



King County

**CONSERVATION FUTURES (CFT) 2015 ANNUAL COLLECTIONS
APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

PROJECT NAME: Boise Creek Restoration

Applicant Jurisdiction(s): King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Open Space System: Middle Boise Creek Natural Area
(Name of larger connected system, if any, such as Cedar River Greenway, Mountains to Sound, a Regional Trail, etc.)

Acquisition Project Size: 6.0 acres **CFT Application Amount:** \$90,000 *Reduced to \$25,000 see Committee Report*

Type of Acquisition(s): Fee Title Conservation Easement Other: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Seattle, WA 98102 **Date:** March 13, 2014

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Boise Creek has historically been one of the two most productive streams in the Puyallup/White River Watershed in terms of salmon spawning density and total escapement. Spring Chinook, fall Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout are found in this stream, all of which are ESA-species. Coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, and cutthroat trout are also present. The White River spring-run Chinook population is only one of two in all of Puget Sound. However, the 2002 WDFW Salmon Stock Inventory lists the status of White River spring Chinook as "Critical" due to low escapement, and White River steelhead as "Depressed" based on long-term negative trap counts. The winter steelhead stocks in the Puyallup basin have been declining since 1990.

Middle Boise Creek has been documented as having poor aquatic and riparian habitat, a lack of sufficient vegetative cover, a low abundance of in-stream large woody debris and pools, and lack of off-channel habitats. Boise Creek was historically channelized and dredged throughout a three miles reach, from the Enumclaw Golf Course to the White River. Historic stream dredging, field drainage, and removing riparian vegetation negatively impacted Boise Creek. The Washington Department of Ecology recently released a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report documenting very high summer water temperatures in Boise Creek. Based on recorded high water temperatures, Boise Creek has been added to the State's 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies. The TMDL recommends extensive riparian revegetation to reduce high water temperatures.

The purpose of this acquisition is to secure land along Boise Creek to promote a future habitat restoration project (recommended by WRIA 10/12 Salmon Habitat Protection/Restoration Strategy) to provide the following benefits:

- expand juvenile rearing/refuge habitat for Spring/Fall Chinook salmon and steelhead, which is currently deficient in the stream due to channelization and habitat degradation.
- create additional channel area (where LWD can be placed) to increase aquatic habitat complexity.
- enhance (revegetate) riparian buffers.
- excavate the bank to increase roughness in the channel to create more frequent connectivity and inundation of floodplain wetlands, providing valuable off-channel fish habitat.

1. OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Please review the attached evaluation criteria. For the **proposed acquisition parcel(s)**, please (1) mark only those criteria that apply, and (2) thoroughly, yet succinctly describe in the space below how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Historic/cultural resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Salmon habitat and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Urban passive-use natural area/greenbelt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Scenic resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Park/open space or natural corridor addition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Community separator | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Passive recreation opportunity/unmet |

A. Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve: Wildlife present within this reach of Boise Creek includes elk (Mt. Rainier Elk Herd, White River Unit), one of 10 formally monitored elk herds in the state. Other wildlife species included river otter, mink, marsh hawks, osprey, red tailed hawks, bald eagles, herons, coyote, waterfowl and songbirds.

B. Salmon habitat and aquatic resources: The *Boise Creek Rapid Rural Reconnaissance Report* (KC 2004) determined that historic realignment and channelization of Boise Creek reduced floodplain and wetland areas, limiting landscape area available for floodwater. Streamside riparian habitats are degraded with narrow or non-existent vegetative buffers. Aquatic habitat is minimal with a low abundance of large wood and pool habitat, lack of overhanging cover and off-channel or channel margin habitats. The restoration proposal associated with this acquisition is consistent with the *WRIA 10/12 Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy* (WRIA 10/12 2008). This plan identifies protection/restoration of habitat diversity through channel improvements, riparian revegetation, and LWD placement in Boise Creek as a near-term high-priority action that will be most effective in improving conditions necessary to support salmon in WRIA 10/12. Ecosystem Diagnosis/Treatment analysis identified Boise Creek restoration as part of a suite of actions below Mud Mountain Dam that would foster a biological response in Viable Salmonid Population parameters of productivity, capacity, and life history diversity for White River Chinook. This effort noted that White R. tributaries including Boise Creek suffer from low quantities of LWD and poor riparian function. This proposal will also help meet goals in the *Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan* (NMFS 2007). Salmon use of Boise Creek is likely limited by high water temperatures, per the *KC Streams Water Quality Index Study* (KC 2009) and *Puyallup River TMDL* (WDOE 2011). Constructing restoration/ projects adjacent to the stream will improve degraded habitat and water quality.

C. Scenic resources: The properties provide views of Pinnacle Peak Park, Boise Creek, the Cascade foothills and adjacent farm lands. This area is one of the most scenic areas in King County.

D. Community separator: The Boise Creek property is near the southern boundary of Enumclaw's Urban Growth Area (UGA) and this rural area has historically served as a buffer to the City's growth. Preserving this area would further differentiate the regional boundary between urban Enumclaw and rural King County.

G. Park/open space, or natural corridor addition: The property identified in this grant is near the Pinnacle Peak Natural Area, managed by the King County Parks Division as passive open space.

2. ADDITIONAL FACTORS

For the **proposed acquisition parcel(s)**, please (1) mark all criteria that apply, and (2) thoroughly, yet succinctly describe in the space below how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria.

- A. Educational/interpretive opportunity
- B. Threat of loss of open space resources
- C. Ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/ownership interest proposed
- D. Partnerships - Describe any public or private partnerships that will enhance this project:
- E. Is the property identified in an adopted park, open space, comprehensive, or community plan?
- F. Transferable Development Credits (TDC) participation

A. Educational/interpretive opportunity: If acquired, these degraded properties would be extensively restored. Restored lands create opportunities for King County Staff to interact with adjacent landowners increases the potential to work with other community members to protect and enhance their properties.

C. Feasibility: ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/community support: The landowner is willing to negotiate the sale of a conservation easement.

E. Is the property identified in an adopted comprehensive plan, park open space, habitat, cultural resource or community plan?: Yes. Support for this proposal can be found in the following documents:

- *Boise Creek Rapid Rural Reconnaissance Report* (KC 2004)
- *WRIA 10/12 Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy* (WRIA 10/12 2008)
- *Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan* (NMFS 2007)
- *Ecological Preservation Priorities in the White River Sub-basin* (KC 2009)
- *Streams Water Quality Index Study* (KC 2009)
- *Puyallup River TMDL* (WDOE 2011)

3. STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

How will the property be stewarded and maintained? Does the property lend itself to volunteer stewardship opportunities? How will ongoing stewardship and maintenance efforts be funded?

Agency Participation - The maintenance and stewardship of these parcels will be the responsibility of KC DNRP. Stewardship of these sites will be a partnership between KC staff and community stewardship groups and volunteers. The three natural areas are currently managed exclusively for natural resource protection; the addition of these parcels to the KC natural area system would not change the management objectives of the natural areas or of the acquired parcel. However, the site management plan would be amended to include acquired parcels.

Monitoring and Maintenance - Baseline monitoring will be conducted immediately after property acquisition and include a site inventory. This information will provide a foundation for a site management plan, which will guide long-term monitoring, maintenance, restoration, and overall management. Monitoring and maintenance will be accomplished through volunteer work parties, paid staff, and contract crews. Adaptive management will be implemented to respond to other challenges observed through monitoring.

Signage, Inspection and Enforcement - Like all public land, these parcels have the potential to become illegal dumping areas and may draw partygoers or transients. However, these particular parcels have a fairly low risk of this happening because of distance from urban areas and lack of access. Signage would be placed at the site and regular park inspections would be conducted to discourage misuse. KC staff works closely with the KC Sheriff's Department to ensure enforcement of County Park System Codes.

Volunteers - The Middle Green River Coalition Board of Directors recently supported the "adoption" of the Boise Creek sub-basin.

Trails – KC DNRP will develop a trails plan if one is considered appropriate on-site. Any trails that are constructed would be “soft” and consistent with the primary use of the site as an undeveloped natural area. Trail maintenance would be accomplished by KC staff and volunteers.

4. PROJECT BUDGET

TOTAL CFT APPLICATION AMOUNT*	\$90,000
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Estimation of property value:

Briefly describe how land values have been estimated, i.e. appraisal, property tax assessment, asking price, letter of value or other means.

Budget estimates were correlated through market value comparison in KC appraisal files of comparable properties with similar site influences, and would be confirmed by appraisal prior to acquisition.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS (dollars)	
Total property interest value	\$152,000
Title and appraisal work	\$5,000
Closing, fees, taxes	\$5,000
Relocation	
Hazardous waste reports	\$3,000
Directly related staff, administration and legal costs	\$15,000
Total Project Costs (CFT and other funds)	\$180,000

MATCHING FUNDS SOURCES	Date Expended or Committed	Match Funds Expended or Committed
Coordinated Watershed Management Program		\$90,000
Total Matching Funds (Based on 2-year requirement)		\$90,000
<i>Unidentified Remaining Match Need:</i>		NA

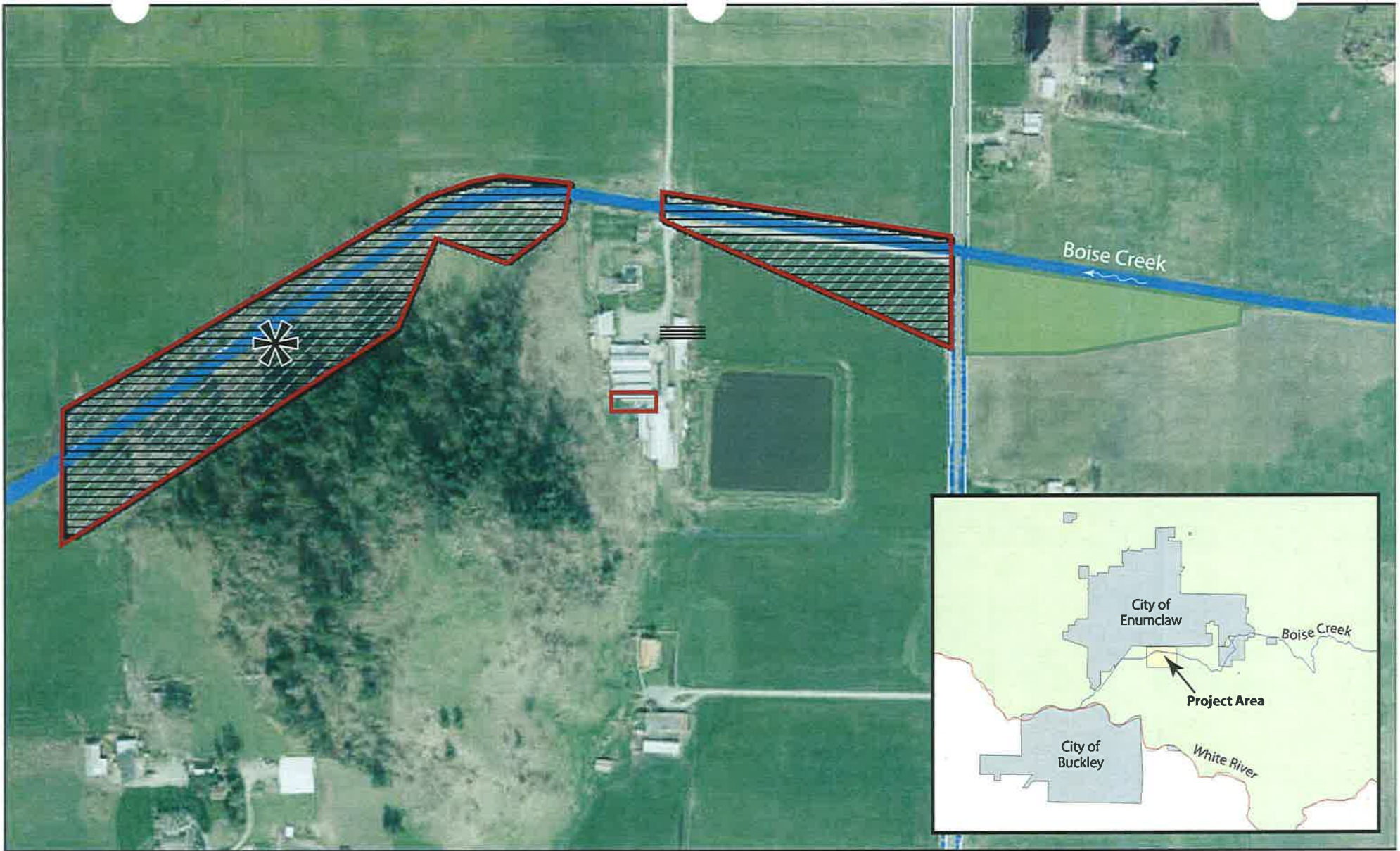
Unidentified remaining match need

Please discuss briefly how the unidentified remaining match need above will be met:

No additional matching funds are needed if 2014 Parks Levy funds are available.

5. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNERSHIPS

Brief Activity Description	Dollar Value of In-kind Contribution	Status (Completed, or Proposed in future?)	Activity Date Range (When was activity completed? Or, date proposed in future)
Middle Green River Coalition	\$5,000	Proposed	Ongoing
TOTAL	\$5,000		



Middle Boise Creek Acquisition

Produced by: DNRP GIS/VC/Communications Dept
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