Conservation Futures 2017
Program Background

Legislation

Legislature approved authorizing legislation in 1971 (per RCW 84.34).

It was established as an acquisition fund. Legislation allows boards of county commissioners to adopt by resolution a property tax of up to 6 ¼ cents per $1,000 assessed value to acquire fee simple or lesser interest in farm, forest, and open space lands. (See RCW 84.34.020 for definitions).

In 2005 legislation was adopted to allow up to 15% of the prior year's levy for maintenance and management of properties purchased with conservation futures funds, provided funds used do not supplant other funding that was already being used to maintain and manage properties.

The legislation was again modified in 2017 to allow up to 25% of revenue to be used for maintenance and management of conservation futures properties.

Monies are collected inside and outside cities.

Only counties are able to enact the program. However, entities eligible to spend money include counties, cities, towns, metropolitan park districts, metropolitan municipal corporations, nonprofit nature conservancy corporations, and nonprofit historic preservation corporations.

County process should ensure that expenditure of funds occurs throughout county over time.

Counties are encouraged to spend some funds on salmon preservation.

By statute, acquisitions are only from willing sellers. The use of eminent domain powers is strictly prohibited.

County Implementation

County adopted levy in October 1985

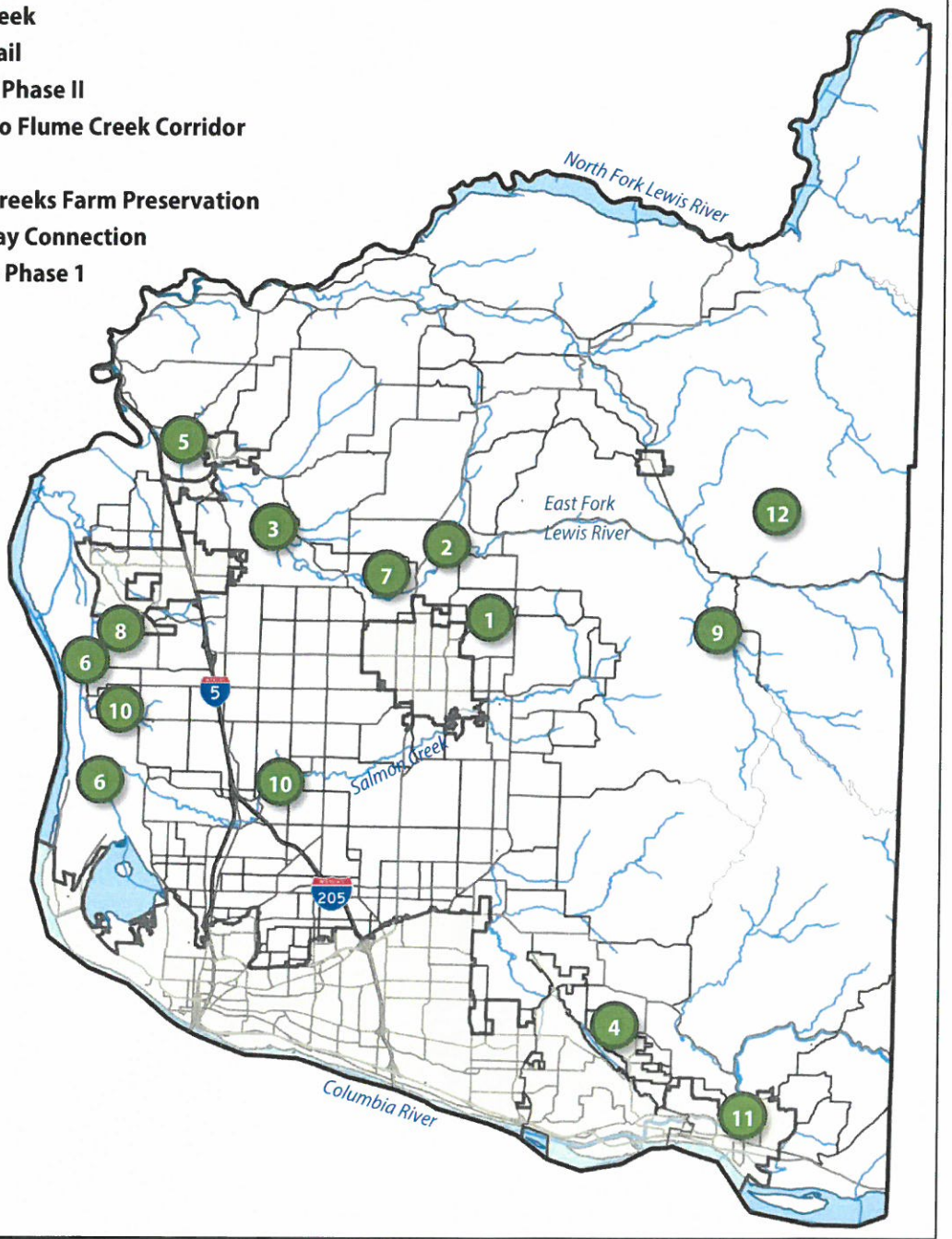
County invites eligible entities, along with county itself, to submit project proposals in order to ensure funds are spent throughout the county.

Historically, six funding sessions have been held: 1987, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2004, and 2010.

Conservation Futures 2017
Potential Projects

CLARK COUNTY Legacy Lands

1. Chelatchie Rail Trail – Tukes Mountain
2. East Fork Lewis River – Optimists
3. East Fork Lewis River – Mason Creek
4. Lacamas Lake North
5. LaCenter – Bolen Creek
6. Lake River Water Trail
7. Lewis River Ranch – Phase II
8. Ridgefield Schools to Flume Creek Corridor
9. Rock Creek Forest
10. Salmon – Whipple Creeks Farm Preservation
11. Washougal Greenway Connection
12. Yacolt Burn Forest – Phase 1



Overall Map of Project Locations
Clark County, Washington
July 2017

Legacy Lands 2017 Proposals

Project	Sponsor	Acres	CF Request*	Sponsor Match	Total Project Cost	Grant Potential
Chelatchie Rail Trail/ Tukes Mountain	Clark County	110.00	$ 1,932,000	N/A	$ 1,932,000	$ 932,000
East Fork Lewis River - Optimists	Columbia Land Trust	43.00	$ 339,500	$ 200,000	$ 539,500	$ -
East Fork Lewis River - Mason Creek	Clark County	65.00	$ 726,599	N/A	$ 726,599	$ 544,199
Lacamas Lake North	Camas	70.00	$ 2,580,000	$ 2,200,000	$ 4,780,000	$ 2,000,000
LaCenter - Bolen Creek	La Center	5.48	$ 139,000	$ 15,000	$ 154,000	$ -
Lake River Water Trail	Clark County	81.00	$ 486,000	N/A	$ 486,000	$ 243,000
Lewis River Ranch - Phase II	Clark County	160.00	$ 2,000,000	$ 300,000	$ 2,300,000	$ 1,000,000
Ridgefield Schools to Flume Creek Corridor	Clark County/Ridgefield	61.00	$ 932,368	N/A	$ 932,368	$ 450,000
Rock Creek Forest	Columbia Land Trust	362.00	$ 1,332,500	$ 400,000	$ 1,732,500	$ 350,000
Mid Salmon/Lower Whipple Creeks Farm Preservation	Clark County	150.00	$ 1,500,000	$ 200,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 750,000
Washougal Greenway Connection	Washougal	0.22	$ 27,500	$ 27,500	$ 55,000	$ -
Yacolt Burn Forest - Phase I	Columbia Land Trust	8,445.00	$ 1,083,125	$ 3,249,375	$ 4,332,500	$ -
Total		**9,552.70**	**$ 13,078,592**	**$ 6,591,875**	**$ 19,670,467**	**$ 6,269,199**

* Several projects have grant potential. Conservation Futures acquisition expenses could be reimbursed up to $6,269,199, if grant potential is realized.