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Environmental Analysis

8.1 Introduction

Grette Associates conducted a wetland reconnaissance of approximately 43.79 acres in the northwest portion of the project site, to verify the presence and boundaries of previously delineated wetlands and to document unidentified wetland areas in the northern portion of the site. Wetland biologists used site topography, vegetation, hydrology and soils to determine course boundaries. A copy of the Wetland Reconnaissance and Verification Report can be found in Appendix 9.7 Wetlands Report.

Soils generally found on the project site include Indianola loamy sand, Everett gravelly sandy loam, and Kapowsin gravelly loam, all of which were identified as not hydric on Pierce County's Hydric Soils List (NCRS 2001).

8.2 Wetlands

Wetland A is a large area that has been previously delineated as Wetland A/B. The wetland is approximately 14,763 square feet in size and is classified as a Category III, Palustrine Scrub-Shrub, Seasonally Flooded Wetland. There is some standing water and areas of thick mud; however the wetland is hydrologically isolated. The wetland provides general wildlife habitat such as foraging, cover and nesting/breeding.

Wetland B has not been previously flagged or delineated and is located in the sloping south end of transect 3 (per Figure 8.1) adjacent to residential development and the street end of 13th Street SE. The wetland is approximately 5,058 square feet in size and is classified as Category III, Palustrine Forested/Emergent, Seasonally Flooded Wetland. The water quality functions provided by Wetland B are fairly limited due to its small size and lack of hydrologic connection to other waters.

Wetland C is located at the northeast corner of the fence-line between Pierce College property and the adjacent property. Wetland C is approximately 2,365 square feet in area. The wetland is classified as a Category III, Palustrine

Forested/ Scrub-Shrub, Seasonally Flooded wetland. The existing access road/walking path occupy a portion of the wetland area. Much of the wetland is also located within the area disturbed to construct the fence. Water quality functions are also fairly limited as a result of the wetland's small size and hydrologic isolation.

Wetland D is located at the south end of Transect 6 (per Figure 8.1) and spans the pipeline right-of way and totals approximately 35,233 square feet. It is classified as a Palustrine Forested, Seasonally Flooded Wetland. There is dense vegetation surrounding the wetland which provides habitat for wildlife. Water quality functions provided by the wetland include toxin removal, sediment trapping and erosion control. Wetland D also provides a high degree of organic productivity due to its dense vegetation in addition for provision for wildlife habitat.

Wetland E is located at the east edge of the property adjacent to Wildwood Park Drive. It also extends to either side of the pipeline-of-way and totals approximately 38,870 square feet. Wetland E also provides a high degree of organic productivity due to its dense vegetation and offers a high degree of wildlife habitat and native plant diversity. It is classified as a Palustrine Scrub-Shrub, Seasonally Flooded Wetland. Water quality functions provided by the wetland include toxin removal, sediment trapping and groundwater recharge functions.

Wetland A/B is located northwest of the maintenance building in the southwest corner of the campus. The wetland is approximately 13,978 square feet in size and is classified as a Palustrine Forested, Seasonally Flooded wetland. Wetland A/B was previously delineated in 2002 and is a Category III wetland.

Pond

An existing pond is located immediately south of Wildwood Park Drive, southeast of the primary study area. The pond is located opposite Wildwood Park Drive from the entrance to Ferrucci Junior High School and is approximately 35,616 square feet in size.

The pond consists of a sparse canopy of young red alder and western red cedar over a dense understory of Scouler's and Hooker's willow, salmonberry and Himalayan blackberry. Small areas of open water are scattered throughout the wetland, as are numerous standing snags. Buffer vegetation around the perimeter of the pond includes big leaf maple, red alder, western red cedar and Indian plum.

Wetland Buffers

50-foot wetland buffers were applied to each of the identified wetlands during the approval of the 2008 Master Plan. Current development has avoided any impacts to these established wetlands and buffers and will continue with future development.

Figure 8.1 Wetland Reconnaissance Map

