

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – JANUARY 9, 2011**

As required under Task 2 of the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustee Long Term Site Stewardship Project, this memorandum reports on the progress of the project for the previous month. This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for violations of CERCLA.

**I. GENERAL SITE OBSERVATIONS**

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT EACH SITE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Per the scope of work, the City coordinated work with both the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) and Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB). In accordance with the project schedule, bi-monthly site monitoring visits were conducted in December by CHB staff and/or volunteer site stewards. The City requested a modification to the monitoring schedule in the Year 3 Annual Report and is currently awaiting response.

Specific observations or other actions taken at each site during the reporting period are noted below.

**Yowkwala:**

- Site visit conducted: December 9 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Most of the plants from the November planting in the trail head area appear to be doing well with the evergreen huckleberry noted as doing particularly well, along with the Oregon grape, shore pine and salal.
- The dune grass planted at the marina end of the site is quite healthy and has grown considerably.

**Skookum Wulge:**

- Site visit conducted: December 9 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Recent plantings in the south uplands generally seem to be doing well, particularly the tufted hair grass and the salt grass.
- Some ivy is sprouting back through the newly placed jute mat at the south end.
- The coastal strawberry in the north uplands has spread considerably and is doing very well. The Oregon grape and snowberry in the north uplands are also doing notably well.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep.

**Squally Beach:**

- Site visit conducted: December 9 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- The knotweed continues to be a problem at the north end of the site. The presence of the knotweed has impacted the survival of the recent plantings in the area.

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- Some of the dune grass planted at the toe of the slope has survived.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep.

**Mowitch:**

- Site visit conducted: December 17 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Minor amounts of common tansy, blackberry, and reed canary grass were noted and some invasive removal is needed.
- Two small patches of phragmites were identified that require removal.
- The snowberry, lupine, roses, willow and most of the conifer species appear to be doing well.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep.

**Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:**

- Site visit conducted: December 17 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Some invasives are present including reed canary grass and blackberry.
- Many young conifers were noted as volunteering on the west hill.
- Most of the plants installed by CHB and EarthCorps in November appear healthy.
- Some rabbit herbivory on the new plantings was noted.
- Sword fern, snowberry, trailing blackberry, alder, Douglas fir, spruce and shore pine at the site are all doing notably well.
- The WCC transplanted some native plants out of the vehicle turnaround area.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep at the site.

**Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:**

- Site visit conducted: December 13 (CHB).
- Overall the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Some invasives were noted including common tansy, blackberry, reed canary grass and St. John's wort.
- Recent plantings show mixed success with most shore pines doing notably well, while planted roses and Oregon grape are alive but not flourishing.
- The grasses and blackberry along the boatyard fence should be cut back to allow the roses to grow.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep at the site.

**Middle Waterway – Simpson:**

- Site visit conducted: December 13 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- In general, recent plantings are doing very well.
- Some invasive species are present including blackberry.
- Plants noted as doing well include coastal strawberry and red-flowering currant.
- The WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep at the site.

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**Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:**

- Site visit conducted: December 3 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy with some winter die-back.
- Invasive species noted include St. John's wort and minor amounts of tansy ragwort.
- There continues to be some herbivory on the small shrubs, particularly the roses.
- The GED in the triangle area still needs to be removed. Part of the netting has fallen down and the plants are growing through it. Damage to those plants during removal is a concern.
- Plants noted as doing well include shore pine, snowberry, roses, willows and Oregon grape.
- Many of the willows along the embankment at the Olympic View Triangle have had their roots exposed due to ongoing erosion.
- CHB conducted a volunteer planting event on December 3. Thirteen volunteers and an EarthCorps crew worked with CHB staff to plant approximately 200 shrubs and placed mulch rings around the new plants. Goose exclusion fencing was also installed in the new planting area in an attempt to deter rabbit herbivory.
- The WCC performed invasive removal with a focus on St. John's wort in the area to be planted on December 3.

**Tahoma Salt Marsh:**

- Site visit conducted: December 9 (CHB).
- Overall the vegetation is doing well with some winter die-back.
- Invasive species noted include blackberry and reed canary grass.
- The southeast end of the marsh which was planted in April 2011 is showing moderate success with 4 gumweed, 50+ tufted hairgrass and 40+ salt grass observed in the planting area.
- Species noted as doing well include spruce, Oregon grape, shore pine, black twinberry, red-flowering currant, Douglas fir and ocean spray.
- Some of the goose exclusion fencing is falling down and could be removed.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep at the site.

**Swan Creek:**

- Site visit conducted: December 17 (CHB).
- The vegetation was noted as doing well with some winter die-back.
- Invasive species noted include blackberry and reed canary grass.
- The on-site beaver continues to be active with at least three trees down next to Channel A.
- Species noted as doing well include Oregon grape, Douglas fir and Western red cedar.
- Wood was laid down following the chain and bollard fence as a visual barrier.
- A few live and several dead salmon were observed in the creek near the Channel A diversion area.

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- The large pile of wood and debris from the adjacent LRSS site demolition is still present.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep focused on blackberry and ivy.

**II. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES**

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

- Specific site work activities are described above in Section I.
- The ESP Coordination Meeting with CHB was held on December 6.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD**

- ESP Coordination Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month.
- Work with CHB on development of their 2012 Annual Work Plan and schedule for community involvement activities.
- In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16, CHB is proposing a community involvement event including trash pick-up along the eastern shoreline of Commencement Bay at Yowkwala, Skookum Wulge, and Squally Beach.
- Discuss any proposed modifications to the Year 4 work plan pending Trustee review and approval.
- Continue to coordinate WCC work to complete routine maintenance at all of the sites and implementation of the proposed 2012 Task List.

**DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES SUBMITTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

- There were no deliverables during the reporting period.

**DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD**

- The Year 4 First Quarter Report is due on January 31.

**PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**

- There were no new problems identified during the reporting period.

Copies submitted as follows:

Jennifer Steger, NOAA (1 via electronic mail, 1 via U.S. Mail)  
Gail Siani, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)  
Jeanine Riss, Citizens for a Healthy Bay (1 via electronic mail)  
Kira Lynch, EPA (1 via electronic mail)  
Kris Flint, EPA (1 via electronic mail)  
Jason Lehto, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)