

Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. 9450 SW Commerce Circle, Suite 180 Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

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Transmittal

Date:

December 17, 2015

To:

US Army Corps of Engineers

ATTN: Richard Chong / 2011-100

PO Box 2946

Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

From:

Fred Small

RE:

Monitoring Report for Review

PHS Project No.:

5187 - Waln Creek/Battle Creek Riparian Enhancement Project

Richard,

Enclosed for your review is the third monitoring report for the Waln Creek/Battle Creek Riparian Enhancement Project for the City of Salem

Please call if you have any questions.

c:

Patricia Farrell, City of Salem

Mitigation Monitoring Report Cover Sheet Corps of Engineers

i.

Corps Peri	mit Number: 2011-100		
Contact In	formation:		
Permittee:		Consultan	
	Attn: Patricia Farrell		9450 SW Commerce Circle, Suite 180
	555 Liberty Street SE, Rm. 325		Wilsonville, OR 97070
	Salem, OR 97301-3513		503-570-0800
Responsib	le Party for Monitoring and Date(s) of Inspectio	n:
Name: _	Pacific Habitat Services (Fred Smal	l) Date(s)	July 8, 10, and 16, 2015
			ge & type of aquatic resources impacted, & ed to compensate for the aquatic impacts)
previous lar yards and re and Battle (enhance loc channel sec	nd uses, most recent as a golf course emoval of up to 900 cubic yards of a Creek. The fill and removal activitie eal riparian functions. In addition, rip tions were to help mitigate for the fi scription of Compensatory Mitiga	e. This permit as material below a s enabled the re parian buffer pl ill and removal	egetation manipulation associated with its athorized the placement of up to 516 cubic when Ordinary High Water line of Waln Creek clocation of the Waln Creek channel to anting efforts along the existing and relocated activities.
The mitigat extend nort	ion work extends both north and so	strips ~50 feet	Street crossing of Waln Creek. Plantings to either side of the creek, as well as learly 400 feet.
Directions	to the Mitigation Site:		
Kuebler Bo		reet, and turn ri	oute 99) south of its intersection with ght (heading west). The Waln Creek channel
	ement of Compensatory Mitigation of Compensatory Mitigation:	n: Fail 2012 n/a	
Statement	of Performance Standards Being	Met:	
None speci	fied in Corps permit; report below a	ddresses DSL s	tandards
	ecent Corrective / Maintenance Adort submission):		Veed control activities conducted in late pring and late summer 2015

Specific Recommendations for additional corrective/remedial actions:

• Periodic weed control measures will continue throughout monitoring period

2. WALN CREEK/BATTLE CREEK MITIGATION PLAN PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

A. Location

The mitigation site is located at:

- T8S, R3W, Section 23B; Tax lots 100, 101, 200, 300, and 400
- Lat: 44.864813⁰ Long: -123.023656⁰
- The site can be reached via Commercial Street SE (Business Route 99) south of its intersection with Kuebler Boulevard. Continue south to Waln Street, and turn right (heading west). The Waln Creek channel is crossed approximately 1,000 feet west of Commercial Street.

B. Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The Waln Creek/ Battle Creek riparian enhancement mitigation site is intended to replace the functions and values lost over many years as a result of channelization and vegetation manipulation associated with its previous land uses, most recent as a golf course. The permits issued by DSL (No. 47781-RF) and the Corps (NWP No. 2011-100) authorized the placement of up to 516 cubic yards and removal of up to 900 cubic yards of material below the Ordinary High Water line of Waln Creek and Battle Creek. The fill and removal activities enabled the relocation of the Waln Creek channel to enhance local riparian functions. In addition, riparian buffer planting efforts along the existing and relocated channel sections were to help mitigate for the fill and removal activities.

Following the channel relocation and riparian buffer soil preparation activities, seven species of trees and nine species of shrubs were planted, and the site was seeded with a diverse native grass seed mix.

The DSL permit stipulated that several success criteria be met by the mitigation activities; the Corps permit did not specify performance standards. The DSL standards to be met are:

No.	Condition	DSL Performance Standard						
30	Establishment of Permanent Monitoring locations required	Permanent plots must be establishedin sufficient number and locations to be representative of the site.						
31	Native Species Cover	The cover of native species, as defined in the USDA Plants Database, in the herbaceous stratum is at least 60%.						
32	Invasive Species Cover	The cover of invasive species is no more than 10% [includes further details on what may constitute an invasive]						
33	Bare Substrate Cover	Bare substrate represents no more than 20% cover.						
34	Woody Vegetation	The density of woody vegetation is at least 1,600 live native plants (shrubs) and/or stems (trees) per acre OR the cover of native woody vegetation on the site is at least 50%standard must be achieved for 2 years without irrigation.						
35	Species Diversity	By Year 3 and thereafter, there are at least 6 different native species. To qualify, a species must have at least 5% average cover in the habitat class, and occur in at least 10% of the plots sampled.						

C. Maintenance and Management Actions

Following the second year monitoring report, continuing weed control measures have been exercised across the site during 2015. These measures have primarily targeted potentially invasive species such as reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) (among others).

Given the high densities of woody plantings persisting within the site, no remedial woody plantings have been installed. However, to help revegetate the relatively droughty and disturbed soils within the site, an additional seeding with a native grass/forb mix was applied in spring 2014. As several of the seeded species were noted during both the 2014 and 2015 field visits, no additional seeding has been warranted.

D. Monitoring Methods

Vegetation monitoring followed the routine methods specified in the DSL Removal-Fill Guidelines (as laid out in the *Routine Monitoring Guidance for Vegetation* (interim draft 2009).

A total of twenty-seven 15-foot radius circular plots were sampled to determine woody plant survival and density, covering nearly 10% of the study area. Groundcover development was also assessed using two 1-meter square quadrats positioned at opposite ends of each circular plot.

Data collected in the woody plant sampling plots was then tabulated in an MS Excel spreadsheet (Appendix A), and the mean, standard error, standard deviation, and confidence interval (for an 80% confidence level) of the sampled population were calculated for the total live count for all plots.

Similarly, the groundcover plots were tabulated and analyzed for relative success per the routine DSL performance standards for groundcover development. These standards include cover by native woody and herbaceous species, as well as cover by non-native and invasive species.

E. Monitoring Data Locations

Data plots were established by first generating a randomized, self-avoiding series of points distributed across the site. A shapefile was created using this list of Easting and Northing coordinates, which was then used in a GPS unit to locate each point in the field. Plot centers were then staked with white PVC tubing for permanence and visibility. Table 1 below lists the coordinates for each plot, while the sampling layout is depicted in Figure 2 (Appendix B).

Table 1. Easting and Northing Coordinates* for Sample Plots within the Waln Creek/Battle Creek Riparian mitigation site in Salem, OR

Sample Plot	Easting	Northing	Sample Plot	Easting	Northing
1	7547940.88	447345.19	15	7547804.51	446270.96
2	7547940.88	447200.81	16	7547730.85	446238.95
3	7547949.28	446927.46	17	7547724.73	446297.46
4	7547949.28	446831.41	18	7547646.11	446300.08
5	7547949.28	446774.75	19	7547721.84	446364.39
6	7547966.40	446467.48	20	7547774.03	446360.09
7	7548025.11	446302.73	21	7547833.08	446374.50
8	7548087.45	446170.07	22	7547873.33	446510.49
9	7548107.78	446048.27	23	7547873.46	446566.78
10	7548134.32	445978.97	24	7547864.28	446768.36
11	7547947.56	446059.03	25	7547864.28	446942.42
12	7547951.35	446114.48	26	7547865.28	447274.96
13	7547980.36	446183.98	27	7547865.28	447417.57
14	7547842.36	446204.46			

^{*}Coordinate System: Oregon State Plane North NAD83 (international feet)

F. Hydrology Methods and Context

The intent of the vegetation enhancement measures along the Waln Creek riparian corridor was primarily to improve its water quality and wildlife functions through dense tree and shrub plantings and invasive vegetation management. As such, hydrologic monitoring is not pertinent to this project.

3. RESULTS

A. Vegetation Standards

Performance Standard 1 Result:

Native Species Cover: The cover of native species, as defined in the USDA Plants Database, in the herbaceous stratum is at least 60%.

Summary Metric:

This standard was met in the third year, when artificially bare ground is taken into account. The sampling plots provided a mean of 52% (80% CI), while the amount of ground taken up by a gravel and plastic 'mulch' used around each shrub and tree planting averaged approximately 18% of each plot. Only around 5% was truly comprised of bare soil. When the artificially 'bare ground' component is factored in, the native herbaceous stratum exceeds 60%.

Performance Standard 2 Result:

Invasive Species Cover: The cover of invasive species is no more than 10%. A plant species should automatically be labeled as invasive if it appears on the current ODA noxious weed list, plus known problem species including Phalaris arundinacea, Mentha pulegum, Holcus lanatus, Anthoxanthum odoratum, and the last crop plant if it is non-native. Non-native plants should be labeled as such if they are listed as non-native on the USDA Plants Database. Beginning in Year 2 of monitoring, DSL will consider a non-native plant species invasive if it comprises more than 15% cover in 10% or more of the sample plots in any habitat class, and increases in cover or frequency from the previous monitoring period. Plants that meet this definition will be considered invasive for all successive years of monitoring. After they site has matured to the stage when desirable canopy species reach 50% cover, the cover of invasive understory species may increase but may not exceed 30%

Summary Metric:

This standard has been met again for the third year, with the sampling plots providing a mean of just 1.15% (80% CI) for invasive herbaceous species. No cover was recorded for invasive woody species.

Performance Standard 3 Result:

Bare Substrate Cover: Bare substrate represents no more than 20% cover.

Summary Metric:

As previously described, this standard has been met for the third year when artificially bare substrate is taken into account. While the sampling plots provide an overall mean of 23.7% (80% CI) of bare substrate, only 5.1% of this total is bare soil. The remaining 18.6% of each plot is comprised of portions of one or more squares of gravel/plastic 'mulch' around each woody planting. This substrate value is not likely to change significantly over time.

Performance Standard 4 Result:

Woody Vegetation: The density of woody vegetation is at least 1,600 live native plants (shrubs) and/or stems (trees) per acre OR the cover of native woody vegetation on the site is at least 50%. Native species volunteering on the site may be included, dead plants do not count, and the standard must be achieved for 2 years without irrigation.

Summary Metric:

This standard has been met again for the third year, with the sampling plots providing an estimated density of approximately 2,741 plants per acre for the 4.78-acre planting area. This density is based on an estimated 13,103 plants overall, for a survival rate of 134% (80% CI) relative to the specified number of planted woody species.

Table 2 lists the woody plantings originally specified for the Waln Creek/Battle Creek riparian mitigation area, along with the number of plants surviving in July 2015. A more detailed breakdown of actual counts and associated statistics is included on spreadsheets in the Appendix A.

Table 2. Summary of 2015 Woody Plant Estimates for the Waln Creek/Battle Creek Riparian mitigation site in Salem, OR

Botanical Name	Common Name	Original No's Spec'd	July 2015 Sampling Estimates*	Estimated % Survival**
TREES				
Acer macrophyllum	Bigleaf maple	907	11	1
Alnus rhombifolia	White alder	1,209	808	67
Crataegus douglasii	Douglas hawthorn	302	295	98
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	1,511	1,561	103
Malus fusca	Pacific crabapple	302	120	40
Populus balsamifera spp. trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	1,209	1,420	117
Thuja plicata	Western red cedar	605	11	2
SHRUBS				
Cornus sericea	Red-osier dogwood	557	1,310	235
Lonicera involucrata	Twinberry	557	1,791	322
Physocarpus capitatus			819	147
Rosa nutkana, R. pisocarpa	Nootka rose, clustered rose	668	2,009 total roses counted	301
Sambucus cerulea			0	0
Spiraea douglasii	Douglas spirea	371	1,430	385
Symphoricarpos albus	snowberry	631	1,518	241
TOTAL WOODY PLA	ANTINGS	9,757	13,103	134 overall

^{*}Based on extrapolated values from overall mean of 44.44 plants per sampling unit [factor of 208,400 sf (overall area)/706 sf (sampling unit)=295.18]; individual spp. counts have been similarly inferred

Performance Standard 5 Result:

Species Diversity: By Year 3 and thereafter, there are at least 6 different native species. To qualify, a species must have at least 5% average cover in the habitat class, and occur in at least 10% of plots sampled.

Summary metric:

This standard will ultimately be met over time, with both groundcover and woody species taken into account. Within the groundcover species, two grasses have been especially well adapted to this mesic riparian habitat: spike bentgrass (*Agrostis exarata*) and meadow barley (*Hordeum*

^{**}As shown on the attached spreadsheet, the extrapolated mean (13,103) may vary based on the assigned confidence interval. For example, at a sampling CI of 80%, the mean could range anywhere from 12,303 to 13,959. Consequently, the overall survival rate varies from 126% to 143% of the original numbers planted.

¹Since the numerous rose plantings were typically not in flower or fruit when tallied, they were not distinguished as to species. As such, the total estimate is for Rosa spp., and the estimated total was divided equally between species.

brachyantherum), with both meeting the frequency and cover standards. In addition, the densities of 10 or more of the planted tree and shrub species constitute an increasing diversity of cover that will help meet to meet this standard.

Currently, however, the cover values for woody plantings only address those plants that overlap the one meter² quadrants, despite having an average density of over 44 woody plants in each of the larger (15'-radius) plots. Unfortunately, it is not practicable to obtain accurate cover estimates across the larger plots while using our current sampling methodologies.

B. Hydrology Standards Result

Not Applicable

C. Delineation of Wetland Acreage Achieved

Not Applicable

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Project Status

Groundcover Development

Groundcover estimates within the riparian planting area currently fall below the standard for native cover (52% versus the >60% standard) when the artificially bare (gravel/plastic) substrate is not taken into account. However, when this artificial substrate (which accounts for over 18% of the total 23.7% bare ground average in plots) is discounted, both the native groundcover standard and the bare ground standard (<20%) are readily met.

In addition, the cover standards for both invasive herbaceous (<10%) and invasive woody (<10%) species have been met.

The dominant groundcover species are both natives, as was the case last year; spike bentgrass and meadow barley. The most common non-natives are creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), hairy hawkbit (*Leontodon nudicaulis ssp taraxacoides*), and birds-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*); however, these represent relatively low overall cover.

Woody Plant Survival and Density

Woody plant survival in 2015 continues to be high relative to the number of plants specified, at 134% overall, and relatively few dead plants were encountered. More importantly, the estimated stem density was approximately 2,741 plants per acre for the 4.78-acre planting area, significantly above the performance target of 1,600 stems per acre. Since most plants persisting this year are thriving and have developed strong root systems, this standard should continue to be met in subsequent years as well.

B. Recommendations

Remedial Planting

Given the high stem densities observed in 2015 as well as in past years, no remedial woody plantings are either recommended or warranted at this time.

Weed Control

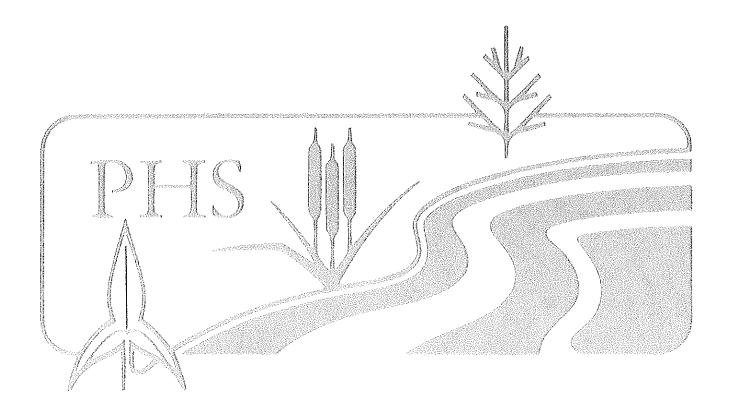
Invasive species such as reed canarygrass, Canada thistle, St. Johns' wort, and Himalayan blackberry persist in small quantities at scattered locations across the site, and do not represent infestations at this time. Weed control efforts conducted during spring 2015 targeted these species as well as birds-foot trefoil, and are keeping these plants at manageable levels. Similar efforts will continue as needed throughout the 5-year monitoring timeline. Periodic site visits will be conducted during 2016 and beyond to detect and control any emerging populations through either physical removal or chemical spot treatments.

5. MAPS AND FIGURES

Figure 1 depicts the overall grading and site plan for the Waln Creek/Battle Creek riparian enhancement area. Figure 2 provides the buffer planting areas, sample plot, and photopoint locations, while Figure 3 provides the species list and typical spacing. Figure 4 includes a recent aerial of the project vicinity, and Figures 5 to 7 provide photodocumentation of the site; all figures are included the Appendix B.

Appendix A

Sampling Data



Third Year Monitoring for Waln Creek riparian corridor, Salem (data collected on July 8, 10, and 16, 2015)
Page 1 of 2

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	tings		Common Name		Bigleaf maple	White alder	Black hawthorn	Oregon ash	Pacific crabapple	black cottonwood	Western red cedar		Red-osier dogwood	Twinberry	Pacific ninebark	Nootka rose, swamp rose	Blue elderberry	Douglas' spirea	snowberry	TOTAL LIVE	
	Specified Plantings		Plant Species		Acer macrophyllum	Alnus rhombifolia	Crataegus douglasii	Fraximus latifolia	Malus fusca	Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa	Thuja plicata		Cornus sericea	Lonicera involucrata	Physocarpus capitatus	Rosa nutkana, R. pisocarpa	Sambucus cerulea	Spiraea douglasii	Symphoricarpos albus		
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Third Year Monitoring for Waln Creek riparian corridor, Salem (data collected on July 8, 10, and 16, 2015)
Page 2 of 2

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FAC	Crataegus douglasil	Black hawthorn	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	3	3	3	1.00	0.0014	295	1.07
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FAC	Lonicera involucrata	Twinberry	15	7	13	62	9	7	1	9	11	8	2	20	6.07	0.0086	1791	5.04
FAC	Physocarpus capitatus	Pacific ninebark	2		0	C1	6	61	2	-	~ 1	3	11	10	2.78	0.0039	819	3.13
FAC	Rosa nutkana, R. pisocarpa	Nootka rose, swamp rose	23	0	(1	0	7	16	5	ĸ	ત	4	8	3	6.81	9600.0	2009	5.99
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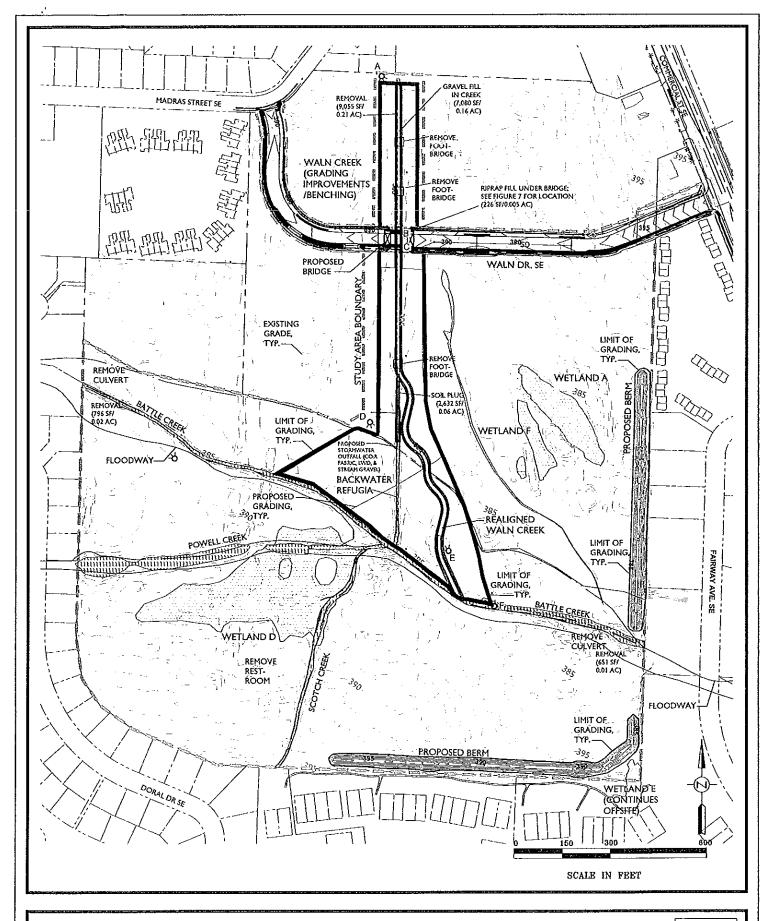
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gravel/plastic weed barrier		6 10 10 10 12 6 15 5 20	15 B 20 15 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
Date soil			25 30 25 10 6 10 0 0 20
Mouthe Performance Standards	Die.	18 NE 16 SW 17 NE 17 SW 10 NE 18 SW 19 NE 18 SW 20 NE 20	20 SW 77 NE 21 SW 22 NE 22 SW 22 NE 23 SW 24 NE 24 SW 25 NE 26 SW 25 NE 26 SW 27 NE 27 SW Habler Standard Standard
Cover of Native Herbaceous Species	*	es 60 60 56 34 60 42 11 28	48 50 28 34 32 61 46 36 20 47 36 16 37 37 37 70 62,40 3.5 NO
Lower C1 (80%)			47.52
Carrier of ferromatic Hospitals (190%)	1		10/29
Cower C (80%)			t
Upper CI (80%)			2.16
Cover of Invasive Shrubs and Trees Onti-	2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Lower Cl (80%)			000
Gare Substrate	*	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 9	0 8 8 5 6 20 28 30 28 10 6 10 0 0 20 3,00 1 VES
Lower Cl (80%)	-		2.44
Upper CI (10%)			4.09
Prevalence Index—All strata		2 2 2 3 3	3 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3
Weighted Prevalence Index		221 202 208 212 313 332 280 421 247 171	485 240 200 214 123 138 120 142 184 134 190 260 200 160
Sum of plant cover	_	10 p.1 p.1 BB 135 p.0 138 m1	77 80 71 84 56 57 45 46 77 01 09 83

Appendix B

Figures

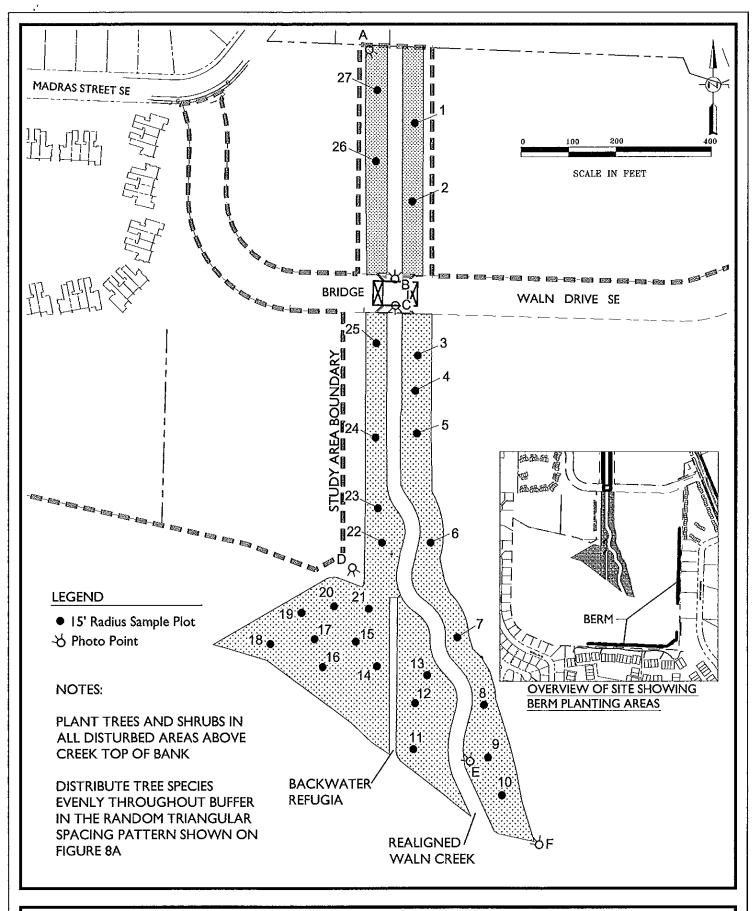




5187 12/16/13 Overall Grading and site plan at the Waln Creek and Battle Creek enhancement project in Salem, Oregon, showing limits of riparian buffer enhancement area. Provided by OTAK, Inc., 2011.

Pacific Habitat Services, Inc.

FIGURE



5187 9/8/2015



Riparian planting plan overview at the Waln Creek and Battle Creek enhancement project in Salem, Oregon, showing sample plot and photo point locations.

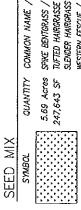
Pacific Habitat Services, Inc.

FIGURE 2

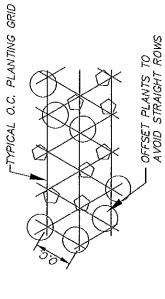
QUANTITY	COMMON NAME / Botanical name:	Size and Description Spacing	Spacing
1,511	OREGON ASH / Fraxinus latifolia	Bare root	7.2' o.c.
1,209	WHITE ALDER / Alnus rhombifolia	Bare root	7.2' 0.0.
302	DOUGLAS HAWTHORNE / Crataegus douglasii	Bare root	7.2° o.c.
302	WESTERN CRABAPPLE / Maius fusca	Bare root	7.2' 0.0.
* 605	WESTERN RED CEDAR / Thuja plicata	Bare root	7.2' o.c.
* 1,209	BLACK COTTONWOOD / Populus trichocarpa	Bare root	7.2' 0.0.
907	BIG LEAF MAPLE / Acer macrophyllum	Bare root	7.2' 0.0.
* Plant	* Plant Closer to Stream		

SHRUBS

5					
70	ABBREV.	OTY ABBREY. COMMON NAME / Botanical name: Size	and	Size and description Spacing	Spacing
557	CORSEA	557 CORSEA RED-OSIER DOGWOOD / Connus sericea	Bare	Bare root	4.7' o.c.
557	TONINA	TWINBERY / Lonicera involucrata	Bare	Bare root	4.7' o.c.
37	SPIDOU	371 SPIDOU DOUGLAS SPIREA / Spiraca douglasii	Bare	Bare root	4.7 o.c.
557	PHYCAP	557 PHYCAP PACIFIC NINEBARK / Physocorpus capitotus	Bare	Bare root	4.7 o.c.
371	SAMCER	371 SAMCER BLUE ELDERBERRY / Sambucus cerulea	Bare	Bare root	4.7' o.c.
334	ROSNUT	ROSNUT NOOTKA ROSE / Rosa nutkana	Bare	Bare root	4.7° o.c.
334	ROSPIS	ROSPIS SWAMP ROSE / Rosa pisocarpa	Bare	Bare root	4.7 o.c.
631	SYMALB	631 SYMALB SNOWBERRY / Symphoricarpos albus	Bare	Bare root	4.7 o.c.
(1				



LBS / ACRE	2.18 lbs / acre	2.18 lbs / acre	2.18 lbs / acre	8.71 lbs / acre	2.18 lbs / acre	43.56 lbs / acre	13.07 lbs / acre	
QUANTITY COMMON NAME / Botanical name:	5.69 Acres SPIKE BENTGRASS / Agrostis exarato	47,643 SF TUFTED HAIRGRASSE / Deschampsia cespitasa	SLENDER HAIRGRASS / Deschampsia elongata.	WESTERN FESCUE / Festuca occidentalis	TALL MANNAGRASS / Glyceria elata	MEADOW BARLEY / Hordeum brachyantherum	STREMBANK LUPINE / Lupinus rivularis	
QUANTITY	5.69 Acres	47,643 SF						



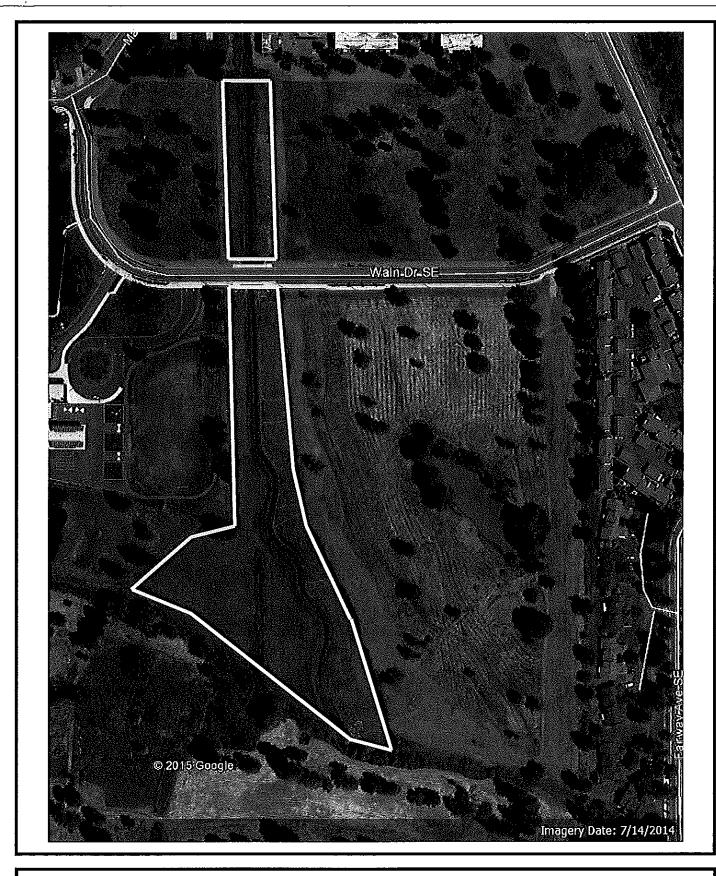
FIGURE

Plant list and planting grid at the Waln Creek and Battle Creek enhancement project in Salem, Oregon. Provided by OTAK, Inc., 2011.

12/16/13 HS.

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Aerial photograph (2014)
Waln Creek-Battle Creek riparan enhancement project area in Salem,
Oregon. The riparian buffer planting area is outlined in yellow.
(Photo source: GoogleEarth)

FIGURE



Photo A:
Looks south from northern boundary of mitigation area

Photo B: Looks north from Waln Drive SE





Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. 9450 SW Commerce Circle, Suite 180 Wilsonville, OR 97070 Photodocumentation

Waln Creek/Battle Creek riparian mitigation area in Salem, Oregon. Photo A was taken on 7/16/2015; photo B on 7/8/2015.

FIGURE

5



Photo C: Looks south from Waln Drive SE

Photo D: Looks south from west side of mitigation area.



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Photodocumentation
Waln Creek/Battle Creek riparian mitigation area in Salem, Oregon.
Photo C was taken on 7/8/2015; photo D on 7/10/2015.

FIGURE

6



Photo E:

Looks northwest from southern portion of mitigation area

Photo F (below):

Looks northwest from southeast edge of mitigation area



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Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. 9450 SW Commerce Circle, Suite 180 Wilsonville, OR 97070 Photodocumentation
Waln Creek/Battle Creek riparian mitigation area in Salem, Oregon.
Both photos were taken on 7/8/2015.

FIGURE

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