

**Attachment 2:  
Project Descriptions of DNRP's 2016 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition Proposals**

**WRIA 7: South Fork Skykomish, Tye & Foss River Confluence (Perry Falcone, WLRD (in coordination with Connie Blumen, Parks))**

<b>PL Request</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>CFT Request</b> <i>(CFT match status)</i>	<b>\$1,000,000</b> <i>(match is requested PL funds)</i>
<b>Subtotal: CFT + PL Request</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$2,050,000 for current priorities</b>
<b>Funding Already Secured</b>	\$50,000 in 2015 CFT/PL
<b>Additional Funding Sought</b>	None
<b>Will current funding request complete priority acquisitions?</b>	Yes – funding request completes current priorities; there may be additional future requests for project.

**Project Description:** Fee simple acquisition of three parcels (75.2 acres) owned by Weyerhaeuser at confluence of the S. Fork Skykomish, Tye and Foss Rivers. Located east of Skykomish.

Target acquisition prevents the three priority Weyerhaeuser parcels from being logged or developed. Weyerhaeuser has informed King County that they have scheduled a clear cut on the parcels in 2015, though they may postpone logging activities and potentially sell the property if the price is right and the county can raise the funds in 2015. Parcels will either be managed by Parks or by Rivers (TBD – related to a 2015 maintenance study by KC Parks).

Though much of the Skykomish Watershed is protected in federal ownership (over 81% in Forest Service ownership and 43% designated as Wilderness), King County, Forterra and USFS are working to protect remaining priority salmon habitat along the South Fork Skykomish and its tributary rivers. King County's main focus will be on SF Skykomish riverfront property zoned for residential development including the confluences of major tributary rivers. Conservation of these lands is consistent with the objectives and vision outlined in the "Skykomish Valley Economic Development, Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Initiative" supported by King County Council via Motion 2014-0102 on April 28, 2014.

King County WLRD and Parks were awarded 2015 CFT-PEL grant funds to begin appraisal work on this target confluence parcels and the appraisal was ordered in December 2014 due to owner's plan to clear the property. The 2015 CFT-PEL funding will also be used to study additional acquisition priorities and long-term maintenance options along the SF Skykomish River corridor.

**Habitat Benefit:** Reach supports Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout, listed as threatened under the ESA. The parcels include unarmored, high quality shorelines - 1.3 miles along the S Fork Skykomish and 300 feet along the Tye River. Parcels mainly contain mature native vegetation.

**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 an enhanced 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 identified this general location as a site commonly used by kayakers and boaters as a take-out point.

**Plan Priority:** Listed in the Snohomish Basin (WRIA 7) current Three Year Work Plan (#07-HSR-019), and one of 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 (9.86 ac)

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*Other parcels in scope:* 312612-9004 (24.09 ac) , 302612-9032 (10 ac), 302612-9040 (5.04 ac), 302612-9041 (6.58 ac), 122610-9010 (17.55 ac), 122610-9008 (8.27 ac)