

INTRODUCTION

This wetland mitigation plan has been prepared for the Hood Canal Drive Widening and Safety Improvement Project between Hood Canal Place and Ponderosa Drive in the Shorewoods area of North Kitsap County, Washington. This section of Hood Canal Drive is situated in the west half of Section 20, T 28 N, R 2 E. WM. This project proposes to fill wetlands alongside Hood Canal Drive at the existing stream crossing with 722 square feet of fill proposed to Category IV wetlands on the west side and fill of 1,370 square feet of fill in a Category III wetland on the east side of the road. Both wetlands are associated with Hawks Hole Creek, which originates south of Buck Lake. The impacts will be mitigated on a portion of the Shorewoods community property by creating about 3,650 square feet of wetland in maintained grassy meadow adjacent to existing forested wetland, which is associated with the stream that flows through the filled wetland areas. The mitigation plan also proposes enhancement of about 500 square feet of blackberry dominated wetland, which increases the total area of wetland mitigation to about 4,150 square feet. Mitigation is proposed at a 2:1 ratio for the Category III wetland and 1.5:1 for the Category IV wetland but the creation area is just under the 3,898 square feet that is required for mitigation at the ratios until the enhancement area is added.

The filled areas of wetland are largely composed of scrub/shrub communities but both areas of wetland are mostly forested communities. The shrub community alongside the road has likely developed in response to tree removal and topping of trees during road and power line maintenance activities. Few if any trees will be removed as a result of this project and the forested communities will remain intact. Therefore, the mitigation proposes creation of a scrub/shrub wetland community that will be excavated from the grassy upland meadow adjacent to existing forested wetland on the Shorewoods recreational property. A delineation was conducted in the mitigation area to identify the extent of the forested wetland and it revealed that the existing wetland boundary lies within the tree line with a portion of the delineation extending up a northerly ditch that conveys runoff from areas north of the wetland (additional maintained grass and Ponderosa Drive). Mitigation will take place on both sides of the ditch and will include excavation of upland soils as well as improvement of vegetation conditions in the wetland that runs alongside the ditch. The western mitigation area will extend into the existing forested upland, which is dominated by red alder, salmonberry and Himalayan blackberry with little in the way of understory vegetation. The eastern or upper mitigation area will create wetland outside the forested wetland canopy. Both mitigation areas have been designed to lie alongside and will be associated with the existing wetland areas.

The wetland areas will be created by excavating upland soils to a rough elevation of 9.3 feet in the upper eastern wetland and to a rough elevation of 8 feet in the lower western wetland area to create a seasonally flooded to saturated hydrologic regime. Slopes of 5:1 will extend out of the created wetland base. These areas will be over-excavated by about 6 inches so that a 6 inch layer of topsoil can be spread across the base elevation and the final