

WRIA 7: Griffin Creek Natural Area Additions (Mary Maier, WLRD)

Parks Levy Request	\$367,500
CFT Request (CFT match status)	\$367,500 (match is requested Parks Levy funds)
Subtotal: CFT + Parks Levy Request	\$735,000

Total Project Cost	\$735,000 for current priorities \$1,500,000 for all in scope
Funding Already Secured	None (application was pulled in 2013 to make room for White River acquisition)
Additional Funding Sought	CWM \$60,000 2013 request
Will current funding request allow project completion?	Yes for current priorities – and there may be additional acquisitions in future

Project Description: Fee simple acquisition of 8 parcels containing 3.2 acres as additions to Griffin Creek Natural Area (SE of Carnation). Broader scope has 13 parcels (12.9 acres in total).

Target parcels are between RM 1 and 2.5 of Griffin Creek, approx 2 miles SE of Carnation. These parcels would be added to the Griffin Creek Natural Area in an effort to protect this critical habitat from the headwaters to the mouth. The protected Snoqualmie Forest begins at the upstream end of the Natural Area and King County previously implemented a large-scale channel meandering project and riparian planting downstream of Hwy 203. These parcels are the missing link in the protection of Griffin Creek and connect two separate portions of Griffin Creek Natural Area.

The priority parcels are owned by two separate owners who have been waiting for the county to secure funding for two years, who have commitments to sell and move elsewhere, and who will place the parcels on the open market if county is unable to secure funding.

Habitat Benefit: Waterways 2000 identified Griffin Creek as a high quality basin. It hosts a wide range of salmonids, including coho, Chinook, chum and pink salmon and cutthroat and steelhead and rainbow trout. NOAA recently proposed newly designated areas for steelhead recovery and Griffin Creek was designated as a critical habitat. Griffin Creek also produces more coho salmon than any other Snohomish basin drainage; twenty percent of all coho salmon in the Snohomish Basin are produced in Griffin Creek. This stream reach has excellent channel diversity including braiding, logjam and pools. The channel provides good spawning habitat and excellent rearing habitat. The completion of the Griffin Creek Natural Area will protect important habitat and habitat forming processes and contribute to the recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Recreation Benefit: Passive recreation and riparian habitat protection and restoration.

Plan Priority: Griffin Creek protection is a high priority in the Waterways 2000 Plan and is consistent with the goals of Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan to protect high priority tributaries to the Snoqualmie River.

Greenprint Value: All parcels rank Medium-high to Medium-low (ecological).

Parcels included in scope: Priority: 342507-9085 (0.55 ac), 342507-9117 (0.34 ac), 342507-9041 (0.19 ac), 342507-9069 (0.22 ac), 342507-9083 (0.21 ac), 342507-9084 (0.20 ac), 342507-9107 (0.44 ac), 342507-9080 (1.05 ac).

Also included in scope: 342507-9026 (2.62 ac), 342507-9027 (3.25 ac), 342507-9086 (1.67 ac), 342507-9087 (1.25 ac), 342507-9099 (0.93 ac).