
Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 789-7889 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; accommodation requests should be received July 12, 2022, to ensure availability.

Location In-person: Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location will allow for the public to provide comment and listen to the meeting as required by the Open Public Meeting Act. This requirement can be waived via HB 1329 if there is a declaration of emergency or if an agency determines that a public meeting cannot safely be held. If an emergency occurs, remote technology will be the primary meeting source.

Location Virtually: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qG9jcUptReeqjTaqLEc-IQ

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 864 8972 1406

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov, board liaison.

COVID Precautions: Masking is not required at this meeting, as the mask mandates have recently been updated by the Governor and local public health departments. If mask mandates change, there will be notification. However, masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. The meetings rooms will be set to allow for as much social distancing as possible and air purifiers will be placed throughout.

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Chair Willhite

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda – July 26-27, 2022 (**Decision**)
- Remarks of the Chair

9:10 a.m. 1. Consent Agenda (**Decision**)

Chair Willhite

- A. Board Meeting Minutes – April 26-27, 2022
- B. Time Extensions:
 - Department of Natural Resources, Washougal Oaks Natural Area, [16-1441A](#)
 - King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Skyway Park Revitalization, [16-1934D](#)
 - City of Shoreline, Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement, [16-1621D](#)
 - Skagit County, Presentin Park Trails, Bike Camp and Off-Channel Restoration, [16-1730C](#)
- C. Cost Increase:
 - Cowlitz County Parks and Recreation, Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 3, [20-1987D](#)

Resolution 2022-07

9:15 a.m. 2. Director's Report

- A. Director's Report
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Grant Management Report
- D. Grant Services Report
- E. Performance Report (*written only*)
- F. Fiscal Report (*written only*)

*Megan Duffy
Brock Milliern
Marguerite Austin
Kyle Guzlas
Brent Hedden
Mark Jarasitis*

10:00 a.m. General Public Comment for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

10:05 a.m. **3. Operating and Capital Budget Requests for the 23-25 Biennium** *Brock Milliern*

11:05 a.m. **Break**

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

11:20 a.m. **4. Equity Review** *Leah Dobey*

12:20 p.m. **Lunch**

1:20 p.m. **5. Equity Related Efforts**

- Recreation Access Planning Grants *Leah Dobey*
 - Community Outdoor Athletic Facility Fund *Adam Cole*
-

2:20 p.m. **6. Tacoma Eastside Pool Conversion** *Myra Barker*

2:50 p.m. **Break**

3:05 p.m. **7. Cultural Resources Overview** *Sarah Thirtyacre*
Sarah Johnson-Humphries

3:35 p.m. **8. State Agency Partner Reports**

- Governor's Office *Jon Snyder*
 - Department of Natural Resources *Kristen Olsen-Kiehn*
 - State Parks and Recreation Commission *Peter Herzog*
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife *Amy Windrope*
-

4:05 p.m. **RECESS**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022

OPENING AND BRIEFINGS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Chair Willhite

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

9:10 a.m. 9. Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) Update

Ben Donatelle

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

10:40 a.m. 10. Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category: Cost Increases and Delegation Authority for 2020 Projects Resolution 2022-08

*Alison Greene
Marguerite Austin*

Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution.
Please limit comments to three minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

11:10 a.m. ADJOURN.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – October 25-26, Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Subject to change considering COVID Restrictions

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: April 26, 2022

Place: Online

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee
Kathryn Gardow	Seattle	Angus Brodie	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	Vacant	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to 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 meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Ted Willhite opened the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) meeting at 9 AM, he requested roll call, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of April 26, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Moved By: Member Shiosaki

Seconded By: Member Gardow

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Before approving the consent agenda, which included the January 2022 meeting minutes, time extensions and volunteer recognitions, **Chair Willhite** emphasized the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the board and keeping these principles at the forefront while listening to the community and making decisions, which aligns with [Resolution 2020-35](#).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-04
Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Burgess
Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Director's Report

Member Brodie temporarily left the meeting at 9:15 AM and rejoined at 9:30 AM.

Director's Report

Megan Duffy, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director summarized key agency activities. The first stadium funding advisory committee meeting took place on April 18, the [Athena Group](#) has been contracted to perform an organizational structure review for the agency, and the grant equity review report is being drafted and due to legislature on June 30. The executive team held a retreat in March to discuss agency priorities and direction for the next year. The agency is hiring a Fiscal Tech, a Governors Salmon Recovery Office Strategy Coordinator, two Data Management positions and an Administrative Assistant for the salmon section.

More information on agency happenings can be found in the [item 2 meeting materials](#).

Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, RCO Policy Director, shared legislative updates from the 2022 supplemental budget. Approved House bills (HB) that directly or indirectly effect RCO include [HB 1329](#) concerning the Open Public Meeting Act, [HB 2078](#) concerning the Outdoor School for All program, and [HB 5793](#) concerning stipends for board and committee members. Funding was allocated for salmon and recreation projects, including \$300,000 to assist with boating and aviation conflicts on Lake Union.

The Outdoor Recreation Caucus met throughout session and members will continue to meet with legislators and partners in the interim. Budget and policy bill development for the next session is underway and RCO is collaborating with partners to update the board at the October meeting.

Further details on the approved policy bills and budget updates can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

Grant Management Report

Marguerite Austin, RCO Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, announced the approval of \$1.8 million for the Recreational Trails Program, provided an update on the 2022 grant cycle, and discussed the two completed application workshops that announced the 2022 grant availability. Ms. Austin stated that grant applications have decreased by 17 percent between 2020 and 2022. However, the Land and Water Conservation Funding has increased. Ms. Austin hypothesized that this resulted from the grant limit increase. Ms. Austin highlighted that Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) applications significantly decreased, specifically for local parks, trails, and water access categories. Match reduction was approved in 2020 for these categories, but Ms. Austin hypothesized applications were still low due to pandemic impacts on entities.

Lastly, Ms. Austin focused on pandemic impacts to funded projects and application submission. She stated that staff has received record numbers of requests for time extensions, cost increases, and scope changes. Sponsors face many challenges including escalating construction costs and decreased revenue, permitting delays due to low staff numbers, high supply costs, and labor shortages.

Chair Willhite suggested adding pandemic impacts to the next meeting agenda.

Member Gardow questioned if fewer WWRP applications resulted from applicants being deterred due to application denial in years previous. Ms. Austin recognized this as a possibility, but said it was indeterminate until surveying is completed after the grant cycle. Ms. Austin theorized that match increase is also likely a contributing factor.

Chair Willhite asked the board to consider if the July board meeting should be virtual or in-person. The board supported attending in-person and **Member Herzog** suggested finding ways to enable the public to view the meeting remotely. **Director Duffy** stated that RCO is collaborating with other state agencies to arrange hybrid meetings, but those capabilities are not guaranteed for the July meeting.

General Public Comment:

None.

Item 3: Policy Updates

Member Burgess was absent from 10:07 AM – 10:16 AM.

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an update on the 2023 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Trails plan. He shared a revised timeline and stated that the initial public engagement portion has ended. The draft plan will be developed with the advisory committees this summer. Public review and comment will be solicited in fall 2022. The plan will be finalized and submitted in early 2023.

A draft literature review was completed in early April and focused on five topics: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the outdoors, climate resiliency, outdoor recreation trends, responsible recreation, and societal benefits resulting from outdoor recreation.

Mr. Donatelle shared that the updated inventory map reflects over 66,000 records categorized into four different layers: areas, points (recreation asset locations), trails and travel routes.

Chair Willhite emphasized the importance of the SCORP plan for the community in capturing the needs and opportunities for recreation. He asked Mr. Donatelle to offer an update at the July meeting.

Leah Dobey, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an update on the two equity projects.

The Comprehensive Equity Review of RCO's recreation and conservation grant programs is nearing its final months. The public engagement phase has concluded and is providing data for the equity review and final report. The equity maps are nearing completion and a report is being drafted by the Prevention Institute. Anticipated recommendations include additional outreach and education, technical assistance and support, providing an update to the evaluation criteria, and increasing tribal engagement.

The Governor's Office and the Office of Financial Management will review the report before it is submitted to the Legislature by June 30. The report will be distributed to the board and presented at the July meeting. RCO staff will begin forming an implementation strategy once the report is finalized.

The Equity Planning Grants project is underway in coordination with the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Fund (COAFF) program to better align planning grant efforts and ensure equitable access to these funds. The funds from the Equity Planning Grants project will likely be awarded by fall 2022.

BREAK: 10:13 AM – 10:30 AM

Item 4: Stadium Funding Plan Review and Advisory Council Meeting Debrief

Adam Cole, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an update on the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Fund (COAFF) program. Mr. Cole offered the development and implementation framework to define the program goals and policies. A draft fund plan has been created and the advisory committee had its first meeting on April 18; the second meeting will take place June 27. The advisory committee offered suggestions to expand on the program purpose and suggested including additional applicants, non-traditional sports, and the unique needs of small jurisdictions.

Mr. Cole stated that the program's development will ideally be an agenda item for each upcoming board meeting to update the board on program development progress and ask for perspective on specific policy proposals, timeline, and committee practices.

Mr. Cole will propose to the COAFF Advisory Committee offering early action grants in spring – summer 2022 to align with the equity grant program; receive and implement any legislative updates in fall 2022 – winter 2023; finalize the funding plan in winter – spring 2023; open grant applications in summer – fall 2023; and finally award grants in fall 2023 – winter 2024. A more detailed timeline is outlined in the [item 4 materials](#).

Chair Willhite commended the work of the advisory committee for expanding the purpose of the program to be distinct from other RCO grant programs, as this could ensure continued funding for all programs. He suggested adding fiduciary responsibilities and accountability to the program outline.

Member Gardow questioned if continued funding could be sought from private organizations. Mr. Cole discussed the possibility of future partnerships and collaboration between these organizations and RCO.

Member Shiosaki supported the idea of offering early funds to aid with planning before preparing for the larger capital grant round. Member Shiosaki also spoke to the unique qualities of this program as funding can be used for maintenance.

Item 5: Chelan County Wenatchee River Park Conversion

Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Specialist, provided information on the Wenatchee River Park conversation, which will require a decision from the board at a future board meeting.

Conversions occur when:

- Property rights are conveyed for private use

- Property rights are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation use
- Non-outdoor recreation uses are made of the project area
- Unallowable indoor facilities are developed within the project area
- Public outdoor recreation use is terminated

Part of the property was closed from public use to provide housing to seasonal workers and used for non-outdoor recreation purposes, and therefore a conversion was created. The conversion area is about 8.6 acres. The county is proposing a 20-acre replacement property adjacent to the eastern park boundary. The property is owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Details of the conversion and replacement proposal can be found in the [item 5 materials](#).

The board's responsibility is to evaluate alternatives for conversion and replacement, ensure this replacement meets the funding requirements, and provide a recommendation to the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS approves or denies the conversion request.

During board discussion, it was clarified that the county will retain ownership of the conversion area but the grant boundary (obligations) would be removed from that area. Ms. Barker also emphasized that there will be multiple points of connection within the new acreage. Several board members demonstrated support for the 8.6-acre conversion and the exchange with the proposed 20 acres to ensure quality housing for workers.

Member Brodie asked for more information on the appraisal process, to which Ms. Barker shared that the preferred replacement will be appraised to meet LWCF policy requirements. Ms. Barker also clarified that park improvements made after a project is closed are not considered in the value.

Member Burgess discussed irrigation easements as potential encumbrances and this property being a key connector between Wenatchee, Monitor, Cashmere and eventually to Leavenworth.

Item 6: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farm and Forest Account Policy Changes

Kim Sellers, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, and **Marguerite Austin**, RCO Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, shared outreach efforts and background information leading to the proposed changes for the WWRP Farm and Forest Account. Detailed information can be found in the [item 6 meeting materials](#).

Based on outreach and feedback, RCO staff brought three proposals to the board for consideration: to allow use of a written review and evaluation process for the 2022 grant cycle; to eliminate the 10 percent non-state, non-federal share of match; and to allow sponsors to request cost increases for ongoing projects needing additional funding. Ms. Sellers discussed the challenges sponsors experience when faced with cost increases, often resulting in failed projects or sponsors having to request reduced project scope for the easements.

Other recommendations were received from the community that RCO will work to review internally. Some of these recommendations asked the agency for more consistency in scoring and evaluating projects, to develop a new easement template, and to offer a “Buy, Protect, Sell” alternative.

Public Comment:

Nick Norton, Executive Director of the Washington Land Trusts, and **Danny Madrone**, Pacific Northwest Policy Manager with the American Farmland Trust, offered support of Resolution 2022-05.

Mr. Norton discussed the costs of easements and how approval of cost increases will help relieve some of the financial strains. He also asked the board to consider how they evaluate the success of the category changes, opting to look at the quantity and quality of projects that stem from these changes rather than the overall program competitiveness.

Ms. Madrone shared that these category changes allow for more flexibility and accessibility for farmers.

Member Shiosaki questioned the uniqueness of this program to prompt the elimination of the 10 percent match. Ms. Sellers discussed the multiple forms of match available in other RCO programs, whereas funding alternatives are limited for farmland sponsors and they are more likely to struggle to raise match.

Member Gardow questioned where the money from cost increases would likely come from, and she also voiced her support for a “Buy, Protect, Sell” option and limiting the program changes time frame to one grant cycle so the board and agency can have more time for further analysis. **Ms. Austin** responded that the cost increase funding would come from the last funding cycle, as \$8.6 million was available while only \$5 million was requested. She further stated that there is an extensive process that entities must go through before being awarded cost increases.

Several members expressed concern over eliminating the 10 percent match and shared interest in limiting this change to one cycle. **Member Gardow** further indicated that her concerns stem from setting a precedent by removing the non-state, non-federal match and felt that this item required more consideration before approval. RCO staff, **Member Brodie**, and **Member Windrope** offered their concern in limiting the change to one year as the 2022 grant process is already underway and a time limitation might not offer full insights. The board decided to limit these proposed changes to the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles; **Member Gardow** did not support the amended resolution.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-05 as Amended
Moved By: Member Shiosaki
Seconded By: Member Brodie
Decision: **Approved**

LUNCH: 12:21 PM – 1:20 PM

Item 7: WDFW Scope Change to South Sound Prairies

Kim Sellers, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, shared background information regarding the South Sound Prairies and presented proposed scope changes from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for two funded projects: West Rocky Prairie 2016 ([16-1350](#)) and Scatter Creek Addition ([16-1352](#)).

WDFW seeks to purchase additional acreage known as the Violet Prairie property using unspent funds from the two previously funded projects in combination with awarded federal grants and a pending 2022 WWRP grant application. Further details on these scope changes can be found in the [item 7 meeting materials](#).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-06
Moved By: Member Windrope
Seconded By: Member Herzog
Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

None.

Item 8: Featured Projects

Jesse Sims and **Brian Carpenter**, RCO Outdoor Grants Managers, provided overviews of several funded projects.

Mr. Sims provided an overview of the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA), Statewide Heavy Trail Maintenance ([18-2538M](#)) and U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District, Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operation ([16-2334M](#), [18-2292M](#)) projects.

Supported by grant funding, NMA project volunteers completed 28 miles of maintenance, installed 200 rolling dips and 130 drains, removed 600 roots, and repaired 19 culverts. The Wenatchee River project enabled clearing downed trees and removing granite fallout from the trails. Volunteers were able to maintain over 100 miles of trails each year.

Mr. Carpenter shared background information and updates on the Eastmont Parks and Recreation District's, East Wenatchee 9th Street Acquisition ([16-1778A](#)) and the City of Wenatchee's Hale Park ([14-1131C](#), [16-1584D](#), [16-1666D](#)) projects.

The funding for the Eastmont Park project enabled completion of the park acquisition, including installing low-impact park features. The city will seek future grants for installation of a bathroom and other park amenities. The Hale Park project was completed in two phases, with phase one including installation of a dog park, and phase two including installation of a path, restroom, picnic area, playground, and a skate park.

Chair Willhite used the Hale Park project as an example to highlight the possibilities of expanding on the term "trail" as the new State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) is being written. He described trails as typically being thought of as surfaces for hikers, equestrians or motorized vehicles, but a trail can also be found in urban areas in the form of paths and sidewalks. He also noted the Eastmont Park project as a model for ensuring equitable access and opportunities across the state.

Item 9: Recreation Use on State Lands Update

Member Burgess was absent from 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM.

Melinda Posner, Washington State Parks Planner, **Andrea Martin**, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Statewide Recreation Manager, and **Joel Sisolak**, WDFW Planning, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager, shared the collaborative efforts on behalf of the natural resource agencies and as members of the Recreation Impacts Management Workgroup (RIMW).

The agencies have been focusing their efforts to better coordinate recreation management and planning across state lands. The priority focus areas include education and engagement, data development and management, recreation planning, and sustainable funding for recreation management.

Ms. Martin shared that there are further opportunities for education and engagement collaboration through engagement with tribes and expanding the agency messaging to encourage recreating responsibly.

Mr. Sisolak shared further opportunities for data development and management collaboration via implementing an impact monitoring framework and through visitation impact data collection and management. One such effort is ongoing between RCO, Parks, WDFW, DNR and Earth Economics to utilize mobile device data to estimate usage of Washington's state-managed public land and economic impacts associated with that use.

Ms. Posner discussed possible planning opportunities for expanded collaboration through developing a coordinated planning framework, and opportunities for sustainable funding collaboration by pursuing joint funding requests. Other potential alignment areas include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and rulemaking. Ms. Posner stated that these collaborative opportunities will ensure continuity within the natural resource agencies and promote compliance.

Mr. Sisolak then asked the board if they could offer any insights into other potential areas for alignment or possibilities for partnerships.

Member Herzog spoke of tribal treaty rights moving to the forefront of recreation management. He also spoke of problems that have occurred over the past 30 years due to increased land usage. He discussed the importance of having a unified front in the natural resource agencies to ensure open spaces are protected.

Chair Willhite identified climate change, cross-boundary efforts for critical habitat, template sharing to standardize successful projects, offering a unified voice to legislature and stakeholders, and focusing outreach efforts on several target areas that will require collaborative efforts and response. He also suggested sharing the RCO PRISM database with other natural resource agencies. Chair Willhite stated that it is still crucial that each agency maintain their individual mission.

Member Shiosaki suggested better communicating the nuances between the agencies to the public and the importance of coordinating DEI efforts.

BREAK: 2:44 PM – 3:00 PM

Item 10: State Agency Partner Reports

Governor's Office

Jon Snyder, Senior Policy Advisor, shared that the Governor's Office is focusing on community engagement and getting the Governor out to local events. The Governor will be traveling to Eastern Washington University in Spokane to visit the Palouse Restoration Project.

Department of Natural Resources

Angus Brodie, DNR Uplands Deputy Supervisor, stated that the agency is preparing for wildfire season. The agency is continuing their work with forest health, carbon projects in state trust lands, and kelp forest reserves. During the supplemental session the Legislature allocated DNR \$5 million for recreation maintenance, which will be used for backlogged maintenance projects. DNR will be submitting about 17 grant applications to the upcoming WWRP grant round for land acquisitions, restoration, and development projects. Efforts will focus on the Teanaway Forest, Dabob Bay, Kennedy Creek, the north fork of the Nooksack River, and West Tiger trails among others.

Member Brodie shared that electric bicycle (e-bike) public engagement is ongoing as a result of [Senate bill 5452](#), and two virtual meetings are scheduled for May to discuss e-bike usage on managed lands. The information from these meetings and outreach surveys will be used to inform a report due to the Legislature in September 2022. The statewide recreation plan is ongoing; DNR has been working with stakeholders and engaging with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Recreation Group to inform this plan.

Member Brodie will be taking an extended leave of absence.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Peter Herzog, Washington State Parks and Recreation Development Director, shared that the agency had several packages allocated in the Legislative session. Parks will receive funds for cultural resources and tribal relations; they will be hiring a Tribal Liaison and conducting archeological land surveys for acquisition projects. Funding was also allocated for a Climate Change Coordinator. Parks will be establishing several charging stations on state managed lands.

Parks was allocated \$1.25 million in general funds for maintenance projects, \$4 million in additional general funds support, and about \$14 million of additional spending authority. An additional \$5 million was allocated in capital funds for cost overruns and funding for trestle repairs. The Legislature passed [House bill 2058](#) which allows for exemptions for excise taxes for historic properties.

Member Herzog spoke of the staffing issues the agency has been facing and the resulting difficulty in completing projects. Parks hired **Diana Dupuis** as the new agency Director and **Mike Sternback** as the Deputy Director.

Chair Willhite invited Director Dupuis to the next RCFB meeting.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Amy Windrope, WDFW Deputy Director, shared updates on legislative funding. The agency received funding for cultural resources related work and to hire two DEI positions and a Recreation Planner. \$5 million annually was allocated for investments in recreation maintenance for WDFW lands and water recreation sites.

The WDFW Recreation Plan has been completed and the agency will be focusing on travel management and designating official trails for public usage. Progress has been made on the Violet Prairies; Scatter Creek acquired about 94 additional acres; 1500 acres were acquired at Shrubsteppe; and about 94 acres were acquired at the Nemah Tidelands. Member Windrope offered two links to the board to promote [Every Day is Earth Day](#) and [This Land is Part of Us](#).

In closing, **Chair Willhite** said that he would coordinate with **Director Duffy** to schedule the next RCFB meeting and form the meeting agenda.

ADJOURN: 3:25 PM

Next meeting: Travel Meeting – July 26-27, TBD.

Subject to change considering COVID restriction.

Approved by:

Chair Willhite

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Time Extension Requests

Prepared By: Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grants Managers

Summary

This is a request for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to consider proposed project time extensions for Washougal Oaks Natural Area (16-1441A), Skyway Park Revitalization (16-1934D), Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement (16-1621D), and Presentin Park Trails, Bike Camp and Off-Channel Restoration (16-1730C)

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: 2022-07 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the requested time extensions.

Background

Each grant [program policy manual](#) outlines the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (Board) adopted policy for progress on active funded projects. The key elements of this policy are the sponsor's responsibility to complete a funded project promptly and meet the project milestones outlined in the grant agreement. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director may give an applicant up to four years (from the award date) to complete a project. Extensions beyond four years require Board action.

RCO received requests for time extensions for the projects listed in Attachment A. This document summarizes the circumstances for the requested extensions and the expected date of project completion.

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, and
- Sponsor’s progress on this and other funded projects.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Attachments

A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Department of Natural Resources

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1441 Acquisition	Washougal Oaks Natural Area 2016	WWRP ¹ – Natural Areas	\$331,374 (25%)	7/29/2022	1/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting a six-month time extension to complete removal of ineligible structures on properties acquired for inclusion in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area. DNR has purchased just over 54 acres. The purchases included structures slated for removal. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted DNR's ability to complete this post-acquisition work, specifically securing county permits and contracting the demolition work.

Demolition permits are secured. However, the process was more extensive than expected and delayed because of COVID-19 related permit office closures. Due to the Clark County building boom, it was challenging to find qualified contractors interested in bidding this small project, which consists of removing two modest houses, a small shed, and a barn. DNR plans to send the project out for bid in mid-June and has already determined that there is a pool of qualified contractors who intend to bid the project. DNR also discovered a small colony of common bats using the barn and as a result, removal of the barn must be postponed to September 2022 to minimize nesting disturbance. DNR is replacing the barn habitat with two large bat houses that will be in the same general location as the barn.

Demolition and structure removal is expected to be complete by November 2022, and this six-month time extension will allow time to complete final billing and close out the grant in January 2023.

¹ WWRP= Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1934 Development	Skyway Park Revitalization	LWCF ² – Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership	\$323,260 (91%)	07/31/2022	12/31/2022

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks is requesting a six-month time extension to complete installation of the remaining stormwater facilities, pathways, soccer fields, playground equipment, and site furnishings at Skyway Park.

This project has progressed at every opportunity. However, it was still delayed by two main causes: the COVID-19 pandemic and the stormwater permitting process. The pandemic led to county offices and partner agencies closures and a transition to remote work. The permitting process for the stormwater approach took an extended period to complete due to King County's requirement of flow control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. The project site conditions do not allow for many of the flow control BMPs because of silty soils overlaid by fill material. This took significant effort from King County to incorporate as many BMPs as possible into the project.

Despite these delays, the design, permitting, and cultural resource efforts are now complete, and the stormwater detention system is currently being installed. The two contractors are on track to complete installation of remaining park elements by the end of September.

A time extension of six months would provide the additional time needed to complete construction for this project and for final inspection and closeout. A six-month time extension has already been approved by the National Parks Service for this project's federal agreement.

² LWCF=Land and Water Conservation Fund

City of Shoreline

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1621 Development	Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement	Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$380,496 (85%)	9/30/2022	12/31/2022

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The City of Shoreline is requesting a three-month time extension to finish reconstructing trails and restoring a natural creek channel in Shoreview Park. Although the project has had many challenges and delays, the city has made steady progress and is in a good position to complete the scope of work with a short time extension.

This project was delayed for several reasons, all exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city went through several project manager staffing changes, which delayed the project as vacancies were refilled and new project managers on-boarded. This in-water project (which was part of a larger dam removal project) had to go through an extensive federal permitting process. Pandemic-related agency closures, challenges securing necessary environmental reports, and acquiring neighboring landowner easements all contributed to the length of the project. The required State Environmental Policy Act was completed November 2021, with the National Environmental Policy Act completed in late April 2022. Contractors were hired in early May and construction is underway, with 90 percent project completion anticipated in September 2022. The project is expected to be fully completed by late October or early November. An extension through the end of the year will allow sufficient time to close out the state agreement as well as the federal agreement with the National Park Service.

Skagit County

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1730 Acquisition, Development & Restoration	Pressentin Park Trails, Bike Camp and Off Channel	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$106,876 (4%)	7/28/2022	6/30/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Skagit County Parks and Recreation is requesting a one-year extension to complete the final elements of the Presentin Park Trails, Bike Camp and Off Channel project. The project involved acquisition of two properties, restoration of side channel habitat along the Skagit River to provide rearing habitat for salmon, and development of public access facilities.

All salmon habitat restoration work has been completed and one parcel was purchased for location of a trailhead. The county is requesting more time to finish some of the recreational elements. The development work was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, initial permitting, and flooding at the site. Skagit County also needs to finalize purchase of a second parcel of land to include in the park boundary. Over the course of this project, the county negotiated with the landowner and now instead of an easement, fee acquisition of the parcel is possible. The county is currently working on the Purchase and Sale Agreement and will finalize this sale in the coming months.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Cost Increase Request: Cowlitz County, Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 3, RCO #20-1987D

Prepared By: Ashly Arambul, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Cowlitz County is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) for a cost increase for the Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 3 (RCO [20-1987](#)) project. The cost increase will help offset the unexpected increased cost of project materials and contractor labor.

The requested cost increase exceeds ten percent of the total cost and, therefore, policy requires Board consideration of the request.

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: 2022-07 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the cost increase request.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) awarded Cowlitz County a \$117,586 Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) grant to expand a trap range by adding two trap fields. The scope of work involves installing trap houses, trap machines, electrical utilities to accommodate the trap facilities, and improving the range access road and parking area (see Attachment A). With only one trap field, the county is not able to host large competitions or practice shoots. With the addition of two trap fields, Cowlitz County will be able to increase capacity and allow for group events such as high school Future Farmers of America team practices and competitions, 4-H Club practices and competitions, as well as community and state trap competitions.

Project Status

Soon after the Board approved the grant at their June 2021 meeting, Cowlitz County began pre-construction activities to ensure timely completion of the scope of work. The county finalized their design with the engineering and planning departments, then put the project out to bid. The updated contractor estimate came back higher than previously expected. The county explored other funding options and decided to request Board approval of a cost increase. If the Board approves the increase, the county will start construction in August 2022.

Discussion and Analysis

Cowlitz County's cost increase request is for an additional \$26,407 in grant funds. As shown in the table below, the original grant application and subsequent award was \$117,586. The grant funds combined with a sponsor match of \$117,586 (50 percent) equaled a total project cost of \$235,172. When the county put the project out for bids, the lowest bid was \$52,814 higher than the estimate received in 2020. This is due to the unexpected increased cost of project materials and contractor labor caused by the pandemic.

Cost Increase for Cowlitz County 20-1987

	Original Project Agreement	Cost Increase Request	Proposed Project Agreement
FARR Grant (50%)	\$117,586	\$26,407	\$143,993
Sponsor Match (50%)	\$117,586	\$26,407	\$143,993
Total Project Cost	\$235,172	\$52,814	\$287,986

While the county is requesting additional FARR funds, it will provide an equal amount of sponsor match, preserving the 50/50 match ratio. This cost increase is 23 percent of the total project cost, which requires Board consideration as specified in the cost increase policy.

Cost Increase Policy

The Board's policy on cost increases is outlined in *Manual 4: Development Projects* on page 33. Specifically, the policy states:

On occasion, the cost of completing a project exceeds the amount written into the agreement. Such overruns are the responsibility of the project sponsor. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board may consider a cost increase in some grant programs if funds are available, and the grant sponsor submits a written

request. The director may approve requests for increases up to 10 percent of the total project cost and the board may approve increases above 10 percent.

To request an increase the project sponsor must submit a written request to RCO addressing the following:

- The sponsor must have fully explored all practical alternatives to completing the intent of the agreement.
- The sponsor must have had little control over the conditions causing the overrun
- Any increase must be used only for elements in the grant agreement.

A sponsor must obtain director or board approval for any significant change in project scope or design that results in a cost increase request. This approval must be granted before or simultaneously to the cost increase.

Analysis

There are enough uncommitted funds available in the FARR Account to cover the amount requested. This request exceeds 10 percent of the project's initial approved grant amount, and therefore the request is presented for the Board's consideration.

Alternatives Considered

The county has considered three options:

- The county's request for additional funds is their preferred alternative. This will allow the project to move forward with completion of the full scope of work, which involves expanding the trap range facility and road improvements.
- The county considered using alternate materials or removing scope items from the project. All scope elements were examined to see if a less expensive version was available or if elements could be removed. After careful consideration, the county concluded that this was not a viable alternative because all scope elements were determined to be essential and the county did not want to compromise the quality of the completed project.
- Lastly, the county considered returning the grant funds they currently have and applying for grant funds again in 2022. However, the county has only one dedicated staff person for the shooting facility and was reluctant to commit staff time to an application process where there would be no guarantee of being awarded another grant. The county is also concerned that with the continued increase in cost for construction labor and materials, it will not have enough available matching funds to contribute to the project.

Conditions Causing the Overrun

The sponsor had little control over the conditions causing the overrun. Due to increased prices in construction material and contractor labor, the cost of this project has increased.

Elements in the Agreement

If approved, the increased budget will only pay for costs associated with elements included in the approved grant agreement.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this proposal supports the Board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the cost increase as requested.

Next Steps

If the Board approves the cost increase request, RCO staff will execute the necessary amendment to the grant agreement.

Attachments

Attachment A: Location Map and Photo of the Clubhouse

Cowlitz County Public Shooting Range: Location Map and Photo of Current Trap Facility.



**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2022-07
July 26-27, 2022 - Consent Agenda**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following July 26-27 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2022-07

A. Board Meeting Minutes – April 26-27, 2022

B. Time Extensions:

- Department of Natural Resources, Washougal Oaks Natural Area, 16-1441A
- King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Skyway Park Revitalization, 16-1934D
- City of Shoreline, Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement, 16-1621D
- Skagit County, Pressentin Park Trails, Bike Camp and Off-Channel Restoration, 16-1730C

C. Cost Change:

- Cowlitz County Parks and Recreation, Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 3, 20-1987D

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Adopted/~~Defeated/Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Approved Date: July 26, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Recreation and Conservation Office Report (Director's Report)

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, Marguerite Austin, Mark Jarasitis, Susan Zemek, and Brent Hedden

Summary

This memo summarizes key agency activities.

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

Agency Updates

Tis the Season to Cut a Ribbon or Two

RCO leaders have been making the rounds of ribbon cuttings and dedication ceremonies this spring. On April 30, Director Duffy spoke at the opening of Swan Creek Park in Tacoma. The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma used a \$3.9 million Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program grant to build a new front entrance, renovate nearly 9 miles of trails, build a parking lot, and install a restroom, two picnic shelters, signs, benches, bike racks, and picnic tables.

In May, Ted Willhite, chair of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board), cut the ribbon to open the splash pad at Gig Harbor's Gateway Park. The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District used a \$440,165 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant to build the splash pad,



which is the only aquatic facility in the service area where people with disabilities can play in the water unassisted on an accessible surface.

Outdoor grants manager Beth Auerbach attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jefferson Universal Movement Playground (JUMP) in Jefferson County in May. This second highest ranked project in the Local Parks Category of WWRP will use a \$500,000 grant to complete the first phase of playground development at H.J. Carroll Park in Chimacum.



Chair Ted Willhite and Beth Auerbach were guests at the June 4th reopening ceremony for Owen Beach in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park. A \$3 million RCO Recreation Grant provided funds for the \$6 million dollar project, which incorporated climate adaptive designs to plan for sea level rise and increased stormwater events. Project elements included an elder's viewing area for the canoe launch, two accessible human-powered boat launches, a redesigned lawn, reconfigured vehicle access, and renovated picnic shelter, play area, and restrooms. Chair Willhite spoke at the well-attended celebration.



Three Park Projects Receive More than \$6 Million

Three Seattle-area projects were awarded grants in the Land and Water Conservation Fund's (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program. They are as follows:

- \$3.6 million to King County for Lakeland North Urban Park
- \$2.1 million to Seattle for Garfield Super Block Park
- \$491,446 to Seattle for Be'er Sheva Park Improvements.



Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced more than \$61 million awarded nationwide, with 26 cities receiving grants to create or renovate parks and trails in urban communities. In May, National Park Service staff members Ginger Carter and Elisabeth Fondriest met with RCO to discuss project highlights, one unsuccessful project, next steps, and preliminary plans for the next grant round which will be announced in the next few months.

Staff Present at State Conference

Cultural resource staff Sarah Johnson Humphries and Sarah Thirtyacre teamed up with Emily Peterson, who is the director-at-large for the Association for Washington Archaeology and the cultural resources lead at Perteet Inc.,



for a presentation at the Washington Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference and Tradeshow. The "Integrating Cultural Resources into Project Development" session introduced cultural resources, cultural resources management, discussed state and federal regulatory requirements, and shared tips for how to hire and work with a cultural resource's consultant. The session was well attended, and the presenters happily answered lots of questions.

State of Play

Aspen Institute's kick off meeting for the State of Play Tacoma-Pierce County Advisory Group was held on June 21st at the Point Defiance Zoo. Kyle Guzlas, grants service section manager, and Beth Auerbach attended the event that is funded by the Names Family Foundation in partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma. The study will examine how

the community is serving the health needs of youth through sports and play. The one-year study will result in a report to identify barriers to play for Pierce County youth and opportunities to improve access and quality of experience.

Planning for Trails Conference Underway

Planning is underway for the 2022 Trails Conference. Trail advocates, consultants, agency representatives, user groups, and recreation and transportation professionals will gather in Everett on October 27-29 to share insights, celebrate successes, and inspire new or improved trail projects. “Common Ground” is the theme for this year’s conference and the planning committee solicited proposals in May that focused on the practical aspect of building and maintaining trails, funding, the benefits of trails to users, and strategies for ensuring compatible use between recreationists and commuters.



Executive Team Takes Retreat to Plan for Next Year

The Executive Team spent nearly 4 days discussing the needs of the agency in the coming year and making plans for handling legislative assignments. The team heard from each section manager about their upcoming work and staffing needs. Then the team discussed policy and budget needs; implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion reviews; results of the employee engagement survey; support for big projects; an all-staff event in the fall; ways to make Board prep and management more efficient; and next year’s salmon recovery conference.



Northwest Land Camp

Outdoor grants managers Allison Dellwo, Beth Auerbach, and Henry Smith were among more than 250 attendees at the Northwest Land Camp. This in-person training and networking event, held June 28-29, was hosted at Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon. There were 35 dynamic workshop sessions designed for land trust and others

interested in conserving significant outdoor areas in the Pacific Northwest. Topics included community forests, stewardship, equitable access to working lands, responding to climate change, reviewing conservation easements and more. RCO staff connected with many individuals who are managing active Board grants or who have submitted applications for the current grant cycle.

RCO Launches Orca Web Site

RCO launched the State’s orca recovery Web site and received many compliments. “TREMENDOUS! I love it,” wrote a marine mammal biologist with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. “So great to see everything in one place, and such a digestible presentation of the complexity.” The site highlights the threats orcas face, the implementation status of the Governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force recommendations, and ways for the public to get involved. The Web site has received a record number of social media views for the agency and word of the site has travelled the globe, with interest across oceans about the ecotypes of orca in the Pacific Northwest. “This looks great, and wow, what a ton of work went into it (especially the details about all of the recommendations)!” wrote the Seattle Aquarium. “And it’s very easy to navigate.”



Staff Begin to Move Back into Building

The Natural Resources Building has reopened to the public and RCO staff have begun moving back in. Supervisors reviewed position descriptions to determine which positions could work 100% remote. These staff were polled to determine how many days they would like to continue to work remotely. About 47 percent opted to work full time from home, another 41 percent chose to return to the office from 1 to 4 days a week, and 12 percent have returned full time to the office. To accommodate a hybrid workforce, RCO is updating several policies, including one guiding home office equipment. RCO staff working at least 60 percent of the time (on average) a month in the office will keep a dedicated workspace. Staff spending less time in the office will use shared, unassigned workspaces. Depending on



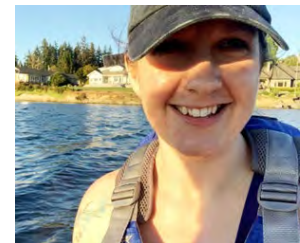
the amount of time spent in the office, employees also may have flexible or telework agreements in place.

New Employees

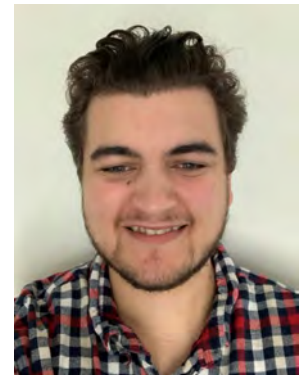
Lauren Burnes joined RCO in June in a project position to oversee the daily management of several agency projects, such as the equity review of grants and the analysis of RCO's structure. Lauren was the director of Workplace Culture and Development at the Department of Natural Resources and previously served as the director of organizational change management. She has extensive experience managing complex initiatives and facilitating teams. Her skills include management, communication and change management, and workplace culture expertise.



Jessica Fish joined the Data Team May 1 in a project position to support the Salmon Recovery Portal's data alignment effort, the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report and orca Web site. She worked previously at RCO under contract as a data support specialist and within retail technology. Jessica earned her bachelor of science degree in environmental science, technology, and policy from California State University of Monterey Bay and her master's degree from The Evergreen State College in Olympia. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys climbing, kayaking, cooking, and walking with her dog.



Jared Hudson joined RCO in May and is a technical support specialist in the Information Technology Section. Jared came to RCO through the Internship Program at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. His past experiences include movie theater technology manager, bank teller, drywaller, and cook.



Nick Norton joined RCO in May as a planning and policy specialist. Nick came to us from the Washington Association of Land Trusts, where he spent the past nearly 4 years as the executive director. While there, he advocated for the new Community Forests Program, served on multiple RCO advisory committees, engaged on the State Policy Committee at the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and worked with RCO staff on various projects. Before the land trust association, Nick served in multiple roles at the Palouse Land Trust. He worked closely with the staff and Board there to develop and implement a strategic vision, acquire lands, and steward lands where the land trust had easement or ownership. In his free time, Nick, his wife Nicole, and 3-year-old son Emil enjoy camping, cross-country skiing, canoeing, playing on the beach, watching the birds, and hunting for worms in the garden.



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** will meet August 24.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in June. Topics included a port-of-entry interception working group and rapid response plan, an update on funding from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and a European green crab emergency response update. In addition, staff helped plan a Citizen Science Networking Event at Woodland Park Zoo and a Multi-Agency Coordinator Group Workshop in June, all while responding to more than 100 public reports of invasive species.

The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** met in-person June 1-2, with the first day being a board retreat and the second day a regular meeting. The board made decisions on allocating supplemental budget funding, funding for cost increases, and funding for the board's monitoring program. Additionally, the board heard regional presentations from the Coast Salmon Partnership and Foundation and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

Legislative Update

Staff is developing both budget and policy requests for the 2023 session. RCO's budget process includes decisions by the Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Requests are due in mid-September and the governor's budget will be out in December.

The most recent state revenue forecast was quite positive, with an additional \$1.46 billion in revenue coming into the state this biennium and about \$600 million in the 23-

25 biennium. There are additional forecasts in September and November, and the governor’s budget is based on the November forecast.

In addition to submitting for our annual budget, we are developing one policy legislative ask to address some minor issues in the statutes related to the stadium funds (Item #5).

Grant Management Section

Applications for Farms, Forests and Big Boats

By the June 1st deadline, 13 organizations submitted 23 applications requesting over \$22 million for farmland and forestland preservation. Staff extended the application deadline for the WWRP’s Farm and Forest Account to give applicants time to modify their proposals to align with Board policies adopted in April. The Board approved using a written review and evaluation process, suspension of the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement, and cost increases for funded projects. The changes apply to the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles only. The policy changes and extended deadline resulted in an increase in projects and funds requested compared with the 2020 grant cycle.



Whidbey-Camano Land Trust, Kristoferson Farm and Forest

One applicant submitted a Boating Infrastructure Grant application by the June 1st deadline. A summary of that proposal is in Item 11.

Grant Applications Undergoing Review

Technical reviews of 264 grant applications submitted this spring are underway. Staff facilitated review sessions in May and June with seven advisory committees that reviewed and commented on WWRP habitat conservation and outdoor recreation projects, and projects submitted for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the LWCF. Staff reviewed the Youth Athletic Facilities and Community Forests Program projects, while 3 advisory committees are currently reviewing applications for the WWRP Farm and Forest Account and the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. Final review comments are due in early July. Based on the comments provided by advisors and staff, applicants will revise and resubmit their proposals before the projects are evaluated later this summer. The Board will approve a final ranked lists of projects in October and award grants for these programs in July 2023.



\$1.8 Million for Recreational Trails

The Federal Highway Administration has approved more than \$1.8 million in federal funds for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Applicants primarily use these funds to maintain backcountry trails for motorized and nonmotorized recreation. The Board approved the final ranked lists and partial funding for 35 projects last year. The new money fully funds those partially funded projects and three new projects. The lists are shown in Attachment A.



Annual Trails Meeting

The Recreational Trails Advisory Committee gathered April 12 for its annual meeting. Recreation and conservation section manager Marguerite Austin and outdoor grants manager Jesse Sims hosted the meeting, which included a discussion on the impact of

COVID-19 on recreational use. Natural resource policy specialist Ben Donatelle updated the advisors on the status of the *State Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan* and the *State Trails Plan* that is part of the Board's *Unifying Strategy*. Staff discussed how federal fiscal year 2022 funding would be distributed and a recommendation for continued use of toll credits as match, if needed. Also, as in past years, the advisors voted to continue funding for Education Category grants. Staff has submitted a summary of this annual meeting to the Federal Highway Administration to retain Washington's eligibility for these federal funds.

Using Returned Funds for Alternate and Partially Funded Projects

The director has approved grants for alternate and partially funded projects. The awards are comprised of unused funds from previously funded projects. Attachment A, Funds for Alternate and Partially Funded Projects, shows the grant awards for alternate projects (Table A-1) and the additional funding for partially funded projects (Table A-2).

Project Administration

Staff administer outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects as summarized in the table below. "Active" projects are under agreement and are in the implementation phase. "Director Approved" projects include grant awards made by the RCO director after receiving board-delegated authority to award grants. Staff are working with sponsors to secure the materials needed to place the director approved projects under agreement.

Program	Active Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	36	1	37
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	66	2	68
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	10	0	10
Community Forests Program (CFP)	5	1	6
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	11	0	11
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	16	19	35
No Child Left Inside (NCLI)	84	3	87
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	100	3	103
Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	7	1	8
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	38	6	44

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	261	9	270
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	55	7	62
Total	689	52	741

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment B lists projects that closed between April 1 and June 30, 2022. This quarter the team closed 92 projects! Click on the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, photos, maps, reports, etc.

Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through May 31, 2022 (Fiscal Month 11). Percentage of biennium reported: 45.8 percent. The "Budget" column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Grant Program	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	Includes Re-appropriations 2021-2023	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Grant Programs							
ALEA	\$19,570,000	\$17,230,711	88%	\$2,339,289	12%	\$2,512,465	15%
BFP	\$35,395,000	\$32,665,248	92%	\$2,729,752	8%	\$4,568,342	14%
BIG	\$4,894,722	\$4,894,722	100%	\$0	0%	\$523,977	11%
FARR	\$1,742,000	\$1,185,229	68%	\$556,7715	32%	\$202,962	17%
LWCF	\$5,876,000	\$5,876,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,183,394	37%
NOVA	\$19,270,000	\$17,475,690	91%	\$1,794,310	9%	\$3,611,866	21%
RTP	\$5,012,157	\$4,565,843	91%	\$446,314	9%	\$1,548,981	34%
WWRP	\$208,928,000	\$186,138,128	89%	\$22,789,872	11%	\$18,413,599	10%
RRG	\$5,991,000	\$5,699,436	95%	\$291,564	5%	\$511,160	9%
YAF	\$21,422,000	\$18,518,082	86%	\$2,903,918	14%	\$3,326,070	18%
Subtotal	\$337,100,879	\$294,249,089	90%	\$33,851,790	10%	\$37,402,816	13%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	\$9,804,831	\$9,804,831	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,081,621	42%
Grand Total	\$337,905,710	\$304,053,920	90%	\$33,851,790	10%	\$41,484,437	14%

Acronym	Grant Program
ALEA	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
BFP	Boating Facilities Program
BIG	Boating Infrastructure Grant
FARR	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NOVA	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
WWRP	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
RRG	RCO Recreation Grants
YAF	Youth Athletic Facilities

Board Revenue Report:

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through April 30, 2022 (Fiscal Month 10).

Percentage of biennium reported: 41.6%.

Program	Biennial Forecast		Collections
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$18,827,803	\$7,761,086	41.2%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$13,922,875	\$5,648,637	40.6%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$656,270	\$269,847	41.1%
Total	\$33,406,948	\$13,679,570	40.9%

Revenue Notes:

- BFP revenue is from the un-refunded marine gasoline taxes.
- NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads, and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits.
- FARR revenue is from \$2.16 of each concealed pistol license fee.
- These figures reflect the most recent revenue forecast in March 2022. The next forecast will be in June 2022.

WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	\$353,528,080	\$315,932,299	89%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$233,781,490	\$204,012,163	87%
Department of Natural Resources	\$198,952,565	\$153,706,041	77%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$169,105,997	\$136,422,259	81%
Nonprofits	\$50,421,448	\$34,719,775	69%
Conservation Commission	\$5,440,924	\$1,561,411	29%
Tribes	\$2,807,431	\$1,741,411	62%
Other			
Special Projects	\$735,011	\$735,011	100%
Total	\$1,014,772,946	\$848,830,370	84%

Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2022

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Data current as of March 28, 2022.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding	90%	76%	●	223 of 294 agreements have been mailed on time this fiscal year.
Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding	95%	73%	●	219 of 302 projects were under agreement within 180 days.
Progress reports responded to within 15 days	90%	93%	●	RCFB staff received 631 progress reports and responded to them in an average of 7 days.
Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date	85%	66%	●	40 of 61 projects have closed on time.
Projects in Backlog	5	19	●	There are 19 RCFB projects in the backlog needing to be closed out.
Compliance inspections done	125	73	●	73 inspections have inspected 66 worksites.

Attachments

Attachment A: Table of funds for alternately and partially funded projects

Attachment B: Table of closed projects from April 1 – June 30.

Funds for Alternate and Partially Funded Projects

Table A-1: Funds for Alternate Projects,

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Grant Award	Grant Program Category
20-2029M	Salmon Ridge Trail System Maintenance	Nooksack Nordic Ski Club	\$23,500	\$23,500	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2062D	Riverside State Park Knothead Loop Trailhead	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$148,065	\$26,320	Recreational Trails Program, General
21-1454E	Naches Wilderness Education Rangers	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	\$20,000	\$10,000	Recreational Trails Program, Education

Table A-2: Funds for Partially Funded Projects

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Previous Grant Awards	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program Category
20-2282E	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Mountains to Sound Greenway	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	Recreational Trails Program, Education
21-1453E	Trailhead Ambassadors					
20-2131E	Middle Fork and Mount Si	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	Recreational Trails Program, Education
21-1566E	Natural Resources Conservation Areas Education					
20-1980E	Protect Trails and Educate Users with Spill Kits	Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive	\$7,890	\$3,945	\$7,890	Recreational Trails Program, Education
21-1452E						
20-2289E	Palouse Falls Education Resource Development	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$19,247	\$9,623	\$19,247	Recreational Trails Program, Education
21-1567E						
20-2099M	Western Washington Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$125,000	Recreational Trails Program, General

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Previous Grant Awards	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program Category
20-2100M	Eastern Washington Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$75,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2004M	Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	\$82,486	\$41,243	\$82,486	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1990M	Statewide Backcountry Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1959M	Reopening Threatened National Forest Trails	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	\$117,600	\$58,800	\$117,600	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2308M	Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2005M	Maintaining Endangered Trails	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	\$57,817	\$28,908	\$57,817	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1991M	Statewide Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2262M	Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1989M	Statewide Youth Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2187M	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Maintenance	Pacific Crest Trail Association	\$107,000	\$53,500	\$107,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2135M	Methow Valley Ranger District Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	\$149,986	\$74,993	\$149,986	Recreational Trails Program, General

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Previous Grant Awards	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program Category
20-2281M	Mountains to Sound Trail Maintenance	Mountains to Sound Greenway	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2184M	Naches Motorized Trails Deferred Maintenance and Operations	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	\$150,000	\$105,013	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2419M	Northwest Motorcycle Association Heavy Maintenance Crew Statewide Maintenance	Northwest Motorcycle Association	\$114,019	\$57,009	\$114,019	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1985M	Northwest Region Trail Maintenance	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2322M	Stampede Pass Multiple Use Sno-Park Trails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1955M	Lower Lake Chelan Summer and Winter Trails	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2203M	Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred Maintenance and Operations	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$120,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1954M	Upper Lake Chelan Basin Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	\$150,000	\$24,569	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2221M	Snowmobile Trails Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	\$102,000	\$51,000	\$102,000	Recreational Trails Program, General

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Previous Grant Awards	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program Category
20-2251M	Blue Mountains Snowmobile Trails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$118,100	\$59,050	\$118,100	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2019M	Pomeroy Ranger District Trail Grooming, Maintenance, and Operations	U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District	\$38,000	\$19,000	\$38,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2272M	Pyramid Peak Snowmobile Trails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$140,000	\$70,000	\$140,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2261M	Mount Baker Snowmobile Sno-Parks and Trail Maintenance	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$132,000	\$66,000	\$132,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-2271M	Selkirk Snowmobile Trails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$133,000	\$66,500	\$133,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1958M	Snowmobile Trail Grooming Methow Valley	Mountain Trails Grooming Association	\$65,100	\$32,550	\$65,100	Recreational Trails Program, General
20-1742A	Illahee Preserve Kitsap County Heritage Park	Kitsap County	\$1,000,000	\$720,763	\$1,000,000	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat

ⁱA=Acquisition, C=Acquisition and Development, D=Development, E=Education/Education and Enforcement, M=Maintenance, O=Operation R=Restoration

Projects Completed and Closed from April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
18-2023D	Old Cannery Park	Hoquiam	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	6/15/2022
16-1313D	Port of Indianola Dock Redevelopment	Port of Indianola	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	6/7/2022
18-2004D	Riverfront Park Suspension Bridge Renovation	Spokane	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	4/19/2022
16-2414D	Tokeland Marina Boarding Redevelopment Phase 3	Port of Willapa Harbor	Boating Facilities Program, Local	4/19/2022
14-1641D	Cornet Bay Moorage Facility Replacement	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Boating Facilities Program, State	6/27/2022
20-1967D	Pistol Caliber Range Berm Improvement	Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	4/14/2022
18-2394D	Swakane Canyon Rifle and Pistol Range Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	6/9/2022
18-2561D	Jefferson County Sportsmen's Club Noise-Safety Improvement	Jefferson County Sportsmen's Association	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	4/26/2022
16-1991D	Edgewood Community Park: Phase 1	Edgewood	Land and Water Conservation Fund	4/11/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
16-1695D	Swan Creek Park Trail Network	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership	6/17/2022
19-1267E	Get Out and Learn	King County	No Child Left Inside, Tier 2	1/4/2022
18-2381E	Alpine Lakes Wilderness Backcountry Patrol 2020-21	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	4/29/2022
18-2383E	Snoqualmie Ranger District Front Country Patrol 2018	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	4/29/2022
18-2308E	Cle Elum Ranger District Alpine Lakes Wilderness Education and Enforcement 2020-2022	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	5/31/2022
18-2309E	Cle Elum Ranger District Frontcountry Wilderness Education and Enforcement 2020-2022	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	5/31/2022
18-2307E	Cle Elum Ranger District Off-Road Vehicle Education and Enforcement 2020-2022	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	5/31/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
18-2369E	Methow Valley and Tonasket Education and Enforcement 2020-2021	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement	6/6/2022
18-2400D	Corral Pass Campground and Trailhead Restoration	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road	5/20/2022
18-2310M	Cle Elum Ranger District Frontcountry Maintenance and Operation 2020-2022	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road	5/24/2022
18-2272M	Mt. Loop Trailhead and Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	5/20/2022
18-2482M	Skykomish Ranger District Trail Maintenance 2020	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	4/28/2022
18-2399D	Middle Fork Trail Relocation	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	5/24/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
18-2485M	Cle Elum Ranger District Non-motorized Trails Maintenance and Operation 2020-2022	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	6/3/2022
18-2618D	Methow Valley Fun Rocks Development	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	5/20/2022
18-2385M	Methow Valley Ranger District Fire Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	6/9/2022
18-2377M	Methow Valley Ranger District Trail Maintenance 2020-21	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	5/20/2022
18-2374D	Upper Methow Valley Snowy Lakes Development	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	6/1/2022
18-2393M	Wilderness Non-Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operation 2020-2021	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	5/13/2022
18-2538M	Northwest Motorcycle Statewide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	6/9/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
18-2405M	Gifford Pinchot National Forest Motorized Trails Operation and Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Tonasket Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	4/11/2022
18-2387M	Evans Creek Off-Road Vehicle Area Maintenance 2020-21	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	5/13/2022
18-2486M	Statewide 2-Track Trail Maintenance	Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	6/3/2022
18-2380M	Rehabilitating Endangered Trails	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Recreational Trails Program, General	6/14/2022
18-2254M	Rescuing Threatened Trails	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Recreational Trails Program, General	6/14/2022
18-2536M	Northwest Motorcycle Association Statewide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Recreational Trails Program, General	4/1/2022
18-2378M	Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance 2020-21	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Recreational Trails Program, General	04/29/2022
18-2519M	Upper Lake Chelan Basin Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Recreational Trails Program, General	5/20/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
18-2382M	Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Deferred Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Recreational Trails Program, General	5/20/2022
18-2335M	Taneum Ridge Snowmobile Trails and Sno-Parks	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Recreational Trails Program, General	5/11/2022
18-2391M	West Cascades to Yakima Snowmobile Trails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Recreational Trails Program, General	4/13/2022
18-2324M	2018 Statewide Youth Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	Recreational Trails Program, General	6/6/2022

ⁱ A=Acquisition, C=Acquisition and Development, D=Development, E=Education/Education and Enforcement, M=Maintenance, O=Operation R=Restoration

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Operating and Capital Budget Requests for the 2023-25 Biennium

Prepared By: Brock Milliern, Policy Director

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will submit operating and capital budget requests for the 2023-25 biennium to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in early September. This memo provides background information to assist the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) in making decisions on the final budget requests for RCO to include in its operating and capital budget proposals for the following grant programs: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and Youth Athletics Facilities Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Operating Budget

Funding for support of recreation and conservation grant programs comes primarily from the administrative rate of our capital appropriation and dedicated accounts. However, RCO typically receives limited general funds in the operating budget for the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), Washington Invasives Species Council and small portions of other staff costs. The 2022 supplemental budget was an exception where RCO received \$75 million for salmon recovery work and \$300 thousand for boating safety.

The 2023-25 operating budget outlook is predicted to have the usual pressures. Of note, the anticipated economic retraction associated with the global pandemic did not materialize, though there is still caution given the instability of some market and economic indicators like interest rates, inflation, and stock market fluctuation. The most

recent operating revenue forecast showed an increase of \$1.46 billion for the current biennium and an increase of \$600 million for the 2023-25 biennium.

Capital Budget

Bond Funding Capacity

The capital budget outlook is currently stable, barring further spikes in interest rates or drastic changes in other economic factors. Estimated bond capacity in the 2023-25 biennium from the most recent revenue forecast is \$4.112 billion, which is \$147.3 million increase over the 2022 supplemental enacted bond model. Competing pressures for bond funding in the upcoming biennium include possible funding for a new Western State Hospital, which current estimates put at \$600 million.

Dedicated Funds

Many of RCO’s programs depend on dedicated funds that are collected and committed to certain purposes. The budget requests for these programs will be based on the amount of expected collections for the 2023-25 biennium. The board will be asked for approval of these funding amounts in their next meeting in August. These recreation and conservation programs are found in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Dedicated Fund Sources for RCO Programs

Program	Revenue Source
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Revenue from DNR managed aquatic lands, including sale of geoduck harvests
Boating Facilities Program	Motor vehicle fuel tax attributed to boating
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	Concealed weapons permits
Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	Motor vehicle fuel tax attributed to off highway usage and off-road vehicle permits

Federal Funds

The following RCO programs receive federal funds. The budget requests for these programs will be based on the amount of expected federal appropriations for the state 2023-2025 biennium. These recreation and conservation programs are found in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Federal Fund Sources for RCO Programs

Program	Revenue Source
---------	----------------

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Department of Interior
Land and Water Conservation Fund	National Park Service/Department of Interior
Recreational Trails Program	Federal transportation funds dedicated to trails
Salmon Recovery – Federal	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Budget Requests

At the July meeting, the board will be briefed and provide direction on the options of 2023-25 funds to include in RCO’s budget request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and Youth Athletics Facilities Program. The board will make a final decision at the August special meeting. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board will make the same determination on funds for salmon recovery at their August meeting. Several other RCO-managed grant programs will have funding requests proposed by partner organizations, such the Department of Natural Resources, Puget Sound Partnership, and Washington Department Fish and Wildlife.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

Background and History of WWRP Funding Levels

WWRP is funded in the capital budget with general obligation bonds. Table 3 shows the bonds requested by the board and the amount appropriated by biennia. On average since 1995, the program has received 68 percent of the amount requested by RCO. This table is a frame of reference to display how request amounts have been funded over time.

Table 3: WWRP Requests, Appropriations, and Percent Difference

Biennium	WWRP Request	WWRP Appropriation	Difference
<i>--- Dollars in Millions ---</i>			
91-93	N/A	\$61	N/A
93-95	N/A	\$65	N/A
95-97	\$90	\$45	50%
97-99	\$113	\$45	40%
99-01	\$70	\$48	69%
01-03	\$90	\$45	50%
03-05	\$55	\$45	82%
05-07	\$50	\$50	100%

07-09	\$100	\$100	100%
09-11	\$100	\$70	70%
11-13	\$100	\$42	42%
13-15	\$90	\$65	72%
15-17	\$97	\$89*	92%*
17-19	\$120	\$80	67%
19-21	\$130	\$85	65%
21-23	\$140	\$100	71%

*Figure includes RCO Recreation Grants funding for 2015-2017

Figure 1 shows the value of past appropriations based on nominal 2022 dollars. This analysis demonstrates that the \$61 million appropriation in 1991 is worth \$127 million in today's dollars. The average appropriation based on 2022 dollars is **\$90 million**.

Figure 1: WWRP Appropriation by Biennium, Adjusted for 2022 Dollars (amounts in millions)

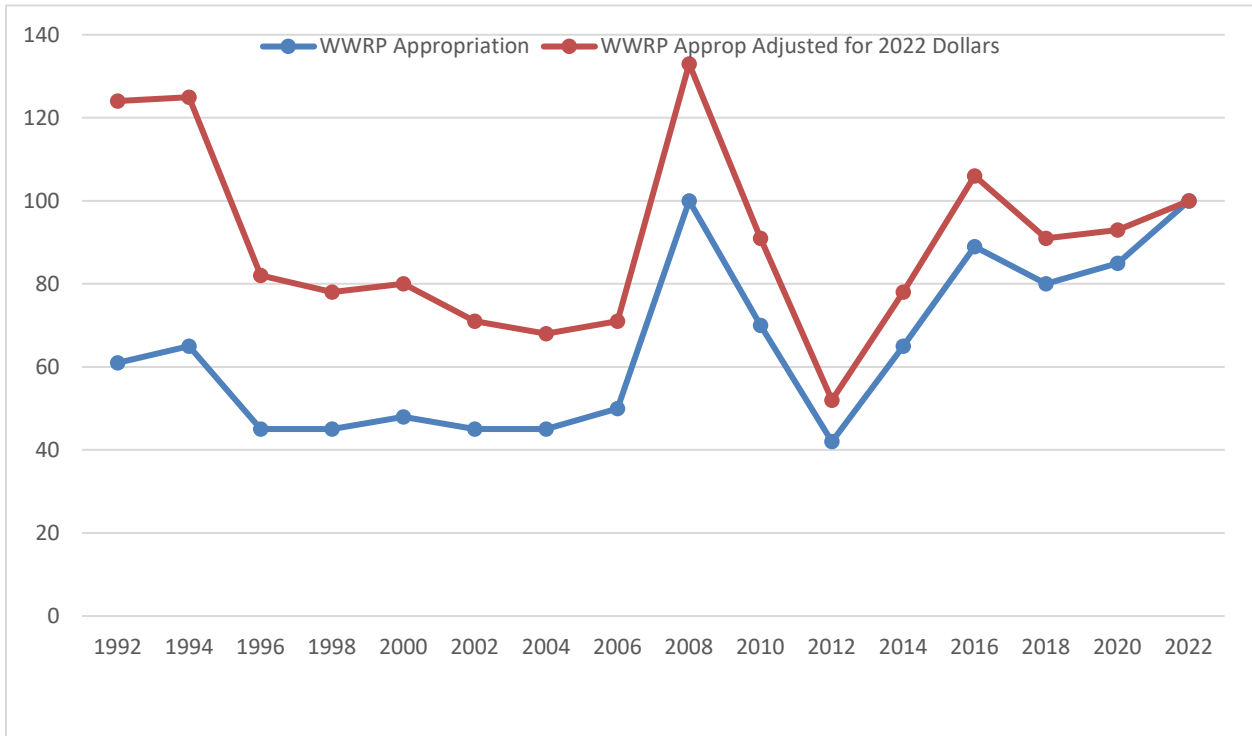


Figure 1 and table 4 use Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index calculator to adjust to 2022 nominal dollars. The calculator uses the average Consumer Price Index for a given calendar year. The data represents changes in prices of all goods and services purchased for consumption by urban households.

This memo provides options for the WWRP funding request: 1) based on a per capita foundation; 2) based on the percent of applications received over time that were

funded; 3) based on funding at least 50 percent of projects in every category; and, 4) the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC) advocacy number.

Option 1: Set the Funding Level on a Per Capita Basis

A budget request for WWRP could be based upon the amount appropriated per capita. Since 1992, the average per capita appropriation (adjusted for inflation¹) for WWRP is \$14.22.

In the 2020 census, Washington’s population was estimated at 7.66 million—an increase of 930,000 since 2010. The increasing population puts additional pressure on park, recreation, and conservation areas. Investing at a level consistent with population growth can help ensure pacing with the state’s need.

Table 4: WWRP appropriations per capita, adjusted for 2022 dollars.

Biennium	WWRP Appropriation (Adjusted to 2022 dollars)	State Population	WWRP per Capita
<i>----- Dollars and Population in Millions -----</i>			
91-93	\$124	5.14	\$24.12
93-95	\$125	5.36	\$23.32
95-97	\$82	5.57	\$14.72
97-99	\$78	5.75	\$13.57
99-01	\$80	5.89	\$13.58
01-03	\$71	6.06	\$11.72
03-05	\$68	6.21	\$10.95
05-07	\$71	6.42	\$11.06
07-09	\$133	6.61	\$20.12
09-11	\$91	6.72	\$13.54
11-13	\$52	6.82	\$7.62
13-15	\$78	6.97	\$11.19
15-17	\$106	7.18	\$14.76
17-19	\$91	7.43	\$12.25
19-21	\$93	7.66	\$12.14
21-23	\$100	7.77(Est)	\$12.87

Estimated population for 2024, based on current OFM population growth data is approximately 7.88 million. If the WWRP budget request is based on the average per capita since 1991 of \$14.22, the request amount would be **\$112.05 million**.

Option 2: Applications Received and Funded

Table 7 displays the amount needed to fund all applications received each biennium since 1999 and the actual WWRP appropriation. Historically, the appropriation has met an average of 50 percent of the funding requested.

Table 5. Percentage of Applications Funded Through Appropriation

Biennium	Total Applications (\$)	WWRP Appropriation	Percent of Applications (\$) Funded
----- Dollars in Millions -----			
99-01	\$78.9	\$48	61%
01-03	\$62.6	\$45	72%
03-05	\$116.7	\$45	39%
05-07	\$85.1	\$50	59%
07-09	\$161.1	\$100	62%
09-11	\$272.2	\$70	26%
11-13	\$192.3	\$42	22%
13-15	\$129.8	\$65	50%
15-17	\$157.7	\$89	56%
17-19	\$163.4	\$80	49%
19-21	\$196.9	\$85	43%
21-23	\$174.6	\$100	57%

The amount needed in 2023-25 to fund 50 percent of the applications received in 2022, which is currently \$156.6 million (subject to change following completion of the technical review period), is **\$78.3 million**. The amount needed to fund 75 percent of the applications is **\$117.5 million**.

Option 3: Fund at least 50% of projects in every category:

WWRP funds are broken into three main categories, and twelve subcategories—each with a predetermined percentage of the total funding. The categories are broken down in the table below.

Table 6. WWRP Funding Breakdown

Money Distributed as Follows Below:
Farm and Forest Account - 10%
Farmland Preservation - 90%
Forestland Preservation- 10%

Habitat Conservation Account - 45%
Critical Habitat - 35%
Natural Area - 25%
Riparian Protection - 15%
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement - 10%
Urban Wildlife Habitat - 15%
Outdoor Recreation Account - 45%
Local Parks - 30%
State Lands Development and Renovation - 10%
State Parks - 30%
Trails - 20%
Water Access - 10%

To ensure at least 50% of each subcategory is funded, the request amount would be **\$125 million**.

Option 4: WWRC Board Recommendation

The WWRC board is advocating for full funding, which is currently **\$156.6 million**.

Summary

Using the metrics outlined above, the range of WWRP funding request presented in this memo is between \$78.3 million and \$156.6 million. Here is the summation of funding request options based on the different approaches described:

- 1) Average per capita spending for the current population = \$112.05 million.
- 2) Funding 50 percent of the applications received in 2022 = \$78.6 million. Funding 75 percent of the applications received in 2022 = \$117.5 million.
- 3) Funding at least 50 percent of the applications in each category = \$125 million.
- 4) WWRC’s advocacy recommendation = funding the entire WWRP list, currently \$156.6 million.

Other recommendations may come from our stakeholder groups and may use- different metrics than those proposed above.

WWRP Administrative Rate

In 2015, the Washington Legislature passed a bill that changed how RCO calculates the administrative rate of WWRP. The new language changed the rate from a constant 3 percent to a rate that is calculated as an average of actual administrative costs. Per RCW 79A.15.030, *“The portion of the funds retained for administration may not exceed: (a) The*

actual administration costs averaged over the previous five biennia as a percentage of the legislature's new appropriation for this chapter; or (b) the amount specified in the appropriation, if any. Each biennium the percentage specified under (a) of this subsection must be approved by the office of financial management and submitted along with the prioritized lists of projects to be funded in RCW 79A.15.060(6), 79A.15.070(7), 79A.15.120(10), and 79A.15.130(11)."

Using option (a) in the statute, RCO has calculated the new administrative rate for 2023-2025 to be 4.08 percent, which is a decrease in administrative rate as compared to the current biennium by 0.09 percent (4.17% to 4.08%). Over the last seven biennia the administrative rate has fallen between 3.35-5.11%. RCO is also considering using "option b" from the statute—as we continue to assess staffing needs based on work to implement recommendations from the equity study, internal structure assessment, and grant management workload associated with the COVID pandemic. RCO will submit this request to OFM for approval in advance of submitting the final WWRP list to the Governor.

Youth Athletic Facilities Program

The YAF program was created as part of the Stadium and Exhibition Center bond issue approved by voters as Referendum 48 in 1997. This program was originally intended to be funded by excess revenues from bond funds associated with the stadiums. However, it has instead been funded through general bonds.

The Legislature appropriated \$11.2 million for the 2021-23 biennium, which funded the entire YAF project list and signaled strong support for this program. The total amount requested in YAF applications in 2022 is \$12.42 million (subject to change following completion of the technical review period).

Here are two options for the board to consider in a YAF request level for the 2023-25 biennium:

- **Option 1.** Request an appropriation to fund 100% percent of the 2022 applications, for a total of \$12.42 million.
- **Option 2.** Request an appropriation to fund 80% of the project list, for a total of \$9.94 million.

Next Steps

At its August 3rd meeting the board will decide on the amount of 2023-25 funds to request for all the recreation and conservation the programs, staff will prepare and submit final budget requests to the Office of Financial Management by early September 2022.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Equity Review

Prepared By: Leah Dobey, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

In 2021, the state legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to conduct an equity review of the agency's grant programs to identify opportunities toward improving equitable distribution of recreation grants and reducing barriers that might prevent under-served communities' success in RCO programs. This review identified challenges with RCO's complex application process, reimbursement payment method, organizations' lack of knowledge of RCO grants, and other issues that may deter potential applicants or those who do apply. Recommendations offered in the review focus on developing new grant programs, changing agency processes, building capacity of under-served communities, and ensuring those communities are engaged with grant programs. Further recommendations reach outside of RCO's typical grant-making work but note opportunities for the agency to engage with other entities and organizations to support communities' investments in parks and green space.

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

Over the past 12 months, RCO has worked with three contractors to conduct an equity review of the agency's recreation and conservation grant programs, as directed by the legislature in 2021. Goals of the review are to:

- Reduce barriers to historically underserved populations' participation in RCO grant programs;
- Redress inequities in existing RCO policies and programs; and
- Improve the equitable delivery of resources and benefits in these programs.

A final report with findings and recommendations that detail changes to agency policies and practices is in the late stages of development. Selected findings and recommendations are recorded below and will be further described during staff's presentation.

This project aligns with Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2020-35, which recognizes the Board's obligation to ensuring its programs and policies are equitable and inclusive.

Project Overview

To conduct the review, RCO contracted with Prevention Institute, a nonprofit organization whose work includes expertise in health equity, racial justice, and park equity. Prevention Institute gathered information about RCO's recreation and conservation programs by analyzing the agency's policies, practices, program manuals, scoring criteria, and data from the previous three grant cycles (2016 – 2020). Prevention Institute interviewed RCO staff and other subject matter experts, including local jurisdiction staff, community leaders, and other funders to gather additional input and perspective.

RCO also contracted with The Vida Agency to design and lead a community engagement process to gather insight into challenges, barriers, and opportunities related to RCO's programs. The Vida Agency conducted eleven listening sessions and twenty-three interviews, including Vietnamese and Spanish options, and circulated a multi-language online comment form. The input from this process helped inform the initial development of Prevention Institute's findings and helped refine the findings and recommendations through a second round of community engagement.

Lastly, two mapping tools were created by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) showing Board funded project locations relative to health and social disparity information. These maps can be used to help identify where investments may be needed to provide more equitable access to green spaces and recreation opportunities in Washington.

Report Overview

The equity review considered opportunities to reduce gaps in the distribution of green spaces and the resources that support them by focusing on three main elements: equitable geographic distribution of green spaces and funding, equitable procedures in grantmaking, and addressing organizational structures that have created inequities over time.

Selected Findings

Through data analysis, several types of disproportionate funding were discovered including:

- High investment in locations with high green space acreage (8+ acres/1,000 residents).
- Low investment in locations with low green space acreage (<3 acres/1,000 residents).
- Underinvestment in communities of color, most notably in communities that were at least one-fifth Black or American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Some RCO grant programs serve lower-income communities at proportional levels to population, but not where there are low amounts of green space.

Limited proposal activity was found to be a driving factor in underinvestment. During the time analyzed, many grant programs saw few to no applications from communities of color and low numbers of proposals from areas with little access to green space. Input from interviews and community engagement highlighted that many communities lack awareness of funding opportunities through RCO or lack the staff capacity to develop proposals and manage active projects. Other communities are unable to secure match or operate on a reimbursement-only funding model.

Additional findings note the lack of representation from underserved and marginalized communities on advisory committees and evaluation panels, and a relatively narrow communications reach that focuses on past applicants, land conservation organizations, and government staff.

Recommendations

Prevention Institute has developed the following broad recommendations to guide RCO in improving equitable access to grant programs and increasing equitable distribution of funds:

Prioritize funding for high-need areas by specifically allocating resources, whether through new or existing programs.

Modify scoring criteria to elevate projects addressing green space inequities. Increasing objective scoring criteria would reduce evaluation bias and drive investment toward where it is needed.

Change processes to support equitable proposal development and review rather than relying on applicants to have significant up-front resources and existing expertise in navigating agency programs.

Proactively build capacity of applicants to attract and support equity-driven applicants and projects through RCO-provided resources such as expanded technical assistance or by connecting applicants with outside resources.

Add structures and criteria to promote community involvement in shaping projects, such as revising scoring criteria to reward more collaborative engagement, such as revising scoring criteria to reward project designed with community input thereby ensuring broader needs are met through investments.

Fund projects that address intersecting social and economic challenges in communities by more specifically rewarding projects that contain culturally specific, interpretive, safety-oriented, or universal design elements.

The complete report couples the above recommendations with series of operationalized strategies to drive implementation and provide RCO with specific actions moving forward.

Next Steps & Implementation

A final report is expected to be completed and delivered to the legislature by mid-August 2022, after which RCO staff will develop an action plan outlining specific steps the agency will take to implement review recommendations. The complexity and depth of recommendations varies such that some may be implemented within RCO's existing authority and resources, while others will require additional staff, more extensive policy development, public engagement, Board involvement, and/or legislative action.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Equity Related Efforts (Recreation Access Planning Grants, Community Outdoor Athletic Facility Fund)

Prepared By: Adam Cole, Policy Specialist
Leah Dobey, Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the status of two new grant opportunities being developed and implemented under the Authority of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director. The Recreation Access Planning Grant opportunity is funded through a \$2.3 million proviso in the 2021-23 capital budget to take early action to implement recommendations of the RCO 2022 Comprehensive Equity Review due to the Legislature this year. The Community Outdoor Athletic Facility Fund (COAFF) is a \$43 million dollar effort in the operating budget to expand access to community athletic facilities. Staff will present background information, a framework for developing program goals and policies, and an implementation timeline for both efforts.

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

Recreation Access Planning Grants

Long-range comprehensive planning is an eligibility requirement for many RCO grant programs. These plans take significant financial resources, expertise and time to develop, and as such, many communities do not have outdoor recreation plans to establish their eligibility for programs such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Boating Facilities Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Program.

To help fill this gap, the 2021 state legislature appropriated \$2,325,000 to RCO to provide planning grants, technical assistance and predesign grants to communities that

lack access to recreation facilities, specifically prioritizing racially diverse neighborhoods in dense urban settings and small rural communities. Additional funds for this planning program may be provided through the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Fund which is described in detail below.

Program Development

Development of this program has been informed by staff, findings from the 2022 comprehensive equity review, research of other grant programs outside of our agency and state, and input from two focus groups.

Feedback indicates that communities experience a variety of planning barriers beyond comprehensive planning requirements that limit their readiness for existing RCO programs. To meet the wide range of recreation planning needs in under-resourced communities, all types of planning will be eligible for funding through this new program. Examples include:

- Comprehensive parks, recreation, and open space plans
- Parks, recreation, and conservation land acquisition strategy and funding plans
- Site specific, pre-design, or construction ready plans and bid documents
- Feasibility studies, cultural resources surveys, or environmental assessments

Key components that RCO is looking to incorporate into the program include broadened outreach efforts, enhanced application support, a simplified application process, and low match requirements. Staff are also researching options for connecting successful applicants with professional consulting resources to ease communities' administrative burden associated with their projects.

RCO staff has begun to form a small advisory committee whose members will provide additional input on program policies and evaluate projects.

The end goal is that applicants funded through this program will be eligible and better prepared to seek funding for future project development phases.

Timeline

Program development and advisory committee meetings will continue through summer 2022, applications will be accepted in October, and awards will be granted in November. Projects are anticipated to take 12 – 18 months to complete, allowing sponsors to have plans in place prior to the 2024 grant round.

Next Steps

Staff will convene an advisory committee to fully develop this planning grant program and report back to the Board at its next meeting on progress and dates for grant application solicitation and awards.

Community Outdoor Athletics Facilities Fund

Background

Bonds for the construction of Lumen Field in Seattle retired in January 2021. \$42 million in excess revenues to pay off the bonds exists and is governed by [RCW 43.99N.060](#). This statute directs RCO to make the monies in the “Youth Athletic Facilities Account” of the state treasury available for community outdoor athletic facilities statewide.

Per statute, funds must be made available to cities, counties, and nonprofits via a competitive grant program. Funds must be equally divided between new projects, newly renovated/developed facilities, and maintenance of existing facilities. Per statute, program policies and fund allocation authority reside with the RCO Director. Awards must be made on a proportional basis to the state’s population. These funds are in a non-appropriated account, so there is no prescribed timeline for making grants available, and legislative appropriation is not needed to spend or maintain these funds in the account over time.

The RCO has given this program a working title of “Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Fund” (COAFF).

Developments to Date

In April 2022, RCO convened an advisory committee (AC) tasked with providing feedback on the use of the COAFF funds. The AC met in April and June to discuss the timeline for program development and grant issuance, and the substance of program policies, specifically the program’s purpose, grant competition criteria, eligible applicants, and related issues. The AC will meet quarterly until grant awards are made in the late summer of 2023. The current focus of the AC’s tasks is to provide feedback to RCO on policy proposals in the following areas:

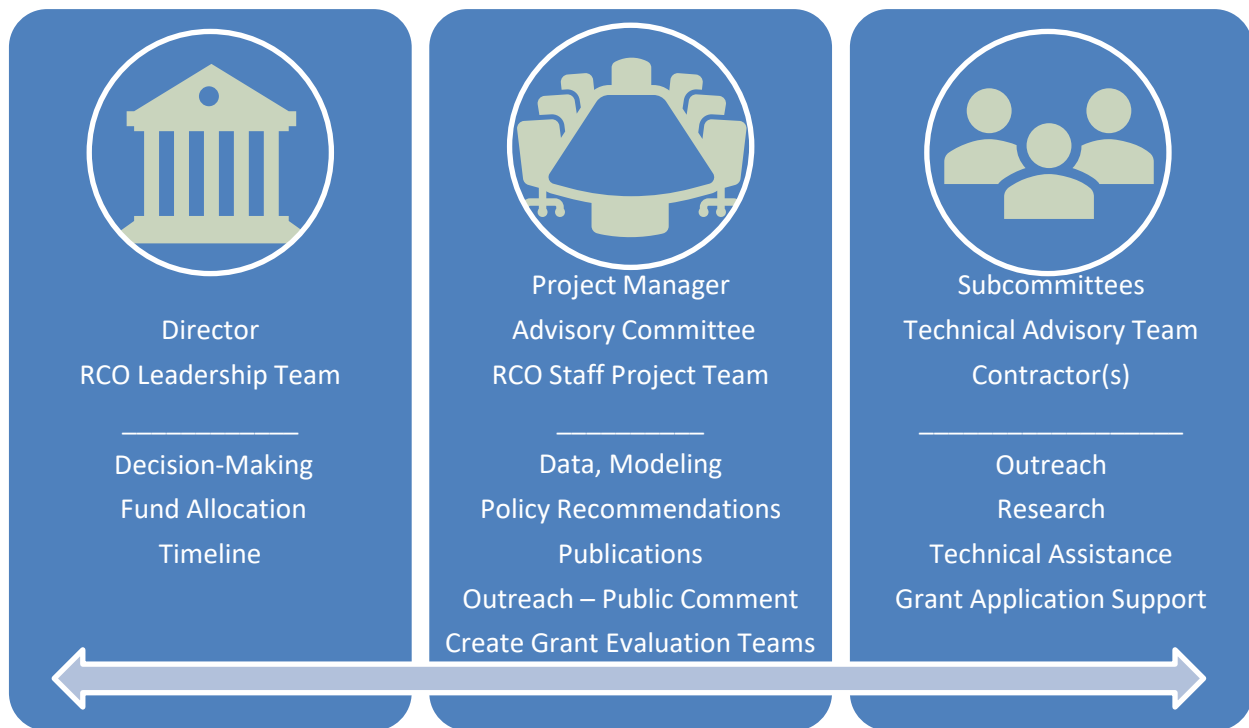
- Program Purpose (Identifying Needs and a Maximizing Public Benefit)
- Planning Grants (COAFF to Possibly Contribute to RCO’s Recreation Access Planning Grants fund)
- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Project Types
- Grant Limits

- Eligible Costs
- Match
- Allocation/Competition
- "Public Use"
- Long-Term Obligations
- Review of Grant Program Manual

Project Management and Timeline

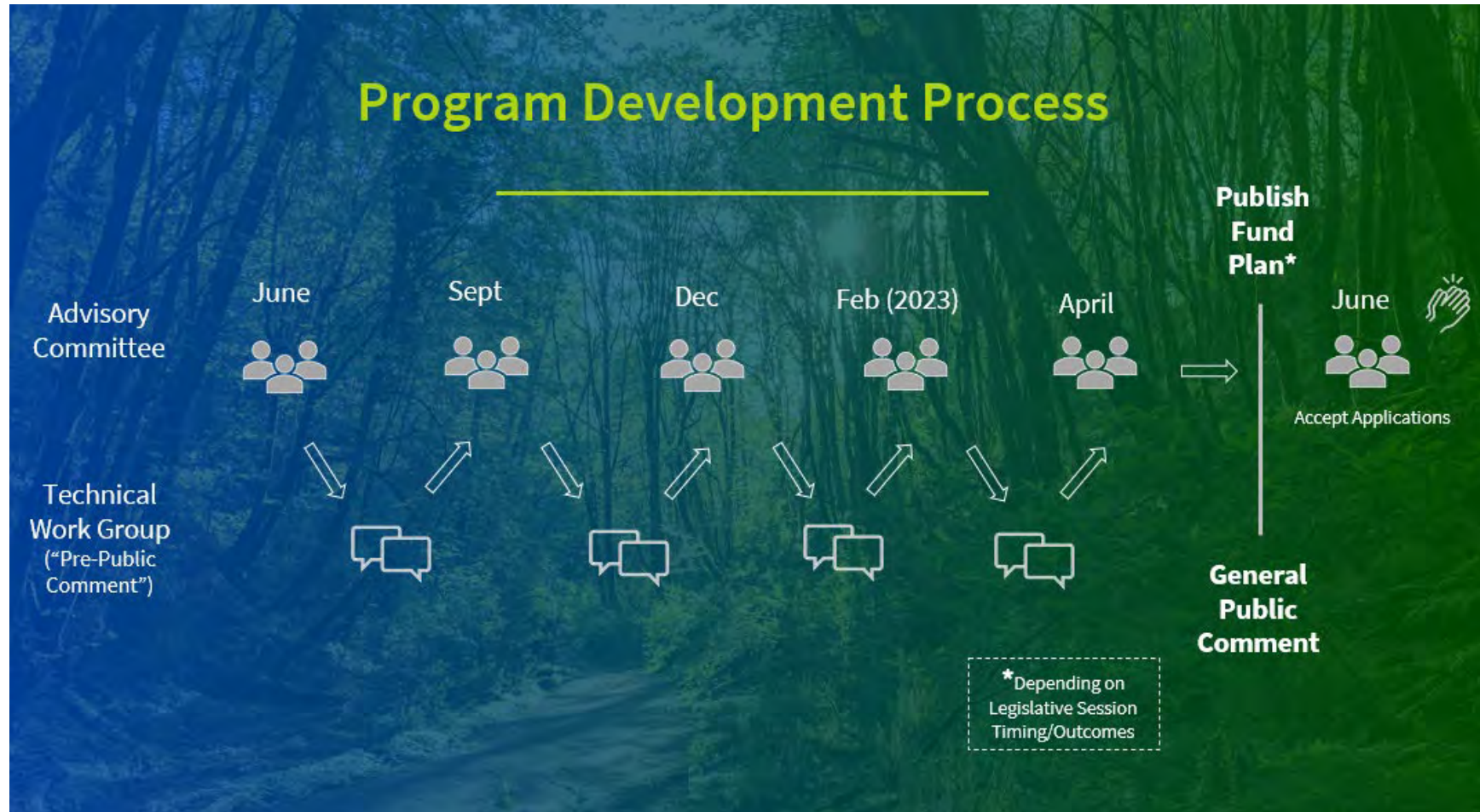
RCO's Adam Cole, Policy Specialist, and Kyle Guzlas, Grant Services Section Manager, will lead the project and Advisory Committee. RCO has contracted with subject matter expert and strategic planner Julie McCleery and facilitation consultant Adrienne Moore to assist with this project. RCO staff will also convene a technical work group of potential applicants to provide further feedback on the technical merits of any policy proposals and grant administration procedures before putting a final draft program proposal out for public comment.

Project Management and Workflow



Program Development Timeline

Complete program policies and procedures will be published in a Fund Plan for formal public comment in spring of 2023. Once the program is finalized by RCO, with consultation of the AC, applications will be accepted, ranked, and awards made in the summer of 2023.



June 2022 Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

The COAFF AC met on June 27th and gave RCO feedback on its proposed program purpose, draft evaluation criteria, and possible legislative changes for 2023 designed to maximize the public benefit of the fund.

The following is a summary of RCO's proposal for a program purpose and proposed criteria for the fund. Projects will be prioritized based on the following:

- 1) The degree to which a project addresses existing/lack of inventory in a service area:
 - Fill Deserts: "10/10/45" (no opportunity within a 10 min walk urban, 10 min drive rural, 45 min drive to a regional facility)
 - Improve Service Access Ratios: Raise the ratio of the number of facilities per 1,000 people in a service area.

- 2) The degree to which a project invests in areas with a disparity in standard of living (vs state mean):
 - Income
 - Youth Physical Activity Hours/Week

- 3) The degree to which a project invests in Limited Capacity Organizations (vs State Mean):
 - Applicant serves a community with fewer residents.
 - Applicant serves a city/county jurisdiction with low annual per capita revenue.

- 4) The degree to which a project provides meaningful access/opportunities to underserved users:
 - Facility construction and operation reduces barriers to access to individuals and groups.
 - Applicant maximizes community involvement efforts in project planning.
 - Site maximizes usefulness to underserved users.
 - Site addresses a community plan/need to improve access and utility for its community.

- 5) Funds Applicants New to RCO:
 - Prioritize funding to applicants who have not received an RCO competitive grant in previous 10 years.

The following is a summary of legislative changes RCO sought feedback on from the AC. These proposed changes will leverage utility of the fund and provide RCO with authority to allocate the fund efficiently:

1. Applicants: Expand eligible applicants from "cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit" to include any political subdivision of the state (i.e., a local government or parks district) and federally recognized Indian tribes.
2. Maintenance Projects: Strike the term "existing" to the types of facilities that may receive maintenance grants. This allows for maintenance funding to flow to newly constructed facilities as well.
3. Allocation Authority: Delegate authority to the RCO Director to move any remaining unallocated balances in the fund's "project categories" ("new," "improved," and "maintenance" projects) to categories where these balances can be allocated to unfunded requests.
4. Allow Limited Funds for Facility Operations: Allow a limited amount of any grant to fund new operations costs that improve access to underserved users. These costs will be limited to implementing accessible scheduling system and providing facility support personnel (other than maintenance and programming).
5. Administration Rate. Increase an out of date %1.5 administration rate to levels around %4.

The RCO will evaluate the AC's feedback on these proposals, make changes, and present a draft back to the group in mid-July. The next AC meeting is scheduled for September where RCO will present a policy proposal for allocation of the fund per its project type and proportional population requirements.

Nexus to Other Board Programs

At this stage, staff is interested in those aspects of program development that have the strongest nexus to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) programs and priorities. Staff will discuss the following nexuses between this program development work with regard to:

1. Board/RCO plans and studies
2. Timeline and coordination with Board grant-making
3. Next steps, post-COAFF

Next Steps

RCO staff will present project updates and seek feedback on COAFF from the Board throughout its program development and grant-making timeline.

Attachments

Attachment A: Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Advisory Committee Members

Attachment A

Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Advisory Committee

Elected Leaders

- Bob Bugert, Chelan County Commissioner
- Carolina Mejia, Thurston County Commissioner
- Iris Guzman, SeaTac City Councilmember
- Shawn Logan, Othello Mayor
- Alex Ybarra, State Representative, 13th District
- Cindy Ryu, State Representative, 32nd District

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

- Michael Shiosaki, Bellevue Parks and Recreation

Public Administration

- Paul Simmons, Olympia Parks and Recreation
- Kenneth Wilkinson, Yakima Parks and Recreation
- Warren Stevens, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Private Enterprise and Community Organizations

- Wendy Armour, Compukidz, King County Play Equity Coalition
- Drew Johnston, Seattle Seahawks
- Vincent Berthillot, OL Reign
- Maya Mendoza, Seattle Sounders, RAVE
- Deb Brock, Spokane Youth Sports Association
- Sarneshea Evans, Trust for Public Land
- Mick Hoffman, WA Interscholastic Sports Association
- Ka'ohe Wong, School's Out WA
- David Wu, Special Olympics Washington

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26, 2022

Title: City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District, Tacoma Metro Parks
Eastside Pool Conversion

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary

The City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools and Metro Parks Tacoma seek Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) approval of the conversion of the Eastside Pool that occurred in 2018 when the pool was permanently closed.

Staff will ask for Board comments and questions in July to prepare for a decision at the October board meeting.

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

Overview of the Board's Role and Applicable Rules and Policies

This memo explains a conversion of developed facilities that were funded with a state Bonds grant (Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) [82-063D](#)). The grant was used to build a swimming pool, bathhouse, and parking at the Gault Middle School in east Tacoma in 1982. The project was a joint venture by the City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District 10, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

The pool was permanently closed in 2018, and the sponsors are proposing to replace the conversion with a spray park, and restroom at the Portland Avenue Park.

Conversion Policy

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.¹ The grant agreement includes a condition that prohibits conversion without approval.

Because needs and values often change over time, Board policy allows for conversion of all or a portion of a project area.

Applicable Policies and Rules

The Board has adopted Washington Administrative Code² and policy that defines when a conversion occurs, the appropriate replacement measures, and the steps that sponsors must take to request approval. The rule that applies to a development project is below:

- The sponsor has demonstrated the need to convert the project area³ including all efforts to consider practical alternatives, how they were evaluated, and the reasons they were not pursued;
- Provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the identification, development, and evaluation of the alternatives, including a minimum public comment period of at least thirty days; and
- Provide a new project area with new development (facility) to serve as replacement. The replacement must:
 - Be of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location;
 - Be administered by the same sponsor unless otherwise approved by the Board;
 - Satisfy need(s) identified in the sponsor's current plan, or other relevant local or statewide plan;
 - Be eligible in the grant program of the original project unless otherwise approved by the Board; and
 - Satisfies the conversion without grant assistance from the Board.

The Role of the Board

The Board evaluates the practical alternatives that were considered for the conversion and replacement, including avoidance, and considers whether the replacement facility has reasonably equivalent recreation usefulness and location.

¹ Policy is consistent with state law and administrative rule.

² WAC 286-13-170

³ WAC 286-04-010 (19) Project area is a geographic area that delineates a grant assisted site which is subject to application and project agreement requirements.

The Board does not have the authority in statute, rule, or policy to accept other types of mitigation, levy penalties or dictate the future use of the property or project area being converted.

Background

The project is described below.

Project Name: Eastside Pool	Project #: 82-063D
Grant Program: Bonds	Board funded date: 1982
Bonds \$297,129	Original Purpose: The development included a swimming pool, bathhouse, and parking.
Project Sponsor Match \$393,868	
Total Amount: \$690,997	

The Tacoma Eastside Pool is located at the former Gault Middle School in east Tacoma. It is located south of I-5 and about three (3) blocks north of 38th Street and four (4) blocks east of Portland Avenue. (Attachment A)

It was one of the first joint projects between the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Metro Parks Tacoma. The pool facility was built on school-owned property with grant funding that had been awarded to the City and Tacoma Public Schools. Metro Parks Tacoma operated and maintained the pool. The pool was used by community members, school children, and participants in Metro Parks programs for over 30 years. (Attachment B)

The Conversion

In October 2018, the pool was permanently closed in response to the school district planning to sell the property. At that time, an aquatic facility opened at the new Eastside Community Center. The new center is located at First Creek Middle School which is two miles south of the closed pool.

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.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement will provide reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Conversion

Replacing or renovating the pool at its location was not feasible due to the school district's plan to sell the property.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Replacement

Building a new pool was not financially viable nor is a new pool an identified need due to the aquatic facility that is available at the Eastside Community Center. The sponsors identified a water-related recreational facility that would serve the same community.

The proposed replacement is located at Portland Avenue Park. The park has a wading pool that was well used and popular with the community prior to its closure. The sponsors are proposing to replace the wading pool with a spray park/feature.

Portland Avenue Park will provide a new project area and will serve the same community as the closed pool. (Attachment C)

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location and Usefulness

The Portland Avenue Park is located 0.4 miles from the closed pool.

The proposed replacement spray park/feature provides a different kind of water-related outdoor recreation. The proposed spray park/feature will be operated seasonally and available free for public use. A new restroom is included as part of the replacement as a support amenity to the spray park/feature.

The spray park/feature meets an identified priority for Metro Parks to provide outdoor water recreation facilities.

⁴ Manual #7: *Long-term Obligations*

Evaluation of Public Participation

Metro Parks plans to conduct the public involvement for the conversion and replacement in August after receiving the Board's comments on the proposal.

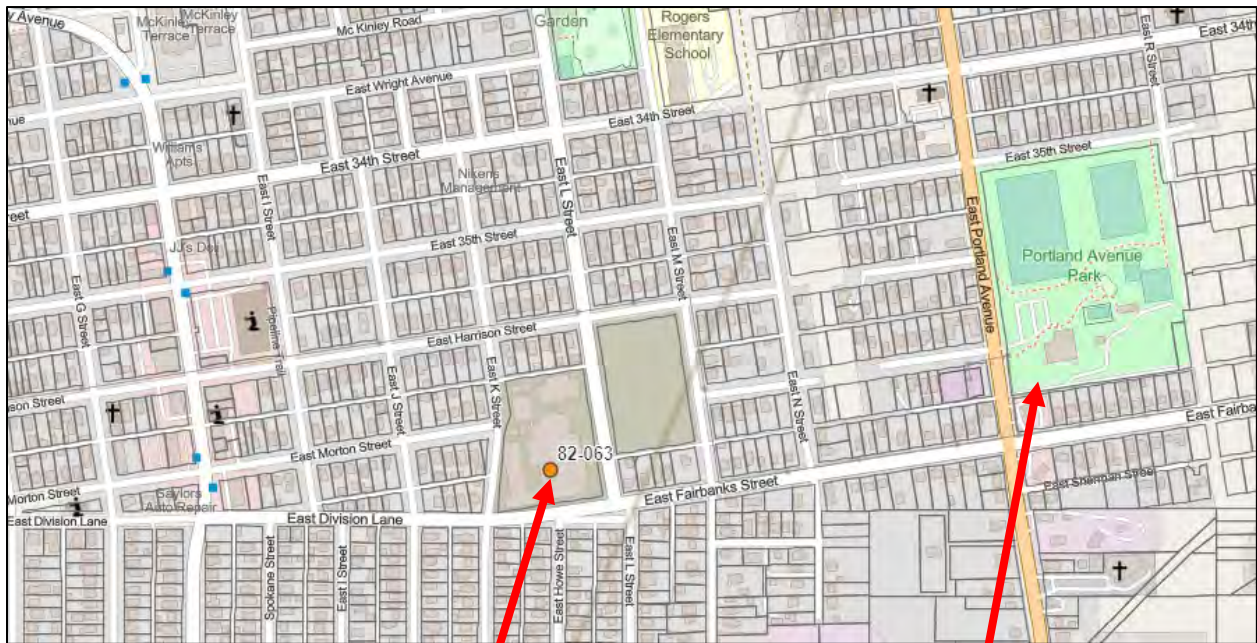
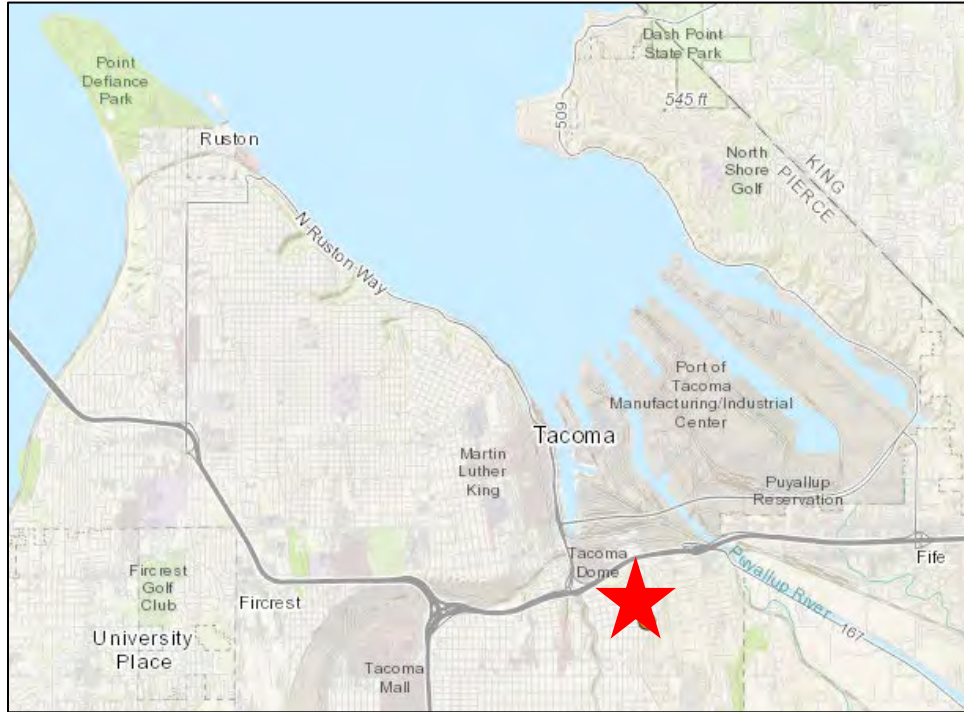
Next Steps

RCO staff will work with the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Metro Parks Tacoma staff to comply with the Board conversion requirements and finalize the conversion request for Board decision at the October meeting. These preparations will consider any questions the Board raises at its July meeting.

Attachments

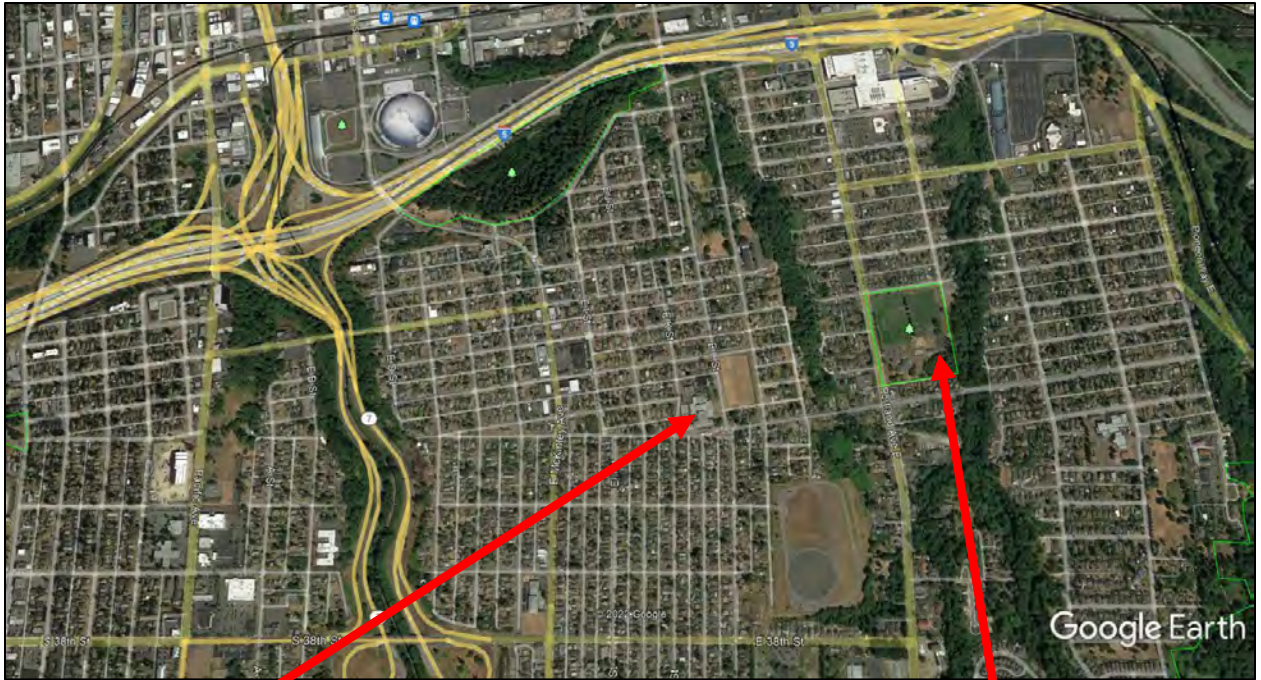
- A. Tacoma Eastside Pool Site Location and Aerial Maps
- B. Tacoma Eastside Pool Photos
- C. Proposed Project Area Replacement – Portland Avenue Park Photos

Attachment A – Location and Aerial Maps



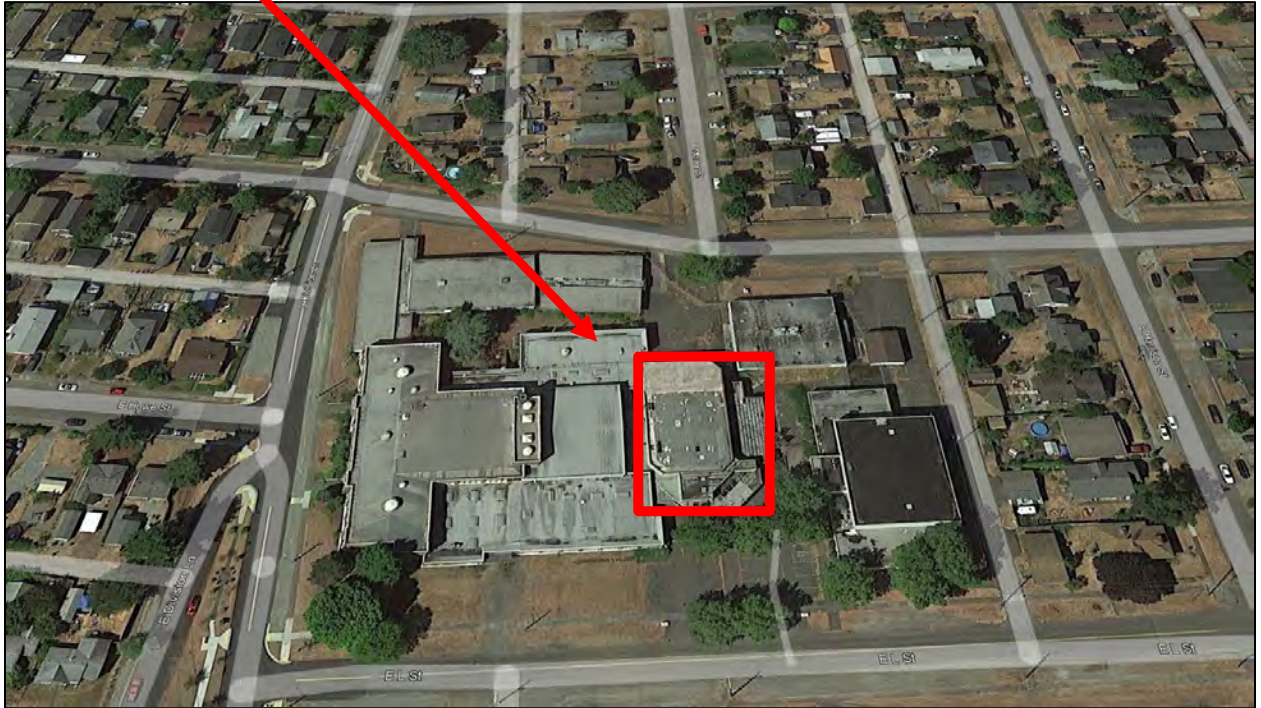
Eastside Pool

Portland Avenue Park

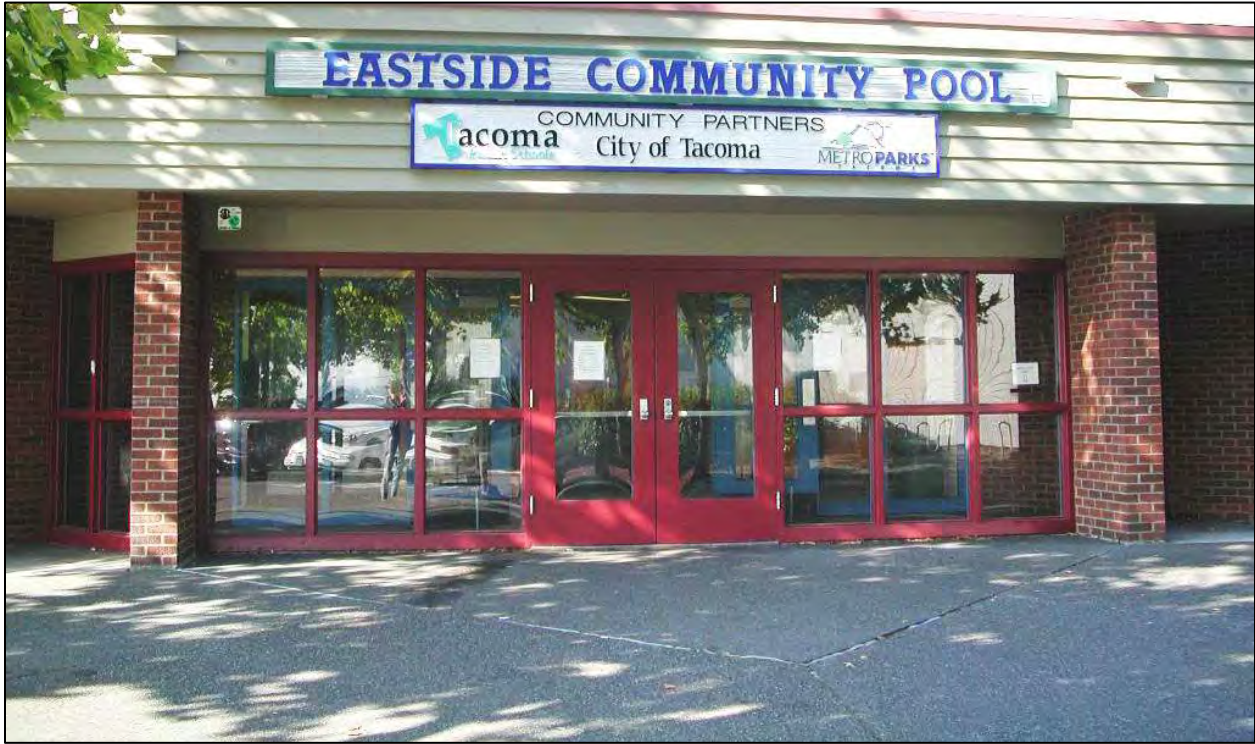


Eastside Pool

Portland Avenue Park



Attachment B – Tacoma Eastside Pool Photos





Attachment C: Portland Avenue Park Photos



Closed Wading Pool

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Cultural Resources Overview

Prepared By: Sarah Thirtyacre, Cultural Resources Program Manager
Sarah Johnson Humphries, Archaeologist

Summary

This memo serves as a summary of cultural resources process for most projects funded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Staff will provide more information regarding the regulatory framework, agency consultation methods, and highlight recent process improvements during the board briefing.

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

State and Federal Cultural Resources Regulation

State Regulation:

Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed [Executive Order 21-02](#) (EO 21-02) in April 2021. This order rescinded and replaced Executive Order 05-05 signed by Governor Christine Gregoire in November of 2005. The EO reflects the governor's commitment that impacts to cultural resources must be considered as part of any state funded project or investment. The process includes both consultation with the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) and with tribal governments.

Cultural resources encompass all the physical evidence of past human activity. They include the following:

- Archaeological sites or objects.

- Built resources older than 50 years, including buildings and structures, transmission lines, bulkheads, and levees
- Traditional cultural places and sacred sites
- Sites of significant events
- Historic locations for an activity, such as trails, petroglyphs, village sites, or battlefields
- Historic landscapes, earthworks, and canals
- Prehistoric sites
- Historic or prehistoric objects or collections

This consultation is required on any state-funded project involving construction or acquisition that is not undergoing a review under federal regulations [Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#) (Section 106). If a project is required to undergo a review in accordance with Section 106, documentation must be provided and may satisfy the state's EO 21-02 requirements.

Agencies must initiate consultation with DAHP and affected tribes early in the project planning process and complete it prior to the expenditure of any state funds for construction, demolition, or acquisition. The goal of the EO is to have the state be proactive in protecting our rich history for future generations and use taxpayer money wisely by avoiding unnecessary damage and loss of significant sites, structures, and buildings.

What's a Governor's Executive Order?

Executive Orders are formal orders issued by the Governor to cabinet agencies statewide requiring that certain actions be taken. Executive Orders may have the force and effect of a law. In the case of EO 21-02, non-cabinet agencies are invited to participate and implement the EO. Additionally, as EO 21-02 is codified in the budget as signed into law by the Governor, it applies to all agencies receiving funding through the capital budget. ([SHB 1080, Section 7012, April 24, 2021](#)).

Federal Regulation

As massive government-sponsored construction projects, like the interstate highway system and urban renewal in older cities, became commonplace after World War II, an estimated 25 percent of the nation's finest historic sites were lost. In response to growing public concern, Congress passed the [National Historic Preservation Act \(NHPA\)](#)

[in 1966 \(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.\)](#) The law established a national policy for the protection of important historic buildings and archeological sites, and outlined responsibilities for federal and state governments to preserve our nation's heritage.

Each state has a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) who is mandated to represent the interests of the state when consulting with federal agencies under Section 106 of the NHPA and to maintain a database of historic properties. The NHPA also created the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation \(ACHP\)](#), an independent federal agency in the executive branch that oversees the Section 106 review process. In addition to the views of the agencies and council, input from the general public and Native American tribes is also required. The responsibilities of all parties in the Section 106 review process are documented in federal regulations.

The NHPA requires that when a “Federal Nexus” is created by an any agency issuing a federal permit or license, providing federal funds, or otherwise aiding or approving, the agency must comply with Section 106. RCO administers several federal grant programs and many of our state funded projects require a federal permit or are using federal funding as match, thus mandating RCO’s compliance with Section 106. RCO’s role in the Section 106 process varies based on the program and any delegated authorities or agreements that have been established.

Federal Nexus Types in RCO Programs	
Land and Water Conversation Fund (LWCF)	National Park Service (DOI)
Recreation Trails Program (RTP)	Federal Highways Administration
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)	United State Fish and Wildlife Service
Projects requiring a federal permit	United States Army Corps of Engineers
Projects occurring on federal lands	USFS, NPS, Tribal Lands

RCO’s Cultural Resource Program

Cultural Resource Review, Consultation and Compliance

Review: RCO¹ reviews planning, restoration, construction, and acquisition projects for impact to cultural and historic resources in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order 21-02 (unless a federal nexus exists). Most projects are required to undergo extensive review to minimize impacts to cultural resources. RCO’s goal is to facilitate a

¹ Cultural resources review and compliance for State Agency sponsored projects, or projects occurring on State owned or managed lands (regardless of sponsor type) is the responsibility of the respective Agency. Documentation of compliance must be provided to RCO staff.

comprehensive consultation process that provides a thorough review of funded projects.

In August of 2021, RCO hired a [Secretary of the Interior](#) qualified archaeologist to assist in the agency's cultural resource review and consultation process. This work was previously being completed through an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Adding a full-time staff archaeologist to the RCO team allows the agency to better integrate early project review, assist grants managers and applicants in budgeting, and develop new tools that facilitate a more robust review of projects.

As projects are submitted via PRISM, RCO reviews the applications and project areas against the DAHP database, General Land Office survey maps, Lidar data, U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey T-sheets, historic United States Geological Survey (USGS) quad maps, historic aerial photos, and published ethnographic works where available.

Consultation: Once projects are scored and ranked, RCO's cultural resource team conducts consultation with tribal councils, tribal cultural resources directors, and DAHP. This consultation effort serves to identify potential impacts to cultural resources and to further enhance the government-to-government relationship with tribes.

Compliance: Once initial consultation has been completed, grant contracts are conditioned with requirements that must be met prior to proceeding to construction or being fully reimbursed for an acquisition. RCO grants managers are responsible for ensuring sponsors comply with all contract requirements.

RCO grant recipients are responsible for hiring consultants that meet the Secretary of Interior Standards to complete any cultural resources work for their projects. This work may include archaeological field surveys, historic property evaluations and inventories, mitigation plans or obtaining permits through DAHP. All cultural resources work is an eligible item for reimbursement as part of the grant contracts; it is vital that grant sponsors include costs to address cultural resources in their applications and budget appropriately.

Some projects require extensive cultural resources work and ongoing oversight and consultation efforts throughout the life of the project. Project sponsors may be required to have a professional archaeologists monitor all ground disturbing work, obtain an archaeological permit from the DAHP, enter into a federal agreement document, redesign projects to avoid or minimize effects, or develop mitigation plans.

What's an Archaeological Permit?

In the State of Washington, any alteration to an archaeological site requires a permit from DAHP ([RCW 27.44](#) and [RCW 27.53](#)). Archaeological sites are defined under RCW 27.53 .030(3) as places that contain archaeological objects. All sites with objects that pre-date the historic era (prehistoric) require a permit, regardless of the level of "disturbance". Alterations to a site can include adding fill, building on, removing trees, using heavy equipment on, compacting, or other activities that would change or potentially impact the site.

RCO cultural staff works closely with grants managers, sponsors, cultural resources consultants, tribal staff and DAHP to navigate compliance and avoid adverse impacts wherever possible. Staff facilitates cultural resources trainings for grant recipients, attends conferences (WRPA 2022), participates in the annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit, frequently meets with tribal cultural resources staff, and attends functions hosted by tribes

Demonstration: New Tools

While the new Executive Order has enhanced and clarified the cultural resources requirements, the burden to review, analyze and consult on 800-1000 projects per biennium is daunting. We also must be aware of the impacts to consulting parties (specifically DAHP and Tribes) and do our best to present our consultation materials in an organized and concise manner. With increased funding for projects, being responsive to consultation requests is weighing heavily on tribal cultural resource's offices, DAHP and other state agencies. Currently, the state does not provide dedicated funding directly to tribal governments to perform review and consultative actions, and as more agencies come into compliance and more funding is dedicated to projects, tribal staff are stretched thin. To ease the burden of reviewing hundreds of RCO grants proposals annually, we have implemented several new tools.

PRISM Enhancements: In April 2021, RCO implemented Phase 1 of a mapping component into our PRISM Online Application Wizard to allow grant applicants to map the Area of Potential Effect (APE). PRISM also produces automated reports that include the APE map and the applicant's response to our screening questions. The APE mapping capability, and automated forms, makes consultation efforts with tribes and DAHP more efficient.

- **Phase 2:** RCO has just received spending authority to begin a Phase 2 design and development. Over the next year, we will be working with our developers to enhance the cultural resources module and mapping and look for additional ways to share data with others.

Integrating GIS Data: The cultural resources team has expanded its professional cultural resources network and added GIS capacity. A few examples of recent work:

- **DAHP data share:** RCO staff have entered into a data sharing agreement with DAHP that provides RCO's cultural resource staff with direct access to DAHP's archaeological/historic property database. The increase in efficiency of using DAHP data directly integrated with our existing GIS data is particularly apparent when staff are reviewing hundreds of projects at a time. **Integrating Data Layers:** RCO staff are using this data to provide cultural resources review more efficiently and accurately to internal and external clients. We have assembled data layers that include the DAHP database, General Land Office survey maps, Lidar data, property ownership, U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey T-sheets, county assessor parcel data, historic USGS quad maps, historic aerial photos, and published ethnographic works where available. Using GIS, we are layering datasets on top of each other to show us what's known and unknown about each of the project worksites so we can make more informed recommendations.
- **Interagency coordination:** RCO staff have been able to coordinate with other state agencies and integrate landownership layers to online resources. This makes it possible to easily pull lists, reports, APE maps and share shapefiles with Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **Tribal Coordination:** RCO staff have digitized tribal consultation areas that assist in identifying the appropriate tribe(s) to consult with for each project. RCO now can provide tribes with GIS shapefiles for APEs and links to the PRISM Snapshot for all projects.

Coordination with DAHP

RCO and DAHP staff are in regular communication specific to individual project consultations. The two agencies also meet monthly to coordinate on process improvements, information and data sharing, and grant program consultation forecasts. RCO presents DAHP with a unique consultation challenge since we are often initiating consultation on several hundred projects at a time throughout the year. Early and often communication with our partner agency improves the process, protects cultural resources and helps projects reach completion in a timely manner.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Washington State Recreation, Conservation, and Trails Plan (SCORP) Update

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo provides an update on the planning process for the 2023 Washington State Recreation, Conservation and Trails Plan. It describes the planning committees' involvement, to date, and includes highlights from the resident demand survey and the recreational provider survey. Further, RCO staff proposes options for the board to engage in developing a new Unifying Strategy for implementing the plan.

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

For Washington State to receive funding from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) must maintain and update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) once every six years. For 2023, Washington State's comprehensive plan will be known as the *Washington State Recreation, Conservation and Trails Plan*, hereafter referred to as the plan.

State law (RCW [79A.25.005](#)) defines a multipart mission for the Board. One part of that mission directs the Board to "create and work actively for the implementation of a unified statewide strategy for meeting the recreational needs of Washington's citizens." The Board is similarly charged with developing a Nonhighway Offroad Vehicles Activities Plan (RCW [46.09.370](#)) once every third biennium.

State law (RCW [79A.25.020](#)) also clarifies the duties of RCO's director. One such duty is to "...prepare and update a strategic plan for the acquisition, renovation, and development of recreational resources and the preservation and conservation of open space." Another state law requires RCO's director to maintain a Statewide Trails Plan (RCW [79A.35.040](#)). A statewide trails plan must also guide the allocation of funding from the Federal Highway Administration's [Recreational Trails Program](#).

In the past, RCO has developed unique plans for each of these statutory and federal funding requirements. Beginning with the 2018 Recreation and Conservation Plan, RCO satisfied each of these planning requirements simultaneously to streamline the agency's planning and develop a more unified approach to meeting the state's outdoor recreation needs. The 2023 Washington State Recreation, Conservation and Trails Plan is the next version of this comprehensive planning effort.

2023 Planning

Detailed planning requirements

While the plan is broad and strategic, the federal and state laws summarized above identify specific elements the plan must address.

Federal requirements

The National Park Service publishes detailed guidance (LWCF manual, pg. 22) for developing state comprehensive plans. Generally, the plan must:

- describe the methodology(s) used
- include ample opportunity for public input
- evaluate demand for outdoor recreation opportunities
- evaluate supply of outdoor recreation opportunities
- be comprehensive: identify issues of statewide importance, how LWCF will address these issues and what issues will be addressed through other means
- the plan must have an implementation program that identifies the **State's strategies, priorities, and actions** for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment.

The Park Service also encourages states to include plans for "recreation and historic trails" and "wild, scenic, and recreational river areas" in their comprehensive plans.

The Federal Highway Administration simply requires that Recreational Trails Program funds be used for recreational trails and related projects that have:

- been planned and developed under the laws, policies, and administrative procedures of the State; and

- are identified in, or further a specific goal of, a recreational trail plan, or a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460 I-4 et seq.), that is in effect.

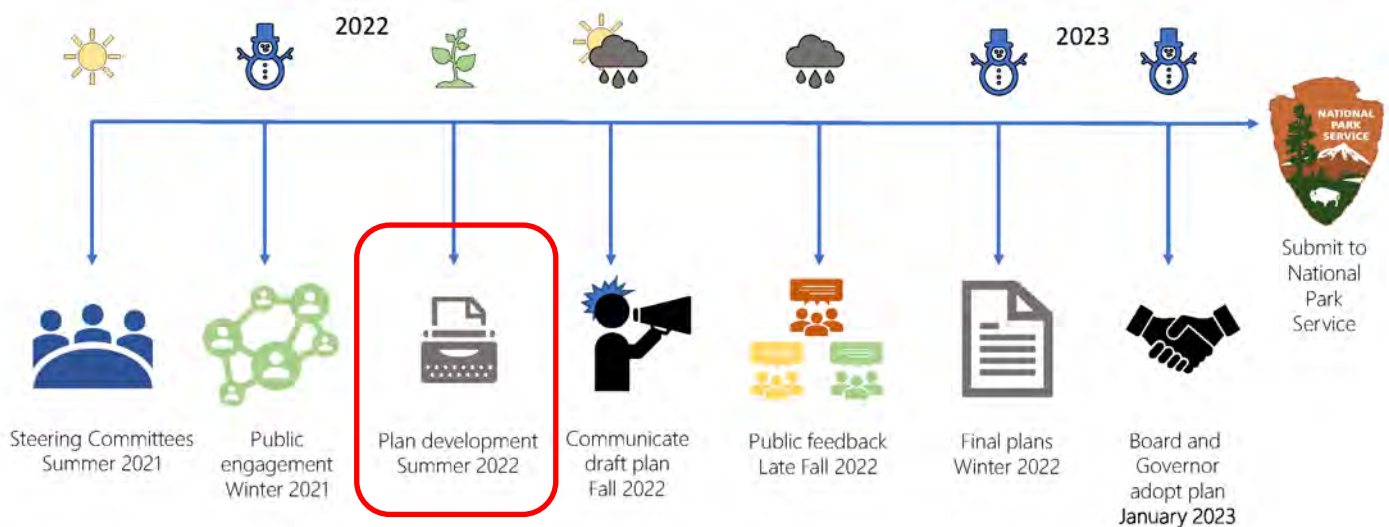
State requirements

The enabling legislation (RCW 79A.25.020(3)) establishing the RCO and Board identifies statewide outdoor recreation planning as a primary duty of RCO’s director. The law also requires the Board to develop a unifying strategy to implement the plan. Generally, the law requires similar elements as the LWCF’s requirements, which include:

- Inventory of current resources
- Forecast of recreational resource demand
- Identification and analysis of actual and potential funding sources
- Process for broad scale information gathering
- Assessment of capabilities and constraints to achieve plan goals
- Analysis of strategic options and decisions available to the state
- Implementation strategy coordinated with executive policy and budget priorities
- Elements necessary to qualify for participation in or receipt of federal aid

Other state requirements satisfied by the plan include planning for the Nonhighway Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program required by RCW 46.09.370 and the State Trails Plan required by the Washington State Recreational Trails System Act (RCW 79A.35.040). The NOVA law simply requires the Board to “maintain a statewide plan...to guide distribution and expenditure of funds under this chapter.” The trails plan must also include an inventory of existing and potential recreational trails, routes or corridors.

Plan timeline



RCO staff is currently wrapping up meetings with the planning committees and beginning to develop the draft plan. The initial public engagement process began in October with staff participating in several direct outreach events and administering a public recreational experience survey. This initial public engagement concluded in April with the completion of the Resident Demand Survey. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan later this fall. Included in the draft plan will be the details of the initial public engagement strategy, results of the surveys and direct outreach, and an analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand. The draft plan will be available for the Board to review at their October meeting.

Planning Committees

RCO staff convened two planning committees with the mission of providing input on the plan's development, public engagement strategy, and meeting the myriad of legal requirements noted above. Board members Burgess and Shiosaki represent the Board on the Recreation and Conservation planning committee, while member Gardow represents the Board on the Trails committee. The committees also include representatives from the Governor's office, each of the state land managing agencies, county and local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

The two committees participated in parallel discussions beginning in March 2021. Meetings are ongoing. Each committee's discussions focused on specific elements of the Recreation and Conservation Plan and the Statewide Trails Plan, respectively, including the inventory of recreation opportunities and gap analysis, developing the public surveys, reviewing results of the public surveys, and identifying issues of statewide importance. The committees are currently developing priority recommendations to address the issues identified. The priority recommendations from both committees will be combined during the plan drafting process to create the comprehensive plan.

Issues and recommendations identified by the committees will be reviewed and discussed at the Board's July meeting.

Plan resources

Many elements contribute to the development of the Plan, including the following:

- A Literature Review based on topics identified by the planning committees and RCO staff compiled by Dr. Jeremy Schultz
- A mapped inventory of recreational opportunities compiled with data from [Washington Hometown](#)
- A mapped inventory dashboard and opportunity access analysis completed by Esri with input from the planning committees and RCO staff

- A survey of recreational demand conducted by Eastern Washington University
- A survey of recreation providers conducted by RCO Staff with a results report compiled by Dr. Jeremy Schultz
- A tribal survey conducted by RCO staff with a results report compiled by Dr. Jeremy Schultz
- A recreational experience survey conducted by RCO staff with a results report compiled by Dr. Jeremy Schultz
- Direct outreach to recreation interest groups conducted by RCO staff

Each of these resources are in draft form and going through internal review and editing. The final reports will be included as appendices to the plan. As each report is finalized, it can be made available to Board members for early review as desired. A few notable highlights from the Demand Survey and Provider Survey are below.

Demand Survey

The demand survey asks Washington residents about their participation in outdoor recreation activities over the past year. The survey included over 70 unique activities across nine activity categories and received responses from 6,171 Washington residents. The top 20 activities statewide are listed in the table below.

	Activity	Activity Category	Percent	n
1	Walking (or using mobility device) on roads/sidewalks	Trails & Road-Based Activities	91	5390
2	Walking/ day hiking (or using mobility device) on trails	Trails & Road-Based Activities	90	5331
3	Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Nature & Culture-Based Activities	85	4812
4	Scenic Driving (sightseeing)	Nature & Culture-Based Activities	85	4767
5	Hanging Out	Leisure Activities in Parks	70	3679
6	Picnic, BBQ, or Cookout	Leisure Activities in Parks	68	3639

7	Community Garden or Farmers' Market	Leisure Activities in Parks	66	3556
8	Visiting Outdoor Cultural/Historical Facility (includes attending cultural events)	Nature & Culture-Based Activities	62	3413
9	Swimming (natural setting)	Water-Based Activities	61	3374
10	Paddle Sports (whitewater, canoes, kayak, stand-up-paddle boards, rowing)	Water-Based Activities	52	2910
11	Outdoor Concert of Special Event	Leisure Activities in Parks	49	2602
12	Gathering/Collection (anything in nature)	Nature & Culture-Based Activities	49	2635
13	Tent Camping (developed campground)	Camping Activities	44	2510
14	Backpacking	Trails & Road-Based Activities	42	2349
15	Playground	Leisure Activities in Parks	41	2148
16	Tent Camping (undeveloped area)	Camping Activities	41	2248
17	Road Cycling	Trails & Road-Based Activities	40	2240
18	Yard Games (beanbag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	Leisure Activities in Parks	38	1966

19	Volunteering (restoration projects, citizen science, etc.)	Nature & Culture-Based Activities	37	1984
20a	Jogging or Running on road/sidewalks	Trails & Road-Based Activities	35	1944
20b	Snowshoeing	Snow and Ice Activities		1821

The complete report will include top activities across ten planning regions, the participation rates for every activity, and other demographic, and socio-economic trends.

[Provider survey](#)

The Recreational Provider Survey asks land managers and nonprofit volunteer organizations to identify their top management issues, challenges, and priorities over the next 5 years. RCO received 83 total responses to the survey, of which 53 were land managers and 30 were from volunteer or advocacy nonprofits. Highlights of the survey responses include:

Top three management issues:

1. maintaining existing recreation resources
2. coordinating with other organizations that manage outdoor recreation
3. capacity of facilities to serve the growing population.

The top three challenges for organizations:

1. competing demands for limited funds
2. not enough staff
3. limited ability to raise local funds for projects.

The top three site or activity priorities during the next 5 years:

1. expanding community trail systems
2. connecting regional trails systems
3. renovating aging infrastructure.

The top three trail-related priorities during the next 5 years:

1. maintaining existing trails

2. planning and coordinating with partners
3. re-routing or improving trails to modern, sustainable design.

The final report will include responses to several open-ended questions and a categorization of responses based on provider type (land manager or volunteer/advocacy organization).

Next steps

RCO Staff will begin drafting the 2023 Recreation, Conservation and Trails Plan in August. Staff will present the draft plan to the Board at their October meeting. After the Board has an opportunity to review and provide input on the draft plan, staff will distribute the plan for public review and comment. Staff will then incorporate public comments and finalize the plan before the end of December. The Board will then have an opportunity review the final plan and be asked to adopt the plan in January. The final plan must then be reviewed by the Governor's office before sending it to the National Park Service for approval.

Developing the Unifying Strategy

The board is responsible for developing and maintaining a Unifying Strategy for implementing the Recreation, Conservation, and Trails Plan. This implementation plan must include strategies, priorities, and actions to address the statewide issues identified by the planning committees and RCO staff. According to the Park Service's guidance, these strategies, priorities, and actions must:

- identify how the Land and Water Conservation Fund will address issues and what issues will be addressed through other means; and
- must be of sufficient detail for use in developing project selection criteria...so projects submitted to NPS for LWCF funding will implement the SCORP.

Questions the Board may consider when developing the unifying strategy include:

- What outcomes does the Board hope to achieve through implementation of the plan?
- How can the Board's funding programs achieve the identified outcomes?
- What gaps in funding or policy create challenges to achieving the desired outcomes?
- How do we define and measure impact of the plan? How do we report out on how we did in 2028?

RCO staff can develop a variety of opportunities for the board to engage with the planning process and development of the unifying strategy. The July meeting is one opportunity for the entire board to weigh in. As mentioned, three members of the Board

already participate on the planning committees and have provided significant input on the plan's development to date. The unifying strategy must be completed by the end of August or early September to stay on track with the plan's development timeline.

Request for Direction

RCO staff requests direction from the Board on developing the Unifying Strategy and Implementation actions for the Recreation, Conservation and Trails Plan. Options could include establishing a subcommittee of the board, meeting with board members individually or in small groups, developing an online forum for gathering and compiling board member's input, and/or a combination of these options.

Pending the results of this discussion and the Board's direction, RCO Staff will quickly set up opportunities for the board to contribute to developing the Unifying Strategy.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: July 26-27, 2022

Title: Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category: Cost Increases and Delegation Authority for 2020 Projects

Prepared By: Alison Greene, Outdoor Grants Manager
Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), Small Grants Category and outlines emerging issues with the 2020 funded projects. Staff is submitting a proposal to help resolve these issues by requesting the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board consider cost increases for two projects and delegation of decision-making authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director for other 2020 YAF Small Grants Category projects that may need similar consideration.

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: 2022-08

Purpose of Resolution: Approve cost increases and delegate authority to the RCO Director to approve similar cost changes for 2020 YAF Small Grants Category projects.

Background

The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program provides funds for development of new outdoor athletic facilities, renovation of existing athletic facilities, or a combination of acquisition of land and development or renovation of athletic facilities serving youth and communities. The program priority is to enhance or develop facilities that serve people through the age of eighteen who participate in sports and athletics. The program encourages multi-generational use, which means applicants may submit

proposals for facilities sized for adults, but which primarily serve youth. Improvements may include development or renovation of athletic fields, hard courts, outdoor swimming pools, running tracks, skate parks, pump tracks, and support amenities such as restrooms and parking areas.

The YAF Program has two categories, YAF Large Grants and YAF Small Grants. The primary difference between the two categories is the total project cost and the amount of funds an applicant may request for the project proposal.

Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category History

The YAF Small Grants Category (YAF Small) was created in October 2017, via Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) Resolution 2017-34. In that resolution, the Board allocated 10 percent of any YAF appropriation to the Small Grants category. YAF Small project applications would compete only with each other and not the general pool of YAF projects. Some additional parameters for the YAF Small Grants category include the following:

1. An eligible applicant must be a city, town, or park district with 10,000 residents or fewer; counties with fewer than 60,000 residents; Native American tribes; or a nonprofit organization with a project in a community that meets the population eligibility criteria.
2. There is no minimum grant request.
3. The maximum grant request is \$75,000. Cost increases above this amount are ineligible.
4. The total estimated project cost must be no greater than \$150,000.
5. To avoid large projects being subdivided into smaller applications, applicants may submit only one YAF Small project per single location, per biennium.
6. Accessibility projects that improve access to or within an athletic facility are eligible as stand-alone projects. The project does not need to include any "in-bounds" (or field of play) elements.
7. Projects involving acquisition of land are not eligible.

Beyond this, all other YAF program policies apply, including eligibility for the match reduction pathways.

Projects to Date

Since its inception, there have been 12 successful YAF Small applications, all of which received funding based on the funding formula. As Table 1 below indicates,

three projects have been completed, two projects were not implemented (which means the sponsor was awarded the grant but decided not to move forward with the project), and six projects are active, meaning they are in the implementation phase. Also, one project was moved to the YAF Large Grants Category.

Table 1: YAF Small Grants Category Projects to Date

Project Number and Type ¹	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Status
18-1482D	Prosser	Prosser Competitive Pool Improvements	Closed Complete
18-1921D	Long Beach	Culbertson Park Renovations	Closed Complete
18-2019D	Hoquiam	Gable Park Athletic Field Lighting	Closed Complete
18-2026D	La Center	Holley Park Youth Athletic Fields	Not Implemented
18-2039D	Rj's Kids	Burton Adventure Recreation Center Pump Track	Merged with YAF Large ²
20-1429D	Wilbur	Wilbur Youth Recreation Support Facilities	Active
20-1437D	Fircrest	Gene Goodwin Tennis Courts Resurfacing	Active
20-1481D	Springdale	Springdale Park Basketball Court and Americans with Disabilities Act Upgrades	Not Implemented
20-1747D	Fairfield	The Pit Youth Facilities	Active
20-1784D	Colfax	Colfax Pool Mechanical Room Renovation	Active
20-1864D	Milton	Milton Community Park Courts	Active
20-1880D	Boys and Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula	Youth Outdoor Activity Area Sequim Boys and Girls	Active

¹D=Development or renovation

²Merged with a YAF Large Grant Category project ([20-1886D](#)) via board approval of Resolution 2020-15.

2020 Grant Cycle

Before the 2020 grants cycle, the COVID-19 pandemic started. Applicants were concerned about the economic downturn and its impact on their ability to provide required matching resources. In response, at their April 2020 meeting, the Board passed Resolution 2020-09, Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020, to assist applicants with the grant round. That resolution included reducing the minimum match for all YAF applicants from 50 percent to 25 percent. The existing match reduction policy pathways for "Communities in Need," "Counties in Need," and "Underserved Populations" remained unchanged, as eligible applicants may have their minimum match as low as 10 percent.

The Board adopted additional resolutions in April 2020 (Resolution 2020-10) and July 2020 (Resolution 2020-14), which delegated authority to the director to address emerging issues associated with implementation of funded projects due to the pandemic. Both resolutions were for a limited timeframe and did not cover issues sponsors are now facing for 2020 grant proposals that received funding in 2021.

The 2020 YAF Small projects have encountered many hurdles, which has led to RCO receiving two cost change requests from sponsors so far:

1. Colfax Pool Mechanical Room Renovation ([20-1784](#))

The City of Colfax is requesting approval for a cost increase and approval to go above the \$150,000 project maximum.

	Current Dollars	Current Percent	Proposed Dollars	Proposed Percent	Total Cost Change
YAF Small Grant	\$75,000	64.12%	\$147,380	64.12%	\$72,340
Sponsor Match	\$41,969	35.88%	\$82,470	35.88%	\$40,501
Total	\$116,969	100%	\$229,850	100%	\$112,841

2. Wilbur Youth Recreation Support Facilities ([20-1429](#))

The Town of Wilbur is requesting approval for a cost increase and approval to go above the \$150,000 project maximum.

	Current Dollars	Current Percent	Proposed Dollars	Proposed Percent	Total Cost Change
YAF Small Grant	\$59,331	75%	\$157,300	75%	\$97,969
Sponsor Match	\$19,777	25%	\$52,433	25%	\$32,656
Total	\$79,108	100%	\$209,733	100%	\$130,625

With labor shortages and escalating costs for construction materials, staff anticipate that other 2020 YAF Small projects may make similar requests in the coming months.

Analysis

Cost Increase Policy

Per [Washington Administrative Code 286-13-085](#), cost increases are allowed if financial resources are available and within the appropriation authorized by the legislature. Each cost increase will be considered on its merits and the Board's grant program policies.

The Board's policy on cost increases is outlined in *Manual 4: Development Projects* on page 33. Specifically, the policy states:

On occasion, the cost of completing a project exceeds the amount written into the agreement. Such overruns are the responsibility of the project sponsor. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board may consider a cost increase in some grant programs if funds are available, and the grant recipient submits a written request. The director may approve requests for increases up to 10 percent of the total project cost and the Board may approve increases above 10 percent.

To request an increase, the project sponsor must submit a written request to RCO addressing the following:

- The sponsor must have fully explored all practical alternatives to completing the intent of the agreement.
- The sponsor must have had little control over the conditions causing the overrun.
- Any increase must only be used for elements in the project agreement.

A sponsor must obtain director or Board approval for any significant change in project scope or design that results in a cost increase request. This approval must be granted before or simultaneously to the cost increase.

Additionally, *Manual 17: Youth Athletic Facilities* further defines the cost increase policy for requests within the YAF program on page 37. The policy clarifies that cost increases for the YAF-Small category may not exceed the \$75,000 grant maximum.

Assessment of the Cost Increase Requests

Available Funds

There are enough funds available in the Youth Athletic Facilities Account to cover the amounts requested. The funds are from projects that did not use the full grant amount. However, these requests exceed 10 percent of the project's initially approved grants, therefore the requests are being presented for the Board's consideration.

Alternatives Considered

Each sponsor considered the following options when requesting their cost increases:

1. Request a cost increase. This is the preferred alternative, as it allows the scope to be completed as written in the agreement.
2. Request to down-scope the project. This is not a viable option, as these projects are already smaller in scope, and reducing the scope further defeats the basic intent and is not practical.
3. Return the grant funding and not complete the project. This is not preferred because a future grant from this program is not guaranteed. Additionally, the public benefit of improved outdoor recreation would not happen, which is a loss to the communities where these projects are located.
4. Continue with original scope and pay for the difference in costs with other sources. This is not a preferred or feasible alternative as the communities do not have extra funding available.

Conditions Causing Overrun

The COVID-19 Pandemic hit every community. Since submittal of their applications in the spring of 2020, these projects have experienced unprecedented labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, increased material costs, and public health restrictions. These are impacts that were out of project sponsor control.

Elements Included

No other elements in the current agreements are being modified.

Other Considerations

The YAF Small Grant Category policies outlined above identify additional parameters for the category regarding costs. It is expressly stated that if the Board approves these cost increases, then the Board is also approving waivers to the following related parameters as well:

1. The Board policy stating that the total project costs cannot exceed \$150,000; and
2. The Board policy stating that grant awards cannot exceed \$75,000.

Delegation of Authority Request

RCO staff believes other YAF Small project sponsors will likely have similar requests in the coming months. To expedite consideration of these requests and implementation of the funded projects, staff is asking the Board to delegate to the director authority to approve all cost increase requests for YAF Small projects. The approval is limited to 2020 grant projects, the award can exceed the current \$75,000 grant maximum, and the total project costs can exceed the \$150,000 maximum. The director will only consider written requests that meet the criteria outlined in the Board's cost increase policy. The director may refer a cost increase request to the Board. Staff will update the board at future meetings on any additional requests and approvals given by the director for 2020 projects. This request is similar to the one made in 2020 to responsively address issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic via Board resolutions 2020-10 and 2020-14.

Future Challenges

While this request only relates to the 2020 projects, RCO staff have identified some on-going challenges with the YAF Small Grants Category and intends, with Board approval, to revisit these issues once the equity study and assessment is complete. This pilot program has now been through three grant cycles, and it is time to analyze it to determine what is working, what applicants need, and what changes could be made to make it more strategically aligned with the Boards' goals..

The request before the Board today only addresses issues with the active 2020 YAF Small Grant Category projects.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approves Resolution 2022-08, which:

1. Grants cost increases for the Colfax Pool Mechanical Room Renovation (20-1784) and Wilbur Youth Recreation Support Facilities (20-1429) projects, and
2. Delegates authority to the director to approve cost change requests for 2020 YAF Small Grants Category projects.

Next Steps

If approved, staff will issue cost increase amendments for the Colfax Pool Mechanical Room Renovation (20-1784) and Wilbur Youth Recreation Support Facilities (20-1429) projects. Staff will track all YAF Small cost change requests and decisions made by the director and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Attachment

A. *Resolution 2022-08, Approval of Cost Increases and Delegation of Authority to the Director to Address Emerging Issues for 2020 Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category Agreements*

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-08
Approval of Cost Increases and Delegation of Authority to the Director to Address
Emerging Issues for 2020 Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category
Agreements**

WHEREAS, Chapter 79A.25 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for the grant programs it administers; and

WHEREAS, the board has adopted policies for cost increases for the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program; and

WHEREAS, the board's meeting schedule to consider various anticipated sponsor requests may result in delayed or failed implementation, loss of matching resources, and additional expense; and

WHEREAS, the board has in previous years delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to make specific project decisions or waivers based on rules and policies on its behalf; and

WHEREAS, approving cost increases for these projects would further the board's goal to help its partners develop recreation opportunities that benefit people, and

WHEREAS, delegation of additional authority supports the board's objective to ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently and in conformance with existing legal authorities, and its strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board approves the cost increases as requested for Colfax Pool Mechanical Room Renovation (20-1784) and Wilbur Youth Recreation Support Facilities (20-1429); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board delegates additional authority to RCO's director to make cost change decisions for 2020 YAF Small Grants Category, which are necessary for successful project implementation, provided the decisions are consistent with the program purpose, the intent of adopted policies, meets statutory requirements, and aligns with the strategy outlined in this memorandum, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director may hold any request for full board consideration, as needed, and present the request along with staff's report on the decisions made at the next board meeting.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: January 27, 2022

From: [Ken VanB](#)
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:12:45 AM

External Email

Julia, please provide the comments below to the Mason County Board of Commissioners to the RCO funding board regarding the Sweetwater Park project proposal here in Belfair. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. Please keep me posted when matter comes before the funding board. thank you Ken Vanbuskirk 360-801-0550

----- Forwarded message -----

From: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 8:21 AM
Subject: RE: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2
To: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>

Good morning Ken,

Absolutely!

Meeting ID: 986 5743 0813
Passcode: 259868

Warm regards,

McKenzie Smith

Clerk of the Board, Records Specialist
Mason County Commissioners Office

(360) 427-9670 ext. 589 | msmith@masoncountywa.gov
<http://www.masoncountywa.gov>

***Please note: Mason County complies with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW. As such, any e-mail sent to and/or from the County may be subject to public disclosure.*

From: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 5:00 PM
To: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2

Caution: External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Mason County Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, DO NOT DO SO! Instead, report the incident.

I will likely attend via zoom, can you send me ID # and passcode# thank you ken

On Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 4:29 PM McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ken,

Thank you so much for your email and for your comments. I will ensure that the Commissioners are aware that you would like to remove item 8.2 from the agenda. Do you plan on attending tomorrow's regular meeting?

Warm regards,

McKenzie Smith

Clerk of the Board, Records Specialist
Mason County Commissioners Office

(360) 427-9670 ext. 589 | msmith@masoncountywa.gov
<http://www.masoncountywa.gov>

***Please note: Mason County complies with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW. As such, any e-mail sent to and/or from the County may be subject to public disclosure.*

From: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 5:21 AM
To: Kevin Shutty <KShutty@masoncountywa.gov>; Sharon Trask <STrask@masoncountywa.gov>; Randy Neatherlin <RandyN@masoncountywa.gov>
Cc: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>; Mark Neary <MNeary@masoncountywa.gov>; Tim Whitehead <TimW@masoncountywa.gov>
Subject: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2

Caution: External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Mason County Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, DO NOT DO SO! Instead, report the incident.

I would respectfully request that this item be removed from the Action agenda and considered as a separate item.

Commissioners I have read all of the support letters for this project and after discussion with one of the signers they appear to be boilerplate form letters provided by the HCSEG; not the Port of Allyn who is the primary sponsor.

Mr. Coppola's email to you regarding this matter is disparaging to my reputation and violates the Port's settlement agreement with Mr. Brad Carey. Mr. Coppola's email pales in comparison to letters my family and I have received from a primary park proponent with the same sort of baseless accusations, further disparaging comments and a false narrative directed at me.

Ms. Corrigan asked that specific and meaningful reasons be aired by the Commissioners if you don't affirm the park.

I would like to offer these reasons for your consideration.

1. There is the appearance of a conflict with RCW 53.08.260 and .270. Ports can have parks but they need to be ancillary to and more fully utilize existing air, sea and ground transportation Port facilities. For the Belfair UGA a Port industrial park with a recreational park element makes more sense than this proposal.
2. The property in question is currently not zoned appropriately for this proposal. The Port had ample opportunity over the last two and a half years to ask for a rezone. I asked the Port to weigh in on the planned action EIS several times; and was ignored.
3. Water rights for Sweetwater creek have long been relinquished. One of the RCO advisory groups brought this to the HCSEG's attention but I have heard no further discussion on this critical water rights issue.
4. There is no support letter from the NM school district superintendent. Superintendent Rosenbach, my wife and I walked the property prior to the Port taking possession. The property was surveyed and a 30% design criteria for a grant was written without the school district landowner approval. Superintendent Rosenbach is also aware of a Land slide hazard area due east of the school district now Port property.
5. Property is still on the DOE list of potentially contaminated properties.
6. The waterwheel is not an archaeological site as depicted in recent EIS as submitted by HCSEG.
7. There is the appearance of a "gifting" of public funds regarding hazard tree recognition.
8. WSDOT planned restoration of Sweetwater Creek and widening of highway 3 with two earthen dams removal will likely have significant impacts to the project area and is in conflict with the park project proposal.
9. The eleventh hour "anonymous" donation to HCSEG to purchase the Peterson property rather than seek grant funding raises serious transparency and accountability issues for the

Port.

10. There are other more sensitive potential litigation and liability issues that I am asking the Port to investigate .

thanks for your consideration,

yours in community health and safety

Ken VanBuskirk

Belfair

From: Ken VanBuskirk
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Fw: DOE VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 6:33:37 AM
Attachments: Pacific NW Salmon Center SW0889 - VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup.pdf
opinion letter to Port 4-5-2021.elm.ms

External Email

Julia I inadvertently sent this to Mr. Lundquist. best Ken VanBuskirk 360-801-0550

----- Original Message -----

From: [Ken VanBuskirk](#)
To: [John Sheridan](#) ; [Ted Jackson](#) ; [Judy Scott](#)
Cc: [Senator Tim Sheldon](#) ; [Austin Marguerite \(RCO\)](#) ; RegistJ@wsdot.wa.gov ; [Commissioner Shutty](#) ; [Commissioner Trask](#) ; [Commissioner Neatherlin](#) ; [Tim Whitehead](#) ; Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2022 5:59 AM
Subject: DOE VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup

Port Commissioners, wanted to provide you all with some more information for your investigation into my complaint in regards to Mr. Coppola's 4-27-2022 email to the Board of County Commissioners. I also included an email from last year, 4-5-2021; in which I sent to you the exact same document with a brief summary of the PNWSC's involvement with the site.

Please review the attached 2007 DOE opinion **again** on site cleanup. A thorough review of this document is in direct conflict with Mr. Coppola's 4-27 email to the Board of County Commissioners.

Regarding Mr. Coppola's 4-27-2022 email, there was diesel fuel found in ground samples and there were reports of another UST located in the SW portion of property and a possible septic system.

I was provided this Mason County public document. <https://dms.masoncountywa.gov/LR/DocView.aspx?id=299493&dbid=0&repo=Mason>

It shows the permitting processes for the Shindelheim property all the way back to 1956 when it was owned by Mr. Barber the man who built the earthen dam on Sweetwater creek and put in trout pond and spill way. Note that the owner installed a 900 gallon septic tank(likely metal) and seepage pit for the North Star cafe within 50' of a body of water.

At one point in 1979-1980, Dr. Shindelheim proposed an expansion of the Belfair medical clinic which was denied followed by a proposal of a conversion of use of an existing building to a fish market which was also denied.

The last page has a very rough map from 1956 that depicts a 500 gallon septic tank, which was again likely metal, and another seepage pit in the SW corner of property. I doubt that either of the seepage pits or septic tanks were ever removed.

It is also my belief that the Port is operating outside the bounds and scope of their authority. It appears that RCW 53.08.260 requires park and recreation facilities to be ancillary to other Port facilities; which this project is not. Also RCW 53.08.270 requires approval by the governing body of the County. I have been unable to locate that "approval".

As project sponsors please forward this correspondence and my earlier correspondence to all potential funding agencies, including the Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board.

Please call me if I can be of help with your investigation.

Respectfully,
Ken VanBuskirk

From: [Ken VanBuskirk](#)
To: [Lary Coppola](#)
Cc: [Ted Jackson](#); [Judy Scott](#); [Katie](#)
Bcc: [Jean Farmer](#); [Brad](#); ibsen@hctc.com
Subject: Port of Allyn meeting this evening
Attachments: Pacific NW Salmon Center SW0889 - VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup.pdf

I am unable to attend meeting this evening. Please acknowledge receipt of this email during the meeting and enter this email and attachment as correspondence as part of the meeting record..

I would like the Board to pull approval of the 3-01-21 meeting minutes consent agenda for a separate discussion and vote. I went back and listened to my public comments. I did not "berate" the executive director and would ask that the minutes be amended to remove that statement.

I also take exception with Mr. Coppola's executive directors report about Sweetwater and that only one person is opposed to project and that there is no proof of a UST onsite, and that the arsenic is naturally occurring..

The Shindelheim property was acquired by the school district in 1997 and it was intended to be part of the PNWSC's master plan to redevelop 25 acres and **site a massive facility with 500,000 visitors a year** at their facility planned to be located on and adjacent to the Theler parking lot. (Theler trust property 16) The same parking lot Mason Transit Authority was considering when the school board surpluses Theler and later rescinded their decision as it was to be maintained in perpetuity.

The PNWSC applied for and received a \$93,000 Brownsfield grant in 2004 using the above redevelopment criteria that included the school's Shindelheim property. The PNWSC abandoned their planned facilities location in 2009 and sold their property and moved to their current location outside the UGA. . They were asked to reenter the VCP in 2015 but declined.

The Shindelheim property remains on the Department of Ecology's Confirmed and Suspected Site list and appears to not have been fully mitigated from the attached report.

Please note on page 3 that the analysis was not sufficient enough to determine if the arsenic levels were naturally occurring or not.

Please note page 5 of attached opinion regarding NMSD property that one UST might still be in SW corner of property.

Please document in Mr. Coppolas performance rating mid year review.

Thank you,
Ken VanBuskirk



Electronic Copy

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

CERTIFIED MAIL

7006 2760 0000 0402 5605

October 12, 2007

Mr. Shawn Williams
ALKAI Consultants, LLC
9465 Provost Road NW, Suite #202
Silverdale, WA 98383

Dear Mr. Williams:

**Re: Opinion under WAC 173-340-515(5) on Remedial Action(s) for the following
Hazardous Waste Site:**

- Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
- Address: Former Means property: assessors tax lot number 12332 50 00059, Former Baker property: assessors tax lot number 12332 50 00063, and North Mason School District property: parcel D (12332 50 00058), and parcel E (12332 50 00056).
- Facility/Site No.: 4077283
- VCP No.: SW0889

Thank you for submitting your independent remedial action report(s) for the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility (Site) for review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Ecology appreciates your initiative in pursuing this administrative option for cleaning up hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW.

This letter constitutes an advisory opinion regarding whether the remedial action performed is sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements of MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Petroleum hydrocarbons and individual constituents in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

Ecology is providing this advisory opinion under the specific authority of RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i) and WAC 173-340-515(5).

This opinion does not resolve a person's liability to the state under MTCA or protect a person from contribution claims by third parties for matters addressed by the opinion. The state does not have the authority to settle with any person potentially liable under MTCA except in accordance with RCW 70.105D.040(4). The opinion is advisory only and not binding on Ecology.



Mr. Shawn Williams
October 12, 2007
Page 2

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has reviewed the following information regarding your remedial action(s):

1. URS Corporation, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington, January 12, 2005.
2. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, June 30, 2005.
3. ALKAI Consultants, LLC, Draft Brownfields Cleanup Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, April 3, 2006.
4. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, June 26, 2006.
5. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report – Second Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, July 17, 2006.
6. ALKAI Consultants, LLC, Groundwater Monitoring Report- Third Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, January 19, 2007.
7. URS Corporation, Supplemental Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, January 2007.
8. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report – Fourth Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, March 23, 2007.

The reports listed above will be kept in the Central Files of the Southwest Regional Office of Ecology (SWRO) for review by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the SWRO resource contact at (360) 407-6365.

The Site is defined by the extent of contamination caused by the following release(s):

- Petroleum hydrocarbons and individual constituents in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

The Site is more particularly described in Enclosure A to this letter, which includes a detailed Site diagram. The description of the Site is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above.

Based on a review of the independent remedial action report and supporting documentation listed above, **Ecology has determined that the remedial action described in the report is not sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:**

- Petroleum hydrocarbons in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

The following is not sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations:

- The semi-volatile laboratory detection levels for soil samples collected on this site (in particular benzo(a)pyrene and the carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons [cPAHs]) are much greater than either the MTCA Method B cleanup level used as a screening level (140 microgram per kilogram [ug/kg]) or the Method A cleanup level (100 ug/kg) for those constituents. The Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) OLM04.3 "contract required quantitation limit" for cPAHs low soil is listed as 330 ug/kg. None of the subsurface soil samples collected at the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center site was detected at this quantitation limit.
- Although it is possible that arsenic detected in the ground water may be from natural sources, it has been detected above Ecology's MTCA Method A cleanup level. Ecology requires that analyses "shall be conducted on unfiltered ground water samples, unless it can be demonstrated that a filtered sample provides a more representative measure of ground water quality. The department expects that filtering will generally be acceptable for iron and manganese and other naturally occurring inorganic substances where;
 - i) A properly constructed monitoring well cannot be sufficiently developed to provide low turbidity water samples.
 - ii) Due to the natural background concentration of hazardous substances in the aquifer material, unfiltered samples would not provide a representative measure of ground water quality.
 - iii) Filtering is performed in the field with all practicable measures to avoid exposing the water sample to the ambient air before filtering." [WAC 173-340-720(9)(b)]

However, Ecology has been requiring that low-flow techniques be incorporated first to provide unfiltered ground-water samples before filtering is attempted on any ground-water samples.

- The surface-water sampling results are all reported in milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) units and not milligram per liter (mg/l) or microgram per liter (ug/l) units. Thus the surface water results cannot be interpreted. The screening levels, laboratory results, or values will need to be checked and a QA run.

Please note that this letter does not provide an opinion on the sufficiency of any other remedial actions conducted at the Site or whether further remedial action is necessary to characterize and address all contamination at the Site. To obtain such an opinion, you must submit an independent remedial action report to Ecology upon completion of the cleanup action for the Site and request such an opinion under the VCP.

Please also note that this opinion is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above. Therefore, if any of the information contained in those documents is materially false or misleading, then this opinion will automatically be rendered null and void.

The state, Ecology, and its officers and employees make no guarantees or assurances by providing this opinion, and no cause of action against the state, Ecology, its officers or employees may arise from any act or omission in providing this opinion.

Mr. Shawn Williams
October 12, 2007
Page 4

Again, Ecology appreciates your initiative in conducting an independent remedial action and requesting technical consultation under the VCP. As the cleanup of the Site progresses, you may request additional consultative services under the VCP, including assistance in identifying applicable regulatory requirements and opinions regarding whether remedial actions proposed for or conducted at the Site meet those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please contact me at (360) 407-6267.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Cline
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office

CSC:lmc

Enclosures: Enclosure A – text
11 figures
3 aerial photographs

cc: Nnamdi Madakor, Ecology
John Means, Ecology

ENCLOSURE A

The Hood Canal Enhancement Group, in cooperation with other interested parties (Mary E. Theler Organization, North Mason School District [NMSD], and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife) has proposed the construction of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) along Sweetwater Creek near Belfair, Washington. Construction of the PNWSC will involve restoration of Sweetwater Creek and the surrounding wetlands. The proposed PNWSC is located approximately 1 mile south of Belfair on Highway 3 (Figure 1). The Center will consist of a 25-acre complex that will include an artificial stream (Sweetwater Creek) where the public can view the activity in the streambed. The facility will include a 9,100-square foot interpretive center and the existing Mary E. Theler Community Center. Three properties will be included as part of the PNWSC. These properties total 6.9 acres of the proposed Center and consist of five Mason County tax parcels, referred to as the Means, Baker and NMSD properties (see Figure 1). The Means property comprises two parcels, Parcel A (assessor's number 12332 50 00060) and Parcel B (12332 50 00059); the Baker Property consists of one parcel, Parcel C (12332 50 00063); and the NMSD property consists of two parcels, Parcel D (12332 50 00058) and Parcel E (12332 50 00056). See Figure 2. The NMSD and Means properties are crossed by Sweetwater Creek. Proposed construction at these sites includes removal of existing buildings and structures, restoring wetland conditions, returning salmon spawning access to the wetland and salmon spawning stream for educational purposes.

Sweetwater Creek: Sweetwater Creek flows westward across the PNWSC properties, ultimately discharging to Hood Canal. A manufactured pond is located on the NMSD property just upstream of Highway 3. The creek supports anadromous salmon runs for three species, which are manually moved upstream of the pond. Fish are not able to reach the pond because of the height of the drop between the pond and the lower stream (Figure 3).

Means Property: The Means property was developed in the 1950s, and site wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations at this property included a residence, grocery store, and a pet supply store (Animal Outfitters). The original residential and grocery store buildings no longer remain, and the current property building is vacant. Potential concerns at this property include the material used to fill the wetlands, a possible heating oil UST, the septic system, and general hazardous materials handling. The former heating oil UST is reported to be located near the northwest corner of the existing property building. See Figure 3.

NMSD Property: The NMSD property was developed in the 1930s. A gas station operated along Highway 3 from the 1930s to the 1950s. Other businesses at this property included a restaurant and antique store. The former gas station is currently vacant, no buildings remain on the property and it now consists of a gravel lot along the east side of Highway 3. It had been reported that some of the gas station USTs had been removed, but that one UST may remain on the southwest corner of the property. It is likely that a septic system was located at the property. The land east of the former gas station is undeveloped. A manufactured pond is located upstream of the former gas station (Figure 3). There are trailers and mobile homes located along the southern border of the property that may encroach upon NMSD property.

Baker Property: This property was developed in the 1950s, and property wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations included a restaurant, residence, a tool and saw sharpening facility, welding and pet store. Current operations include a motorcycle repair and propane sales. Sweetwater Creek flows along the north border of this property. Potential concerns include the material used to fill the wetlands, a septic system, floor drains, and general hazardous materials handling. See Figure 3.

Previous environmental investigations performed at the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center properties include a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by Krazan & Associates, Inc. in 2003, and a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) performed by URS Operating Services, Inc. and reported in URS Corporation, **Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington**, January 12, 2005. The TBA characterized sediments in Sweetwater Creek, characterized soils from the Means, Baker, and NMSD properties, and included a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey to investigate the potential existence of USTs on portions of the site. These investigations were reviewed by Ecology and resulted in an opinion letter dated September 22, 2005 (Enclosure B). Ecology stipulated that additional samples should be obtained that included surface-water samples from Sweetwater Creek and surface soil samples from the properties that make up the proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility.

Seven surface-water locations were sampled approximately at the sediment sample locations in Sweetwater Creek (Figure 4). When water samples were collected the creek was at low flow with a previous rainfall of 0.09 inches occurring on June 16, 2006. Samples were collected approximately 6-inches below the water surface in order from downstream to upstream locations.

Thirty one surface soil sample locations were selected for this sampling effort (Figure 5). Ten surface soil sample locations were selected at each of the three properties, and one additional discretionary sample was collected. Samples S01 through S10 were obtained from the NMSD property, samples S11 through S20 were obtained from the Baker property, and samples S21 through S30 were collected from the Means property. The additional discretionary sample, location SDSC(1), was taken from the NMSD property adjacent to a concrete pad where 55-gallon drums were stored. Surface soil sample locations were randomly selected throughout each property. Soil samples were collected from each location at a depth of 0 to 1 feet below ground surface (ft bgs). Samples were submitted to the following laboratories for chemical analysis:

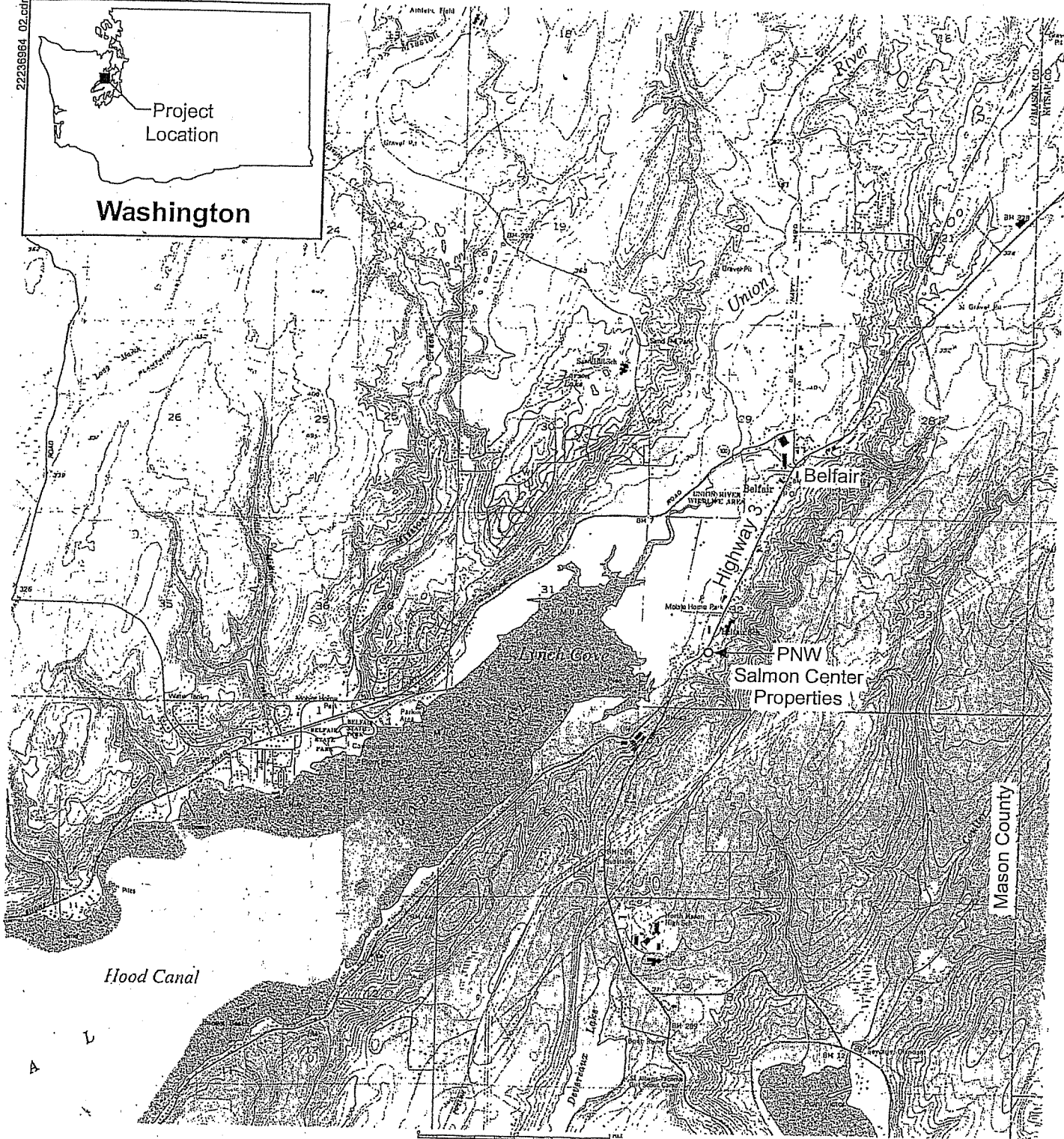
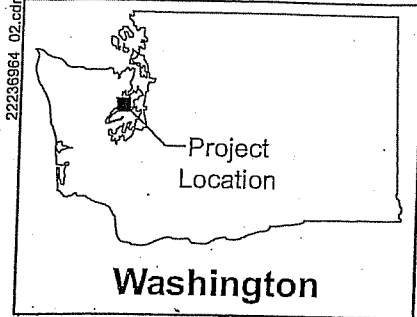
- Subsurface soil boring and sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to Ceimic Corporation for analysis of Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) target compound list (TCL) volatiles and semi volatiles in accordance with the EPA statement of work (SOW) for analytical method OLM04.3.
- Subsurface soil boring and sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to Bonner Analytical Testing Company for analysis of CLP target analytical list (TAL) inorganics in accordance with the EPA SOW for analytical method ILM05.3.
- Surface soil and water samples collected in 2006 were sent to Sentinel Inc. for analysis of CLP TAL inorganics in accordance with the EPA SOW for analytical method ILM05.3.
- Surface soil, subsurface soil boring, sediment, and surface water samples collected in both 2004 and 2006, were sent to the EPA Region 10 laboratory at Manchester for analysis of petroleum hydrocarbons in accordance with Ecology analytical methods NWTPH-Gx and NWTPH-Dx.
- Sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to the URS subcontracted Columbia Analytical Service for analysis of total organic carbon (TOC) by EPA Method 9060.

A total of 7 surface-water sampling locations were selected for the July 2006 field effort (Figure 4). Freshwater chronic aquatic life screening values (WAC 173-201A) were used for comparison to these data. Apparently, no detected inorganic analytes were reported above the screening level. However, no freshwater screening levels were available for barium, cobalt, or vanadium results. Due to the absence of a freshwater aquatic life screening level for manganese, the MTCA Method B surface water value was used for comparison. The samples were analyzed for 17 different inorganic analytes. None of the 10 detected inorganics were reported above the corresponding screening level.

A total of 31 sampling locations were selected for the July 2006 surface soil field event (Figure 5). The samples were analyzed for inorganic analytes, total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) as diesel and heavy oil. None of the 18 detected inorganic analytes exceeded the corresponding MTCA Method B screening level. TPH diesel was not detected in any of the surface soil samples. However, TPH lube oil was detected in 15 of the 31 samples. There were 3 detections for TPH lube oil at the NMSD property, one detection at the Baker property, and all samples obtained on the Means property had detections. The maximum value detected was 310 milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) at the Means property. MTCA Method A was used as the screening level for the TPH sample results.

Because four GPR anomalies were detected on the Means property and two GPR anomalies were detected on the NMSD properties, field activities were begun in September 2005 to investigate these suspected areas. Backhoe excavations were conducted in all six areas. Metal debris was discovered in all four areas suspected to be UST locations on the Means property. This metal debris was encountered within the first four ft bgs. The debris was removed from the ground, stockpiled, and recycled. The two GPR anomalies on the NMSD property were explored with backhoe. Two USTs were discovered at the location shown in Figure 6 and the USTs were excavated in the configuration shown in Figure 6-1. Surface soil was initially removed to expose the tops of the tanks and necessary permits for UST Decommissioning by Removal were obtained from the Mason County Fire Marshal's Office. One UST was oriented north-south and was determined to be 2,000-gallons in size and had contained gasoline. The second UST was oriented east-west and was determined to be 1,200-gallons in size and had also contained gasoline. The contents were removed via a vacuum truck. Both tanks were inspected once they had been removed. Only the 1,200-gallon UST was determined to have holes and associated soil contamination. Nine samples were initially collected on September 14, 2005, as shown in Figure 7. Based on this initial sampling, it was determined that removal of contaminated soils by overexcavation was required in the 1,200-gallon UST pit area. After overexcavation, a second sampling event was completed on September 19, 2005, which consisted of 7 soil samples. The discreet soil samples were obtained from the sidewalls and bottom of the overexcavated area as shown in Figure 8. Two ground-water samples were obtained from ground water encountered at the bottom of the UST excavation at 12 ft bgs, one sample obtained on September 19, 2005 and one on September 23, 2005. None of the compounds detected in the ground-water samples exceeded MTCA Method A cleanup levels for ground water. However, soil samples collected in the initial excavation exceeded soil cleanup levels and ground-water monitoring would be required. A total of 67.84 tons of petroleum contaminated soil was removed and disposed from the 1,200-gallon UST pit.

On January 11, 2006, four monitoring wells were installed to determine ground-water conditions adjacent to the UST removal area. The monitoring wells were located based on the UST excavation to determine upgradient and downgradient ground-water concentrations and determine gradient information. The locations are shown in Figure 9 and gradient information is shown in Figure 10. No TPH or petroleum hydrocarbon constituents (total xylenes was detected at 3 micrograms per liter [ug/l]) in any of the four quarters of ground-water sampling. However, total and dissolved arsenic was detected above the MTCA Method A cleanup level. This may be as a result of the sampling methodology. Another sampling procedure may be required.



Map created with TOPO!™ © 1997 Wildflower Productions, www.topo.com,
based on USGS topographic map



Job No. 22236964

FIGURE 1
~~Figure 2.1~~
Location Map

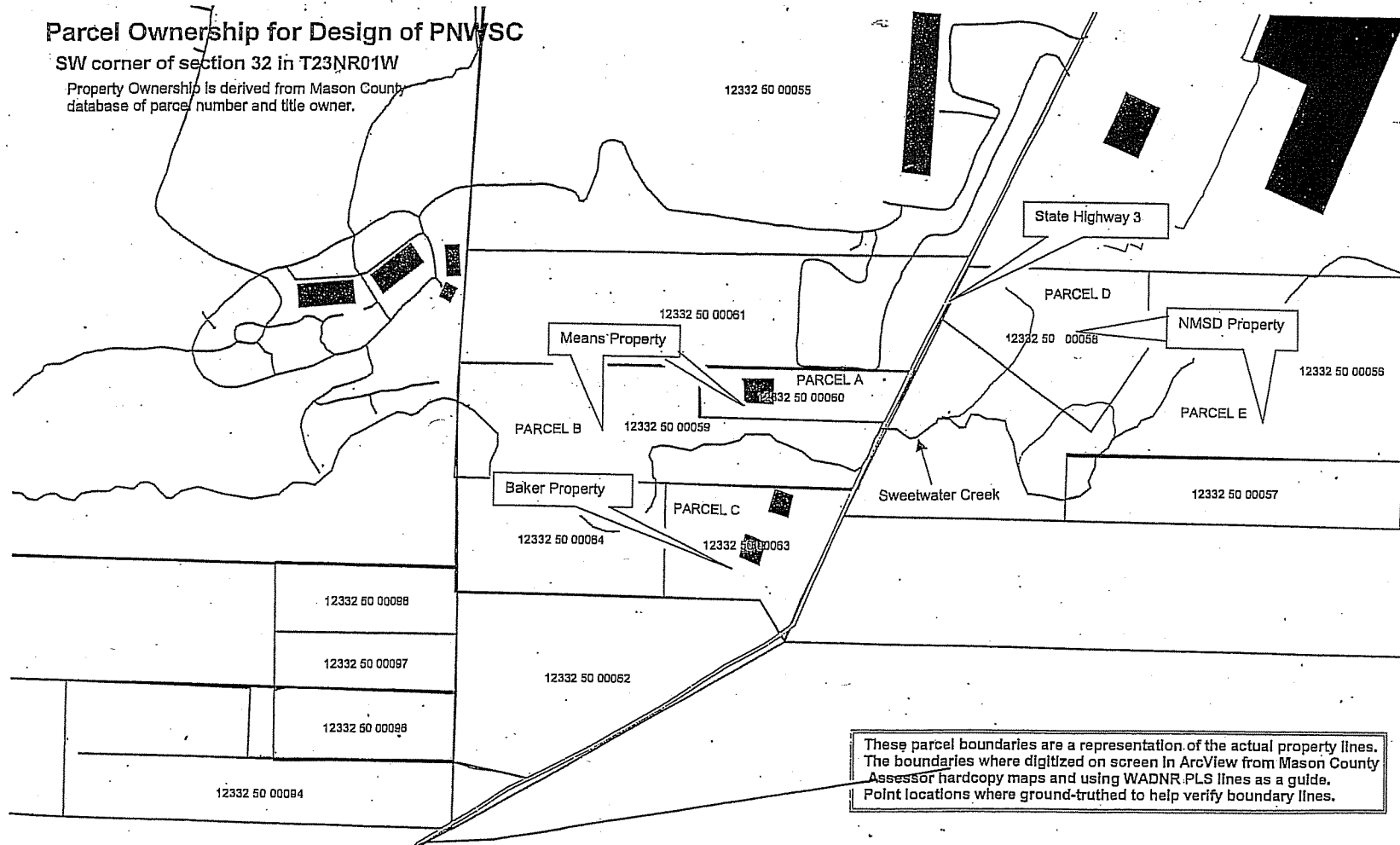


PNW Salmon Center
Targeted Brownfields Assessment

Parcel Ownership for Design of PNWSC

SW corner of section 32 in T23NR01W

Property Ownership is derived from Mason County database of parcel number and title owner.



These parcel boundaries are a representation of the actual property lines. The boundaries were digitized on screen in ArcView from Mason County Assessor's hardcopy maps and using WADNR PLS lines as a guide. Point locations were ground-truthed to help verify boundary lines.

Note: Figure adapted from Krazan & Associates, Inc. site plan

Note: Not to scale



ALKAI CONSULTANTS, LLC.

Environmental Engineering • Geotechnical Engineering • Wetland Consulting

9465 Provost Rd NW, Ste. 204B, Silverdale, WA 98383

(360) 613-2407 p. (360) 613-2408 f.

FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP

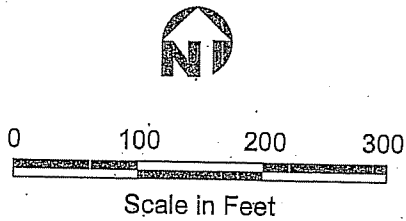
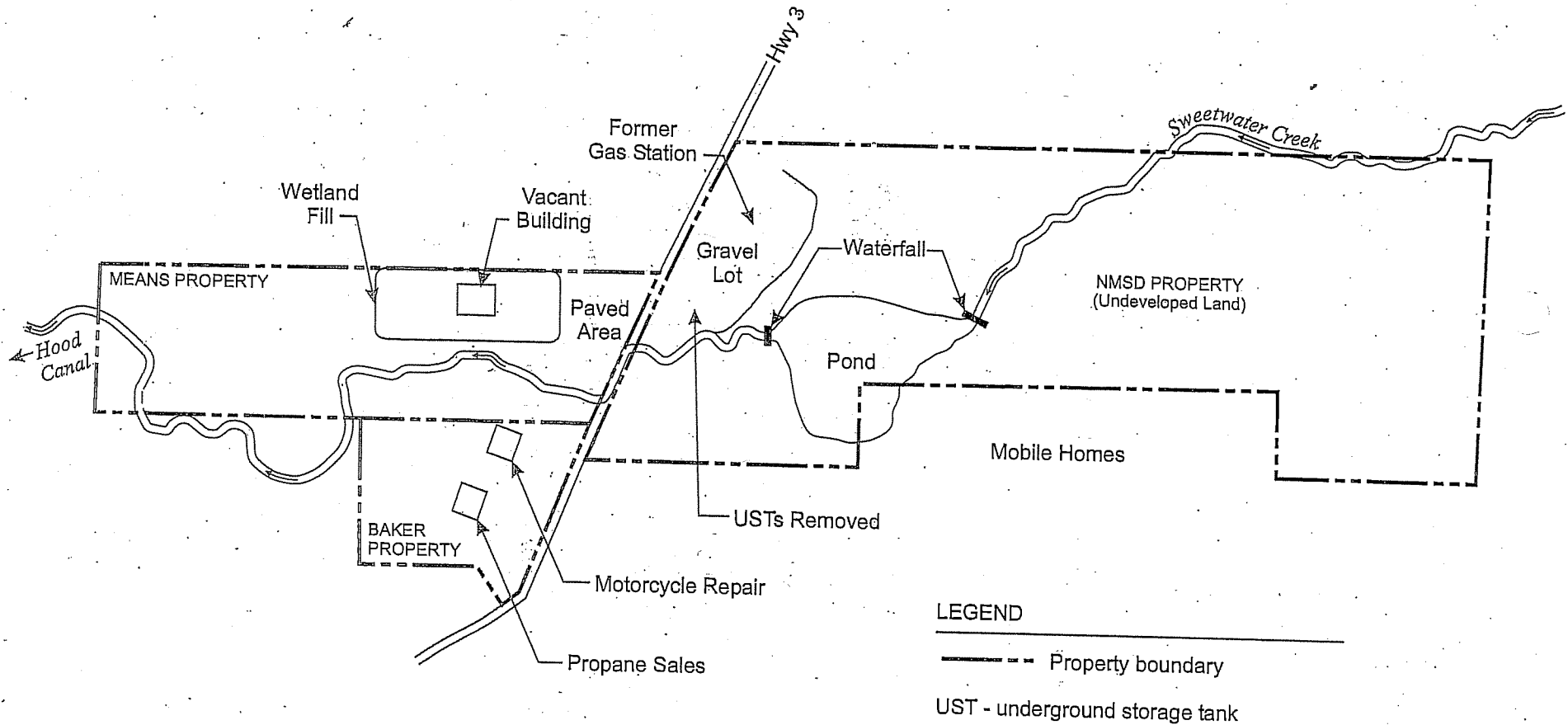
Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Project: ACL05-05-E022

Client: PNWSC

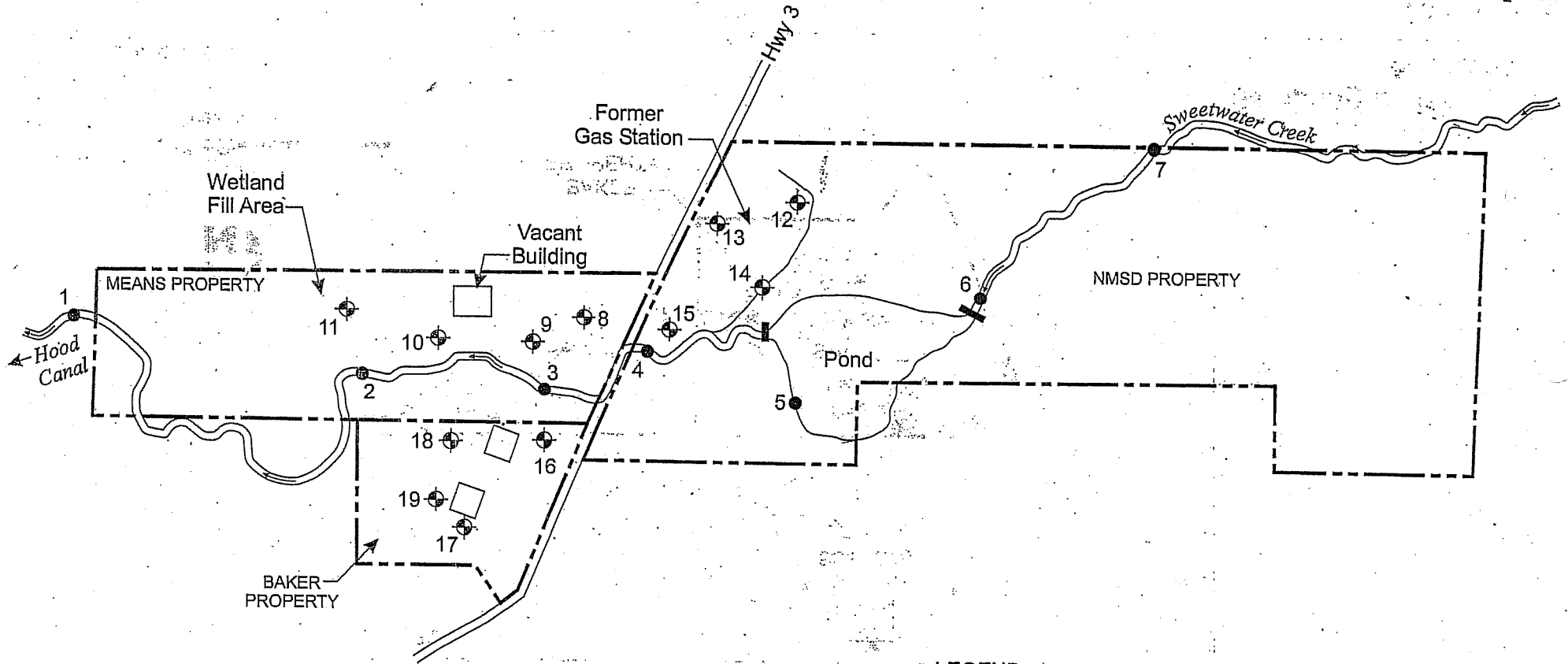
Date: 06/28/05



Job No. 22236964

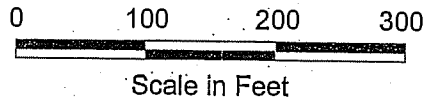
Figure 3-2
Site Map





LEGEND

- Property boundary
- Sweetwater Creek sediment and surface water sampling location
- Soil boring location (samples collected at 2 to 6 feet and 6 to 10 feet below ground surface)



Note:
Surface soil sampling locations
are shown on Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-4
Sampling Location Map
Sediment, Surface Water, Subsurface Soil

LEGEND

- Property boundary
- S30 ✕ Surface soil sampling location
- ▨ Building

Note:
Sediment, surface water, and subsurface soil sampling locations are shown on Figure 3-1.

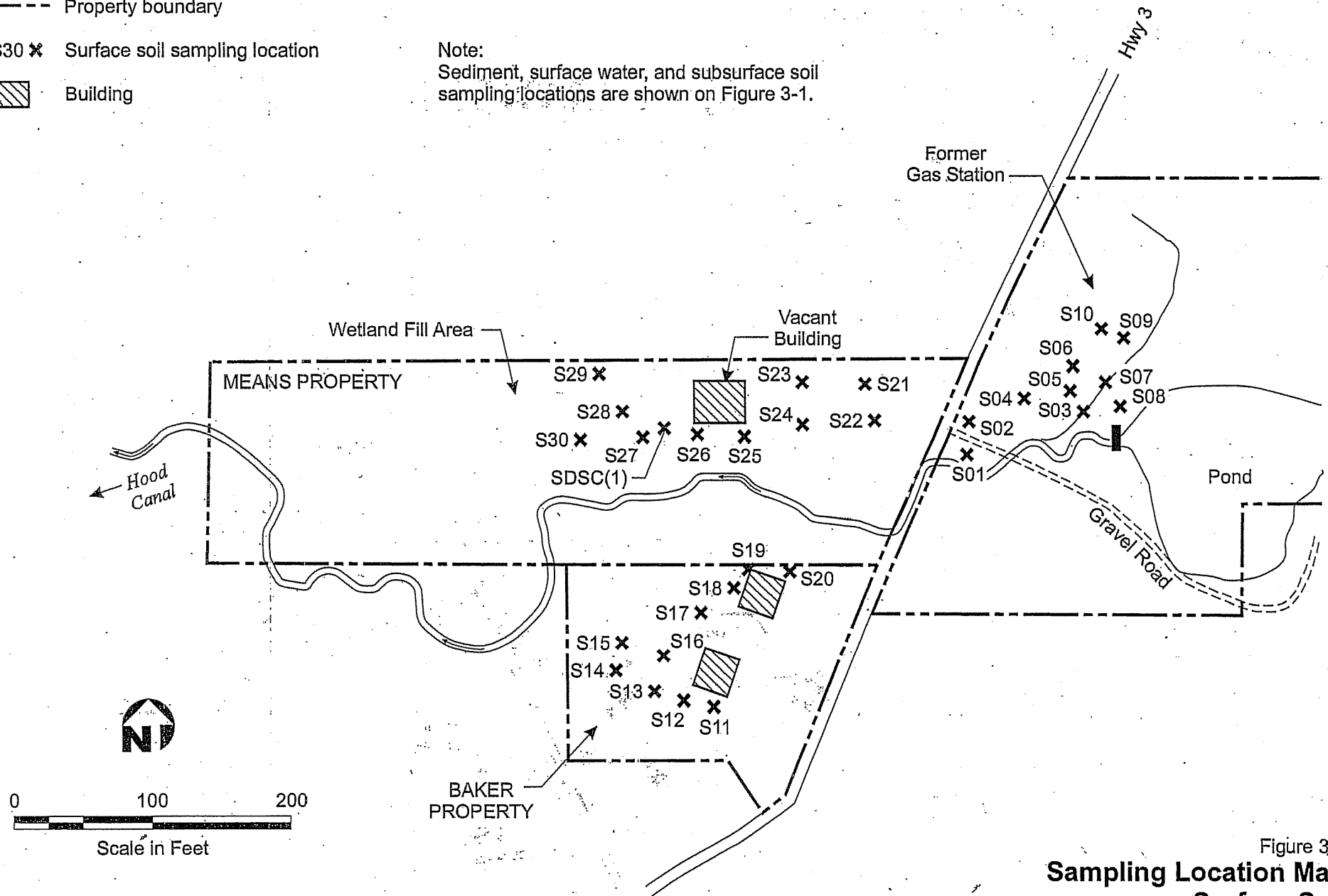
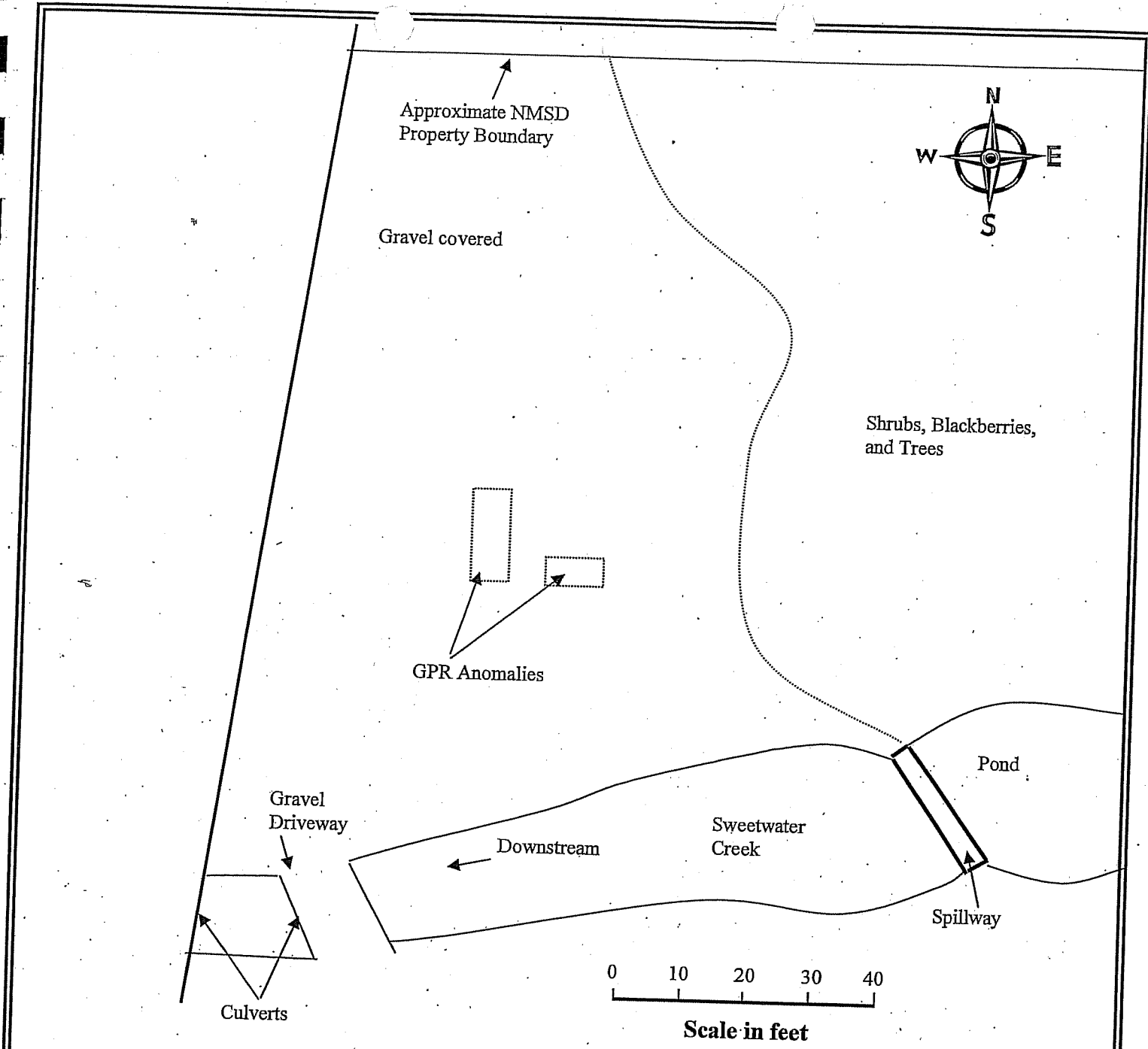


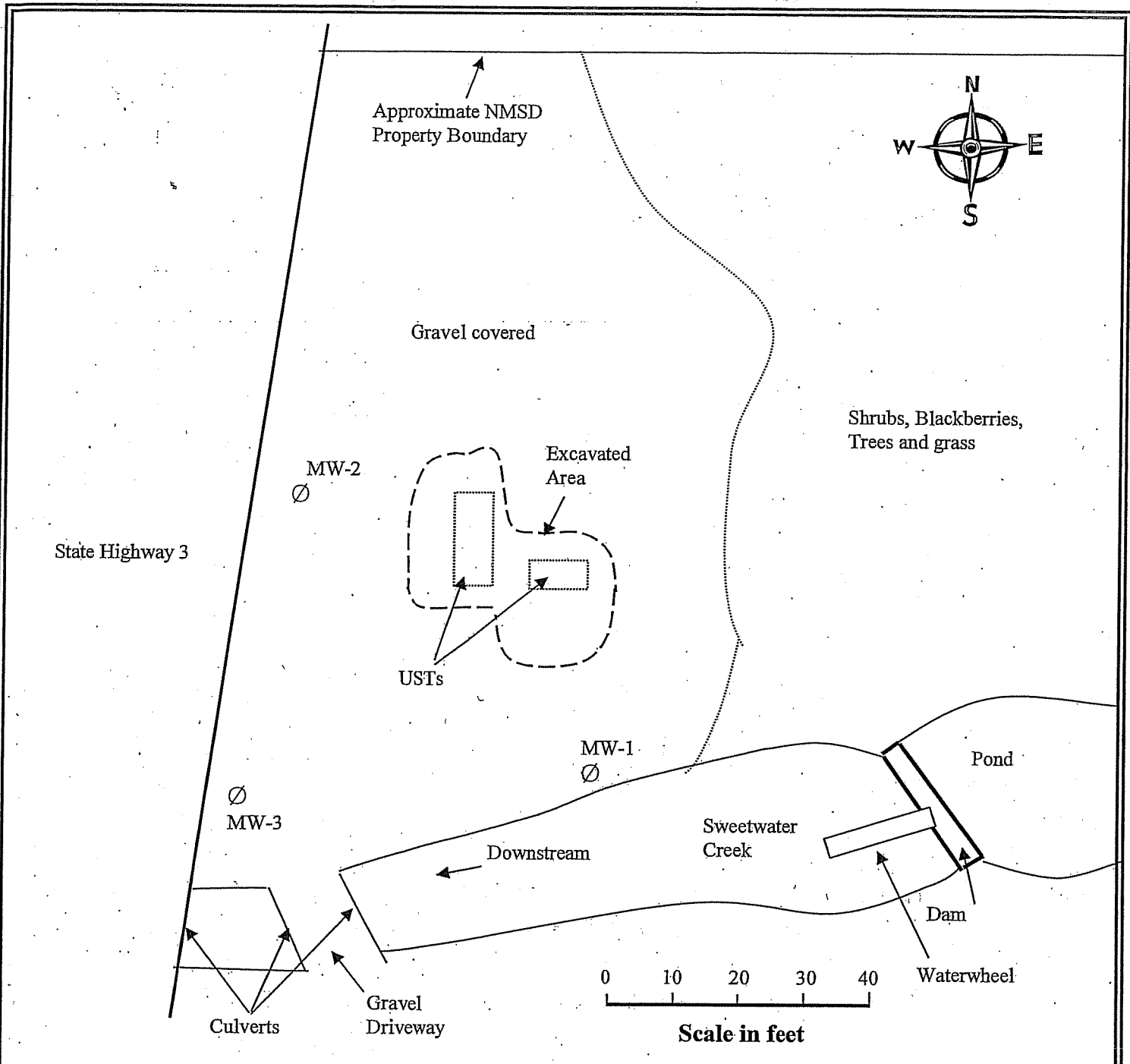
Figure 3-1
**Sampling Location Map
Surface Soil**



Legend:
 NMSD – North Mason School District
 GPR – Ground Penetrating Radar

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Figure 26
SITE MAP – GPR ANOMALIES ON NMSD PROPERTY
 Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Belfair, Washington
 Brownfields Cleanup
 1/20/06



Legend:

⊘ ALKAI Proposed Monitoring Well Locations

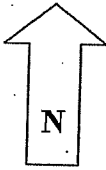
▭ Former USTs

NMSD – North Mason School District

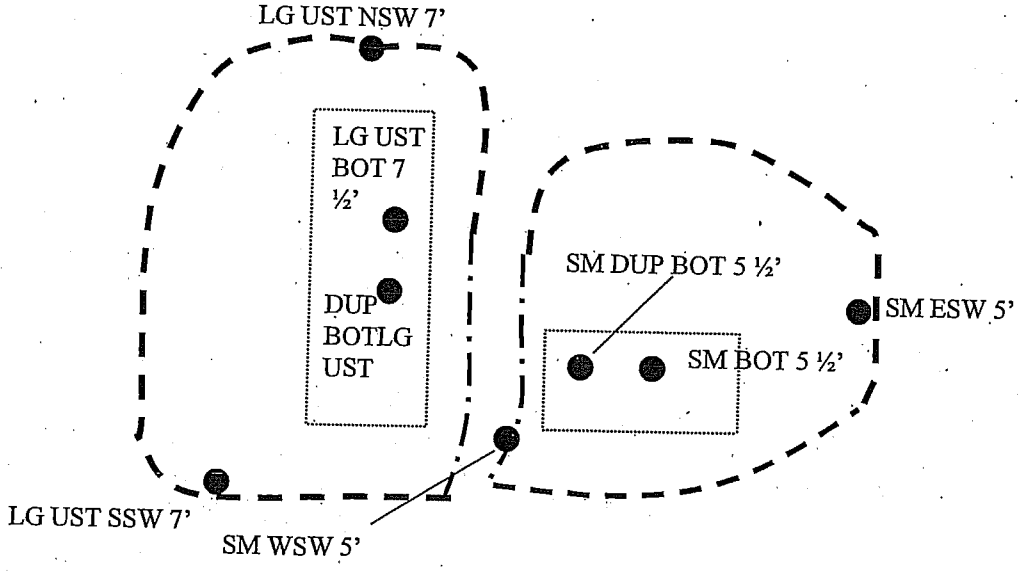
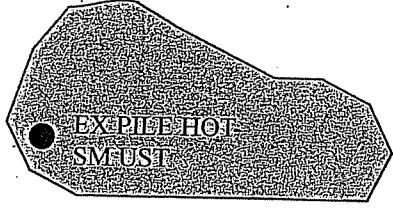
USTs – Underground Storage Tanks

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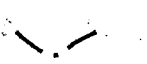


Figure 6-1
PROPOSED MONITORING WELL
LOCATIONS MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06

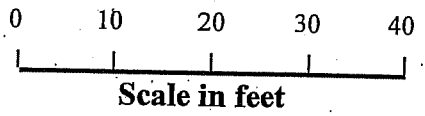


State Highway 3



Legend:

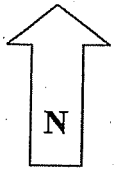
-  Former USTs
-  Initial Excavation Limits
-  Intermediate Sidewall
-  Soil Sample Locations
-  Soil Stockpile from Small Gasoline UST



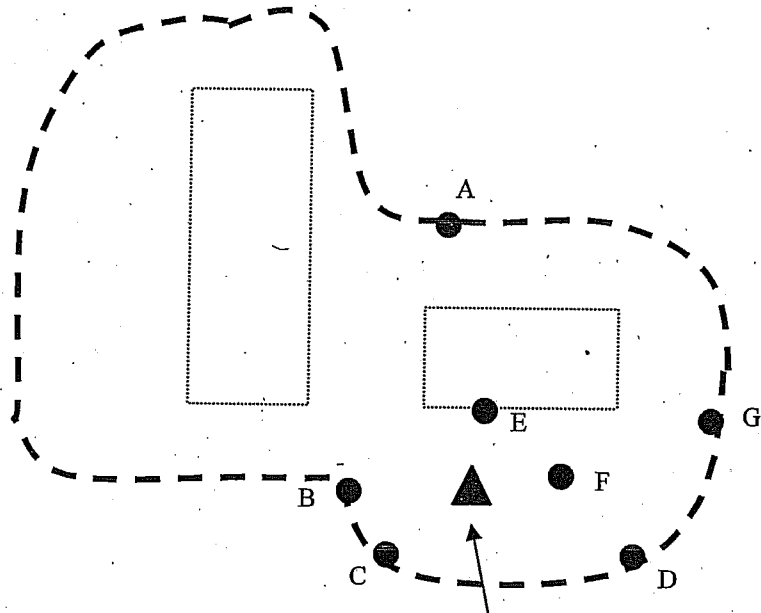
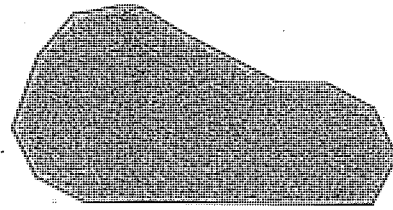
USTs – Underground Storage Tanks

Figure 37
INITIAL EXCAVATION SAMPLE LOCATION
MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06

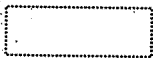




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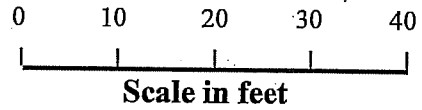


State
Highway 3



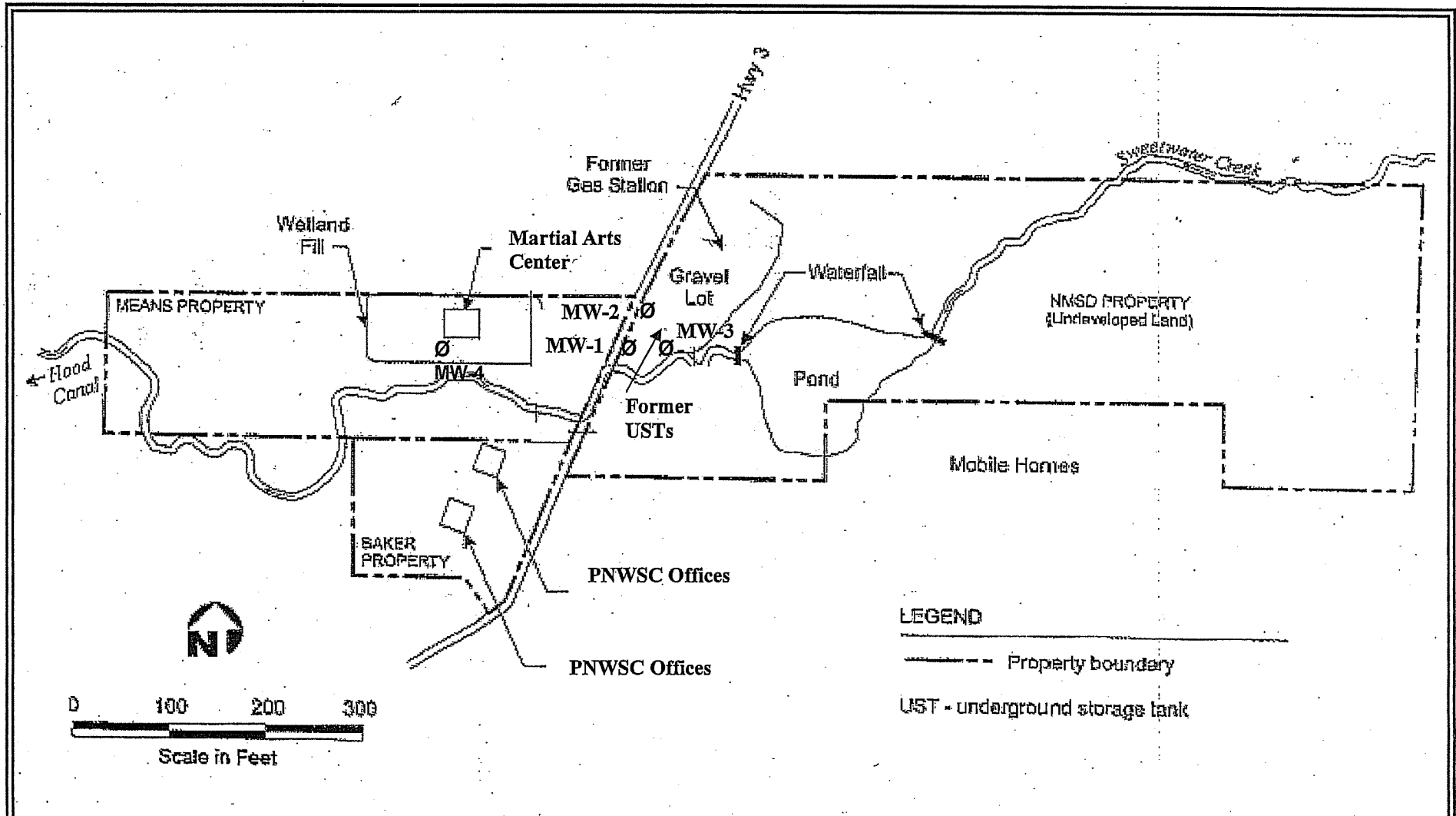
Legend:

-  Former USTs (Underground Storage Tanks)
-  Final Excavation Limits
-  Soil Sample Locations
-  Soil Stockpile from Small Gasoline UST
-  Pit Water Sample Location



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Figure 32
FINAL EXCAVATION SAMPLE LOCATION
MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06



Note: Figure adapted from URS Report ∅ Monitoring Wells, Installed 1/11/06



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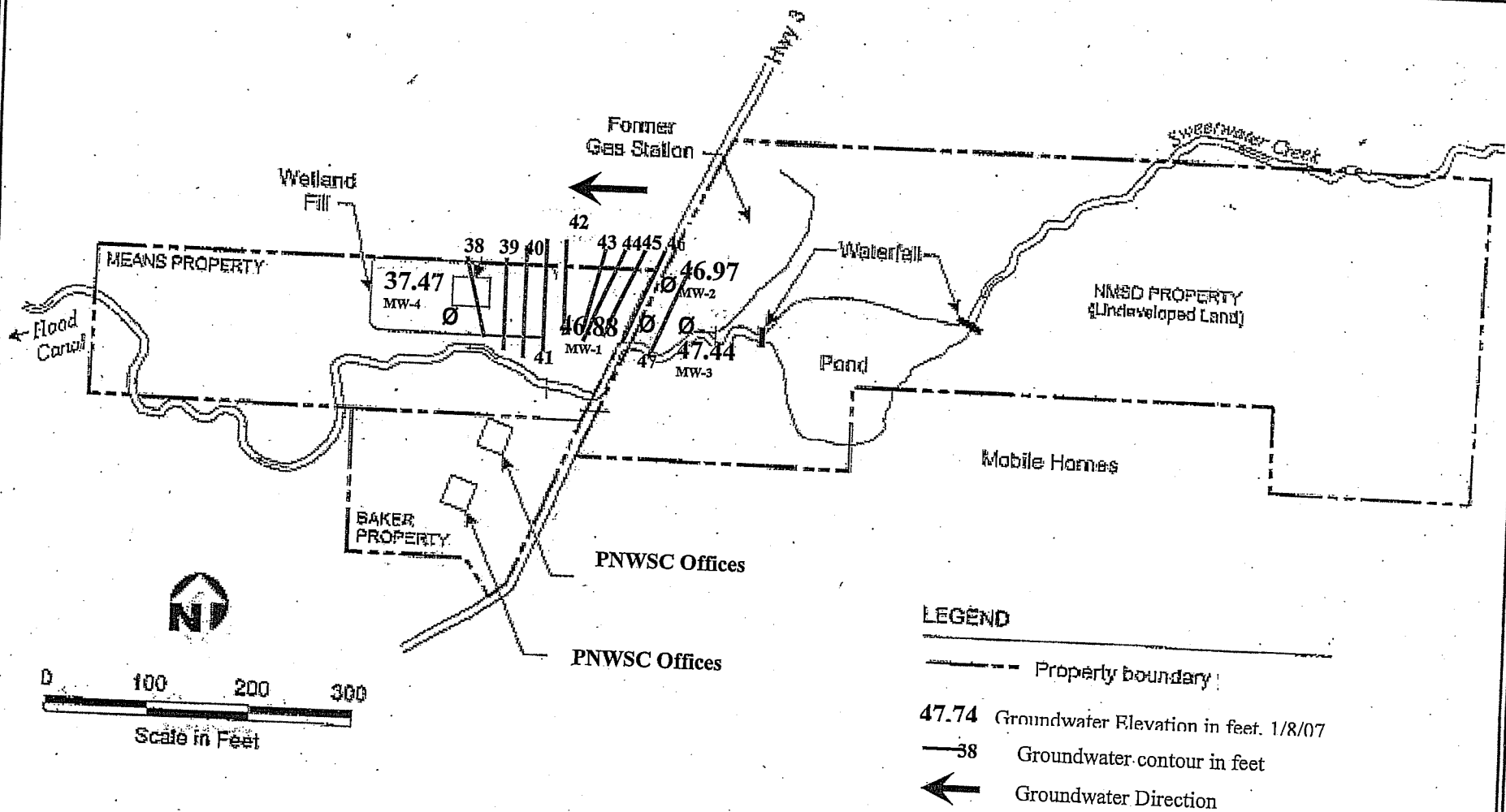
FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP WITH MONITORING WELL LOCATIONS

Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Client: PNWSC

Date: 1/10/07



- LEGEND**
- Property boundary
 - 47.74 Groundwater Elevation in feet. 1/8/07
 - 38 Groundwater contour in feet
 - ← Groundwater Direction

Note: Figure adapted from URS Report ⌀ Monitoring Wells, Installed 1/11/06 Elevation Datum: NAVD88



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FIGURE 10:
GROUNDWATER CONTOUR MAP
 Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfields Cleanup
 Location: Belfair, Washington
 Client: PNWSC
 Date: 1/10/07



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ENCLOSURE B

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

CERTIFIED MAIL

September 22, 2005

Mr. George R. Webster
ALKAI Consultants, LLC.
9465 Provost Rd. NW, Suite #204B
Silverdale, WA 98383

Re: Opinion pursuant to WAC 173-340-515(5) on Proposed Remedial Action for the following Hazardous Waste Site:

- Name: Proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
- Address: Three properties located approx. 1 mi. South of Belfair, along Hwy 3
- Facility/Site No.: No facility #, this is an EPA draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)
- VCP No.: [No VCP NUMBER]

Dear Mr. Webster:

Thank you for submitting documents regarding your proposed remedial action for the proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility (Site) for review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Ecology appreciates your initiative in pursuing this administrative option for cleaning up hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW.

This letter constitutes an advisory opinion regarding whether your proposed remedial action is likely to be sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements of MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Possible Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soil;
- Possible metals in Soil.

Ecology is providing this advisory opinion under the specific authority of RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i) and WAC 173-340-515(5).



Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 2

This opinion does not resolve a person's liability to the state under MTCA or protect a person from contribution claims by third parties for matters addressed by the opinion. The state does not have the authority to settle with any person potentially liable under MTCA except in accordance with RCW 70.105D.040(4). The opinion is advisory only and not binding on Ecology.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has reviewed the following information regarding your proposed remedial action(s):

1. URS Corporation, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington, January 12, 2005,
2. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, June 30, 2005.

The reports listed above will be kept in the Central Files of the Southwest Regional Office of Ecology (SWRO) for review by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the SWRO resource contact at (360) 407-6365.

The Site has not yet been defined. However if contamination is present it will be defined by the extent of contamination caused by the following release(s):

- Petroleum hydrocarbons in Soil/Ground water;
- Metals in Soil/Ground Water/Surface Water.

The Site is more particularly described in Enclosure A to this letter, which includes a detailed Site diagram. The description of the Site is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above.

Based on a review of your proposed remedial action and supporting documentation listed above, Ecology has determined that the proposed remedial action is not likely to be sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Potential Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soil;
- Potential Metals in Soil.

The only previous investigations known to have been performed at the three properties are a

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by Krazan and Associates, Inc., December 3, 2003 and the **Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington**, by URS Corporation, January 12, 2005. A geophysical survey was conducted on the Means and NMSD properties. Sediment sampling was conducted along Sweetwater Creek. Four subsurface soil boring locations were identified for each of the three properties. Soil was collected from each location at two depths, 2 to 6 ft bgs and 6 to 10 ft bgs. Soil samples were compared against, either MTCA Method A cleanup levels or against MTCA Method C soil cleanup levels. However, the URS report states that "Proposed future site activity does not involve groundwater use; therefore, groundwater sampling was not included." In addition, "Surface water samples were not collected because those data would be more representative of current chemical conditions. Analysis of sediments is more representative of long-term conditions, because chemicals remain in sediment after the release is discontinued."

Sweetwater Creek: Sediment sampling was conducted at seven (7) locations within Sweetwater Creek (Figure 2 shows the sampling locations) from 0 to 1 ft bgs. Sampling results were compared against Threshold Effect Concentration (TEC), Probable Effect Concentration (PEC), and Lowest Effect Level (LEL) values. Chromium, Copper and Nickel were detected above the sediment quality screening levels. The TEC, PEC and LEL levels compare well with the Sediment Quality Values (SQVs) presented in Ecology's **Development of Freshwater Sediment Quality Values for Use in Washington State, Phase I Task 6: Final Report**, September 2002, Publication Number 02-09-050. All three of the detected inorganics were reported below their PEC values, the levels at which sediment toxicity is confirmed.

Means Property: Ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey revealed four potential USTs. The soil sampling investigation revealed no concentrations of contaminants above MTCA Method A Unrestricted Land Use cleanup levels. Lube oil was detected in four of eight samples, and all ranged from 36 to 177 mg/kg, compared to the Method A cleanup level of 2000 for total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) in the soil. All metals analyzed were detected in all samples, but below MTCA cleanup levels.

NMSD Property: A GPR survey revealed two potential USTs. Of the eight soil samples submitted, two samples had detectable quantities of diesel, but were below MTCA cleanup levels. All metal analyzed for were detected, except mercury, but at concentrations well below MTCA cleanup levels. These soil samples were collected from between two and four ft bgs, and from between six and ten ft bgs. No surface soil sampling was performed.

Baker Property: Of the eight soil samples submitted in the URS study, two samples had detectable concentrations of Lube Oil, but these were below MTCA cleanup levels. All metals analyzed for were detected, except mercury, but at concentrations below MTCA cleanup levels.

The samples were obtained between two and four ft and six and ten ft bgs. No surface soil sampling was performed.

In addition to the previous investigations, a draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) was generated to address any additional work and provide for remediation of any contamination present on the three properties. This ABCA was **Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington**, prepared by ALKAI Consultants, LLC on June 30, 2005.

It was determined by the ABCA that the TBA had not addressed:

1. Ground water
2. Surface water

The ABCA would address the ground water during the UST decommissioning, if ground water was encountered during the excavation. The ABCA believed that the sediments may have addressed the surface-water issues. The ABCA determined that because no subsurface soil or sediments had concentrations above MTCA cleanup levels that were protective of human health, the only areas of concern are:

1. Sources of contamination that may still remain
2. Subsurface contamination that may be transmitted to ground water

The six potential USTs located by the GPR survey and any associated contamination revealed during the UST decommissioning would represent these two categories. Therefore, the ABCA represented the objectives for this subject facility to be:

- Prevent exposure pathways that could be created or have been created by source materials (for example the USTs and the associated UST soils),
- Reduce any encountered contaminant levels to below MTCA Method A Cleanup Levels for Unrestricted Land Use (for soils),
- Conduct a cleanup that completes requirements of the VCP and obtains a NFA Status from Ecology,
- Provide a clean site that allows for the construction of the PNWSC, and
- Prevent the need for institutional controls or other use restrictions at this site.

The ABCA proposes a cleanup pathway through an RI/FS described in the document. Previous studies have achieved substantive requirements of MTCA. However, the following questions may need to be answered and the substantive requirements will still need to be met:

- The TBA states that "Proposed future site activity does not involve groundwater use; therefore, groundwater sampling was not included." *Ecology response - Future use is not a prerequisite for requiring ground-water sampling. However, potential for contamination would require ground-water characterization. MTCA describes in WAC 173-340-350(7) that the "purpose of the remedial investigation is to collect data necessary to adequately characterize the site for the purpose of developing and evaluating cleanup action alternatives. ... Site characterization activities may be integrated with the development and evaluation of alternatives in the feasibility study, as appropriate" In addition, the investigations may need to address surface water and sediments, soils, geology and ground water system characteristics, air, land use, natural resources and ecological receptors, hazardous substance sources. For the purposes of a VCP, ground water characterization will need to be conducted or information provided that documents that ground water may not be an issue at these properties Ecology would recommend that, if ground water information is not encountered during UST decommissioning for two of the three properties, at least three boreholes be drilled to define depth to ground water and samples be collected to confirm constituents of concern are not present above regulatory levels in the ground water. This activity can be coordinated with the UST decommissioning effort.*
- The TBA states that "Surface water samples were not collected because those data would be more representative of current chemical conditions. Analysis of sediments is more representative of long-term conditions, because chemicals remain in sediment after the release is discontinued." *Ecology response - Because ground-water samples were not collected at these properties, it would seem prudent to collect surface-water samples to document that contamination is not entering the surface water. It should be even more critical since these waters will be used for salmonid spawning and demonstrations.*
- The TBA collected subsurface samples at 12 locations by direct-push drill rig methods. Samples were collected at two depths at each location. Shallow samples were obtained from 2 to 6 ft bgs and deeper samples were obtained from 6 to 10 ft bgs. *Ecology response - Although the sampling would appear appropriate, additional samples should have been collected at the surface to reflect the sources from spills and surface runoff. The UST excavations will sample areas of concern for excavated areas during UST decommissioning. The ABCA has stated that Table 830-1 required testing will be conducted for petroleum hydrocarbons. This will be appropriate for these areas. In addition,*

samples should be collected from all four walls of the excavations and the floor to provide the full extent of any soil contamination that may be present at these sites.

- The TBA screened soil samples against Method A and Method C cleanup levels, as well as EPA Region 9 preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) for residential soils. *Ecology response – Although the MTCA Method A soil cleanup values are appropriate to use as screening values, MTCA Method C is not appropriate. These properties would not qualify as industrial property. According to MTCA WAC 173-340-706(b); “Method C soil cleanup levels may only be established where the person conducting the cleanup action can demonstrate that the area under consideration is an industrial property and meets the criteria for establishing industrial soil cleanup levels under WAC 173-340-745.” Although the Method C cleanup levels are being used for screening purposes at these properties, it would be more appropriate to apply Method A and Method B cleanup levels for these purposes. In addition, no terrestrial ecological evaluation was conducted as required by MTCA. WAC 173-340-7490 through 7494 should be reviewed and values developed that would be used to determine if hazardous substances that are present in the soil may pose a threat to the terrestrial environment as well as to human health. The TBA should be screening soil samples and comparing concentrations to those values which would pose risk to both human health and the environment. The TBA screened sediments against PECs, TECs, and LELs, all SQVs that relate effects of contaminants on freshwater benthic biota.*
- *An additional requirement will be to determine whether laboratory detection levels are appropriate to detect constituents of concern below Ecology MTCA cleanup levels.*

This opinion does not represent a determination by Ecology that the proposed remedial action will be sufficient to characterize and address the specified contamination at the Site or that no further remedial action will be required at the Site upon completion of the proposed remedial action. To obtain either of these opinions, you must submit an independent remedial action report to Ecology upon completion of the remedial action and request such an opinion under the VCP. **This letter also does not provide an opinion regarding the sufficiency of any other remedial action proposed for or conducted at the Site.**

Please note that this opinion is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above. Therefore, if any of the information contained in those documents is materially false or misleading, then this opinion will automatically be rendered null and void.

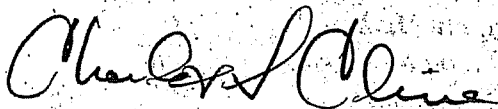
Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 7

The state, Ecology, and its officers and employees make no guarantees or assurances by providing this opinion, and no cause of action against the state, Ecology, its officers or employees may arise from any act or omission in providing this opinion.

Again, Ecology appreciates your initiative in conducting independent remedial action and requesting technical consultation under the VCP. As the cleanup of the Site progresses, you may request additional consultative services under the VCP, including assistance in identifying applicable regulatory requirements and opinions regarding whether remedial actions proposed for or conducted at the Site meet those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please contact me at (360) 407-6267.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Cline
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program

CSC/ksc:PacificNWSalmonCenterABCA OPINION

Enclosures: Enclosure A + 3 figures

Cc: Bob Warren, Department of Ecology
Trish Akana, Department of Ecology

ENCLOSURE A

The Hood Canal Enhancement Group, in cooperation with other interested parties (Mary E. Theler Organization, North Mason School District [NMSD], and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife) has proposed the construction of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) along Sweetwater Creek near Belfair, Washington. Construction of the PNWSC will involve restoration of Sweetwater Creek and the surrounding wetlands. The proposed PNWSC is located approximately 1 mile south of Belfair on Highway 3. The Center will consist of a 25-acre complex that will include an artificial stream (Sweetwater Creek) where the public can view the activity in the streambed. The facility will include a 9,100-square foot interpretive center and the existing Mary E. Theler Community Center. Three properties will be included as part of the PNWSC. These properties total 6.9 acres of the proposed Center and consist of five Mason County tax parcels, referred to as the Means, Baker and NMSD properties (see Figure 1). The Means property comprises two parcels, Parcel A (assessor's number 12332 50 00060) and Parcel B (12332 50 00059); the Baker Property consists of one parcel, Parcel C (12332 50 00063); and the NMSD property consists of two parcels, Parcel D (12332 50 00058) and Parcel E (12332 50 00056). The NMSD and Means properties are crossed by Sweetwater Creek. Proposed construction at these sites includes removal of existing buildings and structures, restoring wetland conditions, returning salmon spawning access to the wetland and salmon spawning stream for educational purposes.

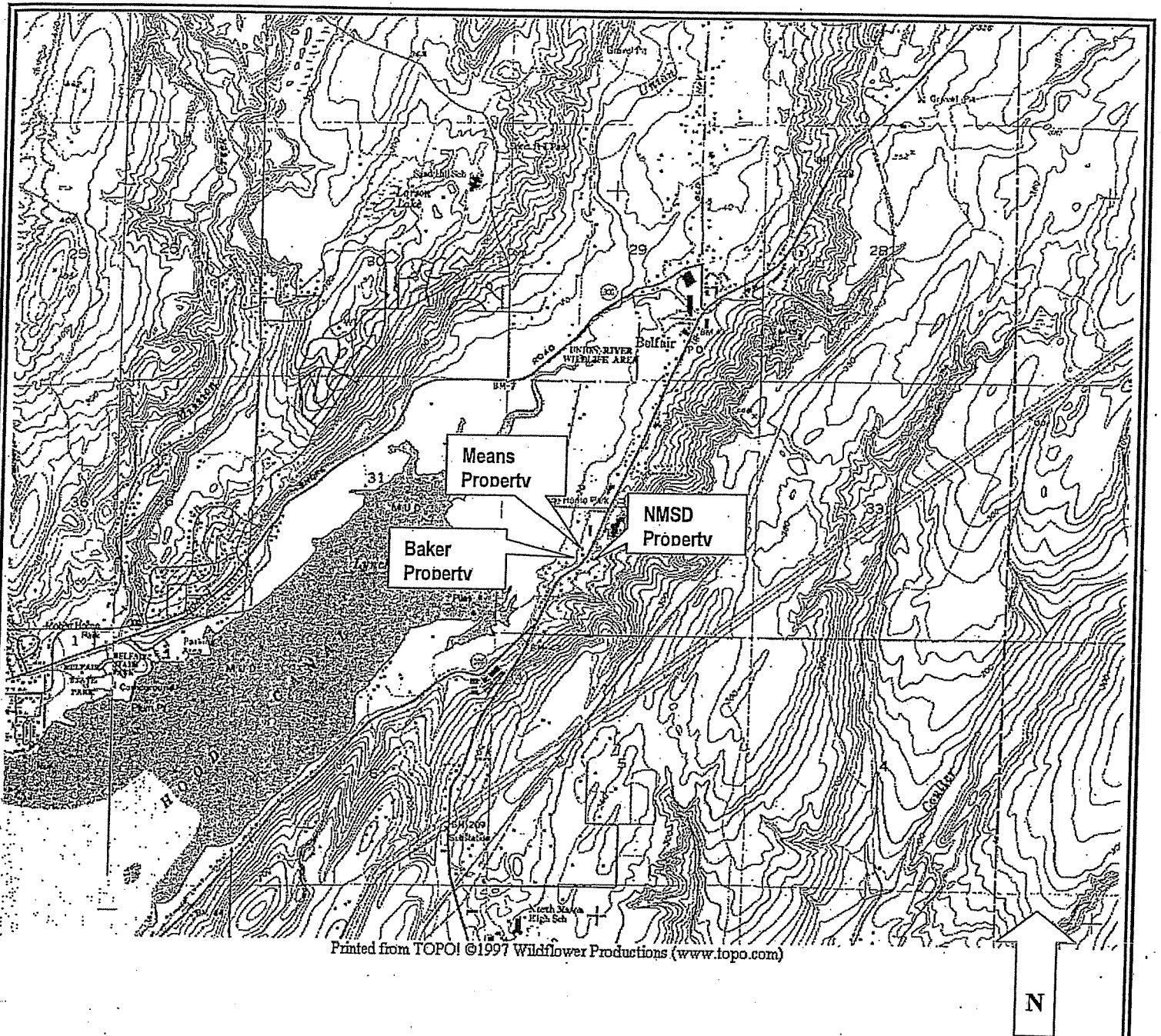
Sweetwater Creek: Sweetwater Creek flows westward across the PNWSC properties, ultimately discharging to Hood Canal. A manufactured pond is located on the NMSD property just upstream of Highway 3. The creek supports anadromous salmon runs for three species, which are manually moved upstream of the pond. Fish are not able to reach the pond because of the height of the drop between the pond and the lower stream.

Means Property: The Means property was developed in the 1950s, and site wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations at this property included a residence, grocery store, and a pet supply store (Animal Outfitters). The original residential and grocery store buildings no longer remain, and the current property building is vacant. Potential concerns at this property include the material used to fill the wetlands, a possible heating oil UST, the septic system, and general hazardous materials handling. The former heating oil UST is reported to be located near the northwest corner of the existing property building.

Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 9

NMSD Property: The NMSD property was developed in the 1930s. A gas station operated along Highway 3 from the 1930s to the 1950s. Other businesses at this property included a restaurant and antique store. The former gas station is currently vacant, no buildings remain on the property and it now consists of a gravel lot along the east side of Highway 3. It had been reported that some of the gas station USTs had been removed, but that one UST may remain on the southwest corner of the property. It is likely that a septic system was located at the property. The land east of the former gas station is undeveloped. A manufactured pond is located upstream of the former gas station. There are trailers and mobile homes located along the southern border of the property that may encroach upon NMSD property.

Baker Property: This property was developed in the 1950s, and property wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations included a restaurant, residence, tool and saw sharpening facility, welding and pet store. Current operations include a motorcycle repair and propane sales. Sweetwater Creek flows along the north border of this property. Potential concerns include the material used to fill the wetlands, a septic system, floor drains, and general hazardous materials handling.



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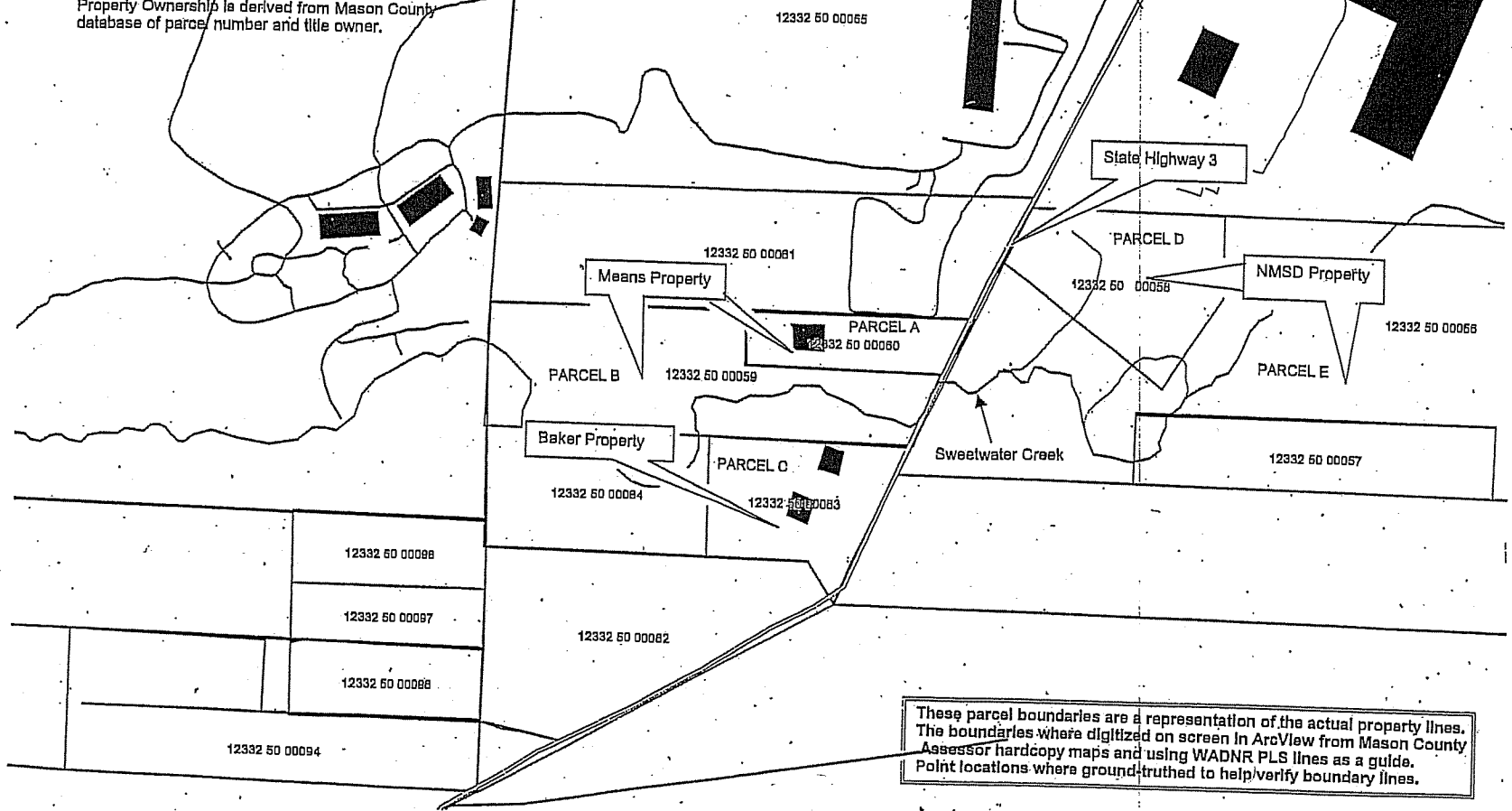
FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP

Project Name:
**Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfield Cleanup**
 Location: **Belfair, Washington**
 Project: **ACL05-05-E022**
 Client: **PNWSC**
 Date: **06/14/05**

Parcel Ownership for Design of PNWSC

SW corner of section 32 In T23NR01W

Property Ownership is derived from Mason County database of parcel number and title owner.



These parcel boundaries are a representation of the actual property lines. The boundaries were digitized on screen in ArcView from Mason County Assessor hardcopy maps and using WADNR PLS lines as a guide. Point locations were ground-truthed to help verify boundary lines.

Note: Figure adapted from Krazan & Associates, Inc. site plan



DRAFT

Note: Not to scale.



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FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP

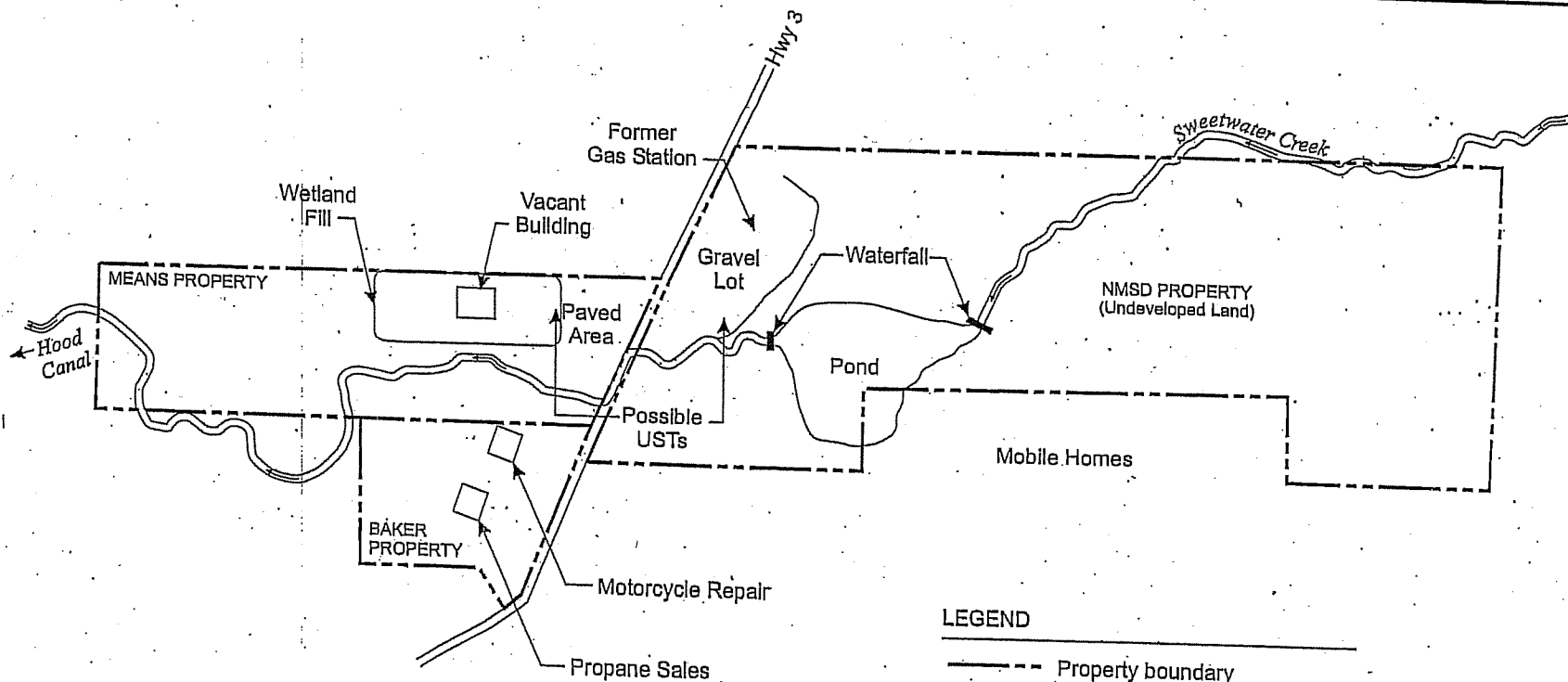
Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Project: ACL05-05-E022

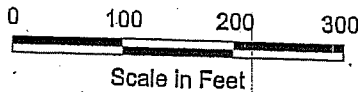
Client: PNWSC

Date: 06/28/05



LEGEND

- Property boundary
- UST - underground storage tank



DRAFT

Note: Figure adapted from URS Report

Note: Not to scale



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FIGURE 2-3: SITE MAP

Project Name:

**Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfield Cleanup**

Location: **Belfair, Washington**

Project: **ACL05-05-E022**

Client: **PNWSC**

Date: **06/16/05**

From: Ken VanBuskirk
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Fw: DOE VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 6:33:37 AM
Attachments: [Pacific NW Salmon Center SW0889 - VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup.pdf](#)
[VPC opinion letter to Port 4-5-2021.eml.msg](#)

External Email

Julia I inadvertently sent this to Mr. Lundquist. best Ken VanBuskirk 360-801-0550

----- Original Message -----

From: [Ken VanBuskirk](#)
To: [John Sheridan](#) ; [Ted Jackson](#) ; [Judy Scott](#)
Cc: [Senator Tim Sheldon](#) ; [Austin, Marguerite \(RCO\)](#) ; RegistJ@wsdot.wa.gov ; [Commissioner Shutty](#) ; [Commissioner Trask](#) ; [Commissioner Neatherlin](#) ; [Tim Whitehead](#) ; Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2022 5:59 AM
Subject: DOE VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup

Port Commissioners, wanted to provide you all with some more information for your investigation into my complaint in regards to Mr. Coppola's 4-27-2022 email to the Board of County Commissioners. I also included an email from last year, 4-5-2021; in which I sent to you the exact same document with a brief summary of the PNWSC's involvement with the site.

Please review the attached 2007 DOE opinion **again** on site cleanup. A thorough review of this document is in direct conflict with Mr. Coppola's 4-27 email to the Board of County Commissioners.

Regarding Mr. Coppola's 4-27-2022 email, there was diesel fuel found in ground samples and there were reports of another UST located in the SW portion of property and a possible septic system.

I was provided this Mason County public document. <https://dms.masoncountywa.gov/LR/DocView.aspx?id=299493&dbid=0&repo=Mason>

It shows the permitting processes for the Shindelheim property all the way back to 1956 when it was owned by Mr. Barber the man who built the earthen dam on Sweetwater creek and put in trout pond and spill way. Note that the owner installed a 900 gallon septic tank(likely metal) and seepage pit for the North Star cafe within 50' of a body of water.

At one point in 1979-1980, Dr. Shindelheim proposed an expansion of the Belfair medical clinic which was denied followed by a proposal of a conversion of use of an existing building to a fish market which was also denied.

The last page has a very rough map from 1956 that depicts a 500 gallon septic tank, which was again likely metal, and another seepage pit in the SW corner of property. I doubt that either of the seepage pits or septic tanks were ever removed.

It is also my belief that the Port is operating outside the bounds and scope of their authority. It appears that RCW 53.08.260 requires park and recreation facilities to be ancillary to other Port facilities; which this project is not. Also RCW 53.08.270 requires approval by the governing body of the County. I have been unable to locate that "approval".

As project sponsors please forward this correspondence and my earlier correspondence to all potential funding agencies, including the Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board.

Please call me if I can be of help with your investigation.

Respectfully,
Ken VanBuskirk

From: [Ken VanB](#)
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:12:45 AM

External Email

Julia, please provide the comments below to the Mason County Board of Commissioners to the RCO funding board regarding the Sweetwater Park project proposal here in Belfair. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. Please keep me posted when matter comes before the funding board. thank you Ken Vanbuskirk 360-801-0550

----- Forwarded message -----

From: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 8:21 AM
Subject: RE: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2
To: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>

Good morning Ken,

Absolutely!

Meeting ID: 986 5743 0813
Passcode: 259868

Warm regards,

McKenzie Smith

Clerk of the Board, Records Specialist
Mason County Commissioners Office

(360) 427-9670 ext. 589 | msmith@masoncountywa.gov
<http://www.masoncountywa.gov>

***Please note: Mason County complies with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW. As such, any e-mail sent to and/or from the County may be subject to public disclosure.*

From: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 5:00 PM
To: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2

Caution: External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Mason County Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, DO NOT DO SO! Instead, report the incident.

I will likely attend via zoom, can you send me ID # and passcode# thank you ken

On Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 4:29 PM McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ken,

Thank you so much for your email and for your comments. I will ensure that the Commissioners are aware that you would like to remove item 8.2 from the agenda. Do you plan on attending tomorrow's regular meeting?

Warm regards,

McKenzie Smith

Clerk of the Board, Records Specialist
Mason County Commissioners Office

(360) 427-9670 ext. 589 | msmith@masoncountywa.gov
<http://www.masoncountywa.gov>

***Please note: Mason County complies with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW. As such, any e-mail sent to and/or from the County may be subject to public disclosure.*

From: Ken VanB <kenvanb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 5:21 AM
To: Kevin Shutty <KShutty@masoncountywa.gov>; Sharon Trask <STrask@masoncountywa.gov>; Randy Neatherlin <RandyN@masoncountywa.gov>
Cc: McKenzie Smith <MSmith@masoncountywa.gov>; Mark Neary <MNeary@masoncountywa.gov>; Tim Whitehead <TimW@masoncountywa.gov>
Subject: July 19 Action agenda item 8.2

Caution: External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Mason County Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, DO NOT DO SO! Instead, report the incident.

I would respectfully request that this item be removed from the Action agenda and considered as a separate item.

Commissioners I have read all of the support letters for this project and after discussion with one of the signers they appear to be boilerplate form letters provided by the HCSEG; not the Port of Allyn who is the primary sponsor.

Mr. Coppola's email to you regarding this matter is disparaging to my reputation and violates the Port's settlement agreement with Mr. Brad Carey. Mr. Coppola's email pales in comparison to letters my family and I have received from a primary park proponent with the same sort of baseless accusations, further disparaging comments and a false narrative directed at me.

Ms. Corrigan asked that specific and meaningful reasons be aired by the Commissioners if you don't affirm the park.

I would like to offer these reasons for your consideration.

1. There is the appearance of a conflict with RCW 53.08.260 and .270. Ports can have parks but they need to be ancillary to and more fully utilize existing air, sea and ground transportation Port facilities. For the Belfair UGA a Port industrial park with a recreational park element makes more sense than this proposal.
2. The property in question is currently not zoned appropriately for this proposal. The Port had ample opportunity over the last two and a half years to ask for a rezone. I asked the Port to weigh in on the planned action EIS several times; and was ignored.
3. Water rights for Sweetwater creek have long been relinquished. One of the RCO advisory groups brought this to the HCSEG's attention but I have heard no further discussion on this critical water rights issue.
4. There is no support letter from the NM school district superintendent. Superintendent Rosenbach, my wife and I walked the property prior to the Port taking possession. The property was surveyed and a 30% design criteria for a grant was written without the school district landowner approval. Superintendent Rosenbach is also aware of a Land slide hazard area due east of the school district now Port property.
5. Property is still on the DOE list of potentially contaminated properties.
6. The waterwheel is not an archaeological site as depicted in recent EIS as submitted by HCSEG.
7. There is the appearance of a "gifting" of public funds regarding hazard tree recognition.
8. WSDOT planned restoration of Sweetwater Creek and widening of highway 3 with two earthen dams removal will likely have significant impacts to the project area and is in conflict with the park project proposal.
9. The eleventh hour "anonymous" donation to HCSEG to purchase the Peterson property rather than seek grant funding raises serious transparency and accountability issues for the

Port.

10. There are other more sensitive potential litigation and liability issues that I am asking the Port to investigate .

thanks for your consideration,

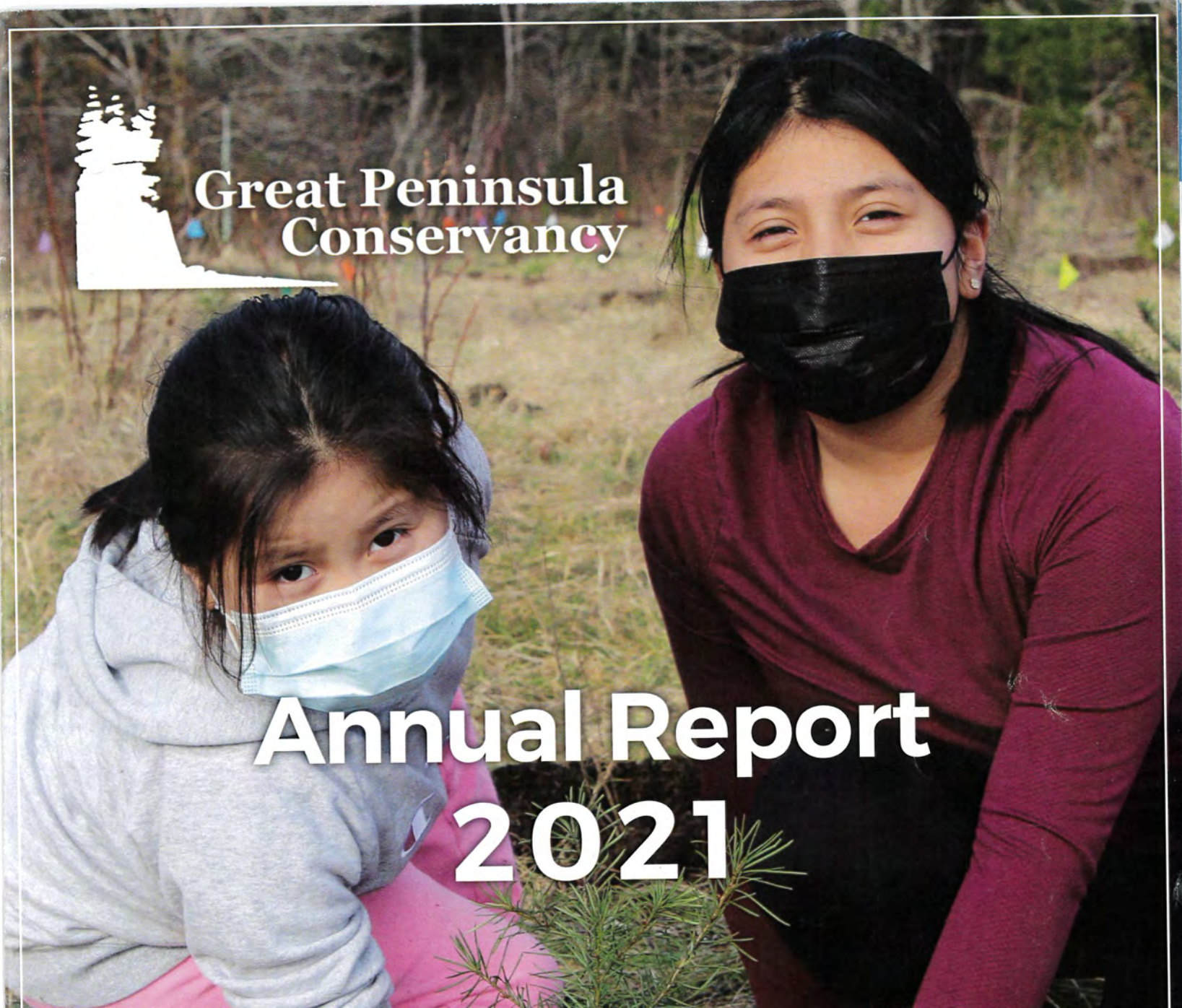
yours in community health and safety

Ken VanBuskirk

Belfair



Great Peninsula
Conservancy



Annual Report
2021

Note from our Executive Director



Nate holds the "ribbon" for the official opening of the 100-acre Hansville Greenway expansion, a success driven by a community partnership. (From left: Nate Daniel, Darcy Herrett, BryAnn Bingham, Michael Szerlog)

Here in west Puget Sound, much of our identity is linked with the natural beauty and thriving wildlife found around us. Unfortunately, each year that sense of wonder and connection with the land grows increasingly tenuous. That is why, as your regional land trust, GPC is working harder than ever to protect as much ecologically valuable land as possible.

Once these tidelands, salmon streams, upland forests, and farms are conserved, we then have a responsibility to manage those lands. To us, this isn't just an obligation, it's an opportunity to reconnect people with nature. We are dedicated to engaging hundreds of diverse community members in the stewardship and restoration of preserve lands. Caring for these special places, not only improves habitat, it also heals our human community.

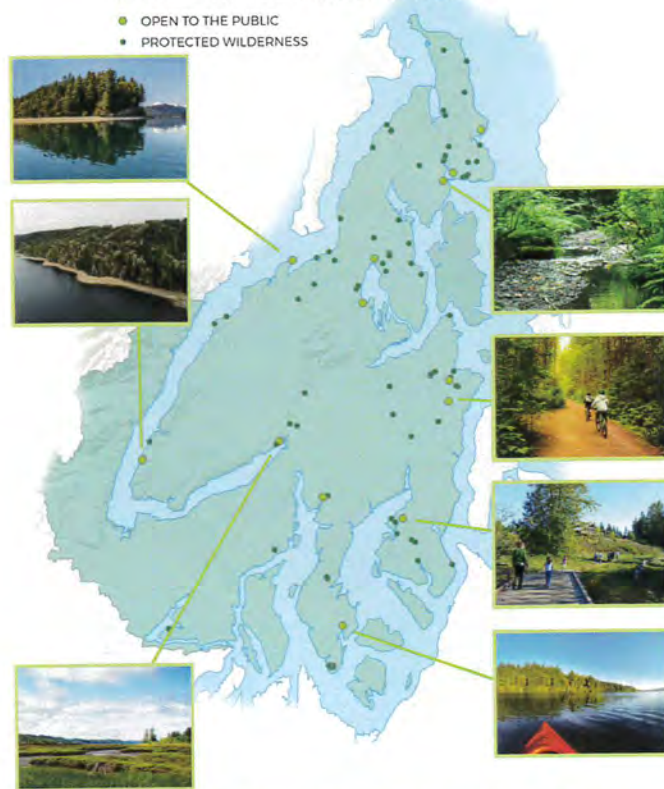
Each GPC member is an essential part of the team that makes this work possible. Each of you help ensure the natural character of our region remains strong for generations to come. Thank you.

Nathan Daniel
Executive Director



VISIT PROTECTED LANDS

- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- PROTECTED WILDERNESS



greatpeninsula.org/our-work/where-we-work/

Saving the Places You Love

Great Peninsula Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to protecting the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula region of West Puget Sound, Washington.

We **conserve** vibrant forests, streams, shorelines, and community greenspaces. We commit to **caring for the lands** we protect to ensure wildlife and people enjoy the many benefits of nature well into the future. And we **enrich lives** by offering opportunities for people to experience nature close up.

Cover: The Rafael sisters plant a tree at GPC's Beard's Cove, a community greenspace that they have grown up visiting. Photo by Hannah McDonough.

Meet the Team

Board of Directors



Nathan Daniel
Executive Director



Micaela Petrini
Stewardship Associate



Ali Querin
Conservation Associate



Erik Steffens
Conservation Director



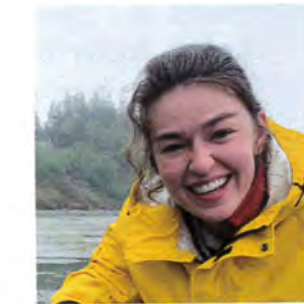
Julie Steigerwaldt
Conservation Project Manager



Katherine Tacke
Development & Communications Manager



Dylan Tenney
Finance & Operations Manager



Claire Voris
Community Engagement Manager



Adrian Wolf
Stewardship Manager



Ben Wymer
Stewardship Associate

Russell Hartman
President, Bremerton

Mark Mauren
Vice President, Puyallup

Patricia Weagant
Secretary, Poulsbo

Paul Kundtz
Treasurer, Bainbridge Island

David Morris
Member at Large, Gig Harbor

Keith Baldwin
Port Orchard

Michael Hall
Poulsbo

Dana Coggon
Tacoma

Phil Rockefeller
Bainbridge Island

David De Bruyn
Bainbridge Island

Nate Thomas
Poulsbo

Mark Greenfield
Silverdale

David Walters
Poulsbo



Peter Alexander



Thea Hanner



Sierra Kross



Hannah McDonough



Jaime Webb



2,669
acres monitored

\$123,400
awarded in grants

419
volunteer hours

1,500 hours
student engagement



675
students served

Stewardship + Restoration

Thank you grantors, volunteers, and community partners!



Klingel-Bryan-Beard
Wetlands Wildlife Refuge
Restoration



Volunteer of the Year

YOUTHBUILD KITSAP

led by James Vincent, **Youthbuild Kitsap** is a program that offers an alternative to high school for students who want to get experience with trade skills. Together, James and Youthbuild Kitsap **volunteered over 87 hours across 8 events!** One graduate of Youthbuild has even been inspired by their volunteering experience to pursue a career in conservation. They made a huge difference for GPC's Habitat Pile Project, Klingel Stewardship Series, and for Land Labs. Thank you, Youthbuild!

2021 projects made possible by:

- KGI Council's Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant
- Mason Conservation District
- NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program
- Nisqually Tribe Charitable Giving
- One Tree Planted
- Olympic College
- Puget Soundkeeper
- RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- The Rose Family Foundation
- Western Washington University
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Support from GPC members and funders

Grants awarded for future projects:

5,000 native trees and shrubs	planted on 7.3 acres	by 317 volunteers
contributing 708 hours	Studying Assisted Migration	and building Climate Resilience

AND...

Hahobas Restoration
Removed creosote pilings, structures, and invasive species; native species planting.

Lay Wildrose Planting
Erosion control and habitat restoration.

NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program
Created new habitat across the

Connecting Bremerton students with GPC preserves



Land Labs Launches Lessons

The first Land Labs events were held this year, and students explored GPC preserves all across the peninsula.

Children everywhere deserve to have a chance to experience the world-renowned natural beauty of our region. Land Labs creates opportunities for students in our working region to connect with nature at a young age.

These hands-on, standards-meeting science lessons are specially designed to help students create a relationship with the natural world. Improving access to the outdoors for underserved students helps them to learn the value of conservation and stewardship. Passing on these values is a critical part of GPC's community-oriented mission.

Land Labs is growing rapidly. 2021 was the first year of official programming. Students visited **Curley Creek Tyner Preserve**, where they learned about the balanced systems which make an ecosystem healthy and which make this 28-acre preserve such an important place to protect. Every fall, chum salmon return to this creek!

At the fascinating saltmarsh ecosystem protected in the **Klingel-Bryan-Beard Wildlife Refuge**, students explored the unique ecosystems of the intertidal zones. They assessed the 95-acre preserve to see if it



Students have a unique opportunity to connect with GPC's protected lands. Photo by Claire Voris.

could support restoration of native Olympia oysters, which have been generally extirpated from Puget Sound.

Among the trees of **Grovers Creek Preserve**, students learned about forestry and biodiversity. On this 279-acre preserve, students were able to make observations of forest conditions – from a recent clearcut, to regrown stands of alder trees, to a mature forest deep within the preserve.

Protecting our lands forever means educating young people on the value of conservation and stewardship. Land Lab experiences equip our future leaders and decision makers

with a deep understanding of science that will allow them to rise to the challenges of the future.

2021 programs made possible by:

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- The Russell Family Foundation
- Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- The Land Trust Alliance
- Support from GPC members

Grants awarded for future programs:

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- The Russell Family Foundation

2021 Conservation Highlights

The Hansville Greenway Expansion



Community-driven conservation campaign.
\$2,150,000 donated by community members.¹
 Volunteer restoration starting immediately.
100 acres protected

¹See acknowledgements online at greatpeninsula.org/property/hansville-greenway-west-campaign/

13 acres protected

connecting and protecting:
197 acres of vital wilderness,
350 feet of Rocky Creek, and
200 feet of East Fork Rocky
Creek.

48 acres protected

including:
1,985 feet of shoreline habitat.



The Conservation Plan



Conservation is about planning for the long term. The lands GPC preserves will be protected forever, but with development pressure increasing and only limited funding available, GPC must prioritize lands with the highest conservation value.

In 2021, GPC released our new five-year conservation plan. The three initiatives in this plan will guide GPC as we work to preserve the natural landscapes of our working region.

Conservation Initiative I is to protect habitat. There are more than 578 miles of *shorelines, deltas, and estuaries* on this peninsula, which support wildlife diversity and connectivity. *Streams and freshwater wetlands* must be protected for the sake of salmon, orca, and other wildlife. Protecting large tracts of our region's *forests* will support connectivity, sequester carbon, and

improve watershed function.

Conservation Initiative II is to protect the *farms, ranches, and working forests* of our peninsula. These open spaces are an important part of our heritage, and contribute to our land's scenic character. Conservation easements will support landowners in passing their working lands to the next generation.

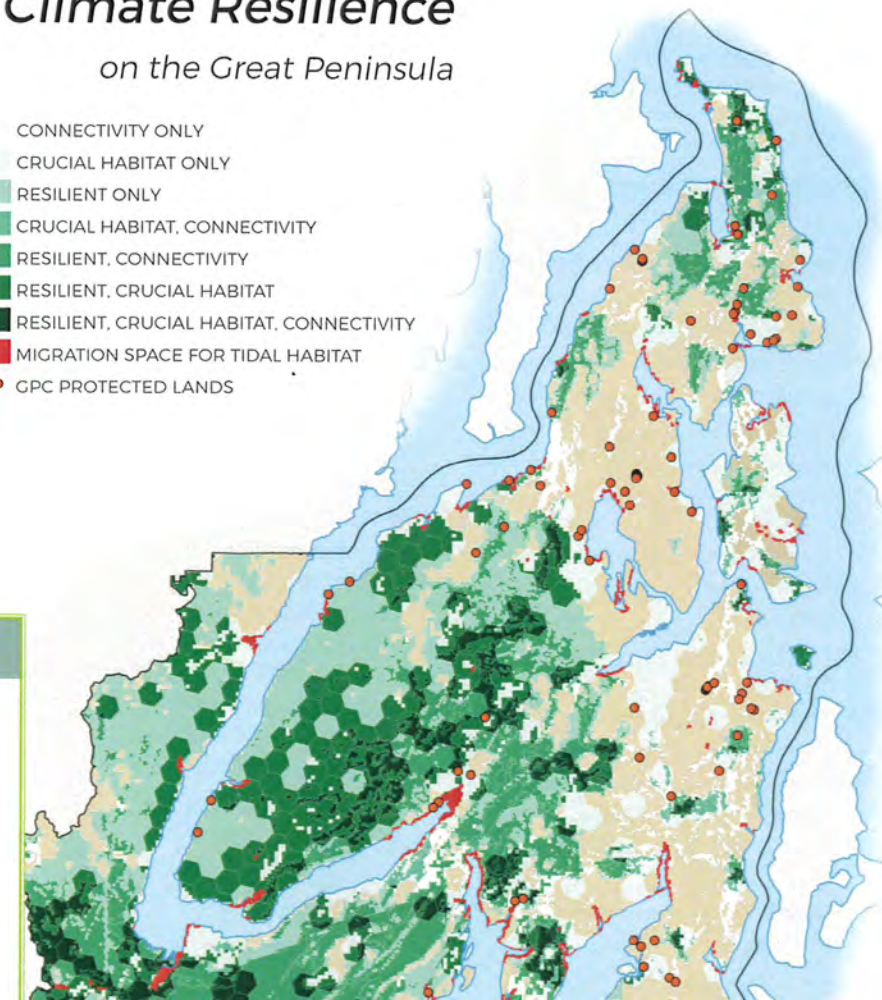
Conservation Initiative III is to protect *community greenspaces and trails*. These open spaces are an important part of our heritage, and contribute to the land's scenic character. Open spaces are critical to community

and individual well-being, and GPC will work to expand access to greenspaces for underserved and urban communities.

Through conservation, GPC is committed to enhancing our region's *climate resilience*. In 2021, thanks to funding from the Land Trust Alliance and with help from CORE GIS, we completed a spatial analysis of our working region. The map below is the result: another tool to ensure that the most resilient and ecologically valuable lands are protected into the future.

Climate Resilience on the Great Peninsula

- CONNECTIVITY ONLY
- CRUCIAL HABITAT ONLY
- RESILIENT ONLY
- CRUCIAL HABITAT, CONNECTIVITY
- RESILIENT, CONNECTIVITY
- RESILIENT, CRUCIAL HABITAT
- RESILIENT, CRUCIAL HABITAT, CONNECTIVITY
- MIGRATION SPACE FOR TIDAL HABITAT
- GPC PROTECTED LANDS



\$1,213,269
2021 grant funding

\$1,018,000
awarded for future projects

2021 projects made possible by:

- Pierce County Conservation Futures
- Kitsap County Conservation Futures
- Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery and Funding Board
- Recreation and Conservation Office's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- The Land Trust Alliance Technical

2021 Contributors

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2021.¹

PUBLIC AGENCIES FUNDING LAND ACQUISITION

Pierce County Conservation Futures
WA Recreation and Conservation Office

\$200,000+

Anonymous
Carl Haefling
Max & Janet Laudeman

\$50,000+

Anonymous

\$20,000+

Anonymous
Akridge-Peterson Foundation
Bob & Debora Dalton
Virginia Davison
Kit Ellis
Michael & Becky Hall
Keta Legacy Foundation
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
Dion & Greg Rurik
Jeannette Theriault & Gary Stiegelmeyer

\$10,000+

Anonymous
David & Katherine De Bruyn
Janine Dolezel
Rick & Kirsten Friedman
Stephen & Patti Marek
Sarah Parrington
Don Paulson & Kathy Mahan Williams
Robert & Sara Poore
James Rodman
Dave Straus

\$5,000+

Anonymous (3)
Glynis Burns
James DePew & Suzanne Tunney
Carolyn & Jerry Grinstein
Russell Hartman & Sheri Thomas
Trish Kamps
Lynn & Bruce Gibson Foundation
Elizabeth Martin
Estate of Verna Lovina Miller
Carla Nagle

Rayonier Operating Company LLC
Kevin & Emily Schoenfelder
Kathy Schubert
Daniel & Tracy Vaughn
Bill & Sandra Walgren
Patricia & Steve Weagant
Don & Judy Willott

\$2,500+

Beers-Neubert Foundation
Pam Boyles & Roger Johnson
Gail & Charles Bronson
Rowan Gould & Dee Mirando-Gould
Green Diamond Resource Company
Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant Program at the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation
Kitsap Bank
Edith Kroha
Paul & Anne Kundtz
Christine Larsen & Glen Cooper
Thomas Leurquin
Puget Sound Energy

\$1,000+

Jon Almquist
Ed & Bobbi Baumuller
Phil & Karen Best
Alan Black
Blue Sky Printing
Mary Ann Booth
Barbara Brooking
Judge Robert Bryan
Mark & Peggy Bubenik
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Taylor & Anita Collings
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Dick & Nancy D'Archangel
Kai Ichikawa & Brad Davis
John & Susan Dickson
John & Cyndy Dillon
Judy & Wade Elliott
Steve & Betty Fabry
Nan Feagin
Tony & Stephanie George
Glein Family Foundation
Gary & Mary Helm
Caroline & Robert Hoag
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts
Sara & Byron Kane
Sherrie & Ken Kilborn

LEGACY SOCIETY

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Linda Benedict
Elisabeth Bondy
Mary Ann & Wayne Booth, Jr.
Barbara Gray Boyd
Pam Boyles & Roger Johnson
Gail Bronson
Charles Burrow & Linda Cazin
Virginia Cowling
Gary & Marilyn Cunningham
Nathan & Kim Daniel
David & Katherine De Bruyn
John & Sarah Dickson
Janine Dolezel
Margaret 'Kit' Ellis
Stephen Harris & Susanne Waits-Harris
Hitoshi & Alice Kawahara
Jim & Mary Kenney
Kate Kuhlman & Jim Halstead
Bill & Bee Mahan
Steve & Patti Marek
Joan Martin
Verna Miller
Nancy Nelson
Ron & Bernadette Olson
Gayle Peach
Donna Cooper Pepos
Gerald E Petersen
Stephen & Kathleen Reed
Liami Rollins
Joyce Russell
Antonia Seales
Ron & Nancy Sefton
Grace Seman
Sallie Shawl
Sandra Staples-Bortner & Brad Bortner
Frank Stutesman
Gordon Walgren
Betty Willcomb
Karen Wylde

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Oda Leota Beard
Keith & Michelle Beebe
Linda & Alan Bergman

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Clear Creek LLC
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Irene & Tom Davis
Phyllis Ellis
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Richard & Stephanie Satter
Tom & Laura Saul
Art Schick & Barbara Reasons
Bonnie SeEVERS
George Sharp
Sallie Shawl
The Scott E. Silver Family Foundation
Choi Sooter Family Foundation at Kitsap Community Foundation
Matthew Spurgin
Hildegard Stone
Robert & Ethel Story
Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort
Gustav & Sandra Swanson
Kathleen & Larry Thomas
TRIFAM Foundation
Steven Tyner
Ron & Peggy Vanbianchi
Ken & Peggy VanBuskirk
David Walters
Laurie & George Williams
Karen Wylde
The Young Family Endowment Fund at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Jay Zischke

\$500+

Catherine Ahl
Sandra & Stephen Anderson
Jill Bamburg & Nani Baran
Trafton Beall Family Fund
Doug & Cheryl Berger
David Wemmer & Holly Bukes
Martha Burke
Sandra Burroughs
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The Clarius Group
Mary Anne & Ron Cleveland
Judy Conlow & Robert Spader
Betsy & Kenneth Cooper
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Leonard Costello & Patricia McKenzie
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Teresa & Charles Dwyer
Ecological Land Services Inc
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Barb Floyd & Barbara Doat
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Gregory & Tara Sell
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Kirsten & John Sharp
Ken and Tanya Shawcroft
Richard Slettvet & Vickie Michels
Kristin & Eric Smith
Sandra Staples-Bortner & Brad Bortner
Laurel Stone
Dick Horsley & Julia Taberman
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Devon Tenney
Nate & Marguerite Thomas
Trafton Beall Family Fund
Sara Wastvedt & Joe McGeragle
Carolyn & David Wiley
Tom L Wyckoff

\$250+

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Andy Becker & Donna Fisher
Peter Best & Joy Namtvedt Best
Cristy Caldwell
Charles Carlson

Martin Dreisbach
G. Elizabeth & Don Drury Endowment Fund at Kitsap Community Foundation
Steve & Marion Ekberg
John P and Kathryn G Evans Foundation
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Dave & Sue Gitch
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Betha Gutsche
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Lynn & Bob Sudduth
Debra & Paul Thompson
Michele Torrey & Carl Gann
Janet Tracy & Gary Smith
Vic & Bonnie Ulsh
Visit Kitsap Peninsula
Stephen & Rebekah Vittori

\$100+

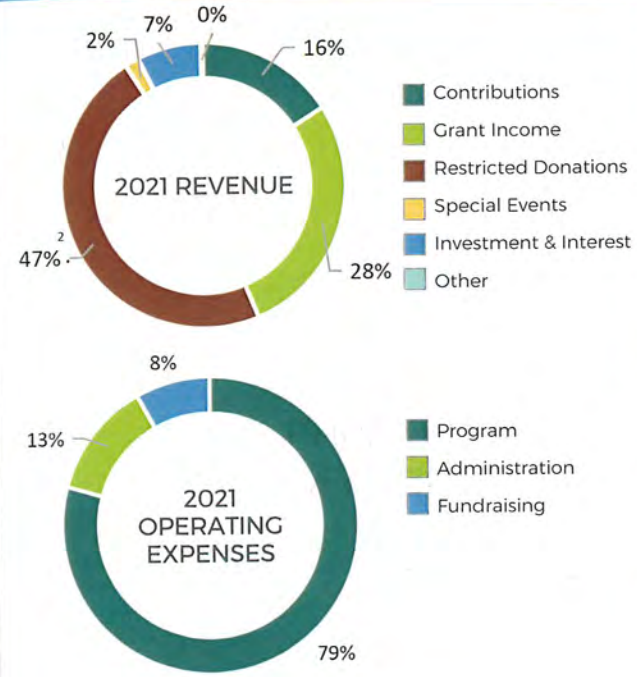
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Mary Aho
Lynn & Bill Agnew
Jim & Kay Aho
Katherine & William Albert
Nick Anderson
Brian & Lynn Anderson
Connie & Dennis Anderson
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Jon Fayth
Willa Fisher
Diane Fitzpatrick
Brenda Fong
Tom & June Frey
Judy Friedberg-Nerf & Richard Nerf

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- | | | | |
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| Ell Gee | Ralph & Dorothea Lintz | Melissa Ottenbacher | Randy & Debbie Smythe |
| Gelder & Bryan Johnson | Skye & Travis Loyd | The Ozimek Family | Donna & Brent Souter |
| Gleysteen | Bruce & Margo Macdonald | Ben & Charlotte Pedersen | Gloria & Bruce Steel |
| Gravunder | John MacDougall | Joe Lubischer & Nancy Petersen | Sharon Stein |
| H & Larry Guidici | Rick Machin | Mercedes Peterson | Karrie & Jay Stemmler |
| Mara Hagedorn | Dawn Maddox | Joan Phillips & Ric Jones | Leesa Stevens |
| My Hagle | James & Linda Manlove | Jody & Dan Piper | Evan Stoll |
| Old Hainzle | Mary Manning | Janice Pittman | Jayne & Mike Stuntz |
| Hedges | David Martens | Roger & Lynne E Prince | Steve & Gayle Treanor |
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| Heytvelt | Andrea Matulich-Rowe | Julie Riely-Gibbons & Anthony Gibbons | Uptown Cyclery |
| Howat | Teri McDaniel | Robert Ricklefs | Valley Nursery |
| Les Huddleston | Steve & Corene McDaniel | Nina Rose | Deborah & Ted Vaughn |
| Lyl Hughes | Caitlin McIntyre | Kathleen Alcala & Wayne Roth | Fred & Barb Voos |
| Mia Hunt | Jennifer McIver | The Roxy Theatre | Jim & Tamara Voris |
| Mensen | Norman & Lisa McLoughlin | Stephanie Ruddell | Michael Waldman |
| Kathan | Larry McMillian | Mark Runions & Reni Moriarty | John Walkowiak |
| & Colleen Kearin | Bob McNamara | Delyna Russell | Amanda Wanner |
| Keith | Darrell & Janet Medcalf | Becky & Jim Ryan | Dave & Sue Ward |
| Kennell | Mary Meier | William D Salge | Pam & Frank Warner |
| h & Dale Knell | Krystal Meiners | Beth Sanders | Brian Watson |
| & James Kolb | Mark & Karen Molinari | Alice Savage | Elizabeth Roberts & Brian Watson |
| ev & Gale Kroll | Lynne Morris | Paul & Kristy Scaletta | Robert & Linda Welander |
| in Kux | Kara Moss | Lynn & Mark Schorn | Herb & Joyce Werner |
| Schiff & Casper Lane | Dan & Robin Muir | Dave & Joanne Schuett-Hames | BJ Wilhite |
| Lawrence | Joshua Narode | Judith Schuler | Bob & Esther Wiltermood |
| hanie Layson | Alan & Ellen Newberg | Russell Sciandra | Joel & Lucinda Wingard |
| & James Leary | Christine & Terrence Nicksic | David & Susan Scoggin | Andrea & Ray Wolber |
| ette Leino | Susan O'Leary | Karen Leader Scott | Michael & Jackie Wolf |
| | Olympic Recreation Center | Sandra Senter | Anne Wood & Terrence Mace |

2021 Finances at a Glance¹

Every Acre, Every Member, Every Dollar Counts



REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$784,636
Restricted Donations ²	\$2,325,132
Grant Income.....	\$1,370,410
Special Events.....	\$76,136
Investment & Interest.....	\$359,378
Other Income.....	\$9,492
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,925,184

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program.....	\$765,085
Administration.....	\$121,499
Fundraising.....	\$78,467
TOTAL OPERATING	\$965,051

ASSETS

Cash & Investments....	\$5,370,973
Property	\$14,931,388
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$20,302,361
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$3,889,421
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR....	\$16,412,940
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$20,302,361

¹ These abbreviated financial statements are derived from fully annotated financial statements audited by Aiken & Sanders, Inc., PS in whose opinion they "present fairly," in all material respects, the financial position of Great Peninsula Conservancy for the year ended December 31, 2021.

² Contributions for land acquisition and stewardship, including the Hansville Greenway West Campaign.



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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

CERTIFIED MAIL

7006 2760 0000 0402 5605

October 12, 2007

Mr. Shawn Williams
ALKAI Consultants, LLC
9465 Provost Road NW, Suite #202
Silverdale, WA 98383

Dear Mr. Williams:

**Re: Opinion under WAC 173-340-515(5) on Remedial Action(s) for the following
Hazardous Waste Site:**

- Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
- Address: Former Means property: assessors tax lot number 12332 50 00059, Former Baker property: assessors tax lot number 12332 50 00063, and North Mason School District property: parcel D (12332 50 00058), and parcel E (12332 50 00056).
- Facility/Site No.: 4077283
- VCP No.: SW0889

Thank you for submitting your independent remedial action report(s) for the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility (Site) for review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Ecology appreciates your initiative in pursuing this administrative option for cleaning up hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW.

This letter constitutes an advisory opinion regarding whether the remedial action performed is sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements of MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Petroleum hydrocarbons and individual constituents in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

Ecology is providing this advisory opinion under the specific authority of RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i) and WAC 173-340-515(5).

This opinion does not resolve a person's liability to the state under MTCA or protect a person from contribution claims by third parties for matters addressed by the opinion. The state does not have the authority to settle with any person potentially liable under MTCA except in accordance with RCW 70.105D.040(4). The opinion is advisory only and not binding on Ecology.



Mr. Shawn Williams
October 12, 2007
Page 2

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has reviewed the following information regarding your remedial action(s):

1. URS Corporation, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington, January 12, 2005.
2. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, June 30, 2005.
3. ALKAI Consultants, LLC, Draft Brownfields Cleanup Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, April 3, 2006.
4. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, June 26, 2006.
5. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report – Second Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, July 17, 2006.
6. ALKAI Consultants, LLC, Groundwater Monitoring Report- Third Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, January 19, 2007.
7. URS Corporation, Supplemental Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, January 2007.
8. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Groundwater Monitoring Report – Fourth Quarter, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington, March 23, 2007.

The reports listed above will be kept in the Central Files of the Southwest Regional Office of Ecology (SWRO) for review by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the SWRO resource contact at (360) 407-6365.

The Site is defined by the extent of contamination caused by the following release(s):

- Petroleum hydrocarbons and individual constituents in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

The Site is more particularly described in Enclosure A to this letter, which includes a detailed Site diagram. The description of the Site is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above.

Based on a review of the independent remedial action report and supporting documentation listed above, **Ecology has determined that the remedial action described in the report is not sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:**

- Petroleum hydrocarbons in Soil.
- Metals in Soil and Ground Water.

The following is not sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations:

- The semi-volatile laboratory detection levels for soil samples collected on this site (in particular benzo(a)pyrene and the carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons [cPAHs]) are much greater than either the MTCA Method B cleanup level used as a screening level (140 microgram per kilogram [ug/kg]) or the Method A cleanup level (100 ug/kg) for those constituents. The Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) OLM04.3 "contract required quantitation limit" for cPAHs low soil is listed as 330 ug/kg. None of the subsurface soil samples collected at the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center site was detected at this quantitation limit.
- Although it is possible that arsenic detected in the ground water may be from natural sources, it has been detected above Ecology's MTCA Method A cleanup level. Ecology requires that analyses "shall be conducted on unfiltered ground water samples, unless it can be demonstrated that a filtered sample provides a more representative measure of ground water quality. The department expects that filtering will generally be acceptable for iron and manganese and other naturally occurring inorganic substances where;
 - i) A properly constructed monitoring well cannot be sufficiently developed to provide low turbidity water samples.
 - ii) Due to the natural background concentration of hazardous substances in the aquifer material, unfiltered samples would not provide a representative measure of ground water quality.
 - iii) Filtering is performed in the field with all practicable measures to avoid exposing the water sample to the ambient air before filtering." [WAC 173-340-720(9)(b)]

However, Ecology has been requiring that low-flow techniques be incorporated first to provide unfiltered ground-water samples before filtering is attempted on any ground-water samples.

- The surface-water sampling results are all reported in milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) units and not milligram per liter (mg/l) or microgram per liter (ug/l) units. Thus the surface water results cannot be interpreted. The screening levels, laboratory results, or values will need to be checked and a QA run.

Please note that this letter does not provide an opinion on the sufficiency of any other remedial actions conducted at the Site or whether further remedial action is necessary to characterize and address all contamination at the Site. To obtain such an opinion, you must submit an independent remedial action report to Ecology upon completion of the cleanup action for the Site and request such an opinion under the VCP.

Please also note that this opinion is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above. Therefore, if any of the information contained in those documents is materially false or misleading, then this opinion will automatically be rendered null and void.

The state, Ecology, and its officers and employees make no guarantees or assurances by providing this opinion, and no cause of action against the state, Ecology, its officers or employees may arise from any act or omission in providing this opinion.

Mr. Shawn Williams
October 12, 2007
Page 4

Again, Ecology appreciates your initiative in conducting an independent remedial action and requesting technical consultation under the VCP. As the cleanup of the Site progresses, you may request additional consultative services under the VCP, including assistance in identifying applicable regulatory requirements and opinions regarding whether remedial actions proposed for or conducted at the Site meet those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please contact me at (360) 407-6267.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Cline
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office

CSC:lmc

Enclosures: Enclosure A – text
11 figures
3 aerial photographs

cc: Nnamdi Madakor, Ecology
John Means, Ecology

ENCLOSURE A

The Hood Canal Enhancement Group, in cooperation with other interested parties (Mary E. Theler Organization, North Mason School District [NMSD], and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife) has proposed the construction of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) along Sweetwater Creek near Belfair, Washington. Construction of the PNWSC will involve restoration of Sweetwater Creek and the surrounding wetlands. The proposed PNWSC is located approximately 1 mile south of Belfair on Highway 3 (Figure 1). The Center will consist of a 25-acre complex that will include an artificial stream (Sweetwater Creek) where the public can view the activity in the streambed. The facility will include a 9,100-square foot interpretive center and the existing Mary E. Theler Community Center. Three properties will be included as part of the PNWSC. These properties total 6.9 acres of the proposed Center and consist of five Mason County tax parcels, referred to as the Means, Baker and NMSD properties (see Figure 1). The Means property comprises two parcels, Parcel A (assessor's number 12332 50 00060) and Parcel B (12332 50 00059); the Baker Property consists of one parcel, Parcel C (12332 50 00063); and the NMSD property consists of two parcels, Parcel D (12332 50 00058) and Parcel E (12332 50 00056). See Figure 2. The NMSD and Means properties are crossed by Sweetwater Creek. Proposed construction at these sites includes removal of existing buildings and structures, restoring wetland conditions, returning salmon spawning access to the wetland and salmon spawning stream for educational purposes.

Sweetwater Creek: Sweetwater Creek flows westward across the PNWSC properties, ultimately discharging to Hood Canal. A manufactured pond is located on the NMSD property just upstream of Highway 3. The creek supports anadromous salmon runs for three species, which are manually moved upstream of the pond. Fish are not able to reach the pond because of the height of the drop between the pond and the lower stream (Figure 3).

Means Property: The Means property was developed in the 1950s, and site wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations at this property included a residence, grocery store, and a pet supply store (Animal Outfitters). The original residential and grocery store buildings no longer remain, and the current property building is vacant. Potential concerns at this property include the material used to fill the wetlands, a possible heating oil UST, the septic system, and general hazardous materials handling. The former heating oil UST is reported to be located near the northwest corner of the existing property building. See Figure 3.

NMSD Property: The NMSD property was developed in the 1930s. A gas station operated along Highway 3 from the 1930s to the 1950s. Other businesses at this property included a restaurant and antique store. The former gas station is currently vacant, no buildings remain on the property and it now consists of a gravel lot along the east side of Highway 3. It had been reported that some of the gas station USTs had been removed, but that one UST may remain on the southwest corner of the property. It is likely that a septic system was located at the property. The land east of the former gas station is undeveloped. A manufactured pond is located upstream of the former gas station (Figure 3). There are trailers and mobile homes located along the southern border of the property that may encroach upon NMSD property.

Baker Property: This property was developed in the 1950s, and property wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations included a restaurant, residence, a tool and saw sharpening facility, welding and pet store. Current operations include a motorcycle repair and propane sales. Sweetwater Creek flows along the north border of this property. Potential concerns include the material used to fill the wetlands, a septic system, floor drains, and general hazardous materials handling. See Figure 3.

Previous environmental investigations performed at the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center properties include a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by Krazan & Associates, Inc. in 2003, and a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) performed by URS Operating Services, Inc. and reported in URS Corporation, **Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington**, January 12, 2005. The TBA characterized sediments in Sweetwater Creek, characterized soils from the Means, Baker, and NMSD properties, and included a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey to investigate the potential existence of USTs on portions of the site. These investigations were reviewed by Ecology and resulted in an opinion letter dated September 22, 2005 (Enclosure B). Ecology stipulated that additional samples should be obtained that included surface-water samples from Sweetwater Creek and surface soil samples from the properties that make up the proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility.

Seven surface-water locations were sampled approximately at the sediment sample locations in Sweetwater Creek (Figure 4). When water samples were collected the creek was at low flow with a previous rainfall of 0.09 inches occurring on June 16, 2006. Samples were collected approximately 6-inches below the water surface in order from downstream to upstream locations.

Thirty one surface soil sample locations were selected for this sampling effort (Figure 5). Ten surface soil sample locations were selected at each of the three properties, and one additional discretionary sample was collected. Samples S01 through S10 were obtained from the NMSD property, samples S11 through S20 were obtained from the Baker property, and samples S21 through S30 were collected from the Means property. The additional discretionary sample, location SDSC(1), was taken from the NMSD property adjacent to a concrete pad where 55-gallon drums were stored. Surface soil sample locations were randomly selected throughout each property. Soil samples were collected from each location at a depth of 0 to 1 feet below ground surface (ft bgs). Samples were submitted to the following laboratories for chemical analysis:

- Subsurface soil boring and sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to Ceimic Corporation for analysis of Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) target compound list (TCL) volatiles and semi volatiles in accordance with the EPA statement of work (SOW) for analytical method OLM04.3.
- Subsurface soil boring and sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to Bonner Analytical Testing Company for analysis of CLP target analytical list (TAL) inorganics in accordance with the EPA SOW for analytical method ILM05.3.
- Surface soil and water samples collected in 2006 were sent to Sentinel Inc. for analysis of CLP TAL inorganics in accordance with the EPA SOW for analytical method ILM05.3.
- Surface soil, subsurface soil boring, sediment, and surface water samples collected in both 2004 and 2006, were sent to the EPA Region 10 laboratory at Manchester for analysis of petroleum hydrocarbons in accordance with Ecology analytical methods NWTPH-Gx and NWTPH-Dx.
- Sediment samples collected in 2004 were sent to the URS subcontracted Columbia Analytical Service for analysis of total organic carbon (TOC) by EPA Method 9060.

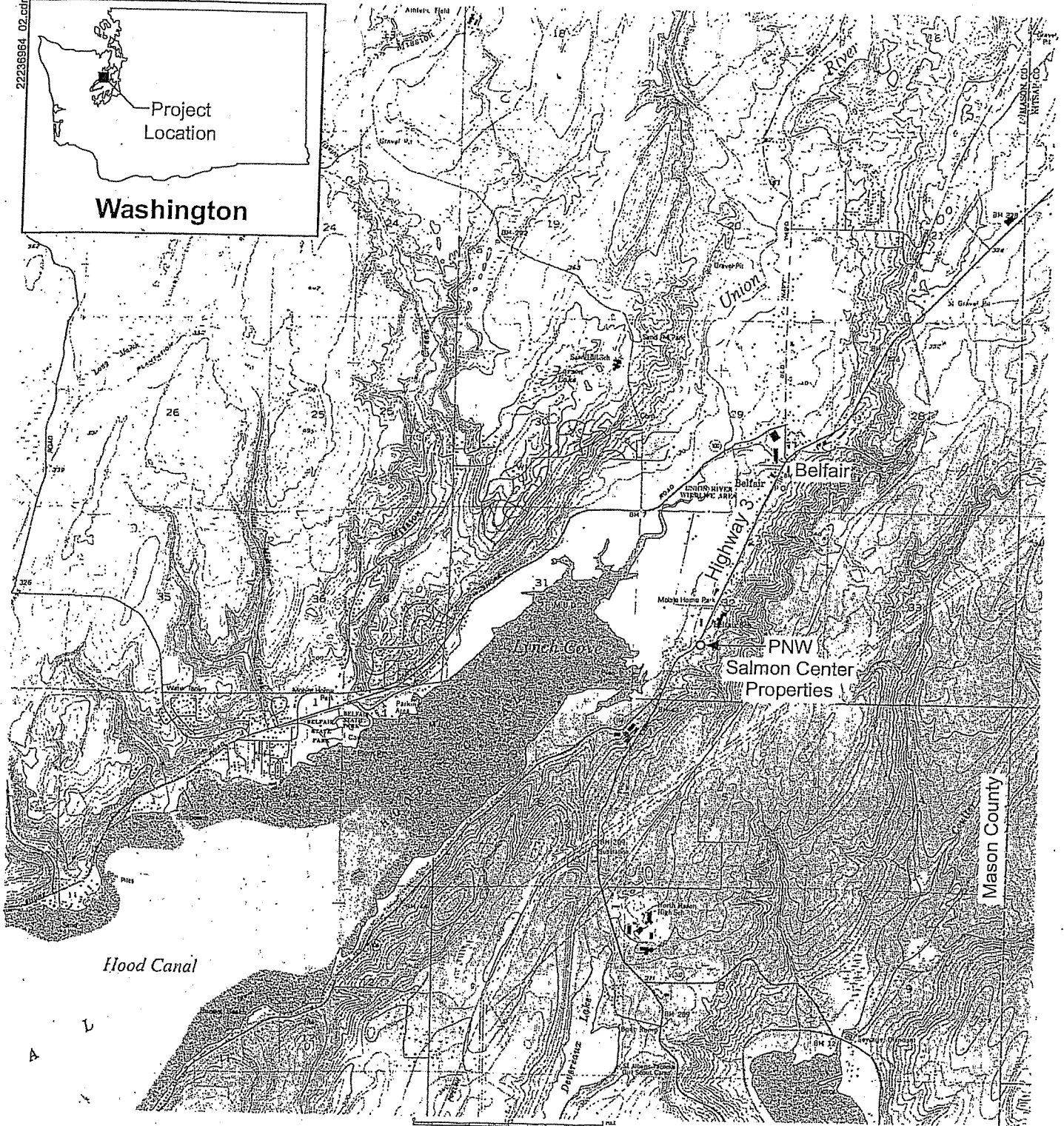
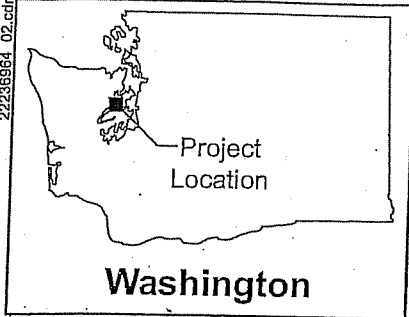
A total of 7 surface-water sampling locations were selected for the July 2006 field effort (Figure 4). Freshwater chronic aquatic life screening values (WAC 173-201A) were used for comparison to these data. Apparently, no detected inorganic analytes were reported above the screening level. However, no freshwater screening levels were available for barium, cobalt, or vanadium results. Due to the absence of a freshwater aquatic life screening level for manganese, the MTCA Method B surface water value was used for comparison. The samples were analyzed for 17 different inorganic analytes. None of the 10 detected inorganics were reported above the corresponding screening level.

A total of 31 sampling locations were selected for the July 2006 surface soil field event (Figure 5). The samples were analyzed for inorganic analytes, total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) as diesel and heavy oil. None of the 18 detected inorganic analytes exceeded the corresponding MTCA Method B screening level. TPH diesel was not detected in any of the surface soil samples. However, TPH lube oil was detected in 15 of the 31 samples. There were 3 detections for TPH lube oil at the NMSD property, one detection at the Baker property, and all samples obtained on the Means property had detections. The maximum value detected was 310 milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) at the Means property. MTCA Method A was used as the screening level for the TPH sample results.

Because four GPR anomalies were detected on the Means property and two GPR anomalies were detected on the NMSD properties, field activities were begun in September 2005 to investigate these suspected areas. Backhoe excavations were conducted in all six areas. Metal debris was discovered in all four areas suspected to be UST locations on the Means property. This metal debris was encountered within the first four ft bgs. The debris was removed from the ground, stockpiled, and recycled. The two GPR anomalies on the NMSD property were explored with backhoe. Two USTs were discovered at the location shown in Figure 6 and the USTs were excavated in the configuration shown in Figure 6-1. Surface soil was initially removed to expose the tops of the tanks and necessary permits for UST Decommissioning by Removal were obtained from the Mason County Fire Marshal's Office. One UST was oriented north-south and was determined to be 2,000-gallons in size and had contained gasoline. The second UST was oriented east-west and was determined to be 1,200-gallons in size and had also contained gasoline. The contents were removed via a vacuum truck. Both tanks were inspected once they had been removed. Only the 1,200-gallon UST was determined to have holes and associated soil contamination. Nine samples were initially collected on September 14, 2005, as shown in Figure 7. Based on this initial sampling, it was determined that removal of contaminated soils by overexcavation was required in the 1,200-gallon UST pit area. After overexcavation, a second sampling event was completed on September 19, 2005, which consisted of 7 soil samples. The discreet soil samples were obtained from the sidewalls and bottom of the overexcavated area as shown in Figure 8. Two ground-water samples were obtained from ground water encountered at the bottom of the UST excavation at 12 ft bgs, one sample obtained on September 19, 2005 and one on September 23, 2005. None of the compounds detected in the ground-water samples exceeded MTCA Method A cleanup levels for ground water. However, soil samples collected in the initial excavation exceeded soil cleanup levels and ground-water monitoring would be required. A total of 67.84 tons of petroleum contaminated soil was removed and disposed from the 1,200-gallon UST pit.

On January 11, 2006, four monitoring wells were installed to determine ground-water conditions adjacent to the UST removal area. The monitoring wells were located based on the UST excavation to determine upgradient and downgradient ground-water concentrations and determine gradient information. The locations are shown in Figure 9 and gradient information is shown in Figure 10. No TPH or petroleum hydrocarbon constituents (total xylenes was detected at 3 micrograms per liter [ug/l]) in any of the four quarters of ground-water sampling. However, total and dissolved arsenic was detected above the MTCA Method A cleanup level. This may be as a result of the sampling methodology. Another sampling procedure may be required.

22236964_02.cvt



Map created with **TOPO!**™ © 1997 Wildflower Productions, www.topo.com, based on USGS topographic map



Job No. 22236964

FIGURE 1
~~Figure 2.1~~
Location Map

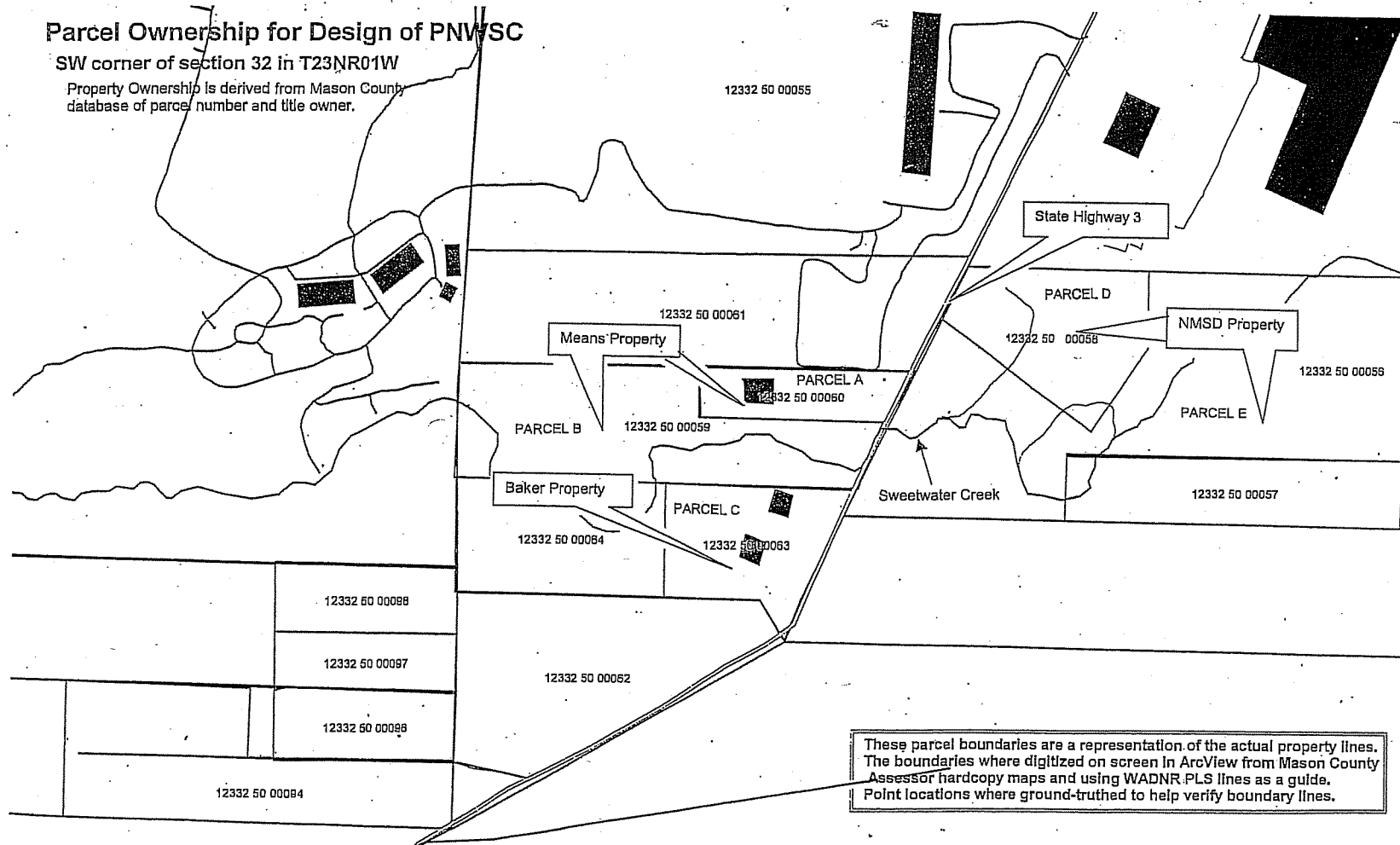


PNW Salmon Center
 Targeted Brownfields Assessment

Parcel Ownership for Design of PNWSC

SW corner of section 32 in T23NR01W

Property Ownership is derived from Mason County database of parcel number and title owner.



These parcel boundaries are a representation of the actual property lines. The boundaries were digitized on screen in ArcView from Mason County Assessor's hardcopy maps and using WADNR PLS lines as a guide. Point locations were ground-truthed to help verify boundary lines.

Note: Figure adapted from Krazan & Associates, Inc. site plan

Note: Not to scale



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FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP

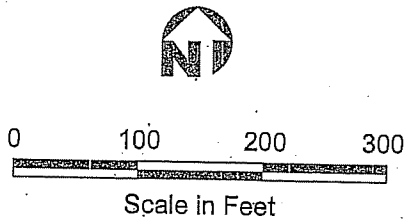
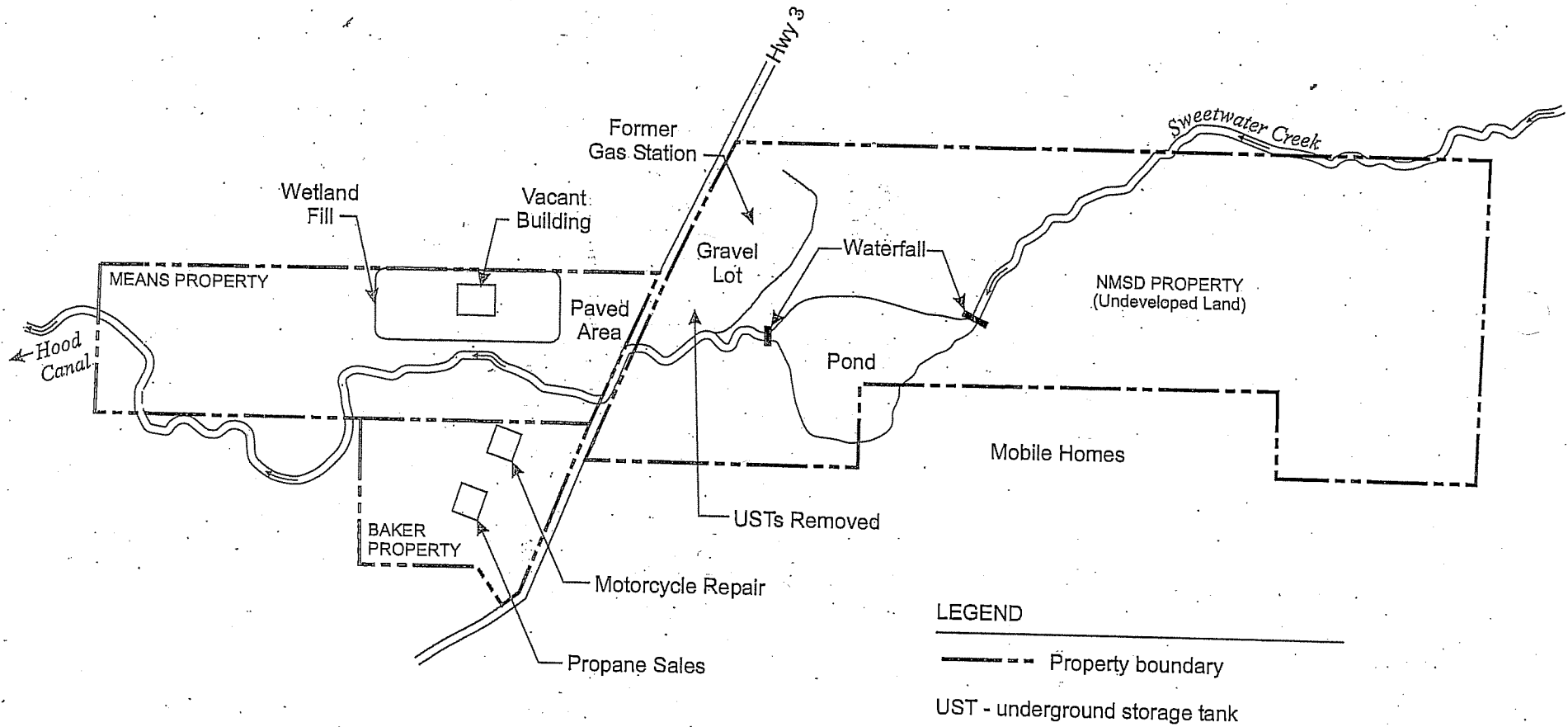
Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Project: ACL05-05-E022

Client: PNWSC

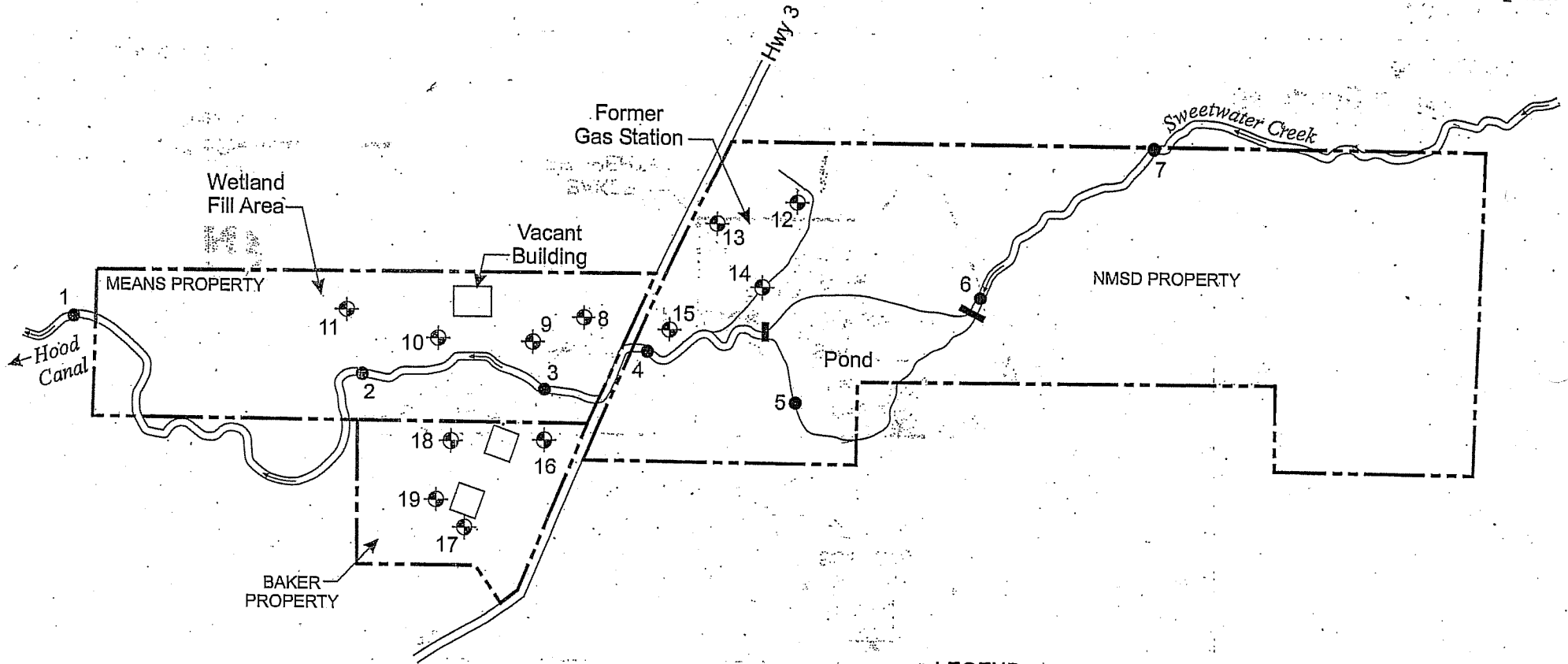
Date: 06/28/05



Job No. 22236964

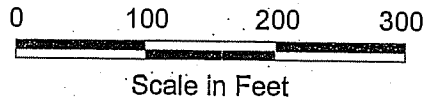
Figure 3-2
Site Map





LEGEND


- Property boundary
- 7● Sweetwater Creek sediment and surface water sampling location
- 19⊕ Soil boring location (samples collected at 2 to 6 feet and 6 to 10 feet below ground surface)



Note:
Surface soil sampling locations
are shown on Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-4
Sampling Location Map
Sediment, Surface Water, Subsurface Soil

LEGEND

- Property boundary
- S30 x Surface soil sampling location
-  Building

Note:
Sediment, surface water, and subsurface soil sampling locations are shown on Figure 3-1.

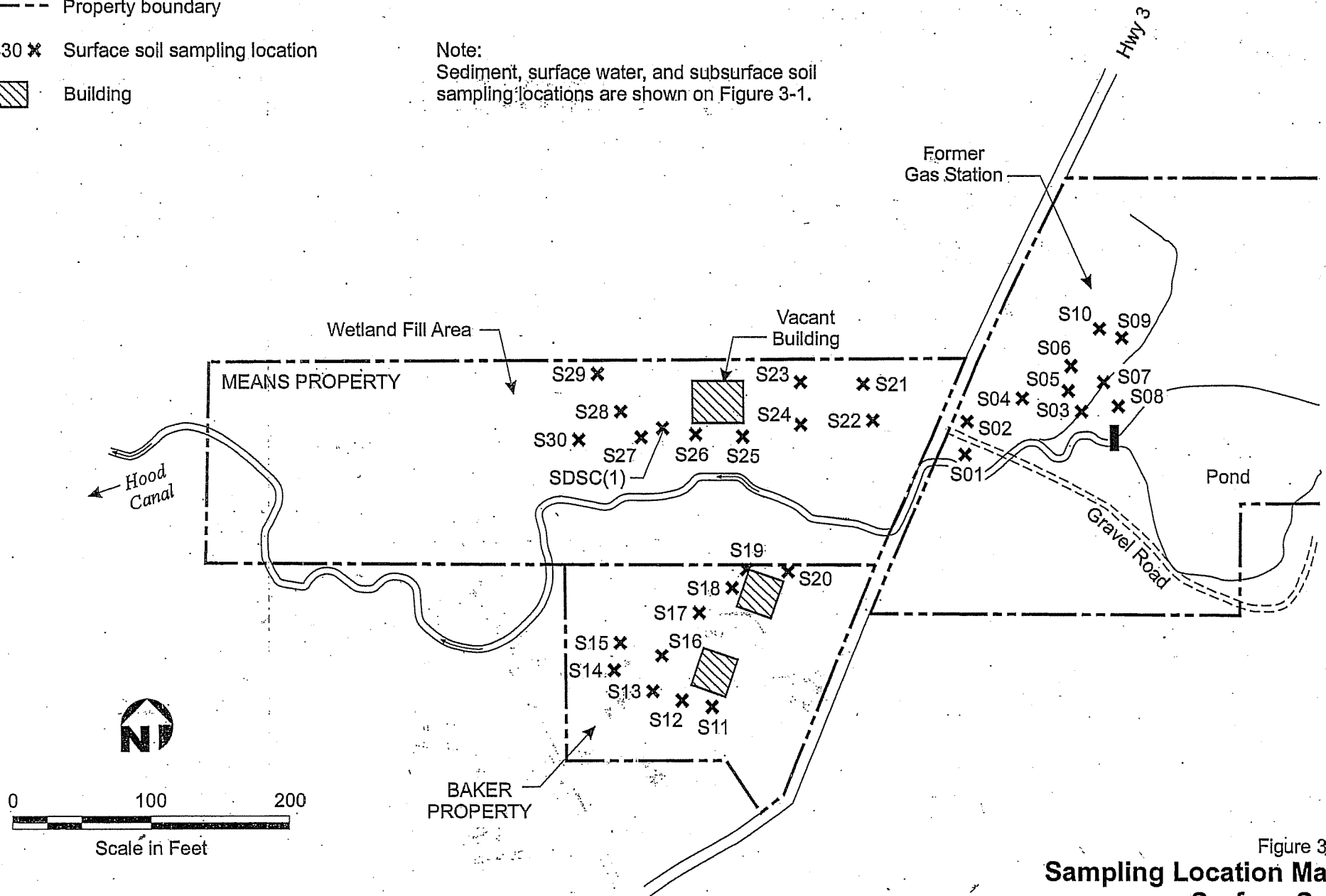
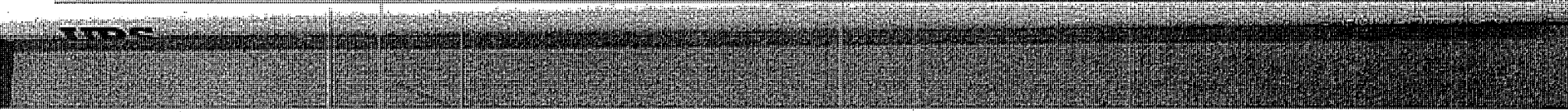
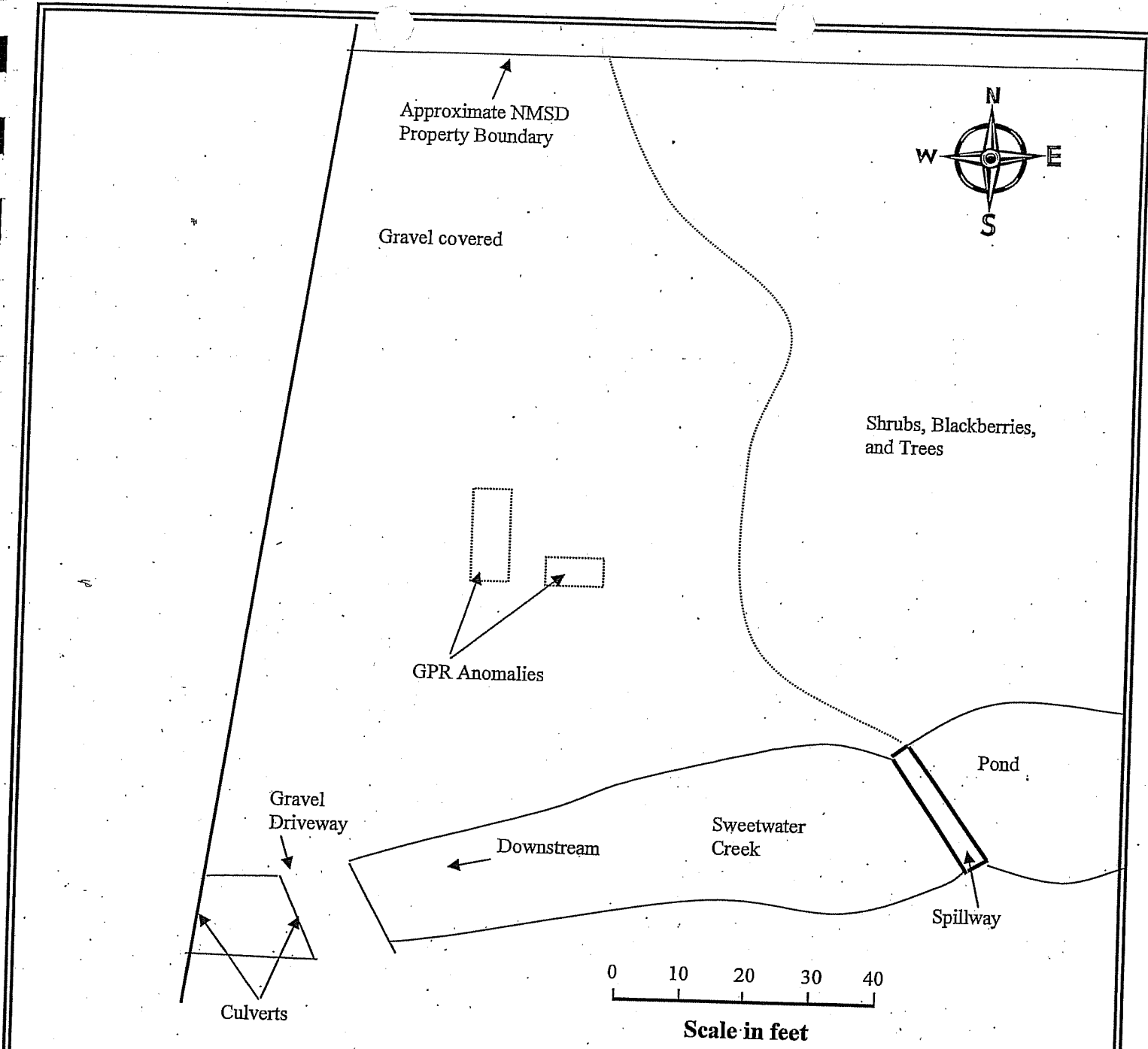


Figure 3-1
**Sampling Location Map
Surface Soil**

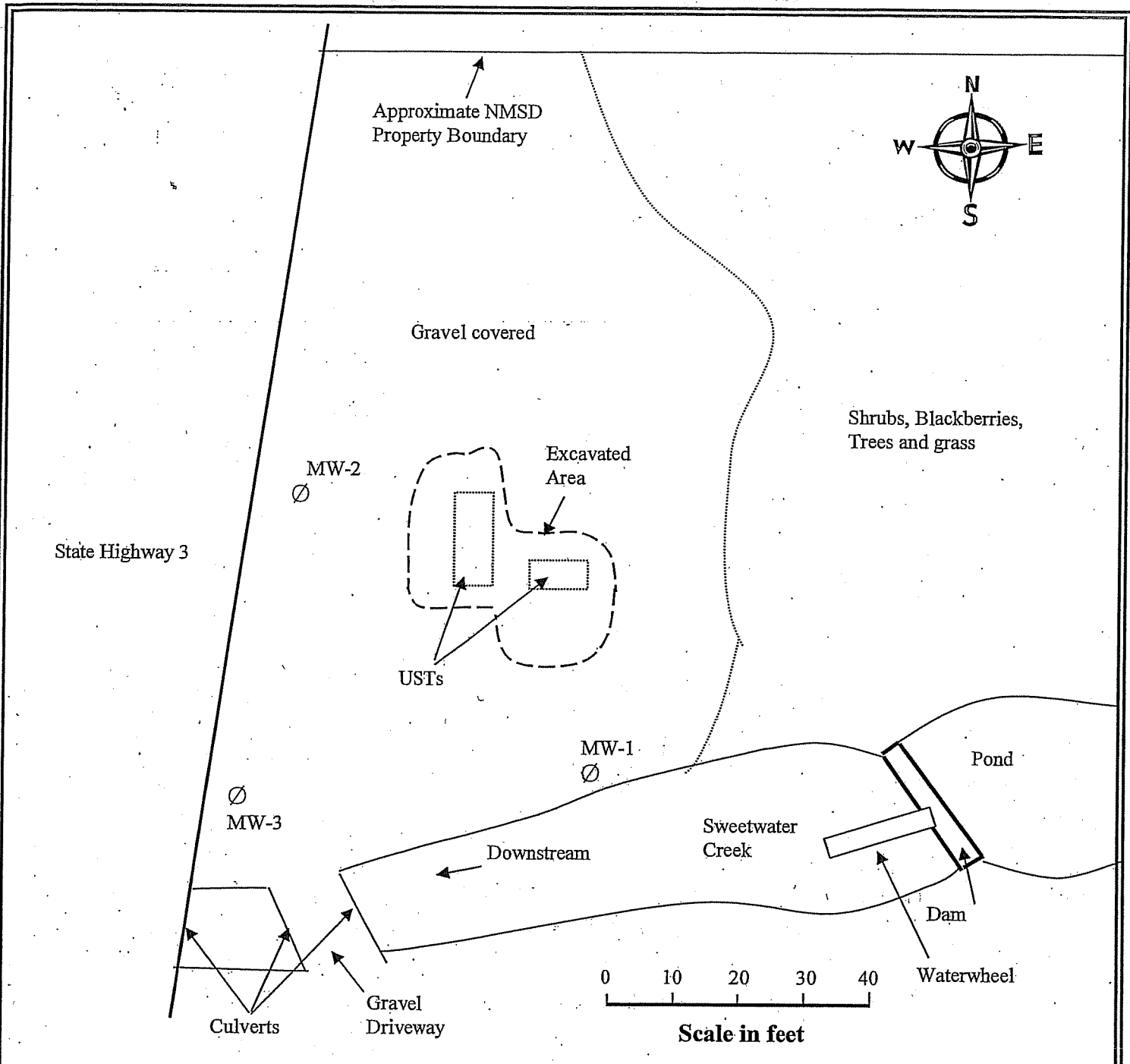




Legend:
 NMSD – North Mason School District
 GPR – Ground Penetrating Radar

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Figure 2
SITE MAP – GPR ANOMALIES ON NMSD PROPERTY
 Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Belfair, Washington
 Brownfields Cleanup
 1/20/06



Legend:

⊘ ALKAI Proposed Monitoring Well Locations

NMSD – North Mason School District

▭ Former USTs

USTs – Underground Storage Tanks



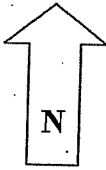
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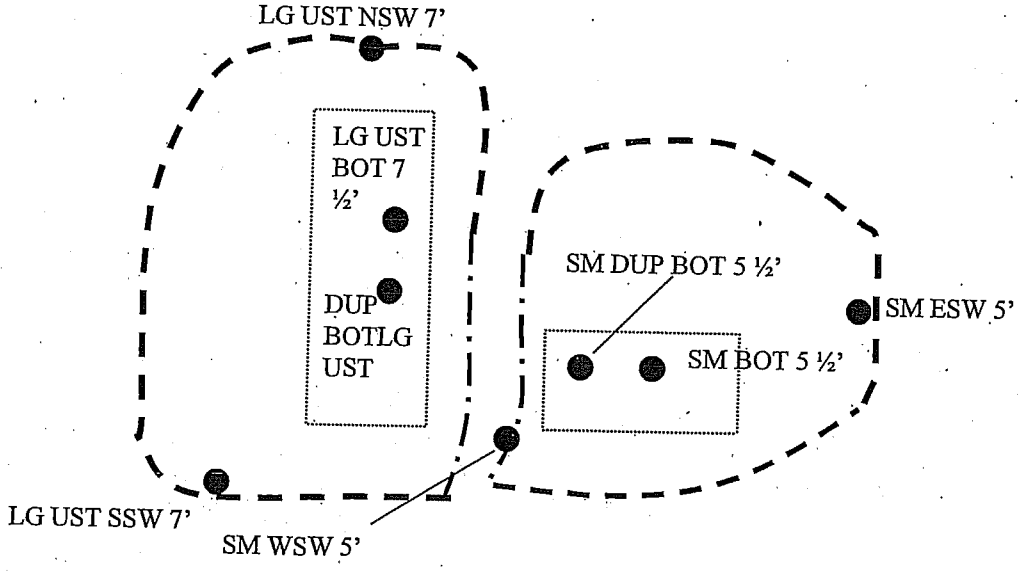
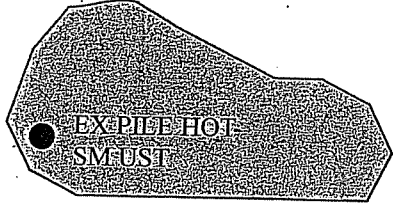
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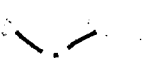


Figure 6-1
PROPOSED MONITORING WELL
LOCATIONS MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06

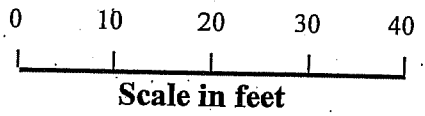


State Highway 3



Legend:

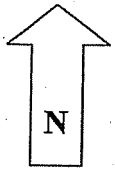
-  Former USTs
-  Initial Excavation Limits
-  Intermediate Sidewall
-  Soil Sample Locations
-  Soil Stockpile from Small Gasoline UST



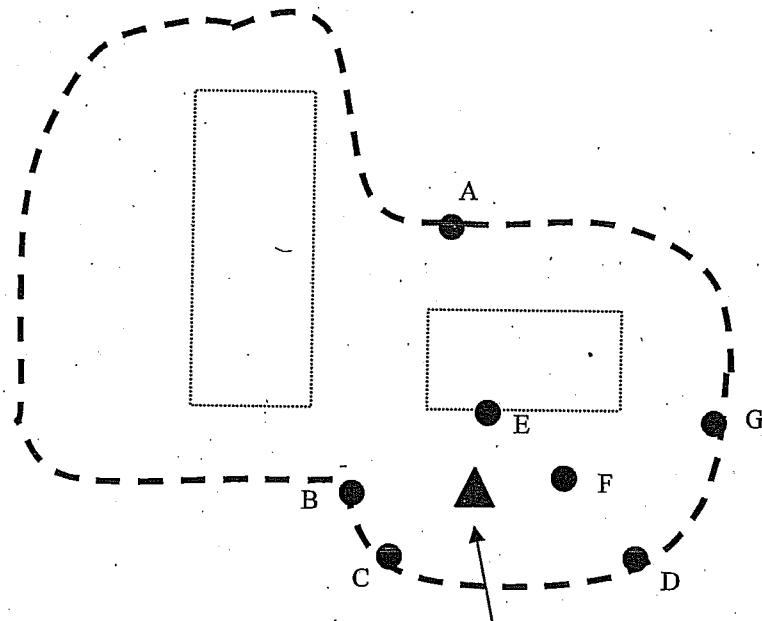
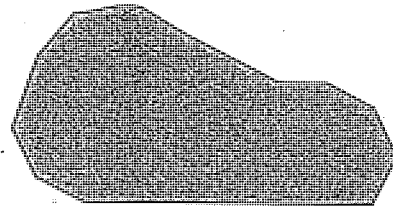
USTs – Underground Storage Tanks

Figure 37
INITIAL EXCAVATION SAMPLE LOCATION
MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06

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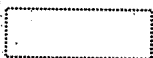



State
Highway 3




D H2O and
SC-E-1-W-01


Legend:

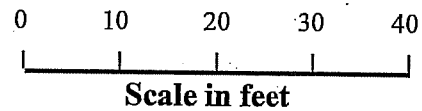
 Former USTs (Underground Storage Tanks)

 Final Excavation Limits

 Soil Sample Locations

 Soil Stockpile from Small Gasoline UST

 Pit Water Sample Location




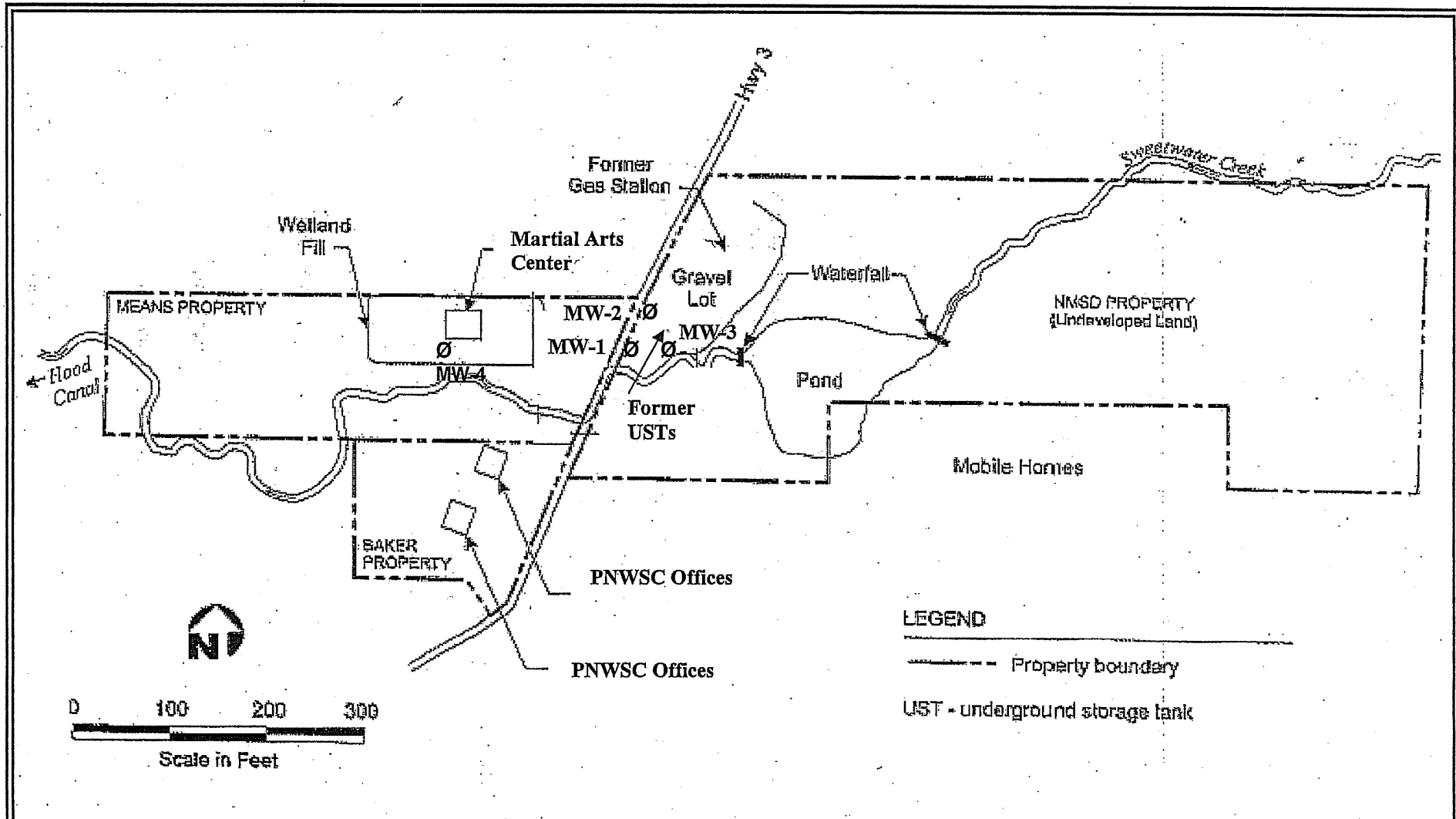
 **ALKAI CONSULTANTS, LLC.**
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9465 Provost Rd NW, Ste. 202, Silverdale, WA 98383
(360) 613-2407 p. (360) 613-2408 f.

Figure 32
FINAL EXCAVATION SAMPLE LOCATION
MAP
Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Belfair, Washington
Brownfields Cleanup
1/20/06



Note: Figure adapted from URS Report ∅ Monitoring Wells, Installed 1/11/06



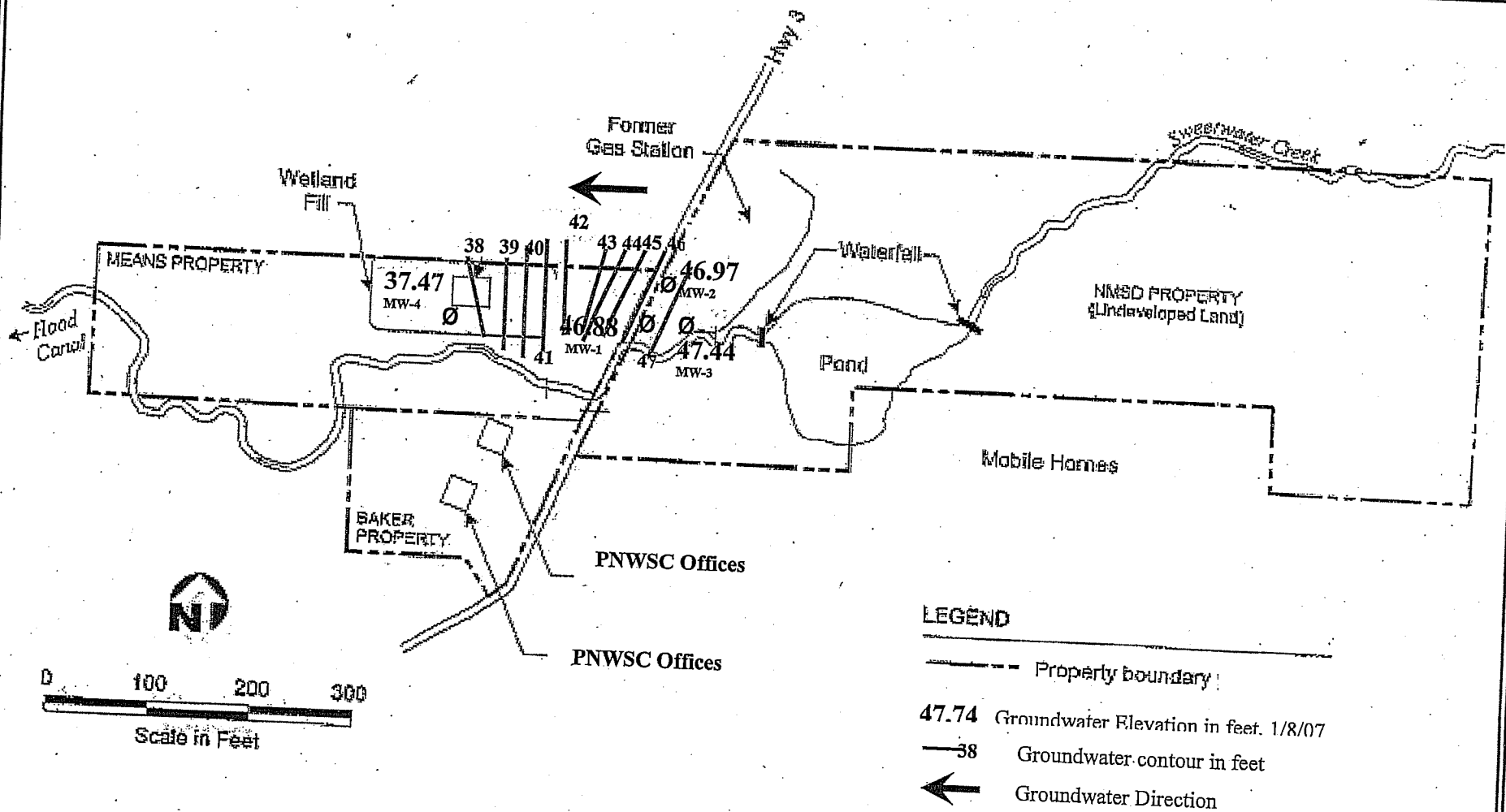
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FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP WITH MONITORING WELL LOCATIONS

Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfields Cleanup
 Location: Belfair, Washington
 Client: PNWSC
 Date: 1/10/07



LEGEND

- Property boundary
- 47.74 Groundwater Elevation in feet. 1/8/07
- 38 Groundwater contour in feet
- ← Groundwater Direction

Note: Figure adapted from URS Report

Ø Monitoring Wells, Installed 1/11/06

Elevation Datum: NAVD88



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FIGURE 10:

GROUDWATER CONTOUR MAP

Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Client: PNWSC

Date: 1/10/07



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ENCLOSURE B

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

CERTIFIED MAIL

September 22, 2005

Mr. George R. Webster
ALKAI Consultants, LLC.
9465 Provost Rd. NW, Suite #204B
Silverdale, WA 98383

Re: Opinion pursuant to WAC 173-340-515(5) on Proposed Remedial Action for the following Hazardous Waste Site:

- Name: Proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
- Address: Three properties located approx. 1 mi. South of Belfair, along Hwy 3
- Facility/Site No.: No facility #, this is an EPA draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)
- VCP No.: [No VCP NUMBER]

Dear Mr. Webster:

Thank you for submitting documents regarding your proposed remedial action for the proposed Pacific Northwest Salmon Center facility (Site) for review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Ecology appreciates your initiative in pursuing this administrative option for cleaning up hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW.

This letter constitutes an advisory opinion regarding whether your proposed remedial action is likely to be sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements of MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Possible Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soil;
- Possible metals in Soil.

Ecology is providing this advisory opinion under the specific authority of RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i) and WAC 173-340-515(5).



Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 2

This opinion does not resolve a person's liability to the state under MTCA or protect a person from contribution claims by third parties for matters addressed by the opinion. The state does not have the authority to settle with any person potentially liable under MTCA except in accordance with RCW 70.105D.040(4). The opinion is advisory only and not binding on Ecology.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has reviewed the following information regarding your proposed remedial action(s):

1. URS Corporation, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington, January 12, 2005,
2. ALKAI Consultants, LLC., Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Belfair, Washington, June 30, 2005.

The reports listed above will be kept in the Central Files of the Southwest Regional Office of Ecology (SWRO) for review by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the SWRO resource contact at (360) 407-6365.

The Site has not yet been defined. However if contamination is present it will be defined by the extent of contamination caused by the following release(s):

- Petroleum hydrocarbons in Soil/Ground water;
- Metals in Soil/Ground Water/Surface Water.

The Site is more particularly described in Enclosure A to this letter, which includes a detailed Site diagram. The description of the Site is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above.

Based on a review of your proposed remedial action and supporting documentation listed above, Ecology has determined that the proposed remedial action is not likely to be sufficient to meet the specific substantive requirements contained in MTCA and its implementing regulations, Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC, for characterizing and addressing the following release(s) at the Site:

- Potential Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soil;
- Potential Metals in Soil.

The only previous investigations known to have been performed at the three properties are a

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by Krazan and Associates, Inc., December 3, 2003 and the **Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Belfair, Washington**, by URS Corporation, January 12, 2005. A geophysical survey was conducted on the Means and NMSD properties. Sediment sampling was conducted along Sweetwater Creek. Four subsurface soil boring locations were identified for each of the three properties. Soil was collected from each location at two depths, 2 to 6 ft bgs and 6 to 10 ft bgs. Soil samples were compared against, either MTCA Method A cleanup levels or against MTCA Method C soil cleanup levels. However, the URS report states that "Proposed future site activity does not involve groundwater use; therefore, groundwater sampling was not included." In addition, "Surface water samples were not collected because those data would be more representative of current chemical conditions. Analysis of sediments is more representative of long-term conditions, because chemicals remain in sediment after the release is discontinued."

Sweetwater Creek: Sediment sampling was conducted at seven (7) locations within Sweetwater Creek (Figure 2 shows the sampling locations) from 0 to 1 ft bgs. Sampling results were compared against Threshold Effect Concentration (TEC), Probable Effect Concentration (PEC), and Lowest Effect Level (LEL) values. Chromium, Copper and Nickel were detected above the sediment quality screening levels. The TEC, PEC and LEL levels compare well with the Sediment Quality Values (SQVs) presented in Ecology's **Development of Freshwater Sediment Quality Values for Use in Washington State, Phase I Task 6: Final Report**, September 2002, Publication Number 02-09-050. All three of the detected inorganics were reported below their PEC values, the levels at which sediment toxicity is confirmed.

Means Property: Ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey revealed four potential USTs. The soil sampling investigation revealed no concentrations of contaminants above MTCA Method A Unrestricted Land Use cleanup levels. Lube oil was detected in four of eight samples, and all ranged from 36 to 177 mg/kg, compared to the Method A cleanup level of 2000 for total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) in the soil. All metals analyzed were detected in all samples, but below MTCA cleanup levels.

NMSD Property: A GPR survey revealed two potential USTs. Of the eight soil samples submitted, two samples had detectable quantities of diesel, but were below MTCA cleanup levels. All metal analyzed for were detected, except mercury, but at concentrations well below MTCA cleanup levels. These soil samples were collected from between two and four ft bgs, and from between six and ten ft bgs. No surface soil sampling was performed.

Baker Property: Of the eight soil samples submitted in the URS study, two samples had detectable concentrations of Lube Oil, but these were below MTCA cleanup levels. All metals analyzed for were detected, except mercury, but at concentrations below MTCA cleanup levels.

The samples were obtained between two and four ft and six and ten ft bgs. No surface soil sampling was performed.

In addition to the previous investigations, a draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) was generated to address any additional work and provide for remediation of any contamination present on the three properties. This ABCA was **Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, Brownfields Cleanup, Belfair, Washington**, prepared by ALKAI Consultants, LLC on June 30, 2005.

It was determined by the ABCA that the TBA had not addressed:

1. Ground water
2. Surface water

The ABCA would address the ground water during the UST decommissioning, if ground water was encountered during the excavation. The ABCA believed that the sediments may have addressed the surface-water issues. The ABCA determined that because no subsurface soil or sediments had concentrations above MTCA cleanup levels that were protective of human health, the only areas of concern are:

1. Sources of contamination that may still remain
2. Subsurface contamination that may be transmitted to ground water

The six potential USTs located by the GPR survey and any associated contamination revealed during the UST decommissioning would represent these two categories. Therefore, the ABCA represented the objectives for this subject facility to be:

- Prevent exposure pathways that could be created or have been created by source materials (for example the USTs and the associated UST soils),
- Reduce any encountered contaminant levels to below MTCA Method A Cleanup Levels for Unrestricted Land Use (for soils),
- Conduct a cleanup that completes requirements of the VCP and obtains a NFA Status from Ecology,
- Provide a clean site that allows for the construction of the PNWSC, and
- Prevent the need for institutional controls or other use restrictions at this site.

The ABCA proposes a cleanup pathway through an RI/FS described in the document. Previous studies have achieved substantive requirements of MTCA. However, the following questions may need to be answered and the substantive requirements will still need to be met:

- The TBA states that "Proposed future site activity does not involve groundwater use; therefore, groundwater sampling was not included." *Ecology response - Future use is not a prerequisite for requiring ground-water sampling. However, potential for contamination would require ground-water characterization. MTCA describes in WAC 173-340-350(7) that the "purpose of the remedial investigation is to collect data necessary to adequately characterize the site for the purpose of developing and evaluating cleanup action alternatives. ... Site characterization activities may be integrated with the development and evaluation of alternatives in the feasibility study, as appropriate" In addition, the investigations may need to address surface water and sediments, soils, geology and ground water system characteristics, air, land use, natural resources and ecological receptors, hazardous substance sources. For the purposes of a VCP, ground water characterization will need to be conducted or information provided that documents that ground water may not be an issue at these properties Ecology would recommend that, if ground water information is not encountered during UST decommissioning for two of the three properties, at least three boreholes be drilled to define depth to ground water and samples be collected to confirm constituents of concern are not present above regulatory levels in the ground water. This activity can be coordinated with the UST decommissioning effort.*
- The TBA states that "Surface water samples were not collected because those data would be more representative of current chemical conditions. Analysis of sediments is more representative of long-term conditions, because chemicals remain in sediment after the release is discontinued." *Ecology response - Because ground-water samples were not collected at these properties, it would seem prudent to collect surface-water samples to document that contamination is not entering the surface water. It should be even more critical since these waters will be used for salmonid spawning and demonstrations.*
- The TBA collected subsurface samples at 12 locations by direct-push drill rig methods. Samples were collected at two depths at each location. Shallow samples were obtained from 2 to 6 ft bgs and deeper samples were obtained from 6 to 10 ft bgs. *Ecology response - Although the sampling would appear appropriate, additional samples should have been collected at the surface to reflect the sources from spills and surface runoff. The UST excavations will sample areas of concern for excavated areas during UST decommissioning. The ABCA has stated that Table 830-1 required testing will be conducted for petroleum hydrocarbons. This will be appropriate for these areas. In addition,*

samples should be collected from all four walls of the excavations and the floor to provide the full extent of any soil contamination that may be present at these sites.

- The TBA screened soil samples against Method A and Method C cleanup levels, as well as EPA Region 9 preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) for residential soils. *Ecology response – Although the MTCA Method A soil cleanup values are appropriate to use as screening values, MTCA Method C is not appropriate. These properties would not qualify as industrial property. According to MTCA WAC 173-340-706(b); “Method C soil cleanup levels may only be established where the person conducting the cleanup action can demonstrate that the area under consideration is an industrial property and meets the criteria for establishing industrial soil cleanup levels under WAC 173-340-745.” Although the Method C cleanup levels are being used for screening purposes at these properties, it would be more appropriate to apply Method A and Method B cleanup levels for these purposes. In addition, no terrestrial ecological evaluation was conducted as required by MTCA. WAC 173-340-7490 through 7494 should be reviewed and values developed that would be used to determine if hazardous substances that are present in the soil may pose a threat to the terrestrial environment as well as to human health. The TBA should be screening soil samples and comparing concentrations to those values which would pose risk to both human health and the environment. The TBA screened sediments against PECs, TECs, and LELs, all SQVs that relate effects of contaminants on freshwater benthic biota.*
- *An additional requirement will be to determine whether laboratory detection levels are appropriate to detect constituents of concern below Ecology MTCA cleanup levels.*

This opinion does not represent a determination by Ecology that the proposed remedial action will be sufficient to characterize and address the specified contamination at the Site or that no further remedial action will be required at the Site upon completion of the proposed remedial action. To obtain either of these opinions, you must submit an independent remedial action report to Ecology upon completion of the remedial action and request such an opinion under the VCP. **This letter also does not provide an opinion regarding the sufficiency of any other remedial action proposed for or conducted at the Site.**

Please note that this opinion is based solely on the information contained in the documents listed above. Therefore, if any of the information contained in those documents is materially false or misleading, then this opinion will automatically be rendered null and void.

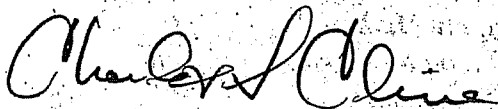
Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 7

The state, Ecology, and its officers and employees make no guarantees or assurances by providing this opinion, and no cause of action against the state, Ecology, its officers or employees may arise from any act or omission in providing this opinion.

Again, Ecology appreciates your initiative in conducting independent remedial action and requesting technical consultation under the VCP. As the cleanup of the Site progresses, you may request additional consultative services under the VCP, including assistance in identifying applicable regulatory requirements and opinions regarding whether remedial actions proposed for or conducted at the Site meet those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please contact me at (360) 407-6267.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Cline
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program

CSC/ksc:PacificNWSalmonCenterABCA OPINION

Enclosures: Enclosure A + 3 figures

Cc: Bob Warren, Department of Ecology
Trish Akana, Department of Ecology

ENCLOSURE A

The Hood Canal Enhancement Group, in cooperation with other interested parties (Mary E. Theler Organization, North Mason School District [NMSD], and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife) has proposed the construction of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) along Sweetwater Creek near Belfair, Washington. Construction of the PNWSC will involve restoration of Sweetwater Creek and the surrounding wetlands. The proposed PNWSC is located approximately 1 mile south of Belfair on Highway 3. The Center will consist of a 25-acre complex that will include an artificial stream (Sweetwater Creek) where the public can view the activity in the streambed. The facility will include a 9,100-square foot interpretive center and the existing Mary E. Theler Community Center. Three properties will be included as part of the PNWSC. These properties total 6.9 acres of the proposed Center and consist of five Mason County tax parcels, referred to as the Means, Baker and NMSD properties (see Figure 1). The Means property comprises two parcels, Parcel A (assessor's number 12332 50 00060) and Parcel B (12332 50 00059); the Baker Property consists of one parcel, Parcel C (12332 50 00063); and the NMSD property consists of two parcels, Parcel D (12332 50 00058) and Parcel E (12332 50 00056). The NMSD and Means properties are crossed by Sweetwater Creek. Proposed construction at these sites includes removal of existing buildings and structures, restoring wetland conditions, returning salmon spawning access to the wetland and salmon spawning stream for educational purposes.

Sweetwater Creek: Sweetwater Creek flows westward across the PNWSC properties, ultimately discharging to Hood Canal. A manufactured pond is located on the NMSD property just upstream of Highway 3. The creek supports anadromous salmon runs for three species, which are manually moved upstream of the pond. Fish are not able to reach the pond because of the height of the drop between the pond and the lower stream.

Means Property: The Means property was developed in the 1950s, and site wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations at this property included a residence, grocery store, and a pet supply store (Animal Outfitters). The original residential and grocery store buildings no longer remain, and the current property building is vacant. Potential concerns at this property include the material used to fill the wetlands, a possible heating oil UST, the septic system, and general hazardous materials handling. The former heating oil UST is reported to be located near the northwest corner of the existing property building.

Mr. George R. Webster
September 22, 2005
Page 9

NMSD Property: The NMSD property was developed in the 1930s. A gas station operated along Highway 3 from the 1930s to the 1950s. Other businesses at this property included a restaurant and antique store. The former gas station is currently vacant, no buildings remain on the property and it now consists of a gravel lot along the east side of Highway 3. It had been reported that some of the gas station USTs had been removed, but that one UST may remain on the southwest corner of the property. It is likely that a septic system was located at the property. The land east of the former gas station is undeveloped. A manufactured pond is located upstream of the former gas station. There are trailers and mobile homes located along the southern border of the property that may encroach upon NMSD property.

Baker Property: This property was developed in the 1950s, and property wetlands were filled to allow for building construction. Former operations included a restaurant, residence, tool and saw sharpening facility, welding and pet store. Current operations include a motorcycle repair and propane sales. Sweetwater Creek flows along the north border of this property. Potential concerns include the material used to fill the wetlands, a septic system, floor drains, and general hazardous materials handling.

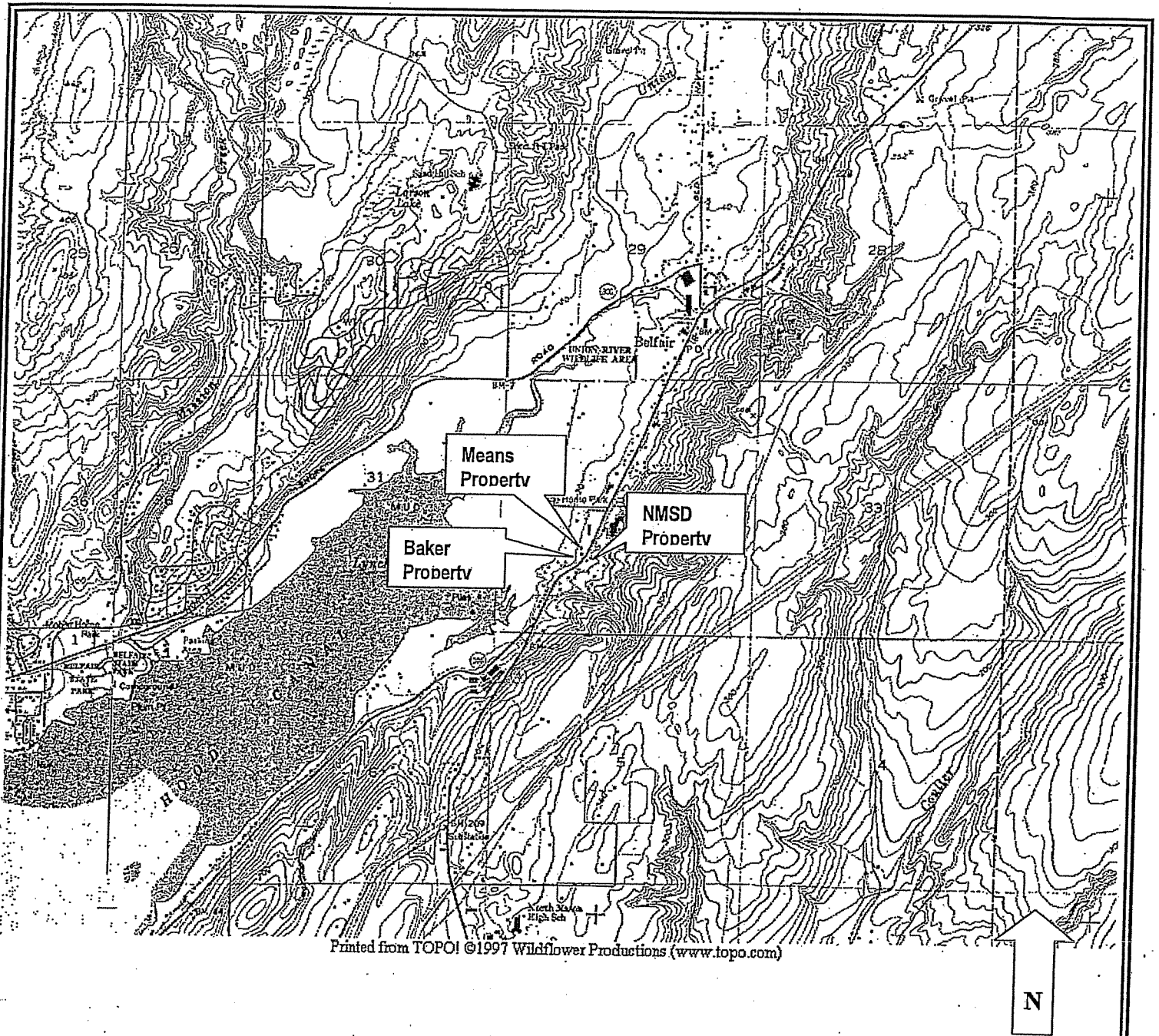


FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP

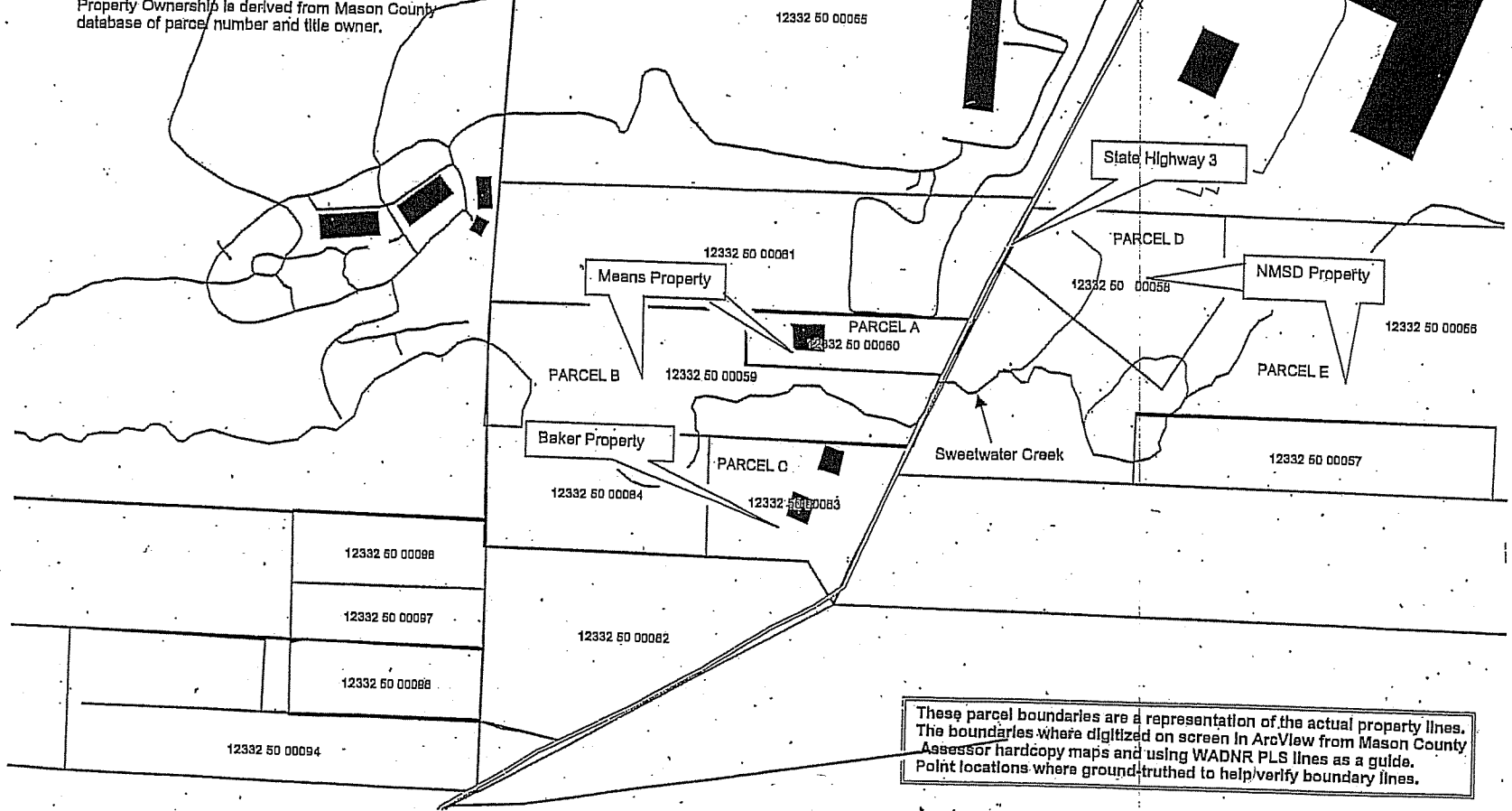
Project Name:
**Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
 Brownfield Cleanup**
 Location: **Belfair, Washington**
 Project: **ACL05-05-E022**
 Client: **PNWSC**
 Date: **06/14/05**

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Parcel Ownership for Design of PNWSC

SW corner of section 32 In T23NR01W

Property Ownership is derived from Mason County database of parcel number and title owner.



Note: Figure adapted from Krazan & Associates, Inc. site plan



DRAFT

Note: Not to scale.



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FIGURE 2-2: SITE MAP

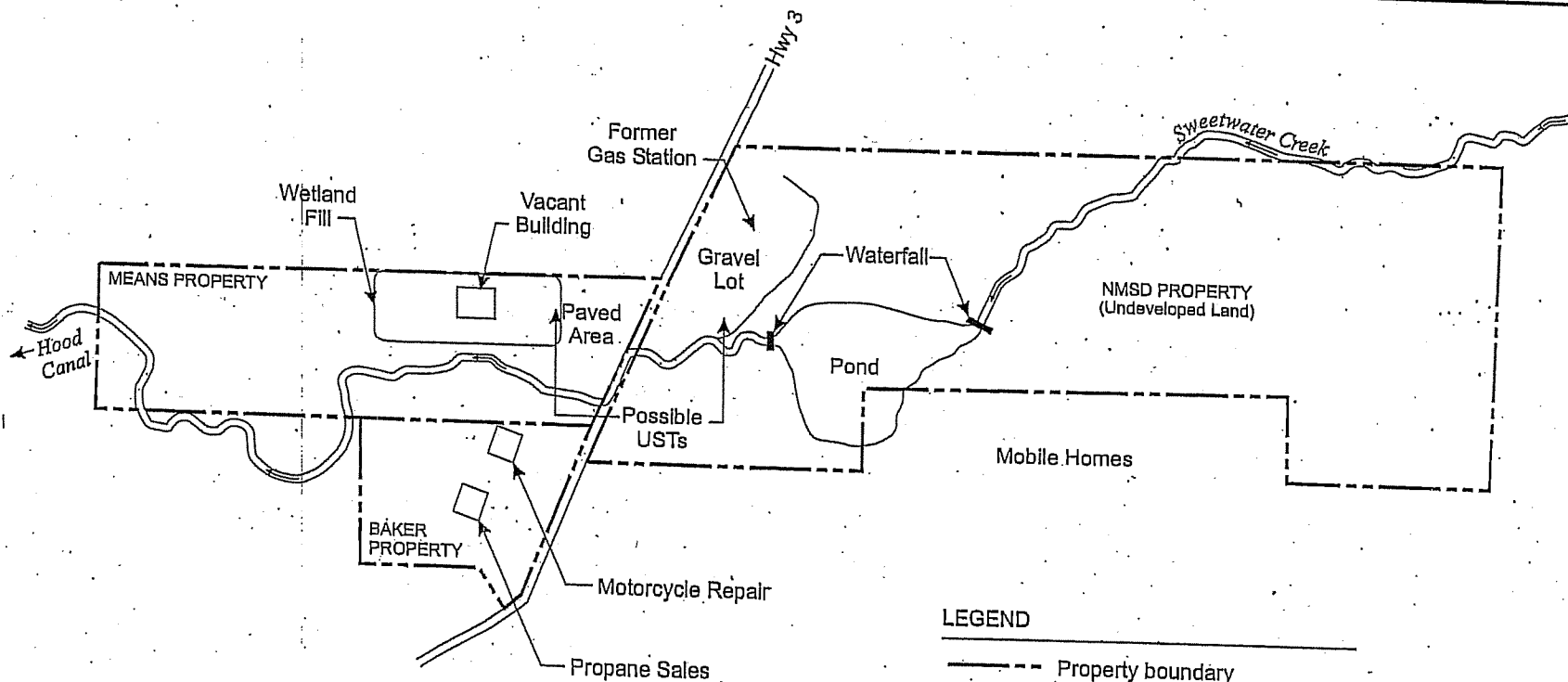
Project Name: Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfields Cleanup

Location: Belfair, Washington

Project: ACL05-05-E022

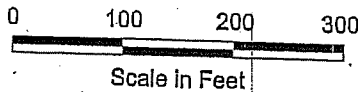
Client: PNWSC

Date: 06/28/05



LEGEND

- Property boundary
- UST - underground storage tank



DRAFT

Note: Figure adapted from URS Report

Note: Not to scale



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FIGURE 2-3: SITE MAP

Project Name:

**Pacific Northwest Salmon Center
Brownfield Cleanup**

Location: **Belfair, Washington**

Project: **ACL05-05-E022**

Client: **PNWSC**

Date: **06/16/05**

From: [Ken VanBuskirk](#)
To: [Lary Coppola](#)
Cc: [Ted Jackson](#); [Judy Scott](#); [Katie](#)
Bcc: [Jean Farmer](#); [Brad](#); ibsen@hctc.com
Subject: Port of Allyn meeting this evening
Attachments: [Pacific NW Salmon Center SW0889 - VCP Opinion on Site Cleanup.pdf](#)

I am unable to attend meeting this evening. Please acknowledge receipt of this email during the meeting and enter this email and attachment as correspondence as part of the meeting record..

I would like the Board to pull approval of the 3-01-21 meeting minutes consent agenda for a separate discussion and vote. I went back and listened to my public comments. I did not "berate" the executive director and would ask that the minutes be amended to remove that statement.

I also take exception with Mr. Coppola's executive directors report about Sweetwater and that only one person is opposed to project and that there is no proof of a UST onsite, and that the arsenic is naturally occurring..

The Shindelheim property was acquired by the school district in 1997 and it was intended to be part of the PNWSC's master plan to redevelop 25 acres and **site a massive facility with 500,000 visitors a year** at their facility planned to be located on and adjacent to the Theler parking lot. (Theler trust property 16) The same parking lot Mason Transit Authority was considering when the school board surpluses Theler and later rescinded their decision as it was to be maintained in perpetuity.

The PNWSC applied for and received a \$93,000 Brownsfield grant in 2004 using the above redevelopment criteria that included the school's Shindelheim property. The PNWSC abandoned their planned facilities location in 2009 and sold their property and moved to their current location outside the UGA. . They were asked to reenter the VCP in 2015 but declined.

The Shindelheim property remains on the Department of Ecology's Confirmed and Suspected Site list and appears to not have been fully mitigated from the attached report.

Please note on page 3 that the analysis was not sufficient enough to determine if the arsenic levels were naturally occurring or not.

Please note page 5 of attached opinion regarding NMSD property that one UST might still be in SW corner of property.

Please document in Mr. Coppolas performance rating mid year review.

Thank you,
Ken VanBuskirk

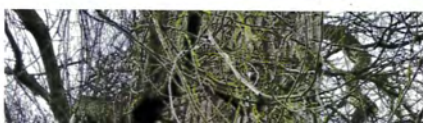


SKAGIT UPDATE

SUMMER 2022



Protecting A Wild Place at the Edge of Our Urban Life **Knitting Together a Place for Wildlife One Conservation Project at a Time**



This spring the Barney Lake Conservation Area grew to 371 acres, thanks to a partnership with two families who understand the importance of protecting this rare wildlife sanctuary for all generations. Linda & Beau Loughlin and Cathy & Walter Pfahl have lived at their

ED LETTER TO MEMBERS



Dear Members and Supporters

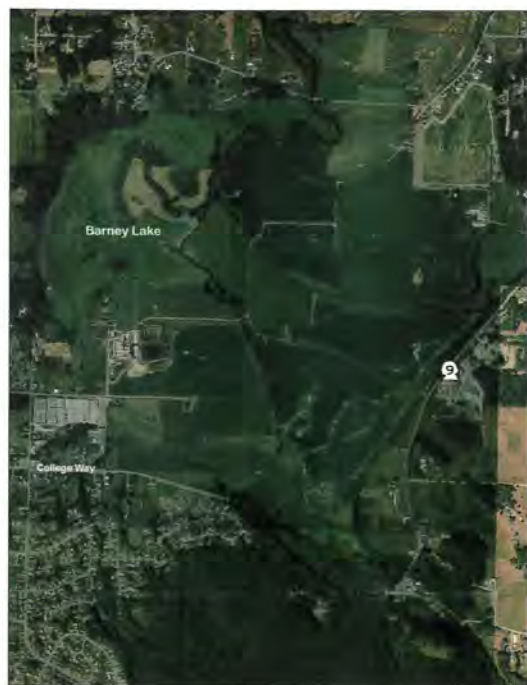
It's our 30th Anniversary! What a difference you have made in protecting our natural home. Below are just two examples of how your help has conserved Skagit's special places and natural areas over the past three decades. The next 30 years starts today. We are so honored to have your partnership.

With gratitude - Molly Doran, Executive Director

Barney Lake

On the left is a map showing no conserved lands at **Barney Lake 30 years ago**. The site was once considered as a location for the County dump.

Thanks to members and partners, the map on the right shows conserved land at **Barney Lake today**.



The Middle Skagit River

30 years ago some of the only lands on the Skagit River that were conserved were parks.



Today, Skagit Land Trust and a long list of partners are working together to conserve land.

Barney...Continued from page 1



Michael Kirshenbaum, on a site visit to Barney Lake with Martha Bray in 2014. Over 30 years, the Trust has completed nine different property projects at Barney Lake to conserve a total of 371 acres.

"Working with Skagit Land Trust has been a 40 year relationship of education and mentoring over time," said Linda and Beau Loughlin. "John Munn, a local naturalist, educated us about this unique parcel of land, and over a period of several more years introduced us to Keith Wiggers and Martha Bray from Skagit Land Trust."

When funding became available in 2019 from Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to protect salmon habitat at Barney Lake, Jane Zillig one of the Trust's Conservation Project Managers, reached out to the Pfahls and Loughlins to see if they would be interested in selling the wetland portions of their properties to the Trust, while retaining their homesite. This creative solution of selling a portion of land that connects to existing Trust conservation land has been a win-win for both homeowners and local conservation efforts.

"For 30 years, landowners like the Loughlins and Pfahls, along with trust members, and important public agency partners like SRFB and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, have come together to ensure that Barney Lake's wildlife habitat and clean water will be there for future generations." said Conservation Director Michael Kirshenbaum. "The unwavering commitment of both the Loughlin and Pfahl families to work with the Trust to protect more of Barney Lake exemplifies how individuals can come together to make a difference."

The waves of tall grass that fill Barney Lake during the summer can leave you wondering where the lake went. As a seasonal lake, Barney fills each fall, playing a vital role in absorbing flood waters from the Skagit and Nookachamps. As development expands towards the edges of Barney Lake, protection of this natural area has become even more important for the health



of wildlife and people. The floods in November 2021 brought the waters of the Skagit River right to the edge of College Way. The Barney Lake Conservation Area was able to hold enormous amounts of flood waters, lessening neighborhood flooding.

Left to right: A sea of green grass in the summer hides the true role Barney Lake plays each winter -becoming one of the largest wetlands in our region.

"Barney Lake is such a wonderful wildlife spectacle. And it's so unique because it's on the edge of Mount Vernon," said Molly Doran, Executive Director of the Trust. "In the next 30 years we're really trying to figure out how we can maintain this pristine wildlife sanctuary as the city grows around it. We want to find opportunities for the community to strengthen their connection to the land so that they can help protect this special place and the wildlife that rely on it."



Swans taking off from Barney Lake on a misty winter morning.

In the year ahead, Skagit Land Trust will continue to work with landowners around Barney Lake and in the Nookachamps on ways they can partner with the Trust to protect this rare wetland and wildlife sanctuary.



"Our children, who had the privilege of growing up here, are delighted and grateful that we have sold this acreage to Skagit Land Trust," said both the Loughlin and Pfahls. "They are deeply passionate, as we are, to preserve Barney Lake for Salmon Recovery, aquatic health, and habitat protection. We

The Trails at the Marblemount Conservation Area Beckon!



The Marblemount Conservation Area is now open for you to walk a beautiful 1.25 mile forest and river trail along the Skagit River. This trail was originally put in by the former landowners Steve and Nancy Johnson, and has been refined and enhanced with the help of volunteers.

Thanks to their work, visitors can walk the trails year-round and connect with the forest as it changes throughout the seasons. A path that shows its colors through shade tolerant wildflowers and flashes of rufous hummingbirds in the spring, also spoils visitors with berries and access to fishing on the bank of the Skagit River in the summer. In the fall the smell of decay is ripe as fungi decompose the wood and litter that are essential to forest processes, and birds of prey feast on salmon carcasses.

Winter envelops the forest in a quiet hush, perfect for the introspection that the short days often bring. With so much to offer, we are grateful to share this place with our community.

How to access: The Marblemount Conservation Area is located two miles west of the town of Marblemount on Highway 20. Look for the private road labeled Ponderroses on the Skagit River side of the road. Visitors can park at the gravel area just before the gate. Walk down the driveway behind the gate, and take the first left. Pass a tall metal shed on your right and continue on until you see the trail split. This is the beginning of the loop; either direction will take you to the river.

This trail is open to pedestrians. Visit our website for more information on what activities are allowed on Trust properties. Please note that site cleanup is ongoing and visitors may encounter heavy equipment in the area of the former home site throughout the summer.



Above: A section of trail through native bleeding hearts; Left to right: Volunteers clearing logs from the path; raking leaf litter from the trails; Terry Armstrong clearing the path for the winter river shortcut; AmeriCorps Jonathan Worley helping clear a tree on the trail.

Marblemount Conservation Area "Open House on the Land" on July 23rd

We are excited to welcome our community together on the land this summer for an in-person Open House. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 23rd, and join us at the Marblemount Conservation Area.

Activities will include walks through the forest and along the river, a story trail at Barr Creek, the chance to catch up with Skagit Land Trust



Forging a New Path



What does it take to build a new trail? Over the last six months, Skagit Land Trust has hosted nearly a dozen volunteer events dedicated to the creation of a new loop trail at our Barr Creek Conservation Area. Here are just a few of the steps Trust staff and volunteers took to create a quarter-mile trail:

Trail construction begins with the "pioneering" stage. This stage entails walking through the woods to identify a nicely sloped route with interesting features, like groves or snags.



Once the route is identified, volunteers trim back vegetation and remove obstacles such as sword ferns. Don't worry, these sword ferns transplant well and were re-planted nearby!



Once major obstacles are out of the way, the trail can begin to take shape. Volunteers remove organic matter, like leaf litter, from the surface of the trail. Large rocks are used to fill in holes and create stabilizing walls that prevent erosion. Soil is cut from the higher edge of the trail and used to fill in the lower edge of the trail, resulting in a level walking surface.

Once the trail has been levelled and smoothed, the only thing it is missing is you! The Trust welcomes you to visit this new trail and see for yourself the benefits of spending some time in nature. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this new trail a reality!



Pictures from top to bottom: Volunteer Land Steward Russ Dalton explains the use of a clinometer, a device that measures the degree of incline between two points;

Volunteer Kat Klass hoists a sword fern before re-planting it off-trail;

Volunteers work on the upper part of the trail. From left to right: Loren Schmidt, Sarah Zabel, Keith Saar;

A completed stretch of the new trail at Barr Creek Conservation Area.

Once Upon A Forest...

Participants in the Upper Skagit Library's Summer Reading Program will have a chance to stretch their legs while enjoying a book in nature. The Trust and the Library have partnered to install a Story Trail at the Barr Creek Conservation Area for July and August. Readers will get to use all their senses while following the book's characters on their journey to find 'Wild'.

Pages from the book will be on display along the recently expanded loop trail at Barr Creek. This new trail will allow visitors to explore a portion of the Conservation Area added in 2017.

On Saturday, July 23rd, Upper Skagit Librarians will lead walks at 10:30am



Planting the Seeds of Caring for Nature & Growing Future Stewards of the Land

"There's a sea star!" one of the kids exclaims as they turn over a rock on the beach of James Island. Other families gather around to peer at the bright red starfish.

The excited chatter is a welcome sound as fieldtrips finally return for the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program (KCNYP). Skagit Land Trust has been a lead partner in the program for many years. Focused on fostering connections with nature, KCNYP brings youth and families from the Kushan Creek, Casa de San Jose, and Villa Santa Maria housing developments out on monthly fieldtrips.



"I feel these nature field trips are very important in helping the kids develop an ethic of caring because a lot of our kids don't have access to learning about nature and our environment, other than school," said Yesenia Lopez Gama, Resident Services Coordinator. "I have noticed that when we go on these nature field trips the students come back to me and ask me how they can help animals from becoming extinct, or how can they help with pollution. You can see the care in their eyes and willingness to help better our planet."



All the fieldtrips are free for participants, thanks to funding from the U.S. Forest Service and staffing from other program partners including Skagit Land Trust, Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Vernon Police Department, Catholic Housing Services, North Cascades Institute, Glacier Peak Institute, and Skagit Audubon Society.

In addition to the June boat trip with the Salish Sea School to James Island, families took a bike ride along the Kulshan Trail in April, and explored nearby Barney Lake in May. While visiting this Trust Conservation Area just minutes from their homes, the kids learned about beaver and other wildlife, explored along the Nookachamps, and helped steward the property by pulling thistle.

The Trust is excited to continue this partnership to get more community members out on the land to appreciate the nature treasures we have just beyond our backyards.



Investigation Stations Return with Oohs and Aahs from Sedro-Woolley Students

After a two-year break, our Utopia Conservation Area rang out with the calls of excited second-graders exploring the sights and sounds. In May, 172 students and 45 adults from Lyman ES, Big Lake ES, Clearlake ES and Samish ES, visited six different Investigation Stations during their two hour field trip.

"I was so grateful for your trip to be their first field trip back," said Shannon Fath, a teacher at Lyman Elementary. "The kids came back with lots of knowledge about Utopia. Trust staff and volunteers did such a wonderful job teaching about the diversity of life at Utopia. We loved our trip so much."

Trust volunteers shared their knowledge and enthusiasm about beaver, elk, owls & nature clues, amphibians, plants & restoration, macroinvertebrates, and birds. A big thanks to Ellen Anderson, King Dahl, Debbie Honan, Tracy Oulette, Richard Raisler, Kent Turner, Holli Watson, and Sarah Zebel for their



In Due Time - Miles Legacy Crafted Over Decades



Gary Miles and his wife, Betty first met with Skagit Land Trust in 1999 to discuss leaving their 10-acre forested property on Samish Island to the Trust. Their dream was that the house would come down and the land would be a home for wildlife, forever.

"We love the wildlife," Betty remarked during a meeting with staff. She laughed, "We started by putting out bowls of water for them and ended up digging a pond!"

"We want the critters to have a place to live when we are gone," Gary noted. "And keep those snags as so many birds and other animals use them."

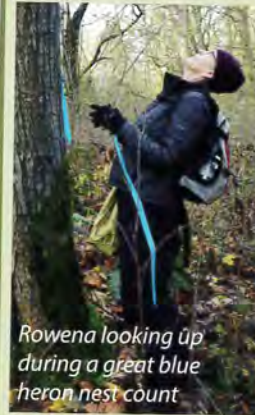
Over the years Gary and Betty worked with their lawyer and the Trust to ensure their vision and legacy was articulated and understood. They hoped that their gift and story would inspire others to protect their own forests.

Betty passed in 2019 and Gary in 2020. The property came to the Trust this month along with a stewardship bequest to manage the land. The executor, Janet Stewart, worked with the Trust to ensure a conservation covenant placed on the property's deed captures the Miles' wishes. The property will be managed for wildlife with occasional compatible use by Skagit Land Trust. Stay tuned for stewardship work parties and tours.

Not only is the land already a wildlife sanctuary, but it is also within the "alternative heron nesting habitat" range for the abandoned Samish Island Heronry. Herons, bald eagles, raptors and owls are often seen on the property's large trees or at the pond along with numerous other wildlife - just as Gary and Betty hoped. We are honored to be entrusted with stewarding the Miles' natural legacy.



Giving Back to the Place She Calls Home



Rowena looking up during a great blue heron nest count

Volunteers get involved with Skagit Land Trust for different reasons -- some enjoy certain types of projects, like trail construction, while others are looking to learn about new outdoor spaces. For Rowena Watson, it's all about protecting the place she calls home.

"I've lived in Upper Skagit for 45 years," said Rowena. "I love hiking and think of Mt Baker as my backyard, my happy place."

One of her favorite things about Skagit County is the ability to reach a beach, forest, or quiet place in nature within a few minutes' walk or drive. Rowena also appreciates the abundance of working farms and forests that remain in the county.

When she began volunteering with the Trust, Rowena was no stranger to working outside. As an employee of the US Forest Service, Rowena regularly planted trees and worked on trails - activities that she continues to enjoy while volunteering with the Trust. Rowena also worked at North Cascades National Park, where she developed a deeper appreciation of the beauty of the Skagit and a greater understanding of the challenges facing the region.

Rowena appreciates that Trust properties often provide access to the Skagit River or Puget Sound, so it's not a surprise that she especially enjoys visiting the Samish Island Conservation Area. Rowena gives back in other ways too - she loves engaging with youth and volunteers occasionally at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Interpretive Center.

"I'm retired and so, more recently, have time on my hands, love being outdoors, working hard, meeting new people and giving back a little to this amazing place I call home."



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July 21, 2022

Ted Willhite, Chair

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

1111 Washington Street SE

Olympia, Washington 98501

SUBJECT: COALITION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR WWRP 2023-25 FUNDING LEVEL

Dear Chair Willhite:

Thank you for your steady leadership to ensure equitable and abundant access to recreation and to protect critical habitat for wildlife. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition ("Coalition") shares your goal of ensuring all Washingtonians experience our great outdoors, and that our most important natural areas are not lost. To that end, I write to request that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board support the Coalition's request for Full Funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for the 2023-25 biennium.

The WWRP and the Coalition have a shared and braided history. Over thirty years ago, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition led the creation of the WWRP, and remains the independent bipartisan nonprofit partner to this day, advocating for strong funding and integrity of the Program. Our founders succeeded in creating a grand and practical vision meeting both a long-standing, deep-seated desire for more parks, shoreline access, and trails to benefit people, coupled with a need to protect critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including game animals and endangered species. Together with the RCFB and RCO, we have made impressive gains in the intervening decades. Yet, those original concerns are no less pressing today; in fact, they are more pressing in the face of population growth during a global pandemic.

The ongoing impacts of COVID-19 have presented challenges to our partners around the state. Staffing challenges at all levels mean agencies and non-profits are struggling to balance the needs of their communities with the capacity of their teams, which has led to a decrease in grant applications even as we know the need and demand are there.

Consequently, this year is unique in that WWRP application numbers dropped significantly from the previous round. Our Board responded to this unprecedented situation with a request for full funding of the WWRP, a position that we have not taken before, but is exactly what is needed at this unusual time in our history. Land prices in Washington have continued their astronomical ascent, now combined with the surging cost of building supplies and staffing shortages with contractors. This means the cost of buying and developing land has also drastically increased.

Unifying voices for Washington's great outdoors

WildlifeRecreation.org

Meanwhile, agencies and nonprofits face continued belt tightening, especially as the threat of a recession looms, causing matching funds to be harder to secure.

Because of these factors, the quantitative metrics included at the end of this letter do not paint a full picture. We know the need and demand for outdoor recreation is surging in Washington. We know outdoor recreation is a critical driver of economic growth in Washington. We know—first hand—the importance of the outdoors for our mental and physical health. And we also know that time is running out for preserving and restoring critical habitat areas across the state.

As laid out below, these indicators demonstrate that Full Funding for the WWRP is both appropriate and aspirational, and, quite frankly, needed to accommodate the growing demand for recreation and need for conservation in our state. It is also important to recognize the ever-challenging budget situation in our state. Coalition representatives discussed this challenge with budget leaders in the Legislature and with Governor's office and the Coalition Board has considered their feedback in our deliberations.

Rising Demand

Use of Washington's outdoor spaces is at an all-time high, as residents rushed to outdoor spaces for safe, healthy fun during the COVID-19 pandemic. When coupled with the continued population growth—with thousands upon thousands of people flocking to the state for its beauty and abundant recreation opportunities, acquiring new spaces and increasing services and maintenance is critical to keep them safe and well-maintained.

Funding WWRP projects will help disperse crowds, ensure emergency vehicles have access to trailheads, and mitigate our ecological footprint while improving access to our state's great outdoors.

Economic Growth

Outdoor recreation and habitat lands in Washington support 264,000 jobs and generate \$26.5 billion in consumer spending, as shown in RCO's own analysis of the outdoor recreation economy. These spaces also provide at least \$216 billion in ecosystem services, such as water storage and disaster risk reduction.

The economic impact of full funding is both short- and long-term: immediate construction jobs and local spending, combined with multi-generational boosts in property values, tourism and other outdoor recreation-driven activity, and improved health and quality of life. A robust investment today will boost the economy for years to come.

Mental and Physical Health

Study after study has indicated how much healthier people's minds and bodies are when they engage in outdoor activities. **However, there's nothing like personal experience to bring scientific studies to life in a new way.** Each and every Washingtonian—and really everyone around the world—discovered just what an important role the outdoors plays in their lives once they were no longer able to enjoy it at will. Everyone discovered just how healing that neighborhood walk can be when undergoing intensely difficult situations like those encountered during the COVID19 pandemic.

Equity

Not every community has equitable access to the outdoors. Communities of color are less likely to have access to parks and rural communities have less local funding to invest. WWRP encourages local governments to plan projects in communities lacking access to parks through reduced match requirements.

WWRP projects can also help upgrade or build parks to meet ADA accessibility standards to improve park access for all. **Though more needs to be done, WWRP is an important part of improving equity in the outdoors.**

For the record, the Coalition does not believe the WWRP alone is enough to solve systemic inequities in the outdoors. But, it does believe robust funding will continue to help as we work together to develop more comprehensive solutions, including those forthcoming as part of the equity review recommendations. The Coalition appreciates the work you, your board and the RCO have begun to examine these inequities and design innovative responses to mitigate them. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you on this important work.

Environmental Protection

Climate change, population growth, and increased demand mean it's more important than ever to protect our lands before it's too late.

The WWRP grant program funds outdoor recreation and conservation projects across the state to preserve habitat, restore areas impacted by fire and degradation, and mitigate the environmental impact of our growing population. Just as we need more spaces to recreate, we must also take care of the ecosystems that sustain us, and provide funding for restoration after disasters strike.

RECOMMENDATION

With surging demand for outdoor spaces in WA, a spike in inflation, and worsening environmental dangers, NOW is the time to make a record investment in Washington's outdoors. That is why the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition respectfully requests that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board join it in requesting Full Funding for the WWRP grant program in the 2023-25 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your unrelenting efforts to support communities across the state in protecting our natural world for the benefit of the people and wildlife who live here.

Respectfully,



Christine Mahler
Executive Director

The following are the key quantitative indicators considered in developing our recommendation, in addition to the factors outlined above:

- **Indicator 1: Original WWRP funding level adjusted for inflation.** The 2023-25 WWRP funding levels can be considered using a basic inflationary adjustment for the original WWRP appropriation (\$53 million in 1989-90), adjusted to 2020 dollars. Adjusting the original WWRP appropriation for inflation would suggest a 2021-23 appropriation of **\$123.7 million**.
- **Indicator 2: WWRP appropriation as a percentage of total bond funding capacity.** The WWRP is funded in the capital budget with general obligation bonds. Since the 1991-93 biennium, on average 4.02% of the state's total bond capacity has been appropriated to the WWRP. Unfortunately, the bond capacity for the 2023-25 biennium, is not yet available, so we are unable to calculate this indicator at this time.
- **Indicator 3: WWRP requests adjusted for state REET collections.** State real estate excise tax (REET) collections, which are roughly correlated to increases in land values, are an additional angle from which to consider WWRP funding level needs. Since 1990, annual state REET tax collections have increased at an average linear rate of about 6.5%. This rate of increase would suggest a 2023-25 WWRP funding request of **\$149.1 million**.
- **Indicator 4: WWRP requests per capita, adjusted for 2020 dollars.** Since 1989, the average funding request for WWRP has been \$22.54 per Washington resident (adjusted for inflation). The estimated state population for 2023-25 is 8.04 million, which would suggest a WWRP appropriation of **\$181.2 million**.
- **Indicator 5: Percentage of WWRP Applications funded through appropriation.** Historically, the legislature has funded an average of 49% of the funding requested. The amount needed in 2023-25 to fund **50% of the applications received in 2022 is \$77.55 million**. The amount needed to fund **75% of the applications is \$116.33 million**.