Washington State Department 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: US 12 SR 124 to Wallula Junction (McNary)
Mitigation Site
USACE IP 2001-4-00973

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the US 12 McNary Two Rivers mitigation site on July 9, 2014, to address Year-10 (2014) performance standards. Monitoring activities included vegetation observations and photo documentation. This Year-10 report is being issued for compliance with the reporting requirements of the United States Army Corps of Engineers – Permit Number 2001-4-00973.

General Site Information	
USACE IP Number	2001-4-00973
Ecology Permit Numbers	WAG-994000, WAG-993000
Stormwater General Permit	SO3-004561, WAG-993000
Mitigation Location	McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Two Rivers Unit, Walla Walla County
LLID Number	1189372461341
Construction Date	2003-2004
Monitoring Period	2005-2014
Year of Monitoring	10 of 10
Area of Phase 1 Impact[1]	3.0 acres
Area of Required Mitigation for Phase 1[2]	5.30 acres
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Establishment
Area of Mitigation[3]	7.05 acres

[1] The Phase 1 impact acreage was referenced from a joint agency letter dated September 20, 2010 (USACE & Ecology 2010).
[2] The required wetland mitigation acreage for Phase 1 of the US 12: SR 124 to Wallula Junction Project was referenced from an August 2013 permit modification approval letter (USACE 2013).

Performance Standards (Year-10)	2014 Results	Management Activities
The mitigation site will be delineated, using current methods, to confirm that the mitigation site contains at least 5.30 acres of created wetland.	7.05 acres (See WSDOT 2013)	
At least 65% cover native facultative or wetter plants (planted or volunteer) in the wetland area.	75% cover	
A minimum of three native species each containing a minimum of $10ft^2$ shall be present within the wetland area.	3 species covering more than $10ft^2$ each.	
Total native, vegetative cover (planted or volunteer), including grasses, shall meet or exceed 35% in the buffer area.	65-75% cover	
A minimum of three native species, including grasses, each containing a minimum of $10ft^2$ shall be present within the buffer area.	4 species covering more than $10ft^2$ each.	
Class A noxious weeds will be reported immediately and an eradication program will be initiated within 30 days.	None present.	Bulrush, sedges, and trees planted, and weed control performed on April 7, 8, 14-16, 21, May 15, 19, 26, 27, June 5, 9, 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 11-14, September 2-4, 18, 22, 29, and October 13.
Class B-designate noxious weeds will be reported immediately and control measures will be initiated within 30 days.	Broadleaved pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) present on site.	
Less than 10% cover of Class B non-designate and Class C noxious weeds (excluding common reed *Phragmites australis*) across the entire mitigation site.	5-10% cover	
Common reed cover shall not exceed 30% across the entire mitigation site.	5% cover	
The presence of hydrophytic, non-native, non-noxious weeds shall not out-compete native vegetation or otherwise interfere with the site meeting final performance standards.	Achieved	

[3] The wetland establishment acreage was referenced from the April 2013 Wetland Delineation Report (WSDOT 2013). 1.75 extra acres were created than required.

Site development:

The site is continuing to develop well following extensive remediation and is qualitatively achieving final year performance criteria for all standards. Quantitative monitoring is scheduled for 2015 to confirm that at least 5.30 acres of the planted area is meeting final standards for two consecutive years. The condition of the extra 1.75 acres will also be documented in 2015.

Weed control efforts have been successful. Bare ground is evident in the scrub-shrub wetland due to prolonged inundation or herbivory, but it is expected to fill in with time. The northern wetland buffer is dominated by prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*). Control in 2015 is recommended.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(Wetland delineation):

7.05 acres of wetland were delineated at this site in 2013 (See WSDOT 2013). This exceeds the performance standard target of 5.30 acres of created wetland.

Results for Performance Standard 2
(At least 65% cover native facultative or wetter plants, planted or volunteer, in the wetland):

Cover of native facultative or wetter species is visually estimated at 75 percent (Photo 1). This value exceed the performance standard target. Narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) is mixed in with broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), making determining the total native cover difficult.

Results for Performance Standard 3
(A minimum of three native species, each covering at least $10ft^2$):

Hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), Olney's threesquare (*Schoenoplectus americanus*), and broadleaf cattail each cover at least $10ft^2$ in the wetland. This meets the performance standard target.

Results for Performance Standard 4
(At least 35% cover native vegetation, planted or volunteer, including grasses in the buffer):

Cover in the buffer is visually estimated at 65 to 75 percent. This exceeds the performance standard target.

Photo 1 – Cover of native facultative or wetter plants in the wetland (July 2014).

Performance Standard 5
(A minimum of three native species, including grasses, each covering at least $10ft^2$):

Species present include: blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), covering at least $10ft^2$ each. This exceeds the performance standard target.

Results for Performance Standard 6
(Class A noxious weeds reported immediately and an eradication program initiated within 30 days):

No Class A weeds were observed during monitoring activities.

Results for Performance Standard 7
(Class B-designate noxious weeds reported immediately and control measures initiated within 30 days):

Broadleaved pepperweed was observed during monitoring activities. Maintenance is controlling this species.

Results for Performance Standard 8
(Less than 10% cover of Class B non-designate and Class C noxious weeds, excluding common reed):

Cover is visually estimated at five to10 percent across the site. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and prickly Russian thistle are present. Maintenance is controlling these species.

Results for Performance Standard 9
(Less than 30% cover common reed across the entire site):

Cover of common reed is visually estimated at five percent. This is below the performance standard threshold.

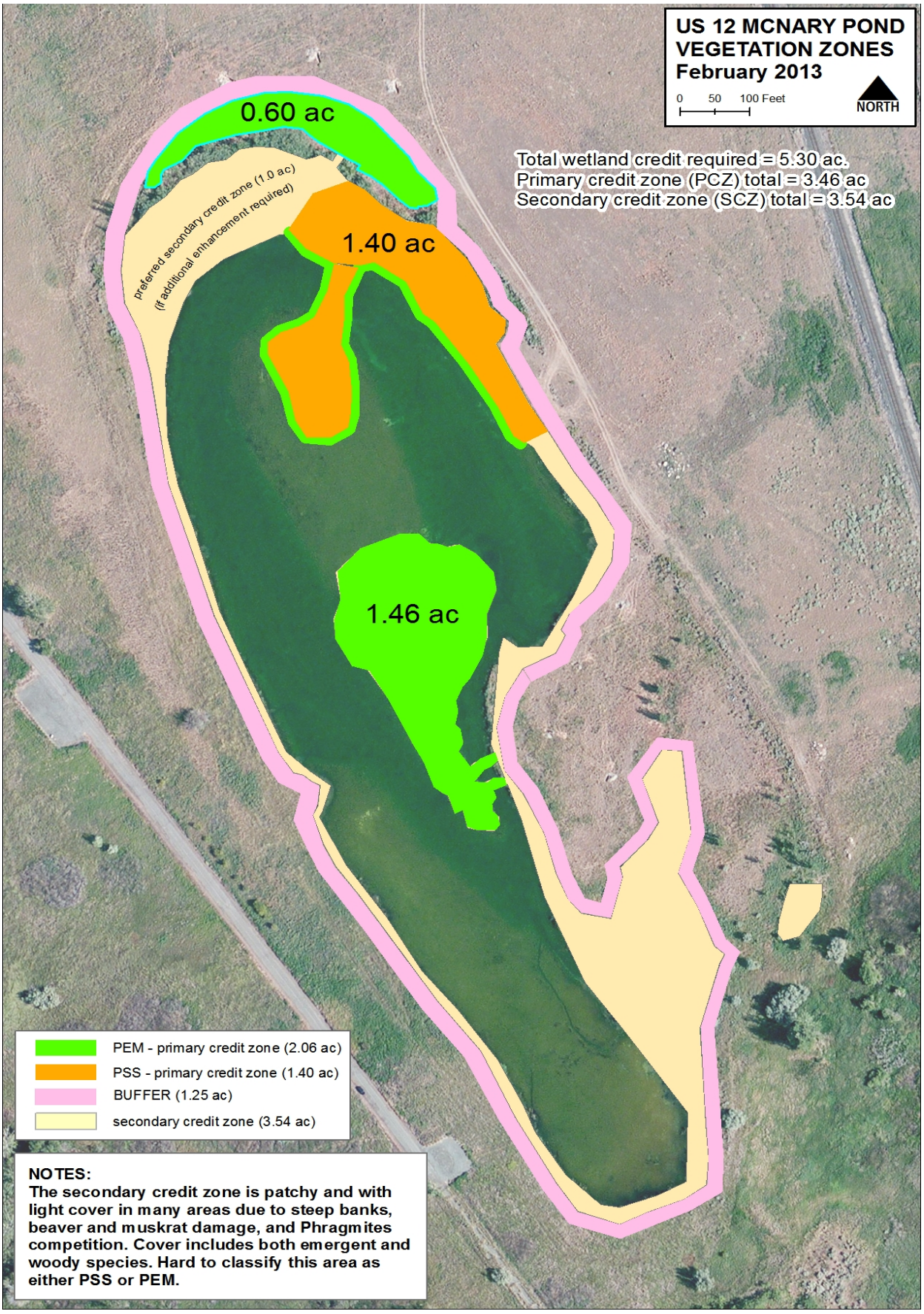
Performance Standard 10
(Presence of hydrophytic, non-native, non-noxious, weeds do not out-compete native vegetation or otherwise interfere with the site meeting final performance standards.):

Hydrophytic, non-native, non-noxious, vegetation is not interfering with the native vegetation or achievement of the final performance standards.

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


US 12 MCNARY POND
VEGETATION ZONES
February 2013
0 50 100 Feet
NORTH
Total wetland credit required = 5.30 ac.
Primary credit zone (PCZ) total = 3.46 ac
Secondary credit zone (SCZ) total = 3.54 ac
0.60 ac
preferred secondary credit zone (1.0 ac)
(if additional enhancement required)
1.40 ac
1.46 ac
PEM - primary credit zone (2.06 ac)
PSS - primary credit zone (1.40 ac)
BUFFER (1.25 ac)
secondary credit zone (3.54 ac)
NOTES:
The secondary credit zone is patchy and with light cover in many areas due to steep banks, beaver and muskrat damage, and Phragmites competition. Cover includes both emergent and woody species. Hard to classify this area as either PSS or PEM.

Literature Cited:

1. [USACE] US Army Corps of Engineers. 2013 (August 6). Letter to Mr. Jason Smith, Washington State Department of Transportation, South Central Region: Permit Modification Approval for USACE Permit # NWS-2001-973.

2. [USACE & Ecology] US Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Department of Ecology. 2010 (September 20). Letter to Mr. Don Whitehouse, Washington State Department of Transportation, South Central Region: Joint Agency Letter – Follow-up for our site visit to the US 12 SR 124 to Wallula Junction; McNary—Two Rivers mitigation site (Ecology Order and Corps Reference #2001400973).

3. [WSDOT] Washington State Department of Transportation. 2013. 2013 Annual Monitoring Report US 12: SR 124 to Wallula Junction.