

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – DECEMBER 7, 2010

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, site monitoring visits were not performed during the month of November. The next required bi-monthly site monitoring visits will be performed in December by CHB or City staff as needed. Specific observations or other actions taken at each site during the reporting period are noted below.

Yowkwala:

- No required site monitoring visit or other activities were performed during the reporting period.

Skookum Wulge:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC performed blackberry grubbing over ~3,000 sq ft.

Squally Beach:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC performed blackberry removal over ~1,000 sq ft.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal and planting event at the site on November 4. A group of University of Washington-Tacoma students and the WCC (City crew) dug out the knotweed at the far north corner of the West woods, laid jute mat, and planted one shore pine and shrubs. This area was then covered with approximately 2 cy of mulch. Willow stakes were harvested and the live stakes planted on the islands along with additional shrubs. Some blackberry removal in the riparian area was also performed. The dune grass and L. sedge could not be planted during the event due to tidal conditions, and were subsequently planted by the WCC on November 8. Site history, restoration principles, and planting techniques were discussed with the volunteers during the event as well as future opportunities to participate in restoration activities in Commencement Bay.

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Mowitch:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC moved approximately 15 cy of mulch to the site on November 18, in preparation for the CHB volunteer event.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal and planting event at the site on November 20. A group of volunteers from McChord Air Force Base, other volunteers, and an EarthCorps crew removed various invasives and placed them in a pile for composting. Five different areas were then planted with a variety of trees and shrubs, and mulch was placed around the plants. Site history, Superfund, restoration principles, and planting techniques were discussed with the volunteers during the event as well as future opportunities to participate in restoration activities in Commencement Bay.

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC continued to work on removal and chipping of the alder slash, as well as cutting the stumps to ground level. One locust tree was also removed.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC completed additional planting that had not been finished at the CHB volunteer event and also performed some invasive removal.

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal, trash removal, and planting event at the site on November 13. A group of 13 volunteers and an EarthCorps crew removed blackberry and trash from the site. The site was then planted with a variety of trees and shrubs, and mulch was placed around the plants. Site history, restoration principles, and planting techniques were discussed with the volunteers during the event as well as future opportunities to participate in restoration activities in Commencement Bay.

Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC grubbed invasives at the site on several different days.
- Planning for upcoming volunteer invasive removal event is underway.
- Storm activity increased the shoreline erosion and a large area of green netting was exposed. This will be cut and removed in future maintenance activities.

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Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- No required site monitoring visit or other activities were performed during the reporting period.

Swan Creek:

- No required site monitoring visit was performed during the reporting period.
- The WCC performed blackberry grubbing over approximately 4,000 sq ft and disposed of collected debris at the landfill.

II. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- Specific site work activities are described above in Section I.
- An ESP Coordination Meeting was held on November 9, to discuss work performed during the reporting period and that planned for the next two months.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- An upcoming community involvement event is being planned for December at the following location:
 - Olympic View/OVRA – invasive removal – December 4.
- ESP Coordination Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month.
- The City will continue to work with CHB on implementation of their annual work plan and schedule for community involvement activities. The 2011 CHB work plan will be developed based on the City's Task List which was included in the Annual Report submitted in October.
- The City will continue to coordinate WCC work to complete Priority 1 tasks as identified in the approved 2010 work plan and address Priority 2 tasks as time permits.
- CHB and the City will perform bi-monthly monitoring in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

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 3 First Quarter Report will be submitted on January 25.

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PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- The City will continue to work with the Trustees to resolve issues associated with the alder thinning at the Jordan site (discussed in previous monthly reports).

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)
Lili Allala, Friends of the Hylebos (1 via electronic mail)
Kira Lynch, EPA (1 via electronic mail)
Jason Lehto, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)