



**Washington State**  
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May 25, 2009

Mr. Rick Pratt  
 US Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District  
 Regulatory Branch CENWS OD RG  
 PO Box 3755  
 Seattle, WA 98124-3755

RE: SR 18: 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Maple Valley (SR 18 Jenkins Creek)  
 USACE Permit Number 1999-4-00171

Dear Mr. Pratt,

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the site on July 21, 2008 to address Year-7 (2009) performance measures. Monitoring activities included an assessment of wetland hydrology, vegetation observations, and photo documentation. This Year-6 report is being issued for compliance with the USACE Permit Number 1999-4-00171 reporting requirements.

<b>General Site Information</b>		
<b>USACE IP Number</b>	1999-4-00171	
<b>WSDOT Contract Number</b>	C6008	
<b>Mitigation Location</b>	SR 18 south of 256 <sup>th</sup> and west of Jenkins Creek, King County	
<b>Monitoring Period</b>	2004 – 2013	
<b>Year of Monitoring</b>	6 of 10	
<b>Area of Project Impact</b>	0.81 acre	
<b>Type of Mitigation</b>	Wetland Establishment	Wetland Restoration
<b>Area of Mitigation</b>	0.92 acre	0.56 acre
<b>Type of Mitigation</b>	Wetland Enhancement	Wetland Preservation
<b>Area of Mitigation</b>	4.43 acres	0.35 acre

## Summary of Monitoring Results and Management Activities

Performance Measures	2008 Results	Management Activities
Create and restore at least 1.48 acres that support wetland hydrology	Wetland hydrology observed in creation/restoration areas on 2 out of 3 visits	
King County noxious weeds will be controlled in the season they are identified	None observed	Ongoing weed control
Less than 25% cover by reed canarygrass in enhancement and restoration areas	<5% cover	Ongoing weed control
75% cover by at least three non-invasive native herbaceous facultative-wet and wetter species in the emergent wetland	40% cover with more than 3 native species observed	
25% cover by at least three non-invasive native woody facultative and wetter species in the forested wetland	55% cover with more than 3 native species observed	
25% cover by at least three non-invasive native woody species in the buffer	55% cover with more than 3 native species observed	

### Results for Performance Standard 1

(Wetland creation and restoration areas demonstrate wetland hydrology):

Wetland hydrology appears to be present in all intended wetland establishment and restoration areas. Surface observations from March 17<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> indicate that the soil surface was inundated or saturated during this period. Depth of inundation in this area ranged from 0.2 to 2.5 inches above the soil surface. Piezometer data collected from four locations within the establishment/restoration area during the last two weeks of April indicates that the water table was within twelve inches of the soil surface during this period. Based on these two data sets, it is likely that wetland hydrology was present from March 17<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Results for Performance Standard 2

(King County Class A, B and County-selected weeds controlled across entire site):

No King County Class A, B or County-selected priority noxious weeds were observed on-site, meeting the standard for Year-7. However, the following King County Non-designated Noxious weeds were observed on-site: *Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle), *C. vulgare* (bull thistle), *Leucanthemum vulgare* (oxeye daisy), and *Phalaris arundinacea*.

### Results for Performance Standard 3

(Less than 25% cover *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canarygrass) across entire site):

Aerial cover of *P. arundinacea* is less than 5 percent throughout the entire site. This cover value is below the Performance Standard threshold. The majority of *P. arundinacea* was observed in the emergent area on the southeast corner of the site.

#### Results for Performance Standard 4

(75% cover by at least three non-invasive native herbaceous facultative-wet and wetter species in the emergent wetland):

Aerial cover of native emergent species is 40 percent. This cover value does not meet the performance standard target. The dominant native species in this area include: *Eleocharis ovata* (ovate spikerush), *Myosotis laxa* (bay forget-me-not), and *Impatiens noli-tangere* (yellow touch-me-not). More than three native emergent species were observed on site.

#### Results for Performance Standard 5

(25% cover by at least three non-invasive native woody facultative and wetter species in the forested wetland):

Aerial cover in the forested wetland is 55 percent. This cover value exceeds the performance standard target. More than three FAC and wetter woody species were observed in this area which is dominated by *Populus balsamifera* (black cottonwood), *Salix* species (willows), *Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry), *Cornus sericea* (redosier dogwood), and *Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash). Woody species appear to range in height from 0.5m – 4m. The northwest corner of the site in the established forested wetland is well developed.



**Photo 1** – Woody cover in forested wetland

#### Results for Performance Standard 6

(25% cover by at least three non-invasive native woody species in the buffer):

Aerial cover in the buffer is 55 percent. This cover value exceeds the performance standard target. Dominant species in the buffer include: *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir), *Symphoricarpos albus* (snowberry), and *Mahonia aquifolium* (tall Oregon grape).

We welcome your questions or comments. Please contact me at 360/570-6640 or by e-mail at [busht@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:busht@wsdot.wa.gov) for questions about these mitigation sites.

Sincerely,

Tony Bush  
Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Program