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March 25, 2011

Ms. Gail Terzi
US Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District
Regulatory Branch
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

RE: US 101/Sandridge Road-Safety Improvement Project (Hines Marsh) Wetland Mitigation Site

USACE Nationwide Permit (23) Number 2006-1163

Other Department of the Army reference numbers for this mitigation site include: 200601351

Dear Ms. Terzi,

The Washington State Department of Transportation recently completed aerial photo analysis of the Hines Marsh Wetland Mitigation Site in order to address Year-3 performance measures. Aerial photo/GIS analysis involved determining the amount of created open water habitat. This Year-3 report is being issued for compliance with the USACE Permit Number 2006-1163 reporting requirements. This mitigation site also provides mitigation for the SR 103 – Pedestrian Path Project. A separate letter has been submitted concerning compliance with the permit related to that project (USACE Permit Number 200601351).

General Site Information	
USACE IP (23) Number	2006-1163
Restoration Location	North end of the Long Beach Peninsula, Leadbetter Point State Park, Pacific County
Restoration Date	2007
Monitoring Period	2008-2012
Year of Monitoring	3 of 5
Type of Project Impact	Wetland
Area of Project Impact	0.03 acre
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Habitat Enhancement ¹
Area of Mitigation	1.0 acre

¹ The 1.0 acre of wetland habitat enhancement mitigates for impacts associated with both US 101/Sandridge Road-Safety Improvement Project and SR 103 – Pedestrian Path Project. The impacts for both projects total 0.08 acre.

How is the Site Developing?

This wetland enhancement project was not visited by monitoring personnel in 2010, however during the visit in 2009 it was clear that removal of dead scrub-shrub vegetation had been completed. The Trumpeter Swans were present in the marsh during the 2009 site visit.

The boundaries of the WSDOT mitigation project remain unclear. This made the monitoring of the specific performance measures difficult to impossible to complete in year-1. The region has not installed posts to document the restoration boundaries.

The intended goals of the project were observed in the marsh in 2009. The work WSDOT preformed enhances the habitat for general wetland aquatic and avian species provides edge habitat where it used to be all flooded (dead) scrub shrub species, and it provides landing/takeoff and foraging/resting habitat for the Trumpeter Swan.

Results for Interim Performance Measure 1A

(Enhancement area to contain 0.4 acre of aquatic bed/open water and 0.6 acre of flooded, dead scrub vegetation):

According to the aerial photo analysis, a total of 1.09 acres of open water and dead woody vegetation were present within the mitigation site in 2009. No open water was present in this area in 2006 (Figure 1).

Results for Interim Performance Measure 2A

(Document monotypic flooded Palustrine Scrub Shrub conditions prior to implementation of the plan):

Photo 1 was taken prior to implementation of the plan from the dike on the north end of the project near the parking location.



Photo 1 Pre implementation of the enhancement

Results for Interim Performance Measure 2B

(The site will provide improved wetland function by creating a mosaic of Cowardin classifications):

According to Figure 1, mitigation activities have created additional Cowardin classes including open-water and emergent vegetation communities.

Results for Interim Performance Measure 3A

(The site will provide improved wildlife habitat by creating a mosaic of Cowardin classifications):

2009 observations of trumpeter swans and the increased amount of open water visible in the 2009 aerial photo suggest that the wildlife habitat in this areas has been improved by WSDOT mitigation efforts.



Figure 1: Comparison of amount of open water and PEM. 2006 to 2009.

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