

#### **Project Application Report**

Project #20-1461, Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning

Current Status: Application Submitted

#### **Project Details**

Primary Sponsor: Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Primary Contact: Ryan Elting (360) 222-3272 ryan@wclt.org Lead Entity: Island County Lead Entity

Funding Program: ESRP Pre-proposal Project Type: Planning & Acquisition

### **Project Description**

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT) and project partners will acquire priority lands and plan for restoration of critical salmon and wildlife habitat in Livingston Bay on Camano Island. The Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project will protect nearshore habitat that benefits multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead, and investigate restoration feasibility of former tidal estuary and wetland habitat that is currently managed as diked farmland. The 180 acres targeted for acquisition and restoration planning includes over three quarters of a mile of Livingston Bay shoreline and 25 acres of tidelands directly adjacent to over 7,500 acres of protected habitat within Port Susan Bay and the Stillaguamish River Delta. The Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project will advance process-based restoration efforts prioritized by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) by building off of the conceptual design work already completed and securing a portion of that project footprint.

## **Project Overall Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)**

Category / Work Type / Metric	Application Answer		
Nearshore			
Primary nearshore process	Sediment supply and transport		
Secondary nearshore process	Tidal channel formation and maintenance		
Shoreforms	Beaches, Embayments		

# **Project Funding**

Funding Request		Funding %	Min Match Require	d Sponsor Match Source	
ESRP Pre-proposal (FY2022)	\$1,500,000	57.32 %		Match	\$1,117,000
Sponsor Match	\$1,117,000	42.68 %	30%		
Total Project Funding	\$2,617,000	100.00 %			
Project Cost Summary		Project %	Admin/A&E %	Maximum for Selected Prog	gram
ACQUISITION COSTS					
Land/Incidentals	\$0				
Admin	\$0		0.00 %		\$0
Subtotal	\$0	0.00 %			
PLANNING COSTS					
Planning	\$0				
A&E	\$0		0.00 %		\$0
Subtotal	\$0	0.00 %			
Total Cost Estimate	\$0	0.00 %			

#### **Worksites and Properties**

County:	Island
Legislative Districts 2012:	10
Congressional Districts 2012:	02
Salmon Recovery Regions:	Puget Sound
DNR Watershed Units (WAU):	CAMANO IS
WRIA:	Island
Sections:	29
Township:	T32NR03E
Coordinates:	48.23413243
	-122.44840057



#### Worksite #1: Livingston Bay

Coordinates from Mapped Point: Coordinates from Worksite

Latitude: 48.23413243 Latitude: 48.242120 Longitude: -122.44840057 Longitude: -122.448515

#### **Directions:**

#### Worksite Description:

Site Access Directions: From I-5 North, take exit 212 for WA-532 West toward Camano Island/Stanwood. Turn left onto WA-532 West. After crossing the bridge, travel approximately 0.4 miles until you reach the subject property. The property is visible on the south side of the highway (WA-532).

#### Worksite Address:

WA - 532 Camano Island, WA 98282

# Planning Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric

**Application Answer** 

Miles of Stream and/or Shoreline Treated or Protected (C.0.b) 0.78

## Property for Livingston Bay Worksite #1: Leque

Activity: Acquisition, Planning

**Property Grantor** John and Myron Legue 210 Bayside Road Bellingham, WA 98225 **Ownership** Instrument Type: Deed - Statutory Warranty Purchase Type: Fee ownership Term Length: Perpetuity **Expiration Date:** Note:

Planned Acquire Date: 12/01/2022

Landowner Type: Private

#### Acquisition Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Application Answer		Work Type Costs
Real Property Acquisition			
Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or Easement Acquisition Land	0.32		
Acres by Acreage Type (fee simple) - Uplands	93.50		
Property for Livingston Bay Worl	ksite #1: Livingston	Bay Community Ass	ociation
Activity: Acquisition, Planning Planned A	cquire Date: 12/01/2022	Proposed Acres:	

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Property Grantor
Livingston Bay Community Association
26910 92nd Ave NW Suite C5
Stanwood, WA 98292

Landowner Type: Private

**Ownership** Instrument Type: Deed - Statutory Warranty Purchase Type: Fee ownership Term Length: Perpetuity **Expiration Date:** Note:

# **Acquisition Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)**

Category / Work Type / Metric	Application Answer
Real Property Acquisition	
Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or Easement Acquisition	0.36
Land	
Acres by Acreage Type (fee simple) - Tidelands	25.00
Acres by Acreage Type (fee simple) - Uplands	7.00

### Property for Livingston Bay Worksite #1: Roberge

Activity: Acquisition, Planning

Planned Acquire Date: 12/01/2022

**Proposed Acres:** 37.00

**Proposed Acres:** 

93.50

32.00

**Property Grantor Terrance Roberge** 828 State Highway 532 Camano Island, WA 98282

Landowner Type: Private

**Ownership** Instrument Type: Deed - Statutory Warranty Purchase Type: Fee ownership Term Length: Perpetuity **Expiration Date:** Note:

# Acquisition Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Work Type Costs

Work Type Costs

#### **Real Property Acquisition**

 Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or
 0.00

 Easement Acquisition
 Land

 Acres by Acreage Type (fee simple) - Uplands
 37.00

**Property for Livingston Bay Worksite #1: Sherman** 

Activity: Acquisition, Planning

Planned Acquire Date: 12/01/2022

Ernest Sherman 7115 W Marginal Way SW Seattle, WA 98106

Landowner Type: Private

**Property Grantor** 

Ownership Instrument Type: Deed - Statutory Warranty Purchase Type: Fee ownership Term Length: Perpetuity Expiration Date: Note: Proposed Acres: 15.70

Acquisition Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Application Answer	Work Type Costs
Real Property Acquisition		
Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or Easement Acquisition Land	0.10	
Acres bv Acreade Tvpe (fee simple) - Ublands	15.70	
Property for Livingston Bay Works	ite #1: Washington Department of Transpor	tation

Activity: Acquisition, Planning	Planned Acquire Date: 12/01/2022	Proposed Acres: 2.30
Property Grantor	Ownership	
Washington Department of Transportation	Instrument Type: Deed - Statutory Warranty	
PO Box 330310	Purchase Type: Fee ownership	
Seattle, WA 98133	Term Length: Perpetuity	
	Expiration Date:	
Landowner Type: State Government	Note:	

#### Acquisition Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Application Answer	Work Type Costs
Real Property Acquisition		
Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or Easement Acquisition Land	0.00	
Acres by Acreade Type (fee simple) - Uplands	2.30	
Overall Project Questions		
<ul> <li>(all)Describe the full scope of your project. For a completed, including quantitative estimates whe scope of work and deliverables.</li> <li>Whidbey Camano Land Trust and project partners we July-December 2021</li> <li>Review and execute grant agreement</li> <li>Order and complete review of preliminary commitment Identify strategy for resolution of any title exceptions</li> <li>Coordinate and complete primary appraisal(s)</li> <li>Coordinate restoration planning and design</li> <li>Initiate technical studies needed to complete feasibil January-June 2022</li> <li>Coordinate and complete review appraisal(s)</li> <li>Negotiate purchase agreement with landowner(s)</li> <li>Deliver to RCO following documents i) Voluntary Acc (if applicable), iv) Hazardous Substances Certification</li> <li>Coordinate property survey(s)</li> <li>Complete technical studies needed to complete feasibili July-December 2022</li> <li>Coordinate property survey(s)</li> <li>Complete technical studies needed to complete feasibili July-December 2022</li> <li>Complete stewardship plan(s)/baseline report(s)</li> <li>Provide RCO with draft closing and deed of right door Request escrow payment</li> <li>Obtain title insurance policies</li> <li>Close on property acquisition(s) and record conveya Present feasibility study and conceptual design documents</li> </ul>	construction projects, please itemize (at a high level) there possible. If asked to submit a full proposal, you will will be responsible for the following tasks and adhering to the ent for title insurance policies required prior to anticipated closing date lity assessment quisition Notice to Owner, ii) Just Compensation and Relocat on, and v) RCO Property Assessment Checklist sibility assessment interests cuments for review ance and deed of right documents uments to stakeholders and RCO	tion Notice, iii) Landowner Donation Statement

Complete restoration preliminary design (multiple scenarios based on acquisition outcomes) January-June 2023

Provide RCO with copies of recorded legal documents and final title insurance policies

Submit stewardship plan(s)/baseline report(s) to RCO

Submit restoration preliminary design deliverables to RCO (multiple scenarios based on acquisition outcomes) Complete final report in PRISM

(all)Describe if this proposed project phase is ready to move forward or if there any technical or societal uncertainties to its ability to proceed within the next biennium. If asked to submit a full proposal, you will be asked to provide more detailed information concerning your project's readiness to proceed.

The primary goal of the project is to acquire priority property and complete restoration planning through a feasibility study that will investigate multiple restoration scenarios based on both current and future acquisition opportunities. The project team will complete land acquisition, investigate feasibility of estuary restoration opportunities based on multiple acquisition outcomes, conduct stakeholder engagement to review restoration opportunities, and complete restoration preliminary design. The feasibility study will include consideration of phased restoration that could be completed as additional property in Livingston Bay is acquired.

As part of the project development, project partners the Snohomish Conservation District and the Whidbey Camano Land Trust have conducted extensive outreach to the project area community and identified willing landowners of the target parcels for acquisition and restoration planning. The Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project is ready to move forward.

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(all)What are the problems your project seeks to address? Include the source and scale of each problem. Describe the site or drift cell conditions and how those conditions impact ecosystem functions, including important species valued by society. Include current and historic factors important to understand the problems.

The Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project area was historically a salt marsh that was formed behind and protected by a barrier beach. The project sits at the head of extensive mudflats fed by sediment from the Stillaguamish River and active, exceptional feeder bluffs to the east and west. Dike construction in the late 1800's converted the marsh to farmland and cut the area off from Livingston Bay, effectively eliminating salmonids and other aquatic species access to the marsh and interrupting nearshore processes and benefits provided by the estuary. This project is a coordinated effort by multiple stakeholders to acquire and permanently protect former estuarine and nearshore habitat for future site restoration and advance Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, extensive conversion of Puget Sound's nearshore occurred with river deltas and estuarine habitats suffering large losses to both extent and function. Based on an analysis by PSNERP, 53% of all tidal wetlands in Puget Sound have been lost since the late 1800's, with over half of this loss occurring in the Whidbey sub-basin which includes the Skagit and Stillaguamish deltas and the nearby Snohomish estuary (PSNERP 2009). Other estimates of wetland loss in Puget Sound suggest even greater losses of tidal wetlands in Puget Sound since the 1850's, with some of the greatest losses in delta wetland habitat occurring in the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and nearby Snohomish estuaries (Collins and Sheikh 2005).

Dike and levee construction and draining activities since the late 1800's are the primary causes of much of the tidal wetland loss in the Skagit and Stillaguamish deltas. In the Skagit River estuary, one of the largest estuaries in Puget Sound, between 70 and 90% of the former estuarine marsh habitat has been lost due to previous conversion activities. Given these extensive losses of wetland habitat in the region's major river deltas, tidally influenced estuarine habitat has become increasingly important for providing ecological functions once provided by river deltas, including feeding areas for juvenile salmonids and other fish, refuge from predators, and food production.

The Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project builds upon years of successful conservation and restoration efforts by multiple partners organizations in the Skagit and Stillaguamish deltas and Port Susan Bay (See Planning Map). More than 7,500 acres of tidelands and tidal marsh have been protected and restored by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Stillaguamish Tribe. The project area is contiguous with these protected lands and is the largest remaining opportunity for comprehensive estuary and wetland restoration in Island County to benefit ESA listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead.

Identify the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) or Delta Process Unit (DPU) number(s) in which your project is located.

Find the process unit by going to the Nearshore Data Site MAP. Once at the site, access the information with these instructions: 1) In the layer list to the right of the screen, check the box next to "Process Units" Zoom in the map and click on your area of interest. 2) The SPU/DPU number will appear in a pop-up screen, along with links to the 2-page summary for that process unit from the PSNERP Strategies Report

The Shoreline Process Units associated with this project include SPU 6049 and SPU 6050.

Using the 2-page Process Unit Summary Report as context (see question #2), articulate the primary ecological processes your project will address and the extent to which your project will protect or restore processes at the site.

The primary ecological processes addressed by the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning project include sediment supply, sediment transport, sediment accretion, tidal flow, tidal channels, detritus recruitment and retention, and exchange of aquatic organisms. The project seeks to implement multiple components of the PSNERP Barrier Embayment Strategy, including permanent protection of barrier beaches sustained by sediment input from unarmored feeder bluffs and planning for restoration of tidal flow process within a system degraded by anthropogenic habitat alterations.

This multi-benefit project will permanently protect 25 acres of tidelands and 155 acres of former diked farmland to enable future restoration and provide ecosystems services associated with fully functioning tidal estuary and wetland habitat. The project will contribute a substantial lift to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts by increasing available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including ESA listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead.

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Describe how your proposed actions advance and are consistent with regional recovery priorities identified in local or regional recovery plans (e.g., salmon recovery plans, PSNERP strategy recommendations, Puget Sound Action Agenda).

The project will implement strategies and recommendations identified in the WRIA 6 Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan 2019 Update and the Stillaguamish Chinook Recovery Plan, including protection and restoration of natural marine shoreline processes, and restoration of historic estuarine habitat (SRTCC, p. 21; SIRC, p. 68).

In addition, the project advances the recovery goal of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan – Watershed Profile of Whidbey and Camano Islands, "to achieve a net increase in salmon habitat through protection, enhancement, and restoration of naturally-functioning ecosystems that support self-sustaining salmon populations and the species that depend upon them (p. 208)."

Furthermore, the project is located in a Shoreline Process Unit prioritized for restoration by PSNERP's Strategies for Nearshore Protection and Restoration in Puget Sound, and advances a restoration project included in PSNERP's Strategic Restoration Conceptual Engineering - Design Report (#1618).

#### **Project Attachments**

Attachment Type	Title
Cost Estimate	#20-1461 Livingston Bay - Cost Estimate.pdf.pdf
Map: Parcel map	20-1461 Livingston Bay Parcel Map.pdf.pdf
Map: Planning Area	20-1461 Livingston Bay Planning Area Map.pdf.pdf
Map: Site Location	20-1461 Livingston Bay Site Location Map.pdf.pdf

#### 04/14/2020 04/14/2020 04/14/2020 04/14/2020

**Attach Date** 

#### **Application Status**

Application Due Date: 04/15/2020

Status	Status Date	Name	Notes
Application Submitted	04/14/2020	Jonathan Decker	
Preapplication	03/18/2020		

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct. Further, all application requirements due on the application due date have been fully completed to the best of my ability. I understand that if this application is found to be incomplete, it will be rejected by RCO. I understand that I may be required to submit additional documents before evaluation or approval of this project and I agree to provide them. (Jonathan Decker, 04/14/2020)

Date of last change: 04/14/2020