

**WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN  
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**prepared for:**

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## INTRODUCTION

This wetland mitigation plan is for the compensation of the disturbance of 1.05 acres of City of Oak Harbor (2994) Category B or Washington Department of Ecology (DOE 1993) Category III Wetlands with the proposed creation of 2.1 acres of wetland at a 2:1 ratio of creation to disturbance.

The City of Oak Harbor Critical Areas Ordinance requires that wetland mitigation be completed prior to any fill or disturbance of wetlands. Therefore, Mr. Fakkema began his wetland mitigation construction during the summer/fall of 1999 post-application to the Corps and the City of Oak Harbor.

The mitigation area was farmed prior to excavation of the site and has been actively farmed since ca. 1890. Soil pits were dug in the mitigation area during the wet season and groundwater was observed from about 12 to 14 inches below grade, i.e., the mitigation site was an upland prior to excavation of the site. The methods used to construct the mitigation site are summarized below.

### Mitigation Site Construction

Construction and excavation of the mitigation site were conducted using an excavator and a dozer. Both pieces of equipment had wide tracks for use in soft soils. To avoid disturbance to the existing wetland, an excavator was used to remove the top 12 inches of topsoil adjacent to the existing wetland within the mitigation area, but not within the existing wetland. The topsoil was stockpiled and the underburden was pushed and spread in the upland farmed field south of the mitigation site. Twelve to 16 inches of the topsoil was removed from the mitigation site to reach the late summer water table. About 6 inches of topsoil was replaced over about 75 percent of the mitigation site.

Excavation of the mitigation site was completed in September of 1999. The site was lowered to about 12 to 16 inches below grade. This created a seasonally ponded to saturated areas. About 14 logs were placed throughout the area and one (1) snag was "planted" in the middle of the mitigation site on a small upland island.

We hand seeded the mitigation site this winter with native seeds from plants in the existing wetland, adjacent to the mitigation site. The plants that we selected seeds from were *Distichlis spicata*, *Scirpus tabernaemontanii*, *Scirpus maritimus*, and *Juncus balticus*. We believe that most of the seeds we spread were "blown" or "floated" to the edges of the wetland area; however, seedling growth of these species was observed throughout the mitigation site during our 14 August 2000 site monitoring. Other plant species identified in the existing wetland are *Potentilla pacifica*, *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Eleocharis* sp. *Agrostis* sp. (*A. stolonifera* ?). A small wetland that is adjacent to the road contains *Epilobium ciliatum*, *Typha latifolia*, and *Polypogon monspeliensis*.