

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

DNR Creosote Removal Program

Since 2004, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been removing creosote-treated debris from Puget Sound shorelines. DNR and its partners have removed over 3,700 tons of beach debris to help improve the quality of nearshore habitats for forage fish, salmon, birds, and other key species.

WHAT ARE WE DOING

- DNR's Puget Sound Corps Crew inventories beaches and collects reports from partners and the public.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Volunteer to walk a beach and inventory derelict creosote-treated debris.
- Report derelict creosote-treated debris to DNR. Please provide information such as type of debris, size, and location.

ABOUT DNR AQUATICS

DNR is steward of more than 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands—beaches and tidelands under Puget Sound, the coast, and navigable lakes and rivers. Creosote debris removal is a part of the DNR Aquatics Program's work to protect the environment, provide opportunities for recreation, support water-dependent businesses, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.



- Cleanup projects are developed based on the location of the debris.
- The Puget Sound Corps Crew hand haul debris to a main location where it is either transported via ground, air, or sea to a disposal container.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT

Creosote has been used as a wood preservative for more than a century to treat telephone poles, railroad ties, piers, docks, and floats. These materials break up over time and end up on shorelines across Puget Sound. Creosote is made of up hundreds of chemicals that can be harmful to marine species and people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/restoration/creosote-removal>

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