

Local volunteers and Army Corps team up to prevent beach erosion Nov. 16



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SEATTLE—More than 50 volunteers planted dune grass Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Westport Jetty.

On Nov. 16, volunteers from the Surfrider Foundation and the local community were out in force to plant nearly 60,000 dune grass sprigs.

The Corps has been working in partnership with the Port of Grays Harbor, State of Washington and Westport to manage the placement of maintenance dredged material for a long-term solution to erosion near the south jetty.

In 1993, winter storms gouged a 500-foot breach between the south jetty and the adjacent south beach shoreline. In 1994 the Corps filled the breach with 600,000 cubic yards of sand as a temporary fix while engineers and scientists looked for the best long-term solution. The Corps finished constructing a 1,900-foot revetment extension at half Moon Bay in March 1999, and placed dredged material for beach nourishment to bury the rock revetment there that summer. Since then, the Corps has performed annual nourishment of the beach in conjunction with routine dredging.

The Corps also built a wave refraction mound—a strategically placed pile of large rock at the east end of the jetty—to reinforce the end of the jetty against wave damage.

Thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers, the once barren Westport breach fill is rife with dune grass.