

**After Action Report
Oil Spills of Oct 8, Nov 9, Nov 13, 1998**

**USS David R. Ray Tree Planting
December 1999**

Presented to: Washington State
Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by: Commander, Navy Region Northwest
Naval On-Scene Coordinator

Background: On October 8, Nov 9 and Nov 13, 1998, the USS DAVID R. RAY, DD971, spilled an estimated 62 gallons of diesel fuel into Everett Harbor from three separate incidents at Naval Station Everett. Notifications were conducted and response actions were taken. On December 8, 1998, the Washington State Resource Damage Assessment Committee met and approved a restoration project to provide full compensation for natural resource damages resulting from the three spills.

Scope: The project entailed the use of hand labor to plant woody riparian vegetation along the eastside stream bank of a channel that is located at the Naval Station Everett, Family Support Complex, in Marysville, WA. The unnamed channel feeds into Quilceda Creek. The original stream bed was modified/realigned to function as a large drainage ditch by prior property owners. The watercourse has a sandy, silt substrate and is lined and partially filled with aquatic vegetation including cattails, grasses, and localized willows / blackberry clusters. Both banks of the drainage channel have been modified with the resulting loss of tall riparian vegetation. The channel flows into Quilceda Creek, which is a Class A freshwater stream (WAC 173-201A). Quilceda Creek and its tributaries support coho salmon and, to a lesser extent, chinook and chum salmon. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species mapping for the area indicates that anadromous fish utilize the channel. The project channel could support juvenile salmonid rearing but no adult spawning due to lack of suitable spawning substrate. The proposed action was to replant the east bank with native trees including willows and conifers. Planting would be on a 10-foot spacing grid in two staggered rows along the stream bank margin.

Operation: On December 1, 1999, 6 crew members from the USS DAVID R. RAY gathered approximately 300 willow "whips" ranging in lengths from 3 to 6 feet from trees currently at Naval Radio Station, Jim Creek in Oso, WA. In addition, thirty-nine Douglas firs in 2-gallon pots, ranging from 4 to 6 feet tall were purchased from a local nursery, Storm Lake Growers, at \$12 per tree, and were delivered to the site by the nursery. Commander, Navy Region Northwest, provided funds for the Douglas firs. On December 2, 1999, a 15 member crew from the ship planted the willow whips and firs at the Family Support Complex along a 500ft. section of the channel bank.

Ms. Roberta Beery, from the environmental department of Naval Station Everett, coordinated the logistics of this successful project, including acting as liaison with the ship, the gathering of willow whips, purchasing

the Douglas Fir trees, marking of positions for tree placement, and overall streamlining of the project. Her office was also responsible for a general cleanup of the area. Several bags of trash from the project site were removed.

All personnel wore appropriate clothing to include glove and appropriate footwear. Appropriate tools including shovels and other equipment was provided by the ship. Sufficient food and water accompanied personnel.

An article was published in the Navy Everett Dispatch highlighting the crew's efforts and successful restoration of the channel's east bank. See, enclosure (1).

Recommendation: The crew of the USS DAVID R. RAY took pride in the task that they had been given and received a better understanding of the value of our environment, and its direct and indirect impact on other habitats. The project had a lasting impression on those involved and for those who use facilities surrounding the Family Support Complex at Smokey Point. Recommend this type of project for future incidents.