ADDENDUM
TO THE
SHORELINE ANALYSIS REPORT
CITY OF LONGVIEW SHORELINES:
COLUMBIA RIVER, COWLITZ RIVER, LAKE SACAJAWEA, AND LONG BELL LOG POND

ORIGINAL REPORT SUBMITTED JULY 2012
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This addendum has been prepared to provide additional information within the Shoreline Analysis Report submitted in July 2012, as requested by the Department of Ecology in their September 5, 2012 comment letter on the City of Longview Phase 2 Deliverables. As requested, this addendum will further characterize the ecosystem-wide processes by identifying areas throughout the watersheds, within or beyond shoreline jurisdiction, that are important to maintaining shoreline ecological functions. The following text is considered as an addendum to Section 4.0 Ecosystem Processes and Shoreline Functions within the Shoreline Analysis Report.

4.6 IMPORTANT AREAS FOR MAINTENANCE OF SHORELINE FUNCTIONS

There are several areas throughout the watersheds associated with the designated City of Longview (Longview) shorelines which are in close proximity or adjacent to individual shoreline reach jurisdictions. They include the early seral stage forested areas within the Mill/Abernathy/Germany Creek (MAGC) Watershed, Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonid spawning areas, and the Willow Grove Wetland Complex.

4.6.1 EARLY SERAL STAGE FORESTED AREAS IN MAGC WATERSHED

The key early seral stage (vegetation consisting of herbaceous, saplings, and shrubs) forested areas in the MAGC Watershed are located from Abernathy Creek east to the Coal Creek/Coal Creek Slough area just northwest of the Longview’s Columbia River Reach 1 shoreline. Although these areas do not contain late stage forest components, they are slowly allowing for watershed recovery as the saplings and shrubs mature by providing increased riparian zone cover, decreased erosion, and reduced movement of fine sediments. Improvements within the forested areas within the MAGC Watershed will benefit the Columbia River shorelines by providing water quality functions such as removal of sediment, toxics, nutrients, and pathogens, as well as providing increased habitat.

4.6.2 ESA-LISTED SALMONID SPAWNING/REARING AREAS

The MAGC Watershed contains several areas that are important spawning habitat for ESA-listed species. Of the streams closest to the Longview shorelines, Abernathy and
Germany Creeks contain spawning habitat for ESA-listed fall Chinook, chum, coho and steelhead, and Coal Creek contains spawning areas for coho. The mainstem Columbia River and estuary provide important habitats for these anadromous species during juvenile and adult migrations between spawning and rearing streams and the ocean where they grow and mature. These habitats are particularly important for fall Chinook and chum, which rear extensively in the Columbia mainstem and estuary. Aquatic habitats have been fundamentally altered throughout the Columbia River basin by the construction and operation of a complex of tributary and mainstem dams and reservoirs for power generation, navigation, and flood control. (Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board 2010).

4.6.3 WILLOW GROVE WETLAND COMPLEX

The Willow Grove wetland complex is located ¾ of a mile west of the Longview shoreline’s Columbia River Reach 1 and consists of 388 acres of Category I tidal fringe wetlands. The area is owned by the Columbia Land Trust (312 acres) and the Port of Longview (76 acres) and is used for wetland preservation and mitigation purposes.

The wetland complex is indirectly connected to the Columbia River via Coal Creek Slough and is subject to tidal influences from the Columbia River. A single large channel called Fisher Slough enters Willow Grove from the west off of Coal Creek Slough. Various small inlets occur off of Fisher Slough creating small backwaters. Fisher Slough branches into three channels in the site, which create numerous small channels throughout the site. Salmon fry were observed in some of the shallow channels in various locations throughout the site (Bonneville Power Administration 2008).

Willow Grove has undergone grazing or other activities that resulted in the clearing of habitat throughout the site. Some of the northwest portion of the site has been ditched, which has created an entry point for invasive species and reduced native species habitat quality. A network of ditches found in the southern portion of the complex was likely a result of historic attempts to drain the area for grazing or future development. Future work by the property owners will include the restoration of the wetlands to improve ecological functions with the eventual goals of restoring off-channel salmonid habitat and enhancing and restoring degraded riparian habitat. However, even in their current state,
the Willow Grove wetlands have excellent ecological functions, providing habitat for a
variety of species including bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and a variety of waterfowl
species, and including use by ESA-listed salmonids, and have the potential to provide
even greater ecological functions and rearing use for these species.
REFERENCES
