



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

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March 30, 2015

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

RE: SR 240 Yakima River Bridge 2 Replacement
USACE NWP (23) Number 2002-4-00799

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the SR 240 Yakima River Bridge mitigation site on July 9, 2014, to address Year-3 (2015) performance standards. Monitoring activities included vegetation observations and photo documentation. This Year-2 report is being issued for compliance with the reporting requirements of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit – USACE NWP (23) Number 2002-4-00799.

General Site Information		
USACE NWP (23) Number	2002-4-00799	
Mitigation Location	Under the SR 240 bridges that span the Yakima River in Benton County	
LLID Number	1192566462529	
Construction Date	Initial construction 2007; Remediation 2011 and 2012	
Monitoring Period	2013–2017	
Year of Monitoring	2 of 5	
Area of Project Impact¹	0.47 acre	
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Establishment	Wetland Enhancement
Area of Mitigation	0.94 acre	0.50 acre

¹ Impact and mitigation acreages sourced from Amended Final Mitigation Plan SR 240 Yakima River Bridge Replacement June 9, 2011 ADDENDUM (WSDOT 2011)

Performance Standards (Year-3)	2014 Results	Management Activities
Wetland hydrology present	Present	
There will be at least one native emergent species in the emergent community. Cover of native wetland emergent species (planted and volunteer) will be at least 10% in the emergent community, or four plants per 100 ft ² .	Cover is < 5%; at least 2 native species present.	
There will be at least one native wetland shrub species in the scrub shrub community. Native wetland shrubs will achieve an average density of at least four plants per 100 ft ² .	2 plants/100 ft ² ; 3 native species present	
Wildlife presence	Deer tracks	
Class A weeds reported for eradication	None observed	
Class B and C weeds reported for control	Reed canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) present	Herbicide treatments and plantings performed on April 21, June 5, and July 21.
Reed canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) will be controlled.	Small patches of reed canarygrass present.	See above.

Site development:

The site is still struggling to become established. Cover of native herbaceous species across the site is low. Facultative and wetter species are present, indicating that wetland hydrology is present to support at least some wetland vegetative species. A delineation will be conducted in 2015 to confirm the hydrology performance standard. Shrub density is also low and has not changed much from 2013. There was excessive use of herbicide on the site at the time of monitoring. Blue dye was dripping off all herbaceous species, both native and non-native. Deer tracks were seen throughout the site.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(Wetland Hydrology):

Facultative wet and wetter species were observed during monitoring activities indicating the presence of sufficient wetland hydrology. A wetland delineation will be performed in Year 3 (2015).

Results for Performance Standard 2
(At least 1 native emergent species; cover native emergent > 10% or 4 plants/100ft²):

Cover is visually estimated to be less than five percent (Photo 1). This value is below the performance standard target. Fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*) and American speedwell (*Veronica americana*) are the only two native species identifiable. Many unidentifiable species are emerging.

There are no signs of slender flatsedge (*Cyperus bipartitus*) or yellowseed false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*) that was identified in 2013.

Results for Performance Standard 3
(At least 1 native wetland shrub species; density native wetland shrubs at least 4 plants/100ft²):

The scrub-shrub portions of the wetland creation and the wetland enhancement zones were combined and sampled together. Density of shrubs is about two plants per 100ft², same as in 2013. This value is below the performance standard target. Sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) and Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*) are surviving in the cage areas (Photo 2). Some quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is volunteering in between the protected areas. Stakes under the bridge are almost all dead.



Photo 1 – Cover native emergent species
(July 2014)



Photo 2 – Native wetland shrub species
(July 2014)

Results for Performance Standard 4
(Wildlife presence):

Deer tracks were observed all over the site during monitoring activities (Photo 3).

Results for Performance Standard 5
(Class A noxious weeds eradicated):

No Class A weeds were observed during 2014 monitoring activities.

Results for Performance Standard 6
(Class B and C noxious weeds controlled):

No Class B weeds were observed during 2014 monitoring activities. Small patches of reed canarygrass were the only Class C weed observed, and have been reported to the site manager for control (See Performance Standard 7).

Results for Performance Standard 7
(Reed canarygrass controlled):

There are small patches of reed canarygrass on the east side of the bridge near where the water from the river enters the site.

Signs of excessive herbicide use are present. Blue dye is dripping off all herbaceous species, both native and nonnative (Photo 4).

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

Sincerely,

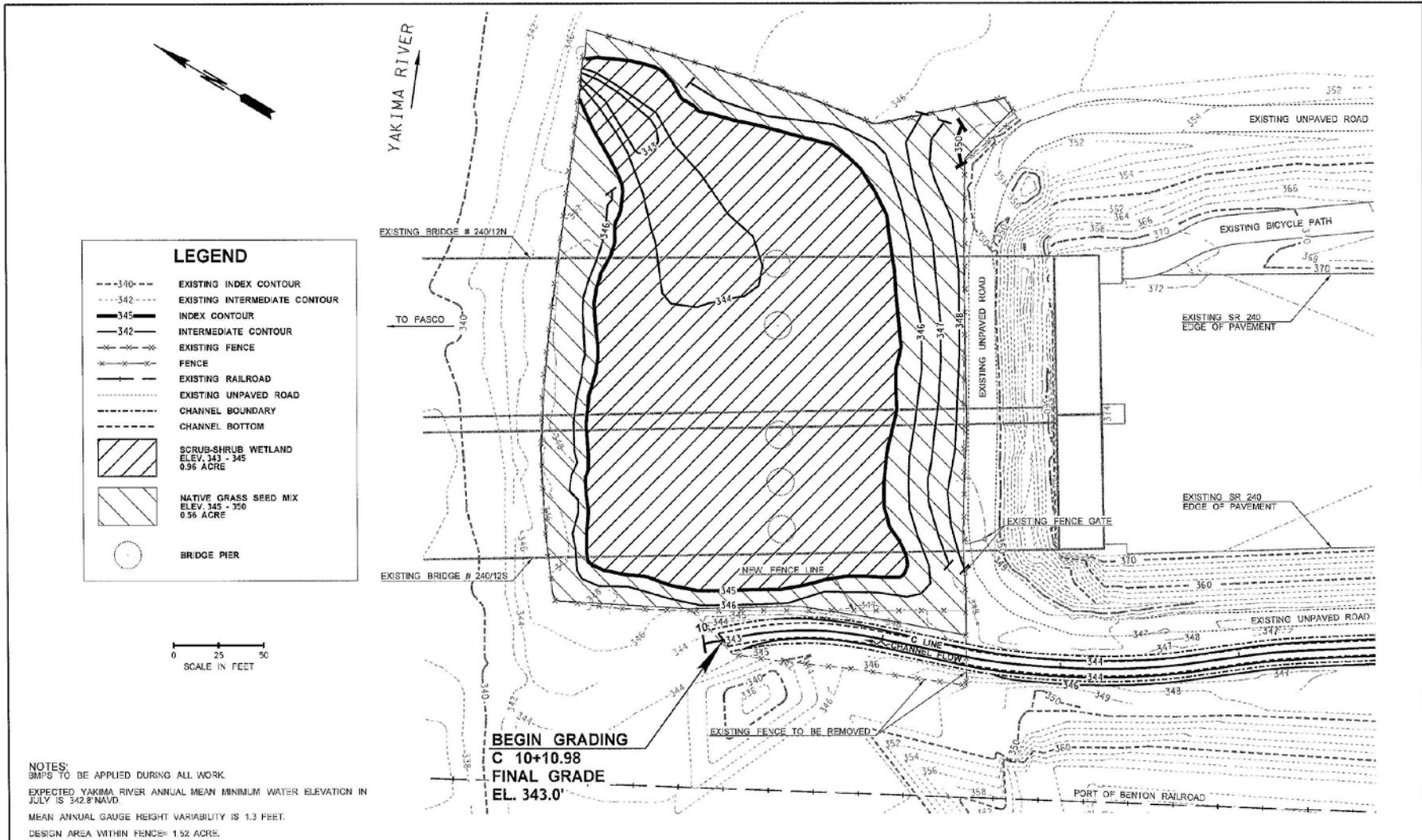
Tony Bush
Wetlands Program



Photo 3 – Deer tracks (July 2014)



Photo 4 – Excessive herbicide use
(July 2014)



NOTES:
 BMP'S TO BE APPLIED DURING ALL WORK.
 EXPECTED YAKIMA RIVER ANNUAL MEAN MINIMUM WATER ELEVATION IN JULY IS 342.8' NAVD.
 MEAN ANNUAL GAUGE HEIGHT VARIABILITY IS 1.3 FEET.
 DESIGN AREA WITHIN FENCE= 1.52 ACRE.

FILE NAME C:\AA\Work\Projects\SR 240 YRB\2011 from region\SR240_YRB_MitigationSite_PS.dgn		REVISION NO.	STATE	FED.AID PROJ.NO.	 STATE OF WASHINGTON LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT <i>Sandra L. Salisbury</i> SANDRA L. SALISBURY CERTIFICATE NO. 866 DATE 7-14-2011	 Washington State Department of Transportation	SR 240 YAKIMA RIVER BRIDGE MITIGATION SITE PLANTING PLAN	Plot 21
TIME 11:47:35 AM	DATE 7/14/2011	10	WASH	PLAN REF NO PP1				
PLOTTED BY galsbs	DESIGNED BY G GRAY	JOB NUMBER					SHEET 5 OF 7	
ENTERED BY K LEIBETH	CHECKED BY C BROADHEAD	CONTRACT NO.					OF 7	
PROJ. MANAGER J. SMITH	REGIONAL ADM. D. WHITEHOUSE	LOCATION NO.					SHEET 5 OF 7	
	REVISION	DATE	BY				SHEET 5 OF 7	

