

5.3.9 *West Vashon Island*

The subarea covering western Vashon Island includes a series of mostly large drift cells that converge on the Sandford Point and Tahlequah areas; a northern drift cell extends from just north of Lisabuela to just north of Sunset Beach (see Map 2). This subarea is characterized by long stretches of unarmored feeder bluffs with extensive marine riparian vegetation, with concentrations of houses along the shoreline that have armoring and little vegetation. Along the subarea, in various places, there are several small stream mouths that are unarmored and well-vegetated. Christenson Creek, which flows into Puget Sound just south of Lisabuela in the central portion of the subarea, is one of only three documented salmon streams on the islands (WDFW 2002). However, other creeks in this subarea may be periodically utilized by salmon and the creek mouths of all tributaries, particularly those that are not in pipes, may be utilized by juvenile salmon migrating and rearing in the nearshore. In the southwest side of the subarea, there is a long stretch of relatively unaltered habitat that may be the longest stretch like this in the project area, but nearing the Tahlequah Ferry Terminal, armoring is nearly continuous along the south shoreline of the island.

5.3.9.1 *Habitat Needs and Goals*

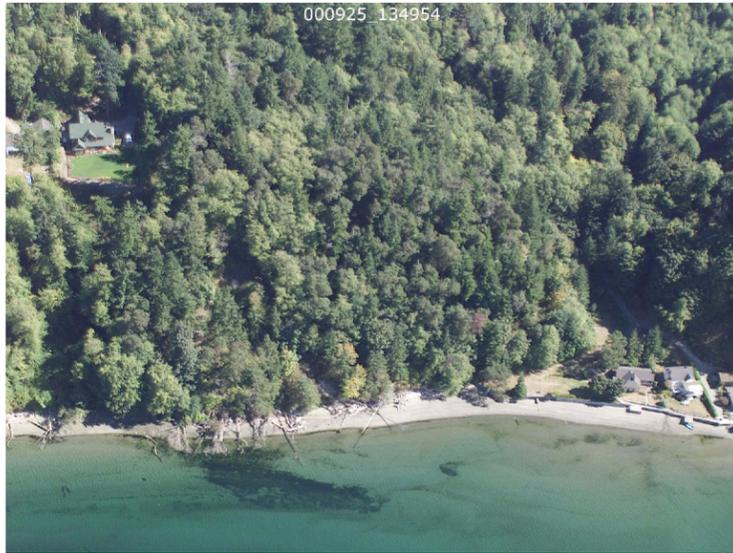
Habitat quality is relatively high within a subarea with long drift cells. Thus, key needs for this area are to conserve the unarmored and vegetated quality of the shoreline, both for sediment transport and for migratory corridors. Additionally, goals are to protect the existing tributary mouths for salmon use and feeding opportunities.

5.3.9.2 *Priority Recommendations*

Habitat recommendations in this subarea include the following (Map 15).

- *Conserve* unarmored feeder bluffs, intact riparian vegetation, and LWD across the intertidal zone in the southern portion of the subarea. This is the longest almost continuously unarmored shoreline in the project area. This reach provides sediment to the updrift end (start) of an extended drift cell. This is a priority for the entire project area and is identified in Section 5.2.

- *Conserve/Rehabilitate* the unarmored feeder bluffs, intact marine riparian vegetation, and LWD in the area south of Lisabuela at Christensen Cove, and in the north end of the subarea.
- *Conserve* existing unarmored tributary mouths and associated marshes. These small tributaries provide high functioning habitat and contribute organic matter and nutrients to the aquatic food web.
- *Restore* the outlet of Camp Sealth Creek by daylighting the lower reaches and/or the tributary mouth.
- *Restore* the mouth of Tahlequah Creek by reconfiguring or daylighting the outlet from a residential bulkhead.



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West Vashon Island
 This subarea contains two long drift cells and several shorter ones. There are many small tributary mouths in the subarea. Sediment transport and riparian zones should be conserved and rehabilitated to maintain quality migratory corridors.

Conserve unarmored bluffs, LWD, and marine vegetation
 Protect areas with high quality sediment transport potential and migratory corridor conditions.

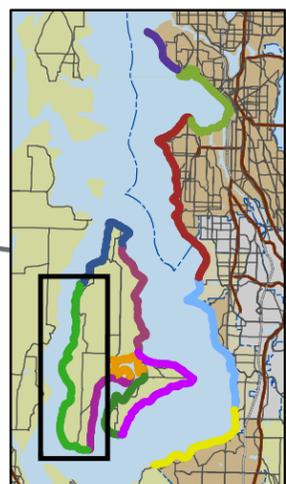
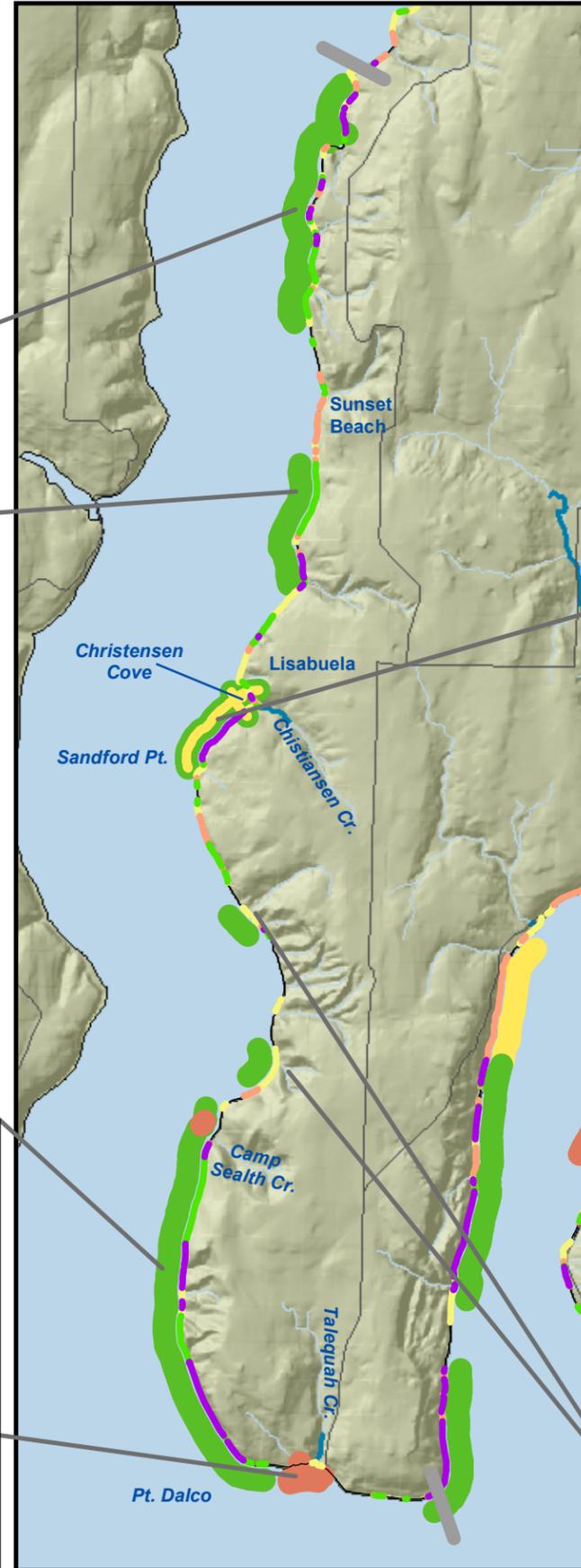


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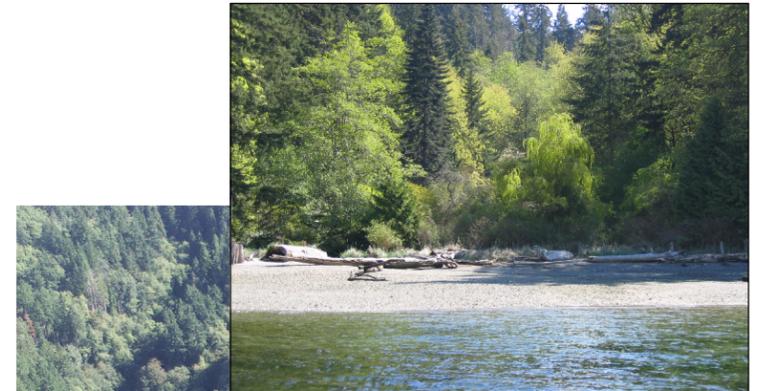
Restore Tahlequah Creek mouth
 Reconfigure or daylight the outlet from a residential bulkhead.



Conserve and rehabilitate riparian zone near Lisabeula
 The creek channel and riparian vegetation are generally intact at the creek mouth near Lisabeula. Conservation of these features would maintain current habitat function. Rehabilitation of the riparian vegetation to the north of the creek would improve habitat conditions.



Legend	
Subarea Recommendations	
	Conserve
	Conserve/Rehabilitate
	Rehabilitate
	Restore
Model Results: Current Function	
	0% - 40%
	40% - 60%
	60% - 80%
	80% - 90%
	90% - 100%



Conserve small creek mouths
 Several small creeks with small marshes and intact riparian vegetation provide good habitat. These areas also contribute organic matter and nutrients to the aquatic food web.

