

Memorandum for Record

January 11, 2024

Subject: Tier 1 Dredged Material Evaluation for the Lower Satsop Reach Restoration Phase II Project (NWS-2023-792)

Introduction

This memorandum documents the Tier 1 evaluation conducted by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Project Description

The applicant, Grays Harbor Conservation District, is proposing a river basin restoration project that would re-establish natural riverine processes and a properly functioning floodplain ecosystem to provide critical habitat for native aquatic species. The project area (Figure 1) is situated at the downstream end of the Satsop River valley (Grays Harbor County) in the floodplain of the Satsop River with latitude and longitude of 46.996015° N, -123.489501° W. The restoration activities will include bank setback grading to stabilize eroding banks, scour path grading to promote channel formation, the placement of engineered log jams (ELJs), removal of riprap, and riparian planting.

Scour Path grading will include the excavation of approximately 2,500 cubic yards (cy) of native alluvium. The material will be sorted and either hauled and placed in the adjacent former gravel mining pits or disposed of at an off-site upland location. Approximately 55,799 cy of native alluvium will be excavated for the separate activities of ELJ construction and scour pool creation. This excavated material will remain on-site and used as backfill within the ELJ structures as ballast to bury the placed log members.

Tier 1 Evaluation

Available data were obtained and reviewed by the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) to evaluate the project location's sediment chemical quality and to understand whether sources of contamination could have historically impacted or currently be impacting the project site. The following resources were reviewed to conduct this evaluation:

1. **Previous studies, suitability determinations or antidegradation assessments conducted by the DMMP or other agencies.** No previous assessments were found for this site.
2. **Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) Database.** A search was conducted to look at chemical or biological data within the vicinity of the project location (Figure 2). No sediment data were found in the vicinity of the site; some water quality data were available but were not recent or relevant.
3. **Ecology's "What's In My Neighborhood" Site Cleanup Database.** A search was conducted to look at historical and active cleanup sites within 1.0 mile of the project location (Figure 3). There are no cleanup sites near the project location.
4. **Ecology's Spill Map.** A search was conducted to look at spills within the last 8 years within 0.5 mile of the project location (Figure 4). No spills were reported near the project location.

Prepared by:
Dredged Material Management Office
Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers

Invasive Species

Based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) aquatic invasive species website (WDFW, n.d.) the presence of New Zealand mud snails (NZMS) has not been positively identified in the Satsop River basin. The excavation and re-shaping of alluvial material at the restoration site does not present a significant risk of inadvertent spreading of NZMS beyond its current distribution in the Chehalis River system.

No Test Determination

As determined by the Tier 1 evaluation, there is no indication of anthropogenic contamination in this area. Any movement of material within the restoration area would be subject to similar sources of naturally occurring environmental contaminants (e.g., metals, etc.) and the materials are likely substantially similar. Based on the restoration design most of the excavated material will remain within the restructured riverine system. Material that will not remain on-site will be taken to an off-site upland location or placed at an adjacent quarry pond.

Clean Water Act Subpart G, Section 230.60(b)(6)(c) states: where the discharge site is adjacent to the extraction site and subject to the same sources of contaminants, and materials at the two sites are substantially similar, the fact that the material to be discharged may be a carrier of contaminants is not likely to result in degradation of the disposal site. In such circumstances, when dissolved material and suspended particulates can be controlled to prevent carrying pollutants to less contaminated areas, testing will not be required. Based on these factors, the DMMP agencies have determined that no testing is required for this project.

If the project scope changes to include offsite aquatic disposal or excavation outside of the proposed area, or new sediment quality information becomes available that could influence this determination, the DMMO should be contacted to determine if further DMMP coordination is needed.

This No Test determination does not constitute final agency approval of the project. During the public comment period that follows a public notice, resource agencies will provide input on the overall project. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

References

DMMP 2021. *Dredged Material Evaluation and Disposal Procedures (User Manual)*. Dredged Material Management Program, updated July 2021.

Ecology's EIM Database Search: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/eim/search/default.aspx>

Ecology's What's in My Neighborhood Search: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/>

Ecology's Spill Incidents Database: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Spill-preparedness-response/Responding-to-spill-incidents/Spill-incidents>

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. (n.d.) New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*). Retrieved November 27, 2023, from <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/potamopyrgus-antipodarum#desc-range>

Figures

Figure 1. Project Vicinity and Location Maps

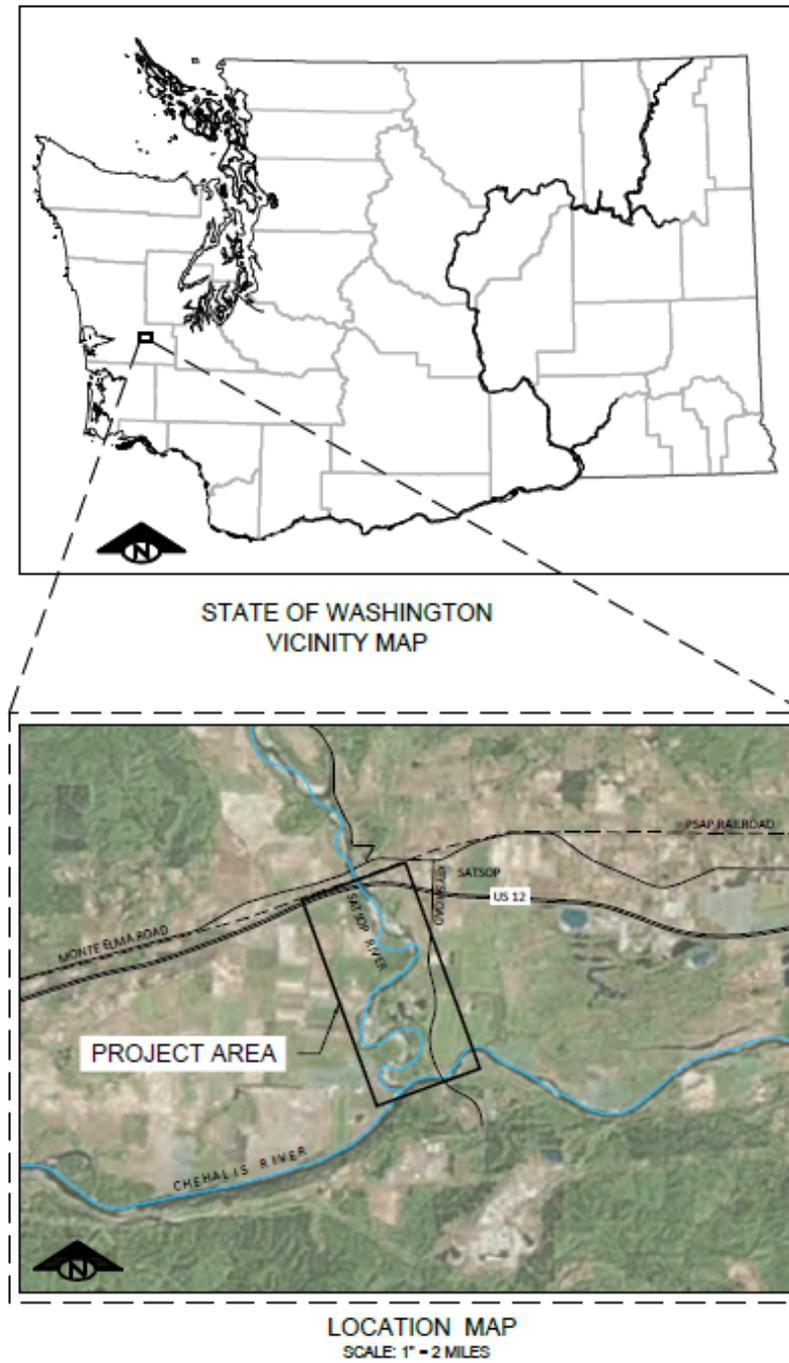


Figure 2: EIM Data Search

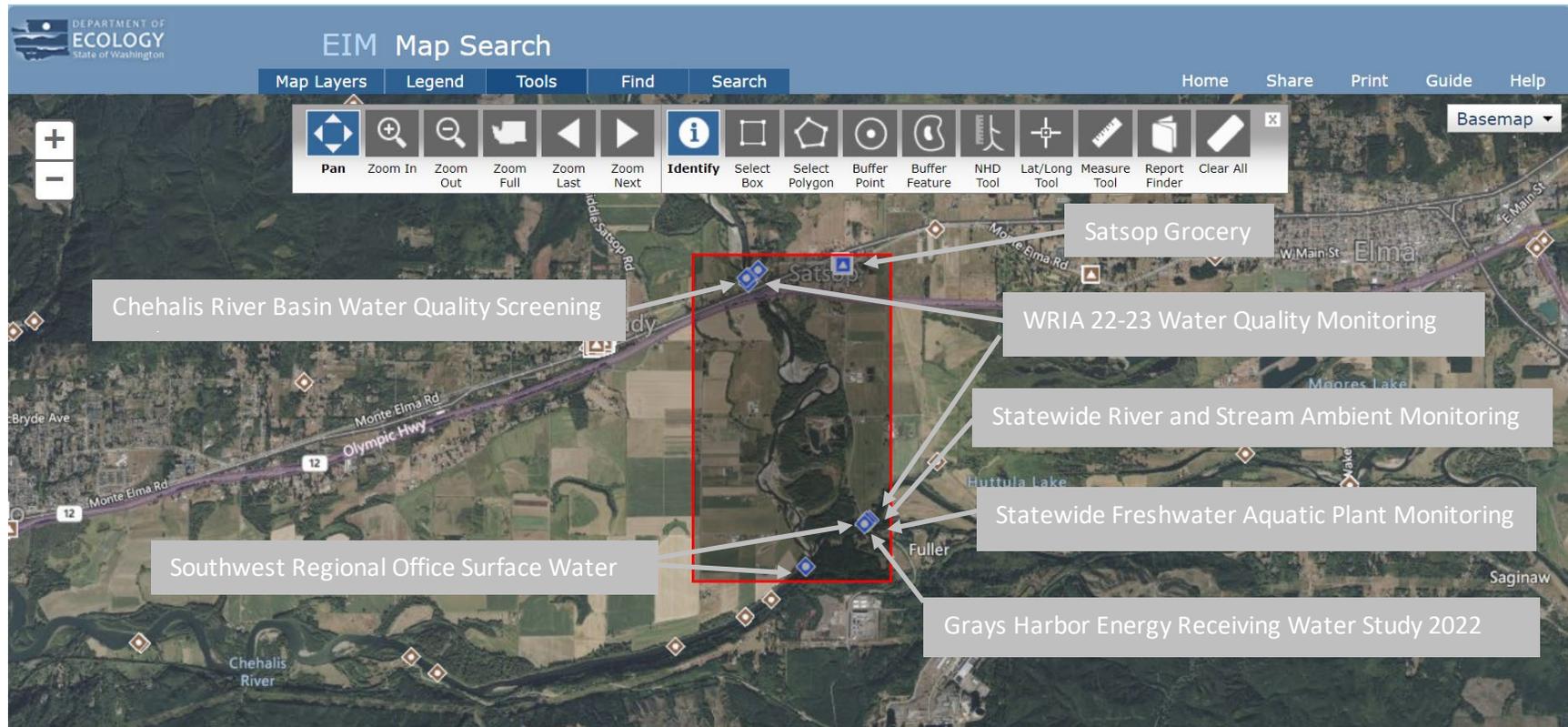


Figure 3: What's in My Neighborhood Cleanup Sites

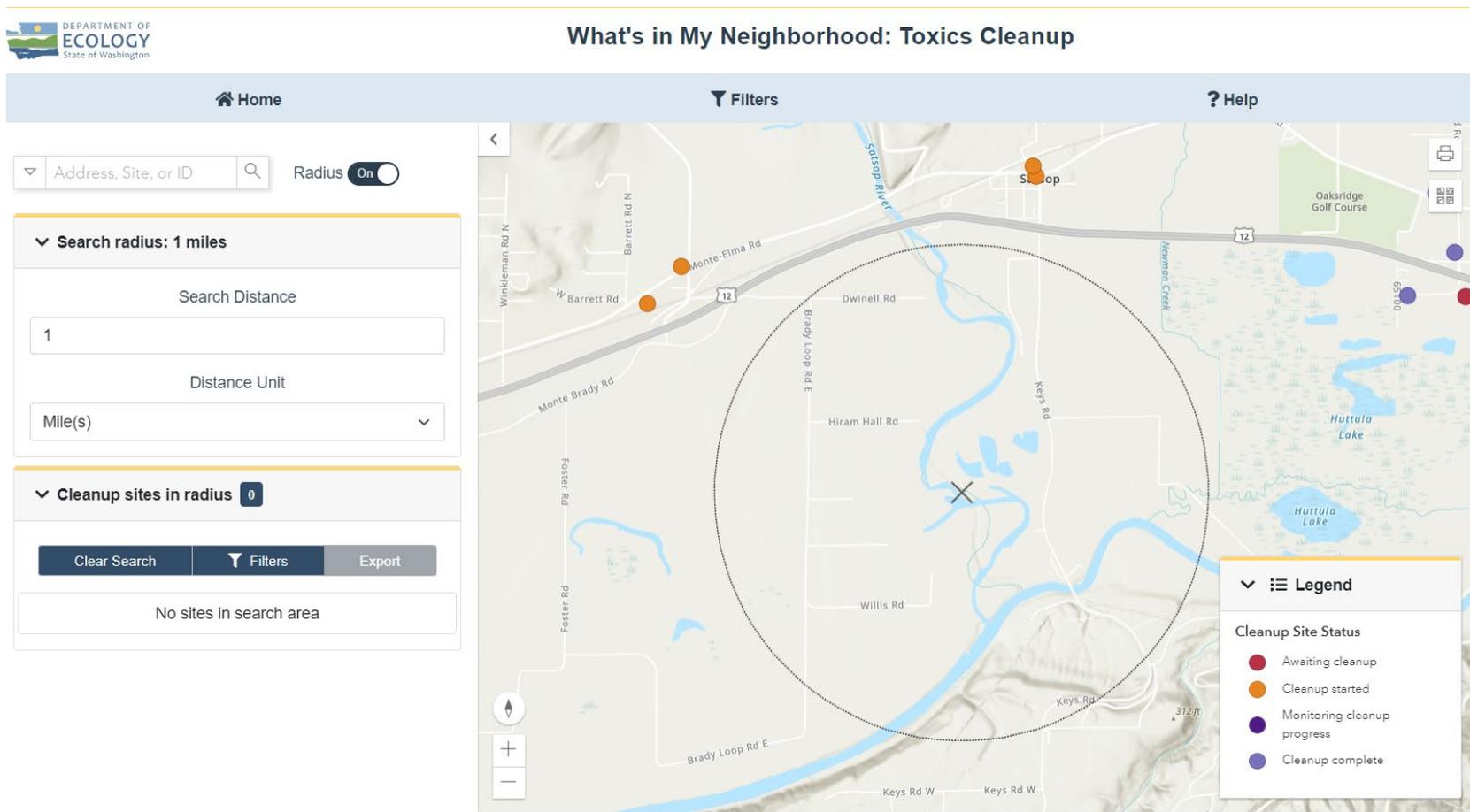
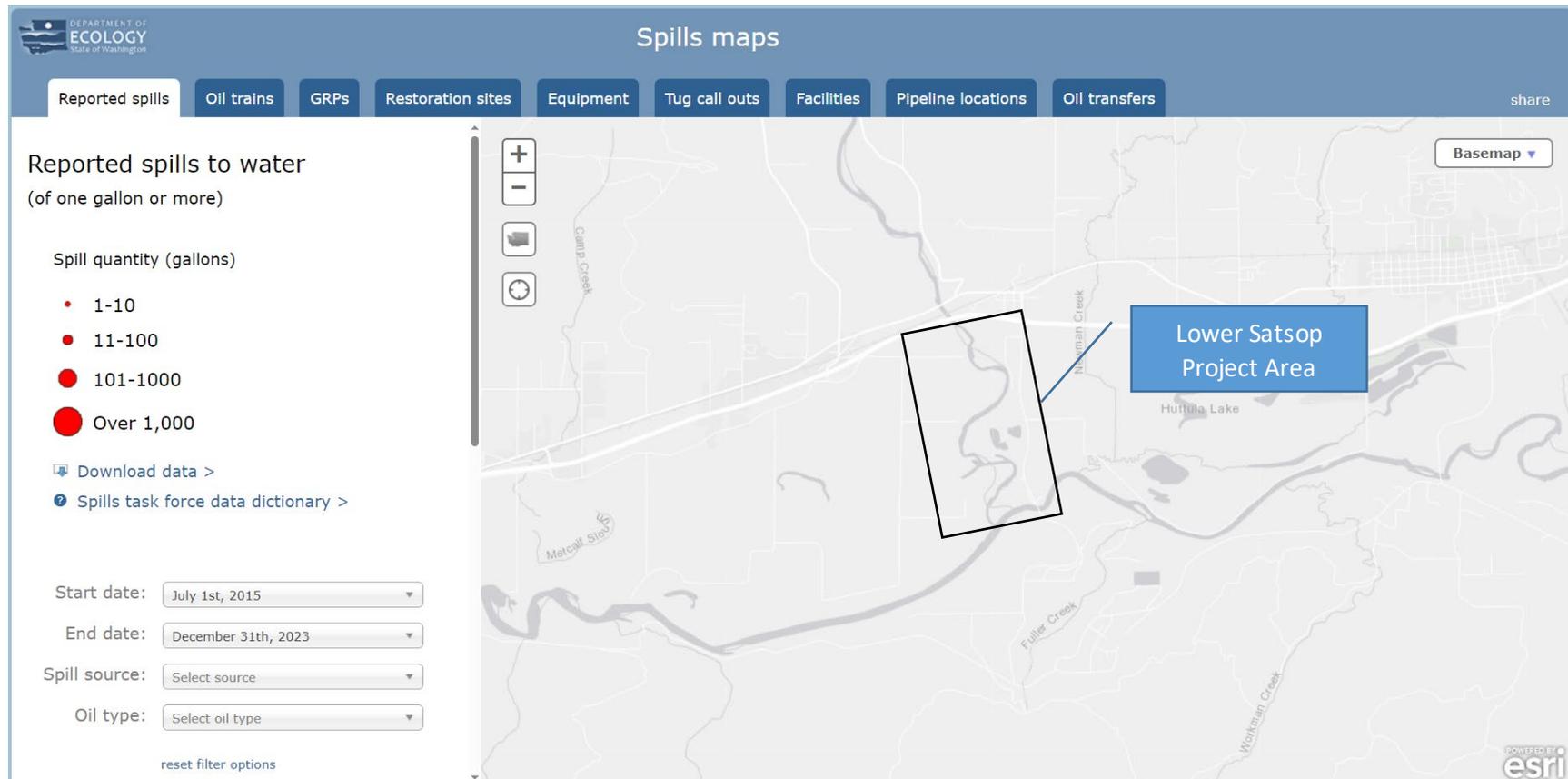


Figure 4. Ecology's Spills Database



Agency Signatures

The signed copy is on file in the Dredged Material Management Office, Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date Brian Hester – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

Date Sarah Burgess – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Date Laura Inouye, PhD. – Washington State Department of Ecology

Date Shannon Soto – Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:

- DMMP agencies
- Brad Johnson, USACE Regulatory Project Manager
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- DMMO File