



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

EarthCorps

Address:

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Seattle, WA 98115

Contact:

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<https://www.earthcorps.org>

Organization's General Goals:

EarthCorps cultivates leaders and community partnerships to advance environmental justice.

Date of Award:

2023 Q2

Level:

\$500 to \$2,500

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

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

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Final Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
EarthCorps, *July 2024*

Grant Code: Q2 2023 14.2

EarthCorps URL: www.earthcorps.org

EarthCorps is grateful for Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund’s investment in our innovative Blue Carbon Initiative in Snohomish County. We are pleased to provide a report on our progress over the past year. Thank you for your partnership!



Successful hummock installation

BLUE CARBON PROGRESS

Over the past year, EarthCorps has continued our work at the blue carbon buffer sites in the intertidal marsh transition zone along the backshore of the Qwuloolt Estuary in Snohomish County. We have conducted thirteen EarthCorps crew days in the Snohomish Estuary and two volunteer events at Union Slough, reaching approximately 40 Corps members.

In the second half of 2023, EarthCorps continued 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 2024, EarthCorps hired a Habitat Specialist from our Corps program. Developing this employment pipeline is a key consideration for EarthCorps to best support the professional development of our Corps members. In 2024, we continued planning for expansion of Blue Carbon work: we partnered with Tulalip Tribes' Restoration, Acquisition, and Stewardship Program to submit a proposal for over \$1 million; we had site visits with other grant funders to discuss future expansion efforts, and we met with the Port of Everett to discuss expanding the project into other areas overseen by the Port. Lastly, we continued restoration efforts at Union Slough in partnership with the Port of Everett.

In the coming year, we seek to continue developing and improving upon Best Management Practices for restoring tidally influenced riparian habitats. Our goal is to rebuild healthy, functioning natural ecosystems in partnership with local communities as they lead the work to become safe, resilient, and self-sustaining. Additionally, we hope to finalize our defined Stewardship Action Plan to guide prioritization of future habitat enhancement projects at Union Slough. Our Stewardship Action Plan will follow an ecological restoration framework. The finalized Stewardship Action Plan will help EarthCorps further refine and improve our knowledge of Best Management Practices for restoring tidally influenced riparian habitats. Lastly, we will continue to use our Marine Riparian Restoration Assessment (MRRA) tool to monitor and report our experimental plantings in the Qwuloolt Estuary and track growth and establishment within the different treatment plots. We plan to monitor these sites for long-term establishment trends. We will visit potential sites with partners and use the MRRA to establish current conditions and structural opportunities for enhancement at potential sites.

Based upon a review of planned and in-progress 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. THANK YOU! Blue Carbon work is long-term work, with the opportunity for tremendous gains in combatting the climate crisis by sequestering carbon in restored coastal estuaries and Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund's support has been integral in this important work.

