

Attachment 2:
Project Descriptions of DNRP's 2015 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition Proposals

WRIA 7: South Fork Skykomish Corridor Conservation (Perry Falcone, WLRD)

<i>PL Request</i>	\$50,000
<i>CFT Request</i> <i>(CFT match status)</i>	\$50,000 <i>(match is requested PL funds)</i>
<i>Subtotal: CFT + PL Request</i>	\$100,000

<i>Total Project Cost</i>	\$500,000 for current priorities
<i>Funding Already Secured</i>	None
<i>Additional Funding Sought</i>	None
<i>Will current funding request allow project completion?</i>	Yes for current priority – and there may be additional acquisitions in future

Project Description: Pre-acquisition work and start-up funds towards fee simple acquisition of five parcels (101 acres) in the Skykomish vicinity.

This proposal has two aspects. First is pre-acquisition work considering long-term acquisition vision along the South Fork Skykomish River, custodial agency options, maintenance options, recreational opportunities, partnerships, etc.

Second is start-up funding towards the following acquisitions. The South Fork Skykomish Corridor Conservation project will protect undeveloped high quality salmon habitat along the South Fork Skykomish River. Acquisition prevents priority Weyerhaeuser parcels from being logged or developed; one additional parcel is identified within the scope at this point in time but is not prioritized for funding. Additional two parcels are in the Baring area on the South Fork Skykomish, are owned by Baring Timber LLC. Parcels will likely be managed by Parks or by Rivers (TBD).

Though much of the Skykomish Watershed is protected in federal ownership (over 81% in Forest Service ownership and 43% designated as Wilderness), along the river corridors there are a significant number of unprotected parcels. These parcels contain high quality river habitat but are zoned for rural residential development. King County, in partnership with Forterra and the Forest Service, plan to protect key salmon habitat along the South Fork Skykomish and its tributary rivers. Forterra has engaged in preliminary discussions with the landowner regarding selling these parcels and several other parcels in the watershed.

Habitat Benefit: This reach is home to Chinook salmon and Steelhead Trout, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Weyerhaeuser parcels include 1.3 miles of South Fork Skykomish river shoreline and 300 feet of Tye River shoreline including high quality unarmored river edge habitat and intact riparian habitat. Most of the parcels are covered by mature native vegetation. There are no structures on the parcels and the only habitat impacts relate to the county's Foss River Road and some small cleared areas along the road. The Baring parcels are undeveloped, mature forest and unarmored shoreline.

Recreation Benefit: This land will be designated as a natural area and will allow passive recreation and river access along the Foss River Road. The site has potential for a public river access point for kayakers and boaters and existing cleared areas along the Foss River Road could accommodate a small amount of parking if necessary. King County does not have a formal plan for recreational development on the property but American Whitewater has expressed interest in exploring enhanced river access at the site as the reach is commonly used by kayakers and boaters. Parks explore recreation opportunities at the Baring parcels as well.

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Plan Priority: The WRIA 7 Salmon Conservation Plan (2005) identifies the South Fork Skykomish River as a “mainstem – primary restoration” sub-basin. Listed in 2013 Three Year Work Plan as project #07-HSR-019. This is one of the highest priority projects in King County’s South Fork Skykomish River Basin Restoration Feasibility Report (2013).

Parcels included in scope:

Priority: 312612-9026 (55.8 ac), 302612-9031 (9.54 ac), 302612-9029 (9.54 ac), 122610-9008 & 1226109010 (26 acres)

Other parcels in scope: see CFT maps