



Sand Flat

Wet Gravel

Dry Gravel

Low Tide Area

High Tide Area

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Common Animals and Plants

Acorn Barnacle (C): Small, high intertidal zone.

Bay Shrimp (SF): Fast, hides under sand surface.

Burrowing Sea Cucumber (SF): Small (4"), lack tube feet, burrow under sand, skin has small hooks.

Butter Clam (WG): Withdraws siphon, to 6", eaten¹.

Fat Gaper Clam (WG): Horse clam, to 3 lbs, eaten¹, host for small pea crab.

Geoduck Clam (SF, WG): Eaten¹, to 20 lbs/150 yrs.

Graceful Crab (SF): Small, common, predator.

Great Blue Heron (SF): Common, shoreline hunter.

Light Edged Ribbon Worm (SF): To 12", predator.

Littleneck Clam (WG): Mid-tide, eaten¹, shallow.

Manila Clam (WG): Common, non-native, eaten¹.

Moon Snail (SF): Common, large predator on clams.

Nuttall's Cockle (SF): Big foot, eaten¹, surface.

Pigeon Guillemot Nests in hillside, feeds offshore.

Red Rock Crab (SF): Eaten¹, mid-sized, predator.

Sand Dollar (SF): Surface, like flat sea urchin.

Sandworm (SF): Mid-sized, burrows, predator.

Sea Lettuce (C/WG): Green seaweed, eaten¹.

Shore Crab (C): Small, under rocks.

Staghorn Sculpin (SF): Eaten by birds, has horns.

(1) Eaten by humans, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife license required.

Directions: North on East Bay Drive which becomes Boston Harbor Road, seven miles to park entrance, turn left to park.

Good Beach Behavior: The beach is managed by Thurston County, obey all laws. A beach or rock is someone's home, avoid stepping on sea critters, only turnover rocks the size of your head and return them to their original position. Avoid handling animals - watch and learn instead. Do not disturb birds and mammals.

Burfoot County Park Habitats: A **Sand flat (SF)** is a three dimensional habitat with organisms both on top and underneath. **Cobbles (C)** are scattered around mid-tide with barnacles on their surface. **Wet gravel (WG)** area contains clams and other burrowing animals. **Dry gravel (DG)** lacks organisms except for sand fleas eating washed up seaweed, a few barnacles and local areas used annually as spawning beds for Surf Smelt and Sand Lance.

Protect marine organisms by:

- *Proper disposal of pet waste
- *Using organic lawn care products
- *Annual septic tank inspection
- *Keeping pollutants out of storm drains

Remember - all water flows downhill to streams and estuaries.

More information at www.streamteam.info

Find out more about local marine animals and plants at: www.pugetsoundsealife.com

Photographs and text by David W Jamison.



at **Burfoot County Park**



Located: North of Olympia on the east side of Budd Inlet near Dofflemeyer Point.

What to Do?: **Low tide -** Proceed to beach by trail from lower parking lot. Gaper (Horse) clams can be dug (need license) from cobble/gravel area at base of berm. Hunt for variety of marine plants and animals on sand flat. Watch sea birds nesting in local cliffs (do not disturb).

High Tide - Watch gull and other sea birds feed. Wade in shallow water observing small fish and shrimp.