

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MARCH 7, 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 WCC and CHB. In accordance with the project schedule, monthly site monitoring visits were conducted in February by City staff. These inspections included the required bi-annual photo documentation. Photos will be presented in the next quarterly report. Please note that some of the photo point locations were adjusted to accommodate tidal conditions and missing photo points. 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: February 9 (City).
- The new plantings near the trailhead and backshore area were observed to be doing generally well, with 95% survival estimated.
- Minor erosion was noted near the marina end, and a slide(s) was observed northwest of the trail.
- There was no indication of recent parties at the site, but two high school age boys were present at the site and had used the trail for access. They had brought along tools (i.e., pruners, saw, etc.) to clear the trail. We educated them about the site and asked them not to disturb any of the vegetation.
- The WCC removed the “party houses” and did a garbage sweep.

Skookum Wulge:

- Site visit conducted: February 9 (City).
- The plantings in the south uplands are continuing to do well with 95% survival estimated.
- Continued erosion of the embankment was noted and the need to salvage more plants and move them back from the top of slope was identified.
- More invasive removal is needed at the south end.
- The WCC salvaged plants away from the eroding edge and replanted them in the newly mulched area.

Squally Beach:

- Site visit conducted: February 9 (City).
- Overall, vegetation in both the marsh and the riparian area were continuing to do very well.
- A few *Deschampsia* plugs were out of the ground, but most are doing well.
- Three spartina starts were identified and removed from the areas of previous removal. Notification of this removal was sent to Chad Phillips, Department of Agriculture.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MARCH 7, 2011

- The WCC did a garbage sweep.

Mowitch:

- Site visit conducted: February 9 (City).
- Approximately 80% of the recent plantings, as well of some of the existing plants have been damaged by rabbits. It is anticipated that most of these plants will survive the damage.
- Some of the phragmites was recently dug up and removed.
- Some of the netting on the islands that is exposed needs to be removed.

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: February 2 (City).
- Some vandalism has occurred on the south hill with the damage/cutting of approximately 10 Douglas fir trees. The trees were used to make a structure similar to the one noted previously.
- A slide is continuing on the south end of the site, east of the trail.
- A firepit was found on the trail upslope from Photopoint 1.
- In continued follow-up to the significant alder thinning/cutting identified in previous reports, the City did a rough plant count for plants needed (estimated 625, 1 gallon) to fill in areas that were excessively cut. This plan will be provided to the Trustees for review and approval prior to implementation.
- The WCC grubbed blackberry from around the cottonwoods and alders in anticipation of future planting on the east side of the trail.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- Site visit conducted: February 2 (City).
- The recent plantings were doing well with some bunny damage noted. Approximately 60% of the bigleaf maple and red-flowering currant have some damage.
- It was noted that a few naturalized alders in the square marsh were now dead, perhaps due to salt water fluctuations between years.
- The WCC swept the site for invasives and garbage.

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- Site visit conducted: February 2 (City).
- Plants in both the riparian and the marsh areas are generally doing well, although some bunny damage was noted. 90% survival of the dune grass was estimated.
- Some rabbit damage to the roses was also noted, with approximately 25% affected.
- The pickleweed in the GED looked particularly good and is filling in.
- The WCC swept the site for invasives and garbage.

Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:

- Site visit conducted: February 2 (City).

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MARCH 7, 2011

- Most of the native species remain in good condition, with only minor rabbit damage identified.
- Some erosion was noted on the north, bay side of the triangle area in front of the rip rap slope, as well as at the mouth and near Photopoint 6.
- The push of gravel has extended across the mouth of the triangle area, and approximately 2-3 inches of standing water was present. DNR, City, and Ecology staff are scheduled to walk site and discuss on March 8.
- The WCC swept the site for invasives, with a focus on pepperweed removal.

Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: February 2 (City).
- The area was recently mulched by CHB volunteers.
- The Oregon grape and red-flowering currant are starting to flower.
- Some tansy rosettes were identified and need removal.
- Some sedimentation was identified near the mouth and the LWD on the west side of the opening.
- GED currently in place will be removed from established areas and used in the planting planned for April.
- The WCC swept the site for invasives and tightened the cables on the LWD.

Swan Creek:

- Site visit conducted: February 9 (City).
- Approximately 10 Douglas fir trees were planted on the island by WCC.
- The black hawthorn plants on the island were doing notably well.
- Fencing repair and debris removal from the demolition of the Little Red Smoke Shack are still needed.
- WCC performed invasive removal at the north end along the roadside and on the island.

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 February 1, to discuss work performed during the reporting period and work that is planned for the next few months.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- ESP Coordination Meetings are scheduled with CHB on the first Tuesday of every month.
- Continue to work with CHB on plans for implementation of the annual work plan and schedule for community involvement activities.
- Work with the Trustees to gain approval of the proposed 2011 Task List.
- Continue work with CHB to finalize their 2011 Work Plan pending Trustee approved 2011 Task List.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MARCH 7, 2011

- The next community involvement events are planned for April 9 and 23, and activities will consist of planting at the Tahoma Salt Marsh, and invasive removal at Yowkwala, respectively.
- Continue to coordinate WCC work to complete routine maintenance at all of the sites, and transition to 2011 COT work plan implementation upon Trustee approval.

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

- 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)