

Fed Funds for Salmon Habitat Application Project Summary

TITLE: Paradise Valley			NUMBER: 99-1037A
			PROJECT TYPE: Land Acquisition
			STATUS: Application Complete
APPLICANT: Snohomish County Public Works			CONTACT: Ray Heller (206) 296-8391
COSTS:			SPONSOR MATCH:
GSRO	\$645,480	33 %	Appropriation/Cash \$165,520
MATCH	\$1,325,520	67 %	Conservation Futures \$1,160,000
TOTAL	\$1,971,000	100 %	

DESCRIPTION:

The Paradise Valley Conservation area acquisitions will conserve the headwaters of Bear Creek in Snohomish County. Bear Creek is one of the most productive wild salmonid stream basins in Western Washington. Bear Creek Basin is only 50 sq. miles in area but is host to tens of thousands of spawning salmon (chinook, coho, sockeye, kokanee, steelhead, and cutthroat) each fall. Over 70,000 wild adult salmonids returned to spawn in the fall of 1996. The Paradise Valley conservation area is about 1100 acres in size. It is comprised primarily of second growth forest, large wetlands, some salmonid spawning and prime rearing areas, and habitat for many other species of wildlife. The goal for the conservation area is to conserve the significant natural resources in the area through cooperative fee purchases, easements, and property tax incentives with the property owners. The regional significance of the area is recognized in the Bear Creek basin plan developed jointly by Snohomish County, King County, City of Redmond, and the community. In 1996, the Sammamish Watershed Forum, a regional body made up of elected officials from cities in the Sammamish Watershed and Snohomish and King Counties also identified and ranked the Paradise Valley Conservation area project as one of the top priorities in its 20 year vision for the Sammamish Watershed.

LOCATION INFORMATION:

COUNTY: Snohomish
WRIA: (8) Cedar-Sammamish
REGION: Puget Sound Central
WATERBODY: Bear Creek, Sammamish River
LAT/LONG: 47.47.5 N 122.4 .41W

LAND CHARACTERISTICS:

ANTICIPATED ACREAGE TYPE	Existing Acres	Acres To Acq	Acres To Restore
Uplands		225.00	
Wetlands		150.00	

LAST UPDATED: April 1, 1999	DATE PRINTED: April 1, 1999
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Acquisition Cost Summary

Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley

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Summary Property Information

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Acres to be Acq</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>	<u>Acq Date</u>	<u>Value Determination</u>	<u>Purchase Type</u>
Paradise Valley	375.00	1,878,000.00	12/31/00	Appraised/reviewed value	Fee simple purchase
Total	375.00	1,878,000.00			

Summary Cost Information for all Properties

Allowable land costs

Land

1,806,000.00

Sub-Total

1,806,000.00

Incidentals

Incidentals costs

72,000.00

Sub-Total

72,000.00

Property Totals

1,878,000.00

Administrative costs

93,000.00

Total Acquisition Cost Estimate

1,971,000.00

Description and Funding Information

**Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley**

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Description of Project

The Paradise Valley Conservation area acquisitions will conserve the headwaters of Bear Creek in Snohomish County. Bear Creek is one of the most productive wild salmonid stream basins in Western Washington. Bear Creek Basin is only 50 sq. miles in area but is host to tens of thousands of spawning salmon (chinook, coho, sockeye, kokanee, steelhead, and cutthroat) each fall. Over 70,000 wild adult salmonids returned to spawn in the fall of 1996. The Paradise Valley conservation area is about 1100 acres in size. It is comprised primarily of second growth forest, large wetlands, some salmonid spawning and prime rearing areas, and habitat for many other species of wildlife. The goal for the conservation area is to conserve the significant natural resources in the area through cooperative fee purchases, easements, and property tax incentives with the property owners. The regional significance of the area is recognized in the Bear Creek basin plan developed jointly by Snohomish County, King County, City of Redmond, and the community. In 1996, the Sammamish Watershed Forum, a regional body made up of elected officials from cities in the Sammamish Watershed and Snohomish and King Counties also identified and ranked the Paradise Valley Conservation area project as one of the top priorities in its 20 year vision for the Sammamish Watershed.

Project Location

From Interstate 405 take exit 23, travel east on State Route 522 approximately 6 miles to Paradise Lake Road (signaled intersection). Traveling east approximately 1.5 miles east on Paradise Lake Road you enter the Paradise Valley Conservation Area and it extends to the Snohomish King County boundary.

GSRO Program Request

Fed Funds for Salmon Habitat	645,480.00
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Applicant Participation Amount

Appropriation/Cash	165,520.00	
Conservation Futures	1,160,000.00	
Total for Applicant		1,325,520.00

GSRO and Applicant Amount

1,971,000.00

Project Cost Estimate

Acquisition Cost Estimate	1,971,000.00
Development Cost Estimate	0.00

Project Total

1,971,000.00

Applicant Information

**Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley**

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Organization Information

Name: Snohomish County Public Works
Type: Engineering/Public Works
County: Snohomish

Organization Address:
Snohomish County Public Works
2930 Wetmore Ave Suite 101
Everett, WA 98201-9044

Billing Address:
Snohomish County Public Works
2930 Wetmore Ave Suite 101
Everett, WA 98201-9044

Phone Numbers:
Work - day (425) 388-3464 Ext 4560

Internet Address:

Applicant Contact Information

Name:
Mr. Ray Heller
Bear Creek Basin Steward

Contact Type:
Project Manager

Business Address:
Bear Creek Basin Steward
Seattle, WA 98104

Second Address:

Phone Number:
FAX - day (206) 296-8033
Work - day (206) 296-8391

Internet Address:
ray.heller@metrokc.gov

Project Site Information

Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley

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Site Name: Paradise Valley Conservation Area

Owner:

Manager:

Waterbodies

Accessed	Type	Primary	Type
Bear Creek	Stream/Creek	Sammamish River	River

General Site Description & Driving Instructions

From Interstate 405 take exit 23, travel east on State Route 522 approximately 6 miles to Paradise Lake Road (signaled intersection). Traveling east approximately 1.5 miles east on Paradise Lake Road you enter the Paradise Valley Conservation Area and it extends to the Snohomish King County boundary.

Location Information

City(s):

County(s): Snohomish

Congressional District(s): 02

Legislative District(s): 39

GIS Information

Point Category	Point Description	Latitude	Longitude
Primary Point	center of site	47 47 5 N	122 4 41 W

WRIA Information

WRIA id	WRIA Name
8	Cedar-Sammamish

Land Characteristics

Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley

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Project Acreage Type	Exisiting Acres	Acres to be Acq	Acres to be Restored	Total Acres
Uplands		225.00		225.00
Wetlands		150.00		150.00
Total:		<u>375.00</u>		<u>375.00</u>

Evaluation Questions

Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley

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1 *How was the project or activity selected and prioritized and what is the scientific basis for the selection?*

In 1990, Snohomish County, King County and the City of Redmond completed a basin plan for the Big Bear Creek basin. This plan consisted of an extensive analysis of natural resources, basin problems, and provided recommendations for action. One of the key basin plan findings was recognition of and recommendation to preserve the regionally significant natural resources in the basin. The Paradise Valley conservation area is one of these regionally significant resource areas that warrants protection. In 1996 the Sammamish Watershed Forum (Bear Creek is one of many stream basins in the larger Sammamish Watershed) through a technical evaluation process selected the Paradise Valley Conservation area project as one of the top priorities in the Watershed. In 1998 an ESA review panel composed of biological staff at King County government ranked the Paradise Valley Conservation Project as a top priority for WRIA 8. The six salmon stocks in Bear Creek are native wild stocks although coho and steelhead hatchery fry have been planted in recent years. The chinook, coho, steelhead, and kokanee stocks have seen small numbers of returning spawners in recent years. The Paradise Valley headwaters of Bear Creek provides prime salmonid spawning and rearing habitat. Preservation of the conservation area forests and wetlands will also provide protection to the instream habitat and natural hydrology of downstream high resource areas (see map). Efforts through the basin plan implementation of the past eight years has been a coordinated one seeking to restore degraded lower basin areas and preserve the still thriving significant resource areas. Restoration through 1999 will have spent about \$ 8 million to restore about five miles of instream and streamside habitat. Preservation efforts through programs like the Waterways 2000 programs have expended about \$7 million to permanently protect 1600 acres with another 1300 acres in open space taxation programs. The Bear Creek headwaters are split by the Snohomish – King County boundary. Paradise Valley Conservation area is the portion in Snohomish County while the Upper Bear Creek Conservation Area is the portion in King County. Biologically and geographically they are one system, which is why both Counties are working together with the Seattle - King - Snohomish Land Conservancy in preservation of the area. Snohomish County has appropriated \$1,159,000 and King County \$160,000 to date for the Paradise Valley project. The Land Conservancy is doing property owner contact, negotiation, and solicitation of additional new funds to complete current and future acquisitions. The Paradise Valley Conservation area project was estimated in 1996 to cost \$6,000,000. Snohomish County and the Land Conservancy have already obtained a letter of interest from property owners for about 800 acres willing to consider preservation options. It is planned to have significant acreage in the Conservation area protected in 1999. Provided funding is available, it is possible to protect at least 80% of the conservation area by 2003.

Evaluation Questions

**Snohomish County Public Works
Paradise Valley**

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2 *Explain how this project or activity will protect, restore or enhance the habitat.*

The objectives of the Paradise Valley Conservation area are the same as the adjacent downstream Upper Bear Creek Conservation area. First, to preserve forested area, wide riparian buffers (> 300 feet), and key salmonid spawning and rearing areas. Second, to limit new residences by purchasing development rights. Three, to establish a cooperative conservation ethic between property owners, the land conservancy, and local governments. Those objectives were met in the Upper Bear Creek Conservation area through the waterways 2000 program from 1995 through 1997 by providing conservation options to property owners so their goals and conservation goals could be more easily met. Success of this process is evident by the 80% property owners participation rate in the Upper Bear Creek Conservation area. The expected benefits to salmon from the Paradise Valley conservation area are many. The large forested areas will help provide year around cool, clean stream flows that are slow to respond to storm events. The wooded riparian areas will provide the instream structure (LWD) for retaining spawning gravel, moderating flood flows, protecting stream banks, providing food sources for fish and wildlife, improved water quality, and protection from predators. Less residences will help retain forested area that will reduce impervious surfaces which will reduce future peak stream flow increases and improve water quality. A conservation ethic in the community is the best way to protect resources over the long term and on a daily basis because the people living here will take sustainable actions, talk to their neighbors about activities, and preserve fish and habitat through everyday activities. Watershed preservation will become a quality of life issue. The expected outcome of the Paradise Valley conservation area and all other conservation areas in the Bear Creek basin are thriving salmonid and wildlife populations with a functioning rural landscape which includes compatible rural human uses like dispersed or clustered residences, forestry, and agriculture.

3 *How will the project or activity be monitored and evaluated to determine the benefit to salmon recovery?*

The Project evaluation and monitoring will take place through five coordinated actions. First, Snohomish County, King County, and the City of Redmond jointly fund a basinwide monitoring program as part of implementation of the Bear Creek basin plan. Goals of this basinwide monitoring program include assessing impacts of the basin plan recommendations and projects and to propose adjustments in basin plan recommendations if necessary. Second, Snohomish, Pierce and King Counties will implement a monitoring program(s) as part of the Chinook Salmon ESA listing process to assess impacts of the programs and projects that the three counties enact to recover Chinook salmon. Third, the Seattle-King-Snohomish Land Conservancy will be monitoring the properties that it acquires within this conservancy area and will likely have a land steward active in managing those properties. Four, the basin Bear Creek basin steward funded by Snohomish County, King County and the City of Redmond will be providing services to this area. Five, the Bear Creek basin citizen group called Water Tenders will be active in adopting properties purchased. Their activities include cleanups, nonnative plant removals, plantings, monitoring, species inventories and education.