

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment: If you wish to comment at the meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time.

You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, at the address above or at wendy.loosle@rcow.wa.gov. Please send comments by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24 so they can be distributed to board members.

Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at 360/725-3943 or TDD 360/902-1996

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | CALL TO ORDER | <i>Chair</i> |
| | A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum | |
| | B. Review and Approval of Agenda – October 29-30, 2014 | |
| 9:05 a.m. | 1. Consent Calendar (Decision) | <i>Chair</i> |
| | A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – July 17-18, 2014 | |
| | B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2014 | |
| | C. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2015 | |
| | D. Approve Time Extensions | |
| | • 08-1175 Acquisition: Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves | |
| | • 08-1177 Acquisition: Cypress Island Natural Area 2008 | |
| | • 07-1974 Acquisition and Development: Malaga Community Park | |
| | <u>Resolution 2014-18</u> | |
| 9:10 a.m. | General Public Comment for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. | <i>Chair</i> |
| 9:15 a.m. | 2. Overview of Agenda and 50th Anniversary Celebration | <i>Scott Robinson</i> |
| 9:25 a.m. | 3. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework | <i>Scott Robinson</i> |
| | A. Approach for presenting the ranked lists | |

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 9:40 a.m. | 4. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account Grants* | <i>Darrell Jennings</i> |
| | A. Local Parks Category*..... <u>Resolution 2014-19</u> | <i>Adam Cole</i> |

-
- B. State Lands Development Category*[Resolution 2014-20](#) *Dan Haws*
 - C. State Parks Category*[Resolution 2014-21](#) *Karl Jacobs*
 - D. Trails Category*[Resolution 2014-22](#) *Darrell Jennings*
 - E. Water Access Category*[Resolution 2014-23](#) *Laura Moxham*

***Public comment** will occur after each category presented. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

10:55 a.m. BREAK

- 11:10 a.m. 5. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Riparian Protection Account Grants** *Sarah Thirtyacre*
- [Resolution 2014-24](#)

Public comment. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

- 11:30 a.m. 6. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Account Grants** *Kim Sellers*
- [Resolution 2014-25](#)

Public comment. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

11:50 a.m. LUNCH

- 12:50 p.m. 7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants** *Sarah Thirtyacre*
- A. Critical Habitat Category*[Resolution 2014-26](#) *Sarah Thirtyacre*
 - B. Natural Areas Category*[Resolution 2014-27](#) *Kim Sellers*
 - C. State Lands Restoration Category*[Resolution 2014-28](#) *Laura Moxham*
 - D. Urban Wildlife Category*[Resolution 2014-29](#) *Sarah Thirtyacre*

***Public comment** will occur after each category presented. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

- 2:00 p.m. 8. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grants** *Kyle Guzlas*
- [Resolution 2014-30](#)

Public comment. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

**2:30 p.m. ADJOURN FOR THE DAY
PROCEED TO CAPITAL RECEPTION ROOM FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER** *Chair*
-

- 9:05 a.m. 9. Director's Report (Briefing)**
- A. Director's Report *Kaleen Cottingham*
 - B. Policy Report and Legislative Preparations *Wendy Brown*
-

-
- C. Grant Management Report
 - D. Performance Report
 - E. Fiscal Report *(written only)*
-

Marguerite Austin
Jen Masterson

9:55 a.m. General Public Comment

For issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

Chair

10:00 a.m. 10. State Agency Partner Reports

- A. Department of Natural Resources
- B. State Parks
- C. Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jed Herman
Don Hoch
Joe Stohr

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:15 a.m. 11. Feedback on the Grant Evaluation Process

- A. Feedback from Advisory Committee Members
- B. Upcoming Survey of Participants

Marguerite Austin
Scott Robinson

10:45 a.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: DIRECTION

11:00 a.m. 12. Youth and Community Athletic Facilities

Leslie Connelly

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

11:30 a.m. 13. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Public Hearing

- Staff Briefing
- Public Hearing
- Board Discussion and Decision

Leslie Connelly

Resolution 2014-31

Public comment. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

12:00 p.m. LUNCH: Working Executive Session - Personnel Matters

Performance Review of RCO Director

1:00 p.m. 14. Conversion

- A. City of Bellevue, Mercer Slough conversion

Resolution 2014-32

Myra Barker

Public comment. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

1:30 p.m. 15. Board Survey and Strategic Plan

Kaleen Cottingham

1:45 p.m. ADJOURN

City of
Bellevue



Office of the City Manager • Phone (425) 452-7228 • Fax (425) 452-5247
Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009-9012

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: nona.snell@rco.wa.gov

September 2, 2014

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Funding Board
c/o Nona Snell
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Ms. Snell:

The City of Bellevue received notification from the City of Kirkland (pursuant to RCW 79A.15.110) of its application to the Board for funding to support acquisition of a portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor. The acquisition, as described by Kirkland, involves a 5.75 mile segment of the corridor and includes approximately 700 feet of the corridor within the city of Bellevue.

Bellevue supports regional efforts to develop the corridor for public use and benefit and supports the acquisition of the 5.75 mile segment of the corridor by Kirkland as consistent with this overall objective. Because the boundary between the two cities at the corridor does not correspond to any street rights of way, Kirkland has included in its project boundaries approximately 700 feet of the corridor in Bellevue. Including this Bellevue segment will allow Kirkland to develop a trail that will provide user access from 108th Avenue NE (in Bellevue) and from the South Kirkland Park & Ride (which straddles the boundaries of the two cities).

Bellevue is closely following regional planning and activities along the Eastside Rail Corridor. The City envisions a corridor with multiple uses and looks forward to a time when a trail along the corridor through Bellevue, as is identified in the city's long-range plans, is a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Miyake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Miyake
City Manager

cc: Kurt Triplett, Kirkland City Manager

City of Bellevue offices are located at 450 - 110th Avenue N.E.



October 20, 2014

Ms. Harriet Spanel, Chair
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
c/o Marguerite Austin, Manager, Recreation and Conservation Section
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chair Spanel and Members of the Board:

The City of Bellevue has received notification from the City of Kirkland (pursuant to RCW 79A.15.110) of an application to the Board for funding for reimbursement of the cost of a portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor. The acquisition, as described by Kirkland, involved a 5.75 mile segment of the corridor and included approximately 700 feet of the corridor within the City of Bellevue.

Bellevue supports regional efforts to develop the corridor for public use and benefit and supports the acquisition of the 5.75 mile segment of the corridor by Kirkland as consistent with this overall objective. Because the boundary between the two cities at the corridor does not correspond to any street rights of way, Kirkland has included in its Cross Kirkland Corridor project boundaries approximately 700 feet of the corridor located in Bellevue. Including this Bellevue segment will allow Kirkland to develop a trail that will provide user access from 108th Avenue NE (in Bellevue) and from the South Kirkland Park & Ride which straddles the boundaries of the two cities. The overall Cross-Kirkland Corridor will be an important transportation and recreation link for the community and is a key piece of the regional trail that will eventually link communities and destinations along the eastside of Lake Washington.

Bellevue is closely following regional planning and activities along the Eastside Rail Corridor. We envision a corridor with multiple uses and look forward in the future to having a trail along the Bellevue segment of the Eastside Rail Corridor, as identified in the city's long-range plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudia Balducci". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claudia Balducci
Mayor

cc: Bellevue City Council
Brad Miyake, Bellevue City Manager
Kurt Triplett, Kirkland City Manager

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-18
October 2014 Consent Calendar**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 2014 Consent Calendar items are approved:

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – July 17-18, 2014
- B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2014
- C. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2015
- D. Approve Time Extensions:
 - 08-1175 Acquisition: Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves
 - 08-1177 Acquisition: Cypress Island Natural Area 2008
 - 07-1974 Acquisition and Development: Malaga Community Park

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

- April 8-9 (Olympia)
- June 24-25 (Olympia)
- September 16-17 (Travel meeting, location TBD)
- November 18-19 (Olympia)

Note: RCO anticipates that as the agendas are developed, some of these meetings may be just one day. For the time being, please hold both days on your calendar.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Approve Time Extension Requests
Prepared By: Recreation and Conservation Section Grants Managers

Summary

This is a request for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to consider the proposed project time extensions shown in Attachment A.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-18

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the requested time extensions.

Background

Manual #7, *Funded Projects*, outlines the board's adopted policy for progress on active funded projects. Key elements of this policy are that the sponsor must complete a funded project promptly and meet the project milestones outlined in the project agreement. The director has authority to extend an agreement for up to four years. Extensions beyond four years require board action.

The RCO received a request for a time extension for each of the projects listed in Attachment A. This document summarizes the circumstances for the requested extensions and the expected date of project completion. Board action is required because the project sponsors are requesting extensions to continue the agreements beyond four years.

General considerations for approving time extension requests include:

- Receipt of a written request for the time extension;
- Reimbursements requested and approved;
- Date the board granted funding approval;
- Conditions surrounding the delay;
- Sponsor's reasons or justification for requesting the extension;
- Likelihood of sponsor completing the project within the extended period;
- Original dates for project completion;
- Current status of activities within the grant;
- Sponsor's progress on this and other funded projects;

- Revised milestones or timeline submitted for completion of the project; and
- The effect the extension will have on re-appropriation request levels for RCO.

Plan Link

Consideration of these requests supports the board's goal of helping its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

Summary of Public Comment

The RCO received no public comment on the requests.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the time extension requests for projects listed in Attachment A.

Attachments

- A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Washington Department of Natural Resources Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request	Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request
08-1175 Acquisition	Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Natural Areas Category	\$344,500 (39%)	11/30/2014	5 months (4/30/2015)	<p>The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has pursued the purchase of eight properties. Unfortunately the negotiations have not always resulted in willing sellers. To date, DNR has purchased four properties totaling just over 101 acres.</p> <p>DNR is currently working with one final seller to acquire an additional five acres. The property is under appraisal and DNR will make an offer to purchase in mid-October.</p> <p>Additional time will allow completion of the property acquisition as well as post-closing work such as demolition, fencing, and the treatment of invasive species.</p>
08-1177 Acquisition	Cypress Island Natural Area 2008	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Natural Areas Category	\$2,613,356 (92%)	11/30/2014	7 months (6/30/2015)	<p>DNR has pursued the purchase of 10 properties, which has resulted in the purchase of two properties totally 3.6 acres, and six potential purchases that are in various stages of completion.</p> <p>DNR is currently working with one seller to acquire an additional 41 acres of high priority habitat that was appraised at \$1.6 million. DNR expects to deliver a purchase offer by mid-October which could mean closing on the property as early as November 30.</p> <p>DNR has another five properties that have been appraised and are in various stages of acquisition, with one property due to close on November 14. These properties together cost about \$530,000.</p> <p>Additional time will allow DNR to complete the remaining property acquisitions and complete any necessary post-closing work.</p>

Malaga-Colockum Community Council

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request	Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request
07-1974 Acquisition and Development	Malaga Community Park	Youth and Community Athletic Facilities New	\$33,915 (25%)	11/30/2014	7 months (6/30/2015)	<p>The Malaga-Colockum Community Council is building a baseball field that also will double as a soccer/football field, as well as provide parking and other amenities where none currently exist. To date, they have purchased one acre to expand the existing property to better accommodate the design. They have also built a gravel parking lot, a turning lane on the county road that provides access to the park, and they are currently grading the site for the athletic field.</p> <p>The contractor, hired by the Council earlier this year, experienced unexpected delays towards preparing the site for construction; however, those delays have been remedied and he is back at work. The Council expects to build the remaining elements of the park in November of 2014 and in the spring of 2015.</p> <p>Additional time will allow the Council to complete this project by next summer, when it will immediately be made available for public use.</p>

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Framework
Prepared By: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director

Summary

At its October meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) will be asked to adopt the ranked lists of projects for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). Per RCW 79A.15, the board must submit these lists to the Governor by November 1, 2014. This memo summarizes the WWRP grant process and outlines the decisions that the board must make.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

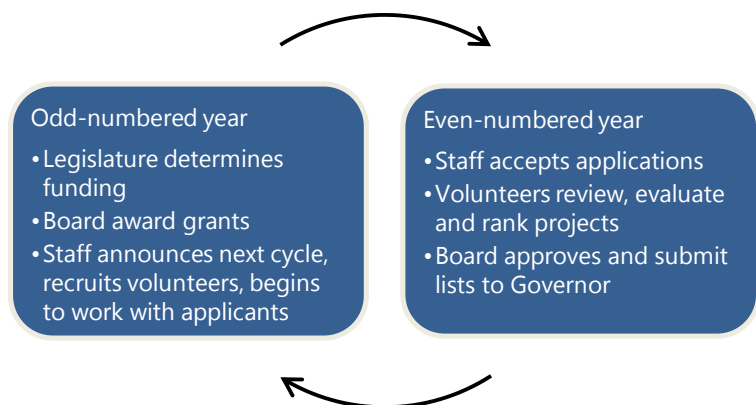
- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grants are used to purchase, develop, renovate, and/or restore parks, open space, farmland, and habitat areas. The program is divided into four accounts and encompasses eleven categories, as shown in Attachment A.

WWRP grants are made to state agencies, local governments, and tribes. Qualified non-profit conservation organizations and salmon recovery lead entities also are eligible in some categories.

The WWRP grant process can be summarized as shown in this graphic. The process is described in detail in the following section.



Preparing for the 2014 Grant Cycle

In early 2013, staff sent notices to potential applicants reminding them that they needed to update their comprehensive plans to establish eligibility for the WWRP grant round.

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteer recruitment began in fall 2012 with emails, press releases, personal phone calls, and information on RCO's website. Stakeholders and other interested organizations supported our efforts by including the notices in their newsletters and other publications. Staff spent a considerable amount of time recruiting

volunteers to conduct project reviews and evaluations, and to fill vacancies on our Farmland Advisory Committee. In addition, RCO created two new advisory committees for categories within the Habitat Conservation Account.

Altogether, RCO recruited 140 volunteers to help with the 2014 grant cycle. Volunteers included federal, state, and local agency representatives, citizens, scientific experts, and representatives of organizations interested in parks, recreation, and habitat conservation.

Our volunteers are amazing! The time (estimated at over 3700 hours) and expertise they commit to reviewing and evaluating grants helps to ensure we conduct a fair and open process.

Announcement of 2014 WWRP Grant Cycle

In August 2013, RCO staff began advertising the 2014 grant cycle. Press releases were developed and information was posted on the agency website. The director and agency managers spoke to many groups, and potential applicants were notified via email, newsletters, and personal contact by their grant manager.

In December 2013, staff announced the date for the RCO grant information workshop. Staff posted the announcement on the RCO website and sent it to thousands of individuals, agencies, and organizations. Many of our partners shared the announcements in their newsletters and websites.

Application and Evaluation Process

Application Workshops

On January 29, 2014, staff conducted an online grant workshop. During the 90-minute workshop, staff outlined the types of grants available, described the application, review, and evaluation processes, and answered questions. More than 275 individuals attended the virtual workshop. In addition, the workshop was recorded and viewed over 160 times on the agency's YouTube page for those that could not participate live.

It is estimated that RCO saves about \$25,000 by conducting the workshop online rather than traveling to various locations around the state. Savings were also realized by our sponsors who did not have to travel in order to attend an in-person workshop.

Grants Manager Site Visits

Beginning in spring 2013 until the project review meetings in spring 2014, grant managers met with many applicants on site to review their projects, conduct pre-award inspections, and discuss eligibility and grant program requirements.

Application Deadline

The RCO received 216 WWRP applications requesting more than \$151 million by the May 1, 2014 deadline (an approximate 15% increase from two years ago). Fifteen projects were later withdrawn by applicants or terminated by RCO staff because they were either ineligible or missed established deadlines. The board will be considering 201 projects on the ranked lists.

Project Review Meetings

RCO staff and teams of volunteers held 15 WWRP project review meetings in May and June. Project review was available to 193 projects in ten WWRP categories¹. Although participation remained optional, applicants submitted 185 projects for review. These meetings gave applicants an opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback on the technical merits of the proposal and suggestions about ways to refine the project scope, design, cost estimates, and presentation. Staff once again offered a web-based system of review to reduce or eliminate travel costs for applicants.

After project review, grant managers sent their comments and those of the reviewers to each applicant outlining application items that needed additional work, along with a schedule of key deadlines. Many applicants revised their grant proposals based on comments and recommendations made during the project review meeting. All changes were completed by the technical completion deadline, which varied by category.

Project Evaluation Meetings

During the months of August and September, volunteer teams evaluated 201 proposed WWRP projects. Evaluations in three WWRP categories (State Lands Development and Renovation, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, and Natural Areas) were conducted through a written process. All others were in-person. At the in-person evaluations, applicants had 20 to 30 minutes to present their project, respond to the board adopted evaluation criteria, and answer evaluators' questions. Evaluators scored each criterion for each project.

After the evaluations, staff tabulated the overall scores for each project, reviewed the results with the evaluation teams and advisory committees, and made the preliminary ranked lists available to applicants and the public via the RCO website.

Comments

RCW 79A.15.110 requires state and local agencies to review proposed acquisitions with the county or city legislative authority that has jurisdiction over the project area². The local legislative body may submit a letter to the board stating its position about the project. Staff will make these letters available to the Governor and to the Legislature.

The opportunity for the public to comment occurs at the October board meeting. Any public correspondence received by RCO in advance of the board meeting will be provided to the board.

¹ Project review is not done in the Natural Areas category.

² A state or local agency shall review the proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under RCW 79A.15.120, 79A.15.060, and 79A.15.070.

Board Action Required in October 2014

In October, staff will ask the board to approve the ranked list for each category. By law, the board must approve ranked lists of WWRP projects for each of the eleven funding categories and submit the lists to the Governor no later than November 1. We also input the lists into the capital budget request that we submit to the Office of Financial Management.

Ranked Lists and Alternates

Items 4A through 7D present a preliminary ranked list of projects for each WWRP category, information about the category and evaluation, and a brief summary of each proposal. The ranked lists include the project number, name, applicant, total score, grant request, match amount, and total amount. The far right column of the list shows the cumulative grant amount.

Policy states that the board will submit alternate projects for each account. The alternates must total 50 percent of the dollar amount requested for each category, with no fewer than six alternates when possible. The amount of funding for 2015-17 is still unknown, so projects are not marked as alternates on the ranked list.

To help ensure an adequate list of alternates at the \$97 million level requested by the board, staff recommends that the board submit the complete ranked list of approved projects for each category.

Next Steps

Legislative Approval

The Governor submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list, but cannot add to or re-order the list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation level and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The Legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the Governor, but cannot add to or re-order the list.

Final Approval

The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Until the WWRP appropriation is known, it is difficult to predict exactly which projects will receive funding. For example, statute requires that the Local Parks category allocate 50 percent of the funds in that category for acquisition projects, which may result in skipping higher-ranked development projects to meet the acquisition requirement. All parties are cautioned to not consider the lists approved by the board at the October 2014 meeting to be final.

Attachments

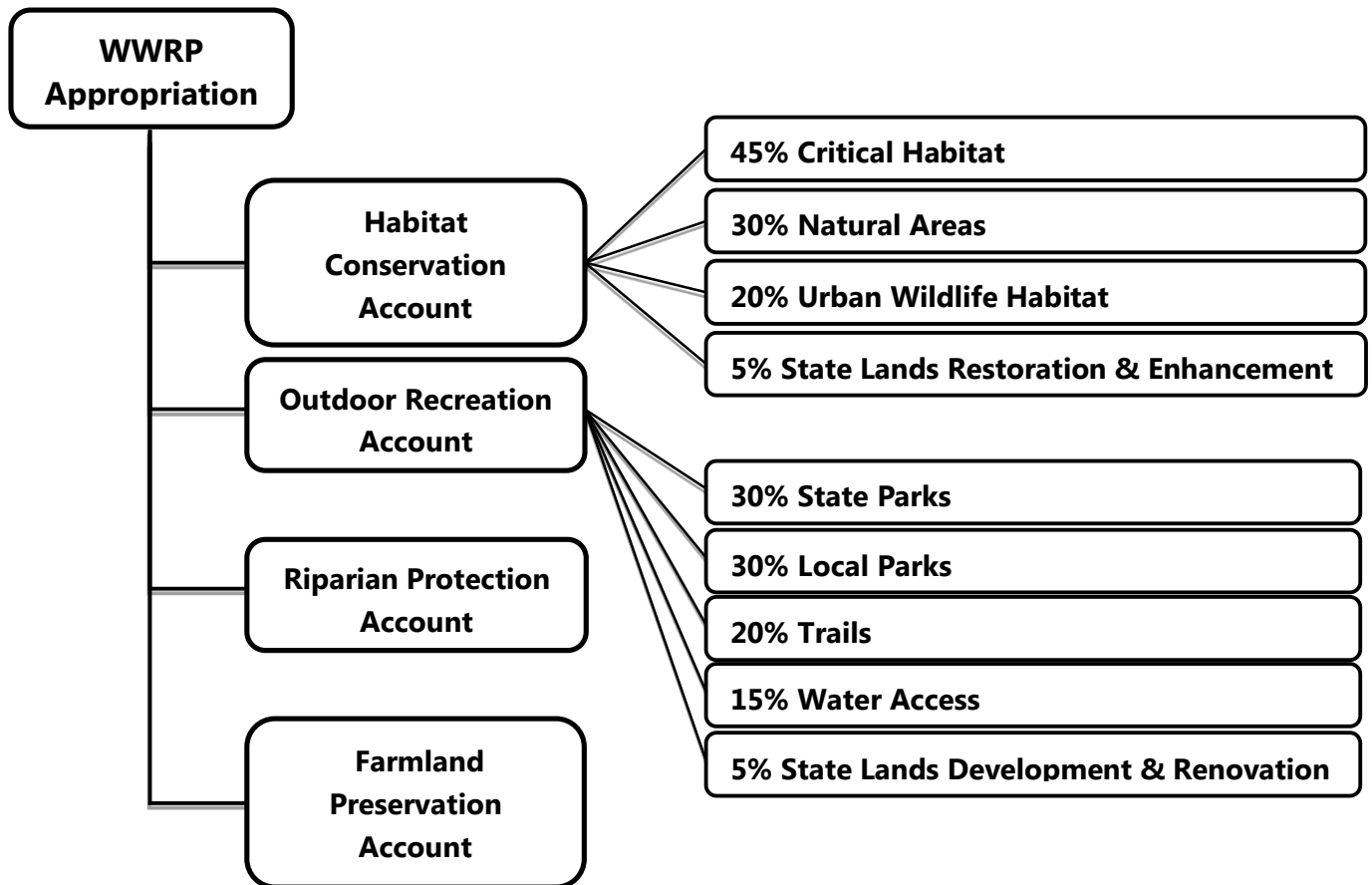
- A. Allocation of WWRP Funds
- B. Letters Regarding Project Proposals

Allocation of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Funds

Allocation by Account (Set by Statute)

ACCOUNT	WWRP APPROPRIATION		
	Under \$40 million	\$40 - \$50 million	Over \$50 million
Habitat Conservation Account	50%	\$20M <i>plus</i> 10% of amount over \$40M	\$21M <i>plus</i> 30% of amount over \$50M
Outdoor Recreation Account	50%	\$20M <i>plus</i> 10% of amount over \$40M	\$21M <i>plus</i> 30% of amount over \$50M
Riparian Protection Account	0%	40% of amount over \$40M	\$4M <i>plus</i> 30% of amount over \$50M
Farmland Preservation Account	0%	40% of amount over \$40M	\$4M <i>plus</i> 10% of amount over \$50M

Allocation by Category within Accounts (Set by Statute)



Letters Regarding Project Proposals

These attachments include only letters addressed to the board or director, and may reflect support or opposition to a project.

Critical Habitat Category

- 14-1089 Tunk Valley 2014

Farmland Preservation Account

- 14-1472 Hofstra Farm (2 letters)
- 14-1557 Double R Bar Ranch Conservation Easement
- 14-1527 Strandberg Farm & Ranchland
- 14-1526 Olma South Farmland
- 14-1522 Olma North Ranchland

State Lands Development and Restoration Category

- 14-1453 E Tiger Mtn Trail System Development Final Phase
- 14-1520 Mailbox Peak Trail Final Phase

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

- 14-1250 Mount Si & Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCAs 2014

May 20, 2014

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RECEIVED

JUN 03 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Dear Ms. Cottingham and the WWRP Board,

As a concerned and engaged citizen of Okanogan County, I want to express my support for the submission of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to the; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office for grant funding assistance to purchase agricultural conservation easements in Okanogan County supporting sharp-tailed grouse habitat in the Tunk Valley.

I understand that the WDFW 14-1089 Tunk Valley 2014 Project will purchase agricultural conservation easements on working agricultural land from willing landowners in the county. In contrast to the view of our county commissioners, I believe these easements will provide great value to the public in Okanogan County and, indeed, Washington State. The Tunk Valley is one of the last remaining prime habitats for the sharp-tailed grouse. Certainly, conservation easements may be the most effective way to maintain the county's agricultural land base and economy. They facilitate great partnership with landowners who may choose to participate in maintaining incredibly important natural resources of our area: our precious water, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands.

Additionally, I believe that an owner of land possessing significant conservation value should be able to secure a conservation easement at their will, without the interference of the county commissioners. This is a basic private property right. The land remains on the tax rolls, typically with the same tax designation and rate as before the easement is conveyed. Conservation easements already support continued agricultural operations on a number of multi-generational ranches within the county, and an increasing number of ranchers are interested in obtaining easements for their land.

There is considerable local support for this project within the community and support for conservation easements among agricultural landowners here, in contrast to the expressed view of the county commissioners. I strongly recommend your support for its funding in your report to the legislature.

Respectfully,

Mark Brundage *Balena Curt*

My address and contact information is:



Mark Brundage
140A Whiterock Rd.
Okanogan, WA 98840

509-687-0684

14-1472



Snohomish County
Public Works
Surface Water Management

John Lovick
County Executive
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201 – 4046

(425) 388-3464
FAX (425) 388-6455

RECEIVED

July 8, 2014

JUL 14 2014

Recreation and Conservation Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Re: Project Number 14-1472

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

Snohomish County Surface Water Management is pleased to support Forterra in their Farmland Preservation Program application for the Hofstra Farm. Forterra is increasingly active in engaging and educating landowners in the Skykomish Basin about conservation incentives and other tools available to protect their land and make it affordable to continue farming.

The Hofstra Farm is recognized as prime farmland by the NRCS. Located along the Skykomish River, between the cities of Monroe and Sultan, this 100-acre property is productive farmland. This size, existing infrastructure and location make the farm a key part of the local agricultural community. The farm's fertile soils are currently used to raise dairy cows and grow hay and silage. The land also has potential for growing corn and grass.

This property is adjacent to and referenced with the Lower Skykomish River Restoration Project (RCO #10-1338), presently in construction. The Hofstra Farm encompasses approximately 1,000 feet of side channel with relatively intact riparian forest along the slough. Potential exists for inter-planting existing cottonwood stands with conifers and installing woody material complexes to further improve edge habitat conditions and shading, particularly beneficial for juvenile refuge and rearing.

Purchasing a conservation easement from the Hofstra Farm will preserve this resource from the pressure of development conversion, retain this land for the next generation of agricultural producers, and advance our long-term goal of large-scale farmland conservation throughout the county. Thank you for considering this important proposal and for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Debbie Terwilleger
Director, Surface Water Management
Public Works Department
Snohomish County



Snohomish County

County Council

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED

MAY - 2 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Ken Klein
Terry Ryan
Dave Somers
Brian Sullivan
Stephanie Wright

Recreation and Conservation Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201-4046
425-388-3494
FAX 425-388-3496
TTY/TDD 425-388-3700

Re: Project Number 14-1472

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am pleased to support Forterra in their Farmland Preservation Program application for the Hofstra Farm. Forterra is increasingly active in engaging and educating landowners in the Skykomish Basin about conservation incentives and other tools available to protect their land and make it affordable to continue farming.

The Hofstra Farm is a critical piece of productive farmland in the lower Skykomish Basin, situated along the Skykomish River. At a little over 100 acres, its size, existing infrastructure and location make these parcels a key part of the local agricultural community. The farm's fertile soils are used to raise dairy cows and grow hay and silage. The land would also be good for growing corn and grass and has been identified as prime farmland by the NRCS. As the potential for development conversion is unpredictable, this farm is positioned to ensure that the resources it provides will be passed on to a new generation of owners who can afford this property to keep it in agricultural production.

Purchasing a conservation easement from the Hofstra Farm is an important step towards our long term goal of large-scale farmland conservation throughout the county. A Farmland Preservation grant will ensure the viability of the Hofstra Farm and also ensure that future generations can afford to farm the land. Thank you for your considering this important proposal, and for the opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,

Dave Somers, Chair



14-1557

177 Caldwell Drive
Lopez Island WA 98261

RECEIVED

July 28, 2014

JUL 31 2014

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: 155 Acre Open Agricultural Land and Marsh on Lopez Island – Ritchie conservation easement

I am writing on behalf of the San Juan Islands Audubon Society to express strong, unlimited support for acquisition of a conservation easement on this very significant acreage on Lopez Island.

The Ritchie property is strategically located on central Lopez where it is key part of the agricultural lands and, with its approximately 45 acres of marsh, the wildlife habitat of the island. Others will undoubtedly point to its importance as open farmland. I would like briefly to stress its special qualities for avifauna.

The open fields of this large parcel serve as hunting grounds for a large variety of raptors on Lopez, including Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Peregrine Falcons, and several owl species. The marsh provides extensive nesting habitat for ducks and rails, including Wood Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, Mallards, and Soras. Five species of swallows may be found flying over the marsh in the summer. In the winter this marsh is full of all the variety of waterfowl species that may be found in the San Juan Islands at this time of year....It is a starting point for the annual Christmas Bird Count on Lopez, and a spot that is a key location for stops on our monthly San Juan Islands Audubon Field trips. It is truly key birding habitat on Lopez and in the San Juans.

As a 30-year permanent resident of Lopez and a property owner in the San Juans for nearly 50 years, I am well aware of significance of this Ritchie acreage for our islands' habitat and open space.

On behalf of the San Juan Islands Audubon Society, I urge you to support funding to acquire this Ritchie conservation easement.

Sincerely,

Bob Myhr
Vice President Lopez – San Juan Islands Audubon Society
(and former San Juan County Commissioner/Council Member and retired Executive Director, The San Juan Preservation Trust)

cc: San Juan County Land Bank

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**Steve Anthes**

PO Box 37 - 60 Mary Rose Lane - Malo, WA 99150

509 779-4117 - rsteevanthes@gmail.com

Recreation and Conservation Office
Kaleen Cottingham, Director
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98510

Re: Strandberg easement

Greetings Director Cottingham,

I'm contacting you to lend my support to the funding of a conservation easement on the Standberg ranch located in my hometown of Malo in Ferry County Washington.

During the thirteen years my family has lived here I've been impressed by the productivity of the Standberg ranch. This outstanding ranch is less than a mile from our home and is unlike any other ranch in our area. The Strandbergs have enhanced the mediocre Ferry County soil with compost from their cattle to create rich and fertile ground for growing alfalfa. In addition, they have successfully controlled the spread of noxious weeds.

In the time we've lived here, we've seen many more families build homes in that desirable valley the runs through our county. Ranching and farming areas continue to be sub-divided into building lots. This loss of traditional livelihoods underlines the urgency of creating a conservation easement on the Strandberg ranch. Rather than sell their ranch to a developer I strongly encourage your department to financially assist the Standbergs in their desire to continue ranching while establishing a conservation easement.

Sincerely,





OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

14-1526A
~~14-1622A~~

Sheilah Kennedy
Commissioner District 1
Ray Campbell
Commissioner District 2
Jim DeTro
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

April 30, 2014

Kaleen Cottingham, Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

RCO

JUN 05 2014

SCANNED

10/6/14

Dear Kaleen Cottingham;

The purpose of this letter is to express our concerns as the Okanogan Board of County Commissioners with the proposed Olma South Farmland Project and Olma North Ranchland Project grant application. First, we appreciate the Olma's dedication to farming and producing and want to make it clear this is not a personal issue; it is a concern for long-term stability of Okanogan County. This is our official comment for the record stating our objection to utilizing any taxpayer's dollars to purchase conservation easements in Okanogan County funded in part by your organization.

We object to utilizing public/taxpayer's funds to enable the Olma's to expand their farming operation by exercising an option they hold on additional farmland adjacent to the property." It is also stated "The project will also enable the Olma's to expand their children's role in the operation and prepare to transition the farm to the next generation." We fail to understand why the landowner's/producers can't go to a banking institution and utilize "First Time Farmer Programs" to achieve their goals instead of utilizing taxpayer's dollars?

The grant application asserts that the purchase is necessary to protect the property from development pressures in the area. In fact, our analysis reveals there has been comparatively little development in the area. We fail to understand how the Okanogan Land Trust has arrived at the conclusions they have or why it is accepted that any further development in Okanogan County is inherently bad. A sufficient amount of varied housing stock and buildings sites is a positive thing and due to the proximity of this land to an urban center there are advantages to directing development here than to other areas less able to support it. We are aware that landowners in the area have inquired about the feasibility of a planned development in the area but we are also aware that these same landowners have been soliciting different public agencies to purchase their property. We believe it a reasonable conclusion that the "development pressure" the applicants are trying to thwart is self-generated in an effort to increase appraisal value and enhance the strength of the grant application.

We believe the number and size of these acquisitions and conservation easements has gone beyond any legitimate public benefit or purpose. In fact we believe they are approaching the point where the unintended consequences of these perhaps well-intention programs will have long term impact on our ability to provide vital public services and in the end will be proven to create obstacles to the future of the agricultural heritage these programs purport to protect. We are concerned that OTL and RCO will have control over the 2 miles of Siwash Creek, a tributary to the Okanogan River. Will the OTL and RCO control the water affixed to the properties they acquire or as a result of the conservation easement? Will this water be left to beneficial use of the land or be dedicated in whole or part to in-stream flow. What long-term impacts will this have on other producers and our county?

Telephone
509.422.7100

123 Fifth Avenue N. * Room 150 * Okanogan * Washington * 98840
TTY/Voice use 800.833.6388

Fax
509.422.7106

Prior to approving any grants within the boundaries of Okanogan County our question to you will be how are the objectives of these grants consistent with the customs and cultures of Okanogan County? Are the objectives consistent with our comprehensive plan and are they contrary to our long term economic stability? Failure to answer these questions because of a single minded desire to end development in Okanogan County will result in undesirable consequences to the very citizens whose taxes and ratepayer dollars are funding the realization of this agenda.

If the OTL and RCO truly desires to protect our farming and ranching, why are your programs/grant not similar to other USDA programs that have 10-15 year limits? Why do they persist in easements that are in perpetuity? This approach fails to even consider the future and what changes in land management might be necessary.

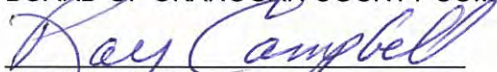
If this grant project is approved and the land/easement purchased with public funds will the land be open to public access? If so when can the public expect to be able to enjoy the use of this land? Conversely, is there any guarantee that private land under a publicly funded conservation easement is protected from public access when a State or Federal Executive Order is signed either by the Governor or the President of the United States that opens this land to public access? What door to lengthy litigation is opened as a result of public fund's being utilized for the CE programs?

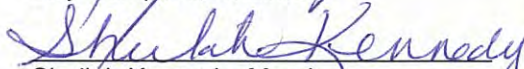
We believe it is past time to critically evaluate the amount of money directed to the acquisition of land and conservation easements to determine the actual public benefit returned. We believe this analysis will reveal these funds could be put to better use towards our children and public education needs.


We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have or to provide you with additional information. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Ray Campbell, Chairman


Sheiláh Kennedy, Member


Jim DeTro, Member

Cc: Michael Balboni, Forest Supervisor, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 W. Chewuch Road Winthrop, WA 98862

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OKANOGAN COUNTY
Board of Commissioners

14-1522A

Sheilah Kennedy
Commissioner District 1
Ray Campbell
Commissioner District 2
Jim DeTro
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

April 30, 2014

RECEIVED

RCO

Kaleen Cottingham, Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

MAY - 6 2014

JUN 05 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

SCANNED 6/4/14

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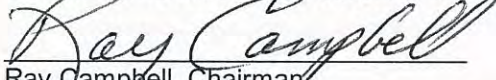
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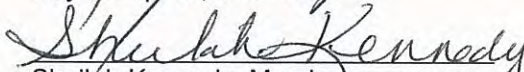
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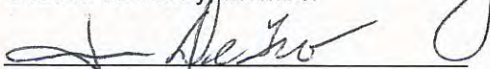
We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have or to provide you with additional information. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Ray Campbell, Chairman


Sheilah Kennedy, Member


Jim DeTro, Member

Cc: Michael Balboni, Forest Supervisor, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 W. Chewuch Road Winthrop, WA 98862

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Washington Trails Association

705 Second Ave, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org
Serving hikers since 1966

May 27, 2014

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposals to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for planning and development projects located in the Snoqualmie Corridor.

The proposed projects are part of a broader vision developed by the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan, which guides how recreation will be managed on DNR-lands in the corridor over the next 10-15 years. Public input and participation during the process helped identify recreation trends and issues that are addressed in the plan. The plan is scheduled to be completed this summer.

The following proposed projects were identified as a high priority during the planning process. These proposals address the need to improve access at popular recreation sites, expand trails and connections to meet growing public demand, and reduce natural resource damage. Proposals also ask for much needed funding to aid DNR in their ongoing maintenance and education and enforcement work. The proposed grants are listed by their title in numerical order:

- **14-1453 East Tiger Mountain Trail System Development – Final Phase:** Development of new mountain biking trails to meet public demand by completing the East Tiger Mountain trail system
- **14-1520 Mailbox Peak Trail Section 4:** Development of the upper portion of the Mailbox Peak Trail which will complete the construction of a more sustainable hiking route to the summit
- **14-1837 Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Maintenance**
- **14-1838 Snoqualmie Corridor Education and Enforcement**
- **14-1839 East Tiger Mountain Trail Connections – Final Phase:** New trail connections to meet growing demand for mountain biking opportunities
- **14-1840 Granite Creek Trailhead Development:** Trailhead to serve a new hiking trail in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley
- **14-1841 Snoqualmie Corridor Facility Design:** Design of facilities to support new recreation opportunities in Raging River State Forest and Tiger Mountain State Forest

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

May 27, 2014

Page 2

- **14-1842 Teneriffe Trailhead and CCC Road Connection:** Design of a new trailhead to serve a popular hiking destination in the Mount Si NRCA and a non-motorized multi-use trail for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding

We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, which provide valuable opportunities for people to connect with nature near the ever-growing Seattle and east King County metropolitan areas. We fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users including school groups, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, trail runners, paragliders and hang gliders, kayakers and rafters, rock climbers, and nature enthusiasts to name a few.

Thank you and we hope that you will also support these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Daubert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Daubert,
Executive Director



King County

Parks and Recreation Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-296-8686

TTY Relay: 711

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

June 3, 2014

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, Washington Wildlife Recreation Program, Project #14-1250A Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express support for DNR's subject grant proposal for land acquisition within the Mt. Si Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) and the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA.

The proposed addition to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA is one of the few remaining unpreserved gateway parcels in the 110,000 acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley, which is currently 98% publicly owned. The project is within an area that has been identified as critical for conservation for public access as well as fish and wildlife habitat and therefore a high priority for King County. Forterra, the Mountains to Sound Greenway, the US Forest Service and a number of recreation and conservation group stakeholders also support this project proposal. This proposed acquisition is consistent with the conservation and recreation priorities included in the *Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley Phase II River Corridor Public Use Concept Plan*, (1996), a framework for long-term use and management of the Middle Fork Watershed jointly developed by several public land management agencies and stakeholders.

The property is adjacent to King County's 660 acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area and the County has already secured \$250,000 in Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Open Space Levy funding to help acquire a conservation easement on the property to remove the development rights and support DNR's fee acquisition. Also, the County has applied for an additional \$350,000 in grant funding to further support joint acquisition of the property with DNR; those additional funds would be available in January 2015.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

June 3, 2014

Page 2

Since the property is planned to be developed for residential purposes, King County considers this a high priority, time sensitive acquisition. It is located within easy driving distance of the Seattle metropolitan area along the I-90 corridor, and just outside of the North Bend urban growth boundary. A construction project starting in Spring 2014 will improve 9.7 miles of the Middle Fork Road, greatly increasing the demand for public recreation as well as the threat of development. If this property is not conserved, important trail connections and a key wildlife corridor connecting the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River will be lost.

Over the last two decades the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley has been transformed through land conservation acquisitions, cleanup, and recreation planning carried out via partnerships with government agencies, recreation groups and non-profits. This acquisition would build upon those efforts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to encourage your support of this key acquisition.



Kevin Brown
Director

RECEIVED
JUN 19 2014
HCO

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
Local Parks Category Ranked List for 2015-17

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Seventy projects in the Local Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-19

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Local Parks category provides funds for active and passive outdoor recreation facilities. Acquisition, development, and renovation of existing facilities are eligible. Facilities may include athletic fields, hard courts, picnic sites, playgrounds, outdoor swimming pools, and support amenities.

The Local Parks category receives 30 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicants	Local agencies (cities/towns, counties, park, port, and school districts, federally recognized Native American tribes, and special purpose districts)
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500,000 for development or renovation projects • \$1 million for acquisition and combination projects (maximum of \$500,000 for development)
Match Requirements	50 percent matching share
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Seventy Local Parks category projects, requesting \$26.7 million, were evaluated between August 11 and 14, 2014 in open public meetings in Olympia. A team of nine evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank the projects. As shown in the following table, the team included local agency representatives and citizens who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

Evaluator	Representing
Ruth Anderson, Vashon	Citizen
Cindy Everett, Kennewick	Citizen
James Horan, Olympia	Citizen
Sharon Claussen, Edmonds	Citizen
Pete Philley, Gig Harbor	Citizen
John Bottelli, Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department	Local Agency
Frana Milan, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Local Agency
Paul J. Kaftanski, Everett Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Rick Terway, City of Pasco	Local Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board’s strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for funding in the Local Parks category support board priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-19.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-19, including Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Local Parks Category projects
- C. Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. Local Parks Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-19
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, seventy Local Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all seventy Local Parks category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*, and

WHEREAS, these Local Parks category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreation, thereby supporting board priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Local Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 - WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 70	64.83	14-1135D	Saddle Rock Gateway and Outdoor Education Area	Wenatchee	\$480,648	\$480,648	\$961,296	\$480,648
2 of 70	64.61	14-1513C	Springbrook Park Acquisition and Development	Lakewood	\$193,950	\$193,950	\$387,900	\$674,598
3 of 70	62.33	14-1274D	Kasch Park Synthetic Turf Replacement	Everett	\$500,000	\$1,605,000	\$2,105,000	\$1,174,598
4 of 70	61.72	14-1143D	Volunteer Park Development	Selah	\$359,000	\$380,000	\$739,000	\$1,533,598
5 of 70	61.28	14-1111A	Candy Mountain Acquisition	Benton County	\$695,377	\$695,377	\$1,390,754	\$2,228,975
6 of 70	60.83	14-1331D	John Storvik Spray Park and New Restroom	Anacortes	\$335,000	\$347,500	\$682,500	\$2,563,975
7 of 70	59.67	14-1182D	Inspiration Playground Construction, Downtown Park	Bellevue	\$500,000	\$1,865,000	\$2,365,000	\$3,063,975
8 of 70	58.50	14-1121D	Randall Park Renovation	Yakima	\$500,000	\$670,100	\$1,170,100	\$3,563,975
9 of 70	58.22	14-1465D	Spokane-Adaptive Baseball Field at Mission Park	Spokane	\$238,055	\$238,056	\$476,111	\$3,802,030
10 of 70	58.11	14-1471D	Columbia River Waterfront Park	Vancouver	\$500,000	\$1,615,590	\$2,115,590	\$4,302,030
11 of 70	57.39	14-1434D	Skate Darrington	Darrington	\$296,081	\$302,081	\$598,162	\$4,598,111
12 of 70	57.22	14-1542D	Waghop Lake Trail at Fort Steilacoom Park	Lakewood	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$4,848,111
12 of 70	57.22	14-1616D	Covington Community Park Phase 2	Covington	\$500,000	\$3,045,100	\$3,545,100	\$5,348,111
14 of 70	57.17	14-1701C	Prairie View Park Expansion	Spokane County	\$500,000	\$568,665	\$1,068,665	\$5,848,111
15 of 70	56.78	14-1357D	Beach Park Picnic Shelter and Restroom	Des Moines	\$293,243	\$293,244	\$586,487	\$6,141,354

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
15 of 70	56.78	14-1072D	Hartwood Park Red Barn Playground	Washougal	\$78,946	\$78,947	\$157,893	\$6,220,300
17 of 70	56.72	14-1415D	Prosser City Park Restrooms	Prosser	\$87,800	\$87,800	\$175,600	\$6,308,100
18 of 70	56.33	14-1631A	Esperance Park Acquisition	Snohomish County	\$508,600	\$670,000	\$1,178,600	\$6,816,700
19 of 70	55.78	14-1618D	Big Rock Sports Park Improvements	Duvall	\$500,000	\$839,093	\$1,339,093	\$7,316,700
19 of 70	55.78	14-1509D	Twisp Tennis Court Development	Twisp	\$34,025	\$34,765	\$68,790	\$7,350,725
21 of 70	55.56	14-1131C	Hale Park Acquisition and Development	Wenatchee	\$523,000	\$531,923	\$1,054,923	\$7,873,725
22 of 70	55.28	14-1449D	John Dam Plaza Amphitheater	Richland	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$600,000	\$8,173,725
23 of 70	55.00	14-1398A	North Creek Forest Acquisition Phase 3	Bothell	\$1,000,000	\$1,410,800	\$2,410,800	\$9,173,725
24 of 70	54.89	14-1120D	Meadowdale Playfields Renovation	Lynnwood	\$500,000	\$2,545,336	\$3,045,336	\$9,673,725
25 of 70	54.78	14-1444A	Refuge Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Ridgefield	\$225,300	\$225,301	\$450,601	\$9,899,025
26 of 70	54.61	14-1484A	Port Gamble Ride Park-Kitsap Forest and Bay	Kitsap County	\$500,000	\$570,000	\$1,070,000	\$10,399,025
27 of 70	54.11	14-1199A	Civic Center Field Acquisition	Edmonds	\$1,000,000	\$1,965,500	\$2,965,500	\$11,399,025
28 of 70	54.06	14-1630D	Lake Stickney Park Phase 1	Snohomish County	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$590,000	\$11,694,025
29 of 70	53.67	14-1592D	Snoqualmie Skate Park	Snoqualmie	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$350,000	\$11,869,025
30 of 70	53.61	14-1606D	Pearl Street Veterans Memorial Pool	Centralia	\$500,000	\$1,125,150	\$1,625,150	\$12,369,025
31 of 70	53.33	14-1623A	SoCo Park	Covington	\$558,915	\$558,915	\$1,117,830	\$12,927,940
31 of 70	53.33	14-1543D	Mirror Pond Pathway	Spokane	\$91,500	\$91,500	\$183,000	\$13,019,440

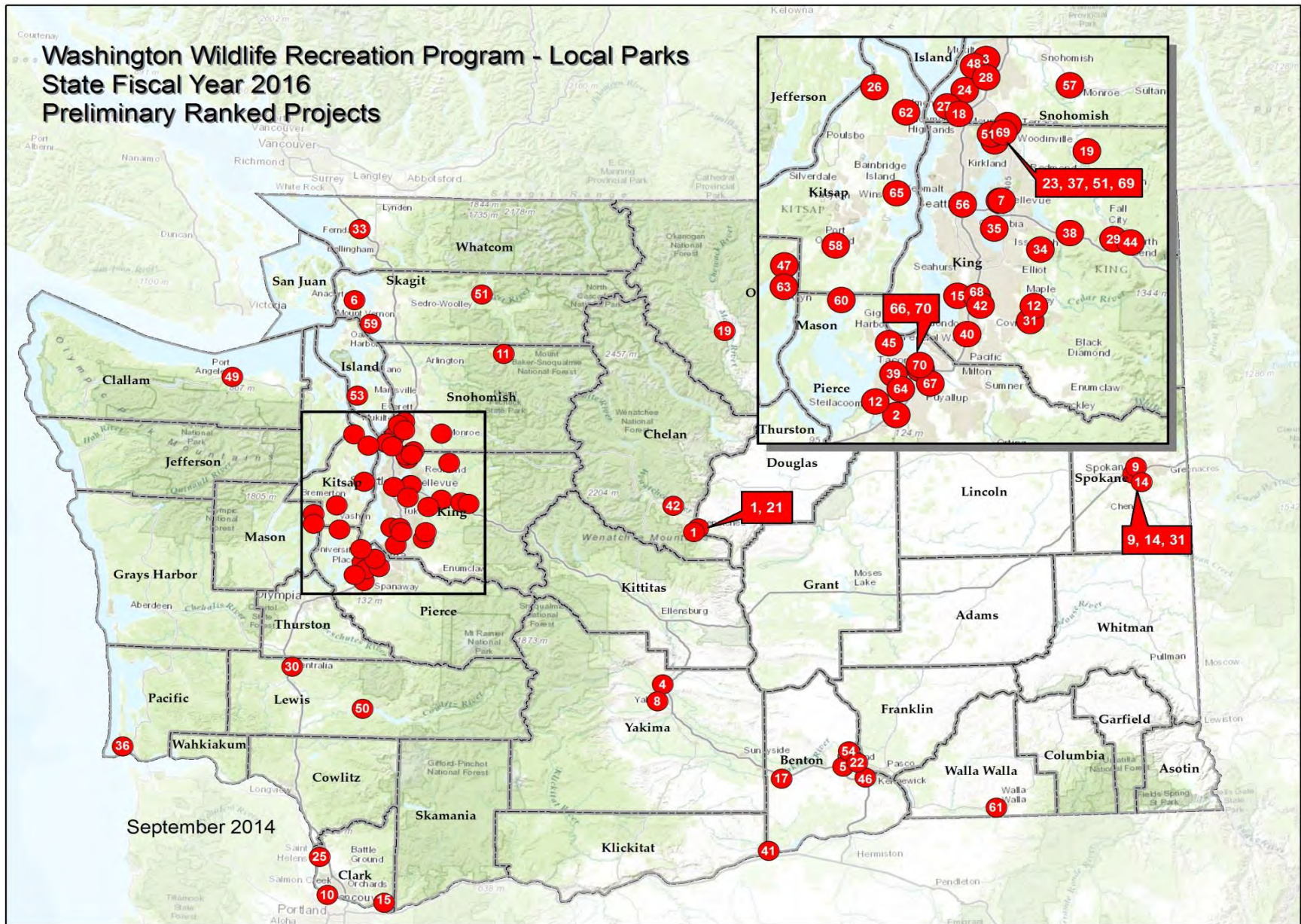
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
33 of 70	53.28	14-1218D	Star Park Playground Development	Ferndale	\$230,666	\$230,685	\$461,351	\$13,250,106
34 of 70	53.17	14-1512A	Cougar-Squak Corridor Acquisition	King County	\$500,000	\$3,800,000	\$4,300,000	\$13,750,106
35 of 70	52.89	14-1499D	Island Crest Park Renovation	Mercer Island	\$500,000	\$650,000	\$1,150,000	\$14,250,106
36 of 70	52.67	14-1729D	Ilwaco City Park Rejuvenation	Ilwaco	\$320,000	\$323,118	\$643,118	\$14,570,106
37 of 70	52.44	14-1290D	Moorlands Neighborhood Park Renovation	Kenmore	\$500,000	\$951,325	\$1,451,325	\$15,070,106
38 of 70	51.67	14-1265D	Central Park Multipurpose Sport Field Improvements	Issaquah	\$500,000	\$2,636,228	\$3,136,228	\$15,570,106
39 of 70	51.22	14-1463D	Gene Goodwin Tot Lot Playground Renovation	Fircrest	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$73,000	\$15,606,606
40 of 70	50.67	14-1590D	Karl Grosch Field Replacement	Federal Way	\$150,000	\$430,000	\$580,000	\$15,756,606
41 of 70	50.56	14-1173D	Crow Butte Park Playground Development	Port of Benton	\$167,200	\$182,047	\$349,247	\$15,923,806
42 of 70	50.22	14-1280D	Cashmere's Riverside Park Revitalization	Cashmere	\$249,925	\$249,925	\$499,850	\$16,173,731
42 of 70	50.22	14-1696D	Russell Road Athletic Field Conversion	Kent	\$500,000	\$1,528,259	\$2,028,259	\$16,673,731
44 of 70	49.50	14-1873C	Snoqualmie Riverview Park Expansion	Snoqualmie	\$500,000	\$506,700	\$1,006,700	\$17,173,731
45 of 70	49.22	14-1695D	Point Defiance Off Leash	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$17,673,731
46 of 70	49.17	14-1361D	Hansen Park Completion-Pathway and Amenities	Kennewick	\$360,198	\$360,199	\$720,397	\$18,033,929
47 of 70	48.56	14-1467D	Sandhill Park Renovation	Mason County	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000	\$18,258,929
48 of 70	48.33	14-1323D	Mukilteo Athletic Fields	Mukilteo	\$500,000	\$900,000	\$1,400,000	\$18,758,929
49 of 70	48.28	14-1367D	Civic Field Lighting Replacement	Port Angeles	\$226,500	\$226,500	\$453,000	\$18,985,429

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
50 of 70	48.11	14-1763D	Klickitat Prairie Park Phase 3	Mossyrock	\$71,450	\$72,550	\$144,000	\$19,056,879
51 of 70	48.00	14-1790D	Concrete Water Spray Park	Concrete	\$199,013	\$243,237	\$442,250	\$19,255,892
51 of 70	48.00	14-1613A	Squire's Landing Park Expansion (Twedt Property)	Kenmore	\$340,485	\$340,485	\$680,970	\$19,596,377
53 of 70	47.94	14-1533D	Trillium Community Forest Trailheads	Island County	\$163,140	\$163,140	\$326,280	\$19,759,517
54 of 70	47.83	14-1428D	Hanford Legacy Park Multi-Purpose Sports Fields	Richland	\$500,000	\$575,685	\$1,075,685	\$20,259,517
55 of 70	47.78	14-1144D	Meydenbauer Bay Park Upland Development	Bellevue	\$500,000	\$2,616,942	\$3,116,942	\$20,759,517
56 of 70	46.33	14-1524D	Yesler Neighborhood Park	Seattle	\$500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$21,259,517
57 of 70	46.11	14-1408D	Lake Tye Park Skate Park Improvements	Monroe	\$120,000	\$122,000	\$242,000	\$21,379,517
58 of 70	46.00	14-1438D	McCormick Village Park Phase 2	Port Orchard	\$385,500	\$385,500	\$771,000	\$21,765,017
59 of 70	45.89	14-1399D	Conner Waterfront Park	La Conner	\$105,400	\$106,400	\$211,800	\$21,870,417
60 of 70	45.72	14-1503D	Gateway Park Development Phase 1	Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	\$500,000	\$537,500	\$1,037,500	\$22,370,417
61 of 70	43.50	14-1107D	Kiwanis Park Renovation	College Place	\$195,340	\$200,000	\$395,340	\$22,565,757
62 of 70	43.17	14-1213C	Washington Boulevard Park Phase I	Port of Kingston	\$400,000	\$424,292	\$824,292	\$22,965,757
63 of 70	42.89	14-1581D	North Mason Soccer-Football Field Renovation	Mason County	\$485,280	\$485,280	\$970,560	\$23,451,037
64 of 70	42.67	14-1424D	SERA Campus Multi-Use Field Development	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$500,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,750,000	\$23,951,037
65 of 70	40.33	14-1469D	Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park Phase 1 Improvements	Bainbridge Island	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$24,451,037
66 of 70	38.44	14-1529D	Foss Waterway 21st Street Park Play Area	Tacoma	\$60,000	\$63,996	\$123,996	\$24,511,037

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
67 of 70	37.67	14-1516D	Swan Creek Park Gateway	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$500,000	\$1,434,040	\$1,934,040	\$25,011,037
68 of 70	35.78	14-1745A	Van Doren's Landing Park Expansion	Kent	\$746,025	\$746,025	\$1,492,050	\$25,757,062
69 of 70	33.67	14-1750D	Park at Bothell Landing Expansion and Renovation	Bothell	\$500,000	\$5,075,850	\$5,575,850	\$26,257,062
70 of 70	31.11	14-1679D	Foss Waterway Central Park Development	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$500,000	\$509,282	\$1,009,282	\$26,757,062
					\$26,757,062	\$57,144,031	\$83,901,093	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination; D = Development

State Map for Local Parks Category Projects



Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Local parks provide property or facilities for active (high impact) or passive (low impact) outdoor recreation. They may contain both upland and water-oriented elements.

Local Parks Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Title	Project Type Questions	Maximum Points	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	15	Local
Advisory Committee	2	Project Scope	All	15	Local
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	10	Local
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	5	Site Suitability	Acquisition	5	Technical
			Combination	2.5	
Advisory Committee	6	Expansion/Renovation	All	5	Local
Advisory Committee	7	Project Support	All	10	State/Local
Advisory Committee	8	Cost Efficiencies	All	6	State/Local
RCO Staff	9	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	10	Population Proximity	All	3	State
Total Points Possible:				79	

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local – those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy)

Scoring Criteria, Local Parks Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need.** Considering the availability of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?
2. **Project Scope.** Does the project scope meet deficient recreational opportunities within the service area as identified in Question 1, Public Need?
3. **Immediacy of Threat.** Is there a threat to the public availability of the resources the site possesses? (Acquisition/Combination only)
4. **Project Design.** Does the project demonstrate good design criteria? Does it make the best use of the site? (Development/Combination only)
5. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship.** Will the project result in a quality sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?
6. **Site Suitability.** Is the site to be acquired well suited for the intended recreational uses?
7. **Expansion or Renovation.** Will the acquisition or development project expand or renovate an existing recreation area or facility?
8. **Project Support.** The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed, and/or support for the project seems apparent.
9. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Growth Management Act Preference.** (RCW 43.17.250)
Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?
11. **Population Proximity.** (RCW 79A.25.250)
Is the project in a populated area?
 - a. The project is located within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more. AND
 - b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*	Project Design Dev* Com*	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability Acq* Com*	Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity				
1	Saddle Rock Gateway	13.33	13.00			12.33		7.11			3.33	9.11	5.11	0.00	1.50	64.83
2	Springbrook Park Acquisition and Development	13.67	13.33	1.11	4.11		5.67	6.22		2.17	4.44	7.78	3.11	0.00	3.00	64.61
3	Kasch Park Synthetic Turf Replacement	13.33	12.67			14.00		6.67			4.33	7.11	1.22	0.00	3.00	62.33
4	Volunteer Park Development	13.00	12.67			12.33		6.67			3.56	8.67	4.33	-1.00	1.50	61.72
5	Candy Mountain Acquisition	12.33	11.67	8.00				7.56	4.56		3.11	8.67	4.89	-1.00	1.50	61.28
6	John Storvik Spray Park	13.00	12.67			12.67		6.44			4.44	7.56	2.56	0.00	1.50	60.83
7	Inspiration Playground	10.67	11.67			12.00		5.33			4.11	8.00	4.89	0.00	3.00	59.67
8	Randall Park Renovation	12.33	11.67			10.67		6.22			4.11	7.78	4.22	0.00	1.50	58.50
9	Spokane Adaptive Baseball Field at Mission Park	10.33	11.00			12.00		5.78			3.89	7.11	5.11	0.00	3.00	58.22
10	Columbia River Waterfront Park	11.67	11.00			11.00		6.67			3.00	7.78	4.00	0.00	3.00	58.11
11	Skate Darrington	11.67	11.67			12.33		5.56			4.22	7.56	2.89	0.00	1.50	57.39
12	Waughop Lake Trail	11.67	12.00		0.00	9.67	0.00	6.67		0.00	3.89	6.89	3.44	0.00	3.00	57.22

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Immediacy of Threat	Com*	Project Design	Com*	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Acq*	Com*	Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
12	Covington Community Park Phase 2	12.33	12.00			11.67		7.56			3.89	6.00	0.78	0.00	3.00	57.22
14	Prairie View Park Expansion	12.33	12.33		3.89		5.83	6.44		2.28	4.22	7.33	2.00	-1.00	1.50	57.17
15	Beach Park Picnic Shelter	12.33	12.67			10.00		6.00			4.33	6.67	1.78	0.00	3.00	56.78
15	Hartwood Park Red Barn Playground	11.67	13.00			10.67		6.22			4.00	6.44	1.78	0.00	3.00	56.78
17	Prosser City Park Restrooms	13.33	13.00			10.67		6.67			4.11	6.22	1.22	0.00	1.50	56.72
18	Esperance Park Acquisition	12.00	12.67	6.22				6.44	4.33		4.11	6.89	0.67	0.00	3.00	56.33
19	Big Rock Sports Park Improvements	11.00	11.67			11.00		5.11			4.00	6.67	3.33	0.00	3.00	55.78
19	Twisp Tennis Court Development	12.00	11.67			12.00		4.67			3.78	7.11	4.56	0.00	0.00	55.78
21	Hale Park Acquisition and Development	12.00	11.00		3.22		5.50	5.56		1.89	2.11	8.22	4.56	0.00	1.50	55.56
22	John Dam Plaza Amphitheater	10.67	11.33			11.67		5.78			3.78	6.22	4.33	0.00	1.50	55.28
23	North Creek Forest Acquisition Phase 3	9.33	10.00	6.44				8.00	3.67		3.67	9.11	1.78	0.00	3.00	55.00
24	Meadowdale Playfields Renovation	9.67	11.33			11.33		6.67			4.22	7.56	1.11	0.00	3.00	54.89
25	Refuge Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition	12.00	13.00	7.78				6.67	3.89		0.44	6.89	1.11	0.00	3.00	54.78
26	Port Gamble Ride Park Kitsap Forest and Bay	11.67	12.33	6.22				5.78	4.67		2.67	8.67	1.11	0.00	1.50	54.61

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*		Project Design Dev* Com*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability Acq* Com*		Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
27	Civic Center Field Acquisition	11.33	10.33	7.56				6.00	4.67		3.11	7.33	0.78	0.00	3.00	54.11
28	Lake Stickney Park Phase 1	11.33	11.33			10.33		7.33			3.67	7.78	0.78	0.00	1.50	54.06
29	Snoqualmie Skate Park	10.67	10.67			11.00		5.33			3.56	6.89	2.56	0.00	3.00	53.67
30	Pearl Street Veterans Memorial Pool	12.00	10.00			9.33		6.89			3.89	7.56	2.44	0.00	1.50	53.61
31	SoCo Park	11.67	11.67	6.67				7.33	4.22		1.00	6.67	1.11	0.00	3.00	53.33
31	Mirror Pond Pathway	8.67	10.00			10.00		6.44			3.56	6.67	5.00	0.00	3.00	53.33
33	Star Park Playground Development	8.33	9.33			13.33		6.00			3.44	7.56	3.78	0.00	1.50	53.28
34	Cougar-Squak Corridor Acquisition	9.33	9.00	8.22				7.33	3.89		3.78	8.22	1.89	0.00	1.50	53.17
35	Island Crest Park Renovation	11.00	11.00			10.00		5.78			3.56	6.00	2.56	0.00	3.00	52.89
36	Ilwaco City Park Rejuvenation	11.33	11.67			11.33		6.44			4.11	6.00	2.78	-1.00	0.00	52.67
37	Moorlands Neighborhood Park Renovation	10.67	11.00			11.33		6.00			4.22	5.78	0.44	0.00	3.00	52.44
38	Central Park Multipurpose Sport Field Improvements	10.67	10.67			10.00		5.11			3.67	6.89	1.67	0.00	3.00	51.67
39	Gene Goodwin Tot Lot Playground Renovation	11.00	10.33			9.67		3.78			3.78	6.89	2.78	0.00	3.00	51.22

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Acq*	Com*	Dev*	Com*	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Acq*	Com*	Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
40	Karl Grosch Field Replacement	10.00	10.33			10.67		4.44			3.56	5.78	2.89	0.00	3.00	50.67
41	Crow Butte Park Playground Development	10.33	10.33			12.67		6.00			4.00	6.44	0.78	0.00	0.00	50.56
42	Cashmere's Riverside Park Revitalization	10.67	9.67			10.67		5.56			3.56	7.56	2.56	0.00	0.00	50.22
42	Russell Road Athletic Field Conversion	10.33	10.67			9.00		5.11			3.67	6.67	1.78	0.00	3.00	50.22
44	Snoqualmie Riverview Park Expansion	9.33	10.00		3.33		4.83	7.33		1.67	3.78	5.33	0.89	0.00	3.00	49.50
45	Point Defiance Off Leash	10.67	11.00			9.67		4.89			3.67	5.78	0.56	0.00	3.00	49.22
46	Hansen Park Completion	10.33	11.00			9.33		5.33			3.44	6.67	1.56	0.00	1.50	49.17
47	Sandhill Park Renovation	10.67	11.00			11.00		2.44			4.11	6.44	2.89	0.00	0.00	48.56
48	Mukilteo Athletic Fields	8.67	9.00			8.33		5.56			2.56	6.00	5.22	0.00	3.00	48.33
49	Civic Field Lighting Replacement	11.67	11.00			10.33		4.89			3.78	4.44	0.67	0.00	1.50	48.28
50	Klickitat Prairie Park Phase 3	9.33	10.00			10.00		7.11			3.56	6.67	1.44	0.00	0.00	48.11
51	Concrete Water Spray Park	10.33	9.33			10.00		5.56			3.67	7.78	1.33	0.00	0.00	48.00
51	Squire's Landing Park Expansion	11.00	10.67	4.67				4.89	4.11		4.11	5.11	0.44	0.00	3.00	48.00
53	Trillium Community Forest Trailheads	8.00	10.67			9.33		6.44			3.22	7.11	2.67	-1.00	1.50	47.94

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*		Project Design Dev* Com*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability Acq* Com*		Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
54	Hanford Legacy Park Multipurpose Sports Fields	10.33	11.33			10.33		4.00			2.67	6.00	1.67	0.00	1.50	47.83
55	Meydenbauer Bay Park Upland Development	9.33	9.67			9.33		6.00			3.67	6.44	0.33	0.00	3.00	47.78
56	Yesler Neighborhood Park	9.33	8.67			9.33		5.33			2.89	6.22	1.56	0.00	3.00	46.33
57	Lake Tye Park Skate Park Improvements	8.33	9.67			10.00		4.00			4.00	5.56	1.56	0.00	3.00	46.11
58	McCormick Village Park Phase 2	9.00	9.00			9.67		7.33			2.89	4.89	0.22	0.00	3.00	46.00
59	Conner Waterfront Park	7.33	8.67			9.67		6.67			3.11	6.67	3.78	0.00	0.00	45.89
60	Gateway Park Development	9.67	10.67			9.00		5.78			2.89	4.89	1.33	0.00	1.50	45.72
61	Kiwanis Park Renovation	8.00	10.33			10.00		5.11			3.78	4.22	0.56	0.00	1.50	43.50
62	Washington Boulevard Park	7.00	8.33		2.67		4.17	5.78		1.39	2.33	6.00	4.00	0.00	1.50	43.17
63	North Mason Soccer Football Field Renovation	10.33	9.33			10.00		3.33			3.44	5.56	0.89	0.00	0.00	42.89
64	SERA Campus Multi Use Field Development	6.00	7.00			10.00		6.00			2.78	5.78	2.11	0.00	3.00	42.67
65	Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park	6.67	7.67			7.00		6.00			3.56	6.00	0.44	0.00	3.00	40.33
66	Foss Waterway 21st Street Park Play Area	6.33	6.33			6.33		4.00			2.78	6.00	3.67	0.00	3.00	38.44

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6		7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Scope	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*		Project Design Dev* Com*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability Acq* Com*		Expansion Renovation	Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
67	Swan Creek Park Gateway	6.67	7.33			6.00		5.33			2.89	6.22	0.22	0.00	3.00	37.67
68	Van Doren's Landing Park Expansion	8.00	8.00	2.67				4.67	2.89		2.89	3.33	0.33	0.00	3.00	35.78
69	Park at Bothell Landing Expansion	6.67	5.00			5.00		4.44			3.11	6.00	0.44	0.00	3.00	33.67
70	Foss Waterway Central Park Development	4.33	5.00			6.33		4.22			2.67	5.33	0.22	0.00	3.00	31.11

Evaluators score Questions 1-9, RCO Staff scores Questions 10-11

* Dev = Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination (Acquisition and Development) Projects, GMA=Growth Management Act

Local Parks Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Wenatchee

Grant Requested: \$480,648

Improving the Saddle Rock Gateway and Outdoor Education Area

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to provide parking, restrooms, and an outdoor classroom at the Saddle Rock Gateway and Outdoor Education Area at Saddle Rock, in Chelan County. The City will expand the limited street-end parking that is often overflowing and causes neighborhood issues, as well as develop a trail accessible to people with disabilities and install educational stations and shade structures. Finally, the City will plant native plants and drought-tolerant landscaping. Saddle Rock is a year-round outdoor recreation and education destination in the Wenatchee Valley. From snowshoeing to horseback riding and hiking, the area is used by thousands of residents and visitors each year. Saddle Rock also is the site of the Wenatchee School District's award winning, Shrub Steppen' Up Program in which every fifth-grade student visits the site and learns about the natural environment. Parking and support facilities at the site are inadequate for the use it receives. This project is supported by the Wenatchee School District, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Dry Gulch Preserve, Alcoa Foundation, and the community. More than \$450,000 is being donated by the community as match for the project. Wenatchee will contribute \$480,648 in staff labor and donations of cash and labor. (14-1135)

Lakewood

Grant Requested: \$193,950

Expanding Springbrook Park

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to buy 1.2 acres next to Springbrook Park, allowing the City to connect the park to city-owned land across Clover Creek. The City will remove a house and garage from the land, improve habitat near the creek bank, move the fencing, add pathways around the property, and connect the land to Springbrook Park, which offers trails, interpretive signs, play equipment, a family picnic area, parking, and a community garden. Springbrook is in the south east corner of Lakewood, just outside the Joint Base Lewis McChord Field gate and isolated from the remainder of Lakewood by a freeway and Clover Creek. It is marked by high poverty and high transiency. Besides the current park site, there are no other public open spaces, community centers, schools, churches, or similar facilities where the neighborhood can build a sense of community. Lakewood will contribute \$193,950 in cash and donations of cash. (14-1513)

Everett

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Replacing Kasch Park Synthetic Turf

The Everett Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to redevelop two aging fields that are configured solely for soccer, into multi-purpose athletic fields at Kasch Park. The synthetic turf, which was installed in 2001, is at the end of its playable life, and restricts the hours of play when it rains. By replacing the turf, the fields will be able to host up to 16 hours of daily play. Kasch Park is in southwest Everett, and the Kasch Park athletic complex, with its two current synthetic soccer fields, one multi-sport synthetic field redeveloped in 2012, and six natural surface baseball and softball fields is positioned to be a prime location for both local and regional multi-sport events in Western Washington. Everett will contribute \$1.6 million. (14-1274)

Selah

Grant Requested: \$359,000

Developing the Fully Accessible Volunteer Park

The Selah Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop the first fully accessible park in Yakima County. The City will build the new park, called Volunteer Park, on 5.3 acres, which the City acquired in 1967 for a park. The City will pave a 9-foot-wide walking path around the perimeter, install

workout stations, plant grass, add an irrigation system, pave a parking lot, and build a gazebo, restroom, and playground. The entire park will be accessible to people with disabilities. This will be the first park of its kind in Yakima County. Selah will contribute \$380,000 in cash, materials, other grants, and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (14-1143)

Benton County

Grant Requested: \$695,377

Buying Land on Candy Mountain for a Park

Benton County will use this grant to buy nearly 195 acres on Candy Mountain, south of West Richland, to create a new regional park. Visitors will enjoy native sagebrush landscape and commanding 360-degree views of the surrounding area. The park will be similar to Benton County's Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve, which had nearly 200,000 visits in 2013. By buying the land, Benton County will secure a key trail linkage between Candy and Badger Mountains. The County plans to build a 20-mile trail on the ridge, linking Badger Mountain to Candy Mountain to Red Mountain. This long-distance trail connectivity is a key goal in the county's comprehensive park plan. The purchase also will allow the county to preserve native shrub-steppe habitat and provide the public with access to the summit of Candy Mountain. The land is home to sagebrush-dependent animals such as Townsends ground squirrel and black tailed jackrabbit, which are listed as sensitive species. The project will protect the view by preserving the city-facing side of Candy Mountain. Benton County will contribute \$695,377 in donations of cash. (14-1111)

Anacortes

Grant Requested: \$335,000

Building a Spray Park and Restroom at John Storvik Municipal Park

The City of Anacortes will use this grant to design, permit, and build a spray park and restroom at John Storvik Municipal Park. The 8.7-acre park was built in 1974 and has a baseball field, basketball courts, playgrounds, and a horse shoe pit. The spray park will be the first spray park in the city's park system and will provide a new outdoor recreation experience in one of most populated, low income neighborhoods. Anacortes will contribute \$347,500 in cash, staff labor, and donations of cash. (14-1331)

Bellevue

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building the Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to develop Inspiration Playground, a playground accessible to people with disabilities, in Bellevue's Downtown Park. This first phase of construction will add 25,000 square feet of additional playground and renovate existing support facilities such as the parking lot and restrooms, to better accommodate people with disabilities. The playground will feature sensory-rich play experiences and equipment, including a water spray and interactive walkway with music. The Bellevue Rotary Club has committed money for construction. Bellevue will contribute \$1.8 million in cash, a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and donations of cash. (14-1182)

Yakima

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Renovating Randall Park

The Yakima Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate Randall Park, a 40-acre, 60-year-old park in central Yakima. The improvements will make the park safer, more accessible, and more aesthetically pleasing. The department will renovate the natural area, duck pond, pathways, bridges, parking, and restroom. Additionally, the department will install a new picnic shelter and playground. Randall Park was identified in the city's comprehensive parks plan as one of the most popular and most used parks in Yakima. Yakima will contribute \$670,100 in donations of cash, equipment, and labor. (14-1121)

Spokane
Building a Mission Park Field for Players with Disabilities

Grant Requested: \$238,055

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a multipurpose, sports field at Mission Park that is fully accessible to people with disabilities. The City also will expand the accessible pathways through the park and create six van-accessible parking spaces. Mission Park has been targeted by the City to provide universal access for multiple recreational opportunities including an aquatic center, sport court, and playground. Spokane will contribute \$238,056 from a private grant from the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation. (14-1465)

Vancouver
Developing a Columbia River Waterfront Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build viewpoints, a fishing pier, pathways, festival lawn and gathering areas, informal play areas, and interpretive displays in a 7.3-acre park on the Columbia River in downtown Vancouver, west of the Interstate 5 bridge. The project will transform a former industrial site into the city's signature waterfront park that provides new public access to the river with a half-mile of shoreline. It will achieve the city's vision to reconnect downtown Vancouver to the Columbia River with an active, recreation-oriented waterfront and re-establish public access that has been blocked for more than 100 years. The future waterfront park is part of a large, mixed-use redevelopment of the downtown waterfront. The city and development partners are investing more than \$5.5 million in first phase of improvements on shoreline restoration, pedestrian and bike access, and construction of a half-mile extension of the city's Columbia River Renaissance Trail, which extends through this site. The department will contribute \$1.3 million in cash and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-1471)

Darrington
Building a Skate Park

Grant Requested: \$296,081

The Town of Darrington will use this grant to build a 6,500-square-foot, concrete skate park at Old School Park. The skate park will replace the basketball courts in the southeast portion of the park and a full-size basketball court will be built in the southwest corner connected by accessible pathways from a new parking lot. Skate Darrington has been working with Grindline Skateparks to design a park geared for beginner and intermediate users of all ages. Old School Park is centrally located in Darrington and provides restrooms, picnic areas, playground, dirt jumps, T-ball fields, and tennis courts, making it the obvious choice for the new skate park location. In a recent town survey, 95 percent of adults acknowledged a lack of recreational activities for youth; 85 percent of those same adults support the skate park. Through bake sales, Valentine dinners, auctions, and raffles \$10,000 has been raised for the skate park. Darrington will contribute \$302,081 in a local grant and donations of cash. (14-1434)

Lakewood
Renovating the Waughop Lake Trail in Fort Steilacoom Park

Grant Requested: \$250,000

City of Lakewood will use this grant to renovate the trail around Waughop Lake at Fort Steilacoom Park. The City will pave a mile-long path around the lake and install drainage, benches, a picnic shelter, interpretive signs, and parking for people with disabilities. Work also will include improving the habitat by removing dead and invasive plants, and planting grass and native plants. The 350-acre Fort Steilacoom Park in northwest Lakewood is visited by about 950,000 people a year. The lake trail was a road until it was closed in the 1970s and now is a link to cross-country courses, races, and walk-a-thon events. Improving the lake trail and surrounding area is the highest priority development project in the city's 20-

year strategic plan and improving the lake trail is the number one project in its 6-year *Capital Improvement Plan*. Lakewood will contribute \$250,000 in cash, staff labor, another grant, and donations of cash and materials. (14-1542)

Covington

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Continuing Development of Covington Community Park

The City of Covington will use this grant to build the second phase of a community park. Work will include developing an outdoor stage and grass seating area, trails, picnic shelters, a tennis court, parking, and restrooms, as well as installing outdoor fitness equipment. These improvements will provide a location for community events, which is one of the top-ranked recreation needs in the city, and expand the city's trail system. All of these elements are priorities in city's *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* and are included in the overall master plan for this park. Covington does not have a suitable location to hold public events. The city's population has grown 40 percent since incorporation and needs more than the existing 8 miles of community trail to serve the recreation and transportation needs of its residents. The first phase of development included building a soccer field, spectator amenities, parking, and trails. Expanding Covington Community Park will address a dream of citizens who have been working on this project since 2003, when the property was donated to the city. Covington will contribute \$3,049,100 in cash and a state appropriation. (14-1616)

Spokane County

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Expanding Prairie View Park

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to buy and develop 10 acres next to Prairie View Park, which is within walking distance to residents of a rapidly-growing area in southern Spokane. The County will build one joint softball and Little League field, one multi-purpose open field area, four sand volleyball courts, and a half-mile walking trail. The expansion of this park will eliminate a deficit of developed park acres in the area and will provide the community with outdoor recreation and athletic facilities. The department will contribute \$568,665. (14-1701)

Des Moines

Grant Requested: \$293,243

Renovating the Historic Picnic Shelter and Restroom in a Beach Park

City of Des Moines will use this grant to renovate the historic picnic shelter and restrooms in the 19-acre Des Moines Beach Park, also known as the Covenant Beach Camp, which is listed on both the Washington and National Historic Registers. The picnic shelter built in the 1920s served as the camp's auxiliary hall, and the restrooms, built in 1945, served as a woodshop and washroom. The buildings have been closed for many years because of extensive earthquake and flood damage and they cannot be moved or demolished because of the park's landmark status. New buildings also cannot be built because the park is within a flood plain with numerous overlapping critical areas. Surface water facilities and modifications to Des Moines Creek have stopped the flooding and laid the groundwork for the restoration of the Beach Park's historic structures. The city's *Parks Master Plan* identifies this project as a Number 1 priority. Des Moines will contribute \$293,244 from a voter-approved King County parks levy. (14-1357)

Washougal

Grant Requested: \$78,946

Developing Hartwood Park's Red Barn Playground

The City of Washougal will use this grant to develop a new playground in Hartwood Park. The City will install picnic tables and a barnyard-themed playground that will complement existing farm animal pieces that the city got with private funding. The City also will install parking and pathways. With separate

funding, the City will install retaining walls between the existing big red barn, used for park maintenance, and the playground to reduce erosion and to double as seating for park visitors. Nestled to the west of the red barn, the existing play elements provide just a tidbit of farm-themed play. Visitors have requested a more complex and challenging playground to capture youngsters' attention. Washougal will contribute \$78,947. (14-1072)

Prosser

Grant Requested: \$87,800

Replacing Prosser City Park Restrooms

The City of Prosser will use this grant to build new restrooms, and demolish the old, in Prosser's City Park. The City also will improve access routes from the picnic shelters, playground, 7th Street, and Sommers Avenue. A storm water infiltration trench will be installed, existing utility lines will be routed underground to the building, two security lights will be installed, and minor changes will be made to sewer and water lines to accommodate connections to the new building. One new parking place for people with disabilities will be designated on 7th Street with a smooth access route to the restroom. Prosser will contribute \$87,800 in cash, equipment, staff labor, and a federal grant. (14-1415)

Snohomish County

Grant Requested: \$508,600

Expanding Esperance Park

The Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant to buy 3.4 acres next to Esperance County Park in Edmonds, three blocks west of State Route 99. The land is owned by the Edmonds School District and will be put up for sale if the County cannot buy it. Esperance Park is the only park in the Esperance Community and loss of the school land to private development would represent a major reduction to the quantity and quality of public open space in the neighborhood. Recent community input identified a number of recreational needs that cannot be met on the existing 6.2-acre county park. The County is working with community partners, including the Friends of Esperance Park, to secure additional money for site redevelopment. Snohomish County will contribute \$670,000 in conservation futures¹ and staff labor. (14-1631)

Duvall

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Improving the Big Rock Park Sports Fields

The City of Duvall will use this grant to install synthetic turf and improve drainage to 150,000 square feet of soccer and baseball fields at Big Rock Park in southeast Duvall. Most of the soccer and baseball fields have poorly draining grass and aren't used much as a result. The Snoqualmie Valley Little League and Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer Association are committed to long-term support of this site and have aided the development of a skate park, west ball field, parking lot, and playground at the park. Duvall will contribute \$839,093 in cash and donations of cash. (14-1618)

Twisp

Grant Requested: \$34,025

Developing Tennis Courts

The Town of Twisp will use this grant to develop a tennis court in its downtown riverfront Twisp Park. Currently, there are no tennis courts in town. Twisp also will create spur path from the court to an existing path leading to a parking lot, picnic shelter, and pedestrian trailhead. Twisp Park includes a pool, basketball court, playground, picnic shelter, and access to the Twisp and Methow Rivers. Twisp will contribute \$34,765 in equipment, staff labor, materials, a private grant and donations of labor. (14-1509)

¹ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Wenatchee
Buying and Building a Dog Park

Grant Requested: \$523,000

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy nearly 5 acres of riverfront property in south Wenatchee and develop the first public off-leash dog area in north central Washington. The City also will develop the land with a large grassy area with shade trees for activities and picnicking. The land will provide the only park along the Columbia River in south Wenatchee. The acquisition helps satisfy more than a dozen goals, objectives, and needs contained in the City's parks and recreation comprehensive plan. A long-term maintenance agreement with a local dog park organization, FIDO, has been prepared for the off-leash area. Wenatchee will contribute \$531,923 in cash, equipment, staff labor, materials, a state grant, and donations of cash and land. (14-1131)

Richland
Building the John Dam Plaza Amphitheater

Grant Requested: \$300,000

The Richland Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a covered stage and amphitheater at John Dam Plaza, which is in the city's downtown business district and has served as the town square for community gatherings since the 1940s. The City will replace the flat grassy area and small raised knoll that has served as a stage for events by building a 1,200-square-foot covered stage along with a bowl-shaped grassed seating area for 2,000 spectators. The City will install power to the stage and around the perimeter of the amphitheater for vendors participating in events there. This new covered stage with the increased power source will provide a greatly needed venue for hosting plays, concerts, fund-raising events, rallies, speeches, award ceremonies, recitals, movies, and many more special events. Richland will contribute \$300,000 in donations of cash. (14-1449)

Bothell
Completing Land Purchases for the North Creek Forest

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The City of Bothell will use this grant to buy up to 22 acres to complete the acquisition of the 64-acre urban forest known as the North Creek Forest. The land is along Interstate 405, just south of the King-Snohomish County line and is divided into three parcels - 8.8 acres bounded on the north and south by city-owned land, 8.2 acres adjacent to city-owned land, and another 4.80 acres. The City already owns 41.56 acres of the forest. The North Creek Forest is a mature forest that filters surface water above North Creek, which is used by Chinook salmon. The forest is home to at least two priority bird species – pileated woodpecker and band-tailed pigeon. People use the forest for hiking and walking. Bothell will contribute \$1.4 million in Conservation Futures² and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1398)

Lynnwood
Renovating the Meadowdale Playfields

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Lynnwood will use this grant to renovate the surfaces of two soccer fields from sand to synthetic turf at Meadowdale Playfields. The 27-acre sports field was developed as a joint project with the City of Edmonds, Edmonds School District, and Snohomish County, on property owned by the school district. The City maintains and operates the facility, and shares use with the school district and Edmonds. The goal is to provide competitive, multipurpose fields that are available for year-round youth soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and football. Lynnwood will contribute \$2.5 million in voter-approved bonds, and local grants. (14-1120)

² Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Ridgefield
Buying Land for the New Refuge Road Neighborhood Park

Grant Requested: \$225,300

The City of Ridgefield will use this grant to buy 20.6 acres for a new neighborhood park, named Refuge Road Park. As the third fastest growing city in Washington, Ridgefield's population has increased 27 percent since 2010 and this purchase will provide a park in a rapidly developing area. The land will be Ridgefield's first neighborhood park large enough to support a range of recreational uses and eventually will include a picnic shelter, restroom, playground, community gardens, trails, and interpretive displays. About 11 acres of the park includes steep slopes and will stay as natural habitat. The park offers a spectacular view of Mount Saint Helens - the only city-owned property with such a view – and will serve as a gateway to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Ridgefield will contribute \$225,301. (14-1444)

Kitsap County
Buying Land for a Mountain Bike Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 200 acres for the future development of a mountain bike trail with riding loops and skill obstacle elements in Port Gamble Ride Park. The land is a tree farm, which the landowner has platted into 20-acre, single family lots. The park is in the north part of the county, next to the 543-acre Port Gamble Shoreline Park and near Port Gamble. It links to the Sound to Olympics regional trail. Kitsap County's goal is to create a system of connected multi-surface and multi-use trails to promote healthy lifestyles and serve citizens of all ages and abilities with diverse outdoor recreation activities. Private, non-profit trail and mountain bike partners are ready with labor and funds to complete the park trails. Kitsap County will contribute \$570,000 in cash, and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1484)

Edmonds
Acquiring the Civic Center in Downtown Edmonds

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The City of Edmonds will use the grant to buy the Civic Center, formerly the Edmonds Junior High School Athletic Field, in downtown Edmonds. The nearly 8 acres are the last, large piece of open area in the city's downtown. While owned by the Edmonds School District, the Civic Center is a highly visited site that many residents consider a city park. The land contains a playground, basketball and tennis courts, a football field, soccer fields, a track, a skate park, petanque courts, restrooms, and a stadium. The City has leased and operated the Civic Center since 1977, but the school district intends to sell the land and has received an offer. The City has a first right of refusal to purchase. Located a block from the downtown commercial area, the land is in a prime location for private development as the surrounding area is mainly condominiums and townhomes. Edmonds will contribute \$1.9 million in cash and a private grant. (14-1199)

Snohomish County
Developing Lake Stickney Park

Grant Requested: \$295,000

The Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant to begin development of Lake Stickney Park, near Lynnwood and Interstate 5. The County will build a nature-based playground, water and wetland viewing areas, and walking paths. The park will give the community access to a diverse ecosystem in an area with limited opportunities to interact with nature. Many young people in the community live in apartments and during a recent volunteer event, several kids enjoyed their first use of a shovel. In addition to the lake, the park contains wetlands and part of Swamp Creek. The County will develop the park in an environmentally friendly way by treating the storm water for the existing parking lot, reducing impervious surfaces, and restoring native plants. This project is supported by the Lake

Stickney Community Club, the Lake Stickney Conservancy, and many local residents. Snohomish County will contribute \$295,000 in cash, equipment, staff labor, and materials. (14-1630)

Snoqualmie

Grant Requested: \$175,000

Building the Snoqualmie Skate Park

The City of Snoqualmie will use this grant to design and build the first skate park in the city, planned as a 6,000- to 7,000-square-foot facility in Snoqualmie Community Park, next to the community center. Many youth will benefit from the skate park: 35 percent of city's population is under 18-years-old, and the nearest skate park is 7 miles away. The skate park will accommodate beginner and intermediate skateboarders and likely will include an above-grade design with concrete mini ramps, stair sets, banks, ledges, and rails. Snoqualmie will contribute \$175,000 in cash, a local grant, and donations of cash. (14-1592)

Centralia

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Rebuilding the Pearl Street Veterans Memorial Pool

The City of Centralia will use this grant to repair the Pearl Street Veterans Pool and replace the bathhouse. Built in the 1950s, and updated in the 1980s, the pool is deteriorating and has inadequate and broken mechanical equipment, a crumbling barrier wall, and a bathhouse that is inadequate, in disrepair, and lacking modern amenities. In 2011, Centralia closed the pool and only has performed routine maintenance to slow deterioration and keep the pool viable should it be reopened. The non-profit organization, Save The Outdoor Pool and Swim (STOP and Swim), will repair the pool, replace the bathhouse, and install mechanical equipment and storage. Centralia will contribute \$1.1 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and donations of cash. (14-1606)

Covington

Grant Requested: \$558,915

Buying Land for SoCo Park

The City of Covington will use this grant to buy 3.4 acres for the future SoCo Park. Named after its location in south Covington, SoCo park will be between Jenkins Creek and Wax Road in the newly developing downtown. It will be the neighborhood park for new multi-family residences and an existing neighborhood. This project helps address a significant shortage of neighborhood parks for residents in the area. Covington will contribute \$558,915 in Conservation Futures³ and a voter-approved levy. (14-1623)

Spokane

Grant Requested: \$91,500

Building a Path around Mirror Pond in Manito Park

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop about 1 acre around Mirror Pond in Manito Park. Manito Park, with its five specialized gardens and conservatory, is visited by more than 500,000 people a year. The City will create a recreational path around the pond taking visitors to viewpoints of the pond, through a landscape of aquatic and shoreline plants. Plants will have identifying signs in the same style as the gardens in the park. Pathways connecting to sidewalks through the neighborhood also will be built. Spokane will contribute \$91,500 in donations of cash. (14-1543)

³ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Ferndale
Building Ferndale's STAR Park

Grant Requested: \$230,666

The City of Ferndale will use this grant to build STAR Park in the city's downtown Pioneer Park. The park will serve as a major playground for children of all ages and abilities. All of the city's playgrounds are dated, have minimal accessibility for people with disabilities, and serve only their immediate neighborhoods. The playground will combine imagination, education, cooperation, fitness, and community spirit (the five points of the star) in one location through a connected series of play houses, jungle gyms, forts, and sitting areas. The overall design of the park is based on the imagination and feedback of local children, as interpreted by professional playground design professionals. Community volunteers, including local contractors donating their time, will build the playground. Ferndale will contribute \$230,685 in cash, staff labor, and donations of cash, equipment, and labor. (14-1218)

King County
Preserving Cougar-Squak Corridor for Hikers and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to buy 224 acres of mature forest in a recreation area and wildlife corridor known as the Issaquah Alps, the region's most heavily used hiking destination. Located 1.2 miles south of Issaquah on State Route 900, the land will become a year-round regional destination for hikers and families, providing a much-needed trailhead, parking lot, and miles of new trail connections through the land to the adjacent 5,300 acres of county and state parks. In 2012, a logging company purchased the land, which had been a private campground for decades, and proposed to cut almost all the trees to make room for building 43 homes, massive engineered walls, and roads. With an outpouring of public support, community members mobilized to prevent these actions and save the land as a park. The Trust for Public Land bought the land this year. The site's 40- to more than 80-year-old forests are a major wildlife corridor supporting bears, bobcats, cougars, and deer. King County will contribute \$3.8 million from a local grant. (14-1512)

Mercer Island
Renovating Island Crest Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to replace the lighting at Island Crest Park and convert one baseball field to synthetic turf. The park has the only regulation baseball fields in the city, serving as the home field for the high school and for other regional groups, including Mercer Island Little League, National Adult Baseball Association, and the Puget Sound Senior Baseball League. These same fields are used by city camps, youth soccer teams, and Boys and Girls Club Football in the summer and fall. The work will enhance playability, improve safety, and reduce rain-outs, closures, and maintenance at the field. The new lights will increase safety, reduce light spill to nearby homes, and improve energy efficiency. Mercer Island will contribute \$650,000 in cash and donations of cash. (14-1499)

Ilwaco
Renovating Ilwaco's City Park

Grant Requested: \$320,000

The City of Ilwaco will use this grant to develop a community park named City Park at the east end of Lake and Spruce Streets. The City will renovate the 3-acre community park by building new softball fields, installing playground equipment, adding park amenities, and adding a trail around the park perimeter. Given the park's proximity to the downtown and Baker Bay, it has the potential to revitalize the economically depressed city. The city's parks plan identified this as the number one priority project. Community groups such as Ocean Beach School District, Ocean Beach Hospital, Port of Ilwaco, Peninsula Little League, Boys and Girls Club, and local grant foundations are in overwhelming support of this

project. Ilwaco will contribute \$323,118 in staff labor, a local grant, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. (14-1729)

Kenmore
Renovating Moorlands Neighborhood Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Kenmore will use this grant to renovate the Moorlands Neighborhood Park, a 3.6-acre, underdeveloped neighborhood park in the southeast corner of Kenmore next to Moorlands Elementary School. The City will redevelop a baseball field, renovate a T-ball practice field, install fencing and a children's playground, renovate a small shelter for protection from the weather, pave the parking lot and pathways, improve the park entry, build restrooms and a picnic shelter, install park furniture, landscape the park, and build a stage for community programs. The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of the existing recreation facilities, improve access for people with disabilities, and increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation in the park. Moorlands Neighborhood Park is the only park in the southeast corner of Kenmore. Kenmore will contribute \$951,325. (14-1290)

Issaquah
Improving Central Park's Multipurpose Sport Field

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Issaquah will use this grant to improve a multi-purpose sports field in Central Park. The park has a grass field with a baseball diamond that is under-used and often very wet. The City would convert the field into two, multi-purpose turf sports fields that could be used for a variety of activities, including baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and football, among others. The City will install lights and fencing as well. As Issaquah's population continues to grow quickly and the number of youth participating in sports programs climbs, the demand for year-round fields far exceeds the available supply. Additional fields would enable expanded use of the park for tournament play. Issaquah Soccer Club, Issaquah Little League, Issaquah Youth Lacrosse, and Issaquah Youth Football have all expressed support for this project. Issaquah will contribute \$2.6 million in cash, voter-approved bonds, a local grant, and donations of cash. (14-1265)

Fircrest
Renovating the Gene Goodwin Tot Lot Playground

Grant Requested: \$36,500

The City of Fircrest will use this grant to renovate a playground structure and perimeter fence at the Gene Goodwin Tot Lot Neighborhood Park, one of the most popular family parks in the region. The .5-acre park is at Ramsdell Street and Contra Costa Avenue, next to Fircrest Park. The City will replace a worn-out play structure for children ages 2 to 5 as well as the fence to ensure that children remain safely contained to the playground. The tot lot draws families from Fircrest, Tacoma, and University Place. But the 50-year-old park is showing its age. This project would give the city its best opportunity to replace two worn-out features and greatly enhance the experience families have at this beloved neighborhood park. The City's *Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan* identifies this project as a high priority. The Fircrest Kiwanis Club supports this project and has been raising money to help. Fircrest will contribute \$36,500 in cash and donations of cash. (14-1463)

Federal Way
Replacing Karl Grosch Field Turf

Grant Requested: \$150,000

The City of Federal Way will use this grant to replace the worn artificial playing surface at the Karl Grosch Soccer Park in Steel Lake Park, the most intensively used soccer field in the city. The original surface was installed in 2002 and is nearing the end of its usable life. The City will remove nearly 100,000 square feet

of existing turf and replace it with a new surface. Without replacing the turf, the community will lose 2,900 hours of artificial surface playing capacity, and one of three such fields in the city. This will affect high school soccer programs, youth soccer teams at all levels, and adult recreational teams. Federal Way will contribute \$430,000 in cash, a local grant, and donations of cash. (14-1590)

Port of Benton

Grant Requested: \$167,200

Installing a Playground at Crow Butte Park

The Port of Benton will use this grant to buy and install playground equipment in Crow Butte Park, a 275-acre destination park on the Columbia River in southwestern Benton County. The new playground will feature a nature-inspired, inclusive play area with individual and group swings, a spinner, two slides, a wobble ladder, climbing panel, freestanding play panels, a zip line, and a large rock for climbing. In addition, the Port will designate three new parking spaces for people with disabilities and lay a concrete pathway complete with guardrails and solar lights from the new playground to the restrooms, swimming area, parking, and campground. A retaining wall will be built on one side of the play area, providing access for people with disabilities to the deck of the largest play feature. The park has no play equipment, although surveys show that more than two-thirds of park users bring children to the park. The combination of new pathway and playground will promote park connectivity and walking for all ages, along with active play for children. The Port of Benton will contribute \$182,047 in staff labor and donations of cash. (14-1173)

Cashmere

Grant Requested: \$249,925

Revitalizing Cashmere's Riverside Park

The City of Cashmere will use this grant to complete renovation of its downtown Riverside Park. The City has spent the past 5 years fixing the park and this grant will allow work on the last 2 acres of the 7.32-acre park. The City will install an in-ground, concrete skate park; restrooms; paved parking lot; an educational and natural learning playground structure; picnic areas; open lawn; and pathways. Riverside Park is next to the Wenatchee River. Once completed, the park will provide great walking, fishing, kayaking, rafting, picnicking, skateboarding, soccer, softball, and playground structures. Cashmere will contribute \$249,925 in cash and donations of cash, equipment, and labor. (14-1280)

Kent

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Installing Synthetic Turf at a Russell Road Baseball Field

The City of Kent will use this grant to convert the baseball field at Russell Road Park to a synthetic turf, multi-use field. The park is used for baseball and softball from April through September. By installing synthetic turf, this project would allow the baseball field to be used year-round for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and flag football. It would make Russell Road only the second city park to have synthetic turf fields, and double the use of the sports field while reducing operating costs. This project was identified as a priority project by the Kent Parks Citizen's Advisory Board. Russell Road Park is host to a number of local, regional, state, and national baseball, and softball tournaments. Kent will contribute \$1.5 million. (14-1696)

Snoqualmie

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Expanding Snoqualmie's Riverview Park

The City of Snoqualmie will use this grant to buy land to expand its downtown Riverview Park, re-landscape the new area, add a scenic viewpoint, and install picnic tables, interpretive signs, and pathways to all park amenities. These enhancements will allow people to picnic near the river and learn about local

ecology. The work also will improve habitat for elk, bald eagles, mountain whitefish, and rainbow and cutthroat trout. The park feels cramped, with play equipment close to structures, no developed scenic viewpoint to take in the surrounding mountains, little open space, and no educational components. The City wants to make Riverview Park a marquee downtown feature and develop a riverfront trail that will connect to the Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail and the John Wayne Trail to Idaho. Snoqualmie will contribute \$506,700 in cash, two grants, and Conservation Futures.⁴ (14-1873)

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Moving the Off-Leash Dog Area at Point Defiance Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to move the unfenced, 3-acre, off-leash dog area and create a new, fenced, 15-acre area for dogs next to the second entrance to Point Defiance Park. The park district also will add parking, separate meadows for large and small dogs, shelters, an agility course, walking trails, and a pond specifically designed for dogs. The park district will contribute \$1 million in voter-approved bonds. (14-1695)

**Kennewick
Completing Hansen Park**

Grant Requested: \$360,198

The Kennewick Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to complete Hansen Park, a 25-acre park in the west end of the city. The City will install two picnic shelters, a 1-mile pathway around the park, park furniture, more parking, a restroom, and two gardens – a heritage garden and a community garden. The *2013-18 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan* selects Hansen Park development as a top priority because the area doesn't have enough parks. The heritage garden will be a teaching tool used by the school district. Kennewick will contribute \$360,199 in cash, equipment, staff labor, materials, and donations of labor and materials. (14-1361)

**Mason County
Renovating Sandhill Park**

Grant Requested: \$225,000

Mason County will use this grant to restore two fields in Sandhill Park in Belfair. Sandhill Park has seven baseball and softball fields and the County has renovated five of them. At the last two fields, the County will install new dugouts, fencing, and infields and outfields, and pave around the fields to improve access for people with disabilities. Sandhill Park is the only baseball-softball complex in the northern part of the county. It was built by volunteers and community organizations in 1980. Mason County will contribute \$225,000 in cash and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (14-1467)

**Mukilteo
Building the First City-Owned Athletic Fields**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Mukilteo, in partnership with the Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club, will use this grant to build the first, city-owned athletic fields on 12 acres in the heart of Mukilteo. The City recently acquired the land from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The City will build two fields, which can be used for soccer, lacrosse, T-ball, baseball, rugby, and flag football. While the Mukilteo School District owns several fields in the community, there is high demand and not enough fields for youth sports. Mukilteo will contribute \$900,000 in donations of cash. (14-1323)

⁴ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Port Angeles
Replacing Lighting at Civic Field

Grant Requested: \$210,000

The City of Port Angeles will use grant to replace the 36-year-old field lighting at its multi-purpose stadium, Civic Field. The City's Light Division has done an outstanding job keeping the lights running for years but, because of age and lack of available parts, some part of the lights had to be removed or have fallen off on their own. Parts are no longer available for the floodlights. It is just a matter of time before the entire lighting system fails and evening games and day games during bad weather will no longer be an option. The current lighting system also does not meet the minimum safety standard. This project is a high priority for the city and the Port Angeles School District, both of which have set aside money for it, and it's listed in both parks comprehensive plan and the city's capital facilities plan. Port Angeles will contribute \$210,000, including money from the school district. (14-1367)

Mossyrock
Developing Klickitat Prairie Park

Grant Requested: \$71,450

The City of Mossyrock will use this grant to further develop Klickitat Prairie Park. The City will install a large picnic shelter, a path leading to it, 1 mile of walking trails, informational and historical signs, and free-standing barbecues near the picnic shelter and throughout the park. Mossyrock will contribute \$72,550 in cash and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1763)

Concrete
Building a Water Spray Park

Grant Requested: \$199,013

The Town of Concrete will use this grant to build a water spray park, restroom, and pathways in Silo Park. The Town also will install a drinking fountain and picnic tables, improve parking, and complete landscaping in the park. Silo Park is just north of State Route 20, east of Superior Avenue and South of Main Street. With this development, the town hopes to increase the amount of outdoor recreational opportunities it offers, encourage its residents to participate in more outdoor activities, and increase tourism. Concrete will contribute \$243,237 in cash, a state grant and donations of equipment and labor. (14-1790)

Kenmore
Expanding Squire's Landing Park

Grant Requested: \$340,485

The City of Kenmore will use this grant to buy .65 acre at the confluence of Swamp Creek and the Sammamish River, including about 100 feet of waterfront, to expand Squire's Landing Park. The land will allow the City to provide space for passive recreation such as picnicking as well as creek and river access for non-motorized boating, wildlife viewing, interpretive education, and fishing. Kenmore will contribute \$340,485. (14-1613)

Island County
Developing a Trailhead in Trillium Community Forest

Grant Requested: \$163,140

Island County will use this grant to build a trailhead at the Trillium Community Forest, a county park on south-central Whidbey Island. The park includes 700 acres of forest and miles of horse, bike, and walking trails. There is only one trailhead access to the northeast part of the park and it's limited to passenger cars. The County will build a new trailhead off a county road on the west park boundary, where there is no public access. The trailhead will include a parking lot accommodating horse trailers and buses and a half-mile of new trail connecting to the existing trail system. The County's park and recreation element of its comprehensive plan specifically identifies this trailhead project as a very high priority to meet the needs of

equestrians and mountain bikers. Island County will contribute \$163,140 in donations of cash and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1533)

Richland

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building Sports Fields Hanford Legacy Park

The Richland Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build five multi-purpose fields and parking for nearly 300 vehicles on 25 acres in Hanford Legacy Park. The sports fields will be built to accommodate various sports including soccer, lacrosse, and football. The new fields will be the second phase of construction at the nearly 118-acre Hanford Legacy Park. In 2009, the City developed four baseball fields. Richland will contribute \$575,685 in cash and donated materials. (14-1428)

Bellevue

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Developing a Meydenbauer Bay Park

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to complete a park on the shore of Lake Washington's Meydenbauer Bay. The City will build a play area, informal outdoor classroom, grand viewing terrace, trails through natural areas and along a creek, pathways to the waterfront, and areas for sunbathing, picnicking, interpretation, and education. The development will occur at the same time that the shoreline part of the park is developed for swimming and non-motorized boating and fishing. Bellevue began at Meydenbauer Bay, and remnants of Bellevue's history remain there. The City has long desired to reconnect the downtown and nearby neighborhoods to the water, which up until recently, has been in private ownership. Bellevue will contribute \$2.6 million. (14-1144)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Developing Yesler Neighborhood Park

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to help develop the 1.75-acre Yesler Park. The City will build a plaza with a water feature, gathering and play areas, a play structure, and pathways. The City also will install benches, picnic tables, barbecues, and table game spaces. The park is next to the Yesler Community Center and will serve residents and visitors to Harborview Hospital and nearby shops. A population density of 19,809 people per square mile makes Yesler Terrace more than twice as densely populated as the rest of Seattle, and the future density of the area compares to the west side of New York City. The area lacks open park space. Seattle will contribute \$3 million from a voter-approved levy. (14-1524)

Monroe

Grant Requested: \$120,000

Renovating Lake Tye Park Skate Park

The City of Monroe will use this grant to renovate the skate park at Lake Tye Park. The City will create permanent concrete ramp and ledge features that mimic the diversity of elements and materials found in some of the world's most beloved urban skate spots. Monroe's current skate park offers limited skating opportunities on well-worn, portable, modular ramps. The current park no longer meets the skating need for the community. The proposed street plaza-style skate park will function as a regional destination by offering a unique alternative to the ramp-oriented parks commonly found in Washington. Monroe will contribute \$122,000 in cash and donations of labor. (14-1408)

Port Orchard
Developing McCormick Village Park

Grant Requested: \$385,500

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to design and develop the second phase of McCormick Village Park, a partially developed, 30-acre park on Old Clifton Road. The City will complete a 1-mile loop trail with pedestrian bridge, build the entry plaza and a children's playground, construct a wetland boardwalk with interpretive signs and a wetland viewing platform, and make other minor landscape and access improvements. The park is on a ridge between a wetland and open area to the east and Anderson Creek ravines to the west. It contains mostly 45- to 50-year-old Douglas Fir forests and wetlands. The improvements would provide recreational, educational, and interpretive opportunities in a natural setting that are not available in the city. Port Orchard will contribute \$385,500. (14-1438)

La Conner
Developing Conner Waterfront Park

Grant Requested: \$105,400

The Town of La Conner will use this grant to begin developing a waterfront park on Conner Way. The Town will build a children's play area, kayak access, a shoreline walkway, and a raised crosswalk connected to Pioneer Park. The Town also will stabilize the shoreline bank and begin creating a picnic area and landscaping. The land was formerly a fish processing facility and marina. La Conner will contribute \$106,400 in donations of cash and labor. (14-1399)

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Beginning Development of Gateway Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Key Pen Parks will use this grant to build a playground, picnic shelter, restroom, and trailhead to the adjoining 360 Trails at Gateway Park, which is on the north end of the Key Peninsula along State Route 302. Gateway Park is fairly level, with rolling hills and Little Minter Creek meandering through it. There are no developed parks in the area that serves more than 10,000 people. The development of the park will allow for expanded use of the 360 Trails by providing a trailhead with amenities such as parking for horse trailers and a restroom. The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will contribute \$537,500 in cash, equipment, staff labor, and donations of labor. (14-1503)

College Place
Renovating Kiwanis Park

Grant Requested: \$195,340

The City of College Place will use this grant to build new restrooms, a court for basketball and tennis, and a parking lot at Kiwanis Park. The park is in the heart of a multi-family residential neighborhood between Whitman Street, Date Street, and Third Street. College Place is lacking in active recreation opportunities and its residents identified basketball and tennis as desired activities in the city's park plan. College Place will contribute \$200,000 in cash and staff labor. (14-1107)

Port of Kingston
Creating a Washington Boulevard Park

Grant Requested: \$400,000

The Port of Kingston will use this grant to buy .35 acre on Washington Boulevard, adjacent to State Highway 104 and Saltair Beach, and develop it into a park. The Port will replace the asphalt and concrete with permeable surfaces and build walkways with interpretive signs, a Puget Sound viewing platform, an entry plaza, play areas, interactive outdoor musical instruments, a picnic shelter, and rain gardens. The park is the only public park with a Puget Sound view in the area. This grant will allow the Port of Kingston to develop a water view community park, improve water quality, preserve the water corridor from commercial development, and preserve wildlife. The Port of Kingston Marina is nearby and its 2,200

guests enjoy Mike Wallace Park and will have easy access to the new park during their stay. The Port of Kingston will contribute \$424,292 in cash and donations of cash. (14-1213)

Mason County

Grant Requested: \$485,280

Renovating the North Mason Soccer and Football Field

Mason County will use this grant to renovate the turf at the North Mason High School Football Soccer Stadium. The County will remove the grass and install synthetic turf. The existing field turns to mud in November each year when the rains begin. The County's parks plan discovered a large need for football and soccer fields for youth, a situation that will increase when a new middle school is built on two practice fields. This project is a partnership between the North Mason School District, Mason County, and the local youth football and soccer associations. Mason County will contribute \$485,280. (14-1581)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Developing a Multi-Use Field

Metro Parks Tacoma will use this grant to design and develop a multi-use, all-weather field on about 4 acres in the South End Recreation and Adventure Campus (SERA). The land is at 66th and Adams and is surrounded by the STAR Center, Gray Middle School, and the Boys and Girls Club. This project expands the adventure park concept and creates a link between the existing facilities. The new field will provide for year-round play for sports such as soccer, cricket, rugby, lacrosse, track, and bocce ball. Metro Parks Tacoma will contribute \$1.2 million in a state appropriation, voter-approved bonds, and donations of cash. (14-1424)

Bainbridge Island

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Improving Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park

The City of Bainbridge Island will use this grant to renovate Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park to improve access between park amenities and provide views of the water and space for events. Work will involve renovating the lawn areas with improved drainage; clearing invasive species and planting disturbed areas with native plants; improving the bollard lighting, kiosks, and park furnishings; building pathways; and improving the open areas for events and general use. The park is the only one on Bainbridge Island in the Winslow town center that is on a city-wide trail system connecting to the state ferry terminal, and it has the only public dock on Bainbridge Island. The resulting connected terraces and flat open areas will provide multiple views to the water and also a place for events. Bainbridge Island will contribute \$500,000. (14-1469)

Tacoma

Grant Requested: \$60,000

Building a Play Area on the Foss Waterway

The City of Tacoma and Foss Waterway Development Authority will use this grant to build a children's play structure at 21st Street Park on the Foss waterway in downtown Tacoma. Work will include leveling the play area and installing play equipment. There is no children's play area on the Foss Waterway. The area serves more than 13,000 people within 3 miles of the park. The Waterway visually and physically connects four surrounding downtown districts. The Waterway's historic past and working waterfront, combined with the new cultural, recreational, residential, office, and retail uses creates a lively, urban environment. Tacoma will contribute \$63,996. (14-1529)

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Improving Swan Creek Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Metro Parks Tacoma will use this grant to continue development of Swan Creek Park by building an entry, a main parking lot, a restroom, a picnic shelter, and a dog park, and installing park furniture and signs. This phase will improve access to the mountain bike and hiking trails and community gardens. Swan Creek Park is a 383-acre natural area park on the east side of Tacoma. The work will be done in the Lister uplands area of the park. These improvements will continue the park district's efforts to convert the World War II housing road network into natural and planned recreation space that is accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheelchair users. Metro Parks Tacoma will contribute \$1.4 million in voter-approved bonds. (14-1516)

**Kent
Expanding Van Doren's Landing Park**

Grant Requested: \$746,025

The City of Kent will use this grant to buy 2.47 acres next to Van Doren's Landing Park, the city's largest riverfront park. The park is part of a largely publicly-owned corridor along the Green River that includes the Green River Trail, the Puget Power Trail, Russell Road, and the Green River Natural Area. On nice days, cars fill the parking lot and spill onto Russell Road. This property will give Kent the space necessary to expand parking without shrinking the size of the park, add park space, give park users better views of the Green River, and preserve the Green River Trail's connection to Van Doren's Landing Park. Kent will contribute \$746,025 in cash and a local grant. (14-1745)

**Bothell
Expanding and Renovating the Park at Bothell Landing**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Bothell will use this grant to expand and renovate the Park at Bothell Landing. Located between State Highway 522 and the Sammamish River in the city's downtown, the park serves as the heart of the city. The City will develop two vehicle access points serving both the east and west ends of the parks, and add two parking lots that will accommodate nearly 150 cars. The City also will build a new plaza and lawn to serve as a gathering space and place to picnic. Being central to Bothell's downtown, the plaza will become a "civic living room," where the city's growing multi-generational population will socialize, recreate, and connect with the community. The work will add 3 developed park acres to the 14-acre park. For the past 35 years, The Park at Bothell Landing has hosted community events including the summer concert series, the re-enactment of the Battle of Concord, and the Greater Bothell Arts Fair. But in the past 3 years, these events have either been canceled or moved. The new parking lots will enable the events to return to the park. Bothell will contribute \$5 million in cash and a voter-approved levy. (14-1750)

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Developing Foss Waterway's Central Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, in partnership with the Foss Waterway Development Authority and the local artist in residence program, will use this grant to develop .75 acre into a pocket park that tells the story of the history, restoration, and rebirth of this urban waterfront. The park district will extend the existing waterfront esplanade and build a viewing platform, picnic and sitting areas, restroom, and educational displays using interpretive and interactive art installations. This project is a continuation of the redevelopment of the Foss Waterway located at the base of downtown Tacoma. The project is part of the mile-long waterfront esplanade that links parks, housing developments, the Museum of Glass, and the Maritime Center. In a bigger context, this project is part of the 6-mile-long linkage connecting downtown

Tacoma to Point Defiance Park along the Ruston Way Waterfront. The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will contribute \$509,282 in voter-approved bonds. (14-1679)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
State Lands Development and Renovation Category Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Eleven projects in the State Lands Development and Renovation category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-20

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Lands Development and Renovation category provides funds for projects that involve development and renovation of public access facilities on existing state recreation lands. Typical facilities include campsites, fishing piers, interpretive trails, boating access, picnic sites, and wildlife viewing blinds.

The State Lands Development and Renovation category receives five percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Eligible Applicants	Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Types	Development and renovation
Funding Limits	Minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$325,000 per project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Required
Another Program Characteristic	<p>Multi-site projects allowed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements must be the same at each site (fishing docks, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk) • Sites limited to no more than two adjacent counties • Elements must meet capital project criteria • No more than \$100,000 per site • No more than five sites per project

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eleven State Lands Development and Renovation category projects requesting \$2.7 million were evaluated between August 4 and August 22, 2014 through a written evaluation process. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of ten evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to outdoor recreation.

Evaluator	Representing
Ralph Dannenberg, Puyallup	Citizen
Glenn Glover, Seattle – Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Citizen
Peter Sherrill, Bellevue	Citizen
Perry Barrett, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Local Agency
Jennifer Schroder, Kirkland Parks and Community Services	Local Agency
Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Weed Board	Local Agency
Sharon Swan, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Rex Hapala, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Randy Kline, State Parks	State Agency
Steve Sherlock, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's

strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for funding in the State Lands Development and Renovation category support board priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-20.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-20, including Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category projects
- C. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. State Lands Development and Renovation Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-20
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category, 2015-17,
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, eleven State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eleven State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Outdoor Recreation Account*, and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local and state agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

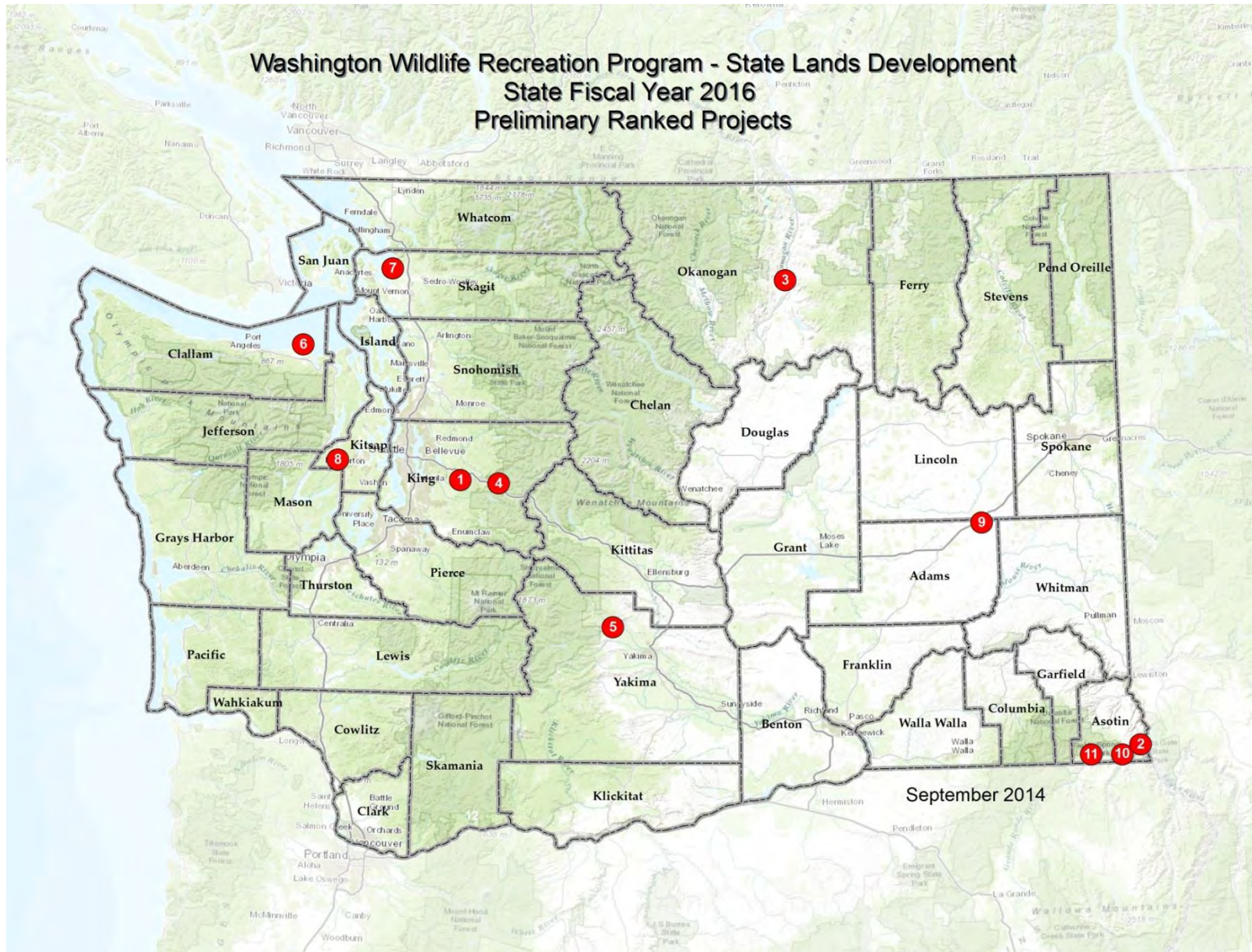
Date: _____

Table 1 - WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	55.80	14-1453D	East Tiger Mountain Trail System Development Final Phase	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$300,000	\$37,000	\$337,000	\$300,000
2	53.00	14-1751D	Heller Bar Access Site Improvements	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$324,500		\$324,500	\$624,500
3	51.30	14-1548D	Riverside Access Site Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$325,000		\$325,000	\$949,500
4	50.80	14-1520D	Mailbox Peak Trail Final Phase	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$178,400	\$25,000	\$203,400	\$1,127,900
5	48.70	14-1172D	Oak Creek Tim's Pond Access Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$324,500		\$324,500	\$1,452,400
6	47.00	14-1589D	North Olympic Wildlife Area Public Access Facility	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$86,000		\$86,000	\$1,538,400
7	46.90	14-1279D	Samish River Unit Public Access Improvements	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$190,000		\$190,000	\$1,728,400
8	44.10	14-1425D	Lake Tahuya Public Access Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$285,000		\$285,000	\$2,013,400
9	43.20	14-1644D	Sprague Lake Fishing Platform Phase 5	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$154,000		\$154,000	\$2,167,400
10	40.20	14-1743D	Shumaker Road and Access Site Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$283,000		\$283,000	\$2,450,400
11	38.70	14-1664D	4-O Ranch McNeill Campground Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$325,000		\$325,000	\$2,775,400
					\$2,775,400	\$62,000	\$2,837,400	

Project Type: D = Development

State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects



State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands.¹

State Lands Development and Renovation Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	Development and Renovation	20	State
Advisory Committee	2	Site Suitability and Design	Development and Renovation	15	Technical
Advisory Committee	3	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Development and Renovation	10	State
Advisory Committee	4	Diversity and Compatibility	Development and Renovation	10	State
Advisory Committee	5	Performance Measure	Development and Renovation	5	State
Advisory Committee	6	Public Benefit	Development and Renovation	5	State
RCO Staff	7	Population Proximity	Development and Renovation	1	State
Total Points Possible:				66	

* Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

Scoring Criteria, State Lands Development and Renovation Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public need.**
Considering the availability and use of existing facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?
2. **Site Suitability and Design.**
Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site?
3. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship** *Board Resolution 2014-06*
Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?
4. **Diversity of and Compatibility of Recreational Uses.**
To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible recreational uses?
5. **Outcome-Focused Performance Measures.**
To what extent does the project result in measurable progress toward goals and objectives for the recreation or access area?
6. **Public Benefit and Project Support.**
To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the community impacted as a result of this development or renovation?

Scored by RCO Staff

7. **Proximity to Human Populations.** *RCW 79A.25.250*
Is the project in a populated area?

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Rank	Project Name	Public Need	Site Suitability and Design	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Diversity and Compatibility	Performance Measure	Public Benefit	Population Proximity	Total
1	East Tiger Mountain Trail System Development Final Phase	18.00	13.80	7.60	6.60	4.20	4.60	1.00	55.80
2	Heller Bar Access Site Improvements	18.40	12.90	7.00	7.20	3.40	4.10	0.00	53.00
3	Riverside Access Site Development	15.20	12.60	7.60	7.80	3.80	4.30	0.00	51.30
4	Mailbox Peak Trail Final Phase	16.80	12.30	7.60	5.20	3.60	4.30	1.00	50.80
5	Oak Creek Tim's Pond Access Development	14.40	12.00	7.60	7.60	3.60	3.50	0.00	48.70
6	North Olympic Wildlife Area Public Access Facility	14.40	12.00	7.60	5.80	3.40	3.80	0.00	47.00
7	Samish River Unit Public Access Improvements	15.60	11.70	6.80	6.20	3.00	3.60	0.00	46.90
8	Lake Tahuya Public Access Development	14.40	10.20	5.40	6.40	3.30	3.40	1.00	44.10
9	Sprague Lake Fishing Platform Phase 5	14.00	11.40	5.80	6.00	2.60	3.40	0.00	43.20
10	Shumaker Road and Access Site Development	12.00	9.30	7.00	6.40	2.60	2.90	0.00	40.20
11	4-O Ranch McNeil Campground Development	10.80	9.60	6.20	6.60	2.60	2.90	0.00	38.70

Evaluators score Questions 1-6; RCO staff scores Question 7.

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Washington Department of Natural Resources Developing East Tiger Mountain Trails

Grant Requested: \$300,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to develop four new trails in the east Tiger Mountain State Forest, 25 miles east of Seattle. The department will design and build 6 miles of new trails to complete the east Tiger Mountain trail system. The new trails will link to existing trails, giving visitors a safer alternative to using service roads, and will connect to a regional trail and future access to the Raging River State Forest. The trails are used mostly by mountain bikers and hikers. This project has widespread support from user groups, recreation non-profit organizations, public advisory committees, local jurisdictions, and nearby communities. The department will contribute \$37,000 in staff labor, materials, and donations of labor. (14-1453)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Building a New Boat Ramp at Heller Bar

Grant Requested: \$ 324,500

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop a new boat ramp and improve the boat launch site at Heller Bar, which is on the Snake River next to the mouth of the Grand Ronde River in southeast Asotin County. Heller Bar is a major launching site for powerboats destined for Hell's Canyon and a primary take-out site for river rafters floating down the Snake, Salmon, and Grande Ronde Rivers. In addition, Heller Bar is used for camping and fishing. During the summer and fall, congestion, conflicts, and safety issues are common on the existing ramp. The department will build a second boat ramp to alleviate congestion, install new signs, and renovate a gravel parking lot. (14-1751)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Developing the Riverside Boat Launch

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop the 1-acre Riverside Access Site on the Okanogan River, in the city of Riverside in Okanogan County. The department will build a boat launch, create a gravel parking lot for up to eight vehicles with boat trailers, pave the entrance drive and a parking lot for nine vehicles, install an outhouse and a picnic shelter, build pathways, landscape with shade trees, and install an informational kiosk, an entrance gate and sign, and rocks to guide vehicles. The Riverside Access Site is the only public access site with a boat launch between Tonasket and Omak, a distance of 25 river miles. (14-1548)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Finishing the Mailbox Peak Trail

Grant Requested: \$178,400

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to finish the last 1.3 miles of a 5-mile non-motorized trail to Mailbox Peak in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area in east King County. Work will include excavation, surfacing, and installing water drainage features and high-elevation alpine trail features such as rock steps and viewpoints. This project is identified in the *Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan* as a high priority for implementation and has strong support from local recreation groups. The department will contribute \$25,000 in donated and staff labor. (14-1520)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Developing Tim's Pond Access Site

Grant Requested: \$324,500

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop the Tim's Pond Access Site in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, in Yakima County. The department will build fishing platforms and campsites, install

toilets and picnic tables, and pave a parking lot and path around the lake with turnouts for fishing areas. Currently, the access site has only a gravel parking lot, user-built trails, and dispersed campsites. The site is visible from State Route 12 and is used for fishing, wildlife and nature viewing, picnics, camping, and rafting access. Previous surveys of users of Tim's Pond showed that most want to see the area improved and would use it more often if it had amenities like restrooms, picnic tables, and paved trails. (14-1172)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$86,000

Building a North Olympic Wildlife Area Public Access Site

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop a parking area, restroom, interpretive kiosk, and beach trail at the North Olympic Wildlife Area's Lower Dungeness Unit in northeast Clallam County. (14-1589)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$190,000

Developing the Samish River Unit Public Access

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to design, permit, and build a half-acre parking lot and install a portable toilet and fencing at a Samish River access site in the 103-acre Skagit Wildlife Area. The work will improve public access and safety for wildlife viewers and photographers, waterfowl hunters, and anglers on the Samish River, near the city of Bow. The department also will improve wetland habitat on an adjacent department property. The Samish River site doesn't have any parking or restrooms. Visitors park on the road shoulder, creating unsafe conditions. Neighbors complain that facilities are inadequate for the number of visitors. (14-1279)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$285,000

Opening Lake Tahuya to the Public

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to make Lake Tahuya accessible to the public by building a small parking lot, a gravel trail to the lake, and a launch for non-motorized boats, and installing an outhouse, fencing, an entrance gate, and signs. Lake Tahuya is the third largest lake in Kitsap County and is inaccessible to the public even though the department first acquired land in 1939. Development of this public access will provide additional recreational opportunity near major population centers, producing hundreds of hours of recreation each year through year-round fishing and boating. (14-1425)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$154,000

Building a Fishing Platform at Sprague Lake

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve shore-based fishing at Sprague Lake. The department will build a fishing platform accessible to people with disabilities on the lake shoreline and pave a path to the platform. These improvements will complement the previous four phases of development, which included building a boat ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, and wildlife viewing area and installing a toilet, kiosk, and interpretive signs. (14-1644)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$283,000

Improving a Chief Joseph Wildlife Area Access Site

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve an access site and 1.5 miles of road along the Grande Ronde River in the Shumaker Unit of the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area, 25 miles south of Asotin. The department will install an outhouse, signs, and an informational kiosk at an existing parking area, build pull-off areas for parking along the road, and place boulders to prevent vehicles from entering the Grande Ronde River and other sensitive areas. The department also will grade the road near the bottom of Shumaker County Road, install drainage features, and lay gravel. This project will protect shoreline habitat by keeping cars out of the river and reducing the sediment that erodes from

the primitive road into the river. The river is used by steelhead and Chinook salmon. The access site is used by anglers, hunters, boaters, and recreational campers. (14-1743)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Developing 4-O Ranch McNeill Campground**

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build a campground and equestrian facilities in the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area in Asotin County. The department will build a gravel parking lot, seven camping sites with fire pits, and equestrian facilities, as well as install an outhouse, informational kiosk, gate, and fencing. The 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area is one of Washington State's newest land acquisitions and offers access to hunting, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding along with access to adjoining U.S. Forest Service lands. The area is known for its robust elk population, but also is used by whitetail and mule deer, bighorn sheep, black bears, and many bird species. Visitors enjoy hunting, wildflower viewing, photography, wildlife watching, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. (14-1664)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
 State Parks Category Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Fourteen projects in the State Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-21

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Parks category provides funds for acquiring and developing active and passive outdoor recreation facilities. Facilities may include campgrounds, fishing sites, picnic areas, swim beaches, trails, and support amenities including administrative and maintenance structures.

The State Parks category receives 30 percent of the funds in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicant	State Parks and Recreation Commission only
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development • Combination projects (acquisition and development) • Renovation is not eligible
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limits
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None required
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required

Analysis

Evaluation Process

In January, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted Resolution 2014-07, which modified the evaluation process and criteria for State Parks category projects. The board approved the policy revisions because the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission), as the sole eligible applicant for the category, requested changes to uphold the integrity of the process and to improve its transparency.

More specifically, the adopted policy:

- Allows the Commission to place greater emphasis on the priorities it establishes through planning and prioritization.
- Aligns the evaluation criteria with the State Parks Transformation Strategy and gives the Commission the opportunity to take part in the project selection process.
- Expands the evaluation team to include more non-State Parks staff.
- Provides multiple opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed projects.

The revised evaluation process for the State Parks category is in Section 4 of [Manual 10a](#), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account.

Evaluation Summary

Fourteen State Parks category projects, requesting \$20 million, were evaluated in September in two open public meetings. At the September 18 Commission meeting in Ilwaco, State Parks staff presented the projects to the Commission who scored the board adopted evaluation criterion that addresses how well a project supports the mission and vision of State Parks.

Members of the newly-appointed WWRP State Parks Advisory Committee met on September 30, in Olympia, and used evaluation criteria adopted by the board to review and rank the projects. As shown in the following table, the team included five State Parks staff, three individuals representing local government, and two citizen volunteers. The evaluators have expertise and experience in land use issues, park and recreation resource management, planning, engineering, and design.

Evaluator	Representing
Douglas Simpson, Kirkland	Citizen
Cecialia Vogt, Yakima	Citizen
Rocklynn Culp, Town of Winthrop	Local Agency
Mary Dodsworth, City of Lakewood	Local Agency
Larry Otos, City of Mount Vernon	Local Agency
Steve Brand	State Parks
Ken Graham	State Parks
Ryan Karlson	State Parks
Tom Oliva	State Parks
Alicia Woods	State Parks

The results of the evaluations are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the State Parks category also support board adopted priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-21.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-21, including Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for State Parks Category Projects
- C. State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. State Parks Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-21
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Parks Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, fourteen State Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all fourteen State Parks category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these State Parks category projects were evaluated by a team comprised of State Parks staff, local agency representatives, and citizens using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition and development of properties for public outdoor recreation, thereby supporting priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor this ranked list of State Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

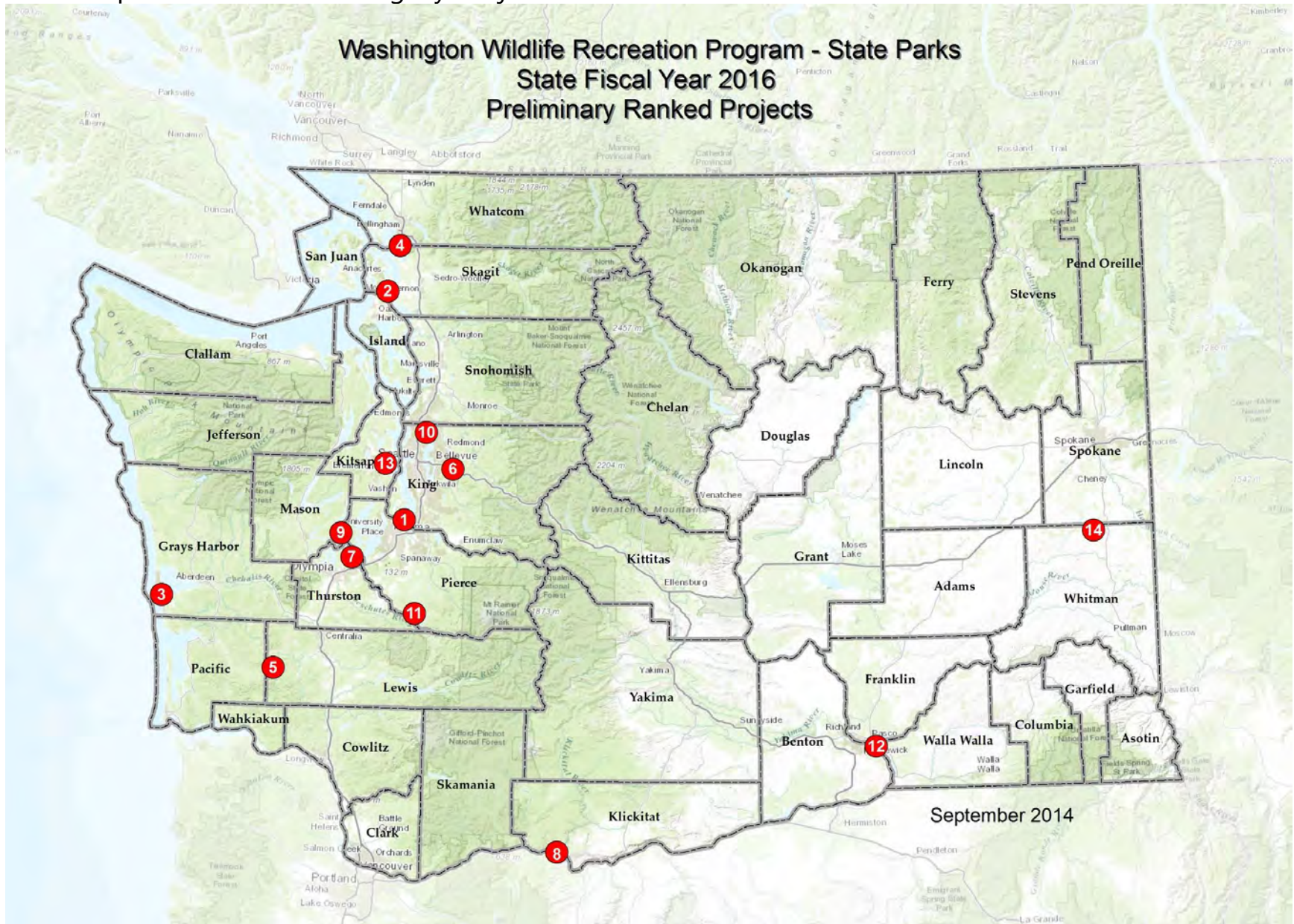
Date: _____

Table 1 - WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1	67.26	14-1681A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2014	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
2	62.73	14-1621D	Kukutali Preserve Day Use Development	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$360,210	\$93,750	\$453,960	\$1,360,210
3	60.31	14-1486A	Westport Park Connection	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,905,000		\$1,905,000	\$3,265,210
4	58.78	14-1555D	Larrabee Clayton Beach Railway Overpass	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$2,331,365		\$2,331,365	\$5,596,575
5	58.67	14-1622D	Willapa Hills Trail - Trail Development Pe Ell Area	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$962,400		\$962,400	\$6,558,975
6	57.37	14-1682D	Lake Sammamish Sunset Beach Picnic Area	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$3,168,979		\$3,168,979	\$9,727,954
7	56.73	14-1626D	Tolmie State Park Parking	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$553,420		\$553,420	\$10,281,374
8	55.59	14-1634D	Klickitat Trail	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$2,229,000		\$2,229,000	\$12,510,374
9	52.50	14-1603A	Fudge Point Additional Uplands	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$497,623		\$497,623	\$13,007,997
10	52.13	14-1454A	Saint Edward State Park Kenmore Acquisition	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$2,164,680		\$2,164,680	\$15,172,677
11	50.99	14-1680A	Nisqually State Park Univeristy of Washington Forest Lands	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$2,619,928		\$2,619,928	\$17,792,605
12	45.97	14-1645D	Sacajawea State Park Trail Connection	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,092,401		\$1,092,401	\$18,885,006
13	45.20	14-1723A	Manchester State Park Additional Uplands	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$508,380		\$508,380	\$19,393,386
14	43.41	14-1635D	John Wayne Pioneer Trail Malden and Rosalia Trailhead Development	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$700,352		\$700,352	\$20,093,738
					\$20,093,738	\$93,750	\$20,187,488	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; D = Development

State Map for State Parks Category Projects



State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for acquisition and/or development of state parks.¹

State Parks Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	2	Project Significance	All	15	Agency
Advisory Committee	3	Threat and Impact	Acquisition	10	State
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	10	Technical
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	6	Expansion/Phased Project	All	15	State
Advisory Committee	7	Partnership or Match	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	8	Readiness to Proceed	All	10	Agency
State Parks Commission	9	Consistency with Mission and Vision	All	5	Agency
RCO Staff	10	Proximity to Human Populations	All	3	State
Total Points Possible:				78	

*Focus—Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State—those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Agency—those that meet agency needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in the State Parks and Recreation Commission’s plans)
- Technical—those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

Scoring Criteria, State Parks Category

Team Scored

1. **Public Need**
Describe why this project should be built or property acquired.
2. **Project Significance**
Describe how this project supports State Parks' strategic goals.
3. **Threat and Impacts**
Describe why it is important to acquire the property now. (Acquisition/Combination only)
4. **Project Design**
Is the project well designed? (Development/Combination only)
5. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship**
Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?
6. **Expansion/Phased Project**
Describe whether this project supports past investments.
7. **Partnerships or Match**
Describe how this project supports strategic partnerships or leverages matching funds.
8. **Readiness to Proceed**
Describe the project's timeline.

Scored by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

9. **Consistency with Mission and Vision**
How well does this project support the State Parks' mission and vision?

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Population Proximity** *RCW 79A.25.250*
Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities and towns, and county density?

State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question #	1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
	Project Name	Public Need	Project Significance	Threat and Impacts Acq.*	Com.*	Project Design Dev.*	Com.*	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Expansion / Phased Project	Partnership or Match	Readiness to Proceed	Consistency with Mission and Vision	Proximity to Human Populations	
1	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2014	4.20	13.20	8.80				7.80	13.50	3.50	8.40	4.86	3.00	67.26
2	Kukutali Preserve Day Use Development	3.60	12.00			7.60		8.80	12.90	4.40	9.00	4.43		62.73
3	Westport Park Connection	3.80	12.60	9.20				8.20	12.90	1.60	7.80	4.21		60.31
4	Larrabee Clayton Beach Railway Overpass	4.70	12.30			8.80		7.80	9.60	2.80	8.20	4.58		58.78
5	Willapa Hills Trail	4.10	11.40			9.00		7.80	12.90	1.90	7.40	4.17		58.67
6	Lake Sammamish Sunset Beach Picnic Area	3.60	10.80			7.00		8.40	12.90	2.30	6.20	4.67	1.50	57.37
7	Tolmie State Park Parking	4.30	12.90			8.00		7.60	7.20	2.90	8.00	4.33	1.50	56.73
8	Klickitat Trail	3.70	12.00			7.00		6.40	12.00	3.60	6.60	4.29		55.59
9	Fudge Point Additional Uplands	3.50	10.20	6.80				7.20	13.50	0.70	6.60	4.00		52.50
10	Saint Edward State Park Kenmore Acquisition	3.00	9.30	6.80				6.40	10.50	1.10	7.60	4.43	3.00	52.13
11	Nisqually State Park UW Forest Lands	3.00	9.90	4.20				6.40	11.70	2.60	7.40	4.29	1.50	50.99
12	Sacajawea State Park Trail Connection	3.90	9.30			6.80		5.40	10.20	0.40	4.40	4.07	1.50	45.97

Rank	Project Name	Question #	1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
		Public Need	Project Significance	Threat and Impacts Acq.* Com.*		Project Design Dev.* Com.*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Expansion / Phased Project	Partnership or Match	Readiness to Proceed	Consistency with Mission and Vision	Proximity to Human Populations		
13	Manchester State Park Additional Upland	3.10	8.70	7.20				6.80	7.20	0.10	6.60	4.00	1.50	45.20	
14	John Wayne Pioneer Trail Malden and Rosalia	2.90	8.70			5.80		5.80	9.60	0.80	5.60	4.21		43.41	

Evaluators score Questions 1-8; Washington State Parks Commissioners and RCO staff score Questions 9-10.

* Dev = Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

State Parks Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2014

State Parks will use this grant to buy up to 100 acres within or adjacent to the boundaries of existing state parks. From time-to-time during each biennium, State Parks learns of desirable adjacent or inholding properties. Some of these properties are small and would not score well in a competitive grant process. Others require immediate response to buy the property. This grant will help State Parks respond more quickly to acquisition opportunities as they arise. In the past, these grants have been used to purchase property to resolve management conflicts in a park, to obtain legal access to a park, to acquire desirable property listed with a real estate agent, and to acquire sites with high natural resource value. (14-1681)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$360,210

Kukutali Preserve Day-Use Development

Kukutali Preserve, located near Deception Pass State Park between Fidalgo and Whidbey Islands, is co-owned and co-managed by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The State/Tribal co-management arrangement is believed to be the first and only of its kind in the United States. The Preserve has many unique qualities. It protects diverse and rare natural resources, including lowland old growth forest, rocky balds, feeder bluffs, forage fish spawning areas, and a pocket estuary. In light of these resources, management objectives for the Preserve include actively preserving, protecting and enhancing natural habitat; and providing opportunities for low-intensity, non-consumptive, and managed public recreational and educational use. Interpretation at the site should inform and educate the public about the natural and cultural history of Kukutali Preserve and how to care for its future. Currently, the Preserve's developed facilities are limited to a parking lot, portable toilets, and two trails. In 2012, the Swinomish Indian Senate and the State Parks Commission adopted a master plan for the site, which focuses on low-impact day-use development that would protect and the Preserve's significant natural and cultural resources. This project would implement all remaining elements of the master plan, including construction of trails, picnic areas and picnic shelter, viewing platforms, vault toilets, and interpretive signs. State Parks will contribute \$93,750 in Cash Donations. (14-1621)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$1,905,000

Westport Park Connection

The Westport Park Connection project is a property acquisition of approximately 270 acres located just outside the town of Westport WA. The subject property is bordered on three sides by three different State Parks. The three parks are Westhaven and Westport Light State Parks to the North and South respectively and the Seashore Conservation Area to the West. The primary goal of this project is to connect these three state park properties and to add a significant amount of new park land including over 2,000 feet of frontage on the Pacific Ocean. The subject property is currently vacant open space and the predominate resource feature is a predominance of pocket wetlands within a coastal dune landscape. (14-1486)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$2,331,365

Larrabee - Clayton Beach Railway Overpass

This design and development project will provide safe and legal pedestrian access to Clayton Beach at Larrabee State Park. Larrabee is a popular 2600 acre camping park located in Whatcom/Skagit counties ten miles south of Bellingham. The park has 8100 feet of marine shoreline but only a portion of this can be accessed legally via an existing railway underpass in the park day use area. Tides and shoreline rock formations prevent users from accessing the entire shoreline leaving a significant portion including Clayton Beach legally inaccessible. Currently, visitors park at the Lost Lake trailhead to access Clayton Beach and must cross busy Chuckanut Drive (SR 11) to use a braided user built trail network that leads to

active BNSF railroad tracks which separate users from the beach. It is trespass for users to cross the tracks and even though the area is posted "No Trespass" it is very difficult for park staff to prevent people from crossing the tracks to access the beach. In consultation with BNSF, State Parks has developed a conceptual design for a pedestrian overpass. The Utilities and Transportation Commission issued approval for the proposed railway overpass on August 28, 2008. Additional components of the project include pedestrian crossing improvements on busy Chuckanut Drive, creation of a single trail from Lost Lake Trailhead to the beach, and installation of the railway overpass along with improvements including a restroom facility near the overpass. (14-1555)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$962,400

Willapa Hills Trail-Trail Development Pe Ell Area

State Parks proposes to develop 9 miles of the Willapa Hills Trail in Lewis County centered in the Pe Ell area. In total, this former Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway line is 53 miles in length and aligned east west from Chehalis to Raymond. This project will deck bridges and install safety rails to 3 bridges and surface the trail with a hardened gravel surface, approximately 9 miles. The trail will be constructed to accommodate a multitude of users including hikers, bikers, and equestrian park visitors and result in about 26 miles of total improved trail between Chehalis and the Pacific County line. (14-1622)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$3,168,979

Lake Sammamish--Sunset Beach Picnic Area

This project will develop 3 picnic shelters in the Sunset Beach area of Lake Sammamish State Park, and redevelop the adjacent lawn picnic area to replace the lawn and trees, add 2 sand volleyball courts, and add barbecues and picnic tables. This is one of several projects, proposed or in progress, to completely redevelop the 40+ year old recreation area at Sunset Beach. (14-1682)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$553,420

Tolmie State Park Parking

This grant will add parking and eliminate a traffic bottleneck in order to better serve the public and more fully use existing facilities. Tolmie State Park is a 105-acre marine day-use park in Thurston County with 1,800 feet of saltwater shoreline on Puget Sound. The easily accessible beach is a year round attraction with stunning views and diverse sea life visible at low tides. The beach is a major summer destination for swimmers, waders, sunbathers, kayakers and picnickers. Its proximity to Joint Base Lewis McChord makes it a popular destination for military families. The underwater park is actively used by scuba divers. Summer visitors often find themselves in a traffic jam trying to enter the park and frequently are turned away to due to lack of available parking. Only one of two kitchen shelters can be rented at a time due to the lack of parking. There is more demand for shelter rentals than can be served. The inadequate parking capacity places a burden on Operations staff who have to direct traffic, ticket illegally parked vehicles and appease displeased customers. This project will construct a 30 vehicle parking lot and a roundabout to keep vehicles moving. ADA parking will be increased. Pedestrian improvements will be made to better separate pedestrians and vehicles. A beach viewpoint will be constructed at the terminus of a paved trail. The results will make the park a more enjoyable experience for visitors and more cost efficient to manage. (14-1626)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$2,229,000

Klickitat Trail

State Parks will use this grant to improve continuity of the Klickitat trail between Lyle and Warwick including trestle decking and railing, bridge replacement, re-grading trail bridge approach, trail bypass and resurfacing. Two trail heads will be developed. The grant will include funding for final design, construction drawings and specifications, permitting, SEPA compliance, construction cost estimates,

bidding, construction, construction administration and project closeout of the projects. Improvement of the trail will increase accessibility to what has been voted the number one trail in The Gorge for the last 3 years. (14-1634)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$497,623

Fudge Point--Additional Uplands

Fudge Point is located on Harstine Island in Mason County. In 2013, State Parks purchased 60 acres at Fudge Point with nearly a mile of salt waterfront. This acquisition included unique biological and recreational resources of high regional merit. The forest, wetland, and tideland habitats support a wide range of birds and shellfish. The feeder bluffs, unarmored shoreline, and pocket estuary provide important habitat for several species of salmonids. The flat, sandy beach provides the only easily accessible public beach on Harstine Island. Because of these sensitive resources, intensive recreational development in this area is not appropriate. In 2014, an additional 76 acres were purchased to provide some of the upland land base needed for parking, day use and potential camping or cabins to support public use at one of the finest beaches in the state park system. This project would purchase the remaining 48 acres necessary for roads, parking and upland recreation amenities. The landowners have indicated their desire to dispose of this property. While it is not currently listed as being for sale, the opportunity to acquire this property is important to completing an adequate upland land base for what will someday be a premier destination state park. (14-1603)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$2,164,680

Saint Edward State Park - Kenmore Acquisition

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) will use this grant to acquire approximately 9.77 acres of undeveloped land with over 450 feet of Lake Washington shoreline. Saint Edward State Park is a 316 acre day-use park with 3,000 feet of Lake Washington shoreline, an oasis of green among the highly developed Kenmore/Kirkland area. Once a Catholic seminary, the park's rich history reflects in its grounds and architecture. Saint Edward State Park is one of the top ten most visited parks in the state park system and is extremely popular for special events, weddings, family picnics, bicycling and hiking. The subject property is only one of two remaining undeveloped forested shoreline properties on Lake Washington. The purchase of this property will provide additional shoreline within the park for swimming, fishing, and kayaking, viewing of Lake Washington shoreline species and plants along the lakefront trail, along with preserving habitat for freshwater clams and spawning salmon. The water along the shoreline of the subject property is shallower than in the existing park which makes it warmer and more ideal for swimming. The acquisition of this property will also preserve two park trails; one which connects the neighborhood north of the property to the park along the beach, and the other which provides a hiking loop within the park. (14-1454)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$2,619,928

Nisqually State Park-UW Forest Lands

This project will acquire approximately 530 acres within the designated long-term park boundary of Nisqually State Park, in Pierce County. This property is identified in the park's Master Plan as a site for a horse campground, a mountain bike skills park, and trails. It also has water access to the confluence of the Nisqually and Mashel Rivers. (14-1680)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$1,092,401

Sacajawea State Park Trail Connection

State Parks will use this grant to develop a 0.70 mile 12-foot wide paved multi-purpose trail connecting the existing 284 acre Sacajawea State Park accessible parking lot and day use facilities to the existing 23-mile Sacajawea Heritage Trail currently terminating at the Sacajawea Park Road, a paved 2-lane road

without shoulders. The paved 23-mile ADA accessible Sacajawea Heritage Trail continues along the Columbia River through Pasco, Richland and Kennewick. The Park is listed in the Washington Historic Register and the National Historic Register for its relevance at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers, had been a key area for Native American people for thousands of years and as a historical location for the Lewis and Clark's expedition. Due to extensive cultural and archaeological resources within the Park, the proposed trail design and location minimizes construction impacts of potential cultural artifacts as much as possible. Development of the trail will mitigate an existing unsafe site condition, greatly enhance ADA access to the trail, completes the east end of the Sacajawea Heritage Trail within Sacajawea State Park and provides additional recreation users and opportunities within the Park. The trail connection project is supported by the 2010 Washington State Parks Sacajawea State Park Classification and Management Plan (CAMP Plan), the 2012 City of Pasco River shore Linkage and Amenity Plan, and 2013 Tri-Cities River shore Master Plan II. (14-1645)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$508,380

Manchester State Park--Additional Uplands

This project would acquire a 38 acre parcel adjacent to Manchester State Park in Kitsap County. The property is included in the park's Commission approved long-term boundary, and was identified as a location for expanded RV camping; the property would also serve as a natural area buffer between park facilities and adjacent residential development. (14-1723)

State Parks

Grant Requested: \$700,352

JWPT - Malden and Rosalia Trailhead Development

State Parks will use this grant to develop trailheads at Malden and Rosalia on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT) within the Iron Horse Palouse section of Iron Horse State Park in Whitman County. The grant will include funding for final design, construction drawings and specifications, permitting, SEPA compliance, construction cost estimates, bidding, construction and construction administration. The trailheads will include ADA access, gravel surfacing for 8-10 trailer parking spaces and 10-15 standard parking spaces, a double-vault toilet, 1 to 2 picnic shelters and tables, bumper stops, trail, barrier rock, horse tie-downs and informational and interpretive signage. Development of the trailheads will provide picnic shelters for community gatherings and formalize access to the trail. Development of the trailheads will complete Phase I of the 9-mile trail corridor segment between Malden and Rosalia. Funded trail development (JWPT Malden to Rosalia Trail Development – RCO Project No. 12-1780) is scheduled for construction completion in 2016. The non-motorized multi-use trail is for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and dog sledding. Funding for the trailhead development is consistent with the Iron Horse State Park Master Plan Addendum, Iron Horse Palouse - Malden to Idaho Border (RCO Project No. 11-1101) adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in March 2014 and RCO Grant completion in August 2014. (14-1635)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
Trails Category Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twenty projects in the Trails category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-22

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Trails category provides funds for community and regional pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian or cross-country ski trails. Trails must be for non-motorized use and cannot be part of a street or roadway. If located along a roadway, the trail must be separated from the roadway by a physical barrier. Trails may have either hard or natural surfacing. Sponsors may use funds for support facilities such as parking and rest, picnic, or viewing areas that are directly related to an existing or proposed public trail.

The Trails category receives 20 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ¹ agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, port districts, and special purpose districts
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing recreational trails and trailheads • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	Local agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, port districts, and special purpose districts must provide a 50 percent matching share. There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty Trails category projects, requesting \$14.3 million, were evaluated on August 12 and 13, 2014 in open public meetings in Olympia. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of twelve evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens-at-large who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to trail issues:

Evaluator	Representing
Tom Eksten, Bothell	Citizen
Greg Fowler, Winthrop/Kirkland	Citizen
Jim Harris, East Wenatchee	Citizen
Kate Watt-Schneider, Tacoma	Citizen
Dave Bryant, Richland Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Angie Feser, Covington Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Roger Giebelhaus, Thurston County	Local Agency
Ray Heit, Chelan County Public Utility District	Local Agency
Time Wahl, City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Sam Jarrett, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Christine Parsons, Washington State Parks	State Agency
Melinda Posner Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of General Administration, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

During the past year, members of the public expressed concern to the board that this category tended to favor hard-surface trails over soft-surface trails. The commenters requested that the board consider revisions to the evaluation criteria in order to encourage funding more soft-surfaced trails, such as natural surfaces or crushed rock. Staff are working on potential revisions to the evaluation criteria in preparation for grant applications in 2016. In the interim, staff added an application metric to ascertain the types of surfaces proposed in this grant cycle. In looking at the current list, nine of the 20 applications include elements of a soft surface on the trail (e.g., crushed rock or gravel). This compares with 12 of the 20 applications that include elements of a hard surface on the trail (e.g., asphalt or concrete). Note that six of the 20 applications included a combination of trails with soft and hard surfaces. None of the trails included a hardened natural surface such as compacted soil.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Projects considered for funding in the Trails category directly support board adopted priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* and *2013-2018 Washington State Trails Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-22.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-17 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-22, including Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Trails Category Projects
- C. Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. Trails Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-22
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Trails Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, twenty Trails category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twenty Trails category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Trails category projects were evaluated by a team of state and local agency representatives and citizens-at-large using evaluation criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects acquire, develop or renovate non-motorized recreational trails, thereby supporting priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, *2013-2018 Washington State Trails Plan* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for recreation opportunities statewide, including bicycling and walking facilities and facilities most conducive to improved health;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Trails category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

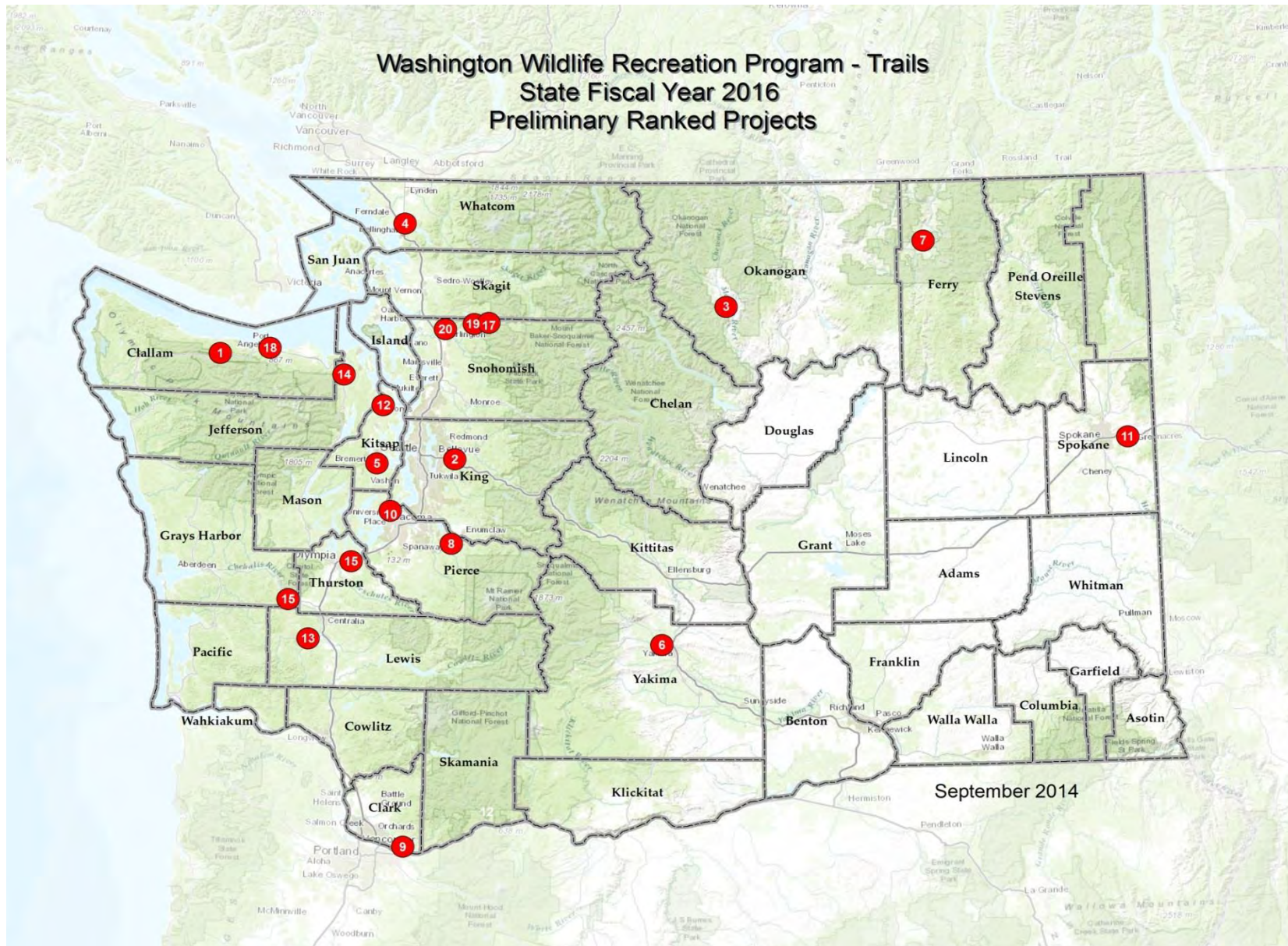
Table 1 - WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	72.25	14-1124D	Spruce Railroad McFee Tunnel Restoration	Clallam County	\$460,000	\$460,000	\$920,000	\$460,000
2	69.25	14-1514D	East Lake Sammamish Trail Phase 4	King County	\$500,000	\$2,980,000	\$3,480,000	\$960,000
3	68.67	14-1137C	Twisp Community Trail	Twisp	\$199,504	\$201,650	\$401,154	\$1,159,504
4	68.08	14-1419D	Squalicum Creek Trail	Bellingham	\$500,000	\$1,215,914	\$1,715,914	\$1,659,504
5	67.83	14-1439A	Bay Street Pedestrian Path Mosquito Fleet Trail	Port Orchard	\$105,750	\$105,750	\$211,500	\$1,765,254
6	67.42	14-1461D	Naches Rail to Trail Final Phase	Yakima County	\$810,700	\$810,700	\$1,621,400	\$2,575,954
7	66.92	14-1677D	Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 3	Ferry County	\$98,000	\$99,000	\$197,000	\$2,673,954
8	66.17	14-1442D	Foothills National Recreation Trail Final Phase	Pierce County	\$2,755,063	\$2,755,063	\$5,510,126	\$5,429,017
9	65.58	14-1349D	Washougal Waterfront Trail	Port of Camas-Washougal	\$500,000	\$672,264	\$1,172,264	\$5,929,017
10	65.33	14-1694D	Point Defiance Loop Trail	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000	\$6,500,000	\$9,179,017
11	64.08	14-1136D	Appleway Trail Phase 3	Spokane Valley	\$813,000	\$813,000	\$1,626,000	\$9,992,017
12	63.08	14-1353A	Sound to Olympics North Kitsap Gap	Kitsap County	\$740,500	\$949,500	\$1,690,000	\$10,732,517
13	61.92	14-1640D	Willapa Hills Trail	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$400,000	\$80,000	\$480,000	\$11,132,517
14	61.58	14-1711D	Olympic Discovery Trail Discovery Bay	Jefferson County	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$11,382,517

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
15	57.75	14-1515D	Woodland Creek Community Park Trail	Lacey	\$53,172	\$53,172	\$106,344	\$11,435,689
15	57.75	14-1126D	Harris Creek Vosper Multi Use Trail	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	\$140,405	\$140,406	\$280,811	\$11,576,094
17	57.58	14-1796D	Whitehorse Trail Design and Development	Snohomish County	\$2,000,000	\$2,244,000	\$4,244,000	\$13,576,094
18	56.75	14-2031D	Port Angeles Waterfront Trail	Port Angeles	\$500,000	\$1,692,232	\$2,192,232	\$14,076,094
19	53.75	14-1266A	Whitehorse Trail Trailhead Acquisition Oso Mill	Snohomish County	\$236,250	\$236,250	\$472,500	\$14,312,344
20	52.58	14-1243A	Centennial Trail Bryant Trailhead Acquisition	Snohomish County	\$83,400	\$83,400	\$166,800	\$14,395,744
					\$14,395,744	\$19,092,301	\$33,488,045	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination; D = Development

State Map for Trails Category Projects



Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Trails means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians".²

Trails Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15	Local
Advisory Committee	2	Trail and Community Linkages	All	15	State and Local
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	15	Local
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	6	Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	7	Wildlife Habitat Connectivity	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	8	Project Support	All	10	State and Local
Advisory Committee	9	Cost Efficiencies	All	5	State and Local
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	11	Population Proximity	All	3	State
Total Points Possible:				88	

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy)

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Scoring Criteria, Trails Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Need** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v-vi)
Is the project needed?
2. **Trail and Community Linkages** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iii)(iv)
Does the trail project connect trails and communities or provide linkages to community oriented facilities or resources?
3. **Immediacy of Threat** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ii)
Does a threat to the public availability of a part of the trail exist? (Acquisition/Combination only)
4. **Project Design** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v)
Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use(s)?
Development/Combination only
5. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship** Board Resolution 2014-06
Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?
6. **Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(vii)(ix)
Does the project provide scenic values and/or direct and immediate recreational *access to or views of* a "significant" natural water body? Water access is the primary criterion; scenic values or views of water are secondary.
7. **Wildlife Habitat Connectivity** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(viii)
Will this proposal enhance wildlife's *access to food, water, or cover*?
8. **Project Support** RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)
The extent that the public (statewide, community, or user groups) has been provided with an adequate *opportunity to become informed*, and/or *support* for the project seems apparent.
9. **Cost Efficiencies** Board Resolution 2014-06
To what extent does this project demonstrates efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Growth Management Act Preference** RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required)
Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?
11. **Population Proximity** RCW 79A.25.250
Is the project in a populated area?
 - a. The project is within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more. AND
 - b. The project is within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile

Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question Project Name	1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
		Need	Trail and Community Linkages	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*		Project Design Dev* Com*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Water Access, Views and Scenic Values	Wildlife Habitat Connectivity	Project Support	Coat Efficiencies	GMA Preference	Population Proximity	
1	Spruce Railroad McFee Tunnel Restoration	13.50	12.75			12.00		8.50	9.67	3.33	8.33	4.17	0.00	0.00	72.25
2	East Lake Sammamish Trail Phase 4	10.75	12.75			13.75		7.33	6.83	2.83	8.50	3.50	0.00	3.00	69.25
3	Twisp Community Trail	13.50	9.75		5.38		6.13	7.50	9.33	3.67	8.33	5.08	0.00	0.00	68.67
4	Squalicum Creek Trail	12.50	11.50			12.25		8.17	6.50	3.00	8.17	4.50	0.00	1.50	68.08
5	Bay Street Pedestrian Path	12.25	10.75	11.00				7.67	9.33	3.33	7.00	3.50	0.00	3.00	67.83
6	Naches Rail to Trail Final Phase	12.50	12.25			10.50		7.00	6.33	3.00	8.83	5.50	0.00	1.50	67.42
7	Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 3	11.75	10.50			11.75		7.83	9.33	3.42	8.50	4.83	-1.00	0.00	66.92
8	Foothills National Recreation Trail Final Phase	12.50	12.75			12.25		6.67	6.50	3.08	8.00	2.92	0.00	1.50	66.17
9	Washougal Waterfront Trail	10.50	10.50			11.75		8.00	8.67	2.75	7.50	2.92	0.00	3.00	65.58
10	Point Defiance Loop Trail	11.25	10.00			10.75		7.50	8.50	3.00	8.17	3.17	0.00	3.00	65.33
11	Appleway Trail Phase 3	11.50	10.75			13.75		7.33	4.50	3.00	7.00	3.25	0.00	3.00	64.08
12	Sound to Olympics North Kitsap Gap	10.50	11.00	11.50				6.00	7.67	3.00	9.00	2.92	0.00	1.50	63.08

Rank	Question	1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
	Project Name	Need	Trail and Community Linkages	Immediacy of Threat Acq* Com*		Project Design Dev* Com*		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Water Access, Views and Scenic Values	Wildlife Habitat Connectivity	Project Support	Coat Efficiencies	GMA Preference	Population Proximity	
13	Willapa Hills Trail	12.25	11.25			10.50		6.83	7.00	3.00	7.33	3.75	0.00	0.00	61.92
14	Olympic Discovery Trail Discovery Bay	11.25	11.25			10.75		6.67	7.33	3.17	7.83	3.33	0.00	0.00	61.58
15	Woodland Creek Community Park Trail	9.00	9.50			11.00		7.00	6.33	2.67	6.33	2.92	0.00	3.00	57.75
15	Harris Creek Vosper Multi Use Trail	11.75	9.75			10.00		6.33	6.00	2.83	7.33	3.75	0.00	0.00	57.75
17	Whitehorse Trail Design and Development	10.00	10.25			8.75		5.33	8.00	2.83	7.67	3.25	0.00	1.50	57.58
18	Port Angeles Waterfront Trail	10.50	11.00			11.00		5.50	7.83	1.58	6.00	1.83	0.00	1.50	56.75
19	Whitehorse Trail Trailhead Acquisition Oso Mill	9.75	10.00	10.00				5.00	5.67	2.42	6.67	2.75	0.00	1.50	53.75
20	Centennial Trail Bryant Trailhead Acquisition	10.50	10.25	11.25				4.33	3.67	1.75	6.83	2.50	0.00	1.50	52.58

Evaluators score Questions 1-9; RCO Staff scores Questions 10-11.

* Dev = Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination (Acquisition and Development Projects, GMA=Growth Management Act

Trails Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Clallam County

Grant Requested: \$460,000

Spruce Railroad McFee Tunnel Restoration

The Clallam County Public Works Department will use this grant to reconstruct a half-mile of the historic Spruce Railroad Trail, restore the 96 year old 450 foot long McFee Tunnel, and construct a trailhead on the north shore of Lake Crescent. The US Army Spruce Production Division built 36 miles of rail line west of Port Angeles in a record short 6 month span in 1918, including two railroad tunnels to facilitate delivery of spruce for aircraft involved in World War I. The McFee Tunnel was closed by blasting shut the entrances in the 1960's and this tunnel blockage, steep trail sections, rocky/muddy surface conditions and poor drainage condition prevent trail use by touring bicyclists forcing them to use a dangerous US 101 route on the south side of the lake. The Spruce Railroad Trail with its steep grades and rocky/muddy surface conditions is not accessible to wheelchair users. Restoring this tunnel and trail as an ADA accessible shared use path removes a major barrier to safe, traffic separated, non-motorized travel on the north shore of Lake Crescent for wheelchair users, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. A restored Spruce Railroad Trail provides a safe alternative route to the south shore US 101 highway route with its narrow shoulders and high traffic volumes of trucks, cars and RVs. Restoring the Spruce Railroad Trail allows connection to 60 miles of completed trail east of the project site and to an additional 20 miles of completed trail west of this location, including 7 miles of paved trail previously funded by a 2008 WWRP grant. Clallam County will contribute \$460,000 in cash, and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (14-1124)

King County

Grant Requested: \$500,000

East Lake Sammamish Trail Phase 4 Construction

Through this project, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will construct the 1.3-mile "South Sammamish A" segment of the 11-mile East Lake Sammamish Trail (ELST), which runs along an abandoned railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish. The project site goes from SE 43rd St north to SE 33rd St in the city of Sammamish. Project elements include constructing a 12-foot-wide paved path with 2-foot-wide gravel shoulders on each side, improving drainage, and installing retaining walls, landscaping, fencing, and access/traffic controls. King County will provide funding from its voter-approved 2014-2019 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Levy (secured) and a federal transportation grant (pending). This is the fourth phase of a multi-phase Master Plan trail that will complete the entire 11-mile trail corridor and directly connect the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah. ELST is a vital part of a 44-mile trail system extending from Puget Sound in Seattle to the Cascade Foothills. WWRP funds have supported construction of the Issaquah (completed) and North Sammamish (in progress) segments. ELST supporters include the Cities of Issaquah, Redmond, and Sammamish, Cascade Bicycle Club, the Bicycle Alliance of Washington, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, and Transportation Choices Coalition. King County will contribute \$2.9 million in a federal grant, a voter-approved levy. (14-1514)

Twisp

Grant Requested: \$199,504

Twisp Community Trail Project

The Town of Twisp will use this Acquisition/Development grant to acquire two Fee-simple rights-of-way equaling over 2700' feet to develop a community non-motorized trail along the Methow River. Additionally, the grant funds will be used to develop a trail and viewpoints on the trail right-of-way acquired through RCO grant #10-1378A on that part of the Hottell and Bennett parcels located along the west side of the Methow River and south of the Twisp Park as well as a section of trail in the Twisp Park that will link the Hottell section of trail with an existing path through the park to the trailhead. The total length of riverfront trail to be developed will be over 3100 lin. feet. By acquiring and developing these trail rights-of-way, Twisp will complete Phase I of a comprehensive trail system connecting neighborhoods, parks, commercial districts, town facilities, the airport and sports complex while providing not only

recreation and safe pedestrian and bicycle routes but also public access to over 1/2 mile of Methow River shoreline. The Twisp Comprehensive Plan, Trail and Recreation Plan, Economic Development Plan and the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan have identified the need for a community trail system as a high priority, while citizens polled in the 2010 Twisp Public Survey prioritized a trail system as an important part of shoreline access, community identity and a healthy lifestyle. Twisp will contribute \$201,650 in equipment, labor, and donations of labor, land, and materials. (14-1137)

Bellingham
Squalicum Creek Trail

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop more than 1.25 miles of trail in the Squalicum Creek corridor, part of the proposed Nooksack Loop Trail, a 45 mile regional trail that will connect Bellingham to Ferndale, Everson and Lynden. This trail is also a segment of the regional Bay-to-Baker trail. The project is located within the City limits of Bellingham. Work includes converting an abandoned railroad grade into a trail. The overall goal of this project is to create a recreational amenity and provide non-motorized connectivity where none currently exists. The project is located in a lower income neighborhood in an unserved area. The completed project will connect existing and proposed neighborhoods to two existing parks, as well as the regional health care campus, and provide a safe crossing under Interstate 5. This is the first phase of a trail which will eventually connect Bellingham's waterfront to the outer City limits. This project is part of a larger, multiphase project in the Squalicum Greenway corridor including rerouting an existing creek to improve habitat, arterial street improvements to improve safety and connectivity, and other secondary trail connectors, all of which are funded separately from this trail project. When completed, these improvements will assist protection of wildlife and fisheries habitat through preservation of passive open space along Squalicum Creek (a state protected shoreline), provide a safe route for pedestrian and cyclists, and complete a segment of the regional Nooksack Loop Trail. Bellingham will contribute \$1.2 million. (14-1419)

Port Orchard
Bay Street Pedestrian Path-Mosquito Fleet Trail

Grant Requested: \$105,750

The City of Port Orchard is requesting funding for acquisition of a portion of a private property and an easement that is adjacent to existing city-owned right-of-way. The overall project is called the "Bay Street Pedestrian Path", a part of the regional Mosquito Fleet Trail system. In Port Orchard the trail is divided into segments, 1-11. The city seeks acquisition funding for segment 3A to allow for the construction of 500 additional feet of trail which will extend the existing 2850 foot trail (segments 1-2). This acquisition will facilitate an extension of the trail to 3,350 feet in length. As planned, the trail will eventually measure 1.5 miles in the city. Segments 1 and 5 and a portion of Segment 2 have been completed, with Segment 4 set to break ground in late 2014. As a public corridor for use by pedestrians and bicyclists, a waterfront walkway is consistent with Port Orchard's desire provide recreational opportunities and to focus its attention on the waterfront, a valuable visitor industry resource. The path will also make it easier for area residents and visitors to safely walk into downtown along the water with reduced pedestrian-vehicular conflicts, which will encourage users of the trail to patronize local businesses. The trail will also serve a regional purpose, connecting historic travel and trade routes with other areas of Kitsap County that are outside of City limits. Public support of the project has been substantial and encompasses a broad coalition of stakeholders. Port Orchard will contribute \$105,750. (14-1439)

Yakima County
Naches Rail to Trail Final Phase (ONH to 40th Ave)

Grant Requested: \$810,700

Yakima County Public Services will use this grant to construct the FINAL 2.1 mile section (Phase 5 of 5) of the Naches "rails to trails" paved trail project, including two bike/pedestrian activated crossing systems, and bike/pedestrian bridge improvements over the Naches River and Cowiche Creek. This new segment will complete the 10+ mile trail system between the Town of Naches and City of Yakima, and connecting

to the existing 10 mile Yakima Greenway Trail System. The end result will be a paved trail and parks system boasting over 20 miles of non-motorized transportation routes connecting several communities as well as providing links to neighboring trail systems including the William O Douglas Trail/ Cowiche Canyon Conservancy and City of Yakima's Powerhouse Trail. The recreational benefits of the e trails are visited by over 700,000 users annually. The entire Naches "Rail to Trail" pathway will be maintained by the Yakima Greenway Foundation, which has a 35 year history of successful path and park administration. The Greenway is supported by local membership which funds its operational needs as well as supplying over a thousand volunteers annually. The Greenway has spearheaded the fundraising campaign which has generated over \$1.25 million for the Naches Trail Project. Phase 4 of 5 - (Low Road to Old Naches Hwy - 4.6 miles - RCO Funded) is scheduled for construction later this year. Yakima County will contribute \$810,700 in donations of cash. (14-1461)

Ferry County
Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 3

Grant Requested: \$98,000

Ferry County will use this development grant to improve additional segments of the 25 mile long Ferry County Rail Trail, a former railroad grade that has been converted into a non-motorized trail. This project includes development of a 2.28 mile long segment of the trail along the west side of Curlew Lake and a 3.14-mile segment that passes through the town of Curlew, the second most populated town accessed by the trail. The existing surface of the trail includes coarse ballast in places that makes use by pedestrians and bicyclists difficult. Placement of a compacted crushed rock surface will create an accessible surface suitable for all non-motorized use. The project will expand Ferry County's current trail holdings and allow for a variety of non-motorized recreational uses including biking, walking, and winter activities such as cross country skiing . The trail offers a safe non-motorized trail away from motor vehicle traffic and links the Golden Tiger Pathway and the City of Republic with Curlew Lake and the towns of Malo and Curlew to the north. Completion of this project will provide a critical recreation opportunity for our local community and attract visitors to Ferry County. This project enjoys broad community support including Ferry County Rail Trail Partners a 501(c)(3) non-profit citizen's group and Kinross Gold Corp. which have previously contributed matching funds to this project. Ferry County will contribute \$99,000 in a federal grant and donations of cash, equipment, and labor. (14-1677)

Pierce County
Foothills National Recreation Trail Final Phase

Grant Requested: \$2,755,063

The Foothills National Recreation Trail (FT) Final Phase is the final segment needed to complete the 19 mile multi-use regional trail through the Puyallup Valley in Pierce County. The Pierce County Parks & Rec will construct the remaining 2.3 miles of the trail, which begins in the Town of South Prairie and extend east toward Buckley. As a 12' wide pervious asphalt trail with a companion 5' wide equestrian path, the trail accommodates walking, hiking, biking and equestrian uses. The trail is sited on a railroad right-of-way that winds through scenic countryside and farmland offering views of Mt Rainier and the Cascade foothills. The FT is the spine of the Pierce County trail network serving as a significant connector between urban and rural cities and providing recreation opportunities for thousands. Future connections include: Link north to King County's Interurban Trail Link east to King County's Enumclaw Foothills Trail Link southeast to Mt Rainier National Park Link northwest to Puyallup's Riverwalk Trail Link southwest to the Cross County Commuter Corridor to Tacoma The FT enjoys tremendous public support which is headed by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, a 1000+ member nonprofit that provides valuable services such as a bike safety patrol, volunteer maintenance crews, and fundraising campaigns. The FT is listed in the Regional Trails Plan of the County's 2014 PROS Plan, the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation 2040 Plan, and the Non-motorized Transportation Plan of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan. Pierce County will contribute \$2.7 million in cash and donations of cash. (14-1442)

**Port of Camas-Washougal
Washougal Waterfront Trail**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Port of Camas-Washougal is requesting grant assistance for the development of a half mile long trail along the Columbia River shoreline, located on the south side of the Lewis and Clark Highway 14 and the 2nd Street intersection. The development of the .5 mile, 12 foot wide, non-motorized, concrete, waterfront trail will have one cantilever decked viewpoint plaza, three soft surface trails to provide shoreline access, benches and historical interpretive signs, and a secondary trail head on the east end of the trail with parking, small plaza and kiosk. The goal of the Washougal Waterfront Trail project is to lead a collaborative effort to construct a multi-modal trail along the Columbia River shoreline that will be a primary link of local and regional trail systems to the Columbia River; where the community and visitors will be able to gather and enjoy the beauty of the Columbia River, learn about the historical significance of the local area, increase recreational access to the Lower Columbia River Water Trail system, and act as a catalyst for economic development in an economically disadvantaged community. Combined, the City of Camas and Washougal's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plans identify a need for at least 19 miles of trails within the next 10 years. This project meets the needs of the community whose core community value is to preserve the last remaining developable waterfront area in Washougal for community use. The Port of Camas-Washougal will contribute \$672,264 in cash, a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and donations of labor. (14-1349)

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Point Defiance Loop Trail - TR**

Grant Requested: \$3,250,000

Point Defiance 5 Mile Loop Trail project creates a safe, dedicated, pedestrian loop free of all vehicular conflicts around the 765-acre park. Over 5 miles of trail will be developed using a combination of striping, barriers, pedestrian bridges, new trail, and Pearl Street entrance improvements allowing walkers, runners and cyclists to be separated from or rise above vehicles. A trail head including parking and a restroom will also be developed. The Tacoma MPD will contribute \$3.2 million in voter-approved bonds and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1694)

**Spokane Valley
Appleway Trail Phase 3 Development**

Grant Requested: \$813,000

The Appleway Trail Corridor is a critical link in the City's pedestrian and bicycle plans. The Corridor will be transformed from an underutilized former rail corridor to a vibrant non-motorized shared-use pathway enlivened by plazas, art, perennial gardens, community gardens, habitat islands, community and educational signage, play areas and public spaces. The project will provide safe east-west mobility and north south connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists which is a key component of the City's pedestrian and bicycle network. Meandering along the corridor, the Appleway Trail forms the backbone of the space ferrying cyclists and pedestrians between schools, stores, senior living communities, transit hubs and residential neighborhoods. The Trail, when complete, will extend from University Avenue on the west through the entire City to the eastern border at Liberty Lake. The intent of this trail is to provide transportation options combined with recreational features to those who have a desire to use other modes of transportation. The City is seeking a central focal point that defines the City's goal of giving the downtown a sense of place. It's hoped that the trail will provide access to downtown business, create new downtown business, a sense of place to hold events and congregate for a stronger, more connected community. The Phase 3 portion of the project will complete the design and construction of a 1 mile - 12' wide asphalt concrete trail shared-use path from Pines (SR-27) east to Evergreen Road. Spokane Valley will contribute \$813,000 in cash and a federal grant. (14-1136)

Kitsap County
Sound to Olympics North Kitsap Gap

Grant Requested: \$740,500

The Kitsap County Parks and Rec will use this grant to acquire 24 miles of the Sound to Olympics Trail and trail system in the North Kitsap Gap trail corridors. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is a regional trail across the Kitsap Peninsula. The trail connects the Cross State Trail linking the eastside of Puget Sound via the Kitsap Peninsula to the westerly Olympic Discovery Trail. The land acquisition is from a single landowner, Olympic Properties Group land developers. OPG is divesting their properties, which provides the opportunity to complete the final portion of the E-W STO Trail connection from the Kingston ferry terminal to the Hood Canal Bridge. The route preserves wildlife habitat connectivity and links four recent WWRP park projects, including 1.7 miles of the STO trail in the Port Gamble Shoreline Park. The STO trail, from Kingston and Bainbridge Island through Poulsbo to the Hood Canal Bridge is a scenic trail corridor with water access and Olympic and Cascade mountain views. The land acquisition and trail route is designed to accommodate a future paved trail for walkers, non-motorized bicycling, jogging and horseback riding providing physical and mental health benefits in a growing urbanized area. North Kitsap Trails Association and West Sound Evergreen Mountain Bike Association volunteers are ardent supporters of the project, adding to the cost efficiency of the project by providing volunteer labor and community support which are assets to the timely completion of the next phase of development following acquisition from this matching grant. Kitsap County will contribute \$949,500 in a state appropriation, cash, and a donation of land. (14-1353)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Willapa Hills Trail Deck Bridge 5

Grant Requested: \$400,000

Deck Willapa Hills Bridge 5 and open up 18 miles of continuous trail in Lewis County. Bridge 5, which is about 800 feet in length, needs a new surface and safety rails and is a glaring gap between Chehalis and Rainbow Falls State Park. The Willapa Hills Trail is a 56 mile long rail to trail that includes numerous bridges and trestles. As a structure, Bridge 5 is actually a combination bridge and trestle that is 1,000 feet in length. The bridge and trestle, however, will be treated similarly with a wood surface and new safety rails. The surface of the bridge will consist of a rough-hewn dimensional lumber that is treated with preservative. The rails will likely be composed of iron or metal and attached to the wood rails of the bridge or trestle with metal brackets. The State Parks and Recreation Commission will contribute \$80,000 in donations of cash. (14-1640)

Jefferson County
Olympic Discovery Trail, Discovery Bay, Phase 2

Grant Requested: \$250,000

Jefferson County will use this grant to construct a segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) along the shoreline of South Discovery Bay. Steep slopes, sensitive habitat & Hwy 101 limit the Trail to only one viable location. By integrating the Trail with the ongoing habitat restoration the ODT finally has a route around Discovery Bay. This project will construct approx. a quarter mile of trail, including 125 ft supported by a Soldier Pile Wall. Project design, engineering & permitting are substantially complete with the Trail's construction within the shoreline mitigated by the Restoration. The ODT is a planned 126-mile, non-motorized trail that extends across the Olympic Peninsula. It is an important local economic driver with more than half currently complete. The natural beauty of this trail section, easily accessible from Hwy101 & SR20 to both travelers & residents, will be a destination for recreational activities such as walking, cycling & viewing nature. Interpretive signs will educate trail users about the value of the surrounding environment & associated restoration. The ODT is identified in the US Dept. of Interior's America's Great Outdoors Initiative as well as prioritized in numerous state & local planning documents. The close collaborative effort of numerous state agencies, local governments, resource managers & trail coalitions has led to the realization of this project. If this trail section is not built now the ODT could be broken at South Discovery Bay. Jefferson County will contribute \$250,000 in cash, a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and donations of cash. (14-1711)

Lacey**Grant Requested: \$53,172****Woodland Creek Community Park Trail Connection**

The City of Lacey Parks & Rec Department intends to develop the connecting ten foot wide asphalt trail (length 625 feet), a 6-foot-wide asphalt trail (100 feet in length), and a 36 foot long pedestrian bicycle bridge over the creek at Woodland Creek Community Park in Lacey, Washington. The goal is to provide a non-motorized trail corridor through the park to the Lacey Woodland Trail, a regional trail. The park is the eastern terminus of the trail and a heavily used trailhead. This is a critical link in the regional trail system. This project was identified after two public meetings in the park master plan, adopted by the City Council on December 2, 2010, and on pages 88 and 127 of the Comprehensive Plan for Outdoor Recreation adopted by the City council on July 22, 2010. The Thurston Regional Trails Plan identifies this project as an important goal. Lacey will contribute \$53,172 in cash, labor, and donations of labor. (14-1515)

**Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Harris Creek-Vosper Multi-use Trail****Grant Requested: \$140,405**

The Chehalis Tribe will use this grant to provide safe pedestrian and cyclist recreational access from the Vosper neighborhood to resources in the City of Oakville. This will be done by constructing a 10-foot wide multi-use trail 1,300 feet in length, located adjacent to Southbank Road at the Reservation boundary (near Merritt Lane) and terminates to the south of the intersection of Slickman Loop and Balch Roads. The Harris Creek-Vosper Multi-Use Trail will also provide residents in the City of Oakville with access to the Vosper Community Playground and supports the following two Reservation Trail/Pedestrian system goals: Connected Non-Motorized Multi-Use System and Support the Promotion of Good Health. Currently residents are forced to walk in the road shoulder as there is no pedestrian or bike facilities at this location. A walking path was voted the highest priority for families in the Chehalis Tribal Park Plan. The path will have great scenic value by providing a view of the fish bearing Harris Creek, riparian forest and Capital Forest in the distance. A sign will mark the trail entrance and educational signage will be placed along the path to educate trail users about the lifecycle of fish and native plants. Chehalis Confederated Tribes will contribute \$140,406. (14-1126)

**Snohomish County
Whitehorse Trail Design & Development****Grant Requested: \$2,000,000**

Whitehorse Trail is a 27 miles trail located on the rail-banked BNSF railroad corridor. It stretches from Arlington to Darrington and connects to the Centennial Trail and which connects to other regional trails. The Snohomish County Parks Dept. will design and develop a 12 mile section located between Oso and the Town of Darrington. The goal is to complete this section of the trail system linking recreation connectivity to the adjacent communities. It is an important economic tool to service Darrington and to the adjacent communities. It is also essential to increase the level of service as identified in the Comprehensive Park Plan of 2014. Work include gravel paving, decking, railings, embankment restoration, signage, and bridge restoration and vegetation management. Whitehorse Trail provides a non-motorized, multi-used recreation system. It includes biking, hiking, walking, equine access and connects to other regional trails and recreational facilities. This trail connects the Blue Grass and Rodeo sites, campgrounds at Squire Creek Park, and White Horse Community Park in Darrington and is an important rural trail to this community. In addition, it is a very scenic route going through different landscapes with rich cultural history. Fortson Mill (trailhead) is a significant stop for such history. The view of the Whitehorse Mountain is breath taking together with its pastoral landscapes can be viewed at most points throughout the trail corridor. Snohomish County will contribute \$2.2 million in cash and donations of cash and labor. (14-1796)

Port Angeles**Grant Requested: \$500,000****Port Angeles Waterfront Park and Trail**

The Olympic Discovery Trail's conception in the 1988 provided the Port Angeles community a connection of coastal pathways in areas previously inaccessible for passive recreational pursuits. Today, the initial Port Angeles vision has grown to a planned 125 miles of segregated trails spanning from Port Townsend to La Push, utilizing easements, property donation, and rights-of-way. In 2009, the City of Port Angeles began a public process to develop a park and trail facility on the downtown waterfront focusing on passive recreation, sustainability, and artistic/educational elements. The Waterfront Park and Trail consists of a 2,000 ft recreation trail. The trail is encompassed by 8.08 acres of park space along the waterfront with two large parks bookending a wide esplanade along the water. Two phases of the park system have been funded and constructed, both in-part from RCO grants. The final 3.25 acres of park space to complete contains 1.04 acres of trail space, native plantings, and access down to Peabody Creek Estuary that the City plans to develop in 2015. This smaller project area was chosen as the ensuing phase to complete the final piece of the downtown waterfront trail awaiting development. The remaining adjacent parkland to the project area has long been established, but will be updated in the final phase of the Waterfront Park and Trail. Permitting for the entire Waterfront Parks Project has been completed, and City Funding derives from the Economic Development Fund. Port Angeles will contribute \$1.6 million in cash and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-2031)

Snohomish County**Grant Requested: \$236,250****Whitehorse Trail Trailhead Acquisition Oso Mill**

The Snohomish County Parks Department will use this grant to buy land for a trailhead along the Whitehorse Trail, which stretches 27 miles from the Arlington to Darrington in north Snohomish County. The Whitehorse Trail is a former railroad and will be developed as a multipurpose trail. The proposed acquisition was identified to fill a missing gap in trailhead spacing and provide equestrian access. The Whitehorse Trail has enormous potential to provide a backcountry, regional trail experience and provide connection to several communities and recreation opportunities, including the Centennial Trail, Forest Service trails, the Mountain Loop Highway and camping. The project is located west of the Oso slide site and is intended to support and serve the community of Oso. The March slide has affected area residents in permanent and life altering ways. Residents have begun discussing turning the slide area to a memorial park, and the proposed acquisition would serve this park and provide recreational and economic benefits to the area. The proposed acquisition is for the Oso Mill site. The site was previously a shingle mill and is located between Highway 530 and the Whitehorse Trail. It is a flat site with a large asphalt area and an industrial steel building. The site is approximately 3.2 acres. The site is an ideal location for a trailhead because it is located near the midpoint of the trail, it is contiguous to both the trail and to State Route 530 and because it is already paved with asphalt and gravel over most of its surface. Snohomish County will contribute \$236,250. (14-1266)

Snohomish County**Grant Requested: \$83,400****Centennial Trail - Bryant Trailhead Acquisition**

The Snohomish County Parks Dept. will use this grant for acquisition of additional trailhead access to the Centennial Trail in the community of Bryant. The proposed acquisition is 1.32 acres and is located approximately 4 miles south of the Skagit/Snohomish County line and approximately 3 miles north of the City of Arlington. The proposed acquisition is located adjacent to the Centennial Trail and also across from the current, undersized parking area. The existing trailhead provides only twelve parking spaces and is regularly filled to capacity. This trailhead also does not provide equestrian access, which is a major use of the Centennial Trail. The proposed acquisition will provide the opportunity to provide much needed additional parking as well as the opportunity for equestrian parking. The Centennial Trail is highly popular and recent development has extended the alignment from the Skagit County border to the City of Snohomish. Over 29 miles of trail are provided and an acquisition completed in early 2014 will provide the

linkage between Skagit and King County's regional trail systems. Work is underway to develop this new acquisition and also to make improvements to the Whitehorse Trail, which connects to the Centennial Trail approximately 2.7 miles south of the proposed acquisition. The Whitehorse Trail stretches 27.5 miles to the Town of Darrington. Snohomish County will contribute \$83,400. (14-1243)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Fifteen projects in the Water Access category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-23

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Water Access category provides funds for projects that provide physical access to shorelines for non-motorized, water-related recreation activities. These include boating, fishing, swimming, and beachcombing. Grants may be used to acquire land for, or develop facilities that support, water-dependent recreation such as fishing piers and platforms, boat access facilities, swim beaches, and water trails for canoes and kayaks.

The Water Access category receives 15 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Seventy-five percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ¹ agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, port districts, and special purpose districts
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of water access sites or facilities • Combination projects involve both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	Local agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, and special purpose and port districts must provide a 50 percent matching share. There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fifteen Water Access category projects requesting \$11.7 million were evaluated on August 14, 2014 in an open public meeting in Olympia. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of ten evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to water access issues:

Evaluator	Representing
Ed Field, Freeland	Citizen
Cleve Pinnix, Olympia	Citizen
Reed Waite, Seattle – Washington Water Trails Association	Citizen
Curtis Hancock, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	Local Agency
Debbi Hanson, Battle Ground Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Camron Parker, Bellevue Parks and Community Services	Local Agency
Dick Weber, Puyallup Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Christopher Donley, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Kyle Murphy, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Randy Kline, State Parks	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of General Administration, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the Water Access category also support board priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-23.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-23, including Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Water Access Category Projects
- C. Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. Water Access Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-23
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, fifteen Water Access category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all fifteen Water Access category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Water Access category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreational access to water, thereby supporting priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Water Access category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

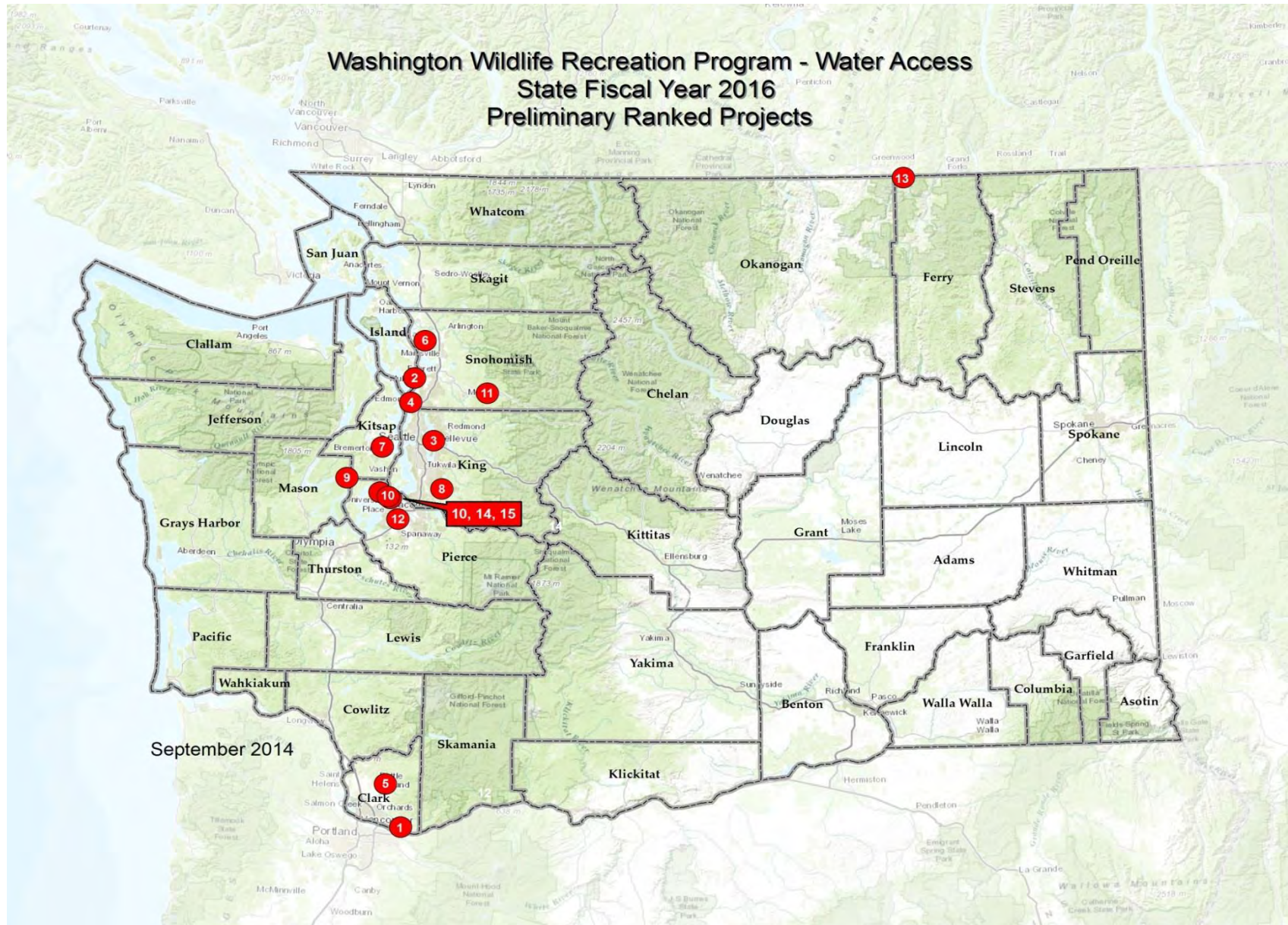
Table 1 - WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	57.70	14-1347D	Washougal Waterfront Water Access Area	Port of Camas-Washougal	\$700,000	\$890,624	\$1,590,624	\$700,000
2	54.10	14-1534A	Glendale Shoreline Acquisition and Public Access	Island County	\$565,000	\$587,000	\$1,152,000	\$1,265,000
3	53.10	14-1965D	Meydenbauer Park Shoreline Access Development	Bellevue	\$500,000	\$3,582,700	\$4,082,700	\$1,765,000
4	51.50	14-1427D	Edmonds Pier Renovation 2014-2015	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$700,000	\$800,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,465,000
5	51.00	14-1643D	Battle Ground Lake State Park Americans with Disabilities Act Docks	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$516,500	\$100	\$516,600	\$2,981,500
6	50.60	14-1627D	Wenber County Park Water Access Improvements	Snohomish County	\$614,123	\$614,123	\$1,228,246	\$3,595,623
7	50.10	14-1546D	Waterman Fishing Pier Access and Seawall Renovation	Port of Waterman	\$575,000	\$753,000	\$1,328,000	\$4,170,623
8	49.00	14-1731D	Lake Meridian Dock Replacement	Kent	\$500,000	\$1,244,800	\$1,744,800	\$4,670,623
9	48.10	14-1687A	Coulter Creek Phase 2	Mason County	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,670,623
10	46.20	14-1693D	Owen Beach	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$8,670,623
11	45.85	14-1170C	Sultan River Access	Sultan	\$374,663	\$374,663	\$749,326	\$9,045,286
12	45.50	14-1724D	Wapato Lake Dock Reconstruction	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$451,416	\$451,416	\$902,832	\$9,496,702
13	45.40	14-1100C	Kettle River Access	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$995,000		\$995,000	\$10,491,702
14	42.60	14-1617D	Ancich Water Access Park	Gig Harbor	\$500,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,600,000	\$10,991,702
15	38.60	14-1686D	Point Defiance Boardwalk	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$1,600,000	\$11,791,702

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
					\$11,791,702	\$15,198,426	\$26,990,128	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

State Map for Water Access Category Projects



Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Water access means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, river, or streams".²

Water Access Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	15	Local
Advisory Committee	2	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	10	Local
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	3	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	4	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	5	Site Suitability	All	10	Technical
Advisory Committee	6	Expansion	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	7	Diversity of Recreational Uses	Development	5	State
			Combination	2.5	
Advisory Committee	8	Project Support	All	10	State, Local
Advisory Committee	9	Cost Efficiencies	All	5	State, Local
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	11	Population Proximity	All	3	State
Total Points Possible:				73	

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Scoring Criteria, Water Access Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need** *RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v-vi)*
Considering the availability of existing public water access sites within at least 15 miles of the project site, what is the need for additional such sites?
2. **Immediacy of Threat** *RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)*
To what extent will this project reduce a threat to the public availability of water access?
Acquisition/Combination only
3. **Project Design**
Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site?
Development/Combination only
4. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship** *Board Resolution 2014-06*
Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?
5. **Site Suitability** *RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v)*
Is the site well suited for the intended recreational uses?
6. **Expansion**
Will the project expand an existing recreation area or facility?
7. **Diversity of Recreational Uses** *RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iv)*
To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible water based recreational activities?
Development/Combination only
8. **Project Support** *RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(i)*
The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate *opportunity to become informed*, and/or *support* for the project seems apparent.
9. **Cost Efficiencies** *Board Resolution 2014-06*
To what extent does this project demonstrates efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Growth Management Act Preference** *RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)*
Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?
11. **Population Proximity** *RCW 79A.25.250*
Is the project in a populated area?
 - a. The project is within the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more;
AND
 - b. The project is within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question Project Name	1	2		3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	Total
		Public Need	Immediacy of Threat		Project Design		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability	Expansion	Diversity of Recreational Uses		Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
			Acq*	Com*	Dev*	Com*				Dev*	Com*					
1	Washougal Waterfront Water Access Area	12.30			8.20		8.20	8.00	3.90	3.50		8.20	2.40	0.00	3.00	57.70
2	Glendale Shoreline Acquisition and Public Access	10.50	13.80				8.00	8.20	2.30			7.40	3.40	-1.00	1.50	54.10
3	Meydenbauer Park Shoreline Access	10.80			7.00		7.00	8.60	3.70	3.20		7.60	2.20	0.00	3.00	53.10
4	Edmonds Pier Renovation	11.10			7.00		7.20	8.80	1.90	3.10		7.40	2.00	0.00	3.00	51.50
5	Battle Ground Lake State Park Americans with Disabilities Act Docks	11.40			8.00		7.00	8.00	3.10	3.50		6.40	2.10	0.00	1.50	51.00
6	Wenber County Park Water Access Improvements	10.50			7.20		6.80	8.80	3.60	3.60		7.00	1.60	0.00	1.50	50.60
7	Waterman Fishing Pier Access and Seawall	11.40			7.80		7.00	7.80	2.30	2.80		7.20	2.30	0.00	1.50	50.10
8	Lake Meridian Dock Replacement	12.30			6.20		4.60	8.60	1.90	3.10		6.60	2.70	0.00	3.00	49.00
9	Coulter Creek Phase 2	9.90	12.30				7.00	6.60	4.10			7.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	48.10
10	Owen Beach	9.30			6.00		4.80	7.80	3.20	3.20		7.20	1.70	0.00	3.00	46.20
11	Sultan River Access	9.60		3.30		3.20	5.60	8.00	4.10		1.55	7.20	1.80	0.00	1.50	45.85

Rank	Question Project Name	1	2		3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	Total
		Public Need	Immediacy of Threat		Project Design		Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Site Suitability	Expansion	Diversity of Recreational Uses		Project Support	Cost Efficiencies	GMA* Preference	Population Proximity	
			Acq*	Com*	Dev*	Com*				Dev*	Com*					
12	Wapato Lake Dock Reconstruction	10.80			6.00		6.00	7.00	2.30	2.70		6.80	0.90	0.00	3.00	45.50
13	Kettle River Access	10.80		5.10		3.20	6.40	8.20	1.60		1.60	7.20	1.30	0.00	0.00	45.40
14	Ancich Water Access Park	6.90			6.00		5.40	6.20	2.90	2.80		7.40	2.00	0.00	3.00	42.60
15	Point Defiance Boardwalk	7.20				3.60	5.20	6.40	2.70	2.10		6.80	1.60	0.00	3.00	38.60

Evaluators score Questions 1-9; RCO Staff scores Questions 10-11.

* Dev = Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination (Acquisition and Development Projects, GMA=Growth Management Act

Water Access Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Port of Camas-Washougal

Grant Requested: \$700,000

Washougal Waterfront Water Access Area

The Port of Camas-Washougal is requesting grant assistance for the development of a 2.4 acre water access area on the last piece of publicly-owned Washougal waterfront land along the Columbia River, located on the south side of the Lewis and Clark Highway 14 and the 2nd Street intersection. The development of the water access area will include: a paved and rocked trail that will provide accessibility to the Columbia River shoreline for non-motorized boaters and pedestrians; an adjacent parking lot with rounded staging area, for kayakers and canoeists; a 32,150 square foot lawn/picnicking area with outdoor classroom picnic shelter; a viewing plaza to enjoy the spectacular views, energy efficient restrooms, and historical/educational interpretive kiosks and signs. It is a core community value to preserve the waterfront area in Washougal for the public and to meet an underserved waterfront access need. The port will lead a collaborative effort, to restore to its natural state, a water access area along the Columbia River shoreline that will be a destination for the community and visitors to gather and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Columbia River and its entrance into the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area; to learn about the historical significance of the local area; to increase recreational access to the Lower Columbia River Water Trail system; and to act as a catalyst for economic development in an economically disadvantaged community. The Port of Camas-Washougal will contribute \$890,624 in cash, a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and donations of labor. (14-1347)

Island County

Grant Requested: \$565,000

Glendale Shoreline Acquisition and Public Access

The Glendale Shoreline Acquisition and Public Access project will create permanent public access to 420 feet of shoreline waters through the acquisition of a public access conservation easement along an otherwise privately-owned stretch of Possession Sound in the southeast Whidbey Island community of Glendale. In an innovative partnership, Island County will acquire permanent public access rights from the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and a conservation easement that removes all development rights not related to public use. The Land Trust will own and manage the property for the permanent benefit of the public to address the County's financial situation. The property was listed for sale and, to seize on this one-time opportunity, with Island County approval, the Land Trust secured contracts to purchase it with loans and private donations. Public uses will include fishing, swimming, non-motorized boating, nature viewing, picnicking and beachcombing. The County Parks Plan identifies securing public beach access to this underserved area of Whidbey Island as a top priority. Two buildings will be removed and replaced with a parking area paid for by the Land Trust. Island County will contribute \$587,000 in a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and donated property interest. (14-1534)

Bellevue

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Meydenbauer Park Shoreline Access Development

Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 is a waterfront development project on the shore of Lake Washington's Meydenbauer Bay in Bellevue. Project goals include providing water access and outdoor activities for the entire community, restoring ecological functions and improving water quality and fish habitat. This will be accomplished through redeveloping and expanding a swim beach, adding a curved pier to protect swim area and provide over water access with views back to the city as well as moorage for non-motorized boats. The project also includes a new shoreline promenade and a car top non-motorized boat launch allows lake access for canoes, kayaks and the like. Picnic and sunning areas are included. The project will remove armoring on 660 lf of shoreline and restore natural shoreline, daylight 500lf of piped stream and develop an estuary-like shallow pool at the outflow to cleanse storm water and improve fish habitat. Removal of invasive plants and adding native riparian plantings is also included. This project provides substantial recreational access to what has up until now been largely privately owned, as well as

improving habitat for fish and birds. Bellevue will contribute \$3.5 million in cash and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-1965)

**Department of Fish and Wildlife
Edmonds Pier Renovation**

Grant Requested: \$700,000

The Edmonds Pier Renovation Project seeks to address structural and design upgrades to the Edmonds Fishing Pier, to extend the life of the facility for 20-30+ years. The pier was originally built with RCO Bond and LWCF funding. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,500,000,000. Project design is underway through a \$200,000 capital appropriation that will be used as match for construction funding, if obtained through the 2014-2015 grant cycle. The City of Edmonds will contribute \$100,000 in matching funds. The Edmonds Pier is located in the heart of Puget Sound, 17 miles north of Seattle, integral to the Edmonds waterfront. With 90-100,000 visitors per year, the pier provides a destination opportunity to a diverse array of visitors. The pier facilitates opportunity for every form of salt water fishing from year round chinook, winter squidding, spring-time ling cod, to the most popular yearly coho run, as well as crabbing and shrimping. Because not all anglers have the resources or the ability to charter a fishing trip or own a boat, the pier offers the unique opportunity to enjoy a legacy tradition of the great Pacific Northwest. This access is provided to all users, including the handicapped, and children who come to fish, learn about, and experience the marine environment first hand. The City of Edmonds, WDFW, Port of Edmonds, RCO and LWCF have a 35 year history of providing resources and managing this rare capital asset through multi-agency cooperation. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will contribute \$800,000 in a state appropriation, council bonds, and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-1427)

**State Parks and Recreation Commission
Battle Ground Lake State Park ADA Docks**

Grant Requested: \$516,500

State Parks will use this grant to construct new fishing and boating facilities in Battle Ground Lake State Park, near Battle Ground, to improve safety, reduce conflicts of use, better serve people with disabilities, and increase facility capacity for increasing recreation use. The park, features a beautiful, volcanic crater lake surrounded by 280 forested acres. The spring fed lake is stocked by WDFW, provides excellent year round trout fishing and is extremely popular for summer swimming. There is an existing, small, concrete boat launch. The lake is restricted to electric motors. There are no shoreline fishing facilities. Anglers use the 35 year old boat dock that is not stable and partially sinks below water line when occupied. Injuries have resulted from people being accidentally tossed off the dock. The new boat dock will be sited closer to the boat launch which will make it easier to launch and haul out boats. On the other side of the swimming beach, an accessible fishing pier will be installed. The larger and more stable facility will facilitate fishing for people of all ages and abilities and better accommodate families and other groups. A new accessible fishing platform will be added just beyond the dock. Paving this surface will provide a safer place for bank fishing. The bare embankment becomes extremely slick when wet. Several injuries have occurred to anglers as a result. The public has requested that an additional ADA parking space be added. Paved access routes will be extended to link the new and existing shoreline facilities. The result will be a more enjoyable lake front for approximately 300,000 visitors a year. State Parks will contribute \$500 in donations of cash. (14-1643)

**Snohomish County
Wenberg County Park Water Access Improvements**

Grant Requested: \$614,123

Wenberg County Park Water Access Improvements is a development project that is part of the overall Wenberg County Park Waterfront Improvement project. The park is located on Lake Goodwin near Stanwood Washington. The Snohomish County Parks Department will refurbish the boat launch, improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation to and from the waterfront, and revise the waterfront area of the park. The water access portion of the project includes adding accessible parking spaces and installing new accessible pathways from the parking area to the swimming beach. This project is needed because there

are currently no ADA compliant routes to get park users to the waterfront and no designated handicap parking in this area of the park. The planned pathways will continue onto an accessible swimming/fishing dock allowing those with disabilities and able-bodied people clear, easy access to the lake. The overall park is 45 acres and offers camping, picnicking, swimming and boat launching. RCO grant 11-1075 was awarded to Snohomish County for the planning of these proposed waterfront improvements. The goal of this grant application is to gain funding for the non-boating, water access portion of the overall project. A separate RCO grant application was submitted through the Boating Facilities program to address the boating related improvements. These proposed development improvements will significantly increase access for all park users to a multitude of waterfront recreation activities. Snohomish County will contribute \$614,123 in cash and staff labor. (14-1627)

Port of Waterman

Grant Requested: \$575,000

Waterman Fishing Pier Access and Seawall Renovation

The Port of Waterman in Kitsap County proposes replacement of bulkhead, parking, signage, and its 230-ft long pier to provide structural integrity, safety & barrier-free access, sustainability, regulatory compliance, and a clean environment. While the 90-year-old pier has been well maintained by the Port, the bulkhead is failing and dilapidated structures threaten its ability to protect the shoreline and provide safe water access. The pier offers numerous opportunities to enjoy its marine environment and spectacular scenery - from its views, fishing, crabbing, squid jigging, scuba diving, to water and beach access. It also serves as a gathering place for holidays and special events. Whereas most Ports in the Puget Sound region are boater centric, Waterman is one of few existing primarily for citizens who, by choice or economic status, don't own or operate boats. Fishermen and squid jiggers use the pier to avoid boaters tying up, occupying prime spots, or tangling up lines. On this side of Puget Sound, Waterman and Indianola are the only public access piers available that don't also serve boats. It is so critical that dwindling supply of these facilities be kept in serviceable condition. The Port is in the final permitting process, has professional engineering designs, cultural resources, biological evaluations, and cost estimates. Funds are needed to complete design, construct new bulkhead, and rebuild pier utilizing sustainable materials suitable for traditional fisheries and public accessibility. The Port of Waterman will contribute \$753,000 in cash, a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and donations of labor. (14-1546)

Kent

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Lake Meridian Dock Replacement

The City of Kent will use this grant towards the replacement of a swimming/fishing dock at Lake Meridian Park. Kent has a population of over 120,000 people and is the sixth largest city in Washington. Lake Meridian Park is a community park serving residents of the east hill of Kent and the surrounding cities of Covington, Maple Valley, and Auburn. Lake Meridian Park has the only lifeguarded swimming beach in Kent and typically attracts 100,000 visitors a summer. The existing dock was built in 1985 and is in serious need of replacement. The dock is listing in several locations, the connections between floats are beginning to fail, and the concrete decking is crumbling. The dock is the dominant feature of the park and provides 640 linear feet of water access used by park users for swimming, fishing, non-motorized boating access, and walking. As these conditions worsen we will be faced with the decision of whether or not to close or remove the dock. If we are forced to remove the dock due to liability concerns the future cost/difficulty to replace it increase significantly due to more stringent permitting requirements for new construction over water. This project is consistent with goals laid out in the City of Kent Park and Open Space Plan (2010) and was identified as a priority project in 2012 by the Kent Parks Citizen Advisory Board. Replacing the dock now will ensure this park remains a popular year round destination for citizens for at least another 30 years. Kent will contribute \$1.2 million in cash and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1731)

Mason County Coulter Creek Phase 2

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Coulter Creek Acquisition Phase II project will purchase 58.25 acres at the head of North Bay in Mason County between Allyn and Victor. Mason County, Capitol Land Trust, and partners are joining forces to purchase this property. The acquisition will include about 36 acres of upland forest, 18 acres of marine riparian forest, 3.25 acres of tidal wetlands, 3,875 feet of unnamed freshwater tributaries, and 2,010 feet of North Bay marine shoreline. The purchase of this property would accomplish three major goals, 1) conserve the property's extensive aquatic lands for public purposes, 2) provide passive recreation and public access to the water, and 3) create non-motorized recreational access to the waterfront, with over 1/2 mile of the planned North Bay Trail to pass through the property. Future use of the property would primarily be for passive recreation, including onsite boardwalks and/or forested trails connecting to the small parking area with restrooms and water viewpoints on Mason County's adjacent Coulter Creek Park property, environmental education, historical interpretation and community shellfish area. The aquatic resources on site will be accessed by pedestrians or cyclists on the North Bay Trail, car, or by water in kayaks. The majority of the property would be left undisturbed in its natural condition with future trails to the water to be installed as appropriate. Project public and private partners include Capitol Land Trust, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Taylor Shellfish. Mason County will contribute \$1 million in a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-1687)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma Owen Beach

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Owen Beach project renovates one of the oldest and most popular areas within Tacoma's Point Defiance Park. For over 126 years, Owen Beach has been one of the few true water access areas in Tacoma. Swimming, beach coming, boating and kayak rentals are just a few of the water related activities. Owen Beach has been the home of Salmon Bakes, family reunions, family picnics and general fun since its inception. Even after 126 years, Owen Beach is used immensely by the public. Upgrades to this popular destination include renovating the existing WPA shelter, adding two more shelters, new restrooms, expanded lawn area, playground, sand volleyball court, parking and storm water improvements. Tacoma MPD will contribute \$3 million in voter-approved bonds and a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. (14-1693)

Sultan Sultan River Access

Grant Requested: \$374,663

Through land acquisitions, leases and trail development, the City of Sultan will expand water access along the Sultan River. The fully accessible multi-use trail corridor developed as part of this project will connect two nearby city parks, downtown Sultan and local schools providing a wide variety of water access recreational opportunities. These activities include; Fishing, Rafting, Wading Pools, Nature Watching / Education and Gold Panning. The Sultan Parks Pros Plan reported that 65% of residents indicated that when they visit a City park they visit Osprey Park, one of the two parks connected to this project and to the east bank of the Sultan River. Osprey Park and Sultan River Park both have limited access at the shoreline and neither currently have a fully accessible route to the River. This project will expand the current water access along the Sultan River shoreline using a fully accessible 6' wide asphalt trail with five designated access points, a 48 foot span pedestrian bridge will be installed to cross the river side channel, parking at Trail Heads will be upgraded for accessibility, and interpretive signage installed. The existing route from the Osprey Park parking lot will also be modified at key locations to facilitate universal access to the River. Sultan will contribute \$374,663 in Conservation Futures³ and revenue from a Local Improvement District. (14-1170)

³ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Wapato Lake Dock Reconstruction**

Grant Requested: \$451,416

This project is for the complete reconstruction of two docks at Wapato Park, south of Tacoma. Both structures are important to the promotion of youth fishing at the lake that had been an important program for years. In addition, the east dock, located behind the WPA Pavilion, will provide continued access for paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, and other human powered craft, as well as providing a venue for model boat enthusiasts. The proposed design will be a combination fixed pier and floating docks utilizing steel pilings, composite and grated decking to replace the current treated wood materials. Tacoma MPD will contribute \$451,416 in voter-approved bonds. (14-1724)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kettle River Access**

Grant Requested: \$995,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to acquire approximately 115 acres, including 3.4 miles of undeveloped shoreline, along the Kettle River in northern Ferry County. The acquisition, located approximately ten miles northwest of Curlew, will allow WDFW to increase public access to the Kettle River for a variety of non-motorized, water-related recreational activities in this underserved area of the state. The primary recreational opportunities offered by this project are non-motorized boating, as well as, shoreline and wading access to quality trout fishing. The Kettle River is an important trout fishery and also is very popular with float tubers, kayakers, canoeists, bird watchers, and other recreationists. Public access is extremely limited in the 29-mile reach of the river between Ferry and Danville. Three public access points are established in this reach of the Kettle River, but none include developed boat launches. WDFW will establish a primitive launch for non-motorized boats and provide public access to 3.4 miles of shoreline for fishing, bird watching, and exploring. The property supports well-developed riparian vegetation, including mature cottonwood galleries. The acquisition will protect this important habitat, critical to a variety of rare riparian, instream, and wetland-dependent species such as Columbia spotted frog, western toad, California floater, interior redband trout, Lewis' woodpeckers, and two pairs of breeding bald eagles. (14-1100)

**Gig Harbor
Ancich Water Access Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Gig Harbor will use this grant to design and develop a shoreline property for new water access park. Located midway between Gig Harbor's downtown waterfront centers, funding will be used to develop a grassy open space for passive upland recreation, viewing areas, kayak and canoe storage, public restrooms, a water fountain and pedestrian amenities such as benches, picnic tables and space for public art. A shoreline boardwalk, lighting, and a street-level overlook with seating and spectacular views of the harbor offer a direct connection to the water. By promoting hand-powered watercraft as a "clean water" recreation in Gig Harbor Bay, our marine environments benefit. Gig Harbor will contribute \$1.1 million in cash a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. (14-1617)

**Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Point Defiance Boardwalk**

Grant Requested: \$800,000

The Point Defiance Boardwalk project, located at the front door to Point Defiance Park, is the perfect combination of shoreline restoration, innovation, habitat restoration, education, storm water treatment and public access to water. The project involves the removal of an existing bulkhead and road to create storm water treatment, public access and education through interpretive signs and a boardwalk that traverses through the area. The habitat will also be a learning laboratory for Tacoma School District's Science and Math Institute (SAMI) who will be thoroughly involved in its design, development, maintenance, and monitoring. Tacoma MPD will contribute \$800,000 in voter-approved bonds. (14-1686)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twelve projects in the Riparian Protection Account have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, account, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-24

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Riparian Protection Account projects provide habitat adjacent to water bodies for fish and wildlife species. These habitats include estuaries, lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines, tidelands, and wetlands. To be eligible for consideration, a project must include acquisition of real property (fee title, easement, or lease).

The Riparian Protection Account receives funding only if the Legislature allocates more than \$40 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). If WWRP receives more than \$40 million, the allocation to this account is governed by statutory formula, as described in Item 3 of the board materials.

Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, local and state ¹ agencies, lead entities, qualified non-profit organizations, and the Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Acquisition and limited development (trails, trail heads, etc.) • Acquisition and habitat restoration and enhancement • Development of a stewardship plan as part of an acquisition • Extension of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) leases
Funding Limits	Applicants must request a minimum of \$25,000 and there is no maximum request amount
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No match required for state agencies • Local agencies, Native American tribes and non-profit applicants must provide a 50% matching share
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May include passive public access, where appropriate • May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twelve Riparian Protection projects, requesting \$11.6 million, were evaluated on August 19, 2014 in an open public meeting in Olympia. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of ten evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation and restoration:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Chris Drivdahl, Grayland	Citizen
Steve Erickson, Langley	Citizen
Lora Leschner, Arlington	Citizen
Carleen Weebers, Bellevue	Citizen
David Lindley, Yakama Nation	Local Agency
Todd McLaughlin, Pend Oreille County Community Development	Local Agency
Cyndy Wilson, Thurston County Shoreline Management	Local Agency
Chrissy Baily, Department of Ecology	State Agency
Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Richard Tveten, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Rebecca Post, Department of Ecology	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of General Administration, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-24.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-24, including Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Riparian Protection Account projects
- C. Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Riparian Protection Account Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17
- E. Riparian Protection Account Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
REVISED Resolution #2014-24
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, twelve Riparian Protection Account projects are being considered for funding from the Riparian Protection Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twelve Riparian Protection Account projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*; and

WHEREAS, these Riparian Protection Account projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) that considers the riparian habitat benefits and relationship to existing plans, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects include acquisitions that provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity; protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Riparian Protection Account projects for further consideration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes the director to request a budget proviso or LEAP footnote to the effect that, “If additional funds are available, after funding the Riparian Protection Account (RPA) projects approved by the Legislature, the board may use these additional RPA funds for projects that are on the 2014 WWRP Riparian Protection Account ranked list previously approved by the Legislature.”

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

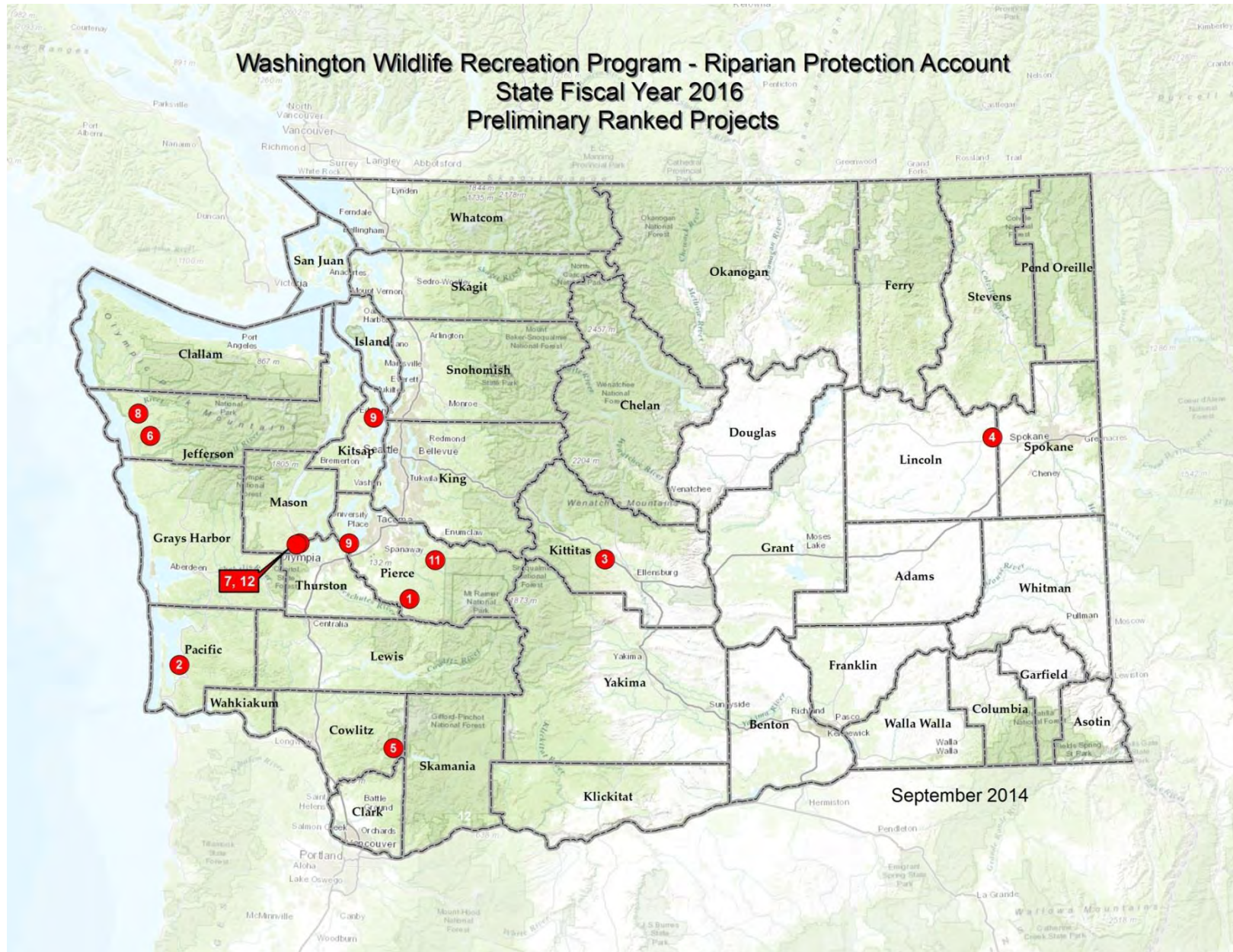
Date: _____

Table 1 - WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	98.10	14-1480A	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4	Nisqually Land Trust	\$1,100,000	\$1,479,500	\$2,579,500	\$1,100,000
2	97.20	14-1150A	Willapa Bay-Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition	Columbia Land Trust	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,975,000
3	95.10	14-1092A	Taneum Creek Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,700,000		\$1,700,000	\$3,675,000
4	92.30	14-1097A	Reardan Audubon Lake	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$600,000		\$600,000	\$4,275,000
5	89.70	14-1095A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$7,275,000
6	88.80	14-1702A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	The Nature Conservancy	\$986,565	\$990,518	\$1,977,083	\$8,261,565
7	88.70	14-1689A	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition Phase 2	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$140,000	\$145,000	\$285,000	\$8,401,565
8	88.10	14-2179A	Hoh River Riparian	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,199,400	\$1,425,000	\$2,624,400	\$9,600,965
9	82.60	14-1741C	Jacobs Point Addition	Anderson Island Park District	\$67,000	\$100,612	\$167,612	\$9,667,965
9	82.60	14-1587A	Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$398,000	\$439,250	\$837,250	\$10,065,965
11	73.30	14-1283A	Carbon River Valley Expansion	Pierce County	\$612,500	\$911,250	\$1,523,750	\$10,678,465
12	67.00	14-1350A	Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat Protection	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$951,300	\$977,700	\$1,929,000	\$11,629,765
					\$11,629,765	\$7,343,830	\$18,973,595	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

State Map for Riparian Protection Projects



Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Riparian habitat is defined as land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers. RCW 79A.15.101(7)

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table			
Number	Scored By	Topic	Maximum Score
1	Evaluation Team	Riparian habitat benefits	20
2	Evaluation Team	Planning priority	20
3	Evaluation Team	Site suitability and project design	20
4	Evaluation Team	Threats to the habitat	15
5	Evaluation Team	Project support	15
6	Evaluation Team	Public access opportunities	15
7	Evaluation Team	Ongoing stewardship and management	10
8	RCO Staff	Matching share	4
9	RCO Staff	Growth Management Act compliance	0
Maximum Possible Score			119

Riparian Protection Account Detailed Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Team Scored

1. **Riparian Habitat Benefits**
Describe the specific riparian habitat benefits for this project.
2. **Planning Priority**
Describe how the proposal meets goals within various plans (watershed, salmon recovery, shoreline, land use, comprehensive plans, etc.)
3. **Site Suitability and Project Design**
Describe surrounding land uses and the relationship (links) of this site to other protected habitats or future phases. What is the restoration plan?
4. **Threats to the Habitat**
What are the ecological, biological or human caused threats to the riparian habitat?
5. **Project Support**
Describe community support and partnerships.
6. **Public Access Opportunities**
Describe passive recreation opportunities, educational or scientific values. If access is excluded, explain why.
7. **Ongoing Stewardship and Management**
Describe level of stewardship required and the capacity of sponsor to provide it.

Evaluation RCO Staff Scored

8. **Matching Share**
What matching funds are associated with this project?
9. **Growth Management Act Compliance**
Is the applicant in compliance with the Growth Management Act?

Riparian Protection Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-2017

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	Project Name	Riparian Habitat Benefits	Planning Priority	Site Suitability	Threats to the Habitat	Project Support	Public Access Opportunities	Ongoing Stewardship	Matching Share	GMA* Preference	
1	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4	16.60	17.00	16.60	12.60	12.30	12.20	8.80	2.00	0.00	98.10
2	Willapa Bay Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition	18.10	17.50	16.60	11.30	12.70	12.30	8.70	0.00	0.00	97.20
3	Taneum Creek Riparian	15.90	15.80	17.70	11.80	11.40	13.60	8.90	0.00	0.00	95.10
4	Reardan Audubon Lake	16.10	15.00	16.20	11.40	12.10	12.90	8.60	0.00	0.00	92.30
5	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	14.40	14.60	14.50	13.00	11.60	13.50	8.10	0.00	0.00	89.70
6	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	14.60	14.00	15.50	10.30	11.40	12.30	8.70	2.00	0.00	88.80
7	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition	16.60	15.00	15.70	10.40	10.20	10.40	8.40	2.00	0.00	88.70
8	Hoh River Riparian	15.30	14.40	14.80	10.10	11.00	11.70	8.80	2.00	0.00	88.10
9	Jacobs Point Addition	12.70	12.40	15.30	9.80	10.10	12.90	8.40	1.00	0.00	82.60
10	Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2	15.10	14.00	14.70	10.00	10.40	11.40	7.00	0.00	0.00	82.60
11	Carbon River Valley Expansion	10.50	11.40	13.30	9.20	9.80	10.50	6.60	2.00	0.00	73.30
12	Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat	11.60	12.10	12.20	10.70	8.90	5.80	5.70	0.00	0.00	67.00

Riparian Protection Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-2017

Nisqually Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$1,100,000

Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4

The Nisqually Land Trust proposes to acquire, in fee simple, 3.5 river miles, 6.2 miles of feeder streams, 884 acres of riparian habitat, and 128 acres of forested upland in the middle reach of the Mashel River and the upper reach of its headwater tributary, Busy Wild Creek, near Eatonville. The Mashel River is the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. The Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan rates these reaches of the Mashel basin highest priority for protection of habitat for federally listed Chinook salmon and, especially, steelhead trout; by the best estimates, only 400 adult Nisqually steelhead remain. The target properties have steep, unstable slopes and are included within larger ownerships of industrial forestland. Acquisition would prevent further habitat degradation through timber harvest and real-estate conversion; connect two substantial blocks of Mashel shoreline protected in earlier phases of the Mashel Shoreline Protection Initiative, creating a nearly continuous protected river corridor of some 5.7 miles; and provide for future extension of in-stream restoration already in place downstream. Acquisition would also extend and buffer federal, state, and local protected habitat for threatened northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets; provide for expansion of the Mashel Greenbelt Trail; and protect a key section of the popular Mount Tahoma Trails public cross-country ski trail. The Nisqually Land Trust will contribute \$1.4 million in donations of cash. (14-1480)

Columbia Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$875,000

Willapa Bay-Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition

Columbia Land Trust will conserve 564 acres on Willapa Bay in Pacific County, southwest Washington. Willapa Bay is the second largest estuary on the US Pacific Coast after San Francisco Bay. The Bay and its rivers, streams and wetlands are important habitat to migratory birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds, salmon, steelhead and coastal fish species. The property has Willapa Bay shoreline, Seal Slough, intertidal wetlands, numerous streams, riparian areas and associated upland coniferous forest. It has 2 miles of Willapa Bay frontage, 15 miles of sloughs and streams, and 70 acres of emergent and forested estuarine wetlands. It has 332 acres of riparian areas, 59 percent of the property. It is just south of 900 acres conserved by WDFW and Forterra, adding to habitat connectivity. Chinook, chum, coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat all use the site. Juvenile salmon need this type of estuarine habitat as refuge prior to moving into the ocean environment. Other benefiting priority species include green sturgeon, eulachon (smelt), bald eagle and numerous migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. In the long term, the restored forest could support marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl, which currently nest just one mile away. This land acquisition is part of a multi-year project to conserve the last remaining undeveloped Willapa Bay shoreline to benefit wildlife and people forever. Columbia Land Trust will contribute \$875,000 in cash match from private and federal sources. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute \$875,000 in federal and private grants. (14-1150)

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$1,700,000

Taneum Creek Riparian

The ~370 acre Taneum Creek Riparian project contains nearly a mile of main stem Taneum Creek and over 2 miles of tributary streams. Taneum Creek is a shoreline of the State, is critical habitat for federally listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, and is a focal stream for coho salmon reintroduction efforts in the upper Yakima Basin. This biologically diverse area in Kittitas County, bisected by Taneum Creek, lies at the transition of mixed conifer forest and shrub steppe. Consequently, this location contains a surprisingly strong suite of priority habitats and species. Riparian, wetland, in-stream, shrub-steppe, cliffs, caves, snags and talus

habitats are found across the property. Priority species include: ESA steelhead, Coho salmon, rearing Chinook salmon, Columbia spotted frog, sharp-tailed snakes, golden eagle, elk, mule deer, and historic western gray squirrels. This acquisition helps implement actions identified in the Yakima Salmon Recovery Plan, Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, Coho Master Plan and the Bull Trout Action Plan. The acquisition is an inholding to the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. Protection of this area removes threats to conservation lands surrounding the property. The project will address the two most significant habitat threats to this stream system: rural development and ongoing intensive forest management. Future restoration will be conducted on a portion of the site in order to increase habitat complexity for salmon. (14-1092)

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Reardan Audubon Lake 2014

Grant Requested: \$600,000

WDFW's project, Reardan's Audubon Lake 2014 is a contiguous 150 acres of biscuit and swale prairies containing vernal pools and Mima mounds, as well as, several larger permanent ponds and associated riparian forests. It lies on the east boundary of WDFW Reardan Audubon Lake Wildlife Area, a 277 acres complex just north of the town of Reardan. These two properties form the headwaters of Crab Creek, a Columbia River tributary, and Deep Creek, a Spokane River tributary. The site includes eleven PHS species, five state candidate species, two Federal candidate species, and five WDFW habitat types or elements of special concern. It is used by over 125 species of birds and during spring migration is the last stop before the Canadian wetlands. Wildlife viewing is the primary recreation at this site. Phase I is a popular stop on the Palouse to Pines Washington Birding Trail and nominated as an Audubon Important Bird Area. Phase II would add to diversity and importance of this complex. This project implements WA State Legislature's directive to develop wildlife viewing sites near rural communities. As with Phase I, Inland Northwest Land Trust, Spokane Audubon, Ducks Unlimited, and City of Reardan are committed to cooperatively preserving and developing this unique wildlife-viewing site. Phase II, just 20 miles from Spokane City, is on the market to be subdivided and developed. Acquisition will protect these 150 acres from development and the adjacent wildlife area from associated degradation. (14-1097)

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Merrill Lake RP 2014

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

This project will acquire a 1,431 acre parcel in Cowlitz County between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River, east of Woodland. This proposal focuses on acquiring a 549 acre portion of this parcel of Riparian habitat along the Kalama River, the Merrill Lake Shoreline, and Dry Creek. In addition to the Riparian application (549 acres), the department is applying for funding under the Natural Areas category (882 acres) to purchase the non-riparian land associated with this property. The property has many unique features including lava beds with tree casts, high volume springs feeding the Kalama river, small old growth stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities. This site also supports large old growth cedar or fir and include river front at the site of the 40 foot waterfall on the Kalama River. Objectives include long-term protection of habitat and providing secure public access, particularly along the shorelines of the lake and river. The site connects with the National Forest to the North and a DNR Natural Resource Conservation Area to the South. Merrill Lake is managed as a high quality catch and release water and much of the Kalama River bordering this site represents potential Bull Trout recovery habitat. A diverse suite of species will benefit from the overall project including Steelhead, Coho, Elk, Martin, Chinook, Western Toad, Spotted Owls, and Osprey. Impending threats to these sites include subdivision for recreational lots or resort type development and timber harvest. (14-1095)

**The Nature Conservancy
Clearwater Riparian Protection - Phase 3**

Grant Requested: \$986,565

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to conserve 740 acres, including 561 acres of riparian forest and wetland habitat, and two key inholdings in TNC's current ownership. This builds upon 3,000 acres secured under Phase 1 and over 1,000 acres soon to be acquired under Phase 2. Queets and Clearwater Rivers of the Olympic Peninsula support some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making these rivers an essential anchor for the current and future conservation of salmon ecosystems and critical areas for biodiversity conservation on the Washington Coast. The rivers drain an area of more than 287,383 acres and are home to wild populations of Chinook, coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon, steelhead, cutthroat, and bull trout. The rivers and associated riparian forest habitat also support numerous other important species, such as the Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and marbled murrelet. This multi-year project will create a system of protected riparian forest habitat zones from the headwaters of the Clearwater to its confluence with the Queets. The project will address the two most significant habitat threats to these river systems: ongoing intensive forest management and rural development. Future restoration will be conducted to improve water quality, lower stream temperatures, reduce sediment loads, and create complex habitat for salmon and numerous other wildlife species. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$990,518 from donations of cash. (14-1702)

**Squaxin Island Tribe
Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition Phase 2**

Grant Requested: \$140,000

The project will acquire 22.9 acres of estuary and riparian habitat associated with the mouth of the Skookum Creek and at the head of Skookum Inlet, in Mason County. This acquisition will protect over 2500' of nearshore habitat and 7 acres of high quality saltmarsh. The majority of the uplands are in the channel migration zone and are considered riparian habitat. Ten acres of the riparian habitat are rated as Good due to being in a forested condition. Skookum Inlet provides rearing and transition habitat for coho, chum and Chinook salmon as well as cutthroat and steelhead trout. The project site also benefits migratory birds including waterfowl and shorebirds dependent upon nearshore habitats. Skookum Creek is rated by the WRIA as a Tier 1 priority system exhibiting healthy runs of coho, cutthroat and two runs of fall chum. The watershed has one of the lowest impervious surface ratings in South Puget Sound and the biological processes were rated as good in the Limiting Factors Analysis. The site is rated as High Priority Preserve by the WRIA Nearshore Project Selection Tool and is designated Protect High for the PSNERP Coastal Inlet strategy. The site is located adjacent (¼ mile) from the 143 acre WDNR Skookum Inlet Natural Areas Preserve. The Squaxin Island Tribe will contribute \$145,000. (14-1689)

**The Nature Conservancy
Hoh River Riparian**

Grant Requested: \$1,199,400

The Nature Conservancy is proposing to acquire 1,168 acres of riparian, floodplain, and tributary habitat within the Hoh River watershed on the Olympic Peninsula. Due to its headwaters lying within Olympic National Park, the Hoh is recognized as one of the healthiest coastal rivers and salmon fisheries on the west coast of the U.S. The Hoh's extensive floodplain, associated with many terrace tributaries and lateral riverine habitats, is critical to riverine salmon. The Hoh supports some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making the river an essential anchor for the conservation of salmon ecosystems and a critical area for biodiversity conservation on the Washington Coast. Salmon are widely distributed in the Hoh River basin with naturally reproducing populations of coho, fall Chinook, spring/summer Chinook, chum, and winter and summer steelhead. The Hoh has also been identified as a core recovery area for ESA listed bull trout. The river and associated riparian forest habitat also support other important species, including Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and

marbled murrelet. The project addresses the threats of ongoing intensive forest management and rural development. This project builds upon the successful conservation efforts of the Hoh River Trust which has conserved more than 8,000 acres in the watershed. Future restoration will be conducted to improve habitat for salmon and other wildlife species. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$1.4 million in donations of cash. (14-2179)

**Anderson Island Park District
Jacobs Point Addition**

Grant Requested: \$67,000

The Anderson Island Park and Recreation District is seeking funds to acquire and permanently protect 17.61 acres at Jacobs Point on Anderson Island in South Puget Sound. The site is on the east side of a peninsula and includes approximately 1/3 of a mile of pristine Puget Sound shoreline. The site will provide passive recreational use through 1.2 miles of trails and shoreline access for hikers and boaters. The project area consists of approximately 4 acres of tidelands and 13 acres of second growth forested uplands. The shoreline here supports a diverse array of fish, invertebrate, bird, and mammal species due to the diversity of substrates, slopes, vegetation assemblages, and freshwater gradients. Oro Bay is one of the closest pocket estuaries to the Nisqually River and provides significant rearing potential for juvenile Puget Sound Chinook salmon. Oro Bay and East Oro Bay are also part of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve marine protected area. The Anderson Island community is very supportive of this project as it will complete Jacobs Point Park. The project site is identified in regional and local plans as a priority for acquisition to protect its ecological values and meet identified public needs on the Island. Acquisition of this second phase of Jacobs Point Park will provide the public with access to an additional 1/3 of a mile of natural shoreline, an additional 1.2 miles of trails, and will protect critical salmon habitat and dozens of species of native plants and birds. The Anderson Island Park District will contribute \$100,612 in a private grant, a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and donations of labor. (14-1741)

**Great Peninsula Conservancy
Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2**

Grant Requested: \$398,000

Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to acquire high habitat-value riparian properties within the Grovers Creek watershed in North Kitsap County. This Grovers Creek Phase II project will permanently protect 111 acres of interconnected, highly-functioning riparian habitat along 1.13 miles of fish-bearing main-stem and tributaries within the lower reach of Grovers Creek. This project protects the creek's main-stem and tributaries; mature Sitka Spruce-Western Red Cedar forests; and palustrine scrub-shrub, emergent and floodplain wetlands through fee simple acquisition of 60 acres and conservation easements on 51 acres. The property's habitat provides spawning and rearing refuge for anadromous fish, including ESA-listed winter steelhead; aquatic and terrestrial-linked habitat for amphibians; nesting and foraging area for birds; and a migratory corridor for mammals. This project is a critical link within a larger wildlife corridor. Given the proximity of this wetland complex to Miller Bay (1.4 miles upstream), the proposed project is essential to the long-term protection of the bay through sediment storage, non-point pollution filtration, flood attenuation, and the slow release of water to maintain base-flow essential to salmon life cycles. The project allows for a future loop trail for walking, wildlife viewing and education, if one can be sensitively incorporated without impacts from more active recreational uses in adjacent North Kitsap Heritage Park. The Great Peninsula Conservancy will contribute \$439,250 in a private grant, a salmon recovery grant, and donations of labor. (14-1587)

**Pierce County Parks & Rec
Carbon River Valley Expansion**

Grant Requested: \$612,500

Pierce County Parks and Recreation proposes to acquire (fee simple) 500 acres of forestland and riparian habitat along the Carbon River near the community of Carbonado in order to protect its high-quality habitat as well as to protect the view shed of this popular recreation corridor leading up to Mt. Rainier National Park. The subject property abuts the Carbon River Valley county park, extending downstream from the WA-165 Carbon River Bridge to the community of Carbonado. The property is forested with timber stands ranging in age from 45 years to 80+ years, which provides critical habitat for migrating Rocky Mountain Elk (source: WDFW) and helps protect the water quality of the Carbon River, a significant salmon-bearing stream in the Puyallup River Watershed, home to threatened Puget Sound Chinook and Steelhead (source: WDFW). In addition to these species, the property's mature conifer forest provides ideal habitat for a variety of mammals, cavity-nesting birds, and amphibians. If acquired, Pierce County would not only protect the property's critical habitat but would also be able to provide public, passive recreational access to the property, which now only has limited access for individuals who purchase an access pass from the landowner. Pierce County will contribute \$911,250 in Conservation Futures.² (14-1283)

**Squaxin Island Tribe
Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat Protection**

Grant Requested: \$951,300

This project will acquire a conservation easement on 816 acres of forests, wetlands, and riparian habitat, including nearly two miles of Puget Sound shoreline, along Little Skookum Inlet, halfway between Shelton and Olympia in Mason County along U.S. Highway 101. The freshwater habitats on the property are home to fall chum; the marine shoreline along the property also provide habitat for juvenile Chinook, Coho and steelhead. The marine shoreline also provides habitat for Cutthroat trout. The shoreline of the subject property – as well as the bedlands of Little Skookum Inlet – is also highly productive shellfish growing areas. The property owner wishes to sell a conservation easement on the property to extinguish the development rights (zoned R10 and R5), permanently protecting it from conversion to non-open space uses (i.e. residential development). The placement of a conservation easement would prevent increases in fecal coliform contamination and water temperature of the property's salmon-bearing streams and nearshore habitats. These impacts are often associated with residential development, which have historically occurred within nearshore areas in the vicinity of the subject property. Protecting the subject property via a conservation easement will ensure that its marine shoreline, riparian habitats and forested uplands will continue to provide water quality and habitat benefits. Protection of the subject property will not only directly benefit priority salmonid stocks and their habitats, but also the forage fish that utilize Little Skookum Inlet that Chinook, Coho and other species predate upon. The Squaxin Island Tribe will contribute \$977,700 in a private grant and a grant from the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program. (14-1350)

² Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Account Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twenty-five projects in the Farmland Preservation Account have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, account, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-25

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The primary focus of the Farmland Preservation Account is to acquire development rights on farmland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices. A secondary goal is to enhance or restore ecological functions on farmland.

The Farmland Preservation Account receives funding only if the Legislature appropriates more than \$40 million for in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). If WWRP receives more than \$40 million, the allocation to this account is governed by statutory formula, as described in Item 3 of the board materials.

Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, qualified non-profit nature conservancy organizations, and the Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of property interest • Acquisition and restoration or enhancement • Development of a farm stewardship plan as part of an acquisition
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no minimum or maximum request limit • The restoration total shall not exceed more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.
Match Requirements	Applicants must provide a minimum match of 50 percent, with the exception of the State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	Not required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Between August 20 and 22, 2014, members of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee used criteria adopted by the board to evaluate and rank twenty-five Farmland Preservation Account projects requesting \$22.3 million. They conducted the evaluations in open public meetings.

The committee includes twelve members, one of whom is ex-officio, meaning they provide technical assistance, but do not score or rank projects. Eight of the eleven scoring committee members were present to evaluate the projects. These individuals are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to agricultural production, agri-business, real estate, land management, and community interests related to farming. The members who conducted the evaluations were as follows:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Patricia Arnold	Friends of White Salmon River
Kelly McLain	Dept. of Agriculture
Fred Colvin	Citizen of Tenino
Jeanne Demorest	Dept. of Natural Resources
Kathryn Gardow	Citizen of Seattle
Pete Schroeder	City of Sequim
Cynthia Nelson	Citizen of Okanogan
Stu Trefry	Conservation Commission

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making strategic investments of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-25.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-25, including Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Farmland Preservation Account Projects
- C. Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Farmland Preservation Account Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. Farmland Preservation Account Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-25
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Account, 2015-17,
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, twenty-five Farmland Preservation Account projects are being considered for funding from the Farmland Preservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twenty-five Farmland Preservation Account projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation Program*, including criteria regarding agricultural, environmental and community values; and

WHEREAS, these Farmland Preservation Account projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state agency representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all of the farmland projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Farmland Preservation Account projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

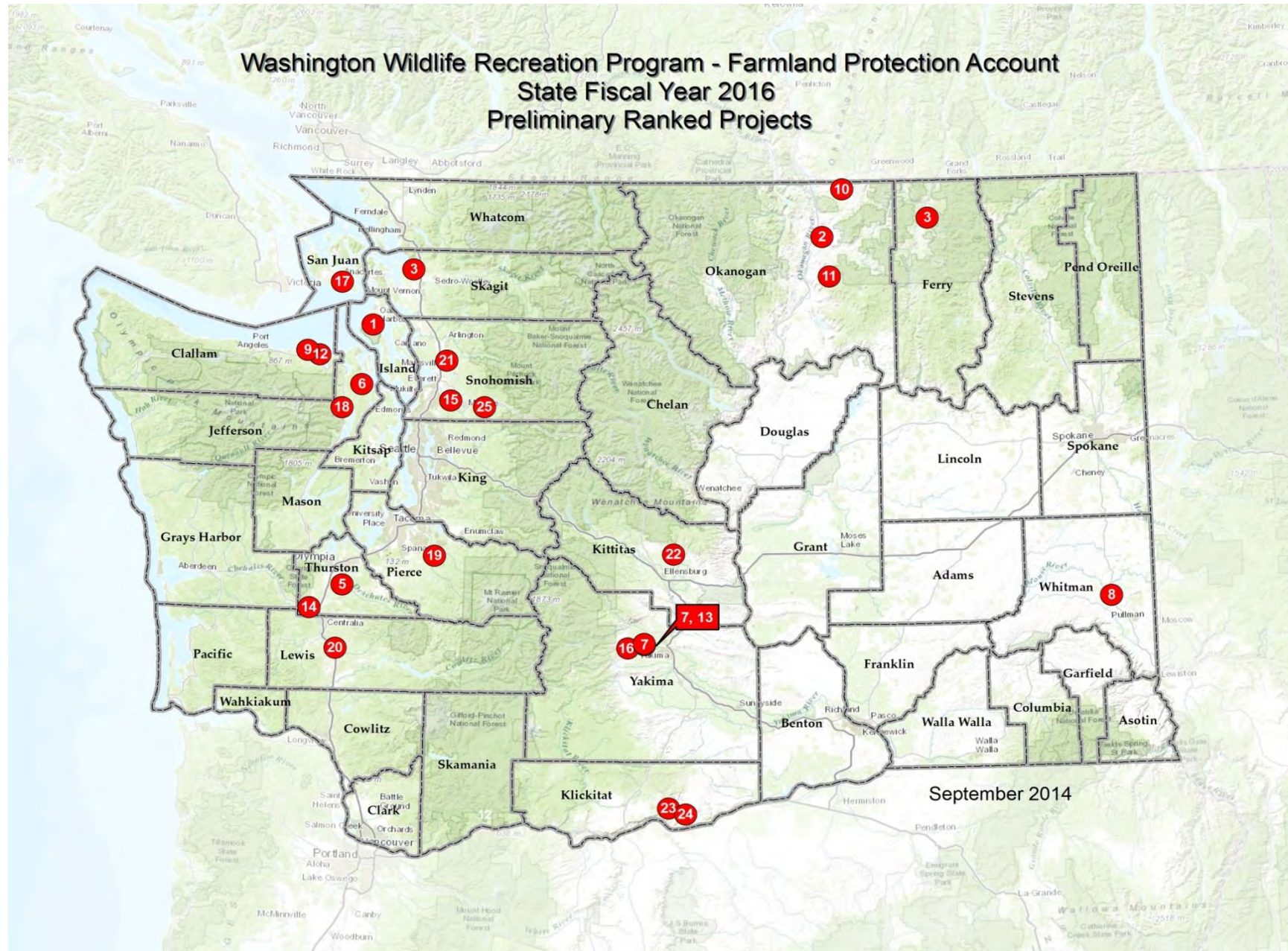
Table 1 - WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	123.50	14-1510A	Vander Voet Farm	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$564,100	\$1,150,000	\$1,714,100	\$564,100
2	123.25	14-1526A	Olma South Farmland	Okanogan Land Trust	\$277,354	\$283,353	\$560,707	\$841,454
3	122.25	14-1527A	Strandberg Farm and Ranchland	Okanogan Land Trust	\$758,563	\$765,562	\$1,524,125	\$1,600,017
3	122.25	14-2178A	Skagit County Farmland	Skagit County	\$1,379,712	\$1,379,713	\$2,759,425	\$2,979,729
5	122.13	14-1629A	Nelson Ranch Easement Acquisition	Capitol Land Trust	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,729,729
6	121.75	14-1359A	Bishop Dairy Preservation	Jefferson Land Trust	\$481,225	\$481,225	\$962,450	\$4,210,954
7	121.63	14-1293A	Lust Family Farm and Ranch Preservation	Washington State Conservation Commission	\$1,704,153	\$8,333	\$1,712,486	\$5,915,107
8	121.50	14-1756A	Maple K Meyers Place	Palouse Land Trust	\$540,250	\$540,250	\$1,080,500	\$6,455,357
9	121.25	14-1443A	Dungeness Watershed Farmland Protection Phase 3	North Olympic Land Trust	\$343,875	\$343,875	\$687,750	\$6,799,232
10	121.13	14-1522A	Olma North Ranchland	Okanogan Land Trust	\$762,000	\$763,000	\$1,525,000	\$7,561,232
11	120.00	14-1652A	Soriano Ranch	Okanogan Land Trust	\$2,115,250	\$2,154,250	\$4,269,500	\$9,676,482
12	119.88	14-1400A	Smith Family Farms Protection Phase 1	North Olympic Land Trust	\$627,000	\$627,000	\$1,254,000	\$10,303,482
13	119.75	14-1295A	Stevenson Farm and Ranch Preservation	Washington State Conservation Commission	\$513,780	\$8,333	\$522,113	\$10,817,262
14	117.50	14-1719C	Schweickert Farm Easement Acquisition-Restoration	Capitol Land Trust	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$330,000	\$10,982,262

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
15	117.38	14-1476A	Bailey Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$591,275	\$591,275	\$1,182,550	\$11,573,537
16	115.13	14-1297A	Emerick Rangeland Agricultural Easement	Washington State Conservation Commission	\$1,300,114	\$8,333	\$1,308,447	\$12,873,651
17	114.00	14-1557A	Double R Bar Ranch Conservation Easement	San Juan County Land Bank	\$379,000	\$379,000	\$758,000	\$13,252,651
18	113.38	14-1235A	Quilcene Farm Center	Jefferson Land Trust	\$295,451	\$295,451	\$590,902	\$13,548,102
19	110.50	14-1478A	Harman Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$165,000	\$205,550	\$370,550	\$13,713,102
20	109.75	14-1477A	Olson Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$228,300	\$228,300	\$456,600	\$13,941,402
21	108.50	14-1541A	Sather Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$319,100	\$319,100	\$638,200	\$14,260,502
22	108.25	14-1456A	Upper Naneum Creek Farm	Kittitas County	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000	\$14,448,002
23	107.25	14-1128A	Imrie Ranches Rock Creek Agricultural Easement	Washington State Conservation Commission	\$5,171,135		\$5,171,135	\$19,619,137
24	107.13	14-1140A	Kelley Ranches Agricultural Easement	Washington State Conservation Commission	\$2,437,826		\$2,437,826	\$22,056,963
25	107.00	14-1472A	Hofstra Farm	Forterra	\$305,000	\$305,000	\$610,000	\$22,361,963
					\$22,361,963	\$11,939,403	\$34,301,366	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

State Map for Farmland Preservation Account Projects



Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Farmland preservation means protection of any land defined as farm and agricultural land in RCW 84.34.020.¹

Evaluation Criteria Summary	Points
<p>Agricultural Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soil types; suitability for producing agricultural products; size; economic productivity; fit of the project to local priorities • Viability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On-site production and support facilities; farm to market access; proximity to roads and utilities (croplands only); carrying capacity (rangelands only); water availability; drainage; presence of other features that could hinder or restrict use for agriculture; zoning; likelihood that the farm will remain in agriculture; immediacy of threat to conversion to non-agricultural uses; likelihood that the region will continue to support agriculture 	68
<p>Environmental Values (Acquisition only projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species and habitat support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description of supported species; reliance of species on the property; quality of habitat provided; impact to the species if the habitat were converted. • Bigger picture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fit of the project with local, regional, and statewide conservation priorities • Agricultural productivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider how production activities benefit the environment 	22
OR	
<p>Environmental Values (Combination acquisition + restoration/enhancement projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species and habitat support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description of supported species; reliance of species on the property; quality of habitat provided; how restoration/enhancement will benefit the species • Bigger picture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fit of the project with local, regional, and statewide conservation priorities • Likelihood of success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Likelihood that restoration/enhancement will achieve the anticipated benefits to species and habitat; results of any past stewardship activities • Agricultural productivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider how restoration or enhancement will promote productivity 	22
<p>Community Values and Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support for the project; consistency with a local land use or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan <p>Other community values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Viewshed; aquifer recharge; occasional or periodic collector for storm water runoff; floods; agricultural sector job creation; educational and curriculum potential; historic value; buffer to public lands, demonstration 	12
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost benefit; local match; sponsor's ability to acquire, manage, monitor, and enforce conservation easements, term (RCO staff Scored) 	31
Total Points Available	133

¹ Chapter 79A.15.010 (4)

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Project Name	Agricultural Values	Environmental Values	Community Values and Priorities	Other	Duration of Conveyance	
1	Vander Voet Farm	63.25	19.13	10.75	10.38	20.00	123.50
2	Olma South Farmland	62.13	19.88	11.38	9.88	20.00	123.25
3	Strandberg Farm and Ranchland	61.75	19.63	10.88	10.00	20.00	122.25
3	Skagit County Farmland	61.63	18.75	11.38	10.50	20.00	122.25
5	Nelson Ranch Easement Acquisition	61.25	20.13	10.88	9.88	20.00	122.13
6	Bishop Dairy Preservation	62.38	18.88	11.13	9.38	20.00	121.75
7	Lust Family Farm and Ranch Preservation	63.00	19.50	10.88	8.25	20.00	121.63
8	Maple K Meyers Place	63.00	18.63	10.38	9.50	20.00	121.50
9	Dungeness Watershed Farmland Protection	63.13	17.88	11.13	9.13	20.00	121.25
10	Olma North Ranchland	61.13	19.00	11.25	9.75	20.00	121.13
11	Soriano Ranch	59.25	19.88	10.75	10.13	20.00	120.00
12	Smith Family Farms Protection Phase 1	62.13	17.50	10.88	9.38	20.00	119.88
13	Stevenson Farm and Ranch Preservation	61.13	19.13	11.13	8.38	20.00	119.75
14	Schweickert Farm Easement Acquisition and Restoration	58.00	18.88	10.50	10.13	20.00	117.50
15	Bailey Farm	58.75	17.75	10.63	10.25	20.00	117.38

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Project Name	Agricultural Values	Environmental Values	Community Values and Priorities	Other	Duration of Conveyance	
16	Emerick Rangeland Agricultural Easement	56.38	18.88	11.00	8.88	20.00	115.13
17	Double R Bar Ranch Conservation Easement	55.13	17.63	11.50	9.75	20.00	114.00
18	Quilcene Farm Center	56.50	16.88	10.88	9.13	20.00	113.38
19	Harman Farm/PCC Farm	56.25	16.13	9.63	8.50	20.00	110.50
20	Olson Farm	56.38	16.63	8.38	8.38	20.00	109.75
21	Sather Farm	55.50	14.88	9.00	9.13	20.00	108.50
22	Upper Naneum Creek Farm	54.75	16.25	9.13	8.13	20.00	108.25
23	Imrie Ranches Rock Creek Agricultural Easement	50.25	19.13	10.25	7.63	20.00	107.25
24	Kelley Ranches Agricultural Easement	51.00	18.50	10.00	7.63	20.00	107.13
25	Hofstra Farm	54.63	15.88	8.88	7.63	20.00	107.00

Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-2017

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Vander Voet Farm

Grant Requested: \$564,100

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to acquire an agricultural conservation easement on the historic 254-acre Vander Voet Farm. The farm is on Whidbey Island near Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and the National Scenic Byway (Hwy 20). It is just 2 miles south of Oak Harbor. A total of 28 development rights will be removed to permanently conserve one of the largest working farms in Island County – over six times larger than the average county farm size. The Farm has 100% Prime Farmland Soils, an economically viable and productive operation, and provides community benefits of local food, aquifer recharge and wildlife habitat. Protecting this Farm is a very high priority for citizens, NPS and Ebey's Trust Board and is wholly consistent with Island County's mandate to protect important farmland properties. The farm has the infrastructure required for continued success, including farm buildings, irrigation system, drainage ditches and a fully-implemented NRCS farm Resource Management Plan. The project is centrally located between two Audubon Important Bird Areas (Crescent Harbor to north and Penn Cove to south) and two Island County-owned conservation lands to the east and west making this property a key part of a natural biological wildlife corridor used by a variety of native species that require large-scale habitat areas. The Farm is highly threatened by development due to incredible views, zoning and proximity to Oak Harbor. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute \$1.1 million in a federal appropriation and Conservation Futures.² (14-1510)

Okanogan Land Trust Olma South Farmland

Grant Requested: \$277,354

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to acquire a permanent conservation easement on 280 acres of farmland owned by Derek and Noreen Olma and their children. The property is east of Tonasket in Okanogan County. This project will protect productive farmland that currently supports a high production corn and hay farm as well as a successful cattle ranching operation. Moreover, the project will protect prime and unique soils for continued agricultural production far into the future. The conservation easement will enable the Olmas to expand their farming operation by exercising an option they hold on additional farmland adjacent to the property. The project will also enable the Olmas to expand their children's role in the operation and prepare to transition the farm to the next generation. This project will also protect two particularly unique wildlife habitats: 1) a spring-fed grassland meadow, and 2) ~2 miles of Siwash Creek, a tributary to the Okanogan River that provides critical cold water flows for rainbow trout, steelhead, and spring Chinook in the lower reach. In addition to protecting the agricultural values and wildlife habitats on the property, this project will protect the most important water rights on Siwash Creek. Due to the property's close proximity to Tonasket, this property is a prime target for a large residential development, and would likely be subdivided in the future without a conservation easement. Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$283,353 in cash, a federal grant, staff labor, and donated labor. (14-1526)

Okanogan Land Trust Strandberg Farm & Ranchland

Grant Requested: \$758,563

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to acquire three separate permanent conservation easements on agricultural land owned by Gordon and Linda Strandberg. The properties are all located adjacent to or near Highway 21 immediately north of Malo in Ferry County. The "Strandberg Farmland" conservation

² Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

easement will protect 340 acres of irrigated farmland. The "Cannon Place" conservation easement will protect 224 acres of high quality grazing land, and the "Tonasket Creek" conservation easement will protect 302 additional acres of high quality grazing land interspersed with mixed conifer forest. This project will protect productive farm and rangeland that currently supports one of the most successful hay farm and cattle ranching operations in Ferry County. The project will also protect prime and unique soils for continued agricultural production far into the future. The conservation easement will enable the Strandbergs to transition the farm to the next generation. In addition to protecting prime agricultural land, the three projects link together large tracts of existing public land, providing an expanded area for cattle ranching and wildlife movement. The Strandberg Farmland project contains a section of St. Peters Creek, a fish bearing creek with associated buffered riparian area. Due to the property's adjacency to the town of Malo and location along Highway 21, the property is prime for conversion to industrial or residential development without a conservation easement. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$765,562 in cash, staff labor, a federal grant, and donations of labor. (14-1527)

Skagit County

Grant Requested: \$1,379,712

Skagit County Farmland

This project will acquire 25 development rights via perpetual agricultural easements on 1,069 acres across 11 farms within the Samish basin and the Skagit delta in Skagit County. The combination of specific circumstances (prime soils, climate, water and drainage systems, types of crops, zoning and location) has allowed farmers to own multiple parcels of land that are not contiguous, leading to a unique cooperation among the farmers for specific plantings and crop rotations. This cooperation ensures the survival of essential farmland infrastructure such as seed companies, storage, processing, equipment sales and maintenance, chemical/fertilizer plants and transportation of goods. Farms include those with potatoes as their primary crop rotated with grains, pasture or other cash crops; a dairy; and farms that are part of a complex seed crop rotation, each farm alternating their crops with grains, cabbage, spinach, tulips, corn, beets, cucumbers and more. Agriculture is embedded in Skagit County's culture, is one of the top revenue producing industries, and has very strong community support. The County joins the farmers in making a full commitment to protect farmland in Skagit for future generations. Protection of farmland also has significant environmental benefits for nesting and roosting migratory fowl, shorebirds and raptors including both threatened and endangered species. The elimination of development and protection of agriculture is far more beneficial for salmon streams than development. Skagit County will contribute \$1.3 million. (14-2178)

Capitol Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$750,000

Nelson Ranch Easement Acquisition

This project seeks to protect a strategic and historically important farm south of Olympia through acquisition of a conservation easement. Comprised of 550 acres of prime agricultural land bisected by the Deschutes River, the property includes 3.5 miles of shoreline and associated riparian buffers. The majority of the property lies in the Deschutes River floodplain, with the uplands hosting native oak-prairie, including over 56 acres of Mima Mounds, and coniferous forest habitat. Established in 1861, the ranch has been continuously operated as a working farm by the Nelson family for over 150 years. In addition to the important agricultural resources contained on the property, the land also plays a key role providing wildlife habitat, supporting coho (ESA species of concern), steelhead (ESA threatened), and cutthroat trout, as well as potential habitat for the Mazama pocket gopher (ESA threatened). The Capitol Land Trust will contribute \$750,000 in cash and a local grant. (14-1629)

Jefferson Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$481,225

Bishop Dairy Preservation

Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to purchase a conservation easement on the historic Bishop Dairy, located south of Chimacum in Jefferson County. Acquisition of a conservation easement will help to

preserve the prime soils, habitat and scenic character of the last operating dairy in the fertile Beaver Valley; reduce future development and make it affordable for the next generation. Current zoning allows for up to 7 additional residences, and farms nearby are being subdivided for residential use. Conservation values include 198 acres of pasture and grazing land consisting of prime soils, agricultural infrastructure, 36 acres of working forest, nearly a mile of bank feet of riparian habitat for spawning coho, migrating cutthroat and steelhead. Trumpeter swans, raptors and other wildlife utilize the farm. The highly visible, scenic vistas define the rural character of this area, and protection of the strategically located farm will greatly enhance the viability of our agricultural community. The land trust has worked closely with the County and Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative partners to support our agricultural land protection, economy and culture, and preservation of the Bishop Dairy is a top priority. Bishop Dairy has been in the family for 5 generations, has a long history of dairy farming and is one of the first to be USDA certified organic. The project builds on the land trust's agriculture land preservation which has already conserved nearly 600 acres in the Chimacum area. Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$481,225 in Conservation Futures³ and a federal grant. (14-1359)

**Conservation Commission
Lust Family Farm and Ranch Preservation**

Grant Requested: \$1,704,153

This project will purchase an easement on the Lust Family Farm and Ranch. The 358 acres are located adjacent to a highly trafficked main arterial linking the City of Yakima with the agriculture communities of Cowiche and Tieton. The surrounding area includes a mix of intensive agriculture and new home construction. New homes are being constructed on surrounding view lots with smaller acreages being converted from irrigated agriculture to homes and hobby farms. The land is very well suited to the type of cropping operation common in this irrigated portion of Yakima Co. It contains several features that make it valuable farmland, including a valid senior water right, an upgraded pressurized water conveyance system, irrigation delivery equipment, excellent transportation corridors, and proximity to other similarly irrigated pasture, orchards and berry operations. Protection of this property was identified as part of the County's agricultural planning, funded with an RCO Technical Assistance grant, that identified fragmentation as the number one threat to agriculture in Yakima County. Protection of this property, along with the neighboring 102 ac Stevenson Family Farm, will ensure the agricultural characteristics are not diminished or lessened. Protection will also build an agriculture buffer between rural residential and intensive agriculture. The project area provides significant benefits to the environment. The farm envelope contains 3,250 feet of Cowiche Creek, a high priority tributary for salmon recovery within the Yakima River Basin. Key resource concerns in this watershed include water quality and habitat availability in Cowiche Creek. The Conservation Commission will contribute \$8,333 from a state grant. (14-1293)

**Palouse Land Trust
Maple K Meyers Place**

Grant Requested: \$540,250

The Palouse Land Trust will use this grant to acquire an agricultural conservation easement on approximately 520 acres of farmland in Whitman County. The property is located near the city of Colfax, on Highway 195. It has been farmed for 120 years; however its proximity to Colfax has meant that the owners have experienced development pressure for years. Residential development has occurred on the land directly adjacent to the farm, and two public streets end at the farm, suggesting additional development is imminent. Nearby hilltops are being developed for residential view site lots. There is a threat to continued agriculture use of this land as demand for additional view and residential home sites and ranchettes increases. The agricultural conservation easement will protect farmland with very productive soils. Barley, wheat, peas and lentils are grown on-site. Wheat yields average over 100 bushels per acre. Barley yields average 2.25 tons per acre. The site receives an average of 20-24 inches of

³ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

precipitation per year. The agricultural conservation easement will include provisions for continued agricultural use on 395 acres presently in cropland and 100 acres presently used for grazing. The easement will extinguish 62 development rights, retaining only one for a home site. A stewardship and monitoring plan will be developed to ensure the terms of the agricultural conservation easement are upheld in perpetuity. The Palouse Land Trust will contribute \$540,250 in a federal grant and donations of cash. (14-1756)

North Olympic Land Trust
Dungeness Watershed Farmland Protection Phase 3

Grant Requested: \$343,875

The Dungeness Watershed Farmland Protection Phase III will result in a perpetual agricultural conservation easement on 60 acres of prime, productive, working farmland in the Dungeness watershed, extinguishing 3 development rights, and ensuring this farm remains available for agricultural production. No restoration is proposed. Three development rights would be extinguished. This farm, which is in Sequim in Clallam County, contains 100% prime farmland soils (Dungeness silt loam), is located in the Agricultural Retention Zone, and is farmed by Nash's Organic Produce, which employs many people in our County. The Dungeness Watershed spans 137,776 acres or 215 square miles in the NE corner of the Olympic Peninsula, and the land north of Highway 101 is almost all prime farmland soils with a year-round growing season. This is where the North Olympic Land Trust and other entities have focused farmland conservation efforts. In the lower Dungeness basin alone, over 550 acres of prime farmland has been conserved. This project builds upon previous agricultural conservation easement acquisitions in the Dungeness River watershed, funded through RCO grants. It also builds upon riparian conservation easements funded through IAC project 97-1300 C, Dungeness River Watershed Restoration. The North Olympic Land Trust hopes to build upon our past successes, and conserve more prime farmland in the Dungeness Watershed through agricultural conservation easements. There is potential for much more conserved land in the area. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$343,875 in a federal grant and cash. (14-1443)

Okanogan Land Trust
Olma North Ranchland

Grant Requested: \$762,000

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to acquire a permanent conservation easement on 1117 acres of ranchland owned by the Olma family. The property is east of Oroville in Okanogan County. This project will protect working ranchland composed of high quality grasslands characteristic of the Okanogan Highlands region, and will keep valuable agricultural soils intact for current and future agricultural use. This project leverages and begins to link together OLT's existing agricultural conservation easements in the Okanogan Highlands, particularly the Schell, Nelson, and Hays ranchland projects, all of which were purchased with RCO Farmland Preservation funding. This particular project is a key piece in a larger effort to protect contiguous ranchland within the Okanogan Highlands to facilitate future livestock ranching opportunities that are greatly inhibited when existing grazing areas become fragmented into residential subdivisions. In addition to protecting valuable ranchland, this project will protect upland habitat for a wide range of priority wildlife species, and maintain scenic views along Molson Road, a frequently travelled byway in the Okanogan Highlands. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$763,000 in cash, staff labor, a federal grant, and donations of labor. (14-1522)

Okanogan Land Trust
Soriano Ranch

Grant Requested: \$2,115,250

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to acquire a permanent conservation easement on 5500 acres of ranchland in the Tunk Valley, east of Riverside in Okanogan County. The Soriano Ranch project will protect productive ranchland that currently supports a successful grazing operation. In addition to protecting prime agricultural land, this project will protect currently occupied habitat for sharp-tailed grouse. This and adjoining properties support some of the most robust active sharp-tail leks in

Washington State, and is an integral part of one of the largest remaining blocks of contiguous shrub-steppe habitat left in North Central Washington. Due to the property's importance for sharp-tailed grouse and other wildlife, the Working for Wildlife partnership initiated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has identified this property as a priority for conservation. Currently land ownership in the Tunk Valley is experiencing a generational swing. Connectivity of habitat is imperative to the survival of diminishing species such as the sharp-tailed grouse. The land trust's goal is to keep this land in private working agricultural designation, with owners who understand and will work toward the future of these and other species survival. A portion of Tunk Valley Creek runs through the property. This watershed is being restored and protected by the Colville Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$2.1 million in cash, staff labor, a federal grant, and donations of labor. (14-1652)

**North Olympic Land Trust
Smith Family Farms Protection Phase 1**

Grant Requested: \$627,000

This project will result in a perpetual agricultural conservation easement on 132.10 acres, ensuring this farm remains available for agricultural production, and supporting the operation of one of Clallam County's two remaining dairy farms. Seven development rights will be extinguished. No restoration is proposed. This farm contains 100 percent prime and prime, if irrigated, farmland soils, and is within the Agricultural Retention Zone. Two acres of the property is in vegetable seed crops, 18 acres is a barley rotation, and the remainder is orchard grass and fescue, which they rotate with corn for silage followed by barley, then orchard grass and fescue. These properties, and other properties they lease and farm in the area, provide all the forage feed for their cattle, and are an integral part of their dairy operation. The property is located in eastern Clallam County, Washington, and is in the Washington Harbor area. The Washington Harbor area is still primarily large tracts of farmland, wetlands, and important wildlife habitat. In other parts of eastern Clallam, much of the farmland has been converted from farmland to developed residential use. This project is the first phase of a conservation vision to conserve all of the family's farms. Additional phases are being developed with the family. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$627,000 in cash and a federal grant. (14-1400)

**Conservation Commission
Stevenson Farm and Ranch Preservation**

Grant Requested: \$513,780

This project will protect 102 acres of agricultural land in Yakima County from a single landowner through the use of an agricultural conservation easement. This property is on a busy main arterial linking the City of Yakima with the agriculture communities of Cowiche and Tieton. The surrounding area includes a mix of intensive agriculture and new home construction. New homes are being constructed on surrounding view lots with smaller acreages being converted from irrigated agriculture to homes and hobby farms. The land is very well suited to the type of cropping operation common in this irrigated portion of Yakima Co. This farm includes: a valid senior water right, an upgraded pressurized water conveyance system, irrigation delivery equipment, excellent transportation corridors, and proximity to other similarly irrigated pasture, orchards and berry operations. Protection of this property was identified as part of the County's agricultural planning, funded with an RCO funded Technical Assistance grant that identified fragmentation as the number one threat to agriculture in Yakima County. Protection of this property, along with the neighboring 358 acre Lust Family Farm, will ensure the agricultural characteristics are not diminished or lessened. Protection will also build an agricultural buffer between rural residential and intensive agriculture. The farm envelope contains 2,220 ft of Cowiche Creek, a high priority tributary for salmon recovery within the Yakima River Basin. Key resource concerns in this watershed include water quality and habitat availability in Cowiche Creek. The Conservation Commission will contribute \$8,333 in a state grant. (14-1295)

Capitol Land Trust
Schweickert Farm Easement Acquisition-Restoration

Grant Requested: \$165,000

This project seeks to acquire a conservation easement on approximately 85 acres of prime farmland and important salmon and wildlife habitat near Rochester, in southern Thurston County. The Schweickert farm includes 1,500 feet of frontage along both sides of Scatter Creek, which is lacking a riparian buffer. Thus, the restoration component of this project seeks to plant and fence a 100' buffer on each bank of Scatter Creek. This stretch of Scatter Creek has been documented to provide habitat to fall Chinook, and spawning habitat for Coho and winter steelhead. In addition, the farm has 86.25 acre-feet of water rights, approximately 6,200 square feet of farm outbuildings, an irrigation well and risers, and prime agricultural farm soils. This property is directly adjacent to the Scatter Creek Community Farm and will allow the community farm to expand their "farm incubator" program which provides education and training to new farmers. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute \$165,000 in cash and a local grant. (14-1719)

PCC Farmland Trust
Bailey Farm

Grant Requested: \$591,275

This project will permanently preserve over 300 acres of Snohomish County's best farmland, through acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement. The Bailey Farm is a fifth-generation family farm, located in the scenic Snohomish River Valley, and was Snohomish County's 2013 Centennial Farm. This project will permanently protect over 300 acres of prime soils and open space on a property ideally suited for thriving, long-term agricultural use. The Bailey family has been farming in the Snohomish Valley since 1913 and continues to be very active in the local community. Their farm provides excellent opportunities for the surrounding communities to experience a local farm firsthand, including school field trip opportunities and a large u-pick vegetable operation and farm stand. In recognition of this farm's local importance in the community, purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the Bailey Farm is strongly supported by Snohomish County. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$591,275 in Conservation Futures⁴ and donations of cash. (14-1476)

Conservation Commission
Emerick Rangeland Agricultural Easement

Grant Requested: \$1,300,114

The project seeks to protect 2,576 acres of rangeland near Yakima from a single private landowner through the use of an agricultural easement. This project is very near the 4,516 acre Cowiche Rangeland agricultural easement project. This grazing range provides high quality forage for spring and early summer grazing. The range supports 150 cow/calf pairs as part of the Emerick grazing program. Over the last 5-7 years, a lot of sale activity both adjacent to and near this property has occurred. Primary activity has been for new homes being constructed on surrounding view lots and large acreages purchased for conservation purposes by WDFW, BLM and local non-governmental organizations. This is due to the high quality habitat this managed rangeland provides. Smaller acreages in the area are being converted from irrigated agriculture to homes and hobby farms. Fragmentation of agricultural land has been identified as the largest threat to farmland in Yakima County with restrictions of conversion of agriculture lands the number one most effective way to preserve farmland. This rangeland acreage is part of a large shrub steppe landscape located west of the city of Yakima and is within the larger "sage grouse" recovery area of Eastern Washington. Recent research has identified 58 species of butterflies, with 10-12 being rare or localized, on adjacent property owned by the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy. The butterfly's lifecycle is believed to rely on this type of rangeland. The Conservation Commission will contribute \$8,333 in a state grant. (14-1297)

⁴ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

**San Juan County Land Bank
Double R Bar Ranch Conservation Easement**

Grant Requested: \$379,000

The goal of this project is to acquire a conservation easement on the Double R Bar ranch on Lopez Island. The easement would encumber 145 acres and extinguish 10 development rights on the property. Double R Bar primarily raises beef cattle and lamb, which are sold in the Natural Foods Store, to the school lunch program on Lopez Island, or at a farmer's co-op in Bow. The primary goals of the acquisition are to help ensure farming can continue on the ranch and to limit the potential for housing development. Environmentally, the ranch is part of a wetland complex flowing from the northeast and arcing through the property to the southeast. The Land Bank has secured conservation easements on nearly 150 acres on the two properties where the wetlands originate, including one through the WWRP farmland protection account. Ducks Unlimited has undertaken restoration activities to eradicate reed canary grass on the adjacent property. The seasonal wetland on RR Bar is grazed, with the benefit that grazing keeps reed canary grass very short. In the winter, the resulting open water hosts a wide variety of waterfowl which migrate to or through the area. Species include Trumpeter swans, wood ducks, and mergansers. Bald eagles are common year-round. Conservation of this property has been a high priority for the San Juan County Land Bank since its inception in 1990. The Land Bank is a voter-approved local conservation entity utilizing a 1% real estate excise tax to purchase lands for conservation. The San Juan County Land Bank will contribute \$379,000 in voter-approved bonds and donations of labor. (14-1557)

**Jefferson Land Trust
Quilcene Farm Center**

Grant Requested: \$295,451

Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to acquire conservation easements on Midori Farm, Little Quil Farm and Serendipity Farm, all located in Quilcene, Jefferson County. Purchase of conservation easements on these three adjacent, centrally located farms in the Quilcene community will help to preserve the prime soils and habitat on nearly 95 acres, provide funding for the farmers to grow their businesses and prevent future conversion and development. Conservation values include approximately 85 acres of agricultural land consisting of prime soils, 1332 feet of riparian habitat for migrating coho and steelhead, and farm infrastructure. The highly visible, scenic vistas define the rural character of this area, and protection of these strategically located farms will greatly enhance the viability of our agricultural community. The Quilcene Farm Center preservation effort is a top priority for Jefferson County. The land trust has worked closely with the County and Jefferson Land Works Collaborative partners to support our agricultural land protection, economy and culture. Midori Farm, Little Quil Farm and Serendipity Farm are all successful operations that produce diverse products for local farmers markets, restaurants, retail establishments and CSA customers. The project builds on the land trust's agriculture land preservation which has already conserved nearly 600 acres in Chimacum and 144 acres in nearby Quilcene. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$295,451 in federal and local grants. (14-1235)

**PCC Farmland Trust
Harman Farm**

Grant Requested: \$165,000

This project will permanently preserve 44 acres of Pierce County's best prime farmland for agricultural use. Located along the Carbon River just outside the City of Orting, the farm is owned by the Harman family, who has been farming in the Puyallup Valley for over 140 years. An ideal property for a new direct marketing, row crop, or livestock farm business, PCC Farmland Trust is working with the Harman family to protect the farm's great soil and water resources permanently, while helping transfer the property to a next generation farmer. Preservation of this farm provides a unique opportunity to conserve an ideal farm property. Conserving the Harman Farm would add another 44 acres to a 200 acre corridor of permanently conserved, prime farmland in the Orting Valley. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$205,550 in a federal grant and donations of cash. (14-1478)

**PCC Farmland Trust
Olson Farm**

Grant Requested: \$228,300

This project will preserve 122 acres of Lewis County's best prime farmland for farming in perpetuity, through acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Olson Farm. Located outside the City of Napavine, the farm is owned by the Olson family, third generation farmers. With excellent farmland soils, on site supporting infrastructure, and ideal access to the markets of Olympia and Tacoma, preservation of this farm provides a unique opportunity to conserve an ideal farm property that is almost double the size of the average Lewis County farm. In spite of surrounding commercial and residential development, the Olson Family is seeking to conserve their family farm to continue their commitment to Lewis County's deep agricultural heritage and ensure that the property is available for their next generation of family farmers. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$228,300 in a federal grant and donations of cash. (14-1477)

**PCC Farmland Trust
Sather Farm**

Grant Requested: \$319,100

This project will preserve 76 acres of Snohomish County's best prime farmland for farming in perpetuity, through acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Sather Farm. Located outside the City of Marysville, the farm is owned by the Sather family, who have been farming on the property since the 1960s. With excellent prime farmland soils, an active livestock well, and on site supporting infrastructure, preservation of this farm provides a unique opportunity to conserve an ideal farm property that is double the size of the average Snohomish County farm. Now in retirement, the Sather family is seeking to sell this farm property, and in spite of pressure to sell to interested developers, they hope to see the family farm remain in agricultural use. With this farm as an ideal property for a new mixed livestock farm with excellent access to local marketing channels, PCC Farmland Trust is working with the Sather family and an interested buyer to protect the farm's great soil and water resources permanently, while helping transfer the property to a next generation farmer. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$319,100 in a federal grant and donations of cash. (14-1541)

**Kittitas County
Upper Naneum Creek Farm**

Grant Requested: \$187,500

Upper Naneum Creek Farm is a 146.5 acre farm north-east of the City of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. The project is to purchase a conservation easement on this working farm and to preserve the land for agriculture in perpetuity. The primary goal of this project is to ensure that working farmland remains available for working farms and is not converted to non-farm use. With excellent soils, more than adequate water rights, large size, and southern exposure, this is the kind of land that the farmland program should conserve in perpetuity. Kittitas County, as the project proponent, is advancing its goal of keeping working farmland viable for the county, for the economy, and for the environment. Upper Naneum Creek is being farmed for organic potatoes under a multi-year lease to Irish Eyes Garden Seeds, a well-established local organic company that has seeds in the White House Garden. The farm has previously been worked as cattle pasture, dairy and for hay production. The landowners are considering the next generation of ownership and their family has come together to create a viable plan for the future. Conserving this farm is an incredible opportunity for the County to support working agricultural lands, support innovative farm agreements, and ensure that working lands are available for agriculture into the future. Kittitas County will contribute \$187,500 in donated property interest. (14-1456)

**Conservation Commission
Imrie Ranches Rock Creek Agricultural Easement**

Grant Requested: \$5,171,135

An agriculture conservation easement will be purchased from a single private landowner on 11,920 acres in Klickitat County. The easement will be held jointly by project partners. Zoning on the property is a mix

of rural residential, which allows for 2 acre lot minimums, General Rural which allows 5 acre lot minimums and Extensive Ag which allows for 20 acre lot minimums. Protecting this property will ensure this land is available for agriculture. This property has had livestock management activity for nearly 100 years. Property contains features and soils that make it valuable farm and ranch land. These include a diversity of grass species and forbs, open forested uplands suitable for grazing, offsite watering for livestock utilization, fencing pastures for management, scale and scope of property size, and a diversity of topographic features. The property is managed under a Grazing Management Plan developed by NRCS with a carrying capacity of 300 cow/calf pairs over 11 months. This project area includes a significant portion of the Rock Creek watershed, 5.7 miles of Rock Creek, 4.4 miles of Squaw Creek and 0.5 miles of Luna Gulch, all of which are critical to salmonid spawning and rearing. The upland and riparian areas benefit many habitat and wildlife values including ESA listed steelhead, Chinook, and western gray squirrels. The property provides for the full range of species found in central Klickitat Co. (14-1128)

**Conservation Commission
Kelley Ranches Agricultural Easement**

Grant Requested: \$2,437,826

An agriculture conservation easement will be purchased from a single private landowner on 6,124 acre in Klickitat County. The easement will be held jointly by project partners. Zoning on the property is a mix of rural residential, which allows for 2-acre lot minimums and extensive agriculture, which allows for 20-acre lot minimums. Protecting this property, which has had livestock management activity for early 100 years, will ensure this land is available for agriculture into the future. The property contains features and soils that make it valuable farm and ranch land, including a diversity of grass species and forbs, open uplands suitable for grazing, off-site watering for livestock, fenced pastures for management, scale and scope of property size, and a diversity of topographic features. The property is managed under a Grazing Management Plan with a carrying capacity of 225 cow/calf pairs. This property includes 6.7 miles of Chapman Creek and nearly the entire upper Chapman Creek watershed including a portion of the Rock Creek Watershed, which provides water quality and habitat protections for Endangered Species Act listed steelhead and Chinook. In the Chapman Creek Watershed, upland and riparian areas are managed to benefit western gray squirrels, Lewis's and white-headed woodpeckers, mule and black tail deer, black-tailed jack rabbit, burrowing owl, flammulated owl, golden eagles, western toad, white oak, shrub-steppe, and white alder. (14-1140)

**Forterra
Hofstra Farm**

Grant Requested: \$305,000

Snohomish County and Forterra will use this grant to purchase up to 8 development rights on 100 acres of prime farmland using an agricultural conservation easement. Located 2 miles west of Sultan, Hofstra Farm sits within an agricultural corridor along Highway 2. On the property's south border over 1,000 feet of the Skykomish River flows through a high quality riparian forest with 30'-100' buffers protecting the fields from flood scouring and debris. Andy and Corrie Hofstra have managed the property as a dairy farm and for dairy cow production since 1968. Nearing retirement, the Hofstra's desire to sell a conservation easement to Snohomish County to ensure the farm is not converted out of farmland and to make it affordable for a next-generation farmer. Hofstra Farm is uniquely suited to a dairy or cattle operation and contains NRCS prime-farmland soils, suitable for dairy, cattle, grass, hay, silage, or corn production. The farm is particularly vulnerable to risk of conversion due to about 8 acres of fenced upland adjacent to the road that offers dry winter field access as well as flood-safety for a large herd. Developers have made offers based on potential use of Boundary Line Adjustments to create 8 lots on this section of the farm. The Hofstras cannot afford to forgo fair-market value, and given age and uncertain health, time is of the essence for conservation of this farm. Forterra will contribute \$305,000 in federal and local grants. (14-1472)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category Preliminary Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Eight projects in the Critical Habitat category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-26

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Critical Habitat category projects provide habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species. These habitats include freshwater, salt-water, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, winter range, etc. Acquisitions often provide protection of habitat for both federal and state endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

The Critical Habitat category receives 45 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(a) RCW

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ² agencies and Native American tribes
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Restoration • Habitat enhancement or creation • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, wildlife blinds, interpretive signs, parking and restrooms
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No match required for state agencies • Local agencies and Native American tribes must provide a 50% matching share
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities is allowed. • May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eight Critical Habitat category projects requesting \$20.5 million were evaluated on August 4, 2014 in an open public meeting in Olympia. A team of ten evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank each project. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat enhancement and conservation:

Evaluator	Affiliation
John Howard, Puyallup	Citizen
Kelly McCaffrey, Seattle	Citizen
Bill Robinson, Olympia	Citizen
Dyanne Sheldon, Clinton	Citizen
Anne Van Sweringen, Olympia	Citizen
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Local Agency
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe	Local Agency
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Local Agency
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Cynthia Wilkerson, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

² State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-26.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-26, including Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects
- C. Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17
- E. Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-26
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, eight Critical Habitat category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eight Critical Habitat category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Critical Habitat category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Critical Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

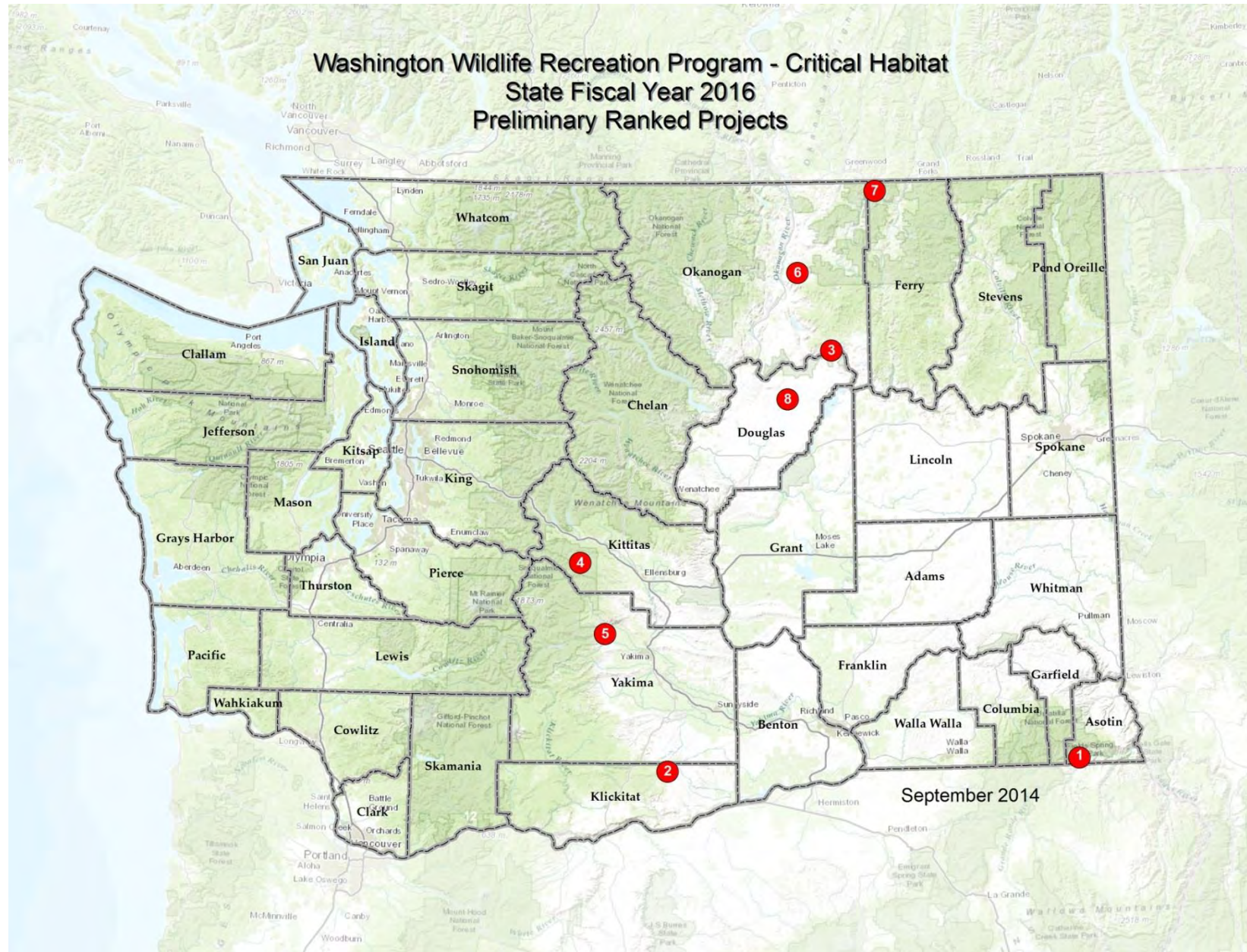
Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	40.60	14-1085A	Mountain View	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
2	40.20	14-1096A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$7,000,000
3	39.90	14-1087A	Mid Columbia - Grand Coulee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$11,000,000
4	39.70	14-1090A	Heart of the Cascades	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$15,000,000
5	37.20	14-1091A	Cowiche Watershed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000	\$17,200,000
6	36.80	14-1089A	Tunk Valley	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$19,200,000
7	35.40	14-1099A	Kettle River Corridor	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$20,200,000
8	23.70	14-1609C	Sage Grouse Habitat Acquisition in Deep Creek	Foster Creek Conservation District	\$302,000	\$303,152	\$605,152	\$20,502,000
					\$20,502,000	\$303,152	\$20,805,152	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects



Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Critical Habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat and habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.”
RCW 79A.15.010

Critical Habitat Criteria Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat 	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity 	10
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship 	15
4. Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
	Total Points Possible	50

Critical Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

- 1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)*
Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

- 2. Species or Communities with Special Status** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (iv, ix, xiii)*
What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table?

- 3. Manageability and Viability** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, IV, viii, x)*
What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now?

- 4. Public Benefit** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (I, xii)*
To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
			Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	
1	Mountain View		16.80	8.80	10.90	4.10	40.60
2	Simcoe		16.90	7.90	11.40	4.00	40.20
3	Mid Columbia - Grand Coulee		15.80	7.50	12.40	4.20	39.90
4	Heart of the Cascades		16.30	7.60	12.10	3.70	39.70
4	Cowiche Watershed		15.20	7.30	11.00	3.70	37.20
6	Tunk Valley		15.80	8.00	9.90	3.10	36.80
7	Kettle River Corridor		14.80	7.10	10.30	3.20	35.40
8	Sage Grouse Habitat Acquisition in Deep Creek		9.70	4.80	7.20	2.00	23.70

Evaluators Score Questions 1-4

Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Mountain View Ranch

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 1,900 acres of a 12,000-acre ranch that is home to many plants and animals in Asotin County. The project will conserve land that drains the lower Grand Ronde River and is next to a U.S. Forest Service roadless area to the north and Bureau of Land Management-owned canyon lands to the south. The department already has acquired 6,433 acres in the area. The land to be purchased includes portions of Wenatchee Creek, Cougar Creek, and the Grande Ronde River, as well as a diverse array of land types, such as grasslands; stands of ponderosa pine, aspens, and curlleaf mahogany; wetlands; basalt cliffs, and talus slopes. The area is used by many animals, such as bull trout, Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Rocky Mountain tailed frogs, golden eagles, Lewis' woodpeckers, flammulated owls, bighorn sheep, gray wolves, and numerous game species. The purchase will conserve the land before it's developed or damaged. This is the fourth of a six-phase project. (14-1085)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Simcoe Mountains

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 2,700 of 22,000 acres on the Simcoe Mountains in Klickitat County. The land includes forests, shrub steppe, grasslands, cliffs, and 10 miles of shoreline along upper Rock Creek and its tributaries. The purchase would conserve habitat for steelhead, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, Chinook salmon, western gray squirrels, mule deer, burrowing owls, and western toads. The purchase will protect habitat connections from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains, and open the land for hiking, fishing, and hunting, which are unavailable in this area. Threats to this property include conversion into small recreational properties. (14-1096)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving the Grand Coulee Ranch for Grouse Habitat

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 8,200 acres of a planned 20,500-acre purchase of shrub-steppe habitat used by Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in Douglas County. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse are the rarest of six subspecies of sharp-tailed grouse, a close relative of prairie-chickens, and were the most abundant and important game bird in eastern Washington during the 1800s. Their numbers declined dramatically when the places they lived were turned into farms. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission declared sharp-tailed grouse as threatened with extinction in 1998. The land to be purchased contains one of the largest, active, leks (dancing grounds where males conduct courtship displays) in the state and connects grouse in Douglas, Okanogan, and Lincoln counties. Located on the south shore of the Columbia River, the land boasts a diversity of habitats and is used by a variety of priority species including greater sage-grouse, sage thrasher, golden eagle, and mule deer. The size, location, quality, and diversity of habitats on the land enable the department to provide some of the things grouse need, such as winter and breeding habitat. (14-1087)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Wildlife Habitat in the Heart of the Cascades Mountains

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 4,014 acres of wildlife habitat on the eastern slope of the central Cascade Mountains in Kittitas County. The land is about 20 miles southwest of Ellensburg, between the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area to the east and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to

the west. It is used as a breeding and foraging area by northern spotted owls, supports large herds of hooved animals, and contains streams used by steelhead and salmon. Conservation of this land will protect critical habitat in a biologically rich and high priority area, help the department coordinate management of its land, and protect public access. Longstanding and popular access through these lands to public lands is under threat. Previous land purchases in this area have totaled nearly 22 square miles, and this purchase will secure a critical remaining gap. (14-1090)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving the Cowlitz River Watershed**

Grant Requested: \$2,200,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve 3,292 acres of critical habitat northwest of Yakima, in Yakima County. The land, which is between two wildlife areas and next to other public lands, has valuable habitats including shrub steppe, stream, aspen, oak woodlands, and big game winter range. It is used by raptors, bats, woodpeckers, mid-Columbia River steelhead, mule deer, and elk. Development can break connections between habitats for many wildlife species and make it more difficult for the department to manage wildfires and invasive species. The land also supports recreation and is used for hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, and mountain biking. This project has strong support from the Cowlitz Canyon Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service. (14-1091)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving the Tunk Valley for Wildlife**

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve more than 2 miles of river shoreline and 3,100 acres of mostly shrub-steppe habitat for sharp-tailed grouse in Okanogan County. Sharp-tailed grouse are a close relative of prairie-chickens and once were the most abundant and important game bird in eastern Washington. Their numbers declined dramatically when the places they lived were turned into farms. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission declared sharp-tailed grouse as threatened with extinction in 1998. The department will pay landowners not to develop their land using voluntary land preservation agreements.ⁱ The grant not only will protect important sharp-tail ground, but also will conserve habitat for at least 46 other priority species and habitats, including several considered at risk of extinction. The land will connect with department wildlife areas or other public land, allowing wildlife to cross between them. (14-1089)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Kettle River Corridor's Old Growth Forest**

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve old-growth ponderosa pine forest, eastside steppe, and other diverse habitats on 614 acres in northern Ferry County. The department will pay the landowner not to develop the land using voluntary land preservation agreements.ⁱ The land is used by wildlife, such as golden eagles, pileated and Lewis woodpeckers, western toads, mule deer, and elk, and plants such as narrowleaf skullcap. The land connects large, contiguous areas of public land, expanding protection of an important wildlife corridor between two federally-designated roadless areas. The property has unique ecological and biological characteristics making it worthy of long-term conservation. The property has never been logged and represents old-growth forest in its natural state and it has been maintained in a roadless, un-fragmented condition. As a result, the site supports intact eastside steppe vegetation, including several high quality rare plant communities. The landowner wants to sell and the old-growth forest makes the property appealing to commercial timber companies. Existing land use regulations will not protect the property from impacts associated with logging, road construction, or other development. (14-1099)

**Foster Creek Conservation District
Conserving Sage Grouse Habitat in Deep Creek****Grant Requested: \$292,826**

The Foster Creek Conservation District will use this grant to conserve 860 acres in northeast Douglas County near Leahy Junction. The district will pay the landowner to not develop his property using a voluntary land preservation agreement.ⁱ The land has rolling hills with rocky buttes, three wet meadows, and the start of three branches of Deep Creek. The land is accessible only by foot and is home to big sage and bunchgrass communities with water birch and cattails in the streams. The land is between two active leks (dancing grounds where sage grouse males conduct courtship displays) and provides a significant opportunity to protect critical sage grouse nesting and rearing habitat. The district wants to protect and enhance the quality of the habitat and increase the quantity of nesting and brood rearing habitat in the region. The Foster Creek Conservation District will contribute \$292,826 in donated property interest. (14-1609)

ⁱ A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
Natural Areas Category Preliminary Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Eight projects in the Natural Areas category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-27

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Projects in the Natural Areas category protect high quality, representative native ecosystems, or unique plant or animal communities. Species protected on these habitats often are classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive at the federal or state level. Rare geological features or features of scientific or educational value also are considered.

The Natural Areas category receives 30 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(b) RCW

Eligible Applicants	Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Enterprise Services (formerly known as General Administration), and the State Parks and Recreation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, parking and restrooms • Renovation is not eligible
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	No match required
Public Access	May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas must be managed primarily for resource preservation, protection, and study • Funds may not be used for habitat enhancement or restoration

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eight Natural Areas category projects requesting \$12.8 million were evaluated August 5, 2014 through August 22, 2014. A team of eight evaluators used a written evaluation process and criteria adopted by the board to rank each project. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat preservation and conservation:

Evaluator	Affiliation
John Howard, Puyallup	Citizen
Kelly McCaffrey, Seattle	Citizen
Bill Robinson, Olympia	Citizen
Dyanne Sheldon, Clinton	Citizen
Anne Van Sweringen, Olympia	Citizen
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Local Agency
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe	Local Agency
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-27.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-27, including Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Natural Areas Category projects
- C. Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17
- E. Natural Areas Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-27
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, eight Natural Areas category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eight Natural Areas category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Areas category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) , thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitats and the demonstrated need to protect it, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species; and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Natural Areas category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

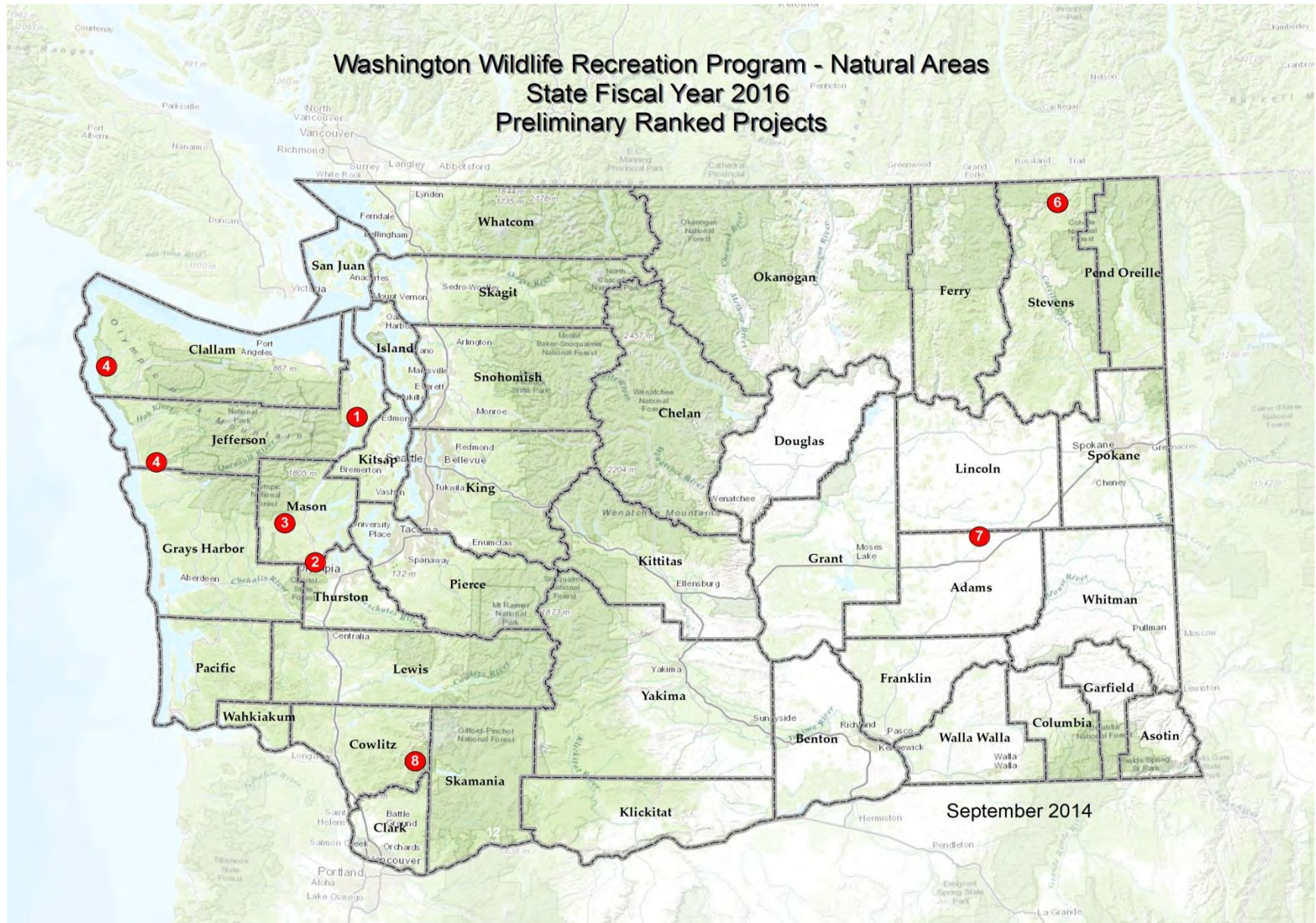
Date:

Table 1 - WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	43.00	14-1249A	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,240,955		\$3,240,955	\$3,240,955
2	40.13	14-1254A	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$849,659		\$849,659	\$4,090,614
3	39.50	14-1252A	Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserves	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,214,554		\$2,214,554	\$6,305,168
4	37.88	14-1722A	Queets River	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,643,135	\$560,000	\$2,203,135	\$7,948,303
4	37.88	14-1247A	South Lake Ozette Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,588,360		\$1,588,360	\$9,536,663
6	37.38	14-1253A	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$648,164		\$648,164	\$10,184,827
7	35.88	14-1245A	Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$215,118		\$215,118	\$10,399,945
8	33.75	14-1094A	Merrill Lake Natural Area	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$12,899,945
					\$12,899,945	\$560,000	\$13,459,945	

Project Type: A = Acquisition

State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects



Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Natural Areas means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.”²

Natural Areas Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat 	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness 	10
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship 	15
4. Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
Total Points Possible		50

² RCW 79A.15.010

Natural Areas Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

- 1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)*
Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

- 2. Species or Communities with Special Status** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (iv, ix, xiii)*
What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table?

- 3. Manageability and Viability** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, iv, viii, x)*
What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now?

- 4. Public Benefit** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (i, xii)*
To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
		Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit		
1	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline 2014		17.50	8.38	13.00	4.13	43.00
2	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve 2014		15.88	7.50	12.50	4.25	40.13
3	Ink Blot and Schumacker Creek Natural Area Preserves		16.50	8.00	11.63	3.38	39.50
4	Queets River 2014		15.38	7.63	11.00	3.88	37.88
4	South Lake Ozette Natural Area Preserve 2014		15.38	7.88	11.50	3.13	37.88
6	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve 2014		15.63	7.63	11.13	3.00	37.38
7	Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve 2014		14.63	7.38	10.63	3.25	35.88
8	Merrill Lake Natural Area Preserve 2014		13.00	6.38	10.88	3.50	33.75

Evaluators Score Questions 1-4

Natural Areas Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$3,240,955

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 100 acres of shoreline in Dabob Bay Natural Area along Hood Canal in Jefferson County. The land includes coastal bluffs and shorelines that provide sediment and fallen trees and other woody debris, which are important building blocks for coastal spits. Additionally, the land is home to high quality types of forest plants listed in the natural heritage plan, which are under-conserved. The land has 15 different owners and purchase will allow the department to remove shoreline bulkheads and restore natural stream function. The land will provide access for education and research and possibly low-impact recreation. (14-1249)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding Kennedy Creek Preserve to Conserve a Salt Marsh

Grant Requested: \$849,659

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 80 acres off U.S. Highway 101, about 12 miles west of Olympia, to increase protection for one of the few remaining high-quality salt marsh communities in Puget Sound, including vital habitat for migrating shorebirds and salmon. The purchase also will protect a segment of Schneider Creek, which supports the health of the salt marsh ecosystems. The land will provide opportunities for education and research. (14-1254)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek Preserves to Conserve Wetlands

Grant Requested: \$2,214,554

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 114 acres in two natural area preserves to protect imperiled wetlands. The department will buy 100 acres at Ink Blot Natural Area Preserve, north of Shelton and west of U.S. Highway 101 in Mason County, to conserve land that contains rare and important wetlands. The Douglas' spirea and sphagnum community found at Ink Blot is considered imperiled in Washington. Its occurrence in Ink Blot is the highest quality example remaining in the state. The land also is in one of the largest blocks of forestland remaining within the Puget trough eco-region. The department also will buy 14 acres at Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve, north of Shelton and west of U.S. Highway 101 in Mason County, to conserve wetlands that are extremely rare in the Puget trough eco-region; there are no other opportunities to protect such a feature. One of the plant communities found at Schumacher Creek, the Mountain alder-Sitka alder and skunk cabbage-water parsley community, is found only in the Puget trough eco-region and is critically imperiled. The wetland systems at both Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek remain intact with little evidence of human disturbance or exotic species invasion. (14-1252)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Land along the Queets River

Grant Requested: \$1,643,135

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 585 acres along the Queets River, next to Olympic National Park, in Jefferson County. The Queets River is one of the most pristine coastal rivers in the western United States mostly because its headwaters and main stem are protected within the Olympic National Park. The river system has been recognized as one of the best opportunities to protect and restore native salmon and coastal rainforests in the nation. The river is used by five Pacific salmon stocks: Coho, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, chum, and spring Chinook. It also is used by summer steelhead salmon; bull trout, which are listed by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act; coastal cutthroat trout; Olympic mudminnow; western brook lamprey and river lamprey; and Pacific lamprey. The forested portions of the property are Sitka spruce forest habitat, which supports northern

spotted owl, Pacific fisher, and marbled murrelet. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$560,000 in donated land. (14-1722)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Conserving South Lake Ozette Forest**

Grant Requested: \$1,588,360

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 465 acres of forest near the south end of Lake Ozette, 12 miles northwest of Forks, in Clallam County. The land boasts old-growth forests, natural second-growth forest, and forest plantations. There is little state or federal protection for such high quality Sitka spruce forest communities mixed with old-growth western red cedar-western hemlock forests. The land also is home to plants such as salal with Alaska huckleberry, deerfern, and swordfern. The land will provide opportunities for environmental education and research. (14-1247)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Creating the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve**

Grant Requested: \$648,164

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 300 acres, creating the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve that was designated in 2012. The purchase will protect habitat for rare plant species (including hoary willow, yellow mountain-avens, and steller's rockbrake), stream habitat, scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands, and limestone cliffs (including limestone-dependent species). This site is mostly undisturbed and offers an uncommon opportunity for study of natural ecological processes. The land is southeast of Northport, in Stevens County. The purchase will add under-represented natural heritage features to the statewide system of natural areas and provide opportunities for environmental education and research. (14-1253)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Conserving Shrub-Steppe**

Grant Requested: \$215,118

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 271 acres of high quality, shrub-steppe habitat, 7 miles north of Ritzville, in Adams County. The land provides the most extensive and highest quality example of sagebrush habitat. Ponds on the land are excellent examples of the driest, shallowest ponds found in the Columbia River Basin. The site, which will be in the Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve, helps complete the statewide system of natural areas and will provide opportunities for environmental education and research. (14-1245)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Land around Merrill Lake**

Grant Requested: \$2,500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 882 acres in Cowlitz County between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River. The land has many unique features including lava beds, small old growth forests, and a 40-foot waterfall on the Kalama River. The purchase will allow the department to protect wildlife habitat and provide public access, particularly along the shorelines of the lake and river. Merrill Lake is a fishing lake and the land connects with a national forest to the north and a state protected area to the south. Many types of wildlife will benefit from this project including steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon; elk; marten; western toads; spotted owls; and osprey. The land is threatened by development into a resort and logging. (14-1094)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Preliminary Ranked List for 2015-17
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twelve projects in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-28

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects allow for restoration and enhancement of habitats on existing state lands. These habitats may include salt or freshwater areas, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, and other native ecosystems or habitats native to Washington State. Restoration brings the site back to its original function through activities that can reasonably be expected to result in a site that is, to the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category receives five percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Natural Resources
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of existing habitats • Enhancement or creation of habitats
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of \$25,000 per project • Maximum of \$500,000 per multi-site project • Maximum of \$1,000,000 per single-site project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties must be state-owned and managed primarily for resource preservation and protection • Multi-site projects must be for similar habitat improvements (for example, wetland restoration, shrub-steppe enhancement, etc.)

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twelve State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects requesting \$2.3 million were evaluated August 4, 2014 through August 22, 2014. A team of nine evaluators used a written evaluation process and board-approved criteria to review and rank the projects. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Chris Drivdahl, Grayland	Citizen
Steve Erickson, Langley	Citizen
Lora Leschner, Arlington	Citizen
Carleen Weebers, Bellevue	Citizen
David Lindley, Yakama Nation	Local Agency
Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology	State Agency
Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Rebecca Post, Department of Ecology	State Agency
Richard Tveten, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards support the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful

projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-28.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-28, including Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects
- C. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17
- E. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-28
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-17 biennium, twelve State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twelve State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby, supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the quality and function of the habitat, longer-term viability, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the board's objectives to help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and to fund projects that maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

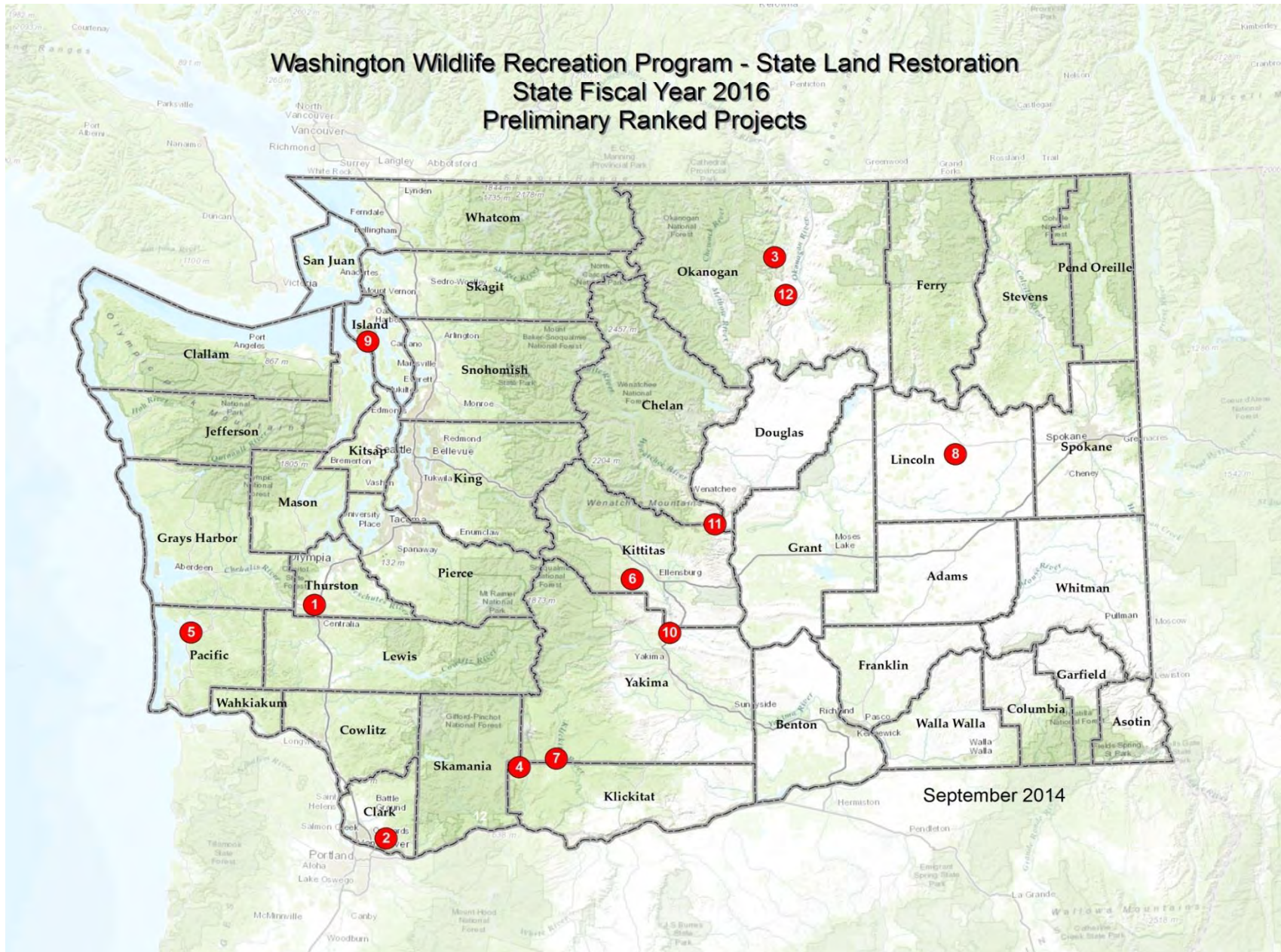
Date:

Table 1 - WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	50.22	14-1697R	Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$387,700		\$387,700	\$387,700
2	48.67	14-1485R	Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$120,000		\$120,000	\$507,700
3	48.00	14-1508R	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$534,500		\$534,500	\$1,042,200
4	47.44	14-1525R	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$72,000		\$72,000	\$1,114,200
5	44.89	14-1482R	Coastal Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$188,800		\$188,800	\$1,303,000
6	44.22	14-1355R	LT Murray Forest and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$375,000		\$375,000	\$1,678,000
7	44.11	14-1518R	Klickitat Canyon NRCA Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$71,000		\$71,000	\$1,749,000
8	44.00	14-1670R	Phantom Butte Shrub-Steppe and Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$62,500		\$62,500	\$1,811,500
9	40.33	14-1535R	Admiralty Inlet Preserve Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$96,937		\$96,937	\$1,908,437
10	39.67	14-1507R	Selah Cliffs Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$37,000		\$37,000	\$1,945,437
11	39.11	14-1610R	Colockum Wildlife Area Fire Rehabilitation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$200,200	\$5,000	\$205,200	\$2,145,637
12	37.22	14-1447R	Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$235,000	\$35,000	\$270,000	\$2,380,637
					\$2,380,637	\$40,000	\$2,420,637	

Project Type: R = Restoration

State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects



State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals and objectives Statewide, vicinity, and site maps 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger picture Uniqueness or significance Target species and communities 	15
2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem to be addressed Threat 	15
3. Project Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of project design Best management practices 	15
4. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency with existing plans Puget Sound Partnership guidelines 	5
5. Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public educational or scientific value 	5
Maximum Possible Score		55

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

- Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
Describe why the site is worthy of long-term conservation.
- Need for Restoration or Enhancement**
Describe why this restoration or enhancement project needs to be completed.
- Project Design**
Describe how the proposed project will address the problem(s) identified earlier.
- Planning**
Specifically describe how the project is consistent with planning efforts occurring in the area.
- Public Benefit**
Describe the degree to which communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Restoration or Enhancement	Project Design	Planning	Public Benefit	
1	Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound	13.89	13.44	14.00	4.56	4.33	50.22
2	Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration	13.56	13.33	13.00	4.56	4.22	48.67
3	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Phase 3	13.56	13.44	13.22	3.89	3.89	48.00
4	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 2	13.22	13.11	13.11	4.33	3.67	47.44
5	Coastal Forest Restoration	12.33	12.44	13.22	3.22	3.67	44.89
6	LT Murray Forest and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	11.44	12.67	12.56	4.11	3.44	44.22
7	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Restoration Phase 2	12.67	12.33	12.22	3.33	3.56	44.11
8	Phantom Butte Shrub Steppe and Grassland Restoration	11.67	12.33	12.33	3.89	3.78	44.00
9	Admiralty Inlet Preserve Restoration Phase 3	11.67	10.78	10.89	3.56	3.44	40.33
10	Selah Cliffs Restoration	10.67	11.11	11.44	3.33	3.11	39.67
11	Colockum Wildlife Area Fire Rehabilitation	11.22	11.22	11.00	3.11	2.56	39.11
12	Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat Restoration	9.78	10.67	10.89	2.78	3.11	37.22

Evaluators Score Questions 1-5

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Grassland in South Puget Sound

Grant Requested: \$387,700

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 446 acres that are remnants of South Puget Sound grasslands and oak woodlands in the Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, Bald Hill, Rocky Prairie, and West Rocky Prairie areas. The areas are homes to rare plants and animals and are being invaded by nonnative wildlife. The department will restore these rare habitats by acquiring native seeds and transplants, preparing the areas for seeding through controlled fires and herbicide use, replanting the area, and controlling exotic grasses, forbs, and Scot's broom. The department also will enhance Oregon spotted frog habitat in the West Rocky Prairie. The department has partnered with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Joint Base Lewis McChord, and the Center for Natural Land Management to provide native seeds in for the grassland and oak woodland restoration. (14-1697)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Lamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie

Grant Requested: \$120,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 79 acres of imperiled wet prairie and Oregon white oak woodland habitat in Clark County, north of Lamas Lake and Camas. The Lamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve was created in 2012 to protect the last remaining example of Willamette Valley wet prairie in the state as well as habitat for five rare plants and one bird of conservation concern. These habitats are threatened by encroachment of invasive trees, shrubs, and grasses; alteration of the fire regime; and modifications of hydrology. This project will address these threats and improve conditions by controlling invasive weeds and encroaching woody vegetation, using site preparation techniques including fire, rehabilitating the hydrology, and restoring native wet prairie and oak woodland vegetation. Accomplishing these restoration objectives will protect and enhance habitat for rare species known to occur on the site, including Hall's aster, Oregon coyote thistle, slender-billed nuthatch, small-flowered trillium, and the endangered Bradshaw's lomatium. (14-1485)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area through Logging and Controlled Fires

Grant Requested: \$534,500

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore habitat in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area near Osoyoos in Okanogan County by logging and burning to thin out trees and brush in the area. Most of the site being restored hasn't been burned for nearly 100 years causing an uncharacteristic buildup of trees and brush, which choke out other plants that are more beneficial to wildlife. The department will log or burn about 1,820 acres, which will improve conditions for many wildlife species, particularly flammulated owls, pygmy nuthatches, and white-headed woodpeckers. The project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, rejuvenate mule deer winter range, improve forest health, increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change, and provide jobs benefiting the local economy. (14-1508)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Trout Lake Meadows

Grant Requested: \$72,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to kill or remove nonnative plants and replant 45 acres of the 1,800-acre Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve, 24 miles north of White Salmon in the northwest corner of Klickitat County. The preserve hosts breeding and nesting areas used by a large population of the Oregon spotted frog, a state endangered species and proposed federal threatened species, and the

greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. In addition, two rare plants, pale blue-eyed grass, a state threatened and federal species of concern, and rosy owl clover, a state endangered species, are found in the preserve's seasonally wet meadows. The department also will install three interpretive signs in the western portion of the preserve explaining the restoration work. (14-1525)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring a Coastal Forest

Grant Requested: \$188,800

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 800 acres of Pacific Northwest coastal forest in the Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves and the Elk River and Ellsworth Creek Natural Resources Conservation Areas. These sites are in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties and include rare salt marshes and forests, including significant pockets of mature and old-growth forest. These areas represent a large portion of a quickly disappearing mature and old-growth forest landscape in southwest Washington. Restoration will focus on thinning the densely planted commercial forest, which provides little habitat for diverse plant and animal communities and are not representative of a natural coastal forest ecosystem. Goals for the restoration include reducing stand density, increasing understory vegetation and plant diversity, increasing the amount of large woody materials on the forest floor, and creating wildlife snags. Doing so will dramatically improve the quality of habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, including marbled murrelet, spotted owl, cavity dwelling birds, amphibians, and Roosevelt Elk. (14-1482)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Improving the L.T. Murray Forest and Creek

Grant Requested: \$375,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to thin trees and improve wildlife habitat in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Unit, 15 miles west of Ellensburg and south of Cle Elum in Kittitas County. The department will thin about 500 acres of forest to improve the lands' resilience to catastrophic fire and place large logs and tree root wads in the North Fork Manastash Creek to restore habitat diversity. The logs and root wads will slow the river and create places for fish to rest and hide from predators. The department is partnering with The Nature Conservancy, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. (14-1355)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring the Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area

Grant Requested: \$71,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 45 acres in Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area, 5 miles north of Glenwood in Klickitat and Yakima Counties. This work will include restoring about 5 miles of the logging roads back to natural conditions; removing or killing nonnative plants on 25 acres in the old landings, wet meadows, and roads; thinning 10 acres of small trees and burning about 10 acres in the meadows. The work will continue the meadow and dry forest habitat restoration to benefit several sensitive plants and animals. This conservation area includes a 3-mile stretch of the free-flowing Klickitat River, talus habitats, a unique wet meadow and ponderosa pine complex, and mixed coniferous forest. The areas targeted for restoration include meadow communities and open ponderosa pine forest used by greater Sandhill cranes, Mardon skipper butterfly, and several rare plants including rosy owl-clover, Pusifer's monkey-flower, dwarf rush, Kellogg's rush, and long-bearded sego lily. (14-1518)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring Phantom Butte Shrub-Steppe and Grassland

Grant Requested: \$62,500

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about half of a 250-acre field on Phantom Butte, which is in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County. This former wheat field was planted with grass in the mid-1980s. The department will remove the wheatgrass and weeds by light tilling and chemical fallowing and then replant the area with a native-like grassland and forb mix. The resulting grassland will resemble native meadows in the surrounding shrub-steppe habitat. This field is part of a larger area that supports Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and greater sage grouse, both listed by the state as threatened with extinction. There is an extensive recovery program being conducted in this general area for both species, with more than 30 birds wearing radio transmitters, which will allow an evaluation of the effectiveness and use of this restored field. (14-1670)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring the Admiralty Inlet Preserve

Grant Requested: \$96,937

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 6 acres of rare, native habitat in the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve, 2.5 miles south of Coupeville on Whidbey Island. The department will remove invasive and nonnative species by a controlled burn, then plant up to 60,000 native prairie plants and use a local seed mixture to establish native plant cover. The department also will remove 3 acres of dense shrubs in the old-growth forest and replant with young conifer trees to help perpetuate the forest. The prairie restoration will increase habitat for birds, butterflies, and bees. The preserve has two populations of golden paintbrush, which is listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction and state government as endangered. The preserve also has a very rare moist prairie community and rare old-growth forest association; both have been nearly exterminated in the state. (14-1535)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring Selah Cliffs

Grant Requested: \$37,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 40 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in the 300-acre Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve in the Yakima River canyon, near Selah in Yakima County. The work will conserve the ecological integrity and biological diversity of the natural area. Portions of the valley bottom and riverbanks have been severely damaged by past grazing and invasive species. The preserve, established in 1993, protects the largest known population of *Erigeron basalticus* (basalt daisy), a state threatened and federal species of concern known to exist only in a 10-mile stretch of the Yakima River Canyon. The daisy makes its home on the basalt cliffs where few other plants grow, rooting into cracks and fissures on the rock faces. The cliffs, many covered by lichens, also provide nesting and roosting habitat for raptors including prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, and kestrels. An interpretive trail in the preserve meanders through the area to be restored, and this project will include installation of two additional interpretive signs that discuss the restoration project. (14-1507)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Replanting the Colockum Wildlife Area after a Fire

Grant Requested: \$200,200

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about 1,000 acres of forest burned by a 2013 wildfire in the Colockum Wildlife Area, 15 miles south of Wenatchee in Chelan and Kittitas Counties. The fire burned the trees and bushes, whose roots prevented sediment from entering the streams. The department will place large logs in the streams and replant the burned forest with a combination of conifer and shrub species. The wildlife area is a mix of shrub-steppe, stream bank, and forest habitats and is used by mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, bighorn sheep, cougars, black bears, bobcats, grey wolves, wild

turkeys, forest grouse, woodpeckers, falcons, hawks, and eagles. The streams in the area provide habitat for rainbow trout; upper Columbia River steelhead trout, which are listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction; and Chinook salmon, which are endangered. The Colockum Wildlife Area is a popular destination for hunting, hiking, camping, horse-back riding, motorized recreation, and wildlife watching. (14-1610)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat**

Grant Requested: \$235,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to burn 1,274 acres in the Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Wildlife Areas, 110 miles north of Wenatchee in Okanogan County, to stimulate fire-dependent vegetation and to restore function to priority habitats. The two areas conserve native shrub-steppe plant communities and are in the sharp-tail grouse recovery zone. The *Conservation Strategy* identifies upland aspen forest, shrub-steppe, eastside grasslands and ponderosa pine forest and woodlands as the highest priority for conservation, all of which are found within the project area. The goal of the project is to restore fire as a natural process. The department will contribute \$35,000 from a private grant. (14-1447)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Preliminary Ranked List for 2015-17

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Seven projects in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-29

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Urban Wildlife Habitat projects provide habitat for fish and wildlife in close proximity to a metropolitan area. These habitats may include forests, riparian zones, and wetlands, and may serve as a corridor for wildlife movement in existing populated areas.

To be eligible for consideration in this category, a project must be:

- Within the corporate limits of a city or town with a population of at least 5,000 or within five miles of such a city or town (or its adopted Urban Growth Area boundary), or
- Within five miles of an adopted Urban Growth Area in a county that has a population density of at least 250 people per square mile.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ¹ agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, port districts, and special purpose districts
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Restoration, including habitat enhancement or creation • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, viewing blinds, restrooms, and parking
Funding Limits	No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments must provide a 50% matching share. • No match required for state agencies
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May include and encourage public use for wildlife interpretation and observation. • May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species.
Other	Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible

Funding Allocation

The Urban Wildlife Habitat category receives 20 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.²

The board allocates urban wildlife habitat funding as follows:

- 40 percent to local agency projects
- 40 percent to state agency projects
- 20 percent distributed as follows:
 - Fully fund partially funded local agency projects,
 - Fully fund partially funded state agency projects, and then
 - Fund the next highest ranked projects, regardless of sponsor.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Seven Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects requesting \$12.6 million were evaluated on August 5, 2014 in an open public meeting. A team of ten evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to rank projects. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat protection, enhancement, and conservation:

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (Formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

² Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(c) RCW

Evaluator	Affiliation
John Howard, Puyallup	Citizen
Kelly McCaffrey, Seattle	Citizen
Bill Robinson, Olympia	Citizen
Dyanne Sheldon, Clinton	Citizen
Anne Van Sweringen, Olympia	Citizen
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Local Agency
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe	Local Agency
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Local Agency
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Cynthia Wilkerson, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards support the board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution #2014-29.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2015 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting. Item 3 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-29, including Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category projects
- C. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17
- E. Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-29
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, seven Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all seven Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

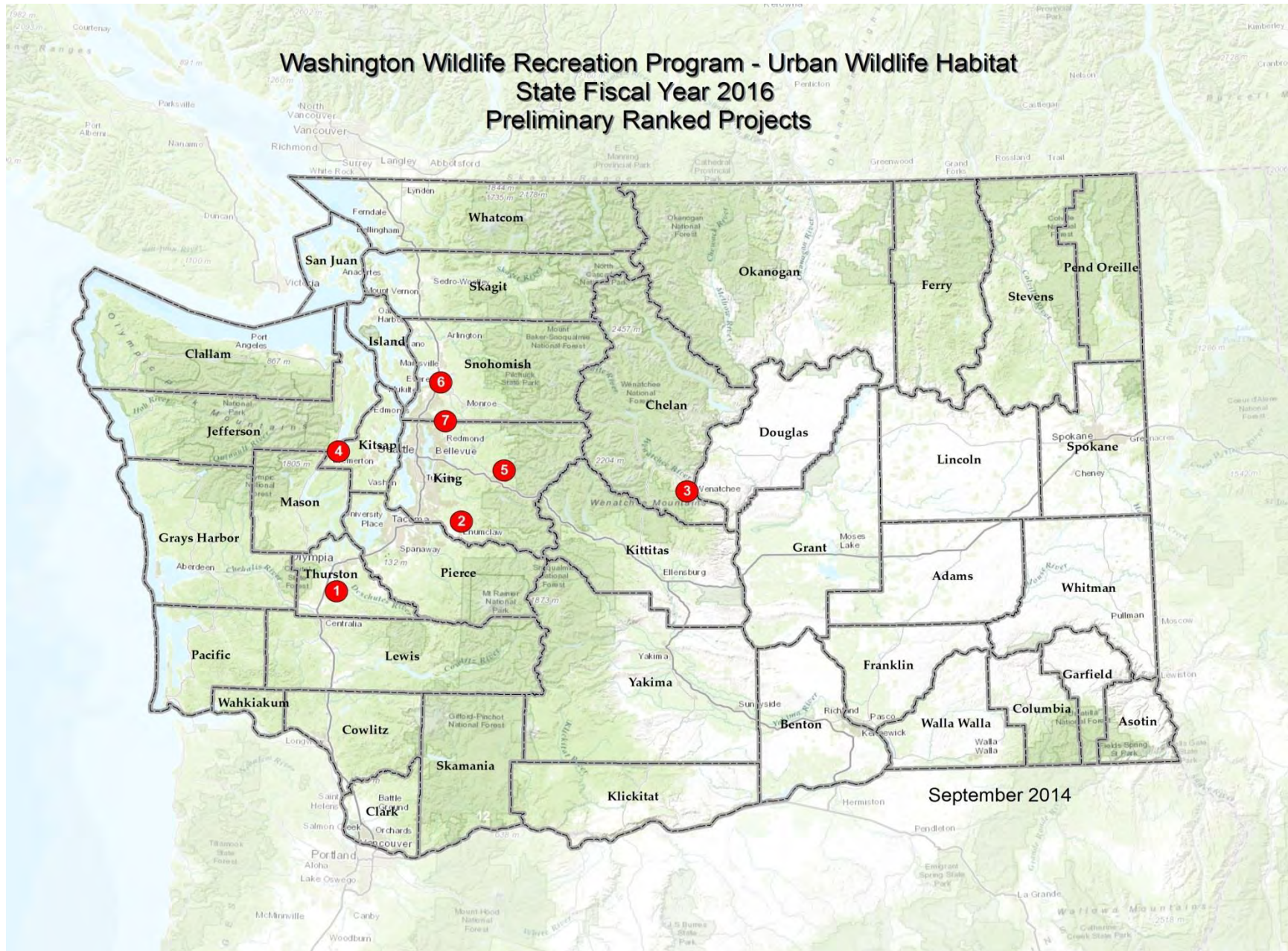
Date: _____

Table 1 - WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request
1	63.90	14-1098A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2	60.50	14-1276A	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	King County	\$748,000	\$748,000	\$1,496,000	\$3,748,000
3	58.30	14-1130A	Sage Hills Gateway Acquisition	Wenatchee	\$510,000	\$513,000	\$1,023,000	\$4,258,000
4	58.20	14-1251A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,765,352		\$3,765,352	\$8,023,352
5	57.70	14-1250A	Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,147,269		\$3,147,269	\$11,170,621
6	48.20	14-1093A	Ebey Island	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$12,170,621
7	47.10	14-1441A	Hooven Bog Conservation Area	Snohomish County	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$985,500	\$12,663,371
					\$12,663,371	\$1,753,750	\$14,417,121	

Project Type: A = Acquisition

State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects



Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area."³

Urban Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bigger picture Uniqueness or significance of the site Fish and wildlife species and or communities Quality of habitat 	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threat to species or communities Importance of acquisitions Ecological roles Taxonomic distinctness Rarity 	10
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediacy of threat to the site Long-term viability Enhancement of existing protected land Ongoing stewardship 	15
4. Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project support 	10
5. Educational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational and scientific value 	5
6. Public Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for, and appropriate level of, public use 	10
7. GMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Management Act Planning Requirement 	0
8. Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of, and proximity to, the nearest urban area 	10
Total Points Possible		80

³ RCW 79A.15.010

Urban Wildlife Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

1. **Ecological and Biological Characteristics** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)*
Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

2. **Species or Communities with Special Status** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (IV, ix, xiii)*
What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table?

3. **Manageability and Viability** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, IV, viii, x)*
What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now?

4. **Public Benefit** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (I, xii)*
To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

5. **Educational Opportunities** *RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (xii)*
To what degree does this project provide potential opportunities for educational and scientific value?

6. **Public Use** *Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State-2002-2007, Chapters 1 and 5*
Does this project provide potential opportunities for public access, education, or enjoyment?

RCO Staff Scored

7. **Growth Management Act Preference** *RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)*
Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?

8. **Population** *RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(b)(i)(WWRP)*
Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and county density?

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	Educational Opportunities	Public Use	Growth Management Act Preference	Population Proximity	
1	West Rocky Prairie	18.40	8.80	13.10	8.90	4.60	8.10	0.00	2.00	63.90
2	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	15.30	7.70	11.90	7.70	3.50	7.40	0.00	7.00	60.50
3	Sage Hills Gateway Acquisition	14.50	7.30	12.40	8.30	4.20	8.60	0.00	3.00	58.30
4	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	16.70	7.50	12.30	7.70	3.50	5.50	0.00	5.00	58.20
4	Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas	13.90	7.00	11.10	7.90	3.40	8.40	0.00	6.00	57.70
6	Ebey Island	12.40	6.20	9.20	6.80	2.90	5.70	0.00	5.00	48.20
7	Hooven Bog Conservation Area	13.10	7.40	8.00	6.10	2.80	4.70	0.00	5.00	47.10

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving the West Rocky Prairie and Mima Mounds

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 220 acres in Maytown, 5 miles south of Tumwater, in Thurston County, as part of a larger project to protect one of the last native outwash prairies remaining in Washington. Rare and a local treasure, the West Rocky Prairie includes the Mima Mounds, which are considered an ecological wonder and prized by the residents of south Puget Sound. This purchase would create a 3,632-acre conservation network between Millersylvania State Park, McIntosh Tree Farm, Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area. The land in this area is used by many wildlife species that the state has declared at risk of extinction or in need of watching. The expanded wildlife area (1,555 acres) will be open to the public for hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting. The local community values this land because of its size and availability in urbanizing south Puget Sound. Friends of West Rocky Prairie formed in 2007 to conserve this land and presented Thurston County with 2,000 signatures requesting the site be protected from industrial use. The local Black Hills Audubon also strongly supports site conservation. The Evergreen State College and the University of Washington will use the site for prairie research. (14-1098)

King County Conserving Land along Bass and Beaver Lakes for Birds and Other Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$748,000

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to conserve 136 undeveloped acres in the Bass-Beaver Lake complex, next to state parks in the Green River Gorge. The lake complex provides the highest bird species diversity in the county. The land is used by state priority bird species including bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, wood duck, bufflehead, great blue heron, common loon, and band-tailed pigeon. Other bird species using the area include golden eagle, turkey vulture, osprey, green heron, kingfisher, ruffed grouse, least sandpiper, goldfinch, Bewick's/marsh/Pacific wren, Swainson's thrush, rufous hummingbird, and spotted towhee. The complex and gorge are an important part of the range of one the state's 10 registered elk herds. It also is used by cougars, bobcats, and minks. The Green River supports Chinook, steelhead, and four other salmon species. Two forested wetland plant communities also are on the land and are designated as state priority habitats. This acquisition would complement King County's and State Parks' efforts to protect land in the lake complex. King County will contribute \$748,000 in conservation futures⁴ and a voter-approved levy. (14-1276)

Wenatchee Conserving Access to the Wenatchee Foothills through the Sage Hills Gateway

Grant Requested: \$510,000

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy nearly 139 acres, protecting centrally located access to the Wenatchee Foothills and a critical north-south connection to its trail system. The popular trail system is near cities and offers spectacular views of the Wenatchee Valley and Columbia River, abundant spring wildflowers, and easy access. Historically, the land owner has allowed hiking, mountain biking, and winter mule deer on the land but these uses are in jeopardy because the land is being considered for housing development. If developed, trail access from the south would be cut off and wildlife habitat would be destroyed. The land contains shrub-steppe habitat that supports a diverse community of wildlife including mule deer, migratory songbirds, and raptors. Through an extensive public outreach effort conducted over several years, the Sage Hills Gateway was identified as a priority for acquisition by the community. It is contained in the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*, *Wenatchee Foothills Trails Plan*, and parks and recreation comprehensive plan. The City is working with the Trust

⁴ Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

for Public Lands, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and the landowner, to buy the land. The City of Wenatchee will contribute \$513,000 in staff labor and donations of labor and land. (14-1130)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding Stavis and Kitsap Forest Areas

Grant Requested: \$3,765,352

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy more than 436 acres to add to the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, which includes the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve near Silverdale and Bremerton in Kitsap County. The purchase will fill important gaps in a large forested landscape that supports wildlife near cities; protect forests along Stavis and Harding Creeks, which provide spawning and rearing habitat for fall chum and coho salmon; protect a pocket estuary on the Hood Canal and an upland forest near Stavis Bay; and protect 1,600 feet of Hood Canal shoreline. The land will provide opportunities for low-impact public use, recreation, environmental education, and scientific research. (14-1251)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Conservation Areas

Grant Requested: \$3,147,269

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 1,181 acres in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas in east King County. The department will focus on lands in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that are threatened by housing development and are crucial wildlife habitat. The Greenway is a 100-mile landscape of forests, wildlife habitat, and open spaces along Interstate 90, a National Scenic Byway. Distinctive physical features of the lands include talus, high and low elevation lakes, streams and wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, and cliffs. A variety of birds, mammals, amphibians, and fish call this area home as do cougars, bobcats, mountain goats, black bears, coyotes, and elk. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers have been observed there as well. The purchase will allow the department to protect significant urban wildlife habitat, natural resources, and wildlife habitat connections, and to provide low-impact public use. (14-1250)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Expanding Ebey Island Wildlife Areas

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 104 acres, expanding the 1,237-acre wildlife area unit on Ebey Island in Snohomish County. The department's long-term vision calls for the grassland to be restored to wetlands for waterfowl, song and shorebirds, beavers, and other wildlife. The land is in the Pacific Flyway and used by migrating and wintering waterfowl. By buying the land, the department will be able to offer permanent public access to 440 acres of the department's Ebey Island Unit for waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education. (14-1093)

Snohomish County
Conserving Hooven Bog

Grant Requested: \$492,750

The Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant to buy 29 acres of important bog, fen, wetland, and forested habitats in Snohomish County. These habitats are threatened by a proposed housing development. They are important because they are rare: It is uncommon to find four distinct plant communities in such an area. Rare plants such as *Utricularia intermedia* (Bladderwort) and *Hippuri vulgaris* in such numbers is not commonly seen. Different pine species and a variety of trees thrive here. There is a rich herbaceous layer that provides food and shelter for many wildlife species. Animals sited include bobcat, red legged frogs, kingfisher, vireo, thrushes, garter snakes, and many more. The land will provide a research and educational tool. In addition, Hooven Bog is identified by the Washington Natural Heritage Program and the Department of Natural Resources as high quality, undisturbed wetlands that support state threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species mentioned above. Snohomish County will contribute \$492,750. (14-1441)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014

Title: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Primary Ranked List of 2015-17 Projects

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twenty-three projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and preliminary ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list which will then be forwarded to the Governor for inclusion in the 2015-17 capital budget.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2014-30

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant program funds are used for the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic lands for public purposes. They also can be used to develop or renovate facilities that provide public access to aquatic lands and associated waters. "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters.

Policies governing the program are outlined in Board Manual #21, *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*.

Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, local and state agencies
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Restoration or habitat enhancement or creation • Combination projects involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both acquisition and development or restoration ○ Both development and restoration
Match Requirements	Minimum 50% matching share is required for <u>all</u> applicants
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000,000 maximum for acquisition and combination (acquisition and development) projects • \$500,000 for restoration or development projects and combination (restoration and development) projects
Public Access	Public access to aquatic lands must exist or be included in the project proposal
Other Program Characteristics	Projects must be adjacent to a “navigable” ¹ water body

Revenue and Fund Distribution

The ALEA grant program is funded with revenue generated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the management of state-owned aquatic lands. Revenue sources include the lease of state-owned aquatic lands and the sale of valuable materials (e.g., geoduck harvest rights).

The state treasurer deducts DNR management costs and payments to towns from the total funds that the state receives. The remaining funds are placed into the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. The legislature appropriates the funds to various state agencies, including RCO, for the following purposes:

- Aquatic lands enhancement projects;
- Purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes; and
- Providing and improving access to the lands.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty-three Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) projects, requesting more than \$9.2 million, were submitted for funding consideration.

The ALEA Advisory Committee used board-adopted criteria to review and rank projects on August 6 and 7, 2014, in an open public meeting in Olympia, WA. The ten member committee included the following representatives all of whom are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about the enhancement and protection of aquatic resources:

¹ Defined in Washington State Constitution, Article XVII, and 33 Code of Federal Regulations 32.

Evaluators	Representing
Karen Borell, Seattle	Citizen
Nicole Hill, Tumwater	Citizen
Thomas Linde, Carson	Citizen
Jason Filan, Kirkland Community Services	Local Agency
Tana Bader Inglima, Port of Kennewick	Local Agency
Paul Simmons, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation	Local Agency
Matt Goehring, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Heather Kapust, Department of Ecology	State Agency
Theresa Mitchell, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Chris Parsons, State Parks	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for Board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – ALEA Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board’s strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitat and recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the Board’s goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the ALEA program support board adopted priorities in *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – ALEA Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17* via Resolution #2014-30.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2015-2017 biennium. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2015 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution # 2014-30, including Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17
- B. State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects
- C. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Summary, 2015-17
- E. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Summaries

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-30
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
2015-17 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-17 biennium, twenty-three Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) program projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all twenty-three ALEA projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 21, *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*; and

WHEREAS, these ALEA projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as party of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to such lands and associated waters, thereby supporting policies in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for both conservation and recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of ALEA projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

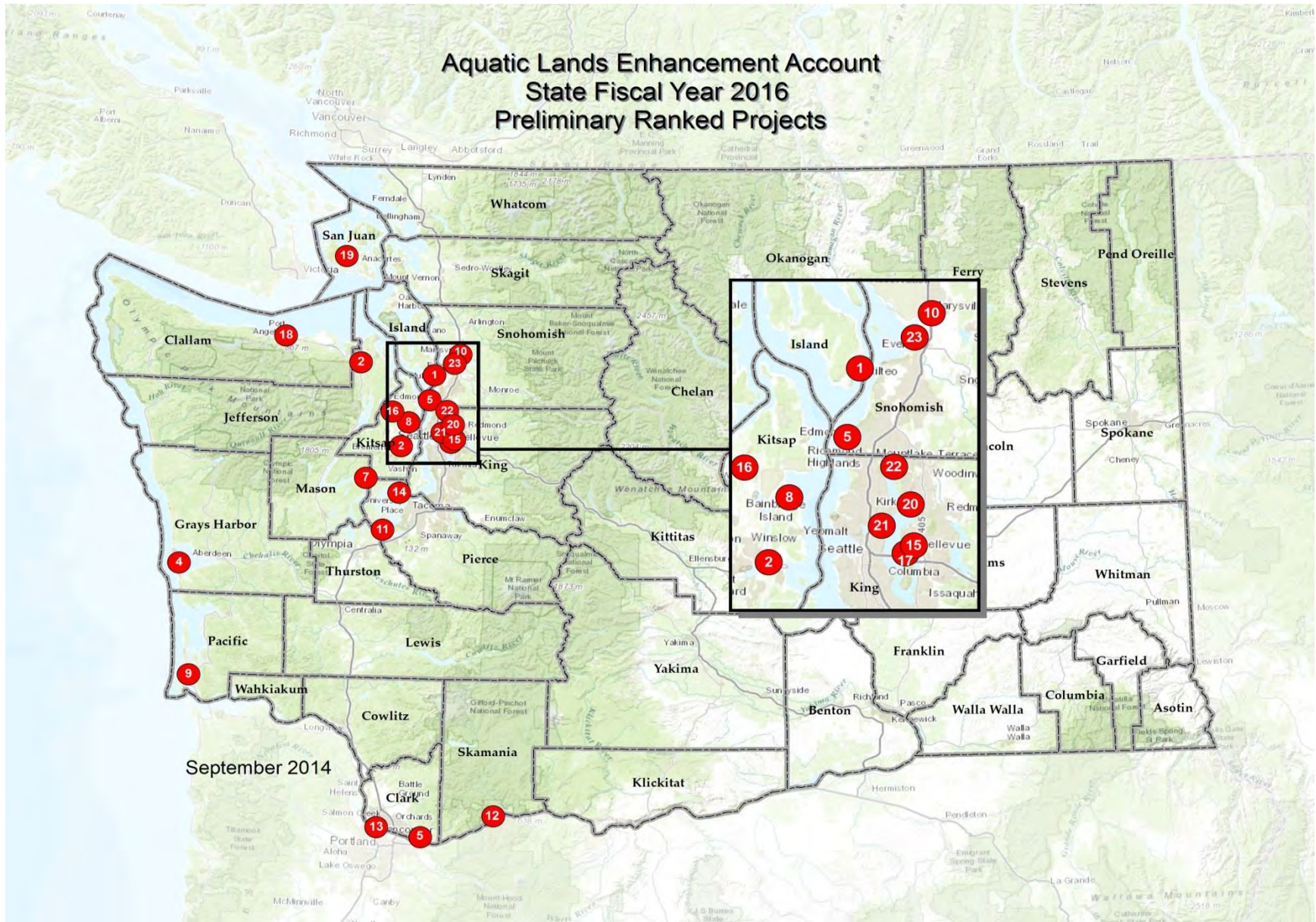
Table 1 - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1	60.30	14-1531C	Glendale Shoreline Access and Restoration	Island County	\$587,500	\$715,000	\$1,302,500	\$587,500
2	59.10	14-1521D	Waterman Fishing Pier and Seawall Renovation	Port of Waterman	\$500,000	\$828,000	\$1,328,000	\$1,087,500
2	59.10	14-1395C	Discovery Bay Restoration and Trail Construction	Jefferson County	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,587,500
4	58.70	14-1030C	Damon Point Restoration and Signs	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$72,500	\$98,500	\$171,000	\$1,660,000
5	58.40	14-1103D	Edmonds Pier Renovation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,160,000
5	58.40	14-1278D	Washougal Waterfront Aquatic Access Area	Port of Camas-Washougal	\$500,000	\$1,090,624	\$1,590,624	\$2,660,000
7	55.50	14-1789A	Coulter Creek Acquisition Phase 2	Mason County	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,660,000
8	54.60	14-1358C	Hidden Cove Park Phase 1	Bainbridge Island Park District	\$299,000	\$299,000	\$598,000	\$3,959,000
9	53.90	14-1086D	South Willapa Bay Access	Pacific County	\$30,998	\$30,998	\$61,996	\$3,989,998
10	53.80	14-1492D	Qwuloolt Estuary Trail Development	Marysville	\$342,369	\$342,370	\$684,739	\$4,332,367
11	53.40	14-1240C	Jacobs Point Phase 2	Anderson Island Park District	\$82,556	\$82,556	\$165,112	\$4,414,923
12	52.80	14-1125C	Stevenson Shoreline Restoration and Recreation Enhancement	Port of Skamania	\$354,000	\$354,000	\$708,000	\$4,768,923
13	50.60	14-1470D	Columbia River Waterfront Park	Vancouver	\$500,000	\$1,615,590	\$2,115,590	\$5,268,923
14	50.50	14-1457D	Ancich Waterfront Park	Gig Harbor	\$500,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,600,000	\$5,768,923
15	49.90	14-1582C	Meydenbauer Park Development and Restoration	Bellevue	\$500,000	\$3,582,700	\$4,082,700	\$6,268,923
16	49.30	14-1455C	Poulsbo's Fish Park Phase 3	Poulsbo	\$426,750	\$486,500	\$913,250	\$6,695,673

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
17	48.30	14-1227C	Calkin's Point Restoration and Access Improvements	Mercer Island	\$161,000	\$171,607	\$332,607	\$6,856,673
18	47.40	14-1190C	Port Angeles Waterfront Park and Trail	Port Angeles	\$500,000	\$1,725,592	\$2,225,592	\$7,356,673
19	47.10	14-1647D	Friday Harbor Waterfront Esplanade	Port of Friday Harbor	\$441,900	\$441,901	\$883,801	\$7,798,573
20	45.50	14-1748D	Waverly Beach Park Renovation	Kirkland	\$325,665	\$325,665	\$651,330	\$8,124,238
21	44.30	14-1341D	Arboretum Waterfront Trail	Seattle	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$950,000	\$8,599,238
22	41.90	14-1474D	Log Boom Park and Water Trail Bridge Development	Kenmore	\$105,702	\$105,703	\$211,405	\$8,704,940
23	34.10	14-1450D	Central Docks Public Trail Enhancements	Port of Everett	\$500,000	\$1,940,000	\$2,440,000	\$9,204,940
					\$9,204,940	\$17,811,306	\$27,016,246	

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination; D = Development

State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Tables

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Protection or Enhancement

Projects that meet the single program purpose of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands should address those annotated elements within each question under the heading *Protection or Enhancement Projects* for criteria 1 through 3, and 4b, and all elements for criteria 4a and 5.

Scored By	#	Question	Evaluator's Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	0-5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	0-5	4	20
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability <i>(acquisition projects only)</i>	0-5	2	10
OR					
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability <i>(restoration and development projects only)</i>	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	0-5	2	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	0	1	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	0-1	1	1
Total Possible Points					66

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Public Access

Projects meeting the single program purpose of providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address those annotated elements under the heading *Public Access Projects* for criteria 1 through 3 and 4b, and all elements for criteria 4a and 5.

Scored By	#	Question	Evaluator's Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	0-5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	0-5	4	20
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability <i>(acquisition projects only)</i>	0-5	2	10
OR					
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability <i>(restoration and development projects only)</i>	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	0-5	2	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	0	1	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	0-1	1	1
Total Possible Points					66

Projects Meeting Both Program Purposes Protection or Enhancement AND Public Access Projects

Applicants whose projects meet both program purposes of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands and providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address all elements for each criterion.

Scored By	#	Question	Elements	Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points	Total Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability <i>(acquisition projects only)</i>	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
OR							
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability <i>(restoration and development projects only)</i>	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	All Elements	0	1	0	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	All Elements	0-1	1	1	1
Total Possible Points						71	71

ALEA Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

1. Fit with ALEA Program Goals *(RCW 79.105.150)*

How well does this project fit the ALEA program goals to enhance, improve or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to aquatic lands?

2. Project Need

What is the need for this project?

3. Site Suitability

Is the site well suited for the intended uses?

4. a. Urgency and Viability:

(Only acquisition projects answer this question.)

Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site?

b. Project Design and Viability:

(Only restoration and enhancement projects, public access development projects, or combination projects answer this question.)

How does the project address the stated restoration or enhancement need?

Is the project well designed? Will the project lead to sustainable ecological functions and processes over time?

How well does the project address the stated public access need? Is the project well designed? Will the project result in public access to aquatic lands that protect the integrity of the environment?

5. Community Involvement and Support:

To what extent has the community been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed about the project and provide input? What is the level of community support for the project?

RCO Staff Scored (All projects)

6. GMA Preference:

RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?

7. Proximity to People:

RCW 79A.25.250

RCO is required by law to give funding preference to projects located in populated areas. Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Category Projects, Evaluation Summary 2015-17

Question		1			2			3			4A	4B			5	6	7	
Rank	Project Name	Fit with ALEA			Project Need			Site Suitability			Urgency and Viability	Project Design			Local Community Support	Growth Management Act Preference	Proximity to People	Total
		Dual Purpose			Dual Purpose			Dual Purpose				Dual Purpose						
		Single Purpose	Protection	Access	Single Purpose	Protection	Access	Single Purpose	Protection	Access		Single Purpose	Protection	Access				
1	Glendale Shoreline Access		9.00	8.40		8.80	8.40		4.40	4.10	9.40				7.80	-1	1.00	60.30
2	Waterman Fishing Pier	13.50			18.80			8.80				8.60			8.40	0	1.00	59.10
2	Discovery Bay Restoration		8.20	7.40		8.80	8.40		4.40	4.00			4.30	4.40	9.20	0	0.00	59.10
4	Damon Point Restoration		9.60	8.00		10.00	7.40		4.60	3.70			4.20	4.20	7.00	0	0.00	58.70
5	Edmonds Pier Renovation	12.60			18.00			9.80				9.00			8.00	0	1.00	58.40
5	Washougal Waterfront	13.20			17.60			8.40				8.80			9.40	0	1.00	58.40
7	Coulter Creek Acquisition		9.40	6.80		8.80	6.20		4.20	3.70	8.60				7.80	0	0.00	55.50
8	Hidden Cove Park Phase 3	12.00			17.20			8.60				8.20			7.60	0	1.00	54.60
9	South Willapa Bay Access	12.90			17.20			8.20				7.80			8.80	-1	0.00	53.90
10	Qwuloolt Estuary Trail	12.00			15.20			8.60				8.20			8.80	0	1.00	53.80
11	Jacobs Point Phase 2		8.40	6.20		8.60	6.40		4.60	3.40	8.00				6.80	0	1.00	53.40

Question		1			2			3			4A	4B			5	6	7	
Rank	Project Name	Fit with ALEA			Project Need			Site Suitability			Urgency and Viability	Project Design			Local Community Support	Growth Management Act Preference	Proximity to People	Total
		Dual Purpose			Dual Purpose			Dual Purpose				Dual Purpose						
		Single Purpose	Protection	Access	Single Purpose	Protection	Access	Single Purpose	Protection	Access		Single Purpose	Protection	Access				
12	Stevenson Shoreline		7.40	7.60		7.20	8.00		3.90	3.50			3.50	3.70	8.00	0	0.00	52.80
13	Columbia River Waterfront	12.00			14.40			7.60				7.60			8.00	0	1.00	50.60
14	Ancich Waterfront Park	12.30			14.40			7.40				7.80			7.60	0	1.00	50.50
15	Meydenbauer Park		6.80	7.60	1.20	5.80	6.00	0.60	3.30	3.50			3.10	3.40	7.60	0	1.00	49.90
16	Poulsbo's Fish Park Phase 3	11.10			13.20			8.00				7.40			8.60	0	1.00	49.30
17	Calkin's Point Restoration		6.40	6.80		6.20	6.60		3.30	3.50			2.80	3.90	7.80	0	1.00	48.30
18	Port Angeles Waterfront	9.00			14.00			7.60				7.40			8.40	0	1.00	47.40
19	Friday Harbor Waterfront	10.50			12.40			7.60				7.80			8.80	0	0.00	47.10
20	Waverly Beach Park	10.50			11.20			7.40				7.80			7.60	0	1.00	45.50
21	Arboretum Waterfront Trail	11.10			14.40			6.00				7.20			4.60	0	1.00	44.30
22	Log Boom Park and Trail	7.50			12.40			7.20				7.60			6.20	0	1.00	41.90
23	Central Docks Public Trail	6.90			9.20			6.20				6.20			4.60	0	1.00	34.10

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2015-17

Island County

Grant Requested: \$587,500

Restoring the Shoreline and Public Access to Possession Sound

Island County will use this grant to restore and provide permanent public access to 420 feet of shoreline on a privately-owned stretch of Possession Sound, on southeast Whidbey Island. In an innovative partnership, Island County will buy, from the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, a land preservation agreement¹ that prevents the land from being developed for anything other than public use or restoration, and permanently provides public access to 6 acres that includes a beach, tidelands, forest, and an area for parking. The land trust will own and manage the property for the permanent benefit of the public in coordination with the County. The property was for sale and, to prevent its loss, the land trust secured contracts to buy the land. Public uses will include fishing, birding, non-motorized boating, nature-viewing, picnicking, and beachcombing. The county's parks plan identifies securing public beach access to this underserved area of Whidbey Island as its highest priority. The County and land trust will complete habitat restoration activities including removing a creosote wooden pier, bulkheads, and a boat launch, which will restore the natural coastal processes and improve salmon passage to Glendale Creek. The County and land trust also will remove two old buildings and replace them with a parking area paid for by the land trust. Island County will contribute \$715,000 from a state appropriation, donated property interest, and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1531)

Port of Waterman

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Renovating the Waterman Pier and Seawall

The Port of Waterman will use this grant to replace a bulkhead, parking, signs, and a 90-year-old pier over Puget Sound in Kitsap County. The bulkhead is failing and dilapidated structures threaten its ability to protect the shoreline and provide safe access. Waterman is one of only two public access piers in the area that don't also serve boats. Anglers and squid jiggers use the pier to avoid boaters tying up, occupying prime spots, or tangling up lines. The pier also is used for its views, crabbing, scuba diving, beach access, and special events. The Port of Waterman will contribute \$828,000 in cash and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1521)

Jefferson County

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Restoring Discovery Bay Shoreline and Building a Trail

Jefferson County will use this grant to restore about 28 acres of estuary and shoreline habitat that have been damaged by development. The area provides critical habitat for Hood Canal summer chum salmon, Puget Sound Chinook, and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as coho salmon and cutthroat trout which are a federal Species of Concern, and numerous other animals such as Olympia oysters, forage fish, and migratory shorebirds. In addition to the restoration, the County will build two segments of the 126-mile Olympic Discovery Trail, which was identified in the Department of Interior's America's Great Outdoors Initiative. To the north, the County will build 425 feet of trail along slopes next to U.S. Highway 101. This segment includes a 125-foot-long pile wall connecting the trail to Old Gardiner Road. To the south, the County will build 800 feet of trail on a former railroad grade. If the trail does not get built, the Olympic Discovery Trail may be

¹ A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

broken at south Discovery Bay. Jefferson County will contribute \$500,000 in cash, a federal grant, and cash donations. (14-1395)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring Damon Point for Rare Birds

Grant Requested: \$72,500

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to control invasive species on 50 acres of Damon Point and replant if needed. Damon Point, which is directly south of Ocean Shores in Grays Harbor County, is used by streaked horned lark, which recently has been listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Department also will place a kiosk and signs at the entrance, providing interpretation and restrictions to protect rare species. New fencing will guide visitors to entry points, and signs will direct visitors away from nesting areas. Damon Point is important to the local and regional community as a walking beach with no vehicles and for conservation of species. The land is ecologically important for migratory animals, and has extraordinary natural beauty. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$98,500 from a state appropriation, a federal grant, a state grant, agency equipment, and donations of labor. (14-1030)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Renovating the Edmonds Pier

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to rebuild the connections and supports between the piles and the deck of Edmonds pier, extending its life for more than 20 years. The pier is in the heart of Puget Sound, 17 miles north of Seattle, and integral to the Edmonds waterfront. With about 100,000 visitors a year, the pier provides a destination opportunity to a diverse array of visitors. It is used for fishing year-round, crabbing, and shrimping. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will contribute \$1 million from a state appropriation, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and taxes from a Local Improvement District. (14-1103)

Port of Camas-Washougal
Developing a Waterfront Access Area

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Port of Camas-Washougal will use this grant to develop 2.4 acres of the last piece of publicly-owned Washougal waterfront along the Columbia River. The land, located on the south side of the Lewis and Clark Highway 14 and the Second Street intersection, will be developed with a trail to the Columbia River shoreline for people and non-motorized boats, a parking lot with a staging area for kayakers and canoeists, a grass picnic area, an outdoor classroom picnic shelter, a viewing plaza, energy-efficient restrooms, and interpretive kiosks and signs. It is a core community value to preserve the waterfront area in Washougal for the public and to meet an underserved waterfront access need. The Port of Camas-Washougal will contribute more than \$1 million in cash, donations of labor, and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1278)

Mason County
Conserving Coulter Creek Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Mason County will use this grant to buy 58.25 acres at the head of North Bay in Mason County between Allyn and Victor. Mason County, Capitol Land Trust, and partners are joining forces to purchase this property. The acquisition will include about 54 acres of forest, 3.25 acres of wetlands, nearly three-quarters of a mile of unnamed freshwater tributaries, and more than a quarter mile of North Bay shoreline. The purchase of this property would conserve the property's extensive aquatic lands for public purposes and give the public access to the water. The County plans to keep the majority of the land undisturbed, but would allow passive recreation, walking on boardwalks or forested trails, environmental education, historical interpretation, and community shellfish harvesting. More than a half-mile of the planned North Bay Trail will pass through the

property. Partners include Capitol Land Trust, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Taylor Shellfish. Mason County will contribute \$1 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1789)

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Replacing the Hidden Cove Park Dock

Grant Requested: \$299,000

The Bainbridge Island park district will use this grant to replace a dilapidated float and dock and restore the tideland and shoreline at Hidden Cove Park in Kitsap County. The park district will provide a new pier, gangway, and float, which will protect the tidelands, improve shoreline functions, and enhance public access to the shoreline. The renovation will add accessibility for people with disabilities and keep the opportunity for hand-launching boats. Interpretive signs will be added that describe shoreline functions that are important for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The County also will remove invasive species along the shoreline and replant as well as remove creosote pilings. Residents have ranked preserving and protecting access to public beaches and shorelines as top priorities in Bainbridge Island's park planning and survey efforts. Hidden Cove Park is important because it gives people access to the popular, yet largely private, Port Madison Bay. The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District will contribute \$299,000. (14-1358)

Pacific County
Building a Trailhead at South Willapa Bay

Grant Requested: \$30,998

Pacific County will use this grant to build a trailhead that will provide the first public access to south Willapa Bay. The property is in Long Beach, east of Sandridge Road, at the end of 95th Street. The project will provide an access point for viewing nature, car-top boating, environmental education, hiking, birding, and photography of this estuary habitat. The present location has no parking, no safe turn-around space, and no defined waterway access. The new trailhead will have 15 parking spaces. The County also will add signs and an informational kiosk. There is no comparable public access to south Willapa Bay on the Long Beach Peninsula. Pacific County will contribute \$30,998 in donations of cash and labor. (14-1086)

Marysville
Developing the Qwuloolt Estuary Trail

Grant Requested: \$342,369

The City of Marysville will use this grant to provide new access to a highly anticipated, 340-acre restoration project on the shoreline of Ebey Slough. The City will improve the dike trail and build a 1.8-mile trail that connects to city-owned trails and trailheads. The main trail head is at the city's Ebey Waterfront Park, which provides parking and a restroom. The City will pave the trail, build two viewpoints overlooking the restored estuary, and install site furnishings, fencing, and interpretive signs that will highlight the restored estuarine habitats and the efforts of the Tulalip Tribes and partners. The trail will provide year-round access to the city's shoreline, which currently is not available. Marysville will contribute \$342,370. (14-1492)

Anderson Island Park and Recreation District
Conserving Jacobs Point Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$82,556

The Anderson Island Park and Recreation District will use this grant to buy and permanently conserve 17.61 acres at Jacobs Point on Anderson Island in south Puget Sound. The land includes most of a small peninsula on the south end of Anderson Island that separates Oro Bay from East Oro Bay, and includes about one-third mile of pristine Puget Sound shoreline, 4 acres of tidelands, and 13 acres of second-growth forest. Purchase of the land will complete Jacobs Point Park and give the public access to an additional 1.2 miles of trails. The purchase also will protect critical salmon habitat and dozens of species of native plants and birds. Oro Bay is one of the closest pocket estuaries to the Nisqually River and provides significant rearing potential for juvenile Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with

extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Oro Bay and East Oro Bay also are part of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve marine protected area. The Anderson Island Park and Recreation District will contribute \$82,556 from a private grant, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and donations of labor. (14-1240)

**Port of Skamania
Restoring Stevenson Shoreline**

Grant Requested: \$344,000

The Port of Skamania will use this grant to build a small waterfront connecting trail and restore the beach on the Columbia River in downtown Stevenson. The Port will restore and conserve 600 feet of shoreline on the Columbia River, which will give the public year-round access to the beach for fishing, swimming, kayaking, kite boarding, windsurfing, walking, bird watching, picnicking, and sightseeing. In addition, the Port will build 475 feet of an accessible, connecting waterfront trail that will connect the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the National Park Service's Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, Skamania Lodge, the Forest Service Center in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and Stevenson Landing Pier. The beach restoration work will include sloping the riverbank and placing root wads there, increasing the shoreline area by 53 percent. The restored shoreline will help endangered Snake River sockeye salmon and salmon species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act such as Snake River spring, summer, and fall Chinook and steelhead; upper and lower Columbia River Chinook; lower Columbia River coho; and middle Columbia River steelhead. The Port of Skamania will contribute \$344,000 from a local grant, cash, and donations of materials. (14-1125)

**Vancouver
Building a Columbia River Waterfront Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Vancouver will use this grant to develop the second phase of a 7.3-acre waterfront park on the Columbia River in downtown Vancouver, west of the Interstate 5 bridge. The City will construct viewpoints and overlooks, pathways, and picnic sites; build a fishing pier; and install a lawn, benches, and interpretive signs that highlight the river's cultural significance and aquatic resources. The project will provide new opportunities for public access to the water and a half-mile of shoreline on the region's largest river. It will achieve the city's vision to reconnect downtown Vancouver to the Columbia River, creating new public access that has been blocked for more than 100 years. The larger project will transform a former industrial site into the city's signature waterfront park. Vancouver will contribute \$1.3 million in cash and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1470)

**Gig Harbor
Building the Ancich Waterfront Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Gig Harbor will use this grant to design and develop a waterfront park. Located midway between Gig Harbor's downtown waterfront centers, the land will include a grassy open area for passive recreation, a ramp and steps to access the shoreline, kayak and canoe storage, and public art. The City will build a shoreline boardwalk, restrooms, and a street-level overlook with seating and spectacular views of the harbor. The City also will install a water fountain, benches, picnic tables, and lighting. The City of Gig Harbor will contribute \$1.1 million in cash and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1457)

**Bellevue
Developing and Restoring Meydenbauer Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to redevelop and expand a park on Lake Washington's Meydenbauer Bay in Bellevue, and restore the shoreline for wildlife. The City will move and expand the swim beach, add a curved pier to protect the swimming area and provide moorage for non-motorized

boats, build a shoreline promenade, create areas for launching and mooring canoes and kayaks, and create an area for picnicking and playing. The City will remove 660 feet of armoring and restore the shoreline to a more natural condition. The City also will remove the piping that holds 500 feet of a stream and develop an estuary-like shallow pool at the outflow to cleanse storm water and improve fish habitat. The City will remove invasive plants and replant the area. This part of the bay is used by coho salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, great blue herons, osprey, and red-tailed hawks. The City of Bellevue will contribute \$3.5 million in cash and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1582)

Poulsbo

Grant Requested: \$426,750

Expanding and Developing Poulsbo's Fish Park

The City of Poulsbo will use this grant to buy 10.05 acres and develop an additional 18.55 acres at Poulsbo's Fish Park. The City will build trails, viewpoints, and parking lots, as well as landscape the area and install interpretive signs. The park is a 30-acre urban nature park on the Liberty Bay estuary, which connects Liberty Bay, Puget Sound, and Dogfish Creek. It has a network of pedestrian trails, viewpoints, educational interpretive signs, and benches. Fish Park is used for passive recreation including wildlife and nature viewing. The park has shorelines, wetlands, and second-growth forests. This park is a natural wildlife corridor in an urban setting, and supports a diverse population of fish, birds, and mammals. Dogfish Creek and the estuary between the saltwater and freshwater habitats are beautiful focal points and highlight the unique setting for the park. The Poulsbo community has been very supportive of this project by contributing tremendous sweat equity and funding from service clubs, churches, businesses, the Suquamish Tribe, and individuals. There are nearly 10,000 hours of documented volunteer work in addition to material and property donations. The City of Poulsbo will contribute \$486,500 in cash and donations of labor and land. (14-1455)

Mercer Island

Grant Requested: \$161,000

Restoring Calkin's Point Shoreline

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to improve Calkins Point at the north end of Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. To create a shoreline that is beneficial to fish and wildlife, the City will pull back the point into a pocket beach and re-graded the land to gently slope to the water's edge. The City will lay gravel on the beach, creating spawning habitat for fish, and place large logs and tree root wads along the beach as well as rocks just above the ordinary high water line to protect the shoreline from erosion by waves. A buried vinyl sheetpile wall will be installed at the upland edge of the beach to retain new park areas. Finally, the City will create a pathway, two picnic areas, and a seating wall. The shorelines next to the recessed beach will be planted with willow trees and the upland area will be planted with native species plants. The work is expected to stabilize the shoreline, improve lake water quality, remove invasive species, enhance habitat for juvenile sockeye and Chinook salmon, create habitat for wildlife, and provide a water access point for park visitors. The preservation and restoration of Calkins Point was identified by the public as a top priority during the development of the Luther Burbank Park Master Plan. The City of Mercer Island will contribute \$171,607 in cash and staff labor. (14-1227)

Port Angeles

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Developing the Waterfront Park and Trail

The City of Port Angeles will use this grant to re develop 3.25 acres along the downtown waterfront. The area will include a wide esplanade, which will accommodate one-third mile of the regional Olympic Discovery Trail and provide access to the Peabody Creek Estuary. The City will plant native plants and soften the armored shoreline with an amphitheater. The project area is bookended by two other parks, and once completed, will provide 8 acres of contiguous park space. The Olympic Discovery Trail runs 130 miles from Port Townsend west to the Pacific Ocean. Improving the connection to this trail in downtown

Port Angeles is critical for the thousands that use this regional trail. The City of Port Angeles will contribute \$1.7 million from its Economic Development Fund and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (14-1190)

**Port of Friday Harbor
Developing a Waterfront Esplanade**

Grant Requested: \$441,900

The Port of Friday Harbor will use this grant to build a waterfront pathway connecting a marina, waterfront park, ferry terminal, and downtown. The Port will build the esplanade, install educational features that tell the story of the local marine ecology, build a stairway to beach, plant native plants along the shoreline, and install seating areas. In addition, the Port will install planting strips, rain gardens, and other features to improve storm water quality and offer opportunities to learn about treating storm water. Every year, thousands of people visit Friday Harbor's downtown waterfront, which receives the most visitors in the San Juan Islands, but there is no link along the water's edge for pedestrians to move freely between important waterfront locations. The Port of Friday Harbor will contribute \$441,901 in cash and a local grant. (14-1647)

**Kirkland
Renovating Waverly Beach Park**

Grant Requested: \$325,665

The City of Kirkland will use this grant to renovate the 2.75-acre Waverly Beach Park on the shores of Lake Washington. The City will remove a shoreline bulkhead, plant plants along the shoreline, and build pathways. Waverly Beach is Kirkland's oldest waterfront park and features a lifeguarded beach, lake access for non-motorized boating, playground, and picnic areas. The City's *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* identifies this project as a high priority, and the City's Shoreline Master Program identifies Waverly Beach as an important shoreline restoration opportunity. The project will improve shoreline habitat for Chinook salmon and improve access to the waterfront for park users. The City of Kirkland will contribute \$325,665 from a voter-approved levy. (14-1748)

**Seattle
Rebuilding the Arboretum Waterfront Trail**

Grant Requested: \$475,000

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to rebuild portions of a floating boardwalk and replace other trails with an elevated boardwalk on Foster Island in Washington Park Arboretum. The existing trail is the only passage over the largest wetland in Seattle and it's a key link in a larger trail network. With unparalleled views, it is frequented by bird watchers and wildlife photographers. School field trips and college classes occur here. The trail connects the arboretum with transit hubs and links two parts of the University of Washington Botanical Gardens by connecting the Union Bay Natural Area with the arboretum. The new boardwalks will protect the wetland from damage by trail users, increase public access to the area, and better connect users with the habitats they are experiencing. Foster Island contains marsh and shorelines that support western pond turtle, bald eagles, and Chinook salmon. The City of Seattle will contribute \$475,000. (14-1341)

**Kenmore
Developing a Bridge to Connect Two Waterfront Parks**

Grant Requested: \$105,702

The City of Kenmore will use this grant to build a bridge over a stream that separates two portions of Kenmore's WaterWalk trail. The bridge also will connect the public portion of Harbour Village Marina and Log Boom Park. Providing this key missing connection to the Kenmore waterfront will improve the public's access to Lake Washington shoreline. The City also will install interpretive signs in the waterfront park. The City of Kenmore will contribute \$105,703. (14-1474)

Port of Everett
Developing the Central Docks Public Trail

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Port of Everett will use this grant to improve its Central Docks Public Trail. The Port will build 810 feet of a multi-use, recreational trail; complete the last one-third mile of a second multi-use recreational trail; and build an over-water viewing platform that will be a cornerstone to the new 1.25-acre Pacific Rim Plaza. The work will bring the Port of Everett a step closer in its efforts to create a comprehensive, public trail system along its waterfront. The trail enhancements will provide access to the largest marina in Washington State, with new public access points to the water's edge and viewing of the entire inner harbor area. The trail also will be lined with interpretive signs denoting the area's colorful history of mills, railroads, and environmental stewardship. The viewing platform will allow visitors to watch the marine life and the small boats coming and going. The platform's railing area is envisioned to have telescopes and periscopes or other types of features for viewing harbor activities. The new infrastructure will be accented with railing, lighting, landscaping, and outdoor furniture. The Port of Everett will contribute \$1.9 million. (14-1450)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014

Title: Management Reports: Director's Report

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities. To minimize duplication, some items that might normally be included in the director's report have been deleted here and included in other memos throughout the notebook (such as the policy director's report, and the grant manager's report).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

In this Report

- Agency update
- Policy update
- Budget update
- Grant management report
- Fiscal report

Agency Update

RCO Organizes National Meeting of LWCF State Leaders

In collaboration with Oregon State Parks, RCO organized the annual meeting of the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) in Vancouver. NASORLO is made up of the agency directors who administer the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside programs in all 50 states and territories. More than 50 members attended, representing 32 states (and one territory – American Samoa). On the first day, the group took a tour of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, had lunch at the historic Edgefield poor farm (now a McMenamins). The next tour stop was the Vista House, which overlooks the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. From there, the group went to Multnomah Falls for a Forest Service tour of the falls and then onto Bonneville Dam to see the fish ladders (shortly after the record-setting day of 68,000 fish in the ladder). The day ended with a tour at Beacon Rock State Park. The second day included a business meeting and strategizing about the reauthorization of the LWCF. RCO staff also gave a demonstration of the newly develop compliance workbench and received positive feedback on the IT solution. The third day was a tour through Oregon and Washington parks, including Clark County's Salmon Creek Greenway.

RCO Joins National Celebration of Grant Program

RCO joined Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Governor Jay Inslee, and the rest of the nation as it celebrated 50 years of the LWCF. RCO distributed information through the Governor's Office via Facebook and Twitter about new projects being funded with our 2014 apportionment of \$907,660 received from the U.S. Department of the Interior in July.

Here's what's getting funded this year:

- Bothell will buy 22 acres of a 64-acre urban forest known as the North Creek Forest.
- The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will develop the Peninsula at Point Defiance Park, including nearly a half-mile of shoreline.
- North Bend will build a plaza and trail in Torguson Park.
- Island County will buy some of the Trillium Community Forest for a new county park on Whidbey Island.

Washington State has received \$71 million from LWCF since 1965. We are working with many partners on the reauthorization of the federal Act.

Washington State Trails Conference

The Washington State Trails Coalition (coalition) is wrapping up the final details for the October 16-18 State Trails Conference, at the Lakeway Inn Conference Center in Bellingham. This is the state's largest and most comprehensive gathering of trail users, planners, funders, and supporters. There will be more than 30 breakout sessions, field trips, and keynote presentations by two incredible keynote speakers - bike trail guru Mia Birk and author of the trail-builder's bible, *Lightly on the Land*, Robert Birkby. RCO staff will participate in three breakout sessions: Darrell Jennings and Leslie Connelly will present a session on investing in outdoor recreation; Rory Calhoun will host a session on understanding the new federal accessibility requirements for trails; Darrell Jennings will participate in a panel discussion on the career paths of trail professionals and the future of trail jobs. RCO staff also will provide staff support before and during the conference. Visit the coalition's website: <http://washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org/> for more information.

State Trails Database

RCO has signed an agreement with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to create the first statewide geospatial database of Washington state trails and trailheads. An RCO-approved grant of \$177,636 from the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Program will be used by the OCIO to pull together data from federal, state, and local entities to create this database. Plans are to verify as much of the data as is possible and to build a web-based application that is geared toward trails associations who will post improvements to the data. Maps and data will be made available through [ArcGIS Online](#) and through [Washington State's Geospatial Portal](#).

RCO Joins Facebook

RCO has joined the Facebook community. Check out our page at <http://www.facebook.com/WSRCO> and please "like," "share," or "friend" us so we can spread the word about the great work that you all are doing.

Employee News

We've hired a new executive coordinator for the Invasive Species Council. Raquel Crosier will begin working here in mid to late December. Raquel is a former Invasive Species Council member, having represented the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from 2011-2013, and is currently completing a master's degree in conservation biology at the University of New South Wales. Her area of study is on biodiversity loss and invasive species. Before working at the NPCC, Raquel was the legislative assistant to Senator Phil Rockefeller and committee assistant to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. She brings with her a deep knowledge of invasive species issues in the Pacific Northwest, as well as excellent policy, research, and administrative skills.



Meetings with Partners

- On September 13, Karl Jacobs attended the grand opening of Bremerton's newest inclusive playground at Evergreen Rotary Park. City staff worked closely with Bremerton's Beyond Accessible Play advocacy group to create the City's (and Kitsap County's) first fully accessible playground designed to provide play opportunities for all children regardless of ability. The playground features 10 play structures, a seating wall, and artificial playground grass surfacing, the first use of such a surface material in an RCO funded project. A "cozy dome" and shade trees were installed to the side of the playground behind the seating wall to provide a calm resting area separate from the active play components. This feature, as well as the layout of the play area, helps provide a sense of enclosure, which is important for some kids, especially those with autism that have a tendency to get over-stimulated. Other improvements included accessible parking and pathways, landscaping, benches, and bike racks. A grant of \$211,350 from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Local Parks Category funded this number one ranked project. The City used a combination of local funds and federal and private grants to complete the improvements.
- Director Cottingham met with partners to explain RCO's budget decision packages, including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Washington Association of Land Trusts, Washington Trails Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, as well as several key legislators and their staff.
- Director Kaleen Cottingham spoke at the Burien's Seahurst Park ribbon cutting ceremony for this major shoreline ecosystem restoration project, in which the City used a \$750,000 grant from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program to return the northern portion of the park and shoreline to a restored, accessible, and more natural condition. Over the years, RCO has funded 8 grants for more than \$6.3 million for development and renovation at Seahurst Park.
- Board Member Pete Mayer spoke at the ribbon cutting for Mount Vernon's downtown revitalization and flood control project. The City received three RCO grants for more than \$1.7 million to build a park and trail on the downtown waterfront.
- Several of RCO team members attended the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition's annual breakfast meeting. It was here that Governor Jay Inslee rolled out the recommendations of his Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Update on Sister Boards

- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB):** The SRFB annual travel meeting was held on September 17-18 in Winthrop. Almost 50 people from the local region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), RCO, and the Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Board attended the tour of funded sites on September 17. The board also had the opportunity to hear from local citizens about the resiliency of salmon recovery efforts and of the general community after the recent wildfires. The second day of the meeting focused on the approval of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grants, Intensively Monitored Watershed projects, and annual monitoring contracts.
- **Washington Invasive Species Council:** The Washington Invasive Species Council met September 11 and shared hot topics on nutria control at Capital Lake, the 2014 Pacific Northwest Economic Region meeting on invasive species, Spartina and gypsy moth control efforts, proposed changes to the 2015 state noxious weed list and plant quarantine list, Eurasian watermilfoil control efforts in the Columbia River, and new guidance from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on carrier contamination. The council also discussed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed invasive species legislation to fund its aquatic invasive species program. Jill Silver, from the 10,000 Years Institute,

attended the meeting to talk to the council about funding a weed economic assessment for Washington State. Margaret Tudor, from the Pacific Education Institute, shared all of the great work the institute has done on the council's behalf to incorporate invasive species education and prevention protocols into elementary through high school education. Council members continued working on their strategic plan update.

- **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group:** The lands group met September 11 and shared information about the upcoming forecast report, Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation, outdoor recreation economic study, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee public lands economic impact assessment, and agency budget submittals for the 2015-17 biennium. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation on the development of its priority landscapes work, and RCO's Jen Masterson demonstrated the public lands inventory web application. Staff is working on writing the *Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report*.

Policy Update

Outdoor Task Force Crosses Finish Line

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation submitted its report to Governor Jay Inslee on September 19, right on target. In early September, Director Kaleen Cottingham, Jim Fox, and Co-chair Barb Chamberlain briefed the Governor on the draft recommendations. He asked that the Task Force to do more work on identifying ways to pay for the recommendations, which the team followed up on in their final recommendations. The final report has a dozen, near-term action items and can be viewed on RCO's website: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/ORTF-Recommendations.pdf>. The Governor then launched the report at the annual breakfast for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition. In late September, members of the task force briefed the House of Representative's Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government & Information Technology and the Environment Committee on the final report. They discussed the recommendations and the proposed funding mechanisms.

Budget Update

RCO's Budget Submitted

RCO's budgets (both operating and capital) were submitted to the Office of Financial Management in early September. The details of our budget have been posted on our [website](#). The Governor's budget will be released in December. In addition to our budgets, RCO's has submitted a request to pursue legislation to change the administrative rate charged in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. This bill requests a change from the flat 3 percent administrative rate to a rate calculation based on actual administrative costs averaged over the past five biennia. Director Kaleen Cottingham and RCO staff met with several key legislators, committee staff, and interested groups to get their feedback both on the concept of the bill and clarity of the bill language. Their input was incorporated into the submitted version.

Grant Management Report

New National Federal Competitive Grant Program

Director Kaleen Cottingham approved the submission of two projects for the new national LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program. The projects are Kent's Lake Meridian Dock Replacement and Bellevue's Inspiration Playground. The two cities are requesting \$500,000 for each project to improve or expand outdoor recreation sites. Earlier this year, the National Park Service announced plans for this national competitive grant program. Each state could submit two projects for consideration. The program targets projects that acquire or develop outdoor recreation sites in areas with 50,000 or more people. The two projects selected were submitted as part of the 2014 LWCF grants cycle. The LWCF advisory committee reviewed three projects that qualified for the competition and recommended submittal of these two based on the federal evaluation criteria. The National Park Service will review and select projects this fall and award grants by March 2015.

Recreation and Conservation Grants

As of September 30, RCO's advisory committees completed reviews for all of the grant programs except for the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities and Recreational Trail Program, which will be completed in October. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will review the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants at its October meeting; the rest will be approved at its June 2015 board meeting.

Boating Infrastructure Grants

Director Kaleen Cottingham approved the submission of two grant applications for funding through the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant program. With federal approval, the Port of Willapa Harbor will receive a \$75,970 grant for its Tokeland Marina Transient Float Expansion and the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority will receive \$55,155 for the Seaport Landing Visiting Vessel Moorage project. Congress created the Boating Infrastructure Grant program under the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998. The program is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provides funds for developing and renovating boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Final grant awards are expected early next year.

Recreation and Conservation Grant Applications

Applicants are requesting \$36.5 million in grant funds for 250 outdoor recreation projects submitted on July 1st. The table below provides a summary of the grant requests for four programs.

Grant Programs	Number of Projects	Grant Requests	Applicant Match	Total
Boating Facilities Program	34	\$16,571,422	\$8,942,399	\$25,513,821
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	11	\$677,291	\$556,243	\$1,233,534
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	127	\$13,784,991	\$7,531,754	\$21,316,745
Recreational Trails Program	78	\$5,784,295	\$7,800,268	\$13,584,563
Total	250	\$36,817,999	\$24,830,664	\$61,648,663

Compared to the 2012 grant cycle, the number of grant applications for this round is up 10 percent and the total amount requested is up by 22 percent. The most significant changes are in the Firearms and

Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program and the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program. FARR applications are down by 35 percent; however, NOVA grant applications are up by 20 percent. Advisory committees will complete their evaluation of these projects in early November.

In August, the board approved a budget request of \$23.6 million for this portfolio of projects. Following approval of the State’s capital budget next year, the board will approve the ranked list and award grants at the June 2015 meeting.

Land Water Conservation Fund Grants

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell recently announced Congressional approval of \$907,660 for the state of Washington for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. This federal fiscal year 2014 apportionment represents a 9.9 percent increase over funds approved for 2013. The LWCF program provides matching grants to states to acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas for public use

At the June 2013 meeting, the board approved the ranked list of LWCF projects for the 2013-2015 biennium and delegated authority to the Director to award grants, pending Congressional approval of funds for federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014. Using 2013 funds, Director Cottingham approved full funding for two projects and partial funding for the third ranked project. Table 2 shows the top ranked alternates and the grant funds approved for each project. The total amount approved is less than the total available to the state because it reflects the amount deducted for RCO administration. The Trillium Community Forest project received a matching grant through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Table 2. LWCF Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request*	Funds Approved	Unfunded Balance
12-1230A	North Creek Forest Acquisition, Phase 2	City of Bothell	\$154,470	\$154,470	-0-
12-1555D	The Peninsula at Point Defiance	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	\$500,000	\$500,000	-0-
12-1470D	Torguson Park Plaza and Loop Trail	City of North Bend	\$127,350	\$127,350	-0-
12-1613C	Trillium Community Forest Land and Water Conservation Fund 2	Island County	\$500,000	\$89,925	\$410,075
Total			\$1,281,820	\$871,745	\$410,075

* Amount shown for the North Creek Forest Acquisition reflects the unfunded balance.

Using Returned Funds for Alternates and Partially-Funded Projects

I recently awarded three new grants for the alternate projects shown in Table 3. The funds are from projects that did not use the full amount of their grant awards.

Table 3. Funds for Unfunded Alternates

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program Category	Grant Request	Funds Approved
12-1091D	Islands Trailhead Driftboat Access	Spokane County Conservation District	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$54,080	\$54,080
06-1763D	Whitehorse Trail: Arlington to Trafton	Snohomish County	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Trails Category	\$75,000	\$75,000
12-1178A	Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Areas	Department of Natural Resources	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category	\$2,610,510	\$1,003,695

Also, as unused funds have become available from other projects, I have approved additional funding for partially funded projects. Table 4 shows original grant award and the total grant funds now approved for each project.

Table 4. Funds for Partially Funded Alternate Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program Category	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Unfunded Balance
12-1299C	Waterfront Transportation Improvement Plan – Westend Park	City of Port Angeles	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$468,900	\$468,900	-0-
12-1332D	Levee Street Boat Launch Renovation	City of Hoquiam	Boating Facilities Program	\$525,000	\$473,202	\$51,798
12-1048E	Mount Baker Ranger District Mountain Stewards	U.S. Forest Service, Mount-Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District	Recreational Trails Program, Education	\$20,000	\$15,923	\$4,077
12-1539M	Mount Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Mount-Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District	Recreational Trails Program, General	\$60,000	\$42,033	\$17,967

Project Administration

This table summarizes the outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects currently being administered by staff:

- Active projects are under agreement.
- Staff are working with sponsors to place the "Director Approved" projects under agreement.

Program	Active Projects	Board Funded Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	14	0	0	14
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	31	0	0	31
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	3	0	0	3
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	11	0	0	11
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	7	0	3	10
Marine Shoreline Protection (MSP)	0	0	2	2
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	102	0	0	102
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	62	0	2	64
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	145	0	8	153
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	5	0	0	5
Total	380	0	15	395

In addition to managing the projects shown in this table, staff is processing nearly 500 grant applications and has several hundred funded projects they monitor for long-term compliance.

Fiscal Report

The following financial reports reflect Recreation and Conservation Funding Board activities as of September 23, 2014. You will see:

- The budget status of board activities by program.
- The budget status of the entire agency by board.
- Revenue collections. We are on track to meet our projections.
- A Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) summary and history of committed and expenditures. Since 1990, \$632 million have been spent in WWRP.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Activities by Program

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 9/26/2014 Fiscal Month 14. Percentage of biennium reported: 62.5%.

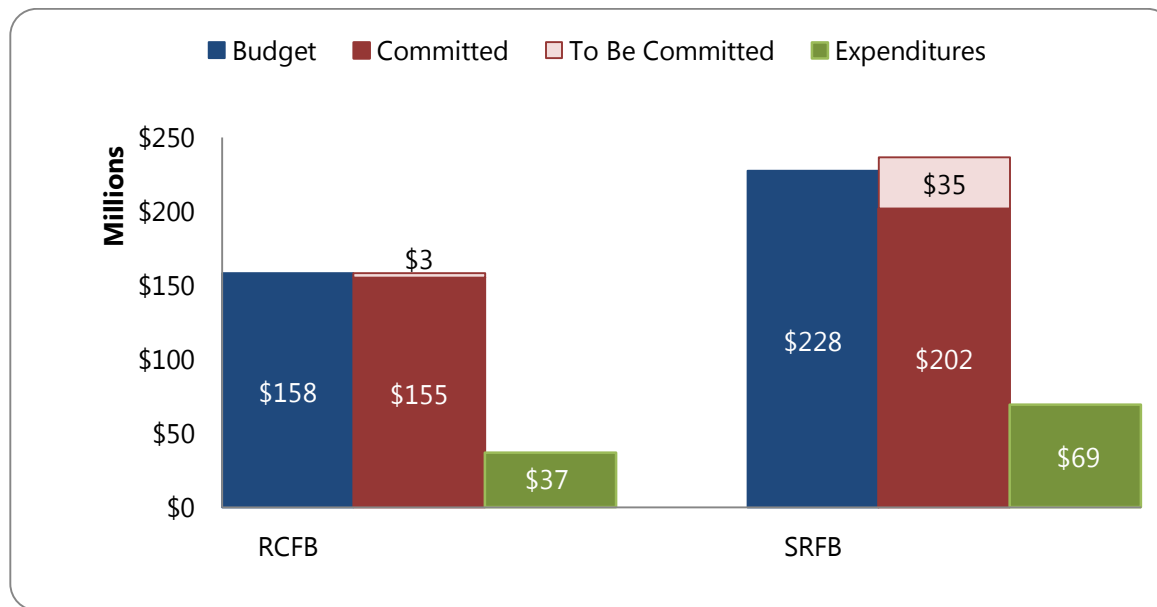
Grant Programs	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New & Re-appropriation 2013-2015 (\$)	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% Expended of Committed
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)							
WWRP Re-appropriations	\$43,402,789	\$41,106,109	94.7%	\$2,296,680	5.3%	\$8,165,238	19.9%
WWRP New 13-15 Funds	63,050,000	63,039,631	100.0%	10,369	0.0%	9,426,173	15.0%
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)							
BFP Re-appropriations	4,767,400	4,767,400	100.0%	0	0.0%	2,781,920	58.4%
BFP New 13-15 Funds	6,363,000	6,363,000	100.0%	0	0.0%	2,327,388	36.6%
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)							
NOVA Re-appropriations	3,912,066	3,889,047	99.4%	23,020	0.6%	2,304,710	59.3%
NOVA New 13-15 Funds	8,075,900	8,026,735	99.4%	49,165	0.6%	2,055,413	25.6%
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)							
LWCF Re-appropriations	1,083,757	1,083,757	100.0%	0	0.0%	690,127	63.7%
LWCF New 13-15 Funds	697,500	697,500	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)							
ALEA Re-appropriations	3,160,577	3,036,460	96.1%	124,117	3.9%	1,417,283	46.7%
ALEA New 13-15 Funds	6,000,000	6,000,000	100.0%	0	0.0%	1,315,826	21.9%
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)							
RTP Re-appropriations	1,564,369	1,564,369	100.0%	0	0.0%	997,152	63.7%
RTP New 13-15 Funds	3,383,719	3,383,719	100.0%	0	0.0%	440,379	13.0%
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)							
YAF Re-appropriations	395,675	193,559	48.9%	202,116	51.1%	153,145	79.1%
YAF New 13-15 Funds							
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)							
FARR Re-appropriations	346,158	345,396	99.8%	762	0.2%	78,035	22.6%
FARR New 13-15 Funds	800,000	800,000	100.0%	0	0.0%	527,819	66.0%
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)							
BIG Re-appropriations	488,841	488,841	100.0%	0	0.0%	176,696	36.1%
BIG New 13-15 Funds	0	0	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sub Total Grant Programs	152,172,196	149,328,624	98.1%	2,843,572	1.9%	33,657,242	22.1%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	6,121,924	6,121,924	100.0%	0	0.0%	3,440,464	56.2%
Grant / Administration Total	158,294,120	155,450,548	98.2%	2,843,572	1.8%	37,097,706	23.4%

Note: The budget column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

2013-15 Capital and Operating Budget Status for the Recreation and Conservation Office

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 9/26/2014 Fiscal Month 14. Percentage of biennium reported: 62.5%.

Board/Program	New (\$)	Re-appropriation (\$)	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
			New and Re-appropriation 2013-2015 (\$)	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% of Committed
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board	95,891,838	62,402,282	158,294,120	155,450,548	98.2%	2,843,572	1.8%	37,097,706	24%
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	88,997,023	138,776,735	227,773,758	202,135,732	88.7%	34,682,332	15.2%	69,240,069	34%
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	885,380	\$0	885,380	885,380	100.0%	\$0	0.0%	480,984	54%
Invasive Species Council	200,000	\$0	200,000	200,000	100.0%	\$0	0.0%	96,121	48%
Total	\$185,974,241	\$201,179,017	\$387,153,258	\$358,671,660	92.6%	\$37,525,904	9.7%	\$106,914,880	30%



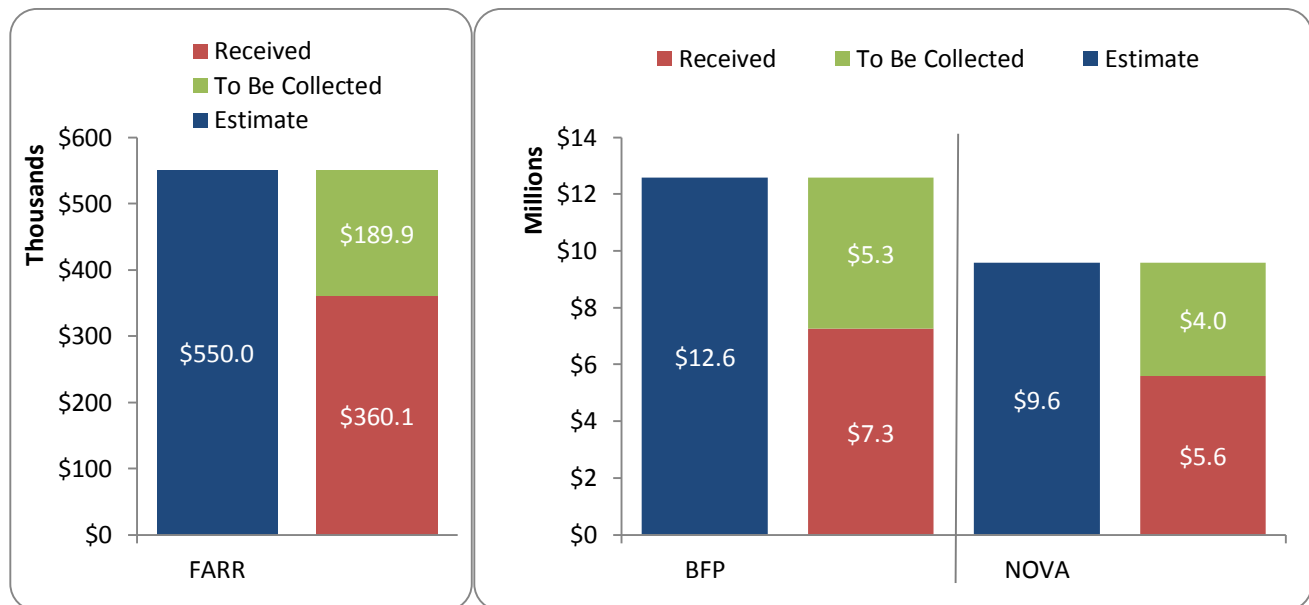
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Revenue Report

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 8/31/2014 Fiscal Month 14. Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3%.

PROGRAM	BIENNIAL FORECAST	COLLECTIONS	
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$12,591,897	\$7,257,945	57.6%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$9,577,416	\$5,582,026	58.3%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$550,000	\$360,051	65.5%
Total	\$22,719,313	\$13,200,022	58.1%

Revenue Notes:

- Boating Facilities Program (BFP) revenue is from unrefunded marine gasoline taxes.
- Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of ORVs and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by ORV use permits.
- Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR) revenue is from \$3 each concealed pistol license fee.
- This reflects the most recent revenue forecast of September 2014. The next forecast is due in November 2014.



Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) Biennial Appropriations Summary

Biennium	Appropriation (\$)
89-91 Biennium	53,000,000
91-93 Biennium	61,150,000
93-95 Biennium	65,000,000
95-97 Biennium ¹	43,760,000
97-99 Biennium	45,000,000
99-01 Biennium	48,000,000
01-03 Biennium	45,000,000
03-05 Biennium	45,000,000
05-07 Biennium ²	48,500,000
07-09 Biennium ³	95,491,955
09-11 Biennium ⁴	67,344,750
11-13 Biennium ⁵	40,740,000
13-15 Biennium ⁶	63,050,000

Grand Total **\$721,036,705**

Notes:

¹ Original appropriation was \$45 million.

² Entire appropriation was \$50 million; 3% or \$1,500,000, went to administration.

³ Entire appropriation was \$100 million; 3% or \$3,000,000 went to administration, removed \$981,000 with FY10 supplemental budget.

⁴ Entire appropriation was \$70 million; 3% or \$2,100,000 went to administration.

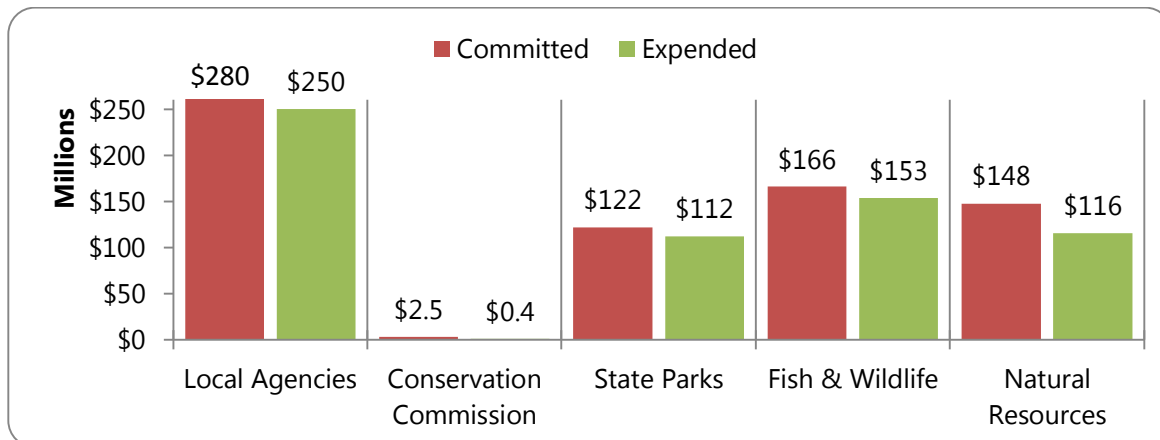
⁵ Entire appropriation was \$42 million; 3% or \$1,260,000 went to administration.

⁶ Entire appropriation was \$65 million; 3% or \$1,950,000 went to administration.

WWRP Expenditure Rate, by Agency or Organization

Agency	Committed (\$)	Expenditures (\$)	Percent Expended
Local Agencies	\$280,348,860	\$249,923,237	89%
Conservation Commission	\$2,549,463	\$356,783	14%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$121,734,516	\$112,001,572	92%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$165,734,914	\$153,482,989	93%
Department of Natural Resources	\$147,626,891	\$115,528,970	78%
Riparian Habitat Administration	\$185,046	\$185,046	100%
Land Inventory	\$549,965	\$549,965	100%
Subtotal Committed	\$718,729,655	\$632,028,563	88%

History of Committed and Expended Funds for WWRP Program










Performance Report

The following sections highlight the agency's performance related to the projects funded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board).

Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2015

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2015. Data are current as of September 25, 2014. Performance so far this fiscal year was impacted by the application process, during which grant manager's workloads were prioritized to focus on application review, site visits, and sponsor support during technical review and evaluation. Managers expect that performance measures will increase during the remainder of the year, when staff resume their regular grant management duties.

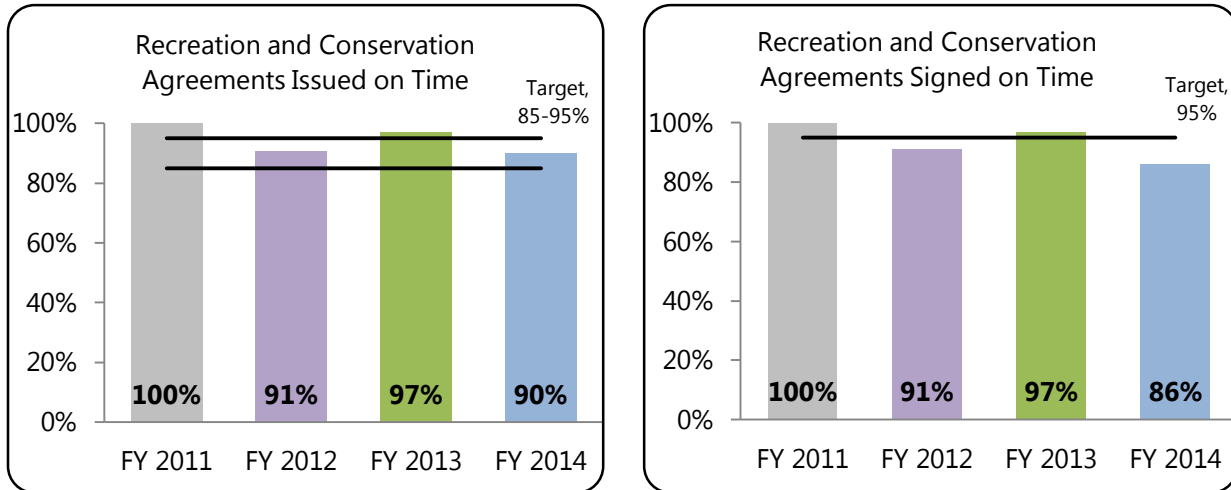
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal year-to-date	Status	Notes
Percent of Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	85-95%	91%		A total of 34 projects were scheduled to come under agreement this fiscal year. For projects where an agreement has been issued, staff took an average of 28 days.
Percent of Projects Under Agreement within 180 Days of Board Funding	95%	81%		A total of 32 projects were scheduled to be under agreement so far this fiscal year.
Percent of Progress Reports Responded to On Time	65-75%	63%		A total of 122 progress reports have been due so far this fiscal year. Of these, 77 were responded to in 15 days or less.
Percent of Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	75%		This fiscal year to date 232 bills have come due. For bills which were paid, staff took an average of 14 days. There are 30 bills which remain unpaid.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	60-70%	20%		Four of 20 projects closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	0	51		These projects have spent a median of 92 days on the backlog. Staff continue to work with sponsors to get the proper documentation to close backlog projects.
Number of Post-Completion Inspections	No target set	20	NA	
Percent of Project Sponsors Submitting Annual Bill	100%	51%		Of the 376 active recreation and conservation projects, 190 have submitted a bill this fiscal year. The remaining sponsors have until June 30 to submit a bill.

Performance Measure Summary for Fiscal Year 2014

The following graphs show time series performance data for recreation and conservation projects from fiscal year 2012-2014.

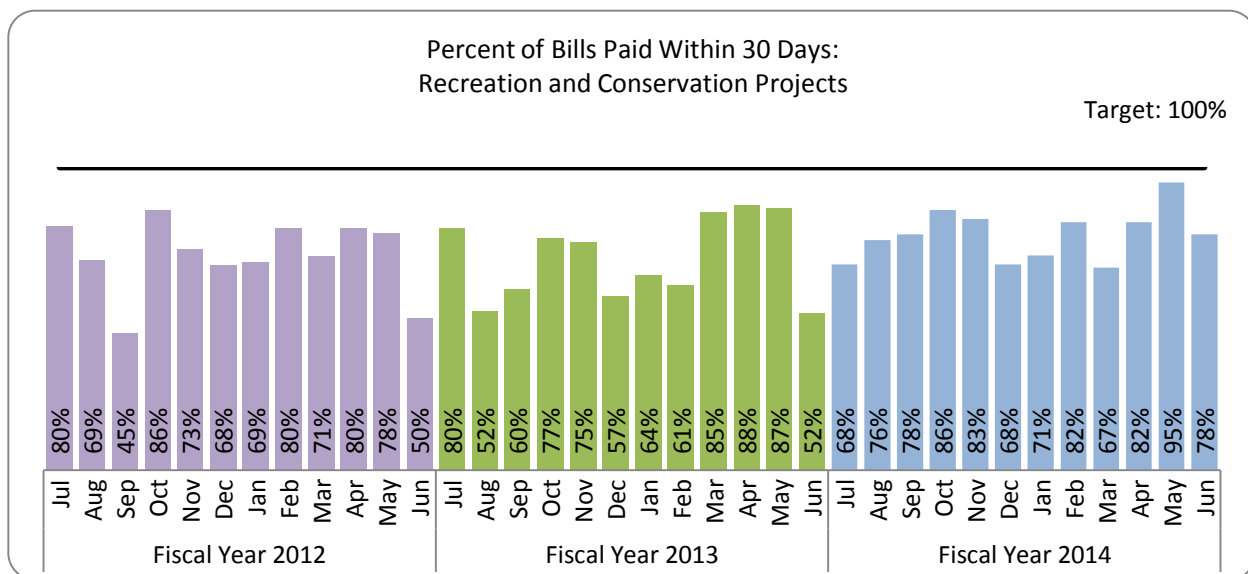
Project Agreements Issued and Under Agreement on Time



RCO staff processed a total of just under 250 recreation and conservation agreements in fiscal year 2014. Although staff were well within the target range for issuing agreements, there was a dip in agreements signed on time.

Delays in the sponsor's review of agreements are a factor influencing this measure. Some sponsor organizations have a lengthy agreement signature process that includes review by several of their staff and approval by the sponsor's governing board or council. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had a change in their organizational routing process for agreements that caused delays in 2014.

Bills Paid within 30 days

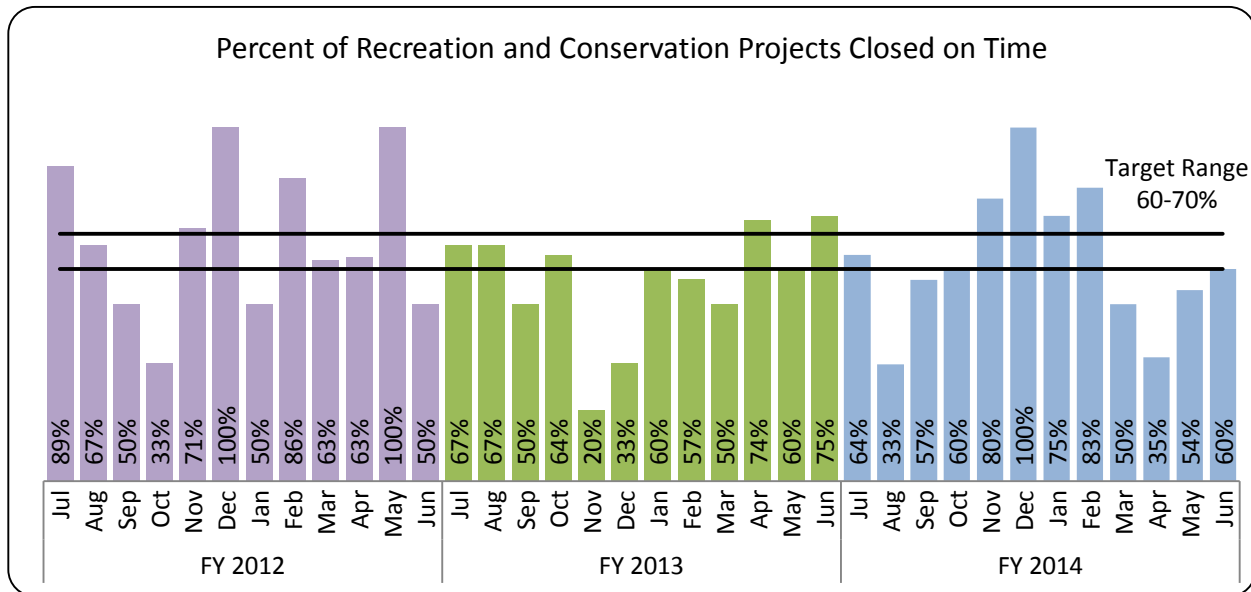


In fiscal year 2014, RCO staff received a total of 642 recreation and conservation project bills. Seventy-eight percent of these bills were paid on time. Only eleven bills were outstanding when the fiscal year came to a close, compared to 53 in fiscal year 2013.

Factors influencing whether bills are paid on time include the sponsor’s ability to submit complete bills with all the required attachments and RCO staff’s ability to review these bills in a timely manner once new information is submitted.

RCO staff anticipate that the roll-out of the electronic billing system in early 2015 will greatly improve the agency’s ability to meet the target of 100 percent.

Projects Closed On Time



These data reflect the 431 recreation and conservation projects that were scheduled to close since fiscal year 2012. Over the past three fiscal years, projects have an average on-time closure rate of 62 percent. The target range of 60-70 percent appears to be an appropriate agency target.

A variety of factors impact the ability of projects to close on time, including the sponsor’s ability to satisfy special conditions, meet requirements for barrier-free access, and whether RCO staff receive all of the required documentation in a timely manner.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Feedback on the Grant Evaluation Process
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

At the October meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will outline for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), some of the comments received during the evaluation process. RCO staff will also discuss the upcoming survey that is to be sent to all applicants, volunteers and staff.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

Applicants submitted more than 500 grant applications in 2014 for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) consideration. Advisory committees, appointed by RCO's Director, reviewed and ranked the proposals using board adopted evaluation criteria. Following the evaluations, RCO staff conducts a post evaluation meeting with each of the standing advisory committees. This meeting provides an opportunity for the evaluators to:

- Review the evaluation results,
- Discuss the evaluation criteria,
- Talk about the technical review and evaluation processes, and
- Exchange ideas for improvements before the next grants cycle.

Although evaluations are still underway, so far staff has conducted twelve post-evaluation meetings. Here is a summary of some of the comments or suggestions from evaluators.

Comments from Volunteer Evaluators

Evaluation Results

Across-the-board, the evaluation results were fairly consistent with how evaluators anticipated projects would rank. As expected there were projects that individual evaluators expressed surprise at either how low or how high they ranked, but overall, evaluators were pleased with the results. Evaluators shared with staff why they thought projects were at the top or bottom of the list. The comments shared will help staff work with individual applicants who plan to resubmit their proposals in 2016.

Evaluation Criteria

At the end of evaluation meeting, staff asks the advisory committee if there were challenges with using any of the board approved evaluation criteria. Here are some of the evaluator observations, comments and suggestions.

The new board-adopted criteria for *Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship* worked well for the most part; however, the Local Parks Advisory Committee believes the environmental considerations for acquisitions do not support purchase of properties for developed outdoor recreation. The Trails Advisory Committee, like other advisors, felt that most applicants addressed sustainability when they responded to the *Project Design* criterion.

The *Immediacy of Threat* criterion was challenging for applicants and evaluators, particularly for properties acquired under a waiver of retroactivity. Once the property is in public ownership, it is difficult for applicants to clearly articulate what was the threat at the time of purchase, how imminent it was, and why they had to act before grant funds are available.

The revised *Cost Efficiency* question did not work as well as expected. How applicants categorized their match in the application was not always consistent with how they addressed the evaluation criterion. Also, there was confusion about the bonus point for private funds or donations. Several evaluators thought the board might want to modify this criterion for scoring by RCO staff.

The *Wildlife Habitat Connectivity* criterion for Trails category projects is a difficult element to measure. Like previous evaluation teams, the Trails Advisory Committee has suggestions for improvements. First they believe the criterion should measure how well a project enhances continuity or creation of new habitat. Second, they suggest changing the question title to mirror the RCW language, "enhancement of wildlife habitat". Third, they suggest considering whether the criterion is more applicable for acquisition projects rather than developments.

The State Parks Advisory Committee used a new evaluation instrument developed for that category. The new criteria were well received. Advisors suggest staff look at expanding the annotated explanations for *Readiness to Proceed* and *Expansion/Phased Project* to help evaluators and applicants better understand the intent of the criteria and make them easier to score. Evaluators also suggested that the board may want to add a *Need Satisfaction* criterion to measure how well a project satisfies the need identified in the first criterion and add a *Project Support* question.

The Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee wants the board to consider breaking apart some of the merged criteria for Riparian Protection projects for easier scoring. For example, *Riparian Habitat Benefits* would be divided into two criteria. Evaluators would score the habitat benefits separate from the benefits to fish and wildlife species. *Site Suitability and Project Design* would be split into two criteria. Other considerations from this advisory committee include expanding the criteria for restoration projects to further assess ongoing stewardship and management to include monitoring, assessment and evaluation measures for the purpose of disseminating the project results, lessons learned, refinement of best management practices, and so on.

The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee would like the board to consider modification of the criteria for *Environmental Values*. The factors to consider appear to be somewhat contradictory to the primary purpose of protecting the lands for agricultural uses. Also, under *Viability*, evaluators reward applicants for protecting property in an agricultural protection district instead of property without the protection of local zoning ordinances.

The design of the evaluation criteria for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account projects presents a different kind of challenge. The advisory committee, applicants, and staff struggle with determining which criteria an applicant needs to address. Applicants are asked to address the questions tied to the primary purpose of the project which may be protection and enhancement, public access, or both. Applicants are especially disappointed when their project is categorized as a single purpose project and they are not eligible for all of the points available. Simplifying the evaluation instrument would make it easier for applicants to understand how to scope a project to satisfy the primary goals of the program.

Evaluation Process

Most of the technical reviews and evaluations involve in-person presentations, although the board has approved a written evaluation process for some programs or categories. Four committees use both to evaluate projects in different programs or categories. Evaluators believe the two processes work, but gave strong support for continuing to use in-person presentations for several reasons: many like the structured approach, the opportunity to ask clarifying questions, the benefit of consulting with other committee members, and the openness of the process. Evaluators who used both processes thought using a written process for categories that involved only state agency applicants was acceptable; however, they missed having the opportunity to follow-up with the applicants.

All of the advisory committees commented on the quality of the projects and presentations. In some programs or categories they felt that virtually all of the projects were strong and worthy of state investment. Evaluators also expressed appreciation for the applicants and all of the work they put into submitting applications, making the revisions suggested at technical review, and bringing back well-thought out proposal for evaluation. Evaluators encouraged staff to continue to emphasize the importance of rehearsing presentations beforehand to maximize the small window of opportunity for them to see, hear, question and score the project.

Other Areas for Improvements

Here is one example of another area where advisors suggested we may want to make improvements.

The WWRP statute defines "trails" as "...public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians."¹ Board policy states that trails along roadways must be separated by a physical barrier. After reviewing projects that raised questions about their eligibility, staff and the Trails Advisory Committee believe that further clarification is needed to explain what is considered an acceptable barrier for a trail that is part of or adjacent to a street or road. The additional work would be particularly helpful to applicants and staff in determining project fit and eligibility for this category and the State Lands Development and Renovation category which uses the same definition for trails.

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010(11)

Applicant, Volunteer and Staff Surveys

RCO will be soliciting additional feedback from applicants, volunteer evaluators and staff. RCO conducts surveys after each board grant cycle. Past comments have resulted in changes to how the agency conduct business the following grant cycle. Below are the general topics asked of each group RCO intends to survey this year.

Applicants
Getting Started: Webinar and online tools
Application Process
Project technical review
Project evaluation process
Working with your Outdoor Grants Manager

Volunteers Evaluators
Experience with project technical review
Experience with project evaluation
Working with RCO staff
What went well?
What were the challenges?

Staff
Webinar and online tools
Project technical review
Project evaluation
What went well?
What were the challenges?

Next Steps

Surveys will be finalized and deployed in November. Staff will compile the results from the survey along with the information gathered during the grants process and provide an overview to the board at its first meeting in 2015.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Youth and Community Athletic Facilities Update
Prepared by: Leslie Connelly, Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo updates the board on the request in the 2015-17 capital budget for the Youth and Community Athletic Facilities program and proposes a work plan to revise the program in anticipation of funding.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

At the July Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting, staff briefed the board on the history and scope of the Youth and Community Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program. During the meeting, the board discussed a potential capital budget request to reinvigorate the program, including a narrower scope of the types of projects (improving and maintaining existing facilities) and a larger scope of the types of applicants (cities, counties, park districts, Native American tribes, and non-profit sports organizations) that the program might include. The board directed staff to solicit letters of intent from prospective applicants who would like to apply for a grant should funding be appropriated in the 2015-17 capital budget.

At the August board meeting, staff presented the results of the solicitation for letters of intent to apply for a YAF grant. There were 193 submittals requesting \$38.8 million in grant funds with \$60.6 million in matching funds for a total of \$99.4 million. The grant request amounts ranged from \$500 to \$1.5 million. The average request was \$200,000.

Based on the letters of intent submitted, the board directed staff to request \$12 million in general obligation bond funds in the 2015-17 capital budget and a request to retain five percent of any appropriation for program administration (Resolution #2014-17).

Update

In September, staff submitted the 2015-17 capital budget request of \$12 million in general obligation bonds for the YAF program. In anticipation of funds appropriated by the legislature, staff developed a work plan for revising the YAF grant program (See Table 1). A major goal of the work plan is the ability for the board to award grant funds as soon as possible should the legislature approve funds in the capital budget. An advantage to this approach is that funds would be obligated quickly. It would also provide

more time for project sponsors to implement their projects before the end of the biennium. However, if the legislature does not appropriate funds, a disadvantage to this approach is that RCO would dedicate significant staff resources to preparing the application and evaluation process including the recruitment of volunteer evaluators and applicants would allocate their time to apply, but the board would have no grant funds to award.

Table 1: Proposed YAF Program Timeline

Task	When
Draft revisions to YAF program policy statements and evaluation criteria	October – December 2014
Solicit public comments and conduct stakeholder outreach	December 2014
Incorporate public comments	January – February 2015
Board review and adopt policy statements and evaluation criteria	March 2015
Prepare application materials and post on Web	April 2015
Applications open	July 2015
Application evaluations	August 2015
Board approves YAF grant funding	September 2015

Based on this proposed timeline, the board would approve the YAF program policies and evaluation criteria in March 2015. The draft documents would reflect changes to the policies and evaluation criteria in response to public comments received. In March, if the board felt the draft materials needed additional work, staff would provide revised materials at the June 2015 meeting and adjust the timeline accordingly.

Board Direction

Staff requests board direction on whether to proceed with the proposed timeline in Table 1 to prepare for the YAF program in 2015.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of capital funds for the YAF program enables the board to fulfill its goals and supports the following objectives and strategies:

- Objective 1.A. – Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.
- Strategy 1.A.1. – Evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state’s recreation and conservation needs.
- Objective 1.B. – Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Public Hearing
Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist/Rules Coordinator

Summary

This memo presents a staff recommendation for amendments to the administrative rules in Chapter 286-06 of the Washington Administrative Code titled Public Records and outlines the required public review process for the adoption of the amendments.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Resolution: 2014-31

Purpose of Resolution: Adopts amendments to Chapter 286-06 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Background

Administrative rules are regulations of executive branch agencies issued by authority of state statutes. The Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) administrative rules are found in [Title 286 of the Washington Administrative Code](#) (WAC). The rules cover a number of subjects including general authorities of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) and RCO director, general grant assistance rules, and specific program rules. The rules are organized into the following chapters:

Chapter	Title
286-04	General
286-06	Public Records
286-13	General Grant Assistance Rules
286-26	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Funds
286-27	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
286-30	Firearms Range
286-35	Boating Facilities Program
286-40	Land and Water Conservation Fund
286-42	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Program

At the July 2014 board meeting, staff proposed a number of revisions to [Title 286 WAC](#) that would consider non-substantive changes to reorganize chapters and reformat all sections to the question and answer format. Staff also proposed substantive changes to update definitions and amend rules for project agreements and long-term grant compliance for most grant programs.

Since July, staff completed proposed rulemaking for [Chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records](#). Below is an analysis of proposed revisions to this chapter. Staff continues to work on other proposed revisions as discussed at the July 2014 board meeting and expects to have additional revisions prepared for the board's consideration in early 2015.

Analysis

Proposed Amendments Chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records

The purpose of the proposed amendments to [Chapter 286-06 WAC](#) titled Public Records is to revise the RCO's procedures for maintaining public records and fulfilling public records requests. The revisions incorporate procedures for electronic public records and change the costs for fulfilling public records requests. The revisions substantially follow the model rules in [Chapter 44-14 WAC](#) adopted by the attorney general's office in 2007.

The factors supporting the proposed amendments are:

1. RCO's public records procedures have not been substantially updated since 2001 and do not reflect the most current requirements of the Public Records Act,
2. The existing procedures do not address requests for electronic records, which is now a common form of public records requests, and
3. The existing procedures do not allow the office to charge for fulfilling public records requests in other formats besides black and white paper copies.

Table 1 below presents a summary of the proposed amendments with an explanatory statement for each section. The text of the proposed amendments is included as Attachment A.

Table 1: Summary of Revisions to Chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records

WAC Section Reference and Title	Explanatory Statement of the Proposed Amendment
WAC 286-06-050 Authority and purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the authority and purpose of the administrative rules consistent with the Public Records Act.
WAC 286-06-060 Agency description—Contact information—Public records officer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes RCO and its location. • Describes how to contact the public records officer. • Identifies the responsibilities of the public records officer or its designee.
WAC 286-06-070 Availability of public records.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the times when public records are available for inspection. • Describes how RCO will index and organize its records. • Describes how an individual makes a public records request.
WAC 286-06-080 Processing of public records requests—General.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the process RCO will use to fulfill a public records request. • Discusses what to do if RCO fails to respond. • Identifies the privacy rights of individuals affected by a public disclosure request. • Identifies that some records may be exempt from disclosure. • Describes the process to inspect records at the office. • Describes how RCO will fulfill a request for copies of records.

<p>NEW SECTION WAC 286-06-085 Processing of public records requests—Electronic records.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the process for requesting electronic public records. • Describes how RCO will fulfill a request for electronic records.
<p>WAC 286-06-090 Costs of providing copies of public records.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows RCO to charge for paper and electronic copies, including costs for staff time to prepare copies and mailing. • Allows RCO to determine fees and review them as needed. • Allows RCO to collect a ten percent deposit before providing copies.
<p>WAC 286-06-100 Exemptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the types of records that are exempt from public inspection.
<p>WAC 286-06-110 Review of denials of public records.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes how to request a review when the agency denies a public records request.
<p>REPEALED SECTIONS WAC 286-06-045 Office and the salmon recovery funding board. WAC 286-06-065 Indexes. WAC 286-06-120 Protection of public records.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The salmon recovery funding board sets its own public records rules in WAC 420-04-100. • Indexes and protection of original public records moved to WAC 286-06-070.

Public Review

Prior to the board meeting, RCO informed the public of the proposed rulemaking on the following occasions:

- Agenda item at the July 2014 board meeting posted on RCO’s Web site,
- Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101, Attachment B) filed July 23, 2014 and published August 6, 2014 in issue #14-15-143 of the Washington State Register,
- Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102, Attachment C) filed September 17, 2014 and published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register,
- Proposed Rulemaking filed September 17, 2014 with the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee,
- Agenda item at the October 2014 board meeting posted on RCO’s Web site,
- Posting of proposed rulemaking on RCO’s Web site, and
- Email notification sent to interested persons.

Public Hearing

The Administrative Procedures Act (APA) requires at least one public hearing prior to adopting amendments to the rules¹. The public hearing for the proposed rulemaking outlined in this memo is planned for 11:30 a.m. on October 30, 2014, during the board’s regularly scheduled public meeting. Notice of the public hearing was included in the rulemaking filing and published accordingly in the Washington State Register.

¹ RCW 34.05.325

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of the public hearing or provide comments at the hearing. The official comment period runs October 1 to October 24, 2014. As of the writing of this memo, RCO had not received any public comments.

Before filing an adopted rule, the APA requires an agency to prepare a "Concise Explanatory Statement"² (Attachment D) which includes a summary of all comments received and responses to them. Staff will provide a draft Concise Explanatory Statement at the October board meeting with a summary of any written public comments received prior to the public hearing.

Options for Consideration

After the scheduled public hearing, the board will consider whether to adopt the amendments to the rules as written, amend the proposal, or postpone adoption.

State law allows the board to adopt a rule somewhat different than proposed as long as it is not "substantially different."³ Factors that may affect whether a proposed rule might be substantially different include the extent to which:

- A reasonable person affected by the rule would have understood how the rule would have affected his/her interests,
- The subject differs from that originally proposed, or
- The effects of the adopted rule differ from the effects of the proposed rule.

Any changes to the recommended amendments that are substantially different from the proposal cannot be adopted without re-initiating the notification and comment procedures. If the board chooses to make substantial changes to the proposed rulemaking, staff will file a supplemental notice in the Washington State Register and the board must conduct another public hearing.

If the board prefers not to adopt all or portions of the proposed rulemaking at the October meeting, the board can postpone adoption to a future meeting within 180 days of the rulemaking filing, which was September 17, 2014. This means the board could take action on the current recommended amendments at its March 2015 meeting without needing to re-file. The board could also decide to withdraw all or portions of the proposed rulemaking.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend adoption of the proposed rulemaking filed September 17, 2014 and published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register.

Request for Decision

Attachment E contains resolution 2014-31 for the board's consideration.

² RCW 34.05.325(6) and 34.05.370(2)(g)

³ RCW 34.05.340

Strategic Plan Link

The proposed WAC changes reflect the opportunity to make policy improvements that support the board's goal to achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to the board.

Next Steps

Should the board adopt the proposed rule-making, staff will prepare a final Concise Explanatory Statement and file a final rule adoption notice for publication in the next available Washington State Register. Adopted rules are effective 31 days after filing with the Office of the Code Reviser.

Attachments

- A. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records
- B. Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry Notice (CR-101)
- C. Proposed Rulemaking Notice (CR-102)
- D. Draft Concise Explanatory Statement (to be distributed at the board meeting)
- E. Resolution 2014-31

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-050 (~~(Public records available.)~~) Authority and purposes. (~~(All public records of the office, as defined in RCW 42.56.070, as now or hereafter amended, are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to this regulation, except as otherwise provided by law, including, but not limited to, RCW 42.56.050 and 42.56.210 and WAC 286-06-100, Exemptions.)~~) (1) RCW 42.56.070(1) of the Public Records Act requires each agency to make available for inspection and copying nonexempt "public records" in accordance with published rules. The act defines "public record" to include any "writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained" by the agency. RCW 42.56.070(2) also requires each agency to set forth "for informational purposes" every law, in addition to the Public Records Act, that exempts or prohibits the disclosure of public records held by that agency.

(2) The purpose of these rules is to establish the procedures the office will follow in order to provide full access to public records. These rules provide information to persons wishing to request access to public records of the office and establish processes for both requestors and the office staff that are designed to best assist members of the public in obtaining such access.

(3) The purpose of the Public Records Act is to provide the public full access to information concerning the conduct of government, mindful of individuals' privacy rights and the desirability of the efficient administration of government. The act and these rules will be interpreted in favor of disclosure. In carrying out its responsibilities under the act, the office will be guided by the provisions of the act describing its purposes and interpretation.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-050, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-050, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-050, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.99.010, 43.99.110, 43.99.080, 43.99.120, 43.99.060, 42.17.370, 46.09.020, 46.09.170 and 46.09.240. WSR 83-01-030 (Order IAC 82-1), § 286-06-050, filed 12/8/82; Order 73-4, § 286-06-050, filed 12/19/73.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-060 (~~(Responsibility.)~~) Agency description—Contact information—Public records officer. (~~(The public records shall be available through a public records officer designated by the director. The public records officer shall be responsible for: Implementation of the rules and regulations regarding release of public records, coordinating the staff of the office in this regard, and generally ensuring compliance with the public~~

~~records disclosure requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW as now or hereafter amended.)~~ (1) The office manages grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near extinction. The office also provides staff support to various boards, councils, and working groups as assigned by the governor or the legislature. The office is located at 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501. The office does not have field offices.

(2) Any person wishing to request access to public records of the office, or seeking assistance in making such a request should contact the public records officer of the office:

Public Records Officer

Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

(360) 902-3000

(360) 902-3026

PDandR@rco.wa.gov

Information is also available at the office's web site at www.rco.wa.gov.

(3) The public records officer will oversee compliance with the Public Records Act but another office staff member may process the request. Therefore, these rules will refer to the public records officer "or designee." The public records officer or designee and the office will provide the "fullest assistance" to requestors; create and maintain for use by the public and office officials an index to public records of the office; ensure that public records are protected from damage or disorganization; and prevent fulfilling public records requests from causing excessive interference with essential functions of the office.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-060, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-060, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-060, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.99.010, 43.99.110, 43.99.080, 43.99.120, 43.99.060, 42.17.370, 46.09.020, 46.09.170 and 46.09.240. WSR 83-01-030 (Order IAC 82-1), § 286-06-060, filed 12/8/82. Statutory Authority: Chapter 43.99 RCW. WSR 78-03-032 (Order 78-1), § 286-06-060, filed 2/17/78; Order 73-4, § 286-06-060, filed 12/19/73.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-070 ((Office hours.)) Availability of public records. (1) Hours for inspection of records.

Public records ~~((shall be))~~ are available for inspection and copying during ~~((the office's customary office))~~ normal business hours ~~((These hours shall be consistent with RCW 42.04.060 and 42.56.090))~~ of the office, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

(2) Records index.

(a) An index of public records is available for use by members of the public, including:

(i) Archived files;

(ii) Equipment inventory;

(iii) Office and board policies and procedures, including manuals;

(iv) Active project files;

(v) Publications such as brochures and special reports;

(vi) Policy statements entered after June 30, 1990, as defined in RCW 34.05.010, including grant program manuals; and

(vii) Rule-making files, as described in RCW 34.05.370, for each rule proposed for adoption in the Washington State Register and adopted.

(b) Before June 30, 1990, the office did not maintain an index of:

(i) Declaratory orders containing analysis or decisions of substantial importance to the office in carrying out its duties;

(ii) Interpretive statements as defined in RCW 34.05.010; and

(iii) Policy statements as defined in RCW 34.05.010.

(c) The following general records and files are available by reference to topic, and generally arranged alphabetically or chronologically within such topic. Due to volume, costs, and complexity; however, no master index is maintained:

(i) Administrative files;

(ii) Comprehensive park-recreation plans;

(iii) Summaries of office staff meetings;

(iv) Closed or inactive project files;

(v) General correspondence;

(vi) Attorney general opinions;

(vii) Financial records;

(viii) Summaries and memoranda of office and board meetings;

(ix) Final adjudicative proceeding orders entered after June 30, 1990, as defined in RCW 34.05.010 that contain an analysis or decision of substantial importance to the office or board in carrying out its duties (each listed alphabetically by subject with a phrase describing the issue or issues and relevant citations of law);

(x) Declaratory orders entered after June 10, 1990, that contain an analysis or decision of substantial importance to the office or board in carrying out its duties (each listed alphabetically by case name with a phrase describing the issue or issues and relevant citations of law); and

(xi) Interpretive statements as defined in RCW 34.05.010 (each indexed by the office or board program).

(3) **Organization of records.** The office will maintain its records in a reasonably organized manner. The office will take reasonable actions to protect records from damage and disorganization. A requestor shall not take records from the office without the permission of the public records officer or designee. A variety of records is available on the office's web site at www.rco.wa.gov. Requestors are encouraged to view the documents available on the web site prior to submitting a records request.

(4) **Making a request for public records.**

(a) Any person wishing to inspect or copy public records of the office should make the request in writing on the office's request form, or by letter, fax, or e-mail addressed to the public records officer and include the following information:

- Name of requestor;
- Address of requestor;
- Other contact information, including telephone number and any e-mail address;
- Identification of the public records adequate for the public records officer or designee to locate the records; and
- The date and time of day of the request.

(b) If the requestor wishes to have copies of the records made instead of simply inspecting them, he or she should so indicate and make arrangements to pay for copies of the records or a deposit.

(c) A form is available for use by requestors at the office of the public records officer and online at www.rco.wa.gov.

(d) The public records officer or designee may accept requests for public records that contain the above information by telephone or in person. If the public records officer or designee accepts such a request, he or she will confirm receipt of the information and the substance of the request in writing.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-070, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-070, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94; Order 73-4, § 286-06-070, filed 12/19/73.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-080 ((Requests for)) Processing of public records requests—General. ~~((Consistent with chapter 42.56 RCW, public records may be inspected or copied or copies of such records may be obtained by members of the public, upon compliance with the following procedures:~~

~~(1) A request shall be made in writing, preferably on a form prescribed by the director, which shall be available at its Olympia office or electronically. The request shall be presented to the public records officer or designee. The request shall include the following information:~~

- ~~(a) The name of the person requesting the record;~~
- ~~(b) The calendar date on which the request was made;~~
- ~~(c) The nature of the request;~~
- ~~(d) A reference to the requested record as it is described in any current index, if the matter requested is referenced within indexes; and~~
- ~~(e) An appropriate description of the record requested, if the requested matter is not identifiable in the indexes.~~

~~(2) Whenever a member of the public makes a request, the public records officer or designee shall ensure the request receives a "date received" stamp or equivalent notation and that assistance is provided in promptly identifying the public record requested as defined in RCW 42.56.520. The office shall assist to the maximum extent consistent with ongoing operations, and retains the authority to condition records access to prevent unreasonable invasions of privacy, access to other information protected from disclosure by law, damage/disorganization, and excessive interference with office operations and equipment.)~~ **(1) Providing "fullest assistance."** The office is charged by statute with adopting rules which provide for how it will "provide full access to public records," "protect records from damage or disorganization," "prevent excessive interference with other essential functions of the agency," provide "fullest assistance" to requestors, and provide the "most timely possible action" on public records requests. The public records officer or designee will process requests in the order allowing the most requests to be processed in the most efficient manner.

(2) Acknowledging receipt of request. Within five business days of receipt of the request, the public records officer will do one or more of the following:

- (a) Make the records available for inspection or copying;
- (b) If copies are requested and payment of a deposit for the copies, if any, is made or terms of payment are agreed upon, send the copies to the requestor;
- (c) Provide a reasonable estimate of when records will be available;
- (d) If the request is unclear or does not sufficiently identify the requested records, request clarification from the requestor. Such clarification may be requested and provided by telephone. The public records officer or designee may revise the estimate of when records will be available; or
- (e) Deny the request.

(3) Consequences of failure to respond. If the office does not respond in writing within five business days of receipt of the request for disclosure, the requestor should consider contacting the public records officer to determine the reason for the failure to respond.

(4) Protecting rights of others. In the event that the requested records contain information that may affect rights of others and may be exempt from disclosure, the public records officer may, prior to providing the records, give notice to such others whose rights may be affected by the disclosure. Such notice should be given so as to make it possible for those other persons to contact the requestor and ask him or her to revise the request, or,

if necessary, seek an order from a court to prevent or limit the disclosure. The notice to the affected persons will include a copy of the request.

(5) **Records exempt from disclosure.** Some records are exempt from disclosure, in whole or in part. If the office believes that a record is exempt from disclosure and should be withheld, the public records officer will state the specific exemption and provide a brief explanation of why the record or a portion of the record is being withheld. If only a portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, but the remainder is not exempt, the public records officer will redact the exempt portions, provide the nonexempt portions, and indicate to the requestor why portions of the record are being redacted.

(6) **Inspection of records.**

(a) Consistent with other demands, the office shall provide space to inspect public records. Records must be inspected at the office. No member of the public may remove a document from the viewing area or disassemble or alter any document. The requestor shall indicate which documents he or she wishes the office to copy.

(b) The requestor must claim or review the assembled records within thirty days of the office's notification to him or her that the records are available for inspection or copying. The office will notify the requestor in writing of this requirement and inform the requestor that he or she should contact the office to make arrangements to claim or review the records. If the requestor or a representative of the requestor fails to claim or review the records within the thirty day period or make other arrangements, the office may close the request and refile the assembled records. Other public records requests can be processed ahead of a subsequent request by the same person for the same or almost identical records, which can be processed as a new request.

(7) **Providing copies of records.** After inspection is complete, the public records officer or designee shall make the requested copies or arrange for copying.

(8) **Providing records in installments.** When the request is for a large number of records, the public records officer or designee will provide access for inspection and copying in installments, if he or she reasonably determines that it would be practical to provide the records in that way. If, within thirty days, the requestor fails to inspect the entire set of records or one or more of the installments, the public records officer or designee may stop searching for the remaining records and close the request.

(9) **Completion of inspection.** When the inspection of the requested records is complete and all requested copies are provided, the public records officer or designee will indicate in writing that the office has completed a diligent search for the requested records and made any located nonexempt records available for inspection.

(10) **Closing withdrawn or abandoned request.** When the requestor either withdraws the request or fails to fulfill his or her obligations to inspect the records or pay the deposit or final payment for the requested copies, the public records officer will close the request and indicate in writing to the requestor that the office has closed the request.

(11) Later discovered documents. If, after the office has informed the requestor that it has provided all available records, the office becomes aware of additional responsive documents existing at the time of the request, it will promptly inform in writing the requestor of the additional documents and provide them on an expedited basis.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-080, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-080, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-080, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94; Order 73-4, § 286-06-080, filed 12/19/73.]

NEW SECTION

WAC 286-06-085 Processing of public records requests—Electronic records. (1) **Requesting electronic records.** The process for requesting electronic public records is the same as for requesting paper public records.

(2) **Providing electronic records.** When a requestor requests records in an electronic format, the public records officer will provide the nonexempt records or portions of such records that are reasonably locatable in an electronic format that is used by the office and is generally commercially available, or in a format that is reasonably translatable from the format in which the office keeps the record. Costs for providing electronic records are governed by WAC 44-14-07003.

(3) **Customized access to data bases.** With the consent of the requestor, the office may provide customized access under RCW 43.41A.130 if the record is not reasonably locatable or not reasonably translatable into the format requested. The office may charge a fee consistent with RCW 43.41A.130 for such customized access.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-090 ((Copying)) Costs of providing copies of public records. ~~((1) No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records.~~

~~((2) The director shall charge a fee of fifteen cents per page for providing copies of public records and for use of the office's copy equipment. Copying in other formats shall be subject to a fee established by the director. These charges will be the amount necessary to reimburse the office for its actual costs incident to such copying.))~~

(1) Costs for paper and electronic copies.

(a) There is no fee for inspecting public records in the office or e-mailing electronic records to a requestor, unless another cost applies such as a scanning fee.

(b) The office will charge an amount necessary to reimburse its costs for providing paper and electronic copies of records, including costs for electronic copies on a CD-ROM and scanning paper or other nonelectronic records.

(c) The fee amounts shall be reviewed from time to time by the office, and shall represent the costs of providing copies of public records and for use of the office's copy equipment, including staff time spent copying records, preparing records for copying, and restoring files. This charge is the amount necessary to reimburse the office for actual costs for copying. The charge for special copy work of nonstandard public records shall reflect the total cost, including the staff time necessary to safeguard the integrity of these records.

(d) Before beginning to make the copies, the public records officer or designee may require a deposit of up to ten percent of the estimated costs of copying all the records selected by the requestor. The public records officer or designee may also require the payment of the remainder of the copying costs before providing all the records, or the payment of the costs of copying an installment before providing that installment.

(e) The office will not charge sales tax when it makes copies of public records unless it uses an outside vendor to make the copies.

(2) **Costs of mailing.** The office may also charge actual costs of mailing, including the cost of the shipping container.

(3) **Payment.** Payment may be made by cash, check, or money order to the office.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-090, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-090, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-090, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94; Order 73-4, § 286-06-090, filed 12/19/73.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-100 Exemptions. ~~((1) The director reserves the right to determine that a public record requested in accordance with the procedures outlined in WAC 286-06-080 is exempt under the provisions of state or federal law, or chapter 42.56 RCW.~~

~~(2) In addition, pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW, the director reserves the right to delete identifying details when made available or published in cases when there is reason to believe that disclosure of such details would be an invasion of personal privacy, or would disclose information otherwise protected by law.~~

~~(3) All denials of requests for public records, in whole or part, will be accompanied by a written statement specifying the reason for the denial, including a statement of the specific exemption authorizing the withholding of the record (or part) and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.)~~ (1) The Public Records Act provides that a number of types of documents are exempt from public inspection and copying. In addition, documents are exempt from disclosure if any "other statute" exempts or prohibits disclosure. Requestors should be aware of the following exemptions that restrict the availability of some documents held by office for inspection and copying. Exemptions may include:

• **Archaeological site records:** Maps or other information identifying location of site or sites (RCW 42.56.300);

• **Preliminary documents:** Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or recommended unless cited publicly or within an official public record (RCW 42.56.280);

• **Personal information:** Information not related to disciplinary action or performance as a state employee (e.g., payroll records, examination questions, medical condition information, Social Security number, residence address, personal phone numbers, and personal e-mail addresses) (RCW 42.56.230, 42.56.250, 42.56.210(1));

• **Real estate appraisals:** Real estate appraisals relative to the acquisition of property, until the prospective sale is abandoned or completed (RCW 42.56.260); and

• **Farm plans:** Farm plans developed by conservation districts, unless permission to release the farm plan is granted by the landowner or operator, and farm plans developed under chapter 90.48 RCW and not under the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq. (RCW 42.56.270).

(2) The office is prohibited by statute from disclosing lists of individuals for commercial purposes.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-100, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-100, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-100, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94; Order 73-4, § 286-06-100, filed 12/19/73.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-09-074, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14)

WAC 286-06-110 Review of denials of public records. ~~((1) Any person who objects to the denial of a request for a public record may petition the director for review by submitting a written request. The request shall specifically refer to the written statement which constituted or accompanied the denial.~~

~~(2) After receiving a written request for review of a decision denying inspection of a public record, the director, or designee, will either affirm or reverse the denial by the end of the second business day following receipt according to RCW 42.56.520. This shall constitute final action.))~~ **(1) Petition for internal administrative**

review of denial of access. Any person who objects to the initial denial or partial denial of a records request may petition in writing (including e-mail) to the public records officer for a review of that decision. The petition shall include a copy of or reasonably identify the written statement by the public records officer or designee denying the request.

(2) Consideration of petition for review. The public records officer shall promptly provide the petition and any other relevant information to the director. The director will immediately consider the petition and either

affirm or reverse the denial within two business days following the office's receipt of the petition, or within such other time as the office and the requestor mutually agree to.

(3) **Review by the attorney general's office.** Pursuant to RCW 42.56.530, if the office denies a requestor access to public records because it claims the record is exempt in whole or in part from disclosure, the requestor may request the attorney general's office to review the matter. The attorney general has adopted rules on such requests in WAC 44-06-160.

(4) **Judicial review.** Any person may obtain court review of denials of public records requests pursuant to RCW 42.56.550 at the conclusion of two business days after the initial denial regardless of any internal administrative appeal.

[Statutory Authority: 2007 c 241 § 39, RCW 34.05.220, 34.05.230, and 42.56.040. WSR 14-09-074, § 286-06-110, filed 4/18/14, effective 5/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.370, 46.09.240(1), 79A.25.210, 79A.15.070, 79A.25.080, chapter 42.17 RCW. WSR 01-17-056, § 286-06-110, filed 8/14/01, effective 9/14/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.98A.060(1), [43.98A].070(5), 43.99.080, 46.09.240 and 77.12.720. WSR 94-17-095, § 286-06-110, filed 8/17/94, effective 9/17/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.99.010, 43.99.110, 43.99.080, 43.99.120, 43.99.060, 42.17.370, 46.09.020, 46.09.170 and 46.09.240. WSR 83-01-030 (Order IAC 82-1), § 286-06-110, filed 12/8/82; Order 73-4, § 286-06-110, filed 12/19/73.]

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 286-06-045	Office and the salmon recovery funding board.
WAC 286-06-065	Indexes.
WAC 286-06-120	Protection of public records.



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office on behalf of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Subject of possible rule making: The recreation and conservation funding board will consider amendments to chapters 286-04 General, 286-06 Public records, and 286-13 General grant assistance to modify grant program requirements. The board will also consider a reorganization of chapters 286-26 Nonhighway and off-road vehicle funds, 286-27 Washington wildlife and recreation program, 286-30 Firearms range, 286-35 Boating facilities program, 286-40 Land and water conservation fund, and 286-42 Aquatic lands enhancement account to provide consistent rules across grant programs.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 34.05.220; 42.56.040; 46.09.530; 79A.15.030; 79A.15.060; 79A.15.070; 79A.15.120; 79A.15.130; 79A.25.210

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: The reasons for this proposal are to clarify and bring up to date grant program definitions and requirements, improve public records procedures, and eliminate repetitive sections throughout Title 286. The intended result is to improve the clarity of grant program requirements for grant project sponsors and grant program staff.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: No other federal or state agencies regulate grant funding programs administered by the board and office.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) The recreation and conservation office will advance this proposal through a participatory process that includes distribution of the recommendations to the agency's advisory committees and other interested parties, including those who are on the agency's WAC notification listing. We encourage comments via mail, email, and in person at a scheduled recreation and conservation funding board meeting. Based on any comments, revisions will be considered before presentation of the final recommendations for adoption in an advertised and open public hearing of the board.

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Leslie Connelly, Rules Coordinator, Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
(360) 902-3080 (office) / (360) 902-3026 (fax)
leslie.connelly@rco.wa.gov

DATE
July 23, 2014

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Leslie Connelly

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: July 23, 2014

TIME: 9:05 AM

WSR 14-15-143



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2012)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 14-15-143 ; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Notice
<input type="checkbox"/> Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Notice to WSR _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1).	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)

Amendments to chapter 286-06 WAC Public Records.

Hearing location(s):

Natural Resources Building, Room 172
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504

Date: October 30, 2014 Time: 11:30 a.m.

Submit written comments to:

Name: Leslie Connelly
Address: 1111 Washington Ave. S., PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917
e-mail leslie.connelly@rco.wa.gov
fax (360) 902-3026 by October 24, 2014

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Cindy Gower by October 30, 2014
TTY (360) 902-1996 or (360) 902-3013

Date of intended adoption: October 30, 2014
(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

The purpose of the proposal is to revise the Recreation and Conservation Office's procedures for maintaining public records and fulfilling public records requests. The revisions incorporate procedures for electronic public records and change the costs for fulfilling public records requests. The revisions substantially follow the model rules adopted by the attorney general's office.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The reasons supporting this proposal are:

- 1) The office's public records procedures have not be substantially updated since 2001 and do not reflect the most current requirements of the Public Records Act,
- 2) The existing procedures do not address requests for electronic records, which is now a common form of public records requests, and
- 3) The existing procedures do not allow the office to charge for fulfilling public records requests in other formats besides black and white paper copies.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 42.56.040

Statute being implemented: Chapter 42.56 RCW

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, CITATION:

DATE
September 17, 2014

NAME (type or print)
Leslie Connelly

SIGNATURE

TITLE Natural Resources Policy Specialist

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: September 17, 2014

TIME: 9:44 AM

WSR 14-19-116

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Recreation and Conservation Office

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Leslie Connelly	1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia WA 98504	(360) 902-3080
Implementation....Kaleen Cottingham	1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia WA 98504	(360) 902-3000
Enforcement..... Kaleen Cottingham	1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia WA 98504	(360) 902-3000

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW or has a school district fiscal impact statement been prepared under section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 2012?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement or school district fiscal impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____

fax () _____

e-mail _____

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

The proposed rulemaking does not meet the definition of a “minor cost” in RCW 19.85.020(2) nor would it affect “small businesses” as defined in RCW 19.85.020(3).

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____

fax () _____

e-mail _____

No: Please explain:

The Recreation and Conservation Office is not listed as an agency required to complete a cost-benefit analysis under RCW 34.05.328(5)(a)(i).

Draft Concise Explanatory Statement

To be distributed at the board meeting.

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-31
Administrative Rule Changes Chapter 286-06 WAC**

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopts administrative rules that govern its grant programs and sets procedures for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, RCO's public records procedures in Chapter 286-06 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) have not been substantially updated since 2001 and do not reflect the most current requirements of the Public Records Act (Chapter 54.56 WAC); and

WHEREAS, RCO filed a Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC with the Office of the Code Reviser on July 23, 2014 and it was published August 6, 2014 in issue #14-15-143 of the Washington State Register and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, RCO filed a Proposed Rule Making to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC with the Office of the Code Reviser on September 17, 2014 and it was published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register and also provided the proposed rulemaking to the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, RCO posted notice, in accordance with RCW 34.05.320, of the proposed rulemaking to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC on its Web site, sent an email notification to interested persons, and accepted public comments from October 1 to October 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the board conducted a public hearing, in accordance with RCW 34.05.325, on the proposed rulemaking to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC on October 30, 2014 and considered all written and verbal comments submitted; and

WHEREAS, the revisions substantially follow the model rules in Chapter 44-14 WAC adopted by the attorney general's office in 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board does hereby adopt the proposed rulemaking as filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on September 17, 2014 and published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board directs RCO staff to file a final rule making order, in accordance with RCW 34.05.325, with the Office of the Code Reviser and it shall have an effective date of 31 days from the date it is filed.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Conversion Request: City of Bellevue, Mercer Slough Phase 1, #73-026A and Mercer Slough #78-513A
Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary

The City of Bellevue and State Parks are asking the board to approve a conversion of 1.06 acres at Mercer Slough Nature Park. The conversion is due to the Sound Transit East Link light rail project, which will impact a portion of the western edge of the park.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2014-32

Conversion Policy

The projects that are the subject of this memo have funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Washington state bond funds¹, respectively. As a result, both the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act² and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) set rules and policies for addressing the proposed conversion:

- Use of LWCF grant funds creates a condition under which property and structures acquired become part of the public domain in perpetuity.
- Board policy states that interests in real property, structures, and facilities that were acquired, developed, enhanced, or restored with board funds, including state bond funds, must not be changed (either in part or in whole) or converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved without the approval of the board.
- The RCO project contract provides additional protections from conversion.

However, because needs and values often change over time, federal law and board policy allow conversions of grant funded property under carefully scrutinized conditions. If a LWCF or state-funded project is converted, the project sponsor must replace the converted interests in real property, structures, or facilities. The replacement must have at least equal market value and have reasonably equivalent recreation utility and location.

¹ Funding was from Referendum 28, RCW 43.83C

² Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 59 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Program of Assistance to States; Post-Completion Compliance Responsibilities

The Role of the Board

Because one of the projects was partially funded by the federal LWCF, the role of the board is to decide whether to recommend approval of the conversion to the National Park Service (NPS). To do so, the board evaluates the list of practical alternatives that were considered for the conversion and replacement, including avoidance, and considers if the replacement property has reasonably equivalent recreation utility and location. The NPS has the legal responsibility to make the final decision of whether or not to approve this conversion related to the LWCF project.

Under current policy the board does not have the ability to accept other types of mitigation, levy additional penalties, or dictate the future use of the property being converted.

Background

The projects in question are #73-026A, Mercer Slough Phase 1 and #78-513A Mercer Slough.

Project Name:	Mercer Slough Phase 1	Project #:	73-026A
Grant Program:	Referendum 28 (bond funds) Land and Water Conservation Fund	Board funded date:	May 23, 1971
LWCF Amount	\$ 410,874.66	Original Purpose: This project acquired about 60 acres to preserve a natural peat bog ecosystem.	
Referendum 28 Amount	\$ 205,437.33		
Project Sponsor Match	\$205,437.33		
Total Amount:	\$ 821,749.32		

The City of Bellevue used the Mercer Slough Phase 1 grant in 1975 to acquire approximately 60 acres for a nature park. This park is now called Mercer Slough Nature Park.

Project Name:	Mercer Slough	Project #	78-513A
Grant Program:	Referendum 28 (bond funds)	Board funded date:	May 23, 1971
Referendum 28 Amount	\$ 206,000	Original Purpose: This project acquired about 24 acres.	
Project Sponsor Match	\$206,000		
Total Amount:	\$ 412,000		

State Parks used the Mercer Slough grant in 1981 to acquire approximately 24 acres to expand the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

The City of Bellevue and State Parks formed a partnership in the 1970's to maintain an ecological resource in an urban area. Mercer Slough Nature Park was created and the agencies established an inter-local agreement for the operation and maintenance of the park.

The City of Bellevue is the lead agency for the conversion approval process for these two projects. At the city's request, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has approved the transfer of all of State Parks' interests in Mercer Slough to the City of Bellevue. Final property transfer negotiations are underway.

Mercer Slough Nature Park is the largest of Lake Washington's remaining freshwater wetlands and is one of Bellevue's largest parks, with over 320 acres of wildlife habitat, agriculture, and freshwater wetland ecosystems. It serves as a regional park for the greater Puget Sound (Attachment B). The park offers about seven miles of trails including a canoe trail and opportunities for environmental education and wildlife viewing.

Since the original grants to acquire property, RCO has made the following investment at the park:

- Mercer Slough Habitat, #91-225D, WWRP-UW, which constructed a trail bridge and trail and enhanced habitat by creating a pond and adding landscaping.

The Conversion

The conversion at the Mercer Slough Nature Park is caused by the expansion of Sound Transit Light Rail system from downtown Seattle to Redmond (Attachment C). A segment of the 18-mile East Link project will impact two areas on the western boundary of the park, creating a conversion (Attachment D). The light rail system will enter the park at its southwestern edge, near I-90, on an elevated structure to a station located at the existing South Bellevue Park and Ride. From the station, the rail proceeds north along western edge of the park, descending from elevated piers to a retained cut profile below the grade of Bellevue Way SE. The retained cut includes a 170 foot lidded trench section in front of the Winters House. The Winters House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its Spanish Eclectic style and its link with early agricultural activities in the area.

The light rail system will impact the board-funded sites in two separate locations on Bellevue Way SE, creating a conversion of 1.06 acres (Attachment D). The conversion areas are approximately 35 feet in width and approximately 530 feet in length at the northwest section; and approximately 35 feet in width and approximately 170 feet in length at the southern section. The conversion areas include both permanent acquisition and temporary construction easements. The temporary easements extend beyond the 180-day allowable timeframe,³ thereby creating a conversion.

The conversion areas are adjacent to Bellevue Way SE and the park's Periphery Trail sidewalk. The conversion areas are primarily grassy-sloped with vegetation and trees. Access to the blueberry farm operation and Winters House (neither part of RCO funded areas) will be temporarily closed during construction. A new access road will be built, slightly south of the existing access.

During construction, the park and trails will remain open to the public. Access will be available at points south of the blueberry farm operation, at the Sweylocken Boat Ramp, and on the park's eastern boundary along 118th Ave SE.

The remainder of the light rail system within the park area, approximately 2,410 linear feet, lies outside of RCO project boundaries.

Light rail construction is expected to begin in 2015 and be completed in 2019. The East Link light rail is anticipated to open in 2023.

³ LWCF and RCFB policy limits temporary non-conforming uses of funded sites to 180 days; exceeding 180 days creates a conversion. (Manual #7: Long-term Obligations)

Details of Proposed Replacement Property

Location

The proposed replacement property includes 6 acres located at 1865 118th Avenue SE, Bellevue. It is bordered by the city street to the east and Mercer Slough Nature Park to the north, south, and west.

The property consists of two parcels totaling 6.16 acres, however, the city is reserving 0.16 acres on the property's eastern edge adjacent to the city street as future right-of-way. (Attachments E).

Property Characteristics

The proposed replacement property is rectangular-shaped and contains significant wetlands on the westernmost parcel that borders Mercer Slough. It is unimproved and covered with vegetation. The city will preserve it as open space and wetland habitat that will provide a connection between previously separated parts of the park.

Analysis

When reviewing conversion requests, the board considers the following factors, in addition to the scope of the original grant and the proposed substitution of land or facilities.⁴

- All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
- The fair market value of the converted property has been established and the proposed replacement property is of at least equal fair market value.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement property has at least reasonably equivalent utility and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives

Sound Transit began formal planning for the East Link project in 2006 to expand light rail service from Seattle to Bellevue and Redmond. The East Link Extension was evaluated through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process. The City of Bellevue and Sound Transit executed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 which helped facilitate a formal collaborative design process. There were thirty-five alternatives considered for this segment. Although avoidance was considered, there were no feasible and prudent alternatives. A route that would avoid Mercer Slough Nature Park would have required either substantial property relocations or highly complex engineering to align the light rail corridor from its southern starting point near I-90.

The proposed replacement property was selected by the City of Bellevue based on the following factors:

- The property is an inholding within the overall park boundaries and provides a connection to two parts of the park that have been bisected.
- It provides for additional access to the park from its eastern edge.
- The replacement property is consistent with state and local plans.

⁴ Manual #7: *Long-term Obligations*

Evaluation of Fair Market Value

The conversion areas and replacement property have been appraised for fee title interests with market value dates that meet board policy.

	Conversion Property	Replacement Property	Difference
Market Value	\$495,000	\$633,120	+\$138,120
Acres	1.06 Acres	6 Acres	+4.94 Acres

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location

The replacement property is located within the overall park boundary in the northeastern part of Mercer Slough Nature Park.

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Utility

The replacement property has similar characteristics as much of the slough, the nature park, and of the conversion areas. It is undeveloped open space consisting of wetlands, wetland buffers, and natural vegetation. The replacement parcel will provide similar utility with wetland habitat that attracts migratory birds and other wildlife.

Evaluation of Public Participation

Sound Transit is the lead agency for public participation in the East Link project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process. The transit agency held numerous open houses, hearings, and workshops to gather public comment. The City of Bellevue also participated in the public outreach efforts.

The City of Bellevue published public notice on the conversion and proposed replacement property as required by board policy. A notice was published in the Bellevue Reporter newspaper. In addition, the city sent a notice via email to subscribers to the Bellevue Parks and Community Services Board on August 20, 2014, and posted the notice on the city's webpage for the Parks and Community Services Board. A notice was placed at the park's trailhead kiosks and at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center Visitor's Center. The Parks and Community Services Board held a public meeting on September 9, 2014. One comment was received during the comment period that opposed the proposed conversion. An additional six individuals commented as opposed to the proposed conversion after the comment period ended.

The comments are related to the following:

- The change in conditions that will occur along the west edge of the park where light rail will be constructed adjacent to Bellevue Way SE;
- A planned trail that was intended to connect to the park through an easement on private property cannot be constructed as it shared the same general footprint as the final rail alignment; and
- The City should have purchased the property now identified as the proposed replacement property after passage of a 1988 open space park bond.

The City responded to the public comments and the summarized response included:

- The changes in visual character, noise levels, tree loss, wetland impact, park user enjoyment and wildlife impacts were acknowledged and studied in the EIS process and subject to public comment at several phases of project design. This input led to design changes and mitigation

measures that have been agreed upon between the City, Sound Transit and many other state and federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over such impacts.

- The City did have a trail segment designed, in an area that is now taken by the final light rail alignment. This project was canceled by the City prior to construction to prevent a future conflict with one of alternatives identified in the light rail corridor;
- The property that was acquired this year and proposed as replacement for this conversion was identified as a desired acquisition in the 1988 open space levy. Many properties within Mercer Slough were acquired with those funds, but this particular property owner never agreed to sell, despite repeated efforts by the City, until this year.

Other Basic Requirements Met

➤ Same Project Sponsor

The replacement property will be administered by the same project sponsor (City of Bellevue).

➤ Satisfy Needs in Adopted Plan

The replacement property satisfies the needs as described in the City of Bellevue Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan by acquiring available land adjacent to existing community parks, specifically citing Mercer Slough Nature Park, and helping to expand those parks' capacity for passive recreation, wetland stewardship, preservation of wildlife habitat, and education.

➤ Eligible in the Funding Program

The replacement property meets eligibility requirements and was acquired under a state and federal waiver of retroactivity for the purpose of satisfying the conversion.

Next Steps

If the board chooses to recommend approval of the conversion, RCO staff will prepare the required federal documentation and transmit that recommendation to the National Park Service. Pending NPS approval, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the project agreement, as directed.

In addition, if the board chooses to approve the state-funded conversion, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the project agreement, as directed.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2014-32
- B. Site Location Map
- C. Sound Transit East Link Route Schematic
- D. Sound Transit East Link Route Map along West Edge of Mercer Slough Nature Park; Detail Map of Conversion Location
- E. Maps of Proposed Replacement Property

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2014-32
Approving Conversion for Mercer Slough Nature Park
(RCO Projects #73-026 and 78-513)**

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission used state bond funds and a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire land to expand the Mercer Slough Nature Park; and

WHEREAS, the construction of Sound Transit’s Light Rail project will convert of a portion of the property; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conversion, a portion of the property no longer satisfies the conditions of the RCO grant; and

WHEREAS, the city is asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval to replace the converted property with property purchased under a waiver of retroactivity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement property is in close proximity to the conversion sites, has an appraised value that is greater than the conversion site, and has greater acreage than the conversion sites; and

WHEREAS, the site will provide opportunities that closely match those displaced by the conversion, will consolidate public ownership in the park’s overall boundary, and meets needs that have been identified in the city’s comprehensive plan as acquiring land adjacent to existing community parks, expanding wetland preservation of wildlife habitat, thereby supporting the board’s goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor sought public comment on the conversion and discussed it during an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to regularly seek public feedback in policy and funding decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the conversion request and the proposed replacement site for RCO Projects #73-026 and 78-513 as presented to the board in October 2014 and set forth in the board memo prepared for that meeting; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board hereby authorizes the RCO director to give interim approval for the property acquired with LWCF funds and forward the conversion to the National Park Service (NPS) for final approval.

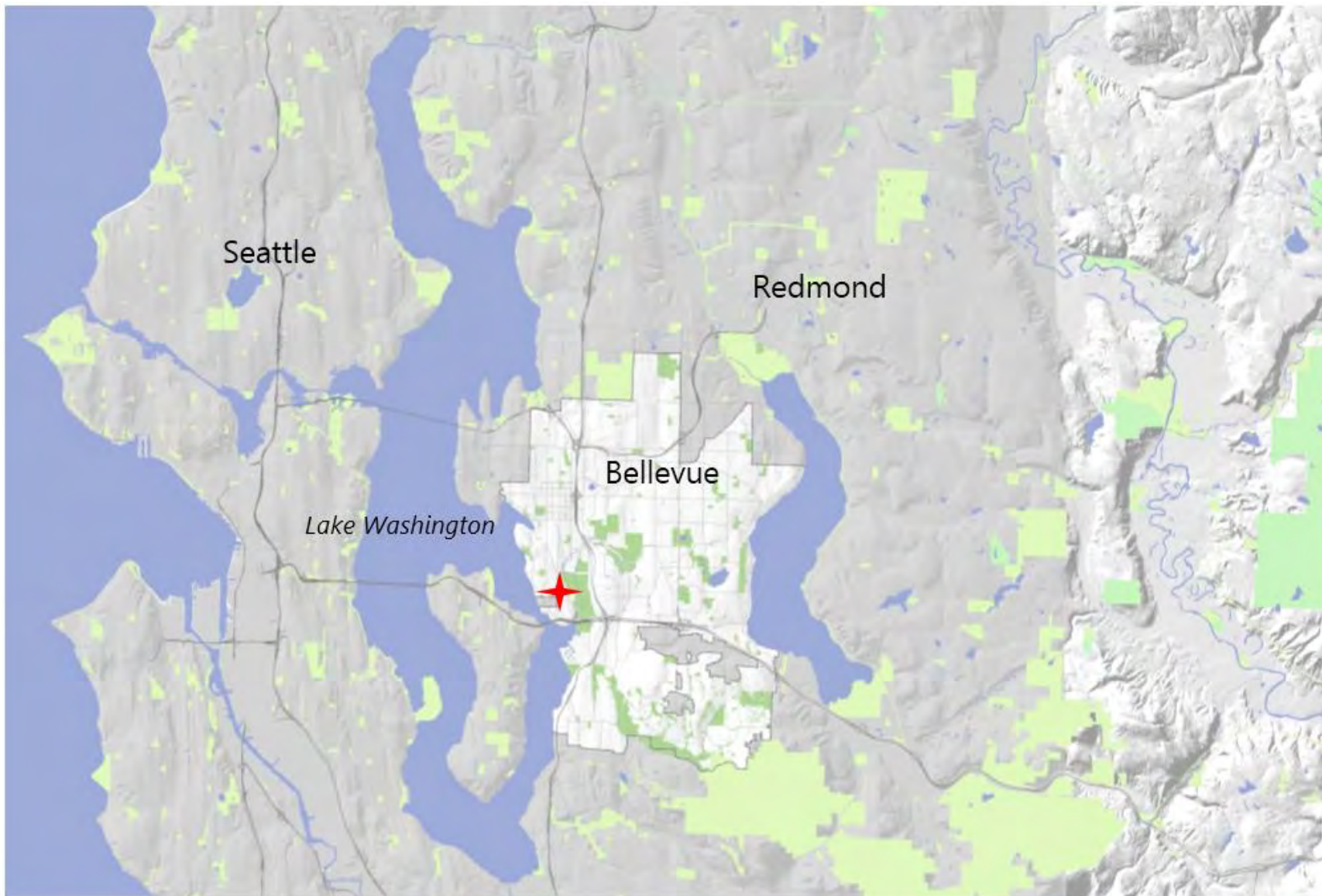
Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Mercer Slough Site Location Map

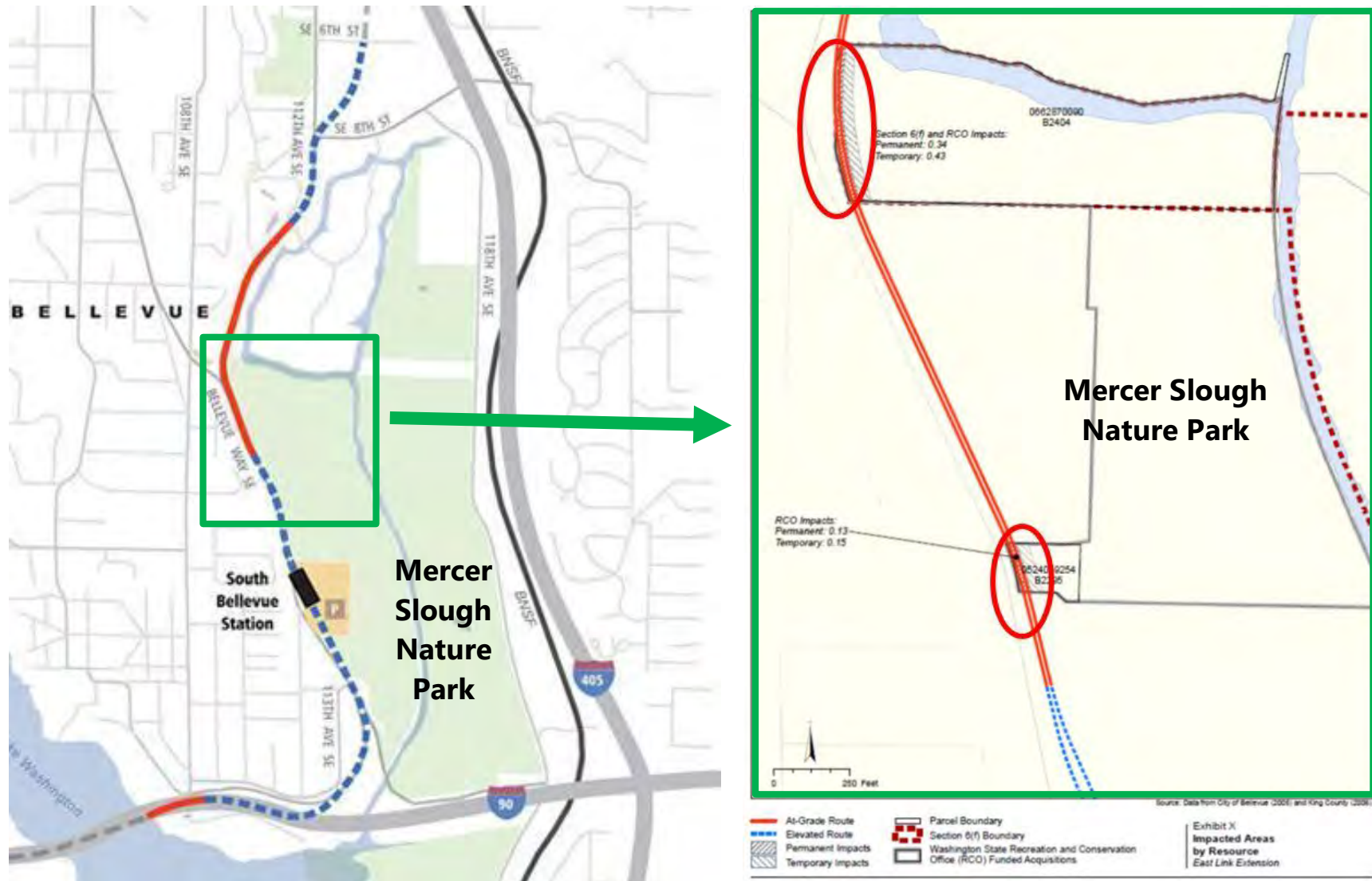


Sound Transit East Link Route Schematic



Note: Map is not drawn to scale. Green box indicates general vicinity of conversion area.

Sound Transit East Link Route Map along West Edge of Mercer Slough Nature Park; Detail Map of Conversion Location



Note: Green box on route map indicates general vicinity of detail map of conversion location. Conversion locations on detail map are circled in red.

Proposed Replacement Property



To:- Camron Parker, Bellevue, Parks staff, Bellevue, WA.

October 12th 2014

Cc:- Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Specialist, Olympia, WA.

Subject:- **Land Conversion in the “Mercer Slough Nature Park” for Light Rail.**

Mr. Parker,

Thank you for your response to my recent letters and communications with you. I do appreciate the offer that you have made to visit along the western boundary of the Mercer Slough - its most important perimeter and **Gateway** to the **Mercer Slough Nature Park**. I am very familiar with the Mercer Slough and its importance as a State wide wetland of significant importance. My Park friends and I have had many visits, explorations and discussions about the Park and of its importance as a State wide Regional Nature Park facility.

Your memo dated October 2, 2014 states that “... **light rail and its associated infrastructure will have a visual character change from what exist today...**” This would appear to be a major understatement in what can only be described as a **disaster** for the entire western boundary of the **Mercer Slough Nature Park** should the proposed conversion be accepted (see page 4 for a true visual of what will be realized).

Your memo further states that the Eastside Heritage Center has stated that the “...**the trench [final alignment] remains our preferred option.**” This is misleading. Here comparison is being made between a ‘at surface alignment’ to a ‘sub-surface alignment’ while excluding other alignments such as the B7R, Tunnel or hybrid combinations of these alternatives. Additionally the computer simulated pictures of the proposed B2M alignment at the Winters House provides a false perspective, non-scalable picture of this proposal including many trees and vegetation that will be removed with this rail alignment.

Further you assert that the “...**Public access to outdoor recreation facilities will be retained during construction...**” This statement appears inconsistent with recent statements by the Bellevue Transportation staff to City Council and Neighborhood Leaders, that Bellevue Way will be reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes for extended periods and completely closed to traffic on several selected

weekends with the 'Park and Ride' and 'Blueberry Farm' facilities being **completely closed for a period of 4 years** during construction of this project. Also 112th Ave will also be subjected to closures with reduced capacity implication.

The City of Bellevue attorney stated in her memo dated August 29th 2011 on this subject “... ***Bellevue is concerned about visual impacts caused by the proximity of the elevated rail structure...***” Further the proposed relocation of the blueberry farm and parking facilities will result in additional losses of wetlands to achieve similar retail functions.

The City Attorney further states that “... ***Bellevue has significant concerns regarding the Least Overall Harm Analysis included in the FEIS...***” and that Bellevue believes that “... ***the Least Overall Harm Analysis is not complete...***” and that “... ***it does not always respect the preservation purpose of the statute...***” and “... ***sections of the analysis are conclusory with little or no factual analytical support provided...***”

The City Attorney continues that the Least Overall Harm Analysis is incomplete and states that “... ***the lack of focus on a single least-harm alternative provides little ability of Bellevue or to the public to review precisely how the preservation of Section 4(f) would be satisfied by the East Link project ...***” The attorney further states that “...***Bellevue finds that the East Link FEIS did not disclose all impacts to 4(f) protected resources and in general terms minimized the impact that were disclosed...***” Bellevue continues by stating “...***Bellevue disputes that ... many of the facilities on the West side of the Mercer Slough Park are not core facilities...***” Further Bellevue states that “... ***The conclusion that all uses of Mercer Slough Nature Park adjacent to Bellevue Way are not as closely aligned with the principal goals and purposes of this resource and are therefore not as significant is inconsistent with Bellevue’s planning documents and feedback ... [and] ...is inconsistent with the Park impact analysis in the FEIS...***”

Significant ground water issues at the Winters House location are apparent. The ground water level is at 28 feet for a length of 1200 to 1400 feet. The low point of the LRT top rail elevation is at 22.6 feet. Thus, the proposed rail alignment will be some 5 feet below the water table. This issue raises concerns of the track underdrain system and the difficulty to provide a positive gravity system to drain the storm water. **Trenching across the wetland will be necessary to**

outfall the water. This may result in drawdown of the ground water table cutting off the water source that sustains the wetland vegetation, resulting in the wetlands to dry up and recede. The greatest **impact would be near the Winters House** with the wetland boundary gradually receding to the east causing a reduction in the wetland area. These issues will be exacerbated during construction of the trench. These findings are consistent with my memo re: the ROD to John Witmer FTA, dated August 15th 2011. The question that begs to be resolved is **what happened to the contents of Section 4.9.4.2 of the FEIS** and why wasn't this groundwater issue included in the FEIS, rather than the statement "... **storm water runoff would be explored...work with local jurisdictions to identify opportunities...**"

As previously noted in earlier communications **the property proposed for replacement is not of equivalent usefulness and location** as that being converted and is **not in a reasonably equivalent location**. The proposed replacement property **will not meet the same or similar recreation and farm needs** for the community as the converted site. Pursuant to RCO Manual 7, page 11, para 3, all alternatives for remediation of the conversion including avoidance, reference alignment B7R and Tunnel options (with hybrids) have not been **evaluated on a sound basis**. Further (same para) 5, justification that supports **the replacement site as reasonably equivalent recreation or habitat and location has not been meet** by the previously and earlier stated facts.

Additionally, the appraisal of the two partially converted sites valued at \$495,000 does not compensated for the **value loss** to the remainder of the site(s) that will be realized from visual blight, noise, loss of significant trees, wetlands loss and public access resulting from the approval of this conversion with respect to the **Mercer Slough Nature Park**. And further, **Federal Statutes** part 59.3 (1), (3), (5) of 36 CFR Ch.1 **are not satisfied** by this proposed conversion for the above stated reasons.

It is with these issues and the loss of a significant trail, loss of wetlands, loss of mature trees and vegetation, noise, visual blight, **lack of community support for the current light rail alignment** and destruction of the western boundary of the Mercer Slough Nature Park and the fact that suitable alternative alignments exist, that the **proposed land conversion should be denied**.

Further the 'Bellveue Park Board' should be actively involved in the conversion process consistent with the 1980's (and before) when it partnered with the community to promote and endorse purchases of the wetlands through Park Bond opportunities, securing the wetlands and helping to create the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

Sincerely

Geoffrey J.Bidwell

for 'Save the Mercer Slough Committee'

1600 109th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

Phone (H) 425-453-9265



To: Camron Parker
Senior Planner
Parks and Community Services
City of Bellevue

Date: September 16th 2014

From: Geoffrey Bidwell
1600 109th Ave SE.,
Bellevue, WA 98004

Subject: Mercer Slough – Moon/Ross property, 1988/1989 Park Bonds

Dear Mr. Parker,

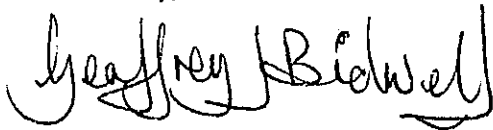
Please provide the information contained in this memo to the Bellevue Parks Board.

Attached is an e-mail dated May 31st 2002 (over 12 years ago) that responds to a community person asking for details of the finances from the 1988/1989 Park Bond.

The e-mail summarizes a discussion between myself, a Bellevue City Council person, Bellevue City manager, Bellevue Assistant City manager and Bellevue Park's director. The essence of the e-mail points out the inappropriate redirection of bond funds from the Moon/Ross property to a location outside of the Mercer Slough.

Please add this information to the package that I provided to the Bellevue Park Board on September 9th 2014 (Reference 1).

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Bidwell

Save the Mercer Slough Committee

Attachment: e-mail Winters House Moon/Ross property

Reference 1: East Link Parkland Replacement, September 9th 2014

FW: Winters House(2)

[REDACTED]
To: Me

Cleaning out emails and lookie what I found!

-----Original Message-----

From: Geoff Bidwell [mailto:Geoff@red.gd-ots.com]

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2002 8:54 AM

To: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Cc: [REDACTED]@lescom.com

Subject: Re: Winters House

Hi [REDACTED],

Here's what I remember. The money to refurbish, repair and restore the Winters House came from the 1989 Park bond. This money was voted and approved for some historical land mark to be displayed in the Downtown park. Subsequent to the public vote the idea of a historical land mark in the Downtown park fell out of favour so that money (I think around \$500,000) was redirected to the Winters house. I think that this turned out to be a better use of this money.

What really got me pi--ed was a further package of money from the park bond to purchase the "Moon Ross" property in the Mercer Slough. This money was redirected to acquire land somewhere on cougar mountain. This redirection of bond money occurred in a CLOSED EXECUTIVE session of the Bellevue city council. There was no public notice, no information to the voters, no nothing - this illegal and missuse of bond money in a secret council session is contrary to STATE LAW! By the time I found out about this the deal was done.

Later I meet with the city manager Steve Bauer, assistant city manager Lind Barton, park director Lee Springate and council person Georgia Zumdieck. Steve Bauer appoligized about this illegal act and said that nobody had told him that this was park bond money. The meeting got quite hot! At the conclusion Lee Springate stated that they would find a way to purchase the Moon Ross property, Bauer and Barton agreed.

Well the rest is history - Georgia passed on Bauer retired Barton got a city managers job down in the Bay area, Springate retired and to this day we haven't got this land in the Mercer Slough!!! But remember this is BELLEVUE.

Geoff.

- good evening
- my name _____
- my address _____
- I am representing 'Save the Mercer Slough Committee' and request to be made a formal party of record.
- Records to support formal party status
 - Page ① Committee formed in 1986 and became a non-profit corporation of WA state in 1988
 - Page ② Letter from Mayor Norm Campbell
- Multiple Bonds in 1988 for Mercer Slough ③
- Simulation picture of Light Rail structure to the Gateway to the Mercer Slough Nature Park ④
- Comparison on Light Rail alignments from East Link Final EIS ⑤
- 1988 Mercer Slough EIS ⑥
- Property location in Mercer Slough subject to development - Nate Moon/Ross property is combined with White PUD ⑦
- Properties received by COB for development ⑧
- 1988 EIS calls for Gateway Park for Bullock Way / 112th Ave ⑨
- Above is consistent with NEP Mercer Slough trail @ 112th voted for by the community and ready for implementation in 2009 ⑩

- Sound Transit steps trail and fence COB not to accept trail bids (11)
 - Light Rail MOU had not been approved by the City.
- Details of the 112th trail is developed and approved by the community (12) thru (22). Note trail high listed in Yellow and Mercer Slough Buffer.
- In 1994 20 years ago City and other agencies to purchase Moon/Ross property to complete Mercer Slough Nature Park (23) and (24)
- Comments on Summary Sheet Sept 9' 2014
 - property already purchased by COB
 - Land now connects two sections of the park
 - Land has a significant easement for existing High voltage power lines.
 - Land does not compensate for lost trail on 112th Ave
 - Land does not compensate for lost gateway to Mercer Slough or its wetlands
 - Purchase of Moon/Ross property was nothing to do with Light Rail see (23) and (24)

③

- using Mason/Rose property sets precedent for using park land for future commercial development.
- Land Swap represents an unacceptable intrusion into the Mezer Slough Nature Park and of its trail systems.
- Last but not least say NO to the land swap.



1

STATE of WASHINGTON SECRETARY of STATE

I, **Ralph Munro**, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby issue this

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

to

SAVE THE MERCER SLOUGH COMMITTEE

a Washington Non Profit corporation. Articles of Incorporation were filed for record in this office on the date indicated below.

Corporation Number: **601 084 974**

Date: **May 6, 1988**



Given under my hand and the seal of the State of Washington, at Olympia, the State Capitol.

Ralph Munro, Secretary of State



Nan Campbell, Mayor 455-7810
Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009 9012

2

December 23, 1988

Geoff and Susan Bidwell
1600 - 109th Ave. S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Geoff and Susan:

On behalf of the City of Bellevue, I would like to thank you both for your volunteer efforts on behalf of our community. Your civic interest in spearheading the campaign to save the Mercer Slough is something which you should be very proud of!

Your efforts are deeply appreciated. There are not many people who show such sensitivity and caring about our community and its way of life. I hope you will continue your commitment to the quality and livability of our community and hopefully others will follow in your footsteps.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

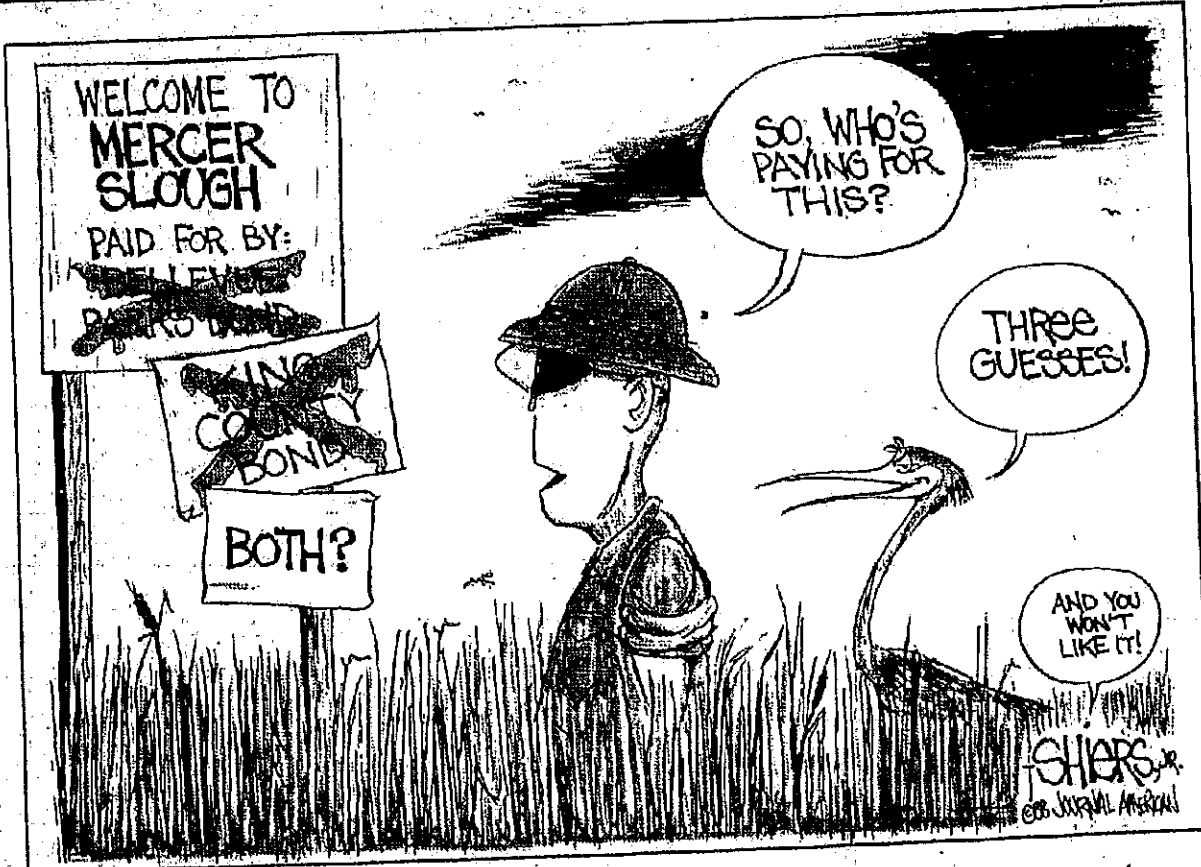
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nan Campbell'.

Nan Campbell
Mayor

NC:eh

points

Wednesday, June 22, 1998



ful persons to discover "what's next" for themselves, and to move into action in those areas in a powerful and effective manner.

Contrary to Marcia Jimenez's assertion, there are numerous independent studies attesting to the long-range efficacy of the work that Werner Erhard and associates has done with both groups and individuals. It is an extremely pop-

Paying for mistake

King and Snohomish counties and the city of Redmond are embarking on a \$325,000 study to "design stream enhancement projects for the Bear Creek Basin." While I support the restoration and preservation of the environment, I find it ironic that citizens are now being asked to pay for the restoration of an important ecological

accountable. That's all we've ever asked for them to do.

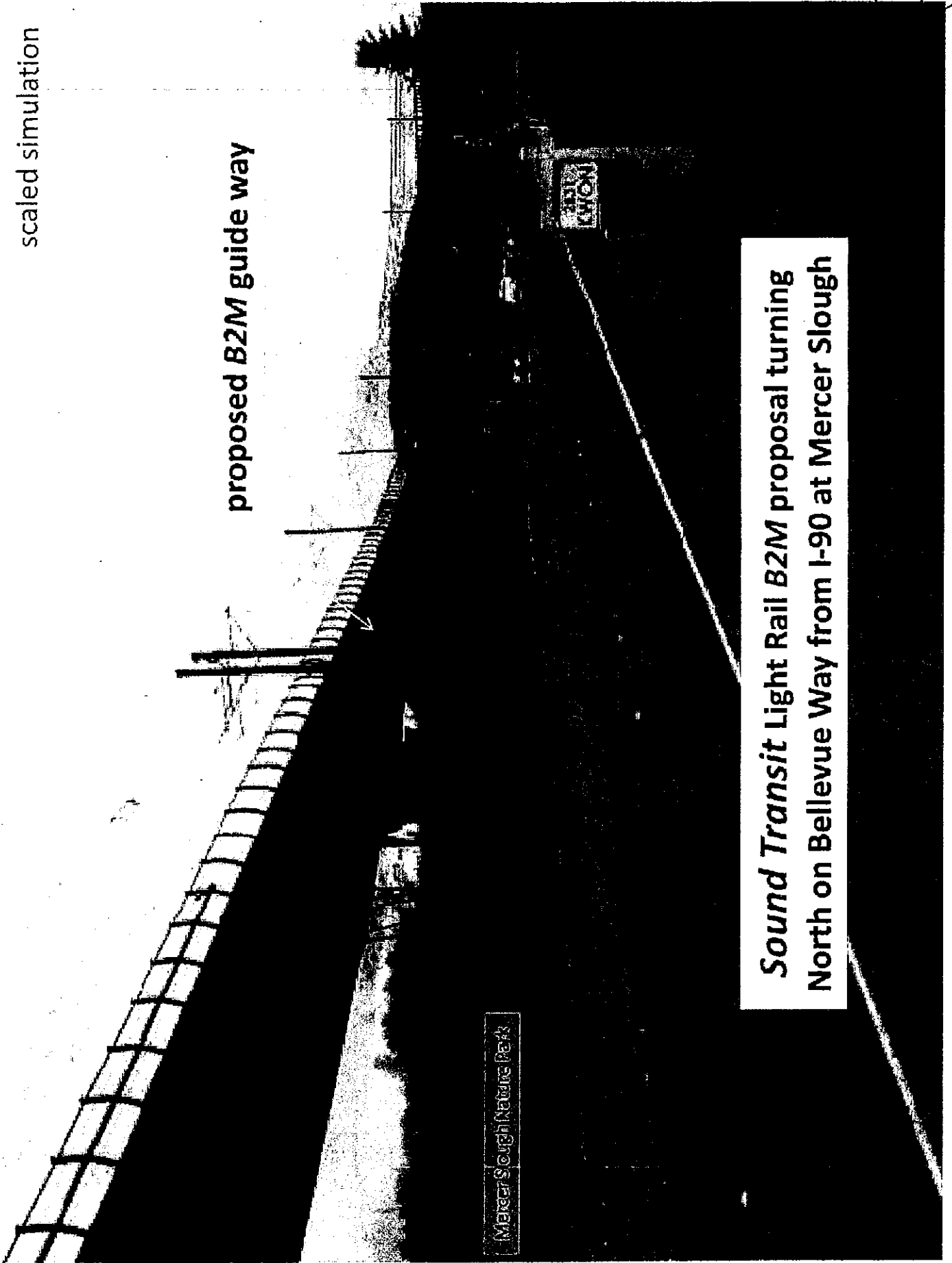
I agree with former Commissioner Paul Friedlander who stated that the tax levy could be done away with in 10 years. So I ask why not by the year 2000?

For the past 11 years they have received without any justification or request a \$2 million increase in the tax levy so that next year it's up to \$29.4 million.

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proposed B2M guide way



Mercer Slough Nature Park

**Sound Transit Light Rail B2M proposal turning
North on Bellevue Way from I-90 at Mercer Slough**

5

Preferred 112th SE Modified Alternative (B2M) would result in the highest permanent property impact to the 320-acre Mercer Slough Nature Park when compared with the other Segment B alternatives; it would not affect the other two parks in Segment B.

When connecting to Preferred Alternative C11A, 2.9 acres would be permanently impacted (1.5 acres at-grade and retained cut and 1.4 acres elevated) and 3.0 acres (1.6 acres at-grade and retained cut and 1.4 acres elevated) when connecting to Preferred Alternative C9T (Table 4.17-2). Exhibit 4.17-2 depicts the impacted park area. This alternative would acquire an approximately 30- to 50-foot section of the park's western boundary for a distance of approximately 3,200 feet and would remove shrubs and trees. The acquisition area would be less than 1 percent of the total park area.

TABLE 4.17-2
Segment B Parks and Open Spaces Permanent Impacts

Alternative		Mercer Slough Nature Park (acres)	Bellevue Way Greenbelt (acres)
Preferred 112th SE Modified Alternative (B2M)	To Preferred Alternative C11A	<u>2.9</u>	None
	To Preferred Alternative C9T	<u>3.0</u>	
Bellevue Way Alternative (B1)		0.5	0.4 (full acquisition)
112th SE At-Grade Alternative (B2A)		1.7	0.1
112th SE Elevated Alternative (B2E)		0.7	None
112th SE Bypass Alternative (B3)		1.7	0.1
B3 - 114th Extension Design Option		1.7	0.1
BNSF Alternative (B7)		<u>0.9</u>	None



CITY OF BELLEVUE

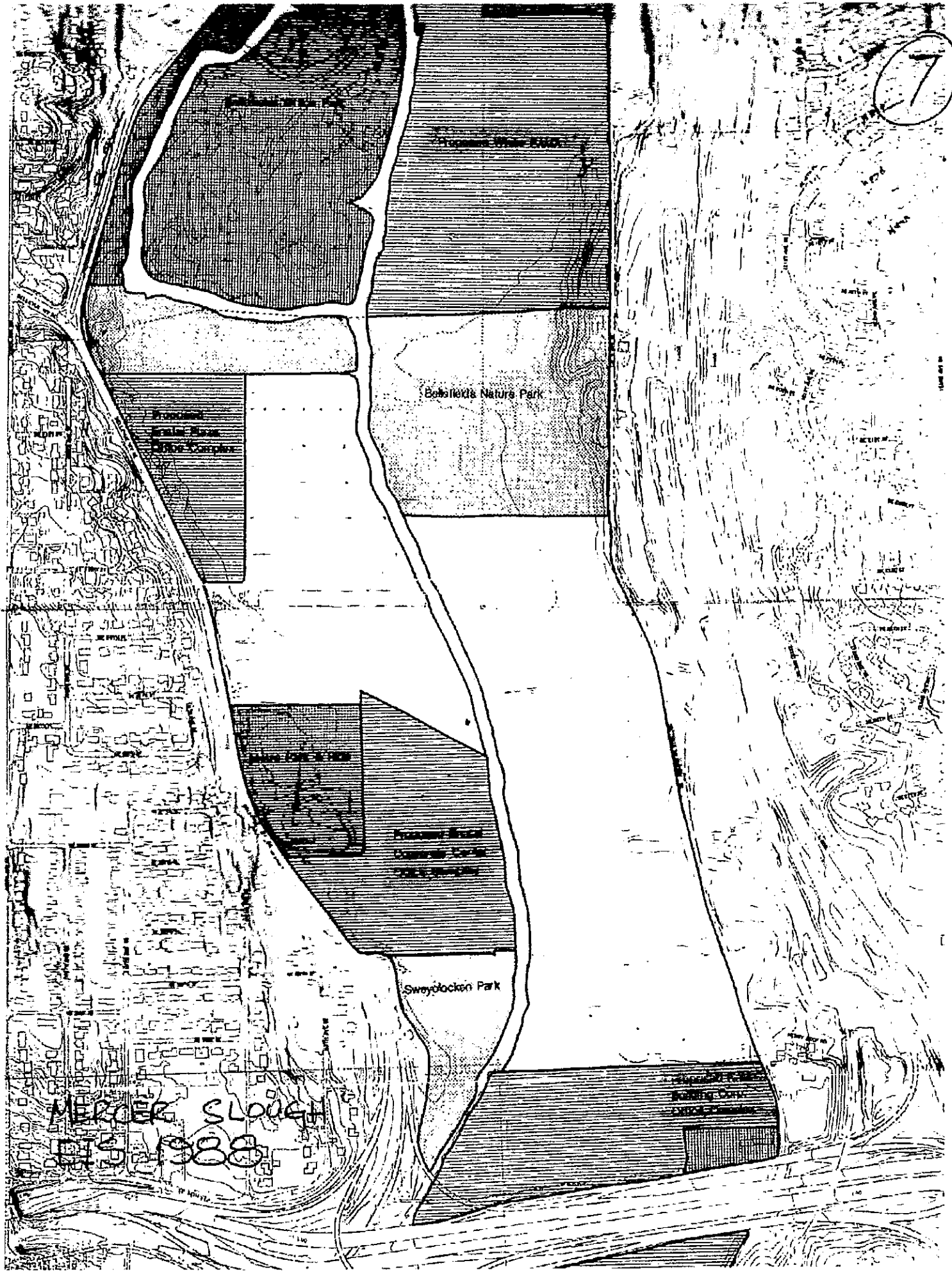
1988

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

MERCER SLOUGH

OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

7



Proposed Water Facility

Bobriek's Nature Park

Proposed Industrial Park
Water Complex

Proposed Industrial Park

Proposed Industrial Park
Water Complex

Sweyöcken Park

Proposed Industrial Park
Water Complex

MERDER SLOUGH
1988

8

blueberry farming in the foreground with forested hillsides beyond.

The Metro Park and Ride lot and its institutionalized landscaping soon intrude on this scene. North of the lot, upland vegetation virtually eliminates visual penetration into the slough area. Views from 112 Avenue S.E. look onto the structures of Bellefield Office Park. On the east side 118th Avenue S.E. has a rural character with views out to the surrounding landscape limited by large trees and shrubs. Here however, intermittent views out over the Slough occur at vegetation breaks along the road and during winter months when deciduous trees drop their leaves.

The limited number of public access points to the Slough restrict the numbers of people that currently experience the area. Views within the area occur at the boat launch in Sweyolocken Park, from existing trails in Bellefield Nature Park, from the blueberry farm, and from boating on the Slough. The visual experience in the wetlands is generally one of a natural landscape although several man-made elements intrude on this experience. These elements include the I-90 bridge crossings of the Slough, the structures of Bellefield Office Park, the vertical features associated with three sets of communication towers located in the wetlands, and the two crossings of the wetlands and open water slough by power lines and poles at Sweyolocken and at the north end of Bellefield Nature Park.

While boating on the Slough, views are focused generally north or south while dense vegetation along the Slough banks restricts

waterway views east or west. From 500 feet north of Sweyolocken boat launch to about parallel with the Park and Ride Lot, distant views to the north are focused on the tall buildings of downtown Bellevue. The buildings disappear from view once the blueberry farm is reached and reappear while approaching Bellefield Office Park.

Private, undeveloped lands in the Slough area are under development pressure. From 1985 to present, the following proposals for development have been received by the City of Bellevue:

- the proposed Enatai Corporate Center Office Complex; north of Sweyolocken Park and south and east of the Metro Park and Ride lot along Bellevue Way S.E.
- the proposed Enatai Plaza Office Complex, north and west of the blueberry farm and south of Bellefield Office Park along Bellevue Way S.E.
- the proposed Trammel-Crow Office Complex, south of the Slough at Kelsey Creek along 118 Avenue S.E.
- the proposed White P.U.D. north of Bellefield Nature park along 118 Avenue S.E. and
- the proposed NW Building Corporation Office Complex north of I-90 along 118 Avenue S.E.

gone? →

See Figure 17, Land Ownership Map, for these locations. The proposals would change

MERCER SLOUGH
EIS 1988

operations room, restrooms, lobby area, library and exhibit area.

A 2,300' long paved, handicap accessible interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the slough. Three pedestrian bridges would cross a waterway on this loop trail and connect an amphitheater and viewing tower with the Interpretive Center. Parking for 40 vehicles would be provided at the Center and farm/market complex with overflow parking at the Park & Ride lot. Satellite parking lots would be provided on the perimeter of the Slough at various activity areas such as Bellefield Nature Park, Sweyolocken Park, and the neighborhood park north of I-90 on 118th Avenue S.E. Approximately 4.9 miles of nature trails with interpretive signage, eight (8) viewpoints, and a bridge over the slough are part of this alternative concept.

Land presently under agricultural use would be reduced by 9.7 acres. This change allows for the introduction of hedge rows and the pulling back of agricultural uses from the banks of the slough. Further vegetation and habitat enhancement would occur with the introduction of 7 acres of meadow and 7.8 acres of vegetation management which would diversify habitats and associated wildlife species.

Two canoe landings are proposed. One would be at Bellefield Office Park and the other would occur at the farm/market complex and Interpretive Center. Improvements to Sweyolocken Park include a car-top canoe/boat launch, designated parking for 24 vehicles and a picnic area.

Two small neighborhood parks would be located within the slough area: the Gateway Park at the intersection of Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E.; and a passive use meadow north of I-90 and west of 118th Avenue S.E. These facilities would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as minor entrances into the Slough trail system. The existing Bellefield Nature Park trail system would be incorporated into the system for the Slough. In addition, Bellefield would host several demonstration projects related to stream rehabilitation, backyard vegetative enhancement for wildlife, and wetland restoration and enhancement.

The extent and numbers of recreation and education facilities and enhancement activities is presented in Table 2. This table provides the same information for all three alternative design concepts in order to facilitate comparison.

ALTERNATIVE C

The design concept for Alternative C has the same elements as Alternative B and many of the elements of Alternative A. However, the differences are in quantity and size: more water features, greater modification of habitats, more bridges, larger buildings and longer trails (Figure 4).

Approximately 12.7 acres of open water ponds and associated marshes and swamps would be created for habitat diversity and wildlife enhancement. These ponds would be created in areas that support larger

MERCER SLOUGH
EIS 1988



Bellefields 112th Restoration Projects

Thursday, March 19, 2009 12:51 PM

From: "GBradley@bellevueva.gov" <GBradley@bellevueva.gov>

To: geoffreybidwell@yahoo.com, margotn@sammamishclub.com

Geoff/Margot,

I just wanted to give you guys an update on the status of the Bellefields 112th project. We decided to hold off on implementation until summer/fall to give the new plants a better chance of survival and fit within the fish window required to install the bridge. I envision the clearing, trail and bridge work to be done in August/September and planting to follow in September/October. I apologize for all the delays with this project, but the finish project will be a great improvement.

PS - on a side note I received an NEP request to install a trail from the Winters House to 112th Ave. Although there will certainly be some complicated permitting involved, at least it is all on City property, so I will be creating a ballot project. This will create a nice off street connection from the existing project to the Winters House.

Thanks for your continued patience and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Geoffrey Bradley
Environmental Programs Supervisor
Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department
425-452-2740 (office)
425-864-1963 (cell)
425-452-7221 (fax)

MERCER SLOUGH
112th AVE TRAIL

10

11

Thurstonson, Kristina

From: Billen, Don [don.billen@soundtransit.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 3:57 PM
To: Van de Kamp, Bernard
Cc: Carlson, Diane; Sparman, Goran
Subject: 112th trail project

Importance: High

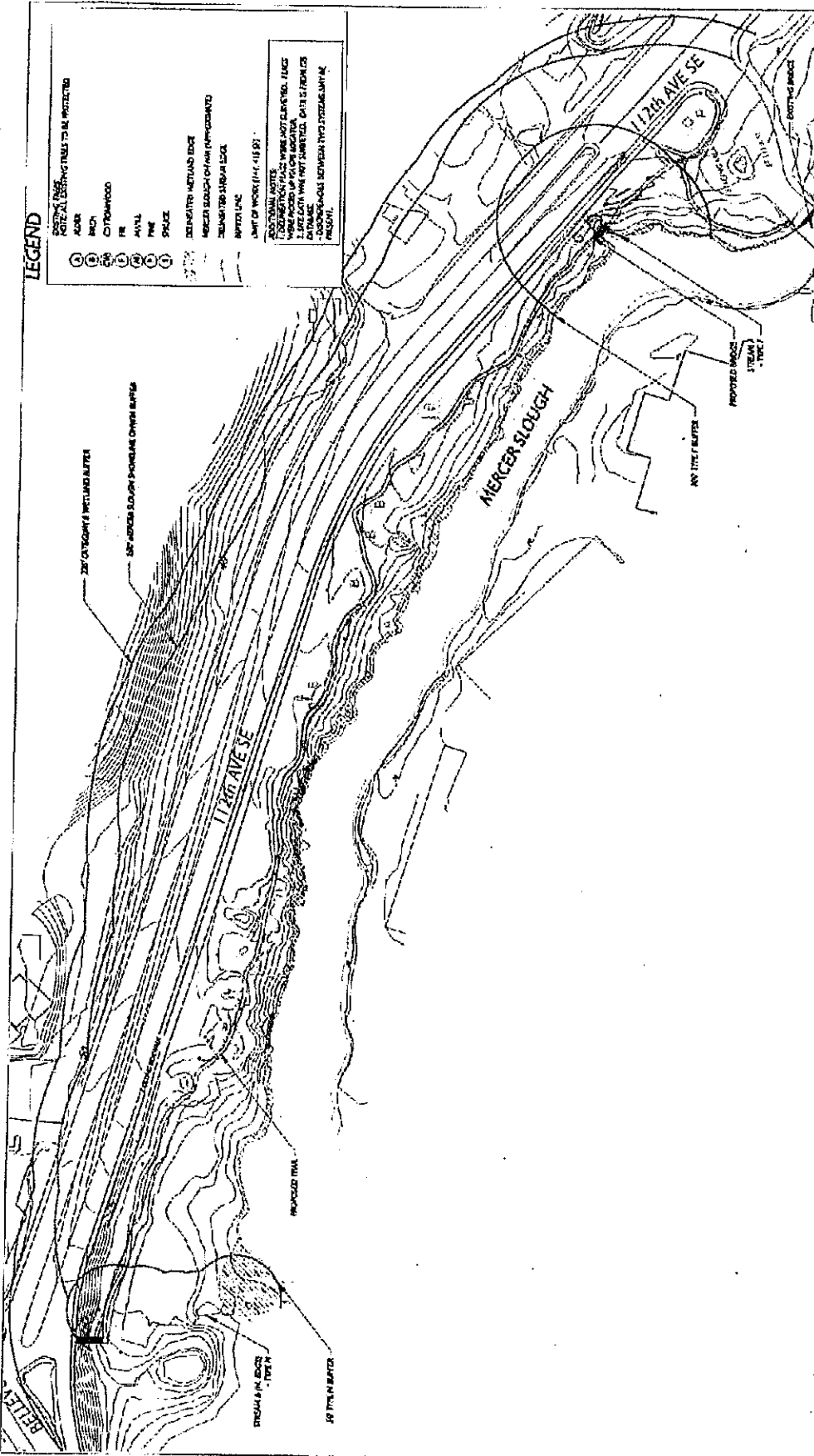
Bernard –

This is a follow-up to our phone conversation regarding the 112th trail project the City is preparing to construct next to Mercer Slough. Sound Transit staff first learned about this project yesterday in a discussion with the Parks Department regarding the relocation of the Winters House. I now understand that City Parks has received bids for the trail project and is preparing to award construction on July 6th. Upon review of additional information today, it appears that there is a high probability that the project will conflict with the construction of light rail on the east-side of 112th Avenue. Light rail on the east-side of 112th was recommended by the Bellevue City Council in February and identified as preferred subject to further study by the Sound Transit Board in May.

Both Sound Transit and the City are seeking ways to deliver the light rail project as cost-effectively as possible and the public has an expectation that we minimize conflicts between public projects wherever possible. Please consider this a formal request that the City delay, and if necessary cancel, award of the trail construction contract while we jointly assess the relationship of the two projects. More broadly, I would like to discuss further how the City might inventory all projects that may conflict with East Link so that we can identify and resolve problems early.

Thanks, in advance, for your assistance.

Don Billen
Note new e-mail address: don.billen@soundtransit.org
East Link Program Manager
Sound Transit
(206) 398-5052



LEGEND

- CRITICAL AREAS SERVING WETLANDS TO BE PROTECTED
- 1. 200' CONTIGUOUS WETLAND BUFFER
- 2. 50' ADJACENT SLUOCH CHANNELS OTHER BUFFERS
- 3. 50' BUFFER
- 4. 100' BUFFER
- 5. 150' BUFFER
- 6. 200' BUFFER
- 7. 250' BUFFER
- 8. 300' BUFFER
- 9. 350' BUFFER
- 10. 400' BUFFER
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- 199. 9850' BUFFER
- 200. 9900' BUFFER
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- 202. 10000' BUFFER

CRITICAL AREA / BUFFER FIGURE

SCALE: 1" = 50'-0" GRAPHIC SCALE ON THIS PLAN. NORTH IS AS SHOWN.

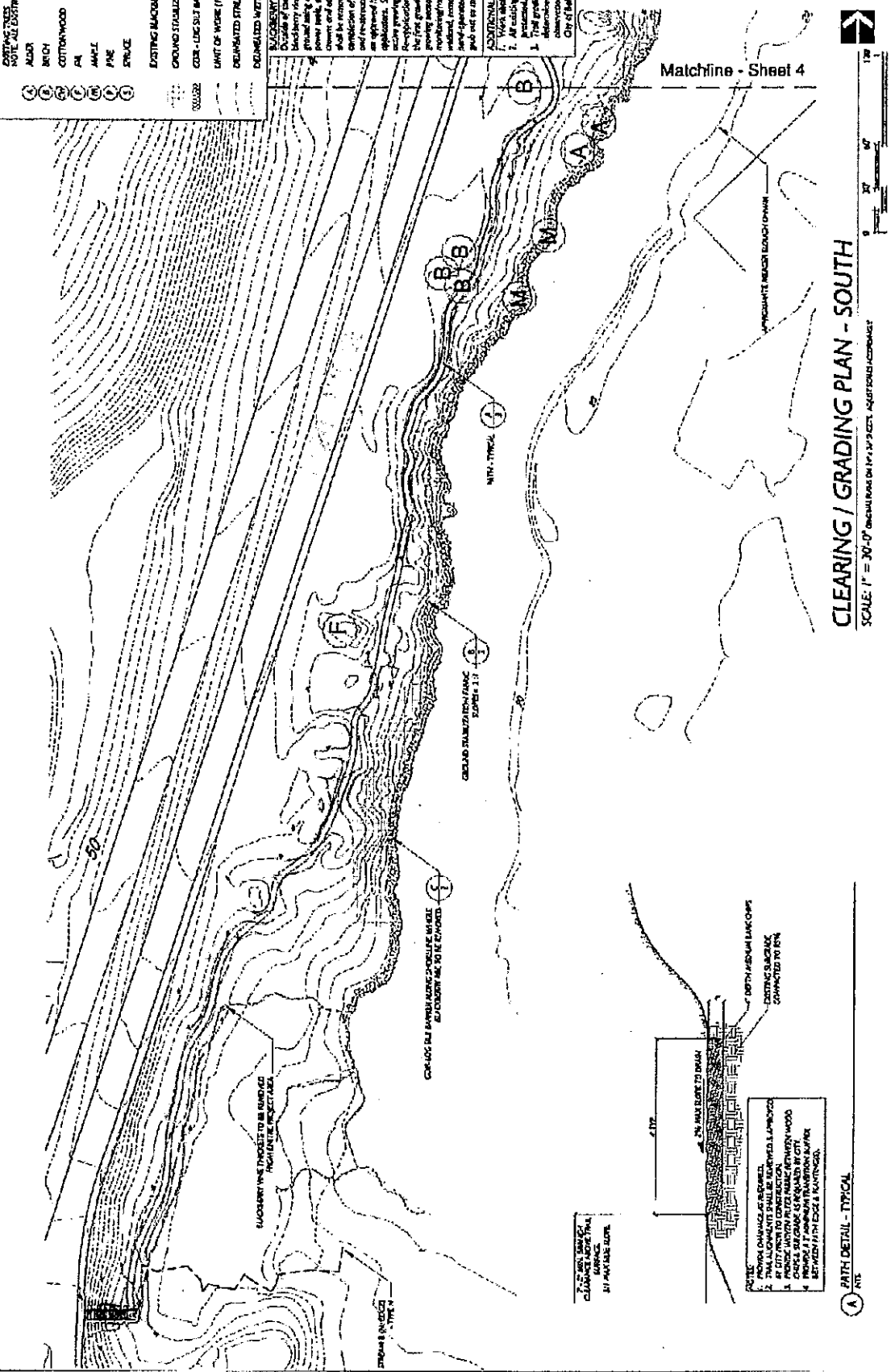


	<p>City of Bellevue Dept. of Parks and Community Services</p>	<p>WASHINGTON STATE</p>	<p>MERCER SLOUGH / 11th AVE SE RESTORATION</p>	<p>CRITICAL AREA / BUFFER FIGURE</p>	<p>TWC 4-07020</p>	<p>Sheet 1 of 10</p>
<p>APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____</p> <p>DESIGNED BY: _____ DATE: _____</p> <p>DRAWN BY: _____ DATE: _____</p> <p>CHECKED BY: _____ DATE: _____</p>						

LEGEND

- CUT AND FILL**
- EXISTING TREES TO BE PROTECTED
 - ALDER
 - BIRCH
 - COTTONWOOD
 - PN
 - MAPLE
 - PINE
 - SPRUCE
- EXISTING BACKSLOPE/WALK THROUGHT**
- GROUND STABILIZATION FABRIC**
- COR-LOG SLOPE MARKER**
- LIMIT OF WORK (14.15 FT)**
- DELIMITED STREAM EDGE**
- DELIMITED WETLAND**

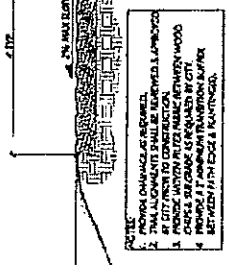
MATERIAL NOTES:
 1. All existing trees within project area shall be preserved.
 2. The grading may need alteration or adjustment by contractor based on field conditions.
 3. All work shall be done in accordance with City of Bellevue.
ADDITIONAL NOTES:
 1. Work shall not occur below GRNWA.
 2. All existing trees within project area shall be preserved.
 3. The grading may need alteration or adjustment by contractor based on field conditions.
 4. All work shall be done in accordance with City of Bellevue.



CLEARING / GRADING PLAN - SOUTH

SCALE: 1" = 30'-0" INCLUDING 10' X 14' PANEL ADJUSTMENT

<p>City of Bellevue Dept. of Public and Community Services</p>							
<p>MERCER SLOUGH / 172nd AVE SE RESTORATION</p>				<p>CLEARING / GRADING PLAN - SOUTH</p>			
<p>TWC # 02637</p>				<p>Sheet 3 of 10</p>			
<p>Approved By</p>				<p>DATE</p>			

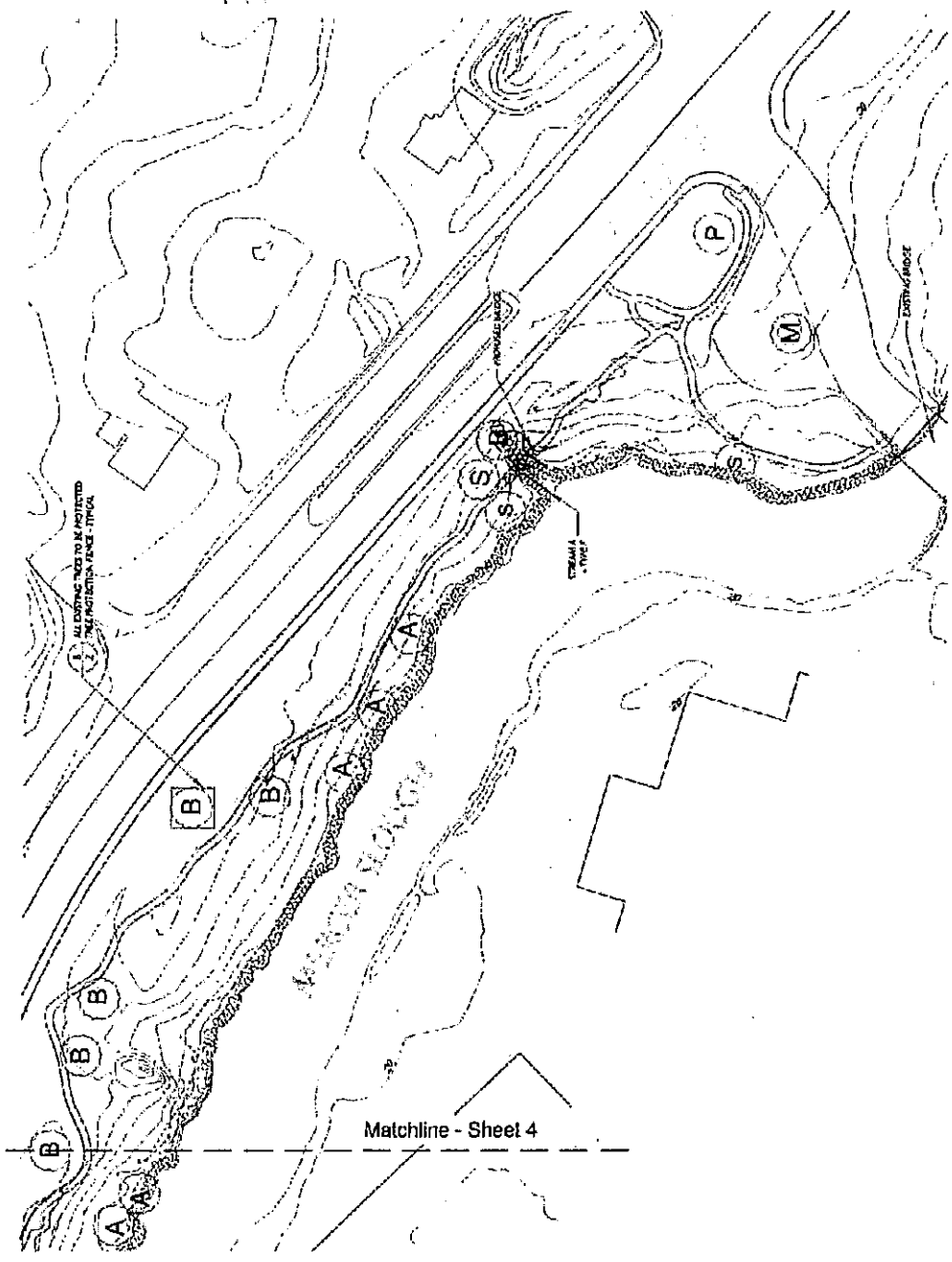


A PATH DETAIL - TYPICAL

16

LEGEND

- CLEARING TREES**
NOTE: ALL EXISTING TREES TO BE PROTECTED
- 1 ASH
 - 2 BIRCH
 - 3 CEDAR
 - 4 HEMLOCK
 - 5 PINE
 - 6 SPRUCE
- EXISTING BLACKBERRY VINE TO BE REMOVED**
- GROUND STABILIZATION PILING**
- COAK - LOG SPLY BARRIER**
- LIMIT OF WORK (114.11.15.19)**
- DISBURGED STREAM EDGE**
- DISBURSED WETLAND**
- DISBURSED/REMOVAL NOTES**
Outline of any approved wetland area. Disburged area thickness shall be set to the ground using a slope indicator, by hand operated power saw, or other approved method. Piling shall be removed from the site during or upon completion of the clearing work. Re-vegetation and re-sprouting growth shall be treated with an approved herbicide by state-licensed applicators. Such treatment is to be during the dormant season (fall or winter). Re-vegetation may be used during the first growing season and in subsequent growing seasons during the maintenance period. Within the maintenance period, which the wetland, removal will be by hand tools or other approved power tools only, making sure to pile out to meet tree preservation.
- ADDITIONAL NOTES:**
1. View shall not occur below ORWAAL
 2. All existing trees within project area shall be protected.
 3. All trees to be removed shall be removed by a contractor based on field observations. Verify all impact storage with City of Bellevue.

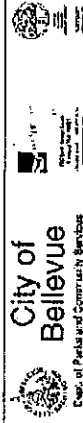


CLEARING / GRADING PLAN - NORTH

SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"
DRAWN: JAMES M. DE WITT, JR. (P.E.) - 4/15/2023 (CADDWORK)

<p>APPROVED BY: _____</p> <p>DATE: _____</p>		<p>DATE: _____</p> <p>SCALE: _____</p>	
<p>PROJECT: _____</p> <p>LOCATION: _____</p>		<p>DATE: _____</p> <p>SCALE: _____</p>	
<p>PROJECT: _____</p> <p>LOCATION: _____</p>		<p>DATE: _____</p> <p>SCALE: _____</p>	
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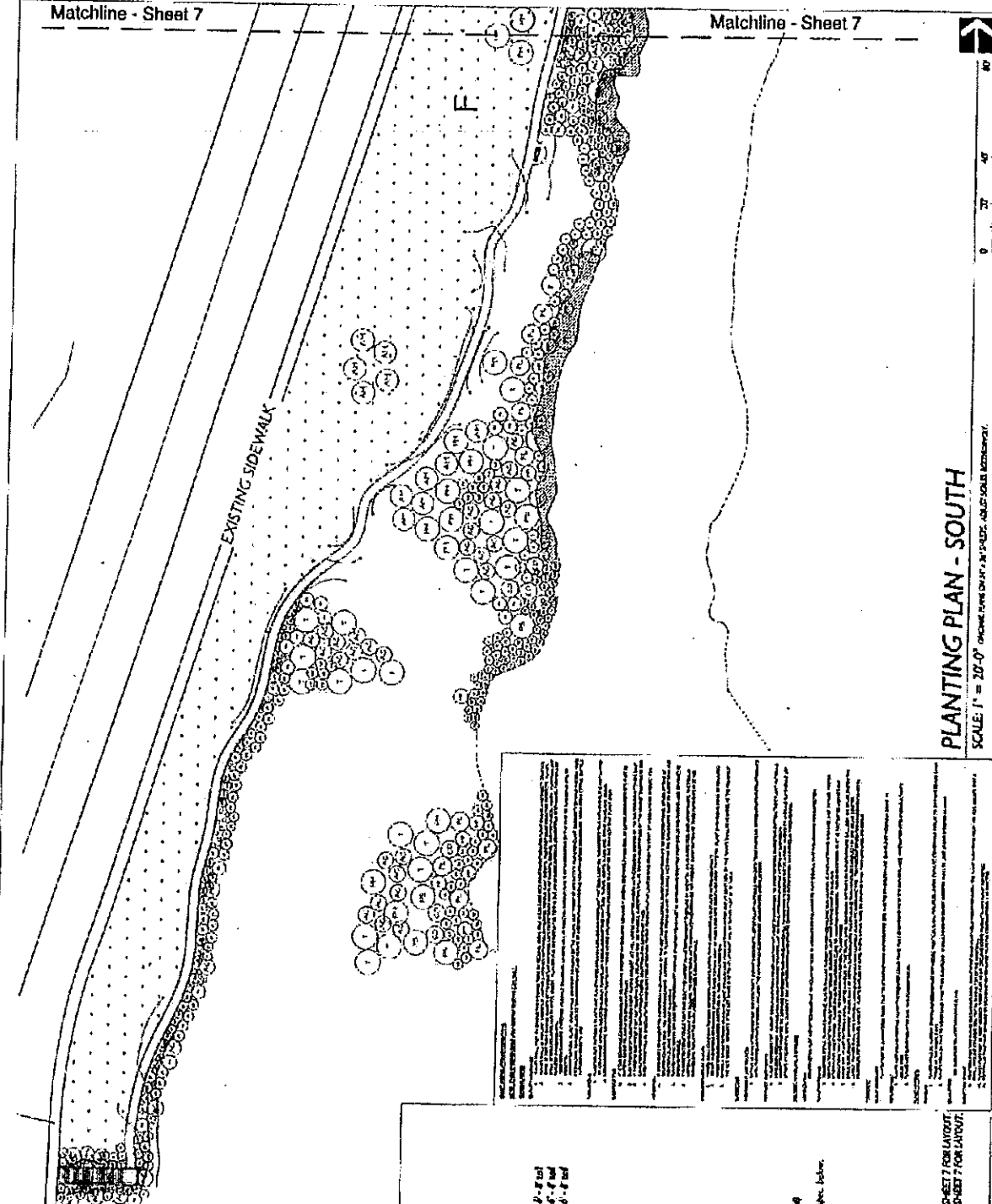
MERCER SLOUGH / 112th AVE SE RESTORATION



CLEARING / GRADING PLAN - NORTH

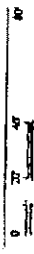
TWC P: 210203

Sheet 4 of 10



PLANTING PLAN - SOUTH

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0" ONCE THE TREE OR PLANT IS PLACED. (SEE SOIL REMEDIATION)



PLANTING LEGEND

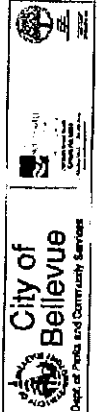
Scientific / Common	Qty	Size
Trees		
1. Acer glabrum / Silver Birch	22	1 gal.
2. Quercus macrocarpa / White Oak	11	2 gal.
3. Prunella virginiana / Black Cherry	24	2 gal.
4. Cornus rugosa / Spicebush	34	2 gal.
5. Salix nigra / Willow	41	2 gal.
6. Nyssa sylvatica / Black Sycamore	31	2 gal.
7. Thuja occidentalis / Eastern Red Cedar	34	2 gal.
8. Thuja occidentalis / Eastern Red Cedar	34	2 gal.
Shrubs		
9. Cornus sericea / Red Dogwood	140	1 gal.
10. Cornus sericea / Red Dogwood	142	1 gal.
11. Salix humilis / Willow	80	2 gal.
12. Salix humilis / Willow	79	2 gal.
13. Salix humilis / Willow	57	2 gal.
14. Salix humilis / Willow	61	2 gal.
15. Salix humilis / Willow	117	2 gal.
16. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
17. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
18. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
19. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
20. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
21. Salix humilis / Willow	54	2 gal.
Groundcover & Lign Shakes		
22. Phlox subulata / Groundcover	123	1 gal.
23. Phlox subulata / Groundcover	120	1 gal.
24. Phlox subulata / Groundcover	120	1 gal.

* Approximate quantities of material to be installed are shown. Actual quantities to be installed may vary. See notes on drawings for details.

NOTES:

1. All trees and shrubs shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and drawings.
2. All trees and shrubs shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and drawings.
3. All trees and shrubs shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and drawings.
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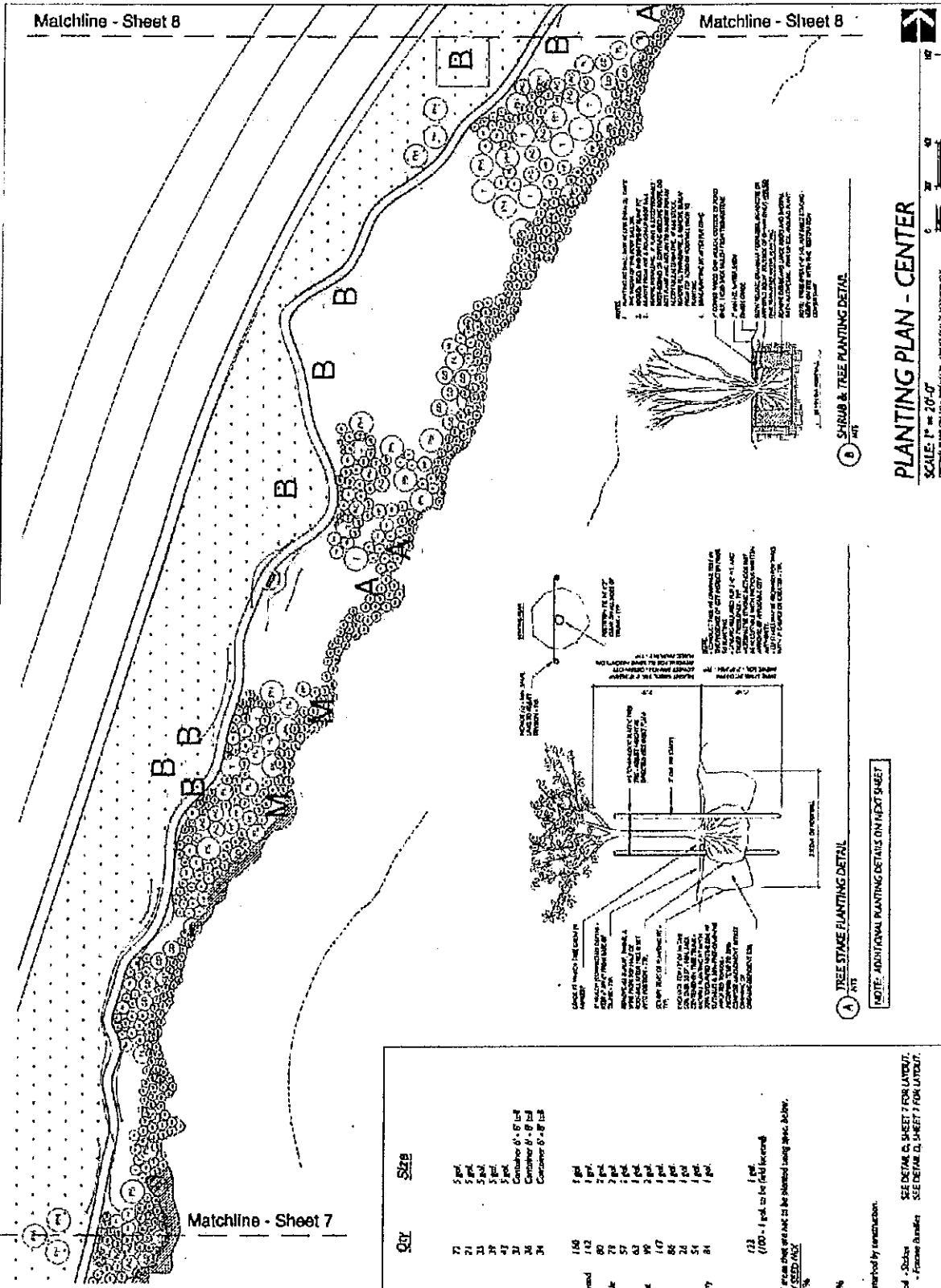
PLANTING PLAN - SOUTH
 MERCER SLOUGH / 112th AVE SE
 RESTORATION
 DWG # - 010103
 Sheet 5 of 10



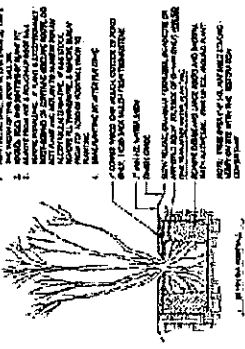
Approved By

DATE	BY

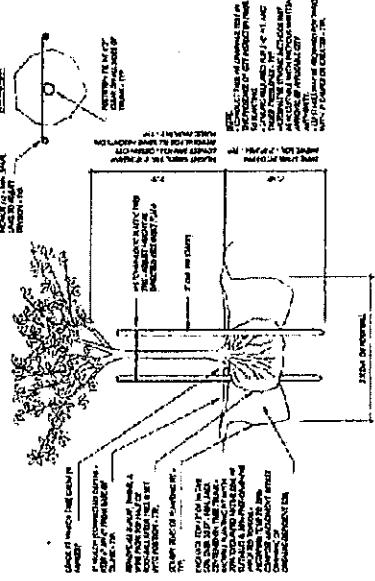
17



B SHRUB & TREE PLANTING DETAIL



A TREE STAKE PLANTING DETAIL



NOTE: ADDITIONAL PLANTING DETAILS ON NEXT SHEET

PLANTING LEGEND

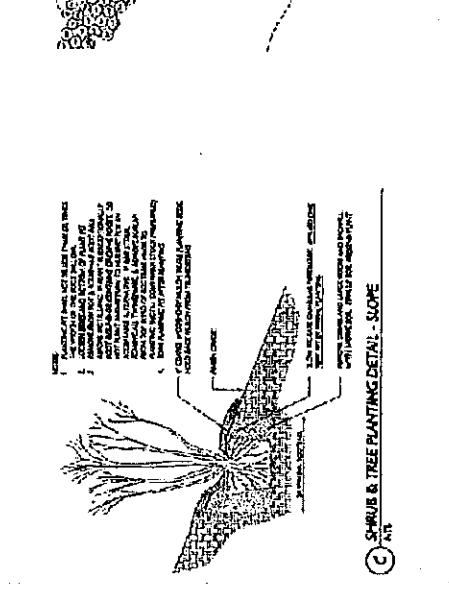
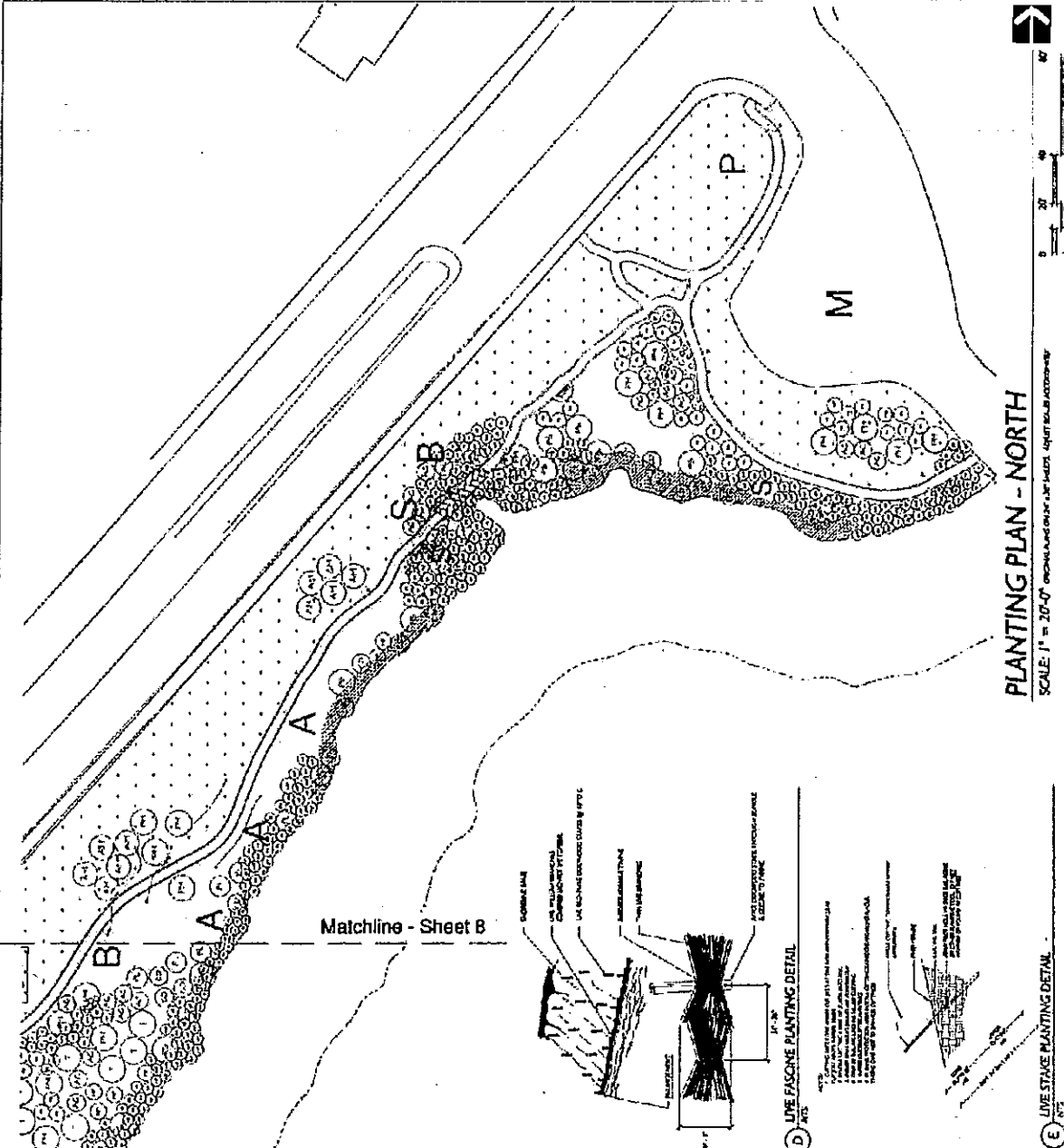
Scientific / Common	Qty	Size
Trees		
1. <i>Acer glabrum</i> / Vine Maple	71	5 gal
2. <i>Abies balsamea</i> / Pacific Whitefir	21	5 gal
3. <i>Corylus americana</i> / American Hazelnut	31	5 gal
4. <i>Malus domestica</i> / Honeycrisp	37	5 gal
5. <i>Malus florida</i> / Western Crabapple	47	5 gal
6. <i>Rosa rugosa</i> / Rugosa Rose	34	Container 6" x 6" 1/4"
7. <i>Spiraea japonica</i> / Japanese Spirea	34	Container 6" x 6" 1/4"
8. <i>Hamamelis virginica</i> / Witch Ham	34	Container 6" x 6" 1/4"
Shrubs		
9. <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> / Red Dogwood	146	1 gal
10. <i>Genipa americana</i> / Yellow Dogwood	146	1 gal
11. <i>Lonicera maackii</i> / Tatarian Honeylocust	80	2 gal
12. <i>Myrica californica</i> / California Wax Myrtle	78	2 gal
13. <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> / Manchurian Amur	57	1 gal
14. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	63	2 gal
15. <i>Ribes sibiricum</i> / Siberian Currant	99	1 gal
16. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	117	1 gal
17. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	86	1 gal
18. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	21	1 gal
19. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	54	1 gal
20. <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> / Red Flowering Currant	81	1 gal
Groundcover & Live Stakes		
21. <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> / Manchurian Amur	113	1 gal
22. <i>Lonicera maackii</i> / Tatarian Honeylocust	(100 - 1 gal to be placed using these below)	

PLANTING PLAN - CENTER
 SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"
 MERCER SLOUGH / 112th AVE SE RESTORATION

City of Bellevue
 Dept. of Parks and Community Services

PLANTING PLAN - MID
 SHEET 6 OF 10

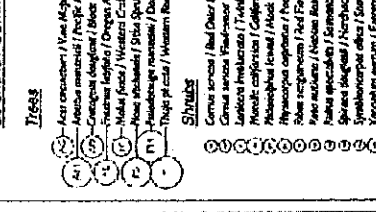
Approved By: _____
 Date: _____

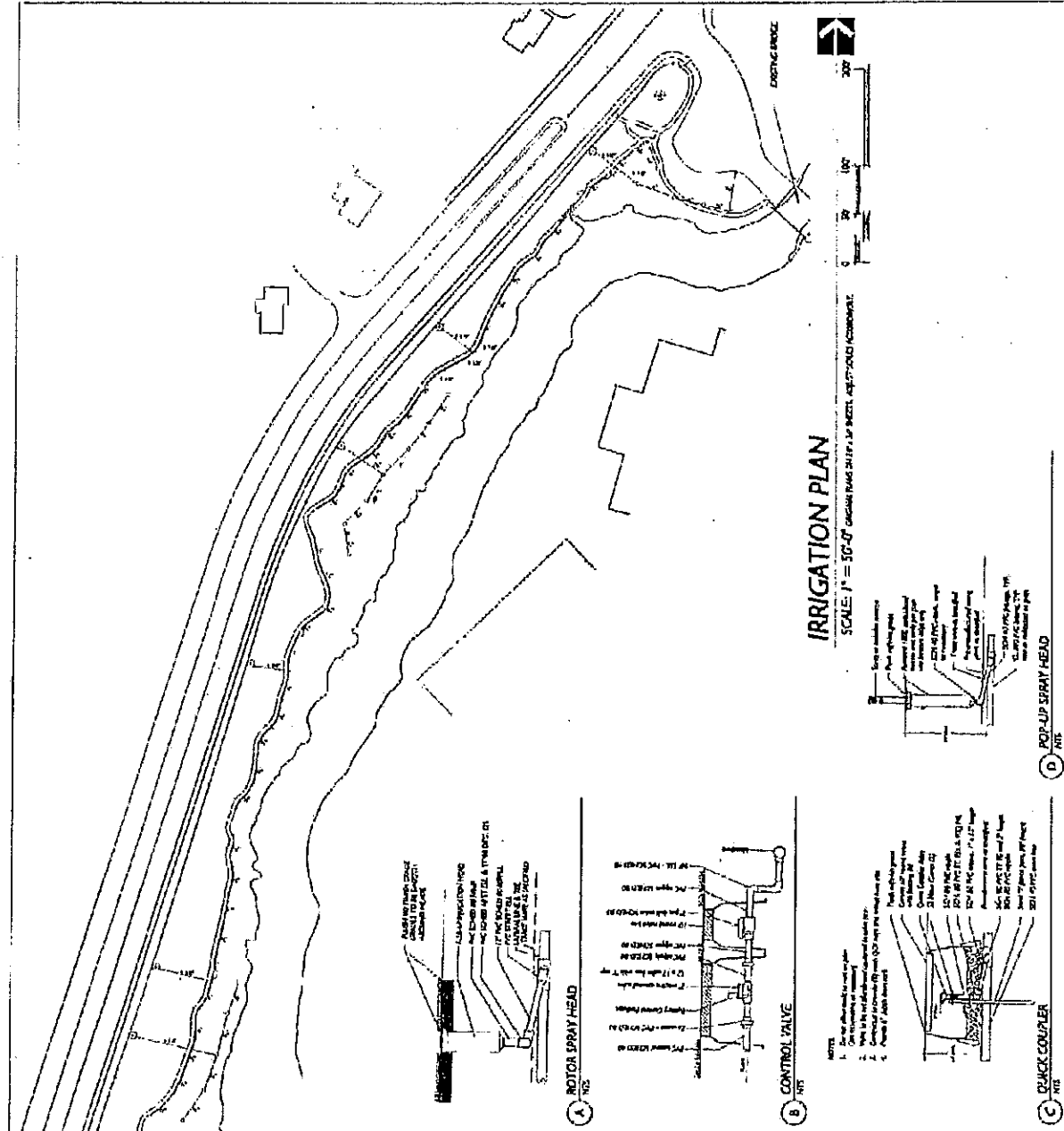


Scientific / Common	Qty	Size
Trees		
Aspen (Betula papyrifera)	27	1 gal
Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)	27	1 gal
Black Gum (Nyctaginia speciosa)	27	1 gal
Box Elder (Acer negundo)	27	1 gal
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)	27	1 gal
Common Elm (Ulmus americana)	27	1 gal
Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica)	27	1 gal
White Birch (Betula picea)	27	1 gal
Yellow Birch (Betula flaccida)	27	1 gal
White Pine (Pinus strobus)	27	1 gal
Red Pine (Pinus resinosa)	27	1 gal
Scrub oaks (Q. coccinea, Q. prinus)	27	1 gal
Shrubs		
Cornus sericea	150	1 gal
Amelanchier canadensis	150	1 gal
Juniperus horizontalis	150	1 gal
Rosa pratincola	150	1 gal
Rosa carolina	150	1 gal
Spiraea alba	150	1 gal
Spiraea angustifolia	150	1 gal
Spiraea tomentosa	150	1 gal
Viburnum acerifolium	150	1 gal
Viburnum acerifolium	150	1 gal
Yucca filamentosa	150	1 gal
Groundcover & Live Stakes		
Panicum capillare	123	1 gal
Stipa capillaris	123	1 gal
Stipa sp. (to be specified)	123	1 gal

Notes:
 * Noted in detailed or copied and same does not to be planted with same items.
 PROTECT ALL NATIVE WATERS QUALITY BEZED MIX
 Species planted / Live Stake: 30%
 Species planted / Live Stake: 75%
 Species planted / Live Stake: 75%
 SEED AT RATE OF 1 LB PER 1000 SF.
 Re-vegetated areas where existing items is disturbed by construction.
 SEE DETAIL D, SHEET 7 FOR LAYOUT
 SEE DETAIL C, SHEET 7 FOR LAYOUT
 PREPARE & SUE SLOUGH - FUTURE PLANTING
 PERK & SUE WATSON

PLANTING LEGEND





1 of 1 TABLE

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT
1	1/2" HDPE 10' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
2	1/2" HDPE 20' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
3	1/2" HDPE 30' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
4	1/2" HDPE 40' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
5	1/2" HDPE 50' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
6	1/2" HDPE 60' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
7	1/2" HDPE 70' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
8	1/2" HDPE 80' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
9	1/2" HDPE 90' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
10	1/2" HDPE 100' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
11	1/2" HDPE 110' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
12	1/2" HDPE 120' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
13	1/2" HDPE 130' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
14	1/2" HDPE 140' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
15	1/2" HDPE 150' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
16	1/2" HDPE 160' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
17	1/2" HDPE 170' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
18	1/2" HDPE 180' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
19	1/2" HDPE 190' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
20	1/2" HDPE 200' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET

VALVE SCHEDULE

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT
1	1/2" HDPE 10' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
2	1/2" HDPE 20' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
3	1/2" HDPE 30' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
4	1/2" HDPE 40' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
5	1/2" HDPE 50' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
6	1/2" HDPE 60' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
7	1/2" HDPE 70' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
8	1/2" HDPE 80' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
9	1/2" HDPE 90' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
10	1/2" HDPE 100' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
11	1/2" HDPE 110' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
12	1/2" HDPE 120' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
13	1/2" HDPE 130' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
14	1/2" HDPE 140' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
15	1/2" HDPE 150' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
16	1/2" HDPE 160' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
17	1/2" HDPE 170' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
18	1/2" HDPE 180' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
19	1/2" HDPE 190' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET
20	1/2" HDPE 200' LENGTHS	10	LINEAL FEET

- IRRIGATION NOTES**
1. CONTRACTOR TO FIELD VERIFY LOCATION OF EXISTING IRRIGATION SYSTEM. PLAN IS DIAGRAMMATIC.
 2. SET VALVE BOXES SQUARE TO ADJACENT SIDEWALK.
 3. VERIFY PRESSURE AT P.O.C. PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK. SUBMIT RESULTS IN WRITING TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. NOTIFY ENGINEER IF LESS THAN 75 PSI.
 4. CONTRACTOR TO MAKE ANY AND ALL REQUIRED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE IRRIGATION PLAN TO ASSURE COMPLETE AND ADEQUATE COVERAGE WITH MINIMUM OVERSPRAY.
 5. REFER TO TYPICAL IRRIGATION DETAILS.
 6. SEE CORRESPONDING LAYOUT PLAN FOR PRECISE PLANTING LAYOUT.
 7. SEE SPECIFICATIONS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
 8. USE VARIABLE ARC NOZZLES ONLY WHERE FIXED NOZZLES WILL NOT WORK.
 9. ALLOW AND PROVIDE 8 NEW HUNTER LOGS & SWING JOINTS FOR THIS WORK. LAUNCHED HEADS SHALL BE PROVIDED TO OWNER.

IRRIGATION OPTION B

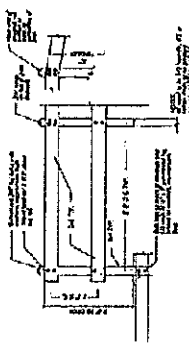
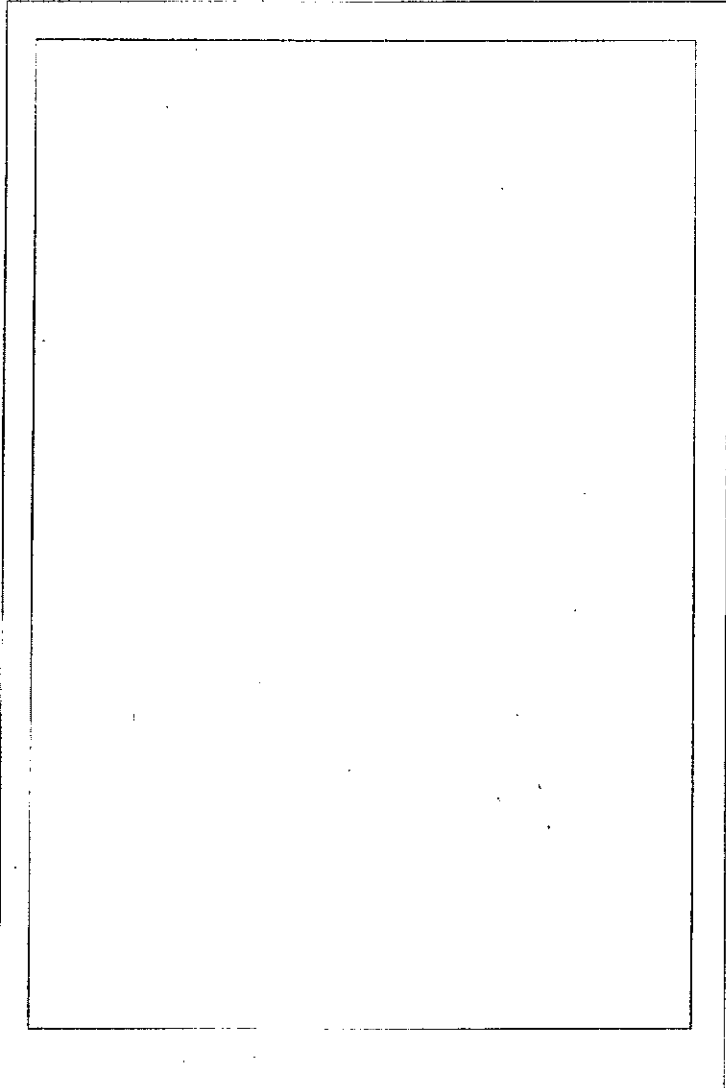
MERCER SLOUGH / 112th AVE SE RESTORATION

City of Bellevue
Dept. of Parks and Community Services

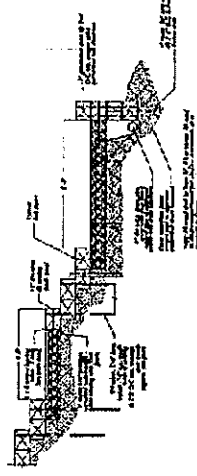
APPROVALS

Project Manager: _____
 Design Engineer: _____
 City Engineer: _____
 Date: _____

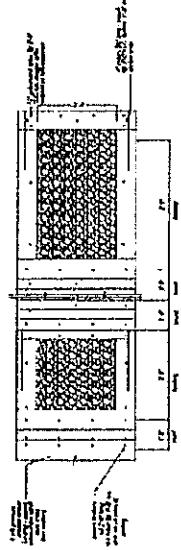
Sheet 4 of 10




A WOODEN STAIRWAY - RAIL DETAIL



B WOODEN STAIRWAY - SECTION



C WOODEN STAIRWAY - PLAN

 City of Bellevue Dept. of Parks and Community Services		MERCER SLOUGH / 112th AVE SE RESTORATION		STRUCTURE DETAILS	
Approved By: _____ Date: _____		Date: _____ Scale: _____		JWC # 070203 Sheet 9 of 10	

Executive Summary

The City of Bellevue is pleased to announce the start of construction for the new City of Bellevue Police Station. The new station will be located at the intersection of 117th Avenue and 11th Avenue, NE. The new station will be a 100,000 square foot building with a parking lot for 100 cars. The new station will be a modern building with a lot of natural light and a lot of green space. The new station will be a great addition to the City of Bellevue and will help to improve the quality of life for our residents.

- 1. The new station will be a 100,000 square foot building with a parking lot for 100 cars.
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- 3. The new station will be a great addition to the City of Bellevue and will help to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Performance Standards

- 1. The new station will be a 100,000 square foot building with a parking lot for 100 cars.
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EASTSIDE EDITION
LOCAL NEWS

News of East
 King County, greater
 Seattle and the state

THE SEATTLE TIMES SECTION B TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1994

A slough of parkland in the making

Bellevue marshes along lake scene of federal pilot program

BY KATHLENE LONG
Seattle Times Staff Writer

BELLEVUE — A federal pilot project may give birth to the largest wetlands park in the Western United States.

Dozens of prominent environmentalists and federal officials gathered under a tent at the edge of the Mercer Slough yesterday to hear Assistant Agriculture Secretary Jim Lyons describe the Urban Reserve Partnerships

initiative.

The region's energy and imagination were the reasons it was selected for the project aimed at revitalizing urban environments, Lyons said.

Seattle, New York City, Atlanta and Chicago each will receive \$500,000 and a full-time coordinator to manage the program. Lyons said the federal agencies had a lot to learn from the

"imagination and initiative" of local and state groups.

The program ties together six federal agencies involved with the environment: the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Extension Service.

Lyons acknowledged that \$500,000 is just a

drop in the bucket but said that anyone who judges the partnership solely on the money is missing the point. Noting that urban areas have been neglected by the federal government ever the past several years, Lyons said he hoped the collective experience and funds of the federal government could be joined with local expertise.

The partnership could serve as a catalyst for bigger deals.

Just such a deal is in the works between

PHILIP REE/Wetlands park in B 1

Boglands going upscale

Wetlands park

CONTINUED FROM B 1

Bellevue and the National Park Service, said Park Service regional director Chuck Odegaard, who is working with the city on a proposal to establish a \$6 million regional wetlands-education center within Mercer Slough.

With backing from six federal agencies, the city would stand a good chance of getting half the money in federal funds to pay for the proposal, Odegaard said.

He hopes the proposal will be ready by next month.

Officials who gathered at yesterday's kickoff applauded the partnership program as a new step toward cooperation and a way to revitalize the urban environment — or "green-

infrastructure," as Lyons dubbed it. King County Councilman Larry Phillips called it "a new era of cooperation" among local, state and federal governments.

The announcement also gave Bellevue City Councilwoman Chris Helton the chance to boast of a new deal to expand 510-acre slough.

The slough will grow by six acres, due in part to a \$248,000 grant from the Department of Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund and a \$227,000 grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Bellevue matched the state and federal money to come up with the nearly \$1 million needed to buy the parcel in the north end of the slough.

It is the last parcel of land Bellevue needed to make Mercer Slough complete.



THOMAS TANAKA/SEATTLE TIMES

Jim Lyons, assistant agriculture secretary, left, tours the Mercer Slough alongside Roger Hoesterer, assistant director of Bellevue's Parks and Community Service.

23

Boglands going upscale

Wetlands park

CONTINUED FROM B 1

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TERESA TAMURA/SEATTLE TIMES
Jim Lyons, assistant agriculture secretary, left, tours the Mercer Slough alongside Roger Hoesterer, assistant director of Bellevue's Parks and Community Service.

Council debates fish limits

Fishery

CONTINUED FROM B 1

Depending upon the specific eligibility requirements of an individual quota system, Puget Sound fishermen could fare substantially better than their Alaska or Oregon counterparts.

In general, the Puget Sound fleet is older and more efficient, so would

likely receive more shares. But even within it, some stand to lose.

Until January, the council appeared determined to adopt an individual quota system. That changed abruptly following a brief but intense lobbying effort by fishermen who feared they'd lose under the quota system.

Voting to postpone action, the council agreed to consider licensed

limited entry, which would restrict the number of boats but not individual catch. Derby-style fishing would continue.

Alaska has proposed license recipients be required to prove participation in the bottom fishery this year, and for three years prior to June 1989.

An unusual prerequisite, that proposal is already drawing fire. Under most limited-entry schemes, the door is shut only to newcomers.

Not surprisingly, those who began fishing for Alaska's bottom fish after the proposed cutoff date of June

1989 favor the more traditional licensed limited-entry system. That group includes several Washington-based factory trawlers that invested heavily in the fishery in early 1990 and 1991 and, likewise, salmon fishermen hoping to convert their boats.

Environmentalists say both systems fall far short of need. They want fundamental changes in the federal Magnuson Act, which regulates harvests off the 200-mile zone off Alaska. The change would order the federal government to give a fishing preference to those who waste the least.

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From: Erin Powell [mailto:u2magpie@q.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2014 12:04 AM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: Mercer Slough Nature Park East Link Parkland Conversion and Replacement

Camron Parker,

My name is Erin Powell, I live in the City of Bellevue Washington and have been a resident for 12 years. I am an avid recreational park user of the Mercer Slough Nature Park and the surrounding trails, boardwalks, boat launch and wetlands features that make up the Mercer Slough Environmental Park of Bellevue Washington. I also am a volunteer as a member of the Bellevue Parks and Community Services Board since June of 2012.

I strongly object to the proposed conversion and replacement of Mercer Slough Park property from park and recreation use to East Link Light Rail Extension transportation uses as presented to the Parks and Community Services Board meeting on Tuesday September 9, 2014. I encourage the State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the National Park Service to deny and reject this proposed boundary conversion which has been made by Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration.

Harmful effects of this proposed conversion will damage Mercer Slough Nature Park in the following ways:

Wildlife migration and travel will be disrupted by light rail construction of concrete train track support structures (several at 30 feet tall) and by taking property of this wetlands park. Trains traveling every 3 to 7 minutes for 19 to 20 hours a day will be disruptive to wildlife and people trying to enjoy the peacefulness quiet of Mercer Slough Park. The noise assaults to wildlife and people can not be ignored or mitigated by the newly purchased property known as Moon/Ross on the far east side of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Trail head access points for the major recreation features and facilities are on the west side of Mercer Slough Nature Park, near the Winter's House, the Blueberry Farm fields, and the Swayolocken Boat Launch. Mercer Slough will become a noisy park and less likely to be used by people who enjoy seeing and experiencing birds, small mammals, fish and aquatic life.

Noise pollution and light pollution will disrupt and scare away wildlife from the Mercer Slough and thereby decrease and greatly diminish the enjoyment Park users now experience. In addition to noise and light pollution the long time frame of 4 years of construction activity will most certainly harm, scare away, degrade and lead to a poor park experience by nature park users and wildlife will be displaced, perhaps permanently.

Trees, hundreds of tall, old and majestic native species trees of Douglas Fir, Cottonwood, Western Red Cedar, Alder and many other species of native plants, shrubs and flowers will cut down and removed along this proposed Mercer Slough Park land. These trees provide shade to the wetlands, habitat for the birds, small mammals, insects, aquatic life and other animals that call the Mercer Slough Park home. This severe tree canopy removal will have a very negative effect on wildlife, park user enjoyment of the natural elements within the park. Saving these trees along Bellevue Way to help buffer the park should be extremely important for preservation of

the enjoyment of Mercer Slough Nature Park.

By the taking of the North Parcel(0.77 acre) and the South Parcel (0.29 acre) for East Link Light Rail train tracks, more land that is now natural open space will be taken to substitute for automobile parking, recreation facilities, and trails so that more impervious surfaces will be built to compensate for lost uses due to this conversion. Mercer Slough Nature Park will be squeezed and trimmed of its higher elevation edges along Bellevue Way SE so that East Link Light Rail train tracks will be built on higher ground. Resulting in Park users to be more at level with and wetlands and can no longer see the view of trees and wetlands from the west side of the park looking to the east side of the park.

The Winter's House is on the National Historic Registry - East Link Light Rail tracks is planned to dig a trench in front of the Winter's House to prevent damage to the 100 year old house. Train traffic occurring so frequently in front of the Winter's House and near the trails will result in trains with 2 to 6 cars attached to a train engine causing the Mercer Slough Nature Park to experiencing about 280 trains passing through the Park each and every day. This high frequency of trains trips passing next to the Mercer Slough Nature Park purchased with grant monies so the park could be enjoyed as a peaceful place will be null and void of its promise to Bellevue citizens and the wildlife and aquatic life currently enjoying this 300 acre park.

The Mercer Slough Nature Park location is near several neighborhoods who's residents use this area as a recreation area, green views of trees, enjoy shade and fall leaves changing colors. The casual passerby resident, traveler or commuter who currently enjoys the green spaces along Bellevue Way will not have this green view of big trees and green space. A moving train creates a barrier every 3 to 7 minutes, this will be the experience of people visiting Mercer Slough Nature Park, the sights and sounds of a moving train and the accompany of noises, lights, and activity next to the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park will only harm the investment made in this Park in 1973 and 1978.

Please do not approve this proposed Parkland Conversion and Replacement request made by Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter,

Erin Powell
1015 106th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98004
425-462-2624

To: Camron Parker, Parks Department, City of Bellevue

September 2014

This memo is in response to the proposal for the proposed conversion of land in the Mercer Slough to facilitate Light Rail.

The proposed alignment along Bellevue Way/112th Ave represents the potential to significantly affect the outdoor recreation experience of the Mercer Slough when the impacts from vision, sound and of the loss of over 800 significant trees are considered. There will also be major disruptions to the wild life and functioning of the blueberry farm.

The property proposed for replacement is not of equivalent usefulness and location as that being converted and is not in a reasonably equivalent location. The proposed replacement property will not meet the same or similar recreation and farm needs for the community as the converted site.

The subject replacement land (known as the Moon/Ross property) was part of the 1988/1989 Bellevue and King County open space park bond and was tied to the White PUD property in the Mercer Slough EIS of 1988. The Bellevue Park bond was overwhelmingly approved by the Bellevue voters.

The proposed cut in front of the Winters House is approximately 30 feet deep and 2 feet below the Mercer Slough water table. The exposed cut away from the Winters House will require significantly high reinforced fencing to protect the public and road traffic from danger adding to further visual degradation. Further at and beyond the "Y" at BellWay/112th additional fencing will be necessary to protect the public and keep the animal population from rail traffic thus adding further visual pollution.

The proposed alignment will eliminate the extension of a trail system along 112th Ave adjacent next to the Slough that would have completed the Mercer Slough trail system.

There are alternative rail alignments including the B7R and Tunnel that are acceptable to the community and function more efficiently and cheaply than the present proposed rail alignment along BellWay/112th Ave. The B7R would in effect allow the Mercer Slough to grow by an additional 10.3 acres with the addition of the A2 station. The home owners at the A2 station location have signed a letter agreeing for their properties to be acquired for this proposal.

For the above reasons and previous statements made to the Bellevue Park Board this proposed conversion should be denied. Bellevue Way is the gateway to the Mercer Slough Nature Park. I have provided the Bellevue parks department with data and a video with the understanding that this will be provided to both the RCO and NPS agencies.

Sincerely
Geoffrey J. Bidwell
for 'Save the Mercer Slough Committee'

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Smith [mailto:hendershott_smith@me.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2014 4:17 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Cc: Erin Powell
Subject: Mercer Slough Nature Park East Link Parkland Conversion and Replacement proposal.

September 21, 2014

Memo to Cameron Parker, Parks Department, City of Bellevue

Having lived near the Mercer Slough since 1978, the recent idea of a proposed conversion of land there to facilitate light rail should be rejected. This unique area of Mercer Slough with the wonderful wildlife, trees and park features is too precious to let Sound Transit and any other agency ruin its environmental treasure which many of us have worked so hard to preserve, especially since the 1980s.

The planned construction of the nature path from 112th Avenue South on the west side of the Mercer Slough parallel with Bellevue Way will be cancelled with the transfer of two parcels of land on the east side of Bellevue Way to Sound Transit for rail construction. So many harmful influences associated with light rail like pollution, noise, construction disruptions, traumatic losses of birds and wildlife would be impossible to mitigate. There really is no place as special as our Mercer Slough Nature Park, so please do not approve this proposed Parkland Conversion and Replacement request made by Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration. We are sincerely interested in the healthy survival of this unique area not only for our pleasure and appreciation but also for the future generations which we also need to consider. We will appreciate your support.

Mary and Alan Smith

From: Piper Sangston [mailto:pipersangston@me.com]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 1:02 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: light rail/mercer slough

C. Parker,

I am very concerned that the property being considered for conversion for light rail does not adequately compensate for the loss of the Mercer Slough. I support parks, open space, wildlife within city limits, trails for hiking and biking, and density of trees and shrubs. I use the Mercer Slough nature park on an almost daily basis. The negative impact of a conversion from park use to light rail use is absurd.

Thank you,
Piper Sangston

From: Renay Bennett [mailto:renaybennett@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2014 8:56 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: Comments on Mercer Slough property conversion consideration

Hi Camron,

I just wanted to weigh in on this topic and submit these comments for the record.

You may not know that the area in question was before the city of Bellevue voters in a park bond, was passed and understood to be properties in parks ownership. This park land should already be in Bellevue ownership. It is concerning that it wasn't purchased as promised to the voters then.

I question why these parcels should even be considered as conversion, when you take into account that the proposed Sound Transit at grade alignment will cause the destruction of the entire western side of the Mercer Slough, that massive deforestation that will be required along this entire western side which helps with the huge amount of runoff and pollutants before it reaches the Mercer Slough, and will cause horrible noise pollution both to the surrounding long established single family neighborhoods and the abundant wildlife in the Mercer Slough. These parcels should not be considered as conversion when they do not have the same or even partially available area for visual respite, sound mitigation, wildlife protection, and people enjoyment, to name a few.

As a person who has worked to pass a Neighborhood Enhancement Project, one of which was a pedestrian trail along the western edge of the Mercer Slough, I am saddened that the citizens of Bellevue passed this vote and it now, too, will be discarded and ignored. This seems like very bad public policy.

Sound Transit proposes to place this mistaken alignment within the Mercer Slough, when far better alternatives exist that would not harm the Slough and would be better for transportation purposes. I encourage a second look to make sure that our Mercer Slough will be preserved both now and for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.
Renay Bennett
826 108th AVE SE
Bellevue Wa 98004

From: lynn mathews [mailto:lynnmathews@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 3:55 PM

To: Parker, Camron

Subject: Mercer Slough Nature Park East Link Parkland Conversion and Replacement proposal.

The recent idea of a proposed conversion of land at Mercer Slough to facilitate light rail should be rejected. Do not approve this proposed Parkland Conversion and Replacement request made by Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration: Our Mercer Slough was created by a visionary over 50 years ago, our children and our children's children will continue to fight for its protection. Here are some lessons and history of our beloved Slough;

1954 Our family the Dailey's moved to Bellevue

1962 SIEGFRIED SEMRAU Bellevue parks director, built a trail on 62 acres of city-owned wetlands.

1970's Bellefields Office Park built with dredging, fill and anchored pilings. Yet the buildings settle and sink unevenly from the peat. Asphalt has been used to counteract the sinking. It has reached a depth of eighteen feet.

1974 Department of the Interior report: any earthquakes fill activity, or excavations that take place will likely displace the peat, causing further soil subsidence.

1980's Bellevue residents formed the Save the Mercer Slough Committee and turned out in large numbers at community meetings to protest development plans.

1990 - 33 years and \$11 million after its first acquisition on the slough - the city had preserved the largest remaining wetland on Lake Washington

1995 **The Mercer Slough won a Global Award** for international Excellence on the Waterfront award, in the category of environmental protection and enhancement.

Award winning, LEED Gold certified facility The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, with its 320-acre wetlands, laboratories, classrooms, visitor center, tree house and hiking trails, is especially relevant today having mirrored Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" program for children by "providing building and improving parks and playgrounds, creating safe trails for kids, and getting the kids involved in outdoor environmental programs."

Thank you The Dailey Family 1638 109th Ave SE Bellevue WA 98004

From: leschernanette@yahoo.com [mailto:leschernanette@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 7:36 PM

To: Parker, Camron

Subject: Light rail/Mercer Slough Conversion Proposal

C.Parker,

I am writing in regard to the proposed conversion of the Mercer Slough Park to Light rail use. I have just become aware of this proposal in recent days. In my opinion, the property in consideration in the proposal for the conversion of the Mercer Park for Light rail use, doesn't adequately compensate for the loss of parts of the Mercer Slough Park, nor compensate for the negative impact on our community. Being a supporter of parks, open spaces, and their value to our community, I am concerned with the negative impact that this proposal will have on the nature park. I love the wonderful trails, wildlife, trees, and calm feelings associated with the park, and am dismayed to know that it all will be impacted beyond repair.

Please take this e-mail into consideration as you review the proposal.

Also, please keep me, and the community as a whole, informed of any developments associated with this proposal.

Nanette Lescher

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
September 9, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue Golf Course
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George¹, Heath, Kumar, Powell

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Van Hollebeke

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Lynne Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Joe Moorman, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Cathy Von Wald

OTHERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bidwell, Elma Borbe, John Bruels, Schell and Av Harmon, Susan Nelson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:05 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the July 8, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Geoffrey Bidwell

1600 – 109th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee, Mr. Bidwell requested that Boardmembers deny the land swap request for Mercer Slough. He submitted the following items for consideration:

- Document 1: State of Washington Secretary of State Certificate of Incorporation for Save the Mercer Slough Committee, which was formed in 1988.
- Document 2: Letter dated December 23, 1988 from then Mayor Nan Campbell.
- Document 3: Cartoon dated June 22, 1988 referencing the multiple bonds in 1988 for Mercer Slough.
- Document 4: Simulation picture of Light Rail structure at the south end of Mercer Slough Nature Park.
- Document 5: Comparison of Light Rail alignment from East Link Final EIS.
- Document 6: 1988 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan.
- Document 7: Property location in Mercer Slough subject to development— Nate Moon/Ross property is combined with White PUD.
- Document 8: Properties received by the City of Bellevue for development.
- Document 9: 1988 EIS calls for Gateway Park for Bellevue Way/112th Ave. SE.
- Documents 10-20: Demonstrate the planned trail along 112th Ave. SE that was cancelled by the City of Bellevue.

In Mr. Bidwell's opinion, the Mercer Slough land swap does not compensate the City for the lost trail along 112th Ave. SE. or the lost gateway to Mercer Slough and the wetlands. In addition, he noted that the purchase of the Moon/Ross property has nothing to do with Light Rail. Mr. Bidwell feels that this sets a precedent for using park land for future commercial development. Mr. Bidwell views the land swap as an unacceptable intrusion into the Mercer Slough Nature Park and its trail system. He encouraged Boardmembers to deny the land swap request.

A copy of Mr. Bidwell's materials was provided to staff.

John Bruels

4715 – 118th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Bruels informed Boardmembers about a problem at the undeveloped Tyler Property in Newport Hills. The property is being used by some of his neighbors as an off-leash dog park. Mr. Bruels reported that the vast majority of dogs (and their owners) that come to the property are well mannered and have posed no problem. However, a handful of dogs are not as friendly. Mr. Bruels stated that dogs have chased and charged him several times, while jogging through the property, and that he's often had to dodge piles of feces as well.

Mr. Bruels noted that the Tyler Property is clearly marked with signs reminding visitors to obey leash and scoop laws. In addition, he's spoken with Park Rangers who have confirmed that leash laws apply at the property. Mr. Bruels has tried several times to point this out to the owners of dogs that have shown aggression but has been met with angry rebukes that the property is an off-leash park. He has since found discussions from his neighbors on social media sites that the City has assured them that while the property hasn't been designated a dog park yet, leash laws will not be enforced on the property.

If the City intends to allow citizens to bring their pets to Tyler Property to play without a leash, Mr. Bruels apologizes. Mr. Bruels asked that the signage be changed at the Tyler Property immediately to identify the intent of the park and that the City issue an official statement about its policy for the property.

Susan Nelson

919 – 109th Ave. NE, #1602, Bellevue, WA

Mrs. Nelson is the Chair of the "Keep Ashwood Park Green" committee at the Pacific Regent Retirement Community and is also the Chair of the "Parks & Open Space" committee for the new Downtown Bellevue Residents Association.

Mrs. Nelson thanked Boardmembers and Parks staff for sponsoring the Food Truck Roundup at Ashwood Park on August 14, 2014. In particular, she recognized Jon Wilson, Community Services Supervisor, for his excellent work organizing the event.

Mrs. Nelson reported that publicity brought out a large crowd for the Food Truck Roundup. The event was truly a Downtown Neighborhood event: multi-ethnic, young and old. Picnic tables were well used and would be welcomed permanently. In addition, Mrs. Nelson noted that Debra Westwood of the King County Library System was very pleased with the success of the event. Feedback from others included staging additional food truck rodeo events next summer, once or twice per month or a "Bite of Bellevue" using local restaurants. Mrs. Nelson heard of two food truck vendors who had insufficient amounts of food to meet the demand during the evening. She added that everyone she talked with thought it was a "great experience" and should be repeated.

Mrs. Nelson displayed a picture board that illustrated users at Ashwood Park.

Joe Moorman, Bellevue Skate Park

Brad Zakes, Zakes Foundation

Mr. Moorman reported that the Bellevue Skate Park will celebrate its 20th anniversary September 19-21 with a pro-am skateboarding competition featuring the Northwest's first super ramp and 10 of the best riders in the world.

The competitors will skate for \$50,000 in prize money at the EZ Rocks Skate for the Cure event. The celebration, at the skate park, will also feature live music, including performances from the Thermals and School of Rock, free skate and disc jockey clinics,

food trucks, carnival games, a silent auction and prize giveaways from over 30 sponsors. Highlights will include:

- The largest skating ramp (250-foot long/40-feet high) ever assembled in the state;
- Top-ranked Mega Ramp riders in the world, including Mitchie Brusco, PLG, Jake Brown, Jono Schwan, Trey Wood, Jaeger Eaton and Sky Siljeg;
- The first ever highest air and best lip trick contest on a super ramp;
- Five Division Street contests for all ages and abilities with a \$7,500 purse; and
- A girls-only skate competition for a \$2,500 purse.

Mr. Zakes noted that the event will benefit the Zakes Foundation, which was created by Mr. Zakes and his wife in memory of their son, Ethan, a skateboarder who lost his life in 2011 to adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) at the age of 10. The Zakes Foundation is a non-profit, charitable corporation established for the purpose of funding newborn screening programs for rare childhood diseases and providing academic scholarships for at-need-youth.

The event will also celebrate the Bellevue Skate Park's 20-year anniversary. Built in 1994 as a project of Bellevue Youth Link, the facility was the first of four skate parks built in Bellevue.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland distributed a copy of the City Council's vision, which will be the framework for the upcoming Board retreat.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended a family event at Highland Park.
- Visited Crossroads Center.
- Visited Robinswood Park.
- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.
- Enjoyed the Food Truck Roundup.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Golfed at Crossroads Golf Course.
- Visited Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.
- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Visited Chism Beach Park.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Enjoyed reading the Lee Springgate book.
- Visited Robinswood Park, including the Tennis Center.

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Visited Lewis Creek Park.
- Visited Weowna Park.
- Visited Phantom Lake.
- Visited Lake Hills Greenbelt.
- Visited Robinswood Park.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Visited Downtown Park and enjoyed the Bellwether sculpture exhibition.
- Visited the Lake Hills Greenbelt, including the produce stand.
- Visited Airfield Park.
- Enjoyed playing disc golf, while out of town—encouraged the Parks Department to add this as a park feature.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at North Bellevue Community Center's End of the Summer Celebration.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robinson reported that the City Council has been discussing the Shoreline Master Program. She said that it was gratifying to see the impact that the Park Board's work is having on Council discussions and decisions.

Councilmember Robinson recently met with representatives from the King County Conservation District where partnership opportunities were discussed.

In regards to the Board's upcoming Board retreat, Councilmember Robinson suggested that Boardmembers evaluate the Board's connection with the community and think outside of the box.

Mr. Smith reported that the Diversity Plan was submitted to Council last week for review. The next step is to present the Plan to all of the Boards and Commissions. Mr. Smith commended Camron Parker for his work on the Diversity Plan. Councilmember Robinson added that the Council will be having cultural competency training and suggested that the Board have this training as well.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **East Link – Mercer Slough**

Mr. Parker reported that the final designs for the East Link Light Rail are nearly complete. A PowerPoint presentation was shown that depicted the overall East Link route map, including impacts to the Mercer Slough area. Mr. Parker explained that the Light Rail will be in a lidded trench in front of the Winters House, along Bellevue Way, with combined vehicle access just south of the Winters House. Some of the mitigation design elements include a landscaped lid over the light rail trench at Winters House and relocation of the blueberry farm stand.

Mr. Parker explained that the Mercer Slough Nature Park conversion area consists of two separate granted properties (1973 and 1978). There is a state granting agency that provides grants to local state agencies for recreational purpose. There is a deed restriction that dictates that the property will be used for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. However, there is a conversion clause that is allowed if land of equal size, function, and value is agreed upon. Then, the grant boundary can be altered.

Mr. Parker noted that East Link requires use of park land along Bellevue Way SE, but maintains park recreational functions and attributes by preserving or relocating certain driveways, sidewalks, trails, and park facilities. These impacts, along with the proposed parkland conversion and the process for parkland replacement, were evaluated and published as part of the East Link Environmental Impact Statement process.

Mr. Parker noted that the proposed replacement property exhibits the same wetland and wetland buffer conditions as the areas of the park being converted and exceed the value of the area being converted as well. The proposed conversion is as follows:

Property	Size	Value
<i>North Parcel</i>	0.77 acre	\$240,000
<i>South Parcel</i>	0.29 acre	\$255,000
Total Area to Convert	1.06 acre	\$495,000
Replacement Property	6.00 acres	\$633,120

With the conversion, Mr. Parker noted that the trail that connects the farm with the Winters House will be relocated. In addition, he clarified that the Parks Department acquisition funds were used initially to purchase the property. However, if the property can be funded through the Light Rail project then the funding source will be shifted.

Comments on the conversion are being accepted through September 19, 2014. Although a Park Board formal decision is not required for the project, comments may be submitted if desired. Once the comment period closes, Boardmember George asked that a summary of the comments be forwarded to Boardmembers.

Chair Grindeland expressed her support of the property conversion noting that the City is benefiting from the addition of the larger parcels to the Mercer Slough. The conversion will also help fill in some of the parcel gaps within the Mercer Slough.

Sound Transit representative, Elma Borbe, explained that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue that discusses the terms in which the City will pay \$160 million for the Sound Transit tunnel. Ms. Borbe clarified that the properties discussed at Mercer Slough meet the guidelines for some of the City's financial obligation.

Boardmember Powell requested a list of Mercer Slough properties and when they were acquired.

Mr. Parker provided an overview of some of the changes at Surrey Downs Park that were impacted by Sound Transit, and summarized some of the next steps for the park.

B. Proposed CIP/Budget Update

A draft memo regarding the 2015-21 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) was included in the Board packet. Mr. Sanner summarized the memo and requested Boardmember approval. Overall, the memo summarized the Park Board's involvement, responded to the leadership team recommendations, and requested that other unfunded park needs are not forgotten.

Mr. Sanner reviewed the initial CIP recommendations presented by the Leadership Team CIP Panel at the July 28, 2014 City Council budget workshop, and summarized the projects. In addition, he discussed the other recommendations included in the memo.

Boardmember Powell questioned if the Parks Board needs to dream bigger with regards to funding and suggested that other funding methods be considered (e.g., impact fees).

Boardmember George expressed concern with the lack of funding recommended for Airfield Park, particularly because this was part of a promise made to voters when the 2008 levy was passed. She suggested that the memo be reworded to include stronger verbiage about following through with the City's commitments. Boardmember Kumar agreed with Boardmember George's concerns.

While not included in the recommended budget, Vice-Chair Evans reiterated his concerns about the lack of parking and access at a future Lake Sammamish neighborhood park. He is opposed to further park development at this location. Mr. Foran explained that the 2008 levy had specific neighborhood park projects identified, including a Lake Sammamish location. Although this project may be deferred beyond the 2015-2021 CIP, there is still an obligation to complete the park.

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Heath to approve the 2015-21 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) Memo with the following revisions:

- **Include verbiage that encourages Council to restore the requested City match funds for Property Acquisition (\$10M) and Airfield Park Development (\$4M).**
- **Encourage the City and the Pacific Science Center to work toward a solution to complete the final classroom building at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.**
- **Encourage Council to dream big and develop a balanced and sustainable approach for advancing the City's long-term vision.**

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the memo with the recommended revisions. Staff will revise the memo and forward to City Council.

10. **BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember George requested that staff follow-up with Mr. Bruels regarding the Tyler Property.

Boardmember Kumar suggested that a coding system be implemented with the dog parks, similar to other cities. She will discuss this in further detail with staff.

Boardmember Powell was congratulated on being selected as a Citizen Advisory Representative for the Sound Transit East Main Station.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo from Nancy Kartes re BBG ravine access
- C. Memo from Glenn Kost re visitor moorage concerns
- D. Email from Jeanette Roubinet re BBG
- E. Email from Jere and Julia Stille re skateboard camp

- F. Email from Kathleen Kinchloe re Chism Beach Park
- G. Letter from Carol Leake re property acquisition

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Park Board Retreat – September 20 at 8:00 a.m.
- C. Next regular Park Board meeting—October 14, 2014

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Mercer Slough Nature Park Parkland Conversion and Replacement

October 2, 2014

This recent public comment period resulted in comments submitted by seven individuals. One was submitted before the September 19, 2014, public comment deadline, all others were submitted after the deadline. The comments submitted cover several common themes. Those themes are summarized below including sample quotes from the comment letters. A response follows each.

Theme: Recreational impacts to park facilities, visual character change, tree loss and wetland impacts

Sample Comment: The proposed alignment along Bellevue Way/112th Ave represents the potential to significantly affect the outdoor recreation experience of the Mercer Slough when the impacts from vision, sound and the loss of over 800 significant trees are considered.

Existing Outdoor Recreational Experience

Of the two parcels adjacent to Bellevue Way within the RCO grant boundaries, the north parcel does not have outdoor recreational facilities within the conversion area. The south parcel conversion area includes one bark mulch trail segment that will be detoured during construction and permanently replaced with a new boardwalk trail segment, to be located at an increased distance from the light rail structure. Other recreational facilities impacted by the project are outside of the conversion area.

Impacts to recreational facilities and features adjacent to Bellevue Way *outside of the conversion area*, including the historic Winters House, the Sweylocken Boat Launch and the Overlake Blueberry Farm have been considered in the design of the final alignment. Public access to outdoor recreation facilities will be retained during construction. After construction, these recreation facilities and features have been redesigned and relocated to minimize, where possible, the park user's views of the light rail. The Eastside Heritage Center, the programming agency for Winters House stated in a letter dated April 15, 2013, "...for the sake of long-term viability and public benefit of this historic resource, the trench [final alignment] remains our preferred option."

Impacts to the wetlands and wetland buffers in Mercer Slough are being mitigated outside of this conversion process under the authority of the City and other state and federal regulatory agencies. Compensatory mitigation is planned, including a seven acre wetland restoration project within Mercer Slough that will restore native ecology, plant and wildlife habitat.

Visual Character and Tree Loss

Expansion of the right-of-way along Bellevue Way SE to include light rail and its associated infrastructure will have a visual character change from what exists today. The final alignment selected uses a retained cut and recessed profile north of the South Bellevue Park and Ride to minimize the views of light rail from Bellevue Way SE. Tree loss will occur. Approximately 128 significant trees are marked for removal within the conversion area. More will be removed in other parts of the park outside of the conversion area, where conflicts exist. The City of Bellevue will regulate tree loss through its Design and Mitigation permit process. The City will require Sound Transit to avoid, protect and/or prune trees that are within the project limit, but may be able to be preserved. For trees that must be removed, a replacement requirement will be part of the City's permit approval conditions.

Theme: Incompatibility with a planned trail project

Sample Comment: The planned construction of the nature path from 112th Avenue South on the west side of the Mercer Slough parallel with Bellevue Way will be cancelled.

In 2009, the City reached agreement with the Bellefield Office Park to construct a public trail on private property that would terminate at the northwest corner of Mercer Slough Nature Park. The City chose to cancel this trail project before it was constructed to avoid potential future conflict with the East Link alignment. This conversion is not intended to compensate for the unrealized trail.

Theme: Replacement property suitability for conversion

Sample Comment: The property proposed for replacement is not of equivalent usefulness and location as that being converted and is not in a reasonable equivalent location. The proposed replacement property will not meet the same or similar recreation and farm needs for the community as the converted site.

The recreational facilities and features impacted by light rail are being mitigated along the west edge of the park. The proposed replacement property is intended to maintain the overall size, value and recreational utility of the RCO grant boundary. To meet that end, the replacement property is directly adjacent to the impacted park. It exists in a state most similar to the areas of the park being converted. The property connects two publicly-owned sections of the park and is directly adjacent to the existing RCO grant agreement boundary. The appraised value of the 6.00 acres being added to the boundary exceeds the appraised value of the 1.06 acres being removed from the boundary.

Theme: Replacement property acquisition history

Sample Comment: The replacement property currently being proposed for this conversion was to have been purchased and incorporated into the park using funds from a 1988/1989 open space park bond. This park land should already be in Bellevue ownership.

The Moon/Ross property, along with many other privately held properties were identified for purchase in 1988. The City was successful in acquiring most of these properties from willing sellers following passage of the bond. The City has actively negotiated with the Moon/Ross property owners multiple times over several decades to no avail. In 2014, the property owners indicated interest in selling the property and an agreement was finally able to be reached [Council Resolution No. 8744, May 19, 2014]. In a letter dated May 7, 2014, RCO approved use of this property for parkland replacement for a future conversion action.

Theme: Noise impacts of light rail

Sample Comment: Noise from trains traveling every 3-7 minutes for 19 to 20 hours a day will be disruptive to wildlife and people trying to enjoy the peacefulness quiet of Mercer Slough Park.

The 2011 East Link EIS noise analysis found that existing noise levels along the west and south edge of Mercer Slough Nature Park (where the light rail project will be constructed) are already dominated by traffic noise from the Bellevue Way SE and I-90. With a projected light rail noise of 66 dBA along Bellevue Way, the anticipated project noise is within the current 61 to 67 dBA range for this corridor.

Theme: Future implications of conversion

Sample Comment: Using Moon/Ross property sets precedent for using parkland for future commercial development

The ability to convert land acquired or developed with RCO grant funding is given to all grantees, subject to RCO and NPS approval. This action does not set a precedent. The deed restriction for outdoor recreation that will be placed on the Moon/Ross property as part of the conversion process is a disincentive to using Mercer Slough parkland for future commercial development. As a result of this conversion, the area within the park permanently restricted to outdoor recreation use will increase by five additional acres.

Theme: Objection to conversion and preference for other light rail alignments

Sample Comment: 7. Conversion of land at Mercer Slough to facilitate light rail should be rejected

Each route alternative studied in the East Link EIS had varying levels of park impact. The East Link EIS process concluded that the final alignment was one that had least overall impact on parklands (including, but not limited to Mercer Slough). The federal Department of Interior (National Park Service) concurred with this conclusion in a letter dated August 19, 2011. Understanding the park impacts and mitigation plan, the Bellevue City Council and Sound Transit Board selected this alignment in November 2011 following years of public debate and community engagement. The City Council re-confirmed the alignment choice along Bellevue Way following additional public outreach and a public hearing in April 2013.

From: Alfred Cecil [<mailto:awcecil@outlook.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:12 AM

To: Barker, Myra (RCO)

Cc: Bill, Sr; Joseph Rosmann; geoffreybidwell@yahoo.com; Erin Powell; 'Mary_Smith'

Subject: Mercer Slough Nature Park Conversion

Hello Ms Barker:

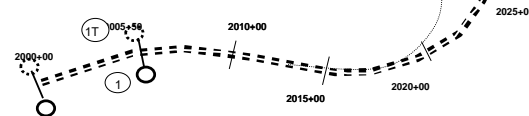
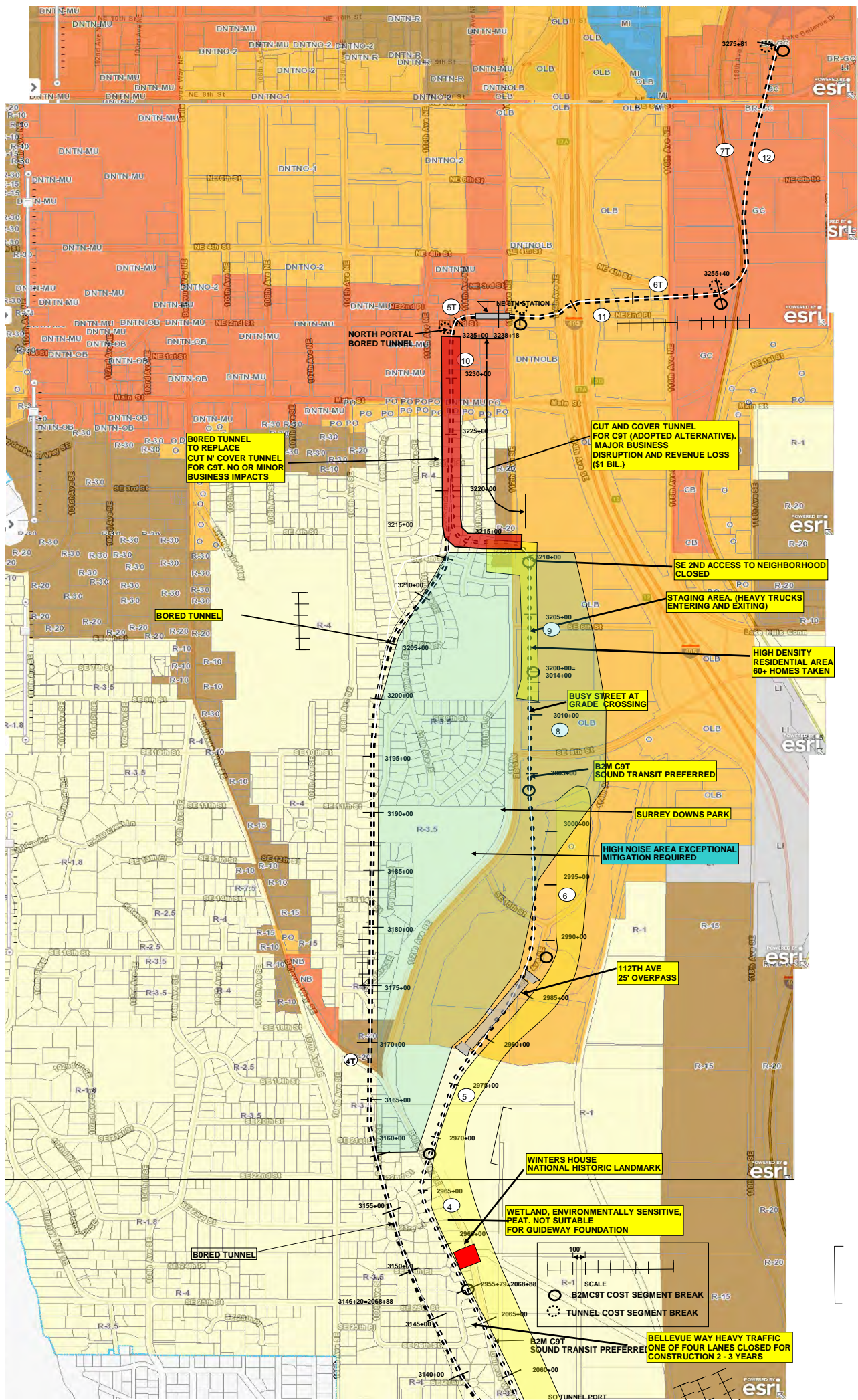
As a longtime residence of the Bellevue community of Enatai I look forward to the route Sound Transit (ST) has chosen for our city with great concern. I anticipate the pleasant nature of our slough being transformed to a noisy industrial environment.

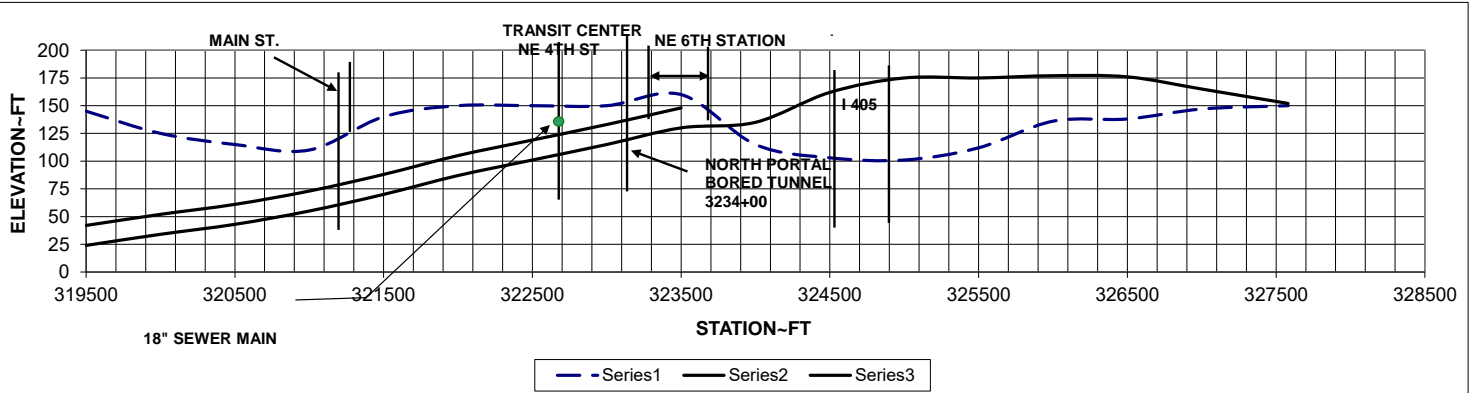
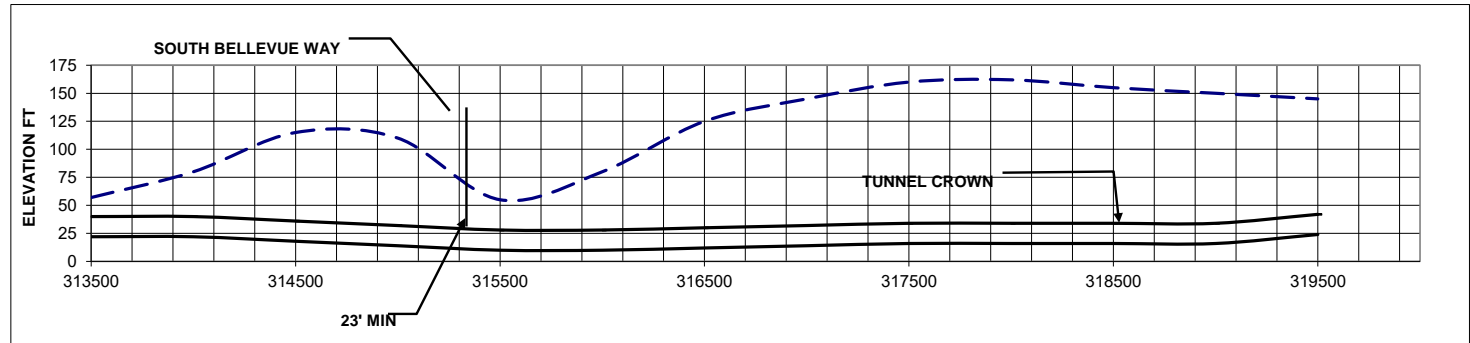
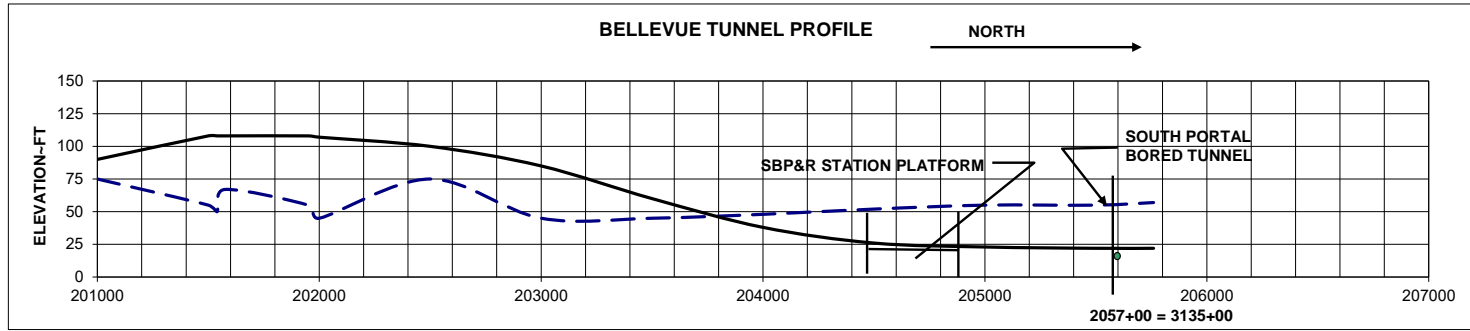
This is unnecessary as there are other alternatives available that would largely prevent this. The first of which is a deep bored tunnel (see attachment in XL format) from south Bellevue to the downtown area.

As a professional engineer I spent about a year studying this alternative and found it very feasible and cost effective when accounting for the advancement in tunneling technology gained from the Seattle tunnels. ST has been briefed on this but for rejected with no credible reason given. There are other alternatives such as B& and B7R which are also feasible and competitive.

Therefore I urge you to consider this information when evaluating this Mercer Slough conversion request.

Thank you,
Alfred Cecil P.E.





9930

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201575	67	108	315000	110	14	32	321000	110	55	73	
201950	55	108	315500	55	10	28	321500	140	70	88	
202000	45	107	316000	80	10	28	322000	150	87	105	13.4
202500	75	100	316500	125	12	30	322500	150	101	119	
203000	45	85	317000	145	14	32	323000	150	115	133	
203500	45	60	317500	160	16	34	323500	160	130	148	
204000	48	38	318000	162	16	34	324000	115	135		
204500	52	26	318500	155	16	34	324500	103	162		
205000	55	23	319000	150	16	34	325000	101	175		
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205760	57	22					326000	136	177		
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							327000	147	165		
			301400				327581	150	152		

From: DR DONALD S DAVIDSON [<mailto:dondavidsondds@msn.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 9:08 PM

To: Barker, Myra (RCO)

Subject: Letter for The Recreation And Conservation Funding Board

Don Davidson, DDS
12133 SE 15th Street
Bellevue, WA 98005-3821

October 23, 2014

Ms. Myra Barker
Compliance Specialist
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Considerations Regarding the Proposed Mercer Slough Nature Park Land Conversion

Dear Ms. Barker:

I am writing to provide background that I ask be made available to the members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for their review prior to their consideration of the request before the Board for approval of a land conversion within the Mercer Slough Nature Park, in the City of Bellevue.

Let me first provide brief background on my long involvement in the creation of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. I served as a member of the Bellevue City Council for a total of 26 years between 1984 and 2013. I also served as our City's Mayor in the years 1994 - 1995, and 2010 - 2011.

The creation of the Mercer Slough Nature Park, as an environmental jewel within our City of Bellevue, was a matter in which I was extensively involved. I remember intimately the details of the transaction between the State of Washington, the National Park Service, and our City, that brought the Mercer Slough Nature Park into reality. I provided leadership in the creation of the Park because I considered this beautiful natural environment to be truly unique in our region, and because I wished to see it preserved for all the future of our region's citizens.

I also have provided leadership in another capacity in our Seattle region that intimately involves the preservation of the Mercer Slough Nature Park, its waterways and wetlands, and other aspects of its natural environs. I have served as Vice Chairman of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council during the last six years, and I was Chairman of the Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish and Cedar River Salmon Recovery Council during the same time period. My colleagues in the Salmon Recovery efforts consider the Mercer Slough Nature Park, and its upstream Kelsey Creek Watershed, to be pre-eminent among all the salmon spawning areas in the greater Seattle area. It is essential that the Mercer Slough Nature Park waterways and wetlands not be compromised in any way such that this extremely important salmon propagation environment would be destroyed.

I am well aware of the extensively documented potential for permanent damage to the wetlands and waterways that will ensue throughout the western half of our Mercer Slough Nature Park due to placement of the Eastlink Rail line as proposed by Sound Transit. This damage includes dewatering of the wetlands between the Mercer Slough and the Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue roadways. Serious exposure is also expected with respect to drainage of contaminated water runoff from the rail line roadbed.

The Mercer Slough waterway functions will be permanently damaged by such runoff, thereby impeding the passage of several spawning salmon species that have been extensively documented to be present throughout the Mercer Slough

area. The Mercer Slough is the only way in which returning spawning salmon can reach the upstream Kelsey Creek Watershed areas where salmon eggs are extensively laid.

Sound Transit's plan will likewise permanently destroy many hundreds of trees, and totally eliminate other vegetation and flora and fauna that are essential to the character of the western half of Mercer Slough Nature Park and that also provide essential nutrients for the returning salmon.

In addition to these critical environmental factors, there are still other reasons for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to reject the proposed land conversion plan. The boundary definition of the Mercer Slough Nature Park always intended the inclusion of the lands now being proposed to offset the takings of Mercer Slough Nature Park property by Sound Transit for construction of the train line facility.

It was only through oversight by my fellow City leaders and by myself, and of our City's executive staff, that the acquisition of the Moon-Ross property had not been concluded early on during the creation and development of the park. Funds were received by our City from the National Park Service and the State of Washington to complete the purchase of the Moon-Ross property, but were never applied for this purpose. In fact, it seems that they were even converted to another purpose by our City without the proper advice and understanding of myself, or others of my colleagues on the Council early in the past decade.

It is disingenuous for our City staff to now claim that the recent purchase of the Moon-Ross property should in any way satisfy the Federal Section 4f requirements for offsetting the taking of other federally protected lands by Sound Transit. Rather than increasing, when yet even preserving the total amount of our Mercer Slough Nature Park land property, any action to authorize the proposed land conversion will actually reduce the total amount of the Mercer Slough Nature Park property as it was originally expected to be established by our City, by the National Park Service and by the State of Washington.

Finally, there is one other very important piece of background that the Board must consider. Sound Transit has other good options for bringing the rail line into our City from I-90. While serving as our City's Mayor during 2010-2011, I repeatedly requested of Sound Transit that they consider implementing a bored tunnel placement of the rail line that would completely avoid any exposure of the Mercer Slough Nature Park environs. Sound Transit has never provided any definitive findings as to why such a rail line placement is not feasible from an engineering perspective or a cost perspective. Sound Transit has now gained extensive and highly successful experience in the use of bored tunnel placements in the City of Seattle, through areas even more challenging than that within our City.

I urge the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to reject the requested land conversion proposal in its entirety.

Sincerely yours,

Don Davidson, DDS

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Erin Powell [<mailto:u2magpie@q.com>]

Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2014 6:16 PM

To: Barker, Myra (RCO)

Subject: Fwd: mercer slough master plan

Myra Barker,

Please find attached the Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan circa 1990. This shows that the Mercer Slough Nature Park and Open Space has no intention of using the western side of the park as a rail road facility track bed. Please include this as part of the Mercer Slough Conversion agenda item for October 30th meeting.

Thank you,
Erin Powell

From: CParker@bellevuewa.gov

To: u2magpie@q.com

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 1:32:50 PM

Subject: mercer slough master plan

FINAL

Environmental Impact Statement

**MERCER • SLOUGH
OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**

Prepared in compliance with
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Chapter 43.21C of the Revised Code of Washington
As revised 1983

SEPA Rules
Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code

Bellevue Environmental Procedures Code
Chapter 20.02 of the City Code

Date of issue: March 20, ~~1989~~

1990


Janet Garrow
Environmental Coordinator

COVER MEMO

The Bellevue Parks Department, with support from the people of the community, proposes that the 311 acre Mercer Slough be designated a natural park providing facilities for resource preservation, agriculture, environmental education and controlled public access to the water and wetland features. The prime objectives for the Mercer Slough Open Space Park are to:

1. *Maintain and enhance the extensive wetland wildlife habitat, thereby increasing species numbers and diversity.*
2. *Provide environmental education and awareness through natural system interpretation.*
3. *Maintain and diversify Bellevue's agricultural heritage*
4. *Participate in regional and national efforts to understand wetland ecosystems through research in restoration enhancement techniques.*
5. *Provide passive recreational opportunities in harmony with natural system preservation.*
6. *Maintain and protect important views and open space values.*

These actions implement the City's strong environmental conservation ethic and commitment from the citizens to conserve open space values. Alternative plans for various levels of recreation and enhancement are presented, with an intermediate level of both considered preferable by the Park Board and citizens.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The Interpretive Center and Farmer's Market would be located along the west side of the property, and accessed just south of the Metro Park and Ride Lot. The 25,000 square foot Center would include classrooms, offices, a children's activity area, an auditorium, laboratory, a storage and operations room, restrooms, lobby area, library, interpretive exhibit area, and farmer's market. The Bellevue Way location would:

1. *cluster buildings in the Open Space in an existing developed area, minimizing disturbance of natural areas.*
2. *share parking with the Metro Park & Ride Lot, and*
3. *be easily accessible to the public, making a positive statement about the City's commitment to the Slough and the natural environment.*

THE NATURE PARK

Surrounding the Center the visitor would find hiking and canoeing trails, canoe rental, a 2,300 foot long barrier-free loop trail, interpretive signs, view points, a viewing tower, outdoor amphitheater, and native landscaping providing rich wildlife habitat. A forty-car parking area would suffice because of the large Park & Ride lot nearby. Three footbridges spanning waterways along the interpretive trail, and viewing blinds near the ponds and marshes would provide further nature study opportunities. Five miles of sensitively-placed nature trails would explore the myriad of habitat types and scenic open spaces.

WATER HABITAT

Additional water features such as waterways, ponds, islands and marshes would be established to enhance wildlife habitat. The ponds would be created in areas that now support large expanses of blackberries or hardhack. The wildlife ponds and marshes would be located throughout the Slough area to increase feeding, nesting and cover habitat for wildlife. Narrow waterways would be created along the Slough. These open water channels would serve several functions, including providing water access to the Interpretive Center, adding canoeing and viewing opportunities on the Slough and creating more edges of water/vegetation (a highly valued habitat).

THE FARM

The existing blueberry farm on Bellevue Way Southeast would remain in its present location; however, the substandard structure would be replaced and crops diversified to create an efficient and attractive complex. Crops would be removed from the banks of the Slough to reduce impacts on water quality and wildlife. Raspberries, tulips, and daffodils are crops which might be added to the blueberries and vegetables to provide the community with more locally-grown and fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Two small neighborhood parks would be created: A gateway park at Bellevue Way and 112th Southeast, and a passive meadow along 118th Avenue Southeast. These parks-within-a park would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as entrances into the trail system. The existing Bellefield Nature Park would be part of this trail system. Sweyolocken Park would be improved for non-motorized boat launching only. Bellefield Nature Park would also host several demonstration projects related to wetland and stream rehabilitation, and backyard vegetative enhancement for wildlife.

TRAILS

Several types of trails would provide opportunities for any park visitors. A 2,300' long barrier-free interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the Slough. A five mile perimeter walking, bicycling and jogging trail would be completed encircling the wetland. The six miles of the internal nature trail system would be constructed of soft materials such as wood chips, crushed rock or boardwalks to minimize disturbance to sensitive wet soils.

A PARK FOR PRESENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Master Plan for the Slough proposes a rich range of environmental education and passive recreation opportunities, while protecting the Slough from uncontrolled use. The focus will be on preserving its natural resources, and providing access to the people of Bellevue to this diverse and unique natural environment.

FACT SHEET

NAME OF THE PROPOSAL: Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: The proposal discussed in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is for the development of the Mercer Slough Open Space Park site, a 311 acre parcel located in south Bellevue. The proposal includes trails, farming, natural system interpretation, and enhancement. The proposal would be phased so that the entire park site would not be constructed at once. Research and demonstration projects would first be developed with the output of preliminary phases feeding later phases. The preferred alternative would implement constructing of a moderate level of development and includes recently acquired land. The FEIS also examines three alternative park development plans. The FEIS is intended to allow the City Council and other agencies to make recommendations for adoption as well as permit decisions.

The four development alternative concepts include:

ALTERNATIVE A is a design involving the least amount of development and includes:

- a 7000 square foot interpretive center
- 8.6 acres of parking
- an 11,600 square foot farm/market complex
- 10 miles of trails
- one bridge
- 1.4 acres of pond
- 2.5 acres of passive neighborhood park area
- 23.4 acres of agriculture
- 147 acres of natural vegetation

ALTERNATIVE B involves a moderate level of development including:

- a 7000 square foot interpretive center
- 8.6 acres of parking
- an 11,600 square foot farm/market complex
- 10.1 miles of trails
- three bridges
- 2.5 acres of passive neighborhood park area
- 1.8 acres of new canoe trails
- 6 acres of ponds
- 4.4 acres of new marsh habitat
- 23.4 acres of agriculture
- 135 acres of natural vegetation

ALTERNATIVE C is a design involving the highest level of development including:

- a 10,000 square foot interpretive center
- a 13,600 square foot farm/market complex
- 2.3 acres of parking
- 10.8 miles of trails
- four bridges
- 2.5 acres of passive neighborhood park area
- 2.4 acres of new canoe trails
- 6.4 acres of ponds
- 9.3 acres of new marsh habitat
- 21.7 acres of agriculture
- 120 acres of natural vegetation

ALTERNATIVE D is the preferred alternative involving a moderate level of development and includes recently acquired land:

- a 25,000 square foot interpretive center/farm market
- a 10,000 square foot farm operations complex
- 2.7 acres of parking
- 11.0 miles of trails
- four bridges
- 2.5 acres of passive neighborhood park area
- 3,250 lin. ft. of new canoe trails
- 5.9 acres of ponds
- 8.25 acres of new marsh habitat
- 33.1 acres of agriculture
- 170 acres of natural vegetation

NO ACTION: This document also evaluates the impacts of leaving the site under present management.

LOCATION

The entire study area for this document encompasses 496 acres. The Mercer Slough Open Space site is a 311 acre wetland parcel in southwest Bellevue located south of Southeast Eighth, west of 118th Ave Southeast, east of Bellevue Way Southeast, and north and south of Interstate 90, in the City of Bellevue, King County, Washington.

PROPONENT:

City of Bellevue Department of Parks and Recreation
13204 Southeast Eighth Place
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, Washington 98009-9012
Contact: John Barker or Elizabeth Tyree 455-6881

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Action by the City Council on the adoption of the Master Plan and EIS is expected to be complete in 1990. Construction for Phase Ia and Ib, which involves some trails and restoration of the Winter's Estate is funded at the time of writing.

LEAD AGENCY: City of Bellevue Office of Environmental Coordination

Comments and questions on this Final Environmental Impact Statement should be addressed to the responsible official:

Janet Garrow, Environmental Coordinator
City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, Washington 98009
(206) 453-2971

Staff contact:

For EIS: Ray Sachs
(206) 455-6864

For Plan: John Barker
Elizabeth Tyree
(206) 455-6881

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

Depending on the alternative selected, permits may include:

- Demolition Permit(s)
- Building Permit(s)
- Electrical Permit(s)
- Mechanical Permit(s)
- Sewer Permit
- Hydraulic Project Approval(s) (State Dept. of Fisheries & Game)
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit
- Sign Permits
- Clearing and Grading Permit(s)
- Section 10/404 Permits from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Park Board Final Recommendation/City Council Approval

AUTHORS AND PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS: The City of Bellevue Department of Parks and Recreation and the Development Design Department, Environmental and Land Use Division is responsible for this document and has on file the background information and referenced reports. The following firms or departments contributed research and analysis and wrote the text and appendices of this document:

Jones and Jones, Inc., Architects and Landscape Architects, a Professional Services Corporation - Tom Atkins, Curt Miller, Dennis Paulson (Park Master Plans, Description of Alternatives, Aesthetics, Plants and Animals, Services and Utilities, Graphics)

Shapiro and Associates, Inc., Environmental Analysts - Mark Boulé, Tina Miller, David McDowell, Sally Meteer (Earth, Water Resources, Plants and Animals, Land Use, Relationship to City Plans and Policies.)

TAMS (Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton), Consulting Engineers - Barry Knight, Steve Lowell, Mike Horton, Bernie Halfraich (Transportation, Hydrology, Excavation techniques, Utilities)

Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department, Park Planning and Development Division -John Barker, Elizabeth Tyree, Roger Hoesterey (Fact Sheet, Description of Alternatives, Introduction, Summary, Editing, Final Production, Master Planning Project Manager, Park and Recreation Facilities.)

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: City of Bellevue staff and other agencies; Carol Beck Shapiro and Associates.

DATE OF ISSUE OF DEIS	February 16, 1988
DATE COMMENTS WERE DUE ON DEIS	March 25, 1988
DATE OF ISSUE OF FEIS:	March 20, 1990
NATURE AND DATE OF FINAL ACTION:	Spring 1990

The final action for the adoption of the Open Space Master Plan will be adoption by the City Council. A hearing before the City Council is scheduled for April 9, 1990. Other permit decisions are expected in summer of 1990.

SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This Final EIS examines impacts on a comprehensive planning or conceptual level. To the extent projects or future phases are developed and are related to this project, their environmental documents would build on the analysis contained in this Final EIS. As specific design of phases are developed, subsequent environmental review would be necessary. This would probably take the form of an addendum (or environmental checklist) or a Supplemental EIS as appropriate.

COST TO THE PUBLIC:	DEIS	\$5.00
	Technical Appendices	\$5.00
	FEIS	\$5.00

Public interest groups may request a waiver from this fee.

LOCATION OF BACKGROUND DATA:

Environmental and Land Use Division, Design and Development Department
 Planning Department
 11511 Main Street
 Bellevue, Washington 98009-9013

COPIES AVAILABLE:

For Purchase

- City of Bellevue Treasurer's Office

For Review Only

- City Library
- Office of Environmental Coordination

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SUMMARY

PROPOSAL

The City of Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to enhance a 311 acre wetland area, south of downtown Bellevue, into a diverse wildlife habitat and nature park. This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) considers four alternatives focusing on preserving and enhancing the wetland and its associated wildlife while providing varying degrees of recreation, opportunities for interpretation, and education. Alternative D is the preferred alternative.

NEED AND PURPOSE

The proposed action is needed for the City to implement its Comprehensive Land Use Plan related to open space and recreational areas. The City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, (Open Space and Recreational Development Objective 4) states, "*Protect and preserve natural areas which are ecologically sensitive or represent a valuable natural and aesthetic asset for the community.*"

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department program objectives for the Mercer Slough are as follows:

- To participate in and further state, regional, and national efforts to better understand wetland ecosystems through research and demonstration of restoration and enhancement techniques.
- To maintain and enhance the extensive wetland wildlife habitat, thereby increasing species numbers and diversity.
- To provide environmental education and awareness through natural system interpretation.

- To maintain and diversify Bellevue's agricultural heritage in the Slough while exploring alternative wetland farming practices.
- To provide passive recreational opportunities in harmony with natural system preservation.
- To maintain and protect important views and open space values provided by the slough area.

INTRODUCTION

The 311 acre study site is located west of Interstate 405 and 118th Avenue Southeast, south of Southeast 8th and Bellefield Office Park, east of Bellevue Way Southeast and 112th S.E., and on both sides of Interstate 90.

The overall program objectives for the site are to improve public access, enhance the wildlife habitat characteristics (following experimental wetland restoration programs), and through natural system interpretation, provide public educational programs for this large natural area in the heart of Bellevue.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement follows the Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan. The Master Plan is general and programmatic. Implementation will be in phases with more detailed development plans for each phase. As a result of the Master Plan, four alternative park design concepts have been developed. In general, the proposals differ in the extent of recreational and wildlife habitat enhancement to the site.

BACKGROUND

Mercer Slough is centrally located on the east side of the Puget Sound lowland metropolitan region. The Slough represents a unique and important natural resource. It is also an educational opportunity of regional significance within this urban area.

The Slough has been a swamp, marsh and shallow water area for centuries and once supported much more wildlife than today. It has been disturbed by development over the past 100 years, including draining, filling, dredging, clearing, farming, and urbanization. Some of the disturbance is now covered with hardhack and blackberry bushes.

Beginning in the 1950's, some of the Slough properties were acquired by the City Parks Department, with help from the State Parks Commission, for purposes of open space preservation and urban environmental education. Since the publishing of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Mercer Slough Open Space, an 56.3 acres have been added to the 181 acres owned by the Parks Department with the voter approval of the 1988 Park Bond Issue. In addition, 73.3 acres are targeted for acquisition following the passage of the King County Open Space Bond Issue. Current development pressures on privately held parcels of land surrounding the Slough come from proposals for residential and office facilities.

The Slough supports a diversity of plants and animals. Environmental education in the area is now successful and has good potential for expansion. This educational element is consistent with the Interagency Agreement between Washington State Parks Commission and the City of Bellevue, which recognizes the regional value of the Slough.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The four development alternatives share a number of design and functional elements. For three alternatives, the Interpretive Center would be located along the west side of the property, north of the WSDOT/Metro Park and Ride lot and accessible from Bellevue Way S.E. For

Alternative D, the Interpretive Center is located south of the Park and Ride lot. The south side is more suitable for the Interpretive Center for the following reasons:

- Visually and physically more accessible to the public
- Largest area of upland soils in the study area which are more suitable for development
- Closer to existing Park and Ride lot for possible shared parking

The Interpretive Center building would be designed to enable people to view wetland habitats and environments from "viewing blind" locations. The natural environment would be integrated into and surround the building where possible. The architectural character of the building would be consistent with the natural character of the site and could employ underground parking and other elements to minimize environmental damage.

Providing educational experiences in a controlled environment for people in the Mercer Slough area is important in building a constituency of support for natural system preservation. The diversity of wetland plant and wildlife species found in the Slough is rare in an urban setting. In its scarceness, the wetland provides an opportunity for understanding wildlife enhancement methods and reasons for wetland preservation in urban areas.

All four alternatives would include indoor interpretive displays, interpretive signs, viewing blinds, a viewing tower, an outdoor amphitheater, and a wildlife enhancement demonstration area.

TRAILS

The extent of the internal interpretive trail system varies among the four alternatives. All trail systems proposed are less extensive and less dense than the present trail system at Bellefield Nature Park on 118th Avenue SE. The proposed trails avoid the most sensitive areas and involve

minimal alteration to wetlands and riparian corridors. Trails would be sensitively sited to minimize impacts on wildlife. A hierarchy of trails would provide a variety of levels of experiences. A variety of trail widths and surfaces would control levels of trail use.

The internal trail system would be constructed of "soft" materials, such as wood chips, crushed rock, or boardwalk as the site conditions varied. The thick vegetation along most trails would control access to sensitive areas while allowing people to encounter a number of habitats, including swamps, marshes, thickets, open water ponds, deciduous forests, coniferous forests, and meadows. Physical barriers would contain users to the trails where necessary. Interpretive signs would help people understand the variety and value of environments encountered.

Internal trails would be designed to encourage nature appreciation and interpretive walks while discouraging jogging. Jogging can be minimized with narrow, sharply curving paths with overhanging vegetation and signs prohibiting such use.

The perimeter or "hard" surfaced pedestrian, bike, and jogging trail would be completed to encircle the site in all alternatives, and would have limited connections with the internal interpretive system, to discourage jogging and wildlife disturbance.

FARMING

The Blueberry farming would be maintained in the different alternatives. As evidenced by the long-standing popularity of the blueberry and truck farms, the public supports farming on this site.

Water quality impacts from present farming practices are expected to be reduced in all alternatives by replacing shoreline agriculture with vegetative buffers. Along with this physical separation, alternative agriculture practices are being explored to reduce environmental impacts.

Retainage of the same net amount of agricultural acreage is a priority in all alternatives. Some diversification of the crops produced might occur in any of the alternatives, which could include raspberries, daffodils, cranberries, strawberries, or other wetland crops.

THE WINTERS ESTATE

Consistent with the objective to maintain Bellevue's agricultural heritage, the Winters Estate is proposed as a historical remnant of early Bellevue area agricultural land use.

The building has a considerable amount history associated with land use in Mercer Slough. Frederick Winters first purchased 10 acres in Mercer Slough in 1917 and established a wholesale floral business which specialized in greenhouse azaleas marketed in the Midwest and East. His nursery was near a loganberry farm, chicken ranches, and vegetable producers. By 1924, Winters had built several greenhouses and had also acquired 10 acres on the east side of the Slough to expand into bulb farming.

The relatively small nursery operated by Winters was typical of other bulb farms and specialty crop farms in King County. Winters specialized in daffodils and iris, and was very successful, building a two story bulb and straw flower house and eight greenhouses, each over 3000 square feet. The main home was built in 1930 in the California-influenced Spanish Eclectic style. The house was specifically oriented toward the fields and nursery which facilitated its construction.

The home represents a good example of a pre-floating-bridge-era suburban country estate and is consistent with the objectives of Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan. In April 1989, Bellevue's Park Board voted to retain and preserve the F. Winters House as a complimentary part of the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

FARM MARKET

The farm/market complex would be implemented in various configurations and locations for the different alternatives. The present farm which would be maintained, represents an important cultural "remnant" of Bellevue's agricultural heritage. The associated market would provide an opportunity for goods to be sold on-site. It would help keep the existing agricultural practices viable with local crops conveniently available to the public for purchase. Seasonal crops as well as regional farm products could provide year-round marketability of representative farm goods.

NATURAL SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

City Comprehensive Plan policies call for the retention and enhancement of the natural amenities of the City's shorelines and wetlands in order to control erosion and protect the natural drainage system. Wetland enhancement also can facilitate the protection, improvement, and increase of wildlife habitats. The Parks Department would diversify those areas within the Slough which are dominated by monoculture thickets of wetland tolerant pioneer species like blackberry, reed canary grass, or hardhack by introducing more varieties of native plant species. Some of the monocultures are fairly common elsewhere in the City and do not provide the diversity of habitats that are possible through careful enhancement.

Increasing the diversity of the landscape types would include creating more marshes, swamps, ponds, meadows, and coniferous forests. This results in additional edge (ecotone) conditions and also improves the aesthetic quality of the site. One of the most important goals is to increase the number and diversity of the wildlife species which use the Slough by replacing some of the common habitat types with those which are less common and biologically more productive.

VIEWS

In all alternatives an objective is to preserve and improve important views into and from within the site. The aesthetics of the Slough would be improved by removing the existing electronic communication towers and other dilapidated structures. New structures in the park would be limited to architecture consistent with a nature park. Buildings would be a maximum of two stories in height and sited to avoid obstructing important views.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement assess the impacts of park development and associated programming on the Mercer Slough Wetlands.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 1 gives the reader a general broad overview of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the Alternatives described in this Final EIS. The reader should refer to the discussion in the Draft EIS and Final EIS text (or the technical appendices) for a more detailed description of impacts and related mitigation measures.

TABLE 1

Comparative Environmental Impacts of Alternatives, Mitigation, and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts¹

ALTERNATIVES	IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS
Alternative A	<p>EARTH: Clearing and development of 14.4 acres; erosion potential</p> <p>Shoreline development, stabilization</p> <p>WATER: Construction could result in temporary sedimentation</p> <p>14.2 acres of impervious surface increases storm water runoff</p> <p>PLANTS & ANIMALS: Modification of 26 acres of existing habitat, including 7 acres of meadow and 8 acres of hedgerow and diversified forest habitat</p> <p>NOISE: Insignificant traffic or park use limits noise impacts</p> <p>LAND USE, PLANS/POLICIES/AESTHETICS: 17.9 acres of vegetation cleared</p> <p>TRANSPORTATION: Limiting boat launching to car-top launching only will reduce number of Bellevue launches to one launch @ SE 40th</p>	<p>Temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences, seeding.</p> <p>Avoid trails along shore, plant bare areas with native trees and shrubs</p> <p>Avoid earth disturbance without proper temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences.</p> <p>Employ biofiltration swales to cleanse water prior to entry into ponds/waterways</p> <p>Change only least diverse, most disturbed areas not supporting rare native species. Multi-structured habitat targeted for creation. 154 acres (86%) of site in existing natural habitat.</p> <p>Limit construction to 7am-6pm Monday - Friday per City Code.</p> <p>Replant 9.4 acres of disturbed farmland in crops, new habitat enhancement species; Use native trees, shrubs and farm crops; Create a variety of open space and passive use park facilities. Land use consistent with Subarea plans. View of open space maintained/enhanced.</p> <p>Expand SE 40th launch or create new launch in other areas which wildlife does not depend on for habitat.</p>	<p>None expected</p> <p>None expected</p> <p>None expected</p> <p>None expected</p> <p>Certain wildlife displaced from change and loss of habitat and an equivalent number of animals will perish.</p> <p>None expected</p> <p>Permanent loss of habitat</p> <p>None expected</p>

¹This table identifies significant unavoidable adverse impacts. Other unavoidable impacts exist for some elements of the environment and are not significant. These other unavoidable impacts are disclosed in the impacts sections of the elements of the environment in the text of the FEIS.

**SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE
ADVERSE IMPACTS**

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

MITIGATION MEASURES

ALTERNATIVES	IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS
Alt A continued	Increase in car-top boat traffic	Limit use to non-motorized boats only.	None expected
	Pedestrian use of bike path could create conflicts as a result of the completion of bike/jogging perimeter path	Designate bike use areas and separate nature walk from bike path.	None expected
	Construct parking for 92 vehicles	Adequate, especially with joint use parking agreement with Metro Park and Ride.	None expected
	PUBLIC SERVICE & UTILITIES: Risk of fire increased due to increased use of site, need for police protection increased with increased public use	Response time should be acceptable given two fire stations within one mile; police from City Hall two miles away. Also, Park Ranger will provide some security, and site access will be improved for emergency vehicles.	None expected
	Maintenance requirements increased	City will maintain new facilities.	None expected
	Water and sanitary sewer service required for Interpretive Center, Market, Farm	Service is adequate with existing trunk lines, but lines must be extended governed by Utility requirements, including traffic and erosion control.	None expected

Alternative B	EARTH: Clearing and development of 14.4 acres; erosion potential	Temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences, seeding.	None expected
	Shoreline development, stabilization	Avoid trails along shore, plant bare areas with native trees and shrubs.	None expected
	WATER: Construction could result in temporary sedimentation	Avoid earth disturbance without proper temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences.	None expected
	14.2 acres of impervious surface increase storm water runoff	Employ biofiltration swales to cleanse water prior to entry into ponds/waterways.	None expected

**SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE
ADVERSE IMPACTS**

MITIGATION MEASURES

Change in emergent vegetation to open water or marsh

Certain wildlife displaced from change and loss of habitat

Do hydrological analysis for channels to; assess affect on habitat; Keep grading/dredging separate from Slough until vegetation on banks is established.

Change only least diverse, most disturbed areas not supporting rare native species. Multi-structured habitat targeted for creation (grassland, marsh, ponds, forest). 141.7 acres (79%) of site in will remain in existing natural habitat.

None expected

Limit construction to 7am-6pm per City Code.

Permanent loss of habitat

Replant 13.9 acres of disturbed farmland in crops, new habitat enhancement species. Use native trees, shrubs and farm crops. Create open space and passive park. Land use consistent with area plans View of open space maintained/enhanced Landscape variety would be diversified with water features attractive to native wildlife.

None expected

Expand SE 40th launch with parking and/or create new launch in other area which wildlife does not depend on.

None expected

Limit use to non-motorized boats only and limit boats on certain waterways to protect new water habitat.

None expected

Designate bike use areas and separate nature walk from bike path.

None expected

Adequate, especially with joint use parking agreement with Metro Park and Ride.

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

Alt B continued

Grade or dredge 12.3 acres of open water, ponds, marshes could affect water quality of Slough or hydrology of wetland

PLANTS & ANIMALS: Modification of 38.4 acres of existing habitat, including 7 acres of meadow and 8 acres of hedgerow and diversified forest habitat

NOISE: Insignificant traffic or park use limits noise impacts

LAND USE, PLANS/POLICIES/ AESTHETICS: 30.2 acres of vegetation cleared

TRANSPORTATION: Limiting boat launching to car top launching only will reduce number of Bellevue launches to one launch @ SE 40th

Increase in car-top boat traffic and site-generated boat traffic

Pedestrian use of bike path could create conflicts as a result of the completion of bike/fogging perimeter path

Construct parking for 92 vehicles

**SIGNIFICANT UNA VOIDABLE
ADVERSE IMPACTS**

MITIGATION MEASURES

None expected

Response time should be acceptable given two fire stations within one mile; police from City Hall two miles away. Also, Park Ranger will provide some security, and site access will be improved for emergency vehicles.

None expected

City will maintain new facilities.

None expected

Service is adequate with existing trunk lines, but lines must be extended governed by Utility requirements, including traffic and erosion control.

None expected

Temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences, seeding.

None expected

Avoid trails along shore, plant bare areas with native trees and shrubs.

None expected

Avoid earth disturbance without proper temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences.

None expected

Employ biofiltration swales to cleanse water prior to entry into ponds/waterways.

Change in emergent vegetation to open water or marsh

Do hydrological analysis for channels; Keep grading/dredging separate from Slough until vegetation on banks is established.

Certain wildlife displaced from change and loss of habitat

Change only least diverse, most disturbed areas not supporting rare native species. Multi-structured habitat targeted for creation (grassland, marsh, ponds, forest). 130.4 acres (73%) of site will remain in existing natural habitat.

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

PUBLIC SERVICE & UTILITIES: Risk of fire increased due to increased use of site, need for police protection increased with increased public use

Maintenance requirements increased over Alt A

Water and sanitary sewer service required for Interpretive Center, Market, Farm

EARTH: Clearing and development of 14.4 acres; erosion potential

Shoreline development, stabilization

WATER: Construction could result in temporary erosion and sedimentation

15.5 acres of impervious surface increases storm water runoff

Grade or dredge 18.1 acres of open water, ponds, marshes could affect water quality of Slough or hydrology of wetland

PLANTS & ANIMALS: Modification of 49.6 acres of existing habitat, including 8.3 acres of meadow and 10.1 acres of hedgerow and diversified forest habitat; 6.4 acres of pond habitat and 6.4 acres of marsh habitat

MITIGATION MEASURES

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

Alt C continued	NOISE: Insignificant traffic or park use limits noise impacts	Limit construction to 7am-6pm per City Code.	None expected
	LAND USE, PLANS/POLICIES/ AESTHETICS: 37.7 acres of vegetation cleared	Replant 18.7 acres of disturbed farmland in crops, new habitat enhancement species. Use native trees, shrubs and farm crops. Create open spaces and passive park. Land use consistent with area plans View of open space maintained/enhanced Landscape variety would be diversified with water features attractive to native wildlife.	Permanent loss of habitat
	TRANSPORTATION: Limiting boat launching to car top launching only will reduce number of Bellevue launches to one launch @ SE 40th	Expand SE 40th launch with parking and/or create new launch in other area which wildlife does not depend on for habitat.	None expected
	Increase in car-top boat traffic and site-generated boat traffic	Limit use to non-motorized boats only and limit boats on certain waterways to protect new water habitat.	None expected
	Pedestrian use of bike path could create conflicts as a result of the completion of bike/jogging perimeter path	Designate bike use areas and separate nature walk from bike path.	None expected
	Construct parking for 152 vehicles	Adequate, especially with joint use parking agreement with Metro Park and Ride.	None expected
	PUBLIC SERVICE & UTILITIES: Risk of fire increased due to increased use of site, need for police protection increased with increased public use	Response time should be acceptable given two fire stations within one mile; police from City Hall two miles away. Also, Park Ranger will provide some security, and site access will be improved for emergency vehicles.	None expected
	Maintenance requirements increased over Alt B	City will maintain new facilities.	None expected
	Water and sanitary sewer service required for Interpretive Center, Market, Farm	Service is adequate with existing trunk lines, but lines must be extended governed by Utility requirements, including traffic and erosion control.	None expected

**SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE
ADVERSE IMPACTS**

MITIGATION MEASURES

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

Alternative D

NOTE: Many of the statistical figures which are presented below are higher than other alternatives due to the acquisition of over one hundred acres of additional property by the City since the Draft EIS was published. The plan has not changed significantly for Alternative D, but the ownership has increased and therefore some numbers are higher.

<p>EARTH: Clearing and development of 14.4 acres; erosion potential</p>	<p>Temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences, seeding.</p>	<p>None expected</p>
<p>Shoreline development, stabilization</p>	<p>Avoid trails along shore, plant bare areas with native trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>None expected</p>
<p>WATER: Construction could result in temporary sedimentation</p>	<p>Avoid earth disturbance without proper temporary erosion control including the use of straw bales, filter fences.</p>	<p>None expected</p>
<p>15 acres of impervious surface increases storm water runoff</p>	<p>Employ biofiltration swales to cleanse water prior to entry into ponds/waterways.</p>	<p>None expected</p>
<p>Grade or dredge 14.7 acres of open water, ponds, marshes could affect water quality of Slough or hydrology of wetland</p>	<p>Do hydrological analysis for channels to assess affect on habitat; Keep grading/dredging separate from Slough until vegetation on banks is established.</p>	<p>Change from emergent vegetation to open water or marsh</p>
<p>PLANTS & ANIMALS: Modification of 40 acres of existing habitat, including 7.5 acres of meadow and 8 acres of hedgerow and diversified forest habitat; 5.9 acres of pond habitat and 5.8 acres of marsh habitat</p>	<p>Change only least diverse, most disturbed areas not supporting rare native species. Multi-structured habitat targeted for creation (grassland, marsh, ponds, forest). 170 acres (72%) of site will remain in existing natural habitat.</p>	<p>Certain wildlife displaced from change and loss of habitat</p>
<p>NOISE: Insignificant traffic or park use limits noise impacts</p>	<p>Limit construction to 7am-6pm per City Code.</p>	<p>None expected</p>
<p>LAND USE, PLANS/POLICIES/ AESTHETICS: 37.7 acres of vegetation cleared</p>	<p>Replant 18.7 acres of disturbed farmland in crops, new habitat enhancement species. Use native trees, shrubs and farm crops. Create a variety of open space and passive use park facilities. Land use consistent with Subarea plans. View of open space maintained and enhanced. Landscape variety would be diversified with water features attractive to native wildlife.</p>	<p>Permanent loss of habitat</p>

**SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE
ADVERSE IMPACTS**

MITIGATION MEASURES

ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS

Alt D continued

TRANSPORTATION: Limiting boat launching to car top launching only will reduce number of Bellevue launches to one launch @ SE 40th

Expand SE 40th launch with parking and/or create new launch in other area which wildlife does not depend on.

None expected

Increase in car-top boat traffic and site-generated boat traffic

Limit use to non-motorized boats only and limit boats on certain waterways to protect new water habitat.

None expected

Pedestrian use of bike path could create conflicts as a result of the completion of bike/jogging perimeter path

Designate bike use areas and separate nature walk from bike path.

None expected

Construct parking for 178 vehicles

Adequate, especially with joint use parking agreement with Metro Park and Ride.

None expected

PUBLIC SERVICE & UTILITIES: Risk of fire increased due to increased use of site, need for police protection increased with increased public use

Response time should be acceptable given two fire stations within one mile; police from City Hall two miles away. Also, Park Ranger will provide some security, and site access will be improved for emergency vehicles.

None expected

Maintenance requirements increased over Alt C

City will maintain new facilities.

None expected

Water and sanitary sewer service required for Interpretive Center, Market, Farm, Historic House

Service is adequate with existing trunk lines, but lines must be extended governed by Utility requirements, including traffic and erosion control.

None expected

TABLE 2

Extent and Number of Education and Recreation Facilities

	Existing Land Use	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Buildings					
Interpretive Center	-	7,000 sq. ft.	7,000 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.	22,000 sq. ft.
Farm/Market Complex	11,600 sq. ft.	11,600 sq. ft.	11,600 sq. ft.	13,600 sq. ft.	farm: 10,000/market: 3,000
Winter's Home	-	-	-	-	3,500 sq. ft.
Other ²	5,200 sq. ft.	8,800 sq. ft.	8,800 sq. ft.	8,800 sq. ft.	10,500 sq. ft. ¹
Total	16,800 sq. ft.	27,400 sq. ft.	27,400 sq. ft.	32,400 sq. ft.	49,000 sq. ft. ¹
Amphitheater	-	14,800 sq. ft.	14,800 sq. ft.	14,800 sq. ft.	14,800 sq. ft.
Parking Lots					
METRO Park and Ride	6.7 acres	6.7 acres	6.7 acres	6.7 acres	6.7 acres
Park Land	2.6 acres	1.92 acres	1.92 acres	2.3 acres	2.7 acres ¹
Total	9.3 acres	8.62 acres	8.62 acres	9.0 acres	9.4 acres
Agriculture	33.10 acres	23.39 acres	23.39 acres	21.67 acres	33.6 acres
Trails					
Soft surface	5,068 lin.ft.	25,250 lin.ft.	25,850 lin.ft.	29,304 lin.ft.	30,500 lin.ft. ¹
Primary and paved	7,920 lin.ft.	27,667 lin.ft.	27,667 lin.ft.	27,667 lin.ft.	27,800 lin.ft. ¹
Bridges					
Major	1 ea.	2 ea.	2 ea.	3 ea.	2 ea.
Minor	-	-	2 ea.	2 ea.	2 ea.
Ponds					
Open Water	1.43 acres	1.43 acres	5.99 acres	6.38 acres	5.9 acres
Marsh	-	-	3.34 acres	6.35 acres	3.3 acres
Waterways					
Additional Open Water	-	-	3,854 lin.ft.	5,280 lin.ft.	3,250 lin.ft.
Additional Marsh	-	-	1.17 acres	3.01 acres	2.5 acres
Meadow	-	7.03 acres	7.03 acres	8.25 acres	8.25 acres
Vegetation Enhancement	-	7.79 acres	7.79 acres	10.75 acres	10.75 acres
Hedge Row	-	1,300 lin.ft.	1,300 lin.ft.	1,300 lin.ft.	1,300 lin.ft.
Canoe Landing	-	1 ea.	2 ea.	3 ea.	3 ea.
Viewpoints	-	6 ea.	8 ea.	10 ea.	9 ea.
Boat Launch					
Existing motorized	1	-	-	-	-
Improved non-motorized	-	1	1	1	1
Neighborhood Park Areas	-	2.5 acres	2.5 acres	2.5 acres	2.5 acres

For area calculations of linear elements:

- Soft surface trails @ 4' width
- Waterways @ ave. 40' width
- Primary and paved trails @ 8' width
- Hedge row @ ave. 15' width

¹ Increase due to additional land/building acquisitions

² Viewing tower, amphitheater building, existing maintenance sheds, caretaker's home, radio towers, farm shed

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

The City of Bellevue's Parks and Recreation Department is proposing that the Mercer Slough Area be designated a nature park, providing facilities for resource preservation, agriculture, interpretation, and public access to water and wetland features. As shown on the location map (Figure 1), the Mercer Slough area is located south of downtown Bellevue, west of I-405 and 118th Avenue S.E., east of Bellevue Way S.E., north of I-90, and south of S.E. 8th Street.

EXISTING SLOUGH CONDITIONS

Ownership of the 496-acre slough study area is distributed between public and private interests. Development within the Bellefield Office Park, at the northwest end of the Slough, is almost complete. Nearly 60 acres of open space has been secured by the Parks Department in the past year, adding to the 180 acres originally in City ownership. Another 73 acres is currently under negotiation for acquisition. Public lands, administered by the City of Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department, currently provide variety of functions, such as agriculture (at the Overlake Blueberry Farm), designated as public open space land (Bellefield Nature Park and Sweyolocken Park), or park facilities (Sweyolocken and Bellefield). Figure 5 shows existing land uses.

Present site development and maintenance operations are minimal. Sweyolocken Park provides a parking area and small boat launch for access to the Slough and Lake Washington. Bellefield Nature Park contains a Park's

maintenance yard, a small area for parking cars on 118th Avenue S.E., and several trails into the Slough. Three communication tower sites are located in the Slough and the land surrounding them is maintained clear of woody shrubs and trees. A paved bicycle trail starts at Bellefield Nature Park, parallels 118th Avenue S.E. south to I-90, parallels I-90 west, crossing over the Slough.

INTRODUCTION

The Mercer Slough Open Space Master Planning Process (1985-1986) developed three alternative park design concepts. With the addition of open space acquired by the Parks and Recreation Department in 1988-1989, a fourth alternative was developed.

In general, the alternative concepts differ in the intensity of development of the interpretive and recreation facilities, the level and character of public access to site features, and the extent of habitat restoration and enhancement research conducted on the site.

COMMON FACTORS OF ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Many elements are common to all of the alternatives, only the number of elements or acreage of development are different. The proposed interpretive and recreational activities and facilities have been designed with a focus on water, wetland and upland related site opportunities, while taking into consideration site constraints. For all alternatives, the Interpretive Center and Farm Operations Center and Market Complex would be located along the west side of the property and accessed from Bellevue Way S.E. Three of the alternatives locate the combined complex north of the Metro Park & Ride at the

existing Overlake Blueberry Farm. The new alternative, Alternative D, separates the farm operations shop and combines the interpretive center and market. In this alternative, farm operations would be located in the area of the existing Overlake Blueberry Farm. The Interpretive Center/Farm Market would be situated just south of the Metro Park & Ride lot.

This location is designed to:

- Take advantage of developing at existing disturbed sites
- Be easily accessible to the public
- Share parking with the Park & Ride Lot; and
- Be visually accessible to the public and make a positive statement about the City of Bellevue's commitment to the Slough and the natural environment.

The environmental education and awareness function of the Interpretive Center and the trail system is an element consistent for all alternatives and would include interpretive signs, view points, a viewing tower, outdoor amphitheater, a vegetative enhancement demonstration area, and indoor interpretive displays.

There are two types of trail systems proposed. A "hard" surfaced pedestrian trail for intensive active uses of bicycling, jogging, and walking would be completed around the perimeter of the nature park. This trail is proposed for all alternatives and independent of the internal interpretive trail system. The interpretive trail system is common to all alternatives but varies in length for each. The interior system would be constructed of "soft" materials, such as wood chips, crushed rock or boardwalk, and would be sited to take advantage of site features while controlling public access through the site to protect wetland and upland habitats. A hierarchy of trail widths would be established with main access trails and narrow side trails. At least one new bridge crossing of the

slough would tie the east side and west side trail systems together.

Other features of the master plan concept common to all alternatives include: vegetation enhancement, canoe landings, parking areas, neighborhood park areas and improvement of existing non-motorized boat launch facilities at Sweyolocken Park. Motorized boat use is not allowed north of Sweyolocken boat launch and would be discouraged with various design elements.

The greatest differences between the alternatives involves the extent of waterway enhancement and facility locations. Alternative A does not have the range of the development of waterways and water features planned in Alternatives B, C, and D. The development in the latter alternatives would create additional water features such as ponds, marshes and waterways. Different water features are being proposed to increase habitat types and wildlife diversity and also to provide educational, interpretive and recreational opportunities to the public.

Another difference between alternatives is that the Winters Estate (the old Spanish-style house at 2102 Bellevue Way SE) had been proposed for demolition in Alternatives A, B, and C. The property previously had a private owner with plans for office development on the site. Alternative D proposes to save and restore the home and former nursery grounds.

The facilities location and use are revised in Alternate D. The Farm Operations are separated from the public Interpretive Center/Market facilities. Farm Operations would be located at the existing Overlake Blueberry Farm site where less upland area is available. The Interpretive Center/Market is situated in the upland area adjacent to the south side of the Metro Park &

Ride lot. This increases the opportunity for shared parking, builds on a larger and disturbed upland area, and separates the operation of farming equipment from the public facilities.

Table 2 presents information on the extent of recreation and interpretation facilities and activity areas for the four alternatives.

THE WINTERS ESTATE

Since the development of the Mercer Slough Draft EIS, Bellevue's City Council and Park Board chose to purchase the 11.8 acre parcel along Bellevue Way S.E. (at one time referred to as the Enatai Plaza site). To evaluate what to do with the 'old spanish-style' house on the property, the Park Board requested an architectural & historical evaluation along Bellevue Way which was proposed for demolition by the previous owner. Independent architectural consultants evaluated the house for potential renovation & historical value.

The structure, built by the Winters family in 1932, has been determined to be eligible for National Historic Register, according to the Washington State Office of Historic Preservation. The building is structurally still worth saving, according to several architectural firms who analyzed the building.

Consistent with the objective to maintain Bellevue's agricultural heritage, the Winters Estate is proposed as a historical remnant of early Bellevue area agricultural land use.

The building has a considerable amount history associated with land use in Mercer Slough. Frederick Winters first purchased 10 acres in Mercer Slough in 1917 and established a wholesale floral business which specialized in greenhouse azaleas marketed in the Midwest and

East. His nursery was near a loganberry farm, chicken ranches, and vegetable producers. By 1924, Winters had built several greenhouses and had also acquired 10 acres on the east side of the Slough to expand into bulb farming.

The relatively small nursery operated by Winters was typical of other bulb farms and specialty crop farms in King County. Winters specialized in daffodils and iris, and was very successful, building a two story bulb and straw flower house and eight greenhouses, each over 3000 square feet. The main home was built in 1930 in the California-influenced Spanish Eclectic style. The house was specifically oriented toward the fields and nursery which facilitated its construction.

In April 1989, Bellevue's Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners voted unanimously to retain and preserve the F.W. Winters House as a complimentary part of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Bellevue's City Council also voted to transfer 1988 Bond Issue funds from the Union South High School Restoration project to the Winters Estate Restoration, establishing a mandate for the Parks Department to restore and protect the historical site.

THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE

There are also currently four other buildings on the site in addition to the main home, and most are dilapidated beyond restoration. Because of the vandalism, the City has designated one of the small residential outbuildings as a caretaker's home. This structure was originally built as one of two small guest houses for relatives in the late 1930's, and was amongst nearly a dozen other buildings on the site, including tenant quarters for field workers, bulb processing and machinery storage structures.

ALTERNATIVE A

The concept for Alternative A proposes a mix of recreation, education, and some modification of existing habitat with the goal of enhancing plant and animal species numbers and diversity. The existing blueberry farm on Bellevue Way S.E. would remain in its present location; however, structures would be renovated or replaced and crops diversified to create a farm/market complex. A 7,000 square foot Interpretive Center would be located adjacent and to the south of the farm/market complex to take advantage of clustering development at the presently disturbed site and shared parking with the existing Park & Ride lot. The Interpretive Center would include classrooms, offices, a children's activity area, a small workshop/laboratory, a storage and operations room, restrooms, lobby area, library and exhibit area.

A 2,300' long paved, handicap accessible interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the slough, and connect an amphitheater and viewing tower with the Interpretive Center. Parking for 40 vehicles would be provided at the Center and farm/market complex with overflow parking at the Park & Ride lot. Satellite parking lots would be provided on the perimeter of the Slough at various activity areas such as Bellefield Nature Park, Sweyolocken Park and the neighborhood park north of I-90 on 118th Avenue S.E. Approximately 4.8 miles of nature trail with interpretive signage, six (6) viewpoints, and a bridge over the slough are part of this alternative concept.

Land presently under agricultural use would be reduced by 9.7 acres. This change allows for the introduction of hedge rows and the elimination of agricultural uses on the banks of the slough.

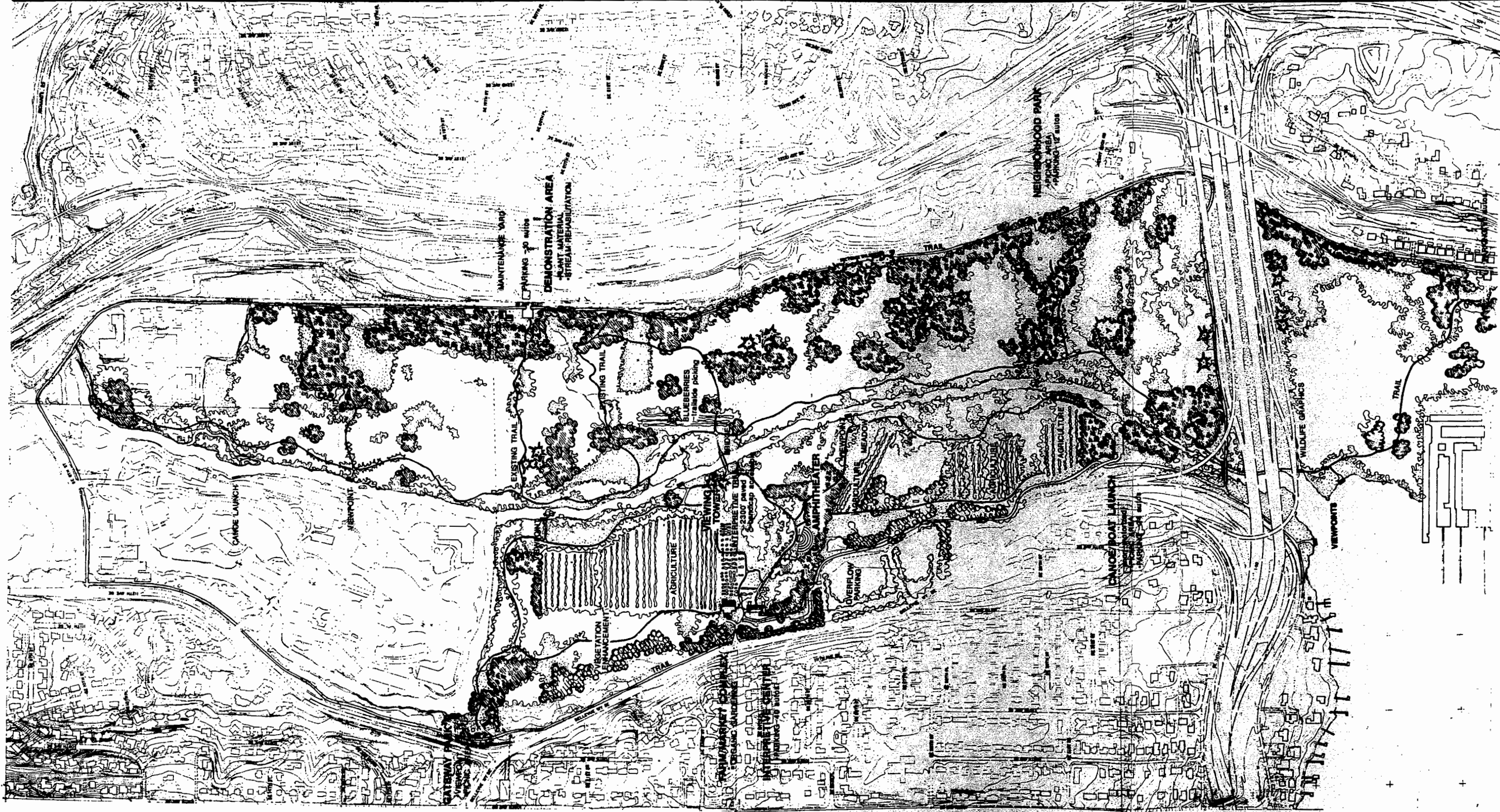
Further vegetation and habitat enhancement would occur with the introduction of 7 acres of meadow and 7.8 acres of vegetation modification which would diversify habitats and associated wildlife species.

An additional canoe landing is proposed at Bellefield Office Park. A typical canoe landing would extend from the bank on piles over the slough. It would be approximately 10' wide and 30' long with the length running parallel to the shore.

Improvements to Sweyolocken Park include a car-top canoe/boat launch, designated parking for 24 vehicles and a picnic area. Two small neighborhood parks would be located within the slough area: the Gateway Park at the intersection of Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E.; and a passive use meadow north of I-90 and west of 118th Avenue S.E. These facilities would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as entrances into the Slough trail system.

The existing Bellefield Nature Park trail system would be incorporated into the system for the Slough. In addition, Bellefield would host several demonstration projects related to stream rehabilitation and backyard vegetative enhancement for wildlife. These would show Bellevue residents how they can collectively enhance wildlife populations through small scale enhancement programs.

The extent and numbers of recreation and education facilities and enhancement areas are presented in Table 2. This table provides the same information for all three alternative design concepts in order to facilitate comparison.



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Parks and Recreation Department

JONES & JONES
 Architects and Landscape Architects
 Seattle, WA 624-5702

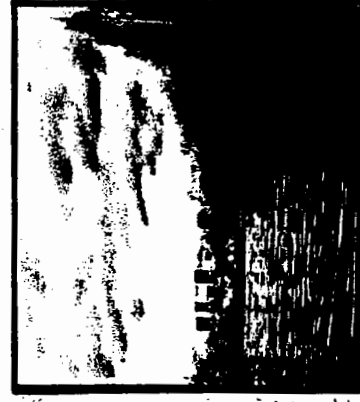
MERCER SLOUGH MASTER PLAN
ALTERNATIVE A



NORTH

SCALE 1" = 200'-0"

FIGURE 1



CITY OF BELLEVUE
Parks and Recreation Department

JONES & JONES
 Architects and Landscape Architects
 Seattle, WA 624-5702

MERCER SLOUGH MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVE B

NORTH
 SCALE 1" = 200'-0"

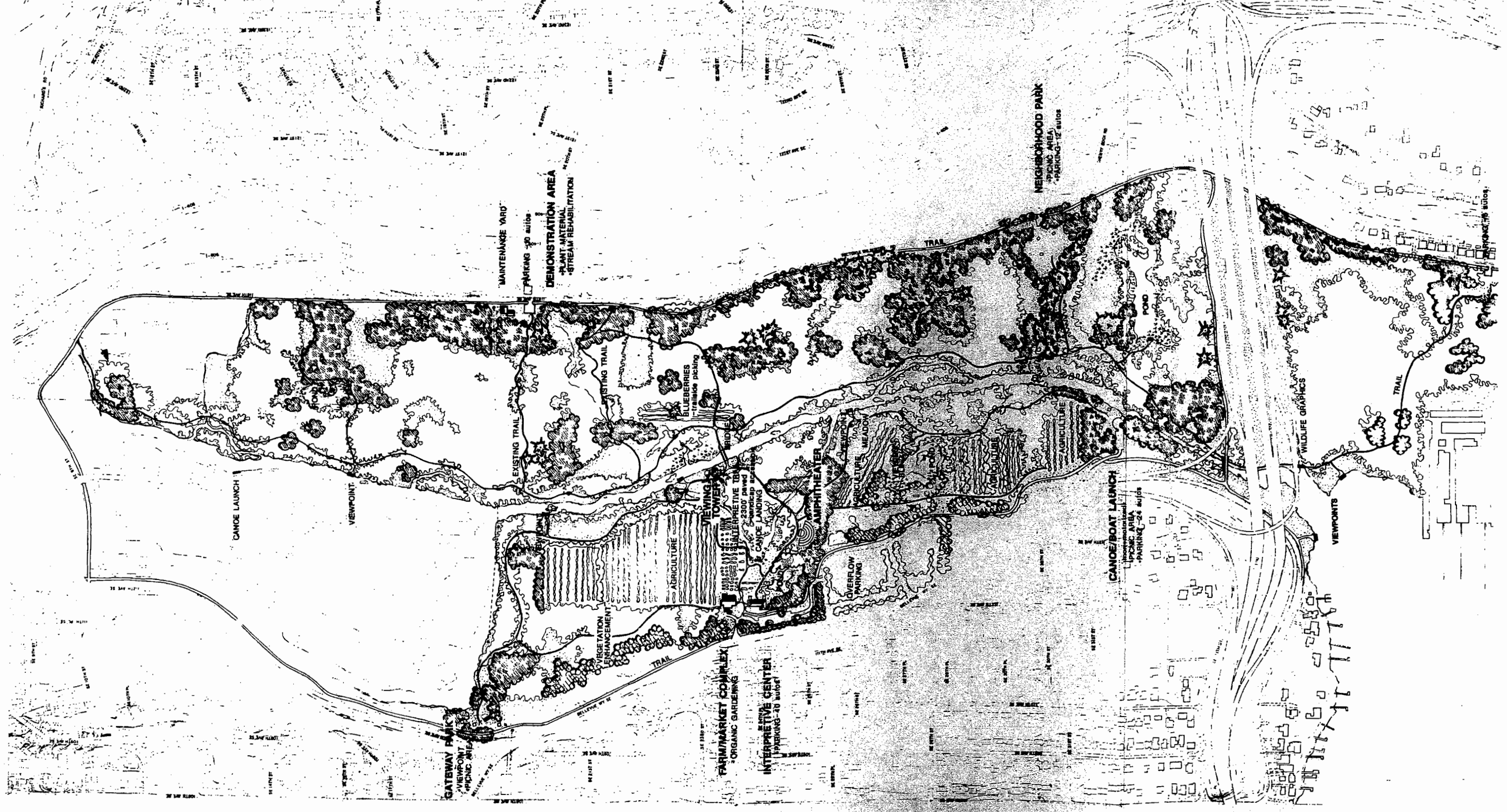


FIGURE 2

ALTERNATIVE B

The design concept for Alternative B is very similar to Alternative A. However, this alternative introduces additional water features such as waterways, ponds and marshes (Figure 3). Several minor elements would be added to take advantage of the proposed water features and include three pedestrian bridges spanning waterways along the paved interpretive trail (see Figure 3), an additional canoe landing on the waterway near the Interpretive Center, and viewing blinds at ponds.

Approximately 9.3 acres of open water ponds and associated marshes and swamps would be created to enhance wildlife habitat (see Appendix E). These ponds would be created in areas that support large expanses of blackberries or other monotypic stands of hardhack or reed canarygrass. The ponds would be located throughout the slough area and several viewing blinds would be established to allow watching of the wildlife species attracted to these habitats. Creating ponds and marshes for wildlife enhancement is discussed in Appendix C. Another 1.4 acres of waterways would be created along the slough. These open water channels would serve several functions, including providing water access to the Interpretive Center, adding canoeing and viewing opportunities on the slough and creating more edges of water/vegetation (a highly valued habitat). A discussion of possible excavation techniques in peat and wetland soils is found in Appendix E.

The concept for Alternative B proposes a mix of recreation, education, and managing existing habitat to enhance and diversify plant and animal species. The existing blueberry farm on Bellevue Way S.E. would remain in its present location;

however, structures would be renovated and crops diversified to create a farm/market complex.

A 7,000 square foot Interpretive Center would be located adjacent to and south of the farm/market complex to take advantage of clustering development at a presently disturbed site and shared parking with the existing Park & Ride lot. The Interpretive Center would include classrooms, offices, a children's activity area, possibly an underground parking area, a storage and operations room, restrooms, lobby area, library and exhibit area.

A 2,300' long paved, handicap accessible interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the slough. Three pedestrian bridges would cross a waterway on this loop trail and connect an amphitheater and viewing tower with the Interpretive Center. Parking for 40 vehicles would be provided at the Center and farm/market complex with overflow parking at the Park & Ride lot. Satellite parking lots would be provided on the perimeter of the Slough at various activity areas such as Bellefield Nature Park, Sweyolocken Park, and the neighborhood park north of I-90 on 118th Avenue S.E. Approximately 4.9 miles of nature trails with interpretive signage, eight (8) viewpoints, and a bridge over the slough are part of this alternative concept.

Land presently under agricultural use would be reduced by 9.7 acres. This change allows for the introduction of hedge rows and the pulling back of agricultural uses from the banks of the slough. Further vegetation and habitat enhancement would occur with the introduction of 7 acres of meadow and 7.8 acres of vegetation management which would diversify habitats and associated wildlife species.

Two canoe landings are proposed. One would be at Bellefield Office Park and the other would occur at the farm/market complex and Interpretive Center. Improvements to Sweyolocken Park include a car-top canoe/boat launch, designated parking for 24 vehicles and a picnic area. Two small neighborhood parks would be located within the slough area: the Gateway Park at the intersection of Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E.; and a passive use meadow north of I-90 and west of 118th Avenue S.E. These facilities would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as minor entrances into the Slough trail system. The existing Bellefield Nature Park trail system would be incorporated into the system for the Slough. In addition, Bellefield would host several demonstration projects related to stream rehabilitation, backyard vegetative enhancement for wildlife, and wetland restoration and enhancement.

The extent and numbers of recreation and education facilities and enhancement activities is presented in Table 2. This table provides the same information for all three alternative design concepts in order to facilitate comparison.

ALTERNATIVE C

The design concept for Alternative C has the same elements as Alternative B and many of the elements of Alternative A. However, the differences are in quantity and size: more water features, greater modification of habitats, more bridges, larger buildings and longer trails (Figure 4).

Approximately 12.7 acres of open water ponds and associated marshes and swamps would be created for habitat diversity and wildlife enhancement. These ponds would be created in

areas that support larger expanses of blackberries or other monotypic stands of hardhack or reed canarygrass. The ponds would be located throughout the slough area and several viewing blinds would be established to take advantage of the wildlife species attracted to these habitats. The importance of creating ponds and marshes for wildlife enhancement is discussed in Appendix C. Another 1.8 acres of additional waterways would be created along the slough. These open water channels would serve several functions, such as providing water access to the Interpretive Center, adding canoeing and viewing opportunities on the slough, and creating a highly valued water/vegetation edge habitat. A discussion of possible excavation techniques in peat and wetland soils is found in Appendix E.

The concept for Alternative C proposes a mix of recreation, education and facilities and manipulation of existing habitat to enhance and diversify plant and animal species. The existing blueberry farm on Bellevue Way S.E. would remain in its present location. However, a new market structure would be added, existing structures would be renovated and crops diversified to create a farm/market complex.

A 10,000 square foot Interpretive Center would be located adjacent to and south of the farm/market complex to take advantage of clustering development at a presently disturbed site and shared parking with the existing Park & Ride lot. The Interpretive Center would include an auditorium seating 150 people, classrooms, offices, a children's activity area, a storage and operations room, a workshop/laboratory, restrooms, lobby area, library, exhibit area, and canoe rental facility. Environmental education, natural system interpretation and other nature-related activities would be benefits to the public visiting the Interpretive Center.

A 2,300' long paved, handicap accessible interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the slough. Two pedestrian bridges would cross a waterway on this loop trail and connect an amphitheater and viewing tower with the Interpretive Center. Parking for 80 vehicles would be provided at the Center and farm/ market complex with considerable overflow parking available at the Park & Ride lot. Satellite parking lots would be provided on the perimeter of the slough at various activity areas such as Bellefield Nature Park, Sweyolocken Park and the neighborhood park north of I-90 on 118th Avenue S.E. Approximately 5.5 miles of nature trails with interpretive signage, ten (10) viewpoints, and four bridges over the slough are part of this alternative concept.

Land presently under agricultural use would be reduced by 11.4 acres. This change allows for the introduction of hedge rows and the pulling back of agricultural uses from the banks of the slough. This buffer and change in farming practices should reduce impacts to water quality by separating pesticides from direct contact with waterways. Further vegetation and habitat enhancement would occur with the introduction of 8.25 acres of meadow and 10.75 acres of vegetation manipulation which would diversify habitats and associated wildlife species.

Three canoe landings are proposed. One would be at Bellefield Office Park, another at the farm/market complex and Interpretive Center, and the third at an isolated location on the slough. Improvements to Sweyolocken Park include a car-top canoe/boat launch, designated parking for 24 vehicles and a picnic area. Two small neighborhood parks would be located within the slough area: the Gateway Park at the intersection

of Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E. and a passive use meadow north of I-90 and west of 118th Avenue S.E. These facilities would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as minor entrances into the Slough trail system. The existing Bellefield Nature Park trail system would be incorporated into the system for the Slough. In addition, Bellefield would host several demonstration projects related to stream rehabilitation and backyard vegetative enhancement.

The extent and numbers of recreation and education facilities and enhancement activities is presented in Table 2.

ALTERNATIVE D (Preferred Alternative)

The design concept for Alternative D has many of the elements of Alternatives A, B, and C. The quantity and sizes of water features, modification of habitats, bridges, and trails (Figure 5) are most similar to Alternative B. This new alternative incorporates the additional 130 acres secured by the Parks Department since the publication of the Draft EIS.

The major difference between Alternative D and former alternatives is the siting and functions of new and existing structures. The interpretive center/farm market is located south of the Park & Ride lot. This site is visually and physically more accessible to the public, builds on already disturbed upland, closer to the Park & Ride lot which facilitates the potential for shared parking and screens views of the parking lot from people entering Bellevue through one of its designated gateways.

Approximately 11 acres of open water ponds and associated marshes and swamps would be created for habitat diversity and wildlife enhancement.

These ponds would be created in areas that support larger expanses of blackberries or other monotypic stands of hardhack or reed canarygrass. The ponds would be located throughout the slough area and several viewing blinds would be established to take advantage of the wildlife species attracted to these habitats. The importance of creating ponds and marshes for wildlife enhancement is discussed in Appendix C. Another 3.6 acres of additional waterways would be created along the slough. These open water channels would serve several functions, such as providing water access to the Interpretive Center, adding canoeing and viewing opportunities on the slough, and creating a highly valued water/vegetation edge habitat. A discussion of possible excavation techniques in peat and wetland soils is found in Appendix E.

Alternative D is a new alternative which takes advantage of new site features resulting from recent land acquisition. This alternative proposes a mix of recreation, education and facilities and manipulation of existing habitat to enhance and diversify plant and animal species. The existing blueberry farm structures on Bellevue Way S.E. would be renovated to house equipment storage and some meeting space. This facility would continue to sell local crops until the farm market/interpretive facility is built. Existing structures would be renovated and crops diversified to create at the farm operations center.

The 25,000 square foot farm market and interpretive center would be located adjacent to and south of the Park & Ride lot to take advantage of clustering development at a presently disturbed site, shared parking with the existing Park & Ride lot, and increasing accessibility. The farm market/interpretive center would include an area for the sale of local products, auditorium seating 150 people, classrooms, offices, a children's

activity area, a storage and operations room, a workshop/laboratory, restrooms, lobby area, library, exhibit area, and canoe rental facility. Environmental education, natural system interpretation and other nature-related activities would benefit the public visiting the Interpretive Center.

A 2,300' long paved, handicap accessible interpretive trail would loop through several wetland habitat types on its way to the slough. Two pedestrian bridges would cross a waterway on this loop trail and connect an amphitheater and viewing tower with the Interpretive Center. Parking for 80 vehicles would be provided at the Center and farm/ market complex with considerable overflow parking available at the Park & Ride lot. Satellite parking lots would be provided on the perimeter of the slough at various activity areas such as Bellefield Nature Park, Sweyolocken Park and the neighborhood park north of I-90 on 118th Avenue S.E. Approximately 5.8 miles of nature trails with interpretive signage, ten (10) viewpoints, and one bridge over the slough and two smaller bridges over new waterways are part of this alternative concept.

PROPOSED USES AND IMPACTS

Small community meetings, a small-scale conference center, and perhaps some environmental or historical society uses for the Winters Estate have been proposed. The maximum capacity of the building is approximately 50-60 people which restricts uses to relatively small and passive events. Parking has been sited to minimize impacts to the site, and only 37 spaces can be provided without disturbing existing trees.

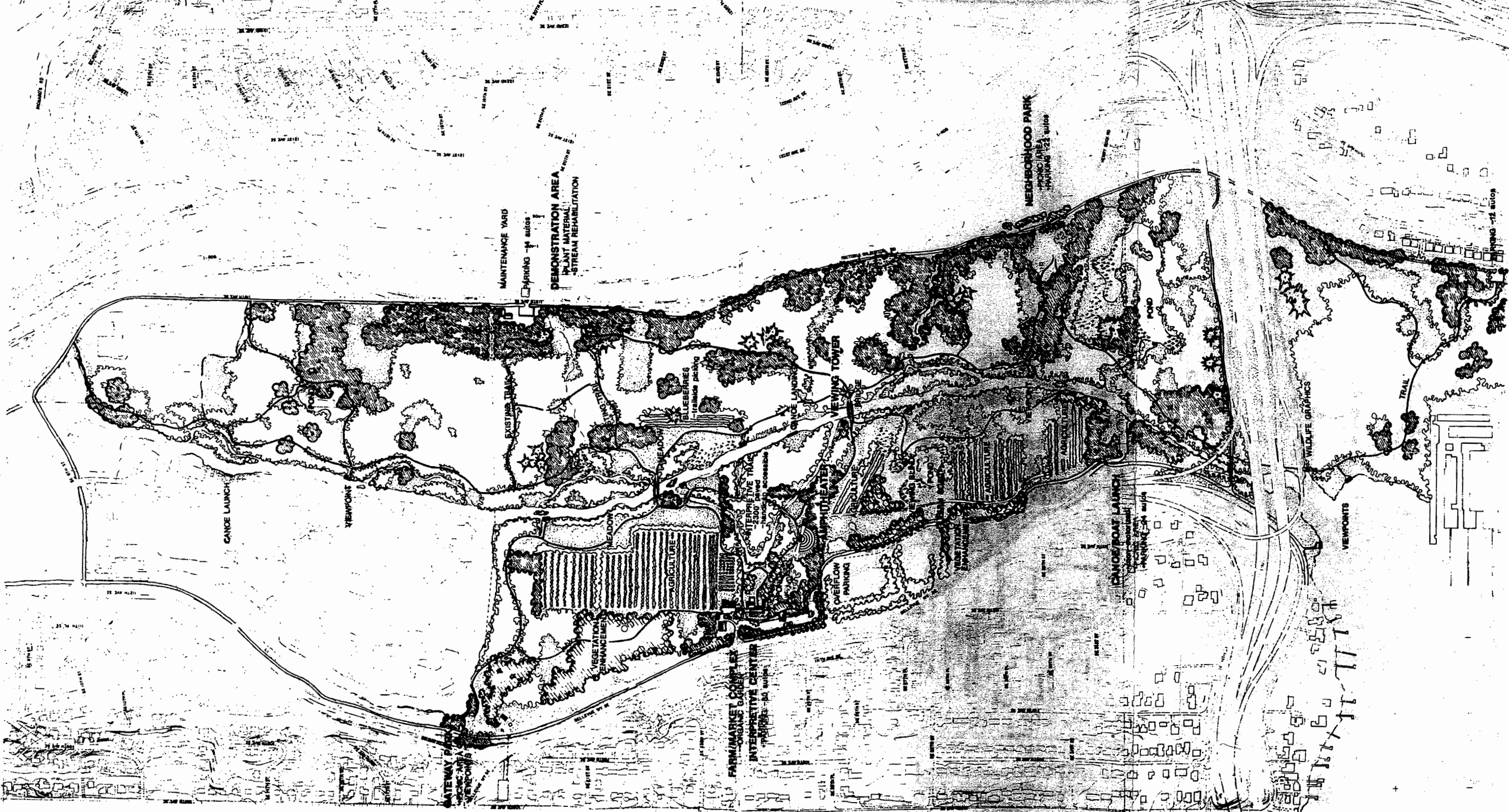


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**MERCER SLOUGH
MASTER PLAN
ALTERNATIVE
C.**



NORTH
SCALE 1" = 200'-0"

FIGURE

**CITY OF
BELLEVUE**
**Parks and
Recreation
Department**

JONES & JONES
Architects and
Landscape Architects
Seattle, WA 624-5702

**MERCER SLOUGH
MASTER PLAN
ALTERNATIVE
'D'**



NORTH

SCALE 1" = 200'-0"



FIGURE 4

All of the proposed uses would be relatively small scale and passive in nature, and the grounds will maintain a quiet, informal character of country estate. The House and its intended uses would be secondary to Mercer Slough open space trails. (A conditional use application will be prepared for the Winters Estate and other Mercer Slough Nature Park components for submittal in early 1990.)

Vehicular access to and from the site will be designed with Public Works/ Transportation Division to ensure safe ingress/egress. Preliminary design studies propose to create a new deceleration/acceleration for northbound Bellevue Way and new left-turn lane for southbound Bellevue Way to respond to high-speed traffic conflicts along this arterial. Noise levels generated by this traffic also have been a concern for potential users of the house. Noise impacts would be mitigated by a proposed architectural noise-attenuation wall along Bellevue Way.

The visual impact of leaving the structure in place from viewpoints along the trail system is not anticipated to be significant. With the wetland forest which has grown up in the old bulb and azalea beds, the house is not usually visible from most angles. On the site of the old farming areas, the building is visible from certain angles.

Land presently under agricultural use would be increased by 1/2 acre as a result of restoring agriculture on newly acquired property. The change includes for the introduction of hedge rows and the creation of a buffer between the banks of the slough. This buffer and change in farming practices (i.e. reduction in the use of pesticides), would reduce impacts to water quality by separating pesticides from direct contact with waterways. Further vegetation and habitat enhancement would occur with the introduction of

8.25 acres of meadow and 10.75 acres of vegetation manipulation which would diversify habitats and associated wildlife species.

Three canoe landings are proposed. One would be at the Viewing Tower, another at the farm/market complex and Interpretive Center, and the third at an isolated location on the slough. Improvements to Sweyolocken Park include a car-top canoe/boat launch, designated parking for 27 vehicles, a new wetland and plantings, and a picnic area. Two small neighborhood parks would be located within the slough area: the Gateway Park at the intersection of Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E. and a passive use meadow north of I-90 and west of 118th Avenue S.E. These facilities would be accessible from nearby residential areas and would serve as minor entrances into the Slough trail system. The existing Bellefield Nature Park trail system would be incorporated into the system for the Slough. In addition, demonstration projects related to stream rehabilitation and backyard vegetative enhancement are proposed.

The extent and numbers of recreation and education facilities and enhancement activities is presented in Table 2.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no action alternative, the public portion of the Mercer Slough area would remain in current uses (see Figure 5). The blueberry farm would continue to operate at current levels, using existing management practices that are not always beneficial to wildlife and water quality. The agriculture would continue to impact the natural system in a number of ways. Water quality, wildlife, vegetation and aesthetics would be affected. Many of the Himalayan blackberry thickets would continue to invade other vegetation

species. Wildlife species diversity and numbers would not change significantly and monoculture species would continue to limit the diversity of habitat wildlife. Sweyolocken Park and Bellefield Nature Park would continue to provide some public access to the slough and wetlands.

Most Bellevue residents presently have little or no direct contact with Mercer Slough. Views of the Open Space would continue to provide relief from the fast-growing urbanized landscape, yet may be reduced without a concerted effort to aggressively protect these vistas.

Vandalism and deterioration would continue to affect the Winters Estate with eventual collapse or fire.

Under existing zoning, office use and private park would continue to be allowable uses within the study site.

Motorized boats would continue to launch at Sweyolocken Boat Launch, with ongoing violation of motorized use restrictions of the upper slough. Generally, the area would be retained as open space with opportunities for recreational, educational and interpretive use held at present levels



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**MERCER SLOUGH
MASTER PLAN
EXISTING
LAND USE**

NORTH
SCALE 1" = 200'-0"

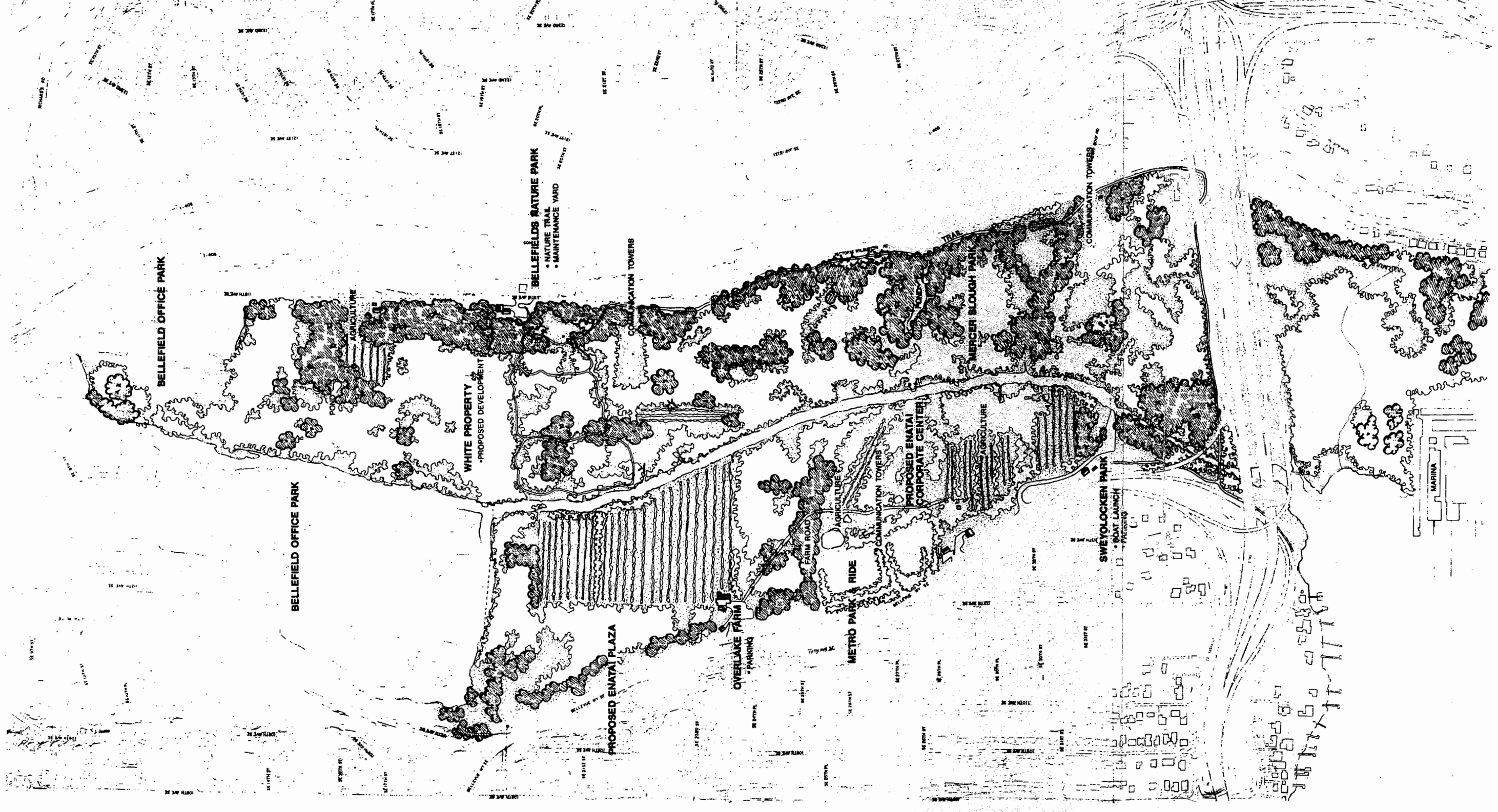


FIGURE 5

EARTH

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

TOPOGRAPHY

The study area is located adjacent to Mercer Slough from S.E. 8th Street to Lake Washington. It includes portions of flat to moderately sloping uplands, moderate to steep hill slopes, and the flat area of Mercer Slough Valley.

The uplands slope steeply (15%-35%) along the east and west side of the Slough. The wetlands lie in between and slope less than 1%.

GEOLOGY

Mercer Slough is part of an abandoned meltwater channel formed during the glaciation of the Puget Sound Lowlands. The adjacent uplands and valley slopes consist of glacial deposits of well-stratified sand with pebbles and cobbles topped with glacial till. The lowlands of Mercer Slough accumulated lacustrine deposits of soft fine-grained sediments including silts, clays, and peat.

In general, the peat is underlaid by medium dense to dense sands, or glacial till. The edge of the peat appears to be near the toe of the hill slope. The peat depth varies, with the deeper peats extending down approximately 70 feet and is the largest deep peat deposit in King County.

Several areas have been modified by fill of varying depth and composition over the peat. The largest fill area is located at the Bellefield Office Park complex. Other fill areas occur near the wetland edges and where they support residential and office uses or serve as a wood waste disposal

area. These areas are several feet higher than the adjacent wetland areas. Other smaller fill areas also occur on and adjacent to the hill slopes.

SOILS

In general, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) mapping reflects the subsurface deposits on which they have formed. Soils include Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, Everett-Alderwood gravelly sandy loam and Kitsap silt loam in the upland areas. Snohomish silt loam and Seattle muck occupy wetlands area. Urban Lands include fill areas and other extensively modified soils resulting from urban development.

The moderately well drained Alderwood series soils are found on the uplands and generally slope over 15%. The erosion hazard is high on steep slopes and the slippage potential is moderate.

The Everett-Alderwood soil unit is about equal parts Everett and Alderwood soils including gravelly soils that overlay till. Runoff is slow to medium and the erosion potential is slight to moderate.

Kitsap silt loam soils are found on the hill slope of Bellefield Nature Park. This series is made up of moderately well drained soils with slopes of 2% to 30%. Runoff is typically rapid and the erosion potential is high.

The Snohomish series consists of poorly drained alluvium. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This soil is found in the southwest corner of the Mercer Slough Area. These soils have a high available water capacity and runoff occurs slowly. The erosion potential is slight.

The Seattle series soil is made up of very poorly drained organic soils that formed in material

derived primarily from decomposition of sedges. Permeability is moderate. There is a seasonal high water table at or near the surface and storm water ponds at the surface. There is little or no erosion potential in undisturbed soils, but when disturbed, these soils are easily transported by storm runoff.

Urban Lands indicate soils that have been modified by disturbance of natural layers with addition of fill material several feet thick.

SEISMIC HAZARD

The study area requires special attention for seismic hazard evaluation due to the soil characteristics that potentially would result in substantial shaking and possible soil failure in an earthquake.

Poorly drained, impervious alluvium, and organic soils are more sensitive to ground shaking than well-drained alluvial or compacted glacial soils. The Snohomish and Seattle soils at the site are susceptible to greater damage from greater intensity earthquakes than the surrounding area. Non-engineered fills may also be susceptible to ground failure during an earthquake. The Mercer Slough Area falls into category C of seismic risk potential: "One should not build at this location unless the structure is specifically designed to take into account substantial shaking and possible soil failure."

UNIQUE PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Snohomish and Seattle series soils are considered prime agricultural soils that have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.

A 30 acre sphagnum bog with characteristic

shrubs and small conifers is reported to be located on the former Enatai Plaza site. The presence of this sphagnum bog was not confirmed by field investigations for this project.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

ALTERNATIVE D (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative D (Fig. 20) was derived from the modification of Master Plan Alternative B (Fig. 2). The Master Plan has been revised to reflect recently acquired properties.

The major change would result from the construction of parking lots, trails, ponds and waterway excavations. Grading would be required for site development of the Interpretive Center/Farm Market Complex, Amphitheater, new parking areas, and new trails. Fill placement and pile driving activities would also occur. Short-term construction impacts to the existing topography would occur. Adverse impacts to earth resources are not likely.

Development of this alternative would require clearing and grading activities for development of neighborhood park areas and general habitat improvements. It may be necessary to import special fill material for roads and parking areas, structural fill for building areas, and fill for trails. Clearing and grading activities would result in temporary erosion of exposed soil and sedimentation to adjacent areas.

Site development would include one new bridge, three canoe landings, two minor bridges, and nine viewpoints. Pile driving would provide firm foundations in the dense soil underlying the soft peat.

Grading would also be required for the creation of 5.9 acres of open water ponds, 3,250 lin. ft. of waterways, and 5.8 acres of associated wetlands and marsh. Development of new open water areas would require dredging activities. Dredging would temporarily increase turbidity in Mercer Slough and new pond areas. Additional clearing may be necessary to establish access for dredging equipment. Areas temporarily cleared would be restored with native vegetation.

Excavation in organic soils requires special techniques to prevent damage to the surrounding ground and vegetation and to permit equipment to remain mobile. Excavation could occur by use of a dragline, backhoe, hand excavation or a combination of the above techniques. Equipment could be barge mounted for 30 foot wide channel excavation. Narrower channels could be constructed with a mini-excavator mounted on a small wooden float. Channel excavation and dredging would be at least four feet in depth. Dredging would be performed for a 30-50 year dredge cycle to maintain open waterways. Barges, trucks, or helicopters could be used to transport the excavated material. The specific dredging measures would require subsequent environmental review prior to plan implementation. The excavated material could be used for a suitable enhancement research projects, sold for landscaping material, or deposited on an upland location off site.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

The original alternatives offer a range of levels of development. Alternative A is the least intensive of the alternatives. No new waterways or ponds are created in this proposal. Alternative B on which Alternative D is based, has similar amounts of ponds and wetlands but has 604 lin. ft. more of waterways due to the location of the Interpretive

Center. Alternative C is the most developed of the four proposals with 2,030 lin. ft. of additional waterways and nearly four more acres of pond and marsh land than Alternative D. Alternatives B and C have greater impacts than Alternative D with more excavation and dredging.

In all previous alternatives the building area, trails, and parking lots are lower than in alternative D. Due to recent land and building acquisitions 60 acres in the Mercer Slough study area and the Winters Estate were not included in the original development scope of work. Additional trails and parking lots for Alternative D reflect the new acquisitions. In the original alternatives, however, the Interpretive Center is built on a smaller upland area requiring disturbance closer to adjacent wetlands.

MITIGATING MEASURES

TOPOGRAPHY

Plan development would leave more than 11% in agriculture and 86% open space at any one time, depending on the alternative. Construction would be phased to minimize exposure of excavated or dredged areas at any one time.

GEOLOGY/SOILS

Development of the interpretive center, bridge foundations, road clearing and grading, and parking lot development would be supervised by a licensed geotechnical engineer. Foundations could be placed on pilings. The parking lots in the final design would be located on uplands, and preferably require a minimum of cuts in the hill slope.

An erosion and sediment control plan, approved

by Bellevue Storm and Surface Water Utility is proposed prior to site development. Erosion control measures would include preservation of existing vegetation adjacent to construction areas, structural controls (diversion swales and sedimentation basins), and incorporation of management practices (limited clearing and grading and proper timing of construction).

At each stage of development, excavated or dredged areas would be reseeded or natural vegetation would be established. Site layouts have been designed to follow natural drainage patterns as much as possible to keep runoff at a minimum.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY OF BELLEVUE EXISTING PLANS

NATURAL DETERMINANTS ELEMENT

The Natural Determinants Element of the Comprehensive Plan was established to preserve and enhance vegetation, earth, and water resources. Applicable objectives from the Earth Resources section include: using native plant material in landscaping; preventing sediment from leaving its site of origin; and preventing development on unstable ground. Relevant policies include: protecting natural topographic, geologic, vegetation, and hydrologic features; using natural drainage systems to promote soil stability; preserving existing vegetation and using compatible plant species; preventing development on unstable land; and minimizing soil erosion.

In Alternative D, areas of potential development include the western hill slope for parking area and limited development over soft organic soils. In Alternative A, B, and C most of the proposed Interpretive Center would be developed in areas

over soft peat soils previously disturbed and filled for agricultural support facilities. The Interpretive Center/Farm Market Complex is located on a larger upland area in Alternative D. This area has been previously disturbed by houses. New developments in peat soil areas requiring clearing and grading and some filling would be for trails, bridges, and view platforms. Proper engineering and design would allow safe development of structures over these soft soil areas. New water areas for Alternatives B, C, and D would require excavations.

In Alternatives A, B, and C the proposed parking lot area for the Interpretive Center would be located in the existing Overlake Blueberry Farm parking lot but could require cuts in the hill slope which may reduce slope stability. In Alternative D, grading would be reduced because of a larger upland area adjacent to Bellevue Way.

CLEARING AND GRADING CODE

The purpose of the Clearing and Grading Code is to "promote, protect, and preserve the public interest by regulating land alteration, particularly the clearing and grading of land in the city." Applicable regulations of the Code (23.76.030) for earth resources include grading(part C).

The Land Use Code was recently amended to include Natural Determinants relating to the regulation of environmentally sensitive areas. The Clearing and Grading Code prohibits filling or dredging of wetlands unless it is demonstrated to be of clear benefit for water quality and wildlife. This document is approached as a programmatic EIS; specific actions will require subsequent environmental review and possibly supplemental Environmental Impact Statements. At that time, all elements of the Clearing and Grading Code and related construction codes relevant to the proposed

action will be discussed.

Fills for trails and the interpretive center are expected to be less than 10,000 cubic yards. Detailed engineering design would need to be completed to confirm this amount. No filling is planned in the regulatory floodway. The regulatory floodway is limited to within approximately 100 feet of the channel bank of Mercer Slough. Trails would require placement of material in some areas of the wetland to avoid people walking directly on saturated soils. No stream relocations are planned. Alternatives B, C, and D however, would provide for new waterways. No unstable slopes have been identified where development would occur.

Specific development design would be consistent with applicable regulations contained in the Clearing and Grading Code.

WATER RESOURCES

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

SURFACE WATER

The Mercer Slough Master Plan Study Area is located mostly in the lower Mercer-Kelsey Creek Basin, and also includes a small portion of the Coal Creek Basin. The area drains much of Bellevue as well as areas in Kirkland and Redmond.

Mercer Slough is located in a broad wetland receiving basin which flows south into Lake Washington. Principal tributaries to Mercer Slough are Kelsey Creek, Richards Creek, Valley Creek, Sturtevant Creek, and Coal Creek. These watersheds are characterized by urban/suburban development patterns with several major business/commercial areas.

A low, gentle gradient is present throughout most of the drainage system, even in the upper reaches of the major streams. In Mercer Slough there are no pools, riffles, or identified barriers. Stream banks, where they exist, are well defined with riparian vegetation or stabilizing riprap. The upper reaches of the streams of the sub-basin have alternating areas of pools and riffles with the bottom substrate composed mostly of gravel, sand, silt and some cobble.

The mean stream flow of Mercer Slough from 1978-1985 has been 21 cfs with a range between 5.12 cfs and 115.20 cfs (METRO) and a maximum of 670 cfs (USGS).

Channel depth varies from 3.0 feet to 7.5 feet and channel width varies from 46 feet to 150 feet. The water is deepest at the narrowest channel width.

Drainage patterns within the slough wetland area are poorly defined with most flow occurring in agricultural drainage ditches. Stream and storm runoff from upland areas to Mercer Slough occurs as sheet flow and groundwater flow. Groundwater levels within the wetland area are at or near the ground surface.

GROUND WATER

Groundwater movement is assumed to follow surface water divides and flows from the confined aquifer in the adjacent upland to the unconfined aquifer of Mercer Slough. Groundwater movement within the peat deposits is toward Mercer Slough and Lake Washington.

The groundwater table was observed near the ground surface of the flat wetland areas, and in some locations is ponded on the surface. Seasonal changes in the unconfined groundwater table are influenced by precipitation, surface inflow from the drainage basin, ground water flow from the confined aquifer, and fluctuations in Lake Washington's water level.

Groundwater levels varies from depths of .5 to 12 feet below the ground surface. The groundwater level in upland areas is not static, thus one may expect fluctuations in the level depending on the amount of rainfall, the period between rainfall events, and aquifer characteristics.

No known studies have been completed that characterize the hydrology of the Mercer Slough Wetland. It is expected that surface runoff and Lake Washington have a greater effect on wetland water levels than ground water. Further changes

in basin characteristics may affect surface runoff and wetland water levels more than groundwater. Major changes in the confined aquifer would need to occur to have an affect on wetland water levels.

WATER QUALITY

Mercer-Kelsey Creek is designated by the Department of Ecology as a Class AA (Extraordinary) stream for which certain water quality standards are set. The standards require that the quality of waters in this class shall markedly and uniformly exceed the requirements for all or substantially all uses. Characteristic uses include water supply, wildlife habitat, general recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, fish and shellfish reproduction, rearing, and harvesting. Water quality conditions on the site indicate dissolved oxygen above the minimum standard, pH values within required range, biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids increase with winter storm flows, fecal coliform counts indicate presence of animal wastes in water, and average temperature seasonal fluctuations.

Storm water runoff carries pollutants from urban areas to the streams. Impervious surfaces from urban developments cause an increase in the rate and volume of storm runoff and can result in increased erosion and sedimentation to downstream areas. Water quality characteristics of storm runoff waters within the wetland are expected to be primarily characteristic of single-family residential areas. Water and sediment within Mercer Slough, however, can be expected to contain pollutants associated with agriculture and business/commercial areas and roads and street surfaces. Pollutants expected in runoff waters are sediments, petroleum derivatives, organic pollutants, and nutrients/pesticides from residential landscape maintenance.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The water resources within Mercer Slough have been managed by Bellevue's Storm and Surface Water Utility for over a decade. The City has established sound management objectives focused on sediment and pollutant source control, outlined in the Storm and Surface Water Utility Comprehensive Drainage Plan. Numerous Capital Improvement Plan funded projects have been and are currently being used to implement these goals.

The entire Kelsey Creek Watershed (which is in Bellevue) is managed with the intent to control sedimentation at its source, thereby reducing sediment load in Mercer Slough. Recent data from water quality samples taken in Mercer Slough show a moderate decline in turbidity and suspended solids between 1978 and 1985, indicating successful source control.

Another important point is that the water level of Lake Washington is a major determinant in the level of Mercer Slough, which is hydrologically dependent on the lake. The lake level is completely controlled by the level of the Hiram Chittenden Locks in Seattle. Seasonally, this is adjusted to provide for flood storage, with approximately 18" higher summer water elevation. Therefore, the lake's water elevation, not Parks Department actions, determines to a large degree the water level in the Slough.

Flood conveyance capacity of the Slough has not been diminishing. In fact with the dredging done in the early 1970's for Bellefield Office Park, the flood conveyance to Lake Washington was increased over previous years. This channel has not be constricted significantly since the dredging and the channel geometry measured in 1986 demonstrates adequate capacity for water passage into Lake Washington.

All alternatives would maintain the primary channel clear of logjams, though secondary habitat channels to be constructed could be allowed to be blocked by beaver dams or floating logs for habitat enhancement. All alternatives would also benefit from upstream settlement ponds, one of which has been proposed in the Reed wetlands outside of the study area near Kelsey Creek Park. Some siltation of the channel at the northeast of the study area may be reduced or eliminated by the development of the Reed wetland settlement ponds.

Alternatives B, C and D would open new flood conveyance, recreation and habitat-enhancement waterways, which should provide more than adequate capacity for allowing Kelsey Creek and Mercer Slough waters to pass into Lake Washington.

Drainage Management Options

During the Draft EIS process, concerns were raised by the managers of the adjacent office park about the park development and the affects of drainage management options could be on existing office buildings at Bellefield Office Park. The specific concern was that any constriction of the flood conveyance channel downstream from the office park may further compound the current high water table and erosion problems they experience. The banks of the channels at the office park have for many years been unstable and falling into the water due to the removal of native vegetation and replacement with manicured grass. Native woody and shrubby vegetation along the edge of the Slough is common, with no bank stability problems where this vegetation is undisturbed. Recently, the office park has begun to look at other options besides lawn to stabilize their banks.

In the Slough, as storm water velocities decrease, sands, silt and other suspended particulated settle out. These particulates are deposited on the bottom of the stream which raises the stream bed elevation and reduces flood conveyance.

Bellevue's Storm and Surface Water Utility, which manages the entire surface drainage network in the City, has planned several storm water detention ponds in the Kelsey Creek/Mercer Slough drainage system. However, funding sources for these projects have not been identified and the Utility have no schedule for construction of these facilities. The Utility does not have any plans at this time to dredge Mercer Slough.

The management options which follow could apply to any of the park plan alternatives, except that alternative one involves the creation of new open water habitat and channels, which would contribute to the conveyance of flood waters into the lake.

Alternative One: Create Additional Channels

This option would involve the proposal by several of the alternative park plans (B, C & D). The creation of new waterways for habitat enhancement and recreational use could provide additional channel capacity for floodwater conveyance from the Kelsey Creek watershed to Lake Washington. This option would require a hydrological study to demonstrate what the effects of new channels would have on existing hydrology and vegetation

Environmental impacts would involve short term turbidity due to erosion of unstable new channel banks, and long term removal of disturbed wetland vegetation such as farmland, blackberries and hardhack.

Avoidance and mitigation of these impacts could include dredging the new channels in isolation from the main channel, with a period of establishment of new vegetated shores and banks prior to connection with the main channel, the use of hanging silt fences and other measures in the waterway to reduce turbidity. Interim bank stabilization with netting or other structural methods also reduce interim bank erosion.

Alternative Two: Deepen Existing Channel

Extensive dredging of the existing Slough channel could provide further channel capacity and therefore increase storm water conveyance from the watershed to Lake Washington.

Environmental impacts could involve short-term turbidity due to disturbance of material on the channel bottom, removal of shallow open water vegetation and shallow water habitat, and increase bank instability and disturbance.

Avoidance and mitigation of these impacts could include the use of hanging silt fences in the waterway to reduce turbidity and seasonal timing to eliminate peak storm water flows.

No Action

This option would not involve any dredging of the channel and no removal of constrictions except to maintain recreational boating access to the Slough. For instance, trees which could fall into the channel would be removed if they did not allow canoes to pass. Otherwise, they would be left in the channel to provide increased habitat diversity in the channel.

Environmental impacts would be those occurring now, including the loss of shoreline at the business park due to the loss of native woody stream bank vegetation.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

This document is a programmatic EIS, identifying development components but not detailed plans and actions. For instance, dredging within the wetlands will require further study to determine the amount of material to be removed, the best construction techniques, and the best methods to reduce impacts. The following section identifies, in general terms, the expected impacts and recommends studies to further quantify the level of impact.

ALTERNATIVE D

Potential surface water impacts can occur in three ways: 1) runoff from the exposed areas where vegetation has been removed, 2) runoff picking up sediments as it passes over exposed soil and then discharged into Mercer Slough, and 3) increased peak runoff flows as a result to impervious surface, reducing the rate of infiltration into the soil.

Direct upland developments associated with the proposed Mercer Slough Master Plan are the construction of an Interpretive Center/ Farm Market Complex, renovation of the Farm Operation buildings, restoration of the Winters Estate, and associated parking lots. Approximately 10 acres of uplands would be covered by impervious surfaces. New impervious surfaces from site development would result in decreased storm water infiltration and produce increased runoff volumes and peak discharge rates. Storm runoff from the development would

contain some levels of sediment, heavy metals, oils and grease, litter, and nutrients. The concentrations of these pollutants can vary widely depending on the season, storm intensity, and preceding number of dry days.

During site preparation of the Interpretive Center/Farm Market and Farm Operations renovation, sediment would become part of surface and storm water runoff because of cleared ground and exposed soils. The amount of sediment-laden runoff produced is directly related to the amount of area that is disturbed (natural vegetation removed and soil exposed to wind and rain). Phased construction would minimize these potential impacts. Sediment could reach Mercer Slough, although sediment would largely be confined to the vicinity of the construction site due to the lack of topographic relief. The potential for erosion and subsequent sedimentation during site preparation would be affected by factors such as the timing, type, and phasing of construction; the degree of vegetation removal; and the effectiveness of erosion control measures.

The construction of 15 acres of impermeable surfaces for the Interpretive Center/ Farm Market Complex, primary and paved trails, and parking lots would decrease the infiltration and groundwater capacity of the site by less than 2%. However, no significant change is expected in the total volume of water discharged into Mercer Slough from the increased impervious surfaces.

The storm detention system would control the peak flows (the highest rate of runoff) and not discharge water at higher rates than currently exist.

Direct disturbances from Alternative D in the wetlands includes trail construction and dredging.

Trail construction would increase the impermeable surfaces around the interpretive center by 0.4 acre in all alternatives. The trail surfaces would be four to eight feet wide and should not significantly affect storm water runoff rates nor increase the amount of pollutants entering the wetlands. An additional six miles of trails, covering approximately three acres of land would be placed in the wetland. These additional trails would be boardwalks on pilings, gravel, and/or wood chips. These could increase the amount of impervious surface and wood chips are a potential source of tannic acid. Pre-leached or tested wood products would be used to reduce the amount of the tannic acid. Since the surrounding soil is decomposing peat and very acidic, there should be no significant impacts from the wood chips.

In addition to those impacts of trail construction, approximately 5.9 acres of open water ponds and 5.8 acres of associated marshes and swamps and 0.62 miles of waterways would be created within the wetlands. These actions would require dredging which would result in the greatest increase sedimentation during construction of all the Alternatives.

Several techniques have been investigated for potential dredging methods at the site. Excavation in organic soils requires special techniques, both to prevent damage to the surrounding ground and vegetation and also to permit equipment to remain mobile. Excavation of the shallow water ponds could occur by use of a dragline, backhoe, hand excavation, or a combination of the above techniques. Barges, trucks, or helicopters would be used to transport the excavated material. Excavated peat material would be used in the Slough for a demonstration project, sold to a landscape supply company, or deposited on an upland off site location.

Excavation of the channels could occur by maintaining a "plug" of material at each end of the new channel until excavation is complete, or by using barge mounted equipment starting at the upstream end. With a standard size barge, the minimum channel width would be 30 feet with steep side cuts. The minimum cut width for a non floating operation would be approximately 15 to 20 feet. A non floating operation would require removal of dredged material by tracked or rubber tired equipment over roadways or trails.

Water would be present in all of the proposed excavations since the wetlands are saturated with water. Dredging operations can adversely affect water quality by increasing turbidity due to suspended solids and by releasing organic and inorganic materials that create an oxygen demand in the surrounding waters at the point of sediment removal. Suspension of peat sediments would increase turbidity and reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Peat material can take a considerable amount of time to settle out of the water.

The chemical interaction between suspended sediments and the water column results from oxidation of chemicals which have been buried in a reduced state; this may cause a decrease of available dissolved oxygen. The acidic nature of the peats would result in reducing the pH value of the water.

The Slough receives storm water runoff from urban areas. Heavy metals and other toxic materials carried by this runoff have probably been deposited in the channel sediments and possibly the soil in adjacent areas. However, the majority of the sediments in the Mercer Slough wetland should not be polluted with heavy metals or other toxic materials because of the undeveloped nature of the wetlands. Therefore,

resuspension of this material should not cause any toxic substances to be released. Release of nutrients in various chemical forms of nitrogen and phosphorus may occur with dredging; this can stimulate algal growth. Algal growth would be localized and reduced by good flushing.

It is important that the locations of all the wetland enhancement projects be where there is sufficient water to maintain adequate flushing and excellent water quality. Additional studies are required to determine the hydrologic feasibility and requirements of proposed ponds and waterways.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A is the least developed of all the alternatives. There are no anticipated impacts from waterway dredging. Impacts from trail development are less than Alternative D in all action alternatives due to the initial limited acreage targeted for development.

Alternatives B and C have greater impacts from dredging than Alternative D. This is due to the location of the Interpretive Center. In all cases the Interpretive Center is located on disturbed area. In Alternative B and C, however, this location is further from the Slough than in Alternative D requiring a longer waterway for water access to the facility. Wildlife ponds and wetlands are similar in Alternatives B and D.

In Alternative C, an additional five acres of open water ponds and marshes and 1.9 acres of water channels associated with Mercer Slough would be constructed. This would increase by one-third the area of impact to water resources from dredging. It is important that the locations of all the wetland enhancement projects be where there is sufficient water to maintain adequate flushing and excellent water quality. Additional studies are required to determine the hydrologic feasibility and

requirements of proposed ponds and waterways.

All the impacts discussed in Alternative D would occur with Alternative C. Trail lengths are similar in these alternatives, and buildings and associated parking area are slightly higher due to recent land acquisition. The parking acreage for Alternative D is similar to existing land use yet all parking construction would have significant unavoidable adverse impacts to groundwater or surface water.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative would result in current land uses continuing throughout the Mercer Slough Master Plan Study Area. Agricultural and open space as well as development uses would continue, with the associated surface and water quality impacts from spraying of pesticides, cultivation, and erosion from exposed soils that now occur. There would not be an increase in impervious surfaces due to construction of an interpretive center, parking lots, trails, and farm/market complex. No dredging would occur within the wetland to affect the water quality. Present practices of spraying pesticides on the blueberries adjacent to the slough would persist and continue to degrade water quality. Some of these pesticides would continue to enter Mercer Slough waters, although steps have already been taken by the Parks Department to minimize spraying at the shoreline.

MITIGATING MEASURES

A number of issues need to be researched prior to construction, demonstrated by limited development, and monitored to assure feasibility and impacts. Many agencies need to be involved in the planning and implementation process including the Washington State Department of

Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Bellevue Storm and Surface Water Utility, and Washington State Department of Wildlife.

During construction, potential erosion impacts would be mitigated by:

- Restricting major clearing and grading activities to drier periods during the year.
- Scheduling individual master plan improvements for phased construction to reduce the amount of soil exposed at any particular time.
- Revegetation disturbed areas with hydroseeding or natural vegetation after construction activities are complete. This would provide long-term erosion protection once the vegetation is established.

Issues for study include available ground and surface water quantity and quality, effectiveness of pollution control, and maintenance and contingency plans for the waterways. A hydrology study would be prepared prior to subsequent environmental review and project development to ensure adequacy of existing flow and water quality.

Development of the interpretive center and parking lots would include storm water and drainage improvements. Pollution problems from oil, grease, metals, sediment and other pollutants associated with the parking lots would be reduced by using oil and grease traps and silt pumps in the parking lot catch basins.

Engineering design and operational controls could limit the impacts of dredging. Procedures to mitigate potential water quality concerns may include a temporary dredge and dilution zone, seasonal construction restrictions, water quality monitoring during dredging, and the use of a silt or turbidity curtain.

Impacts to water quality could be reduced by limiting the action to isolated groundwater, rather than directly interacting with the slough water.

Sufficient flushing of these channels would need to occur to maintain excellent water quality. This can be achieved by ensuring that the new channel would not be dug deeper than the existing main channel.

The ponds would need to be created in areas where there is sufficient freshwater flow to keep water from becoming stagnant.

Agricultural practices would be reduced along the shoreline and replaced with wet meadows and enhanced wetland vegetation (shrub and forested swamp species). Buffering the Mercer Slough channel by reducing the extent of the blueberry farm along the shoreline has the potential to reduce the amount of herbicides presently used in the area. The shrubs and grasses planted in this area would create an opportunity for biofiltration of storm water runoff before returning to the Slough. Sedimentation, adsorption, filtration, and biological assimilation processes occurring in the wetland would reduce the impacts to water quality and fish resources. Some of the toxicants absorbed by the soil and vegetation would probably be re-released into the environment, but potential impacts to water quality would be reduced from the existing direct discharge. There would also be less chance of the herbicides directly entering the water because they would be sprayed at greater distances from the slough and have more chance of being absorbed by the vegetation.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY OF BELLEVUE'S EXISTING PLANS

The Natural Determinants Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan addresses objectives for the City's water resources. The goal is to preserve and enhance water resources. Several objectives

are applicable including: Achieve good surface water quality, reestablish self-sustaining fisheries resources, rehabilitate dredged habitats, and identify and preserve wetlands.

The Clearing and Grading Code implements the goals, objectives, and policies of the adopted natural Determinants Element. Since this is a programmatic environmental impact statement, these policies will be addressed during subsequent environmental review of specific proposed actions. All actions will comply with the Natural Determinants regulations.

Relevant policies intend to prohibit development in wetlands unless it can be accomplished by assuring the preservation and protection of the existing natural environment and will not result in degradation of wetlands.

The intent of the Mercer Slough Master Plan is to protect the Mercer Slough area wetlands and water quality, while providing controlled public access for recreational and educational uses.

The proposed interpretive center complex and parking area would incorporate storm water control features meeting the requirements of Storm and Surface Water Utility. Runoff water quality would be controlled through implementation of a sediment and erosion control plan. Dredging activities are being considered in the wetland in connection with wildlife enhancement ponds and channels along Mercer Slough for wildlife and recreational use.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Grassland
Landscape
Urban
Disturbed

The following section was prepared from site visits, a review of existing literature, and personal communications with Washington Department of Game, Washington Department of Fisheries, and Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department staff members.

Wetland Habitat Types:

Forested Swamp
Shrub/scrub swamps
Hardhack swamps
Willow swamps
Cultivated blueberries
Emergent Marsh
Wet Agriculture
Open water

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PLANTS

The Mercer Slough Study area is approximately 496 acres in size (including Bellefield Office Park). The vegetation within this area includes wetlands, open sloughs, agricultural fields, blueberry farms, forests, and a business park. Present vegetation communities are the result of a variety of activities. The lowering of the level of Lake Washington by nearly nine feet in 1916 established the basic hydrologic conditions which exist today. Much of the newly exposed area went into intensive agricultural development and today 33 acres still function as truck farms and blueberry farms. Wetlands are the predominant habitat type in the area. A variety of plant species are found in each habitat type.

The following lists various vegetation types found on the site:

Upland Vegetation Types:

Forest-deciduous
Forest-coniferous
Forest-mixed
Shrub

ANIMALS

Birds and Mammals

A total of 104 bird species and 24 mammals have been observed during several wildlife studies in the Mercer Slough Area. Observations have been identified and grouped into the seven habitat types mapped in the area. Over 70 species have been observed in the shrub and forested swamp habitats, and the riparian edge habitat of Mercer Slough. These communities support the greatest bird diversity due to the structural complexity of the vegetation. In addition, the edges where shrub or forested vegetation borders on open water are important for nesting and feeding by waterfowl.

Thirty species were observed in marsh habitats and 37 in the agricultural lands where they are able to forage over these habitats catching insects or preying on small mammals living in the grasses.

In forested areas, 58 species were observed. This represents a diverse group of both breeding and year-round resident birds which in these habitats. There are also seasonal spring-summer residents

some of which forage for insects through the limbs and leaves of forbs, shrubs, and trees in the forest community.

The diverse habitats found on the Bellefield Office Park support populations of 46 different species. There are open grassy areas, standing water, thick shrub/tree patches, marshes, swamp, and buildings. Most of the birds observed in the office park are adapted to human disturbance and development. The species observed in the marsh/swamp habitats are less adapted to human disturbance. There is a large number of waterfowl (23 species) that migrate or winter on open water habitats of Mercer Slough.

The area richer in wildlife than any other in the Mercer Slough study area are the ponds. A broad variety of birds and mammals are found here.

Of the mammal species observed most occurred in riparian and swamp habitats. Signs of beaver and muskrats occurred adjacent to the open water slough and drainage ditches. Coyote scats were observed throughout the Mercer Slough area along the trail system. Domestic cats and dogs, and norway rats were observed in the Bellefield Office Park. Eastern grey squirrels were seen in the upland forests.

Well protected open water provides important habitat along the migration corridor for waterfowl. Numbers and diversity of waterfowl are greatest in the winter. Marsh, shrub swamp, and tall grassy areas adjacent to open water provide suitable nesting habitat.

A number of raptors have been observed in the Mercer Slough Area, using both wetland and upland habitats while hunting for small birds and mammals. Red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, bald eagles, ospreys, great horned owls, and barn

owls have been observed in the wetlands of undeveloped Mercer Slough Park.

Wetlands in the area typically have more structurally complex vegetation than the upland communities and support a diversity of passerine birds. Passerine birds are most diverse and abundant in mosaic areas where numerous habitat types, such as shrub swamps adjacent to open water, adjoin each other. The highest diversity probably occurs in late spring when both migratory and summer residents are present.

A variety of mammals are found in the study area. Furbearers such as deer, coyote, porcupine, opossum, beaver, muskrat, mink, long-tailed weasel, raccoon, red fox, skunks, and river otters are all recorded in the Slough area.

Coyotes, moles, voles, gophers, squirrels, skunk, mice, and rats use the agricultural land and uplands more frequently than the wetlands. Deciduous forests and agricultural lands contain leaf litter and organic matter to provide good foraging habitat for omnivorous and insectivorous small mammals. Coyotes occasionally hunt for these small mammals in the agriculture fields.

The bald eagle is on both the Federal and state Threatened Species Lists. Bald eagles have been observed occasionally in the Mercer Slough Area. No nests have been located on the site nor are they expected. There are active nests located in the vicinity of Lake Washington, and bald eagles probably feed on fish in Mercer Slough.

The western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), a state threatened species, was recorded in Lake Washington in 1963. It is not known whether the western pond turtle still lives in Lake Washington. The shoreline area of Mercer Slough is considered possible habitat for the turtles. No other

threatened or endangered species are expected to use this site.

The green-backed heron, a monitor species, occur regularly in Mercer Slough, and are probably breeding within the vicinity. A pair of green-backed herons were observed at a pond and along the edge of the slough.

Fish

There are 40 species of fish in the Lake Washington drainage basin, which includes Mercer Slough and its tributaries, Mercer, Richards and Kelsey Creeks. There are 17 fish species which are reported to use the streams and drainage ditches as spawning, nursery or feeding habitat. The invertebrate community composition and abundance indicate an excellent feeding and spawning resource for spiny-ray game fish such as large-mouth bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed, and yellow perch.

A variety of anadromous salmonoids known to use the drainage basin. These species use the tributaries of the Slough primarily as spawning sites and to a lesser extent as nursery sites. The Slough itself is a transportation route for the immigration of mature adult salmonoids and the out-migration of young salmonoids.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Some of the amphibians and reptiles are known to use the ponds, streams and lakes of the Lake Washington basin. Several of these species spend their entire life cycle in the aquatic environment. During their aquatic life stage, frogs, toads, and salamanders can be a food source for fish.

Macroinvertebrates

Aquatic macroinvertebrates observed at the site were damselflies, nymphal dragonflies, flies, and midges. Studies of the benthic communities reported several invertebrate organisms present which are considered potential biological indicator species of water quality. These species can be monitored to indicate changes in the quality of the aquatic environment over time. The species composition and diversity in the Slough area has been altered several times over the past years because of construction of various facilities along the Slough and its tributaries. The most noted change has been the increase in pollution and siltation tolerant species and the consequent decrease in pollution and siltation intolerant species. Recent studies, however, suggest an improvement in water quality and sediment conditions.

The overall aquatic species composition and diversity in the area is good. The benthic fauna is dominated by the mayflies, which are associated with high quality aquatic habitats; bloodworms are generally indicative of sedimentation; whereas blackflies, which are filter feeders, are usually associated with cold, clean streams.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

This Master Plan is approached as a programmatic EIS, identifying development components but not specific actions or locations of those actions. Some actions will require further study, which have been identified and discussed in this document.

ALTERNATIVE D

Development of an Interpretive Center/Farm Market Complex and parking lot would eliminate approximately 2/3 acre of upland vegetation. Much of the area is classified as urban or grassland and grassland/shrub which are remnants of the former houses on the site. Establishing the entry road and parking lot for the Winters Estate would eliminate less than 1/2 acre of deciduous forest. The remainder of this area is previously disturbed urban lands.

A neighborhood park could be created on 2.5 acres of upland fill. This would create a small loss of existing young alder trees, blackberry, thistle, grasses, and other species.

Existing vegetation would also be eliminated from 8.6 miles of new trail construction, 4.8 miles of which is in the wetlands, eliminating 2.3 acres of vegetation. Present agriculture use of the area would be remain essentially the same after development. This ensures an area large enough to keep existing farm practices viable.

Removal of existing vegetation would eliminate approximately 15 to 25 acres of protective cover and nesting areas as well as food supplies for existing wildlife populations. Most of this area would be revegetated with more diverse wetland vegetation. Only 8.5 acres would not be revegetated to support wildlife. Passerine birds, owls, hawks, small mammals, carnivores, amphibians, and reptiles would be affected.

Human disturbance to wildlife would occur along the trailway system, but would be minimized by retaining native vegetation and locating trails away from known breeding or nesting areas. The wetland vegetation is very dense and would prevent intrusion to the surrounding areas outside

of trail locations. Mammals presently using Mercer Slough and Bellefield Nature Park area travel along the existing trailway systems. It is expected that these species would continue to use existing and new trails when people are not present.

Impacts on bald eagles would be negligible. Eagles could continue to feed in Mercer Slough. Bald Eagles are known to nest and feed offshore of Luther Burbank Park and Seward Park, which are areas used by numerous people.

Approximately 11.7 acres of open water ponds and associated marshes and swamps would be created within the wetlands for wildlife habitat enhancement. These ponds would be created in areas covered by large expanses of blackberries and/or areas that support a monotypic stands of wetland species. These species would be lost and replaced with a diversity of species with greater complexity and variation.

Two point eight (2.8) acres of wetland vegetation would be lost for additional waterways along the slough. Replacing blackberries and other wetland shrub species with open water would reduce the amount of habitat in which terrestrial species could nest. However, these open water channels would create more edges of open water/vegetation, a highly valued habitat. There presently are few studies available which evaluate enhancement projects and their effects on creating a more productive wetland over an undisturbed one. Evaluation systems are presently being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and other researchers to determine the success of wetland enhancement/ mitigation projects. Altering monotypic stands of wetland vegetation is a common practice done in areas managed for wildlife, particularly waterfowl, and is considered successful. Future studies and detailed designs

would be required to complete the pond and channel construction.

Siltation would occur during construction of the open water channels which could reduce the diversity of aquatic invertebrate species. If siltation occurs during a critical period in the life history of an aquatic organism the effects would be detrimental. High levels of turbidity can cause fish gills to be clogged. This activity would also result in some temporary aquatic habitat loss due to siltation as well as the introduction of new aquatic invertebrate communities. However, as siltation and sedimentation decrease, and the recovery period begins, the communities would revert to a stable state of species composition and diversity. Use of silt filter curtains and proper dredging techniques would greatly reduce the amount of siltation.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Impacts associated with development of Alternatives A, B, and C include those discussed in Alternative D.

Alternative A is the least developed of all the alternatives. There are no impacts from waterway dredging. Impacts from trail development are less than Alternative D in all action alternatives due to the initial limited acreage targeted for development.

In all previous alternatives, the Interpretive Center was located north of the Park and Ride Lot. This is smaller upland area and would be greater impacted by the extent of construction formerly proposed here.

Alternatives B and C have greater impacts from dredging than Alternative D. This is due to the location of the Interpretive Center. In Alternative B and C the facility is located further from the

Slough than in Alternative D requiring a longer waterway for water access to the facility. Wildlife ponds and wetlands are similar in Alternatives B and D.

All the impacts discussed in Alternative D would occur with Alternative C. Trail lengths are similar in these alternatives, and buildings and associated parking area are slightly higher due to recent land acquisition. The parking acreage for Alternative D is similar to existing land use.

In Alternative C, an additional five acres of open water ponds and marshes and 1.9 acres of water channels associated with Mercer Slough would be constructed. This would increase by one-third the area of plant and animal resources from clearing. It is important that the locations of all the wetland enhancement projects be where there is monotypic stands of hardhack or blackberries.

NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative would result in current land uses continuing throughout the Mercer Slough Master Plan Study Area. The portions of the site owned by the City of Bellevue would be retained for agricultural use, park facilities, and undeveloped open space. There would be no enhancement of the wetlands for wildlife use. Under a "no action scenario," present practices of spraying pesticides on the blueberries adjacent to the water would continue and these substances would run off into Mercer Slough channels and would continue to impact wildlife habitat. In addition, monotypic stands of blackberry and hardhack would remain and no new habitat would be introduced.

MITIGATING MEASURES

Almost all of the wetlands in the Mercer Slough Master Plan Study Area would remain or be enhanced as wildlife habitat areas, except where trails or structures are developed. Since wetlands and riparian zones have higher wildlife use than terrestrial habitats, development of the Interpretative Center/Farm Market Complex, rehabilitation of Farm Operations, renovation of the Winters Estate and associated parking, and a neighborhood park would all occur on upland areas and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive habitat areas.

Mitigation measures designed into the plan include enhancement plans within the wetlands. These plans would increase the wildlife value and restore more of the area to open water and deep and shallow marsh wetland habitats similar to those habitats found prior to Lake Washington being lowered. Ponds, sloughs, and marshes would be created with open water habitats and would allow aquatic plants to grow along the edges of the ponds and sloughs. Increasing the amount of shallow open water sloughs in the area would increase vegetation diversity and variety of habitats available for a number of fish and animal species.

The wetland enhancement project would be planned, phased, and completed as research projects. A small scale wetland enhancement project creating open water and associated marsh and swamp habitats would be completed first as a demonstration. The enhanced wetlands would be monitored and evaluated to determine their increased value on existing wetland values.

Before enhancement plans can be designed, studies need to be completed to determine groundwater levels, flow rates to support a viable

pond, and a thorough evaluation to determine if enhanced habitats have a higher wildlife value than existing wetland habitats.

Research and demonstration projects could be connected to other local, state, or federal agency programs. Projects could tie into EPA, Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, and Washington Department of Game programs and studies. Research on wetland impacts from storm water detention basins could be included. All of the demonstration projects would be used to educate the public visiting the center.

Mitigation would also include development guidelines to limit public access, promote recreation, education and research purposes, and limit construction. The guidelines allow for necessary maintenance, agricultural management, and security while protecting Sensitive Areas.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY OF BELLEVUE'S EXISTING PLANS

The Natural Determinants Element of the Comprehensive Plan has as an expressed goal "to preserve and enhance vegetation, earth, and water resources." The following summary of policies and goals from the Comprehensive Plan (including the Natural Determinants Element and the South Bellevue Subarea Plan).

These policies and goals relate to plant and animal resources the Mercer Slough Master Plan. These designate the study area as a major wetland and open space and give preference to activities which enhance the natural amenities of the area and public access. These also promote the protection and improvement of wildlife habitat and natural resources and include opportunities for maintaining agricultural practices.

The intent of the Master Plan is to protect Mercer Slough area wetlands, while providing controlled public access for recreational and educational uses. Recreational Activities would be passive and interpretive in nature. Historic agricultural uses within the wetland would also be preserved. Recreational activities would be passive and interpretive in nature.

Dredging activities are being considered in the wetland in connection with wildlife enhancement research demonstration projects. Detailed studies would be completed before design plans can be submitted to the City of Bellevue for further environmental review and permits are issued (see Mitigation section). The City of Bellevue has recently adopted ordinances for implementing the Natural Determinants Element. Any actions addressed in this Final EIS will be in compliance with adopted ordinances in the final design stage.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Natural resources of the Mercer Slough area include peat soils, wetlands, uplands, streams, open water, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land. In addition, the area is recognized as valuable open space. Open space resources include aesthetic and recreational areas as well as areas with important biological and physical ecosystem functions. In this way this site has severe development limitations.

PEAT RESOURCES

Peat is a unique natural resource and is becoming rare due to mining, drainage, and development. Peat can be used as a soil amendment in horticulture. Mercer Slough has been identified as a valuable peat deposit and the largest one in King County.

WETLANDS

The presence of wetland vegetation in the peaty soils of Mercer Slough is related to the level of Lake Washington. Before the lake was lowered, Mercer Slough was a shallow inlet of Lake Washington. The new lake level resulted in a loss of some existing vegetated wetlands and the creation of others. Many of the wetland communities that now exist in the area have developed in the last 70 years. Other disturbances to the area include dredging in 1927 to improve the drainage patterns and dredging in the early 1970's in conjunction with the construction of Bellefield Office Park. This created open water in

the northern portion of the wetlands. Areas in the western and southern portions of Mercer Slough have been used for agricultural purposes since the lake was lowered. Most of the remaining area consists of shrub swamps and marshes; upland forests are found along the slopes at higher elevations.

Large contiguous wetlands are recognized as a significant resource in the Lake Washington area. Mercer Slough is the largest wetland remaining adjacent to Lake Washington with 367 acres (where undeveloped acres are in agricultural use). The University of Washington Arboretum, with 78 acres, is the other large wetland.

Wetland communities provide abundant water and nutrients resulting in high productivity in wetland vegetation. This typically supports highly productive food chains. Physical functions performed by wetlands include filtration and purification of storm water runoff, shoreline protection, sediment and pollution trapping, and nutrient cycling.

Wetlands usually have high natural productivity and diversity and are important in maintaining high water quality along with water, fish and wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic resources. Federal and state agencies and the City of Bellevue have policies and regulations for protection of these resources.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Prime agricultural soils are located on the west side of Mercer Slough. Soils on this site are capability Class II, which require special management or conservation practices to grow high yield crops--in this case, drainage.

State and local interests in retaining prime farmlands are based on several concerns, including demands for food, open space, environmental quality, historical preservation, and visual quality.

Farming occurs on Park Department property. A majority of the agriculture use is a blueberry farm. The estimated annual harvest for the blueberry operations in Mercer Slough is 200,000 pounds, seasonally employing up to 300 people. A truck farm grows zucchini, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, corn and pumpkins in addition to blueberries.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Mercer Slough area serves as an important habitat area for a variety of animal species of economic, recreational, and aesthetic value. The area is used by over 100 bird species, including 23 species of waterfowl that migrate in winter to open water habitats. Forty species of fish occur in the Lake Washington drainage basin, which includes Mercer Slough. Salmonoid species also use the Slough for transportation to and from their spawning areas.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The recreation facilities of the South Bellevue subarea are dominated by the wetlands of Mercer Slough. This open space and nature reserve serves as a wildlife habitat, a quiet spot for urban dwellers and a unique landscape for one of the City's gateways.

Mercer Slough is an open space area of high ecological significance surrounded by urbanized lands. As such, it is recognized as a valuable recreational, educational, and aesthetic resource.

With increasing employment nearby and increased residential construction adjacent to the park, the Slough is experiencing increasing pressure for various recreational uses. Active sports are not included in the Park Departments program for Mercer Slough. Opportunities for passive recreational uses, such as walking, jogging, bicycling, nature appreciation, picnicking or relaxing are presently adequate. Due to its size and diversity, the Mercer Slough wetlands can expect increased passive use recreation demands on a regional basis. At the present time, Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department leads organized nature walks and interpretive canoe trips in Mercer Slough. Park lands are also used by the Bellevue School District and the University of Washington for educational programs.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

This Master Plan is approached as a programmatic EIS, identifying development components but not specific actions or locations of those actions. Some actions will require further study, these have been identified and discussed in this document.

ALTERNATIVE D

Alternative D was derived from Alternative B of the Draft EIS. Following the publication of the Draft EIS many individuals voiced concern about private development in the Slough and helped to make the 1988 Bond Issue successful. This provided \$3 million for acquisition in the Slough. In addition, the King County Open Space Bond Issue recently passed increasing the amount for acquisition and trail development by \$4 million. As of November 1989, nearly 60 acres have been added to City ownership and an additional 70 acres are under consideration for acquisition. The

Master Plan has been revised to reflect these new properties.

All plans for the Mercer Slough area create opportunities to increase the recreational potential in the area. The sensitive nature of the area and the high ecological value of the wetlands is recognized in this Master Plan. Increasing the recreational use of the area could reduce the wildlife use of the site slightly. Approximately 6.8 miles of new trails for a total of 12 miles would be made available for public recreation and education. Trails would slightly reduce the available vegetation for wildlife and increase the disturbance level. In total, trails would cover less than 1% of the site so impacts should be minimal. Development of the Interpretive Center/Farm Market Complex, renovation of the Winters Estate, and redevelopment of Farm Operations and associated parking would occur primarily on upland areas. Except for trails, boat landings, newly created wet meadows, and vegetation enhancement, remaining wetlands would be maintained in their existing conditions.

Farming would remain at existing levels. Some will be relocated from along Mercer Slough channel to protect water quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Construction activities would use wood and other building materials, fuel, and sand, gravel, and asphalt for road and parking area surfaces. The consumption of these resources would occur in any project of this type.

A loss of peat resources that would occur from dredging to create open water channels and ponds. This peat would likely be used by the Park Department at other park sites for soil enhancement, disposed of off site, or sold to landscape material suppliers.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Impacts occurring from Alternatives A, B, and C are similar to Alternatives D except for a reduction in loss of peat resources in Alternative A due to no dredging for channels and ponds. Another difference in all previous alternatives is in agricultural land. The smaller land area required a slight reduction in the area for agriculture with the moving of farming practices away from the edge of the Slough. The recreational levels would be slightly lower with the former alternatives while the wildlife values would be similar.

NO ACTION

Natural resources of the Mercer Slough Area including peat resources, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and agriculture would be maintained in their existing state. No additional recreational opportunities would be made available to the public. No open water wildlife enhancement projects would be completed.

MITIGATING MEASURES

The wetlands would be maintained as open space for recreation, aesthetic and educational values, and wildlife habitat except for the 7.7 miles of upland and wetland trails. Wetlands would be enhanced for wildlife by creating ponds and marshes, and increasing the diversity of the wetland communities (see Plants and Animals section). Agriculture would still occur on the site, with blueberry and truck farms.

BUILT **ENVIRONMENT**

LAND USE HISTORY OF THE MERCER **SLOUGH AREA**

INTRODUCTION

This section summarizes the history of wetlands and their use in the Mercer Slough area and introduces the history of the newly acquired Winters Estate. Information was collected from surveys, maps, and aerial photographs. For the Winters Estate research was collected from State Archives, University of Washington library, Museum of History and Industry, King County Assessors Office, personal communication with Winters family, and Marymoor Museum. The following discussion is based on the interpretation and synthesis from these sources.

EARLY 1900's

Prior to 1916, the mean water level of Lake Washington was 8.8 feet higher than after construction of the Chittenden Locks and Lake Washington Ship Canal. Besides being higher, the lake level fluctuated considerably (as much as seven feet between wet and dry seasons). The natural slough was a wide waterway extending almost to Wilburton. There were extensive wetlands adjacent to the Slough. Marshes were probably the dominant wetland habitat, with swamps along the edges. Large seasonal water level fluctuations discouraged early farming of adjacent lowlands. Extensive wetlands were also found to the south along Lake Washington's shoreline in association with the flat river delta of Coal Creek and to the northeast along Mercer and Kelsey Creeks.

1920's and 1930's

With the lowering of the lake in 1916, numerous areas of peaty soils around the lake were permanently exposed. Drainage ditches were constructed in many areas to drain the wet organic soils and allow the land use to change to agriculture. By 1940, the Slough had taken on the characteristics of a creek down the center of the study area. There were three major agriculture areas within the Mercer Slough wetlands. Small portions of the agricultural areas appeared to have been used as pasture. Pasture vegetation probably would have consisted of saturation-tolerant grasses, rushes, and buttercups.

Wetland vegetation adjacent to the Slough was changing from predominantly marshes to shrub swamps of hardhack or willow. Large areas of cattails and grasses appeared to be growing in the old slough channel and adjacent to the existing channel. Several upland areas have been cleared of mature timber, and were supporting grassland and shrubland communities.

In 1930, the Winters Estate was constructed on the bulb farm upland. This structure, although built in a "Spanish Eclectic" architectural style, is a good example of pre-floating bridge era Bellevue development during which country estates were fairly common.

1940's and 1950's

By 1960, the area had undergone several additional land use changes. Most agriculture lands in the north and southeast appear to have been abandoned, and wetland species were reappearing. It appears that the Slough has been dredged and widened, especially adjacent to the agriculture fields. This was probably undertaken to improve the drainage of the fields.

Major roadway changes to the area included removal of the S.E. 32nd Street bridge at what is now the Sweyolocken boat ramp and discontinued use of this roadway. Interstate 405 was under construction resulting in some filling of the northern wetlands and agriculture lands. Other land use changes included construction of a dock at the present Newport Yacht Basin and clearing of land, approximately 500 feet north of old S.E. 32nd Street for construction of the first set of radio towers.

Shrub and forested swamps were well established in the southeastern portions of the wetlands. The Slough had been disturbed on both sides adjacent to agricultural fields which is probably why these areas today are overgrown with blackberries. In the photographs, the northern half of the Mercer Slough wetlands still showed numerous marshes along the Slough.

Much of the land surrounding the Winters Estate was used for agriculture. A Nursery was established here and green houses were built. Many varieties of rhododendrons were grown.

1960's AND PRESENT

Most land use changes to the Mercer Slough wetlands have occurred since 1970. Extensive dredging to widen Mercer Slough took place in the early 1970's in conjunction with the construction of Bellefield Office Park. In addition to dredging, fill material was placed on approximately 130 acres of this area.

The private undeveloped portions of the Slough area have been under intense pressure for development. Proposals for development had been received by the City of Bellevue for the following:

- The proposed Enatai Corporate Center Office Complex south and east of the Park & Ride lot. (This was purchased with the 1988 Bond Issue.)
- The proposed Enatai Plaza Office Complex, north and west of the blueberry farm and south of Bellefield Office Park along Bellevue Way S.E. (This was purchased with the 1988 Bond Issue.)
- The Trammel-Crow Office Complex, under construction, south of the Slough at Kelsey Creek along 118th Avenue S.E.
- The proposed NW Building Corporation Office Building north and south of I-90 along 118th Avenue S.E. (The north section was purchased with the 1988 Bond Issue.)

See Figure 6: Land Ownership map (Figure 6) for these locations

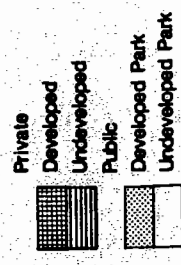
SUMMARY

In addition to the built environment components depicted in Alternatives, A, B, and C the new alternative D would preserve and restore the Winters Estate as a remnant country farm-estate which could display the early cultural landscape of Bellevue prior to suburbanization in the 1940-1970's and the present urbanization in the 1980-1990's.

CITY OF BELLEVUE Parks and Recreation Department

JONES & JONES
Architects and
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MERCER SLOUGH MASTER PLAN LAND OWNERSHIP



NORTH

SCALE 1" = 200'-0"

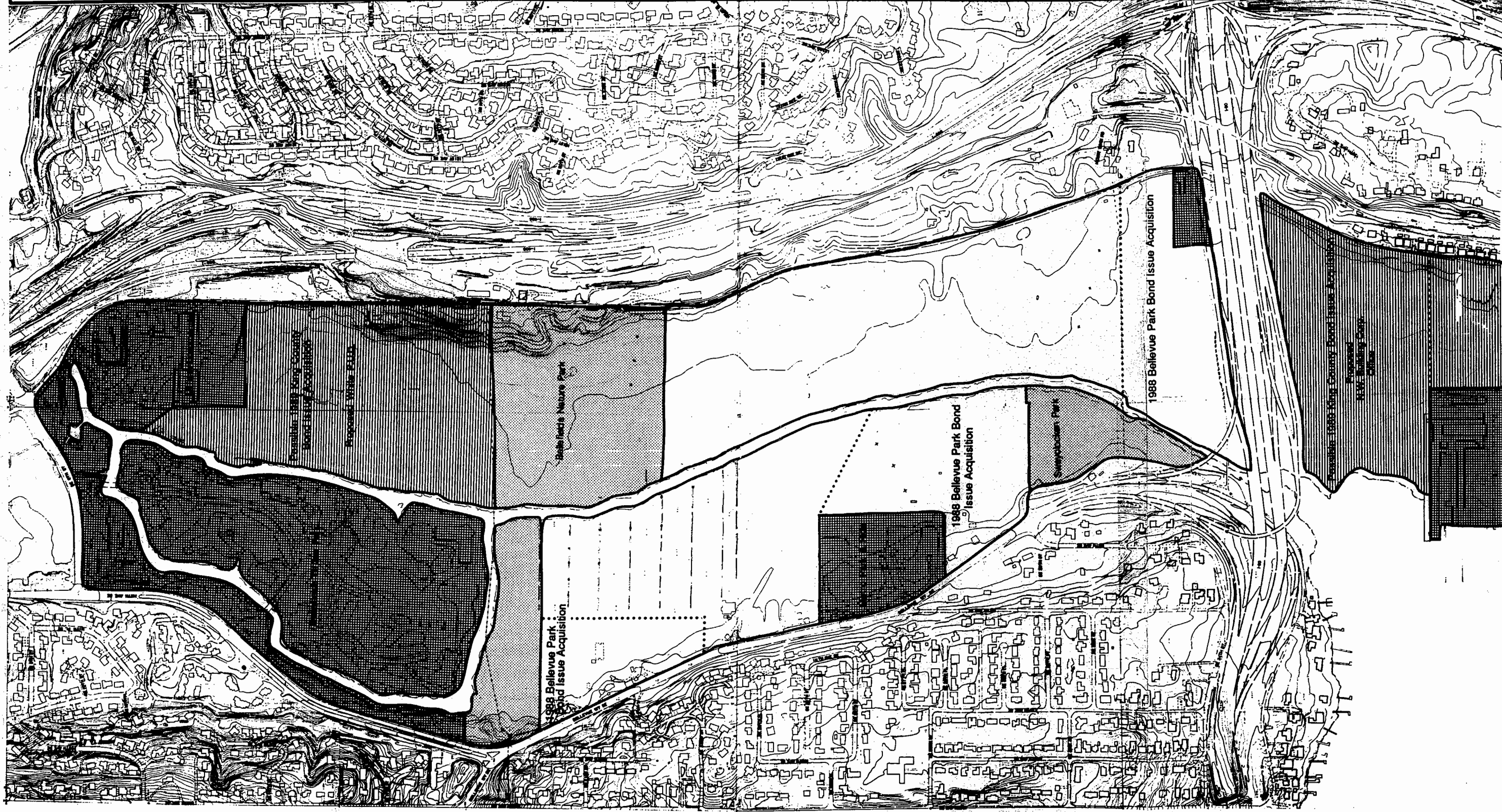


FIGURE 6

LAND USE

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

EXISTING LAND USE

The proposed Master Plan encompasses approximately 367 acres while the entire study area amounts to 496 acres. The site is a rectangular parcel that is roughly bisected north/south by Mercer Slough. The City of Bellevue Parks Department owns 311 acres of the proposed Master Plan parcel. On the west side of Mercer Slough, the City has now acquired all of the undeveloped parcels north of I-90. A continuation of Bellefield Nature Park to the north of the Overlake Farm and the Sweyolocken Park located just north of I-90 at the mouth of Mercer Slough are City-owned. The Overlake Farm property, also owned by the City of Bellevue, operates under a lease by the Parks Department. Parcels along Bellevue Way S.E. that are undeveloped and were proposed for business/office park use were recently acquired by the City. On the east side of Mercer Slough, the City of Bellevue owns a large contiguous parcel, a portion of which is managed as the Bellefield Nature Park. The undeveloped Mercer Slough Park is situated just south of the Bellefield Park (Figure 6, Land Ownership).

The remaining lots within the proposed Master Plan site are privately owned. This includes two large undeveloped parcels which are located on the east side of the Slough. One is south of I-90 and the other is north of Bellefield Nature Park.

The Master Plan site currently supports a variety of land uses. These include developed and undeveloped park sites owned by the Bellevue

Park Department, Office/Commercial Development, agriculture, residential, a Metro Park & Ride lot, marina, and several undeveloped private parcels. In addition, three sets of communication towers are located in the study area.

Implementation of the Mercer Slough Master Plan has involved the purchase/acquisition of privately owned property within the proposed Master Plan boundaries. Public funds for the purchase of identified sites has become available through bonds and other funding mechanisms and the City of Bellevue had identified parcels west of Mercer Slough as a priority for acquisition. The purchase of these parcels by the City of Bellevue has precluded any future development for commercial/business or residential land uses. Implementation of the Master Plan may limit the range of development options on any remaining adjacent privately held parcels.

Since the publication of the Draft EIS, three privately owned parcel which had office development proposed for them have been acquired by the City. The Trust for Public Lands facilitated these purchases and has greatly contributed to the quality of the open space and natural systems in Bellevue and the Puget Sound as a result of their efforts. These three parcels are shown in Figure 6:

1. Enatai Plaza or Winters Estate at 2101 Bellevue Way SE;
2. Enatai Corporate Center or Balatico Farm at 2810 Bellevue Way SE; and
3. Northwest Building Corp north of I-90

Land use on these wetland parcels as a consequence has not changed as was proposed, and the use of the wetlands will remain consistent with the objectives of the overall Mercer Slough master plan. The upland portions of these private parcels, however, are the logical sites for the

proposed interpretive center and Winters Meeting House, instead of office developments. More open space on these uplands will remain, with views preserved and enhanced, and agricultural or natural features will be the focus. The wetland portions will be managed consistent with wildlife habitat and passive recreational objectives.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION AND ZONING

Land use decisions in the City of Bellevue are guided by two documents: the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, including the subarea plans, and the Land Use Code.

The City of Bellevue Comprehensive Land Use Plan establishes city-wide goals and policies pertaining to land use. Mercer Slough Master Plan Study Area is designated as Open Use General and Parks and Open Space.

The Land Use Code implements the goals and policies established in the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plans. The zoning classification on the site of the proposed Mercer Slough Master Plan is Open Use. This designation intends to "provide areas for uses and activities which avoid significant negative impacts on environmentally sensitive areas and areas of open space which represent a valuable aesthetic asset to the community. Special standards which protect life, property or natural systems, which prevent hazards or damage that might result from development and which safeguard or enhance the natural character of these areas shall be applied."

The Urban Design Element of the Comprehensive Plan designates the Mercer Slough Area as an unique open space. A potential gateway overlay district is located at the Bellevue Way S.E. and I-90 interchange. Prime views are also located

looking into or from the Slough. Vegetation and water features policies are also applicable to this site.

The site of the proposed Mercer Slough Master Plan is located within the boundaries of two subareas: South Bellevue Subarea and Richards Valley Subarea. The Comprehensive Plan designations for these two subareas include Open Use - General (OU-G), park (P), and Open Use-Residential. These comprehensive plan designations are described below.

Open Use-Residential

A land use classification reserved for single family residential areas with environmentally sensitive soil/slope conditions. Comment: This designation identified general areas of potential environmental conflict and suggests additional considerations be applied to developments.

Open Use-General

Land uses permitted may range from single family residential to office and apartments but must maintain about 90% of the land in an "open" or essentially natural state. Comment: This category is assigned to environmentally sensitive areas such as critical wetlands.

Parks And Open Space

Includes public and quasi-public parks, golf courses and recreation facilities that are either in public control or are committed for public acquisition.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

ALTERNATIVE D

Alternative D was derived from modifying Alternative B.

Under this alternative the proposed recreational features and land use would be similar to Alternative B. The farm operations would remain at the Overlake Blueberry farm. The primary retail market, however, would be associated with the Interpretive Center located just south of the METRO Park & Ride lot on newly-acquired City land. This would increase visibility for the fresh produce and the environmental education functions simultaneously. Some retailing at the farm would continue due to the "You Pick" nature of the farm operations.

Unlike Alternative B, agriculture would remain the same as existing conditions (33 acres) by shifting some farming away from the water while planting new crops in suitable areas primarily on the western side of the Slough.

Parking and trail development would increase slightly overall because of the newly acquired property.

New ponds and waterways would decrease by nearly one acre due to relocation of the Interpretive Center and associated decrease in the length of the waterway connecting to the Slough.

Vegetative enhancement would be similar to Alternative D and other land use elements remain constant in all alternatives.

Land use is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Use Code for parks and open space. Development is consolidated primarily in

uplands and on previously developed areas. Environmentally sensitive areas are avoided and 98% of the site is maintained as open space.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Impacts occurring from Alternatives A, B, and C are similar to Alternative D.

Natural system enhancement and public recreation uses of the newly acquired land would be increased in Alternative D, with an increase in preservation of open space and wildlife habitat. Agriculture would also be maintained or increased under the new Alternative.

MITIGATING MEASURES

Property could be acquired for the proposed Mercer Slough Park. It has been and would likely be purchased at fair market value if the necessary funds were made available.

PLANS AND POLICIES

This section describes the plans and policies at the federal, state and local levels that are pertinent to the proposed Mercer Slough Master Plan which are not addressed in other sections of the Final EIS. Comments pertain to the consistency of the proposed action.

LOCAL

Land use decisions in the City of Bellevue are guided by two documents: the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, including the Subarea plans, and the Land Use Code. The Comprehensive Plan contains broad goals and objectives related to land use within the City of Bellevue. The Subarea plans contain goals and policies specified to particular subareas within the City. The Land Use Code implements the goals and policies established in the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea plans.

CITY OF BELLEVUE

ARTS COMMISSION

The City of Bellevue Arts Commission has designated Mercer Slough as one of the sites for public art funded by the 1989-1993 capital improvement funds.

Comment: The siting of such art in the Slough could enhance the area as a designated as a gateway into Bellevue.

VISUAL/ AESTHETIC RESOURCES

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Mercer Slough is part of an former meltwater channel created during the glaciation of the Puget Sound Lowlands. The adjacent uplands and hillsides consist of glacial deposits. The wetland area contains significant amounts of peat soils. The overall visual character of the Slough is one of a broad, low-lying wetland surrounded by encroaching suburban development on sloping hillsides and plateaus. The hillsides are vegetated with large coniferous and deciduous trees which tend to increase the sense of enclosure when viewing out to surrounding areas from the Slough.

The study area of Mercer Slough Open Space includes the open water slough, wetlands, agricultural fields, upland forests, and urban development at the northwest end of the Slough. The area is bordered by two Interstate Highways and major Bellevue roads. The surrounding environment supports a mix of land uses such as suburban residential and office and commercial developments. Office development has encroached on portions of the lowland/wetland.

The Slough is visible to the greatest number of people from Bellevue Way S.E. and 118 Avenue S.E. Views from I-90 and I-405 to the Slough are of short duration and intermittent. Travellers turning off I-90 at Bellevue Way S.E. immediately experience a broad vista of the slough area. The scene is made up of shrub/scrub wetlands and blueberry farming in the foreground with forested

hillsides beyond.

Travelling north along Bellevue Way, the Metro Park and Ride lot and Bellefield Office Park break into this view. On the east side, along 118th Avenue S.E., views out to the surrounding landscape limited by large trees and shrubs. Views out over the Slough occur at vegetation breaks along the road and during winter months when deciduous trees drop their leaves.

The visual experience in the wetlands is generally one of a natural landscape although several man-made elements intrude on this experience including the I-90 bridge crossings, Bellefield Office Park, three sets of communication towers, and the two crossings by power lines and poles.

While boating on the Slough, views are focused generally north or south while dense vegetation along the Slough banks restricts waterway views east or west. From 500 feet north of Sweyolocken boat launch to about parallel with the Park and Ride Lot, distant views to the north are focused on the tall buildings of downtown Bellevue.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The proposed Master Plan Concepts are illustrated in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 and summarized in Table 1. Elements of the Master Plan common to the four alternatives, although varying in extent and location include: an Interpretive Center, Farm Market, Farm Operations, a viewing tower, amphitheater, trails, wetland and vegetation enhancement, canoe landings and neighborhood park areas. Alternative D includes the renovation of the Winters Estate. All alternatives allow for

controlled use of the area for canoeing/kayaking, walking, bicycling, farming and nature study. These activities, along with vegetation and wildlife enhancement programs would increase education, interpretive, and recreation opportunities and the aesthetic appreciation of wetlands by more people.

Visual accessibility from the surrounding landscape to the Slough would be only slightly affected by the introduction of elements discussed above. Many elements would not be visible from surrounding roads and residential areas. The major built elements would be clustered to reduce visual impact. A vegetation enhancement program would occur at selected locations to diversify habitats, define selected views, and restrict views from the Slough to proposed developments. The effect of this program will be of positive benefit to the natural environment, to the visual character, and to the experiential qualities of the area. Physical access to the site would increase due to the introduction of trails, viewpoints, a bridge and canoe launches. This increase in physical access would increase visual accessibility of the area. The trail system, viewing tower, and viewpoints are located to take advantage of site amenities and vistas of a wetland landscape. Habitat enhancement and increased diversity allows for an increase in viewer experiences, satisfaction and understanding of this unique landscape. New bridge locations are designed so as not to affect distant views from the Slough to downtown Bellevue.

ALTERNATIVE D

The primary visual effect of Alternative D would be to increase the opportunities for prominent open space/city skyline views across the Mercer Slough basin from Bellevue Way and I-90. The acquisition of the Balatico property (Enatai Corporate Center) south of the Park & Ride lot

increases the visual connection between the public and the Mercer Slough landscape. Siting the Interpretive Center sensitively on the uplands immediately south of the METRO lot enable the views to be enhanced across the open space and will help reduce the visual impact of the parking lot from Bellevue Way south of the Interpretive Center. Other aesthetic factors are generally consistent with other alternatives.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, no vegetation enhancement would occur. Views would remain in their present character. There would be no opportunities to restrict view from the Slough to proposed development. Viewpoints within the Slough would also be restricted to the waterway, Bellefield Office Park, and Bellefield Nature Park. Viewing experiences would generally be homogeneous and restricted.

RECREATION RESOURCES

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The passive recreational facilities of South Bellevue are dominated by the wetlands of Mercer Slough. This open space, natural reserve serves as a wildlife habitat, a quiet spot for urban dwellers and a unique landscape for a city gateway. With the inclusion of a portion of Mercer Slough, the South Bellevue subarea has an adequate amount of open space. The city as a whole is influenced by the Mercer Slough wetlands, both in environmental and recreational opportunities.

Active recreation space is available at Enatai and Surrey Downs Elementary or Bellevue Senior High Schools. Enatai Beach is an important waterfront facility providing a swimming beach, nonmotorized boating and a "canoe trailhead" into Mercer Slough. Since waterfront acquisition is a high priority for the city, Mercer Slough is a focus of action for this subarea and for the city as a whole.

Existing recreational use is centered on Bellefield Nature Park and at Sweyolocken Boat Ramp. Other uses occur in the slough area such as bicycling and jogging along completed portions of the perimeter trail and children playing along the slough banks.

SHORELINE RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

A high proportion of all recreational activity in the Bellevue area is water-related. Bellevue's shorelines are the focus for swimming, fishing, boating, sunbathing and general relaxation and socializing. They also provide a number of less tangible but important benefits, including aesthetic enjoyment, ecological interest, historical and cultural enrichment, and spiritual renewal.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The proposed Master Plan Concepts are illustrated in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 and summarized in Table 1. Elements of the Master Plan common to the three alternatives include: a park interpretive center, maintenance and enhancement of the existing farm/market complex, a viewing tower, amphitheater, trails, wetland and vegetation enhancement, canoe landings and neighborhood park areas. Recreational and educational use could change from 790 to 1170 visitors at peak times during the week to a range of 1370 to 2150 visitors at peak times on weekends (see Tables 3 and 4). The alternatives allows for increased but controlled use of the area for canoeing/kayaking, walking, bicycling, farming, and nature study. These activities, along with vegetation and wildlife enhancement programs, will increase educational and recreational opportunities and the aesthetic appreciation of wetlands by more people.

TABLE 3

Peak Weekday Proposed Use Levels

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Interpretive Center				
# of Parking Spaces	40	40	80	50
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	384	384	769	480
Demonstration Area				
# of Parking Spaces	10	10	10	10
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	96	96	96	96
Neighborhood Park				
# of Parking Spaces	12	12	12	12
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	115	115	115	115
Nature Trails				
# of Miles	4.7	5	5.5	5.7 ¹
# of People/Mile***	20	20	20	20
# of Users	94	100	111	114
Winters Estate				
# of Parking Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	37
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day	-	-	-	3.1
# of People/Car	-	-	-	3.1
# of Users	-	-	-	356
Farm Operations				
# of Parking Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	30
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day	-	-	-	3.1
# of People/Car	-	-	-	3.1
# of Users	-	-	-	288

TABLE 4

Peak Weekend Proposed Use Levels

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Interpretive Center				
# of Parking Spaces	40	40	80	50
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	756	756	1512	946
Demonstration Area				
# of Parking Spaces	10	10	10	10
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	189	189	189	189
Neighborhood Park				
# of Parking Spaces	12	12	12	12
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
# of People/Car**	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
# of Users	227	227	227	227
Nature Trails				
# of Miles	4.7	5	5.5	5.8 ¹
# of People/Mile***	20	20	20	20
# of Users	94	100	111	116
Winters Estate				
# of Parking Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	37
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	-	-	-	6.1
# of People/Car**	-	-	-	3.1
# of Users	-	-	-	700
Farm Operations				
# of Parking Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	30
# of Trips/ Parking Space/Day*	-	-	-	6.1
# of People/Car**	-	-	-	3.1
# of Users	-	-	-	567

* TAMS Consultant Inc., Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan, DEIS, City of Bellevue, WA, 1987

** Final EIS for Newcastle Beach Park, 1986

*** Planning Handbook, Washington State Parks and Recreation Department, 1984

1 Increase due to additional land in City ownership

* TAMS Consultant Inc., Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan, DEIS, City of Bellevue, WA, 1987

** Final EIS for Newcastle Beach Park, 1986

*** Planning Handbook, Washington State Parks and Recreation Department, 1984

1 Increase due to additional land in City ownership

The value which residents of the city place on open space could be heightened with the natural system interpretation provided by this proposal. Increased physical access to the site would be coupled with habitat enhancement, a comprehensive interpretive system (see Appendix J), and careful siting of trail corridors to minimize disturbance of natural areas while helping people to understand the complex life-support system which exists in the city's largest wetland. By increased understanding of natural systems, the public's support for habitat preservation and enhancement can be expected to grow.

Passive recreation opportunities would be increased by all alternatives. The existing pedestrian path on the south and east sides of the undeveloped parkland would be completed on the west and connected to the north, providing a 5 mile perimeter loop trail for bicycling, jogging, or walking. Peak system use projections for these activities on the paved perimeter path are included in Appendix K. The proposed internal path would be a distinct system from the perimeter trail and would be designed and signed to discourage jogging and bicycling. Low overhanging vegetation, sharp turns, and narrow corridors along with signs would be employed to limit the internal trail system's use for quiet nature walks. Additional park operations and maintenance funding for this proposal would be required, impacting the overall city budget and the taxpayer.

Canoeing and kayaking, fishing and possibly other water-related recreation would be increased by all alternatives due to improvement of the car-top, nonmotorized boat launch at Sweyolocken and Bellefield Office Park. These proposed improvements are in part a response to the growing need for water access in Bellevue, but in a manner compatible with other goals of the Master Plan.

ALTERNATIVE D

This alternative would provide similar recreation and habitat features as does alternative B. This includes a plan for the creation of marshes and ponds for habitat and wildlife enhancement, and additional small waterways branching off Mercer Slough. In addition, Alternative D will provide a slight increase in trail length over the initial alternatives due to increased land area. The trails and viewing blinds will take advantage of selected views into habitats frequented by numerous wildlife species. Overall, this alternative will provide additional recreational and educational opportunities for water related experiences. This alternative will allow an additional number of people to participate in a unique area of the region without degradation to these experiences. In addition, the opportunity for water-related recreation will increase by providing a diversity of waterways such as freshwater marshes, more open water, "canoe trails," and edge conditions.

The relocated Interpretive Center is more accessible and visible to the public in Alternative D than other alternatives resulting in an additional .9 mile of nature trails for increased recreation and education over Alternative B. Canoe trail (new waterways) would be decreased by 600 linear feet (.5 acres) from Alternative B. Similar levels of other recreation features occur in this proposal. Projected peak use for this alternative is expected to be 1,449 weekday visits and 2,745 visits during a weekend day. Approximately 50% of these visits would be to the Interpretive Center and Farm Market Complex.

TRANSPORTATION

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The three alternative development Master Plan scenarios for the Mercer Slough are not that different from a transportation viewpoint. The details of each of these plans have been discussed in other sections of this environmental document.

However, we

wish to restate the scenarios from a "traffic impact" perspective, identifying the number of parking spaces associated with each alternative as shown in the following table:

Table 5
Comparison of Parking Space Allotment for Each Alternative

Activity	Alternatives and Parking Spaces			
	A	B	C	D
Interpretive Center	40	40	80	50
Farm Operations	-	-	-	30
Demonstration Area	10	10	14	10
Winters Estate	-	-	-	37
Neighborhood Park	12	12	22	6
Canoe/Boat Launch	24	24	24	27
Other (south of I-90)	6	6	12	18
TOTAL	92	92	152	178

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, Third Edition contains a Recreation Category of Land Use, #400 and sub-categories for city, county and state parks. An analysis of the correlation between average weekday vehicle trips and all available variables was made to determine the best variable for predicting trip ends. The number of parking spaces had the highest correlation (.878) with average vehicle trip ends. The number of acres

was also analyzed, but this proved to be less than adequate.

Mercer Slough, while being a city park, will behave like a "Regional Park" in the sense of attracting visitors from throughout the region, and according to ITE will generate 3.1 trips per parking space during the average weekday and 6.1 trips per parking space on Sundays. Peak hours are usually from noon to 2 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. The resulting trip generation for an average weekday for each alternative would be 285 total vehicle trips for Alternatives A and B and 471 total vehicle trips for Alternative C. The peak hours have trip generating rates of 0.2 trips per parking space entering and 0.3 trips per parking space exiting during the peak hour. This translates into 18 entering and 28 exiting vehicles during the peak hour for Alternatives A and B, 30 entering and 46 exiting vehicles during the peak hour for Alternative C, and 35 entering and 53 exiting vehicles during the peak hour for Alternative D.

The p.m. peak hour was examined under a "worst case" scenario for Alternative D. All peak hour vehicle trips would be oriented to the Interpretive Center, which has the greatest parking capacity and the highest adjacent street traffic volume of 2,750 (1984-85) on Bellevue Way S.E. Approximately 88 vehicles, representing 3% of the existing peak hour volume, would be added to the traffic stream. This represents a slight increase in traffic volumes and a minor impact upon adjacent street capacity. The nearest intersection of significance, Bellevue Way S.E. and 112th Avenue S.E., presently operates under capacity (at LOS "B") and the contribution of this "worst case" traffic would have no impact to its capacity operations.

The intersection of 112th Avenue and S.E. 8th Street, which presently operates at LOS "F",

would provide access for 28 parking stalls along the east side of the site under Alternatives A and B, 48 parking stalls under Alternative C, and 34 under Alternative D. Again, under a "worst case" scenario, 10 vehicles could enter and 14 vehicles exit this area during the peak hour.

The intersection of S.E. 8th and 118th Avenue S.E. does operate beyond capacity, at LOS "F", due to the heavy southbound left-turn demand during the p.m. peak hour. With the addition of a second southbound lane that could be used for left-turning vehicles, the intersection would improve to LOS "C" during the p.m. peak hour.

The more realistic scenario of peak hour traffic distribution throughout the site would result in generalized minor traffic increases to adjacent street traffic which would have a negligible effect upon street and intersection capacity.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY OF BELLEVUE'S EXISTING PLANS

TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

The Bellevue City Council passed Ordinance 4017 on June 5, 1989 to address serious concerns in the community about traffic congestion which has resulted from a rapid growth rate in the region. Intersections which are impacted by development projects generally are to be analyzed for LOS and if the project degrades the LOS below "D", the roadway must be improved to above the LOS "D" threshold.

Public Parks funded by Public Bond Issues are exempt from this ordinance.

MITIGATING MEASURES

The City of Bellevue's Transportation Impact Mitigation Administrative Directive (October 29, 1986) states that "the general city policy approach to mitigation of transportation impacts in the future will be: *Needed improvements to maintain LOS D at affected intersections impacted by a proposal should be installed prior to occupancy of the project.*" The directive further states that the assessment of impacts should generally be targeted to projects that contribute 10 or more new trips to an intersection, but that this guideline should be applied on a case-by-case basis.

Under this directive, the intersections that would operate below LOS "D" would need to be modified in order to maintain LOS "D" with the project in place. That would be the intersection of 118th S.E. and S.E. 8th and 112th S.E. and S.E. 8th. For the 118th S.E./S.E. 8th intersection, a second southbound lane for left-turning movements should be provided, while for the 112th S.E./S.E. 8th intersection, the addition of a northbound right-turn lane would improve the intersection to LOS "C".

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Significant unavoidable adverse traffic impacts are not expected under any of the alternatives..

TRANSIT

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

METRO Transit serves the south Bellevue area with five routes that operate on Bellevue Way between downtown Bellevue and Interstate 90 (#220, #226, #227, #229, and # 235), and also

serve the South Bellevue Park & Ride Lot located along Bellevue Way adjacent to the Mercer Slough. The South Bellevue Park & Ride has 362 parking stalls but only an average utilization of 18-19% over the last three years, although its utilization has improved to 23% as of March 1987. Basically, during any given day, about 300 stalls are unused. This utilization rate will, of course, vary by time of day, day of month, and month of year.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Due to the minimal number of parking spaces available at the site, 172 spaces for Alternative D, the principal impact that may occur to transit would be any spillover of parking to the South Bellevue Park & Ride lot located immediately south of the site. Under most conditions, however, this impact should be minimal since the lot is not fully utilized during peak park use hours. Any use of METRO's lot would, of course, have to be agreed upon between METRO and the City of Bellevue. If METRO's lot receives periodic heavy usage, there could be some impact upon transit service along Bellevue Way.

MITIGATING MEASURES

The City of Bellevue has been working with METRO to reach an understanding/agreement on the use of the South Bellevue Park & Ride Lot for use by park users during times of heavy park usage which coincides with the lowest usage of the Park & Ride lot. Peak park usages hours are projected to be weekends and holidays. Peak usage of the Park & Ride lot is weekday business hours.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

There is a possibility of overflow impact to METRO's Park & Ride Lot south of the park during peak times of heavy park usage which would occur during special events and from peak holiday weekends throughout the year.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED TO:

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers - Seattle District
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region X
Washington State Department of Ecology -
 Environmental Review Section (2 copies)
Washington State Department of Fisheries
Washington State Department of Natural Resources,
 Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Department of Wildlife
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Mercer Island
City of Issaquah
City of Renton
City of Redmond
City of Kirkland
Town of Clyde Hill
City of Medina
Washington State Department of Community
 Development
King County Parks
Issaquah Library
Kirkland Library
Lake Hills Library
Newport Way Library
Seattle Public Library
Bellevue Public Library
Office of King County Executive
METRO
Washington State Department of Ecology

Bellevue School District #405
Issaquah School District
East Bellevue Community Council
Sammamish Community Council
Bellevue Planning Commission

COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIS AND RESPONSES

This section contains copies of comment letters on the Draft EIS. The responses are keyed to numbers in the left margins of the comment letters. A total of 58 letters and one petition with 450 signatures were received. The comment letters and the responses to them appear in the following order:

Comments from Public Agencies

1. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
2. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
3. Washington State, Department of Transportation
4. Department of Community Development, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
5. City of Redmond, Parks and Recreation Department
6. Washington State, Department of Natural Resources
7. City of Bellevue, Transportation Division
8. City of Bellevue, Resource Management Division

Comments from Citizens and Groups

9. Jeanne Arnoldy
10. Iris Banz
11. Karen Bayne
12. Sue and Mike Beechinor
- 13., 14. Geoff Bidwell
15. Susan M. Blais
16. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman K. Burd
- 17., 18. Marion Cathcart
19. Loran Clark
20. Martha F. Eisenbach
21. John W. Farrell
22. Carole F. Fisher

23. Lee Hall
24. Nancy Harding
25. Barbara and Jim Hilliker
26. Fred Hudson
27. Roger and Wendy Jones
28. Hazel Kelley
29. John W. Kent
30. Bernarde Kleeman
31. Gloria Lightner
32. Great Western Savings Bank
33. Ellen Lknodell
34. Betsy S. Meador
35. Northwest Building Corporation
36. Bruce W. Novark
37. Anne Offenbacher
- 38., 39. Kathleen Offenbacher
40. George A. Orr III
41. Amy G. Rausch
42. Carol Root
43. Donald F. Root
44. Rowlands family
45. Carolyn Saxegaard
46. 47. Lars C Saxegaard
48. Marian Henry Schmits
49. Joel Shank, Jeanne Shank
- 50., 51. Donald C. Smith, Marilyn D. Smith, Sheri L. Smith, Bradley D. Smith
52. Susan B. Stiles
53. Sheryl Stillwell
54. Nancy and David Strahle
55. Ralph Swenson
56. Ann M. Unger
57. John Updegraff
58. Donna VanderWeerd
59. Marie Vieth
60. Marie White
61. Mark D. White
62. Daniel J. Winstanley
63. David Zeigler

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

GENERAL

1. **COMMENT:** A number of comments were received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) that relate primarily to the merits of the alternatives under consideration. The comments indicate whether the person commenting prefers one of the alternatives rather than another. In some cases, commentors indicated support or opposition to specific elements of the alternatives, or recommend implementation of specific mitigating measures identified in the EIS.

RESPONSE: Where comments are related to the merits of the proposal, or to a preference for one of the alternatives, or support or opposition to a specific component of the alternatives, the comment has not been directly responded to in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). The purpose of comments on a Draft EIS is to point out areas where the analysis of the EIS may be inadequate or incorrect, where the methodology used is inappropriate, or where additional information is required. Comments related to the merits of the proposal or to the desirability of specific elements of the proposal may be considered by the decision maker in reaching a decision on the proposal. Such comments are not directly relevant to the adequacy of the analysis in the EIS.

2. **COMMENT:** Supplements to the FIES document should be technically specific in describing work to be done for each aspect of the Mercer Slough project.

RESPONSE: The EIS for the Open Space Master Plan is general and programmatic. Implementation of the Master Plan will be phased and will require detailed development plans and subsequent environmental review. Appropriate environmental review would be conducted to examine those site specific impacts not covered in this Final EIS.

3. **COMMENT:** Early coordination is recommended with state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction in this matter and with any private or public institutions that may be involved in wetland research and monitoring related to this project.

RESPONSE: The SEPA process requires that early coordination be integrated with agency activities at the earliest possible time to ensure that planning reflects environmental values. Wetland mitigation planning and monitoring has been investigated and reported in technical reports. Monitoring related to this project will be closely coordinated with applicable agencies.

OWNERSHIP

4. **COMMENT:** A number of comments were received on land acquisition and limiting private development.

RESPONSE: Since the publishing of the Draft EIS, the City has acquired 56.3 additional acres in the Mercer Slough study area and is considering acquisition of 73.3 acres. This is due to the passage of the Bond Issue in November, 1988 and the King County Open Space Bond Issue in November 1989. The new Park land is composed of three parcels, which were formerly sites for the proposed Enatai Plaza Office Complex, the proposed Enatai Corporate Center

Office Complex, and the proposed N. W. Building Corp. Office Complex site north of I-90. Undeveloped properties still in private ownership targeted for acquisition are the White and Moon/Ross land totalling 39.9 acres and the proposed N.W. Building Corp. Senior Housing parcel, south of I-90, totalling 33.4 acres.

5. **COMMENT:** The City is preventing the Whites from selling their property to be built on as they wish. This could include building business offices on the site such as the areas north and west of their property. Permits prohibiting the sale and restricting building on the site should be changed.

RESPONSE: A majority of this site is designated as a Type A wetland according to the Sensitive Areas Notebook. Such a designation restricts certain types of development. Any development on this site, public or private, would be required to obtain various permits depending on the type and extent of the development. These permits cannot restrict sale of the land but do limit its potential uses.

6. **COMMENT:** The Master Plan study area encompasses property not owned by the City.

RESPONSE: The Park Department's purpose in looking at a larger study area was to consider the entire ecosystem. Another reason is that we would have a plan lay out if these areas should become available to use in the future such as 36.5 acres on the west side of the slough. Natural barriers rather than ownership were considered.

7. **COMMENT:** King County should be involved in acquiring land in the Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan.

RESPONSE: King County recently passed their Open Space Bond issue. This provides the means for acquisition of up to 73.3

acres of land in the Mercer Slough study area. If acquired, this land would be preserved as public open space and complete the acquisitions necessary to realize the master plan.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

8. **COMMENT:** The State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation should be notified if archaeological or historic resources are discovered during project activities.

RESPONSE: No such resources have yet been discovered. The City of Bellevue will notify this agency if any are discovered in the development area.

9. **COMMENT:** The Spanish-style home could be saved similar to the preservation of the barns at Kelsey Creek.

RESPONSE: As a result of the Parks Department's recent acquisition of the land including that which was formerly the Winter's Estate, Alternative D was developed. The new alternative takes into consideration the historic preservation/ restoration of the home and possible re-use as community meeting space. See Section II-5 (Built Environment) of the Final EIS for additional information.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

10. **COMMENT:** The tradition of farming should continue in the Slough.

RESPONSE: Since the publication of the Draft EIS, the City acquired a number of parcels of land in the Master Plan Study Area. Alternative D was developed to reflect this new land. In this preferred alternative, the amount of agricultural

land is increased from previous Alternatives A, B, and C. The City is committed to maintaining the same net amount of land in agriculture as currently exists in the Slough.

NATURAL RESOURCES

11. COMMENT: Mercer Slough should be saved as a unique, non-replaceable natural resource which would attract visitors from the region and the land should be preserved to accomplish this.

RESPONSE: Following the publication of the Draft EIS, many individuals at public meetings voiced concern about private development in the Slough. This helped to make the 1988 bond issue successful, providing \$3 million for acquisition in the Slough. As of September 1989, nearly 60 acres have been added to City ownership and this land will now be preserved as wetland and agricultural use of regional importance.

12. COMMENT: In appendix F, section 1, deer fern, lady fern, and false lily-of-the-valley, and foam flower are all listed twice. In section 5, swamp gooseberry (*Ribes lacustre*) should be listed under and arctic starflower (*Trientalis arctica*) should be listed under forbs. In appendix G, Western Flycatcher should be listed under Flycatchers and Veery should be listed under Thrushes.

RESPONSE: Other plant and animal species may continue to be found in Mercer Slough. It is the intent of the Master Plan to preserve, enhance, and diversify the natural habitat, allowing for a broad range of species. Comment acknowledged.

13. COMMENT: A pair of Great Blue

Hérons have built a nest on the White property and have occupied it the past two years. A Red Tailed Hawk nest was also spotted near the south east radio tower.

RESPONSE: See response to comment 12.

14. COMMENT: The Final EIS should address the hydrological feasibility of building a pond on the N.W. Building Corp land north of I-90.

RESPONSE: This is a programmatic EIS. Subsequent environmental documentation will address potential impacts of later phases of significant development.

15. COMMENT: The management of the waterway should take into account upstream landowners (such as Bellefield Office Park and other office development in Mercer Slough) and make provisions for flood conveyance, including assuring those developments in the lowlands that the mouth of the Slough will not become constricted to a point backing water up thereby flooding the developments.

RESPONSE: The City Storm and Surface Water Utility has management objectives and specific plans to deal with these concerns. Alternative B, C and D may provide more flood conveyance, however subsequent hydrological studies would analyze potential surface water impacts. (For more detail see Section II-2, Water Resources)

16. COMMENT: The Nisqually Delta Wildlife Refuge provides a good example of preservation of wetland and providing opportunities for education and interpretation of that wetland with minimal development.

RESPONSE: The Parks Department has

used this site as an example in presentations to show what elements like a viewing tower and boardwalk trails could look like in Mercer Slough.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

17. **COMMENT:** With the eventual widening of Bellevue Way a pedestrian overpass is the only reasonable way to get pedestrians across the street to the park and should be part of the plan.

RESPONSE: The Parks Department is committed to provide security and safety for its facilities as discussed in the Goals and Philosophies of the Parks, Open Space & Recreation Plan. In providing access to this park, safety will be a concern. However, a pedestrian overpass is not planned in the initial stages of development but shall be considered as surrounding activities change in order to provide safe access to the park.

18. **COMMENT:** A petition was signed by 450 individuals stating: "We the residents of Bellevue recommend the preservation of this unique wildlife and nature habitat and for it to be totally free of any commercial development."

RESPONSE: See response to comment 11.

19. **COMMENT:** Development, including canoe trails, should be limited as much as possible, as in Alternative A to preserve the Slough.

RESPONSE: The level of development in the preferred alternative (Alternative D) would allow greater interpretive potential of this unique wetland. With limited development of trails and canoe trails, public access to the site is possible. This would provide a means to educate more people who can realize the value of this large

unique wetland and what is needed to further protect wetlands.

20. **COMMENT:** How do Natural Determinants, wetlands, and other policies effect proposed private developments?

RESPONSE: The Natural Determinants Ordinances went into effect June 25, 1987. These ordinances change regulatory, procedural and fee requirements for permit applications that involve lands with Protected Areas. These regulations were intended to give property owners realistic expectations of the development potential of land where physical constraints affect the maximum density permitted.

21. **COMMENT:** No environmental impact statement was required for building development slated for the Enatai Plaza Site.

RESPONSE: SEPA requires that an EIS is required when a proposal is likely to have a probable significant impact on the environment that cannot be mitigated. In this case several design modifications mitigated potential significant impacts to the Slough.

22. **COMMENT:** Additional bridges should be considered in the Master Plan to provide trail trip length flexibility, more viewpoints, and more fishing access opportunities.

RESPONSE: In the preferred alternative, Alternative D, three new bridges cross the Slough. There is an existing bridge at the south end of the Slough. One of the new bridges crosses the main waterway east of the proposed interpretive center. Trail loop lengths from the Interpretive Center are approximately 1/2 mile paved handicap accessible, 2.5 mi. Additional trail loops start from the proposed neighborhood parks and demonstration area. Nine viewpoints along the

Slough and at its mouth as well as three canoe landings and a non-motorized boat launch provide additional water's edge access. The Open Space Master Plan seeks to balance recreational and educational opportunities while preserving the plant and animal habitats of the Slough. Therefore, excessive cuts to the water's edge, the most productive part of a wetland, limit the Slough's ecological productivity.

23. COMMENT: The proposed canoe landing in the office park is unacceptable from a liability standpoint by the landowner (Great Western) Please delete it from the proposal.

RESPONSE: The proposed canoe landing in the office park has been deleted from the proposal.

24. COMMENT: There should be mitigating measures on business development on privately held land in the Slough. These should include a two-story height restriction, tree screening, and the use of exterior colors which are in keeping with the surrounding landscape.

RESPONSE: The City Land Use Code provides for screening, height restrictions, and exterior colors. Further mitigation follows Comprehensive Plan implementation and environmental and permit review.

25. COMMENT: New office development would lead to traffic congestion in an already congested area.

RESPONSE: Since the publication of the Draft EIS, the City of Bellevue has adopted a Traffic Ordinance. This requires the analysis of impacted intersections and improvements be made to these intersections if the project degrades the level of service below a designated amount. The impacts of this ordinance as it relates to the Master

Plan is discussed in Section II-10 (Transportation) of the Final EIS.

VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES

26. COMMENT: There is value in preserving the Slough and creating a major gateway into the City of Bellevue.

RESPONSE: The connection of Bellevue Way S.E. and I-90 is identified as a major "gateway" and its aesthetic value is encouraged to be maintained in the South Bellevue Subarea Plan. Since the publication of the Draft EIS, the City has acquired two major parcels along Bellevue Way. The parcel just south of the METRO Park & Ride lot is designated as a Gateway Public Art site in the preferred Alternative D.

27. COMMENT: Building development in the Slough will effect views into the Slough from residences above the Slough and from those walking along the Slough.

RESPONSE: In this scenic area, any proposal must undergo environmental review which would most likely include an analysis of how a proposal would impact the aesthetic value of the Slough. Photographic view analysis helps synthesize potential view and impacts and are typically required during the environmental process.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

28. COMMENT: Many wish to receive notification of future activities on this project.

RESPONSE: The names have been included in the mailing list which is used for public meetings. These individuals will also be notified of public hearings and will be sent letters

of availability when the Final EIS is published.

29. COMMENT: Future public meetings for this project should be held in more appropriate meeting space with more room and a better public address system.

RESPONSE: Although public meeting space is limited, efforts will be made to better accommodate the public in future meetings.

Winters House Drainage and Groundwater Issue

PREPARED FOR: Don Billen/Sound Transit
Tony Raben/Sound Transit
Sue Comis/Sound Transit
Paul Cornish/Sound Transit
James Irish/Sound Transit

PREPARED BY: Stephen Mak/CH2M HILL

REVIEWED BY: Andy Leong/CH2M HILL

COPIES: Jodi Ketelsen/CH2M HILL
Molly Boone/CH2M HILL

DATE: April 5, 2010

PROJECT NUMBER: 393372

Summary:

The purpose of this memo is to present issues discovered with the current design (Interim Submittal) in the vicinity of the Winters House. These issues were revealed by recent survey base map data and groundwater level information. The current alignment in the vicinity of the Winters House is located below the groundwater table for a length of approximately 1200 to 1400 feet. The present retaining wall and drainage design would function as an underdrain system for the regional groundwater, possibly lowering the groundwater table by up to 10 feet or more. Issues associated with this design are:

- Requirement for long-term maintenance of the drainage system, which is needed to draw down the groundwater and prevent inundation of the tracks.
- Potential receding of the wetland boundary (to the east) due to the drawdown of the groundwater table. Lowering the groundwater table could deprive existing wetlands of a saturated root zone and may lead to significant and adverse local impact to the wetland.

The following is a summary of the design team's thinking on the most promising solutions of the issue:

- Increasing the profile grade (slope) north of the Winters House lid to rise above the groundwater table as quickly as practical in order to decrease the length where the tracks are below the groundwater.
- Designing a sealed system for the trackway where it is below groundwater to eliminate the need for draining groundwater and thereby preserving the wetlands.

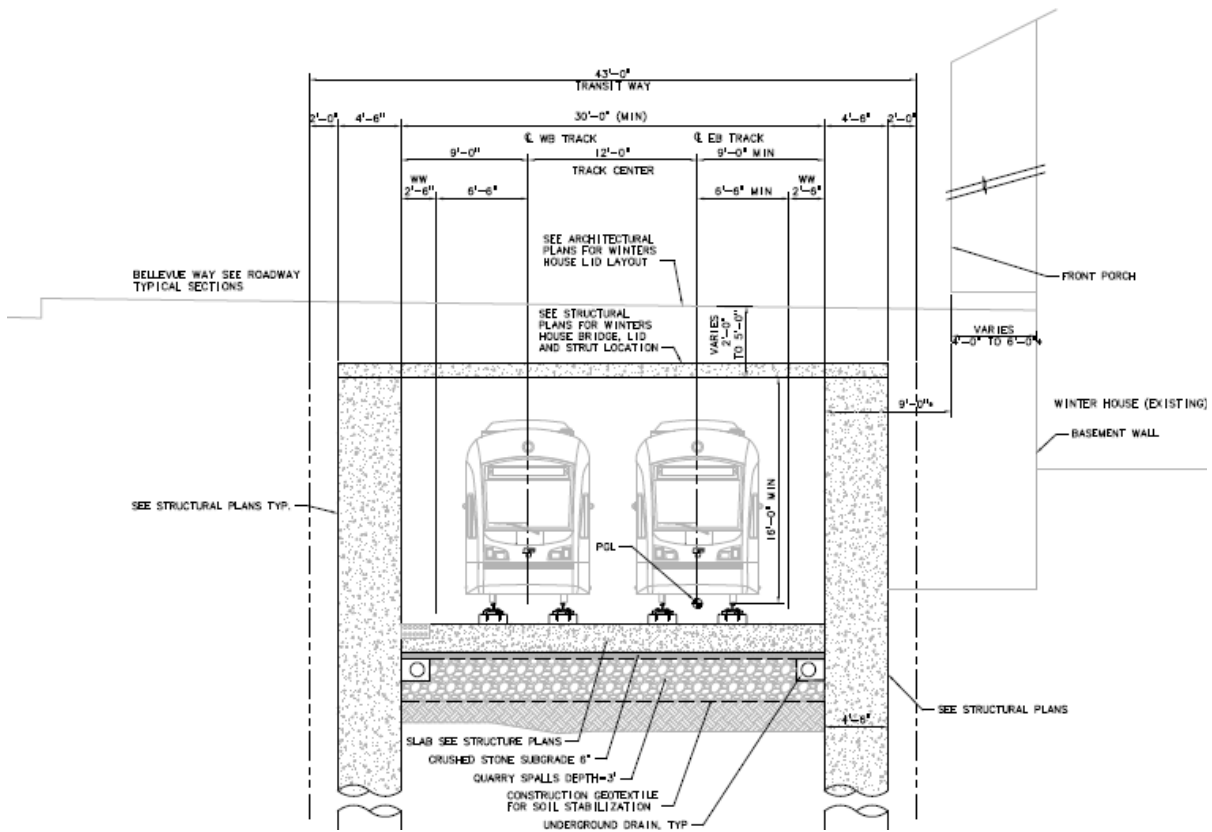
Detailed Discussion:

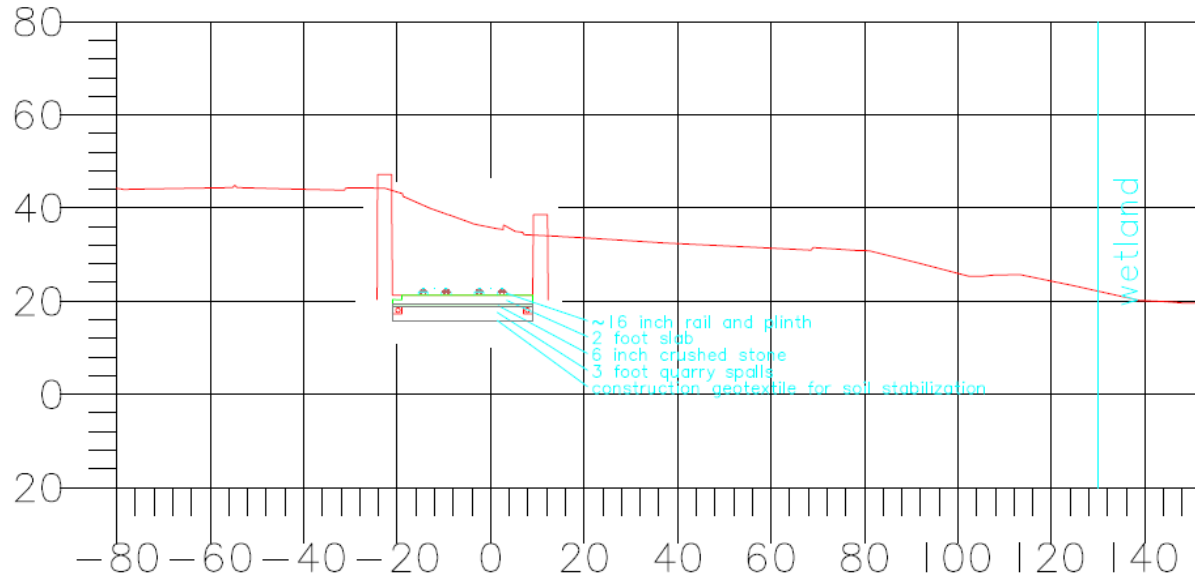
The following summarizes the recent discussion with Bill Higgins, Jeff Randal, Hans Ehlert, Alisa Swank, Joel Theodore and Ken Green, all with the CH2M HILL consultant team,

regarding drainage and groundwater issues at the Winters House based on the track profile as shown in the February 26, 2010, Interim Submittal profile.

Design and Findings as of Preliminary Engineering Interim Submittal

Sound Transit is proposing to build a lidded trainway between Bellevue Way SE and the Winters House in order to preserve that historic building. Secant pile walls are proposed at the driveway and lid areas. The wall on both sides of the trench approaches (to the Winters House lid) is proposed as soldier piles. The face of the secant pile wall is about 9 feet from the face of the front porch of the Winters House. Wall thickness is about 4- 5 feet, leaving about 4-5 feet between the back of the wall and the front porch of the Winters House. The track proposed is direct fixation on a 2-foot deep concrete slab. The concrete slab together with the strut at the top of the trainway provides structural support for the soldier pile walls. The 2-foot concrete slab will be supported by 3 feet of crushed rock wrapped with construction geotextile for soil separation. The crushed rock is used to provide a stable, uniform platform for the track section as well as accommodate groundwater, because the water level of the Mercer Slough is higher than the track subgrade. Six-inch diameter holes in the track slab are designed to relieve the water pressure beneath the slab during the 100-year flood event. Wall drains behind the walls are proposed for both secant pile and soldier pile walls.





The low point of the LRT top of rail elevation = 22.6'

Groundwater elevation at Winters House (from recent readings) = +/- 28'. Groundwater drops from elevation 28' to approximately 20' at the intersection of Bellevue Way SE and 112th Avenue NE.

Mercer Slough Ordinary High Water (summer) = 18.6' * Regulated by Ballard Locks

100-year flood elevation = 20' per FEMA maps

Vertical Clearance (top of rail to bottom of lid) = 16' minimum

Recent Findings

The field survey has now been completed, and the design team received the field survey base map and contour lines on March 22, 2010. The wetland boundary, as flagged by the biologist, reflects that it is generally at approximate elevation 25'. North of the Winters House, small water bodies (small ponds or puddles) were found just east of Bellevue Way. From a field visit, it was noted that the water bodies' elevation seems to be higher than the Slough elevation. The design team thinks that the water sources for the wetland is coming from shallow groundwater and existing culverts along Bellevue Way which collects runoff from Bellevue Way and the Enatai neighborhood west of Bellevue Way.



Drainage Issues

Under the current design, water will be routed into a track underdrain system. In the vicinity of the Winters House, the underdrain system is likely going to be at or below ordinary high water of elevation 18.6 feet. It will be difficult to provide a gravity system to

drain the water into the Slough. Trenching across wetland may be necessary to outfall into the slough.

The design team has brainstormed some potential design solutions:

TABLE 1
Potential Alternate Alignment Solutions to Provide Gravity Drainage.

Potential Design Solution	Pro	Cons
1. Reduce the vertical clearance of 16'	Track drain elevation could potentially gain 1' to 2', and make it more feasible to provide a gravity drainage system to the Slough	Reduction in light rail operating speed Added maintenance
2. Embedded tracks instead of Direct Fixation	Track drain elevation could potentially gain 1', and make it more feasible to provide a gravity drainage system to the Slough	Added cost and maintenance
3. Install a pump	Track profile can stay as designed.	Added capital and long-term maintenance cost
4. Install sump at periodic intervals	Track profile can stay as designed. Installation of pump can be deferred. Water can be pumped and used to irrigate the wetland periodically.	Added capital and long-term maintenance cost

Groundwater Issues

Recent groundwater measurements indicate that groundwater is at elevation 28 feet (+/-) from the Bellevue Park and Ride to near the Winters House. North of the Winters House, the groundwater slopes downward to approximately elevation 20 feet near the intersection of 112th Avenue SE with Bellevue Way SE. Under the current alignment scenario for the lidded trainway with the wall drains and underdrain system, the design team anticipates that the present groundwater table may be drawn down to the elevation of the underdrain system. The current design has minimized the distance of the underdrain system below the track elevation to approximately 4 feet. In the vicinity of the Winters House, the track will be at elevation 22.6 feet resulting in the drainage system being at or near the ordinary high water elevation of the Mercer Slough (elevation 18.6 feet). Where the tracks (and underdrain system) climb to higher elevations on either side of the Winters House, the groundwater drawdown would parallel the tracks (and underdrain system).

The existing wetland boundary elevation is generally near elevation 25.0 feet, suggesting a shallow groundwater table (i.e., near elevation 25 feet). Drawdown of the groundwater table by the underdrain system may cut off the water source that sustains the wetland vegetation, causing the wetlands to dry up and recede. This would be likely or possible to

occur where the underdrain system is below about elevation 25 feet. The greatest impact would be near the Winters House, where the drawdown would be to the lowest elevation of 18.6 feet (+/-); the impact would be reduced on either side of the Winters House as the tracks gain elevation.

The existing culverts provide another water source for sustaining wetlands above the slough elevation. Several culverts provide a near constant source of water along Bellevue Way SE. Most of the runoff water from these culverts will be re-routed to a proposed drainage system along the curb line of Bellevue Way, eliminating this water source for support of existing wetland vegetation.

With the above two issues, the design team thinks that the wetland boundary could gradually recede to the east and may cause a reduction in the wetland area.

The design team has brainstormed some potential design solutions:

TABLE 2
Potential Alternate Alignment Solutions to Reduce Impact to Groundwater and Associated Potential Impact to Wetlands.

Potential Design Solution	Pro	Cons
1. Provide a watering system at the wetland boundary with enough water to saturate the rooted zone to sustain wetland vegetation	Mitigate impact to receding wetland boundary	Watering system will be required for the life of the light rail. Added maintenance and operating cost
2. Raise the top of rail above groundwater.	Allow groundwater to flow under the tracks at elevation 25'. Lower cost as the height of the walls in the trench is reduced.	Trains could no longer run fully below existing grade of Bellevue Way SE. May cause adverse impact to Winters House, a fatal flaw for this option. Because the trains would no longer be located fully below Bellevue Way SE (i.e., top of train would be above grade) it would not be feasible to provide vertical clearance for overhang sidewalk of sufficient width to allow for mixed used path along east side of Bellevue Way
3. Increase the rate of grade increase (slope) of the alignment north of the Winters House to the maximum allowed and provides a sealed lidded trench at the Winters House.	Allow groundwater to flow under the trainway and minimize changes to groundwater source. Potentially lower cost as the length and height of the walls (north of the Winters House) for the trench are reduced. A more predictable solution.	Added cost for more robust structure to counteract the buoyancy and seepage forces against the lidded trainway. Pump may still be needed to collect runoff from the trainway (e.g. rainfall or fire-fighting water on tracks). Less desirable for the 112 th Ave SE Center Running option under study; may not be able to run alignment under 112 th Avenue SE to center

TABLE 2

Potential Alternate Alignment Solutions to Reduce Impact to Groundwater and Associated Potential Impact to Wetlands.

Potential Design Solution	Pro	Cons
		median. Not feasible to provide vertical clearance for overhang sidewalk of sufficient width to allow for mixed used path along east side of Bellevue Way

Available graphics for discussion

- Plan view of alignment with field surveyed contour lines and wetland boundary in the vicinity of Winters House
- Cross-sections every 50' in the vicinity of Winters House based on the recent field surveyed DTM.

From: Joseph Rosmann [<mailto:rosmannj@icloud.com>]

Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 7:20 AM

To: Barker, Myra (RCO)

Subject: Sound Transit Materials That Counter Sound Transit's Claim That All Section 106 (4F) Requirements Are Being Met In the Mercer Slough Nature Park

Dear Ms. Barker:

Please provide the following document, and the commentary here, to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, as background for its discussion of the proposed land exchange proposal in the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

This document counters the claim made by Sound Transit that its plan for placing the Eastlink Rail Line along Bellevue Way and SE 112th Avenue will fully meet the requirements for protecting the sensitive environment of the Mercer Slough Nature Park, will minimize any de-watering of the Mercer Slough wetlands, and will not adversely effect the environmental conditions necessary for permanently protecting the salmon spawning waterway passages used by salmon returning to the upstream Kelsey Creek watershed via the Mercer Slough creek drainage.

This document was prepared for Sound Transit by its contractor, CH2MHill, as engineering research background leading up to the development of Sound Transit's Final Environmental Impact Statement report regarding its plans for the Eastlink rail line facility.

This document sets out the extensive reservations of CH2MHill's engineers regarding any ability to avoid the dewatering of the wetlands between Mercer Slough creek and the two roadways to the west of the creek resulting from placement of the rail line facility along the East side of Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE.

This document was never submitted to the US government, to the best of my knowledge, as part of the FEIS record.

This document became available only a result of a formal FOIA request made to Sound Transit, and was finally provided by them in response to such request.

Subsequent to the submission by Sound Transit of its Final EIS report, Sound Transit has continued to carry out additional engineering research to still better understand how to limit the adverse impacts set out in the attached document. Sound Transit has recently completed its 90% engineering study regarding the placement of the rail line facility along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board needs to understand that, now having received these 90% engineering study results as of this past September 2014, Sound Transit continues to refuse to provide any information to the City of Bellevue City Council, or to our City's executive staff, or Bellevue citizens regarding the findings contained in these latest engineering reports, or to disclose its final plans for mitigating the negative impacts that placement of the rail line would effect in the area under discussion here.

As a result, neither the City of Bellevue, nor its citizens, have any way to determine the appropriateness, or effectiveness of any mitigation plan that Sound Transit may be considering for this most sensitive area of the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

Therefore, it is totally premature, and unreasonable for our City, or Sound Transit to now claim that the proposed land transfer is appropriate or necessary at this time.

I urgently request that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board delay taking any action regarding the proposed land transfer at this time.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph Rosmann

Joseph Rosmann
921 - 109th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98004-6821
425.417.0797 mobile
rosmannj@icloud.com

Concept - Leong

Winters House Drainage and Groundwater Issue

PREPARED FOR: Don Billen/Sound Transit
 Tony Raben/Sound Transit
 Sue Comis/Sound Transit
 Paul Cornish/Sound Transit
 James Irish/Sound Transit
 Stephen Mak/CH2M HILL

PREPARED BY: Stephen Mak/CH2M HILL

REVIEWED BY: Andy Leong/CH2M HILL

COPIES: Jodi Ketelsen/CH2M HILL
 Molly Boone/CH2M HILL

DATE: April 5, 2010

PROJECT NUMBER: 393372

(1) Evaluate existing construction

(2) Highest ground 140 feet - 1200 - 1400 feet - end of road, what will groundwater do if underlain by sand?

due to increased ground water pumping

Summary:

The purpose of this memo is to present issues discovered with the current design (Interim Submittal) in the vicinity of the Winters House. These issues were revealed by recent survey base map data and groundwater level information. The current alignment in the vicinity of the Winters House is located below the groundwater table for a length of approximately 1200 to 1400 feet. The present retaining wall and drainage design would function as an underdrain system for the regional groundwater, possibly lowering the groundwater table by up to 10 feet or more. Issues associated with this design are:

- Requirement for long-term maintenance of the drainage system, which is needed to draw down the groundwater and prevent inundation of the tracks.
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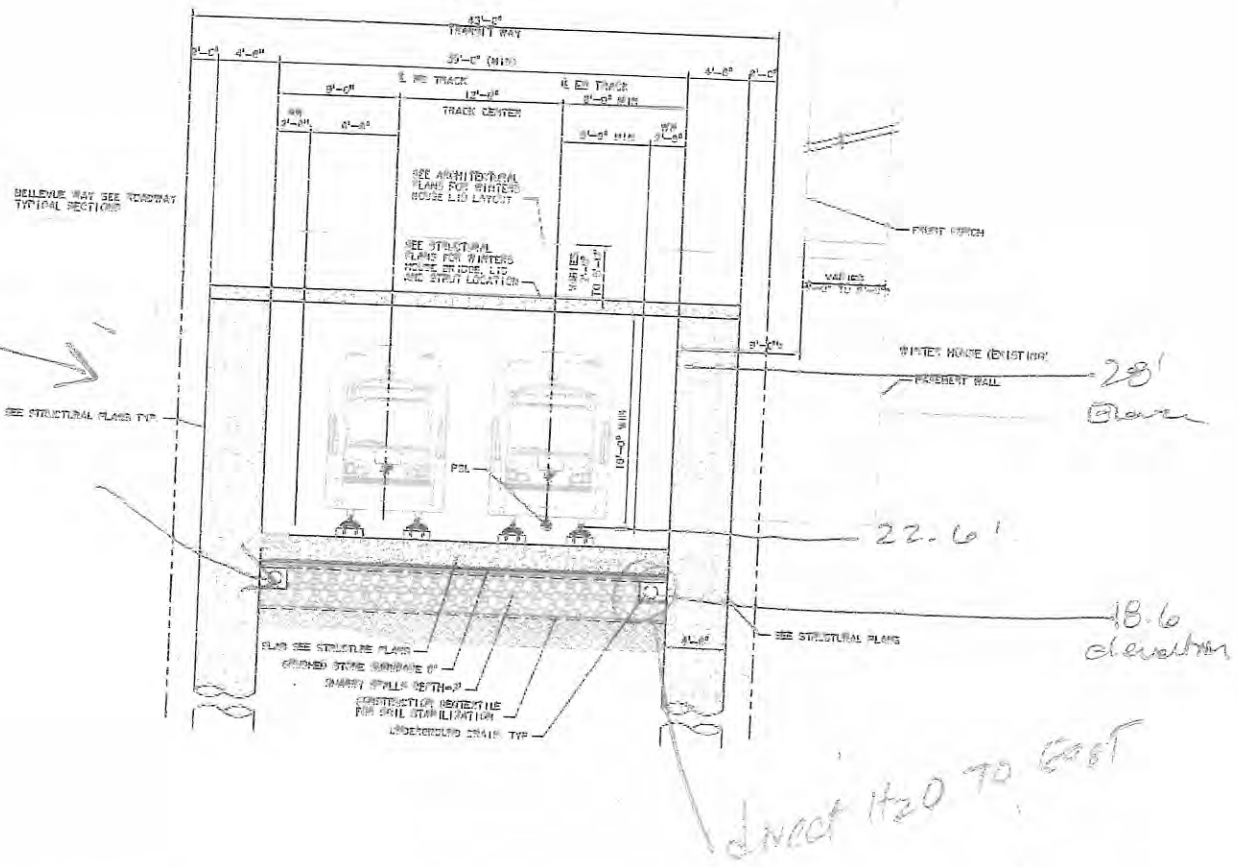
Detailed Discussion:

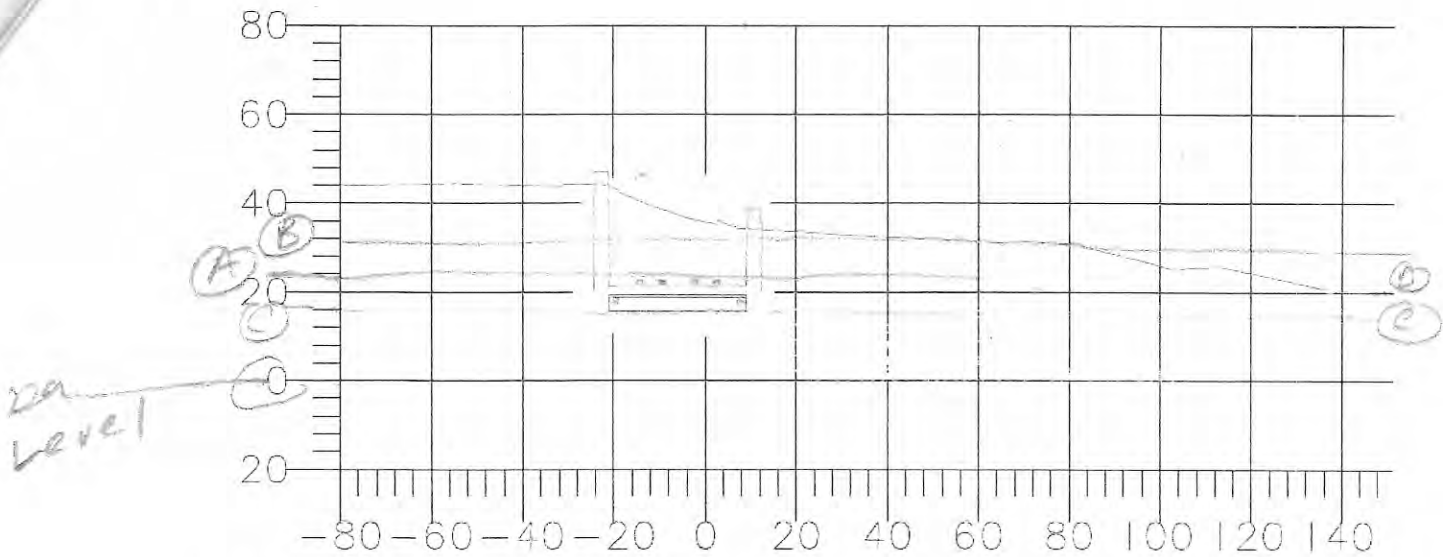
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Drainage Issues

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3. Install a pump	Track profile can stay as designed.	Added capital and long-term maintenance cost
4. Install sump at periodic intervals	Track profile can stay as designed. Installation of pump can be deferred. Water can be pumped and used to irrigate the wetland periodically.	Added capital and long-term maintenance cost

Groundwater Issues

Recent groundwater measurements indicate that groundwater is at elevation 28 feet (+/-) from the Bellevue Park and Ride to near the Winters House. North of the Winters House, the groundwater slopes downward to approximately elevation 20 feet near the intersection of 112th Avenue SE with Bellevue Way SE. Under the current alignment scenario for the lidded trainway with the wall drains and underdrain system, the design team anticipates that the present groundwater table may be drawn down to the elevation of the underdrain system. The current design has minimized the distance of the underdrain system below the track elevation to approximately 4 feet. In the vicinity of the Winters House, the track will be at elevation 22.6 feet resulting in the drainage system being at or near the ordinary high water elevation of the Mercer Slough (elevation 18.6 feet). Where the tracks (and underdrain system) climb to higher elevations on either side of the Winters House, the groundwater drawdown would parallel the tracks (and underdrain system).

The existing wetland boundary elevation is generally near elevation 25.0 feet, suggesting a shallow groundwater table (i.e., near elevation 25 feet). Drawdown of the groundwater table by the underdrain system may cut off the water source that sustains the wetland vegetation, causing the wetlands to dry up and recede. This would be likely or possible to

occur where the underdrain system is below about elevation 25 feet. The greatest impact would be near the Winters House, where the drawdown would be to the lowest elevation of 18.6 feet (+/-); the impact would be reduced on either side of the Winters House as the tracks gain elevation.

The existing culverts provide another water source for sustaining wetlands above the slough elevation. Several culverts provide a near constant source of water along Bellevue Way SE. Most of the runoff water from these culverts will be re-routed to a proposed drainage system along the curb line of Bellevue Way, eliminating this water source for support of existing wetland vegetation.

With the above two issues, the design team thinks that the wetland boundary could gradually recede to the east and may cause a reduction in the wetland area.

The design team has brainstormed some potential design solutions:

TABLE 2
Potential Alternate Alignment Solutions to Reduce Impact to Groundwater and Associated Potential Impact to Wetlands.

Potential Design Solution	Pro	Cons
1. Provide a watering system at the wetland boundary with enough water to saturate the rooted zone to sustain wetland vegetation	Mitigate impact to receding wetland boundary	Watering system will be required for the life of the light rail. Added maintenance and operating cost
2. Raise the top of rail above groundwater.	Allow groundwater to flow under the tracks at elevation 25'. Lower cost as the height of the walls in the trench is reduced.	Trains could no longer run fully below existing grade of Bellevue Way SE. May cause adverse impact to Winters House, a fatal flaw for this option. Because the trains would no longer be located fully below Bellevue Way SE (i.e., top of train would be above grade) it would not be feasible to provide vertical clearance for overhang sidewalk of sufficient width to allow for mixed used path along east side of Bellevue Way
3. Increase the rate of grade increase (slope) of the alignment north of the Winters House to the maximum allowed and provides a sealed lidded trench at the Winters House.	Allow groundwater to flow under the trainway and minimize changes to groundwater source. Potentially lower cost as the length and height of the walls (north of the Winters House) for the trench are reduced. A more predictable solution.	Added cost for more robust structure to counteract the buoyancy and seepage forces against the lidded trainway. Pump may still be needed to collect runoff from the trainway (e.g. rainfall or fire-fighting water on tracks). Less desirable for the 112 th Ave SE Center Running option under study; may not be able to run alignment under 112 th Avenue SE to center

TABLE 2

Potential Alternate Alignment Solutions to Reduce Impact to Groundwater and Associated Potential Impact to Wetlands.

Potential Design Solution	Pro	Cons
		<p>median.</p> <p>Not feasible to provide vertical clearance for overhang sidewalk of sufficient width to allow for mixed used path along east side of Bellevue Way</p>

Available graphics for discussion

- Plan view of alignment with field surveyed contour lines and wetland boundary in the vicinity of Winters House
- Cross-sections every 50' in the vicinity of Winters House based on the recent field surveyed DTM.

From: Bill Popp, Sr [<mailto:billsr@wmpoppassoc.com>]
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2014 12:45 AM
To: Barker, Myra (RCO)
Subject: Alternative rail alignments to protect the Mercer Slough
Importance: High

Myra Barker
Compliance Specialist
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

Ms. Barker:

Please provide the following commentary to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for its discussion of the proposed land conversion in the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

I am a transportation planning engineer who has closely followed the Sound Transit route planning through this corridor these last 4 years. I have been involved with regional and sub regional multi-modal transportation planning and engineering in the Puget Sound Region for over 45 years. These comments reflect that background as well as my responsibility as a registered civil engineer to put the public good foremost.

I along with engineer members of my staff and structural engineer Al Cecil have critiqued the Sound Transit preferred alignment known as B2M (attached) and alternative alignments in a corridor to the east known as B7 and B7R (attached), and then finally a bored tunnel option (attached). The B7R alignment was a late-breaking study funded by the City of Bellevue to address the short comings of B7 which was essentially a Sound Transit straw man alignment that responded to the City's earlier objections to Bellevue Way / Mercer Slough alignments.

The attached material should give you some perspective on the alignment choices that ST has rejected with the pertinent sections highlighted in that material. The Sept 12 memo to Council makes three major points for this Mercer Slough Park issue (*italics*) reflecting at that time on the B7R alternative:

- *The August 29 letter from Berens to the FTA re 4(f) issues provides an excellent needed critique of the FEIS's cavalier and inaccurate portrayals of 4(f) issues. Berens' letter appropriately reopens the door for consideration of B7. **B7R, for your information, provides an alternative of significant "least harm" proportions given the unstudied potential for conversion of the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot to park and wetland use.***
- *The major problem with the alignment decision process at this point is the ARUP study was not allowed to follow through with its "Opportunities" analysis, which would have shown cost superiority of B7R-C9T over B2M-C9T. This is relevant since cost became a major issue in the sham alignment selection process and the study was terminated before identified "cost savings opportunities" could be quantified. These were subsequently quantified by our team using the ST cost model and communicated to the council.*

- *It is incredible to me and others that a city that promotes itself as one of the most livable, would trade quality of life in established single-family neighborhoods for an ideological concept of densification to promote LRT use, when the resulting use is marginal at best... This point is important as it is what is driving the train so to speak – an ideological objective to run the line in or adjacent to areas where Transit Oriented Development might occur. Sound Transit staff has actually said this in a public meeting.*

And the NEPA comments to the US Secretary of Transportation and his regional modal representatives points out that the return of park and potential wetland is an unexplored environmental advantage of B7R, plus the alignment includes undeveloped cost advantages as well:

- ***B7R presents a huge environmental windfall that constitutes significant new information.***

This is in the form of potential conversion of the 11.5 acre SBP&R lot to park and wetland for the Mercer Slough area. *Since this environmental opportunity is not discussed in the ARUP studies it is not considered an FEIS omission since this is essentially new information. But it is assumed in the FEIS that the lot would close with B7R. This potential action essentially offsets all of the B7R's limited permanent park and wetland and impervious surface environmental impacts and makes up for a host of past and some future environmental takings in the Slough as well.*

- ***Opportunities identified in the ARUP report to save substantial costs in the B7R/C9T alignment are not mentioned in the FEIS.***

Initial cost reduction for the above items is \$130 to \$135 million. Because the City of Bellevue stopped the ARUP study due to budget ceiling and to inform the FEIS process, these potential cost reductions were not fully documented. But in light of the importance of costs and the changing comparison datum, the decision makers should have the advantage of that information prior to finalizing the ROD, unless there is a favorable decision on issue 12 below, which then takes precedence.

The B7R option was rejected by Sound Transit with no acknowledgement of the substantial park and wetland addition afforded by that option.

Shortly after the above submittals, the cost advantages of a bored tunnel alignment were evolved principally through Al Cecil's efforts (who has also corresponded with you) and we then collaborated on the final product which includes a trench station at the South Bellevue Park and Ride Lot for aesthetic benefits and cost savings. A limited alignment drawing is attached above but Al Cecil's drawing has a good deal more information. The estimated amount of savings is \$245 million -- that is extremely significant. We are confident in those numbers based on current tunneling costs and have challenged Sound Transit to provide their own conceptual engineering estimate or verify ours, but to date there has been no response. We have heard via back channels that Sound Transit staff recognizes the potential savings.

At this point in the design process it is unrealistic to think that a reversion to the B7R alignment is politically possible. However, the bored tunnel alignment is a distinct possibility comparable to the situation in north Seattle wherein a 5-year old Record of Decision was modified in favor of bored tunnel alignment as a result of cost and community disruption minimization advantages.

I am pointing out these alternative alignment options and Sound Transit's rejections as a way of saying that Mercer Slough Park has never been a high priority avoidance matter for Sound Transit and their political allies on our City Council, nor our former management staff. The original 4f letter by Berens was spot on and it was subsequently retracted with some watered down bizarre replacement language by the City Attorney that said all the alignment alternatives were equal.

The Mercer Slough Park is a significant part of our neighborhood identity and of course it sets the tone for through travelers as a major gateway into Bellevue. The name we often hear for Bellevue, "City in a Park", has this park as its anchor. My wife and I enjoy our many walks along the park trails the west side of which will become much less enjoyable once this huge facility is in place and the corridor is denuded. Also the formerly planned off roadway path extension northward from Winters' House will no longer be possible with this rail alignment. I believe you have it in your power to tell these two agencies that the parks that you have funded have priority when reasonable alternatives exist.

In light of the foregoing I am requesting that you deny the proposed land conversion in the Mercer Slough Park. A massive light rail facility is simply not consistent with the plan and principals of the Mercer Slough Master Plan.

William Popp, P.E.

William Popp Associates

Transportation Engineers/Planners

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Bellevue City Council
FROM: Bill Popp, P.E.
DATE: September 12, 2011
SUBJECT: East Link FEIS/NEPA Transportation Comments; MOU Implications

The attached FEIS/NEPA comments are recommended reading as you move through the Term Sheet activities and the MOU negotiations with Sound Transit (ST). I have structured the comments to provide basic factual information on issues for the federal environmental record. If you are in substantial agreement with these comments, **I would strongly urge you to direct City staff to comment immediately as well using these comments as a basis.** In addition there are a number of other challenges that could be raised that I have not addressed but will if asked. My understanding from several sources is information not in the record cannot be heard in the ROD judicial review process, should the City be forced to choose that route to obtain the alignment it desires.

Of equal importance, these comments should give you the strategic arguments needed to do what is right for our citizenry in your negotiations with ST over the MOU. **The August 29 letter from Berens to the FTA re 4(f) issues provides an excellent needed critique of the FEIS's cavalier and inaccurate portrayals of 4(f) issues. Berens' letter appropriately reopens the door for consideration of B7. B7R, for your information, provides an alternative of significant "least harm" proportions given the unstudied potential for conversion of the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot to park and wetland use.**

It is inconceivable to me that an MOU for B2M-C9T would continue much longer as a "good faith" negotiation given the issues identified in the attached NEPA comments and in Berens' letter re 4(f) issues. In my opinion, if it takes legal action for advancement of either B7R-C9T or the B7R-C14E combination, then so be it. The City has to do whatever is necessary, simply because the decision is too important to do otherwise.

The major problem with the alignment decision process at this point is the ARUP study was not allowed to follow through with its "Opportunities" analysis, which would have shown cost superiority of B7R-C9T over B2M-C9T. In addition, the Council's direction to the consultant to optimize the alignment was clearly compromised on a number of fronts. And that combined with the fact that ST did not want any of it, led to a less than truthful incorporation of B7R-C9T in the *Response to Public Agencies* section of the FEIS. **Add to that the discovery of long standing traffic forecast underestimates for B2M that result in inadequate assessment of deficiencies and needed mitigation plus the new mitigation proposed**

along 112th Ave SE, and it becomes evident the ST alignment decision was based on faulty and inadequate information that is made even more so by current events.

But it is possible to jump past these additional analysis needs with the information in the record re B7R and C14E. Please note the easy to read section on B7R-C14E, pages 5-7 of my NEPA comments. This alignment has so much going for it that I am surprised at the lack of at least an honorable mention, somewhere. **This alignment provides a grade-separated system, at no cost to the City, and with a fraction of the construction disruption, environmental and 4(f) insults, and the single-family neighborhood deterioration associated with the B2M-C9T or B2M-C11A alignments.** In the absence of an important non-subjective issue that we might have missed, this alternative deserves front and center treatment.

I have included some C14E station visuals for your recall. After reviewing the Final PE drawings for the C9T tunnel and station it is more evident than ever that the construction of that 5-story deep cut-and-cover tunnel and station is going to be a nightmare, and it is totally avoidable. Even the at-grade alignment in the CBD might be preferable to C9T from B2M, although C9T from B7R is less impacting. **And from a transit rider's perspective, aerial views of our beautiful world are far preferable to tunnel walls and street-side traffic.**

It is incredible to me and others that a city that promotes itself as one of the most livable, would trade quality of life in established single-family neighborhoods for an ideological concept of densification to promote LRT use, when the resulting use is marginal at best, and when the added cost of the concept is a budget busting \$160 million to the City. And that trade-off is made in the face of a far less residentially impacting alignment that can provide faster transit service and potentially better ridership at an estimated cost of zero to the City.

August 15, 2011

John Witmer, Community Planner, FTA Region X, john.witmer@dot.gov
Rick Krochalis, Region X Administrator, FTA, rick.krochalis@dot.gov
Dan Mathis, Region X Administrator, FHWA, daniel.mathis@dot.gov

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Ray.LaHood@dot.gov
Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, peter.rogoff@dot.gov
Victor Mendez, Federal Highways Administrator, victor.mendez@dot.gov

Subject: Comments on FEIS for Sound Transit's East Link Proposal

Gentlemen:

The information presented herein could substantially impact the decision being contemplated with respect to Sound Transit's (ST) preferred B2M alternative as represented in the project FEIS. As a result of a review starting with *FEIS Chapter 7, Section 7.6 Review of City of Bellevue B7R Study*, we have uncovered new information and opportunities as well as heretofore unrecognized crucial mistakes, omissions, and some misrepresentations impacting the choices made in the selection of ST's preferred alternative. These new information and problems were found by piecing together information in the DEIS, SDEIS, FEIS and the City of Bellevue's B7R study (aka ARUP study or B7R/C9T study).

As you may be aware, the alternative analyzed by ST in the SDEIS was B7/C9T which included a station and small garage at a remote location (118th Ave SE) and another station at Main Street on the Red Lion site with the alignment connecting directly to the Main Street tunnel portal of the 110th Ave SE C9T alignment. This is the same tunnel alignment that ST's preferred alternative B2M connects to.

The B7R/C9T alternative included a station and large garage at I-90/Bellevue Way (B7R portion), and a station at Main Street with a connection to a shortened 110th Ave SE tunnel alignment via NE 2nd Street. The B7R/C9T alternative or possible variations thereof represent the City of Bellevue's preference.

My standing to provide comments on this issue comes from 35 year residency in the impacted Enatai neighborhood, many years of professionally compensated involvement with transportation planning issues in Bellevue and the eastside of Lake Washington, and a background of regional transportation planning with the Puget Sound Council of Governments (forerunner of Puget Sound Regional Council).

Some of the foregoing comments on the FEIS are admittedly lengthy and technical but necessary to convincingly frame the issues. They are as follows:

1. Future LOS estimates on Bellevue Way are irrational.

The ST intersection traffic analysis (Appendix H1, Sub Appendix D) shows PM peak LOS F at the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot (SBP&R) signalized intersection for 2007 (believable) and LOS D for no-build (unbelievable) as well as build in 2020 and 2030. The future year LOS estimate for no-build cannot be better than existing when there is no improvement proposed for Bellevue Way, I-405 is operating at capacity even with its assumed Master Plan improvement, the Bellevue CBD is forecast to double in trip generation, and there are frequent existing traffic congestion events in the corridor. And the ST build proposal (signal at south driveway to P&R) only provides an insignificant (5 sec) improvement in the LOS delay value vs no-build. This deficiency must be corrected prior to finalizing mitigation for the ROD.

2. ST Forecast model problem is recognized.

In the absence of Bellevue Way widening or significant diversion to I-405 which is at capacity in 2030, the no-build can only be better than existing if the forecast volumes are lower than existing. And that is what has apparently happened. The ST traffic forecast volumes on Bellevue Way and 112th Ave SE are acknowledged as up to 20% "different" (translation -- lower) than the BKR volumes (see FEIS Chap 7 discussion on p.7-39). And 20% reduction in volume can cause a two level-of-service improvement which would take it from F to D. Note -- when this author made a PRR for the ST forecast volumes in January 2011 (PD 10-211), the reply was these are not available, otherwise the deductive reasoning would not be necessary.

According to the FEIS Appendix H, sub Appendix A, the PSRC model modal split run and adaption and import of vehicle trip tables to Bellevue-Kirkland-Redmond (BKR) is supposed to "be consistent with the vehicle demand distribution found in the future year BKR model" -- but there is no mention of trip generation consistency. And to argue that the difference is due to diversion of SOV trips to transit trips is disproved by the no-build results and is not believable for the build either given the anemic market share of trips that East Link captures – less than 1% of CBD person trips. There is also no calibration documentation, or formal approval information that we have found in the FEIS.

It is not likely that ST's ad-hoc model would produce more credible traffic forecasts than the BKR model on which the City has spent years and millions of \$ and has produced documentation which has been periodically reviewed by a number of agencies. In addition the City bases its land use and transportation plans and programs and concurrency approvals on use of this model as do the cities of Kirkland and Redmond.

The obvious discrepancies in the ST traffic forecast must be corrected prior to finalizing mitigation for the ROD.

3. Use of an understated forecast results in substantially understated B2M traffic impacts.

ST does not acknowledge the need for any mitigation on Bellevue Way since they show future LOS D at the P&R intersection, although they do discuss an optional minor fix consisting of signaling the south driveway and optionally converting the existing center two-way-turn lane south of the P&R to a southbound HOV lane. But the impacts of these improvements is a very minor 5 second reduction in their delay estimates. With the existing traffic and/or the BKR forecast, improvements are needed for

operation of the P&R facility and mitigation of impacts on Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue corridor traffic flows.

The traffic congestion and resulting neighborhood diversions likely to be created by the B2M proposal will negatively impact the daily lives of 1000's of residents in at least four communities not to mention the accessibility of the retail core of the CBD. This issue is currently unrecognized and the situation needs to be corrected prior to finalizing the ROD.

It is estimated that a new southbound GP lane is needed on Bellevue Way from the 112th wye to I-90 to provide adequate traffic operations for the existing SBP&R condition as well as to address the corridor LOS needs with B2M garage operation. This independent conclusion could be accepted or verified with new forecast and LOS analysis to inform the final alignment decision and the ROD.

4. The impacts and cost of the added GP lane improvement represent a substantial change in the proposal.

Per City of Bellevue staff, the cost of the added lane is approximately \$30 to \$40 million. This amount should be added to the B2M FEIS project cost as it is required for satisfactory operation of the P&R lot, represents a substantial change to the proposal, and the implementation thereof is likely to cause significant adverse impacts (WAC 197-11-440(6)(c)(iv)) to residents, topography and flora and fauna along the bluff on the west side of Bellevue Way. Per the WAC, detail analysis of this mitigation is required.

5. The impacts and cost of ST's current mitigation proposals along 112th Ave north of the "Y" represent a substantial change in the proposal.

The most recent mitigation proposal consists of an elevated crossing of 112th Ave SE at about SE 15th St and a west side running alignment partly elevated along Bellefield Park Condominiums and Surrey Downs with additional property and park takes and an undercrossing of SE 4th St along with a new partial trench station. Estimated cost for this revision is \$35 million. The estimated cost of this change should be added to the B2M FEIS cost for comparisons to the B7R and other alternatives.

6. FEIS fails to present the beneficial impacts of closure of the SBP&R lot on Bellevue Way and 112th Ave SE corridors as a result of B7R.

The ARUP BKR-volume-based Traffic Impact Analysis (ARUP Technical Memorandum 04¹) indicates that the signalized intersection at the SBP&R will operate at LOS F for AM and PM under the 2030 B7/C9T condition (existing P&R in operation) and LOS B and C respectively for B7R/C9T (lot closed). It also quantifies, with micro-simulation modeling, the huge PM peak hour corridor delay to the north that this existing P&R operation causes -- without the added burden of a tripled lot size as per B2M.

The Memorandum also suggests that B7R protects the Enatai neighborhood from traffic diversions from Bellevue Way due to the freer operation of that corridor with the elimination of the SBP&R lot.

¹City of Bellevue **East Link Light Rail B7/C9T to NE 2nd Portal (B7 – Revised) Alternative** TM04 - South Bellevue Traffic Impact Analysis 215382/TM04
Final | June 2011

The FEIS (p. 7-39) incorrectly claims that the SBP&R intersection operates satisfactorily under B7/C9T and fails to present the quantified substantial beneficial impacts of closure of the SBP&R lot on Bellevue Way and 112th Ave SE corridors as a result of B7R/C9T.

7. B7R presents a huge environmental windfall that constitutes significant new information.

This is in the form of potential conversion of the 11.5 acre SBP&R lot to park and wetland for the Mercer Slough area. Since this environmental opportunity is not discussed in the ARUP studies it is not considered an FEIS omission since this is essentially new information. But it is assumed in the FEIS that the lot would close with B7R. This potential action essentially offsets all of the B7R's limited permanent park and wetland and impervious surface environmental impacts and makes up for a host of past and some future environmental takings in the Slough as well.

8. FEIS misstates impacts on Enatai neighborhood character and traffic patterns.

FEIS (p-7-39) claims the Environmental Technical Memorandum says the B7R garage and station would "substantially change the character of the Enatai neighborhood because it would add intense activity, change neighborhood views and alter traffic patterns". The Enatai neighborhood is huge. The actual statement deals with only the residences on the west side of 113th and the impact on their views and aesthetic character with merging of local residential and transit traffic at the north end of the garage. And the Traffic Impact Analysis Memorandum observes that there should be very little negative traffic impact on the south Enatai neighborhood and points out the unlikelihood of traffic diversions through the Enatai neighborhood due to B7R.

9. Opportunities identified in the ARUP report to save substantial costs in the B7R/C9T alignment are not mentioned in the FEIS.

Since costs and ridership are the principle criterion utilized by ST for the preferred alignment selection, the next several issue points are focused mainly on cost as the ridership is better than the B2M datum .

ARUP's suggestion for deleting the East Main station and realigning C9T results in a cost reduction of some \$115 million (without considering residual value for the Red Lion site or tunnel cost adjustment) And there is only a minor reduction in estimated ridership of 1000 boardings. For only \$6 million more a gently curved at-grade station abutting the future I-405 RoW could be incorporated if an ST design deviation were to be obtained.

An additional \$15 to \$20 million savings "opportunity" is also identified by using the more appropriate corridor estimate method for the BNSF RoW versus ST's "across the fence" method.

Initial cost reduction for the above items is \$130 to \$135 million. Because the City of Bellevue stopped the ARUP study due to budget ceiling and to inform the FEIS process, these potential cost reductions were not fully documented. But in light of the importance of costs and the changing comparison datum, the decision makers should have the advantage of that information prior to finalizing the ROD, unless there is a favorable decision on issue 12 below, which then takes precedence.

10. The costs for B2M/C9T substantial changes and ARUP “opportunities” should be incorporated in the final alignment decision.

B7R/C9T is noted in the FEIS as \$150 million more expensive than B2M/C9T (it is actually \$140 million). However, the added costs for B2M/C9T mitigation include Bellevue Way widening of \$35 million and an estimated cost of \$35 million for the new 112th Ave SE grade separation and west-side running proposal per issue points 4 and 5. Therefore, with say \$135 million in cost reduction opportunities for B7R and the additional mitigation costs of some \$70 million for B2M/C9T, the B7R alignment now has the cost advantage at some \$65 million ($140 - 135 - 70 = 65$). The decision makers should have the advantage of this information prior to finalizing the ROD, unless there is a favorable decision on issue 12 below, which then takes precedence.

11. FEIS considers B7R/C9T costs not directly comparable to ST’s.

This is believed to be an unstudied position on ST’s part. A great deal of effort reportedly went into maintaining an “apples to apples” comparison with the SDEIS data, even to the extent of having ST prepare the RoW estimates after ARUP had already completed theirs. In fact it is ST’s RoW estimates and practices that are the most problematic for industry experts. But for the construction cost estimates, we found that ARUP closely followed the ST model and in those few cases where the ARUP unit costs varied from ST’s, the ARUP costs were typically higher. This consultant considers that if ST were to carefully examine ARUP’s cost estimate detail it would find this to be true. Since the FEIS cites the B7R project costs as noted in issue 10 above, there is apparently a certain level of acceptance of the estimates. The ARUP estimates are considered representative of ST’s cost model and are thus used herein for comparison and conclusion purposes.

12. Unexplored benefits of B7R/C14E

Costs

A B7R/C14E combination is not addressed in the FEIS due, it is believed, to late receipt of the ARUP reports. There are a number of advantages to this combination the most significant being the cost, which is lower than B2M/C11A, the ST cost datum. This astounding fact eliminates the need for Bellevue and ST to come up with some \$320 million in additional funds and/or savings for the tunnel. There would be no contribution required from the City or ST.

The cost of C14E per the FEIS is \$495 million, cheaper by \$60 million than C11A and \$295 million less than C9T. And the cost advantage of the B7R/C14E combination versus B2M/C11A, without any "opportunities" adjustment to ARUP's B7R estimate, is now \$85 million assuming the latest B2M mitigation costs of \$70 million. Without the mitigation, the cost advantage is still positive at \$15 million. And with only the RoW "opportunities" adjustments to B7R, the cost advantage is \$30 to \$35 million. In other words ST could save at least \$15 to \$35 million from their baseline budget.

But a more appropriate action would be to allocate those savings for an extension of the C14E moving sidewalk to 104th Avenue which would greatly improve the 5 and 10 minute walk-shed for the NE 6th St station, and thus its ridership. The desirability of that people mover spine has been long recognized dating back to 1976 when a people mover grant application was filed with UMTA (now FTA).

Ridership

On the ridership front, B3/C14E which is similar in stations to B7R/C14E, has a total east link ridership of 48,500 which compares favorably to 49,000 for B2M/C11A and 50,000 for B2M/C9T. The C14E downtown station attracts some 4000 riders under the B3 combo and we estimate that the station will easily pick up another 1500 - 2000 riders with an extension of the moving sidewalk west from 110th to 104th plus a walk link across the freeway on the planned extension of NE 6th St to serve the planned CBD expansion including TOD development of the office and auto row area. This missing NE 6th Street pedestrian link is an apparent mistake originating in the DEIS and is expected to have a negative affect on the transit modal split for the NE 6th Station.

The B7R station should also increase by some 500 trips as found in the ARUP documents and which were not used for unexplained reasons. It is quite likely that B7R/C14E with some pedestrian system enhancements per above will have CBD and total system ridership that is superior to all tested alternatives. A modal split run to verify is not a significant expense.

Environmental

With the above modest adjustment to the ridership estimate, C14E is better than C11A or C9T on 17 out of the 24 total comparison criteria used in the FEIS. Construction risks and traffic impacts are substantially moderated with this combination. Regarding B7R, the FEIS does not contain full comparison data but if it did the data should be vastly superior to B2M with adjustment for the substantial environmental and traffic benefits of closure of the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot, plus recognition of the environmental benefits of the gantry construction method for crossing the Slough as discussed in the ARUP study.

In addition, the elimination of substantial residential takings and avoidance of direct noise and exposure impacts on four residential communities cannot be overstated in terms of social and environmental benefit. In addition the elevated C14E substantially avoids impacts on Sturtevant Creek.

With respect to noise, the B7R analysis repeated the same mistakes of the SDEIS in that a cross-over track, which is a major source of noise, is located adjacent to the first apartment complex at the south end of the BNSF corridor. In addition, most if not all, of the existing residential properties in the BNSF corridor have already been mitigated for excessive noise associated with I-405 and the prior railroad use as a condition of building permit approval. No recognition of that fact is given in the FEIS.

C14E Conclusions

B7R/C14E combo is some \$15 to \$35 million less than ST's baseline B2M/C11A budget. With the needed mitigation for B2M, the theoretical difference could be as high as \$85 to \$105 million. This astounding result mean there is no need for Bellevue and ST to come up with some \$320 million in additional funds and/or savings for the downtown tunnel. Accordingly, there would be no contribution required on the part of the City or Sound Transit for this alternative. The budget savings could be used to extend the moving sidewalk to the west for a likely substantial increase in ridership. With this feature, ridership could be superior to all other alternatives.

In addition B7R/C14E has substantial environmental and community benefits that have only been fully assessed for C14E. The FEIS does not contain full environmental comparison data for B7R, but if so, it should be vastly superior to B2M in light of the substantial benefits for the environment and

traffic flow resulting from closure of the SBP&R lot and the avoidance of serious impacts on the four residential communities along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE. And finally, the costs for the B7R/C14E combo are considerably more controllable than other alternatives due to the generally lower construction risks and much lower amounts of utility and traffic interference.

11. Overall conclusion –

The FEIS does not recognize the traffic forecast underestimate that exists in the Bellevue Way corridor and consequently does not identify the substantial mitigation needed to accommodate the appropriate forecast. The FEIS also does not address the mitigation along 112th Avenue SE that is currently being negotiated between ST and the City. These mitigations being negotiated and/or needed for the B2M/C9T alignment are very costly and result in more residential neighborhood impacts and takings. **These revisions represent a substantial change in the proposal and introduce significant adverse impacts to residents, flora, fauna and parks along the west sides of Bellevue Way and 112th Ave SE; and these should be analyzed per SEPA rules as I understand.**

It should be recognized that with the new B2M costs versus the cost reductions associated with East Main Station elimination in B7R/C9T, and the favorable ridership for B7R, the principle stated obstacles to the ST acceptance of B7R/C9T are eliminated. **It should also be recognized that new information regarding the potential SBP&R conversion to park and wetland as well as misinformation due to erroneous data used in the EIS studies have technically reopened the discussion for a potential change in the selection of the preferred alignment.**

And in that context, **the parties should also acknowledge and deliberate the potentially immense cost, environmental, residential and business community benefits that could accrue to all by implementation of C14E with B7R.**

Sincerely,

William Popp, Sr., P.E.
billsr@wmpoppassoc.com



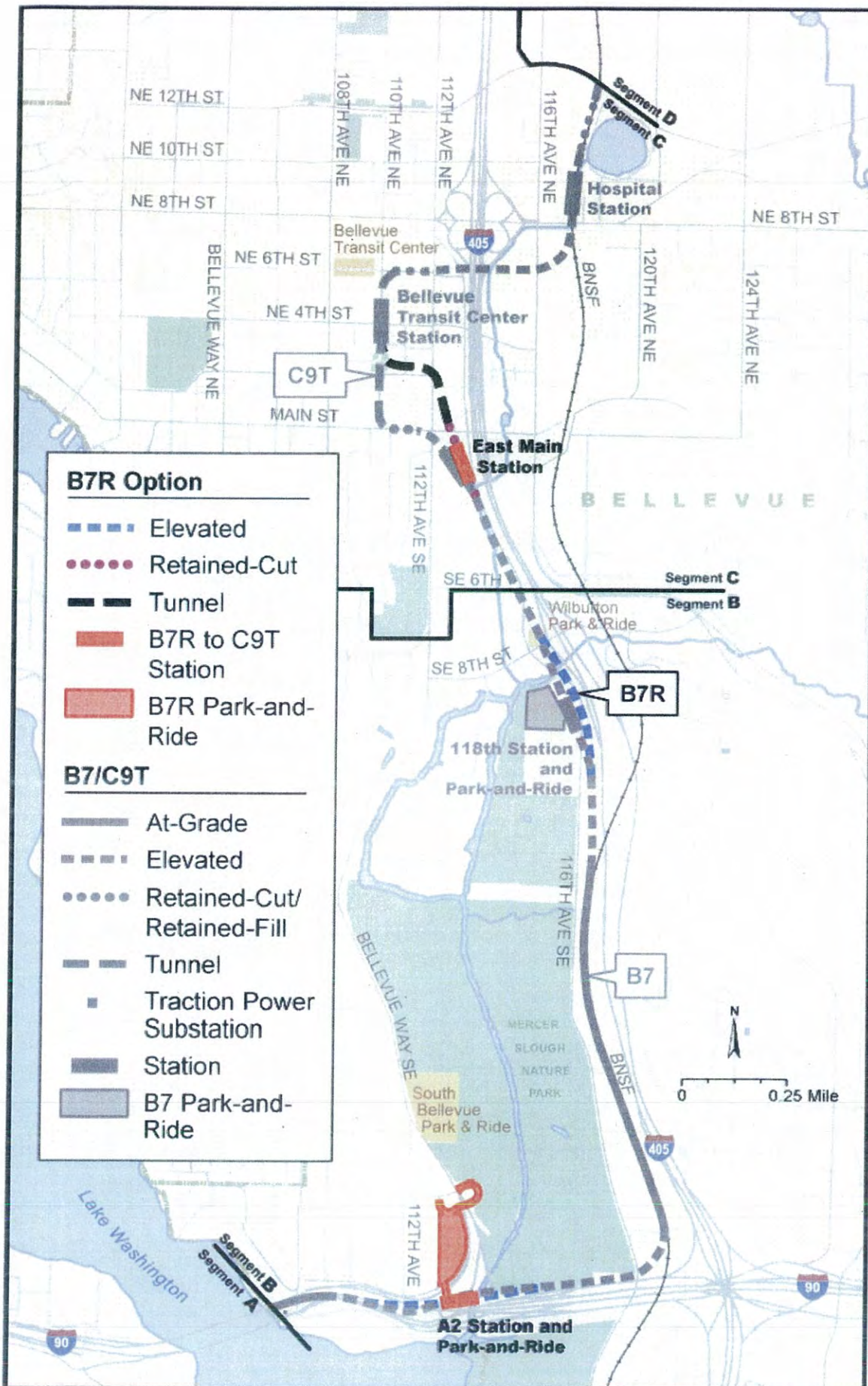


EXHIBIT 2-41
 City of Bellevue Proposed B7/C9T Revised (B7R)

B2M - 112th SE to C9T

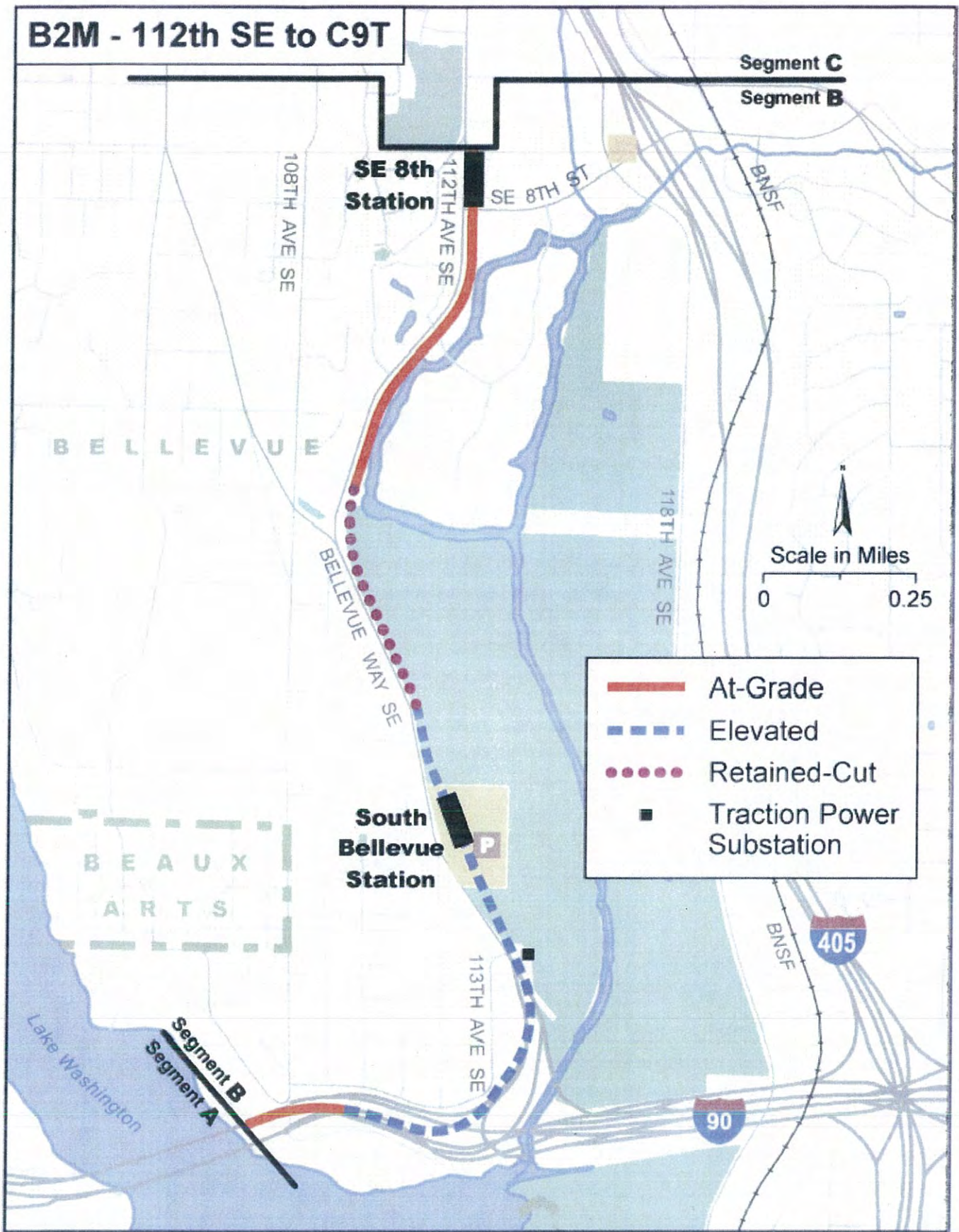


EXHIBIT 2-23

Preferred 112th SE Modified Alternative (B2M) to C9T

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2014
Title: Board Survey and Strategic Plan
Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Summary

This memo outlines the staff proposal for conducting the end-of-the-year Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) survey and updating the board's strategic plan in preparation for the 2015-17 biennium.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

Board Survey

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is committed to ensuring the board has the tools it needs to make informed and transparent decisions (RCO Organizing Principle: Innovative Support Services – Goal 2). In order to gauge if RCO is succeeding, the agency made it a priority to conduct a board member survey towards the end of calendar year 2014. The survey will target members of both the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Board Strategic Plan

The RCO and the boards prepare their strategic plans in accordance with RCW 43.88.090, which calls for agencies to develop a mission, measurable goals, strategies, and timelines. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) also requires each agency to establish and measure progress toward objectives for each major activity in its operations budget. The RCO has developed its strategic plan, which is an umbrella under which the individual strategic plans for the individual boards are nested.

The RCO director and board will review the board survey framework and questions and board strategic plan at the October meeting.

2014 Board Survey

The last board survey was conducted in 2008/2009 (Attachment A). At that time, members were given a survey after each board meeting between September 2008 and October 2009; a total of 5 surveys were conducted.

Questions asked centered around two main topics:

1. Information about the board materials, and
2. Information about each meeting.

The results were tallied, shared with both boards, and resulted in changes to setting agenda items, board materials, and staff presentations.

As staff prepare this year's survey, it is the agency's intent to conduct one survey asking questions that relate to the entire calendar year 2014. At both the October 2014 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting and the December 2014 Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, input will be sought from board members on what types of questions staff should ask.

Agency Strategic Plan

The RCO conducted a major rewrite of its strategic plan in late 2013 (Attachment B). Key updates included:

- Changes to the agency's mission, vision, goals and values;
- The addition of organizing principles - the core services provided at RCO; and
- Tying the agency biennial work plan to newly developed goals.

These adjustments were discussed with the board earlier this year. The RCO will adopt a new biennial work plan, with specific actions aimed at strategic plan implementation before the start of the 2015-17 biennium.

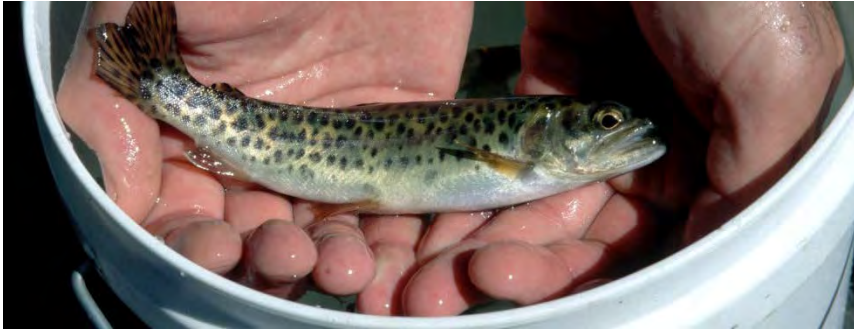
Board Strategic Plan

The board approved its current strategic plan in June 2012 (Attachment C). The plan continues to reflect the work of the board, so staff is not recommending any specific changes at this time. However, if the board would like to make changes or consider adding some performance measures, staff can revise the plan for adoption at the March 2015 board meeting.

Attachments

- A. Questions from previous board member survey
- B. 2013-15 Recreation and Conservation Office Strategic Plan
- C. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

Topic: Notebooks and Meeting Materials	
Questions	Possible Answers
<i>Did you have enough time to review the materials before the meeting?</i>	<i>yes – almost enough – not quite enough – no</i>
<i>Were the materials clearly written?</i>	<i>clear - somewhat clear – somewhat unclear – unclear</i>
<i>Did the advance materials provide you with sufficient background information to support decision making at the meeting?</i>	<i>yes – almost enough – not quite enough – no</i>
<i>What suggestions do you have for improving the meeting materials?</i>	<i>open answer</i>
Topic: Meetings	
Questions	Possible Answers
<i>Did the agenda provide adequate time for board discussion?</i>	<i>yes – almost enough – not quite enough – no</i>
<i>Did the meeting topics clearly link to the board's strategic plan?</i>	<i>clear - somewhat clear – somewhat unclear – unclear</i>
<i>Did the staff make good presentations? Please rate staff presentations in the following areas:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organized and logical</i> • <i>Professional</i> • <i>Thorough</i> • <i>Use of visual aids</i> • <i>Complemented background materials</i> • <i>Appropriate length</i> 	<i>very good – good- average – needs improvement – very poor</i>
<i>Did the presenters clearly indicate what action was requested?</i>	<i>clear - somewhat clear – somewhat unclear – unclear</i>
<i>Did we provide ample opportunity for public comment?</i>	<i>yes – almost enough – not quite enough – no</i>
<i>What suggestions do you have for improving the meetings?</i>	<i>open answer</i>



RCO Strategic Plan

2013-15 Biennial Update

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This strategic plan is prepared in accordance with Revised Code of Washington [43.88.090](#), which calls for agencies to develop a mission, measurable goals, strategies, and timelines.

Revised August 2014

Introduction

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a small state agency established by citizens' initiative in 1964. RCO staff support the work of several boards and other coordinating groups.

- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- Washington Invasive Species Council
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board provide guidance and oversight for the 14 grant programs administered by RCO. These grant programs provide millions of dollars to local communities for recreation, conservation, and salmon recovery. The agency makes these investments through processes in which local, state, federal, tribal, and non-government organizations compete for grants, which the boards award using criteria and policies developed by RCO.

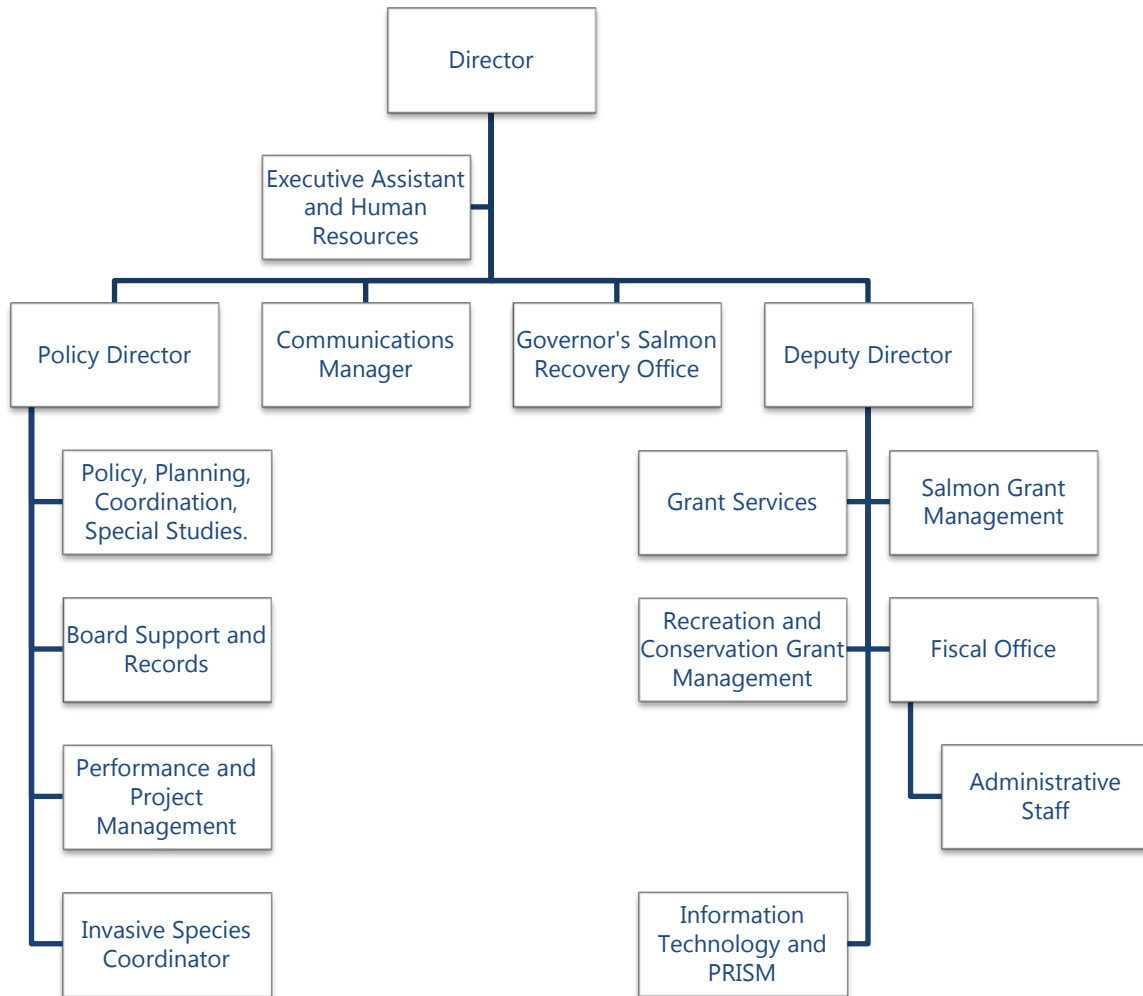
The Washington Invasive Species Council provides policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful. RCO staff coordinate the council.

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group established a process for making state habitat and recreation land purchases and disposals more visible and coordinated. RCO provides staff support to the group.

In addition to its work with boards and coordinating groups, RCO also includes the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, whose mission is to recover salmon populations in Washington to a healthy, harvestable level, and to improve the habitats upon which salmon rely.

RCO also is responsible for completing plans, studies, and projects in response to requests from the Governor and Legislature.

RCO Organizational Chart



Vision

RCO is an exemplary grant management agency that provides leadership on vital natural resource, outdoor recreation, and salmon recovery issues.

Mission

As a responsible steward of public funds, RCO works with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and outdoor recreational resources, enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations.

Agency Values

- We communicate openly and consistently.
- We recognize that collaboration and relationships with others make us successful.
- We use data to inform our decisions.
- We ensure that our workplace is a respectful and family-friendly place where employees learn and innovate.

Organizing Principles and Goals

Leadership

- Increase understanding about the importance of RCO's investments in conservation, recreation, and salmon recovery.
- Actively address emerging or critical issues in natural resources and outdoor recreation.

Fair and Accountable Grant Management

- Provide competitive grants efficiently and fairly so that partners can make strategic investments.
- Ensure that grants are implemented and maintained efficiently and effectively.

Innovative Support Services

- Meet business needs with strategic communication, policy, fiscal, business, and technology services.
- Ensure boards and councils can make informed and transparent decisions.

2013-2015 Work Plan

Organizing Principle: Fair and Accountable Grant Management

Goal: Provide competitive grants efficiently and fairly so that partners can make strategic investments.

Outcome	The PRISM ¹ application review process is improved for applicants and RCO staff.
Leading Indicator	Design, build and implement an improved PRISM application review process by March 2014.
2013-15 Activities	Form internal team, determine process flow, design and build improved process, test final product and train staff.

Outcome	Select grant criteria and policies are improved for the 2014 and 2015 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant cycle and the 2016 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) grant cycle
Leading Indicator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful completion of the Tier I and Tier II policy priorities related to RCFB/SRFB grant criteria and policies by January 1, 2016. 2. Successful completion of annual updates to RCO Manual 18 by February 15, 2014 and February 15, 2015.
2013-15 Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive RCFB approval for Tier I and Tier II policy priorities in January 2014; develop work plan for completion of priorities, receive public and partner input where needed, brief board, and receive final approval. 2. Brief the SRFB on Manual 18 proposed changes and implement for the 2014 and 2015 grant cycles.

¹ PRISM is RCO's grant management database.

Goal: Ensure that grants are implemented and maintained efficiently and effectively.

Outcome	Improve grant processes by creating and implementing key PRISM enhancements.
Leading Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish phase one of the PRISM compliance module by March 2014. 2. Finalize design, build and implement PRISM online billing (E-billing project) by May 2015.
2013-15 Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete build and testing, purchase additional hardware, and train staff on the compliance module. 2. Gather an internal team for the E-billing project, draft charter, create external review panel, build and implement, communicate changes, test, and develop user training.

Organizing Principle: Leadership

Goal: Increase understanding about the importance of RCO’s investments in conservation, recreation, and salmon recovery.

Outcome	Improved knowledge of the purpose, location, and amount of publicly owned land statewide.
Leading Indicator	Design and implement the updated Public Lands Inventory by June 30, 2014.
2013-15 Activities	Hire contractor, gather partners, develop protocols and charter, implement plan, and publish results/launch website.

Outcome	Widespread public knowledge about the value of RCO programs through the implementation of a comprehensive communications program.
Leading Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish agency Facebook Site by December 2014. 2. Increased agency Leadership presenting Bravo Awards over the biennium by 5%. 3. Increased visits to agency Web site over the biennium by 2%.
2013-15 Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Facebook site and process for updating information. 2. Schedule Bravo Awards. 3. Continue to design new content and reformat Web site as necessary to highlight completed projects, important initiatives, and latest grant information.

Goal: Actively address emerging or critical issues in natural resources and outdoor recreation.

Outcome	Greater awareness of invasive species and invasive species prevention protocols.
Leading Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an invasive species prevention and decontamination video by June 2015. 2. Update two or more manuals, contracts, or guidance documents to include invasive species prevention protocols by June 2015. 3. Make the invasive species app available for download on iTunes and Google Play and advertise it to stakeholders by June 2014.
2013-15 Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a prevention and decontamination video. 2. Include prevention protocols in RCO Manuals 10b, 18, and 21. Work with WA Association of Counties to identify opportunities to include prevention protocols in county contracts. 3. Launch and promote the Invasive Species app.

Outcome	Permitting agencies can identify off-site salmon recovery projects that could be used for mitigation.
Leading Indicator	Scope, design, and build a mitigation matching tool by June 30, 2015.
2013-15 Activities	Hire a consultant, gather partners, develop protocols and charter, implement project, and share results with Legislature.

Organizing Principle: Innovative Support Services

Goal: Meet business needs with strategic communication, policy, business, and technology services.

Outcome	Efficient and effective Information Technology (IT) systems.
Leading Indicator	Develop an agency IT strategic plan by June 2015.
2013-15 Activities	2013-Hire a consultant to analyze agency IT systems and assist in the development of a scope of work for an agency-wide IT planning effort. 2014-Hire a contractor to develop an IT strategic plan.

Outcome	Records are maintained in accordance with state retention rules and support RCO business needs.
Leading Indicator	Agency retention project is completed and procedures put in place by June 2014.
2013-15 Activities	Finalize retention plan, develop procedures, train staff, and implement.

Goal: Ensure boards and councils can make informed and transparent decisions

Outcome	Board members believe that they have sufficient, clear information to support decision making.
Leading Indicator	Conduct board member survey Feb 1, 2015.
2013-15 Activities	Set reasonable agendas, produce board materials and presentations, review process for board materials production, implement board survey.

Outcome	A revised and simplified Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Funding Report
Leading Indicator	Complete a Lean process on the (SRFB) Grant Funding Report by November 2014.
2013-15 Activities	Collect information from report users and partners, conduct Lean process, and draft a modified report for 2015 grant cycle.

Support for Governor's Priorities

RCO's strategic direction directly supports the following Governor's Results Washington initiatives (<http://www.results.wa.gov/>):

Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment

- Initiative 2. Healthy Fish and Wildlife
- Initiative 3. Clean and Restored Environment
- Initiative 4. Working and Natural Lands

Goal 5: Efficient, Effective and Accountable Government

- Initiative 1. Customer Satisfaction and Confidence
- Initiative 2. Resource Stewardship
- Initiative 3. Transparency and Accountability

RCO's strategic direction indirectly supports the following Governor's Results Washington Initiatives:

Goal 2: Prosperous Economy

Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities

RCO Operations

Statutory Authority

RCO is established in state law ([Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 79A.25](#)). The agency and its boards administer several chapters of the RCW and are responsible for significant activities under additional statutes.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Program[RCW 79.105.150](#)
- Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office[RCW 77.85.030](#)
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group[RCW 79A.25.260](#)
- Invasive Species Council.....[RCW 79A.25.310](#)
- Lead Entity Program.....[RCW 77.85.050](#)
- Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicles Activities[RCW 46.09](#)
- Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations.....[RCW 77.85.090](#)
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board.....[RCW 77.85.110](#)
- State Trails Act and Plan.....[RCW 79A.35](#)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program[RCW 79A.15](#)
- Youth Athletic Facility Account.....[RCW 43.99N.060](#)

Grant Program Restrictions

Federal Restrictions

Several grant programs managed by RCO are funded by federal funds. Various federal restrictions apply to the funds, projects, and long-term use and control of the properties.

Laws and Rules

Projects funded by any of the RCO boards must meet all applicable laws and rules, including but not limited to cultural resource reviews, appraisal standards, the State Environmental Policy Act, National Environmental Policy Act, conformity to local and regional planning, Americans with Disabilities Act, permitting, and restrictions on use of funds.

Core Work Activities

The Office of Financial Management uses the “Agency Activity Inventory” to summarize the major activities of state agencies, as they relate to the operating budget. In the inventory, each activity is assigned to the statewide result area to which it most contributes. RCO contributes to the following statewide priorities.

- Sustainable Energy and Clean Environment
- Efficient, Effective and Accountable Government

The activity inventory serves as the basis for operational budgeting and reporting performance to the Office of Financial Management.

Manage Recreation and Conservation Investments

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board helps finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state. Funding is provided for parks, trails, beaches, boating facilities, firearm and archery ranges, wildlife habitat, and farmland preservation. Many state agencies, cities, towns, special districts, tribes, and nonprofits are eligible to apply for funding.

The board sets policies for grants aimed at recreation and conservation. RCO supports the board, implements its funding decisions, and manages grants. Work includes the development of grant manuals, pre-application support, application review, contract development and management, project support, and compliance.

Manage Salmon Recovery Investments

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds projects for the protection and restoration of salmon habitat and related projects. State agencies, municipal subdivisions, tribes, nonprofit organizations, regional fish enhancement groups, and landowners may apply for funding.

RCO provides support to the board, implements its funding decisions, and manages grants. Work includes the development of grant manuals, pre-application support, application review, contract development and management, project support, and compliance.

Coordinate Salmon Recovery Efforts

The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office works with regional organizations and watershed-scale lead entities to coordinate and implement salmon recovery plans across the state. The regional recovery plans are a foundation for salmon recovery and projects reviewed for Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants. Other Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office work includes policy advice and development, identifying funding needs and options for salmon recovery efforts, and coordinating with other agencies. The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office produces the biennial *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office also facilitates the integration of salmon recovery and watershed health monitoring efforts. The office assists and works with agencies on integrating monitoring data collection and reporting efforts. This may include convening and facilitating technical work teams, including federal, tribal, state, and local government representatives, and other interested parties, to develop and implement regional and related statewide monitoring efforts.

Develop and Coordinate a Statewide Invasive Species Strategy

Washington's Invasive Species Council facilitates a coordinated and strategic approach to prevent, detect, and respond to invasive species. Invasive species threaten Washington's wildlife and the lifestyles and opportunities residents expect. The council helps Washington focus on the highest priority actions. RCO provides staff and administrative support to the council.

Provide Efficient and Effective Administrative Support

RCO administration supports its various boards, and directs and supports the work of RCO. Administration includes leadership, policy, and clerical support, as well as communications, financial, personnel, planning, and information services.

Provide Open and Transparent Access to Data

RCO provides funded project data in an easily accessible format to the Governor, the Legislature, our partners and the public. This data comes through RCO databases, PRISM and Habitat Work Schedule, in formats such as maps, apps for mobile devices, spreadsheets and listings that are available via RCO's Web site.

RCO Boards' Mission, Goals, and Objectives

The mission, goals, and objectives of RCO boards are important guiding principles for the agency.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Mission

Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

- **Objective 1A:** Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.
- **Objective 1B:** Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

Goal 2: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

- **Objective 2A:** Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities.
- **Objective 2B:** Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

- **Objective 3A:** Broaden public support and applicant pool for the board's outdoor investment programs.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Mission

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board provides funding for elements necessary to achieve overall salmon recovery, including habitat projects and other activities that result in sustainable and measurable benefits for salmon and other fish species.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

- **Allocation Strategy:** Within the limits of the board's budget and priorities, fund projects, monitoring, and human capital in a way that best advances the salmon recovery effort.
- **Process Strategy:** Ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize, and fund projects are based on (1) regional salmon recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals, (2) sound science and technically appropriate design, and (3) community values and priorities.
- **Funding Source Strategy:** Identify gaps in current funding related to overall salmon recovery efforts and work with partners to seek and coordinate with other funding sources.

Goal 2: Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources.

- **Accountability Strategy:** Conduct all board activities clearly and openly, and ensure that the public can readily access information about use of public funds for salmon recovery efforts.
- **Resource Strategy:** Confirm the value of efficiency by funding actions that result in economical and timely use of resources for projects, human capital, and monitoring.
- **Monitoring Strategy:** Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board-funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate with other entities in supporting and coordinating statewide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies.

Goal 3: Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts.

- **Support Strategy:** Support the board's community-based partner organizations in their efforts to build local and regional support for salmon recovery.

- **Partner Strategy:** Build a broad partner base by engaging a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations to address salmon recovery from different perspectives

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Vision

For all populations of salmon in Washington State to be at a level that is considered sustainable, harvestable, and able to be removed from the Endangered Species Act list (no longer threatened or endangered).

Mission

- The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office provides overall coordination of Washington's response to salmon recovery (RCW 77.85.005).
- The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office shall coordinate state strategy to allow for salmon recovery to healthy sustainable population levels with productive commercial and recreational fisheries. (RCW 77.85.030).

Values

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office supports a comprehensive approach to salmon recovery that reflects the priorities and actions of its local, regional, state, tribal, and federal partners.

- **We Maintain Focus on Achieving Recovery Goals:** The office helps advance the salmon recovery plans approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and recognizes the importance of integrating habitat restoration and protection, hydropower operations, and hatchery and harvest management.
- **We Value the Work and Perspectives of Tribal Governments:** The office supports and advocates for the unique relationship with tribal governments in Washington State. We respect their role in all aspects of salmon recovery.
- **We Promote Strategic, Sustainable Funding and Investments:** Salmon recovery is integral to the state's economy. The office advocates for dedicated, sustainable funding for salmon recovery.
- **We Support the Bottom-up Approach to Salmon Recovery with a Coordinated Policy Framework:** The office is a catalyst for coordination across all levels of governmental and non-governmental organizations and geographic scales. We empower others to balance diverse interests, build community support, and provide for the efficient use of resources to maximize the public investment. The office acknowledges and depends on the relationships between and among partners including tribes, lead

entities, regional organizations, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The office encourages its partners to integrate public participation and outreach into their actions and decisions.

- **We Use Adaptive Management to Make and Support Science-based Decisions:** Successful salmon recovery requires decisions and actions guided by science, and supports coordinated scientific effort at all levels of salmon recovery. We adaptively learn – using monitoring project implementation, project effectiveness, and the long-term results of all recovery efforts – to decipher what works, what does not, and make course corrections.

Responsibilities²

1. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office shall coordinate state strategy to allow for salmon to recover to healthy, sustainable population levels with productive commercial and recreational fisheries. A primary purpose of the office is to coordinate and assist in the development, implementation, and revision of regional salmon recovery plans as an integral part of a statewide strategy developed consistent with the guiding principles and procedures under RCW 77.85.150.
2. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office is responsible for maintaining the statewide salmon recovery strategy to reflect applicable provisions of regional recovery plans, habitat protection and restoration plans, water quality plans, and other private, local, regional, state agency and federal plans, projects, and activities that contribute to salmon recovery.
3. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office works with regional salmon recovery organizations on salmon recovery issues in order to ensure a coordinated and consistent statewide approach to salmon recovery, and works with federal agencies to accomplish implementation of recovery plans.

² RCW 77.85.030 requires the GSRO to fulfill some duties (subsections 1-3) and permits the GSRO to perform others (subsection 4). Only those in subsections 1-3 are listed here.

Mission

The council provides policy level direction, planning, and coordination that will: empower those engaged in the prevention, detection, and eradication of invasive species and include a strategic plan designed to build upon local, state, and regional efforts, while serving as a forum for invasive species education and communication.

Goals and Priority Recommendations

Goal 1: To foster cooperation, coordination, and communication among government agencies, stakeholders, land managing agencies, private landowners, and tribes.

- **Recommendation:** Support targeted outreach campaigns to educate both public and private sectors on the damage caused by invasive species.

Goal 2: To prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species and reduce their adverse impact on Washington's environment, economy, and human health.

- **Recommendation:** Enhance capacity to respond to invasive species by improving agencies' access to emergency funding and building on existing efforts to develop an interagency early detection and rapid response network.

Goal 3: To refine and coordinate statewide capacity to identify, report, and respond to both newly discovered and existing invasive infestations.

- **Recommendation:** Compile existing information and conduct a baseline assessment of invasive species information and programs in Washington.
- **Recommendation:** Develop a Web-based clearinghouse as the interchange for all existing invasive species information statewide.

Goal 4: To assist those who manage invasive species through containment, control, and eradication efforts.

- **Recommendation:** Increase and enhance communication across all entities to ensure coordinated approaches are supported and tools are accessible to address invasive species issues.

Goal 5: To support the restoration and rehabilitation of key ecosystems adversely affected by invasive species.

Mission Statement

The Lands Group's mission is to coordinate state habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals through improved communication, documentation, data monitoring, reporting, transparency, and planning.

Statutory Duties

Top Priorities

- Produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal plans;
- Establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast of acquisition and disposal plans on Web sites or other centralized, easily accessible formats;
- Develop and convene an annual forum for agencies to coordinate their near-term acquisition and disposal plans;
- Develop an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions;

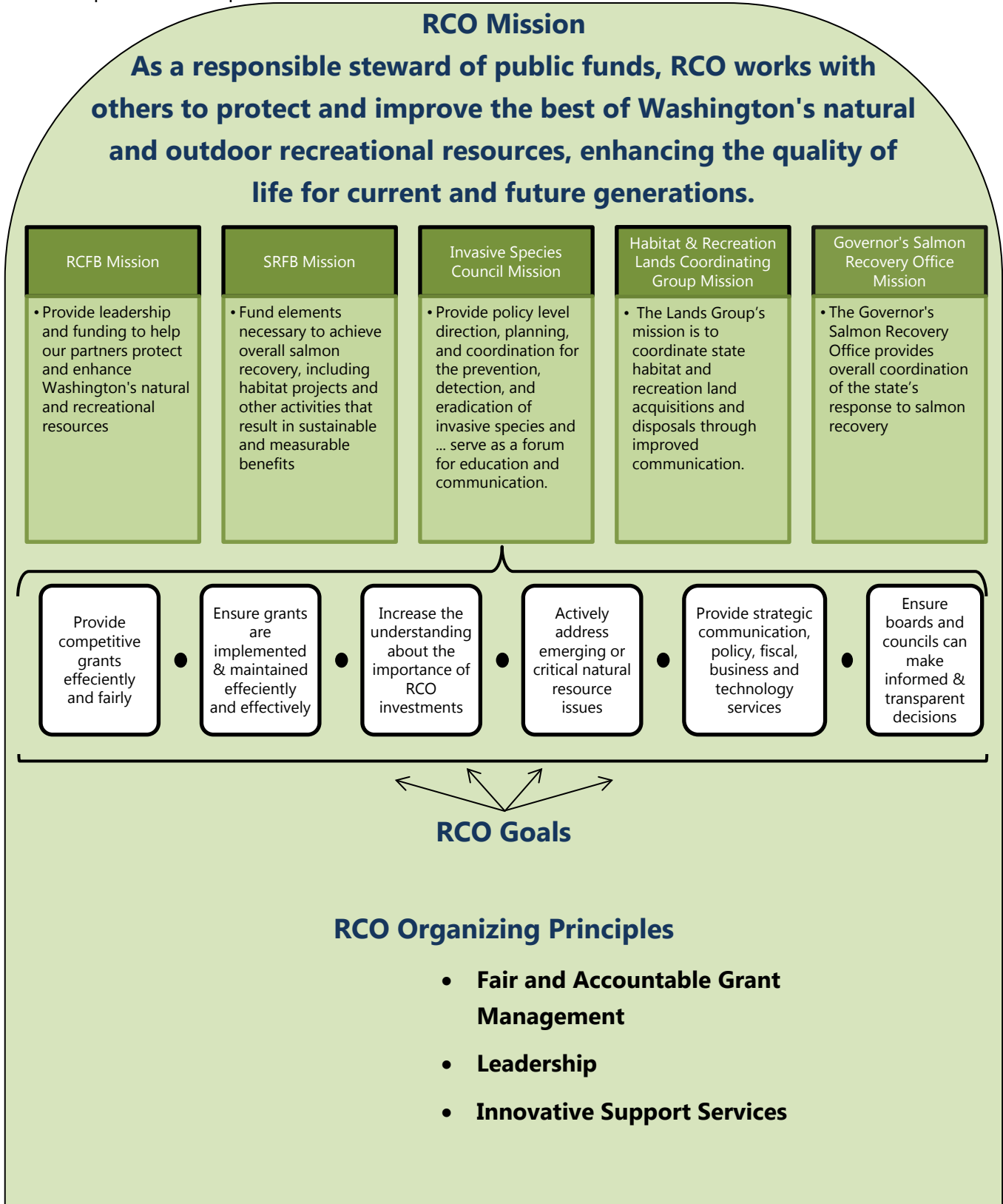
Other Priorities

- Review agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals;
- Develop a recommended method for interagency geographic information system based documentation of habitat and recreation lands in cooperation with other state agencies using geographic information systems;
- Develop recommendations for standardization of acquisition and disposal recordkeeping, including identifying a preferred process for centralizing acquisition data;
- Identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer into habitat and recreation land management status;
- Review existing and proposed habitat conservation plans on a regular basis to foster statewide coordination and save costs;
- Revisit the planning requirements of relevant grant programs administered by the RCO to determine whether coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal could be improved by modifying those requirements; and

- Develop options for centralizing coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisition made with funds from federal grants. At a minimum, develop the advantages and drawbacks of the following options:
- Requiring that agencies provide early communication on the status of federal grant applications to the RCO, the Office of Financial Management, or directly to the Legislature;
- Establishing a centralized pass-through agency for federal funds, where individual agencies would be the primary applicants.

Relationship to Boards

The RCO strategic plan serves as an “umbrella” over the plans of the boards and groups it supports. The mission, organizing principles, goals, and core work capture the agency’s efforts to implement their priorities.



Risks to RCO Business Goals

Risk is inherent to all business practices and agency operations. RCO executive management uses an enterprise risk management approach looking for anything that would keep the agency from achieving its strategic goals and objectives. Three major risks to RCO are:

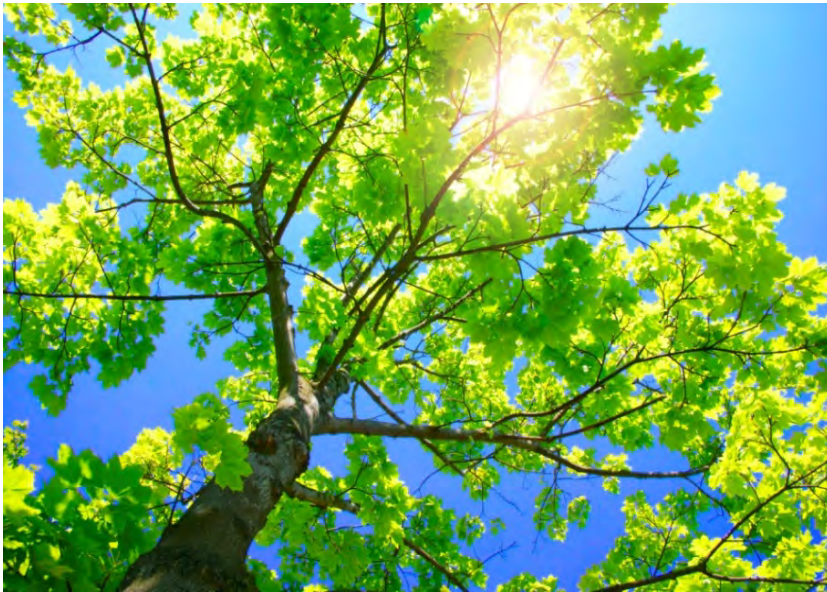
Loss of Key Staff: RCO has a few key employees that are specialized in their duties and are the only staff at the agency doing specific tasks. If RCO were to lose these staff due to budget reductions, retirement or promotion important duties and responsibilities would be in jeopardy of not being completed. To mitigate these risks RCO has

- Begun to provide cross training between employees so that RCO could keep operating near full capacity in the event one of these key staff members were to leave;
- Broken out some of the duties of these key positions in order to ensure others understand and are involved in some of the functions and work flow;
- Begun to look forward in time at staff ready to retire and plan for overlap between those key staff and their replacements;
- Begun to think internally about what other staff might have the skills and be trained to fill any voids that may occur due to key staff leaving the agency.

Loss of Key Databases and Systems: RCO has two key databases that serve as the backbone of agency operations. If these systems were to go down for more than a 24 hours for any reason RCO would have a difficult time carrying out its core business functions, including providing services and information to our clients and the public. To mitigate the risk RCO has been

- Working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer and Consolidated Technology Services to ensure our security practices and procedures are adequate and our security software and firewalls are current and operating properly;
- Conducting server maintenance and upgrades at regular intervals to reduce the risk of failure;
- Backing-up all stored data to reduce the potential of information being permanently lost during a shut down;
- Unexpected Loss of Funding. RCO receives funding for its operations from several different state and federal sources. If certain funds were to be significantly reduced or cut all together RCO would need to reduce staff and resources that are essential to core business. Being a small agency RCO would not be able to distribute the workload to other staff. To mitigate this risk RCO;
- Is able to spread some operating funds over multiple biennia thus allowing the agency to weather some of the smaller ups-and-downs of the budget cycles;

- Carefully monitors staff workload and workforce numbers in an attempt to have the correct balance in place;
- Works with the legislature and key funding partners to ensure they understand our funding model and obligations.



Vision

RCO is an exemplary grant management agency that provides leadership on vital natural resource, outdoor recreation and salmon recovery issues.

Mission

As a responsible steward of public funds, RCO works with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and outdoor recreational resources, enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations.

Agency Values

- We communicate openly and consistently.
- We recognize that collaboration and relationships with others make us successful.
- We use data to inform our decisions.
- We ensure that our workplace is a respectful and family-friendly place where employees learn and innovate.

Organizing Principles and Goals

Fair and Accountable Grant Management	Leadership	Innovative Support Services
<p>Provide competitive grants efficiently and fairly so that partners can make strategic investments.</p> <p>Ensure that grants are implemented and maintained efficiently and effectively.</p>	<p>Increase understanding about the importance of RCO's investments in conservation, recreation, and salmon recovery.</p> <p>Actively address emerging or critical issues in natural resources and outdoor recreation.</p>	<p>Meet business needs with strategic communication, policy, fiscal, business, and technology services.</p> <p>Ensure boards and councils can make informed and transparent decisions.</p>

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

Mission

Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Goals

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are fundamental concepts that form the basis for Board policy.

Principle 1. The Board's primary roles are to (1) ensure the best possible investment of funds in protecting and improving habitats, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation opportunities, (2) provide accountability for those investments, and (3) provide citizen oversight to the funding process.

Principle 2. Successful protection and improvement of Washington's ecosystems and recreation requires coordination across all levels of government and geographic scales. Decisions and actions should be guided by a statewide perspective coupled with each local community's social, economic, and cultural values and priorities.

Principle 3. The plans and strategies (conservation and/or recreation) of federal, state, tribal, local government, and other partners should help guide the identification and prioritization of projects.

Principle 4. Projects must have explicit objectives, as well as appropriate designs and implementation plans to meet those objectives.

Principle 5. The Board will continue to work with federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties to evaluate and improve the funding process. The Board also will continue to ensure that it funds the highest priority projects with integrity and impartiality and provides accountability to the Legislature and the public to sustain that funding and those investments.

Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Objective 1.A.

Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.

- Strategy 1.A.1. – Evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state’s recreation and conservation needs.
- Strategy 1.A.2. –Gather and interpret data that inform plans and help the board to provide grant programs that balance investments across a range of activities.
- Strategy 1.A.3. – Coordinate recreation resources information and priorities.

Objective 1.B.

Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

- Strategy 1.B.4. – Provide partners with funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitats.
 - For example, this includes projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity; protect “listed” species; maintain fully functioning ecosystems; protect unique urban wildlife habitats; and/or protect game and non-game wildlife.
- Strategy 1.B.5. – Provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.
 - For example, this includes projects such as bicycling and walking facilities “close to home”; programs that assist with facility operation and maintenance; facilities most conducive to improved health; outdoor sports facilities; programs that provide improved recreation data; and/or access to nature and natural settings (includes fishing and hunting).
- Strategy 1.B.6. – Help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects.

Goal 2: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Objective 2.A.

Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities

- Strategy 2.A.1. – Evaluate and develop policies and practices to reduce the number of projects not starting or finishing on time.
- Strategy 2.A.2. – Regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs.
- Strategy 2.A.3. – Ensure the work of the Board and staff is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner.

Objective 2.B

Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

- Strategy 2.B.4. – Ensure the Board has time on its agenda to discuss high-level policy issues.
- Strategy 2.B.5. – Implement a Board member and staff feedback process.

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Objective 3.A

Broaden public support and applicant pool for the Board's grant programs.

- Strategy 3.A.1. – Expand the Board's support by developing key partnerships.
- Strategy 3.A.2. – Increase public understanding of project benefits including economic and ecosystem benefits.
- Strategy 3.A.3. – Perform regular assessments to determine the public's priorities for outdoor recreation and conservation funding.
- Strategy 3.A.4 – Advocate for the protection of habitat and recreation through multiple venues.
- Strategy 3.A.5 – Expand reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grant programs.

Key Performance Measures

Goal	Framing Question	Measure
We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.	Is the board creating opportunities for recreation?	Projects funded by type, location
	Is the board protecting natural systems and landscapes?	Acres protected (through acquisition) or restored
	Are we affecting the health of Washingtonians?	Percent of respondents to OFM and statewide recreation surveys reporting participation in active recreation
We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.	Is the evaluation process objective and fair?	Percent of applicants reporting that the evaluation is objective and fair
	Are we managing grants efficiently and reducing project delays?	Agency re-appropriation rate
	How well do we maintain the state's investments?	Percent of grants in compliance {Sustainability measure to be developed with policy}
We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.	Are stakeholders involved in policy development?	Percent of sponsors agreeing with the survey question that "The board considers input before making policy decisions"
	Are we achieving statewide participation in our grant programs?	Number of funded projects by location (e.g., county or other geography)

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD
SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA & ACTIONS
October 29-30, 2014

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
1. Consent Calendar A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – July 16-17, 2014 B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes -August 26, 2014 C. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 8-9 (Olympia) • June 24-25 (Olympia) • September 16-17 (Travel meeting, location TBD) • November 18-19 (Olympia) D. Approve Time Extensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08-1175 Acquisition: Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves • 08-1177 Acquisition: Cypress Island Natural Area 2008 • 07-1974 Acquisition and Development: Malaga Community Park 	APPROVED Resolution 2014-18	No follow up action requested.
2. Overview of Agenda and 50 th Anniversary Celebration		No follow up action requested.
3. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework		The board requested information regarding overall funding amounts in each WWRP category since 1991, demonstrating how the funding and/or projects translate to jobs and economic impacts. RCO staff will review the available information to determine if this is feasible based on the existing data collected.

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
4. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account Grants		Staff will forward the lists to the Governor for consideration in his capital budget.
A. Local Parks Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-19	For the "Trails" category, the board request further information and a future discussion on the Supreme Court decision and policy implications of grant investments made on railroad ROWs.
B. State Lands Development and Renovation Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-20	
C. State Parks Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-21	
D. Trails Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-22	
E. Water Access Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-23	
5. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Riparian	APPROVED Resolution 2014-24	Staff will forward the list to the Governor for consideration in his capital budget.
6. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Account Grants	APPROVED Resolution 2014-25	Staff will forward the list to the Governor for consideration in his capital budget.
7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants		Staff will forward the list to the Governor for consideration in his capital budget.
A. Critical Habitat Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-26	
B. Natural Areas Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-27	
C. State Lands Restoration Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-28	
D. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category	APPROVED Resolution 2014-29	
8. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grants	APPROVED Resolution 2014-30	Staff will forward the list to the Governor for consideration in his capital budget.
9. Director's Report		No follow up action requested.
A. Director's Report		
B. Policy Report and Legislative Preparations		
C. Grant Management Report		
D. Performance Report		
E. Fiscal Report		
10. State Agency Partner Reports		No follow up action requested.

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
11. Feedback on the Grant Evaluation Process		See Item 15. Also, staff will follow up with applicants to provide information about the actions taken at this meeting regarding the ranked lists of projects.
12. Youth and Community Athletic Facilities Program		The board requested that staff explore options for waiving match requirements, and to define what the phrase "open to the public" means, and report back at the April 2015 meeting.
13. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Public Hearing	APPROVED Resolution 2014-31	Staff will file the final rule-making and updated RCO's public records and disclosure webpage to include the new information and cost/fee schedule.
14. Conversion Request: City of Bellevue, Mercer Slough	DEFERRED Resolution 2014-32	The board requested additional information and deferred the decision to approve/deny the conversion request to the April 2015 board meeting.
15. Board Survey and Strategic Plan		The board requested that a retreat be scheduled next year, during which they would like to address in detail the board strategic plan and applicable performance measures, using data from the board survey, the performance report, and feedback from the grant evaluation process (Item 11). The board formed a subcommittee and requested that facilitator be present, if possible, to lead the retreat.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Date: October 29, 2014

Place: Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Jed Herman	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Don Hoch	Director, Washington State Parks
Mike Deller	Mukilteo	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording* as the formal record of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting.

**Due to technical difficulties, the recording did not begin until the end of Item 4A, 54 minutes into the meeting.*

Opening and Call to Order

Chair Spanel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined. The agenda was reviewed and approved by the board.

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Pete Mayer

Agenda: APPROVED

Director Cottingham explained the contents of the board members' folders as they pertained to the meeting over the next two days.

Item 1: Consent Calendar

The board reviewed Resolution 2014-18, Consent Calendar. This resolution included:

- A. Approval of the July 17-18, 2014 board meeting minutes
- B. Approval of the August 26, 2014 board meeting minutes
- C. Approval of the board meeting dates and locations for 2015
 - April 8-9 (Olympia)
 - June 24-25 (Olympia)
 - September 16-17 (Travel meeting, location TBD)
 - November 18-19 (Olympia)
- D. Approval of Time Extensions:
 - 08-1175 Acquisition: Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves
 - 08-1177 Acquisition: Cypress Island Natural Area 2008

- 07-1974 Acquisition and Development: Malaga Community Park

Resolution 2014-18

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

General Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Item 2: Overview of Agenda and 50th Anniversary Celebration

Director Cottingham distributed vests to the board members in honor of RCO's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Scott Robinson, Deputy Director provided an overview of the agenda and logistics for both days of the meeting, including the celebration event at the State Capitol building.

Item 3: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework

Scott Robinson shared information about the formation of the WWRP program, including background and purpose. He described the structure and current statistics of the program, and also provided an outline of program funding allocation for each account and their respective categories. The current calculation WWRP program budget is allocated based on statute, and examples of the breakdown to each category were presented based on potential funding amounts.

The board requested information regarding overall funding amounts in each WWRP category since 1991, and whether there was a matrix that demonstrates how the funding and/or projects translate to jobs and economic impacts, i.e., when a grant is awarded it is often stated that it will create "X" amount of jobs and have "X" impact on the economy. RCO staff will review the available information to determine if this is feasible based on the existing data collected.

Mr. Robinson provided an overview of the 2014 grant cycle, outlining the steps from early fall 2012 to date that are included in the full application, evaluation, and ranking process. He noted that staff would present the projects and ranked lists. The grant process is intended to fund priority projects that meet local and state needs, and an overview of the policies behind phased projects was presented. A brief description of the applications received to date in each account over the past five biennia demonstrated the trends that show fluctuations in each respective category.

Member Mayer requested a visual representation of the historical and current number of applications received, the respective funding requests (dollar amounts) for each application, and total funding requests (dollar amounts) per category. Some of this information – the funds requested – is included as part of the board materials, located in their folders.

During the staff presentations today, the board will be asked to approve the lists without funding lines, meaning lists of projects in ranked order without any funding allocations specified. Public comment is provided after each category, and then the board will vote on a resolution for each category. The lists are then submitted to the governor for inclusion in the budget; the governor or legislature can remove projects from the ranked lists, but cannot add projects to the lists. In June 2015, the board will make final approval and funding decisions, after which RCO will initiate contracts for each project.

Item 4: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account Grants

Darrell Jennings, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the Outdoor Recreation Account, and the distribution of applications received as compared to the other three WWRP accounts. Mr. Jennings described the criteria for applicant eligibility, project types, and phased project policies. There were some changes from the 2014 grant cycle highlighted, such as new evaluation criteria and updates to Manual 4. Best practices from the 2012 grant cycle were carried forward.

Item 4A: Local Parks Category

Adam Cole, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the Local Parks category, including background and purpose. The category is typically the most competitive across the state, with the majority of projects focused on renovation of existing sites. Mr. Cole outlined the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round.

**The meeting recording begins here.*

Mr. Cole highlighted unique projects as part of the 2014 grant round that focus on making parks and playgrounds more accessible to children with disabilities including Selah Volunteer Park and Spokane Mission Park. He concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Saddle Rock Gateway and Outdoor Education Area, located in Wenatchee (RCO Project [14-1135](#)).

Member Mayer noted that there has been a significant increase in the interest and participation in this category. Member Deller expressed appreciation of the top project, as the public need and use will be worth the funding invested. Member Bloomfield commented that the board should focus on sustainable building practices to enhance the investments made, extending the life of the sites and the value of the funds awarded.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-19

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 4B: State Lands Development Category

Dan Haws, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the State Lands Development and Renovation category, including background and purpose. He described the criteria for applicant eligibility, project types, and the written evaluation process adopted by the board. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. He noted the funds requested, locations, and the key themes in the projects such as trails, shoreline access, and camping.

He concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, East Tiger Mountain Trail system Development Final Phase, located in King County (RCO Project [11-1034](#)). The trail system is one of the most highly accessed areas in the state, due in part to its proximity to a densely populated urban area.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-20

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Don Hoch

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 4C: State Parks Category

Karl Jacobs, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the State Parks category, including background and purpose. A unique element of this category is that renovation projects are not eligible in this category, and only new development projects are considered. Mr. Jacobs highlighted some of the new policies for this category, specifically regarding the evaluation process. He outlined the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round.

Mr. Jacobs concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2014 (RCO Project [14-1681](#)). Briefings of several proposed projects were shared, including photos and high-level project details.

Member Spanel commented on the Clayton Beach funding, specifically with regard to the long-term funding delays and challenges. The board discussed the details of the projects highlighted, for further clarification and information purposes.

Public Comment

Peter Herzog, Assistant Director of Washington State Parks, provided comments in support of the process and results presented to the board. He was appreciative of the preparations made by RCO staff to bring the information to the board. He provided some background on the concerns of the evaluation process and criteria for the category, highlighting two key changes. First, he shared that the centennial strategic plan for State Parks and the phased projects emphasis where points are added in this category, were typically where the disconnect between the State Parks Commission and the evaluation committee have occurred. The changes to the criteria are intended to bring alignment between these groups. He noted that it's good that 50% of the evaluators/advisory committee members are non-state parks staff, and supports the diversity of the process. The second change he discussed was that the State Parks Commission does not approve lists, but will score one evaluation question that addresses how well the project supports the mission and vision of State Parks. Also, the commission will not have the ability to change the ranking but may withdraw projects. State Parks committed to working on fine-tuning the evaluation and ranking process, identifying determining factors that would bring more clarity to the Commission's evaluations. Mr. Herzog described the new process to coordinate with tribes, fulfilling State Parks' obligations towards management requirements.

Resolution 2014-21

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 4D: Trails Category

Darrell Jennings, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the Trails category, including background and purpose. This category supports the most popular form of recreation according to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – walking and hiking. He described the criteria for applicant eligibility, project types, and evaluation of projects. Three unique criteria include 1) trail and community linkages, 2) water access, views and scenic values, and 3) wildlife habitat connectivity. He outlined the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. He noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category.

Mr. Jennings concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Spruce Railroad McFee Tunnel Restoration, located in Clallam County as part of the Olympic Discovery Trail (RCO Project [14-1124](#)). He shared the rich history of the project, the current status, and future plans for the site. Clallam County addressed the board's new Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship criteria by sharing how this project is benefitting from another public works project, the removal of the Elwha River Dam, and how the recycled concrete from the dams will become the base-layers for the new trail. He highlighted for the board two cross-state trail visions, and how projects submitted as applications this grant cycle in multiple grant programs and categories, such as Trails and State Parks categories of WWRP, and the Recreational Trails Program projects, are helping to complete these cross-state trails.

Member Willhite commented that the Supreme Court recently made a decision concerning "rails to trails" and the potential of reversionary rights for these corridors. Marguerite Austin responded with the most current information available, stating that we currently believe the trails that RCO has funded so far will not be impacted by the court decision but we are not certain. There may be policy ramifications associated with those trails, which may be brought to the board at a later time in order to balance legal requirements, board direction, and public use. Member Mayer commented on the complexity of the policy implications, and encouraged a deeper understanding of the potential impacts of the legislation and discussion among the board.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-22

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Don Hoch

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 4E: Water Access Category

Laura Moxham, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the Water Access category, including background and purpose. Marine access and water access to rivers, lakes, and streams are the focus of this category. A unique element is that 75% of the allocated funds must go towards acquiring land. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. She explained that projects include habitat enhancement, fishing, general access, restrooms, and signage. The demonstration of diverse use is highly scored in this category, and many support restoration and amenity development.

Ms. Moxham concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, the Washougal Waterfront Water Access Area, located on the Columbia River in Clark County (RCO Project [14-1347](#)).

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-23

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution: APPROVED

Break 10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Item 5: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Riparian Protection Account Grants

Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the Riparian Protection Account, in which there is only one category of the same name. She shared a graphic to demonstrate the distribution of applications received as compared to the other three WWRP accounts. She described the criteria for applicant eligibility, project types, and evaluation elements.

Applications from this grant round were highlighted, including the geographic spread of the projects across the state. The unique and varied habitat included in this round's applications were described through photos and high-level project details. Habitat threats are a focus in this category, balancing mitigation of potential threats and public use.

Ms. Thirtyacre presented the #1 ranked project in the category, Phase 4 of the Mashel Shoreline Protection, located in Pierce County (RCO Project [14-1480](#)).

Ms. Thirtyacre shared that the resolution for this action was revised prior to the meeting because there are not enough projects should the legislature fund WWRP at \$97 million. She described the background and history of the past issues with projects and funding in this account, and provided the rationale for the updated language in the resolution. The revision would allow the agency to select alternate riparian projects on the previously approved WWRP list. Director Cottingham clarified the need for this language, as a potential tool that will ensure that eligible and viable alternate projects are funded should a surplus occur.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-24

Moved by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 6: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Account Grants

Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented an overview of the Farmland Preservation Account, including background and purpose. This category is one of the few for which non-profit organizations are eligible to apply, and public agencies are not required to submit matching funds. Using the 2012 Agricultural Census, Ms. Sellers shared information regarding the status and history of Washington farmland acres, with trends showing an overall decrease. However, the estimated value per acre is trending up. Progress in this grant round since 2012 shows increases in the number of applications received (mainly from Skagit County), in the acres proposed for protection, and in the number of easements proposed – three records broken since 2010.

Ms. Sellers shared information about the breakout of the applications received across the state, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. She explained the unique features of the farms, how they support the communities and wildlife, and the variety of different farms and rangelands. She concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Vander Voet Farm Acquisition, located on Whidbey Island (RCO Project [14-1510](#)).

Member Mayer requested information about how farmland acreage in Washington compares to the national average, and Ms. Sellers committed to obtaining the information and sharing it with the board during tomorrow's meeting. He continued to ask whether there is pressure to change the allocation

formula in statute, considering the recent successes in the program. Director Cottingham affirmed this, stating that the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition has expressed interest in this issue as well.

Member Mayer commented on the correspondence received from Okanogan County regarding projects, asking whether there were other communications regarding further issues. Director Cottingham replied that during the last biennium the Legislature put in a proviso for critical habitat, and after discussions with the county commissioners and after the Legislature didn't pass the capital budget, the project was pulled from the list by WDFW. Member Stohr confirmed concerns regarding the recent economic studies conducted by both Okanogan County and WDFW. There are some conflicts, and both parties are working towards a solution. At this time, WDFW has completed their own economic study and Okanogan County is still in the process of completing their study.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-25

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Lunch 11:44 a.m. – 12:32 p.m.

Item 7: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants

Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, presented an overview of the Habitat Conservation Account, including the categories and primary focus, eligible project types, the types of habitat protected, applicant eligibility, and important evaluation elements. She noted the process and policy changes for the 2014 evaluations, demonstrating the grant cycle statistics and trends by comparing the current and most recent grant rounds from 2010 and 2012. The main differences included the changes in the written review and evaluation processes between the 2012 and 2014 grant rounds.

Member Mayer inquired about potential reasons why the interest and application numbers in the urban wildlife habitat category are relatively low. The criteria for this category are rather limited, and may contribute to the low response. Another suggestion included advertising more broadly that competition between state agencies is not a factor, as funding is allocated separately. Marguerite Austin shared an example from the City of Seattle, demonstrating that communication, outreach, and education would benefit applicants and inform them of additional options.

Item 7A: Critical Habitat Category

Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about Critical Habitat category, including background and purpose. The main focus of this category is protection and management of critical habitat areas for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; however, the category allows for areas designated for public use. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. Applicants were asked to identify fish and wildlife species on proposed project sites, and describe why these areas are ecologically and biologically unique. Photos were shared that demonstrate the unique and varied habitat of the proposed project sites across the state.

Ms. Thirtyacre shared information about the Grand Coulee Ranch, which has received considerable attention by developers due to its rich and unique characteristics. These desirable features make it difficult

to protect and conserve remaining habitat, particularly the last existing areas of shrub-step. With WWRP funds, the project sponsors intend to protect the habitat into the future.

Ms. Thirtyacre concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, the Mountain View acquisition, located in Asotin County (RCO Project [14-1085](#)). Notably, this project was ranked only one quarter of a point above the next ranked project.

Member Willhite asked whether there is coordination between projects from the Critical Habitat and Trails categories, since trails often cross through critical habitat and in some cases this is allowed. Director Cottingham responded that these issues are dealt with on a case-by-case basis per project, as coordination is voluntary and not a requirement. The overlap could lend synergy to both grant categories, although in projects that propose acquiring easements this can cause issues, e.g., conflicts with public access requirements.

Member Willhite inquired about the authority and criteria for determining critical habitat. Ms. Thirtyacre explained that this is usually defined by applicant and demonstrated through the supporting required plans (which is often WDFW). Member Stohr shared that WDFW has a defined process in place to identify attributes that may qualify, involving "eyeballing" a parcel and then determining which grant category to pursue.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-26

Moved by: Member Don Hoch

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 7B: Natural Area Category

Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the Natural Areas category, including background and purpose. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. Geographically, projects were predominantly located on the western half of the state. Ms. Sellers shared details about the second highest ranked project, Kennedy Creek, noting the recent influx of chum present.

Ms. Sellers concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline, located in Jefferson County (RCO Project [14-1249](#)). The U.S. Navy is providing significant funding and land acquisitions to support the project, supplementing the potential award from the board.

The board discussed the main differences between the natural areas category (open to state agencies only; driven by vegetation) and critical habitat (property that needs to be restored in some manner; driven by wildlife and habitat).

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-27

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 7C: State Lands Restoration Category

Prior to her presentation, Laura Moxham, Outdoor Grants Manager, clarified the motorized boat access requirements for the ALEA program versus the requirements for the WWRP Water Access category as a follow up to her presentation for Item 4A – WWRP Water Access Category.

Ms. Moxham then presented information about the State Lands Restoration category, including background and purpose. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. Several of the projects focused on prescriptive burning and invasive species removal. She explained what restoration thinning is intended to achieve, and highlighted the types of projects that constitute restoration.

Ms. Moxham concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound, located in Thurston County (RCO Project [14-1697](#)).

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-28

Moved by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 7D: Urban Wildlife Category

Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about Urban Wildlife Category, including purpose and background, as well as criteria for applicant eligibility and project types. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round. Ms. Thirtyacre provided high-level details on several proposed projects, highlighting types of habitat protected, public use and access, and rare species protected.

Ms. Thirtyacre concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, West Rocky Prairie, located south Thurston County (RCO Project [14-1098](#)). Member Deller commended staff for the coordination efforts between land owners, non-profits organization, and state agencies.

Member Mayer clarified the eligibility criteria, and asked about the balance between acquisition and restoration projects. Marguerite Austin explained that although restoration is permissible, they rarely score well; therefore, acquisition projects are more common in this category. Once the State Lands Restoration category was established, this became more popular for those types of sponsors. She helped to clarify the structure of restoration projects and how various organizations handle these types of projects according to their respective partnerships, strategic plans, and funding sources. Member Bloomfield suggested that the categories open to non-profits be highlighted for the WWRC.

Member Willhite asked how our agency, among other state agencies, coordinate with U.S. Forest Service on prescribed burn plans. Ms. Austin explained that it is a coordinated effort based on strategic plans and future restoration plans, often resulting in the largest number of time extension requests due to timing and seasonal sensitivity.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-29

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 8: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grants

Kyle Guzlas, Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about Aquatic Lands Enhancement account, including background and purpose. The grant program encompasses tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. He provided an overview of the program goals, evaluation criteria, and types of projects in the category. Application criteria for this category stipulates that projects must be adjacent to a navigable water body. Additionally, projects must meet public access goals or restoration/protection goals or both; the criteria are established to meet both sets of goals. An outline was provided that described the breakout of the applications received, applicants, and projects evaluated and ranked as part of the current grant round.

Mr. Guzlas concluded by presenting the #1 ranked project in the category, Glendale Shoreline Access and Restoration, located in Island County (RCO Project [14-1531](#)).

Member Deller asked about Edmonds Pier, an example of using WWRP and ALEA funds. The match came from the respective accounts, which is eligible. Marguerite Austin provided background on the project and the funding process the sponsors went through, meeting the required criteria, to submit their application.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2014-30

Moved by: Member Mayer

Seconded by: Member Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Closing Remarks

Director Cottingham acknowledged the RCO staff and Recreation and Conservation Section grant managers that worked to put together today's presentations.

Adjournment

At 2:00 p.m., Chair Spanel adjourned the meeting for the day. The board proceeded to the State Capitol Reception Room for RCO's 50th Anniversary Celebration from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. during which no board business was conducted.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Date: October 30, 2014

Place: Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Jed Herman	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Peter Herzog	Designee, Washington State Parks
Mike Deller	Mukilteo	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Spanel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined.

Management and Partner Reports

Item 9: Director's Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham provided an update on the recently submitted report drafted by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation (task force). The task force was established by executive order, and followed an in-depth public engagement process to reach their final outcomes and recommendations. An outline of the priority action areas and priority near-term actions demonstrated the intended programmatic and funding goals. She described the funding proposal submitted by the task force, as well as several ideas for future implementation of the goals described in the report. Suggestions included proposals such as supporting small towns with outdoor recreation planning and opportunities, integrating outdoor recreation into physical education programs in schools, and coordinating agency information so that it's easier for the general public to understand. The task force discussed at length the possibility of a single state-wide access pass for parking at all state and federal recreation areas.

Member Stohr commented on the work accomplished in a short timeframe, commending the work of the task force members for coordinating to provide their recommendations. He noted that the public need was well-recognized and acknowledged when the task force was discussing the issues and concerns.

Member Bloomfield inquired about congressional staff on the task force to support the work. Director Cottingham indicated that not all interest groups or key players were appointed to the task force.

Member Mayer commented on his experience at the regional and county level of parks, specifically regarding how to market and coordinate with other providers to develop passes to recreation areas. He also provided comment to the task force members, referencing statutes that place responsibility on

RCO and the board to support these goals financially in some form, being best led by RCO due to the existing authority and skill sets at the agency. Director Cottingham shared that the task force's discussion covered these ideas, but they did not take action on them in the proposed recommendations.

Member Bloomfield commented on the funding challenges and how they affect development proposals brought to voters. In smaller communities where many opportunities exist, the perception of additional taxes is often negative.

Member Willhite inquired about the use of extended technology in the task force discussions, such as applying for a Discovery Pass online or using a smart phone. Director Cottingham explained that the necessary infrastructure to support these ideas is not currently in place, limiting the options for technological innovation.

Director Cottingham shared brief updates about recent conference participation, including the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) Conference, held in Vancouver last month. RCO staff recently participated in the Washington State Trails conference, and have recently finalized a contract for a new Washington trails database; Darrell Jennings will share more about this experience during the grant management report.

RCO has hired a new executive coordinator for the Washington Invasive Species Council, Raquel Crosier, who will begin in early January. Ms. Crosier is a former member of the Washington Invasive Species Council, representing the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from 2011-2013, and is currently completing a master's degree in conservation biology at the University of New South Wales.

Director Cottingham reported on the submission of two projects for the new national Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program. She concluded by stating that RCO submitted the 2015-17 budget requests on time, following board-approved decisions from August, and a response is expected from the Governor's Office in December.

Policy Report and Legislative Preparations: Wendy Brown, Policy Director, provided information on the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session preparations. RCO has three priority areas: budget requests for 2015-17, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) request legislation (as approved by the board in August), and board member confirmations.

Ms. Brown briefed the board on the progress of Tier 1, 2, and 3 priorities for policy, per RCO's strategic plan. In response to a clarification by Member Bloomfield, Ms. Brown and Leslie Connelly explained the purpose behind developing a conversion acquisition policy, as itemized in Tier 3.

Grant Management Report: Marguerite Austin, shared information about a grant approved for the White Horse Trail, unique due to their need to open up the area after recent tragedies in order to stimulate economic opportunities from public use and tourism.

Darrell Jennings reported on the recent Washington State Trails Conference, held on October 16-18 at the Lakeway Inn Conference Center in Bellingham. This is the state's largest and most comprehensive gathering of trail users, planners, funders, and supporters. There were more than 30 breakout sessions, field trips, and keynote presentations. RCO provides some support for planning the conference, and staff also participated in or led three breakout sessions: Darrell Jennings and Leslie Connelly presented a session on investing in outdoor recreation; Rory Calhoun hosted a session on understanding the new federal accessibility requirements for trails; Darrell Jennings participated in a panel discussion on the

career paths of trail professionals and the future of trail jobs. Other RCO staff attended and provide staff support for the conference and staffed a booth for RCO.

RCO has signed an agreement with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to create the first statewide geospatial database of Washington state trails and trailheads. An RCO-approved grant of \$177,636 from the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Program will be used by the OCIO to pull together GIS line data from federal, state, and local entities to create this database. Work is to verify and attribute as much of the line data as is possible and to make the data publically available for those who are interested in making maps and performing spatial analysis.

During yesterday's board meeting, Kim Sellers received a question from the board about the decline of farmland acreage in Washington as compared to the rest of the nation. She provided the information to the board, clarifying the numbers that demonstrate Washington's slightly more rapid decline in comparison.

Performance Report: Jen Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager, briefed the board on the performance goals and measures for fiscal year 2015. Performance so far this fiscal year was impacted by the application process, during which grant manager's workloads were prioritized to focus on application review, site visits, and sponsor support during technical review and evaluation. Managers expect that performance will improve during the remainder of the year, when staff resume their regular grant management duties.

Ms. Masterson presented performance trends for sponsors' agreements issued and signed on time, contract closeouts, and bills paid on time. Member Mayer inquired about how lean principles are incorporated in the electronic payment processes, as well as streamlining steps for sponsors during submission of their data. Ms. Masterson explained that these principles were addressed early in the planning phases, and the board can expect to see changes that improve the efficiency and ease of the process.

A variety of factors impact the ability of projects to close on time, including the sponsor's ability to satisfy special conditions, meet requirements for barrier-free access, and whether RCO staff receive all of the required documentation in a timely manner. Member Bloomfield inquired about how this process can be improved by parsing the data to show the factors contributing to the performance metrics. Ms. Masterson explained the difficulties of incentivizing sponsors to submit their information. Director Cottingham suggested displaying the information by sponsor type in order to understand more about what barriers limit sponsor performance.

Member Mayer asked about the purpose for needing contracts closed out on time in terms of performance. Ms. Masterson explained potential impacts to staff workload, as well as issues with carrying forward allocated grant funds.

Member Herzog inquired whether post-completion inspections impact the project backlog list, specifically whether compliance issues noted during an inspection re-open a closed project. Director Cottingham noted that re-opened projects are often due to elements identified during an inspection. Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist, explained that closed projects with compliance issues are moved to a status of "active-completed" and are not included in the backlog.

General Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Item 10: State Agency Partner Reports

Washington State Parks: Member Herzog shared the new design for the Discovery Pass which will be made of more durable material. Temporary passes may be printed online, but the purpose is to guide the public towards a streamlined process that decrease individual or duplicative purchases. There is space for two vehicle license plates. He shared information about the discussions concerning fees and revenues, as well as pricing for camping in state parks and moorage in marine parks.

Member Deller commented on the issues with marine parks compliance. Member Herzog noted that this is an issue, and shared that these concerns have been identified. The solutions lean towards electronic payments forms (apps, online registration, etc.), but to date no solution is currently in place.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Stohr informed the board that WDFW is in the process of hiring a new agency director, anticipating the new recruit to begin in late December or early January. WDFW submitted their 2015-17 budget requests, focusing in part on commercial fishing fees. Member Stohr also reported that the Teanaway management plan is due at the end of the biennium; progress is going smoothly with few conflicts.

Member Stohr concluded by sharing that WDFW is attempting to resolve conflicts surrounding payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) payments. The main controversy surrounds actions taken by the Legislature, rolling back on counties that claim open space rates. A new bill would establish open space rate as a standard, and allow counties to retain fees and penalties, and keep taxes. Member Bloomfield asked if the PILT would move from treasury to DFW. Member Stohr responded that WDFW will likely retain the PILT responsibility.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 11: Feedback on the Grant Evaluation Process

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager, briefed the board on the process for collecting information about the grant evaluation process from the evaluators. For context, she also provided an overview of the evaluation criteria and respective program policies. Following the evaluations, RCO staff conducts a post-evaluation meeting with each of the standing advisory committees. This meeting provides an opportunity for the evaluators to review the evaluation results, discuss the evaluation criteria, talk about the technical review and evaluation processes, and exchange ideas for improvements before the next grant cycle. The evaluators appreciate this opportunity and generally participate fully.

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, announced that an upcoming survey soliciting additional feedback from applicants, volunteer evaluators and staff will be deployed in November.

Member Willhite inquired about the sustainability evaluation criteria and in which categories this is included. Ms. Austin explained that this used to be part of the design criteria for just State Parks and Local Parks, but this is the first year where it has been extended to all categories. Member Willhite furthered his comment by suggesting that this criteria also address global warming and/or climate change. Director Cottingham offered that this is possible, but would need to be appropriately stated for each category.

Member Bloomfield inquired about the possibility of extracting data from these surveys that can contribute to performance reviews. Member Mayer also believed that the evaluation results shared by Ms. Austin are critical to the performance of the agency and board. He suggested a retreat during with the board could focus on the feedback and strategically implement these suggestions.

Member Mayer asked whether the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) review panel members are compensated. Director Cottingham replied that the agency recruits the review panel members via a

Request for Proposals (RFP) process, soliciting for technical expertise, and therefore they are compensated. For the salmon recovery grants, the evaluation process uses a bottom-up approach which allows for the specialized expertise and compensation, in contrast to the state-level approach followed by the recreation and conservation grant process. Member Mayer furthered his question, asking whether this board should consider recruiting specialized reviewers for the projects' technical aspects. Director Cottingham explained that the necessary expertise is gained through staggering the review members' terms of appointment, so there is some continuity across grant rounds.

Break 10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Board Business: Requests for Direction

Item 12: Youth Athletic Facilities Program

Leslie Connelly, Policy Specialist, updated the board on the progress of the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program, including a brief history of the actions taken in July and August and a timeline for future steps and decisions to be made. A detailed timeline and proposed policies for 2015 were included in the board materials. Ms. Connelly shared proposed policy considerations, as the policies for the YAF program were last reviewed in 2003. Decisions on policy changes will be made by the board at the next meeting in April 2015.

Member Willhite inquired about an attempt to harmonize these policy considerations with other grant programs, and how staff intends to blend these elements together. Ms. Connelly explained that there are efforts to align criteria and enhance the value between grant programs while avoiding overlaps with other programs. Member Willhite furthered his comment, encouraging alignment without overlaps with other programs as much as possible.

Member Deller inquired about feedback from the Governor's Office on this request. Director Cottingham replied that no feedback has been received at this time.

Member Mayer asked if there is a match requirement for the grants in this program. Ms. Connelly explained that it is board policy to decide and RCO is proceeding on a one-to-one match assumption at this time. Director Cottingham shared that some legislators are curious about finding a way to build in census economic factors, i.e. if community is below poverty level, so that the match is on some kind of sliding scale; the board could prepare recommendations to this effect in anticipation of such a request. Member Willhite supported the suggestion, stating the importance of assisting under-served communities and those that have suffered natural disasters. Director Cottingham stated that this is achievable, but the policy should outline the criteria in a quantitative and definitive manner that is non-subjective and non-negotiable, in order to ensure consistency and fairness.

Director Cottingham clarified that this grant program is distinct from WWRP because the YAF projects do not compete well in WWRP. Member Mayer emphasized the collaboration between school districts and athletic fields, which often bring to light issues with public access to the facilities. Director Cottingham agreed that this is an issue to address.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 13: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Public Hearing

Leslie Connelly, Policy Specialist, described the background and purpose of the Washington Administrative Code as it pertains to the structure of the agency and public records, the focus of today's public hearing. She provided a summary of the staff recommendation for amendments to the administrative rules in Chapter 286-06 of the Washington Administrative Code titled Public Records and outlined the required public review process for the adoption of the amendments.

The last time the WAC for public records was updated was 2001. It currently does not address recent changes to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), nor does it address current modes of business such as electronic records management. The Attorney General's Office created model rules in 2007, which form the basis of RCO's proposed WAC changes.

Ms. Connelly provided a brief overview of the changes, highlighting WAC 286, Section 06-060 regarding contact information. A typo was noted in the proposed changes and a request was made to add the word "Fax" before the appropriate number in the contact information.

Ms. Connelly presented a proposed cost schedule for providing public records. Member Mayer inquired about the purpose behind services such as scanning, clarifying that it is a customer service element and not required by statute. Member Mayer also asked whether agency or state rules allow adoption by reference, rather than within the WAC specifically. Director Cottingham noted that this is the purpose behind including the actual cost schedule outside the WAC, with reference in WAC, in order to avoid needing to update the WAC each year.

Public Hearing

Chair Spanel opened the public hearing.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Board Discussion

Member Willhite inquired about making this a cross-agency process that is similar. Director Cottingham explained that this is why the Attorney General's Office has created model rules and RCO is following them as closely as possible. Each agency is unique and addresses public disclosure individually; there is not a universal public disclosure agency in existence. Wendy Loosle is currently RCO's Public Records Officer, and she coordinates with other agencies as much as possible to respond to public disclosure requests consistently. Member Stohr noted that electronic storage of records is costly both in storage capacity and staff time.

Chair Spanel closed the public hearing.

Ms. Connelly summarized the written public testimony for the board to consider. Attachment D, as noted in the board materials, was distributed to the board. There was one written comment received, which did not substantiate changes to the proposed WAC as set forth in the board materials. Ms. Connelly outlined the options for adopting the rules, amendments, postponement, and/or withdrawal.

Chair Spanel requested the amended resolution language to be as follows:

" NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board does hereby adopt the proposed rulemaking as filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on September 17, 2014, published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register, and as amended on October 30, 2014 by the board to add the word "Fax"; and "

Resolution 2014-31

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Pete Mayer

Resolution: APPROVED

Lunch 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters, specifically the performance review of RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham.

Item 14: City of Bellevue, Mercer Slough Conversion

Member Herzog requested to be recused from this agenda item, identifying another State Parks staff member who can answer questions as needed in his absence.

Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist, began by explaining what constitutes a conversion and what the board's responsibilities are pertaining to conversions. Ms. Barker then provided a summary of the City of Bellevue and State Parks' request regarding the conversion of 1.06 acres at Mercer Slough Nature Park. The conversion at the Mercer Slough Nature Park is caused by the expansion of Sound Transit Light Rail system from downtown Seattle to Redmond, and full details may be found in the board materials. She briefed the board on the required criteria of the request, including location, proposed replacement property, and assessment of the proposal.

Member Mayer asked whether it is common if a substitute property to be identified as a prior acquisition. Member Mayer also asked about the number of trees referenced in the project, and inquired about what other vegetation impacts there may be from the project. Ms. Barker deferred this question to staff from the City of Bellevue, as the information is not required when a conversion request is submitted.

Chair Spanel clarified the role of the board for the audience, and then asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Geoff Bidwell, Chair of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee, provided a brief history of the committee. The committee was organized near 28 years ago specifically to protect the Mercer Slough Nature Park. He was nominated as chair, and is committed to the same cause today. He provided some history of the committee actions and their efforts to protect the nature park since the 1980s. He stated that the rail is not consistent with the long-standing plans for the park, including that the rail would diminish the aesthetic and recreation benefits of the park. He included among the impacts a number of detriments, such as loss of trees, noise issues, and negative water table effects (specifically drainage issues). He cited a report to this effect, stating that the City of Bellevue was not provided this information and it is critical to this decision. The ground water table would be dramatically impacted, affecting the storm water drainage system. He requested that the board not approve the conversion. Mr. Bidwell's testimony and referenced letters may be found at the end of this summary.

Chair Spanel asked if Mr. Bidwell has provided challenges during the City of Bellevue's planning process. He stated that he has, but has met barriers consistently or has not received feedback. He believes the information from Sound Transit definitively shows that the project would negatively impact the wetlands and this issue needs to be addressed.

Erin Powell, a resident of Bellevue, spoke on behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee. She submitted a written copy of the spoken testimony shared with the board (see Appendix A).

Joseph Rosmann thanked the board for their efforts. He submitted a written copy of the spoken testimony shared with the board (see Appendix A).

William Popp, a resident of Bellevue, spoke on behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee. He submitted a letter to the board (included in the "Late Arriving Public Comment" section of the board materials) which included information submitted to Sound Transit regarding alternatives of least harm that were not soundly evaluated. He responded to the allegation that there were no feasible alternatives

by quoting "B7R", a chapter from the Environmental Impact Statement for the East Link Project. He responded to the "highly complex" engineering statements, explaining that they were not accurate. He commented on the history of the project, and later found the chapter B7R to be feasible.

Chair Spanel asked if Mr. Popp had submitted an appeal to the City of Bellevue. Mr. Popp responded that he had not, but referenced a lawsuit that challenged the ROD. He commented on the trail constructed near the park will be truncated, and the recreational opportunities will be lost.

Alan Smith declined to provide comment, stating that the others who have spoken have covered similar issues that he intended to address.

Renay Bennett, a resident of Bellevue, spoke on behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee and others who could not make it today. She submitted a written copy of the spoken testimony shared with the board (see Appendix A).

Bruce Nurse is a local resident and serves in a public affairs capacity in Lincoln Square, a downtown shopping center in Bellevue. Mr. Nurse responded to the comments provided in the preceding public testimony regarding least harm alternatives and business impacts. He asserted that Sound Transit is not fully considering viable alternatives, nor the potential mitigation of negative impacts. He stated that it would not be appropriate for the board to make a decision under pressure at this time, and suggested that the decision be delayed. Mr. Nurse has visited and enjoyed the park to great extent, grateful for its proximity. He thanked the board for the opportunity to provide comment.

Will Knedlik, President of the Eastside Rail Now, an environmental and rail advocacy organization. Mr. Knedlik shared that he resides north of Bellevue, which is important to note because the park serves as a regional resource for people beyond the citizens of Bellevue. He is concerned about the water table issues, but refrained from further comment as others have shared it in their testimony. He stated that other options exist and should be considered; Sound Transit has not provided the information necessary to make this decision. The value of the park as a resource has not been fully expressed, and the negative impacts have not been adequately dealt with in the proposal. The replacement property is not adequate enough to balance the value of the park as it currently exists. He asserted that testimony received by the Sound Transit regarding track vehicles exposes assets to degradation, and they would have to pay more for use of the bridge. This is important because the board should ensure that the reversion potential is irrevocable, and that the value and potential use is equivalent. He urged the board to assert whatever authority they may have to deny this request.

Elma Borbe, an environmental planner with Sound Transit, and **Camron Parker**, City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Senior Planner, were asked to come forth and address the water and drainage issues brought forth in previous public testimony.

The preliminary design was issued as part of conceptual engineering at 10% analysis, which was an initial step provided in 2010. In 2010 the preliminary design was not adequate; however, much progress has been made since that time. The technical details of the trench have been updated, and now at 90% analysis the engineers believe that the design will not de-water the slough, appropriately maintaining existing storm-water flows. She stated that they changed the design to address these issues. Annotated drawings have been provided as part of the (late arriving) public comment. Mr. Parker stated that the designs have been submitted to the City at various percentages, and they are available upon request to the public.

Ms. Borbe stated that any issues that come up are coordinated in weekly public meetings. Member Mayer asked if the Parks Board has taken a position on these issues, and asked for a response to the park's

master plan, as to whether the city council has allowed a vote on this alignment. Mr. Parker stated that the City has not chosen to use various boards and commissions to provide feedback nor taken a formal position on East Link project. The process has been lengthy, with opportunity for public comment, and decisions were made in 2011 on the project.

Member Deller responded to Mr. Knedlik's request to consider a reversion, should plans for the light rail not be completed. Director Cottingham added that it is not part of RCO's policy. Ms. Barker stated that it's within the board's authority to determine whether all practical alternatives were considered, and suggested that the board reject the proposal and allow the requestors to provide additional information and details on alternatives considered and mitigation of impacts.

Member Mayer also agreed with Mr. Knedlik; however, there was not sufficient information provided during his testimony regarding the trench and potential consequences of the design as to whether it falls under the purview of the board. Mr. Parker used a map to explain the intended project and anticipated impacts, explaining the proposed infrastructure and placement.

Member Mayer re-stated his question about vegetation impacts. Mr. Parker replied, stating that 120 trees will be removed, and more along the length of the park. South of the park-and-ride, a mitigation project outside of the boundaries will be removed for wetland restoration and allow for tree planning. Member Mayer asked about tree replanting requirements. Mr. Parker said that the permit process is still in progress, and is unsure of the ratios.

Member Mayer asked about the mitigation or plans to regenerate vegetation in the conversion area during the temporary construction easement, given the length of time. The limitations in the plan discuss buffers for the rail and for the wetland area.

Member Willhite thanked members of the public for attending. He asked about the hearing examiner and court of appeals, specifically whether they upheld the right to proceed in their final rulings. Ms. Borbe responded, stating that Sound Transit reported exploring all viable alternatives, and that they included the forest devaluation. Additionally, the Department of the Interior sent a letter in which they concurred with the review, and reaffirmed the analysis as sound. She explained that the courts sided with Sound Transit; the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was upheld by the courts.

Member Willhite asked if new or different information was provided by the public which causes a change in opinion from testimony offered in any of the appeals process (Hearing Examiner or Court of Appeals). Was the tunneling option discussed in these courts? The EIS did not consider a tunnel alternative. Although Sound Transit was challenged on the range of alternatives, the court system determined that they had an adequate range, and conceded that tunneling is too expensive.

Director Cottingham reminded the board of the Arboretum conversion request, and recommended delegating the final authority to the director. Member Mayer stated that it would be in the interest of the board to ensure that if the conversion were approved, that the park would be assured to remain consistent with its original purpose. He asked that Ms. Barker clarify where the final decision's authority exists. If the board denied the conversion, what would happen? Ms. Barker replied that staff wouldn't proceed and would not have a recommendation for the park service. She would ask direction on how to proceed and under what conditions.

Member Stohr asked for clarification on the content of the legal decisions before the court and the results, to understand how different options were delivered and evaluated, more about the hydrological issues, and what the board authority truly is. Director Cottingham asked about timeline for Sound Transit's

intended plans. Ms. Borbe explained that Sound Transit intended construction to begin in 2016, and they would need approval prior to that time.

Member Mayer stated that the cost is not the criteria which the board needs to consider (referring to the tunneling option), and therefore concerns about alternative options being too costly are not considered.

Member Deller expressed his interest in reversion discussions, including the appropriateness of this conversion. Should the rail plans change, he explained, some kind of reversion language would be necessary. Director Cottingham suggested deferring this decision until the April 2015 meeting, allowing time for exploration of the potential recreation, vegetation and environmental impacts under proposed conversion.

Mr. Parker described in more detail the proposed plans and potential impacts. Mr. Parker referred to two maps in the RCO staff presentation that included a satellite map with overlay of proposed areas under conversion and a conceptual map to show intended changes.

Member Mayer asked about alternative options for the rail system. Mr. Parker and Ms. Borbe addressed these questions, describing the least harm alternatives considered and reasons for the proposed plan. This was additional public comment and should be referenced as such. Mr. Rosmann shared history of the map under consideration, being from 2007, and shared the previous plans that conflict with the current plan proposed. He stated that the map does not represent an accurate depiction of what the rail system would impact. He described the current plan impacts in more detail and seasonal impacts.

The board discussed potential language for motion to defer this decision to a later date pending more information. Member Deller clarified that the role of the board is to determine the appropriateness of the conversion. He suggested that the board delay the decision until further information is obtained to make a more sound decision. Member Willhite seconded this suggestion, stating that they cannot take sides, but most focus on the appropriateness of conversion of property. Member Bloomfield expressed that there is room for examining alternative options for the conversion, even within the confines of the previous court decisions.

Member Mayer moved to table the decision to approve the Conversion for Mercer Slough Nature Park (RCO Projects #73-026 and 78-513) to the April 2015 meeting of the RCFB board pending additional information on the impacts to conversion areas, with regards to hydrological impacts, recreation use, species and habitat impacted, as well as opportunities relative to ensuring reversion right should the proposed alignment change.

Break 2:48 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Resolution 2014-32

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: DEFERRED to the April 2015 meeting

Item 15: Board Survey and Strategic Plan

Director Cottingham outlined the staff proposal for conducting the end of the year Recreation and Conservation Funding Board survey and updating the board's strategic plan in preparation for the 2015-17 biennium. The survey is open to the board to provide feedback; currently it focuses on board meetings and preparations. The strategic plan is included in the board materials, last updated in 2012.

Member Mayer proposed the idea of a board retreat and Director Cottingham suggested using the first day (April 8th) of the scheduled April 2015 meeting as a possible date. Member Mayer suggested forming a subcommittee to continue progress and prepare an agenda for a retreat. Member Deller appreciated the simplicity of the current plan, and that it's aligned with the Governor's plan. He suggested following the same biennial guideline to avoid constant updates, allowing focus for longer durations on the work at hand. Director Cottingham reminded the board of the priorities presented in the policy report, and suggested not bulking up the plan too far beyond the currently identified actions. She suggested a one-day business meeting and a one-day retreat in April, since the approved 2015 schedule allows for two days.

Member Willhite brought up two issues. First, there is need to address grant program policy in regards to climate change. Second, he asked how the board could support communities in need that have suffered natural disasters, which may require some statutory changes.

Member Mayer would like to add metrics that measure accountability and planning across programs, ensuring that resources are used effectively, policies address gaps, and services are efficient. Director Cottingham noted that performance goals do need to be addressed, and Member Mayer's suggestions could be included. Member Bloomfield suggested adding these concerns in an agenda format in order to address them in an appropriate setting, whether at a retreat or regular business meeting, and evaluate the grant categories as needed.

Member Willhite suggested deferring all questions from the public and media to the chair, as a speaking person for the board to respond to questions that may come from the public. A sub-committee may be formed to prepare an agenda to address the issues raised today, comprised of Harriet Spanel, Peter Mayer, Betsy Bloomfield, and Ted Willhite. RCO staff will submit the code reviser's notice to schedule day one (April 8) as a retreat and planning session.

Director Cottingham suggested adjusting the survey for the board members to allow for data collection that will support planning for the retreat.

Director Cottingham also reminded the board members February 10, 2015 is the usual date for the WWRC Reception at the Governor's Mansion, although they are looking for an alternate location or date.

Member Deller shared the recent report published for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.


Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m. by Chairwoman Chair Spanel.

Approved by:



Harriet Chair Spanel, Chair



Date

Appendix A

Item 14 – Public Comment

Erin Powell

“Good Afternoon, My name is Erin Powell, I am a Bellevue resident, a Parks and Community Services Board member with the City of Bellevue, and a Parks and Recreation professional, however I am speaking on behalf of Save the Mercer Slough Committee. “Mercer Slough Nature Park - 33 years and \$11 Million dollars after its first acquisition in the slough the City of Bellevue had assembled WHAT MAY BE THE BIGGEST AND BEST URBAN WETLANDS PARK IN THE UNITED STATES.” The Seattle Times. City of Bellevue- your grant recipient from 1973 and 1978 has lost its’ direction and specifically its’ Moral Compass direction because Bellevue is willing to sacrifice Mercer Slough Nature Parks’ entire western boarder of Bellevue Way SE and 112th Ave parklands, and allow Mercer Slough Nature Park to become the location of a rail road structure and related facilities that will adversely affect the public’s access and enjoyment of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Current and future generations of people should be able to enjoy the valuable trails, wetlands, National Historic Winter’s House, the majestic significant trees and the overall green tree views along Bellevue Way and 112th, also the historic blueberry farm lands, farm and garden facilities without seeing, hearing and experiencing the disruptive intrusion of the Eastlink Light Rail train rolling by every 3 to 7 minutes 18 to 20 hours a day 365 days of the year. The value and enjoyment of the recreation experience is interrupted and the human senses assaulted by this railroad activity within the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Access to the park will be cut off because there will be railroad tracks and a trench 40 feet wide along Bellevue Way – half a mile in length-the whole length of Mercer Slough Nature Park . A security fence and the tracks themselves will block people from accessing the park along this rail corridor, where 1,279 significant trees will be cut down - devastating the tree canopy that provides shade in the summers and habitat for animals . The one and only proposed access point is next to the Winter’s House which will take even more parkland to provide space for the new parking lot, farm and garden operation, restroom facilities, this will eliminate and pave over even more acreage of Mercer Slough wetlands parkland. The recent Moon/Ross property purchase by the City of Bellevue has functioned as continuous open space that helped keep habitat and wetlands to thrive. Mercer Slough has enjoyed the undeveloped environmental benefits of this property for decades and the purchase of the property has been a goal and now a reality – This purchase is to be applauded. However, this site is not as valuable as the entire western boarder along Mercer Slough because it is NOT the GATEWAY INTO BELLEVUE NOR IS IT THE GATEWAY TO THE MERCER SLOUGH NATURE PARK, it is far away from large neighborhoods of people, existing trails, Winter’s House, blueberry fields, and farm and garden operation, and the trails linking our beloved National Scenic Byway trails of the Mountain to Sound Greenway system. Mercer Slough Nature Park is a large park experience-which THOUSANDS of people visit daily- it is easily accessed by families and school children from around the region who participate in environmental education programs. Mercer Slough is a destination nature park experience where children can explore, learn and have fun. What a wonderful investment in public lands that help develop future generations who will care and take action to save our environment for the future.

In 2009 the City of Bellevue cancelled building a new trail on the north side of Mercer Slough, a trail that had been in the Master Plan for some time - before the 2011 MOU was signed – Were agreements made before our democratic processes and system of government weighted in on these most important decisions? Just because we can build, something doesn’t mean we should. Bellevue and Sound Transit must do better than selecting to destroy these loved public park facilities, destroy habitat for the threatened Western Pond Turtle, native fish and salmon, threatened migratory birds, and risk the healthy richness of our wetland ecosystem.

We only have one earth; we only have one chance to get this monumental decision right for the good of the people and for the good of the integrity of publically held public open spaces that were

so hard won. The people of Bellevue, King County and the Federal Government did create -THE BIGGEST AND BEST URBAN WETLANDS PARK IN THE UNITED STATES. LET'S KEEP IT! HELP US KEEP IT! I am asking you to protect and conserve Mercer Slough Nature Park public lands into perpetuity as they are today. Mercer Slough Nature Park is a very special place that helps define us as a democratic people- Americans respect past generations' visions and hard work that bought this public lands in the first place. Americans exercise good stewardship of our responsibilities and obligations for these public lands today and always. PLEASE help us conserve all of our Mercer Slough Nature Park. Please Deny this conversion request – Alternative rail alignments are available you have examples in your packets. Thank you."

Joseph Rosmann

"Good afternoon Chair Spanel, Director Cottingham, and members of the Board. I am Joseph Rosmann, a Bellevue citizen living in the Surrey Downs community adjacent to the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Our extended Rosmann family is well known across the US for its work in advancing the goals of sustainable agriculture, protecting agricultural workers from chemicals and other substance risks, and preserving natural wildlife, including salmon, trout, and other at-risk fish. I operate a general contracting business that serves businesses and homeowners throughout the Seattle Eastside. We utilize the services of hydrologists, geotechnical engineers, soils engineers, structural engineers, and other similar experts in the course of serving our clients. These experts are knowledgeable regarding the character and natural environment of the Mercer Slough Nature Park, the height of the water table there and the construction challenges to be faced there. These experts have examined the report provided by CH2MHill to Sound Transit, dated April 5, 2010. They concur with the findings and advice of CH2MHill to Sound Transit regarding the likelihood of dewatering of the wetlands between Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue and Mercer Slough creek. Because Sound Transit is utilizing a closed-floor trench structure, whose base is well below the water table, build-up of water on the west side of Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue must be relieved using siphons under the trench as well as rock strainer structures. Unfortunately, these strainers can be expected to fill with siltation over time, making the siphons even more necessary. The water build up must be released eastward in large quantities via use of drainage trenches placed between the rail line and Mercer Slough Creek. During the dryer half of each year this drainage will eliminate the essential sources of water that would normally maintain the function of the wetlands located throughout the west side of Mercer Slough Nature Park. This is the essence of the dewatering effects on the Mercer Slough wetlands as set out in CH2MHill's report. This dewatering will lead to losses of endangered Western Sand turtles, and will dramatically diminish the nutrients (insects, worms, and other flora and fauna) that are essential to sustaining the travel of spawning salmon in Mercer Slough. You also have before you a letter from Dr. Don Davidson. Dr. Davidson could not be here today so he asked that I share the following with you. He has many reasons to understand these issues. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and is Chairman of the Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish and Cedar River Salmon Recovery Council. In his letter he states that these two Councils consider the Mercer Slough Nature Park, and its upstream Kelsey Creek Watershed, to be pre-eminent among all the salmon spawning areas in the greater Seattle area. He wrote that "it is essential that the Mercer Slough Nature Park waterways and wetlands not be compromised in any way such that this extremely important salmon propagation environment be destroyed." His letter further states that The Mercer Slough wetland functions will be permanently damaged thereby impeding the passage of several spawning salmon species. The Mercer Slough is the only way in which returning spawning salmon can reach the upstream Kelsey Creek Watershed areas where salmon eggs are extensively laid. Sound Transit's plan will likewise permanently destroy many hundreds of trees, and other vegetation and flora and fauna that provide essential nutrients for the returning salmon. Dr. Davidson has shared his letter with the other funding board that the RCO office supports, the Washington State Salmon Recovery Financing board. In his work with the two Councils he works closely with this equally important state oversight board Members of the Washington State Salmon Recovery Financing Board

share Dr. Davidson's understanding regarding the importance of the Mercer Slough Nature Park to the recovery of salmon in the Puget Sound Region. He therefore asks that, before you take any action today, that you confer with your colleagues on the Washington State salmon recovery financing board. Dr. Davidson and I also ask you today to consider two other important facts. First, as you heard and seen, there is a better alternative for bringing Eastlink into the City of Bellevue. Sound Transit's leaders have refused to study this alternative, even though their own engineering and financing staff experts recommended to them in October of 2012 that they do so. Sound Transit's in-house experts recommended then that this alternative be evaluated because Sound Transit had been having such great success with bored tunnels in Seattle. Second, you should also know that Sound Transit has never provided the Bellevue City Council with its final plans for mitigating the environmental impacts on the environment of Mercer Slough Nature Park. Sound Transit holds the results of the 90% engineering requirements and plans for the Mercer Slough Nature Park area. Bellevue City Council members have repeatedly requested that Sound Transit provide this vital information to them. Sound Transit refuses to do so. We know that Sound Transit can change their decisions when cost and environmental factors outweigh prior considerations. They did so in Seattle. Seven years after having received the Federal Record of Decision for the Northlink rail line, placed at grade, Sound Transit chose to build Northlink using a bored tunnel. Equity for the Mercer Slough Nature Park environment and its wildlife, for the users of the Park, and for our Bellevue citizens must be provided."

Renay Bennett

"When you change a park master plan, there is a specific process that is followed with lots of public involvement. None of that has occurred with this massive change in the Mercer Slough. In the FEIS, over 70% of the public comments opposed placing this train in the Mercer Slough. I am sure that our citizens would be equally opposed to a major taking of valuable park land downgrading the entire park had they been given the opportunity. In fact, in all the numerous public meetings held by Bellevue and Sound Transit, and I was at every single one of them, each and every meeting showed massive opposition to this decimation of the Mercer Slough. Washington families need to know that when their tax dollars are used for parks land it should stay park land. This is trading down the entire west side for a sliver of property that has already been promised to Bellevue taxpayers and approved in a parks bond, has a trail already running through it, is unbuildable, and is already being used as part of the Slough. Please save our Slough for now and our future and deny this conversion."

William Popp

I am here to speak on behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee. I want to point out things in the staff report that you need to consider before taking your action.

There is an e-mail in your materials from me that covers the issues associated with outright avoidance of the Federal Department of Transportation's Section 4f rule about evaluation of the least harm alternative. The City of Bellevue attorney had pointed this out in a letter to Sound Transit and was subsequently over ridden by her boss. Another letter was issued that said we can mitigate this away.

I have been in the transportation business over 45 years on the governmental and the private sector side and I know when an evaluation has occurred and when it has not and in this case there are alternatives that were not soundly evaluated. And this keys directly into your policies and page 4 of the staff report that there were no feasible and prudent alternatives.

I submit that there was a feasible and prudent alternative called B7R that was funded by the City of Bellevue and rejected for purely political reasons by Sound Transit as the alignment did not support Transit Oriented Development opportunities. And that feasible alternative, as it relates to your role, presented a huge windfall by returning the existing 11.5 acre park and ride lot to the City for park use in the most park accessible location possible. Now there is another alternative – a tunnel alignment which Rossman mentioned Sound Transit is refusing to consider.

The RCFB memo page 4 offers reasons for not considering alternatives to avoid Mercer Slough Nature Park as requiring substantial property relocations or highly complex engineering. I submit that what Sound Transit is doing is highly complex engineering. B7R was not highly complex and neither is the tunnel alignment. What is highly complex is trying to run this train through the wetland and peat environment and trying to protect the wetlands from dewatering.

That same 11.5 acre windfall can be had with a tunnel alignment as well and to date there has been no movement in that direction. But there can be. I have been around long enough, and the Chairman as well, and we can recall the RH Thompson Expressway in Seattle that was on the plan for years and was 100% designed. I went to the Puget Sound Council of Governments in 1969 and the movement had started – no more freeways and an expressway in the Arboretum certainly did not belong.

I want to correct a statement I made in the e-mail to you that is in your packets. I said that the B7R alignment was politically unrealistic, but in reflection on the issue and past events that is not true. This board should not be cowed by the notion that the train is coming down the track and you are simply in the way.

Or putting it another way I am reminded of Clint Eastwood in "Unforgiven" when he told the bad guys you don't have to do this you know. Of course they came back and were killed, but you don't have to do this you know.

Question from the Chairperson: Did you go through an appeal process to Sound Transit or the City on all this?

Answer: I did not personally but there was a lawsuit that challenged the ROD and that was rejected. But interestingly the lawsuit did not challenge on the basis of the 11.5 acre park opportunity.

I have of course made a number of presentations to the Council over the years about problems with this corridor. But in this case we do have a recreational facility in that corridor (that I have not addressed). My wife and I enjoy walking that westside trail and as mentioned earlier, the trail was to extend north along the edge of the waterway. It would have been a very attractive facility and now the route will be truncated.

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-18
October 2014 Consent Calendar**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 2014 Consent Calendar items are approved:

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – July 17-18, 2014
- B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2014
- C. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2015
- D. Approve Time Extensions:
 - 08-1175 Acquisition: Bone and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves
 - 08-1177 Acquisition: Cypress Island Natural Area 2008
 - 07-1974 Acquisition and Development: Malaga Community Park

Resolution moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution seconded by: Ted Willhite

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-19
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, seventy Local Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all seventy Local Parks category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*, and

WHEREAS, these Local Parks category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreation, thereby supporting board priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Local Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution seconded by: Mike Deller

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-20
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category, 2015-17,
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, eleven State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eleven State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Outdoor Recreation Account*, and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local and state agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Mike Deller

Resolution seconded by: Don Hoch

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-21
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Parks Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, fourteen State Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all fourteen State Parks category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these State Parks category projects were evaluated by a team comprised of State Parks staff, local agency representatives, and citizens using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition and development of properties for public outdoor recreation, thereby supporting priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor this ranked list of State Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Ted Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-23
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, fifteen Water Access category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all fifteen Water Access category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Water Access category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreational access to water, thereby supporting priorities in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Water Access category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
REVISED Resolution #2014-24
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, twelve Riparian Protection Account projects are being considered for funding from the Riparian Protection Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twelve Riparian Protection Account projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*; and

WHEREAS, these Riparian Protection Account projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) that considers the riparian habitat benefits and relationship to existing plans, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects include acquisitions that provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Riparian Protection Account projects for further consideration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes the director to request a budget proviso or LEAP footnote to the effect that, "If additional funds are available, after funding the Riparian Protection Account (RPA) projects approved by the Legislature, the board may use these additional RPA funds for projects that are on the 2014 WWRP Riparian Protection Account ranked list previously approved by the Legislature."

Resolution moved by: Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution seconded by: Mike Deller

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-27
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, eight Natural Areas category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eight Natural Areas category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Areas category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) , thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitats and the demonstrated need to protect it, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species; and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Natural Areas category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Ted Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Mike Deller

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2014-28
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-17 biennium, twelve State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all twelve State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby, supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the quality and function of the habitat, longer-term viability, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the board's objectives to help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and to fund projects that maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution seconded by: Ted Willhite

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2014-29
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, 2015-17, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, seven Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all seven Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2014-30
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
2015-17 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for the 2015-17 biennium, twenty-three Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) program projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all twenty-three ALEA projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 21, *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*; and

WHEREAS, these ALEA projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as party of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to such lands and associated waters, thereby supporting policies in the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for both conservation and recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of ALEA projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution seconded by: Ted Willhite

Adopted Date: October 29, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2014-31
Administrative Rule Changes Chapter 286-06 WAC**

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopts administrative rules that govern its grant programs and sets procedures for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, RCO's public records procedures in Chapter 286-06 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) have not been substantially updated since 2001 and do not reflect the most current requirements of the Public Records Act (Chapter 54.56 WAC); and

WHEREAS, RCO filed a Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC with the Office of the Code Reviser on July 23, 2014 and it was published August 6, 2014 in issue #14-15-143 of the Washington State Register and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, RCO filed a Proposed Rule Making to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC with the Office of the Code Reviser on September 17, 2014 and it was published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register and also provided the proposed rulemaking to the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, RCO posted notice, in accordance with RCW 34.05.320, of the proposed rulemaking to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC on its Web site, sent an email notification to interested persons, and accepted public comments from October 1 to October 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the board conducted a public hearing, in accordance with RCW 34.05.325, on the proposed rulemaking to amend Chapter 286-06 WAC on October 30, 2014 and considered all written and verbal comments submitted; and

WHEREAS, the revisions substantially follow the model rules in Chapter 44-14 WAC adopted by the attorney general's office in 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board does hereby adopt the proposed rulemaking as filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on September 17, 2014, published October 1, 2014 in issue #14-19-116 of the Washington State Register, and as amended on October 30, 2014 by the board to add the word "Fax"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board directs RCO staff to file a final rule making order, in accordance with RCW 34.05.325, with the Office of the Code Reviser and it shall have an effective date of 31 days from the date it is filed.

Resolution moved by: Ted Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Pete Mayer

Adopted Date: October 30, 2014

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2014-32
Approving Conversion for Mercer Slough Nature Park
(RCO Projects #73-026 and 78-513)**

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission used state bond funds and a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire land to expand the Mercer Slough Nature Park; and

WHEREAS, the construction of Sound Transit's Light Rail project will convert of a portion of the property; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conversion, a portion of the property no longer satisfies the conditions of the RCO grant; and

WHEREAS, the city is asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval to replace the converted property with property purchased under a waiver of retroactivity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement property is in close proximity to the conversion sites, has an appraised value that is greater than the conversion site, and has greater acreage than the conversion sites; and

WHEREAS, the site will provide opportunities that closely match those displaced by the conversion, will consolidate public ownership in the park's overall boundary, and meets needs that have been identified in the city's comprehensive plan as acquiring land adjacent to existing community parks, expanding wetland preservation of wildlife habitat, thereby supporting the board's goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor sought public comment on the conversion and discussed it during an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to regularly seek public feedback in policy and funding decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the conversion request and the proposed replacement site for RCO Projects #73-026 and 78-513 as presented to the board in October 2014 and set forth in the board memo prepared for that meeting; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board hereby authorizes the RCO director to give interim approval for the property acquired with LWCF funds and forward the conversion to the National Park Service (NPS) for final approval.

Resolution deferment moved by: Pete Mayer

Resolution deferment seconded by: Mike Deller

Deferred Date: October 30, ~~2015~~2014*

**Revised on August 23, 2016 to correct the typo listing "2015" and to reflect the correct deferral date of "2014," as noted in the meeting minutes.*