

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 10, 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 April by CHB staff and/or volunteer site stewards. Specific observations or other actions taken at each site during the reporting period are noted below.

Yowkwala:

- Site visit conducted: April 23 (CHB).
- The new plantings near the trailhead and backshore area were observed to be doing generally well, with good survival of the riparian plants noted and approximately 50% of the dune grass surviving. It was unclear whether any of the pickleweed had survived.
- There was no indication of recent parties at the site, but lots of trash was present.
- Some invasive species were observed including blackberry, Scott's broom, curled dock, thistle, and butterfly bush.
- CHB hosted an Earth Day invasive and trash removal event on April 23. Seventy volunteers removed approximately 12 cu yd of invasive vegetation and 400 pounds of trash.

Skookum Wulge:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- The recent plantings in the south riparian upland are continuing to do well.
- Continued erosion of the embankment was noted.
- Ivy and knotweed remain. More invasive removal is planned for this summer followed by a fall planting.
- The WCC did an invasive and garbage sweep.

Squally Beach:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- Overall, vegetation in both the marsh and the riparian areas were continuing to do very well.
- Knotweed continues to grow and spread near the west woods. Some blackberry, vetch and wild pea are also present.
- Some Spartina starts were identified, and the City will notify the Department of Agriculture.
- The willow stakes planted recently on the shoreline hummocks are leafing out.
- The WCC did an invasive sweep.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 10, 2011

Mowitch:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- Overall site is doing well, although some rabbit damage to recently planted plants was noted; on a few plants the damage may be to the extent that they will not survive.
- In general, shrubs are doing particularly well as compared to tree species.
- Invasive vegetation present includes: blackberry, thistle, reed canary grass, tansy ragwort, fennel, dock and Scott's broom.
- Some phragmites was also observed coming back in an area previously removed.

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- In general, the site appears very healthy.
- Invasive species present include blackberry, herb robert, reed canary grass, and Scott's broom.
- One large cottonwood tree was observed near the 8th St. entrance and it appeared that it had been moved from the trail (presumably by City of Fife).
- The City received a report from the City of Fife that there was a homeless encampment on the adjacent City mitigation site. The sheriff's office visited the site and will continue to monitor both sites.
- The City talked with NOAA representatives and understands that they have reached an agreement with EarthCorps for planting at the site to mitigate for the alder cutting that was performed last August. Forty-five plants will be planted in the affected areas in the fall.
- The WCC performed an invasive sweep along the water's edge.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- The recent plantings were generally doing well with those closest to the road doing somewhat better than those nearer the marsh.
- The largest presence of invasive species is located near the side riparian area, and includes blackberry, dock, thistle, reed canary grass, vetch, and dandelions.

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- Plants in both the riparian and the marsh areas are generally doing well, with no plant stress or animal damage noted.
- Invasive species at the site include blackberry, reed canary grass, dock, and dandelions.
- The pickleweed in the GED looked good and fencing can be removed.
- The WCC swept the site for garbage.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 10, 2011

Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- Most of the vegetation remains in good condition, with only minor rabbit damage identified.
- There does not appear to have been any additional erosion since the last inspection.
- Tansy ragwort continues to be present as well as thistle. The salt marsh continues to lack plant success in both diversity and quantity.

Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: April 9 (CHB).
- Overall, vegetation remains in good condition.
- Invasive species present include thistle, dock, tansy ragwort, reed canary grass, and blackberry.
- CHB conducted an invasive removal and planting event on April 9. Volunteers helped plant 755 emergents in the marsh, removed existing GED, and moved fencing to the newly planted areas.

Swan Creek:

- Site visit conducted: April 29 (CHB).
- Site is generally healthy with no animal damage and only very minor stress noted in two Douglas fir trees.
- Invasive species present include blackberry, thistle, dock, Scott's broom, dandelions, herb robert, and reed canary grass.
- Fencing repair and debris removal from the demolition of the Little Red Smoke Shack are still needed.
- The metal chain used to link the perimeter bollards together was vandalized and will be replaced with another material.
- WCC performed invasive removal at the north end along the roadside and an overall invasive sweep.

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 April 5, to discuss work performed during the reporting period and work that is planned for the next few months.
- City representatives attended the Trustees Public Meeting on April 12 and provided an update on the sites.
- City representatives continued to work with the Trustees to resolve the issue related to the alder cutting at the Jordan site that was performed in August. NOAA and EarthCorps representatives agreed that the planting of 45 plants in the affected areas in fall 2011 will be a satisfactory resolution to this issue.

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 10, 2011

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 to work with CHB to finalize their 2011 Work Plan pending Trustee approval of the 2011 Task List.
- The next community involvement events are planned for May 7 and 21, and activities will consist of invasive removal at Swan Creek and Skookum Wulge, 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

- The Year 3 Second Quarter Report was submitted on April 26.

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 alder thinning issue was resolved as described above. There were no new problems identified.

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)