DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
11511 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 90012
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

PROPONENT: Will Sanderson, Clean Cuts Inc.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: 301 131st Avenue NE

NAME & DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Crittenden Asay Landscape

Review of repair to existing rockeries, removal of invasive vegetation, and replanting on a stream bank adjacent to the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek

FILE NUMBER: 13-106813-GH

The Environmental Coordinator of the City of Bellevue has determined that this proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after the Bellevue Environmental Coordinator reviewed the completed environmental checklist and information filed with the Land Use Division of the Development Services Department. This information is available to the public on request.

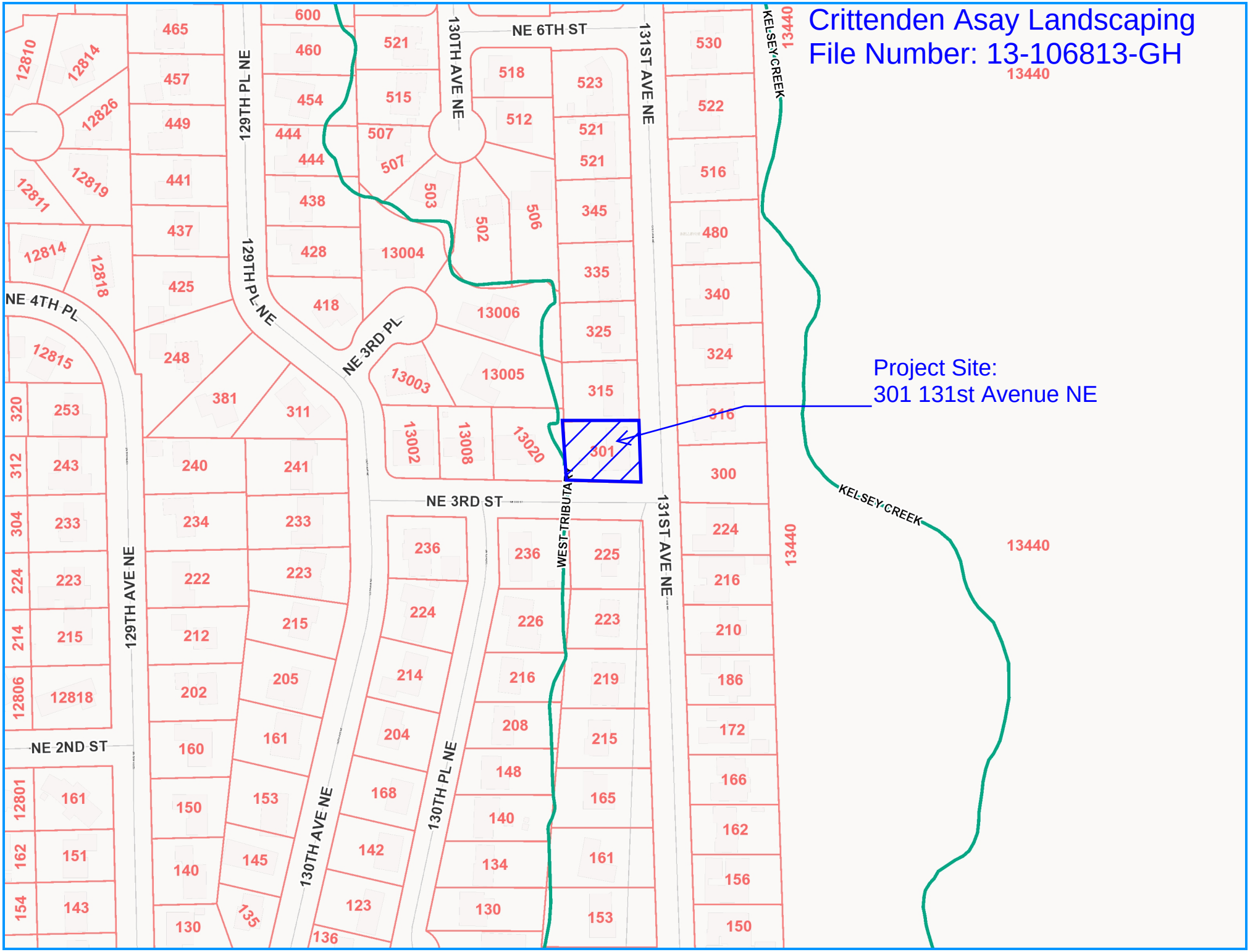
- ☐ There is no comment period for this DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on _____.
- ☒ This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on 6/20/13.
- ☐ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and is subject to a 14-day comment period from the date below. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on _____. This DNS is also subject to appeal. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on _____.

This DNS may be withdrawn at any time if the proposal is modified so that it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts; if there is significant new information indicating, or on, a proposals probable significant adverse environmental impacts (unless a non-exempt license has been issued if the proposal is a private project): or if the DNS was procured by misrepresentation or lack of material disclosure.

Michael N. Paine
Environmental Coordinator

6/6/2013
Date

OTHERS TO RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT:
State Department of Fish and Wildlife
State Department of Ecology,
Army Corps of Engineers
Attorney General
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe


Crittenden Asay Landscaping
File Number: 13-106813-GH
Project Site:
301 131st Avenue NE
NE 6TH ST
NE 4TH PL
NE 3RD PL
NE 3RD ST
NE 2ND ST
129TH PL NE
129TH AVE NE
130TH AVE NE
130TH PL NE
131ST AVE NE
KELSEY CREEK
WEST TRIBUTARY
301
13440

Received
FEB 11 2013
Permit Processing

Habitat Improvement Plan for Crittenden-Asay Landscaping Project (301 131st Avenue Northeast, Bellevue, WA)

Prepared for:

Reilly Pittman
Development Services
City of Bellevue

February, 2013

Prepared by:
Ella Elman
Ecologist
834 171st PL NE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Introduction

The property at 301 131st Avenue Northeast is a single family parcel, #247230-0040, sized at 0.2617 acres. The property abuts the west fork of Kelsey Creek and runs along the creek for 95 linear feet.

In early 2012, flooding of the Creek damaged the retaining wall that supports the bank along the property. The retaining wall was repaired in September 2012. As part of the repairs, approximately 700 square feet of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) was removed and grubbed from the stream bank and a new cedar fence was installed at the top of the bank. The stream bank is very steep (greater than 30 percent slope) and is considered to be a "Critical Area" in the City of Bellevue. Currently, there is no vegetation present in this area, aside from two existing trees growing at the top of the stream bank. The soil is currently covered by a double layer of jute erosion control fabric to prevent erosion.

This report represents a habitat improvement plan for the affected area, along with adjacent areas that are not affected by the "Critical Areas" permit. In addition, monitoring and maintenance recommendations are made for five years following planting of the site.

Site Description

A visual assessment of the project site was conducted on February 9, 2013. The riparian area along the stream extends 95 linear feet along the western property boundary and is approximately 20 feet wide. The area was divided into five distinct zones (Map 1).

Zone 1 consists of an area extending approximately 25 linear feet along the stream. This zone consists of English ivy (*Hedera helix*) groundcover, and was not impacted by the work along the streambank.

Zones 2 and 3 represent the area where Himalayan blackberry was removed in September of 2012, and is bare of vegetation, with the exception of two trees at the top of the bank. These two zones comprise approximately 700 square feet in area and extend 35 feet along the stream. They are currently covered by a double layer of jute erosion control fabric to prevent soil erosion. These zones are subject to the current permitting actions that are a part of the retaining wall reconstruction project.

Zones 4 and 5 consist of three terraces that were constructed prior to 2011. This area was not affected during the wall reconstruction project. The area extends approximately 35 feet along the stream and is 22 feet wide. Zone 4 of the terraces is a bare area that is currently maintained by weeding. Zone 5 is sparsely planted with ornamental and native species such as Rhododendrons (*Rhododenron sp.*), red alders (*Alnus rubra*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and a Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).

Map 1. Location of property and delineated zones.

Management Recommendations

Zone 1

No management recommendations are made for Zone 1 at the current time. This zone was not affected by the repairs of the retaining wall and no vegetation was removed or altered in this area.

Zones 2 and 3

These zones should be re-planted with native shrubs and herbaceous species as soon as possible to stabilize the area. The planting season in the Pacific Northwest is during the winter and spring months, when moisture is available to allow plants to establish. If possible, it is recommended that plants are planted before the end of February, 2013. Shrubs should be spaced approximately five feet apart, with herbaceous plants spaced between the shrubs.

Due to the steep slopes present in these zones, plants should be planted directly into the jute fabric, which should remain until plants establish. Strategic placement of large woody debris can create temporary terraces that can prevent soil erosion once the jute fabric decomposes in approximately two to three years.

Table 1. Zones 2 and 3 Planting Plan (all plants are 1 gallon)

Zone	Species Name	Quantity
2	tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)	2
2	Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)	3
2	red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)	3
2	Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*)	3
2	snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)	3
2	sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)	5
2	salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)	5
2	big-leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphillus*)	4
3	vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)	3
3	red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)	3
3	Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)	3
3	salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)	2
3	red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)	3

3	big-leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphillus*)	5
3	sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)	5
3	bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*)	4

Zone 4

Zone 4 is already terraced and relatively flat. This zone is not part of the "Critical Areas" permitting in Zones 2 and 3. Nevertheless, a planting plan was developed for this area, as it is sparsely vegetated.

Zone 4 is currently cleared of vegetation and weeds are beginning to grow. It is recommended that this area is preserved as a view corridor from the house to the stream, as there are currently no tall shrubs or trees in this zone. There are three terraces, spanning the elevation from the top to the bottom of the stream bank. To reduce weeding and maintenance, it is recommended that this zone is planted densely with groundcovers and covered with three to four inches of bark mulch. Mulch should be kept at least six inches away from plants to prevent water from pooling around the roots.

The open character of this area provides an opportunity to create a wildflower meadow that would benefit wildlife including humming birds, butterflies and insects. Wildflowers should be planted in clusters of three gallon pots of the same species together, to create a more landscaped appearance.

Table 2. Zone 4 Planting Plan (all plants are 1 gallon)

Terrace	Species Name	Quantity
Upper	tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)	2
Upper	red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)	1
Upper	big-leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphillus*)	6
Upper	Oregon iris (*Iris tenax*)	3
Upper	western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)	6
Upper	Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*)	6
Upper	riverbank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*)	3
Upper	Davidson's penstemon (*Penstemon davidsonii*)	3
Upper	coast penstemon (*Penstemon serrulatus*)	3
Middle	Western meadowrue (*Thalictrum occidentale*)	3

Middle	Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)	2
Middle	big-leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphillus*)	6
Middle	Oregon iris (*Iris tenax*)	3
Middle	riverbank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*)	3
Middle	bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*)	3
Middle	western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)	6
Middle	Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*)	6
Lower	Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)	2
Lower	Western meadowrue (*Thalictrum occidentale*)	4
Lower	big-leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphillus*)	4
Lower	Oregon iris (*Iris tenax*)	3
Lower	western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)	3
Lower	early blue violet (*Viola adunca*)	3
Lower	riverbank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*)	3

Zone 5

Zone 5 is already terraced and relatively flat. This zone is not part of the "Critical Areas" permitting in Zones 2 and 3. Nevertheless, a planting plan was developed for this area, as it is sparsely vegetated.

Zone 5 has little understory vegetation, with several sparsely planted Rhododendron shrubs and a small Douglas-fir tree. This area is currently landscaped, and the character of the landscaping should be preserved. It is recommended that groundcovers and low shrubs are added to the area to fill in the vegetation. In addition, the zone should be covered with three to four inches of bark mulch to reduce weeding and maintenance. Mulch should be kept at least six inches away from plants to prevent water from pooling around the roots.

Table 3. Zone 5 Planting Plan (all plants are 1 gallon)

Terrace	Species Name	Quantity
Upper	evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)	5
Upper	red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)	2

Upper	sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)	5
Upper	white fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*)	3 (4" pots)
Middle	evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)	3
Middle	tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)	2
Middle	sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)	5
Middle	salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)	5
Middle	white fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*)	3 (4" pots)
Lower	evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)	3
Lower	tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)	2
Lower	sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)	5
Lower	salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)	5
Lower	white fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*)	3 (4" pots)

Monitoring and maintenance recommendations

Following planting, Zones 2 and 3 must be monitored and maintained for a period of at least five years.

Monitoring

Monitoring should take place once a year, during the summer or fall season, when shrubs can be identified to species. Monitoring should be conducted during the same month each year for consistency. Restoration goals and monitoring metrics are identified below. Both Zones 2 and 3 shall have:

1) 80% survival of shrub species by year three
2) Less than 10% cover of invasive species in the tree, shrub and herbaceous layers by year three

Due to the small size of the area, a total survey of all planted shrubs should take place once a year. If fewer than 80% of planted shrubs survive, they should be replaced during the planting season to ensure that at least 80% of planted shrubs are alive by year three following planting.

Monitoring of invasive species should take place at least twice a year, in the spring and fall. Visual monitoring is sufficient for this small area. If more than 10% of the area is covered by invasive species, maintenance will be required.

Maintenance

Zones 2 and 3 should be maintained at least twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. Maintenance should include removal of any re-growth of Himalayan blackberry, with as much root as possible. In addition, any invasive species including English ivy that might be spreading from Zone 1 should be removed.

Watering might be necessary in Zones 2 and 3 during the summer months for the first two years, or until plants establish. New plantings should be watered deeply to penetrate into the soil. Plants should be kept relatively moist, and not allowed to dry out completely.

Plants in Zone 4 are not subject to restoration goals. These plants mostly consist of wildflowers that grow in open meadow environments and are adapted to dry soils in the summer. Care should be taken not to water these plants excessively.

Plants in Zone 5 are also not subject to the restoration goals. Newly planted plants should be watered for the first two years during the summer months, to allow the plants to establish.