

VEGETATION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been included to protect existing native plants and enhance the unique natural context of the Broughton Landing site through preservation, weed management and restoration.

1. Native Plant Preservation

Native trees remaining within the old lumber mill site will be preserved whenever possible. Native trees are best suited to grow in the climate conditions of their local habitat while supplying food and shelter for wildlife. Emphasis should be on preservation of Western white oak, which is particularly well suited for this site and provides valuable wildlife habitat. There are also some large Douglas fir, Big-leaf maple, Oregon ash and willow which should be preserved if possible. The Ocean spray and Mock orange and Ceanothus (summer lilac) should also be preserved. Due to the harsh, exposed, windy site conditions, it will be difficult to establish new trees of any species, thus maintaining the current forest and shrub community should be a top priority for the site design.

2. Manage Weed Infestation

To reduce potential new weed infestations, landscaping practices such as machine-blading of the ground should be avoided or kept to the absolute minimum. To reduce the germination and growth of wind and animal borne invasive seed, all disturbed areas should be re-seeded with native plant seed collected within roughly fifteen miles of the site. The successful Scott's Broom control project should be continued. Currently just a few remaining plants, and young seedlings of this invasive could readily be removed before they grow larger. There is only a little knapweed on site now and a long-term monitoring and removal program is needed to ensure that noxious weeds do not become a bigger problem.

3. Re-vegetate with Native Plants

Native plants should be selected for new gardens and green spaces. Use of native plants that tolerate local climatic and soil conditions will reduce the need for irrigation and maintenance. Native vegetation will also help maintain the ecosystem by providing shelter and food for wildlife while providing an attractive, context-appropriate landscape setting for Broughton Landing.

For example, plantings of Barrett's Penstemon should be established in dry, exposed locations including cliff and gravel areas such as the former quarry site where it grows best. This gorge-endemic (it only exists within the gorge) plant has a showy blossom in late spring with attractive foliage the rest of the year. Barrett's Penstemon is relatively easy to start and maintain and is very popular with flower enthusiasts. Other recommended local native plants for this site include *Lomatium suksdorfii*, *Lomatium columbianum*, *Pachystema* – boxwood and other Penstemon species.

Weed-free native plant seed is available from a business such as Milestone Nursery, located in Lyle, Washington. Resources to assist in selection of other native plant options include native plant organizations and nurseries familiar with central Columbia River Gorge.