

## Snapshots from the Sea-to-Sky . . .

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### Revegetating by hydroseeding

Used to replant areas disturbed by construction, hydroseeding is a fast, efficient, and economical grass planting process used on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project. The process begins by mixing mulch, seed, fertilizer, and water in the tank of a hydro-mulching machine. The slurry, which contains up to 10 different varieties of grass seed, is then pumped from the tank and sprayed onto the ground. The powerful hydroseeder spray jet reaches slopes that are often inaccessible. The seed mix used on the project has been modified from the standard mix used by the Ministry of Transportation on BC's south coast to discourage grazing animals such as bears. The slurry is much like soupy green papier-mâché. Once applied to the soil, the material enhances initial growth by providing a micro-environment beneficial to seed germination. The mulch in the hydroseed mixture helps maintain the moisture level of the seed and seedlings.

**P.S.** *Although hydroseeding has been used since 1920, the first commercial hydroseeder was invented in United States in the early 1950s in order to efficiently shoot seed and fertilizer over broad areas. The process is now used throughout the world.*



*This 1700 gallon tank takes 30 minutes to fill but empties in 10 minutes. One tank load of slurry can cover anywhere from 1500 to 3000 square meters of ground surface.*

**The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project** *Improving safety, reliability and capacity*

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