

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 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, monthly site monitoring visits were conducted in August by City staff. These inspections included the required bi-annual photo documentation. Photos will be presented in the Year 3 Annual Report scheduled for submittal in October. Please note that some of the photo locations were adjusted to accommodate missing photo points or growth of vegetation. Photos were taken to best replicate the field of view of previous photos. Specific observations or other actions taken at each site during the reporting period are noted below.

Yowkwala:

- Site visit conducted: August 10 (City).
- Some drought stress was noted throughout the site.
- Of the new plantings in the trailhead and backshore areas, the shore pine and Oregon grape are doing the best.
- A number of fire pit areas (4-5) were observed, and the party house area has been reconstructed but was subsequently removed by the WCC.
- Much of the GED around the recent plantings has been torn down by others.
- The trail is more overgrown than before including some encroachment by poison oak.
- The WCC performed pepperweed and trash removal.

Skookum Wulge:

- Site visit conducted: August 10 (City).
- The hillside vegetation on the north end is not establishing very well.
- The WCC placed jute mat on the recently cleared south end where the ivy was removed. A small amount of additional jute mat is needed in one area.
- Some ivy and blackberry are sprouting back through the newly placed jute mat at the south end.
- A small area at the south end was cut/cleared to allow the tide to move into a small back marsh depression area.
- A small amount of herbaceous vegetation is establishing on the cut/eroded face at the center of the site.
- The WCC performed a pepperweed, morning glory, and garbage sweep and injected the knotweed.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Squally Beach:

- Site visit conducted: August 10 (City).
- There has not been a large accumulation of LWD inside the marsh area following removal of the fencing.
- Some rose gall was noted, although it was less prevalent than last year.
- There was no indication of cord grass noted during the City inspection. The Department of Agriculture team was on site on August 30, and their report is not yet available.
- The exposed netting needs to be removed.
- The WCC did a pepperweed sweep and injected the knotweed.

Mowitch:

- Site visit conducted: August 10 and 11 (City).
- Some drought stress was noted.
- There were three areas of phragmites identified that require removal.
- Pickleweed and brass buttons are continuing to populate the raised areas out toward the island. Small amounts of salt grass are also present.
- Netting removal is needed on all of the raised areas where it is bunched up and plants are growing through it.

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: August 11 (City).
- An increased amount of reed canary grass was found on the central hill.
- Conifers at the site are doing well with lots of new growth.
- The WCC performed an invasive and garbage sweep at the site and injected the knotweed.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- Site visit conducted: August 9 (City).
- Many plants are experiencing drought stress.
- Some increase in erosion was noted between the side riparian and side marsh area.
- Fleshy jaumea is becoming well established at the site.
- Approximately 50% of the plantings in the side riparian and 80% of the plantings in the high marsh parallel to 11th St. have survived.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal event on August 13. Four volunteers worked with CHB staff to remove approximately 100 lbs of invasive species from the square riparian and the back edge of the square riparian. Species removed include blackberry, tansy ragwort, St. John's wort and white sweet clover.
- The WCC brushcut the reed canary grass and watered.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- Site visit conducted: August 9 (City).
- Approximately 90% of the recent plantings have survived.
- Some drought stress was noted.
- The GED should be removed.
- A small amount of volunteer fleshy jaumea was found in the marsh and some carex was noted near photo point 5.

Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:

- Site visit conducted: August 9 (City).
- The GED in the triangle area should be removed. Part of the netting has fallen down and the plants are growing through it, so may be damaged during removal.
- A significant amount of St. John's wort is present throughout the site.
- Vegetation in the salt marsh is light but present in greater amounts as compared to previous inspections. Scirpus, salt grass, pickleweed, orache, and potentilla were all observed.
- The WCC performed invasive removal.

Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: August 9 (City).
- Some drought stress was noted, particularly for the ninebark and willow.
- Minor erosion was noted in the area of the recent plantings.
- Six of the recently planted gumweed, carex/hairgrass on the slope were uprooted from the tide, but others are doing well.
- Many salt grass and pickleweed volunteers were observed.
- Two fire pits were found out on the island area and were later removed by the WCC.
- The WCC removed some dead alder trees and performed a garbage sweep at the site.

Swan Creek:

- Site visit conducted: August 11 (City).
- Drought stress was noted throughout the site.
- The pile of debris from the adjacent LRSS property has been pushed farther onto the site and the rope that had replaced the chain barrier is gone.
- Hop vine was noticed at the north end of the site growing with the morning glory.
- Policemen's helmet was noted on the far side of the site near the railroad tracks and on the far side of the creek.
- Willow and alder are starting to establish near photo point 1 by the bridge.
- An alder tree had been taken down by a beaver and was laying on the information sign. The tree was subsequently removed by the WCC.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

- The WCC performed an invasive sweep both on land and from the water with a focus on nightshade, yellow flag iris, policemen's helmet, and blackberry.

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 scheduled for August 2 was cancelled due to vacation and illness, but coordination continued via email and phone calls as needed.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- ESP Coordination Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month.
- CHB is planning a community involvement invasive removal event at Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh on September 10.
- Continue to coordinate WCC work to complete routine maintenance at all of the sites and implementation of the 2011 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

- There are no deliverables planned the upcoming reporting period.

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)