



**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: SR 167 - 15th Street SW to 15th Street – Stage 3 (Mill Creek Stage 3) Wetland
Mitigation Site
USACE 2004-01241

Dear Ms. Terzi:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of State Route (SR) 167 Stage 3 Mitigation Site on July 30, 2014, to address Year- 10 (2017) performance standards. Monitoring activities included vegetation observations and photo documentation. This Year-7 report is being issued for compliance with the reporting requirements of the USACE permit number 2004-01241.

General Site Information			
USACE Permit Number	200401241		
Mitigation Location	West side of SR 167 just south of 15 th Street NW		
LLID	1222496473189		
Construction Date	2007		
Monitoring Period	2008-2017		
Year of Monitoring	7 of 10		
Area of Project Impact ¹	2.55 acres		
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Enhancement	Buffer Enhancement
Area of Mitigation ²	2.58 acres	2.17 acres	0.74 acre

¹ Area of project impact taken from USACE 200401241.

² Area of mitigation provided was taken from Final Wetland Mitigation Report SR 167-15th St. SW to 15th St – Stage 3 WSDOT 2005.

Performance Standards (Year-10)	2014 Results	Management Activities
Native facultative or wetter woody species will achieve a minimum of 75 percent coverage in each PSS and PFO community. Native colonizing vegetation will be included in this coverage calculation.	100 percent cover	
King County listed Class A weeds and reed canarygrass (<i>Phytolaxis arundinacea</i>), non-native blackberries (<i>Rubus</i> spp.), Scot's broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Polygonum spp.</i>), and purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) will not exceed 20 percent coverage in each forested and scrub-shrub wetland community.	3 percent cover of target invasive species	Two weed control visits occurred in 2014.
Three native facultative or wetter vegetation species each will achieve at least eight percent or greater relative cover in the PSS community.	Present	
Three native facultative or wetter vegetation species each will achieve at least eight percent or greater relative cover in the PFO community.	Present	
Relative cover of red alder will be less than 30 percent in the wetland restoration and enhancement areas.	25 percent cover of red alder in wetland zones	
Native upland buffer woody species will achieve a minimum of 50 percent coverage in each upland buffer community. Native colonizing vegetation will be included in this coverage calculation.	100 percent cover	
King County listed Class A weeds and reed canarygrass (<i>Phytolaxis arundinacea</i>), non-native	No target invasive species observed in the upland buffer	2 weed control visits occurred in 2014

blackberries (<i>Rubus</i> spp.), Scot's broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Polygonum</i> spp.), and purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) will not exceed 20 percent coverage in each upland buffer community.		
Relative cover of red alder will be less than 30 percent in the upland buffer community.	25 percent cover of red alder in upland buffer	
Three native upland vegetation species each will achieve at least 8 percent relative cover in the buffer community.	Present	

Site development:

The site has developed more rapidly than anticipated and has been meeting the year-10 final year standards for all planting zones for 5 years. On August 1, 2012 a request to discontinue quantitative sampling for all vegetation and hydrology performance criteria was sent to USACE. This request was accepted on August 1, 2014. The final year standards are still currently being met.

Results for Performance Standard 1
(Wetland hydrology present):

Wetland hydrology has not been monitored since the 2011 wetland delineation which showed wetland present in all intended areas.

Results for Performance Standard 2
(The cover of target invasive species will not exceed 20 percent coverage in each forested and scrub-shrub wetland community):

The cover of invasive species in the scrub-shrub wetland was qualitatively estimated to be three percent. Species observed include reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and cutleaf blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*).

Results for Performance Standard 3 and 4
(Three native facultative or wetter vegetation species each will achieve at least eight percent or greater relative cover in the PSS and PFO communities):

When the last quantitative sampling occurred in 2011, this standard was met for both the PSS and PFO zones. Since very little mortality has occurred, it appears that this standard is still achieved. Dominant species in these zones include Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*), redosier dogwood (*Cornus alba*), twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), Pacific crabapple (*Malus fusca*), and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) (Photo1).

Performance Standard 5
(Relative cover of red alder will be less than 30 percent in the wetland restoration and enhancement areas.):

The relative cover of red alder in the wetland planting zones was qualitatively estimated at 25 percent.



Photo 1 – Woody vegetation in the forested and scrub-shrub wetlands (July 2014)



Photo 2 – Woody vegetation in the upland buffer (July 2014)

Results for Performance Standard 6
(Native upland buffer woody species will achieve a minimum of 50 percent coverage in each upland buffer community):

The cover of woody species in the upland buffer was qualitatively estimated at 100 percent cover (Photo 2).

Results for Performance Standard 7

(The cover of target invasive species will not exceed 20 percent coverage in each upland buffer community):

At the time of the 2014 vegetation monitoring, none of the target invasive species were observed with the upland buffer planting areas.

Results for Performance Standard 8

(Relative cover of red alder will be less than 30 percent in the upland buffer community.)

The relative cover of red alder in the upland buffer planting zones was qualitatively estimated at 25 percent.

Results for Performance Standard 9

(Three native upland vegetation species each will achieve at least 8 percent relative cover in the buffer community)

When the last quantitative sampling occurred in 2011, this standard was achieved in the upland buffer zone. Since very little mortality has occurred, it appears that this standard is still achieved. Dominant species in this zone include red alder, black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*).

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 this mitigation site.

Sincerely,

Tony Bush
Wetlands Program

Planting plan and Photo Point Locations

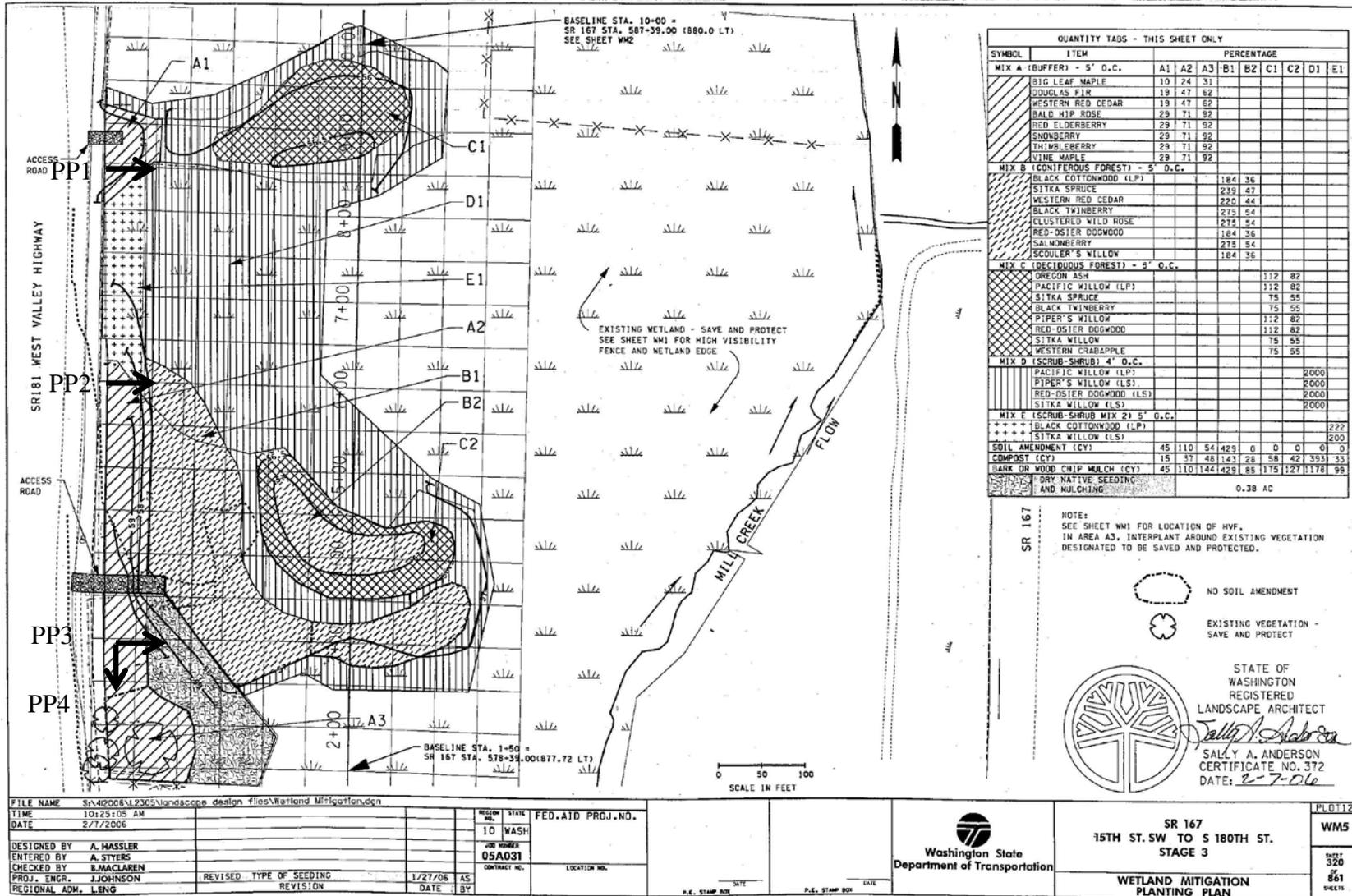


Photo Points

The photographs below were taken from permanent photo-points on July 30, 2014 and document current site development.



Photo Point 1



Photo Point 2



Photo Point 3



Photo Point 4