

**2016 Conservation Futures – M&O Application**  
**Trillium Community Forest**  
**Invasive Species Removal and Public Use Enhancement**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Applicant's Name: Whidbey Camano Land Trust
  2. Applicant's Address: 765 Wonn Rd, Barn C-201, Greenbank, WA 98239
  3. Contact Person: Jessica Larson
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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

1. Property Name: Trillium Community Forest
  3. Address of Property and directions: Hwy 525 and Pacific Dogwood, Freeland
  4. Tax Parcel Number(s): See attached
  5. Acres or Square Feet of Property: 654 acres
  6. Percentage of Property affected by Project: 100%
  7. Year Conservation Futures funds awarded: 2011      Amount: \$310,000
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REQUEST SUMMARY

1. Amount Requested: \$14,500
2. Project Budget:
  - a. Removal of invasive species - \$10,000
  - b. 2014 CFF Reimbursement - \$4,200
  - c. Signs - \$300

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of this project is to improve forest habitat and to enhance the public access to Trillium Community Forest. The project has two major objectives:

- Removal of Invasive Species
- Public Use Enhancement

### **Removal of invasive species - \$10,000**

Trillium Community Forest is a large public access area with many points of entry and numerous vectors for introduction and establishment of invasive plant species. Funds from the 2014 CFF Grant round covered the successful removal of over 500 holly trees and removal sweeps of several noxious species for all the main trail corridors. During this process the contractor also noted several locations where additional work would be needed in the future. This next round of removal will focus on holly, tansy, thistle and blackberry that were missed or have sprouted since the initial removal.

### **Public use enhancement:**

- **2014 CFF Reimbursement - \$4,200**
- **Signs - \$300**

The repairs to the public parking area in 2015 went over budget, due to larger than expected gravel needs and manpower costs. As such, the Land Trust was not reimbursed for \$4,200 worth of trail infrastructure work that was completed as part of the 2014 grant. The other aspect planned for the 2014 grant, that was unable to be purchased was improved signs to guide the public to parking and information signs on public use. This would include signs for parking, no parking, handicapped only, dog on leash, and waste pickup.

Both of these objectives are important in keeping Trillium Community Forest a safe, welcoming and sustainably used community land. Each of the activities will be leveraged with community volunteer support and is essential for the continued stewardship of the property.

ATTACHMENT B				
ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET				
ISLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES FUND				
PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATION				
PROJECT NAME =	Trillium Community Forest	YEAR	2016	
	Invasive Species and Public Use Enhancement			
	Category	CFF	Other Funding Sources	Total Funding
Planning	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Planning</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Maintenance and Operations	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Goods and Services*	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Maintenance / Operations</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>
Management & Administration	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Management &amp; Admin</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Equipment	Technology Capital Items*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Technology Supplies*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Equipment*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Property Acquisition	Fee Simple Acquisition Costs**	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Conservation Easements Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other Acquisition Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Acquisition Costs</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>

\* For all line items listed with "\*\*", please provided an attached detailed list of items and costs

\*\*does not include appraisal costs, survey, engineering or other technical services. Those costs are "other acquisition costs"

## **Budget Details**

### Consultants – \$10,000

1. Cost to hire invasive species removal contractors to conduct herbicide and mechanical removal.

### Goods and Services - \$4,500

1. \$4,200 - Cost of the unreimbursed costs from 2015 CFF M&O. The amount billed covers invasive species removal (\$3200) and trail signs (\$1000).
2. \$300 – Cost for parking lot signs including direction to parking area signs, no parking, handicapped only, dog on leash, and waste pickup

## SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES

### A. Ecological Integrity

*Invasive species are a serious threat to Trillium Community Forest. Tremendous effort has and continues to go into the forest restoration thinning of the overly dense Douglas firs on the property. The project is proceeding smoothly with results that are better than we could even have hoped for. These include opening up the forest canopy to allow increased light to the forest floor and encourage native understory plant growth. It is extremely important that invasive species aren't permitted to establish in these newly opened areas. Concentrated efforts in these early years after the thinning operations will allow native plants to establish and outcompete non-native invasives.*

### B. Hazard of Liability

*The proposal would improve directional signs that indicate when and where to enter and exit the parking area from the highway, and therefore reduce driver uncertainty and resulting accidents.*

### C. Special Status

*The restoration actions on this large forest block will improve habitat for a wide range of species, through increasing species and structural diversity, if invasive plants are held at bay until native plants take hold on the site. The kinds of species that will benefit will include amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and predator and prey species. Specifically, Pileated woodpeckers, a State Species of concern will benefit from the creation of larger trees and increased standing dead wood.*

### D. Habitat Values not previously covered

*Holly, Canada thistle, tansy and blackberry are all species of concern for the property. This is noted in Section 3.1.5 Invasive Species in the Trillium Community Forest Public Use Plan. Removal of these species will greatly reduce the amount of seed sources on the property, during a time that we are actively creating real-estate for plant establishment on the property. The majority of the species are found along the road corridors, while the holly is more widespread throughout the property. The focus will be to remove any large patches of Canada thistle, tansy and blackberry using herbicide treatments. Holly removal will focus on areas missed in the previous round, moving farther into the forest.*

### E. Public Access

*Additional signage in and around the parking area will enhance the visitor experience while on the property and improve the ease of access to the site. Removal of invasive species also improves visitor experience providing a more natural and serene outdoor environment for the public to enjoy.*

## F. Management Plan

*There is a Public Use Plan completed for this property in 2012. The proposed project supports all three purposes of the Plan:*

*Primary Purpose – Ecological protection*

- *Removal of invasive species is a major component of keeping the forest healthy and diverse.*

*Secondary Purpose (1) – Welcoming and accessible to the public*

- *Improvements to the parking area are vital in creating a welcoming and safe property for the public. Trail signs are a major component of a safe and fun visitor experience.*

*Secondary Purpose (2) – Well cared for by the community and innovative partnerships.*

- *This project has a significant community involvement through volunteer work and is an example of using our partnership with the Conservation Futures Program as a way of finding funding for successful stewardship.*

*This project is directly mentioned in the Recommendations section of the Plan:*

*4.1.1.2 The spread of invasive species should be controlled... Where indicated and appropriate use licensed pesticide applicators to apply herbicides in a cautious, minimal and controlled manner to eliminate particularly problematic invasive infestations.*

*4.2.1.2 Signs and Kiosks... Appropriate information on signs and in kiosks should be maintained and updated.... Directional signs should be installed.*

*Signs and invasive species removal are both listed as priorities in the Capital Improvement Plan (Section 4.4).*

## G. Supported by Community Plans

*This project is supported by the Island County Parks and Recreation Element. As shown in Map 3: Trail Access/Service Areas, the Community Forest provides a major public service, especially for areas near and around Freeland. The Community Forest is also a priority in the Capital Improvement Plan for acquiring property for an additional trailhead. By improving the parking area and forest conditions on the property, this project is ensuring the continued stewardship and public use on a project of high priority, as identified in the Island County Parks and Recreation Element. The Island County Trails Plan also supports this project as it accomplishes the plan's primary objective to "meet the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians to encourage the development of non-motorized facilities".*

## H. Existing Infrastructure

*Gravel parking area off of Hwy 525 on Pacific Dogwood Lane and user information signage.*

I. Develops Infrastructure

*The importance of parking areas and trailheads are mentioned in Section 3.5.2 Trailheads and 4.2.1.1 Parking Lots of the Trillium Community Forest Public Use Plan. New parking signs are needed to further inform visitors of appropriate parking locations. This includes directional signs to parking areas, handicapped parking signs, and no parking signs. Also visitor information signs related to picking up pet waste and pets on leash are needed to further encourage the public to follow property rules.*

J. Long Term Viability

*The long-term manageability of this project is very high. The sponsor estimates that 25% of the initial invasive control work has been completed thus far. The invasive removal portion of this project will achieve 75% of the initial control effort necessary to reach the maintenance stage, at which point the amount of work needed to keep the remaining invasive population in check will be manageable by volunteers. Controlling invasives on this property protects the nearby South Whidbey State Park, by removing a large potential seed source that could travel to that property.*

K. Other Resources

*Volunteer labor will be utilized for the following activities:*

- *Sign installation*
- *Invasive species reconnaissance – to locate invasive species ‘hot spots’ for the professional crews*
- *Invasive species removal*
- *Volunteer hour estimate: 100 hours*

L. Public Ownership

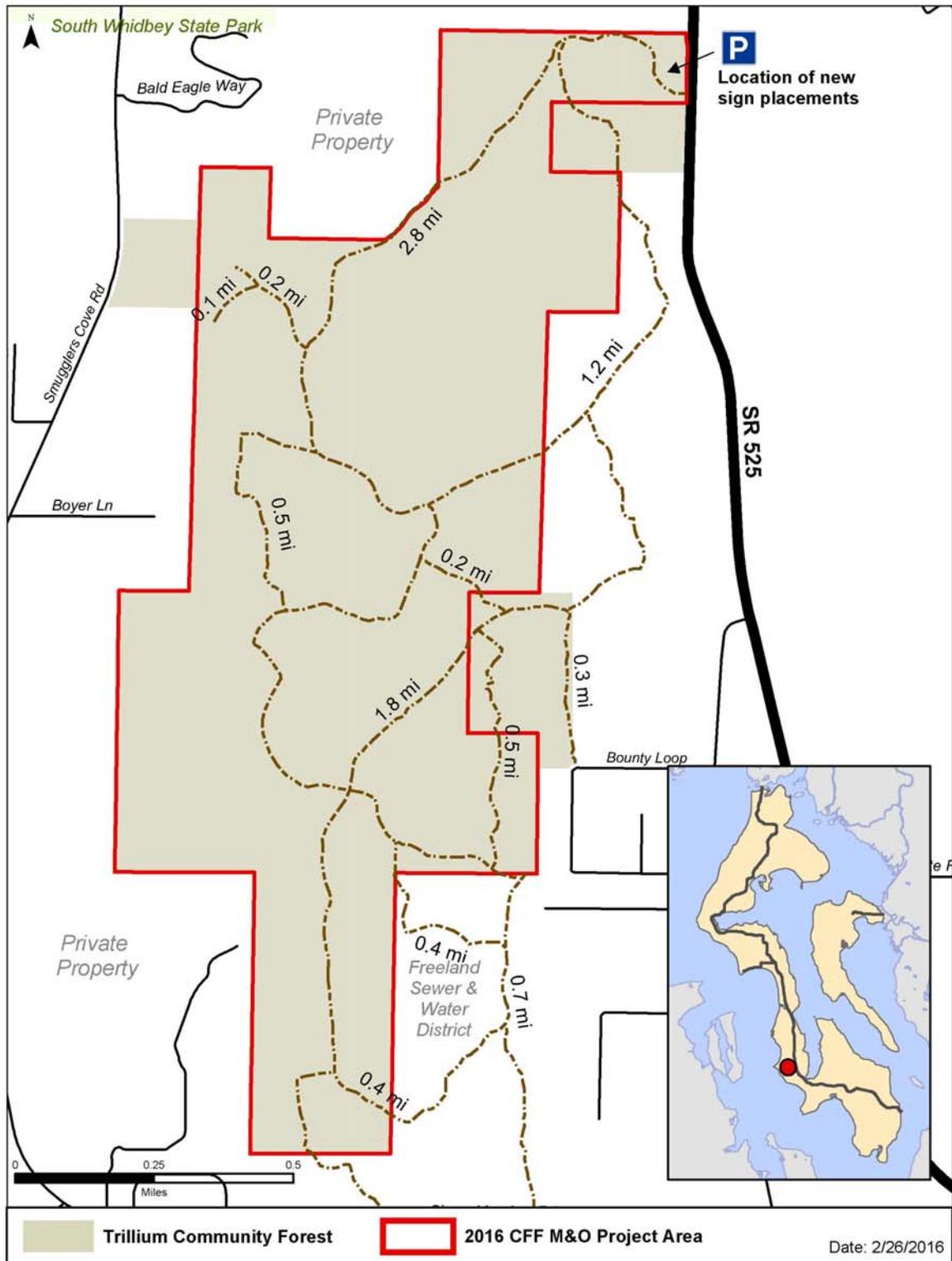
*There is a public conservation easement (CE) across the entire 654 acres of the property.*

## Attachment A – Parcel List

R22905-166-2980	R23032-236-4380
R22905-100-3640	R23032-236-3720
R22905-166-3650	R23032-236-3050
R22905-233-3660	R23032-235-2370
R22905-032-3630	R23032-167-2360
R22905-032-2960	R23032-100-2350
R22905-233-2990	R22905-338-2900
R22905-100-2970	R22905-368-2860
R23032-481-5130	R22905-401-2800
R23033-361-0320	R22905-437-2750
R23033-295-0320	R22905-473-2750
R23032-389-4890	R22905-442-3750
R23032-349-4730	R22905-390-4760
R23032-316-4650	R22905-357-4760
R23032-301-3650	R22905-509-2680
R23032-301-2990	R22905-510-3750
R23032-368-2320	R22905-509-4420
R23032-302-2320	R23032-039-2560
R23032-100-5000	R23032-033-3660
R23032-100-4340	R23032-033-4320
R23032-100-3680	R23032-033-4980
R23032-100-3010	R23032-001-2560
R23032-168-3030	R22905-362-3810
R23032-168-3700	R22905-379-1790
R23032-168-4360	R22905-307-4420
R23032-168-5020	R22905-307-5090
R23032-236-5040	

Attachment B – Project Map

# Trillium Community Forest



## Attachment C – Project Photos

Improved Trillium parking area still in need of signs to guide visitors



Holly at Trillium



Other Invasives – Ivy covered tree and tansy along the road

