

# THE DERROR STORY

## Shore Friendly Kitsap: Past Participant Positivity

### The Details

In 2017, Lee Derror became a part of the Shore Friendly Kitsap program. Her Dyes Inlet property had a creosote piling bulkhead that stood like a stockade along 90 feet of beach. It needed to be removed to ensure a healthier ecosystem and sustainable environment. It has been three years since the completion of the project and Lee joined us recently to share her thoughts on the process of her project and life now that she has a restored shoreline.

#### The Four Part Project:

- Removing the creosote pilings
- Building a buffer to protect neighboring properties
- Disposing of toxic creosote pilings
- Revegetating the upland shoreline buffer



Before: 2017



During: 2018

### Q & A:

#### Q: What do you value and enjoy most about your completed project?

A: There are two things. One, removing the toxins from my beach. The smell was terrible and it really wasn't healthy. Two, the removal of the barrier between my beach and upland property. Now it's a natural transition, instead of a barrier. I am able to take my kayak out to the water without trouble.

#### Q: Has the project met your expectations?

A: Yes, it totally met what I had dreamed of happening. I grew up without the bulkhead here and I feel like now my beach is what I remember as a child. Before the project I did not feel comfortable inviting people over to enjoy my beach because of the toxins in the bulkhead. Now, the neighborhood kids come to visit and enjoy my beach.

#### Q: Do you have advice for new participants?

A: Educate yourself! With every person I talked to during the project, I learned something. I waited until I found a contractor who was passionate about restoring the shoreline, not just in it for the money.

#### Q: Have you observed any changes on the beach such as wildlife or fish?

A: Since the project I have seen more eagles and kingfishers, but I think that is bigger than just my property. I think all these projects add up to the sum of what we see now. Making small, positive changes add up. The total impact will be a big benefit.



Now: May 2020

*"My dream was that my beach would be restored to a natural habitat for wildlife and people to enjoy. The project totally met what I had dreamed of happening."*

*-Lee Derror*

