Spring Valley Restoration Project—Advances in Advance Mitigation and Stakeholder Collaboration

Hans Ehlert, PWS  February 2, 2010
Presentation Outline

- What is Advance Mitigation?
- Recent example to describe the process
- Advantages of Advance Mitigation
- Opportunities for Stakeholder Collaboration
**What is Advance Mitigation?**

- *Advance Mitigation* is compensatory mitigation that is implemented **before** future known impacts to wetlands.

- *Advance Mitigation* is different from project-concurrent mitigation.

- *Advance Mitigation* is an approach that has rarely been used.

- *Advance Mitigation* can be a catalyst for developing restoration projects.
How does Advance Mitigation Compare to Concurrent Mitigation?

Impacts to Wetlands Occur

Advance Mitigation

Concurrent Mitigation

3 Years

5 Years

7 Years

10 Years
Example for Advance Mitigation—WSDOT Projects in Lower Puyallup River Basin
WSDOT Acquired the Spring Valley Ranch in December 2004
West Hylebos Creek was Channelized Onsite—Critical Salmon Habitat
Undersized Bridge at S. 373rd Street Did not Adequately Convey Water or Sediment
S. 373rd Street Regularly Flooded in Winter
Hylebos Creek is Listed for Fecal Coliform
WSDOT Developed a Mitigation Plan for the 25-acre Spring Valley Project
WSDOT Collaborated on a Framework for Calculating Advance Mitigation

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<th>Mitigation Types</th>
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<th>Ratio</th>
<th>Value (acre)</th>
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The Value of Advance Mitigation can Increase Substantially over Time
Stakeholder Collaboration was Key to Project Planning, Design, and Permitting

WSDOT Formed a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that consisted of:

- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Friends of the Hylebos
- Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington Dept. of Ecology
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- City of Federal Way
- WSDOT
Advantages of the TAG Process

- Critical design elements and stakeholder input were received early.
- Regulatory staff became familiar with project details before permits were submitted.
- Technical stakeholders participated and endorsed the project.
- Members were focused on achieving a common restoration goal.
- Regulatory staff issued permits quickly (in 2 months after submission!)
Summer 2007—Channel Relocated and Earthwork Completed
New Bridge Crossing at S. 373rd Street
Riparian Vegetation – Planted Feb. 2008
I-5 HOV Lane Construction (2009-2011)—Expects to Impact 2.9 acres of Wetland

Bridge Widening for New HOV Lanes
Advance Mitigation can be Key to Developing Restoration Projects

- **Temporal Gain**—increases mitigation value and reduces mitigation costs.
- **Saves money** by paying for future mitigation in today’s dollars.
- **Streamlines permitting** of future projects.
- **Economies of Scale**—consolidates mitigation for multiple defined projects.
- **Why not construct tomorrow’s mitigation today?**
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