



King County

K.C. Date Received _____

**CONSERVATION FUTURES (CFT) 2016 ANNUAL COLLECTIONS
APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

PROJECT NAME: Griffin Creek Natural Area

Applicant Jurisdiction(s): King County

Open Space System: Griffin 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: 1.67 acres (1 parcel)

(Size in acres and Proposed number of parcel(s) if a multi-parcel proposal)

CFT Application Amount: \$73,000

(Dollar Amount of CFT grant requested)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Seattle, WA 98104

Date: March 18, 2015

PROJECT SUMMARY:

(In the space below, provide a brief, but comprehensive description of the project including goals and significance of this project)

This grant will contribute to the purchase of high quality riparian and floodplain habitat between river mile one and three on Griffin Creek. The target parcel will further the effort to protect and restore habitat from the headwaters to the confluence with the Snoqualmie River. This funding will contribute to the purchase of 1.67 acres of creek-side property and add to the 52-acre Griffin Creek Natural Area (GCNA). The GCNA is adjacent to the 90,000 Snoqualmie Forest. The headwaters of Griffin Creek are protected from development by a conservation easement over the Snoqualmie Forest.

This reach of Griffin Creek has excellent channel diversity including braiding, logjam and pools. The channel provides good spawning habitat and excellent rearing habitat. Griffin Creek hosts a wide range of salmonids including Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout and other salmonids. The Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan identifies Griffin Creek as a major coho spawning reach. Griffin Creek 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.

The target parcel is located in a well-forested section of Griffin Creek and provide habitat for numerous wildlife species. The landowner called King County expressing a desire to sell the property for conservation by early 2016. We are currently conducting an appraisal to expedite this request.

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.

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

Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve – The parcel targeted by this funding proposal will add to the 52 acres of the Griffin Creek Natural Area. The mixed forests in this reach provide high quality habitat for a variety of resident and migratory bird species including Pacific slope and Olive-sided flycatchers, rufous hummingbirds, pileated woodpeckers, winter wren, western tanager, red-tailed hawk, and bald eagle. Long-toed and Giant pacific salamanders, as well as red legged and pacific tree frogs have been observed in the vicinity of the GCNA. Griffin Creek is part of the King County Wildlife Network.

Salmon habitat and aquatic resources –Griffin Creek hosts a wide range of salmonids including Chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon and cutthroat and steelhead trout. Griffin Creek produces more coho salmon than any other Snohomish basin drainage; 20% of all coho salmon in the Snohomish Basin is produced in Griffin Creek. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has four index reaches in Griffin Creek to help monitor coho populations in the Snoqualmie Basin. Griffin Creek was recently designated as critical habitat in the NOAA- proposed designated areas for steelhead recovery.

The following table documents the species and respective life history stages present in Griffin Creek.

Species	Life History Stage Present	Life History Target	Unique Population	ESA Coverage
Chinook	Adult spawning, sub-yearling rearing & yearling rearing	Juvenile	Snoqualmie River Fall Chinook	Y
Steelhead	Adult spawning, sub-yearling rearing & yearling rearing	Juvenile	Snoqualmie Winter Steelhead	Y
Coho	Adult spawning, sub-yearling rearing & yearling rearing	Juvenile	Snoqualmie Coho	Candidate
Pink	Adult spawning	Adult	Snohomish Odd-Year Pink	N
Chum	Adult spawning	Adult	Snoqualmie Fall Chum	N
Cutthroat	Adult spawning, sub-yearling rearing & yearling rearing	Adult	Resident Coastal Cutthroat	N

Scenic Resources – The lower Griffin basin forms part of the viewshed from State Highway 203; the primary arterial between I-90 and US-2 (Monroe). Areas along lower Griffin Creek provide scenic views of the Snoqualmie Valley. A forested corridor along the Griffin Creek contributes to the forest character which is a defining feature of the viewshed.

Park/open space or natural corridor addition – This project will add to the Griffin Creek Natural Area. The Griffin Creek Natural Area is connected to the 90,000 acre Snoqualmie Forest which captures the entire headwaters of Griffin Creek. Additions to the GCNA leverage the protection provided by the protection of the Snoqualmie Forest.

Passive recreation opportunity/unmet need – Properties will provide opportunities for passive recreation such as fishing, hiking and bird watching and access to the creek for the Snoqualmie Valley. The Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail is adjacent to part of the Griffin Creek Natural Area and will further facilitate passive recreation opportunities in the GCNA.

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

Threat of loss of open space resources – The sale and development of parcels along the creek will reduce forest cover and increase impervious surface area. This acquisition will prevent one such development and will leverage past acquisitions and contribute to a contiguous forest along Griffin Creek. This is one of the few in-holdings to purchase in the GCNA to realize a protected and contiguous riparian corridor from the headwaters to the Agriculture Production District (APD). Additionally, retaining good hydrology and sediment regime along Griffin Creek will help minimize flooding in the APD.

Ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/ownership interest proposed – The landowner called King County expressing a desire to sell their vacant lot for conservation purposes as soon as possible. They own the adjacent developed parcel and have also indicated that at some point in the future, they would like to sell that to us as well. We are currently getting the vacant parcel appraised so we can close in early 2016 if funding is secured.

Is the property identified in an adopted park, open space, comprehensive, or community plan?

The project is in the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (2005) which was adopted as part of the NOAA approved Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. The project is also proposed in the Snohomish Basin (WRIA 7) 3-year Work Plan. Griffin Creek was also identified as a high quality basin in Waterways 2000. Griffin Creek was recently designated as critical habitat in the NOAA- proposed designated areas for steelhead recovery.

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?

Natural Areas are primarily managed to preserve and/or restore ecosystem processes. By working to keep the ecosystem processes intact, we can preserve habitat conditions preferred by native species, thereby protecting our ecological heritage. Site Management Guidelines for a Natural Area are implemented by the Natural Resource Lands staff in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Examples of Site Management Guidelines for King County Natural Areas can be found on the web (<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/natural/ecological.htm>). The Natural Resource Lands staff has an annual budget for land management. Resources are supplemented by volunteers and by grants for projects that have significant benefits to regional priorities, such as salmon conservation.

4. PROJECT BUDGET

1) TOTAL CFT APPLICATION AMOUNT ^a	CFT: \$ 73,000
2) TOTAL PEL APPLICATION AMOUNT ^b	PEL: \$73,000

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.

Property values are based on the property tax assessment with professional input from acquisition staff.

PROJECT COSTS	ESTIMATED DOLLAR AMOUNT OR RANGE
Total property interest value	\$131,000
Title and appraisal work	\$7,000
Closing, fees, taxes	\$3,000
Relocation	NA
Hazardous waste reports	\$2,500
Directly related staff, administration and legal costs	\$2,500
Total Project Costs (CFT and other funds)	\$146,000

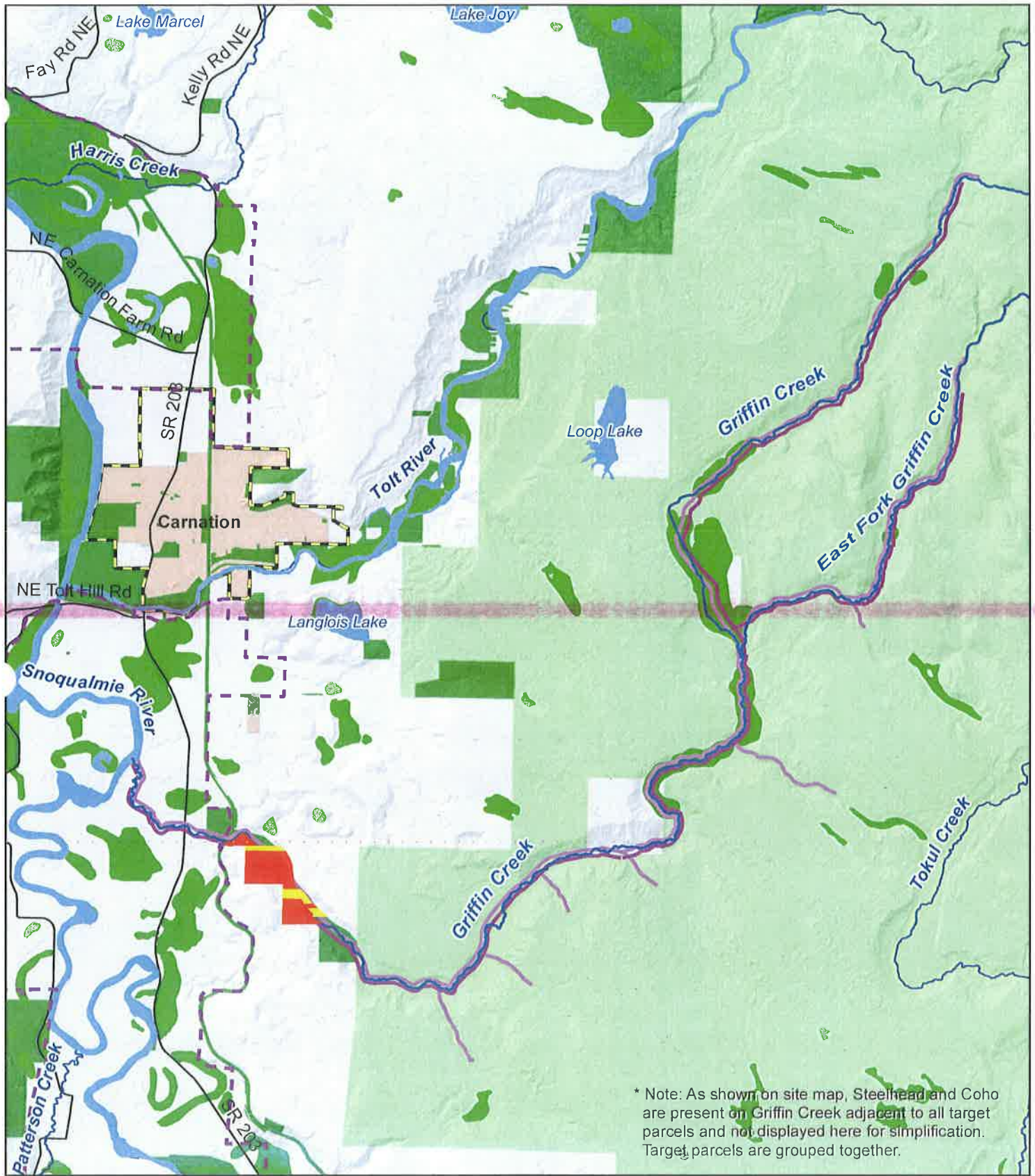
MATCHING FUNDS: Existing Sources	(Date) Expended or Committed	(Dollar Amount) Expended or Committed
Parks Levy 2015-16	Pending application	\$73,000
<i>Unidentified Remaining Match Need:</i>		\$0

Unidentified remaining match need: What funds are anticipated, and what is the time frame?

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

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)



Griffin Creek Natural Area Additions Vicinity

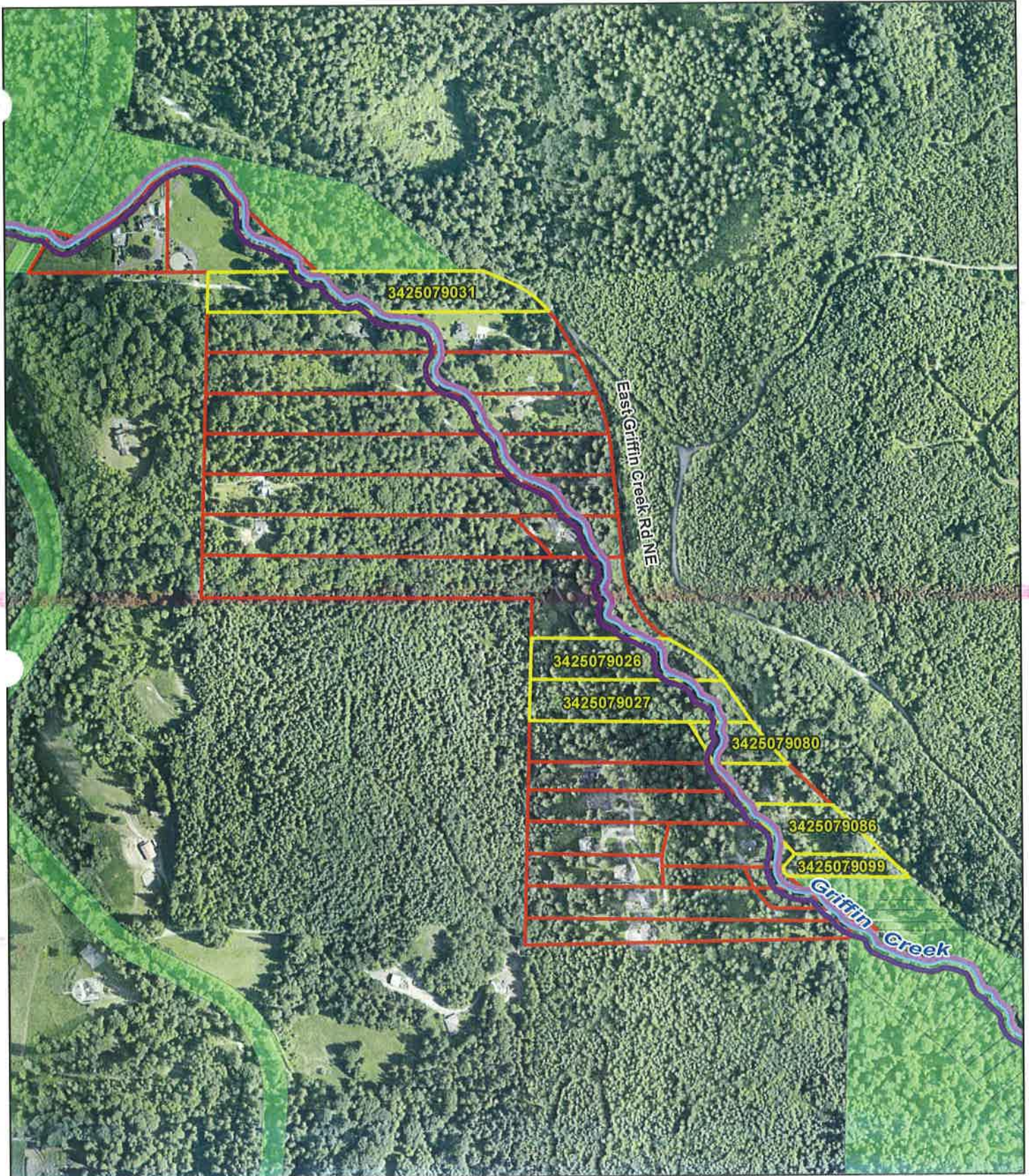
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|--|---|
|  First Priority Parcels |  Publicly Owned Lands |
|  Second Priority Parcels |  Incorporated Areas |
|  Agricultural Production District |  Urban Growth Boundary |
|  Wetlands |  Steelhead Presence on Griffin and Tribs.* |
|  Snoqualmie Forest |  Coho Presence on Griffin and Tribs.* |

 **King County**
 Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 Water and Land Resources Division



March 17, 2015

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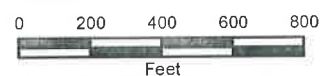


Griffin Creek Natural Area Additions

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | First Priority Parcels |  | Griffin Creek |
|  | Second Priority Parcels |  | Coho Presence |
|  | Publicly Owned Lands |  | Steelhead Presence |

March 17, 2015

 **King County**
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