



**Washington State
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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 527 132nd St. SE to 112th St. SE Widening Shoreline Enhancement and
Floodplain/Wetland Mitigation Sites
USACE NWP (14) 200200046

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of SR 527 Widening mitigation site on July 30, 2014, to address Final-year (2016) performance standards. Monitoring activities included vegetation observations and photo documentation. This Year-8 report is being issued for documentation of early achievement of Final-year performance standards.

General Site Information		
USACE NWP 14 Number	200200046	
Mitigation Location	South of Everett and north of Mill Creek, Snohomish County	
LLID Number	Floodplain site: 1221988478826 Shoreline site: 1222045478925	
Construction Date	2006	
Monitoring Period	2007–2016	
Year of Monitoring	8 of 10	
Area of Project Impact¹	0.30 acre	
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Establishment	Wetland Enhancement
Area of Mitigation	0.31 acres	0.26 acre

¹ The impact and mitigation acreages were referenced from the USACE Nationwide (14) Permit Number 200200046 (USACE 2005).

Performance Standards	2014 Results		Management Activities
	Floodplain/Wetland Site	Shoreline Enhancement Area	
80% cover of native vegetation	95% cover	80% cover	No planting is scheduled in 2015
No more than 20% cover of invasive species	1 % cover	< 5% cover	Wetland: 2 visits in 2014 for weed control Shoreline: 9 visits in 2014 for weed control Ongoing weed control in 2015
The created wetlands will have soils saturated to the surface for a minimum of 12.5% of the growing season	Present	N/A	
Soil in the wetlands will meet hydric soil criteria or be functioning as a hydric soil	Present	N/A	
Document wildlife use of habitat and structures	Wildlife documented	Wildlife documented	

Site development:

In general the site is well established and provides many functions. Native cover is high at both the shoreline and the wetland areas of the site. Invasive cover is low, however purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) was observed at a few locations along the shoreline. The northwest region landscape architect office was contacted the day the purple loosestrife was observed. They responded very quickly and the northwest region restoration crew was out the very next day and removed the plants.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(80% cover of native vegetation):

Shoreline: 80 percent cover (some areas have higher cover and others have less cover, but overall shoreline plantings provide 80 percent cover) (Photo 1).

Wetland: 95 percent cover with three layers to the canopy (tree layer, shrub layer, herbaceous understory) (Photo 2).

Results for Performance Standard 2
(No more than 20% cover of invasive species):

Shoreline: less than five percent cover consisting of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Himalayan blackberry (**Rubus armeniacus**), and purple loosestrife.

Wetland: One percent cover consisting of reed canary grass, and Himalayan blackberry creeping in from the edges of the site from neighboring lands.

Results for Performance Standard 3
(The created wetlands will have soils saturated to the surface for a minimum of 12.5 percent of the growing season):

Hydrology monitoring was conducted in 2014 on March 18, April 3, and April 24 at the floodplain/wetland site. During each of the three visits either inundation or saturation to the soil surface was observed in all intended wetland areas.

Results for Performance Standard 4
(Soil in the wetlands will meet hydric soil criteria or be functioning as a hydric soil):

This performance standard was evaluated in year-5 and the results were detailed in the 2011 monitoring report. The soil profile excavated at the floodplain site met the NRCS hydric soil indicator F6 (Redox Dark Surface).

Results for Performance Standard 5
(Document wildlife use of habitat and structures):

Evidence of the use of habitat structures has been documented. Evidence of rodent (as well as garter snake) use of the brush piles on the floodplain/wetland site was observed. Fourteen species of birds were observed during vegetation monitoring at the floodplain/wetland mitigation site including evidence of nesting Black-headed Grosbeak, as well as evidence of other mammals including coyote and rabbit. At the lakeshore site, fifteen species of birds were observed as well as several species of invertebrates and amphibians.



Photo 1 – Woody cover at the shoreline



Photo 2 – Woody cover in the wetland.

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

