

MONITORING PLAN - MOWITCH

PROJECT:

Mowitch

LOCATION:

Mouth of Hylebos Creek
at the head of Hylebos Waterway,
Commencement Bay,
Tacoma, Washington.



DESIGN OBJECTIVES:

Enhance intertidal area for juvenile salmonid migration.
Establish backwater sloughs.
Establish salt marsh vegetation and riparian plants.
Protect and preserve the site for natural resources.

CRITERIA: PSC 1,2,3(visual inspections),4; BSC 1-9

SITE SUMMARY:

The project site was filled to its pre-project elevation, channelized, and straightened in the early 1960's when the upper Hylebos Waterway Turning Basin was dredged to its current configuration. The character of the straight stream channel has been modified and diversity was added to the habitat. Three backwater pools with base elevations near Mean Low Water (MLW) were sculpted from the past upland. A secondary stream mouth was added in the area of the site that was an historical log ramp. The backwater will be flooded the majority of the year. The pools and adjacent terraces include large woody debris as habitat features. A minimum of 25 feet next to the fence is to remain vegetated. The planting designs are based upon plants native to Commencement Bay. The emergent plant species will be similar to those found elsewhere in Commencement Bay and will utilize the freshwater component from Hylebos Creek.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

To be defined prior to conducting sampling activities.

REFERENCE / COMPARISON SITES: Based upon approval of the Trustee Council, appropriate reference sites will be selected for various sites and various criteria. For example: plant vigor (**BSC3**) would incorporate comparison data from a site adjacent to Squally Beach along the inner Hylebos mudflat, Elliott Bay monitoring data and data reported for Coastal America sites; Fish (**BSC7**) sampling results could be compared to historical data gathered by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in Commencement Bay and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in the Duwamish and data gathered at Coastal America sites. Invertebrates (**BSC8**) inhabiting restored areas could be compared to the Outer Hylebos mudflat - provided that grain size is appropriate. Bird usage (**BSC9**) could be compared across all sites and include the Duwamish Waterway restoration projects.