

Bowman Bay Nearshore Restoration

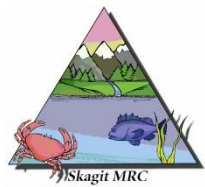


Bowman Bay

Prepared for Skagit County Marine Resources Committee

Prepared by Northwest Straits Marine Conservation

Foundation Skagit County Contract #C20150110



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Northwest Straits Foundation
Bowman Bay Nearshore Restoration
Final Report for Skagit County Contract Number C20150110
September 10, 2015

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Project Background, Scope, and Objectives

The Northwest Straits Foundation and Skagit Marine Resources Committee proposed to remove approximately 1,300 cubic yards of rock riprap from over 540 linear feet of shoreline at the Bowman Bay Day Use Area of Deception Pass State Park, Skagit County. The riprap had originally been placed by the Washington State Department of Fisheries to protect a fish hatchery that operated from approximately 1947 until it was torn down in 1972. The current riprap was replaced in 2011 following a storm several years earlier.

The purpose of the project is to restore nearshore processes through the removal of hard armoring. Due to the presence of the riprap, the project site is void of large woody debris, overhanging vegetation, and a significant wrack line other than eelgrass and ulva that wash onto the shore with the tidal cycles.

Removal of the riprap will provide a natural beach gradient to match that of the adjacent unarmored shoreline. Removal of the riprap will also provide easier access to the beach for park users. The riprap was originally installed to protect the hatchery facility that no longer exists, therefore it has no useful function.

Awarded funds were designated for the purposes of completing the design and permitting, as well as starting the construction process. Due to the timing of the project, construction funds would be allotted to the purchase of plants and plant protection materials.

Tasks and Deliverables

Task 2.1: Design, Permitting, Bidding

Permits

Permits were applied for following completion of the preliminary design. The permit process began in fall 2014. The Foundation contracted with Advanced Environmental Solutions (AES) to complete a biological assessment if required, but communications between AES and Skagit County resulted in an issuance of 'no permits needed'. Copies of permits and/or letters are included as attachments to this report.

Permit/Process	Agency	Status	Notes
SEPA	Washington State Parks and Recreation=Lead	Completed. Determination of Non-significance issued on 1/7/15	
HPA	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Permit No. 2015-4-161+01 received 3/13/15	Includes requirement of forage fish survey prior to and during construction
Section 10 and Section 404	US Army Corps	Letter issued 3/6/15: No permits required	
Section 401 Water Quality	Washington Department of Ecology	Email received 4/22/15: No certification required	
Shoreline Development Permit	Skagit County	Email received 2/9/15: No local permits required	
Excavation Permit	Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	In process	Comment period ends 9/10/15.

The lack of federal permits caused some confusion regarding which agency was required to be the lead for the cultural and historical resources process which includes tribal consultation. Project funding for construction is primarily through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources' Marine and Nearshore Grant Program. These funds originated from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Typically, federal funding would create a nexus for that funder to take the lead in this process. Alternatively, the Army Corps through its issuance of permits may become the lead. EPA declined to be lead and since no federal permits were issued, RCO would have been lead. They have also deferred in the case where a state agency is the property owner, therefore it took some time for State Parks to take on this role. State Parks completed the tribal consultation and an excavation permit has been applied for and will be received in time for construction to begin. The Foundation has been working with Caldera Archaeology throughout this process. They completed the site assessment and will provide oversight during construction as required.

Design

Final design was completed by Coastal Geologic Services following confirmation that no additional permits or design changes would be required by the regulatory agencies. A copy of the final design is included as an attachment.

Bidding

The project was advertised for bidding on August 23, 2015. The on-line plan holder www.solicitbid.com was used as the primary location for all bid documents. A pre-bid meeting was held on site on September 1. Three contractors were present for the meeting, however a total of 11 contractors registered as interested bidders. Bids are due on Friday, September 11, 2015. Additional

advertising was done through public notices in the Skagit Valley Herald and Daily Journal of Commerce. Copies of advertisements and invoices are included as attachments.

Task 2.2: Construction

All riparian vegetation and planting materials including protective fencing, deer exclusion fencing, bird netting, and other hardware associated with the plant protection was purchased prior to the start of construction. The planting plan was previously designed by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and they will lead planting activities starting in November 2015. It is anticipated that the plantings and fencing will be installed using a combination of volunteers and Washington Conservation Corps crews from Skagit Fisheries as well as Washington Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Restoration Program. Copies of invoices for plants and planting materials are included as an attachment.

Project photos will be provided once construction begins. Due to the noted delays with the cultural resources process, the anticipated start date has also been delayed by about six weeks.

Task 2.3: Communication

Periodic updates were provided to the Bowman Bay subcommittee that includes Jay Lind as project lead, Tracy Alker-MRC staff, Jack Hartt-Deception Pass State Park Manager, and Tom Murley – Washington State Parks and Recreation.

Contracts

The following contracts were executed for this project to complete various tasks:

Contract Number	Contractor	Amount	Scope
2014-29-AES	Advanced Environmental Services	Not to Exceed \$5,000 (on-call contract)	Permitting assistance and biological assessments as needed per regulatory requirements (wetland delineation and assessment). Total cost was only \$118 due to lack of required permits. AES provided the coordination with Skagit County that resulted in this decision.
2015-12-Caldera	Caldera Archaeology	\$1,000	Complete and submit excavation permit. Provide coordination with Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Additional Tasks Completed

The Foundation has executed a grant agreement with RCO for the Education and Outreach component of the project. A time-lapse camera will be used during construction to capture the progression of changes. A video will be generated from the photos and will be posted on various social media outlets as well as the Foundation's website. Interpretive signage and outreach events will also be developed and implemented through this grant opportunity.