A Climax Community is a community in which populations of plants or animals remain stable and exist in balance with each other and their environment. A climax community is the final stage of succession, or the gradual and orderly process of change in an ecosystem brought about by the progressive replacement of one community by another until a stable climax is established, remaining relatively unchanged until destroyed by an event such as fire or human interference. (http://www.thefreedictionary.com)

The invasive species I encountered with this project as far as plants and animals were ferns, American crows, mourning doves, sparrows, ferns, & scotch broom. I discovered also that a lot of others found a lot of finches, fir trees, and swallows. In Belfair we have lots of clubs that are working on helping the environment doing things as far as trash pickup and recycling.

The Pacific Northwest salmon center has various habitat restoration projects, for example the Union River Estuary Restoration project. This project is in partnership with Washington State Fish and Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Office and United States Fish and Wildlife, they are working to restore 52 acres of previously filled estuary habitat. This project is extremely important for younger salmon. They require shallow, protected waters to hide from predators and the strong currents during migration. The estuaries provide a place where the younger salmon and adult salmon can transition back and forth from saltwater to freshwater. This project helps restore the last significant estuary in the southern portion of Hood Canal. It has been going on since September of 2012. (http://pnwsalmoncenter.org)

The problem is that 53,000 square meters of area has been burned. Most of the plant life is dead and covered in soot and ash. But the plant life is slowly but surely coming back to life. There has been a noticeable increase in the grass growth throughout the area. Compared to my other classmates in further away areas I found more common animal species, the people that researched further away found animals such as an Owl & a Blue Heron. Compared to the animals I found that you can tell what area the species would be in if you were given the name of that species and an overview of our map. The Owl would be found in the deeper part of the woods and the Blue Heron would be not too far from water.

To start over and restore this area we would need to help it grow by possibly planting seeds and trees in the area that won’t become extremely invasive and suffocate other wildlife. We can also get to know the species of plants and animals better in the area and possibly introduce new species to the area. A good idea to help pollinate and spread more plant life to the area would be to start a bee farm. We can install artificial bee hives throughout the area that can be maintained by students in a science class possibly. This could also result in a bee keeping club to help maintain it and learn more in depth research about the species. This would be a big benefit because more species would come to the area & help restore it. We could also build a small pond and introduce some amphibious creatures to it. This would add to the life cycle of the area. We could ask local businesses for donations to help since it would benefit the community and they can also help in the building process. McClendon’s hardware could donate or give a discounted price or we could even have a fundraiser to get supplies for volunteers to help build. Owl & bird houses would help benefit the species that are in the area also. We can use this to study how they are regenerating after the area was burned & also help them strive.

The data was collected by walking out to the area and doing observations and taking down data. We lied down “soot trays”, which are just metal plates covered in soot from smoke. I specifically observed a track on my tray which could’ve been something from a small bird to a squirrel. The differences in our soot spots were determined by how far into the burned area we went, the plant life around it, and what species of animals are attracted to those plants. This project could help the burned environment dramatically and it’s a very possible.

Works cited

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