



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

EarthCorps

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<https://www.earthcorps.org>

Organization's General Goals:

EarthCorps brings together passionate and hardworking young adults from the U.S. and countries around the world, for a yearlong leadership training program in Seattle, Washington.

Date of Award:

2021 Q1

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from EarthCorps.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

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Final Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

EarthCorps

December 2021

Grant Code: **Q1 2021 14.3**

EarthCorps URL: www.earthcorps.org

Wetland restoration offers a place-based approach to addressing climate change, while also providing many benefits for fish, wildlife, and local communities. EarthCorps is grateful for the Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund's investment in our innovative Blue Carbon Initiative in Snohomish County over the past year. With your partnership, we are piloting strategies to capture carbon through protecting and enhancing priority coastal wetland habitats. We are pleased to provide a report on our progress in 2021. Thank you for your partnership!

LOOKING BACK – BLUE CARBON PROGRESS

Over the past year, EarthCorps has continued to maintain and monitor the blue carbon buffer enhancement project at two test sites in the intertidal marsh transition zone along the backshore of the Qwuloolt Estuary in Snohomish County. An EarthCorps crew of 5-8 people (including our habitat specialist and senior ecologist) have been focused on invasive plant management to ensure the establishment of native plantings, including:

- Ongoing weeding and maintenance to clear aggressive and detrimental invasive plant species;
- Careful hand weeding of non-native and invasive weed species from the hummock and planted test plot areas; and
- Brush cutting aggressive reed canarygrass in the plot areas and creating a buffer around the test plots.

In addition, EarthCorps has been continuing to monitor plant vigor and survival. We regularly visit the site to evaluate the long-term benefits of using elevated hummocks for plant establishment in the riparian buffer of a highly disturbed intertidal estuary restoration site. After three years, preliminary results show promising results for both survival and plant establishment in the hummocks. Plants we observed in the hummocks this year were much larger, had more average cover, and appeared healthier than the same species that we had previously planted directly into the existing soils or into mulched areas without the addition of hummocks. These initial results suggest that the installation of hummocks will substantially increase survival and establishment in the



Before restoration



After restoration (ongoing site maintenance continues)

novel intertidal riparian buffer habitat. The above photos show the progression of one of the test sites over time, as a result of our restoration and maintenance efforts.

LOOKING AHEAD - BLUE CARBON INITIATIVE IN 2022: EarthCorps began our Blue Carbon work in partnership with Tulalip Tribes and Restore America's Estuary in the Qwuloolt Estuary. One of our key strategies has been to create riparian buffer zones around tidal marshes in these areas. As sea levels rise, the intertidal marsh will expand toward the shore over time, increasing biodiversity and maximizing carbon sequestration and ecosystem function overall. This strategy simultaneously improves habitat for fish and wildlife, improves overall water quality, protects against storm surges and soil erosion, and enhances infiltration and retention of stormwater runoff. In the coming year, EarthCorps seeks to continue to monitor and maintain priority sites in the Qwuloolt Estuary and, if we raise enough funding, we will be able to expand blue carbon work to Union Slough, a 24-acre estuarine marsh mudflat habitat located in the Snohomish River estuary.

THANK YOU! Blue Carbon work is long-term work, with opportunity for tremendous gains in combatting climate change by sequestering carbon in restored coastal estuaries. Based upon a review of currently planned and in-construction restoration projects in the Snohomish estuary, an estimated 2.55 million tons of CO₂ will be sequestered from the atmosphere over the next 100 years. Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund's support has helped us continue this important and innovative work.