

January 10, 2024

To: Heather Tschaekofske, Thurston County Community Planning and Development
Cc: Jim Walterscheidt
From: West Fork Environmental (Heidy Barnett)
Subject: Addendum to Prairie Mitigation Plan
Tax Parcel: 13610130108
Address: 7505 Littlestone Lane SW, Olympia, WA 98512

West Fork Environmental prepared a prairie mitigation report to support a reasonable use exception (RUE) permit application for a shop at the property above. This addendum provides an updated mitigation planting plan after a hearing examiner reviewed the proposed project on January 9, 2024.

Section 7.0 of the original report described the mitigation plan. The following questions were sent in an email from Heather Tschaekofske following the hearing and are addressed below in this addendum to the original mitigation section of the report.

Per the Hearing today, it was determined that we need a little more info with regard to the monitoring plan for the site. Please provide additional details with regard to the following:

- Who will complete the monitoring?

Monitoring will be completed by a biologist that has experience identifying prairie plant species and preparing monitoring reports. West Fork Environmental may provide these services if the landowner desires or another biologist may complete the work. Reports will be submitted to Thurston County for review.

- Specific maintenance of the enhancement/restoration areas, to ensure plant success- for example, when to water, when to mow or not mow, and other additional maintenance actions.

Mowing: The landowner has mowed the entire property weekly or biweekly for decades. There are concerns about fire in this area of the County and mowing/watering maintenance during the summer is a priority for the landowner to provide a fire break. The maintenance of the enhancement/restoration area should differ from the rest of the property in the following ways.

- 1) Mow non-native and taller competing vegetation using the highest setting on the landowner's mower (not the lowest setting that is currently used for the rest of the yard). This will help keep non-native grass from reaching seeding potential.
 - a. Mow every 2-3 weeks or when non-native weedy species reach more than 12 inches.
 - b. Keeping taller competing non-native grasses cut will allow sunlight to the soil and encourage growth of desired prairie species.
- 2) Select cutting of non-native grasses with a string-trimmer,
- 3) Hand pull or cut any scot's broom or Himalayan blackberry,
- 4) Hand pull and dispose of any tansy ragwort flowerheads.

Watering: The landowner will watch newly planted native grass plugs and water during the first summer season if needed to ensure survival. The desired native prairie species are adapted to drier summer conditions and should only need watering until established.

Reseed: If annual monitoring indicates poor germination, a biologist will recommend reseeding of certain prairie species.

- Specific expected plant survival percentages, to meet mitigation objectives by year 5.

Idaho fescue plugs: Survival of at least 75% of Idaho fescue plugs annually. If lower survival, replant to achieve goal.

Germination of seed: Overall survival percentage is not possible for seeded species. The performance goal is presence of the planted species within the enhancement/restoration area in sufficient density to maintain the level of plant diversity and density to meet Thurston County's prairie criteria that was present on this property prior to disturbance. At the end of Year 5, the enhancement/restoration area should meet the criteria for designated prairie under TC guidance.