



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

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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: I-5 Blakeslee Junction to Grand Mound Interchange TDA 12 Mitigation Site  
USACE NWS-2008-744

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the I-5 TDA 12 mitigation site on July 16, 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 number NWS-2008-744 and the Department of Ecology Order 6701.

<b>General Site Information</b>	
<b>USACE NWP IP Number</b>	NWS-2008-744
<b>Ecology WQC#</b>	6701
<b>Mitigation Location</b>	Just north of the Thurston Co./Lewis Co. line on the west side of Interstate 5
<b>LLID Number</b>	1230017467746
<b>Construction Date</b>	2011-2012
<b>Monitoring Period</b>	2013-2022
<b>Year of Monitoring</b>	2 of 10
<b>Type of Impacts</b>	Wetland
<b>Area of Project Wetland Impact</b>	5.61 acres
<b>Type of Mitigation</b>	Wetland Enhancement
<b>Area of Mitigation<sup>1</sup></b>	12 acres

<sup>1</sup> The wetland enhancement/restoration occurs at three total discharge areas (TDA 11, 12, 13) with a combined acreage of approximately 12 acres.

**Site development:**

Performance Standards (Year-3)	2014 Results	Management Activities
<p>Minimum density 400 living native trees/acre, minimum density 4,000 living native shrubs/acre, and at least 2 species of native trees and 4 species of native shrubs in the forested areas. No single species will provide more than 60% total aerial cover.</p>	<p>Density of 4,000-4,500 plants/acre</p>	<p>Seven western red cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>) and 13 Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) trees were planted on 2/6/2014.</p>
<p>Minimum density of 4,000 living native shrubs/acre in the scrub-shrub wetland and at least 4 species of native shrubs. No single species will provide more than 60% cover.</p>	<p>The scrub-shrub area is included in the buffer estimate.</p>	
<p>Less than 15% cover Blackberry (<i>Rubus</i> species) and Class A noxious weeds in the combined scrub-shrub and forested planting areas of the onsite mitigation areas.</p>	<p>No Class A weeds; &lt; 1% blackberry</p>	<p>Weed control activities were performed on 4/22, 7/9, and 8/14 in 2013, and on 4/2, 5/7, 7/31, and 8/4 in 2014.</p>
<p>Less than 10% cover reed canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) than existing baseline conditions.</p>	<p>2% cover (no baseline data collected)</p>	
<p>Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) shall not be present in any amount within the mitigation sites.</p>	<p>None observed</p>	

This site is developing as expected for second year establishment. The woody community is thriving and has a low amount of invasive species. Density standards are being met. It is strongly recommended that the tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) is removed. This species is on the Washington State noxious weed watch list and the restoration crew has been notified about it.

Results for Performance Standard 1

(Minimum density 400 native trees/acre, 4,000 native shrubs/acre and at least 2 tree species and 4 shrub species present in the forested areas. No single species will exceed 60% cover):

Density is estimated at 4,000-4,500 plants/acre (Photo 1). This meets the performance standard. Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) dominate the area. Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), western service berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), and vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) are also present.



**Photo 1** – Density in the forested buffer (July 2014)

Results for Performance Standard 2

(Minimum density 4,000 native shrubs/acre and 4 species of shrubs in the scrub-shrub wetland. No single species will exceed 60% cover ):

The scrub-shrub area on this site is small and was included in the buffer estimate.

Performance Standard 3

(Maximum 15% cover Blackberry species and Class A noxious weeds in the combined scrub-shrub and forested planting areas of the onsite mitigation areas):

No Class A noxious weeds were observed. The cover of blackberry species is estimated at less than one percent. This is below the performance standard threshold.

Performance Standard 4

(Maximum cover of 10% below baseline conditions for reed canarygrass):

Cover of reed canarygrass is two percent, primarily found along the edge of the emergent zone. No baseline data was collected.

Performance Standard 5

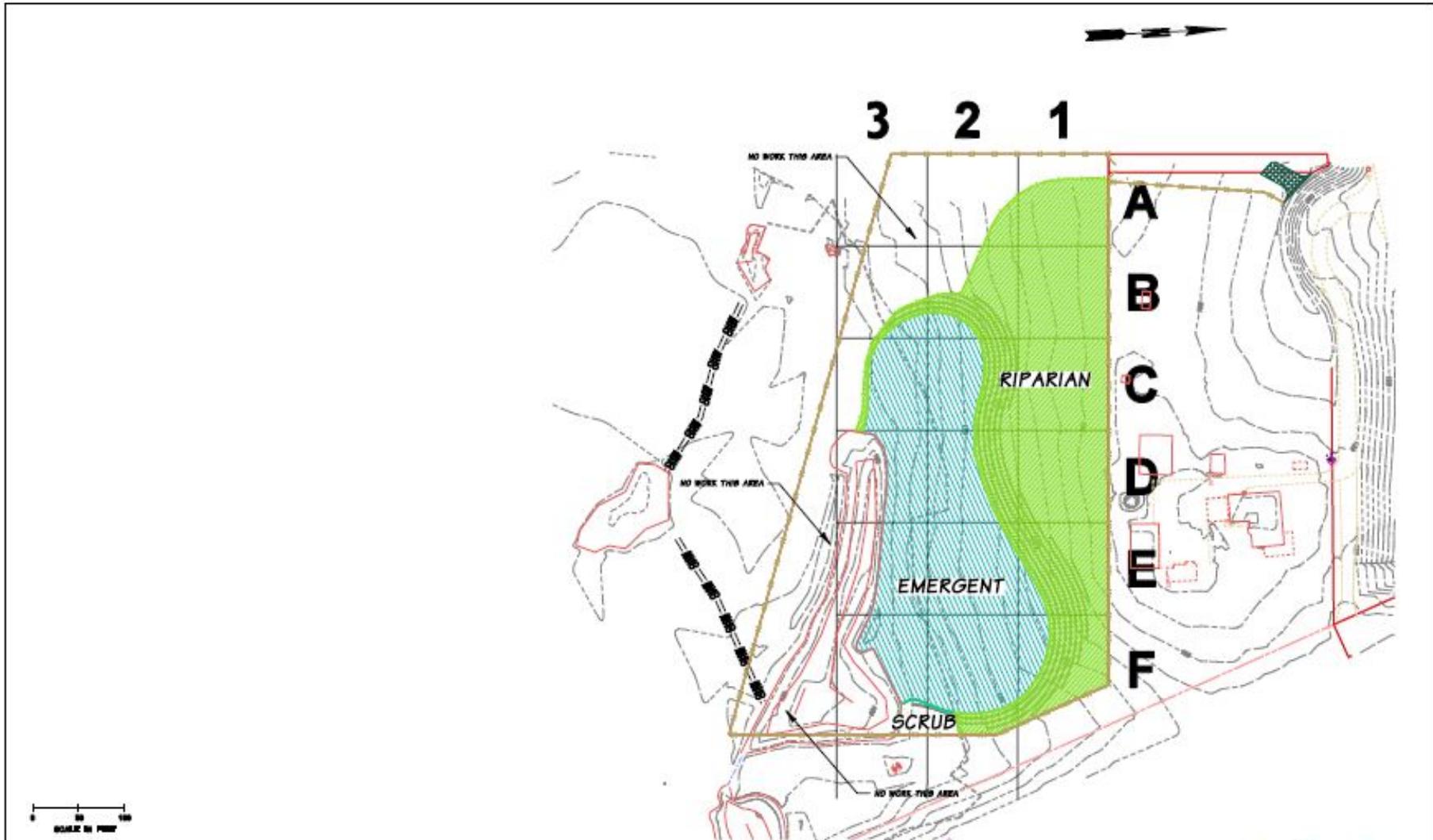
(Japanese knotweed not present in any amount within the mitigation sites):

No Japanese knotweed was observed on site during monitoring activities.

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

Sincerely,

Tony Bush  
Wetlands Program



<b>FILE NAME</b> G:\Road\blakeslee_junction\080817\Blakeslee Junction to Grand Mound (080817) Contour\contour\080817\Blakeslee Junction to Grand Mound (080817) PS LD 080817.dwg <b>TYPE</b> Submittal PS <b>DATE</b> 10/28/2011		<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 10 WASH <b>JOB NUMBER</b> 09X318		 <b>STATE OF WASHINGTON</b> <b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>15</b> <b>BLAKESLEE JUNCTION RR XING TO GRAND MOUND I/C - ADD LANE</b> <b>PLANTING PLAN - TDA 12</b>	SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
<b>DESIGNED BY</b> D. CONLEY <b>CHECKED BY</b> R. PERPPE <b>PROJ. ENG.</b> C. MERRILL <b>DESIGNER, ADM.</b> S. GIBBARTY	<b>REVISION</b> DATE BY	<b>APPROVED BY</b> DATE BY	<b>APPROVED BY</b> DATE BY			