



Eastside Wetland Mitigation at Evans Creek



A view of Evans Creek, looking east.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will provide wetland mitigation at the confluence of Bear Creek and Evans Creek in the City of Redmond. This work is part of the Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project.

WSDOT, the City of Redmond, and local watershed groups have identified the Evans Creek mitigation site as an important wetland habitat area.

The mitigation work will strengthen the local natural environment by improving the quality of wetland habitat. Improvements will mitigate for a loss in wetlands resulting from the construction of the Eastside project.

What will the Evans Creek mitigation project include?

WSDOT will provide wetland mitigation of approximately 32 acres near the City of Redmond. This mitigation will occur on land that was previously farmed.

WSDOT will monitor this site and collect data on plants, wildlife, soil and water for up to 10 years to ensure the site is compatible with and contributes to the local ecosystem.

Why is WSDOT providing mitigation?

Through the environmental review process, WSDOT works to avoid, minimize and mitigate for all project effects. While we have avoided and minimized effects to the greatest practical extent, construction of the project will result in the loss of approximately 6.3 acres of wetlands in the Eastside project area.

To mitigate for these wetland effects, WSDOT will provide improvements at the Evans Creek site.



Vicinity map.

What are the ecological benefits of the mitigation project?

When complete, the Evans Creek mitigation site will support a variety of wetland plants and wildlife. Native plants will provide better habitat than the non-native reed canarygrass that has taken over this area, improving water quality and benefitting salmon and other species.

Evans Creek and Bear Creek contain Cedar River, Issaquah and North Lake Washington Chinook salmon populations. In fact, Bear Creek has the highest abundance of Chinook salmon of all Northwest tributaries.

Native wetland plants may include dogwood, salmonberry, willow, and native wetland grasses. Other native plant species could include black cottonwood, red alder, Western red cedar, and Sitka spruce. The project will also incorporate



The mitigation will improve wetland plant and wildlife habitat.

habitat enhancing features such as large and small woody debris.

How have resource agencies and tribes been involved in this mitigation project?

The project team worked with resource agencies and tribes to identify the Evans Creek site. WSDOT has worked with resource agencies and tribes through project design and continues to notify these stakeholders of upcoming work on the site.

What is the project timeline?

All permits for the project have been received, and work is anticipated to begin in summer 2012. Work will be fully completed by 2014. WSDOT anticipates monitoring the site from 2014 to 2024.



SR 520 staff tour the mitigation site.

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