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June 2016 Update

During the spring, Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) focuses on progressive ecological restoration. Ecological restoration refers to the establishment of ecosystems that mimic the structure, diversity and dynamics of the pre-disturbance landscape. This activity may take years – therefore it is natural for projects to be on-going. MPMC is committed to restoring rock dumps as they are completed and the rehabilitation of Hazeltine Creek.

MPMC completes progressive ecological restoration in areas of the Mount Polley Mine site as they become inactive (i.e., no additional disturbance or material placement is planned). Progressive restoration prepares the site for closure, providing an opportunity for enhancement of restoration methodologies, continued research into restoration/reclamation prescriptions, and allowing for continued refinement of closure cost calculations. This activity also provides additional opportunities to improve site contact water quality characteristics by reducing contact with waste materials and/or disturbed areas, and reducing erosion potential.

The general sequencing for restoration includes: site preparation (i.e., re-sloping) for geotechnical stability and macro-scale (landform) design, soil application (direct application where possible, otherwise using previously stockpiled materials, potentially with soil amendments), microsite creation (contouring and/or coarse woody debris/rock placement), planting and/or seeding, and ongoing monitoring.

Grass and forb seeding around the mine site is occurring, using a custom native seed blend that includes fireweed, lupins and various grasses, as part of the progressive restoration plan (non-breach related). Revegetation of the Boundary and East Rock dumps will include ~30 000 conifer seedlings set to be planted in the upcoming weeks with an additional ~4800 Sitka Alder scheduled to be planted in the fall. Around the breach areas, cattail seeds have been actively spread along the Polley Lake flats and upper to mid Hazeltine Creek.

In March, a crew from the Soda Creek First Nations collected willow cuttings around the mine site. They are currently planting these cuttings as part of the Hazeltine Creek revegetation. The goal of the 2016 revegetation program is to complete 70% of the initial phase planting for mid to lower Hazeltine Creek. The recontouring and surface texturing of the creek banks as well as the spreading of woody debris has started in this area. Scouler's Willow wattles planted last spring have leafed (see Figure 1) and the Prickly Rose bushes (see Figure 2) are flowering at Lower Hazeltine.

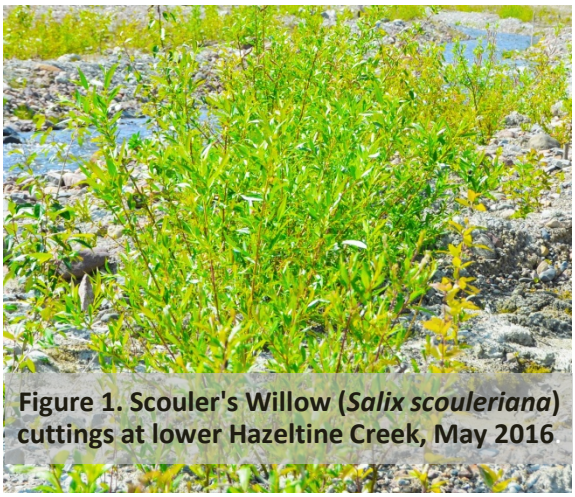

Figure 1. Scouler's Willow (*Salix scouleriana*) cuttings at lower Hazeltine Creek, May 2016

Figure 2. Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*) at Lower Hazeltine Creek, May 2016.

In the almost two years since the breach occurred, rehabilitation of the affected areas has progressed significantly. As Figure 3 demonstrates, lower Hazeltine Creek has evolved from its initial disturbance in 2014. In 2015, the creek was recountoured to prevent erosion; soil and coarse woody debris were spread around the upper banks for nutrient addition and habitat, and rocks were placed along the banks for stability. Native trees and shrubs were planted along the banks for erosion control during the spring and fall. The green in the picture from May 2016 shows the plants growing along the channel and the start of the new landscape of lower Hazeltine Creek.

Figure 3. Lower Hazeltine Comparison (downstream view from the Ditch Road Bridge). Top picture was taken November 2014, middle picture was taken June 2015, and bottom picture was taken May 2016.