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Burnt Bridge Creek Cleanup Costs and Source-Control Considerations

The ARP discusses litter, source control, restoration, and actions needed to improve water quality within the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed. I encourage Ecology and project partners to consider whether the plan adequately documents the recurring cleanup burden associated with long-term encampments and related debris within the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor.

According to City of Vancouver Public Records Act records, the Burnt Bridge Creek and trail corridor category accounted for 81 cleanup events between March 9, 2021 and February 12, 2026. During that period, approximately 581.70 tons of material were removed at a reconstructed total cost of approximately \$631,616.37.

The cleanup records indicate a recurring source-control and restoration issue within the watershed. The material removed was not limited to ordinary litter. City cleanup records and encampment-cleanup contract documents show activities involving garbage, abandoned property, tents, tarps, furniture, mattresses, shopping carts, biohazards, contaminated materials, human waste, syringes, needles, fire debris, hazardous materials, and other waste requiring specialized cleanup and disposal.

I am not suggesting that all removed material entered Burnt Bridge Creek. However, the scale, frequency, and cost of these cleanup activities demonstrate a continuing pollution-prevention and restoration challenge within the watershed.

The ARP should include a discussion of recurring encampment-related cleanup burdens, associated waste streams, restoration impacts, and source-control considerations within the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed, together with any monitoring or adaptive-management measures deemed appropriate. Future cleanup events, cleanup costs, waste tonnage removed, restoration expenditures, and significant restoration barriers within the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor should be documented and periodically provided to Ecology and the ARP Program Manager as part of ongoing implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management of the watershed.

See the Attached Document

Burnt Bridge Creek Encampment Cleanup Cost and Waste Removal Summary

Source

The information summarized below was obtained through a City of Vancouver Public Records Act request and supporting contract records.

Supporting records:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1twa6FGidHDgWG2q_d2Jq8HRNI7Cvvg5l

Burnt Bridge Creek Corridor Cleanup Summary

Time Period: March 9, 2021 – February 12, 2026

Cleanup Events: 81

Material Removed: 581.70 Tons

Direct Cleanup Costs: \$396,178.01

Labor and Equipment Costs: \$235,438.36

Reconstructed Total Cost: \$631,616.37

Why This Matters

The Burnt Bridge Creek ARP discusses litter, source control, restoration, and water-quality improvement.

City records indicate that the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor required repeated cleanup operations over multiple years involving hundreds of tons of material and substantial public expense.

The cleanup activity involved more than ordinary litter collection. City encampment-cleanup contracts describe removal and handling of garbage and solid waste, human waste and bodily fluids, syringes and needles, biohazard-contaminated materials, hazardous materials, contaminated soil, fire debris, abandoned property, tents, tarps, mattresses, furniture, and similar debris.

City contractor records also show the use of dedicated encampment-cleanup and biohazard-response contractors and recurring multi-person cleanup crews.

ARP Question

Should a recurring source-control and restoration burden that resulted in 81 cleanup events, removal of 581.70 tons of material, and approximately \$631,616.37 in public expense be documented and evaluated within the Burnt Bridge Creek Advance Restoration Plan?

Recommended ARP Closing Statement

The ARP should include a discussion of recurring encampment-related cleanup burdens, associated waste streams, restoration impacts, and source-control considerations within the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed, together with any monitoring or adaptive-management measures deemed appropriate. Future cleanup events, cleanup costs, waste tonnage removed, restoration expenditures, and significant restoration barriers within the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor should be documented and periodically provided to Ecology and the ARP Program Manager as part of ongoing implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management of the watershed.