

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

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 11, 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 June 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: June 16 (CHB).
- The new plantings near the trailhead and backshore area are continuing to do generally well, but some of the tall grass in the area could be cut back from around the plants.
- Some invasive species were observed including blackberry, pepperweed, white sweet clover, Scot's broom and curled dock.
- Poison oak is spreading into open areas.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Skookum Wulge:**

- Site visit conducted: June 16 (CHB).
- The recent plantings in both the north and south riparian uplands are continuing to do well.
- Bog rush (estimated at 10 plants) have become established in the north uplands. These plants will be watched to make sure that they don't prohibited the spread of adjacent natives.
- Continued erosion of the embankment was noted.
- Some invasive species were observed including St. John's wort, vetch and blackberry.
- Ivy and knotweed remain, with knotweed spreading some.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal event on June 27 in preparation for a fall planting. Two CHB staff members and 37 adult volunteers worked at this site and the Squally Beach site and removed a total of 4 cubic yards of debris.
- The WCC crew removed more of the ivy. Much of the area is now ready for planting and mulching. Removal of the ivy uncovered a nice back marsh area that looks perfect for some salt marsh plants.

**Squally Beach:**

- Site visit conducted: June 16 (CHB).
- Overall, vegetation in both the marsh and riparian areas are continuing to do very well.
- Knotweed continues to grow and spread near the west woods. Some blackberry, white sweet clover, vetch and wild pea are also present.

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

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 11, 2011**

- Salt grass and pickleweed are doing well in the marsh area, so it is difficult to see if there is any *Spartina* present.
- Lyngby sedge is very high and lush.
- Roses and yarrow are coming in on the islands.
- The willow stakes recently planted on the shoreline hummocks are doing well on the west island but those on the east island do not appear to have survived.
- CHB conducted a volunteer invasive removal event on June 27 in preparation for a fall planting. Two CHB staff members and 37 adult volunteers worked at this site and the Skookum Wulge site and removed a total of 4 cubic yards of debris.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Mowitch:**

- Site visit conducted: June 16 (CHB).
- Overall site is doing well, with several species blooming and the trees and shrubs looking good.
- As indicated previously, there was some damage to the recent plantings caused by the rabbits but many of the plants have survived. Invasive species noted include: pepperweed, vetch, blackberry, thistle, wild fennel and curled dock.
- Two patches of phragmites were also observed.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:**

- Site visit conducted: June 9 (CHB).
- In general, the site appears very healthy. Very minimal grow back, if any, seen on the alder stumps.
- Shrubs and conifers now in open areas are spreading – fireweed has a dominant presence.
- In areas that were thinned but canopy was maintained, invasives are not showing a presence.
- Invasive species present include blackberry, reed canary grass, herb Robert, Scot's broom, vetch, morning glory, tansy ragwort and purple loosestrife.
- Several trees along the creek have been cut down by beaver.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:**

- Site visit conducted: June 17 (CHB).
- Generally site appears very healthy and many plants are blooming.
- Invasive species present include blackberry, St. John's wort, and smaller amounts of curled dock and tansy ragwort. White sweet clover is also coming in at the mid-backshore area.
- Most all of the recent plantings are doing well.
- The salt grass, tufted hair grass and pickleweed are all very thick in the outer areas of the marsh, but the far backshore area is still somewhat more sparse.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

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

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 11, 2011**

**Middle Waterway – Simpson:**

- Site visit conducted: June 20 (CHB).
- Plants in both the riparian and the marsh areas are generally doing well with several volunteer species noted.
- Invasive species at the site include blackberry, St. John's wort, black medic, wild pea, dandelions and vetch.
- The pickleweed inside the GED does not look good while the established plants outside the GED are doing well.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

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

- Site visit conducted: June 17 (CHB).
- Most of the vegetation remains in good condition. The front portion of the Olympic View area is covered by St. John's wort, overgrowing many of the other species.
- At the triangle portion of the site, there is one area near the fence in front of the tanks where there is a considerable amount of Tansy ragwort.
- Bank erosion near P6 is continuing, and several willows have exposed roots.
- Other invasive species noted include thistle, blackberry, buttercup and sheep's sorrel.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Tahoma Salt Marsh:**

- Site visit conducted: June 16 (CHB).
- Overall, vegetation remains in good condition.
- Invasive species present include reed canary grass and vetch throughout the site and considerable thistle and some white sweet clover near P3. There is also some blackberry and dock present.
- Many of the recently planted plugs near the edge of the marsh below the east riparian area are partially exposed and dried out. It appears that some grazing by deer has occurred.
- The north/northwest sections of the marsh are quite lush with salt grass, tufted hair grass and pickleweed. There are some small patches of volunteer pickleweed on the south/southwest side.
- Some brushcutting of the grass around the shrubs is needed.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

**Swan Creek:**

- Site visit conducted: June 9 (CHB).
- Site is generally healthy with only minor beaver damage noted.
- Invasive species noted include blackberry, knotweed, thistle and vetch.
- Some brushcutting of the grass around the established plants is needed.
- Some mulch placement around the newer plants would be beneficial.
- WCC performed an invasive and trash sweep.

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

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 11, 2011**

**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 June 7 to discuss work performed during the reporting period and work planned for the next few months.
- After addressing Trustee comments on the proposed 2011 Task List, the City received approval of the list on June 27. The City will update the list and provide a copy to the Trustees to post on the website.

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

- ESP Coordination Meetings are generally scheduled with CHB on the first Tuesday of every month, however, the July meeting was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.
- Continue to work with CHB on plans for implementation of the annual work plan and schedule for community involvement activities.
- Update the 2011 Task List and provide a copy to the Trustees to post on the website.
- Work with CHB to finalize their 2011 Work Plan based on the approved 2011 Task List.
- Upcoming community involvement events are planned for July 9 and 23, and activities will consist of invasive removal at Mowitch and a shoreline cleanup at Yowkwala, Skookum Wulge and Squally Beach, respectively.
- Continue to coordinate WCC work to complete routine maintenance at all of the sites, and transition to 2011 COT Task List implementation.

**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, Third Quarter report will be submitted by July 26.

**PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**

- 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)