

**Island County Conservation Futures Program
Maintenance and Operations Funding
Project title: Barnum point and kettles expansion trails (Alito) Noxious Weed Management
Application Year: 2021**

Applicant's Name: Island County Noxious Weed Control Board

Applicant's Address: P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Contact Person: Seth Luginbill

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Property Owner Name: Island County Parks

Property Owner Phone: 360-679-7335

Address of Property: Barnum point is located at Lona Beach, Camano Island, south of Iverson Spit and east of Triangle cove; Kettles expansion trails are located between Hwy 20 and Libbey Rd, North of Coupeville, Whidbey Island.

Tax Parcel Number(s): Barnum Point: R33105-065-0680, R33107-491-5130, R33107-466-5220, R33105-086-1670, R33105-077-1080, R33105-165-0750, R33105-220-0700, and R33107-443-5240; kettles expansion (Alito) trails: R13230-223-1150, R13230-154-1170, R13230-094-1250, R13230-038-1360,

Acres or Square Feet of Property: Total 209 acres: Barnum Point (166 acres); Kettles expansion (Alito) trails (43 acres)

Percentage of Property Affected by Project: Approx. 14 acres (Barnum 6, Kettles expansion 8)

Summary of Proposed Project Costs and Budget: The amount requested is **\$23,044** for two years of noxious weed control work. The amount requested would cover a noxious weed survey and control work in 2021 (\$12,447) and additional control work in 2022 (\$10,598).

Included with Application:

Attachment A – Maps of each CFF property

Attachment B – Estimated Project Budget

Attachment C – Budget Detail

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Project Description:

This proposal incorporates two separate CFF acquired properties all dealing with noxious/invasive weed infestations. As a result of the unpredictable nature of noxious weed infestations it was deemed prudent by the noxious weed control board to encompass both properties into one proposal so as to easily divert resources to areas most in need depending on response to treatments in previous years as well as in the first year of this proposal if awarded. The properties included in this proposal are as follows: Barnum Point County Park and Kettles expansion trails (henceforth referred to as the Alito property):

Barnum Point: In 2020, IC parks was awarded CFF M&O funds to conduct a removal project to begin removal of the 900 mature English holly trees situated around the old farm footprint. While this work has gone a long way to minimize future infestations into the forested acreage surrounding the old farm there is already an extremely large population that has established itself in the adjacent 5.5-forested acres. In the same manner that the removal of the larger trees and revegetation with natives will help the overall health of the surrounding ecosystems the removal of the smaller plants in this forest area will also serve to ensure that future re-establishment of English holly will not derail work already put into this site.

Similarly, there has been some work to deal with the encroachment of regulated and unregulated noxious weed species at numerous points throughout the park. Known species present include: poison hemlock, Scotch broom, bull thistle, Canada thistle, and common tansy. In appropriating designated funding towards eradicating and control these species parks staff can devote resources to other infrastructure and maintenance tasks. The goal of this part of the project would be to begin control/eradication of this English Holly and other noxious weeds found throughout the park.

Kettles expansion trails (Alito): The Alito property was acquired through Conservation Futures Funding in 2018 by Island County parks and recreation. In 2019, IC parks received additional CFF Maintenance and Operation funding to install infrastructure and upgrade the 43-acre park that lies adjacent to the kettles trail system and provides a host of recreational trails to explore the area. In 2020, the ICNWC program was contracted by IC parks to conduct initial eradication of noxious weed species found to be present on site. Over one ton of noxious weed material was removed and treated during this contract.

The park is populated, by an abundance of native species and the ecosystem of importance. Species present at the site include native Pacific rhododendrons, Pacific madrones, Evergreen huckleberry, Douglas fir, and many other keystone species.

There are currently nine documented noxious weed species present within the Alito trail system. Four of these species are listed as regulated species under RCW 17.10, meaning that the landowner is **legally** required to control infestations. The majority of these infestations are located along the northern three acres abutting Libbey Rd and along the access road that runs north to south through the 43 acres. These

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species include Spurge Laurel (Class B), Tansy ragwort (Class B), Canada thistle (Class C regulated), Bull thistle (Class C regulated), Scotch broom, common teasel, common St. johnswort, English Ivy, and Himalayan blackberry.

The goal of this work is to continue removal of all identified noxious weed species with focus being placed on eradication of all regulated noxious weeds and Scotch broom populations in the park.

A. Ecological Integrity

Barnum Point: Controlling noxious/invasive weeds within the parks borders will help enhance habitat and continue to expedite the ecological recovery efforts for this park.

Alito trails: As mentioned in description above there are nine noxious weed species located on the Alito parcels. Many of these are perennial species that have been established at the site for some time. While 2020 treatments were successful, the native understory is still at risk for noxious weed species re-establishing in the area. This threat is increased now that the trails are being utilized and human and animal traffic will increase the odds of weed seed transportation into untouched native habitat. Of particular concern is re-establishment of spurge laurel in the area. Studies have shown that the subsequent two years after initial spurge laurel removal occurs are critical to achieving full eradication of an infestation. Given the diversity of ages observed in 2020 and the removal of over 4,500 spurge laurel plants there is a high probability that infestation re-establishment in these areas will remain high until additional treatments can occur. Conducting control work in 2021-2022 should mean complete eradication of this population is feasible. Upon completion of these treatment seasons, the forest understory is still at a level with its diversity and abundance where natural re-vegetation can occur and provide sustained competition against future establishment of spurge laurel.

B. Hazard of Liability

Sites include a number of toxic species that can be harmful to people, pets, and stock animals who utilize the park. Three species: Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), and spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) all have toxic compounds within plants that can lead to potentially significant health risks if ingested or in some cases when dermal contact occurs.

The Holly removal will eliminate a significant threat to native species in the surrounding areas. If this species establishes it becomes increasingly difficult to control.

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Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires landowners, including city, county and state land agencies, to control or eradicate certain noxious weeds that occur on their property. Since private citizens are equally responsible for controlling listed noxious weeds on their properties, the county could be liable and legally challenged for not obeying the same state laws. The noxious weed control work proposed for Barnum point and kettles expansion trails system will insure compliance with noxious weed laws.

C. Special Status

N/A

D. Habitat values not previously covered

N/A

E. Public Access

All parks have excellent public access. Barnum Point County Park has an established parking area installed in 2019 and portable waste facilities for public use. The Alito property has two parking areas: 1) a small two-car site off Libbey road that enters at the Alito trail, and 2) a larger parking area that can hold horse trailers and vehicle overflow. The trail system is tied into the larger kettles trail complex offering increased recreational access to this area and Fort Ebey state park.

F. Management Plan

Currently there is a site-specific management plan in place for Barnum Point County Park developed by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and, to a lesser extent the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan that contains an overall outline for parks management, acceptance of new properties, and strategies for management. Specifically Island County is moving toward a passive park infrastructure of which these properties qualify. There are several ideas outlined in the core of the specific management plan. One component being the removal of an invasive species and the restoration and reforestation being a major component of keeping the surrounding forest healthy and diverse.

Currently there is no site-specific management plan for the Alito trail system.

G. Supported by Community Plans

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Barnum Point County Park and the Alito trail system are both owned and managed by Island County Parks. The Parks Plan which is in the Island County Comprehensive Plan supports noxious weed management. This project will reduce the time that the Island Parks Maintenance personnel has to spend controlling weeds at these sites.

H. Existing Infrastructure

Both parks have established parking areas to allow horses, mountain bikers, and hikers to all utilize the trails safely. Both parks have informational kiosk with pertinent maps and updates on park activities and in the case of the Alito property benches strategically located throughout the park. In 2020, the installation of an ADA compliant trail connecting the horse trailer parking area to the Alito trail increases the access to the park for individuals with disabilities.

I. Develops infrastructure

N/A

J. Long Term Viability

Viability for these projects is very high. Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) has been actively involved at Barnum point preserve since its inception. FOCIP has irregularly scheduled work parties for trail maintenance and also weed control, especially mechanical control of Scotch broom. FOCIP supports long term funding for noxious weed control at Barnum point and several FOCIP members have written letters of support for previous CFF grant applications for these funds.

The Kettles expansion trail system is actively maintained by two volunteer organizations. The Whidbey Island Bicycle Club and Backcountry Horsemen of Island County both have an excellent track record of helping maintain and keep trail system open and usable for public.

K. Other Resources

The current ICNWP Coordinator possesses a WSDA pesticide applicator's license (No. 84304) with aquatic and right-of-way endorsements. The ICNWP Coordinator is responsible for keeping the license current by earning the required number of recertification credits each year. The ICNWP Coordinator also has the necessary National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to be able to use appropriate herbicides in aquatic areas. The ICNWP Coordinator is knowledgeable about plants, their life cycles, ecosystem function, and integrated pest management techniques.

Volunteers will play an integral role and assist in the following activities

- Scotch Broom removal on both sites and holly removal at Barnum point.

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- Noxious weed control program has supply of hand tools, herbicide, and other weed removal equipment to conduct work and volunteers when involved.

L. Public Ownership

Both properties are Fee simple and owned by Island County Parks

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Attachment A

Map 1 – Barnum Point County Park



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Map 2 – Kettles expansion (Alito) trails (with 2020 survey points)



*Species are identified by color: Spurge laurel (yellow), tansy ragwort (blue), Bull thistle (pink), Canada thistle (light blue), Scotch broom (purple), common St. Johnswort (green)

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Attachment B

Attachment B					
Estimated Project Budget					
	Island County Conservation Futures Fund				
Proposed Project Application					
Project name	Alito/Barnum point noxious weed control		Year 2021/2022		
Planning	Category	CFF	Other Funding Sources		Total Funding
	Salaries and Benefits	1962			1962
	Consultants/Sub-contracting				0
	Good and Services				0
	Travel & Per Diem				0
	Other				0
	Total Planning	1962			1962
Maintenance and Operations					
	Salaries and Benefits	15700			15700
	Consultants/Sub-contracting				0
	Good and Services				0
	Travel & Per Diem				0
	Other				0
	Total Maintenance/	15700			15700
Management & Administration					0
	Salaries and Benefits	3841			3841
	Consultants/Sub-contracting				0
	Good and Services				0
	Travel & Per Diem				0
	Other				0
	Total Management & Admin	3841			3841
Equipment					
	Technology Capital Items*				0
	Technology Supplies*				0
	Equipment*	1541			1541
	Other				0
	Total Equipment	1541			1541
Property Acquisition					
	Land Purchase	0			0
	Other Acquisition Costs	0			0
	Total Acquisition Value	0			0
	Land Donation	0			0
	Total Budget	23044		0	23044

* For all line items with "*" please provided attached detailed list of items and costs

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Attachment C

Barnum point/kettles expansion (alito) trails CFF NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT							
Budget Attachment C							
Budget Item:				Work Year 2021	Work Year 2022		
Salary for IC Noxious Weed Program Coordinator							
(No. of Hrs.x\$39.25/Hr.)		39.25					
Noxious weed control work*							
Project Planning/reporting				\$981	\$981		
Field Time				\$7,850	\$7,850		
Other Equipment & Materials**							
EZ lance				\$495			
EZ lance capsule (imazapyr)				\$275			
Herbicide				\$586			
Surfactant				\$185			
		ST=		\$10,372	\$8,831		
Public Health WC Administrative indirect rate (@20%)				\$2,074	\$1,766.25		
Total				\$12,447	\$10,598	Total For 2 Years =	\$23,044
* It is anticipated that most of the noxious weed control work would be done by IC Noxious weed coordinator. When possible volunteer services would be incorporated							
** Equipment & Materials: Most of the equipment necessary for the control work will be supplied by the IC Noxious Weed Program Coordinator. EZ lance and herbicide capsules will be used for larger holly plants. Other herbicides will be used for all other noxious weeds treated							