

<b>WRIA 7: Raging River Forest/ Echo Lake (Connie Blumen, Parks)</b>
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<b>Parks Levy Request</b>	<b>\$415,000</b>
<b>CFT Request</b> (CFT match status)	<b>\$415,000</b> (match is requested Parks Levy funds)
<b>Subtotal: CFT + Parks Levy Request</b>	<b>\$830,000</b>

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$830,000 for easement</b>
<b>Funding Already Secured</b>	\$370,000 in Parks Levy and/or CFT might be reallocated in March or later to project, from other nearby projects
<b>Additional Funding Sought</b>	none
<b>Will current funding request allow project completion?</b>	Yes

**Project Description:** Easement acquisition, in partnership with WADNR purchase of underlying fee, of 105 acres (10 parcels) at Echo Lake linking to Raging River and Tiger Mountain State Forests. Located southeast of SR 18 and I-90 interchange.

This project would allow the acquisition of 10 tax parcels (under one family ownership) totaling ~100 acres through a conservation partnership between Trust for Public Land (TPL), Mountains to Sound Greenway, King County and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR). The county would acquire a conservation easement, limiting residential development through the removal of the parcels' development rights (DRs) and for inclusion in the TDR Bank, making them available for resale. This geographic area is a priority sending area for the City of Bellevue. The State would acquire the underlying fee and become the custodian of the land. The acquisition would build on King County's and the State's investment to conserve the Raging River headwaters for long term forestry and public low impact recreation and would be facilitated by TPL.

Property is currently under option with Trust for Public Land, due to expire in June 2013. TPL has agreed to acquire site with revolving acquisition funds that must be repaid. Due to location, size and number of lots these properties are threatened to be converted to residential use.

**Habitat Benefit:** Acquisition of fee ownership would allow wildlife connectivity between an immense block of County Park, WADNR and WA State Park land in this vicinity. In addition, both the Raging River and Echo Lake/Creek are key salmonid habitats.

**Recreation Benefit:** Provides enhanced opportunities for recreation by facilitating critical trail linkages to thousands of acres of WADNR managed lands located south of I-90. Specifically, it provides for mountain biking and hiking access from the Rattlesnake Mountain trailhead Exit #27 on I-90) to the 10,000 acre Raging River State Forest, managed by WADNR and protected with a working forest conservation easements held by King County.

**Plan Priority:** Retention of forest lands and preservation of backcountry trails are all high priority goals for the King County TDR Program, included in the WRIA 7 Salmon Recovery Plan, the King County Comprehensive and Park, Recreation and Open Space Plans. High priority for Mountains to Sound Greenway.

**Greenprint Value:** All parcels rank Medium to Low (ecological) but rank Medium-High to High (forest).

**Parcels included in scope:** 022307-9043, -9036, -9014, -9013, -9015, -9035, -9016, -9037, -9050, -9084.