

Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson

I will be brief, the points I want make are to aid in giving a broad historical perspective to the matter of what we humans can do to create a viable resilient place in which to live.

The restoration of the Edmonds Marsh to an estuary is a localized regional opportunity, a rare one, to restore an estuary and maintain an existing coastal marsh on the shore of Puget Sound. It is a chance to perpetuate a portion of the remarkable ecosystem which Captain Vancouver encountered when he sailed into what is now known as Puget Sound, a place that still bears the name he gave it. The region is much different now than when he sailed into its waters in the late 18th century. Americans from the east of the nation began to settle the area in the mid 19th century have transformed it. The coastal wetlands function now as they did in the 18th century but now are even more significant for human well-being as there are so few of them; they store even more carbon than our precious forests. The economy of Edmonds is made robust by visitors, many of whom are attracted by the opportunity to visit the natural areas adjacent to the city to watch birds or just enjoy the natural spaces. When considering the economic investment in rehabilitating the land contaminated by petrochemical enterprise, there is much that is relevant to consider.

Consulting with people of the tribes who lived and pursued their livelihood in the Edmonds area when the Europeans arrived and began to settle is important also. They live in the area today and have an interest in the ecological health of the coasts of Puget Sound which are still important to them as fishing is important to their economy. Their opinions and suggestions are important to planning for the future of the Edmonds wetlands.

Chevron reaped considerable income from the use of their Edmonds property from the bulk fuel terminal and asphalt factory, is it unreasonable to ask them to be responsible for the population of the land from which they realized their income.

The solution offered as an alternative to restoration, capping the property, could only be successful if climate change were arrested and sea-level rise averted, which is unlikely. Rehabilitation is suggested by scientific study.

Puget Sound is a bountiful region, one that has sustained human population well for many generations. The ecosystem has suffered great damage since the 1850's, we humans need to take care of it if it is to continue to sustain us.

