

County: Clallam  
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PROJECT TITLE: West Elwha Beach Stewardship Summary Report

DELIVERABLES FOR TASK NO: 2.2

YEAR ONE SUMMARY REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

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## West Elwha Beach Stewardship

### Introduction

Since 2015 Clallam MRC has been involved with maintaining the West Elwha Beach through removal of marine debris and sponsoring a Sanikan and a dog waste facility. The marine debris removal commenced in 2015 after the City of Port Angeles banned the Fourth of July fireworks in the city. Beach cleanups were conducted in 2016-18 but discontinued in 2019 as no firework debris was found in 2018.



In 2016-18 the Clallam MRC members selected the West Elwha Beach Stewardship as a project for the summer intern program and most of the survey work was carried out by the interns. In the spring of 2019 the Clallam MRC members decided not to include the stewardship as an intern project. The primary reason for this was that the members felt that enough information on beach usage had been collected by the previous interns and, if continued, the survey effort should be “taken to the next level” which would be beyond what could be expected on a “running start” or undergraduate college student.

Clallam MRC has continued to sponsor and maintain the Sanikan and dog waste facility through the 2021-22 grant period. The large sign that Clallam MRC installed in winter 2017 is still displayed at the entrance to the beach.

**Figure 1.** Informative sign at the entrance to the West Elwha Beach sponsored by Clallam MRC.

This report summarizes the stewardship efforts conducted by Clallam MRC at the West Elwha Beach from October 2021 through September 2022.

### Sanikan, Dog Waste Bins and Bag Dispenser



The Clallam MRC decided in 2017 to sponsor a Sanikan, two dog waste disposal bins, and a dog waste bag dispenser to meet the demand on high volume days, and also to reduce the distance to waste facilities and thereby encourage the visitors to use the facilities instead of leave waste on the beach and in the bushes. The initial facility only included one dog waste bin (Figure 2), but after tracking the waste disposed in the spring of 2017 Clallam MRC decided to install a second bin.

**Figure 2.** Sanikan, dog bag dispenser and dog waste bins installed by Clallam MRC.



During the summer of 2022 the bag dispenser had to be replaced due to lock mechanism being broken and the plastic being broke down by weather. In August, MRC Chair Tim Cochnauer installed the new metal bag dispenser. The new dispenser holds up to 4 boxes of waste bags verses the two in the old one. This means less chance of running out.

Due to vandalism we had to replace our sign. We purchased two so in the unfortunate event there is more vandalism we don't have to wait over a month for a replacement.

### **Dog Waste Bag Usage**

During the one year approximately 6,800 bags were distributed and assumed used by dog owners. The dog waste bins get emptied every Friday. The employee of Bill's Plumbing, who has maintained the Sanikan and dog waste bins, has stated that "The Sanikan is well used, but not to the point of being unsanitary." Clallam MRC staff has received several positive comments when servicing the bag dispenser including "the beach looks much better now" and "thank you for maintaining the bag dispenser."

**Figure 3.** New dispenser and sign.