



Skagit Audubon Society

PO Box 1101
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

July 13, 2009

Island County WRAC and WRIA 6 TAG

Re: Livingston Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration Project

Dear Review Committee

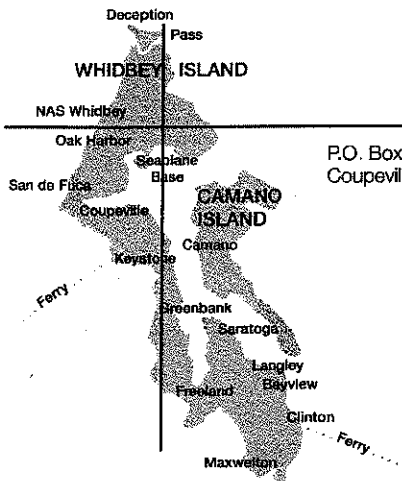
I am pleased to provide this letter expressing Skagit Audubon Society's support for The Nature Conservancy's application to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

The **Livingston Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration Project** being proposed by The Nature Conservancy restores critical pocket estuary habitat in Port Susan Bay. Restoration of this habitat type is vital for a variety of estuary dependent species, including juvenile salmon, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Restoration of this area is an important element of the watersheds' ecosystem-based recovery efforts. Skagit Audubon Society is excited to support this project. We look forward to participating in the project by contributing volunteer time monitoring bird use of the pocket estuary.

We also recognize this project's contribution to the larger collaborative effort to restore and protect north Port Susan Bay and the Stillaguamish River estuary. Once completed there will be over 7,000 acres of diverse estuarine and nearshore habitats under protection. We believe that the project, as well as the larger conservation area, will be held to the highest standards of management and stewardship.

Sincerely,

Timothy Manns
President
Skagit Audubon Society



Island County Board of Commissioners

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July 6, 2009

Island County Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) and
WRIA 6 Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
SRFB/PSAR Grant – 2009 WRIA 6

Re: Livingston Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration Project

Dear Project Review Committee,

Please join me in supporting The Nature Conservancy's application to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

The *Livingston Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration Project* being proposed by The Nature Conservancy contributes to the region's salmon recovery efforts by restoring an important, but limited, pocket estuary habitat type. These habitats are vital for rearing juvenile salmon as they acclimate to the marine environment, find refuge from predators, experience accelerated growth, and prepare to enter the ocean. Salmon originating from a number of north Puget Sound watersheds including the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish use habitats around Whidbey and Camano Islands and restoration, where appropriate, is an important element of the watersheds' ecosystem-based recovery efforts. For this reason, the project is specifically identified in the WRIA 6 (Whidbey and Camano Island) Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan's three year implementation matrix.

I am also very encouraged by this project's contribution to the larger collaborative effort to restore and protect north Port Susan Bay and the Stillaguamish River estuary. Once the project is completed there will be over 7,000 acres of functional estuarine and nearshore habitats effectively conserved!

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WRIA 6 Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
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I know this project, as well as the larger conservation area, will be held to the highest standards of management and stewardship.

Sincerely,


John Dean
Island County Commissioner, District 3

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