



Sponsor: Clark County

Acres: 125

Waterfront: East Fork Lewis River

Estimated Cost: \$1,949,146



CF Request: \$255,541

Partner Share: \$1,690,605

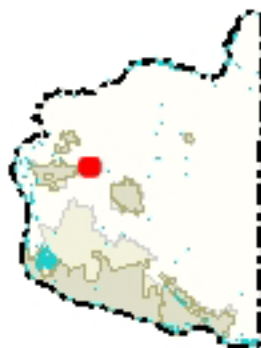
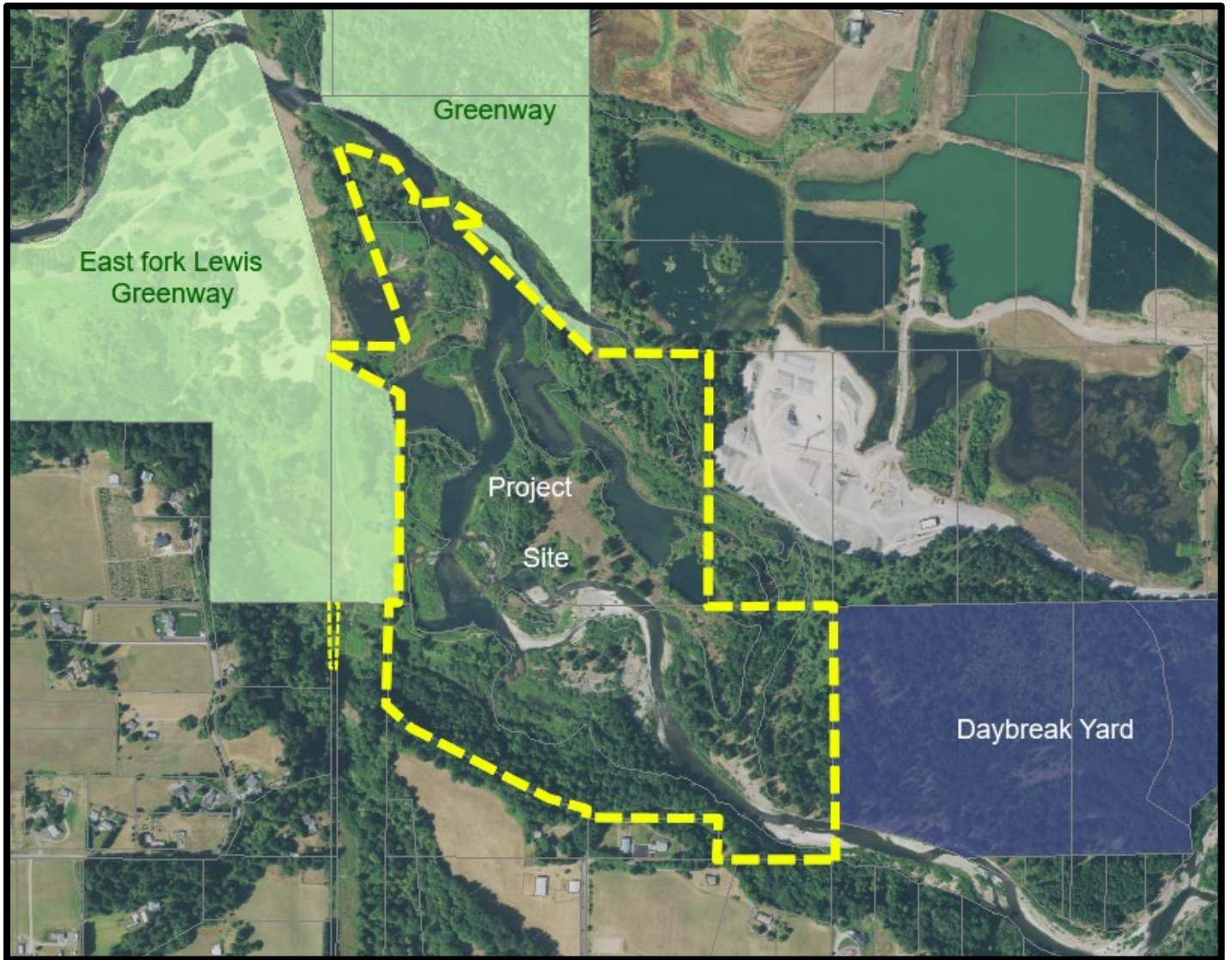
Grant Potential: \$245,000

Key Features:

- Adds to the publicly owned East Fork Lewis River Greenway in an area with a concentration of county ownership.
- East Fork Lewis River supports five endangered salmonid species. Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is designing a restoration plan for Ridgefield Pits and surrounding lands.
- Provides flexibility for alignment of the East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail
- Supports a variety of county and regional plans, including County's *Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan*, *County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plans*, *Regional Trails and Bikeway Systems Plan*, *Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Plan*, *Department of Ecology's East Fork Lewis River Water Quality Partnership*.

**Conservation Futures 2021
Ridgefield Pits**

**Site
Location**





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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Conservation Futures Project Application / Summary FUNDING CYCLE 2021

SUBMITTAL DATE: January 5, 2022

PROJECT NAME: Ridgefield Pits

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Organization Name: Clark County Public Works, Parks and Lands Division

Agency Address: 4700 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA, 98665

Agency Jurisdiction: Clark County

Contact Name: Patrick Lee

Contact Phone: (564) 397-1652

Contact E-Mail Address: patrick.lee@clark.wa.gov

PROJECT LOCATION

Property Address(es): AP #s 212115000, 214673000, 214688000, 214735000 (no site address)

Tax Identification Number(s): Portions of AP #s 212115000, 21467300, 214688000, 214735000

Major Street / Intersection Nearest Property Access Point: Best access is over the BPA easement north of NE259th St.

Property Description (type of land use): Undeveloped abandoned sand and gravel mining pits along the East Fork Lewis River. Portions of the property are in the East Fork Lewis floodway, some in the flood fringe and the balance within the 500-year floodplain.

Section: 13 and 24 Township: 4N Range: 1EWM

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Number of Parcels: 4 parcels

Addition: Adds to East Fork Lewis Greenway Total Project Acres: 125 acres

Zoning Classification(s): Agriculture -20

Existing Structures/Facilities (No. / Type): Undeveloped

Current use: No

- Watershed Name: East Fork Lewis River
- Waterfront Access and type: East Fork Lewis flows through the project site
- Body of Water: East Fork Lewis River
- Shoreline (lineal ft.): 5,653 feet (center line of EFL)
- Historical / Cultural Features: NA



Owner Tidelands/Shorelands: Project site is privately owned. It is possible that some of the floodway and flood fringe portions may be considered a "Water of the State" within Department of Natural Resources jurisdiction.

Active Agriculture; Currently leased for agriculture

Threatened / Endangered species present: Chinook, Chum, Coho, Summer and Winter Steelhead. East Fork Lewis River is designated by WDFW as a native steelhead gene pool.

Utilities on property (list all known): CPU water. Parcels are in the Ridgefield School District Garbage pick-up provided by Waste Connections. Fire protection provided by Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue.

Potable water available on site: Well; Water Service; Is there a water right?
Unknown

SITE DESCRIPTION (Discuss physical characteristics of proposed acquisition): Project site is an abandoned sand and gravel mining area through which the East Fork Lewis River avulsed in 1996. Reed canarygrass and Japanese Knotweed are among invasive species present. There are some stands of willow. Site includes cobble and rock residue from the mining activity. There are also nine remnant mining ponds that include some predatory fish. Priority habitat and species designations include Biodiversity and Habitat Corridor. Shoreline designations include "Aquatic" and "Rural Conservancy Resource Land." Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan identifies the site as a high value conservation area.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS: Salmon habitat restoration. At some point in the future the East Fork Lewis Greenway Trail may be aligned through the project site.

PROPOSED USES ON SITE: Project is acquisition only. However, Salmon Habitat Restoration and a public trail are anticipated in the future.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

For purchase, list names: Clark County Legacy Lands. Potential RCO grants (Salmon, WWRP)

For use of site, list names: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Bonneville Power Administration, RCO grants. LCEP is currently preparing salmon habitat restoration designs funded by BPA.

TYPE OF INTEREST:

Warranty Deed: Yes Easement:

Other (please describe): While statutory warranty deed is preferable, bargain and sale or other types of interest may be considered

Project requires relocation of residents: Yes No

PROJECT COST:

Estimated Total Cost: \$1,949,146

Conservation Futures Program – Department of Environmental Service
1300 Franklin St., PO Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810 (360) 397-2121



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.

Estimate Based on: 2020 assessed values for 2021 taxes

Will other agencies/groups contribute to project? Yes No

Name of Contributor: Pacific Rock Products Environmental Enhancement Group. It is hoped that all, or a portion of, the land value may be donated.

Amount of Contribution: \$1,693,605

Total Estimated Request from Conservation Futures: \$255,541

Attach separate sheet with all anticipated:

- Revenues for project, including donations, in-kind services, grants, partnerships, and other contributions
- Expenses for project, including permits, fees, staff time,

PROJECT MAINTENANCE PLAN (brief summary of maintenance approach): Legacy Lands maintenance by county.



| Ridgefield Pits | |
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| Evaluation Criteria | Comments |
| Adopted Plan Conformance | Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan, County Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan, Regional Trails and Bikeway System Plan, Lower East Fork Lewis River Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Plan, East Fork Lewis River Water Cleanup Plan. |
| Existing/Potential Recreation Value | Acquisition facilitates alignment of the East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail, between La Center Road and the project site. |
| Enhance value of abutting/proximate parks and conservation lands | Project connects with county-owned property along the East Fork Lewis River Greenway to the east, north and west. The connection to the west assures county ownership of all shoreline downstream to La Center Road. |
| Agriculture/forest resource value | NA |
| Protected habitat and species value | The East Fork Lewis River supports five endangered salmonid runs (Chinook, Coho, Chum, Summer and Winter Steelhead). The site is within a WDFW- designated biodiversity area and corridor, a waterfowl concentration area and has extensive riparian habitat |
| Available access | Poor access. One needs to walk down from the cemetery off of NW 29 th Avenue and then walk upstream in the riparian zone to reach the pits. |
| Threat/non—availability in five years | This is a highly constrained site, located mostly in the floodway with some floodway fringe. There is very poor access. Threat of conversion is low. |
| Partnership contributions | It is hoped that the landowner, Pacific Rock Environmental Enhancement Group, managed by CEMEX, will consider donating a significant portion of the land costs, but nothing is confirmed at this time. The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is designing a salmon-habitat restoration project for the site and adjacent county property. This does not contribute acquisition funds. However, the LCEP design is being supported with a grant through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. It would be a strong candidate for construction funding, once the design is approved. |
| Proximity to underserved populations | See demographics table |
| Geographic distribution | See 2017 and 2021 Geographic Distribution Map |
| Readiness for public use | This is looked at primarily as a habitat, rather than recreation, project. Access is poor. However, acquisition could provide flexibility in aligning the East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail. |