



PORT OF KLICKITAT

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2013

Landscape Work Begins At Port

Bingen, Washington – The Port of Klickitat has started planting new trees and shrubs to replace those removed as part of the Bingen Point Infrastructure Improvement project launched in 2012. “When work on the project began last year, several areas had to be raised with fill material so future development would be above the 100-year flood plain,” said Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby. “Because this would have buried the root structure for many of the existing trees so deep they would not have survived, we had to remove them.”

Where the project area is adjacent to Bingen Lake, the Port and contractor, in consultation with the Washington Dept. of Ecology, took special steps to create a natural transition from the surrounding development to the wetland area. Constructed with large, partially exposed boulders scattered throughout, these transitional slopes provide gaps where small shrubs and trailing plants will be placed and are intended to generally mimic the rocky, partially vegetated geology of the mid-Columbia region.

The Port is acquiring many of the plants from the Underwood Conservation District which is also offering information and assistance to the Port in an effort to improve the survival rate of the seedlings. “Nevertheless, we know we'll lose a few, but the plants that survive will spread and fill in the gaps where others didn't make it,” said Josh Mead, the Port's Maintenance Supervisor. “However, if a particular species suffers abnormally high mortality, then we'll replace it with a different one that may do better.”

In total, the Port will be placing over 200 plants along Marina Way and Bingen Point Way this Spring including Ponderosa Pine, Vine Maple, Serviceberry, Mock Orange, and Douglas Spirea. A number of smaller plants will be added later in areas that are still under construction. “We're using a mix of deciduous and evergreen plants that are native to the area, several of which provide food and habitat for a variety of birds and small animals,” added Mead.

At A Glance...

Who:.....Port of Klickitat

What:.....Project Landscaping

When:.....May 1, 2013

Where:.....Bingen Point

Quick Facts: .Port to plant over 200 new trees and shrubs to replace those removed by the 2012 Bingen Point Infrastructure Improvement project.

About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.

For more information, please contact:

Marc Thornsby, Executive Director ■ 509-493-1655 ■ mthornsby@portofklickitat.com