



Island County
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

07/16/2020

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning (20-1461)

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Restoration Protection and Restoration Project. We understand that the Land Trust is seeking to acquire property in the large north Livingston Bay embayment and to then explore the restoration potential of this historic salt marsh. Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project. We hereby offer our backing for this project.

This project will be one of the largest embayment restoration projects in the North Sound. It will be complicated and take a multitude of partners and funding sources. Acquiring and permanently protecting the property from further degradation is a critical first step in returning this site to a state of properly functioning condition. Feasibility and design of the full restoration potential is an appropriate, and fiscally efficient, way to determine next steps and future phases for this important project.

Juvenile salmonids, including Coho, chum and ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon, use these habitats for refuge, rearing and osmo-regulation as they migrate out to sea from their natal streams. Most of this type of habitat has been inaccessible to marine species, negatively impacting the marine survival of these salmon. While salmon from the Skagit River, Snohomish River and mid-Sound have been found in Livingston Bay, the majority of the salmon in the area originate from the Stillaguamish River, whose two Chinook populations (of 22 in Puget Sound) are critically low and often limit commercial fishing. The more that is done to restore habitat and processes, the better the likelihood the population can recover. This recovery is critical to support treaty trust resources of the Stillaguamish Tribe and to support commercial and recreational fishing. The recovery of Chinook is also inextricably linked to the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

For the reasons above, SRTCC supports this protection and feasibility effort.

Sincerely,

Dawn Spilsbury Pucci
WRIA 6 (Island) Lead Entity Coordinator



PUGET SOUND
PARTNERSHIP
326 EAST D ST
TACOMA, WA 98421
P 360.464.1232 | INFO@PSP.WA.GOV

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
Natural Resources Building
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

July 9, 2020

Dear Jay Krienitz,

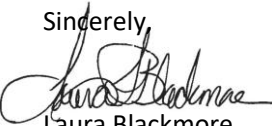
We, the Puget Sound Partnership ("Partnership"), ask you to join us in supporting full implementation of Whidbey Camano Land Trust's *Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning* project. The Partnership is the Washington state agency that leads and manages the recovery of the Puget Sound. We work with hundreds of partners throughout the region to create the *Action Agenda for Puget Sound*, which outlines goals, priorities, and recommended actions to advance Puget Sound recovery. Our vision is of vibrant, enduring natural systems and communities.

The recommended project seeks to confirm the restoration potential of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located in Livingston Bay on Camano Island, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding from WDFW is necessary to complete this project. The recovery community reviewed and selected it as a project that we believe will advance our collective efforts toward a healthy and resilient Puget Sound and, as such, it is listed in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda for Puget Sound as a priority action.¹

The recovery community selects priority actions through a rigorous, science-informed and inclusive process of review. Local and regional experts vet and review every priority action in the Action Agenda to ensure each action (1) contributes to Puget Sound recovery, (2) aligns with regional recovery priorities, (3) is likely to achieve the desired outcome, and (4) has the support of critical people and the right conditions to successfully execute the project. We consider all actions in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda high priority and necessary to accelerate Puget Sound recovery during the next 4 years.

We therefore believe that full implementation of this action is an excellent way to accelerate Puget Sound recovery and ask that you join us to make that happen.

Sincerely,



Laura Blackmore
Executive Director

¹ This project is categorized as Near Term Action number 2018-0603 in Chapter 4 of the 2018-2022 Action Agenda Implementation Plan, which can be found at http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php.



Samish Indian Nation

OF WASHINGTON

7/21/20

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The Samish Indian Nation wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project. We understand that the Land Trust and project partners are seeking to acquire priority lands and plan for restoration of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located on Camano Island in Washington State, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project. We hereby offer our backing for this project.

Samish is pleased to see the Whidbey Camano Land Trust work to permanently protect and plan for restoration of critical fish and wildlife habitat within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. The restoration and protection of estuarine habitat is important to Samish People because of their cultural connection to salmonids and all that they support including J-Pod Orcas which are considered relatives.

A restored and protected estuarine system at Livingston Bay will contribute a substantial lift to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts and enhance resiliency for fish and wildlife communities against the impacts of climate change, therefore, we fully support this protection and restoration planning effort.

Sincerely,

Todd Woodard, Director
Samish Indian Nation
Department of Natural Resources
twoodard@samishtribe.nsn.us



Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

PO Box 277 3322 236th St. NE
Arlington, WA 98223

7/8/2020

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The Stillaguamish Tribe Natural Resources Department wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project. We understand that the Land Trust and project partners are seeking to acquire priority lands and plan for restoration of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located on Camano Island in Washington State, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project. We hereby offer our backing for this project.

The Stillaguamish Tribe is pleased to see the Whidbey Camano Land Trust work to permanently protect and plan for restoration of critical fish and wildlife habitat within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. The restoration and protection of estuarine and wetland habitat is important to the Tribe as a lack of estuarine rearing habitat is a major factor limiting the ability of tribal members to exercise their treaty protected fishing rights. They have not been able to commercially fish for Chinook salmon in decades.

A restored and protected estuarine system at Livingston Bay will contribute to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts and enhance resiliency for fish and wildlife communities against the impacts of climate change. We fully support this protection and restoration planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Griffith', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jason Griffith
Fisheries Biologist



Board of Directors:

Teri Gobin - Chairwoman
Glen Gobin, Ti Cetx - Vice Chairman
Misty Napeahi - Treasurer
Melvin Sheldon Jr - Secretary
Marlin Fryberg - Board Member
Marie Zackuse- Board Member
Hazen Shopbell - Board Member

6406 Marine Dr.
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694
(360) 716-4000
FAX (360) 716-0628

The Tulalip Tribes are the
successors in interest to the
Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and
Skykomish tribes and other
tribes and band signatory to
the Treaty of Point Elliott

July 13, 2020

Patricia Powell
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project

Dear :

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project. We understand that the Land Trust and project partners are seeking to acquire priority lands and plan for restoration of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located on Camano Island in Washington State, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project. We hereby offer our backing for this project.

The Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department is pleased to see the Whidbey Camano Land Trust work to permanently protect and plan for restoration of critical fish and wildlife habitat within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. The recovery of ESA listed Puget Sound Chinook in particular the Stilliguamish River population which is close to extinction is crucial to maintain the Tribes' Treaty Rights to fish and to maintain the Tribes' culture.

A restored and protected estuarine system at Livingston Bay will contribute a substantial lift to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts and enhance resiliency for fish and wildlife communities against the impacts of climate change, therefore, we fully support this protection and restoration planning effort.

Sincerely,

Jason Gobin
Fish & Wildlife Director
Tulalip Tribes Natural & Cultural Resources Department



July 6, 2020

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The Camano Island Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project. We understand that the Land Trust and project partners are seeking to acquire priority lands and plan for restoration of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located on Camano Island in Washington State, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project. We hereby offer our backing for this project.

The Camano Island Chamber is pleased to see the Whidbey Camano Land Trust work to permanently protect and plan for restoration of critical fish and wildlife habitat within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. The restoration and protection of estuarine habitat is important to our organization because the natural resources on our island are an important part of Camano Island and we wish to support the local environment in any way we can.

A restored and protected estuarine system at Livingston Bay will contribute a substantial lift to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts and enhance resiliency for fish and wildlife communities against the impacts of climate change, therefore, we fully support this protection and restoration planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jpm', is placed above the printed name of the sender.

Jessica McCready
Executive Director
Camano Island Chamber of Commerce



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

16018 Mill Creek Boulevard • Mill Creek, Washington 98012 • (425) 775-1311 FAX (425) 338-1066

July 15, 2020

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Restoration Feasibility and Design Project

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) wishes to express its support for the Livingston Bay Restoration Feasibility and Design Project. We understand that the Land Trust is seeking to confirm the restoration potential of a regionally identified priority estuary and salmon restoration site located in Livingston Bay on Camano Island in Washington State, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding is necessary to complete this project.

WDFW is pleased to see the Whidbey Camano Land Trust work to investigate restoration feasibility within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. The restoration and protection of estuarine habitat is consistent with WDFW's mission "*to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems [...]*" and its importance is identified in several plans WDFW has co-authored, including Chinook Salmon Recovery Plans and reports completed as part of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.

A restored and protected functioning nearshore zone at Livingston Bay will enhance resiliency for human, fish, and wildlife communities against anticipated sea-level rise and impacts of climate change, therefore, we fully support this feasibility and design effort and look forward to being involved in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brendan Brokes".

Brendan Brokes
Regional Director

Snohomish Conservation District

working together for better ground since 1941



528 91st Ave NE, Ste A, Lake Stevens, WA 98258-2538 425-335-5634 www.snohomishcd.org

July 21, 2020

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Support for the Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project

Dear ESRP Project Reviewers,

Snohomish Conservation District is pleased to submit this letter of support for the “Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning Project” sponsored by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Snohomish Conservation District is partnering with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and other project partners to advance a feasibility study that will inform to development of a land acquisition and habitat restoration strategy in Livingston Bay. ESRP funding will contribute necessary funding toward acquiring and permanently protecting land for future habitat restoration project implementation.

The Livingston Bay project location was identified as a regional priority by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) and presents an opportunity to protect and plan for restoration of critical fish and wildlife habitat within Livingston Bay in an effort to increase available transitional, migratory, and rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids, including Endangered Species Act listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead. This project will build upon and contribute to nearby estuarine habitat protection and restoration efforts in Port Susan including projects implemented by The Nature Conservancy, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Stillaguamish Tribe.

A restored and protected estuarine system at Livingston Bay will contribute a substantial lift to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts and enhance resiliency for fish and wildlife communities against the impacts of climate change. Snohomish Conservation District strongly encourages ESRP to fund this high priority protection and restoration planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lyshall".

Linda Lyshall, PhD
Executive Director,
Snohomish Conservation District