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RE: Moses Lake Mitigation Bank

Dear Moses Lake Bank Oversight Committee Members,

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the mitigation bank on August 31, 2010 to address Year-10 (2011) performance measures. Monitoring activities included an assessment of wetland hydrology, vegetation observations, and photo documentation. This Year-9 report is being issued for compliance with the Moses Lake Wetland Mitigation Bank Instrument reporting requirements.

General Site Information	
Mitigation Location	Moses Lake, Grant County
LLID Number	1192723471265
Monitoring Period	2001 to 2020
Year of Monitoring	9 of 20
Total Possible Credit Available	5 Credits
Credits Released	5 Credits
Credits Used	1.409 Credits
Credits Available	3.591 Credits

Summary of Monitoring Results and Management Activities

Year-10 Performance Standards (2011)	2010 Results	Management Activities
60% or > aerial cover of woody vegetation in the interior buffer (Performance Standard 2e)	90% cover	
Cover of Russian olive \leq 55% of the baseline cover (Performance Standard 3d – Addendum to Chapter 3)	Not assessed in 2010; Evidence of recent control observed; 68% in 2008	Herbicide application (July 14–15, September 29)
50% or > aerial cover of native trees per enclosure (Performance Standard 4f)	Enclosure 1: 30% cover Enclosure 2: 40% cover Enclosure 3: 7% cover	Willow stakes planted in enclosure areas; Enclosure areas 1 and 2 fenced off with 6 ft. tall plastic mesh
Cover and area of <i>Scirpus</i> species will be estimated and reported (Performance Standard 5c).	5% cover of <i>Scirpus</i> species	
Purple loosestrife will not exceed pre-construction levels in any one year (Performance Standard 6b)	4 plants observed (and removed) during monitoring	Herbicide application (July 14–15, September 29-30)

How is the Site Developing?

Generally, the site is developing well. The interior buffer has developed very dense cover is providing an effective screen between the wetland and the Japanese Garden. Treatment to control and reduce cover of Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) is ongoing and occurred on three dates in 2010. Enclosure areas one and two were fenced off in 2010 with metal stakes and plastic mesh fencing. Willow stakes were also planted within these areas. Cover in these areas remains below the targets at this time. The emergent wetland enhancement areas are dominated by native emergent vegetation. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is continuing to germinate on site, but is being effectively controlled.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(60% cover of woody vegetation in the interior buffer):

Cover of woody vegetation in the interior buffer area (Photo 1) was visually estimated to be 90 percent. The area is dominated by native vegetation including Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and at least five other species of native trees and shrubs.



Photo 1
Woody cover in the interior buffer
(August 2010)

Results for Performance Standard 2

(Reduction of Russian olive cover to 55% or less of baseline cover):

Cover of Russian olive was not assessed via aerial photo in 2010. This will be assessed in year 10 (2011) and the results will be included in the 2011 monitoring report. Evidence of recent control of Russian olive was observed during monitoring. In 2010, treatment of Russian olive occurred on July 14–15 and September 29.

Results for Performance Standard 3

(50% or greater cover of native trees per enclosure):

The cover of native trees in the enclosure areas was visually estimated at 30 percent in enclosure one, 40 percent in enclosure two, and seven percent in enclosure three. The tree species in the enclosures include black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and water birch (*Betula occidentalis*).

Results for Performance Standard 4

(Cover and area of *Scirpus* species will be estimated and reported):

The cover of *Schoenoplectus* species (formerly *Scirpus* species) in the emergent planting zones of the wetland enhancement area was visually estimated at five percent. The area is dominated by broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*). The total native emergent cover in this area was estimated at 90 percent. The *Schoenoplectus* species observed were hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) and American bulrush (*Schoenoplectus americanus*).

Results for Performance Standard 5

(Purple loosestrife will not exceed pre-construction levels [5 to 6 individual plants] in any one year):

Four purple loosestrife plants were observed on site during monitoring in 2010. These plants were hand-pulled. A WSDOT wetland restoration crew applied herbicide to purple loosestrife on site on July 14–15 and September 29-30. With continuing weed control, this performance standard is being met. Purple loosestrife likely cannot be eradicated from the mitigation site, however, given its prevalence in the surrounding area.

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.

Sincerely,

Tony Bush
Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Program

