

and reduces its ability to recharge local groundwater supplies. Wetland B is composed of a single vegetation community and is of unknown size but it is part of an undeveloped stream corridor that is at least 1 mile long and as such is an important corridor between habitat areas particularly at the start of the system (at the beaver ponds). The stream is also important fish habitat for the resident cutthroat and may possibly be improve so that it provides spawning habitat for anadromous salmonids. The uplands along the stream corridor are also undeveloped, which increases the area for use by a wide variety of wildlife species. This wetland has no features associated with important educational or recreational activities so rates low for this function.

Functions of Proposed Created Wetlands

The mitigation site was selected because it is within the immediate watershed of Hawks Hole Creek and represents a disturbed area along an existing wetland where hydrology can be derived partially from the existing wetlands and from the ditch. The created wetlands will be constructed as shallow depressions that will replace the sloping wetlands of Wetlands A and B. The sloping wetlands have limited ability to store excess water and/or improve water quality because the slopes do not facilitate much in the way of water storage and the water flows down slopes that are sometimes sparsely vegetated and so have lower ability to improve water quality. Depressional wetlands just by their position in the landscape have greater potential for storage of water and improvement of water quality so by replacing the sloping wetlands with depressional wetlands there will be increased potential for both of these functions. The created wetland will receive runoff from upslope developed areas via the ditches from the north and because they will be planted with shrubs and emergent species, the new wetland will have increased potential to improve the water quality within Hawks Hole Creek. There will be increased ability to store excess runoff during storm events so the potential for storm water storage will be increased but there will be no change to the opportunity as the mitigation area is lower in the watershed than the impacted wetlands. The mitigation plan has not been designed to improve groundwater recharge or discharge functions of the impacted wetlands but there may be some groundwater providing a portion of the hydrology to the wetland.

The impacted areas immediately along Hood Canal Drive are composed of shrub communities that are a minor component in the mostly forested systems and as such, provide a second community that is important to local wildlife species. The use by local species is diminished in the impacted wetland areas because of the proximity to the road and because the road represents a break in an otherwise nearly intact riparian corridor. Creating scrub/shrub wetland adjacent to the existing forested system will increase the habitat value of the downstream wetland areas as there will be a new community created that can be used by local wildlife. The area immediately outside the mitigation area will continue to be used by Shorewoods residents with a walking path just outside the wetland and no vegetated buffer is proposed. Instead, the mitigation area will be fenced from the walking path and an interpretative sign will be designed and installed the path so the