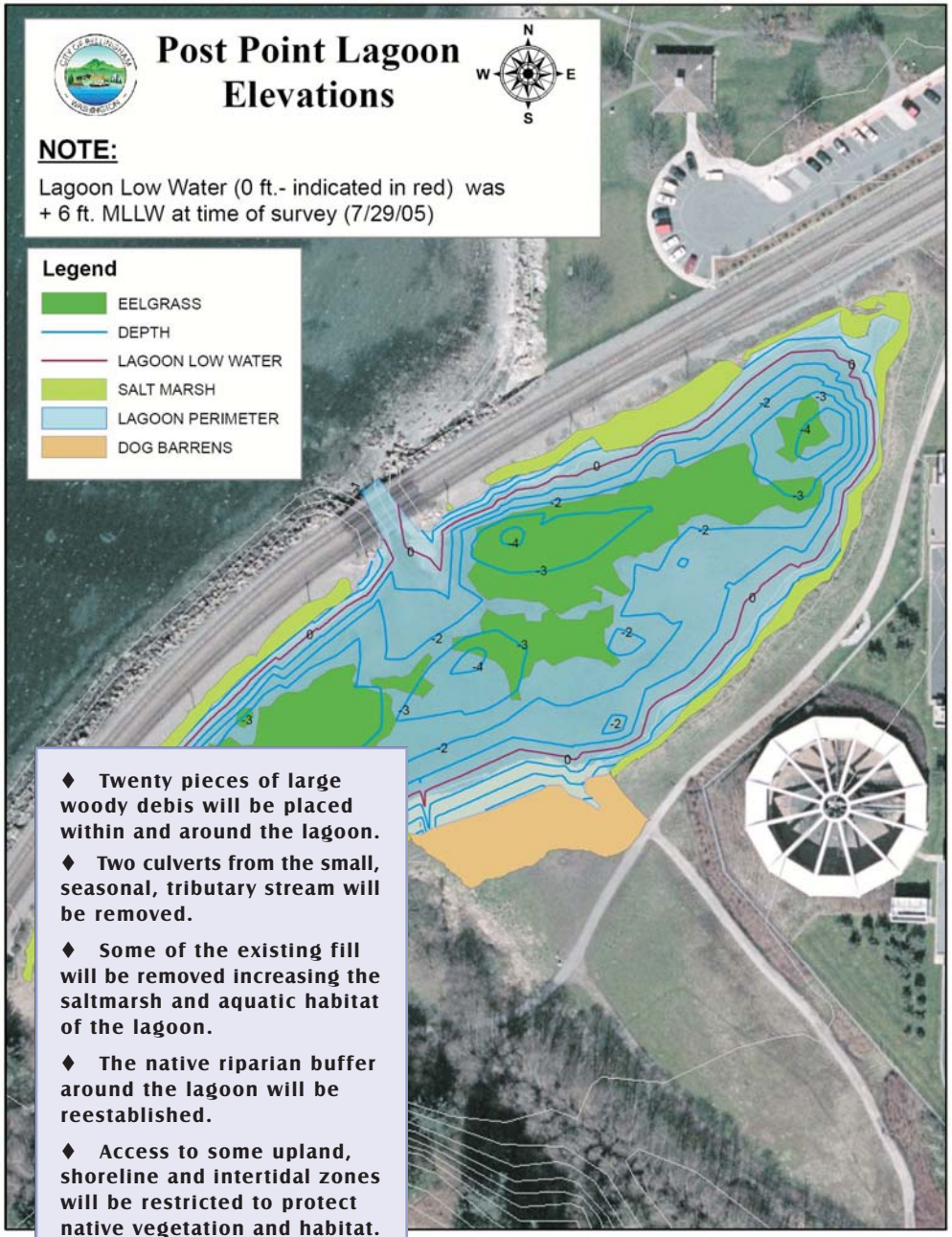
Post Point Lagoon is in a Pickle



Pickleweed helps maintain the salt/fresh water balance in the estuary. It is easily destroyed when trampled.

Pickleweed is a very important part of the Post Point Lagoon. This unique native plant adapts to the salty environment by dropping off sections of foliage that become too salty, at the same time providing beautiful fall color.



Restoration will be done in phases during 2005 and 2006. It is important to undertake this project now in order to stem the degradation and return the lagoon to a healthy, productive state while there are still salmon and heron present and habitat left to restore. The estuary habitats are critical to endangered and priority species.

We're Restoring Post Point Lagoon!

Post Point Lagoon is called a pocket estuary. The estuary is 3 acres in size and is one of seven pocket estuaries found within Bellingham Bay. Pocket estuaries are shallow, calm, shoreline areas that include those at the mouths of small streams and creeks (such as Chuckanut creek) to enclosed bays and lagoons (such as Padden lagoon). Collectively, pocket estuaries are very important to many wildlife species including several life stages of Chinook and Chum salmon. Post Point Lagoon and adjacent lands provide habitat for many species of wildlife including Great Blue Heron.

Over the last 100 years, wildlife habitat depending on the Lagoon has been severely impacted by human activity from construction of the Burlington Northern Railroad, the wastewater treatment plant, and the evolution of one of Bellingham's most popular off-leash dog parks.

Restoration will improve the ecology of Post Point Lagoon creating a healthier and more productive habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife while still allowing for recreational use. Each component of the project plays an important role:

♦ Placing large woody debris in and around the site will naturalize the lagoon and provide salmonid cover and waterfowl perches.

♦ Removing two culverts from a small seasonal tributary stream will further naturalize the area.

♦ Removing fill will increase the estuary area and habitat complexity.

♦ Planting the riparian areas of the lagoon will improve water quality as well as provide food sources for fish and birds using the lagoon. The plantings will also provide a visual screen between the lagoon and recreational areas (appealing to heron).

♦ Limiting access to some areas of the shoreline and water will lead to natural regeneration of these habitats and will reduce the disturbance to the fish using the lagoon for refuge or foraging and improve water quality.