



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 Frenchtown Vicinity to Walla Walla (Reser Creek)
Mitigation Site
USACE NWP (14) NWS-2007-1612

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the US 12 Reser Creek mitigation site on July 8, 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 – USACE NWP 14 permit number NWS-2007-1612.

General Site Information			
USACE NWP Number	NWS-2007-1612		
Mitigation Location	Southeast of Walla Walla in Walla Walla County		
LLID Number	1182673460312		
Construction Date	2012		
Monitoring Period	2013-2017		
Year of Monitoring	2 of 5		
Type of Project Impact¹	Permanent Wetland Impact		
Area of Project Wetland Impact	0.50 acre		
Type of Mitigation²	Wetland Establishment	Woody Buffer	Grass Buffer
Area of Mitigation	1.06 acres	1.72 acres	3.38 acres

¹ Type and area of project impact was sourced from Table 1, page 4 in the Final Wetland Mitigation Report (WSDOT 2013). The Department of Ecology Administrative Order 5168 addressed the 0.23 acre of the impacted wetlands that are isolated.

² The type and area of mitigation was sourced from a schematic named US 12, Phase 6 Mitigation Site (October 21, 2013) Appendix 1.

Performance Standards (Year-3)	2014 Results	Management Activities
Wetland Hydrology	Will be monitored in spring of 2015	
Cover of native facultative or wetter herbaceous species will be at least 25% in the created wetland area.	75-85% cover	
Native woody species (planted and volunteer) will achieve and average density of at least 3 plants/100ft ² in the planted woody buffer zones.	Not addressed	
Cover of grass species in the planted buffer will be at least 30% and include 4 native species.	50% cover; 6 species	
Washington State-listed or county-listed Class A weeds and Class B weeds designated for control by the Walla Walla County Weed Board must be eradicated.	Poison hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>), bull thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), reed canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>), and creeping fieldcress (<i>rorippa sylvestris</i>) found on site.	Hand pulling weeds and herbicide treatments performed on April 28, June 30, and August 11.
Reed canarygrass, prickly Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>), kochia (<i>Bassia scoparia</i>), thistles (<i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , <i>Carduus acanthoides</i> , <i>Carduus nutans</i> , and <i>Onopordum acanthium</i>), common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>), and any other species that competes with desirable vegetation will be controlled across the mitigation site until Year 5 performance standards have been achieved.	See above.	

Site development:

The site is developing as planned. Herbaceous communities remain diverse and thriving. Hydrology in the ponds remains stable compared to the water level of previous years. The rushes (*Juncus*) and horsetail (*Equisetum*) communities indicate a possible sub-surface connection between ponds, especially in the wetter season. Invasive weeds were found and eradicated.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(Wetland Hydrology):

Will be monitored in spring of 2015.

Results for Performance Standard 2
(At least 25% cover native facultative or wetter herbaceous species in the created wetland):

Cover is estimated at 75 to 85 percent across the created wetland ponds. Dominant species include broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), and northern water-plantain (*Alisma triviale*).

Results for Performance Standard 3
(Density of 3 plants/100ft² of native woody species in the planted woody buffer):

This standard was not addressed due to initial high mortality. Replanting will occur in fall of 2014. Some of the initial replanted stakes that are surviving include shorter thicker stakes installed near the wetland edge with weed matting.

Results for Performance Standard 4
(At least 30% cover grass species in the planted buffer including 4 native species):

Cover is estimated at 50 percent for grass species in the wetland areas that are growing grass (Photo 1). The rest of the buffer is dominated by Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*) and *Equisetum* species (Photo 2).

Native grass species identified in the grass buffer include: blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), curly bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Cuskick's bluegrass (*Poa cusickii*), California brome (*bromus carinatus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and either thickspike weatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*) or western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).



Photo 1 – Cover of grass species in the planted buffer (July 2014).



Photo 2 – Baltic rush in the planted buffer (July 2014).

Results for Performance Standard 5

(Washington State or Walla Walla County-listed Class A and B noxious weeds eradicated):

Poison hemlock is in the northwestern corner of the site. Bull thistle and Canada thistles are in between the ponds. Reed canarygrass and creeping fieldcress are also on site. Maintenance is continuing weed control to eradicate these species.

Creeping fieldcress is on the state monitor list. An email was sent to inform the plant sponsor and the site manager was notified of its presence. Removal of this species is recommended.

Performance Standard 6

(Reed canarygrass, prickly Russian thistle, burning bush, thistles, common reed, Russian olive and any other competing species controlled):

See results for Performance Standard 5.

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

The photographs below were taken from permanent photo-points on July 8, 2014 and document current site development.



Photo Point 1a



Photo Point 1b



Photo Point 2a



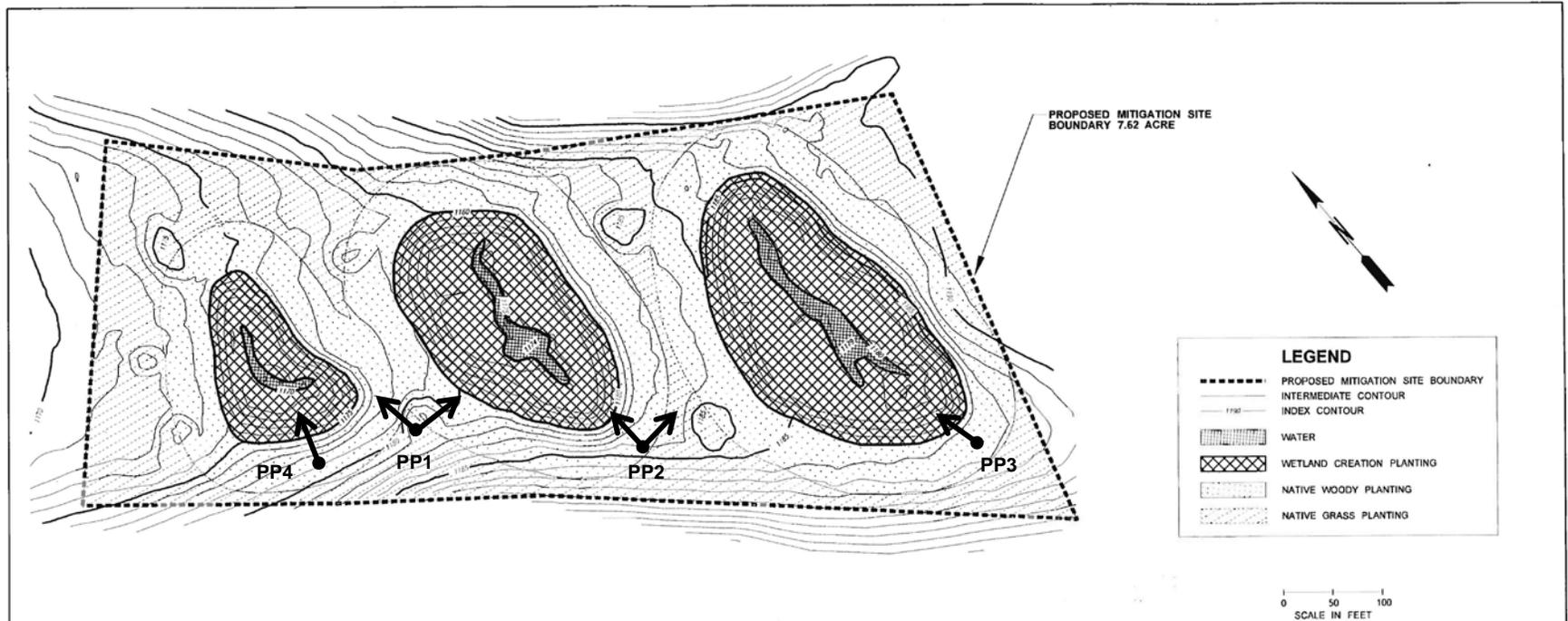
Photo Point 2b



Photo Point 3



Photo Point 4



WETLAND PLANTING LIST		
	SPACING	TYPE
WETLAND CREATION (2.01 ACRE)		
Western Mannagrass (<i>Glyceria occidentalis</i>)	2 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Tall Mannagrass (<i>Glyceria elata</i>)	0.5 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Water Plantain (<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>)	2 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
American Stoughgrass (<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>)	5 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Meadow Barley (<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>)	4 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Baltic Rush (<i>Juncus arcticus</i> ssp. <i>Littoralis</i>)	0.1 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Tufted Hairgrass (<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>)	0.5 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Slender Hairgrass (<i>Deschampsia elongata</i>)	1 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Nebraska sedge (<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>)	0.3 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Fowl Bluegrass (<i>Poa palustris</i>)	0.1 lb/ac	seed (broadcast)
Hardstem Bulrush (<i>Scheuchzeria acutus</i>)	random	rhizome
Clustered Field Sedge (<i>Carex praegracilis</i>)*	random	10 cu in plu
Small-fruited Bulrush (<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>)*	random	10 cu in plu

WOODY BUFFER PLANTING LIST		
	SPACING	TYPE
NATIVE WOODY BUFFER (2.86 ACRE)		
Redosier Dogwood (<i>Cornus serica</i>)	3-8 feet	cutting
Willow species (<i>Salix</i> spp.)	3-8 feet	cutting, rooted
Blue Elderberry (<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>)	6-10 feet	cutting, rooted
Alder (<i>Alnus</i> spp.)	10 feet	rooted
Water Birch (<i>Betula occidentalis</i>)	10 feet	rooted
Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)	10 feet	rooted

NATIVE GRASS PLANTING LIST		
	SPACING	TYPE
NATIVE GRASS BUFFER (2.56 ACRE)		
Sherman Blg Bluegrass (<i>Poa secunda</i>)	2 lb/ac	seed (drilled)
Secar Snake River Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus wawawaiensis</i>)	2 lb/ac	seed (drilled)
Critiana Thick-knee Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lancoletus</i>)	1 lb/ac	seed (drilled)
Magnar Basin Wildlife (<i>Leymus cinereus</i>)	2 lb/ac	seed (drilled)

* These species will be planted if the pond levels draw down to allow planting on the pond benches

FILE NAME	K:\45220\CADD\US12Phase 6 Mitigation Site\CAD_BaseFiles\US12_Phase6_PS_20120626.dgn	REGION	STATE	FED.AID PROJ.NO.			RESER CREEK WETLAND REVEGETATION	Plot 2
TIME	3:54:19 PM	10	WASH					PLAN REF NO.
DATE	6/26/2012	JOB NUMBER		LOCATION NO.				SHEET
PLOTTED BY	lelsak	CONTRACT NO.						OF
DESIGNED BY	R. THOMAS							SHEETS
ENTERED BY	K. LEISETH							
CHECKED BY	C. BROADHEAD							
PROJ. MANAGER	J. SMITH							
REGIONAL ADM.	D. WHITEHOUSE	REVISION	DATE	BY	P.J. STAMP BOX	P.J. STAMP BOX		