Clark County
Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan

Legacy Lands Program
Environmental Services Department
January, 2014

Clark County contains a diverse mixture of natural resources, parklands, and open spaces. Of the county's 656 square miles, almost half is in forest and agricultural lands, and surface water. Air, water and land resources are essential to the very existence of human development. They influence every aspect of quality of life from the local climate to the availability of drinking water to flood control and drainage patterns to recreational opportunities and to the habitat that we share with plants and animals.

Clark County's 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

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Chapter 1
Introduction

1.1 Overview

Clark County possesses a rich variety of landscapes and natural resources that enhance the quality of life for all Clark County residents. Our natural resources range from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains and include a diversity of streams and lakes, marshes, wetlands, shorelines, meadows and forests. These land and water resources provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide opportunities for hiking, canoeing, picnicking, swimming, and other outdoor recreation activities.

Our open spaces also continue to include significant tracts of highly productive farm and forest lands. Clark County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan notes that these natural resources are a component of the economy, "providing jobs, tax revenue and valuable products and materials for local use and export." Moreover, "farmlands and forests also provide aesthetic, recreational and environmental benefits to the public while contributing to the diverse character of the county."

Historically, Clark County has placed a high value on preserving its landscapes and natural resources, and has used various methods to accomplish this goal. These include regulatory programs such as critical areas ordinances; incentive programs such as current use taxation; and acquisition programs such as Conservation Futures. While these efforts have met with substantial success, there is a continuing need to explore opportunities to preserve, enhance, and steward our high-quality landscapes and natural resources.

The Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan provides a vision for preserving and enhancing a countywide system of conservation lands, including greenways, habitat, farm and forest resource lands. The plan identifies specific project opportunities to pursue over the next six years, identifies high value conservation lands, and highlights a variety of funding mechanisms that can support project implementation. The plan also encourages the development of partnerships between public and private agencies that have supported development of the conservation lands system for over 25 years.

1.2 Program History

Clark County's Conservation Futures program has been a central focus for the acquisition and enhancement of conservation areas and open space lands over the past 25 years. The Board of County Commissioners enacted this program in October 1985, instituting a conservation futures property tax levy on all property within the county at a rate not to exceed 6 ¼ cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. Per the enabling statute, RCW 84.34, conservation futures funds are dedicated to the acquisition of farm, forest, and open space lands. In 2005, an amendment to the statute enabled a limited amount of each year's levy revenue, equivalent to no more than 15% of the prior year's levy collection, to be used for operations, maintenance and stewardship of conservation lands. In 2006 the Board of County Commissioners renamed the program the Legacy Lands program.

Since enactment of the conservation futures levy, the Legacy Lands program has helped acquire almost 5,000 acres of high-quality shorelines, greenways, open space, and fish and wildlife habitat. Acquisitions include property on almost every lake and river system in the county and include such notable sites as Camp Currie, Fallen Leaf Lake, Eagle Island, Frenchman's Bar, Lucia Falls, East Biddle Lake, and substantial properties within greenway systems on the East Fork Lewis River, Salmon Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, and the Washougal River. Extensive acquisitions have occurred throughout the county, both inside and outside urban areas and city limits. Conservation futures funds have provided an important source of local revenue to seek and secure millions of dollars of matching grants and partnership resources.

In terms of community-supported planning, Clark County has established a clear, comprehensive vision for preserving and enhancing high-value conservation lands. In the late 1980s, the Board of County Commissioners established the Clark County Open Space Commission to help consider the need for open space protection. The commission addressed five charges:

1. To define open space and consider those qualities, values and physical characteristics that make it something to be preserved;
2. To evaluate the extent to which open space is now being protected in Clark County and the effectiveness of existing programs;
3. To evaluate the need to protect additional open space in Clark County;
4. To identify and evaluate methods that might be used to preserve open space; and
5. To recommend policy guidelines that reflect community values and develop an action program for preserving open space in Clark County.

The Open Space Commission Report, completed in August, 1992, is a primary document guiding the preservation of open space in the county.

Since the Open Space Commission Report, a variety of community-based plans and resource documents have identified the need to preserve and maintain our high-quality natural resources. These include Clark County's 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan; Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan; Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan; Shorelines Management Master Program; Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish and Wildlife Subbasin Plan; and the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan, which was originally adopted by the Board of Commissioners in August, 2004.

1.3 Management and Implementation

The Clark County Legacy Lands program, is managed by the Clark County Environmental Services Department. The Department was created in 2009 to increase efficiencies and collaboration among seven environmental programs:

1. Endangered Species Act program;
2. Legacy Lands program;
3. Vegetation Management program;
4. Community Development Environmental Permitting program;
5. Public Works Environmental Permitting program;

6. Public Works Clean Water program; and
7. Public Works Solid Waste program.

Contact information for the Legacy Lands program and the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan is as follows:

Legacy Lands
Attn: Program Coordinator
1300 Franklin Street
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98660-9810
(360) 397-2121 ext-4070

Chapter 2
Plan Approach

2.1 Overview

This document is an update of Clark County's Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in August 2004. The 2004 plan was developed with the assistance of an 18-member advisory committee, three technical work groups (Habitat, Greenways, and Farm), public meetings, stakeholder interviews and other public outreach. The plan established a long-term vision of an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's system of rivers, streams, and lakes. The 2004 plan applied methodologies for identifying the most important conservation lands which are still useful today. For greenways and habitat lands, these methodologies included using layers of GIS data and mapping (e.g., wetlands, floodplains, riparian priority habitat, non-riparian priority habitat, regional trail corridors, and existing protected lands) to help identify high-value conservation lands and projects. The data was refined by the advisory committee, work groups, and other experts to help incorporate local knowledge of these systems.

The 2004 plan also included a ten-year, $45 million Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding proposal for habitat, greenways, and farm preservation. The REET enabling legislation, RCW 84.46.070, requires a referral to voters. Counties are required to develop spending plans before any ballot measure regarding this program is submitted to voters. Thus, the funding proposal was developed in 2004. As a result, advisory committees and other stakeholders identified "Tier 1" project areas for inclusion in the funding plan. The tier 1 project boundaries did not extend to the full geographic limits of the county in some watersheds. The Board approved the 2004 plan, but chose not to refer the ten-year spending plan to voters.

The 2014 update maintains the core vision established in the 2004 plan, and utilizes similar methods to identify high-value conservation lands and projects. The 2014 process included an extensive review and update of GIS data that was used to refine high-value conservation lands and to identify high-value projects. The high value conservation lands layer from the 2004 plan is one of the layers utilized in 2014 so as to capture expert and community input from that process. Discussion with stakeholders and conservation partners informed the identification of specific project opportunities.

The 2014 update is not connected to any single funding source, nor does it include a specific funding proposal. Rather, the update examines a wide range of funding opportunities that might be used to support project implementation (see Appendix D). Geographic boundaries of the 19 watershed-based county subareas extend to the full county limits in the 2014 update.

2.2 Structure

The Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan is divided into seven chapters and 5 appendices. Appendix D is a Conservation Area Fund Source Manual that provides

summary information about more than 30 grant programs and other tools that might be used to support plan implementation. Specific chapters with the plan are:

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Plan Approach
Chapter 3: Public Involvement
Chapter 4: Goals and Objectives
Chapter 5: Conservation Resources Inventory
Chapter 6: Need
Chapter 7: Implementation Mechanisms

2.3 RCO Compliance

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) manages a variety of grant programs that support acquisition and development of outdoor recreation and habitat lands. For several grant programs and sub-categories (e.g., Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund), the RCO requires organizations to establish grant eligibility by producing comprehensive plans. Moreover, these plans must include certain elements. These are:

- Goals and Objectives;
- Inventory;
- Public Involvement;
- Demand and Need Analysis;
- Capital Improvement Program; and
- Plan Adoption.

This plan has been developed to comply with RCO planning requirements. An RCO "self-certification" form is included in Appendix F.

2.4 Conservation Framework

The 2004 Conservation Plan identified a conceptual framework that divided the plan into three elements: critical habitat, greenways and trails, and farmland. In the case of habitat and greenways, the 2004 work groups ultimately used similar methodologies for identifying high value project areas. They used the county's system of rivers and streams as a core framework because of the multiple high-priority conservation values associated with these water bodies. The work groups divided the county into 18 watershed-based subareas. In some cases subareas encompassed an entire watershed (e.g., Burnt Bridge Creek: mouth to headwaters) and in some cases the subareas included subwatersheds (e.g., lower East Fork Lewis: mouth to Heisson Bridge). The work groups ultimately established a group of" Tier 1" project areas based on a variety of criteria such as plan consistency, potential linkages and connectivity, rare or unique conservation values, and threats to the system. The spending plan was premised on habitat and greenway projects within Tier 1 areas. The 2004 plan also included a separate chapter with recommendations and priorities and a spending allocation for farm land. The plan did not include a separate chapter for forest land conservation.

This 2014 update maintains the primary vision of the 2004 plan to establish an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's rivers and streams, while also seeking to preserve other sites that have unique or rare conservation values. It identifies 19 watershed-based subareas, and uses GIS mapping layers to highlight high-value conservation lands and project opportunities. The 2014 update does not create a subgroup of Tier 1 project opportunities. The update recognizes that each subarea possesses significant conservation values for public use, habitat protection, clean water, and other purposes, and believes no project opportunities should be subordinated or removed from consideration for project implementation.

A list of the 19 county subareas, including brief descriptions, is included at the end of this chapter. Detailed subarea narratives and maps are included in Appendix A. While the habitat and greenway element is the primary focus of the 2014 update, chapters relating to Goals and Objectives, and Conservation Resources Inventory, and Needs Assessment include separate sections that focus on habitat and greenways, farm, and forest lands.

2.5 Identifying High-Value Conservation Lands and Projects

The 2004 and 2014 plans use similar methods to identify high-value conservation lands within each of the county subareas. This process was modeled upon the aggregate natural resources benefit mapping process used by the Clark County Open Space Commission (1989-1992) to help focus the expenditure of funds on the highest priority lands. The 2014 process uses Geographic Information System data from several agencies and organizations, and applies it the same manner to each of the 19 subareas identified in the plan. The process includes the following steps:

1. Divide Clark County into 19 subareas using 6th level hydrologic unit boundaries from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. The only significant deviations from the subwatersheds are in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, Columbia South Slope, Whipple Creek, and Gee Creek/Flume Creek areas, where boundaries were manually digitized using physical and cultural features. The 19 subareas are displayed and described in Appendix A.

2. Apply within each subarea the general water or stream coverage using guidelines contained in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Management Recommendations for Riparian Priority Habitat and Tier 1-4 fish distribution mapping provided by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. This provides the central "thread" of the high value conservation land network within each subarea.

3. Overlay GIS map layers to identify high-value conservation lands. The table on the next page summarizes layers used and definitions for each layer:

Table #1 – GIS Data Layers Used in Aggregate Natural Resource Benefits Analysis

Layer	**Definition**
Streams	LCFRB EDT Priority Salmon Tiers 1-4
Buffered Streams	Tiers 1,2 = 250', Tiers 3, 4 = 150'
Floodplain	FEMA Q3 100 year floodplain
Riparian Priority Habitat	WDFW PHS riparian zones
Wetlands	USFWS NWI Wetlands within 200' of streams, buffered by 30m
Non-riparian Priority Habitat	WDFW PHS non-riparian, excluding elk and mule deer winter range
2004 Network	High value conservation lands from 2004 plan
Undeveloped parcels	Parcels with no structure, >=50% within network
Developed parcels	Parcels >= 20 acres with assessed improvement >=$50,000, >=50% within network
Public lands	Non-DNR lands intersecting the network

4. Establish a boundary around outer limit of the aggregate map coverages in each subarea; then superimpose the boundary over aerial photographs to incorporate high-value edge habitats such as forested hillsides.

5. Expand boundary to accommodate public use elements such as greenway corridors between schools, existing conserved land and/or project opportunity areas.

6. Expand boundary to include all undeveloped parcels where more than 50% of parcel lies inside boundary and any developed parcel greater than 20 acres where more than 50% of parcel lies inside boundary. (Definition of "developed" parcel includes any parcel which has a structure greater than $50,000 in value.)

7. Add Clark County's protected lands layer to highlight opportunities for expansion, connectivity and linkages.

The seven-step process described in this section was used to develop high value conservation lands maps for each subarea. Appendix C illustrates the aggregate mapping process, using the Upper Salmon Creek subarea as the example. These maps provide important information for identifying specific projects or parcels for acquisition. However, these maps are not intended to be rigid and inflexible. If certain properties provide important conservation values, but lie outside defined high value conservation land boundaries, they may still be considered for acquisition funding. Moreover, parcel-specific acquisition decisions should include, as appropriate, associated upland areas where those properties provide important benefits to the overall system, such as habitat buffers or regional trail corridors, whether or not they are within high value conservation lands boundaries.

2.6 Partnership Opportunities

The 2014 planning process has assembled a wide range of mapping products that individually, or in combination, can help identify high-value conservation lands and projects. For example, mapping products that overlay high-priority salmon reaches, floodplains, and existing protected lands can help focus efforts to implement salmon recovery projects. Appendix C provides a description of the mapping process.

While this plan has been prepared by Clark County, the mapping resources are publicly available. Clark County conducted outreach to conservation partners and stakeholders to develop project opportunity lists in Appendix B. But, it is also hoped that partner organizations and agencies can explore opportunities to use this data to develop their own projects and to collaborate on projects with Clark County. The capacity to aggregate maps can lead to important projects by all partner organizations.

Table #2 - County Subareas – See Appendix A for subarea narratives and maps

System	Project Area	Description
Burnt Bridge Creek	Burnt Bridge Creek	Mouth to Headwaters of Burnt Bridge Creek
Columbia River Lowlands	Columbia South Slope	Along the Columbia River from Fruit Valley Road to the Washougal River
	Steigerwald Lake	Columbia River from the Washougal River to County Line, including Reed Island and lower sections of Gibbons and Lawton Creeks within Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge
	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	Columbia River Lowlands from Fruit Valley Road to Main Lewis River, including Lake River and associated uplands
East Fork Lewis	East Fork Lewis Upper	From the East Fork Lewis River at Heisson Bridge to the Clark County line, including upper Rock Creek
	East Fork Lewis Lower	From the mouth of the East Fork Lewis River to Heisson Bridge including McCormick, Brezee, Lockwood, Mason, Dean, and Mill Creeks
Gee Creek/Flume Creek	Gee Creek/Flume Creek	Gee and Flume Creeks: Mouth to headwaters
Gibbons/Lawton Creeks	Gibbons/Lawton Creeks	Gibbons and Lawton Creeks from SR-14 to their headwaters - (Lower sections of creeks are part of Steigerwald Lake Project Area)
Lacamas	Lacamas Lower	Lacamas Creek from Washougal River to Big Ditch Creek/Burnt Bridge Creek headwaters, including Lacamas, Round, and Fallen Leaf Lakes - This project area also includes Green Mountain
	Lacamas Upper	Lacamas Creek from Big Ditch Creek/Burnt Bridge Creek to headwaters, including wetland complexes, meadows and bottomlands associated with Lacamas Creek, Fifth Plain Creek, and China Ditch
Main/NF Lewis	Lewis River (main) and Allen Creek	The Lewis River from the Columbia River to confluence of East and North Forks Lewis, including Allen Creek and Lake Rosannah
	NF Lewis Lower	The North Fork Lewis River from the confluence of the East and North Forks Lewis Rivers to Merwin Dam
	NF Lewis Upper	North Fork Lewis River from Merwin Dam to County Line, including Merwin and Yale Reservoirs, Souixon and Canyon Creeks, and other tributaries
	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek from the mouth to headwaters, including Chelatchie Creek
Salmon Creek	Salmon Creek Lower	Salmon Creek from the mouth to Morgan Creek, including Cougar, Mill and Woodin Creeks
	Salmon Creek Upper	Salmon Creek from Morgan Creek to headwaters, including Morgan and Rock Creeks
Washougal River	Washougal River	The Washougal River from mouth to county line, including Coyote and Winkler Creeks
	Little Washougal River	The Little Washougal River from mouth to headwaters including East Fork, Boulder Creek, and Jones Creek
Whipple Creek	Whipple Creek	Whipple Creek from the mouth to headwaters

Chapter 3
Public Involvement

3.1 Overview

The 2014 update of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan is a continuation of a history of community based conservation planning in Clark County. The Open Space Commission Report (1992):

- articulated an open space vision for the county;
- mapped, classified and analyzed the relative importance of various types and locations of open space within the county for pro-active conservation efforts; and
- identified a number of funding and other tools that could be used to assemble the desired open space system.

The Comprehensive Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (first adopted in 1965, most recently updated in 2007 with a new update in process);

- assesses public attitudes toward the acquisition, development and management of parks, open space and recreational facilities;
- establishes acquisition and development standards for outdoor recreation facilities and grounds including greenways, open space, trails, special facilities, neighborhood, community and regional parks;
- establishes priorities for the acquisition and development of park, open space and recreational facilities and recreation programs;
- identifies funding sources and other tools for acquisition, capital improvements, operation and maintenance programs and recreational activities.

The Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan (2006):

- identifies trail types and desired trail construction standards;
- completed a gap analysis of trail corridors;
- articulated a desired regional trails system; and
- included a short-term trail corridor acquisition and development priority list.

The Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan (2004):

- identifies a system of high value conservation areas within the county;
- establishes a list of priority acquisition projects to pursue over a ten year period.

The 2014 update of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan was informed by each of the above documents and also involved a variety of opportunities for public and stakeholder comment and involvement.

The 2014 update of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan:

- updates and refines the 2004 system of high value conservation areas;
- articulates objectives to consider when assembling the conservation lands system;
- proposes a list of conservation acquisition and acquisition/development projects to be explored by the County over the next six years;

- proposes a list of conservation acquisition projects that partners may pursue where local and grant revenues may be leveraged with county conservation futures funds; and
- identifies over 30 funding sources that may be used by the county and partner organizations to assemble the conservation lands system.

3.2 Stakeholder Contacts

Clark County and the Columbia Land Trust contacted more than 25 partner agencies and conservation fund managers to update GIS data used in the 2004 plan, discuss partnership projects and funding opportunities. Contacts included both in-person meetings and phone interviews. Agencies and organizations that were contacted included:

- Clark Public Utilities;
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board;
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership;
- Metro (Portland, Oregon) Regional Government;
- the Intertwine Alliance;
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources;
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office; and
- the regional office of the American Farmland Trust.

These contacts helped to refine high value conservation lands boundaries, develop the County Project Opportunities list in Appencix B, and the Conservation Areas Fund Source Manual in Appendix D.

3.3 City Consultation

Clark County and the Columbia Land Trust contacted parks managers or other officials from each town and city in the county to discuss conservation lands project and priorities. These meetings helped explore short- and long-term project needs and opportunities and identified key projects that appear in the Partnership Project Opportunities list included in Appendix B.

3.4 Public Hearings and Work Sessions

The Board of County Commissioners met in a work session on _____ _____, 2014 to discuss the update of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan. The Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on _____ _____, 2014 to consider adoption of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan. A copy of the signed resolution adopting the plan appears in Appendix F of this document.

Chapter 4
Goals and Objectives

Overview

Clark County and the state of Washington have adopted goals, objectives, and policies that emphasize the need to preserve habitat, farm, forest, and open space lands. The state's Growth Management Act (GMA) established 13 planning goals to guide the creation and adoption of comprehensive plans in counties that are required or choose to plan under the act. The goals speak directly to the protection of natural resources, open space and recreation, and environmentally sensitive areas. Clark County's 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan includes a Rural and Natural Resources Element, Environmental Element, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element, each of which includes goals, policies, and strategies to preserve conservation lands. Following are selected goals and strategies from the Growth Management Act and countywide comprehensive plan that support proactive conservation actions.

Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70a.020):

- Goal #8, Natural Resource Industries: Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

- Goal #9, Open Space and Recreation: Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities.

- Goal #10, Environment: Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

Clark County 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2004-2024:

Rural and Natural Resource Element:

- Goal: Maintain and enhance the conservation of productive forestlands and discourage incompatible uses associated with forestry activities.

- Goal: Maintain and enhance productive agricultural lands and minimize incompatibilities with adjacent uses.

- Strategy: Evaluate a variety of funding sources and their feasibility for acquisition of land and other programs to implement the policies within the Rural and Natural Resource Element and to comply with regional salmon recovery goals and objectives.

Environmental Element:

- Goal: Protect and conserve environmentally critical areas (critical areas include: flood hazard areas, geologic hazard areas, shoreline and surface waters, habitat conservation areas, aquifer recharge areas, and scenic areas.)

- Goal: Protect and recover endangered species within Clark County.

- Goal: Protect, conserve, and recover salmonids within Clark County.

- Goal: Protect and enhance shorelines of Clark County.

- Goal: Manage the parks and open space of Clark County consistent with protecting water quality and critical areas, and with enhancing the recovery of listed species.

- Strategy: Incentives should be developed that encourage open space, recreation, and protection of the natural environment.

- Strategy: Evaluate a variety of funding sources and their feasibility for acquisition of land and other programs to implement the policies within the Environmental, Rural and Natural Resource elements and to comply with regional salmon recovery goals and objectives.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element**:**

- Goal: Maximize the quality of life in Clark County by providing regional open space, trails, parks, and recreational opportunities and facilities, and planning to acquire, restore, enhance, preserve, develop and manage these facilities and natural resources in such a manner as to afford the maximum benefit to the community.

- Goal: Encourage the retention of an open space system that provides park and recreational opportunities, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, increases access to natural resource lands and provides other community benefits as identified in the Clark County Open Space Commission Report.

- Goal: Develop a network of trails and bikeways throughout the county that will interconnect population centers, community facilities, work places, neighborhoods, recreational opportunities and natural greenspaces.

- Goal: Preserve, conserve, restore and enhance fish and wildlife conservation areas and open space lands and raise public awareness about the importance of these resources.

Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan Objectives

The primary goal of the Conservation Areas Plan is to establish an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's rivers, lakes, and streams, and to conserve other high-value habitat and open space lands. The following objectives are intended to support implementation of this goal. Objectives for habitat and greenways are presented first followed by farmland and forestland objectives, respectively.

Habitat and Greenways Objectives

- Implement high-value conservation projects as described in the Six-Year Capital Improvements Program included in Appendix B and other opportunities that may arise.

- Support high-value conservation projects with partnership agencies as described in the Six Year Capital Improvements Program - Partnership Project list included in Appendix B. The county will also work with partnership agencies to support opportunity projects that may not be included in this list as described in the Conservation Futures Guidance Document.

- Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies and private land conservation organizations to maximize funding opportunities and create efficiencies in preservation, restoration, enhancement and stewardship of conservation lands.

- Provide continuing opportunities for conservation funding by the County and partner agencies through implementation of the county's Legacy Lands program as described in the Conservation Futures Guidance Document.

- Establish a conservation system that provides a variety of opportunities for public use, outdoor recreation, and outdoor education, while locating and developing public use facilities that minimize impacts to sensitive habitats and other environmental features.

- Help provide a system of greenways that will support regional trail development consistent with the County's Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan.

- Provide access to water that supports the concept of water trails and encourages access to water bodies for kayaking, canoeing, other paddle craft and fishing.

- Develop stewardship plans and evaluate long-term management costs for each Legacy Lands acquisition unit.

Farmland Conservation Objectives

In March 2009, Clark County completed an Agricultural Preservation Strategies Report. A 20-member advisory committee met 11 times during the planning process. The committee's central charge was to develop a plan "that recommends short- and long-term actions to protect the opportunity to pursue and enhance commercial and non-commercial agriculture in the county." The final report identified a series of "barriers" to productive farming in Clark County, and submitted recommendations to help address the barriers. This subsection is based on findings from the 2009 farm report.

- Cooperate with agencies and interests to support establishment of one or more "Agricultural Production Districts" in Clark County. The Advisory Committee identified a goal of maintaining or aggregating contiguous blocks of land 100-150 acres as a desirable goal for a "district".

- Continue to explore partnerships that allow existing public lands to be used for farm production.

- Cooperate with agencies and interests to institute a purchase of development rights program that encourages land owners to keep land in agricultural production.

- Funds to acquire additional development rights on farmland should be a component of a major funding initiative for the purpose of acquiring open space and resource lands in Clark County.

- Identify funding sources that can be used to conserve high-value agricultural lands.

Forestland Conservation Objectives

The county's Comprehensive Land-Use Plan includes goals and policies designed to maintain and enhance productive forest resource lands. These lands cover approximately 38% of the county's land area. They include both private and public ownerships. They provide jobs, tax revenues, and products and materials for local use and export, and incompatible uses are discouraged. In the case of state forests, the Department of Natural Resources is required to manage trust lands to provide revenue for public schools, counties, and other beneficiaries primarily from the sale of timber. While economic benefits are primary features of forest resource lands, these lands also include valuable natural resources and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan includes strategies and objectives that are intended to support the conservation and maintenance of forest resource lands, while also supporting compatible habitat and outdoor recreation values.

- Coordinate with the Washington Farm Forestry Association, industrial forest land owners, State Department of Natural Resources, and other forest stakeholders to develop short-term (six-year) and long-term strategies that can help conserve and maintain forest resource lands in Clark County.

- Work with forest land owners and conservation partners to conserve properties on the perimeter of "anchor" forests, forest land in-holdings, and properties along the East Fork Lewis, Rock Creek and other streams, which, if conserved, will 1) provide important buffers to forest resource lands and 2) protect high-value habitat, biodiversity areas, and other conservation lands. (The acquisition by the Columbia Land Trust of the Copper Creek forest area along the East Fork Lewis is an example of this kind of project.)

- Identify forest lands with high conservation values that also have a high risk of conversion and identify strategies to preserve these resources.

- Identify and conserve high-value forest lands that support the recovery of ESA listed salmon and steelhead populations.

- Coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources to support the Western Yacolt Burn Forest Recreation Plan and identify and implement projects of joint interest that are part of the county's Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan; Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan. (Development of the Lucia Falls and Bells Mountain Trails by Clark County, the Chinook Trail Association, and other partners are examples of these kinds of projects.)

Chapter 5
Conservation Resources Inventory

5.1 Clark County

Clark County is located on the Columbia River in southwest Washington. The area of the county is 656 square miles. The Columbia River forms the west and south boundaries of the county, extending from river mile 87 at the confluence of the Lewis and Columbia Rivers to river mile 130 upstream of Reed Island at the west end of the Columbia River Gorge. The North Fork Lewis River forms the north boundary of the county, and the east boundary lies in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains on the west edge of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The county's landscape is characterized by low-lying floodplains along the Columbia River, which are most extensive between Vancouver Lake and the main-stem Lewis River and in the southeast corner in the area of the Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge. The lowlands transition into a series of gently rolling alluvial terraces and benches that rise step-like from the Columbia River. The eastern part of the county consists of high alluvial terraces that lie against volcanic foothills and mountains on the western slopes of the Cascade Range. Elevation changes range from a few feet above sea level along the Columbia River to almost 4,000 feet at high points in the Cascade foothills adjacent to Skamania County (Soil Survey of Clark County, Washington, 1972).

Clark County has an extensive system of rivers, streams, and lakes. According to Clark County's 2010 Stream Health Report, the county comprises 18 major watersheds. Individual streams range in size from the Columbia River, the largest river system in the Pacific Northwest, to major tributaries such as the East Fork Lewis and Washougal, to smaller urban streams such as Burnt Bridge Creek and Gee Creek whose watersheds occur entirely within the county. The East Fork Lewis, which enters the county at Sunset Falls at the west edge of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, is Clark County's largest free-flowing stream, and Salmon Creek is the largest stream flowing entirely within the county.

While all these streams vary in size, flow, and complexity, each provides a diversity of conservation values that are uniquely important within the landscape. These include clean water, flood protection, storm water control, ground water recharge, recreation opportunities, urban and rural buffers, historic and cultural resources, scenic views and vistas, and fish and wildlife habitat. In terms of habitat, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife notes that the "protection of riparian habitat, compared to other habitat types, may yield the greatest gains for fish and wildlife while involving the least amount of area… Wildlife occurs more often and in greater variety in riparian habitats than in any other habitat type" (Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitat – Riparian, December, 1997).

The county's lakes include both natural lakes and lakes formed by dams. The largest natural lake is Vancouver Lake located a few miles west of downtown Vancouver. It covers approximately 2600 acres, but the surface area varies considerably due to seasonal

fluctuations in water levels in the Columbia River system. Other lakes in the Columbia River lowlands include Green, Campbell, and Post Office Lakes. Battle Ground Lake, located in central Clark County, covers 28 acres and is the central feature of 280-acre Battle Ground Lake State Park. Major lakes formed by dams include Merwin and Yale Reservoirs, which are part of the North Fork Lewis River system, and Lacamas Lake, part of the Lacamas Creek system, north of downtown Camas.

In terms of the built environment, Clark County's landscape has been significantly altered by population growth and urbanization. Clark County is the fifth most populated county in the state. The Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates the county's 2012 population is 431,250. The county contains eight towns and cities: Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center, and Yacolt. A portion of the city of Woodland extends into the northwest corner of Clark County. Vancouver is the largest city, with a 2012 population of 163,200. In 2012, 24% of the county's land area fell within designated Urban Growth Boundaries.

5.2 Critical Habitat and Greenways

In developing the 2004 Conservation Plan, the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee established a core vision to preserve an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's system of rivers, streams and lakes, while protecting other high value resources. On a countywide scale, a variety of public agencies and private land conservation organizations have helped preserve and improve high-value conservation lands within this system. Primary agencies and organizations involved with acquisition/preservation include Clark County, all towns and cities within the county, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Natural Resources, and the Columbia Land Trust and other nonprofit conservation organizations.

Existing protected resources within this system include approximately 20,000 acres. These lands are widely distributed throughout the county and include extensive land holdings both inside and outside urban growth areas. Specific sites range from the federal wildlife refuges at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake to a variety of urban parks and natural areas. Examples include Fallen Leaf Lake and Camp Currie inside the city of Camas and Stewart's Glen and Leverich Parks inside the city of Vancouver.

The 2004 plan has an over-arching vision to establish an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's rivers, lakes, and streams, and uses watersheds as a planning framework for identifying resources, inventorying protected lands, highlighting needs, and prioritizing projects for conservation funding.

The 2014 update uses a similar framework and expands the number of watershed-based subareas from 18 to 19. As with the 2004 plan, project areas may include an entire watersheds (e.g, Burnt Bridge Creek: mouth to headwaters); or may include subwatersheds (e.g., Salmon Creek: mouth to Morgan Creek). Subarea narratives and maps have been developed for each project area, including quantitative metrics (e.g., watershed acres, stream miles, acres of protected lands); summary descriptions of

subareas; and maps which identify watershed boundaries and high-value conservation lands based on GIS data. Appendix A includes the narratives and maps for each of the 19 subareas. Table #3 at the end of this chapter provides a chronology of conservation acquisitions facilitated by the conservation futures/legacy lands program.

5.3 Farm Resources

Clark County historically has placed high value on the preservation of productive farmland. Moreover, farming continues to be an important element of the county's economy. While still important, the scale and type of farming that occurs in Clark County has changed significantly over the past several decades.

According to the U.S. farm census, 1950 was the peak year for farm acres. The farmland inventory included 219,000 acres, or 52% of the county's land base. Over time, the amount of farmland has generally continued to decline, and farm size has continued to grow smaller. In 1982, farm acres totaled 101,660; in 2002, farm acres totaled 70,679. The farm census showed some increase in farm acres in 2007 to 78,359; however, the average farm size was only 37 acres, and about three-quarters of the county's farms earned less than $5,000 in business.

The type of farming has also changed. The Soil Conservation Service reported in 1972 that: "Dairying is the most important farm enterprise in the county; it accounts for more than 40 percent of the value of farm products sold. Ranking second and third are livestock and poultry. Other important farm products are vegetables, berries, and orchard fruits." (Soil Survey of Clark County, 1972) As recently as 1984, Clark County supported 84 dairies. Today, as an example of change, there are fewer than 10 dairies still operating in the county (Globalwise, 2007).

While the size and types of farms have changed, resource conditions, including climate and soils, are still highly conducive to farming (phone communication, Clark Conservation District, October 2007). Products that have maintained or grown their position in the county's farm economy include ornamental plants, Christmas trees, poultry, horses, vineyards and wineries and specialty vegetable crops. New marketing trends include Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which provides subscription opportunities to purchase vegetables and other commodities on a weekly basis. There is also growth in the number of farmers markets within the county and increasing interest in locally grown food initiatives promoted through the Clark County Food System Council and other interests.

Clark County's 20-Year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan establishes a primary framework to preserve agriculture. In the natural resource element, county goals include "to preserve and enhance productive agricultural lands and minimize incompatible uses." Strategies include: evaluating a variety of funding sources and their feasibility for acquisition of resource lands. Moreover, under the state's Growth Management Act, counties are required to designate farm resource lands. Clark County currently has 32,505 acres of designated farm resource lands, and 48,035 acres enrolled the county's

current use taxation program for farming. Appendix A includes a countywide map that shows zoned farmland and farmland that has been placed under current use.

In developing the 2004 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan, the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee used the designated farm resource lands as a basic framework. These designated lands were divided into 42 subareas, and a profile was created for each subarea. Profiles included total acres; soil quality (expressed as a percentage of prime and unique soils within the subarea); parcel size (expressed as total acres within the subarea that are in parcels 40 acres or larger), and ability to support agriculture (based on ratings by farm resource agency staff). In addition, subareas were sorted into "attached" and "detached" lists based on proximity to habitat and greenway systems. The plan did not prioritize individual projects or subareas. Instead, the plan stated that these profiles should be used as guidelines to help make decisions about conserving the highest priority farm resource lands. While the county elected not to submit to voters a corresponding real estate excise tax funding measure, the profiles still provide one important tool for evaluating farm land and conservation projects. See the 2004 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan to view the farm profile summary and map.

In March 2008, the Board of County Commissioners appointed a 20-member Agricultural Preservation Advisory Committee to help develop a comprehensive Agriculture Preservation Strategies Report. Modeled after a similar document prepared in King County, the Clark County report identified a series of barriers to a "more robust" agricultural sector and identified strategies to respond to each barrier. Barriers identified in the plan range from insufficient technical support to overly restrictive regulatory requirements. The plan also cites the high cost of land as a barrier to improved farm opportunities.

This update of the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan recognizes the importance of the 2004 Conservation Plan and 2009 Agriculture Preservation Strategies Report. This update also recognizes that purchase of development rights is only one tool in a broader collection of strategies that will be needed to sustain farming in Clark County.

5.4 Forest Resources

Clark County benefits from extensive tracts of highly productive forest resource lands. Under the state's Growth Management Act, Clark County has designated 159,697 acres (or 38% of the county's land area) as forest resource. These are divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 land-use zones, which are devoted primarily to commercial forest activities and have 80- and 40-acre minimum lots sizes respectively.

Generally, the county's Tier 1 forest lands are located in the eastern parts of the county in the foothills of the Cascades adjacent to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and in the north-central parts of the county south of the North Fork Lewis River. Tier 1 forest lands north of the East Fork Lewis River are dominated by privately owned industrial land managers. Areas south of the East Fork Lewis are dominated by the state's Western Yacolt Burn Forest, which covers approximately 40,000 acres located in Clark County.

As noted in DNR's Western Yacolt Burn Forest Recreation Plan, The Yacolt Burn Forest comprises trust lands that DNR manages primarily to generate revenue through the harvest of timber to support trust beneficiaries including public schools and counties. However, these public lands also provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. The DNR estimates that each year 50,000 people visit the Western Yacolt Burn, in part because of its close proximity to the Vancouver/Portland urban area and in part because neighboring private land managers restrict motorized recreation trails on their land (Western Yacolt Burn Forest Recreation Plan, August 2010).

The county's Tier II forest lands are generally located on the borders of Tier 1 industrial forests. They tend to be located at lower elevations and closer to urban centers. While these parcels can be highly productive forest lands; they are also more prone to conversion from spreading development and conflicts with non-forest users. The Washington Farm Forestry Association and other forest businesses and ownership groups have expressed strong concern about the ongoing loss of these kinds of lands to non-forest uses. A map of the Tier 1 (FR-80) and Tier II (FR-40) forest resource designations is included in Appendix A.

In developing the 2004 Conservation Areas Plan, the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee adopted a conceptual framework that included three core elements: Critical Habitat, Greenways and Trails, and Farmland. While the 2004 plan did not include a working forests element per se, the 2014 update strongly supports the county's GMA resource goal: "to maintain and enhance the conservation of productive forestlands and discourage incompatible uses associated with forestry activities." Moreover, this plan recognizes that public and private forest resource lands, taken together, provide a variety of conservation values which would be lost with the conversion of these lands to residential development and other uses. These include outdoor recreation, surface and ground water resources, views and vistas, and fish and wildlife habitat.

In terms of habitat, the county's forest lands provide some of the most important areas for terrestrial wildlife, including large mammals such as elk, deer, cougar, and bear that are being displaced by population growth and expanding urban and suburban development. The bi-state *Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland – Vancouver Region* developed by the Intertwine Alliance created landscape-scale maps of high-value habitat for terrestrial wildlife species. This conservation plan shows the county's designated forest lands in combination with these high-value habitats; the resulting map (see Appendix A) clearly shows these relationships. In addition to habitat for terrestrial wildlife, commercial forest areas also include some of the most productive stream reaches in the county for ESA-listed steelhead populations. Especially important in this regard are the upper East Fork Lewis and the Rock Creek tributary to the East Fork Lewis.

Chapter 6
Need

6.1 Overview

Clark County possesses a rich variety of natural resources and landscapes that provide scenic, historic, cultural, agricultural, environmental, and outdoor recreation values. Natural features include a diversity of lakes, rivers, marshes, wetlands, shorelines, meadows, and forests. These land and water areas support a wide diversity of fish and wildlife, including ESA-listed populations of salmon and steelhead. They also provide opportunities for popular recreation activities, including hiking, swimming, fishing, kayaking and canoeing, picnicking, and biking. Our farmlands, while diminished, are still highly productive and an important part of our economy, and our forest resource lands cover 38% of the county's land area. While these resources are substantial and a highly valued part of our quality of life, they are also finite and easily impacted by a variety of changing conditions in an urbanizing environment. This chapter examines some of primary issues and needs for conservation lands protections.

6.2 Population and Development Trends

Population growth and new development have the greatest impact, direct and indirect, on our wildlife habitat, farms, working forests and other conservation lands. Between 1970 and 2012, the county's population increased by 235% from 128,500 to 431,250. Clark County is the 5th most populated county in the state, and urban growth boundaries cover 24% of our landscape. While population trends will fluctuate over time, significant growth is almost certain to continue and the state Growth Management Act requires cities, towns, and counties to review urban growth boundaries every 7-10 years to accommodate new growth.

As our population grows, the built environment will continue to expand and undeveloped portions of the landscape will convert to housing, roads, and commercial and industrial uses. Moreover, the division of property into smaller parcels makes land conservation increasingly difficult, and a growing population will increase demand on existing resources for clean water, locally produced crops, and recreation and outdoor education opportunities. These trends create immediate need to preserve our highest priority conservation lands.

6.3 Outdoor Recreation

Clark County residents have repeatedly expressed high demand for protecting our most important conservation lands and providing recreation opportunities. As part of the original 2004 Conservation Areas Plan, the county conducted a countywide public opinion survey to help assess attitudes about preserving conservation lands. The survey involved a sample size of 300 and was conducted by phone. The survey asked: on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means "highly important" and 1 means "not at all important," how important to you is the preservation of greenways for public use, such as along rivers, streams, and lakes. The average score for all respondents was 8.5. In addition, the survey prioritized outdoor recreational activities based on family participation. The top five activities in order were: hiking/walking/running/jogging, fishing, camping, bicycling,

and swimming. The county's conservation lands system provides an important environment for each of these activities.

This 2014 update continues to identify greenways and trails as a core element of the conservation lands system. In doing so, this plan closely meshes with the County's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and Regional Trail & Bikeway Systems Plan. These plans, for example, identify 16 regional, multi-use trail corridors. Eight of these generally align with one or more of the project area corridors that are identified in the 2014 Conservation Plan. These include Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway (Columbia River Lowlands), Lake to Lake (Burnt Bridge Creek, Lower Lacamas), Salmon Creek Greenway, East Fork Lewis River, Battle Ground/Fisher's Landing (Upper Lacamas), Washougal River Corridor, North Fork Lewis Greenway, and Whipple Creek Greenway.

In addition, the trails plan identifies a high need for a system of water trails to help respond to the growing popularity of kayaking and canoeing in the county. The proposed network includes the Columbia River, Vancouver Lake/Lake River, East Fork/North Lewis, and the lower Lacamas Corridor. To support these activities, the Vancouver-Clark Parks Department and National Park Service, along with a 20-member committee of stakeholders, completed development in 2014 of the county's first water trail guide that covers Vancouver Lake, Lake River, and lower sections of the East Fork and North Fork Lewis. The trail guide identifies access points, key features, trail routes, and encourages compatible recreational uses within some of the county's most important conservation lands.

6.4 Critical Habitat

Clark County's land and water resources provide habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife, including over 240 bird species, 55 species of mammals, and more than 40 species of fish ranging from perch and bass to ESA-listed eulachon and salmon populations. Clark County places high value on sustaining these populations and the habitat that supports them. However, population growth, land division, and residential and commercial development place pressures on virtually all of these species. The Washington Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WDFW 2005) reports that "Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation are the major threats to the persistence of Washington's Fish and Wildlife."

In December 2009, WDFW published a guidance document called "Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas." This plan describes the wide range of benefits provided by sustaining wildlife habitat and biodiversity: "Biodiversity has aesthetic, cultural, educational and economic value to people. The retention and restoration of wildlife habitat in the developing landscape provides ecological services important to humans and communities." A partial list of benefits cited includes improved water quality, control of storm water and floods, and the reduction of carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.

This document also notes that wildlife are best served by keeping large, connected patches of undeveloped native vegetation intact, and planning open space to incorporate high-value habitat and corridors for animal movement. In developing the county's 2004 and 2014 plans, these concepts are basic elements of the county's conservation vision to create an interconnected system of greenways and habitat along the county's rivers, streams, and lakes. The planning process involves the mapping of high-value interconnected systems that emphasize biodiversity and preservation of areas with the highest aggregation of open space values including wetlands, floodplains, riparian, and non-riparian priority habitat. In doing so, the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan hopes to meet the considerable challenge of creating a system of wildlife habitat that will support our diverse species as population growth occurs and our urban landscape approaches build-out.

6.5 Critical Habitat (ESA-Listed Salmon Recovery)

Clark County provides essential habitat for four populations of salmonids (Chinook, chum, coho, and steelhead) that have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. These fish historically thrived in Clark County's rivers; however, changes in habitat and other factors have reduced their numbers to levels of potential extinction. Efforts to restore these populations are being coordinated by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, whose member agencies include Clark County and four neighboring counties. The Washington Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish and Wildlife Subbasin Plan (May 2010) provides a comprehensive blueprint for recovering salmon within the region and Clark County. A primary goal of the plan is to "Restore the region's fish species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act to healthy, harvestable levels."

Clark County plays a vital role in the recovery of listed salmon. The East Fork Lewis, North Fork Lewis, and Washougal Rivers support populations of all four listed species and have been specifically identified as key watersheds to support recovery in the Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Fish and Wildlife Subbasin Plan. Salmon Creek, Whipple Creek, Flume Creek, and other smaller tributaries all support populations of ESA-listed salmon, and are important for stabilizing existing fish populations. The plan identifies the preservation of intact habitat along the county's streams as a top priority action for salmon recovery. In addition, the acquisition of riparian and aquatic habitat, even when degraded, provides the opportunity for a wide range of preservation, enhancement and restoration actions. In the East Fork Lewis, Washougal, and North Fork Lewis Rivers, many restoration partners have implemented projects on county-acquired lands. These include the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, Clark Public Utilities, Fish First, Friends of the East Fork, and the Cowlitz Tribe. Goals and strategies contained in this plan emphasize the need to acquire, restore, and enhance aquatic, riparian and associated uplands habitat as part of the region-wide efforts to recover federally listed salmon populations.

6.6 Resource Lands

Clark County's farm and forest resource managers have identified population growth, expanding development, farm and forest land conversion, and the high cost of resource

lands as key issues. Moreover, programs such as purchase of development rights are cited as one tool to help sustain farm and forest practices. In April 2007, Globalwise, Inc., a Clark County-based agricultural economics consulting firm, completed for Clark County a report that examines agricultural conditions and economic trends. The report documents the shrinking inventory of farm acres, but it also highlights the cost of land and the need to address support services. The report states: "Rapidly escalating land prices in the County have created a major barrier for new farmers to enter the business. Intervention in the land market by actions such as purchase of development rights is the only assured way of holding land for agriculture. However, most often these types of land resource programs also need to be implemented with other farm support programs to guide the agriculture industry to greater prosperity in a highly urbanizing county."

Similar conditions and needs are cited in the county's 2009 Agriculture Preservation Strategies Report. The report identifies a series of barriers that restrain a more robust agricultural sector. These range from the need for better marketing and promotion to less restrictive regulations and enhanced technical support. The report also identifies the high cost of farm land as a significant barrier. "Today," the report states, "most new farmers cannot afford to acquire good farmland. Existing farmers cannot acquire additional lands to enhance their operations and many feel economic pressure to sell their land and get out of farming." To reduce these barriers, the report specifically states the need to develop a purchase of development rights program and to include in any new major funding initiative the acquisition of development rights to protect farm resource lands in any new conservation funding initiative.

Forest land managers have also cited population growth and the conversion of forest resource lands as potential barriers to sustaining a robust forest economy. In general, small forest properties located at lower elevations in closer proximity to urban centers are the most vulnerable. While these lands can be extremely productive, they are also located at the interface between urbanizing populations and middle and higher elevations where federal, state, and industrial forest lands are found. These conditions make the family forest resource lands more vulnerable to conversion. While the 2004 Conservation Areas Plan did not include a forest resource element per se, Clark County places high value on preserving these important resources and supports the specific strategy adopted in the County's 20-Year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan to "evaluate a variety of funding sources and their feasibility for acquisition of land and other programs to implement the policies within the Rural and Natural Resource Element and to comply with regional salmon recovery goals and objectives."

Chapter 7
Implementation Mechanisms

7.1 Conservation Areas Fund Source Manual

A variety of funding opportunities are available to counties in the state of Washington to help acquire and improve conservation lands. These include both grants and non-grant programs that generate revenue or otherwise can help achieve conservation lands protection and improvement. A separate manual (Appendix D) has been developed that highlights more than 30 grant programs and other implementation tools.

This separate manual includes summaries, in table format, of 26 grant programs. Entries include information about managing agency, purpose, eligible projects, grant limits, matching requirements, application deadlines and cycles, and available grant amounts and/or grant history. It should be emphasized that this kind of information can be a useful screen to help determine whether a grant program might be a good match for individual projects. However, grant applicants should review more completely grant guidelines, evaluation criteria, and other background materials, as well as communicate with grant program managers, before fully committing to grant development.

This manual also includes summaries of nine other programs that generate funds or otherwise achieve conservation lands protection. These include, for example, Conservation Futures levy, Conservation Areas Real Estate Excise Tax, and the state's Trust Lands Transfer Program. A directory of the fund sources appears below.

Fund Sources – Grants
Acres for American – NFWF
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account – WA RCO
Coastal Protection Fund (Terry Husseman Account) – WA DOE
Community Forest Trusts – WA DNR
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (HCP Land Acq. Grants) – USFWS
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Recovery Land Acq.) – USFWS
Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program – NRCS
Forest Legacy Program – USFS
Habitat Restoration Program – LCREP
Land and Water Conservation Fund – RCO/NPS
Lewis River Aquatics Fund - PacifiCorp
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (Traditional Program) - USFWS
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Small Grants) – USFWS
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Standard Grants) – USFWS
Salmon Recovery Program – SRFB/LCRFB/RCO
Water Quality Financial Assistance Program – WA DOE
(Centennial Clean Water, Section 319, Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund)
Wetlands Reserve Program (Permanent and 30-Year Easements) – NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program (10-Year Restoration Cost-Share) – NRCS
Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative – Ecotrust and Partners
WWRP Critical Habitat – WA RCO

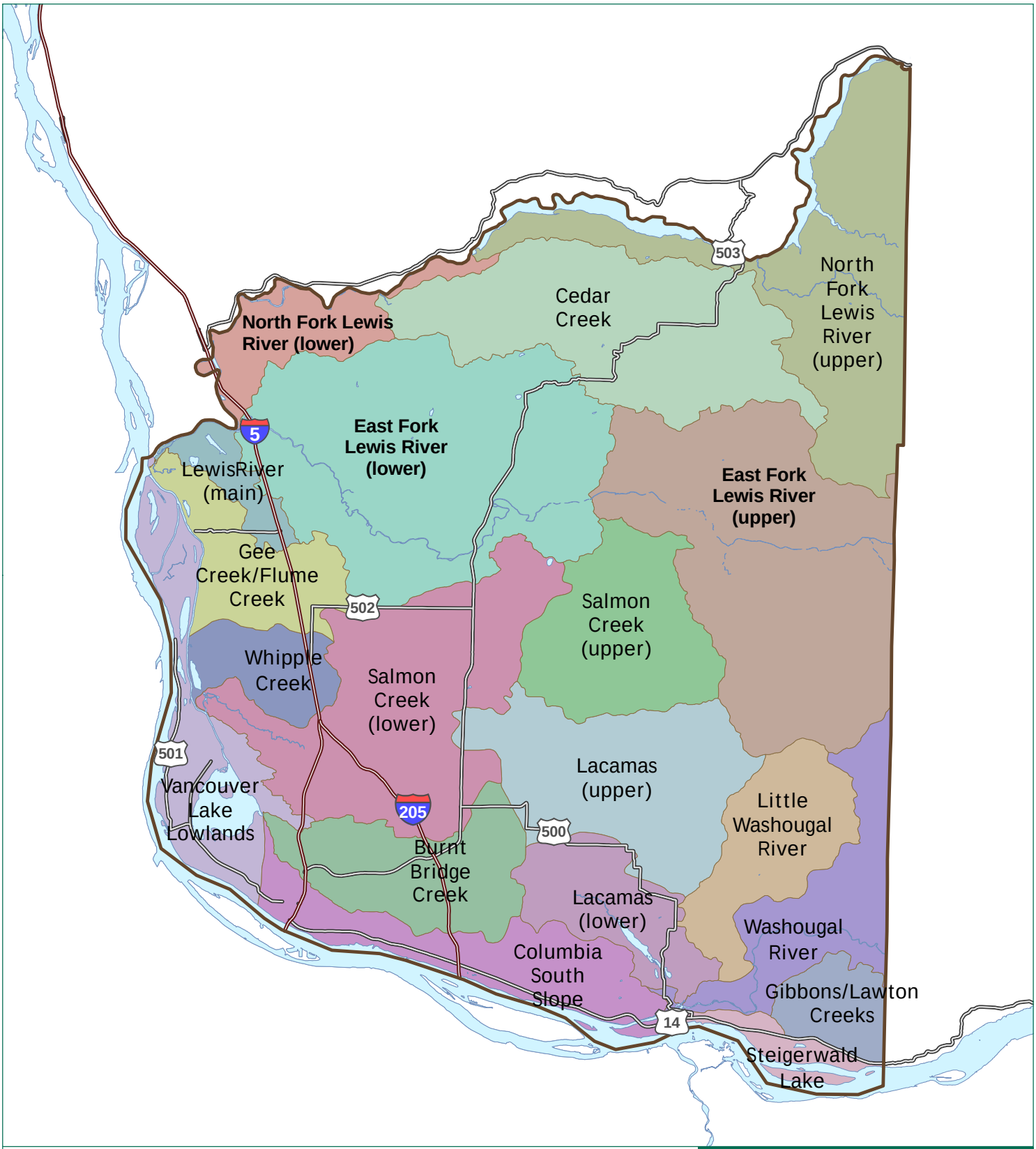
WWRP Farmland Preservation – WA RCO
WWRP Local Park – WA RCO
WWRP Riparian Protection – WA RCO
WWRP Trails – WA RCO
WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat – WA RCO
WWRP Water Access – WA RCO

Fund Sources Public – Other Tools
Conservation Futures
County Bonds (Voted GO, Councilmanic, Revenue)
Impact Fees
Lid Lift
Real Estate Excise Tax Options
Real Estate Excise Tax – Conservation Areas
Trust Lands Transfer Program
Columbia River Estuary Mitigation –BPA

Fund Sources Private
Private-Sector Grants Overview

Clark County
Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan

Appendix A
Subarea Maps and Summaries



County Boundary
Interstates
State Highways
Lakes
Rivers & Creeks

November 27, 2013
Data: Columbia Land Trust, USGS, WSDOT
Cartography by CORE GIS LLC

0 2.5 5
Miles

County Subareas

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

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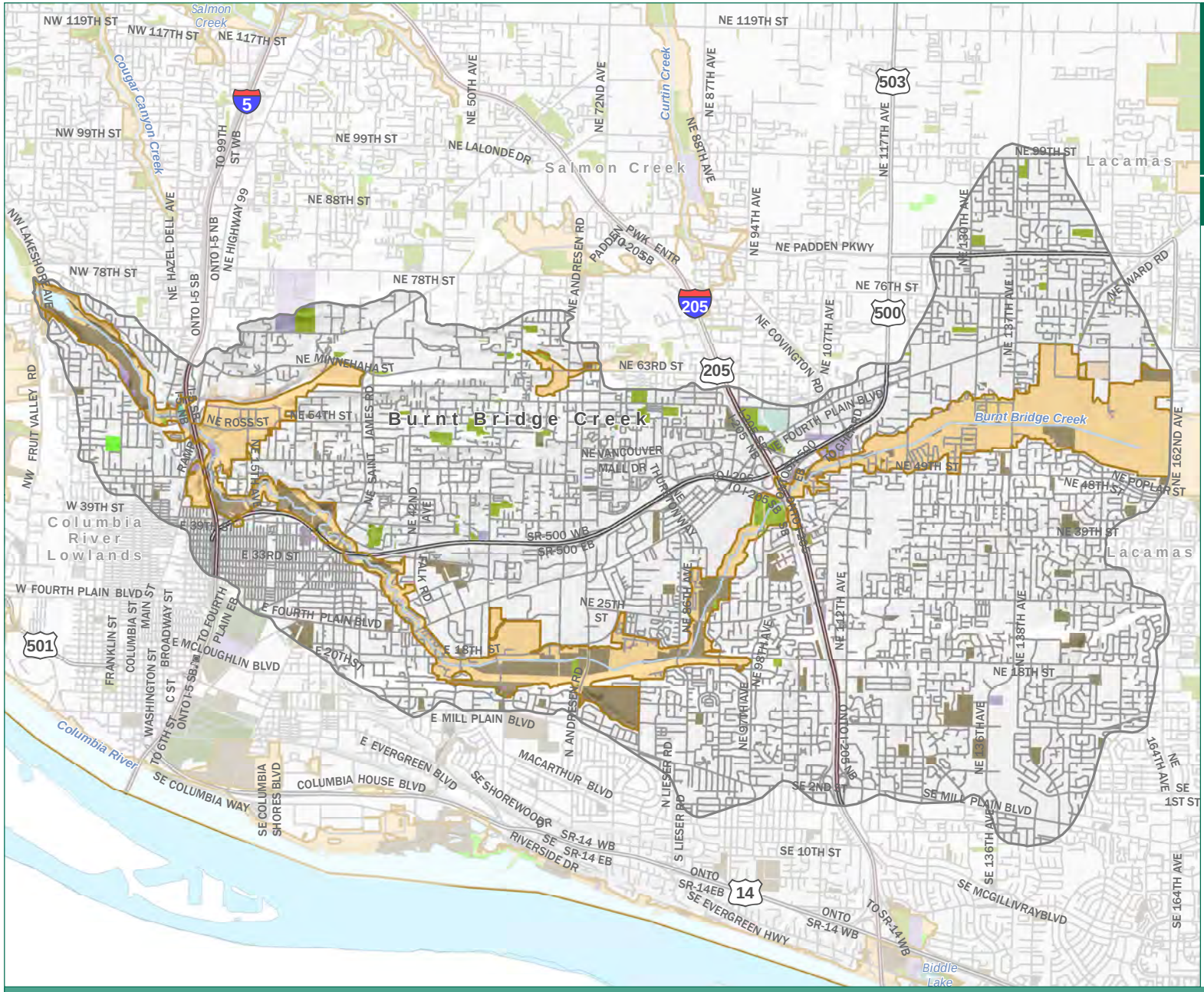
Burnt Bridge Creek

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	17,435
High Value Conservation Lands	2,304
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	495
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	211

Population

2000	102,851
2010	115,353
Change 2000-2010	12,502
Percent Change 2000-2010	12%

Streams

Fish-bearing (ft)	64,856
Salmon-bearing (ft)	62,040
Percent Salmon-bearing	96%

UGA/City

City/UGA	17,435
Pct City/UGA	100%

Subarea:

Burnt Bridge Creek

Area Description:

Mouth to Headwaters of Burnt Bridge Creek

Photo by Mike Houck

Burnt Bridge Creek is a highly modified urban stream that flows westward 12.6 miles through the city of Vancouver to its terminus at Vancouver Lake. The creek's headwaters are located near NE 162nd Avenue. Upper sections of the creek were originally created when marshes and wetlands were ditched and drained to enhance farm land. West of NE 18th Street the stream flows along a more natural path. However, the entire stream corridor has been heavily impacted by roadways, utilities, housing, and commercial and industrial development. In recent years, the city of Vancouver has been restoring middle sections of the creek to enhance wetlands, water quality, wildlife habitat, and to improve flood control. Vancouver-Clark Parks and other city departments have acquired extensive parks, greenways, trail corridors and natural areas within the system, especially downstream of I-205.

Despite heavy development, the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway provides a variety of recreation opportunities and urban wildlife habitat. Key sites include 118-acre Stewart's Glen which extends from Fruit Valley Road to Hazel Dell Avenue, Leverich Park, Arnold Park, the Falk Road Greenway, Devine Road Greenway, Lettuce Fields, and Meadow Brook Marsh. Today, public ownerships cover over 300 acres, and include some of the most popular recreation sites in the city. Over time, the city has also developed eight miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails, identified as a segment of the Lake to Lake Trail in the Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan. The segment extends through the greenway from Stewart's Glen to Meadow Brook Marsh. Stewart's Glen, just upstream from Vancouver Lake, includes forested hillsides, wetlands, and marshes that support a variety of ducks, geese, hawks, owls, and other wildlife that inhabit urban greenspaces.

The Clark County Open Space Commission Report, Regional Trails and Bikeway Systems Plan, and 2004 Conservation Areas Plan have all identified the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway as a top priority. The county's Legacy Lands Program has provided conservation futures funds for acquisition projects in the Falk Road and Devine Road Greenway systems. The acquisition and preservation of riparian, wetlands, floodplain and uplands property throughout the system continues to be a high priority, especially where new acquisitions expand or link existing facilities. The acquisition of property that supports the "Lake to Lake" (Vancouver Lake to Lacamas Lake) trail corridor is also a top priority.

Columbia South Slope

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.5 1
Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	19,286	2000	68,973	Fish-bearing	134,257	City/UGA	20,458
High Value Conservation Lands	6,771	2010	82,548	Salmon-bearing	80,336	Pct City/UGA	92%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	522	Change 2000-2010	13,575	Percent Salmon-bearing	60%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	139	Percent Change 2000-2010	20%				

Subarea:

Columbia South Slope

Area Description:

Along the Columbia River from Fruit Valley Road to the Washougal River

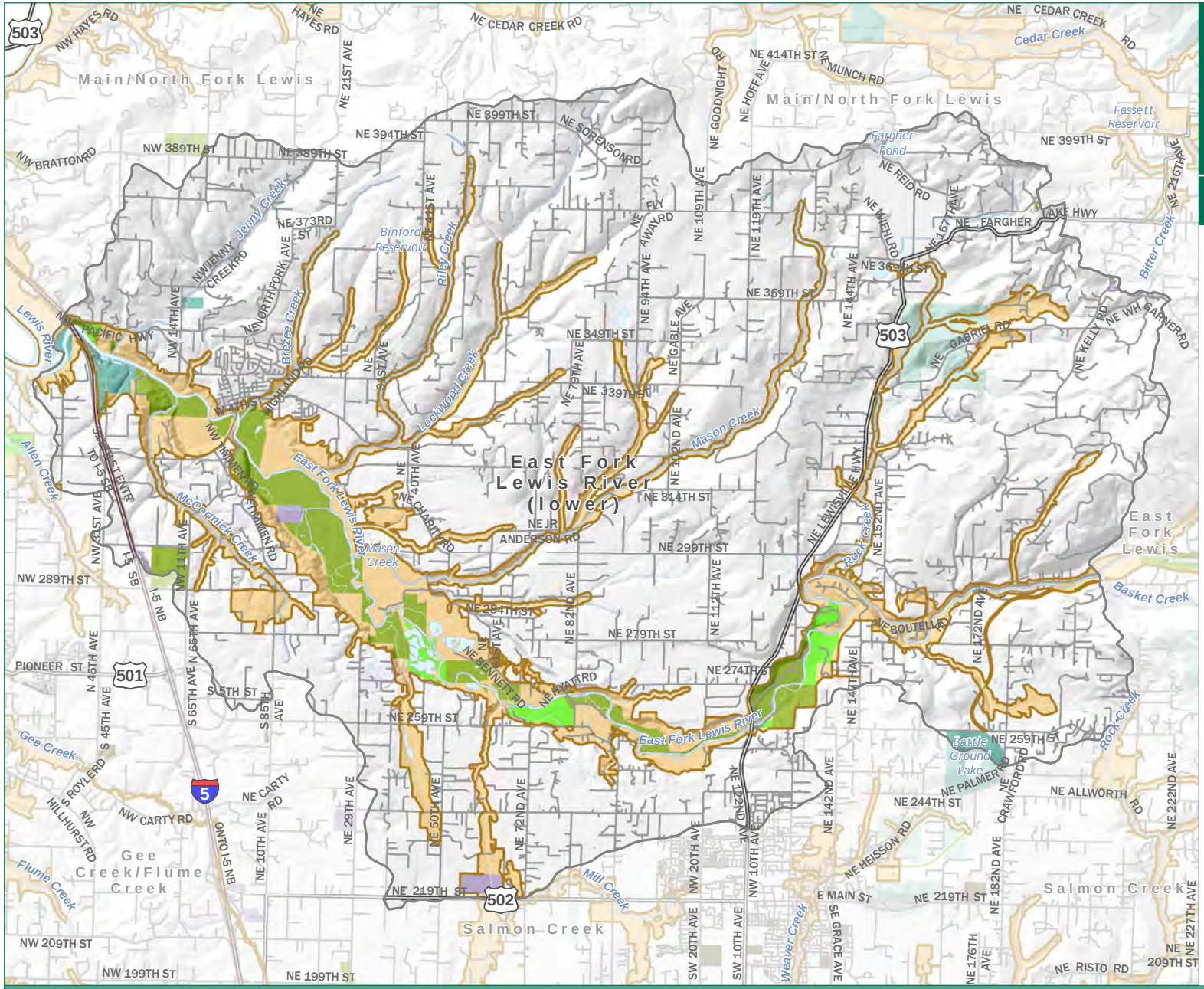
Columbia South Slope extends from downtown Vancouver west of the I-5 Bridge to the mouth of the Washougal River inside the Camas city limits. Shorelines and associated uplands are heavily developed throughout the project area. Development near Vancouver includes river-dependent industrial development, as well as high-density residential and commercial properties. Upstream areas include extensive single-family residential development. The I-205 Bridge crosses the Columbia at river mile 113 near the center of the project area. The old Evergreen Highway is a key feature that borders the Columbia River south of and parallel to State Highway 14.

Despite the level of residential and industrial development, Columbia South Slope provides several important river access sites and urban habitat features. Marine Park, Wintler Park, and the Water Resources Education Center are located two to three miles east of the I-5 Bridge. The Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail connects these facilities to downtown Vancouver. Columbia Springs provides a 100-acre urban natural area and outdoor education center immediately upstream of the I-205 Bridge. This facility surrounds the historic Vancouver Trout Hatchery managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Other protected lands include Mimsi Marsh on the north side of the Evergreen Highway and Woods Landing along the Columbia Shoreline, which provides a high-value sanctuary for spawning populations of ESA-listed chum salmon.

Opportunities to secure public access and preserve urban open space are limited in this subarea. Project priorities include the acquisition of Columbia River shoreline and associated uplands between SE 192nd Avenue and the Washougal River, as well as forested hillsides east of SE 164th Avenue and north of the Evergreen Highway. The cities and county should continue to explore opportunities to preserve riparian areas, wetlands, and small streams and seeps that support clean water, urban habitat, and salmon recovery. The Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail is planned along the Evergreen Highway corridor between Vancouver and Washougal. Partner agencies should explore development of safe bicycle and pedestrian trail opportunities within the corridor.

East Fork Lewis River (lower)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.5 1 Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	54,926	2000	15,797	Fish-bearing	540,161	City/UGA	3,543
High Value Conservation Lands	8,971	2010	18,774	Salmon-bearing	429,312	Pct City/UGA	6%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	2,112	Change 2000-2010	2,977	Percent Salmon-bearing	79%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	178	Percent Change 2000-2010	19%				

Subarea:

East Fork Lewis (lower)

Area Description:

From the mouth of the East Fork Lewis River to Heisson Bridge including McCormick, Brezee, Lockwood, Mason, Dean, and Mill Creeks

The lower East Fork Lewis River subarea extends from the main stem Lewis River near Paradise Point State Park to Heisson Bridge at river mile 19. Upper sections of this subarea are characterized by a well-defined channel with intermittent pools and rapids. Lower sections flow through a broad floodplain that is more than a mile wide above the La Center Bridge. Primary tributaries from downstream to upstream include McCormick Creek, Brezee Creek, Lockwood Creek, Mason Creek, Dean Creek, Mill Creek and Manley Creek. Tidal cycles influence the river to about the location of Mason Creek.

The lower East Fork Lewis provides some of the most diverse and complex wildlife habitat in the county, and is a popular resource for outdoor recreation. The bottomlands near La Center are state-designated priority habitat for large concentrations of migratory waterfowl and wintering bald eagles. The river supports federally listed populations of steelhead, coho, Chinook, and chum salmon. Wetlands, side channels and riparian edges provide critical rearing and over-wintering habitat for juvenile salmonids, The lower main stem of the East Fork Lewis River provides spawning habitat for fall Chinook.

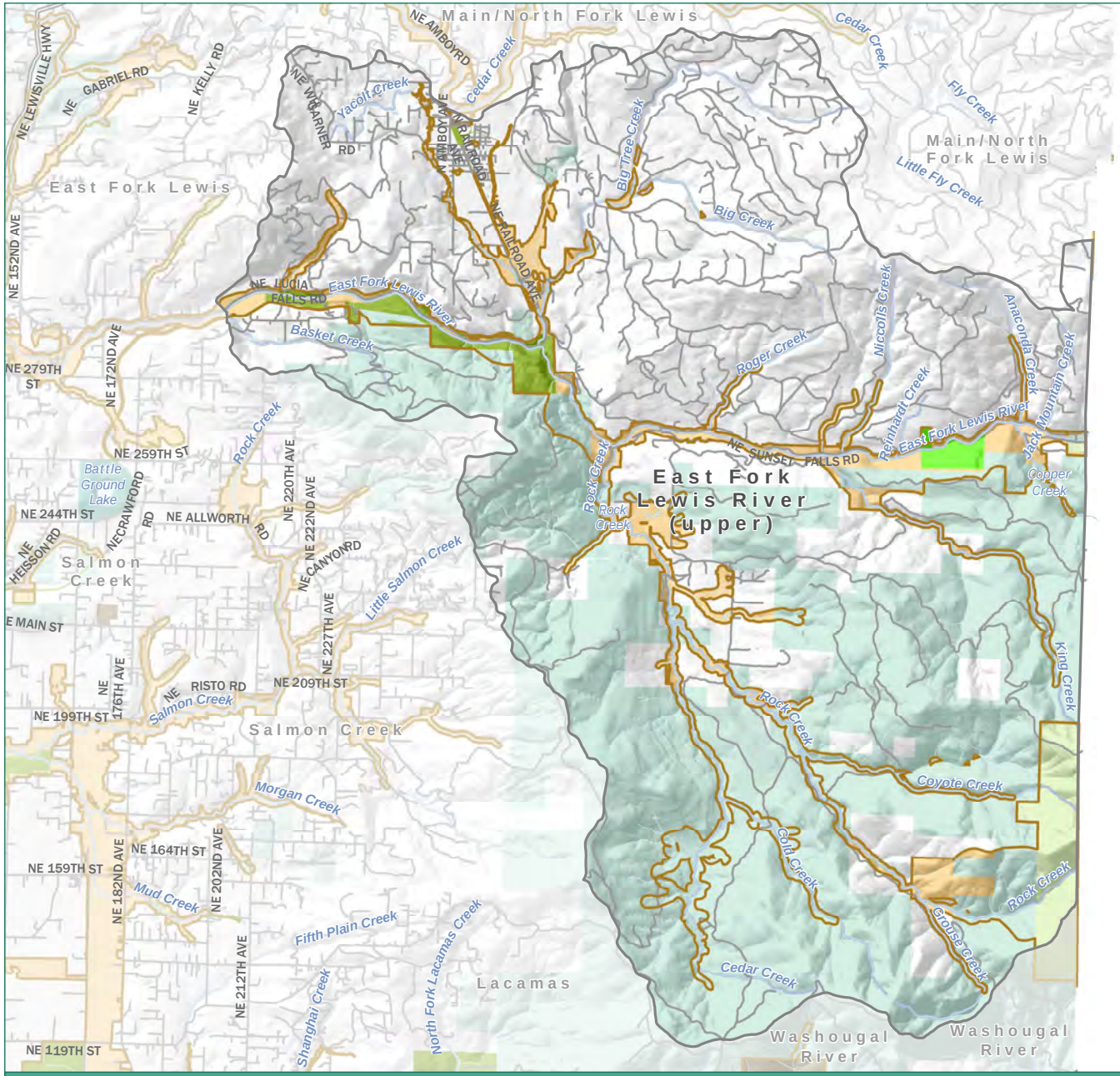
Clark County, State Parks, State Fish and Wildlife, and private nonprofit conservation organizations have helped conserve approximately 2,300 acres within the Lower East Fork Lewis River subarea. These include a variety of recreation sites, including Paradise Point State Park, La Center Bottoms, Daybreak Park, Lewis River Ranch and Lewisville Park. The private nonprofit Environmental Enhancement Group manages a 125-acre wildlife preserve at approximately river mile 8.5 in the old Ridgefield gravel pits impact area.

The East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail is a primary corridor identified in the County's Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan. It extends through this subarea and continues through the Upper East Fork Lewis River subarea to Sunset Falls campground near the Skamania County boundary. The Regional Bikeway and Trail Systems Plan also calls for the establishment of the Vancouver Lake/Lake River Water Trail and the East Fork Lewis River Water Trail. The Vancouver-Clark Parks Department and National Park Service sponsored development of a Vancouver Lake/Lake River water trails guide (completed in 2013) that also highlights lower sections of the East Fork and North Fork Lewis Rivers. Along the East Fork, access points are shown at La Center and Paradise Point State Park.

Key objectives for the lower East Fork include working with partners to preserve, restore and enhance aquatic and riparian habitats for all populations of ESA-listed salmon, as well as other fish and wildlife – including migratory waterfowl. The Project Opportunities list included in Appendix B calls for improving recreation facilities at lower Daybreak Regional Park. Other near-term projects include working with partners to enhance access points for the Lake River/Lewis River water trail, and exploring opportunities to improve hiking trails at the Lewis River Ranch and other key locations.

East Fork Lewis River (upper)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.6 1.2 Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	51,550	2000	2,893	Fish-bearing	364,970	City/UGA	374
High Value Conservation Lands	6,853	2010	5,056	Salmon-bearing	246,528	Pct City/UGA	1%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	1,451	Change 2000-2010	2,163	Percent Salmon-bearing	68%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	92	Percent Change 2000-2010	75%				

Subarea:

East Fork Lewis River (upper)

Area Description:

From the East Fork Lewis River at Heisson Bridge to the Clark County line, including upper Rock Creek

The East Fork Lewis River is Clark County's largest free-flowing stream. It rises near Cougar Rock in the Cascade Mountains and enters Clark County at river mile 32 at the west edge of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Eastern portions of the project area are dominated by private and state-managed industrial forestlands. The state's Western Yacolt Burn Forest dominates the land area south of the East Fork Lewis. Downstream sections of the project area include family-forest operations and large-lot rural residential properties. Single-family residential development is extensive at various locations near the river, especially between Heisson and the Hantwick Road Bridge and in the vicinity of Dole Valley.

Upper reaches of the East Fork Lewis are characterized by steep gradients and interspersed pools and rapids. Major tributaries include Rock Creek, King Creek, and Copper Creek. The main stem includes four major water falls: Lucia, Moulton, Horseshoe, and Sunset, the last of which is located at the Clark/Skamania County Line. Lucia Falls is generally considered the upstream limit of Coho and Chinook salmon migrations and is a major staging area for winter and summer steelhead. The watershed includes extensive remote forest lands which include highly valuable habitat for elk, deer, bear, cougar, coyotes, eagles, hawks, and other terrestrial wildlife. These sections of the basin also include some of the highest priority river reaches for winter and summer steelhead populations.

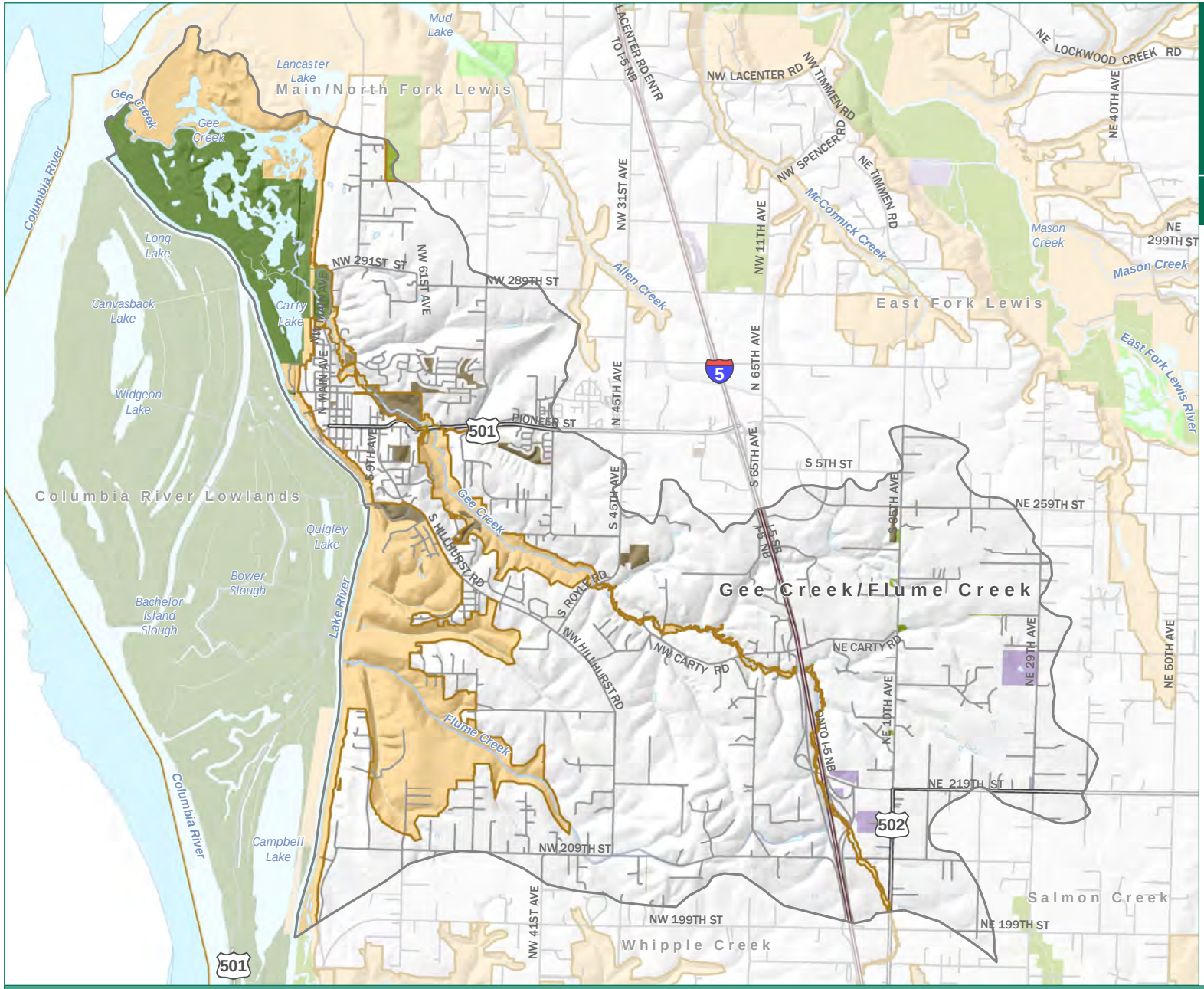
Clark County has acquired an extensive park and greenway system that extends from Lucia to Moulton Falls. The Lucia Falls Trail extends three miles from Lucia to Moulton Falls on the south side of the river and provides opportunities for biking and hiking. It serves as a segment of both the East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail and the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail. The Bells Mountain Trail extends nine miles south to Cold Creek Campground which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources along with Rock Creek campground and the Tarbell Trail system. Other protected lands include 165 acres of shoreline and forestlands approximately one mile downstream from Copper Creek that is owned and managed by the Columbia Land Trust.

Priority projects include preserving aquatic, riparian and uplands habitat on the main East Fork Lewis and Rock Creek that support the recovery of ESA-listed steelhead populations. Clark County and forest managers should continue to explore compatible strategies for sustaining forest resource lands in the upper East Fork Lewis watershed. Clark County, the Department of Natural Resources, and other recreation partners should continue to explore opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing, and other recreation activities consistent with local and regional planning documents.

Clark County should explore, with town of Yacolt, opportunities for regional trail connections between Moulton Falls and Yacolt town limits, as well as trail corridors, high-value open space and light-impact recreation lands within urban area.

Gee Creek/ Flume Creek

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

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Protected Lands

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- Lakes

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	12,737
High Value Conservation Lands	2,881
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	901
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	43

Population

2000	4,564
2010	7,394
Change 2000-2010	2,830
Percent Change 2000-2010	62%

Streams

Fish-bearing	110,630
Salmon-bearing	18,009
Percent Salmon-bearing	16%

UGA/City

City/UGA	7,645
Pct City/UGA	35%

Subarea:

Gee Creek and Flume Creek

Area Description:

Gee and Flume Creeks: Mouth to headwaters

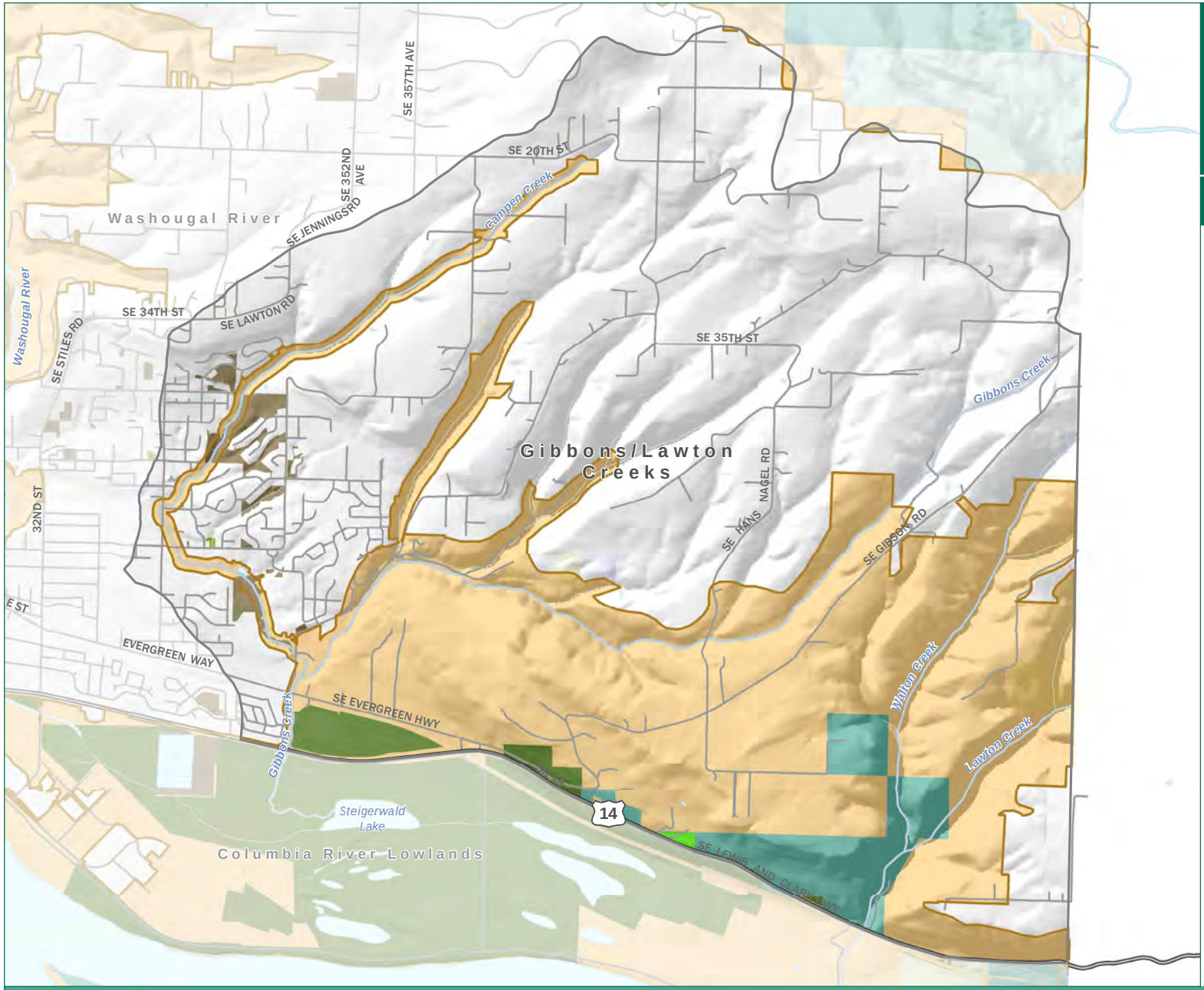
This subarea encompasses the community of Ridgefield and surrounding landscape in northwest Clark County. Gee Creek originates on gently sloping topography along Interstate 5 and flows 10 miles through the city of Ridgefield. Lower sections of the creek enter the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and join the Columbia near the mouth of the Lewis River at river mile 87. Flume Creek is a small tributary to Lake River whose headwaters are located west of I-5. The Creek enters Lake River at the southwest corner of the Ridgefield city limits immediately east of the River S Unit of the Ridgefield Refuge. The land area surrounding Flume Creek generally consists of farm, forest, and rural residential property. The lower sections of both Gee Creek and Flume Creek provide a variety of high-quality habitat for migratory waterfowl, neo-tropical migrant birds, sandhill cranes, great blue heron, and many other species. The proximity of the refuge to these systems provides significant habitat benefits. The city of Ridgefield has identified Gee Creek as a top priority for trail and greenway uses.

The city of Ridgefield manages 18-acre Abrams Park located on Gee Creek near downtown Ridgefield. The park provides an "anchor" for future expansion of a trail and greenway system. Clark County executed a grant agreement with the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office in 2013 to acquire 160 acres at the lower end of Flume Creek. The project supports over 30 state-designated priority habitats and species, and is one of only 20 sites in Clark County mapped by WDFW as a "Biodiversity Area and Corridor." Like Abrams Park, this pending acquisition could serve an "anchor" for future conservation actions within the Flume Creek Basin

Key priorities for the Gee Creek/Flume Creek subarea include the acquisition of a greenway system between Abrams Park and the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge, as well as greenway preservation upstream of Abrams Park (both high priorities for the City of Ridgefield). A priority for the county is to successfully acquire the 160-acre project near the mouth of Flume Creek. The county should also explore opportunities for greenway and habitat conservation higher in the system, including preservation of feeding/resting areas for sandhill cranes and other migratory birds. The Lake River/Lewis River water trail extends along the west boundary of this subarea and is a priority for Clark County, the city of Ridgefield and other partner agencies. Clark County should also explore opportunities to establish a farm preservation district within the Gee Creek and Flume Creek vicinity, consistent with this plan's goals and objectives.

Gibbons/ Lawton Creeks

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

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0 0.2 0.4 Miles

November 27, 2013
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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	6,626	2000	2,846	Fish-bearing	76,393	City/UGA	1,142
High Value Conservation Lands	2,625	2010	4,894	Salmon-bearing	-	Pct City/UGA	17%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	310	Change 2000-2010	2,048	Percent Salmon-bearing	0%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	38	Percent Change 2000-2010	72%				

Subarea:

Gibbons Creek and Lawton Creek

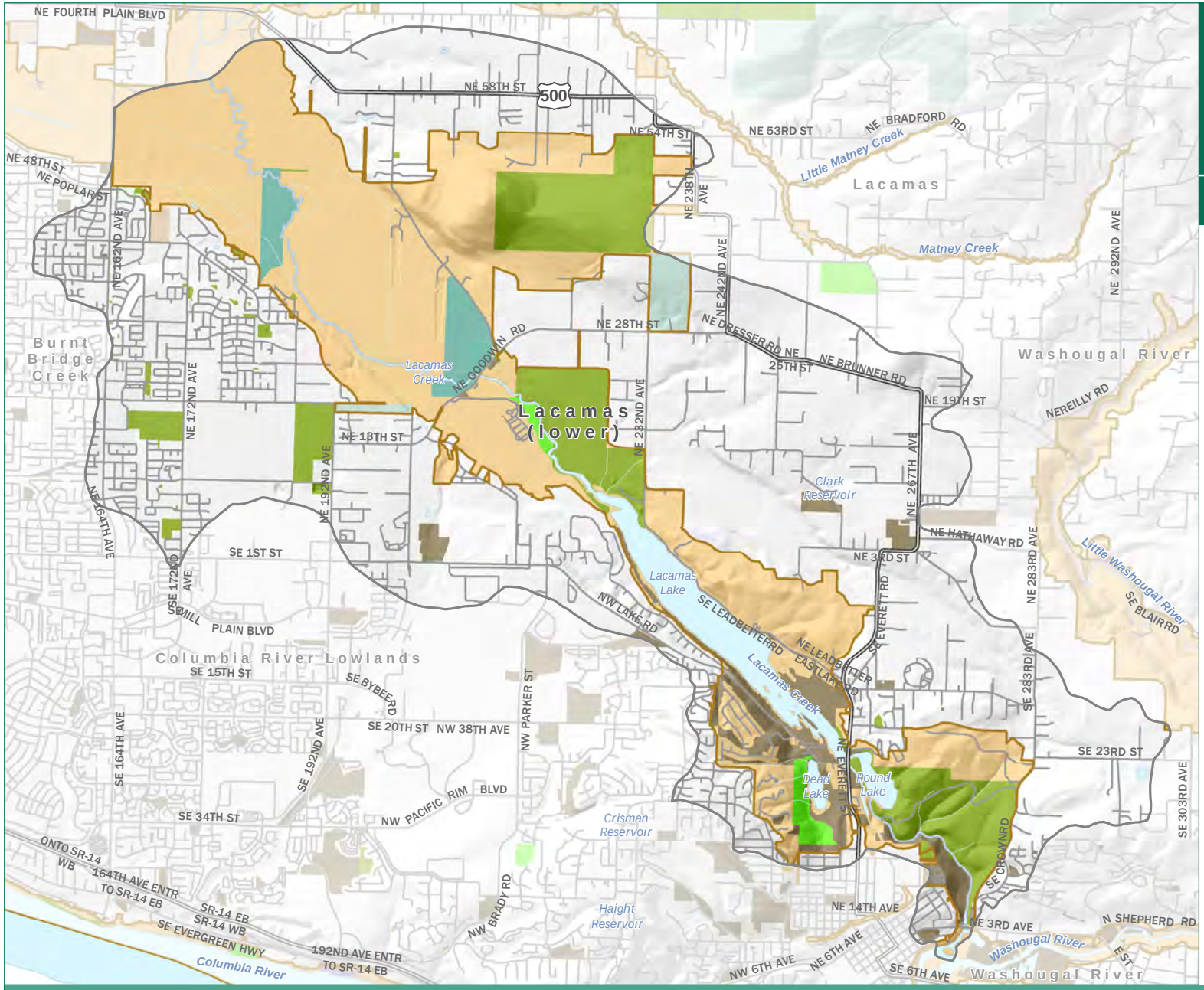
Area Description:

Gibbons and Lawton Creeks from SR-14 to their headwaters - (Lower sections of creeks are part of Steigerwald Lake Subarea)

Gibbons and Lawton Creeks are two small streams located in southeast Clark County at the west end of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Gibbons Creek flows though the Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge and enters the Columbia River in the vicinity of Reed Island State Park. Campen Creek, a primary tributary, flows through the city of Washougal and enters Gibbons Creek north of the Evergreen Highway. Unincorporated parts of the Campen Creek basin largely consist of rural landscapes with large lots and pastures on hilltops and forests in deep stream canyons. Lawton Creek enters the Columbia River immediately east of the Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge. The upper most parts of the Lawton Creek watershed are in Skamania County. Rural lands with a mix of steep, forested riparian areas and upland prairie/pasture predominate the Lawton Creek landscape.

For purposes of definition and inventory, SR-14 is designated as the south end of the Gibbons/Lawton Creek subarea. (The area between SR-14 and the Columbia River is designated as the Steigerwald Lake subarea.) In the Gibbons Creek Basin, conservation actions have focused mainly on Campen Creek, which flows through the city of Washougal. The city's park and greenway system includes the Eldridge Park Complex at the northeast corner of the city and Mable Kerr Park east of Sunset View Road. These properties comprise over 50 acres. Clark County's Legacy Land Program has supported three acquisition projects within the city. Along the lower end of Lawton Creek and north of SR-14, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources manages the 264-acre Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve. According to DNR, this site protects the largest remaining high-quality Oregon white oak woodland in western Washington, as well as other rare plants and habitat features (Web Site: www.dnr.wa.gov. Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve).

The city of Washougal and Clark County continue to place high priority on the Campen Creek Greenway. The 2013 partnership project opportunities list includes the acquisition of 40 additional acres within this system to protect water quality, urban wildlife habitat, and to provide light-impact recreation opportunities such as hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. Clark County will continue to coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources to support the protection of Oregon white oak and other important habitat features at the west end of the Columbia River Gorge.



Lacamas (lower)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

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Protected Lands

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- Lakes

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

November 27, 2013
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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	12,839	2000	12,591	Fish-bearing	95,185	City/UGA	7,645
High Value Conservation Lands	4,944	2010	20,562	Salmon-bearing	5,362	Pct City/UGA	60%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	1,399	Change 2000-2010	7,971	Percent Salmon-bearing	6%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	193	Percent Change 2000-2010	63%				

Subarea:

Lacamas Creek (Lower)

Area Description:

Lacamas Creek from Washougal River to Big Ditch Creek/Burnt Bridge Creek headwaters, including Lacamas, Round, and Fallen Leaf Lakes - This subarea also includes Green Mountain

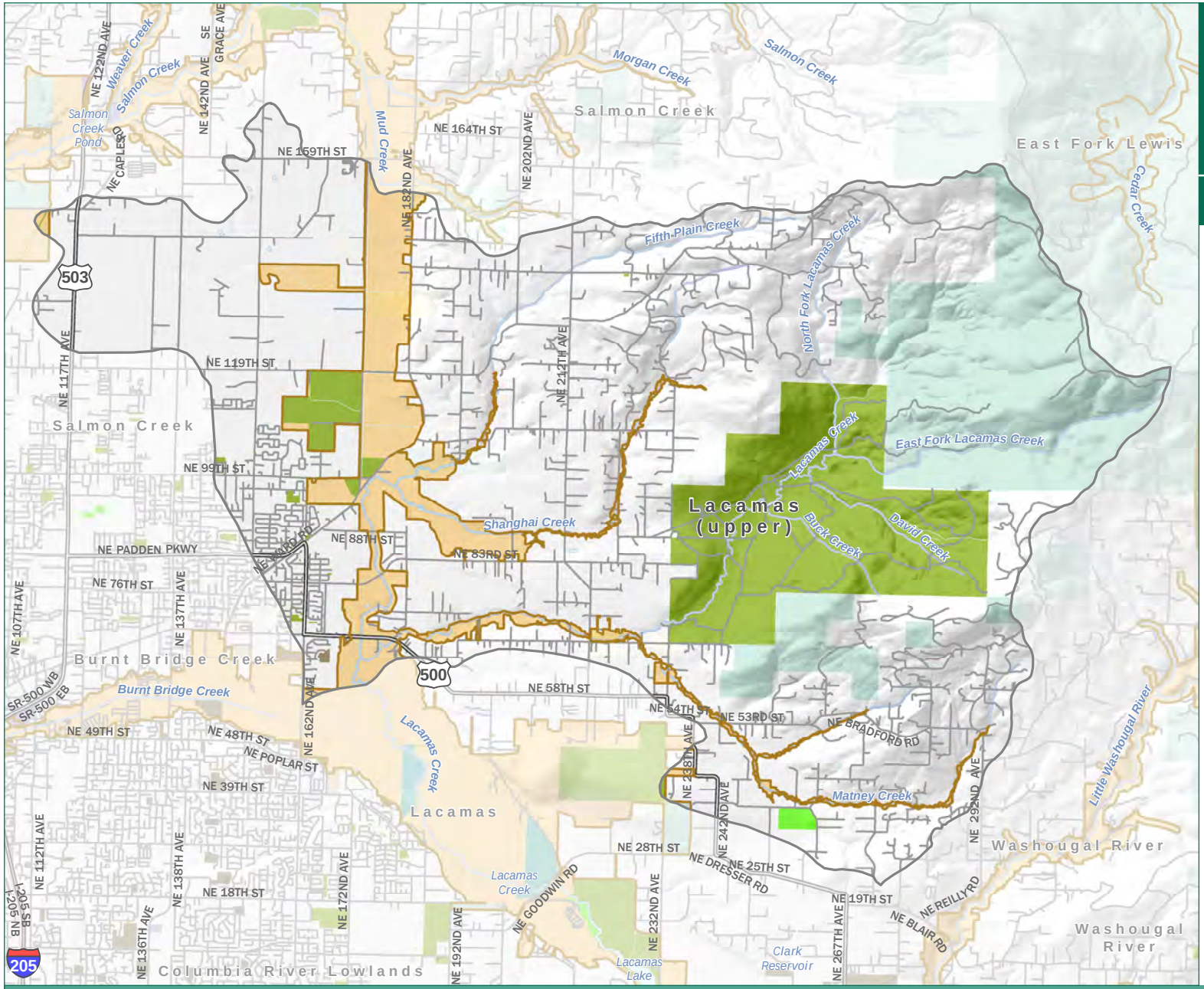
The lower Lacamas subarea provides a high-value greenway and recreation system that extends through the city of Camas to the Washougal River. Primary water features include Lacamas Creek, Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake. Clark County and the city of Camas have acquired over 700 acres of open space and recreation properties on these water bodies. Specific sites include Lacamas Lake Regional Park, Camp Currie, Franks Landing, Lacamas Tree Farm, and Fallen Leaf Lake Park. , The Lacamas Heritage Trail between Goodwin Road and Frank's Landing/Heritage Park is a three mile developed segment of the Lake to Lake Regional Trail. These facilities are highly popular for fishing, swimming, picnicking, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, and biking. Camp Currie at the north end of Lacamas Lake provides day- and overnight camping for youth groups.

Lacamas Creek upstream of Goodwin Road supports high-value habitat and plant communities. The wide floodplains north of Lacamas Lake provide habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl, great blue heron, hawks, owls and other birds. The bottomlands include "the best known remnant of the Willamette Valley wet prairie ecosystem in Washington." They also support a variety of rare plants including Bradshaws Lomatium, which is a federal "endangered" species. (Web Site: www.dnr.wa.gov. Lacamas Prairie Natural Area). The State Department of Natural Resources has established a combined Natural Area Preserve/Natural Resource Conservation Area to help protect these rare plants. High points within the subarea are located on Green Mountain, which rises to about 800 feet. Clark County owns 360 acres covering portions of the mountain.

Shared priorities for Clark County, Camas, and other partners include expanding and linking the system of parks and open space within the Lacamas Corridor, with special emphasis on trails, shoreline and forestlands as development occurs on the east side of Lacamas Lake. The Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan calls for a Camp Bonneville Trail that extends from the Lacamas Heritage trailhead on Goodwin Road through Green Mountain and into the Camp Bonneville conservation area which is located in the Upper Lacamas Creek subarea. Partners within the Lower Lacamas Creek subarea should explore opportunities to make trail connections to Green Mountain, improve public access, and expand public ownerships to include additional forestlands and high points on Green Mountain. Local partners should support efforts to conserve high value habitat within and adjacent to the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area.

Lacamas (upper)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

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- US Forest Service
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- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

November 27, 2013
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Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	27,304
High Value Conservation Lands	2,262
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	35
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	6

Population

2000	11,428
2010	14,341
Change 2000-2010	2,913
Percent Change 2000-2010	25%

Streams

Fish-bearing	80,533
Salmon-bearing	-
Percent Salmon-bearing	0%

UGA/City

City/UGA	1,894
Pct City/UGA	7%

Subarea:

Lacamas Creek (upper)

Area Description:

Lacamas Creek from Big Ditch Creek/Burnt Bridge Creek to headwaters, including wetland complexes, meadows and bottomlands associated with Lacamas Creek, Fifth Plain Creek, and China Ditch

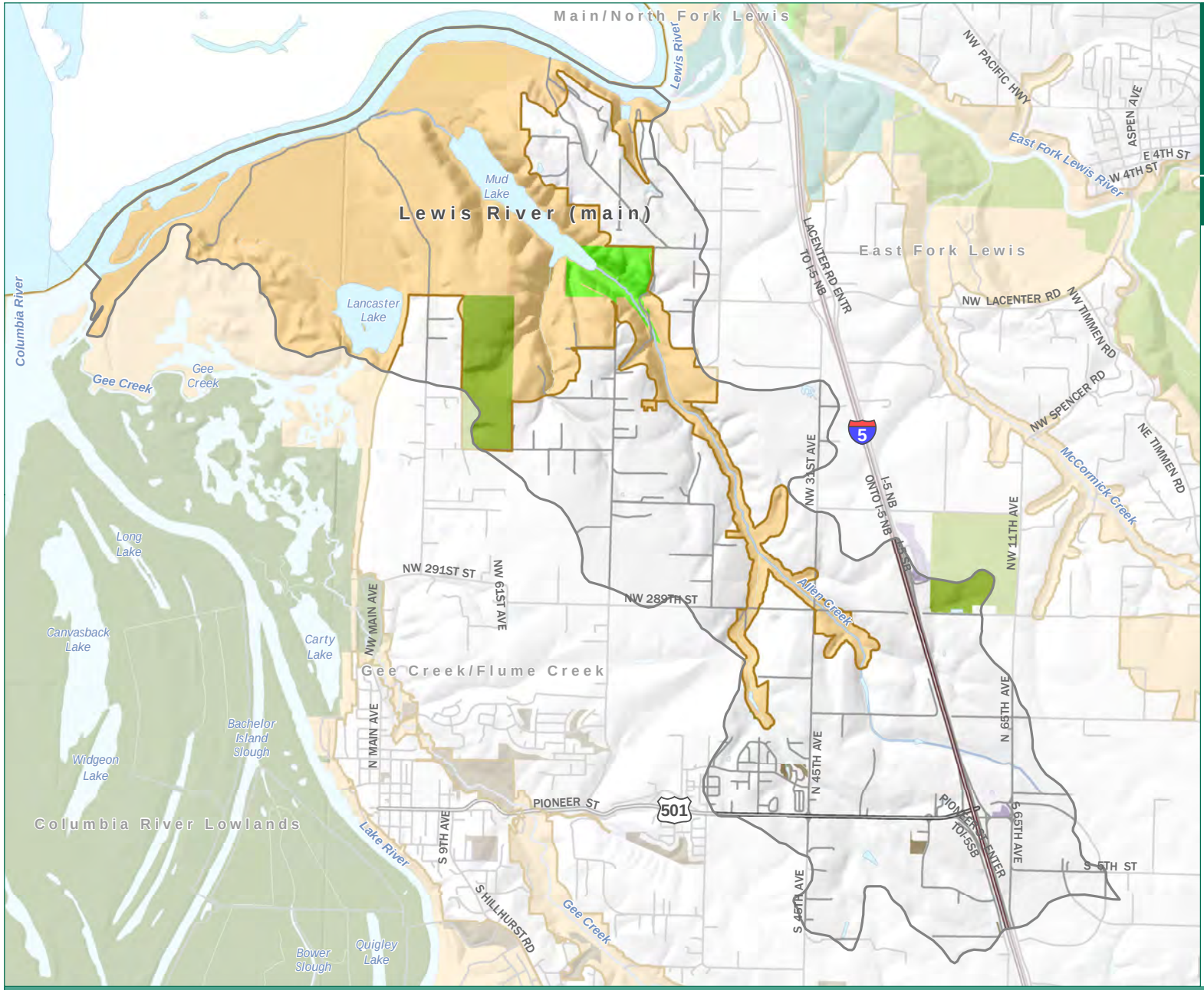
This subarea generally extends north from SR-500 and includes all or parts of four subwatersheds: China Ditch, Lower Fifth Plain Creek, Upper Lacamas Creek, and Matney Creek. The China Ditch and Lower Fifth Plain Creek subwatersheds extend east from SR-503 and contain mainly farm and low density urban residential properties. The China Ditch/NE 182nd Avenue corridor includes drained wetlands, with extensive pasture and stands of mature deciduous trees, which transition into low hills. The Upper Lacamas/Matney Creek subwatersheds rise from 270 feet to almost 2000 feet on the eastern border. The east portions of the project area include small-scale and industrial forestlands in the foothills of the Cascades. The unincorporated community of Hockinson is located at the north end of the China Ditch subwatershed. The Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan calls for a Battle Ground to Fisher's Landing Trail that would traverse in a north-south direction through this subarea.

This project area contains the 3,840-acre site known as Camp Bonneville. Clark County accepted ownership of this former military post in 2011 after the U.S. Army agreed to provide funds for the clean-up of unexploded munitions and other hazardous materials. Due to existing conditions, Camp Bonneville is closed to public access and the perimeter of the property has been fenced. Long-range goals include reclaiming the site to a level that allows public use for hiking, picnicking, and other recreational use. Currently the county is implementing a forest management plan that uses selective thinning and other techniques to create a healthy forest ecosystem that supports a diversity of plants and animals. Hockinson Community Park (240 acres), located immediately west of 172nd Avenue, provides recreation facilities and open spaces; approximately 70 acres have been developed with baseball fields, soccer fields, trails, picnic tables, and shelters.

While the Project Opportunities lists in Appendix B do not include specific preservation projects in this subarea, the subarea still supports important conservation values. The 2004 plan, for example, noted that this project area provides high priority habitat for migratory waterfowl, raptors and other bird species, and that for purposes of critical habitat, priority areas include "wetlands complexes, meadows, and bottomlands associated with lower Lacamas Creek, Fifth Plain Creek, and China Ditch." Clark County and project partners should continue to explore "opportunity" projects that might occur during the life of this plan, as well as the preservation of high-value riparian and upland areas along the extensive network of small streams. This plan also supports the preservation of farms within the subarea, including the designated farmlands that lie along the China Ditch/182nd Avenue corridor.

Lewis River (main)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

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0 0.2 0.4 Miles

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	4,691
High Value Conservation Lands	1,941
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	234
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	24

Population

2000	638
2010	617
Change 2000-2010	(21)
Percent Change 2000-2010	-3%

Streams

Fish-bearing	46,393
Salmon-bearing	28,675
Percent Salmon-bearing	62%

UGA/City

City/UGA	1,232
Pct City/UGA	26%

Subarea:

Lewis River (main) and Allen Creek

Area Description:

The Lewis River from the Columbia River to confluence of East and North Forks Lewis, including Allen Creek and Lake Rosannah

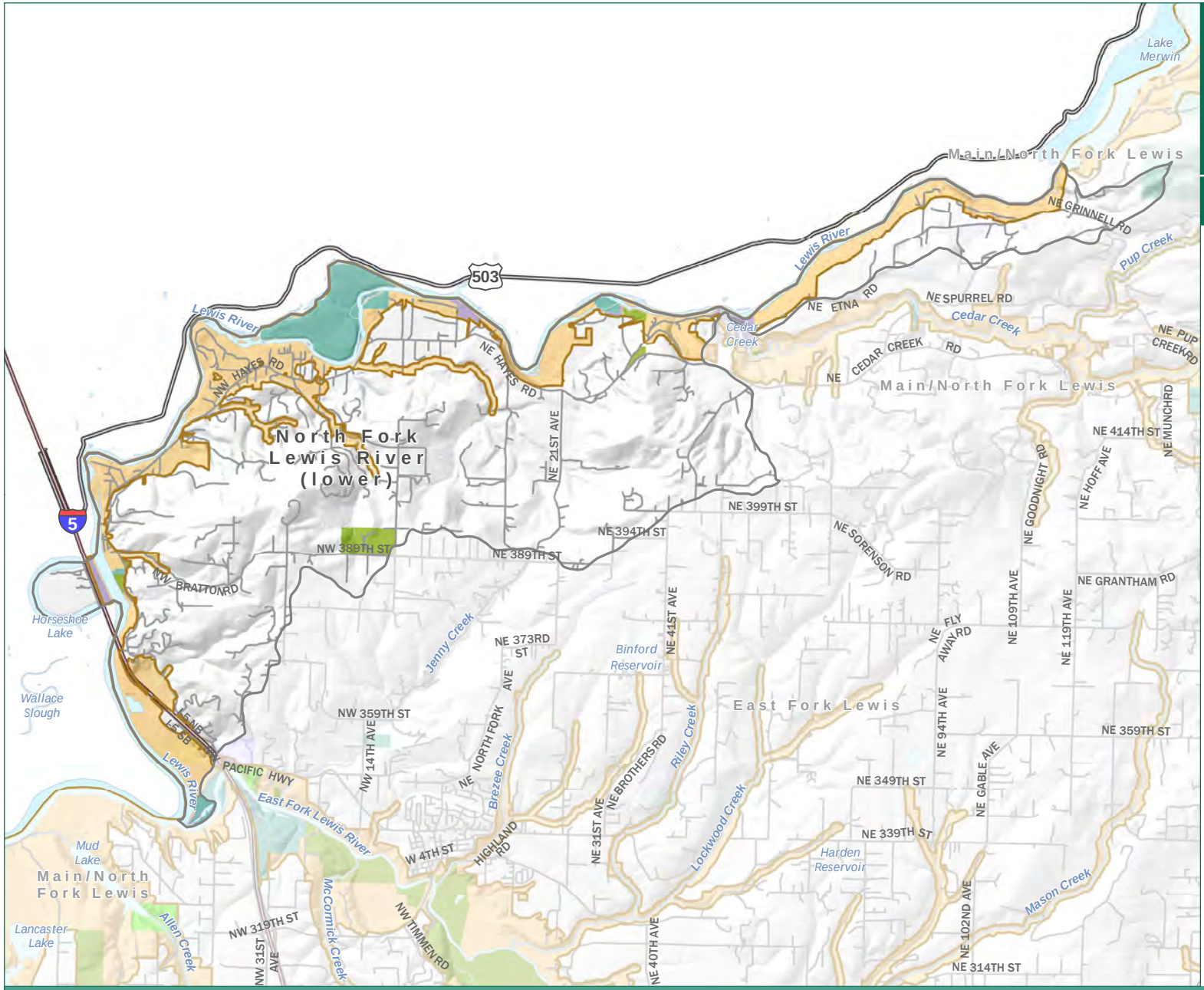
This subarea covers the main stem of the Lewis River, Allen Creek, and 74-acre Lake Rosannah (formerly known as Mud Lake). The main Lewis is three miles long and enters the Columbia at river mile 87. It includes highly productive wildlife habitat that supports over 30 state-designated priority species, including all four populations of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. In addition, the main Lewis provides resting and migration habitat for multiple out-of-basin salmon stocks that travel through the Columbia River. The main stem Lewis River provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, and hiking. The Allen Creek Basin extends east of I-5 and includes the rapidly urbanizing Ridgefield Junction. Lower sections of Allen Creek flow through forest, farm, and large-lot residential property before entering Lake Rosannah near NW Allen Canyon Road. Lower Allen Creek serves as the outlet from Lake Rosannah and enters the Lewis River about 1.5 miles upstream of the Columbia River.

This subarea is a major conduit between the East Fork Lewis Greenway System and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife manages 48.5 acres at the confluence of the North and East Forks Lewis River. The Columbia Land Trust manages 70 acres at the upstream end of Lake Rosannah, and Clark County manages 120 acres of upland forests south and west of the Lake. The project area also comprises a private land holding known as Plas Newydd (Welsh term for New Place) which covers approximately 1600 acres and extends from the Ridgefield Refuge to the east side of Lake Rosannah. These lands are generally managed for forest resource, wildlife habitat, and some agricultural uses.

The County and owners of Plas Newydd have explored a land exchange which would involve trading the county's forest ownership for approximately 340 acres of shoreline, wetlands and upland forests along the main stem Lewis River and Lake Rosannah. This continues to be a high priority for the county. The Cowlitz Tribe, Plas Newydd, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, and other partners have implemented salmon recovery projects along the main Lewis, including placement of large woody debris and riparian plantings. The preservation of aquatic and riparian habitats for salmon and other priority species that link the East Fork Lewis River Greenway and Columbia River Lowlands is also a priority. Recreation priorities include support of the Lake River/Lewis River water trail, and, contingent upon completion of the County/Plas Newydd land exchange, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, wildlife viewing and other low-impact recreation in proximity to lower Allen Creek and Lake Rosannah.

North Fork Lewis River (lower)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



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0 0.4 0.8 Miles

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Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	10,695	2000	2,230	Fish-bearing	125,488	City/UGA	182
High Value Conservation Lands	2,477	2010	2,165	Salmon-bearing	85,993	Pct City/UGA	2%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	416	Change 2000-2010	(65)	Percent Salmon-bearing	69%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	31	Percent Change 2000-2010	-3%				

Subarea:

North Fork Lewis River (lower)

Area Description:

The North Fork Lewis River from the confluence of the East and North Forks Lewis Rivers to Merwin Dam

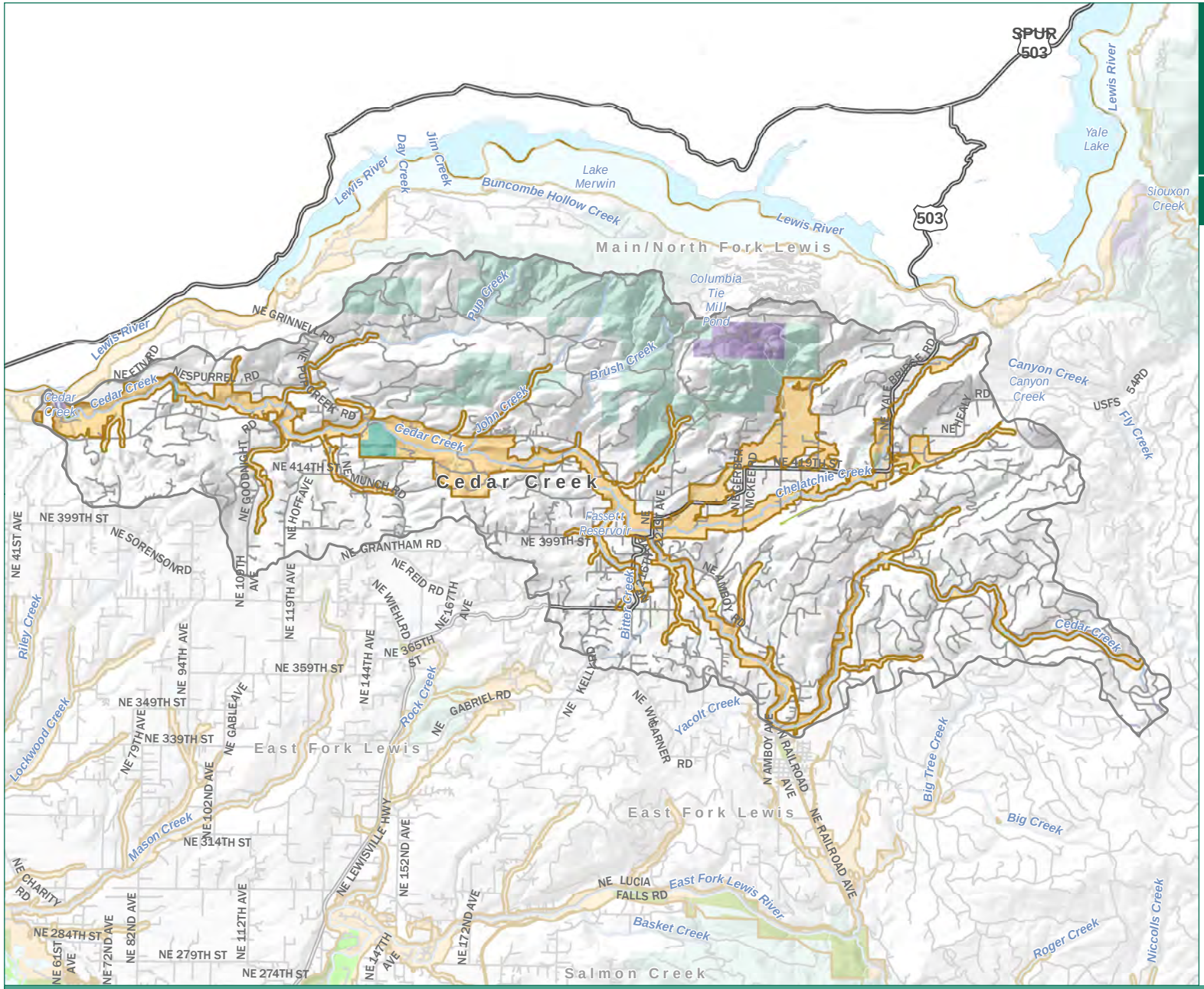
The North Fork Lewis is a major stream system for recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the lower Columbia region. Merwin dam (river mile 19.5), a hydropower dam operated by PacifiCorps, creates a complete barrier for anadromous fish migration. However, as part of the 2004 hydropower relicensing settlement agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), strategies for reintroduction of anadromous species upstream of the dam were developed. "Today, numbers of naturally spawning coho, chum and steelhead are far below historic numbers. However, Fall Chinook continue to persist at levels near historic numbers, though spawning habitat upstream of Merwin Dam is not available" (Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery 6-Year Habitat Work Schedule and Lead Entity Habitat Strategy, K. Lower North Fork Lewis Subbasin, LCFRB).

Below Merwin Dam, the North Fork Lewis River flows generally west/southwest, forming the border of Clark and Cowltiz Counties. Lower sections of the North Fork Lewis flow through a broad alluvial valley characterized by agricultural and residential land uses. The valley narrows above river mile (RM) 12 and forms a canyon between the confluence of Cedar Creek (RM 15.7) and Merwin Dam. Key conservation actions that have been completed in the subarea are the acquisition of Eagle Island (264 acres), Happa Park complex (30 acres), and the mouth of Cedar Creek (30 acres). In addition to salmonids, this subarea provides critical habitat for bald eagles, osprey, band-tailed pigeons, owls, black-tailed deer, river otter, beaver, and many other mammals, birds, and amphibians. The lower North Fork Lewis is also highly popular for water-based recreation, including fishing, swimming, rafting, and kayaking.

Priorities for this subarea include: preservation of critical aquatic and riparian habitat to protect salmonid and wildlife populations and working with partners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Clark County will continue to explore opportunities to provide water-based recreation, including development of water access sites for canoes, kayaks, and other paddle craft within stream reaches that are part of the Lake River/Lewis River water trail system.

Cedar Creek

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.5 1 Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	35,558	2000	3,868	Fish-bearing	347,702	City/UGA	-
High Value Conservation Lands	4,991	2010	4,306	Salmon-bearing	274,972	Pct City/UGA	0%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	217	Change 2000-2010	438	Percent Salmon-bearing	79%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	23	Percent Change 2000-2010	11%				

Subarea:

Cedar Creek

Area Description:

The confluence of Cedar Creek and the North Fork Lewis River to headwaters of Cedar Creek, including Chelatchie Creek

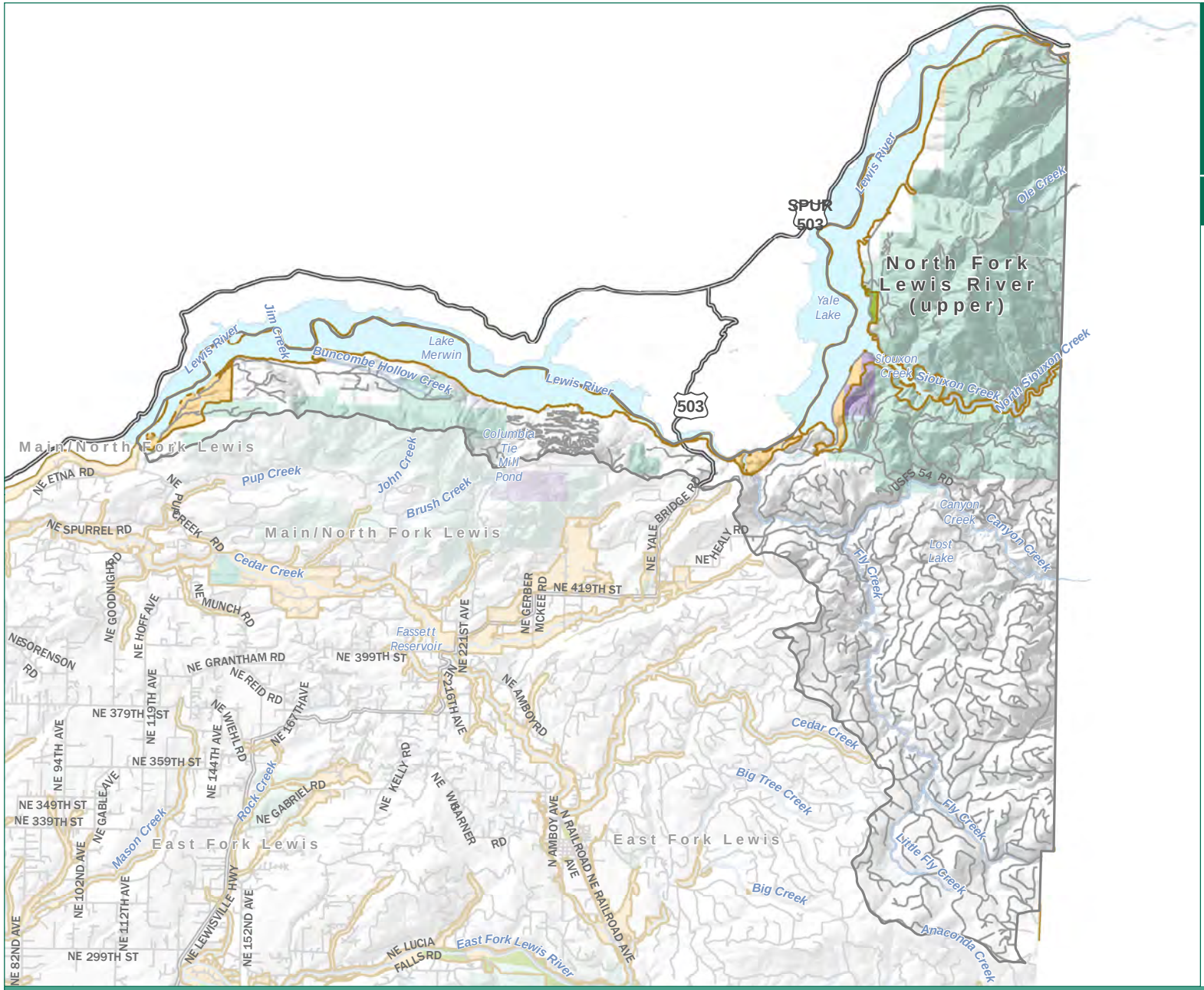
Cedar Creek rises in the forest landscapes of northeast Clark County and flows generally west/northwest into the North Fork Lewis River at river mile 15.7. This subarea is lightly populated and is dominated by forest resource lands, farm, and large-lot residential properties. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board reports that Cedar Creek is "dominated by timber activities on private and public lands." Mature forest cover is present over about 24% of the drainage and 70% of the drainage is in commercial timber production (Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery 6-Year Habitat Work Schedule and Lead Entity Habitat Strategy, K. Lower North Fork Lewis River Subbasin, LCFRB).

The LCFRB also reports that Cedar Creek "provides some of the most productive anadromous fish habitat in the North Fork Basin." (WA Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish and Wildlife Subbasin Plan, May 2010.) Upper portions of the watershed extend into large tract forest areas mapped by the Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy as high-value wildlife habitat. These rural and forest habitats support elk, deer, black bear, cougar, coyote, bald eagles, hawks, owls, woodpecker and many other wildlife species.

Conservation properties on Cedar Creek include a WDFW boat launch and associated properties at the mouth of Cedar Creek, the historic Grist Mill, and 127-acre pigeon springs, which was acquired by WDFW to protect mineral springs that are used by band-tailed pigeons. While the partnership project lists in Appendix D do not identify specific acquisition projects on Cedar Creek, Clark County will continue to explore "opportunity" projects that protect high-value habitat for salmon and other species.

North Fork Lewis River (upper)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
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- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
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- Lakes

0 0.7 1.4 Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

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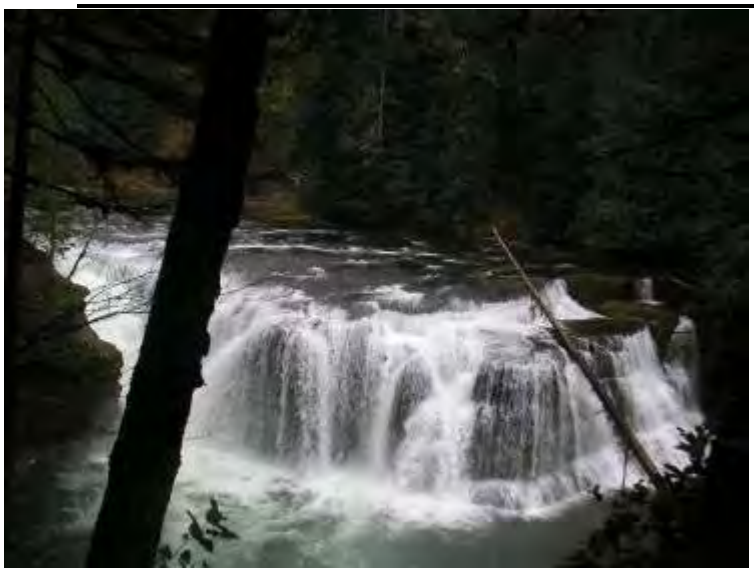
Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	40,542	2000	19	Fish-bearing	239,678	City/UGA	-
High Value Conservation Lands	5,222	2010	84	Salmon-bearing	21,074	Pct City/UGA	0%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	61	Change 2000-2010	65	Percent Salmon-bearing	9%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	6	Percent Change 2000-2010	342%				



Subarea:

North Fork Lewis (upper)

Area Description:

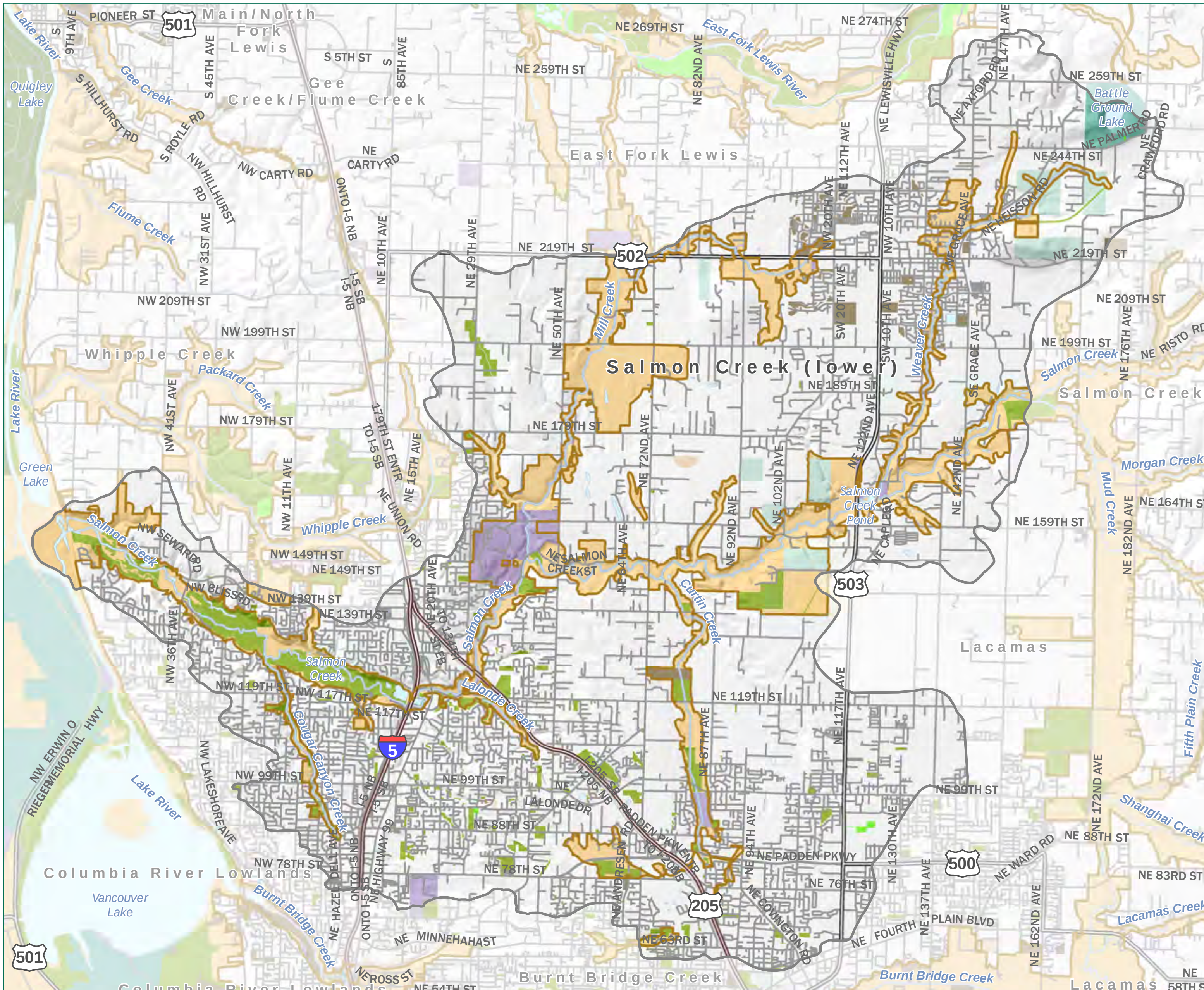
North Fork Lewis River from Merwin Dam to County Line, including Merwin and Yale Reservoirs, Souixon and Canyon Creeks, and other tributaries

This subarea includes the North Fork Lewis River above Merwin Dam. The upper North Fork Lewis serves as the border between Cowlitz and Clark Counties, and the main water features adjacent to Clark County are Yale and Merwin Reservoirs. Merwin and Yale Reservoirs are used for hydropower generation and cover 4,090 and 3,612 acres respectively. The 240-foot Merwin Dam, located at RM 19.5 and completed in 1931, presents a passage barrier to all anadromous fish, blocking up to 80% of the historically available habitat in the watershed. Merwin and Yale support populations of kokanee, coastal cutthroat trout, and bull trout. Tiger muskees were introduced into Merwin in the mid-1990s. However, as part of 2004 hydropower relicensing settlement agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), energy producers PacifiCorps and Cowlitz Public Utilities District developed strategies for reintroduction of anadromous species upstream of hydropower dams.

Major tributaries within the upper North Fork Lewis River subarea include Canyon and Souixon Creeks. There are several smaller streams as well. The landscape of the subarea is mainly large-scale forest resource lands, which provide priority habitat for deer and elk populations as well as many other wildlife.

Both Merwin and Yale Reservoirs are popular destinations for water-related outdoor recreation. PacifiCorp is the primary manager of recreation sites, which are mostly located on the Cowlitz County side of the system and include a variety of parks, boat launches, picnic sites, camp sites and other facilities. Sites include Merwin Park, Speelyi Bay, Cresap Bay, Yale Park, and others. On the Clark County side of the system, Clark County manages 160-acre Souixon Park which is accessible by boat only.

Clark County will continue to explore conservation projects with PacifiCorp and other partners Clark County will also explore strategies that support the long-term preservation of forest resource lands in the county, consistent with the goals and objectives stated in this plan.



Salmon Creek (lower)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.5 1
Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	38,408
High Value Conservation Lands	6,480
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	1,302
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	328

Population

2000	77,096
2010	100,202
Change 2000-2010	23,106
Percent Change 2000-2010	30%

Streams

Fish-bearing	259,382
Salmon-bearing	204,449
Percent Salmon-bearing	79%

UGA/City

City/UGA	23,964
Pct City/UGA	62%

Subarea:

Salmon Creek (lower)

Area Description:

Salmon Creek from the Mouth to Salmon/Morgan Creek Confluence (river mile 17.5), including Cougar, Mill, Curtin and Woodin Creeks.

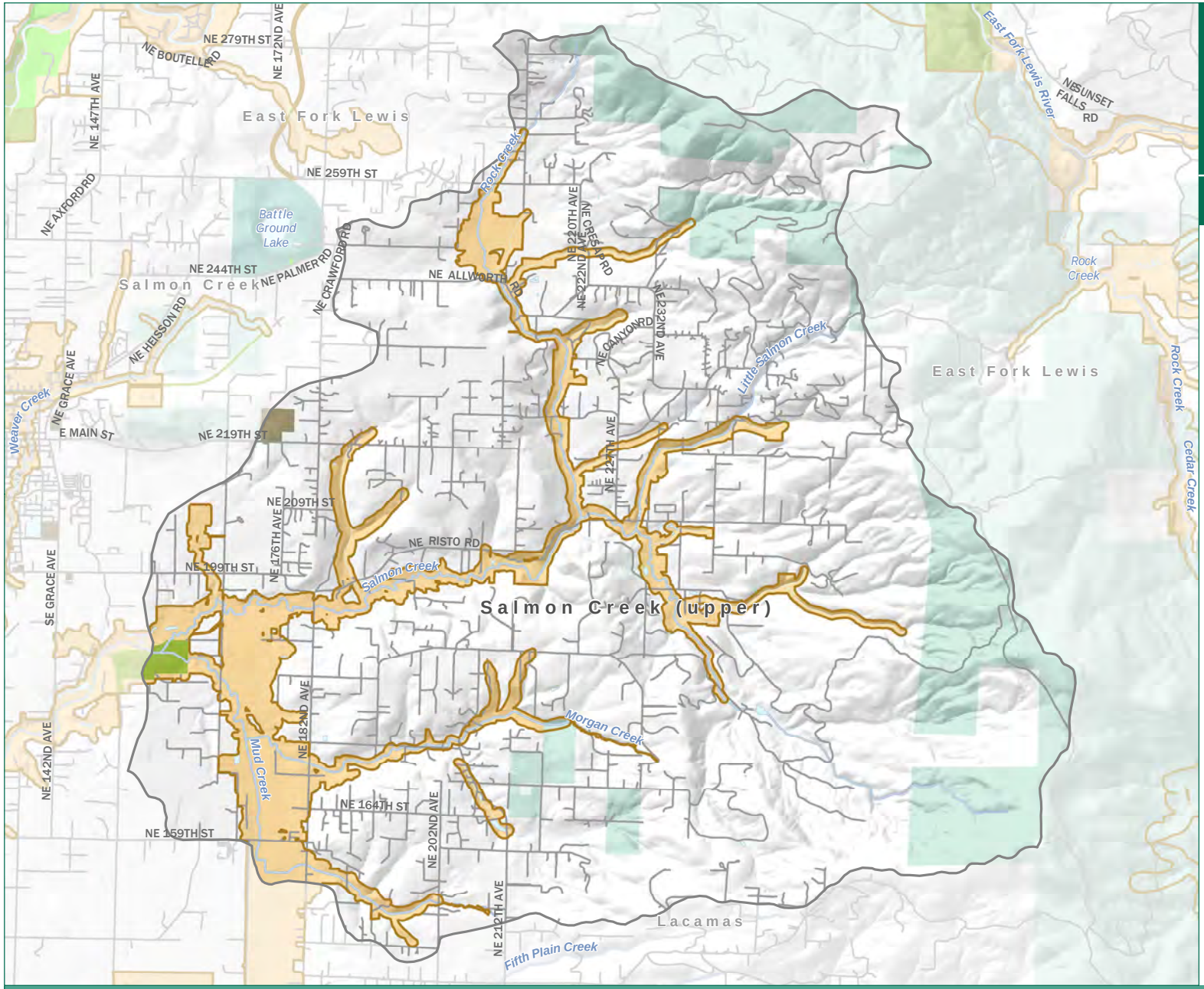
Salmon Creek flows 26 miles from its headwaters in the foothills of the Cascades east of Hockinson to Lake River in the Columbia River Lowlands. The lower subarea is mostly rural residential with some agriculture between the city limits of Battle Ground and Vancouver. The landscape becomes increasingly urbanized as Salmon Creek nears the City of Battle Ground and west to I-205 where it enters the Vancouver urban growth area. Key county landholdings include the Salmon-Morgan Creek Natural Area (about 41 acres are in the lower Salmon Creek subarea and 41 acres in upper Salmon Creek), Battle Ground Lake State Park (280 acres), Brush Prairie Regional Park (84 acres), Pleasant Valley Park (25 acres), Salmon Creek Regional Park and Greenway (west of I-205 to Lake River 460 acres).

The lower Salmon Creek subarea has three major tributaries: Mill Creek (river mile 8.8 which flows through the WSU branch campus), Curtin Creek (river mile 11.1 in the Glenwood area), and Woodin Creek (river mile 14.6 which flows through the city of Battle Ground). Smaller tributaries include Cougar, Tenny, Lalonde, and Suds Creeks. Battle Ground Lake and Klineline pond are lakes larger than five acres in the subarea. About 43 miles of streams are accessible to salmon and steelhead in the total Salmon Creek watershed. Anadromous fish include winter steelhead, coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout. Chinook salmon are supported in the lower five miles of the system.

Priority projects within the subarea include expanding greenway linkages between the Vancouver and Battle Ground ugas; preserving tributaries in the urbanizing area to support clean water, salmon recovery, recreation, and wildlife habitat; and partnership projects that help preserve the Woodin Creek Greenway from Salmon Creek to the DNR Trust Lands north of Tukes Mountain and forest lands on Tukes Mountain. Trail priorities include completing the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad trail from Battle Ground Lake State Park through the subarea to St John's Road and extending the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail from Highway 99 to the Washington State University campus. Clark County should also explore opportunities to establish a farm preservation district within the subarea consistent with this plans goals and objectives.

Salmon Creek (upper)

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	20,723	2000	8,471	Fish-bearing	159,770	City/UGA	212
High Value Conservation Lands	2,355	2010	8,479	Salmon-bearing	132,525	Pct City/UGA	1%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	50	Change 2000-2010	8	Percent Salmon-bearing	83%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	5	Percent Change 2000-2010	0%				

Subarea:

Salmon Creek (upper)

Area Description:

Salmon Creek from Morgan Creek to headwaters, including, Morgan and Rock Creeks

Salmon Creek rises in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains east of Hockinson and is the largest watershed that lies entirely within Clark County. The upper watershed includes forest, farm, and large lot residential properties. The upper watershed is lightly populated with approximately 8,500 residents. Morgan Creek (river mile 17.5) and Rock Creek (river mile 22.0) are primary tributaries. There are no lakes greater than five acres in surface area in this subarea.

The total watershed (including upper and lower subareas) comprise about 43 miles of streams that are accessible to salmon and steelhead. Anadromous fish using the upper Salmon Creek subarea include winter steelhead, coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout. The subarea also supports deer, black bear, coyote, beaver, raccoon, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, grouse, neotropical migrant birds, and many other resident and migratory species. The creek corridor provides a highly valuable migration route for both fish and wildlife populations.

In 2009 Clark County acquired the 82-acre Salmon-Morgan Creek Natural Area at the west edge of the subarea. About 41 acres are in the upper Salmon Creek subarea with the other 41 acres in the lower subarea. The entire natural area is within a WDFW-designated biodiversity area. The site supports a large stand of mixed mature forest. A system of natural-surface hiking trails winds through the property.

Priority projects within the upper subarea include expanding the Salmon-Morgan Creek natural area along Salmon and Morgan Creeks and completing public use improvements at the natural area. Other priorities include acquiring shoreline and associated uplands to protect and restore watershed processes along upper Salmon Creek and its tributaries and cooperating with forest land owners to minimize conversion of forest lands consistent with the goals of this plan.

Steigerwald Lake

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
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- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

November 27, 2013
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Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	2,060	2000	5,171	Fish-bearing	82,995	City/UGA	2,434
High Value Conservation Lands	4,969	2010	5,933	Salmon-bearing	43,249	Pct City/UGA	40%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	1,756	Change 2000-2010	762	Percent Salmon-bearing	52%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	86	Percent Change 2000-2010	15%				

Subrea:

Steigerwald Lake

Area Description:

Columbia River from the Washougal River to County Line, including Reed Island and lower sections of Gibbons and Lawton Creeks within Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge

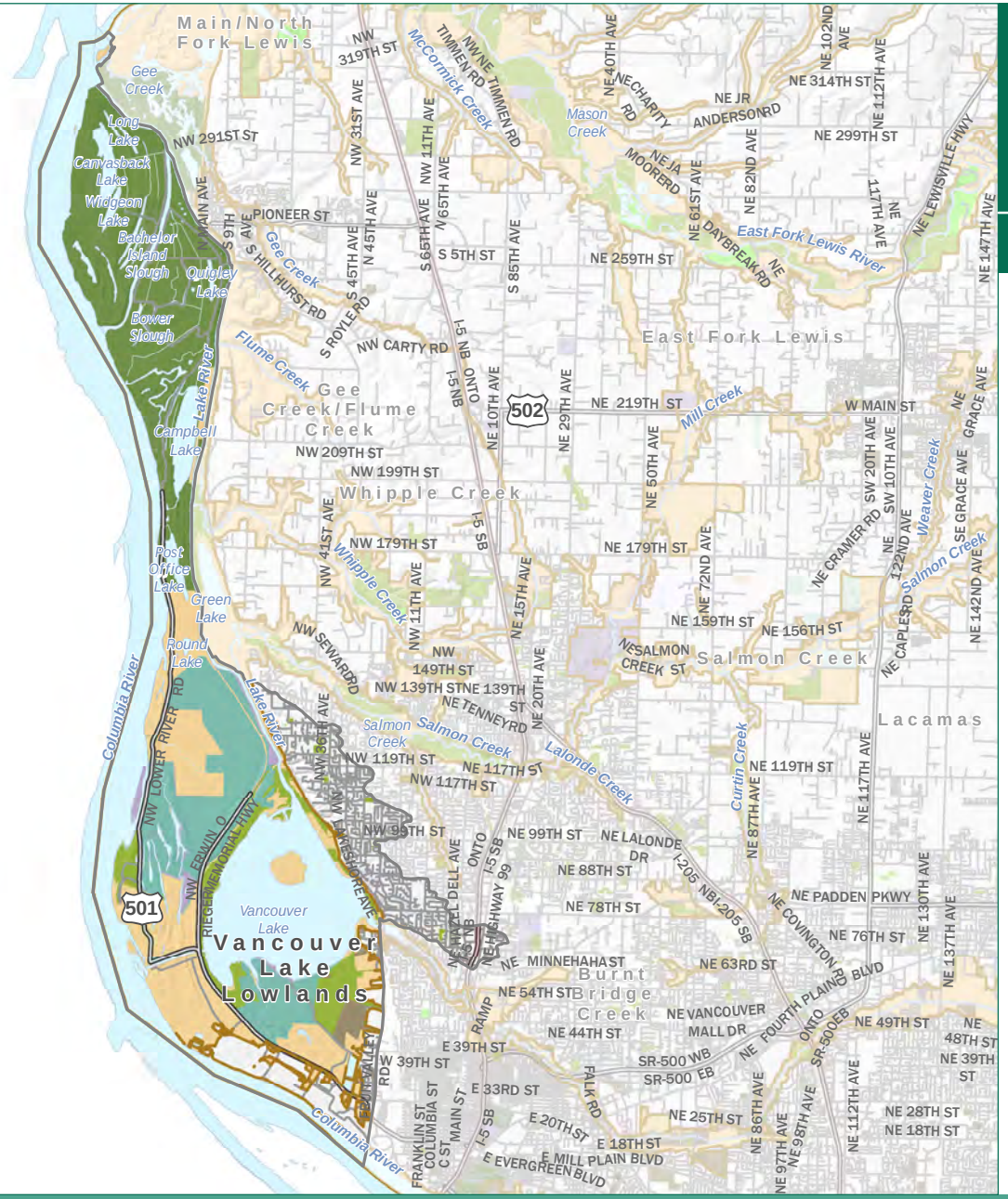
The Steigerwald Lake subarea extends from the Washougal River to the Skamania County Line at the west end of the Columbia River Gorge. Westerly portions of the subarea lie within the city limits of Camas and Washougal, and the entire subarea is within the Port of Camas/Washougal boundary. Development is extensive along western portions of the urban waterfront, including diked industrial, commercial, and residential lands. Eastern portions of the subarea, however, have more than 1,500 acres of high-quality parks and conservation lands, and lie in a uniquely important position at the entrance to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge covers 1,059 acres of historic Columbia River floodplain at the east end of the project area. Habitat types include semi-permanent wetlands, cottonwood dominated riparian corridors, pasture, and remnant stands of Oregon white oak. Over 200 bird species utilize the refuge. The State Department of Natural Resources manages the 264-acre Washougal Oaks Natural Area adjacent to the refuge; this combined Natural Area Preserve/Natural Resource Conservation Area protects the largest remaining high-quality Oregon white oak woodland in western Washington (Web site: www.dnr.wa.gov Washougal Oaks Natural Area). Waterfront parks include 85-acre William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach; 509-acre Reed Island State Park; and Steamboat Landing which provides popular fishing docks on the Columbia River. A three-mile hike/bike/horse trail extends along the dike that parallels the Columbia River and a new 1.1 mile hiking trail crosses the Steigerwald Lake Refuge. A key linking trail leads from downtown Washougal under State Highway 14.

A variety of local, state, and federal partners have served as lead agencies for habitat conservation and park and trail development in this subarea. In implementing new projects, Clark County will likely serve in a supporting role. Priority projects may include restoration and expansion of the Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge and/or Washougal Oaks NAP/NRCA, which are managed by USFWS and DNR, respectively. Other projects may include improvement to trails and waterfront recreation facilities. Clark County was a key partner in the acquisition and improvement of William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach. The county should continue to explore ways to support these kinds of projects, even if it does not need to serve as lead agency.

Vancouver Lake Lowlands

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.7 1.4
Miles

November 27, 2013
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Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	20,446	2000	10,564	Fish-bearing	274,264	City/UGA	9,453
High Value Conservation Lands	14,549	2010	12,073	Salmon-bearing	274,264	Pct City/UGA	54%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	8,772	Change 2000-2010	1,509	Percent Salmon-bearing	100%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	210	Percent Change 2000-2010	14%				

Subarea:

Vancouver Lake Lowlands

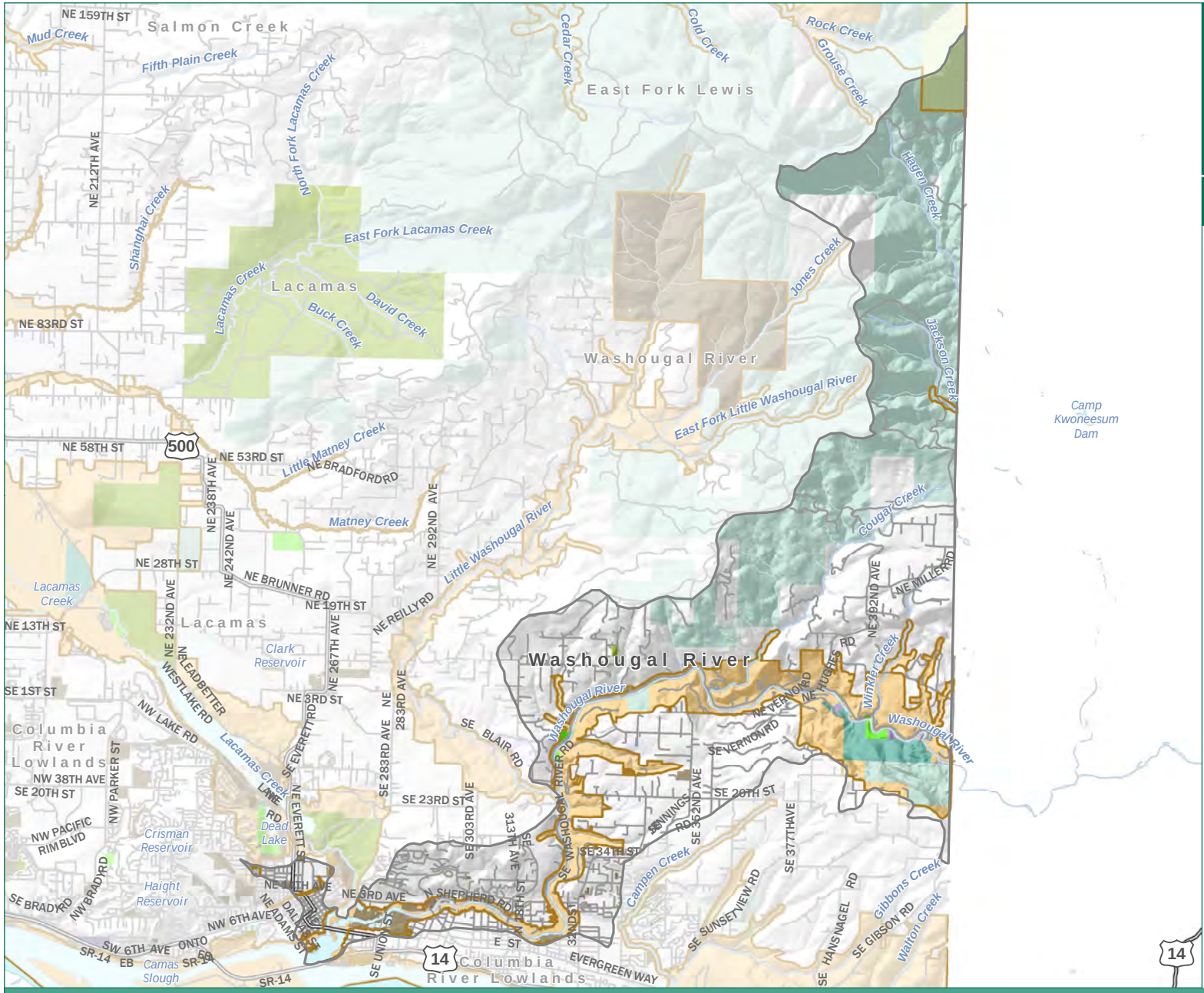
Area Description:

Columbia River Lowlands from Fruit Valley Road to Main Lewis River, including Lake River and associated uplands

The Vancouver Lake Lowlands subarea has the highest diversity of priority habitats and species in the county and provides a variety of popular recreation opportunities. Key water features include Vancouver Lake, the county's largest natural lake, as well as Green, Post Office and Campbell Lakes. Lake River flows north from Vancouver Lake and enters the Columbia River north of Ridgefield near the mouth of the Lewis River. Wildlife populations include nesting and wintering bald eagles, sandhill cranes, and nesting colonies of great blue heron. These lowlands are part of the Columbia River flyway, which supports thousands of migratory waterfowl each year. The Columbia River provides a migration corridor for all populations of ESA-listed salmon that inhabit the Columbia River Basin. In 2013, state and federal wildlife agencies began relocating Columbian white-tailed deer (federal endangered) from the Julia Butler Hanson Wildlife Refuge to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Protected wildlife areas include the 5,280-acre Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the 2,370-acre Shillapoo Wildlife Area, managed by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. Clark County manages extensive wetlands and floodplain habitat along Vancouver Lake, Green Lake, and Lake River. The county manages two popular regional parks, Vancouver Lake Park and Frenchman's Bar Park. These parks are connected by a 2.7 mile long developed bicycle and pedestrian trail. Recreation opportunities within the parks, include swimming, picnicking, biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and boat and bar fishing for salmon and steelhead. Vancouver Lake and Lake River also provide fishing for warm water species. The Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan shows the Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail traversing the length of this subarea. The Lower Columbia River Water Trail is located along the western boundary of the subarea. Also, in 2013, the Vancouver-Clark Parks Department and National Park Service—with the support of a 20-member advisory committee—produced a water trail guide that covers Vancouver Lake, Lake River, and the lower East Fork and North Forks of the Lewis River.

Conservation priorities include acquiring shoreline and adjoining uplands along Lake River that support the water trail concept; preserving high-quality riparian and forested uplands habitat at lower Flume Creek and conserving the habitat and greenway connections between the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and all project areas that interface with the Columbia River lowlands (e.g., Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, Whipple Creek, Flume Creek, and Gee Creek). Future acquisition and development projects should support regional trail systems that provide recreational opportunities while minimizing impacts to critical habitat.



Washougal River

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

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- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
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- Rivers & Creeks
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0 0.5 1 Miles

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Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	12,775	2000	6,379	Fish-bearing	121,844	City/UGA	2,485
High Value Conservation Lands	3,149	2010	9,830	Salmon-bearing	106,755	Pct City/UGA	19%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	252	Change 2000-2010	3,451	Percent Salmon-bearing	88%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	156	Percent Change 2000-2010	54%				

Subrea:

Washougal River

Area Description:

The Washougal River from mouth to county line, including Coyote and Winkler Creeks

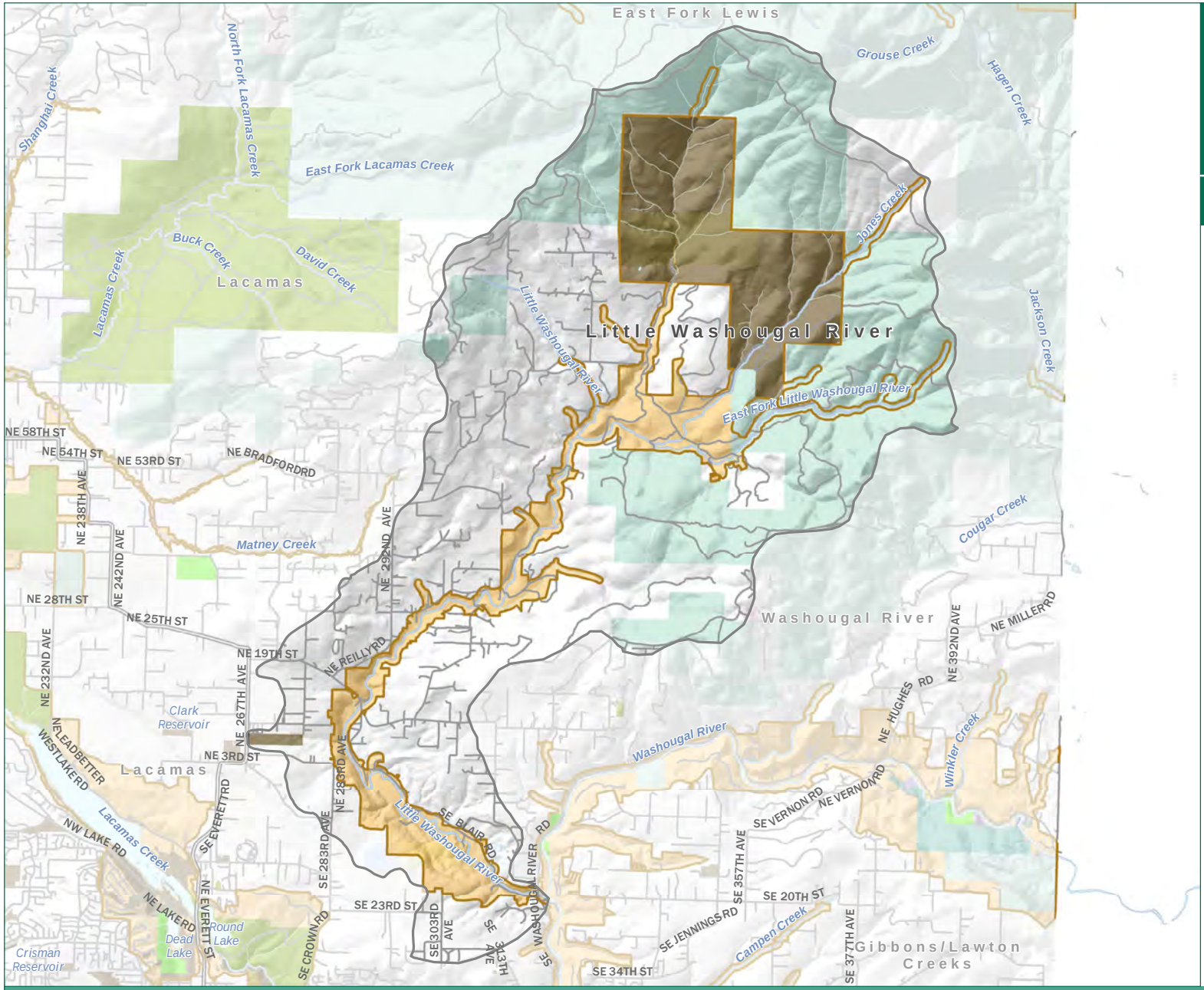
The Washougal River covers approximately 33 miles and enters the Columbia River at river mile 121 inside the Camas city limits. The lower 13 miles of the Washougal lie inside Clark County, and have been heavily impacted by commercial, industrial, and residential development. Washougal River Road closely borders the west and north sides of the river between Camas and the Skamania County Line. Major tributaries inside Clark County include the Little Washougal River, Cougar Creek, Lacamas Creek, and Coyote and Winkler Creeks. The Washougal River supports ESA listed populations of winter and summer steelhead, Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. The river provides popular recreation opportunities for fishing, swimming, hiking, and picnicking.

The city of Camas manages an extensive greenway system on the lower Washougal that includes approximately 100 acres. A three-mile trail leads through the greenway and connects to Lacamas Lake and Lacamas Heritage Trails. The city of Washougal also manages 15-acre Hathaway Park. Clark County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manage about 15 acres between the Vernon Road Bridge and Skamania Line, which includes the fishing and water-access site known as the Big Eddy. On the south side of the river, the Washington State Parks Department has acquired 460 acres of waterfront and forested uplands; this property is currently undeveloped. Clark County manages 40 acres of forested hillsides upstream of the Little Washougal, which are leased from DNR through the Trust Lands Transfer Program.

Top priorities for the Washougal River subarea include preserving and restoring shoreline and riparian habitat in the lower greenway, especially between Lacamas Creek and the Columbia River, and acquiring shoreline and associated uplands upstream of Hathaway Park for habitat and park improvements. The acquisition of waterfront property on the main river for fishing, picnicking, and water contact is an ongoing priority. The Washougal River Corridor Trail is identified as a priority project in the County's Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan, and efforts should be made to implement trail improvements over time.

Little Washougal River

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Legend

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Protected Lands

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- USFWS
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- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
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- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

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Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area

All area measurements are in acres

Total Area	15,536
High Value Conservation Lands	3,644
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	1,676
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	10

Population

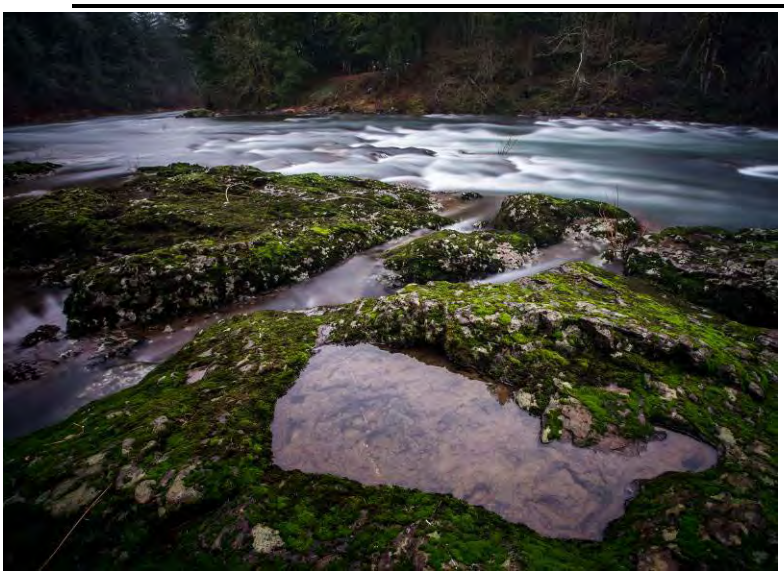
2000	2,133
2010	2,515
Change 2000-2010	382
Percent Change 2000-2010	18%

Streams

Fish-bearing	162,858
Salmon-bearing	102,263
Percent Salmon-bearing	63%

UGA/City

City/UGA	99
Pct City/UGA	1%



Subrea:

Little Washougal River

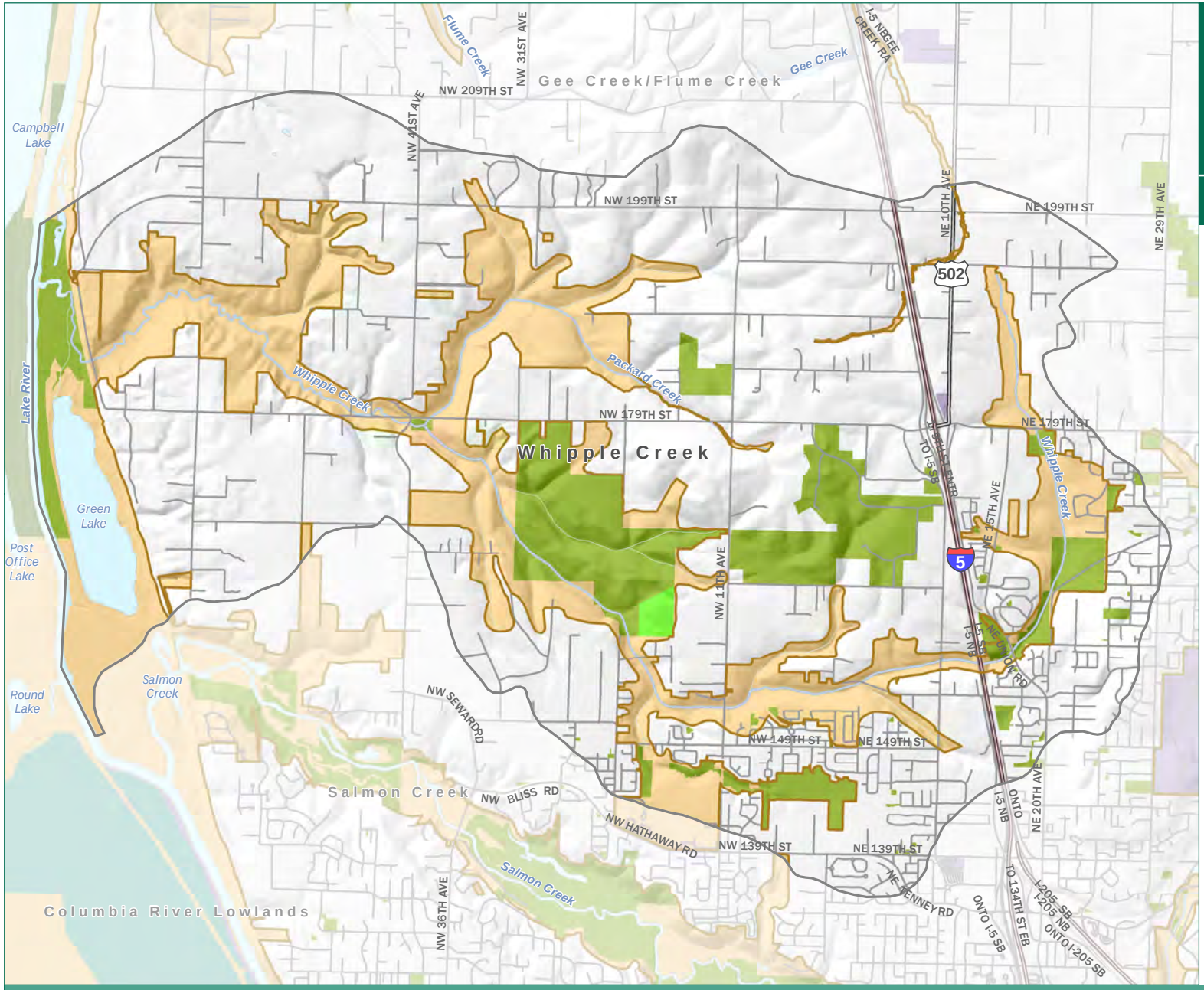
Area Description:

The Little Washougal River from mouth to headwaters including East Fork, Boulder Creek, and Jones Creek

The Little Washougal drainage basin covers 24.5 square miles. The river flows about 10 miles mostly south and west over moderately steep terrain and enters the main stem Washougal at about river mile 5.6. Upper parts of the subarea are dominated by forest resource lands; lower parts include farm and residential properties. Tributary streams include Jones Creek, Boulder Creek, and the East Fork Little Washougal.

The Little Washougal supports ESA-listed populations of Chinook, chum and coho salmon and steelhead, as well as resident cutthroat trout. Upper parts of the watershed cover large forested landscapes that have been mapped under the Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy as high-value wildlife habitat. These areas support deer, elk, black bear, cougar, hawks, owls, woodpecker, grouse, and other game and non-game species. The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group and other partners have been active in restoring habitat for salmon and steelhead in this system.

Within the Little Washougal Subarea, the city of Camas owns and manages about 1700 acres of forestland in the Boulder and Jones Creek sub-watersheds which help protect city public water supply sources. The city initiated development of a forest management plan in 2011 whose goals include protecting and maintaining water quality, generating periodic income, and maintaining forest health. Clark County is exploring the possibility of accepting a Trust Land Transfer of Spud Mountain from the state Department of Natural Resources. Located at the headwaters of the Little Washougal, near Camp Bonneville, Spud Mountain includes 120 acres of forestland. Partner agencies should continue to pursue preservation and restoration of high-quality salmon habitat on the Little Washougal system.



Whipple Creek

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary

Protected Lands

- Clark County
- Municipal
- USFWS
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State Conservation
- WA DNR
- Other State Lands
- Private Conservation
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.2 0.4
Miles

November 27, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Area		Population		Streams		UGA/City	
All area measurements are in acres							
Total Area	8,261	2000	6,690	Fish-bearing	117,236	City/UGA	3,279
High Value Conservation Lands	2,399	2010	10,234	Salmon-bearing	2,801	Pct City/UGA	40%
Public/Protected Lands Within High Value Conservation Lands	309	Change 2000-2010	3,544	Percent Salmon-bearing	2%		
Number of Public/Protected Parcels	66	Percent Change 2000-2010	53%				

Subarea:

Whipple Creek

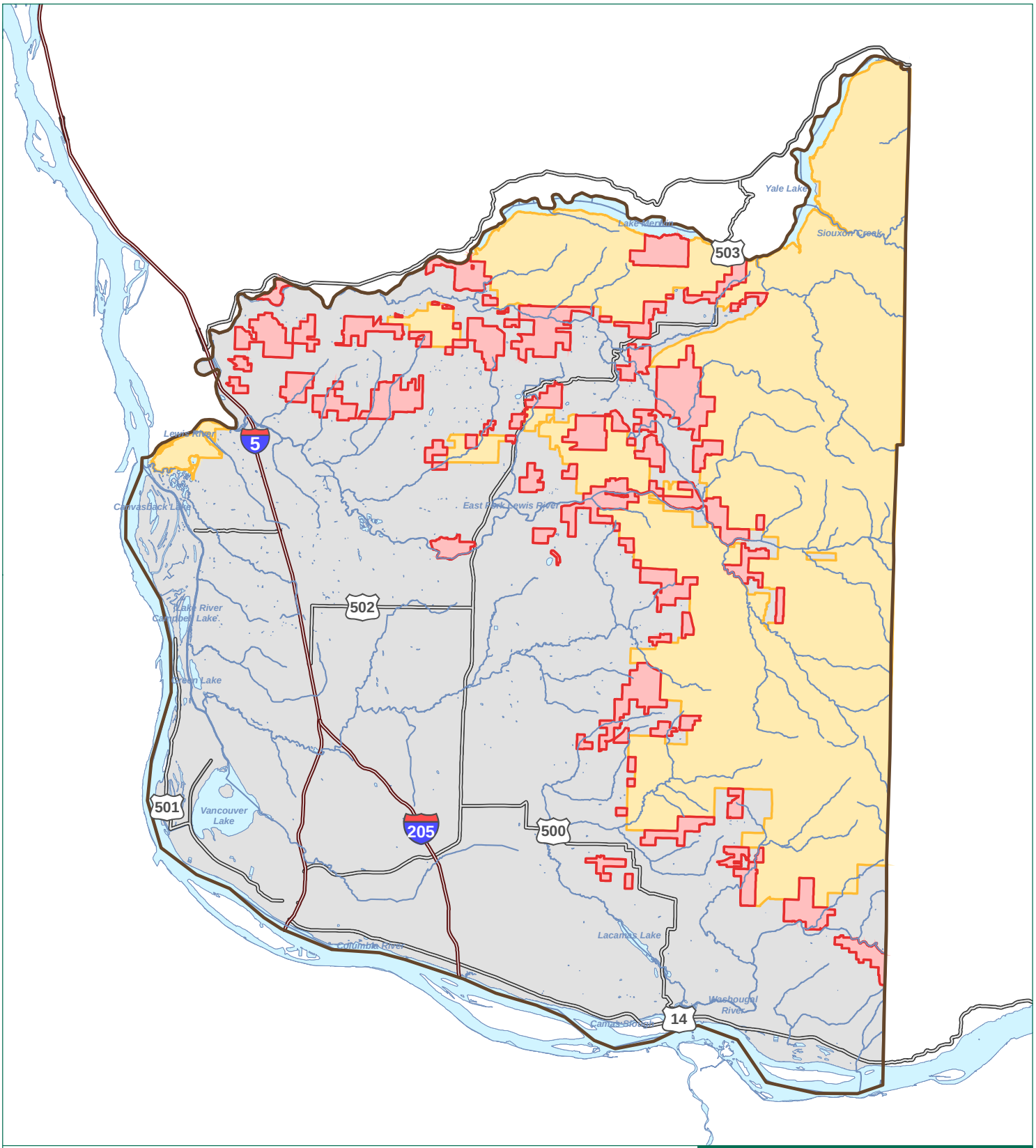
Area Description:

Whipple Creek from the mouth to headwaters

Whipple Creek rises near Interstate-5 and flows approximately 10 miles, mostly south then west, to its confluence with Lake River near Green Lake in the Columbia River Lowlands. A wide floodplain borders lower sections of the creek. The largest tributary is Packard Creek, which enters Whipple Creek between river miles 3 and 4. The watershed "is most accurately characterized as a rural watershed that is rapidly suburbanizing. Older farms and rural parcels between 5 and 40 acres are being converted to suburban communities with town-size lots between 0.1 and 0.3 acres" (Technical Memo, Inter-Fluve, Inc., May 2006). While the watershed is rapidly changing to an urban/suburban landscape, Whipple Creek provides a highly important travel corridor and habitat area for a variety of fish and wildlife. Historically, the creek supported populations of steelhead, coho, Chinook, chum, and sea-run cutthroat trout. These fish populations have been in severe decline. However, present-day use by steelhead, coho, and sea-run cutthroat trout has been documented. Channel-spanning beaver dams are located throughout the main stem and major tributaries. Remaining intact stands of riparian and Douglas fir forest support a variety of neo-tropical migrant birds, woodpecker, hawks, owls, deer and other wildlife.

Key protected lands include 280-acre Whipple Creek Regional Park, located between river miles 4 and 5. This property supports an extensive Douglas fir forest. Park improvements include a popular network of hiking and equestrian trails. In 2006, Clark County acquired 40 acres of high-value urban wildlife habitat on Whipple Creek east of Interstate-5. Region 5 WDFW stated that this site was one of the five most important urban forests in the greater Vancouver Urban Area due to habitat diversity and quality. This site includes about 3,000 lineal feet of creek frontage and is located immediately north of a protected 12-acre neighborhood park.

High acquisition priorities include riparian areas that also support intact mixed mature forests and uplands habitats. Projects that are large enough to provide multiple habitat functions (breeding, nesting, sanctuary, resting, feeding, etc.) are important within this kind of urbanizing landscape. Other important focal areas include Packard Creek and connections between lower Whipple Creek and the Vancouver Lake Lowlands. Acquisitions that expand Whipple Creek Park, the upper Whipple Creek Urban Wildlife Habitat Area, and that provide trail connections within the Whipple Creek Basin and between Whipple Creek and Salmon Creek are also priorities. Clark County should also explore opportunities to establish a farm preservation district within the Whipple Creek subarea, consistent with this plan's goals and objectives.



Clark County Special Forestry Districts

- Tier 1: FR-80
- Tier 2: FR-40
- County Boundary

- Interstates
- State Highways
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

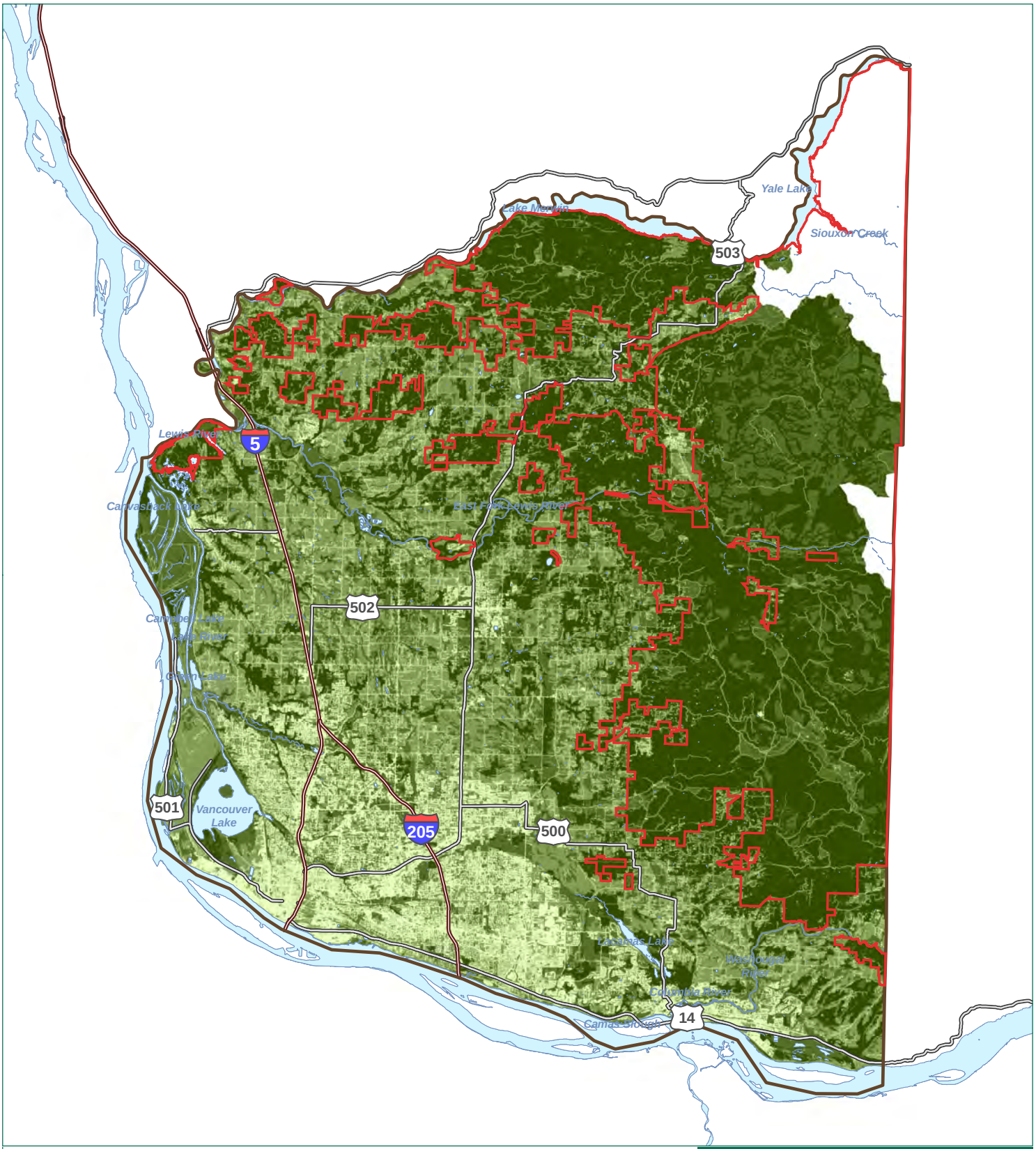
September 27, 2013
Data: The Intertwine, Clark County, USGS, WSDOT

0 1 2
Miles

Cartography by CORE GIS LLC

Forestry Zoning

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



Regional Conservation Strategy High Value Habitat

Higher Value

Lower Value

Forestry Zones

County Boundary

Interstates

State Highways

Rivers & Creeks

Lakes

September 27, 2013
Data: The Intertwine, Clark County, USGS, WSDOT

0 1 2
Miles

Cartography by CORE GIS LLC

Columbia Land Trust

Forest Zoning & Habitat Value

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

- Agricultural Zoning
- Current Use Agriculture Parcels
- County Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Lakes
- Rivers & Creeks

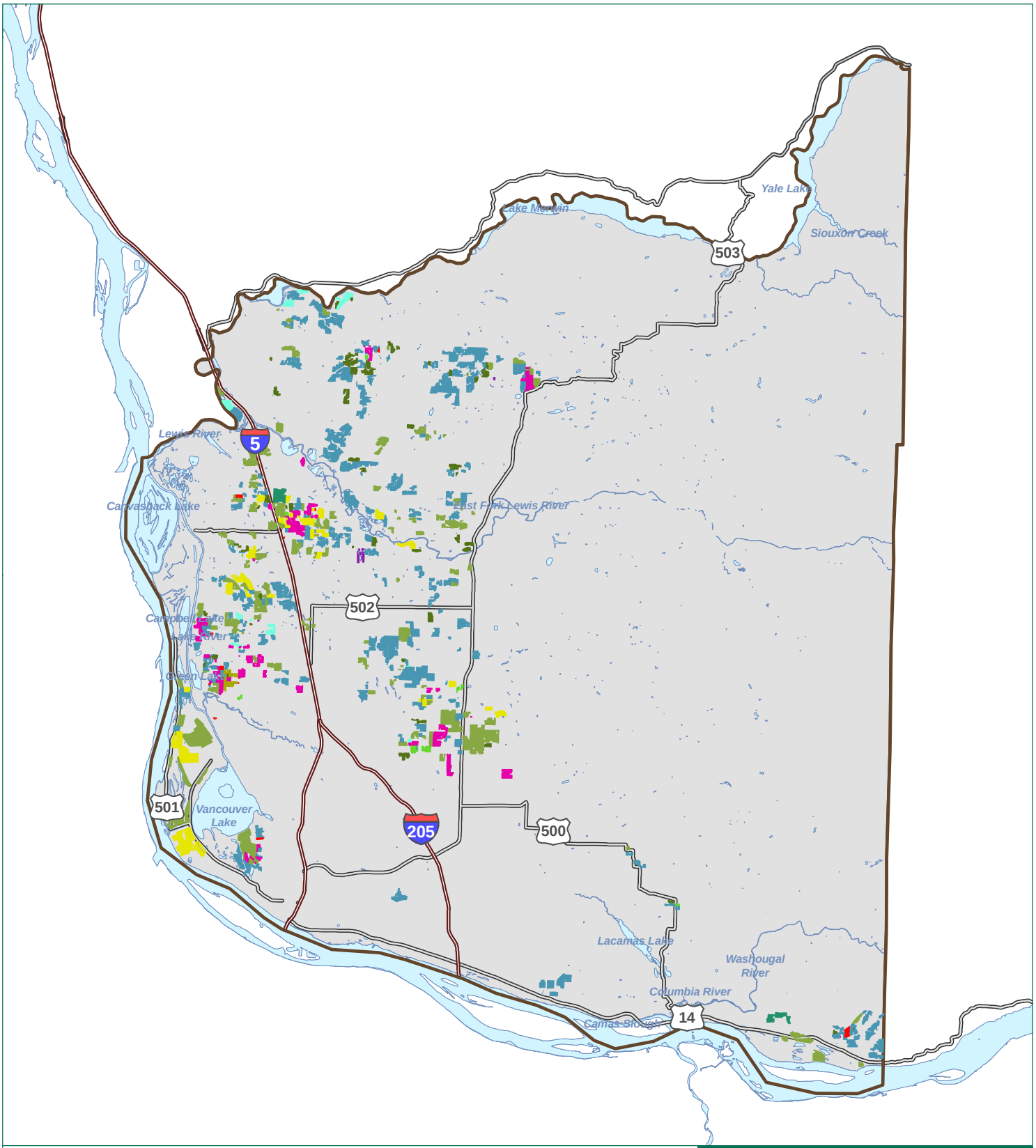
September 27, 2013
Data: WSDA, USGS, WSDOT

Cartography by **CORE GIS LLC**
www.coregis.net

0 2.5 5
Miles

Agricultural Zoning & Current Use Parcels

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan



2011 WSDA Crop Layer

- Berry
- Cereal Grain
- Commercial Tree
- Flower Bud
- Green Manure
- Hay/Silage
- Herb
- Nursery
- Oilseed
- Orchard
- Other
- Seed
- Shellfish
- Turfgrass
- Vegetable
- Vineyard
- County Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Lakes
- Rivers & Creeks

0 1 2
Miles

September 27, 2013
Data: WSDA, USGS, WSDOT

Cartography by CORE GIS LLC

Columbia Land Trust

Agricultural Land by Crop Type

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Project	Year	Description	Core Benefits	Est. Local Funds	Fund Source	Est. Partner Funds	Fund Source	Total Cost
Flume Creek	2014	Acq 160 acres on lower Flume Creek adjacent to Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge; project site at SW corner city of Ridgefield	PH, TR, WTR, OE, CW, LR, ESA, CR, SM	$1,000,000	CF	$1,000,000	Grants	$2,000,000
Salmon Creek Greenway Lower	2014	Acq. 6 acres of shoreline and forested hillsides on Salmon Creek below NE 112th Avenue near CASEE	OE, PH, SM, WT, ESA	$75,000	CF	$75,000	Grants	$150,000
Vancouver Lake In-holding	2014	Acquire approximately 5 acres at north end of Vancouver Lake Park to support trail access	TR, LR, OE	$25,000	CF	NA	NA	$25,000
Spud Mountain	2014	Acq. 120 acres of forest land at the headwaters of the Little Washougal River	PH, LR, CW	NA	NA	NA	NA	Trust Land Transfer
Lake River Water Trail and Greenway (V. Lake to Salmon Creek)	2015	Acq. 60 acres waterfront and forested uplands between Salmon Creek & Vancouver Lake. Project includes key sections of Lake River water trail	WTR, TR, PH, OE, LR, CR, SM	$400,000	CF	$400,000	Grants	$800,000
East Fork Lewis River Greenway Lower	2016	Acq. 150 acres shoreline, riparian and wetlands habitat on lower East Fork Lewis. Project provides key habitat for ESA listed salmon populations and may provide key link in regional trail corridor	PH, TR, OE, CW, LR, ESA, CR, SM	$1,000,000	CF	$1,000,000	Grants	$2,000,000
Lower Daybreak Waterfront Park	2016	Acq/Dev 100 acre park per county master plan on EFL River immediately downstream of existing Daybreak Park and WDFW Boat Launch.	TR, LR, AR, OE, PH, CW, SM, WT, ESA	$500,000	DON (Land conveyance by Columbia Land Trust)	$500,000	Grants	$1,000,000
Salmon Creek Greenway Lower Phase 2	2016	Acq. 40 acres of shoreline, wetlands, and forested uplands, with links to Brush Prairie Park and CASEE. Acq is part of coordinated program with CPU, Clean Water, VC Parks, and BG Schools, to restore and enhance stream reach, with trail links and outdoor education. Project Area also potential candidate for farm preservation	TR, LR, OE, PH CW, SM, WT, ESA, FP	$400,000	CF	$600,000	Grants	$1,200,000

Project	Year	Description	Core Benefits	Est. Local Funds	Fund Source	Est. Partner Funds	Fund Source	Total Cost
Mill Creek Greenway WSU to SR-502	2016	Acq. 80 acres shoreline, wetlands, floodplain on Mill Crk between SR-502 and WSU. Acq is part of partnership project involving Clean Water, Legacy Lands, and CPU to protect and restore high-quality stream and riparian habitat.	LR, TR, OE, PH, CW, SM, WT, ESA	$400,000	CF	$400,000	Grants,	$800,000
Main Lewis, Lake Rosannah	2017	Acq 320 acres of shoreline, wetlands, riparian and upland forest on Main Lewis and Lake Rosannah	TR, WTR, LR, OE, PH, CW, CR, SM WT, ESA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Land Exchange
Lake River Water Trail and Greenway Salmon Creek to Ridgefield	2017	Acq. 50 acres waterfront between Flume Creek and Salmon Creek. Project borders RNWR and County ownerships on Green Lake; project is key link in water trail connecting V. Lake to Lewis River	WTR, TR, PH, CR, OE, SM	$125,000	CF	$125,000	Grants	$250,000
Whipple Creek	2018	Acq. 83 acres of waterfront, floodplain and uplands on lower Whipple Creek. Site is located near Green Lake and provides critical habitat for migratory birds, as well as steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout. Project area also potential candidate for farm preservation	TR, LR, OE, PH, CW, CR SM, WT, ESA	$600,000	CF	$600,000	Grants	$1,200,000

Abbreviations (Core Benefits)

TR	Trail
WTR	Water Trail
LR	Light Impact Recreation
AR	Active Recreation
OE	Outdoor Education
PH	Priority Habitat
CW	Clean Water Program
CR	Cultural Resources
SM	Shorelines Management Program
WT	Wetlands Protection
ESA	Endangered Species Program
FP	Farm Preservation

Abbreviations (Fund Sources)

GR	Grants
CF	Conservation Futures
REET	Real Estate Excise Tax
PIF	Park Impact Fees
DON	Donation
TLT	Trust Lands Transfer
CFT	Community Forest Trust
BF	Budgeted Funds
PF	Private Foundation

Project	Year	Likely Partners	Description	Core Benefits	Est. Fund Sources
Washougal Greenway (Bowling Alley Reach)	2014	City of Camas, Clark County	Acquire 1-2 acres north shore Washougal River below 3rd Avenue Bridge (Bowling Alley Hole).	TR, LR, CW, SM, ESA	CF, GR, BF
Washougal River Waterfront Park	2014	City of Washougal, Columbia Land Trust, Clark County, LCFEG, LCFRB	Acquire 18 acres of shoreline, floodplain, and uplands on Washougal River. Site includes both active recreation and habitat values. Site is located on Tier 1 reach for ESA salmon recovery.	TR, LR, AR, OE, PH, CW, SM, WT, ESA	CF, GR, PIF
Columbia River Shoreline (I-205 to Lady Island)	2014	City of Vancouver, Clark County	Acquire 12 acres of shoreline, riparian, and uplands on Columbia River. Site includes one of last large waterfront tracts between Vancouver and Camas	WTR, LR, AR, OE, CW, CR, SM, WT, ESA	CF, GR, PIF
Rock Creek	2014	Columbia Land Trust, LCFRB, Community Foundation for Southwest WN.	Acquire 50 acres of shoreline and forested uplands on Rock Creek above Dole Valley Bridge; site includes Tier 1 habitat for Winter Steelhead and other priority species	TR, OE, PH, CW, SM, WT, ESA	CF, GR, PF
Gee Creek Greenway	2015	City of Ridgefield, Friends of Gee Creek, Clark County	Acquire 20-30 acres of shoreline and uplands along Gee Creek corridor between Ridgefield High School and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.	TR, LR, OE, PH, CW, CR, SM, WT	CF, GR, PIF, BF
Woodin Creek Greenway (Salmon Creek to Heisson Rd. School Trust Lands)	2015	City of Battle Ground, Clark County	Acquire 10-20 acres of shoreline and uplands along Woodin Creek greenway to protect shoreline, wetlands, and urban habitat and provide public recreation	TR, LR, OE, CW, WT, ESA	CF, GR
Felida Bluffs/Lake River Greenway	2015	City of Vancouver, Clark County	Acquire 20-30 acres above Lake River. This acquisition is part of a partnership project to provide water trails and community recreation opportunities along Lake River between Vancouver Lake and Salmon Creek	TR, WTR, AR, OE PH, CW, CR, SM	GR, CF, PIF
East Fork Lewis Upper/Rock Creek Phase 2	2016	Columbia Land Trust, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Clark County, DNR	Acquire 60-75 acres of shoreline and uplands habitat within Tier 1 reaches that support recovery of ESA listed summer steelhead.	TR, OE, PH, CW, SM, ESA	CF, GR, PF
Campen Creek Greenway Addition (aka Eldridge Park Complex)	2016	City of Washougal, Clark County	Add 40 acres of shoreline and forested uplands to city's Campen Creek Greenway. Greenway provides trails and light-impact recreation, as well as habitat.	TR, LR, OE, PH, WT	CF, PIF, GR
Yacolt Parks and Open Space	2016	Town of Yacolt, Clark County	Acquire up to 40 acres in vicinity of Thompson Road and Little League fields for light-impact recreation, trails, and open space	TR, LR, OE	CF, GR, BF
Washougal Greenway (Lacamas Creek Reach), plus Round Lake to downtown Trail Corridor	2016	City of Camas, Clark County, Columbia Land Trust, LCFRB	Add 80-100 acres of shoreline and riparian habitat along Washougal River between Columbia River and Lacamas Creek, plus trail connections to Round Lake.	TR, LR, OE, PH, CW, CR, SM, WT, ESA	CF, GR, BF

Project	Year	Likely Partners	Description	Core Benefits	Est. Fund Sources
Washougal River Waterfront Park Addition	2016	City of Washougal, Clark County, LCFRB, Columbia Land Trust	Acquire 8-10 acres of shoreline, floodplain, and adjacent uplands above Hathaway Park to support salmon recovery, outdoor recreation and recreation	TR, LR, OE, PH, SM, WT, ESA	CF, GR, PIF
Lacamas Creek (Camp Currie Addition)	2016	City of Camas, DNR, Clark County	Acquire 22-25 acres of shoreline property north of Lacamas Lake; site borders Camp Currie, Lacamas Heritage Trail, and Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve	TR, WT, LR, OE, PH, CW, SM, WT	CF, GR, BF
Green Mountain Addition	2016	City of Camas, Clark County, DNR	Acquire 70-100 acres on west side of county's Green Mountain TLT ownership, including high points on Green Mountain and trail connections from Camp Currie and Lacamas Heritage Trail	TR, AR, OE, PH	CF, GR, BF
Lacamas Lake Greenway	2018	City of Camas, Clark County	Acquire 40-60 acres of shoreline and forested uplands along northeast shoreline of Lacamas Lake; project vision includes re-use of Leadbetter Road as multi-use trail	TR, WTR, LR, OE, PH, CW, SM	CF, GR, BF, PIF
Lewis and Clark Trail	2018	City of Battle Ground, Clark County	Acquire trail corridor that connects city of Battle Ground's Fairgrounds Park to existing regional trail leading to Battle Ground Lake State Park	TR, AR, OE	CF, GR, PIF
Tukes Mountain	2019	City of Battle Ground, DNR, Clark County	Acquire 50 acres of forested uplands on Tukes Mountain. Acquisition borders existing 30 acre site received by city via Trust Lands Transfer Program	TR, LR, OE, PH, CR	TLT, CFT, CF
Woodin Creek: Heisson Road School Trust Lands	2019	City of Battle Ground, DNR, Clark County	Acquire 160 acres state trust lands at upper end of Woodin Creek, including wetlands, shoreline, and forested uplands.	TR, LR, OE, PH, CW, WT	TLT, CFT, CF

Abbreviations (Core Benefits)

TR	Trail
WTR	Water Trail
LR	Light Impact Recreation
AR	Active Recreation
OE	Outdoor Education
PH	Priority Habitat
CW	Clean Water Program
CR	Cultural Resources
SM	Shorelines Management Program
WT	Wetlands Protection
ESA	Endangered Species Program
FP	Farm Preservation

Abbreviations (Fund Sources)

GR	Grants
CF	Conservation Futures
REET	Real Estate Excise Tax
PIF	Park Impact Fees
DON	Donation
TLT	Trust Lands Transfer
CFT	Community Forest Trust
BF	Budgeted Funds
PF	Private Foundation

Appendix C - GIS Methods

In creating new mapping products for the 2014 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan our objective was to maintain the core vision of the 2004 plan. However, we also sought to both extend the physical extent of the largely riparian-based network beyond the 2004 Tier 1 project areas as well as disconnecting the updated vision from single-source funding limitations.

Project Area Boundaries

We divided Clark County into 19 subareas using 6th level hydrologic unit boundaries from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. The only significant deviations from the subwatersheds are in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, Columbia South Slope, Whipple Creek, and Gee Creek/Flume Creek areas, where we manually digitized boundaries using physical and cultural features.

High Value Conservation Lands Layer

To extend the physical extent of the network, we added layers thematically as follows:

1. Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) Priority Tiers
We used the stream systems as the backbone for the network of high value conservation lands in Clark County. The LCFRB compiled results from EDT models that rank salmon-bearing streams based on their priority for habitat conservation and restoration. The LCFRB rankings are expressed as Tiers, with 1 being highest priority and 4 the lowest priority.

2. Variable width buffers based on EDT Tier
Using the EDT stream reaches, we assigned variable-width buffers based on the level of priority as follows:

Tier 1 = 250’
Tier 2 = 250’
Tier 3 = 150’
Tier 4 = 150’

These buffers form a corridor around each stream and the associated riparian habitats.

3. FEMA 100 year floodplain
Using FEMA’s flood plain data (known as digital Q3 Flood Data) for Clark County, we extracted 100 year floodplains to capture additional potential habitat areas falling outside the buffered EDT stream reaches.

4. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Riparian Habitat

The WDFW PHS data consists of polygons that represent different types of important habitats. We selected all polygons specified as Priority Riparian Habitat and added these to the network.

5. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Wetlands within 200' of Streams

Using an approach similar to the Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy we selected all wetlands intersecting the buffered EDT streams, then buffered the selected wetlands by 30 meters and added them to the network.

6. PHS non-riparian habitats (excluding elk and mule deer winter range)

In addition to the riparian zones mapped in the WDFW PHS, we selected upland habitats intersecting the network, but excluded elk and mule deer winter range, which were determined to be too extensive to incorporate into the network. The non-riparian habitats intersecting the network include:

- Bald Eagle
- Cavity-Nesting Ducks
- Cliffs/Bluffs
- Dusky Canada Goose
- Great Blue Heron
- Islands
- Oak Woodland
- Old-Growth/Mature Forest
- Osprey
- Purple Martin
- Sandhill Crane
- Snag-Rich Areas
- Talus Slopes
- Tundra Swan
- Urban Natural Open Space
- Waterfowl Concentrations
- Wetlands
- Wood Duck

7. 2004 Aggregate Benefits Layer (consreet)

This data represents the original network of high value conservation lands developed for the 2004 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan.

8. Undeveloped parcels

The network was extended to include all undeveloped parcels where the boundary captures more than half the land area of the parcel.

9. Developed Parcels

Developed parcels were defined as parcels with an assessed improvement value greater than or equal to $50,000. All developed parcels 20 acres in size or larger where the boundary captures more than half the land area of the parcel were added to the network.

10. Public Lands

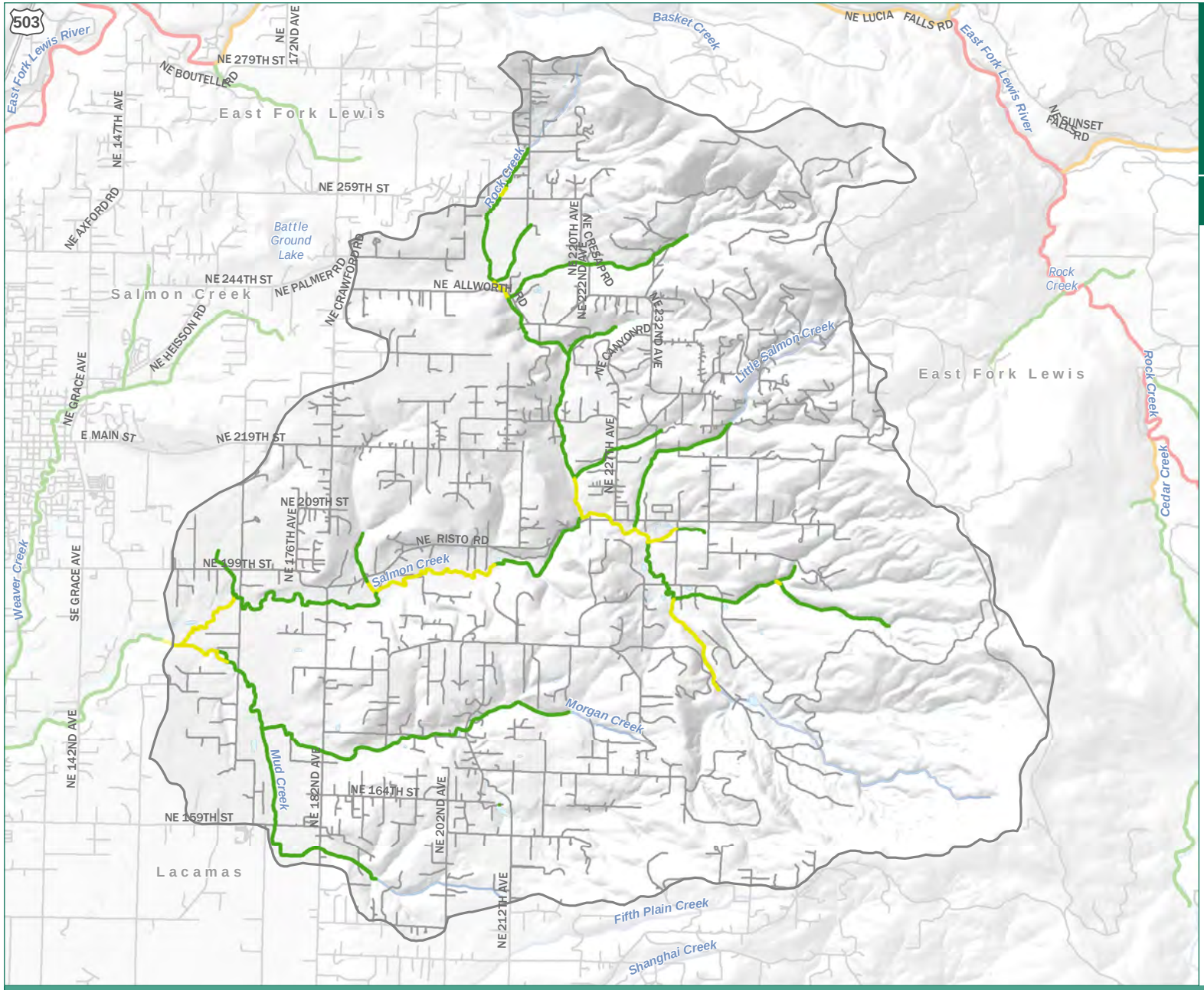
We incorporated all public and protected lands which lie fully or partially inside the network, with the exception of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands.

Additional Layers

Throughout the process we used additional data sources to inform our decision making and confirm the validity of our results. These sources include, most notably, the High Value Lands and High Value Riparian Lands models from the Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy.

Compilation

We merged all of the above described inputs together to create a single layer representing aggregate benefits, or high value conservation lands in Clark County. The following maps depict how the various layers were combined within the Salmon Creek (upper) subarea in order to arrive at the High Value Conservation Lands layer.



Salmon Streams by EDT Tier

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

EDT by Priority Tier

(Buffer Distance)

- 1 (250')
- 2 (250')
- 3 (150')
- 4 (150')
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

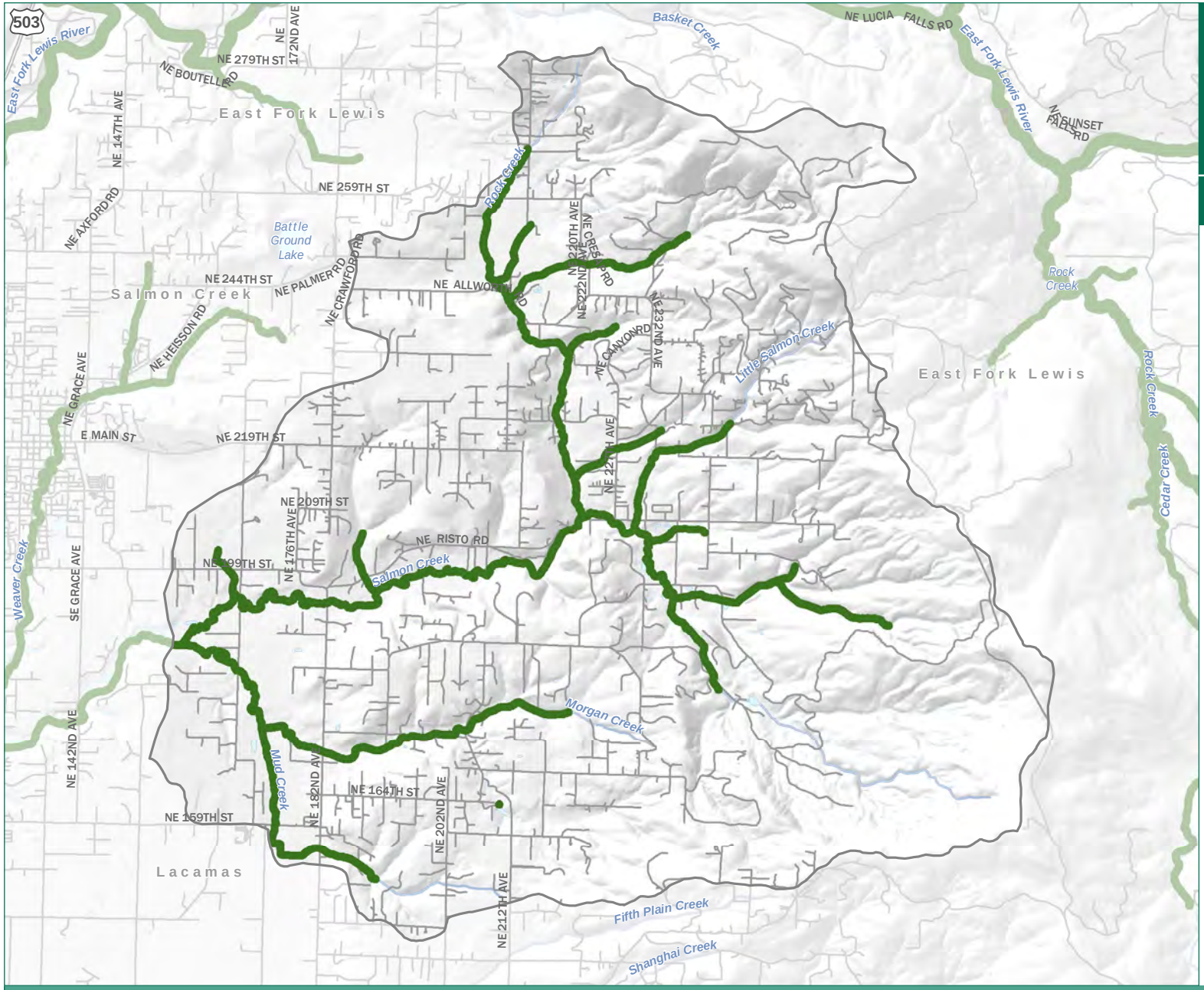
Map Notes: *Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) Priority Salmon Tiers 1-4*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net



Salmon Streams Variable Buffers

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- EDT Tiers Variable Width Buffers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

Map Notes: *Tiers 1,2 are buffered by 250'*
Tiers 3, 4 are buffered by 150'

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

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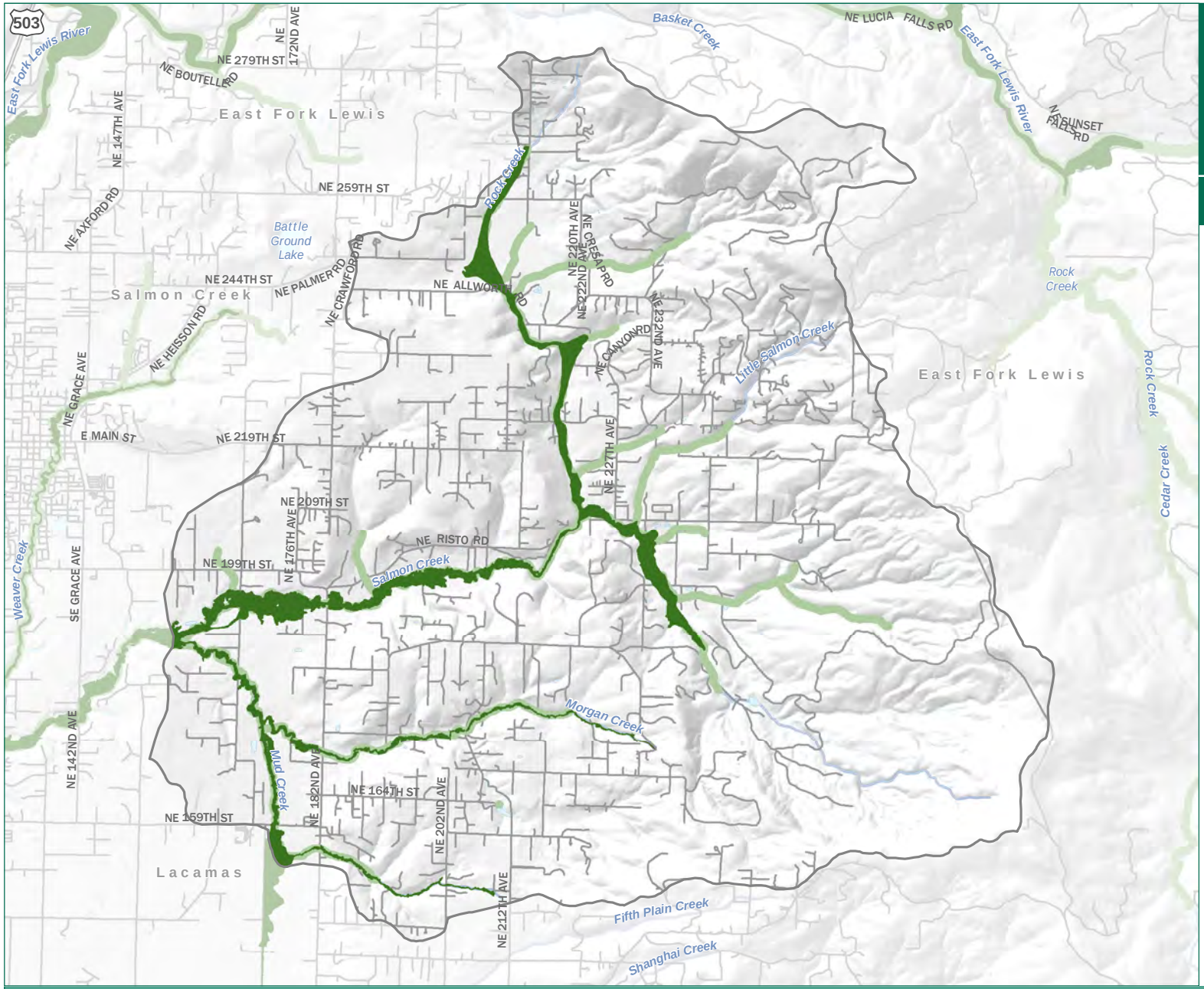
Cartography by www.coregis.net



FEMA Floodplain

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- FEMA Floodplain
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

Map Notes: *FEMA 100 year floodplain derived from digital Q3 data*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

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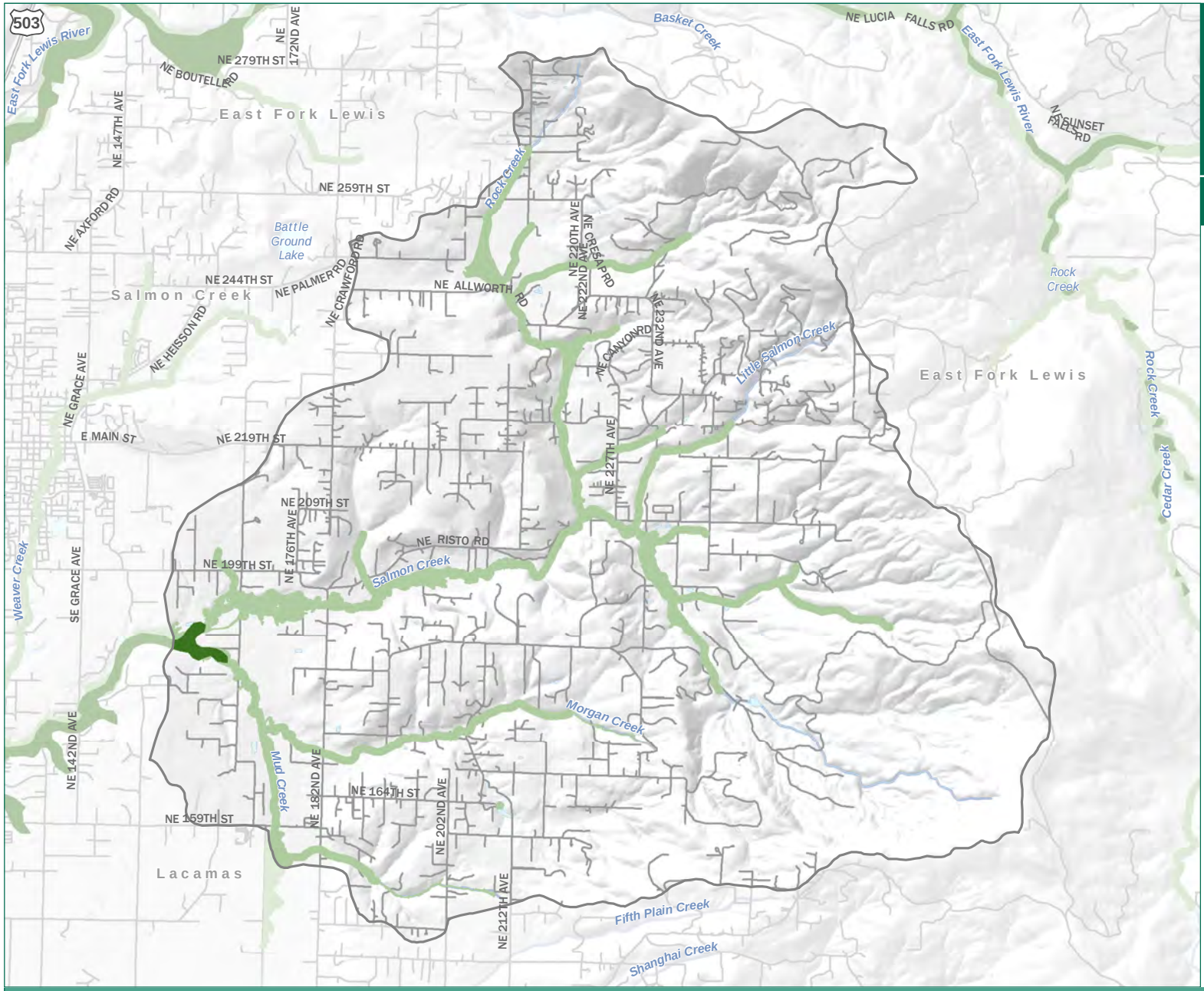
Cartography by www.coregis.net



WDFW PHS Riparian Habitat

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- WDFW PHS Riparian Habitat
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

Map Notes: *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitats & Species (PHS) riparian zones*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

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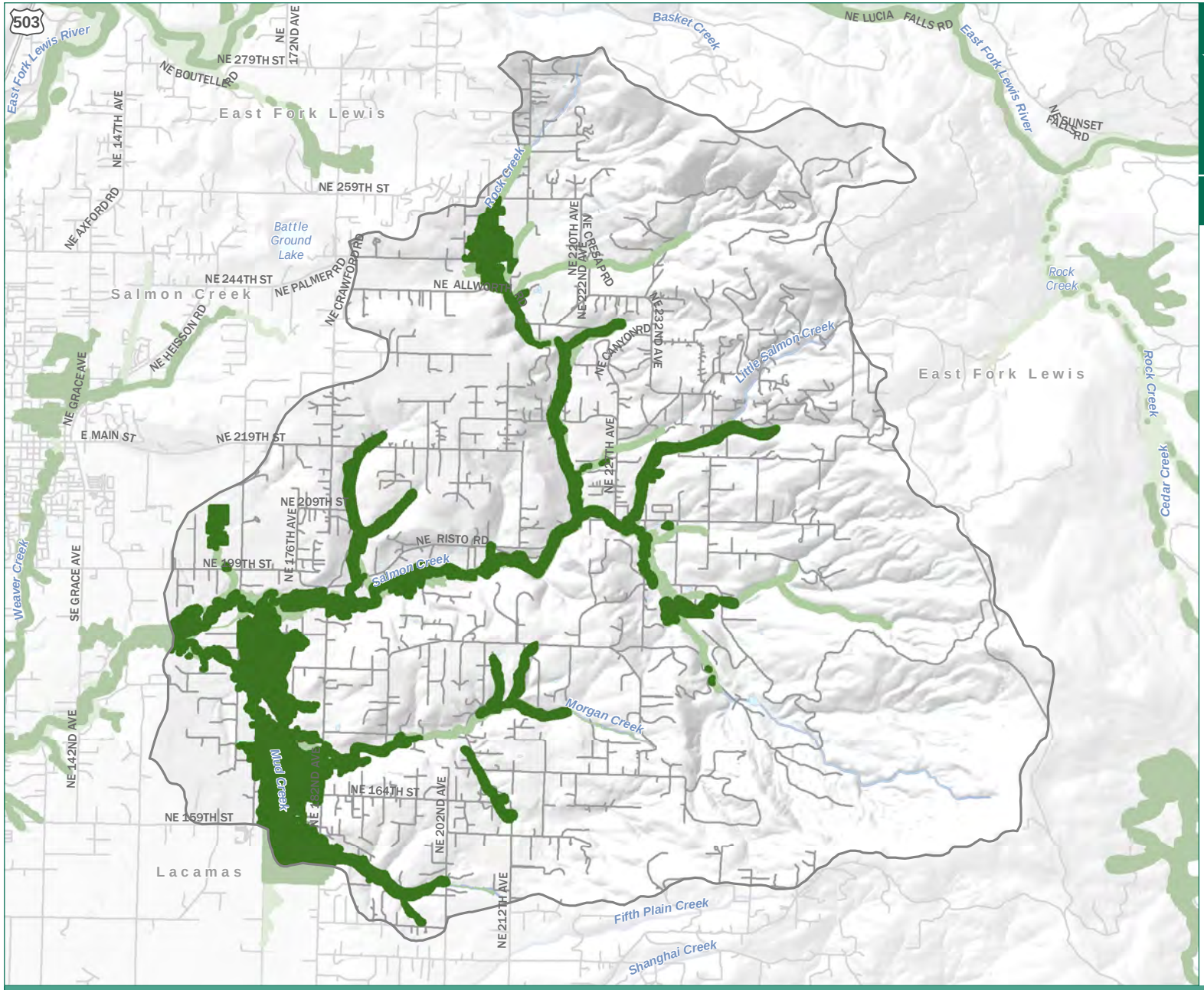


Wetlands Within 200' of Streams

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- Wetands Within 200ft Buffered 30m
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

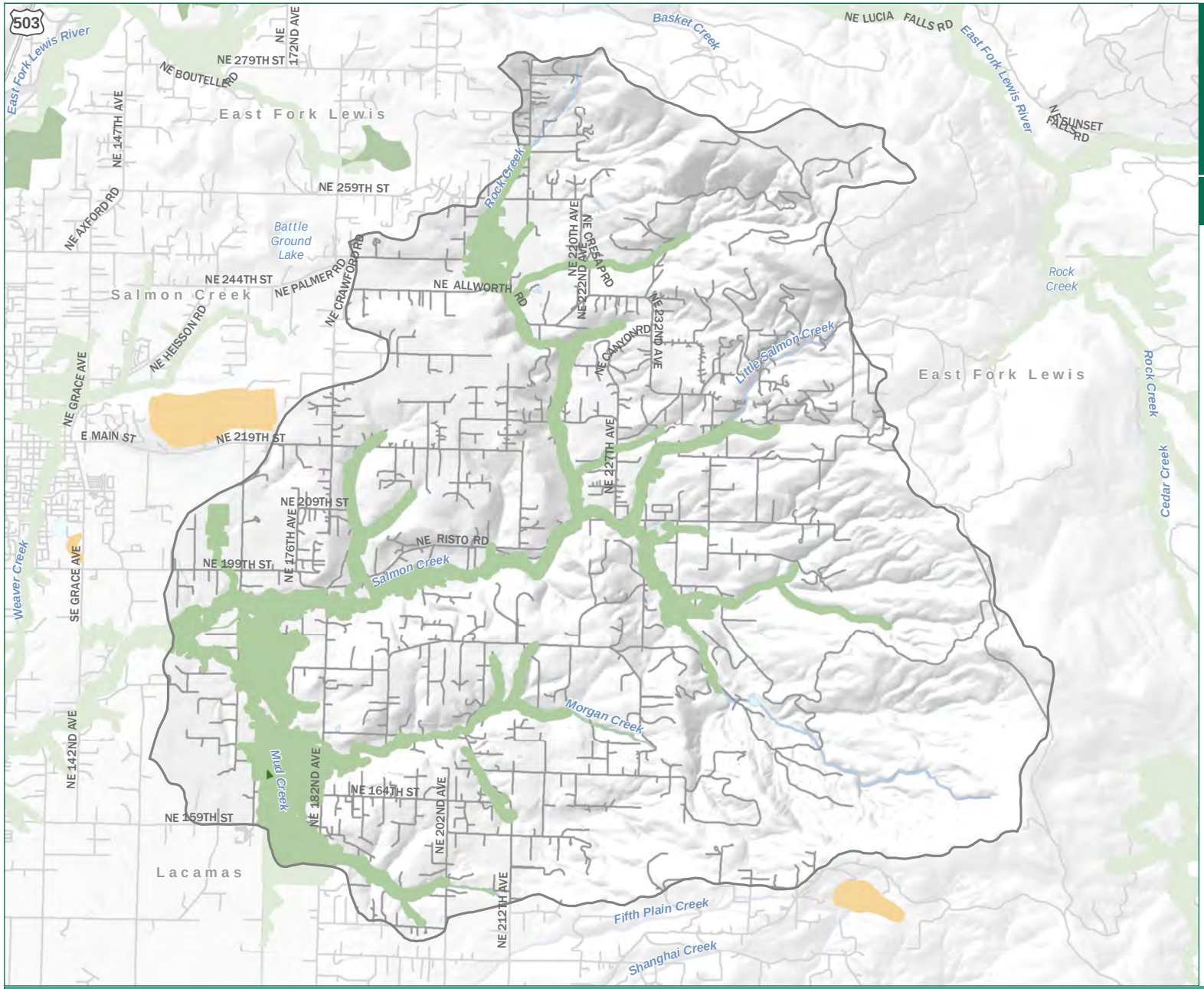
Map Notes: *United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Wetlands within 200' of streams, buffered by 30m*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net



PHS Non-Riparian Habitats

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- PHS Non Riparian Habitats Included in Aggregate Benefits
- PHS Non Riparian Habitats Not Included in Aggregate Benefits
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

Map Notes: *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitats & Species (PHS) non-riparian zones and excluding elk and mule deer winter range*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

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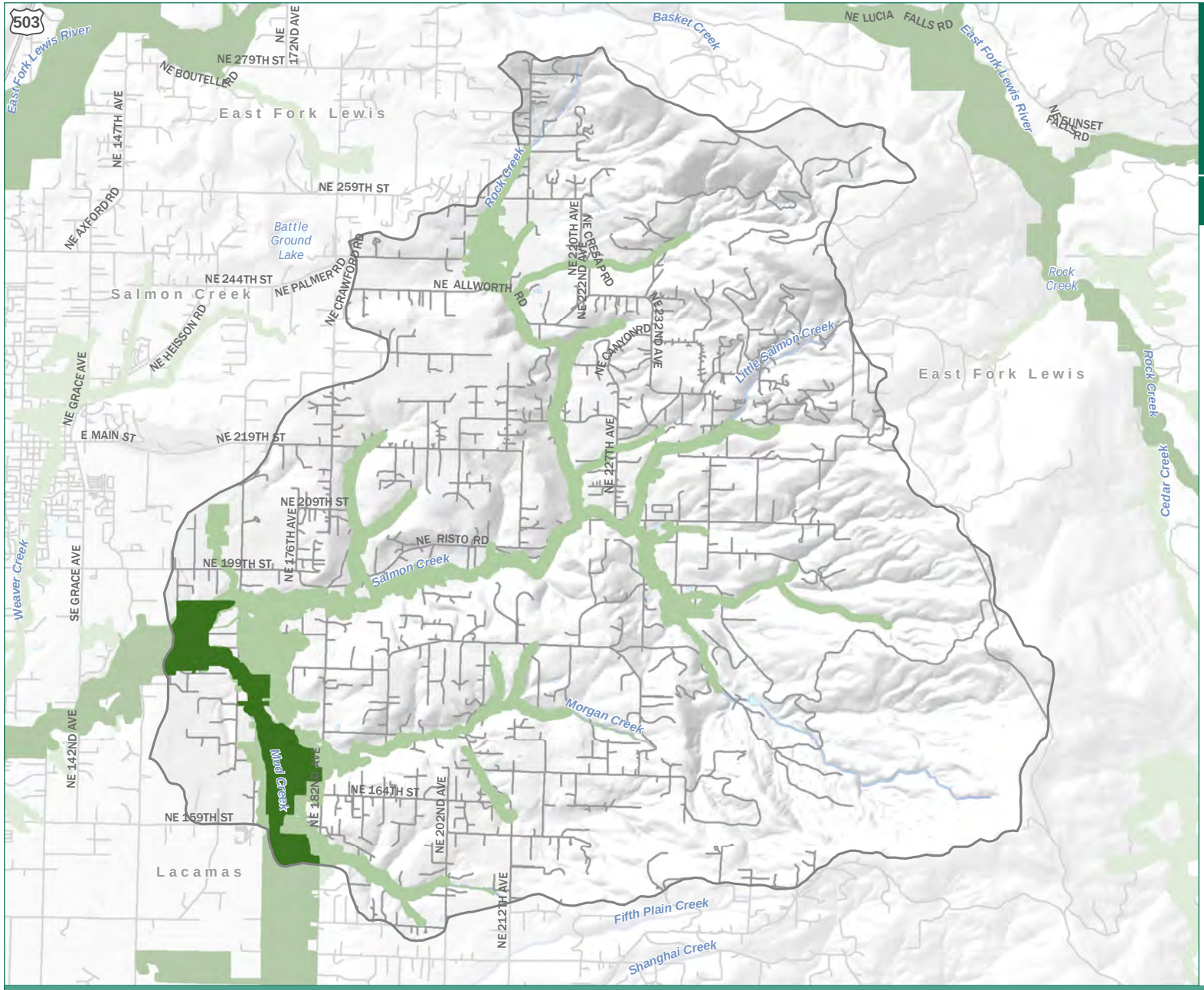
Cartography by www.coregis.net



Aggregate Benefits Layer 2004

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- Aggregate Benefits Layer 2004
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

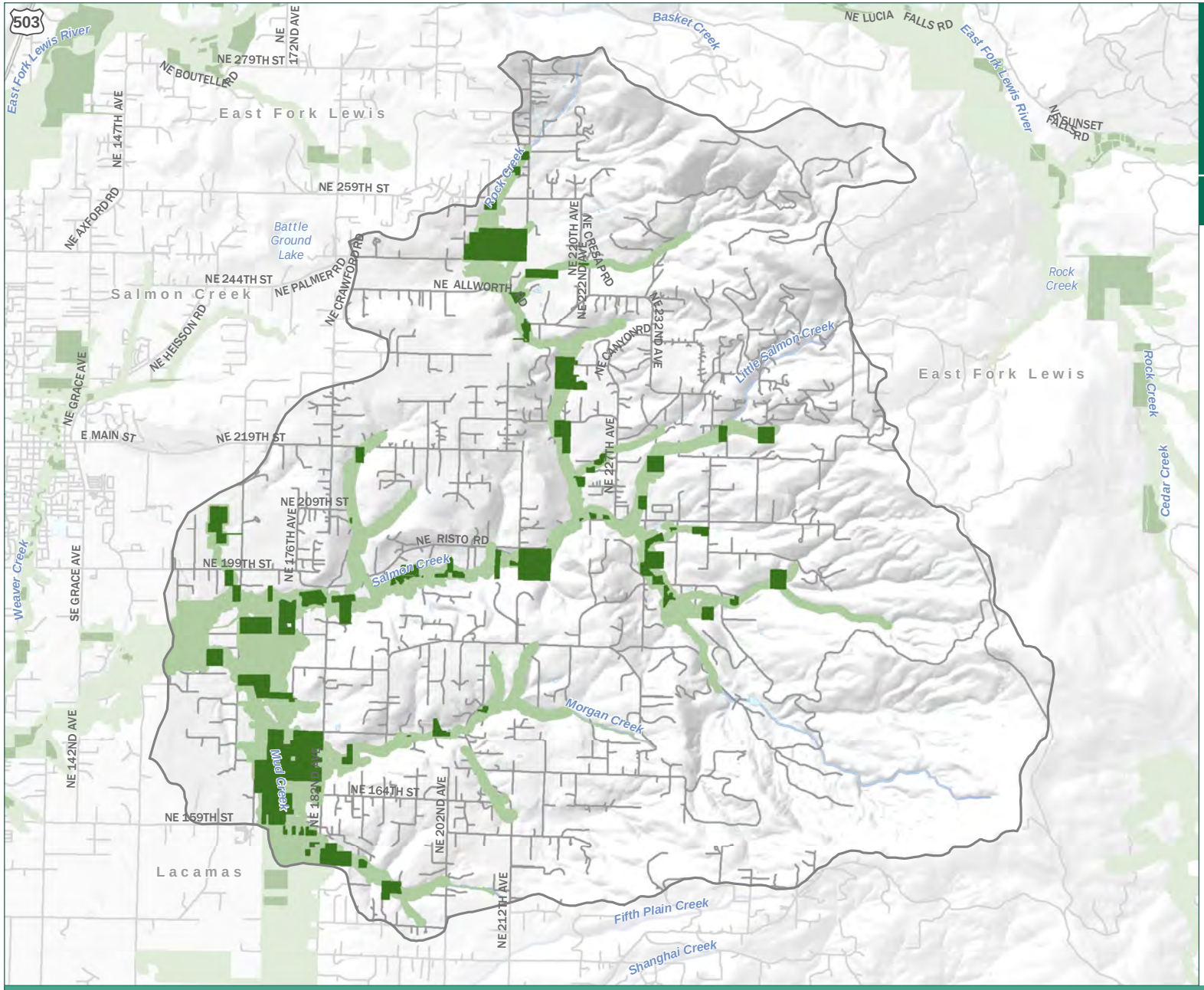
Map Notes: *Aggregate benefits from 2004 plan*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net



Undeveloped Parcels

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- Undeveloped Parcels (>= 50% Within Boundary)
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

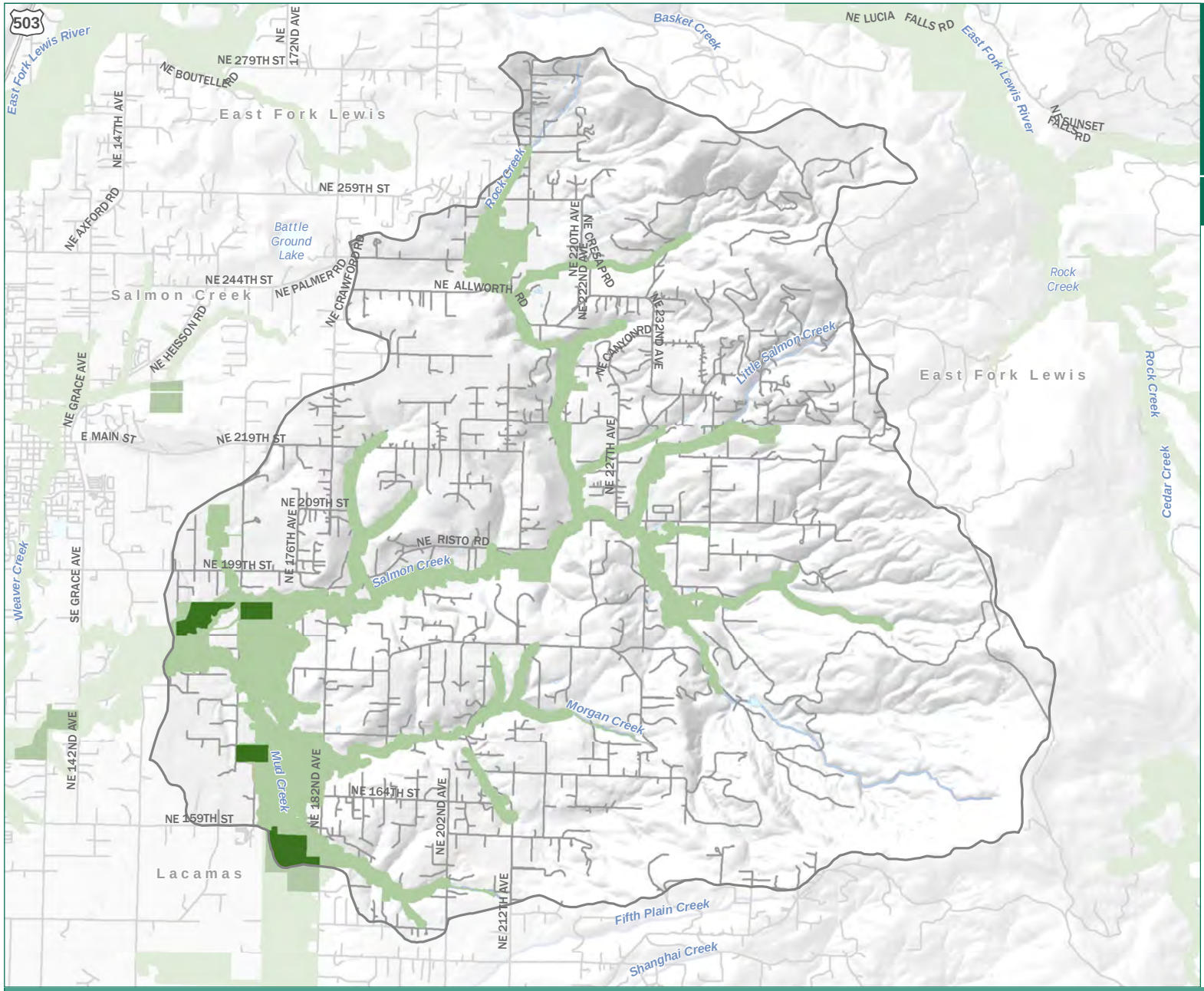
Map Notes: *Undeveloped parcels contain no structures and are >=50% within network*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net



Developed Parcels

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- Developed Parcels >= 20 Acres (>= 50% Within Boundary)
- Previous Layers
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

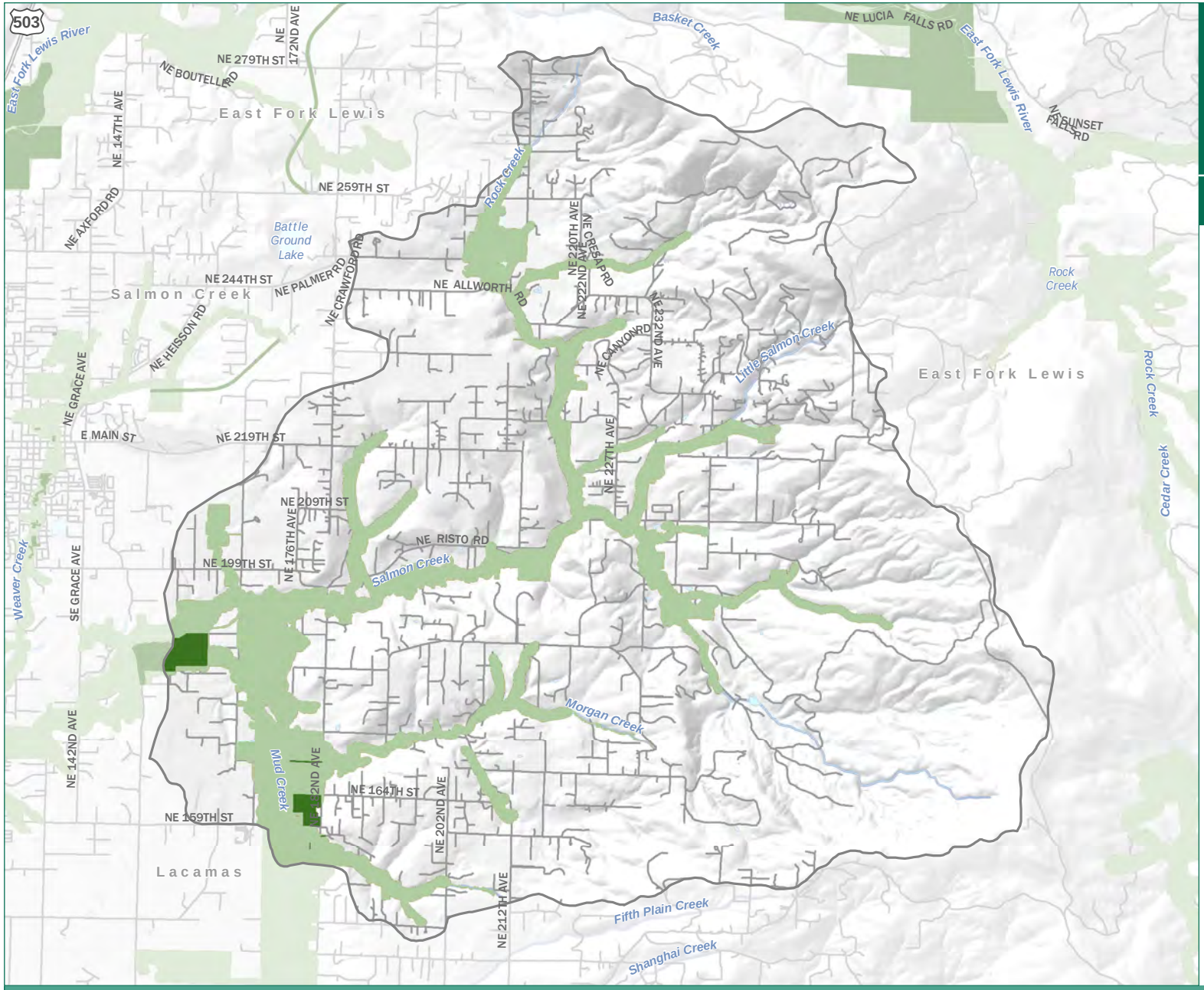
Map Notes: *Developed parcels are >= 20 acres with assessed improvement >=$50,000 and >=50% within network*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net



Public Lands

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- Non-DNR Public Lands Intersecting Aggregate Benefits
- Previous Layers
- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

Map Notes: *Public lands are non-DNR lands intersecting the network*

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
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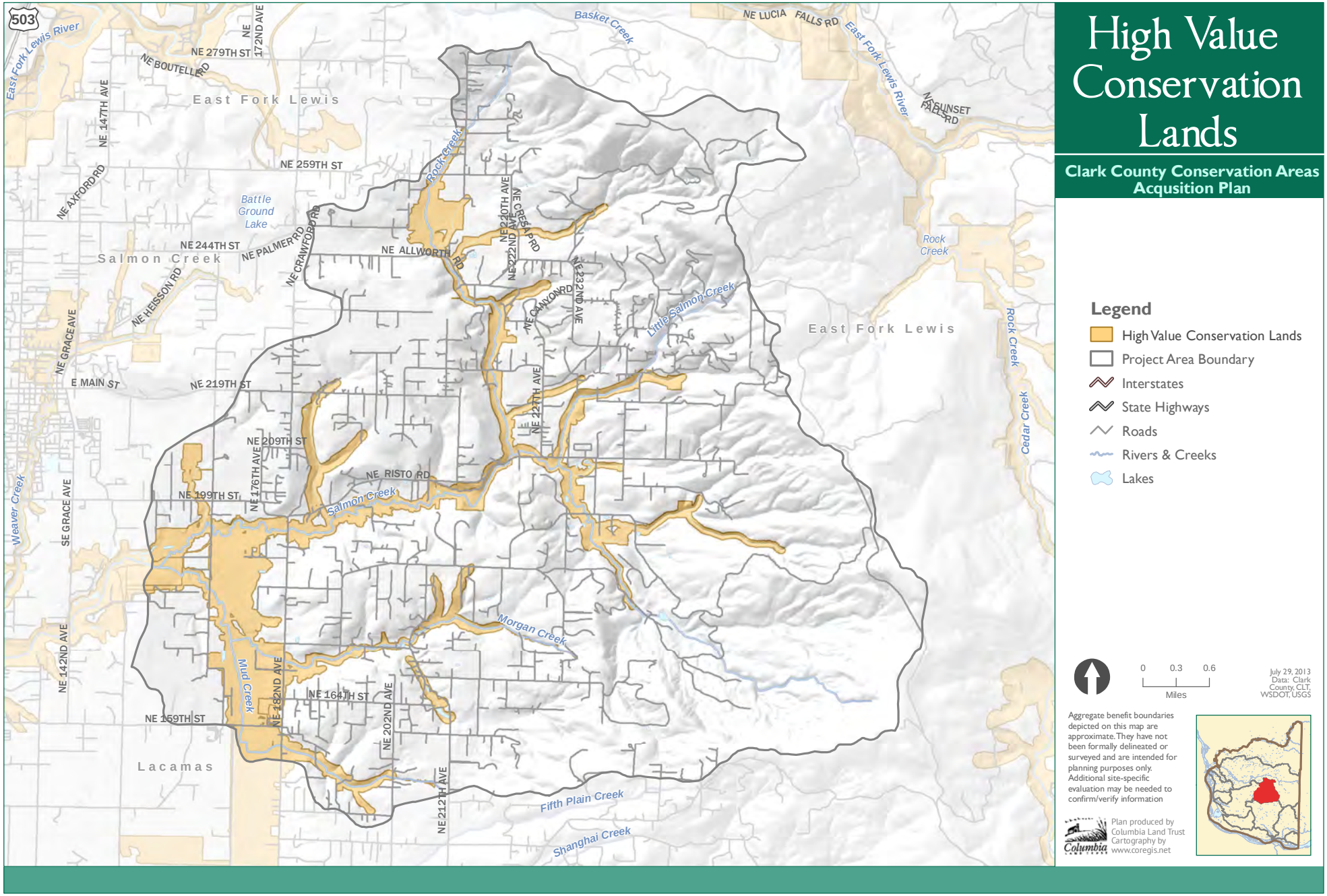

High Value Conservation Lands

Clark County Conservation Areas Acqusition Plan

Legend

- High Value Conservation Lands
- Project Area Boundary
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Roads
- Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes

0 0.3 0.6
Miles

July 29, 2013
Data: Clark County, CLT, WSDOT, USGS

Aggregate benefit boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information

Plan produced by Columbia Land Trust
Cartography by www.coregis.net

Clark County
Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan

Appendix D
Conservation Areas Fund Source Manual

A variety of funding opportunities are available to counties in the state of Washington to help acquire and improve conservation lands. These include both grants and non-grant programs that generate revenue or otherwise can help achieve conservation lands protection and improvement.

This manual includes summaries, in table format, of 26 grant programs. Entries include information about managing agency, purpose, eligible projects, grant limits, matching requirements, application deadlines and cycles, and available grant amounts and/or grant history. It should be emphasized that this kind of information can be a useful screen to help determine whether a grant program might be a good match for individual projects. However, grant applicants should review more completely grant guidelines, evaluation criteria, and other background materials, as well as communicate with grant program managers, before fully committing to grant development.

This manual also includes summaries of nine other programs that generate funds or otherwise achieve conservation lands protection. These include, for example, Conservation Futures, Conservation Areas Real Estate Excise Tax, and the state's Trust Lands Transfer Program. A directory of fund sources appears on the following page.

Fund Sources – Grants
Acres for America – NFWF
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account – WA RCO
Coastal Protection Fund (Terry Husseman Account) – WA DOE
Community Forest Trusts – WA DNR
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (HCP Land Acq. Grants) – USFWS
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Recovery Land Acq.) – USFWS
Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program – NRCS
Forest Legacy Program – USFS
Habitat Restoration Program – LCREP
Land and Water Conservation Fund – RCO/NPS
Lewis River Aquatics Fund - PacifiCorp
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Traditional & Pilot Programs) - USFWS
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Small Grants) – USFWS
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Standard Grants) – USFWS
Salmon Recovery Program – SRFB/LCRFB/RCO
Water Quality Financial Assistance Program – WA DOE
(Centennial Clean Water, Section 319, Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund)
Wetlands Reserve Program (Permanent and 30-Year Easements) – NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program (10-Year Restoration Cost-Share) – NRCS
Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative – Ecotrust and Partners
WWRP Critical Habitat – WA RCO
WWRP Farmland Preservation – WA RCO
WWRP Local Park – WA RCO
WWRP Riparian Protection – WA RCO
WWRP Trails – WA RCO
WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat – WA RCO
WWRP Water Access – WA RCO

Fund Sources Public – Other Tools
Conservation Futures
County Bonds (Voted GO, Councilmanic, Revenue)
Impact Fees
Lid Lift
Real Estate Excise Tax Options
Real Estate Excise Tax – Conservation Areas
Trust Lands Transfer Program
Columbia River Estuary Mitigation –BPA

Fund Sources Private
Private-Sector Grants Overview

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Acres for America **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Cooperation with Walmart Stores**	Provides funding to help conserve large, landscape-level areas that are important habitat for fish, wildlife and plants through acquisition of interest in real property	• Acquisition/preservation	Max: $1M	Min: 1:1	Annual. Pre-proposal: June Proposal: Aug.	Program provides $2.5M annually Generally tries to fund 3-4 projects/year Only one project in OR to date; none in WA	• NFWF's "premiere land conservation program" • Walmart's goal to offset footprint of domestic facilities on at least acre by acre basis • Preference given to projects that are part of adopted cons. Plans • Support from public agencies and/or NGO's desirable • Projects should support landscape level conservation • Public access preferred, not required • Fee or easement transaction must qualify for "conservation purposes" as defined by IRS Code Section 170(h)
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account: **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Protect, restore and improve aquatic lands for public purposes; provide and improve access to aquatic lands	• Acquisition/preservation • Site restoration • Viewpoints • Benches/tables • Interpretive signs/kiosks • Fishing piers/platforms • Non-motor trails/paths • Open water swim areas • Parking lots/entry roads • Restrooms	Acq: $1 million Dev: $500K Restore:$500K Combination: $1 million of which not more than $500K may be for dev/restoration.	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 12 projects received $6,608,000. High: $1,000,000 (A) Low: $200,000 (D) About $5 M each grant cycle.	• Projects must be on navigable waterways • Funds derive from leasing of state-owned tidelands and shore lands • Property acquired, restored, or developed with ALEA grants must be kept for public recreation use forever
Coastal Protection Fund – Terry Husseman Account **WA Department of Ecology**	Restore or enhance environmental, recreational, archaeological, or aesthetic resources for WA citizens. Typical projects address water quality issues and fish and wildlife habitat protection or enhancement needs	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/enhancement	$50k	None	Generally 1or 2 times per year; more often if fund balance allows		• Fund source is penalties paid on violations under Water Pollution Control Act • Timing of RFP's depend on fund balance in THA by sub-region • Projects are evaluated based on regional water quality, restoration, improvement and monitoring priorities

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Community Forest Trust **WA Department of Natural Resources**	Preserve working forests that are at high risk of conversion and that provide important community benefits (e.g. wildlife habitat, clean water, recreation) that may be lost	• Acquisition/preservation (sites may include private and state trust lands; private land acquisitions must involve willing sellers)	This is a new program; grant limits have not been established	Min: 50% of non-timber real estate value	To be determined. DNR issued call for pilot proposals in May 2012	This is a new program, with no grant history. Additional information on the program's roll out and the status of pilot projects can be found on the DNR website.	• New program authorized in 2011 under RCW 79.155 • DNR issued initial call for proposals in May 2012 • DNR will hold and manage property • Community-supported management plans will be developed for each site • Sites must generate enough revenue to support management actions. • Enhancements for wildlife, recreation, etc. will be allowed if consistent with management plan.
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Sec. 6 of ESA) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants **US Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with WDFW & DNR**	Protect habitat that supports ESA-listed species managed by USFWS. Grant category has three primary purposes: complement conservation provided by a permitted HCP; provide important benefits to listed species; and provide important benefits to ecosystems that support listed, proposed, and candidate species	• Acquisition/preservation	$6M per HCP	Min. 25%	Annual	FY 2012: WA received $3.7M for 1 project FY 2011: WA received $3.5M for 1 project FY 2010: WA received $13,471,700 for 5 projects	• Projects must complement approved Habitat Conservation Plans • WDFW and DNR are lead agencies at state level • Grants must support listed species managed by USFW (salmon managed by NMFS are not primary focus) • Sponsors must purchase land at fair market value from willing sellers • Interest must be in perpetuity • Listed plants may be target species • Program is highly competitive; 3-5 listed species need to benefit

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Sec. 6 of ESA) Recovery Land Acquisition Grants **US Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with WDFW & DNR**	Project habitat that supports ESA-listed species managed by USFWS and that support approved species recovery plans. (These grants will not be used to fund land acquisitions associated with permitted HCPs)	• Acquisition/preservation	$1 million	Min. 25%	Annual	FY 2012: WA received no grant monies FY 2011: WA received $712,650 for 1 project FY 2010: WA received $1,258,500 for 1 project	• Projects must support approved recovery plans • WDFW and DNR are lead agencies at state level • Grants must support listed species managed by USFW (salmon managed by NMFS are not primary focus) • Sponsors must purchase land at fair market value from willing sellers • Projects are intended to provide protection in perpetuity • Listed plants may be target species and can compete well for funding • Program is highly competitive with down trend in funding over past years
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**	Provides matching funds to eligible agencies (e.g., local governments and NGOs) to buy permanent easements on farm and ranch land	Acquisition (easements) of - Cropland - Rangeland - Grass/Pastureland Forest and other "incidental" lands may be included if % amount meets program guidelines		Min. 50%	Annual		• Easements must be permanent unless precluded by state law • States must have FRPP plan • Sponsor must have farmland protection program • Land must be privately owned and typically must include 50% or more prime and unique soils • Projects may include historical and/or archeological resources • Projects must be included in a pending offer

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Forest Legacy Program **USDA Forest Service in partnership with WA Department of Natural Resources**	Protect environmentally important forest lands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Program strives to protect working forests, along with non-commodity values such as water, fish and wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics.	• Acquisition/preservation	States may submit up to three grant proposals, with a total value not to exceed $10 million	25% non-federal	Annual	WA State has "closed" 21 grant projects since 1995; High:$3,358,313 Average: $1,311,814	• Projects need to support state Assessment of Need • Acquisition emphasizes conservation easements (fee acquisition is rare) • Forest stewardship plans need to be prepared for funded projects • Project evaluation includes both commodity & non-commodity criteria • Program highly competitive at both the state and federal level
Habitat Restoration Program **Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership**	LCREP goal is to protect and restore habitat in lower Columbia Estuary. Grant program purpose varies with fund source (e.g., BPA, NOAA, EPA) Most recent call for projects involves BPA funding to improve access and habitat for ESA listed salmon to meet mitigation requirements for 2008 biological opinion for Columbia River power system	• Acquisition (if project also involves restoration actions) • Restoration/enhancement (breach dikes, replace culverts, remove tide gates, restore large wood, etc.)	Grants generally range between $50K and $500k	None	Annual (3X/Year)	About $2M available annually	• Program entries focus on current BPA program funding • Project priorities include ESA listed upriver salmon populations and juvenile migration/rearing • BPA program scope covers lower Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to Ocean and tidally influenced portions of estuaries.

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Land and Water Conservation Fund: **WA Recreation and Conservation Office in coordination with National Park Service**	Preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands	• Acquisition/preservation • Development/Restoration • Water access facilities • Boating facilities • Natural Areas/Open Spaces • Trails and pathways • Vistas and Viewpoints • Swim beaches and pools • Athletic Fields • Wildlife habitat • Support facilities	Acq./Dev. Min: $25K Max: $500K	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 2 projects fully funded @ $335,575 & $109,000; 2 projects partly funded @ $387,040 & $39,627. Total funding $871,242. About $1M each grant cycle	• Projects should strongly consider State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) priorities • Most indoor facilities are ineligible. • All land acquired or developed with LWCF grants must be used forever for public outdoor recreation
Lewis River Aquatics Fund **PacifiCorp**	Support protection of aquatic-related resources in the Lewis River Basin. Projects are evaluated based on: ▪Benefit to fish recovery throughout the NF Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species; ▪Support of reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the basin; ▪Enhancement of fish habitat in the basin, with priority give to the NF Lewis.	• Restoration/enhancement emphasized • Acquisition eligible if strong link to fish recovery	No limit. Amounts depend on available funds and quality of projects	No match required but considered in evaluation	Annual per terms stipulated in Article 7.5 of Settlement Agreement	2010/11: 4 projects funded. High: $85,000. Low: $39,000 Total Fund Amounts available 2012/13 RFP Resource Projects: $1,153,810 Bull Trout Projects: $534,155	• Fund established in 2004 via Lewis River Settlement Agreement • Grant process involves pre-proposal and final proposal for selected projects.

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Core Program) **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**	Supports protection and recovery of neotropical migratory birds. (A neotropical migratory bird is "one that breeds in the continental United States or Canada and spends the boreal winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America."	• Protection and management of neotropical migratory bird populations • Maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of habitat • Research and monitoring • Law enforcement • Outreach and education	Max: $200K Min: Requests under $15K are discouraged	3:1(Non-fed to Fed. Cash only.)	Annual	2012: 28 projects funded. Scope of 8 projects had entire or partial U.S. coverage. Total grant award: $3.78M. Grant range for projects with at least some U.S. coverage: $30,909 to $200K	• Proposals for wetland habitat should be directed to NAWCA • Applicants should coordinate with Migratory Bird Joint Ventures • A pilot program that focuses on 13 target species also available, but target species rare in Clark County • Grant duration may be one or two years
North American Wetlands Conservation Act – Small Grants Program **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Division in coordination with U.S. Habitat Joint Ventures**	Provides matching grants to protect, restore, and/or enhance wetlands and associated upland habitats for the benefit of wetlands-associated birds and other wildlife	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/enhancement • Design • Administration (most competitive grants keep admin and other indirect costs below 20%)	Max: $75k	Min: 1:1	Annual (1X/Year) Oct. Deadline	Funding Level authorized up to $5M nationally; Min. $3M approved for FY 2012	• Program created to encourage new grantees to participate in NAWCA • Adheres to same general purpose and guidelines as Standard Program • Evaluation criteria reward projects that are part of larger conservation initiative • Projects with upland acres must have "reasonable balance" with wetlands • Acquired lands (including match) usually require cons. easements
North American Wetlands Conservation Act – Standard Grants Program **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Division in coordination with U.S. Habitat Joint Ventures**	Provides matching grants to protect, restore, and/or enhance wetlands and associated upland habitats for the benefit of wetlands-associated birds and other wildlife	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/enhancement • Design • Administration (most competitive grants keep admin and other indirect costs below 20%)	Generally $1M	Min: 1:1	Annual (2X/Year) March and Oct. Deadlines		• Multiple NAWCA projects funded in Clark County (e.g., Lacamas Shoreline, South V. Lake)

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Salmon Recovery Program: **WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board; WA RCO (admin support); Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (Lead Entity)**	Protect existing high-quality habitats for TES salmon and restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and productivity	• Acquisition • Restoration • Design-only (either "preliminary" 30% or final) • Non-Capital (e.g. assessments)	None, except $200K for design-only	Min. 15%, except no match required for design-only	Annual	2011: 13 projects funded. Total lead entity allocation $2,565,000. High grant: $486,305 (restore), Low: $47,306 (design) 2009-2011 average: $2,684,507	• Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board is "lead entity' in region • LCFRB manages application process for SRFB funding • Sponsors of fee-title acquisition grants must explain why lesser interest won't meet project goals. • Sponsors of acquisition grants must consult affected city or county
Water Quality Financial Assistance (Combines Centennial Clean Water, Section 319, and State Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Programs) **WA DOE**	Protect and improve Washington State water quality through grant and loan funding of high-priority water quality projects; invest in water quality infrastructure to protect and clean up Washington's waters	Wide range of projects that address point and non-point source water control issues. Non-point projects may include grants or loans for stream, riparian, & wetlands restoration; restoration of lakes with public access; acquisition (loans only) for "prevention of water pollution"and "wetland habitat preservation."	Non-point Grants: $250K with any combination of in-kind and cash match; $500k with cash match.	Non-point grants: 25% Loans: None	Annual	Total funds available for state fiscal years 2008-11 ranged from $67.5 M to $140.2 M. For SFY 2011, DOE received 143 proposals requesting $270M; DOE funded 56 projects for a total of approx. $108M	• City of Vancouver received in 2010 $1.1M loan to acquire Peterson Channel property near BBC • Clark Public Utilities received Centennial Grant to restore riparian areas on Dean Creek • New rules may allow portions of loan principal to be "forgivable" for qualifying projects
Wetlands Reserve Program – Permanent and 30-Year Easements **Natural Resources Conservation Service**	Provides technical and financial support to eligible landowners to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands; program provides financial assistance in exchange for retiring marginal wetlands from agriculture. Acquisitions may involve 30-year or permanent easements	• Acquisition • Restoration • Technical Support	No cap	Permanent: NRCS pays 100% of costs; 30-year: NRCS pays 75% of costs	Applications accepted through continuous sign-up	WA received about $4M annually to support WRP	• WRP authorized in federal Farm Bill; Farm Bill expired Oct. 2012 • WRP buys easements from private landowners; public agencies may buy underlying interest as public/private partnership (Permanent easement exists on Schriber acquisition on EFL) WRP lands may be used for fishing, hunting, and other undeveloped recreational activities • Eligible lands must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
Wetlands Reserve Program – Restoration Cost-Share Agreement **Natural Resources Conservation Service**	Provides technical and financial support to eligible landowners to re-establish lost or degraded wetland habitat on marginal farmlands. Term of agreement is generally for minimum of 10 years. No easement is placed on land.	• Restoration • Technical Support	Max: $50k/year per entity	NRCS pays 75% of restoration costs.	Applications accepted through continuous sign-up	WA received about $4M annually to support WRP	• WRP authorized in federal Farm Bill; Farm Bill expired Oct. 2012 • Some FB reauthorizations allowed Restoration Cost-Share Agreements on "non-federal" public lands; however the most recent bill did not • County used program funds at La Center Bottoms and South V. Lake while eligible
Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative **Ecotrust in coordination with partners (NOAA, OWEB, USFS, BLM, USFWS, and NRCS)**	Provides matching funds to restore major ecological functions in OR, WA, and Idaho by investing in community-based groups to carry out on-the-ground restoration. Funding is focused on Pacific salmon and steelhead ecosystems, and priority watersheds have been identified. These include in Clark County East Fork Lewis	• Restoration (examples) • Remove culverts • Breach or remove levees • Decommission roads • Restore stream complexity • Restore riparian areas Projects should focus on on-the-ground restoration but may include design, feasibility analysis, outreach, education, and monitoring	Min: $20K Max: $100k	50% match encouraged; projects with less match still eligible	Annual (Deadline for 2013 projects: 12/17/12)	Annual funding pool: $1-$2M. 2012: $1.3M	• Projects that can be completed in 2013 may be given priority; all projects must be completed within 24 months of the award start date • Only projects in designated priority basins will be considered (These include East Fork Lewis.) • Projects will likely receive federal $ and must comply with all applicable permit and other requirements • Strongest projects are typically part of adopted restoration action plan, salmon recovery plan, etc.
WWRP – Critical Habitat: **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire, create, or enhance habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species; food fish; shellfish; and freshwater, anadromous, and other fish including habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/Enhancement • Development (limited): • Benches/tables • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Paths/roads/parking • Restrooms • Site Stewardship Plan • Viewing shelters	None	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 2 projects fully funded @ $4.2 million & $2.75 million; one project partly funded @ $1,867,300. Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55 M; @ 55M CH receives $9,821,250 (see attached WWRP budget comparison).	• Sponsors must submit adopted habitat conservation plan • Sites may include public use for "consumptive and non-consumptive" activities. • Sites may restrict public use to protect habitat and species • Acq. may be fee or less than fee • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in perpetuity for habitat conservation by Deed of Right

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
WWRP – Farmland Preservation: **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Protect the state's valuable agricultural land through purchase of development rights, and (secondarily) to enhance or restore ecological functions on property preserved with grants	• Acquisition (Required for all projects) • Enhancement/Restoration • Fences to restrict livestock • Replant native vegetation • Restore historic water runoff patterns • Improved irrigation • Install solar well pumps • Stewardship plans	None	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 1 project fully funded @ $685,857; 1 project partly funded @ $90,143 Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M Farm receives $4,365,000	• Grants must be used to buy development rights typically through purchase of farm easements; purchase of leases are also allowed • Acquisition of in-perpetuity easements receives preference • Term easements must be at least 25 years • Farm category receives no money until total WWRP allocation reaches $40M
WWRP – Local Park **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire, develop, or renovate active or passive parks, which may contain both upland and water-oriented elements.	• Acquisition • Development/Restoration • Campgrounds/cabins • Fishing floats • Hard court areas • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Outdoor swimming pools • Picnic shelters/tables • Play areas/Playing fields • Roads/paths/parking • Restrooms • Viewing areas	Acq: $1 million Dev: $500k Combination: $1M of which no more than $500k may be for development	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 18 projects fully funded, 1 project partly funded. High Acq: $1M; High Dev: $500k Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M LP receives $6,984,000	• Sponsors must submit adopted comprehensive park plans • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in-perpetuity for outdoor recreation purposes by Deed of Right
WWRP – Riparian Protection **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire or restore riparian habitat adjacent to any water body or its submerged lands; riparian habitat may include shorelines, near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, or rivers	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/enhancement • Development (limited): • Benches/tables • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Paths/roads/parking • Restrooms • Site stewardship plan • Viewing shelters	Max: None Min: $25K	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 1 project partly funded @ $776,000 Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M Riparian receives $5,335,000	• Riparian category receives no money until total WWRP allocation reaches $40 M. • Acq. may be fee or less than fee • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in perpetuity for habitat conservation by Deed of Right.

Program/Manager	Purpose	Eligible Project Type	Grant Limits	Match	Application Cycles	Grant Awards	Comments
WWRP – Trails **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire, develop, or renovate pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or cross-country ski trails and support facilities	• Acquisition • Development/restoration • Benches/tables • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Site preparation • Trail surfacing • Restrooms • Roads and parking • Viewpoints	None	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years in even years	FY 2012: 8 projects fully funded, 1 project partly funded. High Dev: $978,999, High Acq: $211,000 Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M Trails receives $4,365,000	• Trail must be for non-motorized use • Trails cannot be part of street or road, unless separated by physical barriers and improved solely for trail use • Sponsors must submit adopted comprehensive parks plans • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in perpetuity for outdoor recreation by Deed of Right
WWRP – Urban Wildlife Habitat **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire, develop, or restore urban wildlife habitat, including habitat for wildlife, food fish, shellfish, or freshwater or marine fish.	• Acquisition/preservation • Restoration/enhancement • Development (limited): • Benches/tables • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Paths/roads/parking • Restrooms • Site stewardship plan • Viewing shelters	None	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 3 projects fully funded @ $1.8 M, $1.6M, $400K. 1 project partly funded @ $75,560 Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M UWH receives $5,335,000	• Urban habitat means habitat within the corporate limits or UGB of any city or town with a pop of at least 5k or within 5 miles of a UGA in a county that has a pop density of at least 250 people per square mile. • Sponsors must submit adopted habitat conservation plan • Acq may be fee or less than fee • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in perpetuity for habitat conservation by Deed of Right
WWRP – Water Access **WA Recreation and Conservation Office**	Acquire, develop, or renovate land or facilities that support non-motorized, water-related recreation such as boating, fishing, swimming or beachcombing	• Acquisition • Development/Restoration • Fish piers/platforms • Interpretive kiosks/signs • Launch ramps/floats/buoys • Picnic tables/shelters • Restrooms • Roads and paths	None	Min. 50% total project At least 10% of total project cost must come from non-state, non-federal sources	Every 2 years, in even years	FY 2012: 5 projects fully funded, 1 partly funded. Acq high: $1,267,875, Dev high: $500k Legislature determines biennial WWRP budget; average amount $55M; @ $55M WA receives $3,273,750	• Sponsors must submit adopted comprehensive parks plan • Lands acquired in fee must be dedicated in perpetuity for outdoor recreation by Deed of Right

Conservation Futures

Purpose
To acquire, conserve, and maintain open space, farm, and timber land threatened by growth and the spread of urban development

Administering Agency
Counties

Program Description
RCW 84.34 allows boards of county commissioners to authorize by resolution a property tax up to 6 ¼ cents per $1,000 assessed valuation for the purpose of acquiring fee simple or lesser interest in farm, forest, and open space lands (as defined in RCW 84.34.020), and for the maintenance and operation of any property acquired with these funds. The amount of revenue used for maintenance and operation may not exceed 15% of the total amount collected in the preceding calendar year. Funds may be used to acquire mineral rights, and leaseback agreements are permitted. The statute prohibits the use of eminent domain.

Agencies eligible to spend conservation futures funds under provisions of the legislation include any county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation as defined in RCW 84.34.250. Counties with over 100,000 population shall develop a process to help ensure the taxes levied are distributed, over time, throughout the county.

Clark County enacted its Conservation Futures program in October 1985. The County has prepared a *Conservation Futures-Legacy Lands Program Guidance Manual* that provides additional information about program details and the process used to select and implement projects.

Fund Capacity
Conservation Futures revenues are collected inside and outside city limits. In 2011, the countywide collections were approximately $2.35 million. The Washington State Department of Revenue advises that Conservation Futures levies are subject to the 101% limitation under chapter 84.55 RCW.

Comments

- Conservation Futures funds have helped acquire some of Clark County's most important habitat and regional recreation lands, including Camp Currie, Eagle Island, Lucia Falls, Frenchman's Bar, and the Salmon Creek, Lower Washougal, Burnt Bridge Creek, and Lower East Fork Lewis Greenways.

- Most towns and cities in Clark County and one nonprofit nature conservancy organization, as well as Clark County itself, have used Conservation Futures funds to acquire high-value projects; these occur both inside and outside city limits.

- See RCW 84.34.200-250

Bonds

Purpose
Provides method for counties and other taxing jurisdictions to borrow money to finance capital projects, such as land acquisition and facility construction, through the issuance of voted or non-voted general obligation bonds

Administering Agency
Counties and Other Taxing Jurisdictions (program description focuses on counties).

Program Description
For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions and facility constructions, counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Three general types of bonds may be sold: voter approved general obligation bonds; agency approved or councilmanic bonds; and revenue bonds.

- Voter-approved General Obligation Bonds: These bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. In addition to this "supermajority" approval requirement, voter turnout must be at least 40 percent of the number of voters who cast votes in the last general election (known as validation). If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond—typically 20 years or the life of the asset if less than 20 years—to pay both principal and interest. The maximum debt limit for voter approved bonds is two and one-half percent of the value of taxable property in the county.

- Councilmanic Bonds: These bonds may be sold by counties without public vote. The bonds—both principal and interest—are retired with payments from existing county revenue, such as Conservation Futures, or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. Two limits apply to councilmanic bonds. 1) the Legislature has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds at three-fourths of one percent of the value of taxable property within the county. 2) Clark County fiscal policy states that no more than 10 percent of the county's operating budget shall be used to service debt.

- Revenue Bonds: These bonds are sold with the intent of paying principal and interest from revenue generated by the improvement, such as fees and charges. For example, revenue bonds might be sold to fund a public water system that will generate revenue through utility charges to customers. Other funds may be dedicated to assist with repayment; however, it is desirable to have the improvements generate adequate revenue to pay all bond costs. Limits on the use and amount of revenue bonds are generally market-driven through investor faith in the adequacy of the revenue stream to support the bond payments.

Fund Capacity

- Voter-Approved GO Bonds: The maximum debt limit for voter-approved general obligation bonds is two and one-half percent of the value of all taxable property in the county. Clark County's 2011 countywide voter-approved bond capacity was $933,876,823. The current fund capacity is the maximum debt limit, less debt outstanding at the time of issuance of the bonds.
- Councilmanic Bonds: The maximum debt limit for non-voter approved general obligation bonds is three-fourths of one percent of all taxable property in the county. Clark County's 2011 countywide non-voter-approved bond capacity was $280,163,047. The current fund capacity is the maximum debt limit, less debt outstanding at the time of issuance of the bonds. (Clark County has issued councilmanic bonds on four occasions to help acquire high-value conservation lands, using Conservation Futures revenues to retire the bonds.)
- Revenue Bonds: These bonds would not be appropriate for conservation lands acquisition since they are based on the concept that revenue generated by the improvement will retire the debt.

Impact Fees

Purpose
The Washington State Growth Management Act authorizes cities, towns, and counties that plan under the act to place fees on new development to help finance certain public facilities that are addressed by a capital facilities element of a comprehensive land-use plan. These public facilities specifically include "publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities."

Administering Agency
Counties, Towns and Cities

Program Description
Impact fees are charges placed on new development to help pay a prorata share of various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. GMA impact fees may be imposed only for system improvements that are reasonably related to and that benefit the new development. The fees cannot exceed a proportionate share of the costs of system improvements for the new development. The local ordinance that enacts the fees shall specify the amount to be imposed for each type of system improvement, and shall be based on a formula or other method for calculating the fees. The fees must be expended within 10 years, unless there is an extraordinary or compelling reason for the fees to be held longer.

Clark County's impact fee program became effective in September 1990. Fees are collected on both single- and multi-family residential development in the Vancouver urban area. The urban area is divided into 10 districts for purposes of collecting park impact fees, and fees collected in a particular district must be spent in that district. Impact fees support the acquisition and development for three categories of park land: neighborhood parks, community parks, and urban open space. As part of the fee collection program, the city and county must provide a "proportionate public share" to help reduce existing deficits of urban parkland for the current population.

Fund Capacity
The current impact fee schedule for acquisition and development became effective in June 2002 and January 2003 respectively. The numbers below show the per-unit fees within the 10 park districts. Development fees are uniform across the 10 districts; acquisition fees vary and are expressed below as a low-to-high range.
SFR: Acquisition: $1,094 to $2,228. Development $440
MFR - Acquisition: $806 to $1,628. Development: $321

Comments

- The impact fee program provides direct funding for the acquisition of urban open space; the program also provides cost-sharing opportunities with fund sources such as Conservation Futures.

- See RCW 82.02.050 – 82.02.100

Property Tax – Lid Lift

Purpose
Provides process to exceed, with voter approval, the 1% limit on annual property tax levies to generate revenue for general or specified purposes; these purposes may include the acquisition, improvement, and stewardship of conservation areas.

Administering Agency
Counties et.al (program description focuses on counties).

Program Description
Counties are authorized to impose two ad valorem (non-voted) taxes upon real and personal property: a tax for general county purposes and a tax for road purposes. The county's tax levy for road district purposes may not exceed $2.25 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The county's tax levy for general purposes may not exceed $1.80 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

The authority to tax real and personal property is further limited in two ways:

1. The aggregate rate of all taxing districts, other than state, cannot exceed $5.90 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Some tax levies are excluded from the computation of this aggregate rate such as ports, public utility districts, and conservation futures. If the limit is exceeded, state statute governs reductions in specific taxing district levies until the combined rate of $5.90 is achieved. The levy reduction process protects the county's certified tax rate.

2. Levy increases for municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more are limited to the lesser of one percent or the increase in the July implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures as published in the September issue of the Survey of Current Business.

One exception to the one percent rule is the levy lid lift provided for in RCW 84.55.050. Taxing jurisdictions with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum may ask voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. There are two options, and in each case a simple majority vote is required:

Option 1: This proposed lid lift may be done for any purpose, and the purpose may be stated in the ballot title but does not have to be. The lid lift can be for any amount of time, unless the proceeds will be used to pay off debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. If the lift is to be permanent, the ballot title must include language that states the lift is permanent. After the initial lid lift, the jurisdiction's levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent limitation on new revenues. The election may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Option 2: This lid lift may be done for any purpose, but the purpose must be stated in the ballot title. The lid may be "bumped up" each year for up to six years. The lift for the first year must

state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase amount tied to an index such as the CPI, or a percentage amount set by some other method, and the amounts do not need to be the same for each year. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the base amount for the calculation of all future levy increases if expressly stated in the ballot title. The election date must be the August primary or the November general election as provided in RCW 84.55.050(2)(a).

Fund Capacity

The county's general purpose property tax is collected countywide. The 2011 countywide assessed value of real and personal property was $37,355,072,941. A rate increase of one cent per thousand dollars AV would have generated $373,551.

Comments

See RCW 84.55.050

Real Estate Excise Tax

Purpose
Provides mechanisms to finance capital projects by imposing excise taxes on the sale of real property; authorized expenditures include acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities, as well as acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas

Administering Agency
Counties, Cities, and Towns (program description focuses on counties).

Program Description
Chapter 82.46 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the governing bodies of counties—and cities—to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. The authority of counties may be divided into four parts:

1. The Board of County Commissioners may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed ¼ of 1% of the selling price to fund "capital projects" that are specified in a capital facilities plan of a county's comprehensive plan. Capital projects means those public works projects of a local government for planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of parks, recreational facilities, trails, roads, streets, domestic water systems, etc. This tax option includes the acquisition of real and personal property associated with such local improvements.

2. The Board of County Commissioners may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed ½ of 1%, in lieu of a five-tenths of one percent sales tax option authorized under RCW 82.14.030(2). These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism. However, this levy is not available to Clark County, because it has implemented a portion of the discretionary sales tax option.

3. Boards of County Commissioners in counties that are required to plan under the Growth Management Act may impose an additional real estate excise tax on all real property sales in the unincorporated part of the county at a rate not to exceed ¼ of 1%. These funds must be used for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan. These funds may be used for the planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks. However, these funds *may not be used for the acquisition of park land*, though they may be used to acquire land for streets, roads, water systems, and other capital projects.

4. Boards of County Commissioners may also impose—with voter approval—a real estate excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the specific purpose of acquiring and maintaining "local conservation areas." This tax is applied both inside and outside city limits. (A separate summary has been prepared for this program.)

Funding Capacity

The amount of revenue generated by a real estate excise tax fluctuates with the sale of real property. In 2011, a ¼ of 1% real estate excise tax in the unincorporated part of Clark County generated approximately $1,555,000; a ¼ of 1% real estate excise tax collected countywide, including towns and cites, generated $3.4 million

Comments

Portions of the first and second ¼ of 1% tax options described above may be used for operations and maintenance. From July 22, 2011, until December 31, 2016, a city or county may use the greater of one hundred thousand dollars or thirty-five percent of available funds, but not to exceed one million dollars, for the operations and maintenance of existing capital projects as described for each respective tax option.

Real Estate Excise Tax – Conservation Areas

Purpose
To acquire and maintain land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations.

Administering Agency
Clark County

Program Description
RCW 84.46.070 allows Boards of County Commissioners to impose—with voter approval—an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed one percent of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. Conservation areas are defined in RCW 36.32.570 and include: "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations, and includes, but is not limited to, open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."

Funds under this program are collected both inside and outside city limits, and the tax must be approved by majority vote. Two methods may be used to place this tax measure on the ballot. (1) The county legislative authority may initiate a vote by adopting a resolution proposing the action; or (2) the vote can be initiated through a petition process whereby petitions are signed by county voters at least equal in number to 10% of the total number of voters voting in the last general election. The ballot proposition must be submitted to voters at the next general election occurring at least 60 days after a petition is filed, or at any special election prior to this general election that has been called for such purpose by the county's legislative authority. A plan for the expenditure of the excise tax proceeds shall be prepared by the county at least 60 days before the election of the proposal by resolution of the county legislative authority, or within six months after the tax has been authorized by voters if the if the proposal is initiated by petition.

Funding Capacity
The amount of revenue generated by a real estate excise tax fluctuates with the sale of real property in the county. In 2011, a *¼ of 1%* real estate excise tax applied countywide, including towns and cities, would have generated approximately $3.4 million.

Comments

- Counties shall consult towns and cities prior to adoption of the acquisition plan
- A public hearing shall be held to obtain public comment
- The acquisition may include fee simple or lesser interest
- The tax is the obligation of the purchaser

Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

Purpose
Provides an innovative way for DNR to transfer to other public agencies or programs Common School Trust Lands that have under-performing income potential but that have important social and/or ecological values such as wildlife habitat, open space, outdoor education, and recreation

Administering Agency
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Program Description
To implement the program, DNR compiles and prioritizes a proposed list of properties for TLT consideration. The list identifies an appropriate and receptive public agency or program to receive the properties, and DNR appraisal staff estimates the land and timber values. The list is presented to the Board of Natural Resources and then the Governor's Office for submittal to the Legislature, which determines the make-up of the final package.

If approved, the transfer package is authorized and funded as part of the Capital Budget. At transfer, the timber (or lease) value of the property is deposited into the Common School Construction Account to help fund school construction (K-12); the land value is deposited into the Real Property Replacement Account to acquire other properties that will produce income for the Common School Trust. Primary program benefits include:

- Provides funds for public school construction
- Provides funds for acquisition of productive commercial, agricultural, and foresland to increase revenues for the Common School Trust
- Disposes of underperforming Common School Trust Lands
- Transfers to designated public agencies select lands with statewide significance for fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, natural resource conservation, and similar values

Fund Capacity
TLT started during 1989-91 biennium. Legislature provided some level of funding for all biennia, expecpt 1995-97. The biennial appropriations have ranged from $34,500,000 (1997-99) to $171,500,000 (1989-91). Total appropriations from 1989-2011 amounted to $738,080,000.

Comments
- Candidate properties in aggregate must have a high timber to land value to ensure the greater part of the appropriation is deposited directly to fund school construction in current biennium
- TLT program has transferred or leased land and timber to DNR Natural Areas Program, Washington State Parks, city and county governments, local public park districts, and to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Projects in Clark County include Woodland Campground (fee) and Washougal River (lease)

Columbia River Estuary Mitigation – Bonneville Power Administration

Purpose
Funding is available for projects that help mitigate for the construction and operation of the dams on the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers – referred to as the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Administering Agency
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

Program Description
BPA and the Corp provide funding for restoration projects and acquisition projects that will lead to restoration as part of ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for coho, Chinook, steelhead and cutthroat trout, as well as for black bear, elk, and river otter and other species. In particular, BPA seeks to provide funding for projects that would satisfy some of BPA's mitigation requirements for the Columbia River estuary as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion that guides the protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Potential projects are evaluated by the Expert Regional Technical Group (ERTG) and assigned a survival benefit unit (SBU) score based on the projects benefit to ocean- and stream-type juvenile salmon. Projects that will restore fish access to historic floodplain areas in tidally influenced areas tend to score the highest and as a result be most likely to be funded. BPA's mitigation needs are focused on stocks of fish migrating past the dam system. Projects outside of the mainstem Columbia River and lower ends of tidally influenced tributaries are unlikely to be seen as a priority.

Several organizations have relationships with BPA and can serve as good entry points for potential projects. The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership has a long standing relationship with BPA and administers a grant solicitation for on the ground projects that relies on BPA funding. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has a Memorandum of Understanding with BPA that provides for project funding with the state. Columbia Land Trust and Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce both have ongoing contracts with BPA for acquisition and restoration projects. Clark County (as well as other agencies and organizations in the area) can apply for funding for eligible projects through the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, and can also work with the Columbia Land Trust to develop partnership projects that utilize these funds.

Fund Capacity
BPA must complete the mitigation requirements identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion by 2018. The exact amount of funding available at any given time will depend on BPA annual budgets, but until the mitigation needs are met it is likely that funding will be available for high priority projects.

Private Sector Grants and Funding Opportunities

In addition to the public funding sources listed above, there are a myriad of private funding sources that may be available to assist with conservation lands acquisition and improvement. Private funding sources are often much smaller in scope than public sources, but they can provide important contributions to certain portions of projects, including funds necessary to match public contributions.

Here are two examples of private funding sources specifically dedicated to Clark County conservation and improvement projects:

- The Community Foundation of Southwest Washington manages the East Fork Lewis Legacy Fund which was established to support conservation and trail development work on the East Fork Lewis River.

- Columbia Land Trust currently holds a small fund established by a private donation that is dedicated to improvements in Whipple Creek Regional Park.

There are a number of private foundations that support conservation work in the region. These foundations often focus on capacity building or programmatic objectives as opposed to a specific acquisition or restoration project. Some private funding sources are also easier to access by non-governmental organizations. In general, partnership and community supported projects are more likely to align with private funding opportunities.

Appendix E – Legacy Lands Acquisition History

The conservation futures levy enacted by the Board of County Commissioners in 1985 has been a primary local source of revenue for Legacy Lands acquisitions. This appendix provides a list of acquisitions where conservation futures revenue has been an important component, often leveraged with other resources such as grants, donations of land value and partner contributions. The table does not include acquisitions via other means, such as the state Department of Natural Resources Trust Land Transfer Program, or conservation acquisitions by other entities and organizations with their own resources, which have also been important in assembling the current conservation lands system in Clark County.

Legacy Lands Acquisition History

Year Acquired	County Subarea	Assessor's Parcel Numbers.	Acres
1988	Washougal River	89911000	6.55
1989	Burnt Bridge Creek	30790353,30790351, 30790120	11.81
1989	Burnt Bridge Creek	29575020, 29575022, 29575024, 100260000	5.45
1989	Washougal River	73134173	0.12
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	152601000, 152602000	187.80
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	147401000, 147403000	65.30
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	188675000	7.00
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	188226000	1.00
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	183706000, 184840000, 183709000, 184839000	79.50
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	146447001	0.83
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	184755000	14.66
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	184836000	3.55
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	184835000	5.64
1990	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	184725000	2.08
1990	Washougal River	89877000, 131167000, 73134140	8.39
1990	Washougal River	141056000	3.79
1990	Washougal River	96170000	0.58
1990	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232468000, 232458000	53.83
1991	Upper East Fork Lewis River	231131000, 231130000, 232669000, 231138000	9.98
1991	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	153719000, 153720000, 500300004	104.92
1991	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	500150000, 191086000, 190965000, 190862000	198.31
1991	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	188670000, 188659000, 188209000	83.97
1992	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	500201002, 500300002, 500301002	4.22
1992	Washougal River	91045165, 89932000	23.24
1992	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232695000	2.90
1992	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232696000	4.62
1992	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232667000	3.00

1992	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232697000	2.98
1993	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209296000, 062693000	91.97
1993	Lower East Fork Lewis River	062646000, 209483000	20.05
1993	Columbia South Slope	122112000, 122177000, 122107000, 122130002, 500744000, 500743000	12.10
1993	Washougal River	89930000, 89917000	9.58
1994	Washougal River	141266000	1.12
1994	Washougal River	143702000, 143744000, 143745000	2.83
1994	Washougal River	143746000	0.04
1994	Lower East Fork Lewis River	62659000, 62668000	4.54
1994	Lower East Fork Lewis River	214668000, 212103000	110.55
1994	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	147358000, 152586000, 152587000	153.28
1994	Detached Site	85865000	2.32
1994	Whipple Creek	182415000	11.44
1994	Whipple Creek	182413000	9.04
1995	Whipple Creek	182414000	19.97
1995	Upper East Fork Lewis River	231185000, 231126000	24.25
1995	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	153512000, 153517000, 153519000	47.87
1995	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	146658000, 147404000	6.15
1995	Lower East Fork Lewis River	211723000, 212371000, 212335000	296.46
1995	Lower North Fork Lewis River	253132000	4.93
1996	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209745000, 209695000, 209739000	127.03
1996	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209489000	11.91
1996	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209486000	19.50
1996	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209279000	23.60
1996	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209480	2.00
1996	Washougal River	141395000	0.95
1996	Washougal River	143527000	1.12
1996	Washougal River	143748000, 143747000	0.76
1996	Detached Site	124812000	16.49
1997	Whipple Creek	182391,000, 182412000	20.03
1997	Salmon Creek	98131044	0.34
1997	Upper East Fork Lewis River	231120000	1.35
1998	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232673000, 232459000, 231362000, 231558000	44.86
1998	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232457000, 232668000	22.55
1998	Upper East Fork Lewis River	232019000	2.00
1998	Lower East Fork Lewis River	209747000, 210119000	59.94
1998	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	146717000, 98363000	8.97
1998	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	188320000	3.80
1998	Burnt Bridge Creek	29482000	9.75
1998	Lower Lacamas Creek	175929000, 175930000, 172958000, 172959000, 173166000, 173179000	248.76
1998	Salmon Creek	98037000	1.62
1999	Detached Site	91103171, 91103125, 91103174	12.55

1999	Burnt Bridge Creek	29483000, 29461000	5.02
1999	Detached Site	134227000	13.73
1999	Detached Site	132578000, 132793000	14.23
1999	Lower Lacamas Creek	90245000, 90229000, 90850000	43.48
1999	Lower East Fork Lewis River	211474000, 209281000, 21148000	241.50
2000	Lower North Fork Lewis River	252022000, EA0807001-EA0807006, EA0908002-EA0908004, EA0909001-EA0909017, EA0910001-EA0910009	284.67
2000	Lower East Fork Lewis River	227019000	89.00
2000	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	153309000, 188456000	167.09
2001	Columbia South Slope	122591000	7.33
2002	Lower East Fork Lewis River	225383000, 225396000, 225219000, 225189000, 225220000, 225162000, 225190000	112.54
2004	Lower Lacamas Creek	124541000, 90230000, 90808000	20.76
2004	Vancouver Lake Lowlands	500300003, 500201000, 500301000	28.19
2005	Columbia South Slope	122571000	7.46
2006	Lower East Fork Lewis River	212149000, 212102000, 212113000	52.17
2006	Upper East Fork Lewis River	249112000	168.92
2006	Whipple Creek	181935000	40.00
2006	Washougal River	091045164	7.24
2007	Lower East Fork Lewis River	225820000	11.80
2007	Lower Lacamas Creek	178253000	7.26
2009	Salmon Creek	194385000, 194601000, 194555000	81.30
2009	Lewis River Main Stem	210782000, 210783000, 210784000, 210785000	120.00
2010	Detached Site	986028914	5.97
2011	Lower Lacamas Creek	124244000, 175703000, 177886000, 177896000, 178099000	64.39
2011	Lower Lacamas Creek	90248000, 90811000, 90812000, 90941000	54.80
2011	Cedar Creek	260885000	4.50
2012	Lower Lacamas Creek	986030087	1.00

Planning Process Self Certification Form (Form #222)		
Use this form to certify that the need for your projects have been determined through an appropriate planning process. Provide the completed form with the subject plans (on CD-ROM) and adoption documentation to RCO.		
Name and adoption date of documents submitted in fulfillment of this requirement:		
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‣		
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Check or Initial Each to Certify Completion	**Plan Element Certification**	**Document and Page Number Location of Information**
	1. Goals, objectives: The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) *and* measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives). Goals may include a higher level of service.	
	2. Inventory: The plan includes a description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. *(This may be done in a quantitative format, or in a qualitative/narrative format.)*	
	3. Public involvement: The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	
	4a. Demand and need analysis: In the plans: • An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed. • The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.).	
	4b. Level of Service assessment (optional): An assessment of the criterion appropriate to your community. Possibly establish a higher level of service as a plan goal (above).	
	5. Capital Improvement Program: The plans includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to RCFB for funding.	
	6. Adoption: The plans and process has received formal governing body approval *(that is, city/county department head, district ranger, regional manager/ supervisor, etc., as appropriate)*. Attach resolution, letter, or other adoption instrument.	

I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge,

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____