



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 Kendal 2)  
USACE Permit Number 1999-4-00171

Dear Mr. Pratt,

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed the qualitative monitoring of the site on July 21, 2008 to address Year-7 (2010) performance measures. Monitoring activities included an assessment of wetland hydrology, vegetation observations, photo documentation and evaluations of habitat structures. 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>Restoration Location</b>	Adjacent to SR 18 westbound, west of Big Soos Creek, King County
<b>Construction Date</b>	2003
<b>Monitoring Period</b>	2004-2013
<b>Year of Monitoring</b>	6 of 10
<b>Area of Project Impact</b>	0.14 acre
<b>Type of Mitigation</b>	Wetland Establishment
<b>Area of Mitigation</b>	0.28 acre

## Summary of Monitoring Results and Management Activities

Performance Measures	2008 Results	Management Activities
Hydrology	Present	
Control King County Class A, B and County-selected noxious weeds across entire site	None observed	
Less than 25% cover <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> (reed canarygrass) across entire site	Less than 5%	
75% cover of 3 or more facultative-wet or wetter native herbaceous species in emergent area	Not assessed	
25% cover of 3 or more facultative or wetter native species in forested wetland	90% cover	
25% cover of 3 or more native woody species in buffer	90% cover	

### How is the Site Developing?

Trees and shrubs provide high cover across the site and invasive cover is low. All standards for Year-7 (2010) have been exceeded.

#### Results for Performance Standard 1

(Wetland creation and restoration areas demonstrate wetland hydrology):

Hydrology was present in all intended wetland creation areas. The areas along the north edge of the site had inundation up to eight inches deep and water-stained leaves were observed in the southwest corner of the site.

#### 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 vulgare* (bull thistle) and *P. arundinacea*. *Rubus armeniacus* (Himalayan blackberry) was observed just off-site to the west. This area may benefit from weed control, as it is the easiest way to access the site from the parking area.

#### Results for Performance Standard 3

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

Cover of *P. arundinacea* is less than five percent across the entire site. This meets the standard for Year-7. Most live *P. arundinacea* was observed in the northeast corner of the site. Large areas along SR 18 and the south side of the site had been effectively treated for weeds.

Results for Performance Standard 4

(75% cover 3 or more native emergent species):

An emergent area was not planned or planted at this mitigation site, according to the mitigation report. An addendum to the mitigation report contradicts the original mitigation report and indicates an emergent area is present on-site. However, the site does not contain a clear emergent zone. Parts of the scrub-shrub wetland contain emergent species, but there is no a cohesive emergent community. After discussion with region staff, it was decided this standard does not apply.



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

Results for Performance Standard 5

(25% cover 3 or more native woody species in forested wetland):

Cover of native woody species is 90 percent in the forested wetland. This exceeds the standard for Year-7. At least five different species were observed, ranging in height from 0.5 to four meters.

Results for Performance Standard 6

(25% cover 3 or more native woody species in buffer):

Cover in the buffer is 90 percent, exceeding the standard for Year-7. Dominant species in the buffer include: *Alnus rubra* (red alder), *Symphoricarpos albus* (snowberry), and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir).

For questions about this report or the mitigation site please contact me at 360-570-6640 or by e-mail at [busht@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:busht@wsdot.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Tony Bush  
Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Program

