

The goal of this mitigation plan is initially to compensate for the loss of wetland by creating new wetlands alongside existing wetlands but a secondary goal is to increase the function of the impacted wetland. By creating shallow depressions to replace the sloping wetlands, there will be an automatic increase in potential to provide storm water storage and water quality protection. There will be slight improvement of wildlife usage as the wetland area is being “moved” to a location away from the road and should be able to provide increased habitat even though there will still be occasional pedestrian traffic in this area. It is also removed from the project area where it can provide increased habitat for a wide variety of species. Downed logs and root wads will be placed within the created wetland areas will provide additional habitat features to the wetland that are available within the existing impacted wetland areas.

The existing wetland has saturated and seasonally flooded hydrologic regimes with saturation occurring along the slopes and seasonal flooding along the stream channel. The created wetland will have a seasonally flooded to saturated hydrologic regime with water standing during the winter months and into the early growing season. Saturation will likely occur into May or June of each growing season and possibly year round as observed within the adjacent forested wetland. To meet the wetland hydrology criteria, water must remain for at least 12.5% of the growing season, which in the Hansville area means that water should remain for about 30 days to be considered adequate to create wetland in this area. To ensure that the goals of the mitigation plan are met, monitoring is proposed for a period of 5 years after the mitigation plan is implemented. Monitoring will include yearly visits to the site to document if the project is meeting the performance standards developed for this project. The performance standards will include 90% survival of all installed plants, increasing percent cover standards for each monitoring year, hydrology present as soil saturation and seasonal flooding for at least 2 consecutive months of the growing season and less than 15% cover by invasive plants.

## **WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN**

This wetland mitigation plan proposes to create 3,650 square feet and enhance ~500 square feet of blackberry dominated wetland to compensate for the proposed fill of 722 square feet of Category IV wetland and 1,370 square feet of Category III wetland that will occur when Hood Canal Road safety improvements have been implemented.

Implementation of the mitigation plan will first involve clearing and grubbing the mitigation area in the forested area and removal of soils to the base elevations, which is set differently for each created wetland area. The wetlands will be over-excavated by about 6 inches so that topsoil can be spread as a planting medium and to facilitate saturation of at least a portion of the soil profile. At least one horizontal log and one root wad will be placed in each created wetland area to provide habitat features after the topsoil has been spread. The enhanced area of wetland will be grubbed of blackberry cover and both the created and enhanced wetlands will be planted with native trees and shrubs. The plants installed within the created and enhanced wetland include black twinberry, redosier