

## MONITORING PLAN - MIDDLE WATERWAY (TRUSTEE/SIMPSON)

### PROJECT:

Simpson Tacoma Kraft / NRDA  
Middle Waterway Shore  
Habitat Restoration Project

### LOCATION:

Middle Waterway, Commencement Bay,  
Tacoma, Washington.

### DESIGN OBJECTIVES:

Enhance intertidal area for juvenile  
salmonid migration.  
Establish marsh vegetation.  
Protect the site for natural resources.



### CRITERIA:

PSC 1,2,4; BSC 1,2,4,6,7,8\*,9

\*BSC8 in monitoring years 1,5 and 10 if funding is available

### SITE SUMMARY:

In the spring of 1995, Champion International Corporation, the former owner of the Simpson Tacoma Kraft Mill, and Simpson Tacoma Kraft Company, its current owner, in cooperation with the Trustees, created the Middle Waterway Shore Restoration Project on a five-acre site owned by Simpson on the northeast bank of the Middle Waterway. The project was developed in connection with a settlement approved in court on April 1, 1996, that resolved Bay-wide claims for natural resource damages against the two companies. The Middle Waterway project re-establishes over three acres of intertidal, salt marsh, and riparian habitat along the Middle Waterway, a high priority location for restoration in the Bay ecosystem. The waterway had one of the largest remaining areas of original intertidal mudflats in the Bay (about 20 acres). Formerly filled land has been excavated and contoured to create a natural shoreline with hummocks and other natural marsh features, increasing the complexity, diversity and habitat value of Middle Waterway for shore birds, salmonids and marine fish, river otters and other wildlife in the area. The project provides a partial buffer between the mudflats and adjacent upland industrial uses.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

To be defined prior to conducting sampling activities.

**REFERENCE / COMPARISON SITES:** Based upon approval of the Trustee Council, appropriate reference sites will be selected for various sites and various criteria. For example: plant vigor (**BSC3**) would incorporate comparison data from a site adjacent to Squally Beach along the inner Hylebos mudflat, Elliott Bay monitoring data and data reported for Coastal America sites; Fish (**BSC7**) sampling results could be compared to historical data gathered by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in Commencement Bay and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in the Duwamish and data gathered at Coastal America sites. Invertebrates (**BSC8**) inhabiting restored areas could be compared to the Outer Hylebos mudflat - provided that grain size is appropriate. Bird usage (**BSC9**) could be compared across all sites and include the Duwamish Waterway restoration projects.