IVERSON PRESERVE
SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

CAMANO ISLAND, WA

DECEMBER 2011

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan provides guidance for the sustainable management and operation of Iverson Preserve consistent with site attributes, funding requirements, and the Island County Comprehensive Plan. This Site Management Plan documents baseline information on existing conditions, supporting efforts, and site opportunities and challenges. The Plan then incorporates public input and professional judgment into a set of recommendations to guide current activities and future actions. The Site Management Plan is intended for use by Island County and other community stakeholders.

This document compiles existing, accessible information. No original scientific fieldwork or engineering studies were completed for the purposes of this plan. The Site Management Plan provides recommendations on improving the current function of the Preserve. This Plan does not attempt to alter the classification for the Preserve or recommend changes that deviate substantially from use definitions contained in the Island County Comprehensive Plan and Island County Shoreline Master Program.

The Site Management Plan is focused on the uses and resources within the boundaries of the Preserve, with special emphasis on ecological protection. Although the project team feels strongly that addressing site access and parking issues are critical to the successful site operation and management, these topics are addressed in concept only due to the limited scope of this document.

Existing Conditions Summary

Iverson Preserve is located on the eastern shore of Camano Island, south of Livingston Bay and north of Barnum Point (Section 32, Township 32 N, Range 3 East and Section 5, Township 31 North, Range 3 East, W.M.). Island County purchased the 120 acre Iverson Preserve with Conservation Futures Funds (CFFs) in 1999. Infrastructure within the Preserve is limited, but includes important features such as a small (14-vehicle) parking area, emergency turn-around, information kiosk, trails, dike, tide gate, seasonal portable toilet (porta-potty), and an active agricultural field.

The Iverson Preserve is within the Port Susan marine ecosystem in the Island watershed, Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 6. The Preserve encompasses an accreting shoreline reach (Island County MRC, 2011). Historically, the Iverson Preserve property was dominated by a low-energy salt marsh (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001; USGS 2011; US Coastal and Geodetic Survey, 1886; Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., 2001). The 1886 US Coastal and Geodetic Survey and 1911 Department of the Interior maps depict the property as consisting of salt marsh with multiple tidal channels at the base of a relatively steep upland bank (Appendix A). By 1943, the property was drained and protected by a dike, most likely for the purpose of converting the land to agricultural use (USGS, 2011 and Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). The dike and associated tide gate remain to this day. When Island County purchased the property in 1999, the shoreline was undeveloped with the exception of the dike and tide gate. Island County currently leases the 68 acres of agricultural land for commercial seed farming.

Iverson Preserve and the surrounding portion of WRIA 6 is recognized as a having significant fish and wildlife resources and is the focus of several on-going conservation efforts. Iverson

Preserve itself contains several habitat types: managed agriculture, open water/ditches, emergent/herbaceous, scrub shrub, forest, salt marsh, mud flat, nearshore, and eelgrass. The variety of habitats is a reflection of the diversity of hydrology, landforms, soils, and land uses. The Iverson Preserve site has a variety of noxious weeds representing some of the most common deleterious invasive plants in the area. The current infestation level can be characterized as "average" or fairly typical as compared to other sites on Camano Island.

Iverson Preserve supports a wide range of fish and wildlife species. The variety of species is due in part to the presence of several habitat types and the Preserve's location at the intersection of three distinct ecosystems: marine waters, uplands, and freshwater river deltas. The Preserve has been known to contain larger mammals such as coyote and deer, smaller mammals, salmon, sturgeon, shellfish, and birds. Sport fishing is a common activity along the banks of Iverson Preserve. The open, protected habitats within Iverson Preserve are becoming increasingly important to fish and wildlife populations as development expands on Camano Island and within the Stillaguamish Basin. The Preserve is mapped as containing 10 species or habitats potentially present on or within the near vicinity of Iverson Preserve that are protected by the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance, listed by Washington State as a Species of Concern (i.e. Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, or Candidate) or as Priority Habitats, and/or are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (WDFW, 2011a; WDFW, 2011b; WDFW, 2008; Beamer, et al., 2006; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service [NOAA-Fisheries], 2011; US Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], 2011). An additional five protected species or habitats are mapped as occurring within the near vicinity.

Opportunities & Challenges

Iverson Preserve has a number of opportunities and challenges that were identified through public input, discussions with stakeholders, and review of existing literature:

Opportunities & Challenges
Infrastructure & Facilities • Parking • Site Access • Traffic/Speeding • Trespassing/Vandalism • Support Facilities • Rules/Signage Standards
Ecological • Agricultural Production • Ecosystem Protection • Tide gate/Ditches/Dike • Noxious Weeds • Hunting • Mosquitoes
Management • Communication/Coordination • Ownership/Operation • Enforcement

Proposed Vision Statement

Iverson Preserve is a unique public space with broad community support. Although the Preserve is universally loved, there is no defined Vision that documents the shared value of this space other than the conventional assumption it be use for low-impact recreation

Below is a proposed Vision Statement for consideration by Island County, citizens, and key stakeholders:

> ***Iverson Preserve is a site where citizens come to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment through limited, low-impact activities while exhibiting stewardship to ensure the health of sensitive ecosystems. Low impact activities are those activities that do not degrade the surrounding waters, habitats, and vegetation communities and are compatible with the available facilities and surrounding land uses.***

Site Management Recommendations

The challenge of managing Iverson Preserve is to balance human activities with the sensitive habitats in a coordinated and sustainable manner. This Plan proposes specific management recommendations to achieve this objective. The recommendations are intended to address site Opportunities and Challenges consistent with the proposed Vision Statement. The recommendations are divided into "Near Term" and "Long Term" categories. The Near Term recommendations are simple in nature and can likely be implemented with little or no additional planning work. The Long Term recommendations are conceptual in nature. Due to the complexity of the Long Term projects, additional outreach, planning, design, permitting, and/or feasibility analysis are needed for implementation. All of the proposed actions depend upon identifying and securing funding. In their entirety, the recommendations provide a coordinated and intentional approach to the maintenance and operation of Iverson Preserve.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan is to provide guidance for sustainable management and operation of Iverson Preserve consistent with site attributes, funding requirements, and the Island County Comprehensive Plan. This Site Management Plan documents baseline information on existing conditions, supporting efforts, and site opportunities and challenges. The Plan then incorporates public input and professional judgment into a set of recommendations to guide current activities and future actions. The Site Management Plan is intended for use by Island County and other community stakeholders.

1.2 Scope and Limitations

This document compiles existing, accessible information. No original scientific fieldwork or engineering studies were completed for the purposes of this plan. Existing conditions were verified through three independent site visits. Public input was maximized to the extent possible under the limited project scope. Public input included one public meeting, distribution of comment cards, telephone conversations, e-mail correspondence, and a site tour with representatives of Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) and Island County. Written responses and comments collected during the public meeting held on September 26, 2011 are included in Appendix B. Written responses and comments on the draft Site Management Plan are included in Appendix C.

The Site Management Plan provides recommendations on improving the current function of the Preserve. This Plan does not attempt to alter the classification for the Preserve or recommend changes that deviate substantially from use definitions contained in the Island County Comprehensive Plan and Island County Shoreline Master Program.

The Site Management Plan is focused on the uses and resources within the boundaries of the Preserve, with special emphasis on ecological protection. During the course of the project, it became apparent that site access and parking issues were integral to the successful operation and management of the Preserve. Although the project team feels strongly that addressing site access and parking issues are critical, these topics are addressed in concept only due to the limited scope of this document. The concepts are based on anecdotal information from residents, observations during three summer weekends, and guidance from Island County Public Works Department. Additional public outreach and engineering design work are needed to bring these ideas to fruition.

1.3 Background

Iverson Preserve is located on the eastern shore of Camano Island, south of Livingston Bay and north of Barnum Point (Section 32, Township 32 N, Range 3 East and Section 5, Township 31 North, Range 3 East, W.M.) (Figure 1).

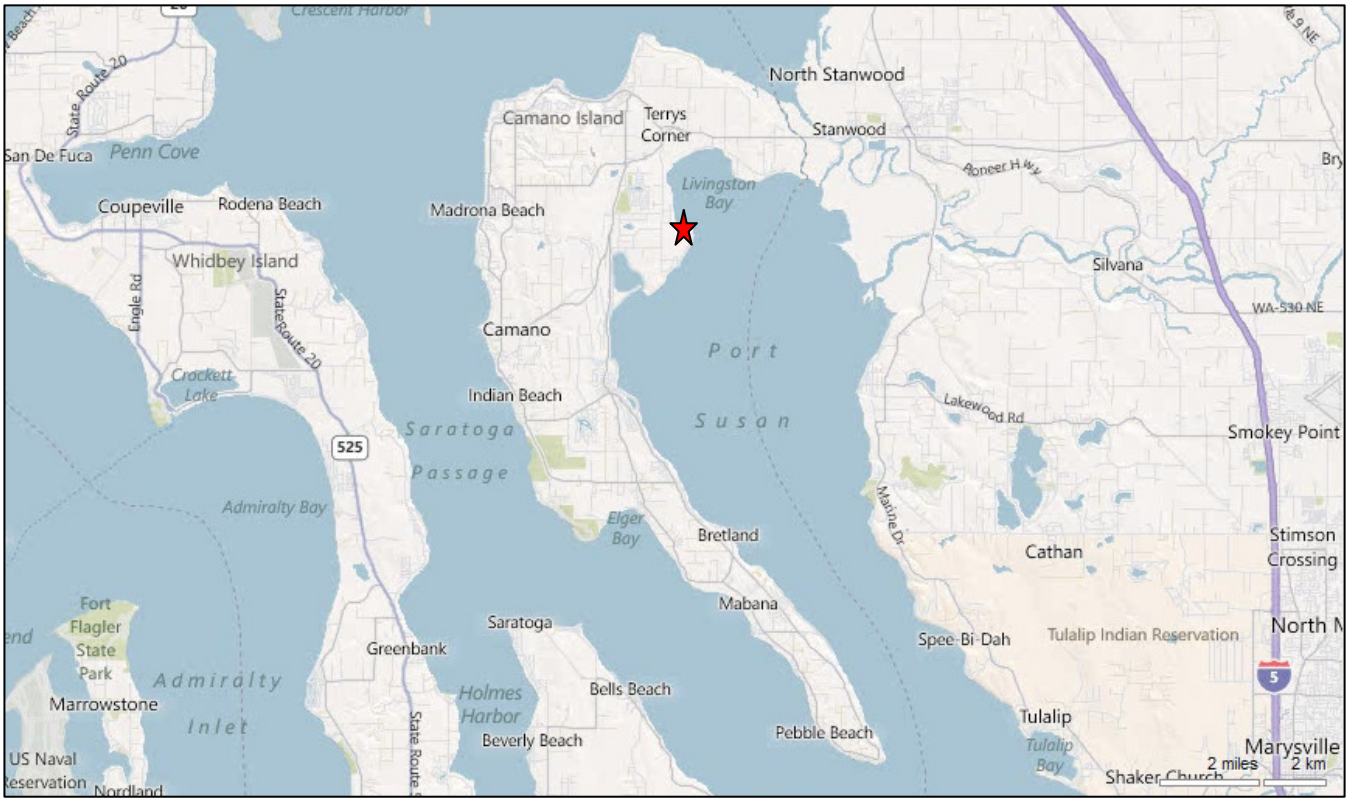

Figure 1. Vicinity Map

Island County purchased the 120 acre Iverson Preserve with Conservation Futures Funds (CFFs) in 1999. CFFs are property tax-generated funds intended for the acquisition of rights and interests in open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timberland as provided in RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220 and the maintenance and operation of any property that has been acquired with these funds (Island County Code [ICC] 3.22.010). The purpose of CFF acquisitions is to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve the subject land (RCW 84.34.201).

Iverson Preserve is designated as a "Natural Recreation Area" in the 2011 Draft Island County Comprehensive Plan Parks and Recreation Element (Island County, 2011):

> *"Natural Recreation Areas protect more extensive habitat areas, in addition to providing developed recreation facilities. They differ from conservation areas in that these sites typically support higher-use recreation and habitat space, but the uses are not necessarily integrated."*

Natural Recreation Areas comprise 75 percent of Island County's park and habitat areas and total 2,660.6 acres. Natural Shoreline/Tidal Habitat accounts for 14 percent of Island County's total park and habitat lands, 20 percent of which is located at Iverson Preserve. The 2011 Draft Park and Recreation Element identifies "shoreline" as the second highest priority land type for acquisition and protection and documents the need for additional beach access and trail activities (Island County, 2011). Currently, Iverson Preserve is one of nine Island County-owned public beach access locations on Camano Island (MIG, Inc., 2010).

Iverson Preserve is designated as a "Conservancy Environment" in the current Island County Shoreline Master Program (Island County, 2001). This designation was determined prior to Island County purchasing the Preserve. Conservancy is defined in the 2001 SMP as:

> *"The Conservancy Environment is an area which permits varying densities of human activity, while retaining the aesthetic, cultural, ecological, historic and recreational resources."*

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

2.1 Existing Infrastructure & Facilities

Infrastructure within the Preserve is limited, but includes important features that are discussed below and illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

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Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Existing Infrastructure Overview*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 2

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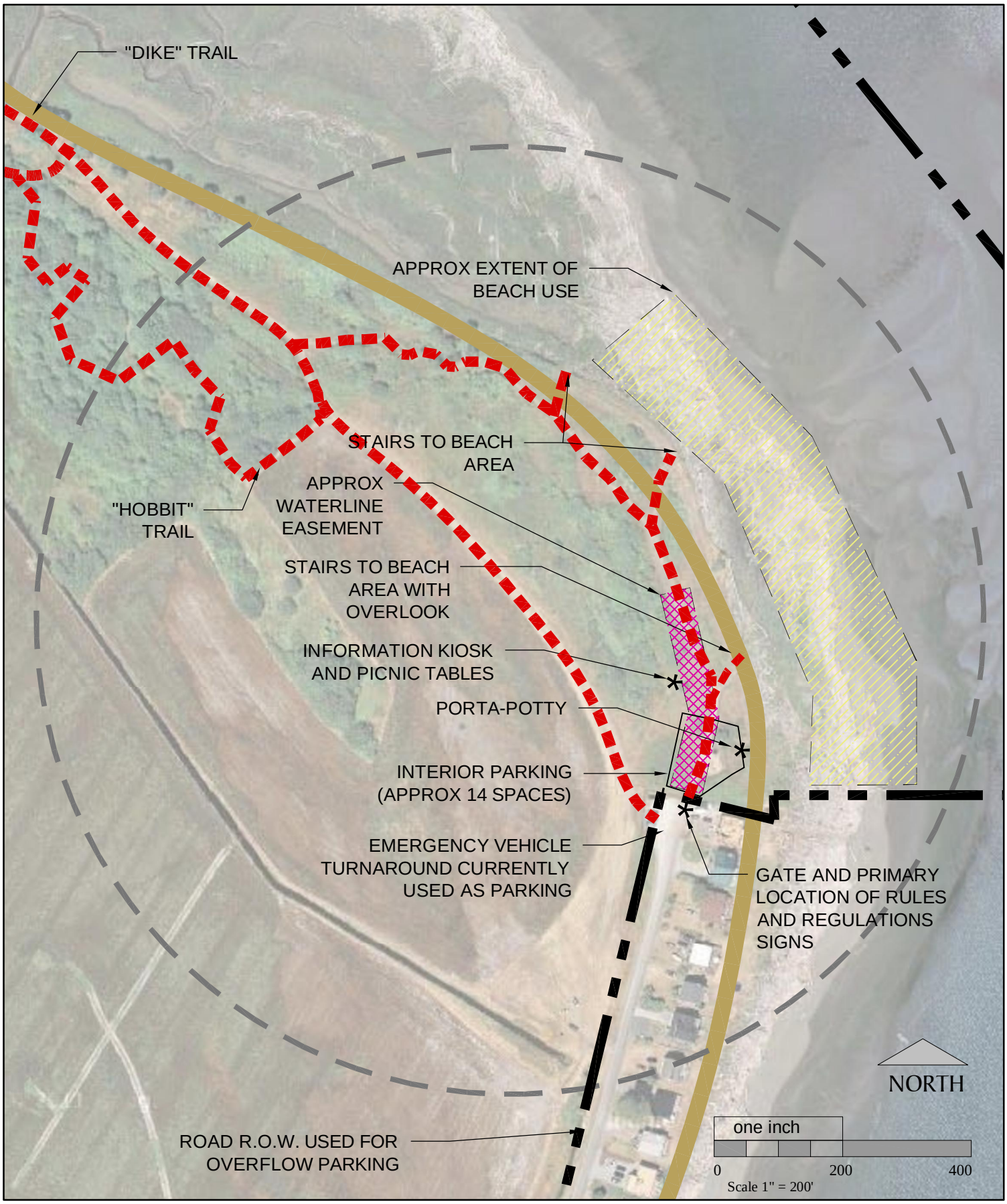

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Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Existing Infrastructure Enlargement*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 3

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2.1.1 Parking

There are approximately 14 parking spaces within the Preserve-designated parking lot (gravel area north of a gate at the end of Iverson Road) and an additional 12 spaces in an emergency vehicle turn-around at the end of the road (gravel area south of the gate). A chain-link fence separates the parking lot from the emergency vehicle turn-around with a gate allowing access between. The gate remains open at all times.

2.1.2 Restroom Facilities

There are up to two porta-potties (portable toilets) on site that are delivered for the high-use season. They are removed during the winter months. The delivery and pick-up dates have varied over the years. Maintenance of the porta-potties is the responsibility of the contractor according to their contract with Island County.

2.1.3 Day Use Facilities

There are two picnic tables and an information kiosk just north of the designated parking area. Three staircases access the beach area, installed to protect the dike. The southern staircase also has an overlook that includes interpretive signs. The dike is protected with fencing between these points.

2.1.4 Trail Facilities

There are approximately 1.3 miles of trails through a variety of habitats (Figure 2). Two small footbridges provide pedestrian access across a drainage ditch and allows for a connecting loop. There are also a series of interior farm roads in the 68-acre agricultural field in the southern and central portions of the Preserve. These farm roads are associated with active agricultural production.

2.1.5 Easements

At least two easements exist on the property. The first is for a dike, designed to prevent high water events from intruding into the agricultural area. This easement is held and managed by Island County. A tide gate is located in the dike to facilitate one-way drainage.

A second easement is held by the local Long Beach Water District. The easement encompasses a waterline that services a single fire hydrant on the site. This hydrant was intended to serve future residential development. This use was later determined to not be feasible but the hydrant remains for possible use in an emergency.

2.1.6 Signs

Signs are located throughout the site; at the entrance to the parking area, at the information kiosk, adjacent to Iverson Road, at the southern beach overlook, and along the trails.

2.1.7 Tide Gate/Ditches/Dike

A dike separates the shoreline from the drained agricultural and residential areas further inland. The dike begins at the northernmost extent of the Preserve, continues south in the general location of the "dike trail" and then west of the residences along Iverson Road, eventually terminating off-site south of Iverson Beach Road (Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., 2001). A one-way tide gate exists in the northern portion of the dike as shown in Figure 2. Beavers may have blocked flow through the tide gate and some accounts suggest beaver activity has increased in the past few years. Other anecdotal information suggests beavers are active upstream of the tide gate and contribute to backwater conditions within the Preserve, but their structures do not physically block the tide gate. The tide gate itself has also failed. In the past few years, Island County maintenance crews have attempted to visit the site and maintain the tide gate on a more regular basis (McDavid, pers. comm., 2011).

The agricultural field contains a series of ditches connected to the marine waters via the tide gate. The ditches are assumed to have been dug in the 1940s to drain the field for agriculture. Maintenance dredging has resulted in deep, wide channels, especially adjacent to Iverson Road. According to residents of Iverson Road, the ditches contain stagnant water year-round. The water often produces an offensive odor, likely due to the anoxic conditions.

2.2 Ecosystem Overview

The Iverson Preserve is within the Port Susan marine ecosystem. The Preserve encompasses an accreting shoreline reach (Island County MRC, 2011). Historically, the Iverson Preserve property was dominated by a low-energy salt marsh (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001; USGS 2011; US Coastal and Geodetic Survey, 1886; Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., 2001). The 1886 US Coastal and Geodetic Survey and 1911 Department of the Interior maps depict the property as consisting of salt marsh with multiple tidal channels at the base of a relatively steep upland bank (Appendix A). By 1943, the property was drained and protected by a dike, most likely for the purpose of converting the land to agricultural use (USGS, 2011 and Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). The dike and associated tide gate remain to this day.

When Island County purchased the property in 1999, the shoreline was undeveloped with the exception of the dike and tide gate. The majority of the property landward of the dike was in agricultural production and contained a series of drainage channels near the perimeter of the property. Land uses have not changed significantly since 1999. Island County currently leases the 68 acres of agricultural land for commercial seed farming.

Iverson Preserve is located within the Island watershed, Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 6. The Preserve is adjacent to Port Susan, an extension of Possession Sound. The Preserve is south of Livingston Bay and opposite the mouth of the Stillaguamish River. This portion of WRIA 6 is recognized as a having significant fish and wildlife resources and is the focus of several on-going conservation efforts (see Appendix A and Supporting Efforts, below). Island County describes Iverson Preserve as part of a "Conceptual Habitat Area" extending southwest from West Pass (at the head of Port Susan) to the western shore of Camano along Saratoga Pass (Island County, 2011). The Whidbey-Camano Land Trust owns surrounding tidelands with the goal of expanding protection of Port Susan Bay and the Greater Skagit and

Stillaguamish Delta (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW], 2005). In addition, there has been a coordinated effort to establish a Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) encompassing the entire Port Susan Bay and surrounding drainage basins, including Iverson Preserve (Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee [MRC], 2011). This effort is a partnership between Snohomish and Island County MRCs, Tulalip Tribes, the Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, WSU Extension of Snohomish and Island Counties, and Washington Sea Grant with support from the Northwest Straits Commission.

2.2.1 Habitat Types

Iverson Preserve contains several habitat types as summarized in Table 2 and shown in Figure 4. The variety of habitats is a reflection of the diversity of hydrology, landforms, soils, and land uses. The following is a summary of dominant habitat types within the Preserve:

Table 1: Habitat Types

Type
Managed Agriculture
Open Water/Ditches
Emergent/Herbaceous
Scrub Shrub
Forest • Deciduous • Mixed
Salt Marsh • Low Salt Marsh • High Salt Marsh and Driftwood Complex
Mud Flat
Nearshore
Eelgrass

Managed Agriculture

Managed agriculture is the dominant vegetation community in the Preserve and encompasses approximately 68 acres of the site. Agriculture has been ongoing since at least the early 1940s (USGS, 2011). A variety of crops have been grown at the site and the current crop is turf grass seed. This area has been artificially drained with ditches and drain tiles since at least 1967, but has been reported as getting progressively wetter in recent years (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). The habitat is open and composed of managed herbaceous plants with interspersed with palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands and agricultural ditches along the edges. Habitat features such as downed logs and snags are absent from the field, but are present in adjacent habitats within the Preserve.

Open Water/Ditches

Open water/ditches habitat consists of freshwater aquatic habitat including ponds formed by beaver activity and agricultural ditches. Water within these areas originates from upland surface runoff and ground water. Outflow is controlled by the tide gate. These areas appear to be inundated year round with some tidal influence when the tide gate is not fully operational. Beaver activity has affected the tide gate function at times. The ditches are steep sided and

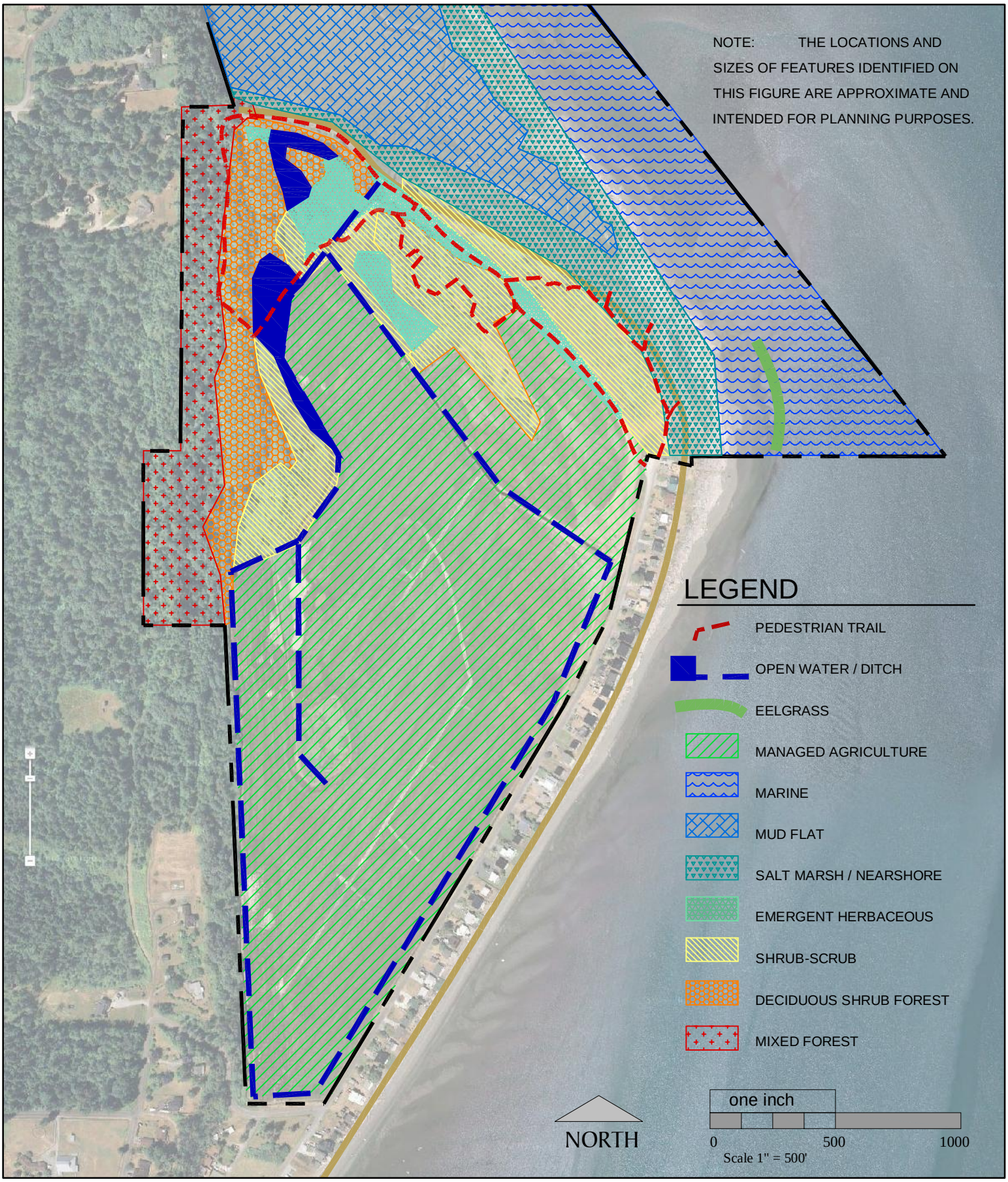
intermittently vegetated. Dominant plants in the freshwater aquatic habitat type include common cattail (*Typha latifolia*), soft-stemmed bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), and pondweed (*Potomogeton* sp.).

Emergent/Herbaceous

Outside of the agricultural areas on the Preserve, communities dominated by herbaceous plants are located along the ditches and beaver ponds near the northern portion of the Preserve. Most of these communities are typical of moist brackish conditions with dominant species including Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), Douglas aster (*Aster subspicatus*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and Pacific silverweed (*Potentilla pacifica*). Invasive reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is well established along the ditch edges and fringes of the beaver ponds. Many of these areas are likely PEM wetlands with possible estuarine emergent (EEM) wetlands.

Scrub shrub

Scrub shrub communities are common in the Preserve, but vary in character, structure, and species composition depending on the location and underlying hydrology. These communities are characterized by woody plants that do not exceed 30 feet in height. Shrub communities fringe the site ditches and beaver ponds. These communities are dominated by species tolerant of wet conditions and can also be described as palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS) wetlands. Typical dominant species include hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*), black twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*), and Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*). A well-established, nearly pure stand of western crabapple (*Malus fusca*) is located along the "Hobbit Trail".



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Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *M3 - Habitat Types*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 4

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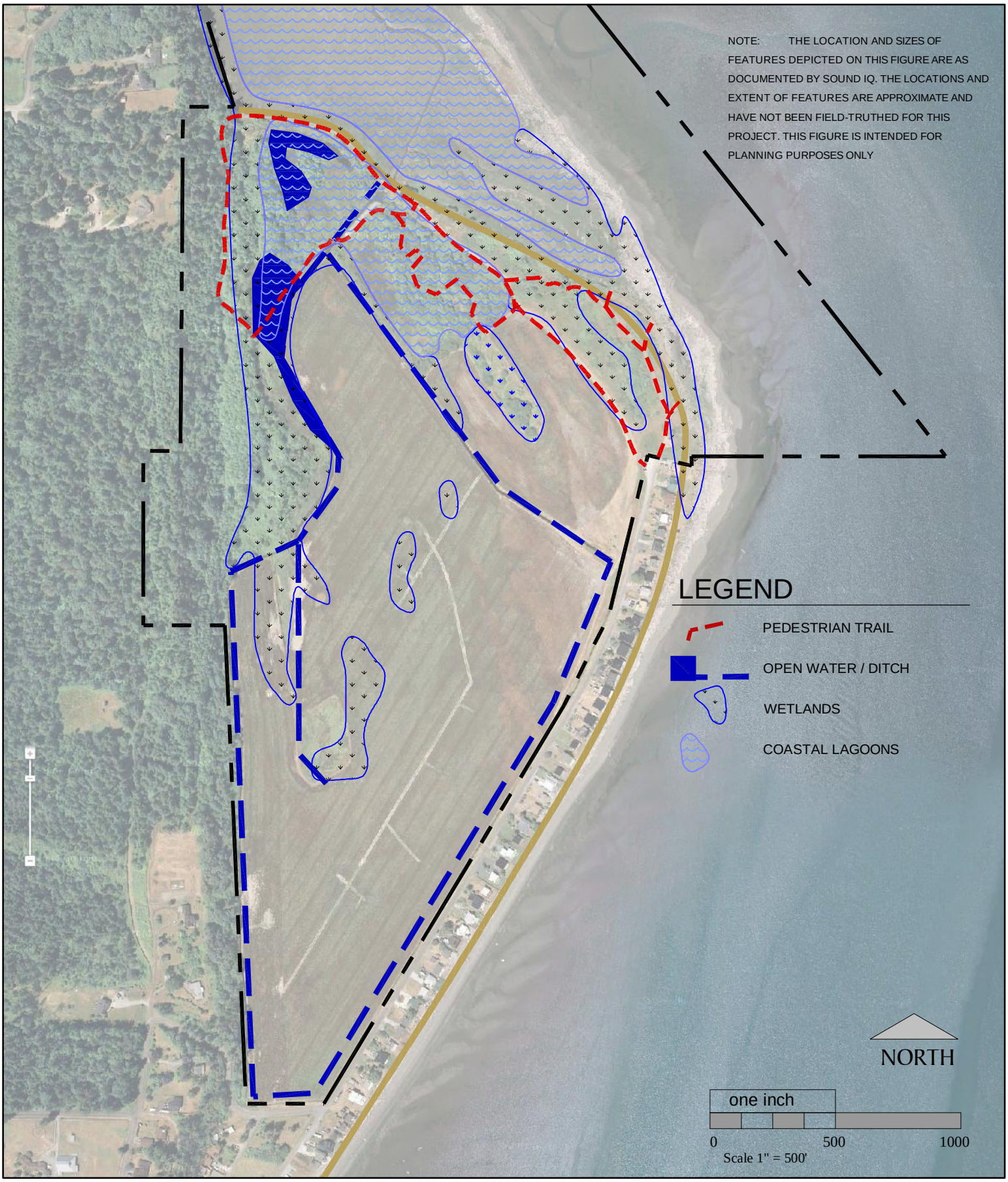

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Shelterbelt Inc.
REVETATION AND RESTORATION

Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Waterbodies and Wetlands*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 5

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Scrub shrub vegetation dominates between the dike and the agricultural field. Vegetation in this area includes a range of shrub and herbaceous species. The greatest concentration of non-native/invasive plant species is present in this area. Native dominants include western crabapple, Nootka rose, red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), oceanspray (*Physocarpus capitatus*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), and trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). These areas include both wetland and upland features and are best described as a complex.

Invasive species, particularly Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), are well established in this area and extend onto the dike. Scotch broom is the dominant plant cover on the dike. The dike is very well drained and native plants that occur in this area are composed of species often found on marine sand dune communities including dunegrass (*Elymus mollis*), tall Oregon grape, Nootka rose, and madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*).

Forest

Forest cover is limited to the northwest portion of the site. Forested habitat is located on the steep slopes of the western Preserve and at the toe-of-slope fringing the beaver ponds and wetlands. The forest is located in a range of hydrologic conditions from moderately dry slopes to wet depressions and seeps.

- Deciduous: This forest is dominated by deciduous trees and is located in the northwest portion of the Preserve. It is situated at the toe-of-slope between the mixed forest on the slopes and the edges of the beaver ponds. Expansion of the beaver activity appears to be killing some trees in this area resulting in a variety of snags and large downed woody material, which provide important habitat. The dominant tree species is red alder (*Alnus rubra*) mixed with black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) and large willows (*Salix* sp.). The understory supports plant species tolerant of wet conditions including hardhack, black twinberry, and skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*). Drier areas support Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*).
- Mixed: A mixed forest of deciduous and coniferous trees dominates the steep slope at the extreme western edge of the Preserve. The forest is moderately young, resulting in dense stands lacking structural complexity. Snags are rare. Downed woody material is present, but similar in size and age class. The forest is rather diverse and includes Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), big-leaf maple (*Acer circinatum*), madrone, and red alder. A moderately diverse shrub layer is present in this forest including salmonberry, red elderberry, oceanspray, sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), stinging nettle and Himalayan blackberry. Overall, non-native and invasive plant species occurrence and cover are low in this community; however,

Himalayan blackberry is well established along portions of the forest trail.

Salt Marsh

Salt marsh habitat is present between the terrestrial habitats and the marine water. In the Preserve, salt marsh occurs at elevations from 5+ feet (NVGD) to below the mean higher high water (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). This habitat ranges from dense herbaceous plant cover to areas of significant exposed sediment and high concentrations of driftwood. This community has been broken down into sub-communities because they provide slightly different habitat function and have different sensitivities.

- Low Salt Marsh: This habitat occurs in marine and estuarine areas below mean higher high water where they can be inundated by high tides on most days. This habitat is best developed in the extreme northeast portion of the site waterward of the tide gate, but occurs in pockets within the driftwood complex to the south. Dominant plant species include pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), seaside arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*), and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).
- High Salt Marsh and Driftwood Complex: High salt marsh is present at elevations between 4.5 and 5^{+} feet (NVGD) (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). This habitat typically occurs above the mean higher high water and is inundated on a less than daily basis. Driftwood is common in these communities with the vegetation growing between them. Driftwood is important to the community structure. This habitat type is best developed along the Preserve's southern shoreline reach (labeled as "Approximate Extent of Beach Use" on Figure 3). Dominant plant species include gumweed (*Grindelia integrifolia*), fat hen (*Atriplex patula*), silver bursage (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), and dunegrass.

Mud Flat

Mud flat habitat consists of areas with little to no vegetation and experiences tidal inundation two times a day. The primary vegetation species present include spartina/common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), sandspurry (*Spergularia marina*) and saltgrass, but cover is very sparse. Mudflat habitat in the vicinity of the Preserve is at an elevation of 2 feet to less than 4 feet (NVGD) (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001).

Nearshore

Nearshore habitat, also called the "marine riparian zone", extends inland from the marine Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. The nearshore overlaps other habitat areas, especially salt marsh. The nearshore takes in feeder bluffs (i.e., eroding bluffs), as they are an important source of sediments that form and sustain beaches. Shores consisting of native vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, dune grasses), fine-grained sand, imbedded large woody debris, and actively eroding bluffs are of

particular importance. Headlands with concentrated seabird use are also significant (WDFW 2008).

Eelgrass

Eelgrass beds are intertidal and subtidal habitats dominated by eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and/or narrow bladed eelgrass (*Z. japonica*). This habitat has been documented in the Preserve by Sound IQ as patches along the south reach of the marine shoreline. This habitat is important to many marine organisms including out migration rearing and forage areas for juvenile salmonids. Eelgrass beds are protected under Island County Code as a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area (ICC 17.02.050).

2.2.2 Noxious Weeds

The Iverson Preserve site has a variety of noxious weeds representing some of the most common deleterious invasive plants in the area. The current infestation level can be characterized as "average" or fairly typical as compared to other sites on Camano Island. Additional detail is provided under Opportunities and Challenges, below.

Definition of "noxious weeds"

"Noxious weeds are undesirable non-native plants that have economic, ecological, or aesthetic implications. Noxious weeds are often highly destructive and extremely competitive with native flora, making them very difficult to control. The impact of noxious weeds can be quite extensive. To the farmer noxious weeds can reduce crop yields, lower the quality of grazing lands, reduce the value of land, poison cattle, and plug waterways. For the urban gardener noxious weeds can out grow and dominate the desired flora, poison pets, and decrease the value of land. Other effects of noxious weeds include land erosion, high risk of wild fires, reduce outdoor recreational activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking), and destroy native plant and animal habitat." (Island County Noxious Weed Control Board, 2011)

"Invasive plants are non-native, establish in wildlands and can substantially displace native species, alter biological communities and/or alter ecosystem services or values. Non-native or exotic plants are species introduced to wildlands after European contact as a direct or indirect result of human activity."(Definitions adapted from CalIPC's and Carla D'Antonio's Invasive Exotic Plant Species in Sierra Nevada Ecosystems definitions.)

2.2.2 Fish and Wildlife

Iverson Preserve supports a wide range of fish and wildlife species. The variety of species is due in part to the presence of several habitat types and the Preserve's location at the intersection of three distinct ecosystems: marine waters, uplands, and freshwater river deltas. The Preserve has been known to contain larger mammals such as coyote and deer, smaller mammals, salmon, sturgeon, shellfish, and birds. Sport fishing is a common activity along the banks of Iverson Preserve. The site is especially noted for sturgeon fishing. The Preserve also contains habitat for many species of birds. The Preserve is within the Pacific Flyway, and is part of the Port Susan

Bay Important Bird Area (IBA), one of 53 IBAs in the State identified by Audubon Washington (Cullinan, 2001).

The open, protected habitats within Iverson Preserve are becoming increasingly important to fish and wildlife populations as development expands on Camano Island and within the Stillaguamish Basin. Table 2 summarizes species and habitats potentially present on or within the near vicinity of Iverson Preserve that are protected by the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance, listed by Washington State as a Species of Concern (i.e. Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, or Candidate) or as Priority Habitats, and/or are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (WDFW, 2011a; WDFW, 2011b; WDFW, 2008; Beamer, et al., 2006; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service [NOAA-Fisheries], 2011; US Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], 2011).

Table 2: Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitats

Potentially On-Site	Island County Protection	State Protection	Federal Protection
Waterfowl concentrations		X	
Purple martin		X	
Marbled murrelet	X	X	X
Great blue heron	X	X	
Common loon	X	X	
Osprey	X		
Pileated woodpecker	X	X	
Trumpeter swan	X	X	
Salmonids	X	X	X
Eelgrass beds	X		
Potentially Off-Site, near vicinity			
Surf smelt	X	X	
Dungeness crab		X	
Harbor seal		X	X
Bald eagle	X	X	X
Gray whale	X	X	X

Potentially On-Site

The following species and habitats were identified on-site during site visits or are mapped by WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping as occurring within the Preserve.

- Waterfowl Concentrations: Port Susan is an important stop over for migrating birds and a significant overwintering habitat for large concentrations of water birds. Migrating and overwintering birds are likely to use all site habitats with the exception of the forest and dense shrub habitats. Birds are sensitive to human presence during these periods. Waterfowl concentrations are a state Priority Area identified by WDFW due to their use as a significant breeding area and/or regular concentrations in winter.
- Purple Martin (*Progne subis*): Purple martin is a state Candidate species. Breeding areas (including artificial nest structures) and feeding areas are considered priority areas for this species. Purple martins have been documented at the

Preserve. Nest boxes have been erected in the low salt marsh on pilings near the tide gate and would be considered priority areas for protection of this species. This species occupies open habitats and would be expected in all habitat types on the Preserve, although less common in the forested habitats. WDFW recommendations for protection of purple martin include (WDFW, 2008):

- Pilings with known purple martin nests in standing water and snags should be protected and left standing.
- Retain snags near saltwater or wetlands.
- Snags can be created in forest openings and forest edges where nests cavities are lacking.
- Follow management recommendations for Pileated woodpecker to further enhance protection.
- Natural nest sites are preferred, but artificial nesting structures can be provided.
- If pesticides are used in areas inhabited by purple martins contact experts to assess the best management plan or alternatives.

- Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*): Marbled murrelets are a state and federal Threatened species. Suitable habitat is considered a state Priority Area for this species. The USFWS issued a Recovery Plan for marbled murrelets in Washington State (USFWS, 1997).

  Marbled murrelets are a seabird that feed in nearshore habitats between Alaska and California and nest in old growth and mature forested habitat, usually within 50 miles of shore. They feed primarily on fish and invertebrates in nearshore marine waters including herring, surf smelt, and sandlance (USFWS, 1997). Marbled murrelets commonly occur within 1.25 miles of the shoreline in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound (Speich and Wahl, 1989). As a result, they may occasionally be present along the shoreline within the Preserve. No documentation of presence at or near the site was located; however, site conditions and known presence in the vicinity suggests the site could be utilized as foraging habitat.

- Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*): Great blue herons are a WDFW Priority Species and a Species of Local Importance with Island County. Breeding areas are considered priority areas for this species. WDFW provides management recommendations for great blue herons (Quinn and Milner, 1999).

  Great blue herons occur within the Preserve on a regular basis. No documentation of nesting activity at or near the site was located; however WDFW documents breeding habitat in north Camano Island approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the site and across Port Susan on the mainland. The site likely serves as forage and roosting habitat for blue herons. All habitats on the site could be utilized by the species. Open habitats including the nearshore, mudflats, salt marsh, agricultural field, freshwater aquatic, and emergent are likely utilized

by herons for foraging. Forested and shrub habitats may provide habitats for roosting.

- Common loon (*Gavia immer*): Common loons occur regularly in the marine waters during the winter season with some individuals remaining year round. Marine waters in and near the Preserve are utilized by this species with peak occurrences in the period between September through April (Wahl, 1995). Nesting sites on the Preserve are unlikely as the species typically selects sites in freshwater lakes with large prey resources.

  Common loons are a WDFW Priority Species and a Species of Local Importance with Island County. Breeding sites, migratory stopovers and regular concentrations are considered priority areas for this species. WDFW provides management recommendations for common loons (Quinn and Milner, 1999).

- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Ospreys are migratory and are summer residents to this area. They typically occur from mid April through early November. Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish and therefore would be expected to forage in salt marsh and mud flats at high tide, nearshore and possibly in the aquatic freshwater habitats on the Preserve. Ospreys may utilize the forest and snags for perching. No documentation of osprey breeding sites on or near the project site was located; however, WDFW documents osprey habitat at English Boom approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the site and across Port Susan near Warm Beach.

  Ospreys are a Species of Local Importance with Island County. Breeding sites are considered a state Priority Area.

- Pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*): Pileated woodpeckers are uncommon residents in forested habitats with some occurrence in other habitats. Pileated woodpeckers forage for insects in forests in live trees, snags and downed wood. It excavates nest and roosting cavities in large snags and decaying live trees. This species would be expected to occur in the forested habitats on the site. Although most of the trees in the Preserve are younger, some may be suitable for nesting. The forested and shrub habitats would be expected to provide forage habitat for this species.

  Pileated woodpeckers are a WDFW Priority Species and a Species of Local Importance with Island County. Breeding sites are considered priority areas for this species. WDFW provides management recommendations for Pileated Woodpeckers (Lewis and Azerrad 2003).

- Trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*): Trumpeter swans are common winter visitors in freshwater, marine water and agriculture fields. Trumpeter swans typically arrive from summer habitats in mid November and remain in the area until early April (Wahl 1995). This species may occur in any of the aquatic, emergent, or agricultural habitats on or near the Preserve.

Trumpeter Swans are a WDFW Priority Species and a Species of Local Importance with Island County. Regular concentrations are considered priority areas for this species.

- Salmonids: The marine waters surrounding Iverson Preserve are expected to contain all eight salmon and trout species present within the Stillaguamish River: chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), chum salmon (*O. keta*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), coastal resident cutthroat trout (*O. clarki*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus malma*). These same species are expected to utilize the marine waters and nearshore within Iverson Preserve, waterward of the tide gate (WDFW, 2005; Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001; WDFW, 2011a; WDFW, 2011b; Griffith, pers. comm., 2011a; and Zackey, pers. comm. 2011). Sampling in the spring of 2004 documented the presence of juvenile chinook, chum, and pink salmon adjacent to the spit and/or within the tidal channels north of the tide gate (Beamer, et al., 2006). The tide gate has been known to fail, and when passable, adult and juvenile fish have the potential to utilize the ponded areas and ditches landward of the tide gate for rearing and foraging (Griffith, pers. comm., 2011a; Zackey, pers. comm., 2011; Luerkins, pers. comm., 2011). Migration into the channels; however, may be hindered by stagnant water and limited flushing.

  Iverson Preserve contains a pocket estuary, a habitat type critical for salmon. The existing estuary is a remnant of the historic estuary which existed prior to the 1940s (Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., 2001). Like many estuaries in the early to mid 1900's, Iverson Preserve was diked and drained to support agriculture. It is estimated that between 1870 and 1968, 85 percent of the saltmarsh estuary within the Stillaguamish basin was altered to support agriculture (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001). As a result, several studies have explored the potential for restoring a portion of the estuary habitat within the Preserve (Sheldon & Associates, Inc., 2001 and Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., 2001). While the Preserve has the potential to provide increased habitat for juvenile salmonids, the local community has expressed concern over the compatibility with existing infrastructure and development.

  Puget Sound chinook, Puget Sound steelhead, and Coastal-Puget Sound bull trout are state Candidate and federal Threatened species. Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia coho salmon are a federal Species of Concern. Iverson Preserve contains federal designated Critical Habitat for Puget Sound chinook salmon and Coastal-Puget Sound bull trout. Puget Sound steelhead critical habitat is currently under development.

- Eelgrass beds: Eelgrass beds are intertidal and subtidal habitats dominated by eelgrass and/or narrow bladed eelgrass as described under Habitat Types, above. This habitat has been documented as patches at the southern-most extent of the Preserve shoreline (Island County MRC, 2011). This habitat is important to many marine organisms and out migration shelter and forage areas of young

salmonids. Eelgrass beds are protected under Island County Code as a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area (ICC 17.02.050).

Off-Site Protected Species and Habitats

The following species and habitats are mapped by WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping as occurring near the Preserve, but not directly on the property. We have included these as they could occur at times within the Preserve boundaries and because onsite actions could have off-site affects to these species or habitats.

- Surf Smelt *(Hypomesus pretiosus):* Surf smelt are a common year round resident of marine nearshore habitats. Surf smelt deposit and incubate its eggs in the upper intertidal sand-gravel of beaches. This habit made it vulnerable to the negative impacts of human shoreline development and manipulation (Bargman 1998).

  Surf smelt breeding areas are indicated by WDFW and Sound IQ mapping to be present immediately south of the Preserve (Figure 4). Sampling efforts during spring of 2004 documented the presence of surf smelt on the spit and in the marsh (waterward of the dike) (Beamer, et al., 2006). Breeding areas are considered Priority Areas by the WDFW (WDFW 2008). Surf smelt spawning areas are protected under Island County Code as a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area (ICC 17.02.050)

- Dungeness Crab *(Cancer magister)*: WDFW mapping indicates habitat for Dungeness Crab offshore to the south of the Preserve. Data indicates this Priority Area is listed for regular concentrations of this species in the area (WDFW, 2011a). Dungeness crab most likely are present in the subtidal and intertidal areas associated with the Preserve. Actions along the shoreline would have the most direct impact to this species, but upland activities can also have indirect affects. WDFW provides management recommendations for this species (Fisher and Velasquez 2008).

- Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina):* WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping indicates harbor seal breeding and haul out areas offshore from the Preserve (WDFW, 2011a). These Priority Areas are outside the Preserve boundaries, but harbor seals may occur on the shoreline of the Preserve. Breeding areas make it possible that young seals could haul out on the Preserve beach and be vulnerable to disturbance from people or their pets. Harbor seals are protected under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.

- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping indicates bald eagle nests approximately three quarters of a mile north and south of the Preserve. No nests are documented on or within 800 feet of the Preserve. Bald eagles likely utilize the site for foraging in the agricultural, emergent, salt marsh, mud flat and nearshore habitats. They may perch on trees in the forest habitat as well. Bald eagles are listed as a state Sensitive species and a federal Species of Concern. Bald eagle breeding habitat, communal roosts, and

areas of regular concentrations are state Priority Habitats. Bald eagles are also protected under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

- Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*): Gray whale is a state Sensitive species and their habitat is protected by Island County as a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area. Gray whales are protected under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping documents gray whale feeding offshore from the Preserve (WDFW, 2011a). This priority area is outside the Preserve boundaries but gray whales may occasionally occur in the deeper waters on the outer marine limits of the Preserve. Gray whales are mostly seen in coastal and shallow shelf waters. In Puget Sound they feed on epibenthic ghost shrimp in sand flats as they migrate between their summer and winter ranges (NatureServe, 2011).

2.3 Existing Uses

There are a number of site uses currently occurring at Iverson Preserve.

2.3.1 Walking

There is approximately 1.3 miles of trails on the Preserve. All are relatively flat and easy to traverse during the dry season. They include a path on top of the dike with expansive marine views ("Dike Trail"), a woodland path at the base of bluff on the western edge of the Preserve, a trail along the edge of the working farm fields and a small "tight" trail through a crabapple thicket known as the "Hobbit Trail". Many trails are located in seasonally wet areas and at-grade planks have been placed in select areas to improve trail conditions during wet conditions.

2.3.2 Bird Watching

Bird watching is an extremely popular activity on site, likely due to the high number of diverse habitats that attract a wide range of birds. The Audubon Society has advertised this site in past publications and Iverson Preserve is within Audubon Washington's Port Susan Bay IBA. The FOCIP maintains an interpretive sign at the kiosk with a list of birds potentially present at the Preserve.

2.3.3 Fishing

On shore and off shore fishing is popular. During salmon runs, large numbers of sport fish migrate just off the sand bar. During the winter the area is popular for sport sturgeon fishing. Off shore recreational crabbing with crab pots and "string-crabbing" from shore is a seasonal activity.

2.3.4 Dog Walking

Dogs are a common presence at the site. Local residents use the beach and trails to walk dogs, often multiple times a day. Although Iverson Preserve is an on-leash area, dogs are often off-leash. The Preserve does not have a dog waste station installed on the property.

2.3.5 Picnicking

Some picnicking occurs in the upland portion of the Preserve near the kiosks. Many individuals also picnic at the beach (see Beach Use).

2.3.6 Beach Use

The shoreline is extremely popular during the warmer months for families and groups to gather and use the water. Most common water uses are wading, shell gathering and some "skim boarding". The beach is also used to beach watercraft including motorboats and wave runners. On the beach itself individuals set up gathering spots for several hours at a time and children predictably enjoy playing in the sand.

2.3.6 Education

The shoreline and uplands are used for a variety of outdoor environmental education activities. Organizers include teachers, non-profits, tribes, and government agencies. Educational activities encompass a diversity of age-groups from elementary school children to adults and groups range in size from two individuals to approximately 100.

2.3.7 Agricultural Production

Agricultural use has been a historic use of the property since construction of the dike, at least as early as the 1940s. Farming activities have focused on seed production as the area is relatively protected from winds. Island County leases 68 acres of the site for commercial farming. The lease is a four-year renewable lease that can be terminated with a 90-day advanced notice. Currently, the lease does not generate income for Island County. Instead, the lease is offered in exchange for weed management on the 68 acres.

2.3.8 Hunting

Although hunting is not allowed on Island County park and habitat properties, including Iverson Preserve, hunting was a part of the historic use of the property. Residents along Iverson Road have witnessed hunters accessing the tide flats through Iverson Preserve as recently as fall 2011.

3.0 SUPPORTING EFFORTS

Iverson Preserve is one piece of a larger ecosystem with multiple stakeholders. The following is a summary of on-going efforts that are directly related to Iverson Preserve. Operation and management of Iverson Preserve can best be achieved with the knowledge of this larger context.

3.1 Local

3.1.1 Friends of Camano Island Parks

FOCIP is a 501(3)(c) non-profit community organization based on Camano Island. The organization supported Island County's acquisition of Iverson Preserve and has dedicated substantial volunteer hours to maintenance activities (scotch broom removal, native vegetation

installation, trail maintenance, trail construction, and signage). They are also enrolled in Island County's Adopt-a-Park program for Iverson Preserve.

http://friendsofcamanoislandparks.org/

3.1.2 Camano Action for a Rural Environment

Camano Action for a Rural Environment (CARE) is a 501(3)(c) non-profit citizen organization based on Camano Island. The organization is targeted to residents interested in preserving Camano Island's rural character. They were the original sponsors of Island County's acquisition of Iverson Preserve.

http://camanocare.org/

3.1.3 Island County Shore Stewards

Island County Shore Stewards was the first Shore Steward program in Washington State. Shore Stewards began in 2003 as a project of the Island County MRC in collaboration with Washington State University (WSU) Beach Watchers of Camano Island. The organization involves stakeholders in learning better ways of managing their land to preserve critical habitat for fish, wildlife, and birds. They use Iverson Preserve as a field site for their activities.

http://county.wsu.edu/island/nrs/shorestewards/Pages/default.aspx

3.1.4 Island County Marine Resources Committee

The Island County MRC is one of seven MRCs in northern Puget Sound. MRCs were created in 1998 when Congress authorized the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. The Island County MRC members are volunteers of diverse disciplines working to protect and restore marine life, habitat, and water quality along Island County's shoreline. They developed the data-sharing website SoundIQ. SoundIQ is a pilot project to collect, map, and present MRC's nearshore data (including data at Iverson Preserve) in an on-line, internet-based format.

MRC: http://www.islandcountymrc.org/

SoundIQ: http://www.iqmap.org/icSoundIQ/website/index.html

3.1.5 Camano Island Mosquito Control District #1

Camano Island Mosquito Control District #1 is a special district formed in 1995 in response to a mosquito infestation on Camano Island. The District is one of 16 such districts in Washington State. The boundaries of the Camano Island District encompass select areas identified as having significant mosquito concerns, including Iverson Preserve. The District uses integrated mosquito management including: collection and identification of mosquitoes, mapping, action thresholds, control actions, education and outreach, and staff training.

cimcd@wavecable.com

3.1.6 Island County Shoreline Master Program

Island County is one of 39 counties in Washington State required by law to adopt a local Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The County originally approved an SMP in 1976 with the most recent update completed in 2001. Island County Planning Department is currently in the

process of an SMP update, including the addition of Iverson Preserve as a County owned property. A draft Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report was completed in August 2011. Iverson Preserve is identified in the report under Reach CAM02, Livingston Bay. Shoreline Use Designations are currently under review.

http://www.islandcounty.net/planning/shorelines.htm

3.1.7 Island County Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation Element

The Island County Comprehensive Plan Parks and Recreation Element was most recently adopted in 1998. The Island County Public Works Department is currently updating the Parks and Recreation Element. The update includes the addition and classification of Iverson Preserve. The draft Parks and Recreation Element incorporates information and recommendations provided in the thorough 2010 Parks and Habitat Management Plan.

Adopted Parks and Recreation Element:
http://www.islandcounty.net/planning/compplan.htm

Draft Parks and Recreation Element (2011):
http://www.islandcounty.net/planning/

Parks and Habitat Management Plan:
http://www.islandcounty.net/publicworks/parks/ParksandHabitatConservationPlan.html

3.2 Regional

3.2.1 Whidbey-Camano Land Trust

Whidbey-Camano Land Trust (WCLT) is a 501(3)(c) non-profit community organization based on Whidbey Island. They have been working to protect Whidbey and Camano Islands' natural habitats, views, working farms, and forests for over 26 years. Their activities include acquiring land and conservation easements, providing expertise and education to private landowners, stewardship on land holdings, and collaboration on land conservation projects. WCLT owns the 3,160-acre Port Susan Bay property that extends over Livingston Bay and is adjacent to Iverson Preserve.

http://whidbeycamanolandtrust.org/

3.2.2 The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a 501(3)(c) international non- profit organization founded in 1951. They have projects in all 50 states and in 30 countries. Their work centers around protecting ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Nature Conservancy owns the 4,122-acre Port Susan Bay Preserve, which encompasses much of the Stillaguamish River estuary, including 166 acres of artificially diked uplands.

http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/washington/placesweprotect/port-susan-bay.xml

3.2.3 Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area

Iverson Preserve is included in the proposed Port Susan MSA (Appendix A). Since 2007 a coordinated group of stakeholders have been working toward developing the Port Susan MSA. The MSA effort is a partnership between Snohomish and Island County MRCs, Tulalip Tribes, the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Nature Conservancy, WSU Extension of Snohomish and Island Counties, and Washington Sea Grant with support from the Northwest Straits Commission. A MSA is a conservation designation intended to "generate responsibility within the relevant authorities and uses of marine environments for the conservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic value". The designation carries no regulatory authority.

> http://www.snocomrc.org/Projects/Stewardship/Port-Susan-Marine-Stewardship-Area.aspx

4.0 OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Iverson Preserve has a number of opportunities and challenges that were identified through public input, discussions with stakeholders, and review of existing literature. Figures 2 and 3 and the text below summarize the findings. The opportunities and challenges are organized into three categories (Infrastructure & Facilities, Ecological, and Management); however, there is significant overlap and **all items should be viewed as interrelated**.

4.1 Infrastructure & Facilities

4.1.1 Parking

Preserve use has increased substantially since Island County purchased the property in 1999. In the past several years the Preserve has become an extremely popular recreational beach for all of Camano Island and Stanwood, especially during the summer months (May through September). Its increasing popularity is likely due to recognition the Preserve has received from user groups and positive press in regional media (Seattle Times Articles, Audubon Society). Although the full extent of use occurring at the Preserve is not completely quantified, the trend of increased use is clear. It is reasonable to assume that use and demand for use will continue to grow.

There are approximately 14 parking spaces on the Preserve designated parking lot. This existing lot is actually sized larger than a 14 space area, but due to odd geometry can only accommodate 14 vehicles. The spaces are not marked and often cars are parked in a pattern that does not maximize the parking capacity.

The emergency vehicle turn-around at the end of the road is not clearly signed. This turnaround is often used for parking and can accommodate approximately 12 vehicles. Use of the emergency turn-around for parking is a safety concern since it can hinder emergency vehicle access.

Although no traffic count was done for this plan, local residents report that in high season there are often 100 to 150 people using the beach area, resulting in an excess of 50 cars at the Preserve. The west side of Iverson Road is used as overflow parking. People parking in this road-side location often use private property driveways and lawns as turn-arounds, creating a great deal

of conflict with local landowners. In addition, landowners use this same roadside parking area for guests. The highest seasonal demand for Preserve-user parking coincides with the highest seasonal demand for landowner parking.

Island County owns and maintains Iverson Road, and as with all County roads, does not prohibit parking in the Right-of-Way for adjacent private property owners or the public in general. In order to prohibit parking on Iverson Road an ordinance would have to be introduced making parking on the road by anyone a criminal offense to be enforced by local law enforcement. Such an ordinance would need to be citizen-sponsored, have neighborhood support, and be approved by the Island County Board of Commissioners.

4.1.2 Site Access

The only road to the site, Iverson Beach Road, has an extremely steep access as it drops to the water from the bluff. It has two very sharp curves along the steep section immediately west of Iverson Preserve. Bank erosion is evident on the outside (west edge) of the road. This road likely was designed for local access only.

4.1.3 Traffic/Speeding

Iverson Road is a County owned and maintained road, parallel to the shoreline, is just over a half a mile long and travels very close to the residential community south of the Preserve. The road is straight with clear line of sight from one end to the other. Speeding is an issue for this road and the current designation of 25 MPH, suitable for a local access road, is routinely violated. Traffic and pedestrian use of Iverson Road is highest during the summer season (May through September).

Island County currently does not have a designation for a road speed less than 25 MPH with the exception of school zones.

4.1.4 Trespassing/Vandalism

Trespassing poses some problems for adjacent neighbors along Iverson Road. Landowners report that the Preserve boundary is not clearly marked and Preserve users wander south on the beach onto private property. It is also reported that individuals may park on the side of Iverson Road, south of the Preserve, and cut between private residences to access fishing grounds.

Vandalism has also been reported consistent with other public use facilities, but does not appear to be particularly high. Residents have experienced minor littering and vandalism on private property along Iverson Road.

Unauthorized late night use of the Preserve has also been reported as a concern. This includes parties, fishing, and beach fires.

4.1.5 Support Facilities

Littering is reported to have been a problem. In the past, the County would provide seasonal garbage cans with weekly maintenance but recently has adopted a "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" policy which seems to have increased Preserve user responsibility. FOCIP also provides weekly

removal of litter. In addition to reducing littering problems, the "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" policy encourages stewardship in keeping with the concept of a "preserve". The policy is also consistent with the level of maintenance possible given Island County's current budget and staffing limitations.

There are two porta-potties on site that are delivered for the high-use season. There is a concern that they are not available year-round. When they are present, additional maintenance may be required during seasonal high-use periods. In addition, these facilities are not visually screened and the bright blue plastic detracts from the natural surroundings. Delivery dates have been inconsistent, sometimes missing high use days such as Memorial Day weekend.

4.1.6 Rules/Signage Standards

Many of the most important rules signs are located near the fence on the exterior of the parking lot, an area where users are likely to drive past them without being able to read them. There are also areas where signs are needed but are not present (e.g. access hazard in tideflats, Preserve boundaries, etc.). Finally, there is an inconsistent palette of signs on the site, from the wooden kiosk, the plastic wood way finding bollards, to the alumalite county rules signs.

4.2 Ecological

4.2.1 Agricultural Production

The community generally supports the continuation of farming on the property due to its historic context. There is some conflict with the existing use of the fields for crop production and adjacent neighbors. Conflicts include machinery noise and road dust, particularly on weekends. It is worth noting that the most recent concern regarding the farming has to do with pollen allergies associated with the particular crop grown during the past three years. Citizens also voiced concerns about management practices including herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer application.

4.2.2 Ecosystem Protection

The Preserve contains a wide range of sensitive habitats that support fish and wildlife. The area is located within a larger ecosystem that has been the focus of regional habitat and species protection efforts. Island County and its citizens recognized the site's important ecological and historical attributes when they purchased the property as a "preserve" using CFF funds. The property; however, is subject to a variety of human uses which can impact the natural resources. Many of these uses pre-date Island County's purchase of the Preserve including farming and residential development. More recent use is the result of citizens enjoying the Preserve. While there is value in protecting historical land uses and encouraging citizen's participation and interaction with sensitive environments, these uses should be continued with care to minimize impacts to water quality, flood control, fish resources, and wildlife habitat.

4.2.3 Tide gate/Ditches/Dike

The tide gate and agricultural ditches are part of the drainage system for the farmed portion of the Preserve. Many residents comment that the ditches contain year-round stagnant water.

Ditch maintenance has deepened the channels, potentially increasing the depth and duration of ponding.

In the past, the tide gate has lacked maintenance and has failed. When operational, the tide gate is a fish passage barrier. The dredged channels on both sides of the tide gate appear to create stagnant conditions which limit juvenile salmonids' ability to locate the tide gate entrance (Griffith, pers. comm., 2011a).

The dike is intended to control saltwater intrusion into the agricultural and developed portions of the site and surrounding properties. Maintaining the integrity of the dike is important for the protection of properties along Iverson Road, especially along the high energy beach south of the Preserve. Some feel revegetation efforts need to be better coordinated to ensure plant species, plant installation, and vegetation management are compatible with the dike.

Although the dike allowed for farming and residential development, the dike also eliminated much of the historic estuary and significantly reduced salmon habitat, especially along the low-energy shoreline in the northern extent of the Preserve. Restoration designs have the potential to increase the salmonid habitat while maintaining protection for existing residences, including maintaining dike integrity along the high-energy shoreline adjacent to Iverson Road (Griffith, pers. comm., 2011a and Griffith, pers. comm., 2011b). If restored, the estuary has the potential to provide rearing for several thousand chinook salmon and many thousands of other species of salmonids (Griffith, pers. comm., 2011b). Additional studies and/or design work is needed for implementation of any restoration plan.

4.2.4 Noxious Weeds

Iverson Preserve has a variety of noxious weeds common to the region. The current infestation level could be characterized as "average" compared to other sites on Camano Island. Noxious weeds at Iverson Preserve targeted for control by the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board ("Weed Board") consist of:

bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgaris*
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
poison hemlock	*Conium maculatum*
Scotch broom	*Cytisus scoparius*
giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
Himalayan blackberry	*Rubus armeniacus*
spartina/common cordgrass	*Spartina anglica* (aquatic—tidelands)

These first six weed species are fairly widespread in the northern part of the Preserve; the spartina is found in the tidelands. There are two known locations for the giant hogweed, with one plant at each site; both were controlled in 2011. There are other weeds at the Preserve including reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) but they have not been targeted as priorities by the Weed Board or FOCIP.

Five entities are involved with weed management activities at Iverson Preserve:

Island County Public Works

One maintenance technician for sixteen parks, focuses on infrastructure/signage/etc.; very limited efforts in regards to weed issues.

Island County Weed Board

Thane Tupper, Coordinator. Significant efforts utilizing chemical, mechanical and biological control starting in 2011, along with weed mapping. His efforts are the core of weed control activities at the Preserve. In previous years there were less extensive efforts by the Coordinator.

Washington State Department of Agriculture

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has been involved with significant efforts on spartina control in the intertidal zone since 1996, yielding good results.

FOCIP

Involved since Iverson Preserve inception in 2000; initial work included trail creation/improvement, Scotch broom mechanical control and installation of 1800 native plants. Currently there is one dedicated site steward who is a local resident and is on site regularly, focusing on trail maintenance. FOCIP also has irregularly scheduled work parties for trail maintenance and also weed control efforts, especially mechanical control of Scotch broom.

Agricultural leaseholder

Efforts to control noxious weeds, mostly inside the farm fields.

There is currently no written noxious weed control or management plan. There has not been a comprehensive weed list created for the site. The Weed Board has done some weed surveys in 2011 and has a list of GPS points for the above six weed species in the northern part of the Preserve. No comprehensive weed mapping has been undertaken for the entire Preserve.

Island County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator's summary of current conditions/management activities (Tupper, pers. comm., 2011):

> *"There has been an extensive effort by the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board in controlling the noxious weed populations in the Iverson Preserve area over the years. The largest amount of control was focused on the Spartina population that was present in the mud flats. This work has been going on since 1996. When the control work started there was about 20 solid acres of Spartina present, as of this control season we are looking at about 1 solid acre remaining in the area. This year was the first year of control of the terrestrial noxious weeds. The species of noxious weeds that are prevalent in the area are Scotch Broom, Canada Thistle, Poison Hemlock, Himalayan Blackberry, Giant Hogweed, and Bull Thistle. The current work has been a mixture of mechanical, biological, and chemical control. There has been about 700 lbs of Scotch Broom removed from the site and more will be getting removed in the weeks to come. The biological control was the seed beetles and weevils that will attack and reduce the*

seed set of the Scotch Broom, they were introduced in the spring in the south east corner of the Preserve, along the dike at the observation deck. The populations of Giant Hogweed, Canada Thistle and Poison Hemlock were control with the usage of spot spray of herbicide. All plants that were treated were killed off before there was any seed set."

4.2.5 Hunting

Hunting is not allowed on Island County park and habitat properties, including Iverson Preserve. In the past, hunting occurred on the Preserve but has been substantially reduced since the installation of "No Hunting" signs in the mid 2000's. Even so, many citizens believe there is a lack of clarity regarding (1) whether hunting is allowed on the Preserve (specifically the tide flats), and if not, (2) the location of Preserve boundaries on the tide flats. Residents have observed hunters using Iverson Preserve as recently as fall 2011.

4.2.6 Mosquitoes

Iverson Preserve is included in the boundaries of Camano Island Mosquito Control District #1. The District currently monitors mosquito infestation within the Preserve. Areas of greatest concern include ponded areas along the forest edge near the northeast property corner. The District Manager is also concerned about future mosquito infestations within the stagnant ditch water adjacent to Iverson Road (Lawrence, pers. comm., 2011). The District uses integrated management to control mosquito populations. Control measures at Iverson Preserve include Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), a bacteria distributed in pellet form and ingested by mosquito larvae, and methoprene, a growth regulating hormone.

4.3 Management

4.3.1 Communication/Coordination

There are multiple stakeholders involved with projects in and around Iverson Preserve (see Supporting Efforts, above). Communication between these stakeholders is challenging and efforts are not always coordinated. In addition, communication between Island County and Camano Island residents is difficult to due the physical distance between Camano Island and the County offices on Whidbey Island. Island County Public Works Department does not currently have a simple method of disseminating information to Camano Island residents and there are no known associations or organizations that represent all Camano Island citizens. Similar to many agencies, Island County is experiencing budget reductions which increases the need for efficient, cost-effective methods of communication.

4.3.2 Ownership/Operation

Island County has struggled to manage its parks and habitat areas. The Parks Department came under the direction of the Planning Department in late 2007 or early 2008. In less than two years, the Parks Department transferred to the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department was challenged to find a strategy to sustainably manage park resources, after a 60 percent Parks budget cut. In 2010, Island County and Whidbey-Camano Land Trust partnered

to complete a Parks and Habitat Management Plan that proposed a new management strategy (MIG, Inc., 2010). These concepts are currently being incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2011 Parks and Recreation Element update (Island County, 2011). At the heart of the new management strategy is a recognition of the many jurisdictions involved with protecting habitat and providing recreation, and defining the County's "niche" within these efforts. The management strategy includes sustainable operational strategies to ensure long-term economic viability. Strategies include limiting the County's role and partnering with other entities.

4.3.3 Enforcement

Island County has not escaped the negative financial impacts of the current economy. Camano Island currently has only one sheriff's deputy on patrol at any one time. With this level of staffing, a sheriff's deputy is not likely to be able to consistently enforce Preserve policies, as that individual has to prioritize the full range of community concerns that occur in a single shift. Island County Parks Department also has limited resources. Island County currently has one full time Parks employee responsible for the entire Camano Island parks system.

5.0 PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT

5.1 Proposed Vision Statement

Iverson Preserve is a unique public space with broad community support. Although the Preserve is universally loved, there is no defined Vision that documents the shared value of this space other than the conventional assumption it be use for low-impact recreation. Many jurisdictions have some definition of what low-impact or "passive" recreation means. A general and common definition focuses on the types of activities allowed:

> *Low-Impact Recreation Area: An area designated as low-impact use for activities that are engaged in by individuals or small groups not dependent on a delineated area designed for specific activities. Area has no designated sports fields or courts. An area with no active organized and scheduled activities.*

Though this may work for the vast majority of "park" areas, Iverson is a "preserve" area so the concept bears further definition and it is not site specific as a Vision Statement would be. It is therefore recommended that the community consider adopting a Vision Statement for this site. If adopted through a public process, a Vision Statement can serve as a unifying tool that can be used to help guide decisions about the management and operation of the site.

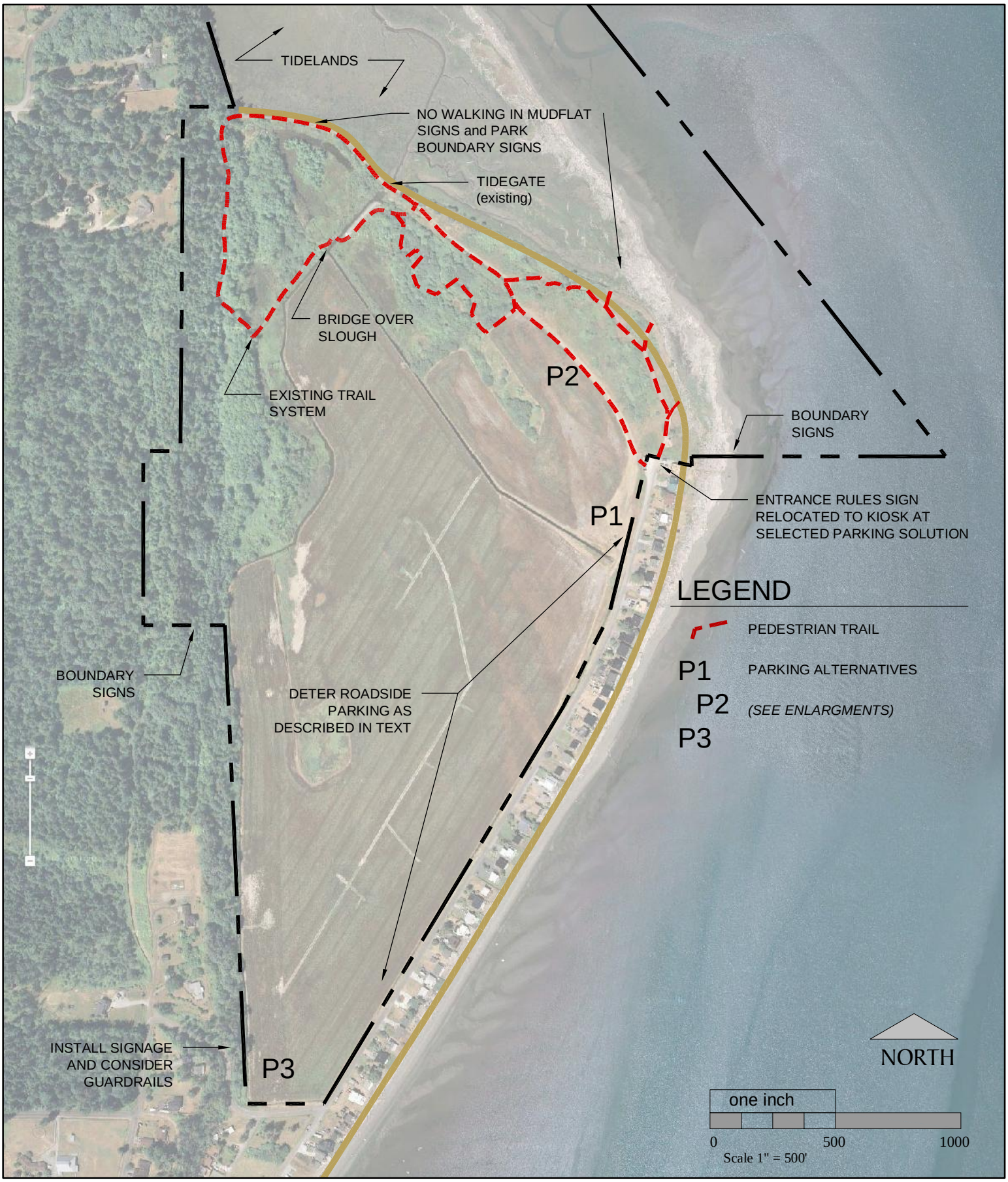
Below is a proposed Vision Statement for consideration by Island County, citizens, and key stakeholders:

> ***Iverson Preserve is a site where citizens come to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment through limited, low-impact activities while exhibiting stewardship to ensure the health of sensitive ecosystems. Low impact activities are those activities that do not degrade the surrounding waters, habitats, and vegetation communities and are compatible with the available facilities and surrounding land uses.***

6.0 SITE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Iverson Preserve is a rich landscape with diverse habitats, activities, and vistas. It is no wonder the Preserve is loved by many. The challenge of managing Iverson Preserve is to balance human activities with the sensitive habitats in a coordinated and sustainable manner. This Plan proposes specific management recommendations to achieve this objective.

The following recommendations are intended to address site Opportunities and Challenges consistent with the proposed Vision Statement. The recommendations are divided into "Near Term" and "Long Term" categories. The Near Term recommendations are simple in nature and can likely be implemented with little or no additional planning work. The Long Term recommendations are conceptual in nature. Due to the complexity of the Long Term projects, additional outreach, planning, design, permitting, and/or feasibility analysis are needed for implementation. All of the proposed actions depend upon identifying and securing funding. In their entirety, the recommendations provide a coordinated and intentional approach to the maintenance and operation of Iverson Preserve. An Improvement Keymap is included as Figure 6.



NW ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Shelterbelt Inc.
REVETATION AND RESTORATION

Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *IMPROVEMENT KEYMAP*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 6

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6.1 Infrastructure & Facilities

6.1.1 Parking

Many of the concerns expressed by citizens can be mitigated by implementing a parking solution. To this end three alternatives were developed, each with different benefits and limitations. These alternatives are conceptual in nature. Any of the alternatives will likely require one to three years to select an alternative, secure funding, design the project, obtain required permitting, and construct the project.

Parking Location - Alternative 1

Benefits

- Uses existing gate and access.
- Does not cross ditch so no culvert required.
- Layout may have limited, if any, wetland impacts.
- A smaller sized and well defined parking area limits use of the Preserve if done in conjunction with adoption of a No Parking ordinance for Iverson Road.
- Expandable as Island County sees fit.
- Centrally located for users.

Limitations and Impacts

- Vehicles visible to residents while landscape buffer "grows-in".
- Preserve users still drive length of Iverson Road.
- Some users will continue to park along Iverson Road, unless a County ordinance change occurs prohibiting parking for all along this road. Enforcement of this ordinance will be challenging. If this Alternative does not include a No Parking ordinance, then the parking lot will need to accommodate >30 vehicles to minimize parking along Iverson Road.

Parking Location - Alternative 2

Benefits

- Uses existing gate and access.
- Does not cross ditch so no culvert required.
- Vehicles not visible from Iverson Road.
- A smaller sized and well defined parking area limits use of the Preserve if done in conjunction with adoption of a No Parking ordinance for Iverson Road
- Expandable as Island County sees fit.
- Centrally located for users.

Limitations and Impacts

- Preserve users still drive length of Iverson Road.
- Preliminary data indicates wetland impact likely which will require mitigation.
- May limit future habitat restoration opportunities.

- Some users will continue to park along Iverson Road, unless a County ordinance change occurs prohibiting parking for all along this road. Enforcement of this ordinance will be challenging. If this Alternative does not include a No Parking ordinance, then the parking lot will need to accommodate >30 vehicles to limit parking along Iverson Road.

Parking Location - Alternative 3

Benefits

- Uses existing gate and access.
- Vehicles less visible from Iverson Road.
- Expandable as Island County sees fit.
- Possible traffic reduced along Iverson Road.
- Highlights Camano Island's farming culture, potential for interpretive signs.

Limitations and Impacts

- Requires pedestrian trail development as well as parking area.
- Some users will continue to park along Iverson Road for more convenient access, unless a County ordinance change occurs prohibiting parking for all along this road. Enforcement of this ordinance will be challenging.
- Preliminary data indicates wetland impact likely for both the trail and parking area which will require mitigation.
- Not centrally located so more challenging for "less-able" users to access beach.
- Need to evaluate site distance to properly site the parking lot entrance.

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REVETATION AND RESTORATION

Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Parking Location - Alternative 1*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 7

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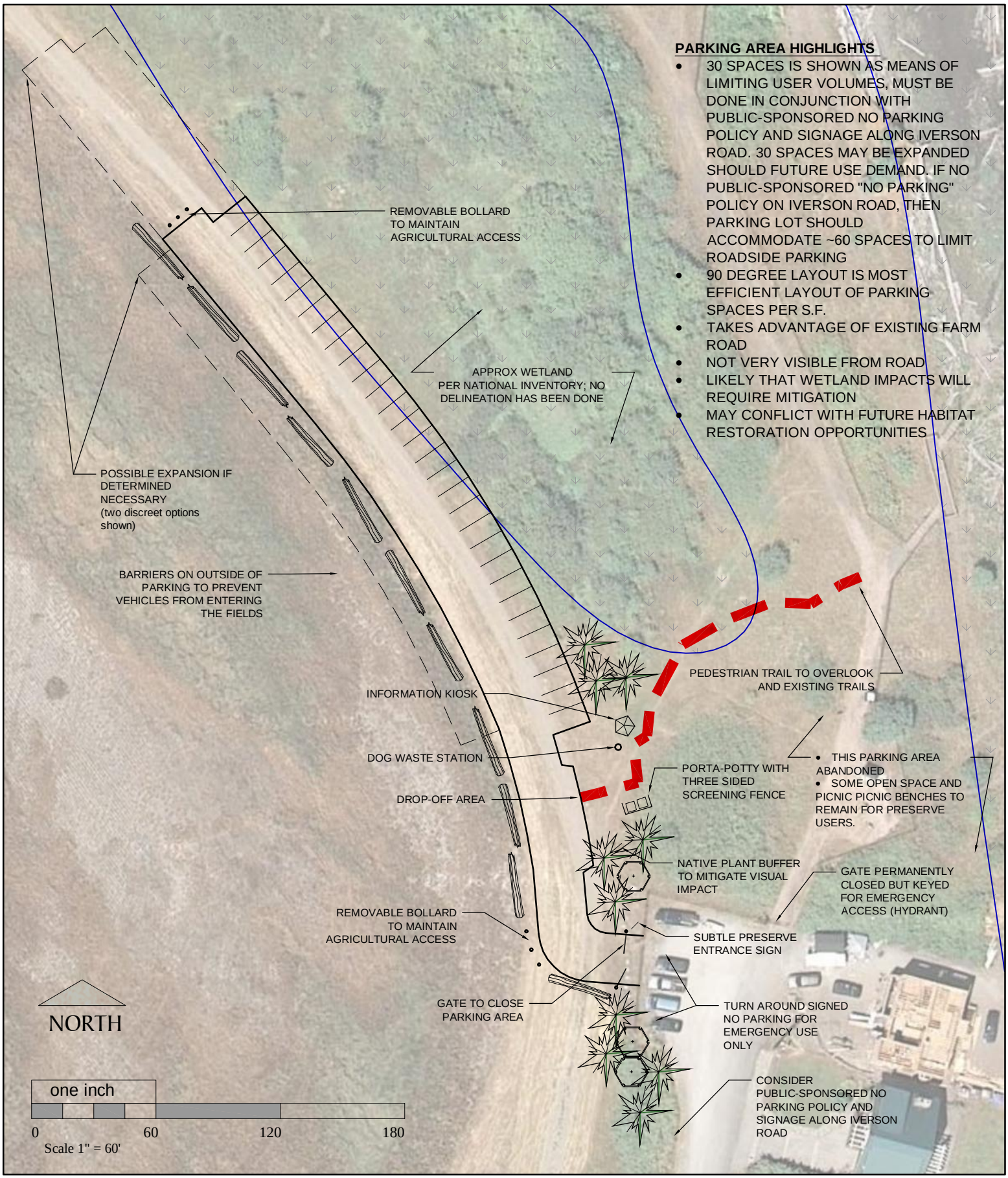

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REVETATION AND RESTORATION

Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Parking Location - Alternative 2*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 8

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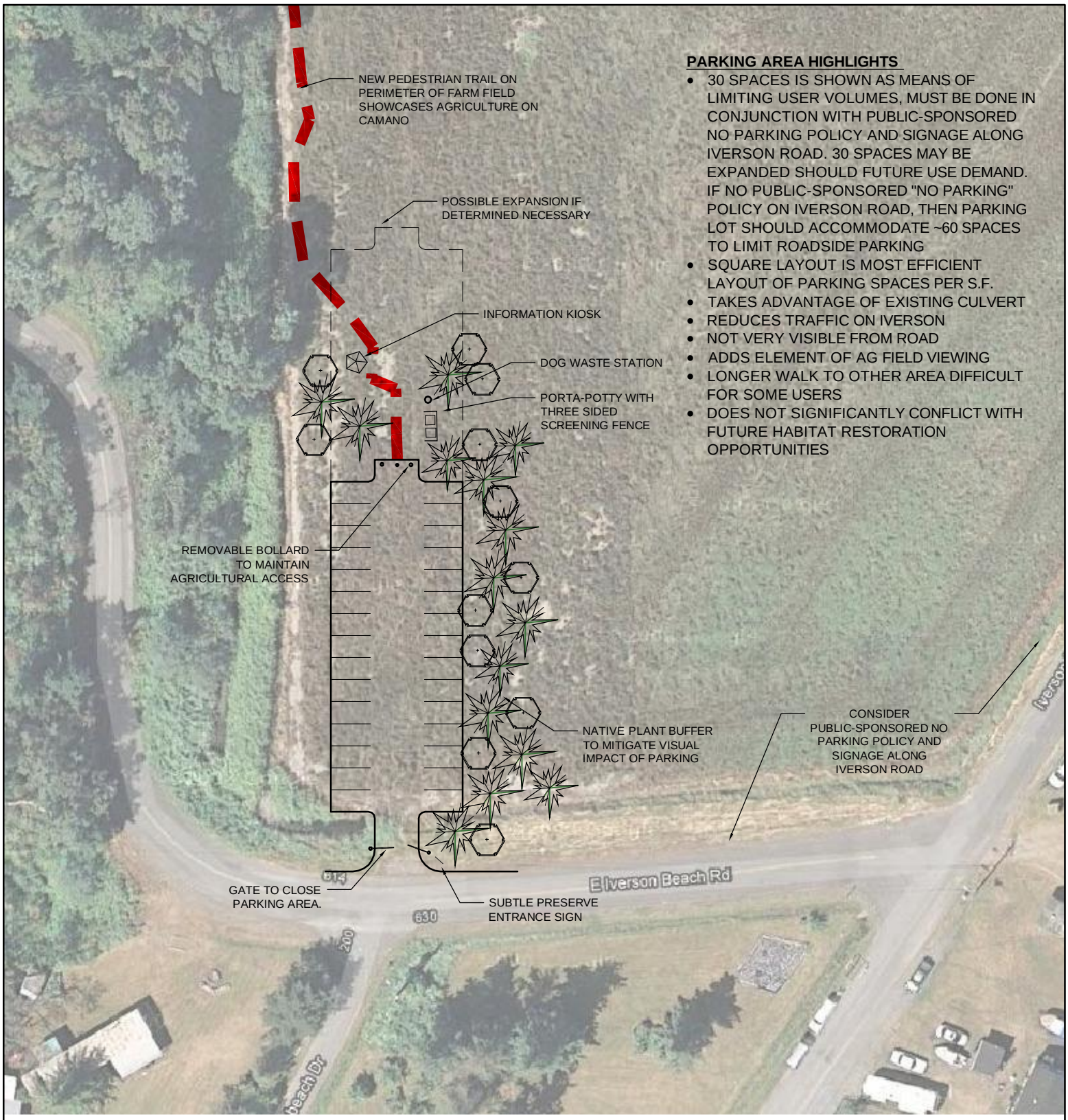

PARKING AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 SPACES IS SHOWN AS MEANS OF LIMITING USER VOLUMES, MUST BE DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PUBLIC-SPONSORED NO PARKING POLICY AND SIGNAGE ALONG IVERSON ROAD. 30 SPACES MAY BE EXPANDED SHOULD FUTURE USE DEMAND. IF NO PUBLIC-SPONSORED "NO PARKING" POLICY ON IVERSON ROAD, THEN PARKING LOT SHOULD ACCOMMODATE ~60 SPACES TO LIMIT ROADSIDE PARKING
- SQUARE LAYOUT IS MOST EFFICIENT LAYOUT OF PARKING SPACES PER S.F.
- TAKES ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING CULVERT
- REDUCES TRAFFIC ON IVERSON
- NOT VERY VISIBLE FROM ROAD
- ADDS ELEMENT OF AG FIELD VIEWING
- LONGER WALK TO OTHER AREA DIFFICULT FOR SOME USERS
- DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CONFLICT WITH FUTURE HABITAT RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

one inch

0 60 120 180

Scale 1" = 60'

NORTH

NW ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Shelterbelt Inc.
REVETATION AND RESTORATION

Project : Iverson Preserve

Description: *Parking Location -Alternative 3*

Date: *11-22-11* FIGURE 9

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Near Term

1. Because of the relative ease of installation and lower cost, implement a lowest cost version of parking "Alternative 1" as a preferred alternative.
2. Initial layout of 30 cars to be implemented as phase one and as a means of limiting Preserve user volumes. This parking plan must be done in conjunction with a citizen-sponsored No Parking policy (see '6.1.3 Traffic – Long Term Recommendations') and signage along Iverson Road. If no public-sponsored No Parking policy is implemented, then this parking alternative is not appropriate. The 30 spaces shown may be expanded per the parking layout to accommodate additional user demand.
3. Sign emergency vehicle turn-around as such, and state as No Parking per current Island County Ordinance. Retain pedestrian-only beach access through fence at the vehicle turn-around.

Long Term

1. When funding is available, evaluate longer term benefits of "Alternative 3" for possible final location of parking. This alternative location may be implemented with a larger project that fully integrates the agricultural element into the narrative and experience of the Preserve. If this parking location is not done in conjunction with providing users an experience between the parking area and the water as well as a No Parking ordinance for Iverson Road, it is likely that users will bypass the parking lot and use Iverson Road right-of-way to park.
2. Irrespective of lot location, design final parking area to full Low Impact Design (LID) standards as a public showcase of green building and as appropriate for use on the Preserve.

6.1.2 Site Access

Near Term

1. Evaluate the need for a guardrail on Iverson Road.
2. Install signs indicating "narrow road, steep curve 5% ahead".

Long Term

1. When funding is available, improve roadway alignment, width and geometry appropriate for current use.
   Explore feasibility of alternative access by extending South Moe Road to the north and avoiding curve or constructing a road in the lower agricultural area to serve only the Iverson Preserve parking area. There must be careful consideration of the cost/benefit of these new access options including wetland impacts, elimination of restoration potential, and budget.

6.1.3 Traffic/Speeding

Near Term

1. Stripe Iverson Road to emphasize narrow travel lanes, thus visually reducing the road and encouraging drivers to reduce their speed. If possible, cease mowing

shoulder to the extent feasible (during "off season") to further emphasize a narrow roadway.

2. Install signs along Iverson Road to remind them of pedestrian safety (i.e. "Caution, pedestrians present" or "Caution, residential area and children present").
3. Request sheriff speed patrols during peak use periods.
4. Request a portable speed reader-board be positioned along Iverson Road during peak use periods.

Long Term

1. Explore feasibility of alternative access (see Site Access recommendations, above).

2. Adjacent property owners to determine community preference for no parking along Iverson Road (applicable to adjacent private property owners and general public). If no parking along Iverson Road is the preference, citizens may initiate the petition process with Island County staff to have a No Parking ordinance adopted by the Island County Board of Commissioners.

6.1.4 Trespassing/Vandalism

Near Term

1. Identify Preserve boundaries and beach access locations through signage (see Signage recommendations, below).
2. Have adequate support facilities (see Support Facilities recommendations, below).
3. Formalize "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" policy (see Signage recommendations, below).
4. Reinforce "Preserve Hours" that close the facility at dusk as a means of encouraging appropriate Preserve use and reducing illicit behaviors (see Signage recommendations, below).

Long Term

1. Evaluate the Long Term parking alternatives with respect to vandalism and safety.

6.1.5 Support Facilities

Near Term

1. Have porta-potties available year round.
2. Screen with cedar fence.
3. Formalize "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" policy by removing trash can and clearly articulating policy in signage (see Rules/Signage Standards, below).
4. Install a dog waste station at the kiosk.

Long Term

1. Re-designate the northern portion of existing parking area as "Day-Use" area for gathering of small educational groups or family gatherings. Include picnic tables in this location to encourage use of upland. Revegetate area to appropriate size.
2. Add Elements to further enhance the Preserve experience:
    a. Bird Blinds.
    b. Permanent mount binoculars on Dike Trail.

3. Monitor use and waste disposal related to the dog waste station; modify dog waste station as needed to maintain ecological protection. Alternative approaches include "take a bag, leave a bag" program.

6.1.6 Rules/Signage Standards

Interpretive signage may be one of the most significant elements in managing the Preserve as it is the primary means of communicating with users the values of the site and expectations of appropriate site uses. There is a great opportunity to work within the Preserve to make even minor sign messages, such as "Dogs on Leash", an educational opportunity if signage communicates the "Why".

<u>Near Term</u>

1. Centralize "Overview Signage" content to a location near parking, where all users will have access. Examples of "Overview Signage" topics include:
    a. Trail locations.
    b. Three beach access locations and ask users to respect the natural environment by limiting beach access to these three locations.
    c. Preserve boundary, especially along the beach). Signs should include markers at boundary lines as well as generally overview maps showing the Preserve boundaries in their entirety with a "You Are Here" for perspective.
    d. On-leash dog policies. Include "why" of ecosystem protection.
    e. Hunting policies, especially in the tide-flats.
    f. Preserve hours.
    g. "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" policy. Include "why" of ecosystem protection.
    h. Signs should include all expectations and policies in this one central location.
2. Install "Reminder Signage" at area where enforcement of Preserve policies has traditionally been an issue. Examples of "Reminder topics may include:
    a. Please remain on trails.
    b. Trail directionals.
    c. No hunting.
    d. Tide flats off limits, can be dangerous.
    e. Dogs on leash please.
    f. No parking in emergency turn-around.
    g. Preserve boundary, please respect private property beyond.
3. Post contact information for general concerns.
4. Post contact information for emergencies.
5. Provide additional environmental education signage regarding noxious weeds, estuaries, shorelines, salmonid habitat, forage fish, birds, and marine mammals.
6. Develop consistency to signage standards in terms of materials, typography, and colors. Adopt standards developed by National Parks Service.
7. Consistently use the term "Preserve" rather than "Park" in signage, outreach, etc.
8. Specifically identify partners on Preserve signage (see Ownership/Operation recommendations, below).

Long Term

1. With User Groups, identify the most important narratives of the site and develop "Interpretive Signs" to address them. These signs are to be placed near elements being interpreted to enrich user experience and reinforce the values of the Preserve. Examples of "Interpretive Signage" topics include:
    a. Identifying actions users can take to protect the fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
    b. The historical perspective of the site: natural estuary to agriculture to Preserve.
    c. Location and type of sensitive habitats.
    d. Farming and Floodplains.
2. Develop site specific signage standards. May be done in conjunction with future "Masterplan" or "Design Standards Manual". (see Future Planning recommendations, below)

6.1.7 Trails

Near Term

1. Acknowledge the amount of trails on the Preserve as appropriate.
2. Focus efforts on maintenance and improvements over expansion.
3. Trails may be managed by re-routing as feasible to avoid critical areas, wetlands, and areas that require on-going maintenance.
4. Where alignment does not allow avoiding depressions or critical areas, trails are to be developed with Best Management Practices (BMP) standard for both construction and alignment.
    a. Boardwalks over wetlands.
    b. Minimal use of treated wood materials.
    c. Swales used to trap any surface runoff.

Long Term

1. Develop future trail plan with loop around agriculture area.

6.2 Ecological

6.2.1 Agricultural Production

Near Term

1. Acknowledge the cultural value of agriculture on Camano Island.
2. Prioritize environmental protection over commercial value.
3. Coordinate with the commercial farmer to identify any possible changes in management practices to reduce the potential for allergens (change of crop, change of harvest schedule, etc.).
4. Require the commercial farmer provide an annual written summary of management activities as part of the lease agreement (summary should include crop type, harvest schedule, use of pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers, and specific weed

control actions). Make results available to the public, with special consideration of residents of Iverson Road.

5. Determine the economic value of the 68-acre agricultural tract and explore the potential for generating income from an agricultural lease to support the operations and maintenance of Iverson Preserve.

Long Term

1. Explore the potential for organic practices (or practices which adhere to organic principals), including elimination of practices which may have the potential to harm humans or aquatic ecosystems.
2. Manage the agricultural property in a manner which does not preclude the potential for future restoration of the historic estuary (e.g. avoiding development within the area of potential estuarine restoration).

6.2.2 Ecosystem Protection

Near Term

1. Acknowledge the diversity and importance of habitat types within the Preserve.
2. Prioritize ecosystem protection over active recreational opportunities.
3. Encourage low-impact recreational opportunities only to the extent they are consistent with protection of ecosystem functions and processes.
4. Encourage educational activities of a size and level of supervision appropriate for the available facilities and ecosystem stewardship.
5. Provide signage educating users (see Signage recommendations, above).
6. Enforce dog on-leash, no hunting, and "Pack-it-In / Pack-it-Out" rules (see Signage recommendations, above).
7. Consistently use the term "Preserve" rather than "Park" in signage, outreach, etc. (see Signage recommendations, above).
8. Consider curbing use of Preserve through implementation of a 30-stall parking lot (see Parking recommendations, above).

Long Term

1. Explore the potential for organic agricultural practices (see Agricultural Production recommendations, above).
2. Iverson Preserve stakeholders to participate in any future planning for an off-leash dog park to be located at another site as a means of reducing the off-lease dog interest in this site.
3. Monitor the number and permanence of beach trails, beach use, and litter to determine if future actions are necessary to protect shoreline ecosystem.
4. Monitor surf smelt sampling results, and if surf smelt is determined to potentially spawn within the boundaries of the Preserve, place signage encouraging the public to limit activities which may harm surf smelt populations during the sensitive season.

5. Manage the Preserve in a manner which does not preclude the potential for future restoration of the historic estuary (e.g. avoiding development within the area of potential estuarine restoration).
6. Continue to explore the potential for estuary restoration that is compatible with continued agriculture use and private property protection, as determined appropriate. Pursue if/when idea is supported by the local community.

6.2.3 Tide gate/Ditches/Dike

Near Term

1. Acknowledge the importance of the dike in the safety and protection of residences along Iverson Road.
2. Acknowledge the history of the site and the value of agriculture to the cultural identity of Camano Island.
3. Continue regular maintenance visits to ensure proper function of the tide gate.
4. Determine appropriate revegetation and maintenance protocols on the dike and communicate these protocols with stakeholders involved with revegetation efforts.
5. Acknowledge the limited habitat available to federally listed salmonids in the Stillaguamish basin and the historic habitat available prior to construction of the tide gate, ditches, and dike.
6. Acknowledge that the shoreline adjacent to the dike is characterized by different energy levels: low energy in the vicinity of the tide gate inside the spit and high energy east and south of the spit.

Long Term

1. Continue to explore the potential for estuary restoration, and pursue if/when idea is supported by the local community (see Ecosystem Protection recommendations, above).
2. If tide gate remains in place, Island County may need to coordinate with WDFW and US Department of Agriculture regarding beaver management.

6.2.4 Noxious Weeds

Near Term

1. Continue existing efforts that are yielding concrete results:
   a. WSDA's Spartina work.
   b. FOCIP's volunteer efforts as coordinated with the Weed Board.
   c. Weed Board: At the core of current efforts in the upland areas. Continue chemical and mechanical control as well as monitoring of biocontrol efforts. Work with agricultural leaseholder to increase efforts on edges of farm fields.

Long Term

1. When possible, implement comprehensive weed surveys/mapping efforts targeting existing weeds, especially giant hogweed, and to look for other noxious weeds not yet known from the Preserve but found in the area (e.g. hairy willow herb *Epilobium hirsutum*) with seasonal visits e.g. early spring, late spring, summer and fall.

2. Based on weed surveys and mapping, create comprehensive noxious weed control/management plan to formalize and coordinate efforts between FOCIP, Island County, the Weed Board and the agricultural leaseholder.
3. Based on this comprehensive noxious weed control/management plan, continue to adapt control efforts to site conditions.

6.2.5 Hunting

Near Term

1. Enforce no hunting rules (see Signage recommendations, above).
2. Sign Preserve boundaries (see Signage recommendations, above).

Long Term

None

6.2.6 Mosquitoes

Near Term

1. Continue on-going mosquito monitoring and control measures. Communicate findings and actions with Preserve users and neighbors.

Long Term

2. Determine if continued dredging of the ditch along Iverson Road is improving drainage or only increasing the depth of stagnant water. Adjust maintenance practices to reduce the depth and duration of standing water to the extent possible while maintaining acceptable levels of agricultural production.
3. Continue to monitor tide gate function and beaver activity and how they influence water flow.

6.3 Management

6.3.1 Communication/Coordination

Near Term

1. Develop an Island County-hosted webpage for Iverson Preserve that lists announcements, contains contact information for concerns, and makes available the Site Management Plan and all supporting documents.
2. Identify the most appropriate Island County staff person to coordinate long-term communication regarding Iverson Preserve. Consider involving someone who is already involved with and accessible to Camano Island citizens (e.g. Island County Shore Stewards Coordinator).
3. Create an e-mail list of interested citizens and stakeholders to be used by the designated Island County coordinator.
4. Identify a way to communicate with key entities involved with site maintenance (e.g. FOCIP and Island County Weed Board) on a regular basis. This could be accomplished via conference call, regularly scheduled in-person meeting, or by web-conference.

Long Term

1. Consider developing a protocol for volunteer-based maintenance activities, restoration work, and trail construction on Iverson Preserve as part of the existing Adopt-A-Park program.
2. Proactively coordinate with the many entities who are involved with the Supporting Efforts mentioned herein. Share with them Island County's Vision for Iverson Preserve to foster consistency between efforts and determine ways to collaborate on common goals.

6.3.2 Ownership/Operation

Near Term

1. Acknowledge the important relationships between Island County and various entities listed in the Supporting Efforts section of this Plan. Highlight these partnerships on Preserve signage (see Signage recommendations, above).
2. Identify a way to communicate with key entities involved with site maintenance (see Communication/Coordination recommendations, above).

Long Term

1. Consider developing a protocol for volunteer-based activities (see Communication/Coordination recommendations, above).
2. Continue to adopt and implement the vision, mission, and management strategy proposed in the draft 2011 Island County Parks and Recreation Element.

6.3.3 Enforcement

1. Coordinate with Sheriff's Department to prioritize needs specific to Iverson Preserve (including seasonal changes).
2. Post contact information for general concerns (see Rules/Signage Standards recommendations, above).
3. Post contact information for emergencies (see Rules/Signage Standards recommendations, above).

Long Term

1. Work with citizens, partners, and the Sheriff's Department to develop a coordinated enforcement strategy with clear objectives and responsibilities.
2. As community interest increases and funding allows, consider increasing Parks Department staff support to Camano Island.

6.3.4 Future Planning

Near Term

1. Strategize and prioritize Near Term objectives in this document into a work plan.
2. Refine this Site Management Plan and proposed Vision through public input 12 months after adoption for minor and practical revisions based on experience (may be done at staff level).

Long Term

1. Consider the potential for a dog park elsewhere on Camano Island.
2. Consider developing a site Masterplan to further explore topics generated in this Site Management Plan. This document would have a more extensive public planning component and would develop a comprehensive background of cultural and resource information to evaluate all planning decisions.
3. Consider developing a "Design Standards" Manual for the Preserve either alone or in conjunction with the above Masterplan. This manual would prepare graphics of all built elements (fencing, kiosks, decking/structures/bridges, etc.). Incorporate design standards into Adopt-A-Park program, as necessary.

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APPENDIX A: BACKGROUND MAPS AND FIGURES

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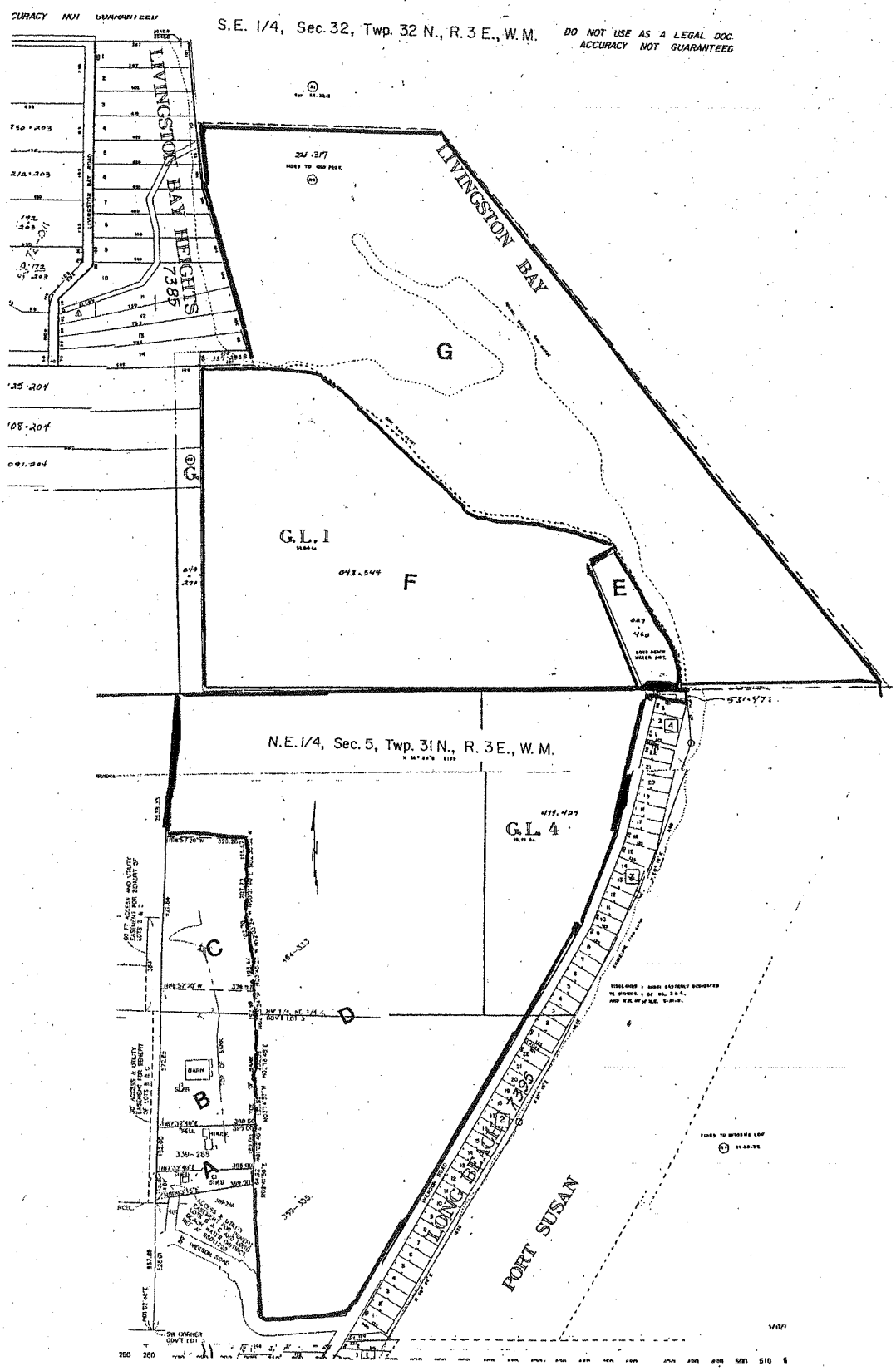
SCHEDULE "B"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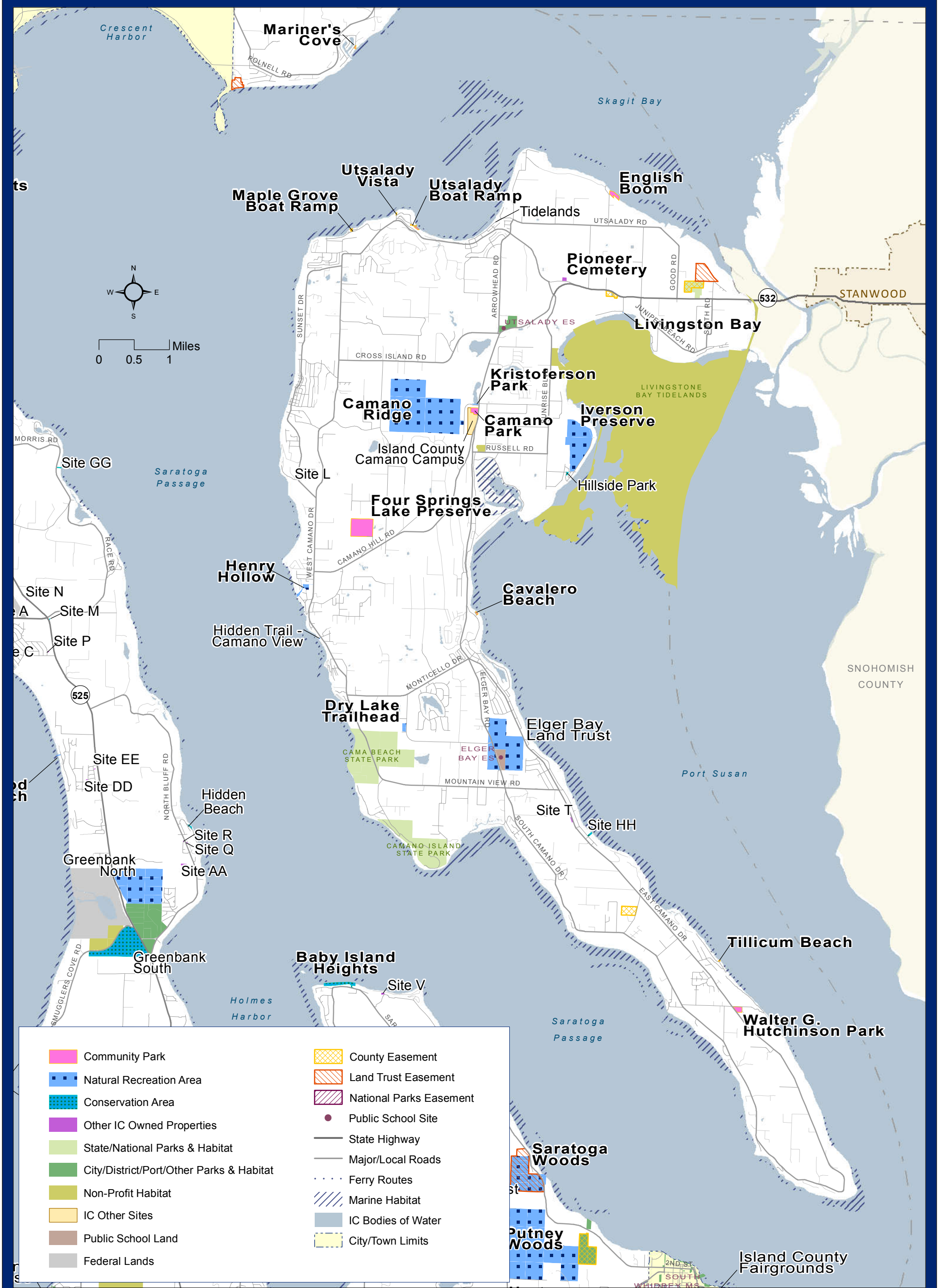
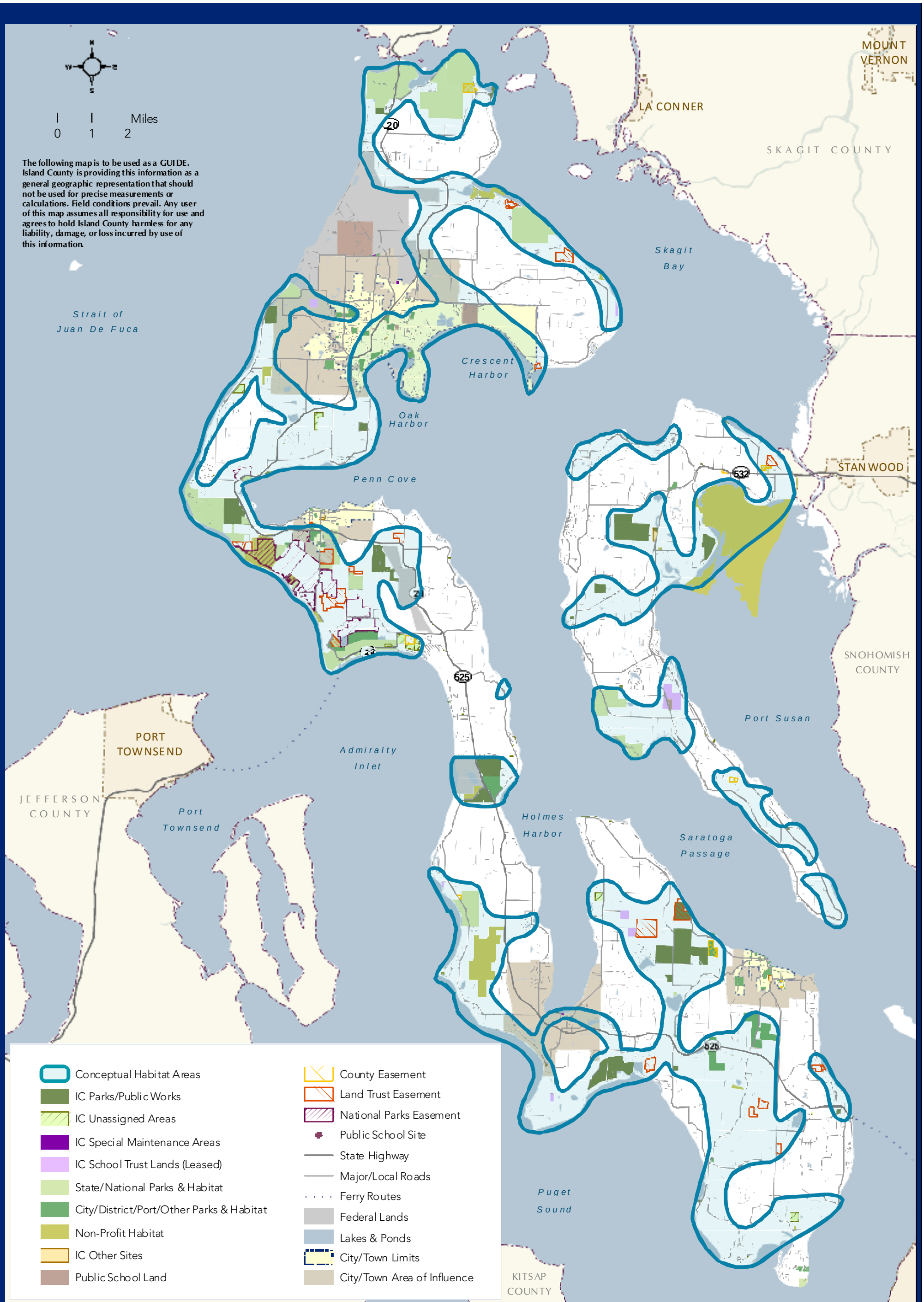


Island County Parks & Recreation Element

MIG

11/9/2011 | Data Source: Island County Planning & Community Development, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, USGS & DNR

Map C-4: Camano Island Classified IC Parks & Habitat Areas



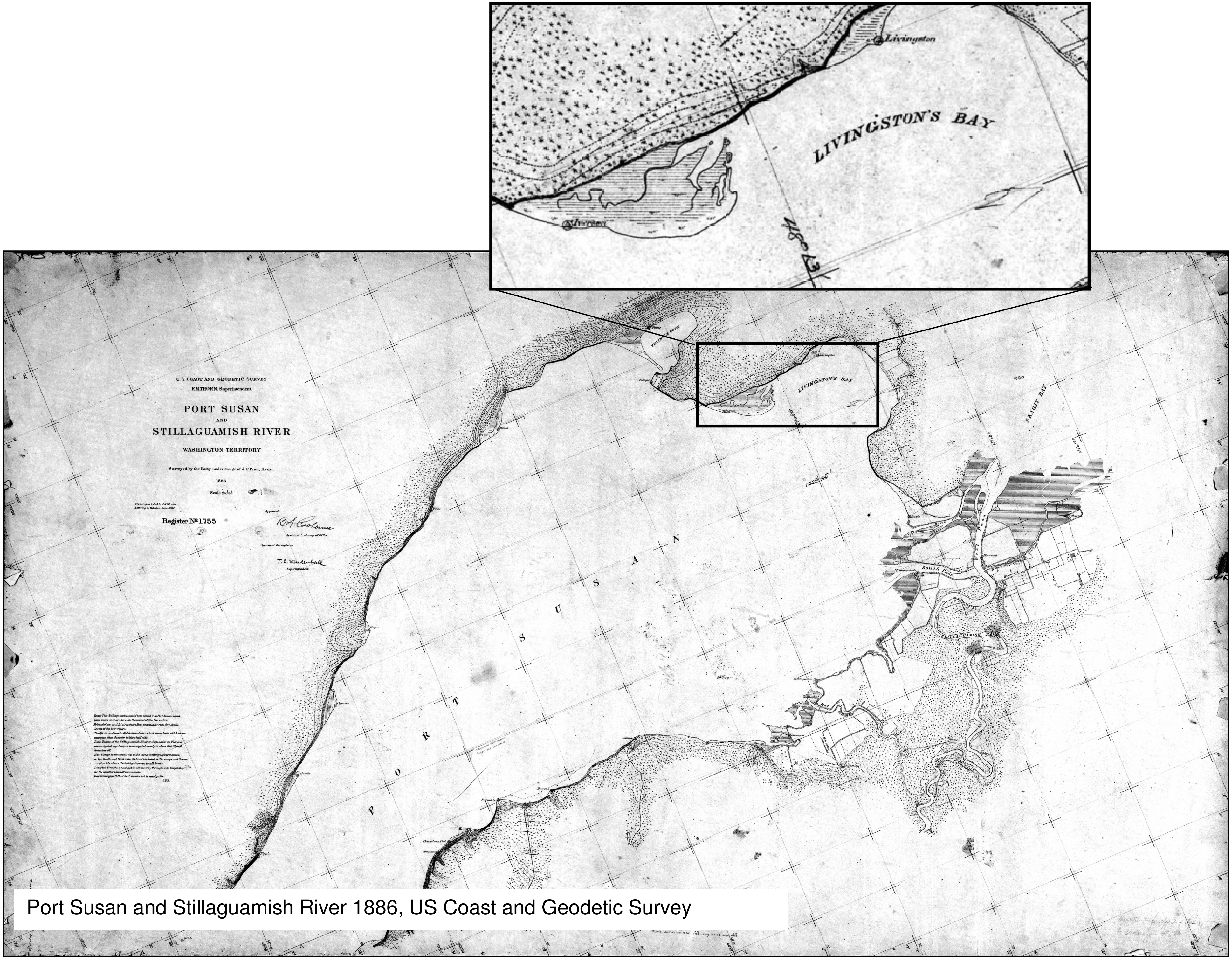
Island County Parks & Habitat Conservation Plan

March 2011 | Data Source: Island County Planning & Community Development, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, USGS & DNR

Map 2: Illustrative Habitat Conservation Concept

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area

This map is a product of Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department. Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department makes no claim as to the accuracy, completeness, or content of any data contained herein. This map is not intended to reflect the exterior or tideland boundaries of the Tulalip Reservation. All warranties of fitness for a particular purpose and of merchantability are hereby disclaimed. No part of this document may be reproduced without prior consent of the Tulalip Tribes.



Port Susan and Stillaguamish River 1886, US Coast and Geodetic Survey

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan
Citizen Comments
9/15/11-10/31/11

Topic Area	Comment	Source
AGRICULTURAL LEASE	Christiansen's farm the property, 4 year renewable lease, can terminate with 90 days notice, Island County does not currently require payment for the lease. The lease is in exchange for weed management.	Marx, IC PW
	Farming is a valuable part of the community. Christiansen's have been a good community partner.	Kane 9/16/11 CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Past 3 years crop has been turf grass seed that is a substantial pollen allergen, in some cases requiring medical attention, limits use of private properties and the Preserve especially at harvest time, June and July. Pollen also covers neighborhood structures, cars, etc.	Kane 9/16/11 Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11 Responte 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11
	Perhaps crop can be harvested on a weekday to minimize allergy problems.	CM 9/26/11
	Consider switching to a new crop that has less allergen potential such as barley or wheat.	Kane 9/16/11
	Any crop is preferable to flooding for salmonid habitat.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	What is the agricultural management practices (when/what do they spray)? Concerned about health.	Smith 9/16/11 CM 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11
	Who maintains the agricultural/roadside ditch west of Iverson Road? The ditch is very deep, is stagnant, holds water year-round.	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
	All income from the lease should be used to fund Preserve. The leasee should pay a fee, the property is valuable. The property does not have significant agricultural value and charging a fee might prevent a leasing opportunity.	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
FISHING	Fishing from the beach, esp. sturgeon is a value, recreational fishers only and very sustainable.	Thompson 9/25/11
	Preserve used for sturgeon fishing and ghost shrimp digging. People often conduct these activities on the private beaches south of the Preserve.	CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/28/11
TOILETS/OUTHOUSES	Not sufficient maintenance of outhouses (note- beginning of Sept. out of toilet paper and soap, garbage in the holding tanks).	Kane 9/16/11 CM 9/26/11 Responte 9/26/11
	Two outhouses during the high season is not adequate to accommodate the number of users.	Hostek 9/25/11
	Outhouses should not be screened but should remain highly visible.	Helen Smith 9/16/11

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	Outhouses only present during the summer months, need to be present year-round, especially when use of park is by families, fishermen, and for durations longer than 2 hours. Public health issue.	CM 9/26/11 Kevin Clark 9/27/11 Smith 10/15/11 Brock 10/17/11
TRASH/LITTERING	Is there a trash can? Not clear what to do with trash.	Smith 9/16/11
	No garbage can is unacceptable, there needs to be at least two garbage cans with regular pick-up, especially during the summer months.	Hostek 9/25/11
	Need a garbage can.	Anonymous 10/31/11
	Need signs stating "leave no trace" or "pack it in pack it out".	Hostek 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
	Toilets are being used for trash disposal.	Kane 9/16/11
	Need large garbage dumpster near gate with weekly pick-up.	Celeen 9/25/11
	Increased cans and bottles found under driftwood on beach.	Kane 9/16/11
	Littering appears to be worse when garbage can present than when not.	CM 9/26/11
	Littering occurring on private property.	Responte 9/26/11
	Littering occurs along Sunrise Boulevard and Iverson Road.	Carlson 9/26/11
ACCESS/PARKING/TRAFFIC	Visitors often speed on Iverson Road. No known incidents yet, but concerned there will be one in the future. Children often near the roadway, used to be able to bike and walk down roadway.	Kane 9/16/11 Celeen 9/25/11 Responte 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	Speeding primarily occurs on holiday or sunny weekends. Very rarely speeds reach 50 MPH.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Consider installing speed bumps on Iverson Road.	Kane 9/16/11 Celeen 9/25/11 Carlson 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11
	Install additional speed limit signs and "slow down" signs on Iverson Road.	Responte 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11
	The steep curve on Iverson Beach Road is dangerous, edges erode, narrow. There should be caution signs and/or guardrail.	CM 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	No stop at intersection of Iverson Beach Road and Moe Rd, needs additional study to determine appropriate traffic flow and signage.	CM 9/26/11
	Unpaved parking areas create mud in wet season.	CM 9/26/11
	Cars wander around trying to find Preserve, install more wayfinding signs.	Smith 9/16/11
	Originally, Iverson Road had a "dead end" sign. Current use very different than many homeowners anticipated when they purchased their home.	Carlson 9/26/11

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	Homeowners voiced concerns about traffic, speed, and leash laws when County considered purchasing preserve. For many years, no significant problems but recent problems especially during summer months.	Carlson 9/26/11
	The Preserve should not be advertised further, do not install additional wayfinding signs.	CM 9/26/11
	Iverson Road is too narrow.	CM 9/26/11
	Lower speed limit on Iverson Road (to between 10 - 20 MPH)	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
	Currently no stop sign on Iverson Road at intersection of Iverson Road and Iverson Beach Road, dangerous intersection.	CM 9/26/11
	Limited Preserve parking causes traffic congestion, cars parked on Iverson Rd. partly blocking roadway, hinders ability for emergency vehicles to access the site. Two separate individuals counted 68 cars parked along Iverson Road in 2011.	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11 Deabler 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11 Brock 10/17/11 Pritzl 10/14/11
	Limit parking to existing Preserve parking spaces (no parking in turn-around, and along Iverson Road). Sign accordingly.	Celeen 9/25/11
	There is adequate parking for most of the year.	Perez 10/13/11
	Current parking lot layout does not maximize capacity.	CM 9/26/11
	Sign where parking is allowed and/or not allowed (turn around not clearly signed).	Carlson 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11
	Additional parking needed (potentially to west).	Responte 9/26/11 Deabler 9/26/11 Anonymous 10/31/11
	Residents along Iverson Road need guest parking along side of road during busy summer months.	CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	Street parking sometimes blocks resident's use of their driveways and property.	CM 9/26/11
	Parking must be contained within Preserve. Simple and easy solution = using farm entrance and park on the grass agricultural road cut to existing parking lot.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Limit overcrowding by limiting parking.	Powell 10/18/11
	Consider parking permits and/or permits for residents along Iverson Road.	CM 9/26/11
	Consider placing "No Parking" signs along Iverson Road, possibly with exception for residents.	Celeen 9/25/11
	If parking lot is full = no parking available.	CM 9/26/11
	Make parking less convenient.	CM 9/26/11
	Insufficient parking for using the site as an educational site: full sized school bus + 9 personal vehicles.	CM 9/26/11

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	Enforce the no parking/illegal parking, speeding.	CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	Cannot install additional parking without also completing other amenities including speed abatement, signage, emergency access. Don't fix one problem in isolation.	CM 9/26/11
	Consider feasibility of a new road and parking on the west side of the field. There is a former agricultural access road along the west edge of the property.	Celeen 9/25/11
	Parking is currently not a problem on the southern extent of Iverson Road. Oppose placing a parking lot near south park fence. The parking lot entrance should be placed well into the park and should be separated from Iverson Rd. sufficiently to discourage on-street parking. Entrance could be at current farm entrance, then meander around a east-west fence line to the current parking lot. Overflow in the agricultural area where farm equipment now stored. The current parking entrance should be permanently blocked.	Paczkowski 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11
	Pedestrians often trespass on private property, especially to south on residences along Iverson Road. Park boundaries not clearly marked, including on the beach.	CM 9/26/11
	The Preserve should be open to the general public, whether or not they live on Iverson Road.	CM 9/26/11
	English Boom access is well managed, look to this park for examples.	CM 9/26/11
	Increased trespassing and vandalism.	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
	Parking lot gate is never closed, consider closing it at night.	CM 9/26/11
	Park hours should be clarified, clear signage.	CM 9/26/11
NOXIOUS WEEDS/VEGETATION	Fine leaved plant noted near edge of Iverson Road, possibly poison hemlock.	Smith 9/16/11
	Island County Noxious Weed Control Board has made extensive effort to control noxious weed populations at Iverson Preserve. Spartina control in mudflats ongoing since 1996, reduced from 20 acres to 1 acre. 2011 is first year for terrestrial species control: scotch broom, Canada thistle, poison hemlock, Himalayan blackberry, giant hogweed, and bull thistle. Control includes mixture of mechanical, biological, and chemical control.	Tupper, ISNWCB 9/15/11
	FOCIP has done an excellent job of revegetation and noxious weed control.	CM 9/26/11
	Does weed management compromise integrity of the dike?	CM 9/26/11
	Scotch broom management is needed, esp. on the dike.	Edison 10/13/11 Pritzl 10/14/11
	The Iverson Road shoulder used to be mowed more frequently, this year weeds reached three to four feet in height. Perhaps mowing can be done two or three times a year.	Carlson 9/26/11
	Spartina eradication needs to be looked into.	Celeen 9/25/11

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PARK/PRESERVE	Original intention was a animal/flora preserve with limited use, parking, and development. Now has high-volume of users with increased impact on environment. Multiple uses of site result in sanitation, garbage, etc. (current uses include mountain biking, fishing, hunting, skim boarding, off-leash dogs, motor boating, beach picnicking.	Celeen 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Iverson Preserve is the premier birding/natural history spot on Camano Is.	Pritzl 10/14/11
	"Preserve" means preserving: flora, fauna, eelgrass, and farmland	CM 9/26/11
	What are the legal and statutory confines that govern the use of the property? Island County Commissioners stated it would not be an "active" park. What is the definition of an "active" park? What is the definition of "preserve"?	CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	Ads in local paper, Everett Herald, Crab Cracker, and the Seattle Times along with guided bus tours during activities like the Bird Festival- in violation of the trust of adjacent homeowners. Resulted in more use than Preserve can reasonably facilitate.	Paczkowski 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11
	Stop using the word "park" in reference to Iverson Preserve. Instead use the term "Preserve". The first step should be to remove and replace the "Iverson Spit Park" sign at the end of Iverson Beach Road.	CM 9/26/11 Carlson
	Clearly define the intent of the Preserve. Sign the Preserve accordingly.	Carlson 9/26/11
	Keep the Preserve for "inactive" or "passive" use. Don't encourage activities that would interfere with bird-watching and nature enjoyment.	CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/26/11 Powell 10/18/11
	It is our privilege to use the Preserve, needs to be done according to a plan and with respect.	CM 9/26/11
	Recent use has increased substantially. Due to increased population of Camano Island, implementation of the State Park fee? The greatest volume of users is during sunny weekends from May through September.	CM 9/26/11 Responte 9/26/11 Hostek 9/25/11
	Most Preserve users are families and do not cause problems.	Hostek 9/25/11
	Many users are from off-island, including Seattle area.	CM 9/26/11
	Iverson Spit is one of the only public access beaches on Camano Island where there is a sandy beach. Important to maintain access.	Deabler 9/26/11
	Increased popularity of the park may be artifact of increased population of Camano Island, this trend seen at other Camano Island parks.	CM 9/26/11
	Maintain public access to the beach. Public access increases awareness of natural resources which in turn gives people a sense of ownership and stewardship.	Thompson 9/27/11
	The site is special partly because it is not well known and a lack of bureaucracy for using as educational site.	Perez 10/13/11
	Clearly sign the boundaries of the Preserve.	CM 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11

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	Clearly and prominently sign what is and is not allowed at the Preserve. Consider signing in more than one location.	Carlson 9/26/11
	Consider paying an entrance fee to limit users.	CM 9/26/11
DOGS	Many people use Preserve to walk dogs. Often people walking multiple dogs 2+ times per day.	Smith 9/16/11
	Increased dog waste noted in Preserve, especially near trails and on the beach.	Kane 9/16/11 Edison 10/13/11
	Recommend installing a doggie waste station.	Smith 9/16/11
	Perception is that the Preserve is an off-leash dog area. Enforce Island County's rules of all parks being on-leash unless otherwise marked. Needs to be clearly signed and explain "why".	Anonymous 10/31/11
	Dogs off-leash can be dangerous.	CM 9/26/11
	Dogs and families use the site, both uses are compatible with the Preserve if managed.	Smith 10/15/11
	1/3 of Community Meeting attendees felt having dogs be able to use the site is an asset.	CM 9/26/11
	Dogs like to go in the water, hazardous to have dogs on leash in the water due to risk of drowning.	CM 9/26/11
	Birding and dogs off-leash are incompatible.	CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/28/11 Powell 10/18/11
	Consider adopting Seattle's rule" "dogs not allowed on beach"	Kevin Clark 9/27/11
	A dog park should be considered at the Preserve.	CM 9/26/11
	If an off-leash area is required, should be separate fenced area in "Freedom Park" or in agricultural area away from animal habitat and water.	Paczkowski 9/28/11
TRAILS	FOCIP maintains trails, did not construct fences or parking lot.	Eissenberg 9/28/11 CM 9/26/11
	The Hobbit Trail is a unique and magical place- maintain access. Perhaps FOCIP members get free passes.	Deabler 9/26/11
	FOCIP does an excellent job of maintaining the trails.	CM 9/26/11 Pritzl 10/14/11
	Provide funding to FOCIP for their on-going maintenance.	Anonymous 10/31/11
	Fencing/walkways on third dike crossing need to be coordinated. Currently, only way to get to walkway on the dike is to go around the fence and up the side of the dike.	Brock 10/17/11
	Most development thoughtfully completed. Signs, trails, and beach access points nicely completed and maintained.	Paczkowski 9/26/11

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MOSQUITOES	Iverson Preserve is included within the Camano Island Mosquito Control District #1. District Manager, Jay Lawrence, samples and treats areas in and around the Preserve. Several areas hold water that promotes mosquito population growth, including the roadside ditch and areas along the trails. The District uses integrated management - includes use of bacteria and growth regulating hormone.	Lawrence 9/27/11, 9/28/11
BEACH/TIDE FLATS	Smelt spawn on the Iverson Preserve beach.	Lawrence 9/28/11
	In the early to mid 2000s, effort to consider potential for estuarine restoration to increase juvenile salmonid habitat along Iverson Preserve mud flats. Politically unviable at the time, but ecologically of value.	Chase 10/6/11
	Maintain public access to the beach. Public access increases awareness of natural resources which in turn gives people a sense of ownership and stewardship.	Thompson 9/27/11 CM 9/26/11
	High volume of digging occurs on beach.	Lawrence 9/28/11
	Tide flats can be dangerous, tide comes in quickly, soft mud. Recommend warning signs placed on trail where access is most likely to occur.	Smith 9/16/11 CM 9/26/11 Carlson 9/26/11
	There was no beach access when Island County originally purchased Preserve, would like to see it back to "what it was".	CM 9/26/11
	Beach access within the Preserve is via three staircases north of the parking area. There is a road easement that extends to the beach at the intersection of Iverson Road and Iverson Beach Road; however, this easement is vegetated and may be blocked by a bulkhead that is part of the dike. Is the land owned by the underlying property owner and what is the legal requirement for access?	Triplett 10/13/11 Clark 10/14/11 Eissenberg 10/14/11 Smith 10/15/11
	Noticed evidence of beach fires (fires often in southern extent of the beach).	Hostek 9/25/11 CM 9/26/11
HUNTING	No Hunting signs are specific to the trails and parking lot. WDFW is allowing duck hunting in the tide flats. Is hunting allowed in tide flats if tide flats are Island County property?	CM 9/26/11
	Bird hunting should be prohibited on the property.	Pritzl 10/14/11
	Hunting along Iverson Road used to occur prior to signs being installed along the roadway. No longer occurs.	CM 9/26/11
SIGNAGE (GENERAL)	Signs are not coordinated. "Sign pollution". Need one set of clear signage.	CM 9/26/11 Pritzl 10/14/11
	Signs need to be constructed of water-resistant materials.	CM 9/26/11
	Signs are often stolen and/or damaged by beach action.	CM 9/26/11
SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN	Pleased a Site Management Plan is finally being written, should have been written upon purchase of the property in 1999 and/or prior to site improvements.	Paczkowski 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11 Clark 9/27/11

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	The foundation of the Site Management Plan should be based on any legal requirements established by the original funding source, Conservation Futures Funds, and any other stipulations required at the time purchase.	CM 9/26/11
	The Site Management Plan should have different alternatives for addressing concerns.	CM 9/26/11
	Concerned the Site Management Plan and Community Meeting will not result in changes. Perhaps money would be better spent in funding County employees to implement solutions.	Carlson 9/26/11
	Site Management Plan should be coordinated with current Shoreline Master Program Update, specifically the draft Inventory and Characterization report by ESA. Inventory information is in SoundIQ. Have not completed use designations yet.	Stewart 10/13/11
	Site Management Plan should take into consideration ongoing efforts including the proposed Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA), inventory and sampling data by Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, BeachWatchers, educational outreach by Stillaguamish and others, Shore Stewards, and Island County SMP update.	Chase 10/6/11
	Why is a Community Meeting and public comment scheduled in late September when most seasonal residents are no longer on the Island?	Carlson 9/26/11
OTHER	People often use the park with their grandchildren.	Helen Smith 9/16/11 Doug Deabler 9/26/11
	Long Beach Water District has waterline running through Preserve, maintain integrity of the pipe. (~600 linear feet, 6-inch diameter with clean-out spigot and terminal thrust block; 100 linear feet of spur pipe with thrust block; water hydrant)	Smith 9/16/11 CM 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/26/11
	It is the County's responsibility to repair the Long Beach Water District pipes until and unless the pipes are terminated at the park entrance.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Important to maintain integrity of the dike.	Smith 9/16/11
	Someone used a flat-bottomed boat to access tidelands and take water samples. What was the purpose?	Pedersen 9/22/11
	Camping should not be allowed.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Large coyote population in area, primarily concentrated in wooded area on west side of Iverson Preserve. Potential reason for reduced bird sitings?	Myers 10/12/11
	Increased public safety enforcement (drive or walk by more often).	Celeen 9/25/11
	Public and homeowners are forced to "police". Instead, there should be a contact person/phone number for law enforcement and Preserve rule violations.	Carlson 9/26/11 CM 9/26/11
	Communication between Island County and Camano Island citizens/organizations could use improvement.	Anonymous 9/28/11
	Changes in Island County personnel in charge of Preserve, initial promises forgotten and/or not recorded.	Paczkowski 9/26/11

CM = Community Meeting Sept. 26, 2011. Camano Island Multi-Purpose Center

	Homeowners are willing to work with Island County to resolve issues, effort must be mutual.	Paczkowski 9/26/11
	Value site for educational purposes because of its wide expanses and diversity of habitat types.	Perez 10/13/11
	The agricultural area (and other areas at Iverson Preserve) should not be flooded for salmonid habitat due to increased flood risk to neighboring residences. Has their been a water table study?	Celeen 9/25/11 Deabler 9/26/11 Smith 9/26/11 Paczkowski 9/26/11

Iverson Preserve Community Meeting
Site Management Plan
September 26, 2011 6pm-8pm
Camano Multi-Purpose Center 141 N East Camano Drive

Welcome, please sign in.

Name	Address	E-mail	Phone Number
Analiese Burns	NES 1911 C St Bham 98225	analiese@nwecological.com	360-734-9484
BOB & SHAWN BROWN	2166 ANGEL LANE-CAMANO	RGBROWN926@AOL.COM	360-387-8858
Jane Summerfelt	75 Iverson Bch Rd	SMRFLT@comcast.net	206 232-0657
Cary & Kevin Clark	17 Iverson Rd	Kevin c@argosycruises.com Clarkguys@comcast.net	206-293-0160
Karen Mallard	127 Iverson		
GREY MALLARD	"	gymg115@aol.com	425-876-6683
CAROL WEIS	11223 Corliss Ave N Seattle 98133 123 Iverson Rd	roroweis@aol.com	206-368-9153
Joanne Setterberg	P.O. Box 582 Keyport, Wa	jsetterberg@wave cable.com	360-697-2319
Harry Spencer	P.O. BOX 191 STANWOOD 98292	NONE	360-653-4998
Susan Holmes	27927-86 Ave NW Stanwood, Wa 98292 79 S. Iverson Rd CI	would like to be notified none Danny Thing	360-939-2412
Roger KROGSTAD	27909 PIONEER HWY STANWOOD, WA.	NO EMAIL (SNAIL MAIL OK)	360-629-3630

Iverson Preserve Community Meeting
Site Management Plan
September 26, 2011 6pm-8pm
Camano Multi-Purpose Center 141 N East Camano Drive

Welcome, please sign in.

Name	Address	E-mail	Phone Number
Gary & John Kirkpatrick	35 S. Iverson	gjKirkpatrick@frontier.com	360-387-6273
Tom Eisenberg	231 Barnum Rd.	tveis@juno.com	360 387 4000
Raleigh & Sandy Stein	209 Iverson	STEINS@wavecable.com	387-6500
John & Nancy Holmes	65 Iverson	JGHolmes@wavecable.com	387-9108-629-3576
Edith & Jim Berg	49 S. Iverson	wdnvlbergs@aol.com	206-898-9800
Jerry Nielson	219 Barnum Rd	mountowa@yahoo.com	360-387-5797
Tina Garreis	25 Iverson Rd.	cgarreis@comcast.net	425-268-9005
Roland Garreis	25 Iverson Rd.	RGARREIS@COMCAST.NET	425-268-1632
Jay Lawrence	221 S Iverson Rd	cimcd@wavecable.com	425 330-9087
Rob Brown	167 Iverson	robbrown1@aol.com	201-226-5078
* Cliff + Prudy Marston	5 Iverson Rd	prudy.marston@gmail.com	360 631 5651

Iverson Preserve Community Meeting
Site Management Plan
September 26, 2011 6pm-8pm
Camano Multi-Purpose Center 141 N East Camano Drive

Welcome, please sign in.

Name	Address	E-mail	Phone Number
Tom Abbott	159 Iverson	tom.abbott@CBRE.com	206-679-9571
Robert & Claudine Paczkowski	163 Iverson Rd	bob_claudine@wavecable.com	360-387-2487
Clarence & Eileen Carlson	111 Iverson Rd	clarcarl@aol.com	360-387-3401
GREG MYERS	600 IVERSON BEACH RD.	myers91@wavecable.com	360.387.4789
Eric Egbers	31 Iverson Rd.	ebegbers@hotmail.com	(509)969-0959
Russ Holmes	970 Double View Rd, Camano	russ.holmes@wavecable.com	360 572 4770
BARRY WOOD	852 Liv Bayshore Cl	BARRY@PMG3.com	425 941 6261
SELMA SNARING	223 IVERSON	16328 17th SE	mail contact please 425-385-2144

Staff: Steve Marx - Is Cty PW
Jim McDaird - Is Cty PW
Thane Tupper - Is Cty NWCB

EccosDesign - Patrik Dylan
NW Ecological - Analiese Burns

From: Matt Kane [Matt.Kane@kpcom.com]
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 10:46 AM
To: 'analiese@nwecological.com'
Cc: summerfelt@carneylaw.com; 'Joepaulc51@gmail.com'; bob_claudine@wavecable.com; cartendersm@hotmail.com; Caryc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM; cgarreis@comcast.net; Charlie & Jean; clarcarl@aol.com; cliff@olympicremodelingservices.com; cmgwork@sprynet.com; csmwebster@frontier.com; dbceleen@comcast.net; debbieengel53@gmail.com; Tanya_M_Responte@KeyBank.com; donlee789@yahoo.com; dschau@columbiabasin.edu; Elliott.Pierce@unionbank.com; glkirkpatrick@frontier.com; hbqdbenzel@comcast.net; hosparents@aol.com; yeagmar@aol.com; smrflt@comcast.net; jgholmes@wavecable.com; designsbylauren@hotmail.com; elefsus@comcast.net; Marjorie Bissell; Matt Kane; meanauntjudy@aol.com; donnajrea@msn.com; robinskool@msn.com; fequalma1@frontier.com; robbrown1@aol.com; Howier1@earthlink.net; rrbradley28@hotmail.com; Sandy Pierce; summerfelt@carneylaw.com; td_kjerulf@hotmail.com; mabbott@windermere.com; tim_nixon@comcast.net; tom.gaffney@frontier.com; victorplt@comcast.net; wdnvlbergs@aol.com; 'Kevin Clark'
Subject: Northwest Ecological Services & Iverson Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Good morning Analiese,

My name is Matt Kane. My wife Emily and I live at 141 Iverson Rd, where our family and extended family have gathered for almost 40 years.

I'm disappointed that I will not be able to join my neighbors at the Community Meeting on September 26th. I would, however, like to add my comments to the mix.

- Because my understanding is that the Preserve includes the agricultural field behind our homes, I'm going to start there. Growing up, there was always a variety of crops being grown. More recently, grass seed has been the crop of choice. I spoke with Joe Christianson who was kind enough to spend a few minutes with me in August listening to my concerns about the impact of the pollinating crop.
    - We have family members who simply can not go up to our Camano home for much of June & July (myself included) without being terribly afflicted by allergies, to the point where medical treatment is needed. Please keep in mind we do not suffer from allergies elsewhere. The wind blows the pollen onto decks, through screen windows, onto kids' bikes and toys, and into eyes and lungs.
    - We have spoken to other neighbors up and down the beach who have experiences that match our own.
        - As we all know, summers in the Northwest are short and precious. Having pollen blowing for up to half of the summer, when everyone is using their homes and entertaining guests, is difficult on us and other homeowners
    - From what I have heard and experienced, the Christianson family are great people who care about our community.
        - I'm not proposing the field lay fallow. Instead, I hope we can come together with an alternative crop, like wheat or barley or something else that will be less impactful from an allergy standpoint.
    - I'm sure if enough of us voice our concerns, the Christianson family will listen and continue to be the great community partner they are.

- Traffic/Speeding/Parking/Garbage/Toilets at the Preserve
  - Being located where we are, we don't experience what our neighbors at the north end of Iverson Rd. experience. I can only imagine their frustration with parking, traffic, usage after hours, and unsanitary toilet conditions.
  - It seems like there simply isn't the manpower to manage the Preserve. Just the other week, the porta johns were out of toilet paper, were out of soap, and had garbage thrown into the holding tanks. More and more beer cans/bottles are being found on the beach around the driftwood and it looks like there are plenty of examples of visitors and their dogs using the beach and trails as a toilet.
  - My family is impacted most by the increased traffic on Iverson Rd and the speed in which that traffic is traveling. Rarely do we see neighbors speeding up and down Iverson Rd. However, visitors to the Preserve, perhaps lacking the connection to the beach's 'people', seem intent on getting down this sleepy beach road as quickly as possible. I don't believe we've had any youngsters hit or any close calls, but I have to think it's only a matter of time.
    - I would like to see steps taken to slow this traffic down. Perhaps speed bumps are the answer.

I look forward to learning more about how we work together to make the future of the Preserve better for all of us. Thank you for providing the forum.

Kindest Regards,

Matt Kane
Neighbor
141 Iverson Rd.

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11-09-25 Celeen Comments Iverson preserve meeting

From: CELEEN3359 [dbceleen@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2011 7:21 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson preserve meeting

Hi, Analiese,

Let me introduce myself- my name is Doug Celeen, and my wife and I have a permanent home in Albany, Oregon; however,now that we are retired we are coming up to our Iverson Camano beach house often. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the meeting concerning the Iverson Preserve. Our family has maintained a residence on Iverson Beach for nearly 60 years so we have a very vested interest with what takes place within our beach community. Here are my concerns with the current and future environment in regards to the Preserve and field located on Iverson Beach:

Preserve Environment:

I believe originally it was setup to be a single-use animal/flora preserve with trails for viewing the natural surroundings. Since then it has become a high-volume multi- purpose site with little control in place to protect the environment. The current usage includes mountain biking on the trails, on and off shore fishing, hunting, water boarding (multiple types), off-leash dog running, motor boating and high density beach picnicking. This current volume of usage has left issues with sanitation, garbage and the destruction of Preserve property. If the current usage trend continues I see nothing but the destruction of the Preserve as a viable area.

The Field behind houses north of Iverson Beach Road:

As long as I can remember the field has been used for agricultural purposes with little or no effect to the adjoining properties. The last few years the crop of choice has been grass seed that has caused increased allergic reactions and a dirty dust coving residue over properties especially at harvest time. Do we have any say in what can be planted within the field? Another concern of mine is the future for the potential flooding of the field to create a wetland as part of the preserve. My concern with this idea is that it could cause increased potential for flooding of adjoining properties. Our water table is already high and properties have been flooded in the past. Has there ever been a study conducted with the water table? Also who is responsible for maintaining the ditch that runs along the field?

I feel that all income derived from the leasing of the field should go directly to funding the Preserve.

Invasive sea grass:

This issue has kinda gone by the way with me because of what is currently happening with the Preserve but it must be further looked into.

Safety:

The increased usage of the Preserve has brought along public safety issues that must be addressed before something serious happens. The volume of traffic has increased and speed at times does not seem to be an issue with some drivers. In the past our children could bike and walk on Iverson Road without worrying about speeding

traffic-- not so anymore. Lack of Preserve parking space has caused traffic congestion issues and has hindered safety vehicles. There also has been an increase with vandalism,again speeding, and trespassing.

Some ideas;

Speed bumps on Iverson Rd. to help lower speeds.

Increased signage along Iverson Rd. for speed limits and watch out for children at play.

Change of speed limit on road to 20 mph.

Limit preserve usage to current parking spaces by placing no parking signage at turn around and along west side of Iverson Rd. No parking signage can be stated with statement "except parking for residences" or private parking violators will be towed. I don't know who owns that side of the road that runs along the ditch.

Create a new road and parking on the west side of the field? There once was a road located on that side of field for farming usage. This road would bypass current usage of Iverson Road.

Increased public safety enforcement or in the least some drive or walk by often.

Large garbage dumster is needed near the gate with weekly pick-up.

These our my concerns and suggestions with regards to the Iverson Preserve/field. Thank you for providing the forum for feedback on the Iverson Preserve. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards,

Doug Celeen

133 Iverson Rd.

owner and resident

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11-09-25 Hostek Comments Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

From: hosparents@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2011 5:13 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

Hello!

We are homeowners on Iverson Beach. We are unable to attend the community meeting tomorrow evening, September 26th, 2011. We have a few comments regarding the Preserve that we would like to bring to your attention.

We have definitely seen a huge influx of traffic on our road and visitors to the beach and to the Preserve itself. Most of the people we have observed have been families out enjoying the beautiful beach and not causing any problems at all. However, there are not nearly enough facilities to accommodate the number of visitors who visit on a sunny weekend day.
Two outhouses and NO GARBAGE CANS are just not adequate!! There needs to be at least two garbage cans with regular pick-up scheduled, especially during the summer.

We have noticed on our regular beach walks evidence of beach fires. Perhaps you could have signage alerting visitors about the rules regarding beach fires as well as toting out one's own garbage ("leave no trace" policy).

Sincerely,

Isobel and Loren Hostek
89 Iverson Road
Camano Island

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From: clarcarl@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 8:14 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson spit preserve

Hi, Analiese

We are just back from the community meeting on 16 September on Camano Island, and we had a few more comments that we did not include in our written 2-pager that we handed to you before the session began. Some of the discussion triggered some other ideas. As we expected, the meeting turned a bit chaotic, and we felt that it would be best to put things in writing for you to contemplate in a quieter atmosphere. As retired educators, we both sat through innumerable faculty meetings and have over our 70+ years attended a wide variety of public meetings. They all seem to turn out pretty much the same, with a few of loudest folks getting their stories told and everyone else feeling a little frustrated. I hope that others who attended the meeting or did not attend will take the time to send some written comments, and we hope that you garner some good information. We are obviously on the side of having an ecological preserve at the end of our road.

One statement that we found interesting was the need for some concentration on solutions. Here are a few things that come to mind.

Get the term "park" out of the discussion. It was used a lot by almost everybody tonight, and it is, as we stated before, inappropriate. That includes getting rid of the Iverson Spit Park sign at the bottom of hill when one gets to Iverson Road.

There need to be clear definitions and signage regarding the intent of the preserve, where the preserve ends, and where parking is allowed. Signs warning of the danger of walking into boot-sucking mud flats might also be appropriate.

Some rules regarding what is allowed and what is not need to be clearly and prominently posted, maybe in more that one place, around the preserve. Included should be the rules about dogs, beach access, ecologically sound behavior, trespassing on private property, parking, trash disposal, toilets, hunting, etc. And, there should be a phone number to call to summon law enforcement and a message to those who observe violations to take down license numbers or get other identifying information on violators and where to send the data. As we all know, rules will be broken by those who already have no problem breaking or bending them or creating their own self-serving ones.

Something needs to be done to control speeding and careless driving (as on that curve coming down the hill) on the way to and from the preserve, mainly along Iverson Road. Caution signs at the curve, more speed-limit signs, and perhaps speed bumps (as suggested in an e-mail to you by a neighbor) seem needed.

We enjoyed meeting you this evening and look forward to your future messages. e-mail works fine for us.

Clarence and Eileen Carlson
111 Iverson Road

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Comments from Eileen and Clarence Carlson for meeting re Iverson Spit Preserve
26 September 2011

We plan to attend the meetings scheduled for 26 September but have decided to put some comments in writing to ensure that we state things clearly. Following are those comments and some concerns about the current state of use of the preserve.

When we bought our home at 111 Iverson Road in 1987, we were enchanted with the rather remote, quiet and peaceful location and intended to use the house as a retirement home after retiring from our jobs in education in Colorado. Those retirements took place earlier than expected in 1992, and we used the house as a part-time home for several years. We finally sold our home in Colorado in 2008, and we have been here full-time since then.

When we first occupied the house on Iverson, there was a "Dead End" sign at the bottom of the hill when one reached the beach road. We expected that the sign would discourage many folks who came this far to simply look around from venturing down the street. The sign is still in place, but there is also a sign at the bottom of the hill directing people to "Iverson Spit Park". Instead of discouraging visitors, we now have, in effect, "Hi-Ho, Come to the Park". We are puzzled as to when what we expected to be a preserve to be used primarily by nature lovers and bird-watchers became a park to which all manner of folks are directed as sort of an all-purpose recreation and beach destination.

We attended meetings similar to this one when the preserve was proposed, and we voiced our concerns then and in letters to county personnel. We were worried then that our quiet, peaceful street would be changed drastically by increased traffic, increased disregard for existing rules such as speed limits and leash laws, parking problems, and potential for more discarding of garbage. The trash issue has always concerned us along Sunrise Boulevard and Iverson. Is there really no better option for discarding beer cans, dirty diapers, etc., than to toss them out the car window along the road?

Many of our concerns seemed misplaced for some time as trails were built, off-road vehicle access to the dike area was curtailed, and traffic to the preserve seemed minimal and primarily limited to those interested in a walk along the trails or in bird life. We were actually pleased as friends of Camano parks made improvements to the area and it became a nice place to take a quiet stroll. Recently, however, perhaps because of an increase in fees for use of other island parks and perhaps because of promotion of the site as a recreational venue, things have changed.

This summer, especially, we have noticed a great increase in traffic speeding along Iverson Road and an unusual number of cars parked along the north end of the road. The parking issue has not yet impacted our place mid-way along the road, but the increase in traffic has been pronounced. We have heard tales from others of congestion, fouling by human and animal wastes, and other problems at the north end seriously impacting the lives of those with property nearer the preserve. The problems are exacerbated when the weather is great and residents are most likely to entertain guests and try to enjoy their beach properties. We wonder if the county has, if effect, created a bit of a monster in Iverson Spit "Park", and we understand that the county claims that it can not afford to manage the area as appears necessary. There are obvious problems, and there should be some solutions besides referral to budgetary shortfalls.

Having attended many meetings such as this, we also wonder if the intent is, as it often is, to give those with complaints a chance to vent before the powers that be go ahead with whatever course of action or inaction they deem appropriate or easiest. We get the impression that the county is paying a consultant to gather information and come up with "plans". Might it not be a better use of funds to have county employees charged with oversight of such areas make some decisions and fund the necessary actions to implement those decisions?

One of things that has not changed since we bought our house on Iverson is the presence of a seed-production operation on the west side of Iverson Road. We have no objection to farming activity in the neighborhood until it infringes on the rights and activities of residents. Such infringements come down to a

few things that bother us most. There are times during the farming season that chemicals are administered to the field and drift across the road to our homes. We have no idea of the toxicity or other potential effects of things that blow over our lawns and into our windows on warm days. Just 2 weeks ago, I was out doing lawn chores when a tractor began intensive spraying of the field. I curtailed my activity in the yard, went inside, and closed up the house. A second irritating problem is also related to airborne pollution. Dust, pollen, and other things resulting from various farm activities cross the street and settle on surfaces. This pretty much determines when one will wash the car or the house windows whether one wants to or not. And, a third is the problem of allergic reactions to various plants after maturity and before harvest. We have personally had serious reactions to Swiss chard, which can last for a month or more, and we have heard complaints from several neighbors about the fescue crop in recent years. We have heard stories of people who had to cancel planned activities or even attendance at their beach houses because of allergic reactions. Is there a way to restrict the crops planted to those that are more innocuous or have only minimal effects on the human immune system? In general, we wonder why the farm work takes precedence over the activities and convenience of residents.

Finally, we wonder why a meeting such as this has been scheduled for late September when many of the owners of property along Iverson Road are able to use their houses primarily during the summer months, after school ends in the spring and before it starts up again in the fall. Might there have been an opportune time between Memorial Day and Labor Day? Perhaps next time.

Finally, an aside. The grass along the west side of Iverson Road used to get mowed by the county regularly. We even thought they were over-doing it, cutting very frequently. This summer, the mowing seems to have come to an end. Weeds 3 to 4 feet high have grown up, and thistle seeds are blowing all over the neighborhood. Can the mowing continue on, perhaps, a two or three times a year basis?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We hope that our and other comments actually result in some actions by Island County that will minimize impacts on property owners who would like to use their properties as they see fit instead of having things imposed upon them without their knowledge or consent by activities sanctioned and encouraged by the county.

Eileen and Clarence Carlson
111 Iverson Road
Camano Island, WA 98282
Phone (360) 387-3401

11-09-26 Deabler Comments Iverson Spit Site Plan

From: DOUGLAS DEABLER [d_deab@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 1:10 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson Spit Site Plan

Hi Analiese,

We spoke on the phone regarding Iverson Spit and I promised you some comments via email, so here goes:

Best part of the spit: We use Iverrson spit quit a bit. It is one of the few, if not only, public accesses on Camano Island where there is a sandy beach. We often take our grand kids there to play in the shallow water and sand.

The other area at Iverson spit we enjoy is The Hobbit Trail. The grand kids love this place! A beaver dam and a few trees cut down by the beavers can easily be seen in the area around the Hobbit Trail. Combine that with the wildlife viewing and you have a kind of magical place.

To us, the most important things about Iverson Spit we would like to see preserved in their present condition is the beach area including access, and the area around the Hobbit trail.

Areas that need improvement: Parking. On a nice weekend summer day cars are lined up parked at least a quarter mile down the road from the spit. The road is not very wide and cars have to park partly on the road. I'm sure the local residents would appreciate an expanded parking are. It looks to me like the parking could easily be expanded to the west, beyond the chain link fence.

Biggest concern: Part of Iverson spit being taken over by The Skagit River Systems Coop (SRSC). The (SRSC) is asking for state funding to permanently flood the most used part of Camano Island State Park. Despite numerous public objections, the plan is moving forward. A significant portion of the beach picnic area is to be permanently flooded to create an estuary for salmon. The SRSC claims the area was once an estuary, however, research into public records, maps, and old photos proves that it was not. Camano Island State Park is a beautiful park which should be left in it's natural beauty.

The same applies to Iverson Spit. If SRSC gets their foot in the door, and my guess is they will try, they will take over part of the spit and that part will be off limits for recreational use.

Hope this helps.

Doug Deabler
Camano Island, WA

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IVERSON PRESERVE
SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY MEETING
(Sponsored by Island County and Northwest Ecological Services)

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Monday, Sept 26, 2011

6:00-7:00pm Introduction and Site Challenges
7:00-8:00pm Future Management and Uses

Camano Multi-Purpose Center
141 N East Camano Drive, Camano Island

Northwest Ecological Services has been hired by Island County to write a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. This is an opportunity to be heard, concerning the future use of the Preserve. Specifically: noxious and invasive weed control programs, woody vegetation management, ecosystem protection, assessment of potential vector issues, determination of low impact usages, rules and signage standards, site access and parking, maintenance and improvements methods, and projects to accommodate the many users, from salmonid to human, for the next decades to come.

If you are unable to attend, please send your comments to Northwest Ecological Services, Analiese Burns at 360-734-9484 or analiese@nwecological.com Please note that this is a Bellingham phone#. I talked to Analiese about my concerns regarding the meeting/sign on Iverson Rch. Rd. let's be heard! No "estuary" here!

PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS

Helen Smith

11-09-26 Responte Comments Iverson Beach 09262011 Meeting

From: Tanya_M_Responte@KeyBank.com
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 10:21 AM
To: 'analiese@nwecological.com'
Cc: matt.kane@kpcom.com; kevinc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM
Subject: Iverson Beach 09/26/2011 Meeting

To Analiese,

Unfortunately I will not be able attend the meeting on September 26th but would like to express a few concerns. I live at 145 Iverson and have acreage behind my house donated to the Island by the Iverson family. It was wonderful that the Iverson Family donated the acreage behind our beach homes. Island County did make some improvements over several years at the Preserve at Iverson spit.

Recently there has been a huge impact and influx of hundreds of people who use it for recreation of swimming fishing camping and pleasure boating. There needs to be additional parking and a better installation of restrooms. From the comments of our beach neighbors and myself we feel visitors are disrespecting our properties by disposing garbage and using unsanitary toilet procedures.

Island County has leased the beach fields of our beach homes to Chris Christianson for years. For several years the land was used for agriculture. Over recent years its use was grass seed. Since the grass seed in the back field the pollen from the fields have been unbearable. It comes across and settle everywhere in our yards and has many of my friends and family so sick they have had to leave and it ruins a lot of our families summer vacations.

There has also been a problem with speeding. A possible solution might be additional speed limit signs and slow down signs along our road.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Diane Responte

Best Regards,

Tanya M Responte

Tanya_M_Responte@KeyBank.com
Greenlake Assistant Manager
Work: 206-802-6200
Fax: 206-802-6210
Key.com

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11-09-27 Thompson Re Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

From: Stacey Thompson [mailto:stomp55@wildblue.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:33 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

I am disappointed in myself for missing the meeting. I'm on crutches due to a reaction to procedure I had on Friday. So I'm crippled

for another day or two but I remain personally vested in this project since I am a fisherperson and recreational boater, lover of the

beach, swimmer in the sea and beach comber. IN other words, I represent the public that uses the park. Access to beaches just exposes

more people to our beautiful natural resources and recreational opportunities, which in turn, gives more people a sense of ownership,

stewardship and breeds more environmentalists.

Lets make conservation a collaborative effort between residences and scientists, vacationers and bird populations.

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Version: 8.5.449 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3921 - Release Date: 09/26/11 18:35:00

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Version: 8.5.449 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3923 - Release Date: 09/27/11 18:34:00

11-09-27 Thompson RE Re Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan
From: Stacey Thompson [stomp55@wildblue.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:33 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
I am disappointed in myself for missing the meeting. I'm on crutches due to a reaction to procedure I had on Friday. So I'm crippled

for another day or two but I remain personally vested in this project since I am a fisherperson and recreational boater, lover of the

beach, swimmer in the sea and beach comber. IN other words, I represent the public that uses the park. Access to beaches just exposes

more people to our beautiful natural resources and recreational opportunities, which in turn, gives more people a sense of ownership,

stewardship and breeds more environmentalists.
Lets make conservation a collaborative effort between residences and scientists, vacationers and bird populations.

> Will this proposal block off the use of the area from people's public
> access
> to the beach? Will the public still be able to fish there in Port Susan
> after this Conservation Futures sets it aside? Fishing is very sustainable
> as it just recreational fisherpeople, not commercial or tribal fisherman
> who would not use the bay because it so shallow and mudflats stretch out
> forever. Sturgeon beach themselves on this beach and many people enjoy the
> fishing and eating.
> What I am saying is that the beach is a recreational area. The uplands
> where
> trails go thru the are what you want to conserve, right?
>

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Robert & Claudine Paczkowski
183 Iverson Road
Camano Island, WA 98282
Phone: 360 387-2487
September 26, 2011

Northwest Ecological Services
Attention: Analiese Burns
Phone: 360 734-9484

Reference: **Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan**

Dear Analiese,
The Iverson Preserve has been as issue in our minds even before the sale was approved and the preserve made a reality. During the ensuing years we have noticed several changes in Island County Personnel in charge of the property and that the initial promises have been forgotten and apparently not recorded. We are pleased that a Site Plan is finally being completed and will include directly affected home owner inputs. We have asked for this even at the time of the initial hearing with Bill Thorn trying to make it a reality.

The following is a summary of personal comments, concerns, and suggestions of my wife and me regarding the preserve:

1. First of all, let me say that much of the development has been thoughtfully completed and we feel the signs, trails, and beach access points are very nicely completed and maintained. There are probably some changes others may request, but we are pleased with the progress thus far even without a formal plan.

2. Our top priority of concern in the future is to keep the preserve an "inactive" park and that the current fields remain agricultural. To expand on this statement, we DO NOT WANT camping permitted (an "active" park), and we DO NOT WANT flooding of ANY part of the park or agricultural lands for salmon enhancement or for any other purpose. Your memo indicated you wanted to assess potential "vector issues" and also "salmonid" issues without an explanation of anything specific and we are concerned that this refers to flooding. We are aware of two previous attempts (we believe they were by the Tulalup Tribe) to flood this area for salmon habitat, and that would be an extremely bad development for all property owners at or near the beach. Placing raised

water retention surrounds would capture any water from breached bulkheads and insure flooding of the private homes as well as being unsightly.

3. Some home owners have allergies to pollen and have suggestions for other seed crops, but we personally have not had any ill effects in this regard and will no doubt be happy with any crop you choose to plant. Any crop is preferred to thoughts of flooding or more active development.

4. As to traffic issues, we are pleased that traffic has not been as significant as issue as we first thought. Most speeding problems seem to be owner guests, contractors, or unlicensed four wheeled vehicles and do not seem to occur in the middle of the week. Holidays and sunny weekends are where we see the speeders and in very few cases they appear to approach 50 mph past our home.

5. Parking is not an issue at the south end of the street, but can be an issue on the north end. We asked several times to not place the parking lot near the south park fence, but this was ignored. We believe that the parking lot entrance should be placed well into the park and be accessed only by driving into the park far enough to make parking on the street difficult. This can be easily accomplished by having traffic turn left at the north end of the street where farming equipment is sometimes stored and then turning right around a fence that would extend about 50 yards west of Iverson road and follow the fence into the current parking lot. Overflow would then be in the agricultural area where the farm equipment is sometimes stored. The current entrance should be permanently blocked. There should be no easy access from Iverson Road to discourage parking on the road. Placing the new entrance 50 or more yards west of the current entrance would eliminate most or all of the issues and there would be no difference to the walk into the park, and only a small difference in the drive. There is currently a utility road that could be easily modified and for little cost to resolve this issue.

6. A few years ago Bob was the chairman of the board of commissioners for the Long Beach Water District and is familiar with the water piping in the park. We feel that Island County should be fully aware that when the land was purchased, it included about 600 feet of 6 inch (internal diameter) water pipe with a terminal thrust block and clean out spigot, and about 100 ft of a spur pipe to a water hydrant west of the main pipe complete with a second thrust block. The yellow hydrant is currently covered with wild plant growth and not visible. As owners of this pipe, we believe it is the County's responsibility to repair these pipes in the event of a failure in a most expeditious manor. A major failure of any of these pipes would result in the release of about 16,000 gallons

of water from the Iverson Beach Water District storage tank, and service to the north end of the development would be terminated until the repairs are completed. There is no water shut off at the entrance to the park! Until and unless this pipe is terminated at the park entrance, we believe the park has responsibility for repairs in a timely manor. All land owners on the beach have the same responsibility; however, all residential locations have shut off valves located near the street. The main pipe in the park lies somewhere under the parking lot and may even have sign posts, and fence posts placed directly over the pipe. We do not know how deep the pipe is buried, but it may be as little as 2 feet. It is our hope that this issue is under discussion with the current Long Beach commissioners and will be resolved very soon.

7. Dogs off leash, trash, and beach foot traffic complete with dogs continue, but are considered minor issues.

Originally, the preserve was supposed to have no advertizing, very little parking, and minimum development. Currently we have ad's in the local paper, the Everett Harold, The Crab Cracker, and the Seattle Times along with guided buss tours during activities like the Bird Festival. This and all current development is a violation of the trust of the adjacent homeowners that we believe can be resolved with a working sight plan.

It is our hope that we can exist in a harmonious way so there are no big issues inside or outside the park. I believe the homeowners are willing to work with Island County, and the effort must be mutual.

Regards,

Robert & Claudine Paczkowski

Robert & Claudine Paczkowski
183 Iverson Road
Camano Island, WA 98282
Phone: 360 387-2487
September 28, 2011

Analiese Burns
Patrik Dylan
Steve (Assistant Director of Public Works)

Reference: Community Meeting regarding the Iverson Preserve

Following the meeting of September 26, 2011, we discussed what we heard at the meeting and what it meant. In our opinion, the issue boils down very simply to what is the proper use of the land. All of the problems revolve about the fact that some development of the Preserve was allowed without oversight of Island County, and that it was opened to the public without a detailed objective of meeting the purpose for which it was purchased.

As it now stands, the prime use of the area is to provide a place where dog owners can allow their pets to run, poop, pee, and play in the water off leash at all times of the year. There are limited sites where this is possible, and this seems to be the major attraction. On a few days in the summer, when the weather is particularly warm and inviting, we also see people who want to enjoy the beach and the warm water.

One individual who lives on Livingston beach indicated he comes to this area because he can allow his pet to run off leash and play in the water. He lives on the water, but apparently they don't allow dogs on the beach!

There was a question asked or perhaps a comment about how good the trails were developed; I would ask how can we know if these trails are good since none of the rest of the area was studied nor do we know if the trails meet the Preserve objectives. I really don't think dog walks and off leash dog experiences are the original intent of the Preserve.

There are several major issues:

1. The Preserve currently does not and cannot meet any goal of preserving bird and animal habitat and sanctuary with all the dogs allowed to run free to do dog activities. This Preserve is literally "Going to the Dogs". In our opinion, this is the

major abuses of the land and water that must be stopped. If an off leash dog area is required, then create a separate closed fenced area in “Freedom Park” or in the agricultural area well away from the animal habitat and the water. The pollution of the land and especially the water by dog poop and urine must not be tolerated.

2. Parking must be contained and controlled within the Preserve boundaries. Solutions for parking presented at the meeting are very simple and easily implemented by opening the existing fence entrance currently used for farm implements, and closing the other two gates accessible from the end of the road. Parking can be on the grass or a simple road cut to the existing parking area.
3. Disregard for private property to access fishing areas needs to be resolved. This is clearly trespassing caused by the formation of the Preserve.
4. All of the dog-off-leash and fisherman issues can be significantly reduced by the frequent appearance of law officers who actually will write citations.

Regards,

Bob & Claudine Paczkowski
360 387-2487

11-10-12 Myers Iverson Preserve Management Plan

From: GREG MYERS [myers91@wavecable.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 10:25 AM
To: s.marx@co.island.wa.us; analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson Preserve Management Plan

Steve & Analiese -
In reading through the comments form the 9/26/11 meeting I did not see any comments regarding the large coyote population in the area. Mostly in the evenings, but occasionally during the day, howling of coyotes and sitings are common-place. This mostlyt occurs in the wooded area on the westside of Iverson Rd (starting at the intersection of Moe, Iverson, and Iverson Bead Rd) continuing north into the woods to the west of the public beach and into the agricultural leased land and along the trails. There have also been numerous sitings along the beach and in the fields and woods south of Iverson Beach Rd. Due to the many bird feathers and carcases found in these areas, I suspect that is the primary reason for the reduction of bird sitings in the preserve. For us that walk early we see the coyotes in the agriculture field and migrating from the water sources back to the woods.
Greg Myers
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Re: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?From: Carol Triplett [ctrips@wavecable.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 6:25 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?
That is a vehicle access and equipment for the farm and to get up the road to the slough area. There is also a small beach access between a couple of properties down toward the road T just after you make the left hand turn toward the park. Property owners have bulkheaded it to protect their properties. Carol

On 10/13/11 3:10 PM, "analiese@nwecological.com" <analiese@nwecological.com> wrote:

Hello Tom, Carol, Bob, and Helen,

I was hoping you could help me clarify an item for the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan. The draft Island County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report shows a public access point at the southern end of Iverson Preserve (indicated below with a star). Do you know if this is accurate? I want to make sure the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan is correct, we do not have access shown at this location.

Note- I am also aware that the trail graphic is inaccurate and have already mentioned this item to Karen Stewart at Island County Planning.

Thank You!

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP
Northwest Ecological Services, LLC
1911 C Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
O 360.734.9484
C 360.920.0512
www.nwecological.com <http://www.nwecological.com>

For FOCIP business please use FOCIP.CarolT@gmail.com

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11-10-14 Clark RE Iverson Preserve- Site Access

From: Kevin Clark [kevinc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Steve Marx; analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?

Steve & Analiese:

I received an series of e-mails from property owners in my e-mail box this morning when I came into work. Appears you've got non-beach property owners engaged in promoting even more public access to even more of the Iverson beach? Result is I've now got 8 e-mails this morning and pot appears to be boiling hotter. Property owners know they own their beach property and that the "public access" stars noted were put there by the Iversons in the 1950's to preserve access for the future development of the back farm property. These back property parcels have never been developed so the easement or whatever designation so given has never been challenged by property owners as nobody claimed they had the right to use it.

Believe many of the stars are on properties have bulkheads between the adjacent properties that would be virtually impossible to get over and down the beach. Due to recent storms many of the properties have lost their beach side yards and have had to build permanent and substantial bulkheads. Bulkheads are part of the dike system that protects and preserves the entire beach community and Preserve. Add to that many have fences or landscaping that make the access from the road to the beach something one would question who owns and controls (access isn't clearly denoted).

The stars on the map below as shown are what I believe are easements for access to the beach as laid out by the Iversons at the time the parcels were platted back in the 1950's. Would you know if the parcels are actually property of the adjacent property owners (that merely have an easement) or 20'wide parcels of property purchased by the County at the time the Iverson's sold. How were they recorded by the County that now allows someone to list it as "public access" – that's my question. Are the access points County owned property or a stale and not used easement retained by the Iversons until their sale?

I believe the most northern star is between my lot and the property to the north. The beach is not accessible through that 20' swath. Between my neighbor's old and mature landscaping (been there since I've been a property owner – 30-40 years) and the massive amount of tall driftwood that presently runs along the shore of the beach properties (including the beach access star location) allows us from having to build bulkheads – the public couldn't get to the beach without trespassing into my yard and across my wood boardwalk . I don't want that to be an issue now or in the future – I have enough of a challenge dealing with public using our beach logs for picnics and toilets.

I know that the Bradley's (my next door neighbor) and I would have to challenge anyone cutting a path through the 50'+ wide pile of logs and rotting driftwood to make beach access as it preserves the dike as it stands today. Since the logs constantly move and are added to there is no such ability to clear public access on a consistent basis. I know, I rebuild my boardwalk every year.

I would guess that the other "starred" public access points to the south have the

same issue, or more likely the property owners on both sides of the public access have put their mutual bulkheads together through the public access “parcel” so there is no beach access. You can walk from the road to the beach, but there is no stairway up and over the bulkhead.

Is there any way to get you to remove these star’s and description for the present so that we don’t open Pandora’s box with the public believing they can now park and walk through areas that are not clearly marked? Something for a future community dialog? I know the County doesn’t have the budget to maintain these public access points if the property truly does belong to the County. I know that if public access is demanded and granted many of the adjacent property owners would fence and then stop mowing or maintaining the public property so that eventually the blackberries, Oregon grape and other weeds will make public access limited, if not impossible. Add to that you don’t have sufficient funds to deal with parking even further south of the Preserve (remember the mantra – if you build it they will come) – let alone proper signage to protect the private property owners as the public would then be limited to not venturing off the 20’ wide piece of beach?

Just my concerns I felt you and the team should be aware of.

Kevin Clark

17 S Iverson Road

206-623-1445 ext 104 (work)

-----Original Message-----
From: analiese@nwecological.com [mailto:analiese@nwecological.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 3:11 PM
To: tveis@juno.com; 'Carol Triplett'; rgbrown926@aol.com; helen@geraldsmith.com
Cc: 'Vikki Jackson'; 'Noah D. Booker'; 'Patrik Dylan (eccosDesign)'
Subject: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?

Hello Tom, Carol, Bob, and Helen,

I was hoping you could help me clarify an item for the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan. The draft Island County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report shows a public access point at the southern end of Iverson Preserve (indicated below with a star). Do you know if this is accurate? I want to make sure the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan is correct, we do not have access shown at this location.

Note- I am also aware that the trail graphic is inaccurate and have already mentioned this item to Karen Stewart at Island County Planning.

Thank You!

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

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11-10-14 Eissenburg Re Iverson Preserve- Site Access

From: tveis@juno.com
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 9:20 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?

You have 4 stars marking access sites? The 2 northern most I am assuming are the stair ways over the dike. The next star appears to be at the southern boundary of the preserve. Is that the stair access with the viewing platform? The 4th and most southerly star appears to be completely off the park site? If this is correct the 4th star could represent one of the 4 or 5 public access sites that were part of the original Iverson development plan. These access spots were narrow public access point between lots at fairly regularly intervals. Let me know if I have got this straight.----------Tom

---

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Mom Reveals $5 Wrinkle Trick That Has Angered Doctors!
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From: Helen Smith [helen@geraldsmith.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2011 7:24 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: RE: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Analyze, Thanks for the FYI, and information sent. I find this map very confusing. If the stars indicate access to the preserve, they don't necessarily correspond with my memory of the site. Only the top (northernmost) star makes sense to me. If the other stars are the public end-of-street access sites to the private beach, then they make sense, but they are located quite far from the preserve, some more than a half mile south. An aerial map would be more readable. You're right, the trails don't match. It's possible that the trail up the hill which passes through an easement road for the Long Beach water company is the route from the preserve to the west/south exiting on Moe/Iverson Beach Rd.

There is a gate at the southern end of the field where the farmer has access to the field portion, and there is no road access across the field. The furthest south star is in a bluff area-no access- and the "modified or red area near it, must be the private boat launch. Both of these are not part of the preserve. The blue line is not a stream but is actually a ditch that surrounds the field whose level moderates according to the height of the tide. It comes in the tide gate, but where that is I am not sure. I don't know if the northern-most blue line is actually a stream either. I do know that it flows west as it crosses Sunrise Blvd., but I believe it to be a seep that is dry much of the year like the one that comes down beside our road from the hill. Neither are regular streams until late fall, dry by July.

Most home owners own 600 feet out into the tidelands on this island, so public access to the beach is only for the 20 foot areas (end of street access), and of course there are no facilities at those access points. When the public is encouraged to spend longer time than a bird walk along trails allows, then facilities are needed. We are grateful for the sane-can at the preserve, but for some it is apparently inconvenient, and the beach is used. Originally the preserve included a vault toilet, parking lot and phone. While the phone is moot at this point, a better answer than the sane-can would help.

Basically, the area has been a dog run and a place to come enjoy the beach for families. Both uses, if managed, are compatible with the preserve. Dogs on leash signs must be highlighted, or else the birds disappear. Good luck dealing with the residents on this. Helen Smith

-----Original Message-----
From: analiese@nwecological.com [mailto:analiese@nwecological.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 3:11 PM
To: tveis@juno.com; 'Carol Triplett'; rgbrown926@aol.com; helen@geraldsmith.com
Cc: 'Vikki Jackson'; 'Noah D. Booker'; 'Patrik Dylan (eccosDesign)'
Subject: Iverson Preserve- Site Access?

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Note- I am also aware that the trail graphic is inaccurate and have already mentioned this item to Karen Stewart at Island County Planning.

Thank You!

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

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11-10-17 Brock Re Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

From: wes&barbarabrock [wbbrock@wavecable.com]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 3:15 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

Hi- I have 3 main short-term concerns for Iverson Preserve.

1. There REALLY need to be Porta Potties available year round. Without them, all sorts of problems result.

2. Parking issues need to be addressed. On a busy weekend, the current parking is not adequate.

3. The fencing/walkways on the 3rd dike cross-over need to be coordinated. Currently, the only way to get to the walkway on the top of the dike, is to go around the fence and up the side of the dike, rather that using the stairs! Originally, there was not a path along the top of the dike. The stairs and fencing were installed accordingly. When the path along the top of the dike was opened up, the fencing was never changed.

Thanks for contacting me for my input.

Barbara Brock

On Oct 17, 2011, at 10:25 AM, <analiese@nwecological.com> wrote:

Hello Barbara,

The meeting was just an information gathering, verbal group discussion. If you prefer, you are welcome to call me and we can discuss the project over the phone. I am available Tuesday 10/28 from noon-4pm and Wednesday 9am-10am, feel free to call 360-920-0512. Thank you!

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP
Northwest Ecological Services, LLC
1911 C Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
O 360.734.9484
C 360.920.0512
www.nwecological.com

From: wes&barbarabrock [mailto:wbbrock@wavecable.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 4:38 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Re: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

Thank you for contacting me regarding Iverson Preserve. I have spent considerable time there and definitely have an interest in future plans. I was unable to attend the Sept. 26 meeting as I was out of town for medical treatment. It would help me in responding to your inquiry if you could please email copies of the info presented at that Sept. 26 meeting. Thank you very much.

Barbara Brock

On Oct 13, 2011, at 2:36 PM, <analiese@nwecological.com> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Analiese Burns and I am an ecologist with Northwest Ecological Services. Island County Public Works recently hired my firm to complete a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. We recently held a public meeting on Camano Island, unfortunately, I only recently learned that you are a potential stakeholder. Although I wish you could have attended the public meeting, I would be most grateful if you would share your thoughts about the site. Specifically, I am interested in the following:

1) What is working well at the site
2) What is not working well at the site
3) Any suggestions on how to improve the site

Unfortunately, due to funding requirements the draft Site Management Plan is due Oct. 31st so your prompt response is much appreciated. I will also be sure to include you on an e-mail list-serve so you are notified when the draft Plan is open for comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time.

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP
Northwest Ecological Services, LLC
1911 C Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
O 360.734.9484
C 360.920.0512
www.nwecological.com

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11-10-18 Edison Fwd Allhands Fwd Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
From: Allison Warner [allisivy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 9:10 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Fwd: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
Another one.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: John Edison <jeedison@frontier.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 3:44 PM
Subject: Re: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
To: Allison Warner <allisivy@gmail.com>

Allison: Speaking on behalf of myself and several birders and hikers, there is a problem with off leash dogs. There is also a problem with people not scooping dog poop from their dogs. Also, invasive scotch broom is taking over. Thank you for asking for my input. John Edison

----- Original Message -----
From: Allison Warner
To: allhands@camanocare.org ; res0t6c3@frontier.com
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 2:57 PM
Subject: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

For those of you who would like to provide input and couldn't attend the meeting. Your input to me for CARE's letter of input would also be helpful. I know many of you use the site and have ideas for it.
Allison

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <analiese@nwecological.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
To: analiese@nwecological.com

Hello,

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Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

_____
Allhands mailing list
Allhands@camanocare.org
http://camanocare.org/mailman/listinfo/allhands_camanocare.org

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11-10-18 Powell RE Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
From: Pat Powell [pat@wclt.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 7:02 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Cc: chris@wclt.org
Subject: RE: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: NCWC LB Final grant 6.21.05.pdf; SRFB apln partial info.doc

Hi Analiese. Thank you for your email about Iverson Preserve. We are most interested in keeping the site as natural as possible for quiet nature enjoyment. This means to limit infrastructure and improvements that would encourage recreational uses that are not in keeping with this goal, e.g., don't encourage activities that would interfere with bird-watching and nature enjoyment (such as kite flying, motorized airplanes, active games, off-leash dog area, large congregations of people because of many picnic tables, etc.). In addition, ensure the parking lot does not allow for too many users to use the site at one time – limit overcrowding by limiting parking.

We own the 3160 acres of tidelands and part of these are adjacent to Iverson Preserve. The Livingston Bay ecosystem that Iverson is part of is a very important fish and wildlife area. I have enclosed a copies of two grant application for two grants we secured to help acquire these tidelands and upland properties. Although a bit tedious, there is quite a bit of information about why this area is so important, especially for water birds of all types.

Thanks for sending this and please do add my to your email list. If you have questions, please feel free to call me.

Pat

Patricia Powell
Executive Director

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253
(360) 222-3310 (360) 222-3510 fax
pat@wclt.org

Protecting our Islands' natural habitats, scenic views and working farms

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From: analiese@nwecological.com [mailto:analiese@nwecological.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 2:37 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

Hello,

11-10-18 Powell RE Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

My name is Analiese Burns and I am an ecologist with Northwest Ecological Services. Island County Public Works recently hired my firm to complete a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. We recently held a public meeting on Camano Island, unfortunately, I only recently learned that you are a potential stakeholder. Although I wish you could have attended the public meeting, I would be most grateful if you would share your thoughts about the site. Specifically, I am interested in the following:

1) What is working well at the site

2) What is not working well at the site

3) Any suggestions on how to improve the site

Unfortunately, due to funding requirements the draft Site Management Plan is due Oct. 31st so your prompt response is much appreciated. I will also be sure to include you on an e-mail list-serve so you are notified when the draft Plan is open for comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time.

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

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11-10-18 Pritzl Fwd Allhands Fwd Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
From: Allison Warner [allisivy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 9:09 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Fwd: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
One of the responses we got.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Pam Pritzl <ppritzl@frontier.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 14, 2011 at 4:33 AM
Subject: Re: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
To: Allison Warner <allisivy@gmail.com>

Hi Alison,
I think the trails and FOCIP's input on managing those trails is working well.
I would hope that bird hunting would be banned at this property, dogs on leash be enforced (ongoing problem at many places), and removal of invasive plants (esp. scotch broom) be undertaken vigorously.
I never go there on holidays and understand from some of the residents that huge numbers of people use this area and cause parking problems and trespassing on private property problems. There should be better signage.
Iverson is the premier birding/natural history spot on CI.
Pam Pritzl

----- Original Message -----
From: Allison Warner
To: allhands@camanocare.org ; res0t6c3@frontier.com
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 2:57 PM
Subject: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

For those of you who would like to provide input and couldn't attend the meeting. Your input to me for CARE's letter of input would also be helpful. I know many of you use the site and have ideas for it.
Allison

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <analiese@nwecological.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
To: analiese@nwecological.com

Hello,

My name is Analiese Burns and I am an ecologist with Northwest Ecological Services. Island County Public Works recently hired my firm to complete a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. We recently held a public meeting on Camano Island, unfortunately, I only recently learned that you are a potential stakeholder. Although I wish you could have attended the public meeting, I would be most grateful if you would share your thoughts about the site. Specifically, I am interested in the following:

1) What is working well at the site

11-10-18 Pritzl Fwd Allhands Fwd Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

2) What is not working well at the site

3) Any suggestions on how to improve the site

Unfortunately, due to funding requirements the draft Site Management Plan is due Oct. 31st so your prompt response is much appreciated. I will also be sure to include you on an e-mail list-serve so you are notified when the draft Plan is open for comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time.

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

_____
Allhands mailing list
Allhands@camanocare.org
http://camanocare.org/mailman/listinfo/allhands_camanocare.org

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Iverson Preserve Comment Card

Island County and Northwest Ecological Services are working together to create a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. A plan will only be successful with your help! We hope you will share your thoughts, experiences and suggestions about the following topic areas: plants/vegetation, ecosystem protection, site uses, site amenities, and site parking/access. The area is gorgeous - wonderful! Little needs to be changed.

1. Doggie Poop-Scoop Baggies
2. Trash can
3. Some expanded parking - maybe into the field for summer only ??
4. Marked parking spaces (to efficiently utilize parking already available
5. Extra funding to Camano Friends of Parks for the great maintenance they already do! ☺

NW ECOLOGICAL SERVICES eccosDesign ISLAND COUNTY

Please submit comments by **October 7, 2011.**
Questions? Call or e-mail Analiese at
360-734-9484 analiese@nwecological.com

APPENDIX C: DRAFT PLAN COMMENTS

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Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

M E M O R A D U M

RE: Guidance from Island County on Key Public Comments
From: Analiese Burns, Northwest Ecological Services, LLC
Date: November 23, 2011

This memorandum is intended to document guidance provided by Island County Public Works Department to the consulting design team on how to address "key" comments received on the **Draft** Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan. These "key" comments are traffic-related comments received from multiple citizens.

PARKING

Alternatives: The Site Management Plan should provide Parking alternatives rather than one design concept. Island County and the public can weigh the benefits and constraints of each alternative to determine the most appropriate approach.

No Parking Signage: Iverson Road is a County road, not a private road. Island County policy is to not prohibit parking on County roads. It is Island County Public Works policy not to prevent roadside parking through the use of curbs or other physical barriers. "No Parking" is an ordinance and applies to everyone equally, violating this ordinance would be a crime. Island County would consider posting No Parking signs along Iverson Road IF it was citizen-advocated, had neighborhood support, and no parking was universal (applied to residents as well as visitors). The Island County Board of Commissioners would need to make the final decision.

Enforcement: Enforcing No Parking along Iverson Road would be a challenge. Camano Island is a relatively rural community with limited sheriff resources. Private tow company enforcement is not allowed on County road right-of-ways. Tow signs could only be placed within the boundaries of the Preserve.

Traffic/Access: It is Island County Public Works policy not to install speed bumps on County roads nor to alter the speed limit lower than the standard 25 MPH.

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360.734.9484 – www.nwecological.com

Alternative Access Road:

Accessing a parking lot via a road on the west side of the farm field is not economically viable. Preliminary agency estimates place the cost of this access at $300,000 to $400,000 dollars.

PROJECT LIMITATIONS

Although the project team feels strongly that addressing site access and parking issues are critical to successful operation and management of the Preserve, the Site Management Plan addresses these topics in concept form only. Additional public outreach and additional engineering design work are needed to bring these ideas to fruition.

Iverson Preserve
Draft Site Management Plan
Public Comments on Draft

Source	Page #	Paragraph #	Comment	Suggested change	Response (to be completed by Island County representative)
R. Holmes	21	N/A	Environmental education is an existing use at the Preserve and should be addressed in this section.	Discuss use of the Preserve for environmental education by grade school children (and other groups, e.g. Beach Watchers et al.)	
R. Holmes	30	N/A	Section 6.0, Site Management Recommendations does not discuss environmental education.	Discuss how the Preserve will be used for environmental education.	
D. Celeen		2.2.1 Managed Agriculture	To my recollection the main drainage ditches have been in place since the early 1950's or before.		
D. Celeen		2.2.2 Fish and Wildlife	We have seen deer within and outside the preserve boundaries. This also goes for Canadian Geese which show up in late fall or early winter and stay until Spring.		
D. Celeen		2.3.3 Dogs		Leave the on leash regulation in place but designate a off leash area in the north part of the field by the parking area in suggested parking plan 1 and 2.	

D. Celeen		4.2.5 Hunting	I have observed over the past two weekends hunting taking place within the preserve. The hunters in fact have bypassed the normal parking area and went threw the north field past the drainage ditch going over the burm and into the preserves interior. I believe they hunted on the beach, for I heard multiple shots coming from that area. One of my neighbors was with his kids in the preserve when one incident happened and needless to say the shots got their attention real quick. I've been told by the county per phone call that its legal to hunt in the preserve if it's done from the shoreline per your statement this is not true. This issue needs to be cleared up.		
D. Celeen		6.1.1 Parking	For the proposed parking plan suggestions: I prefer plan #3 for the reason that it would decrease traffic on Iverson road and make the usage of the preserve more limited because of the long distance from the parking to the preserve. Therefor helping to preserve the preserve. Although there probably will be a high degree of drop off then park occurring. My second choice is option #2.		

J. Holmes	36	6	Traffic/Speeding	At the time of the purchase of the road was to run along the bluff at the west edge of the property in order to take the increased traffic load off the existing narrow South Iverson Road. It would appear this solution would solve the problem we are faced with today. If this was tied in with the purposed parking lot at the base of the hill the cost to extend the road to the Preserve should be nominal in comparison to the other alternatives. It would appear the requirements necessary to acquire a permit for a new preserve would demand adequate traffic flow and parking. This should apply to this plan as well.	
R. & C. Paczkowski		6.1.1 Parking	Any of the three parking locations are acceptable, especially with the addition of the [road at the west end of the farm].		
R. & C. Paczkowski			"No Parking" signs along the west side of Iverson Beach Road as indicated in each of the plans are not acceptable to the local residents along Iverson road. It probably would be OK along Iverson Beach Road between the access point to Option #3 parking and the stop sign. The west side of Iverson road must be		

			accessible to visitors of the home owners for parking at all times, but especially in the summer months.		
R. & C. Paczkowski			There is no mention of an "off-leash" dog area or control of dogs off leash. Dogs and lack of control by the owners are and will continue to be a major factor in the use of the preserve and adjacent beaches. The dog issues by the water and on the trails must be addressed for successful control of the land. This includes aggressive dogs, dogs agitating the natural bird life, excessive barking, dogs off leash, and dog feces in and near the water.		
R. & C. Paczkowski			Iverson Road no longer uses the "S" designation. It is an obsolete modifier apparently used in the past as a help to the fire department when the Island was separated into North and South areas. The postal service asked us to drop the "S" designation.		
R. & C. Paczkowski			The traffic counters were placed off-season during rainy and cold weather and are not representative of usual traffic patterns.		
K. Clark			The document grossly understates the recent peak usage of the Preserve and fails to address the reality that it has become an "active" recreational		

			property. Parking for 30 vehicles is inadequate.		
K. Clark		6.1.1 Parking	If I were to choose design which allowed Island County to limit use of the Preserve, I would support option 3 with a larger parking lot and signage/enforcement to stop people from parking along the north end of Iverson Road otherwise the south end parking lot and new trail system will not be used.		
K. Clark			Is Island County, the property owner of the preserve, prepared to spend the time and money to properly create a safe recreational beach with adequate parking, toilets, garbage pick-up and policing to enforce rules of behavior and time of operations (closed at dusk) or is Island County going to reduce the visitor "demand" on the Preserve by reducing easy "beach" access for the public by moving the parking lot to the very south of its property…until such time as it has the time and funds to properly do a master plan…		
K. Clark			The document does well on the vegetation, wildlife, critical watershed and wetland issues but		

			treads lightly on the issue of high beach use.		
K .Clark			The community road wasn't designed for the current volume of traffic.		
K. Clark			There absolutely needs to be sanitation (toilets and garbage pickup) demanded by high volume of people and length of stay.		
K. Clark		6.1.1 Parking	Can the objectives of preserving the critical aspects of the preserve be met with the three parking options?		
K. Clark			I don't think the document lays out clearly what parking and public access options 1-3 will do to the Preserve and how it will impact the local property owners. How is the County going to address the issues of the residents of Iverson Road when user volumes are increasing?		
B. Brock			Happy to see it was important for short term decisions to consider possible long term interest in considering salmon recovery issues, should future studies show that this would be possible without adverse impact to the existing residential area.		

B. Brock			Important point is different environments between the high energy shoreline along southern sections, and the low energy environment along the northern edge- they require different management.		
B. Brock			May be difficult to fund short-term goals given current economy and budget constraints.		
B. Brock			Glad to see porta-pottys recommended year-round. A dog poop station is good if it can be serviced.		
B. Brock		6.1.1 Parking	I favor parking Alternative #1, it has the least impact on the resource for future planning. Alt #2 is in the middle of possible future use, Alt #3 is far away from the beach and seriously limits use to only the more able-bodied.		
B. Brock		4.0 Opportunities & Challenges	Tide gate flap is not moveable, despite County maintenance. The main beaver activity is approximately 100 feet upstream of the tide gate and has had the affect of raising the water level upstream, rather than affecting the tide gate action. Wire mesh fencing upstream of the tide gate has kept the beavers from damming		

			there. Further study may hold the key to water stagnation/mosquito issues for the entire Preserve.		
B. Brock	17			Page 17 mentions that Great Blue Heron occur with the Preserve. I would add that the shores of Iverson Preserve are a very important feeding ground for many Great Blue Heron as there is a major Heronery within 2 miles.	
B. Brock	18			Page 18 mentions that Ospreys are summer residents and would be expected to forage in the habitats at the Preserve. I would add that there are several active osprey nests just across Port Susan Bay by the mouth of Hatt Slough, and 3-4 additional osprey nests just a few miles north in Skagit Bay along West Pass	
B. Brock	23			Page 23 mentions that Whidbey-Camano Land Trust owns over 3,000 acres in Port Susan Bay. I would also mention that in addition, The Nature Conservancy owns over 4000 adjacent acres in Port Susan Bay and on the mainland.	
B. Brock	Appendix A		The Port Susan and Stillaguamish River 1886 US Coast and Geodetic Survery map, provides an excellent overview		

			of how much habitat once existed and what has been lost between the time of the mapping and the present, and emphasizes the importance of Iverson Preserve.		
B. Mullenberg			High traffic volumes on Iverson Road, increased in 2010. It seemed like every 2-3 minutes we had to pull our toddler off the road while doing a neighborhood walk.		
B. Mullenberg		6.1.1 Parking	I would like to see it noted that once alternative # 3 is met as for parking that Iverson road would no longer be used except for handicap parking access to the preserve and emergency vehicles. In my opinion it is very important to have a long term goal of getting all traffic off and keeping it for the private residences of Iverson road, except for those who are unable to get to the preserve without assistance.		
B. Mullenberg		6.1.1 Parking	I would like to suggest that a small parking fee be added to generate revenue to more quickly move the preserve from its short term targets to long term targets. This parking fee could also be used to pay for regular garbage pickup to the preserve during the summer months and/or staff to cleanup the preserve (my		

			toddler found a condom in the preserve parking lot this summer). It would seem to me that with the increased traffic to the preserve will come more waste, litter, etc.. and being a preserve I believe its important to keep the site and beach clean.		
B. Mullenberg			As for a few other comments and smaller concerns, they would be the increase in crime in our community due to the increased traffic to the area. 2 months ago at 4 AM, someone lit our a parked trailer in our yard on fire ?? and I have heard of other neighbors being robbed. Because we are a small community who knows one another, If we can eventually restore the dead end road and have it marked "for private access only" I believe it could reduce crime to our homes.		
R. Hilton			The road is narrow. Putting lines on it may remind people it's narrow, but they can already see that it is, indeed, narrow. It won't provide more driving space. Speed bumps? Do they work? Making it wider…you can see how close the road is to many of the houses. Yes, I recognize that there is an easement but just because		

			widening it might be legal doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Aside from the impact on the neighborhood, and the invitation to more and faster traffic, there is the issue of drainage. This beach can be a mess during winter storms and there is often water (and driftwood) on the road. More pavement will mean less drainage.		
R. Hilton			Parking. The idea of the no parking signs (hopefully with resident permits allowed) isn't bad, but will enforce it? The parking lots are an interesting idea but really, how many people will walk from the south end of the beach? They'll be parking up by the current entrance unless it's closed off, and then will require to be fenced and gated.		
R. Hilton			The beach in front of the houses is private property. Yes, we can put signs up, but again—what are the chances of enforcement? I don't mind small numbers of people strolling the beach, but I do object to an open invitation and no means to control access.		

R. Hilton			Without more oversight and enforcement of "rules"—which means an adequate, dedicated budget--this park is a disaster. Could it be a good thing? Of course, but it would require more money, time, and attention than is realistic to expect from the county. Honestly, the county didn't have money to develop and manage the existing site. Why on earth did it allow development? And why should we believe that anything better will be done in this next round?		
R. Hilton				Close the current entrance, allow no parking in the current site, and route people to parking lots on the current farmland. This would serve to keep the cars off Iverson Rd (I hope) and if people are aware this is no parking or easy entrance at that end hopefully they would not be driving up and down the road looking for parking.	
R. Hilton				Provide better signage (no pet signs easier to see, fines listed for violations of rules, etc) , garbage management, and sanitary facilities. Again, to be effective requires management (and funds).	

R. Hilton			Have routine and frequent inspection with personnel authorized to fine those abusing the place (fires, camping, etc). Effectivness? See above.		
R. Hilton				Coordinate with the state. I recognize that it is a separate governmental agency, but clearly the actions of the state in regards to the state park on the island is going to impact other public spaces. I'm thinking two things specifically: a—Instead of throwing more money at the Iverson site, partner with the state to make the state park, which already has public services in place, more accessible. Help with maintenance expense? Offset parking expenses? Whatever. b—Coordinate access/parking policies. If the state is going to charge parking or user fees, other public parks without those fees will feel the fallout. If the state charges, the county should as well. If the state doesn't, there won't be as great a need for the county to. We are in the time of user fees, and it looks to me like it's time to institute	

				them for these kinds of parks and then designate those fees for park support.	
J. Schrammeck		6.1.1 Parking	I dislike parking alternative 3. The idea of moving parking a long way away from the current parking area is untenable in my opinion. It would be difficult to carry items, babies, children, picnic baskets, blankets, towels, binoculars, etc. Therefore, I am NOT in favor of item 1 under Long Term at the top of page 36 (when funding is available, evaluate longer term benefits of alternative three for possible final location of parking).		
J. Schrammeck		6.1.3 Traffic/Speeding		I suggest putting in an electronic sign that reads how fast the car is moving with a reminder of how low the speed limit is.	
J. Schrammeck		6.1.5 Support Facilities	I'm not sure I understand why it is a good thing to remove the trash can? Is it too expensive to have trash pickup service? Does it blow over? Of course, I am not opposed to a packing trash out policy, I just think most people will put trash in the trash can if it's available to them.		

J. Schrammeck		6.1.7 Trails		I appreciate the steps and railings up and over the existing dike but it is not easy to carry a kayak from my car to the water's edge. I think there should be an entrance that is "straight" up and down to make it easier. I like the rest of the Trails plan.	
J. Schrammeck		Access	how does a disabled person get to the beach, or a person in a wheelchair? Is this plan ADA compliant?		
J. Schrammeck		6.2.1 Agricultural Production		I think the lease should include requirements that the farm does not use chemicals or pesticides at all.	
J. Schrammeck		6.2.2 Ecosystem Protection	I just want to report that I have never observed smelt spawning. On the beach near where I live, I frequently see smelt spawning. I understand that smelt spawn at high tide on pebble-beaches. Only some small sections of Iverson Preserve beaches are pebbles.		
J. Schrammeck		6.2.4 Noxious Weeds		Add signage explaining which weeds are noxious so that people leave educated to spot noxious weeds in their own yards. Also: are chemical controls appropriate at this location?	

J. Griffith		2.2 and 4.2	The draft plan does mention the value of the salmonid habitat that was lost to diking in the 1940's, but I think it may be good to point out that this loss of rearing habitat meant a direct loss of adult salmon coming back to spawn. Back of the envelope calcs (based on our local sampling data, and published studies by Greg Hood and others) would indicate that a fully restored Iverson could rear several thousand juvenile Chinook and many thousand other salmonids. Interesting no money is generated from leasing the land behind the dikes, seems like restoring it for salmon would be a better investment (and cut down on traffic for the neighbors!). Commercial/recreational fishing bring in a lot of money, and are limited by poor habitat currently. It is important to stress that while some restoration feasibility work has been done, there are still some data gaps cited in the reports. Further work (if allowed by concerned citizens) could go a long way in helping folks understand what a restored landscape would look and function like. Fear of the unknown seems to be prevalent in the local		

			community currently. Based on my years spent on Port Susan, I think that the threat of flooding is not from behind them (where there is no fetch) but from the storm surge coming up Port Susan from the south (further work would help flesh out the flooding threat). While it may be disconcerting to have water surrounding the spit, any overflow past the seawalls could be dealt with with tide gates in any new set-back dike fairly easily.		
J. Griffith		6.1.1 Parking	Parking options 1 or 3 would be preferable as they don't hinder future restoration opportunities as much.		
J. Griffith		6.1.6 Rules/Signage Standards		Was there any talk of interpretive signage that could stress the importance of estuaries for shorebirds, forage fish, and salmon?	
J. Griffith		Appendix A		I think it would be good to have a enlargement of the T-sheet to show the habitat that was lost by diking and draining.	
E. Egbers		6.1.1 Parking	The "preserve" as it now exists has seriously compromised that feeling of safety and peacefulness.	Based on the three presented options only the third seems to reduce (slightly) the impacts to the residents. If the county respects the current (and future) residents along the beach, reduce the impact by	

				instituting option 3. Reduce the number of parking spaces, minimize the user friendly services and appurtences, and encourage the use of existing beach access such as the state parks.	

11-11-04 Carlson Wow

From: clarcarl@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2011 4:04 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Wow

We think that you have done an excellent job. We originally doubted that much would result from the public meeting and comments, but we were wrong. If this plan is implemented, we believe that most of the concerns of homeowners on Iverson Road will be addressed and remedied. Nice work! It is up to the county now to follow up.

Clarence and Eileen Carlson
111 Iverson Road

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Iverson Preserve
Draft Site Management Plan
Public Comment Sheet

Thank you for review of the Draft Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan. If you have comments or suggestions on the Draft, we would like to hear them! Please use theis form to help us understand and address your comments.

Comments must be received by November 18, 2011.
Send comments to Northwest Ecological Services at analiese@nwecological.com or 1911 C Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Your name and contact information (optional): Russ Holmes, 970 Double View Drive, Camano Island, WA 98282, 360 572 4770, russ.holmes@wavecable.com

Page #	Paragraph #	Comment	Suggested change	Response (to be completed by Island County representative)
21	N/A	Environmental education is an existing use at the Preserve and should be addressed in this section.	Discuss use of the Preserve for environmental education by grade school children (and other groups, e.g Beach Watchers et al.).	
30	N/A	Section 6.0, Site Management Recommendations does not discuss environmental education.	Discuss how the Preserve will be used for environmental education.	

COMMENTS TO IVERSON PRESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT

November 9, 2011

The residents of the Long beach Community (the 48 homes along Iverson Road) continue to dislike the Iverson Preserve due one over riding issue; the vehicular traffic to and from the Preserve interacts with the vehicles, pedestrians, children, and pets of the homeowners. If this one issue was eliminated, the Preserve would most likely be readily accepted within the community.

The drawing plans submitted for the preserve indicate recognition of the problem, but have not adequately solved the issue. We believe it can easily be resolved by adding a simple, one lane, low cost, gravel road starting at the south existing gate to the agricultural area, and proceeding along the west edge of the farm to the north parking areas shown on your plan. The road could include several small wide zones to allow cars to pass in opposite directions. Many such roads exist currently in the remote areas of our state and work very well in addition to being low cost. This would allow for growth of the Preserve, which is expected to happen exponentially due to the severe need for such recreation areas in the area, and the now added cost to go the Camano State Park. The growth could then easily be accommodated without affecting the community by merely adding to the parking by completing the other areas shown in your plan.

The plan draft shows you have recognized the problem and want to mitigate it with the addition of "NO PARKING" signs along Iverson Road that are not desired by the homeowners, are difficult to enforce, and will not resolve the issue. The plan further suggests that "Parking Permits" would be issued to residents living along Iverson Road. It is obvious that these approaches do nothing to reduce the traffic and solve the problem, but make life more difficult for residents not to mention how "NO PARKING" could ever be enforced. We suggest you build the road, and completely close the current existing Preserve three access gates at the north end of the farm from vehicular, pedestrian, children, and pet access. There is absolutely no need for the residents of Long Beach or anyone else to access the Preserve from Iverson Road. Residents going to the Preserve are usually interested in walking, so that the extra distance to the south gate is not an issue, and homeowners already have their own access to the water.

All past, current, and future major community problems with regard to the Iverson Preserve are related to using Iverson Road as the access route to the preserve. We request complete closure of the Preserve to all vehicular, foot, and development traffic (traffic to further improve the Preserve) until such time that a simple gravel road can be built in the west side of the agricultural field with access through the gate at the south end of the farm. We would like this to become the number 1 priority with regard to development of the Preserve.

Work and modifications to the preserve have been completed in the past and continue in the present without any formal plans with the expenditure of great deal of labor and funds without enough regard to the affects on the community. The work completed thus far includes:

1. Approximately four miles of very nice wide improved trails complete with wooden boardwalks over muddy and wet areas.

2. One very nicely designed bridge across the drainage ditch.
3. Three wooded stair steps to cross the dyke.
4. Clearing of the logs to result in a direct path to the beach and water from the wooded stairs.
5. One bench for resting and viewing.
6. A small, but inadequate parking lot.
7. A small picnic area with a nice table.
8. Information signage and trail markers.
9. Very extensive clearing of bushes and other vegetation to expose small existing ponds.
10. An improved drainage ditch flapper valve.

We would very much like to see the road at the west end of the farm added to the list along with complete access to the Preserve closed from Iverson Road before any additional work is completed within the Preserve. Gravel is cheap and the road need not be improved with paving. There seems to be an abundance of volunteer labor available and perhaps this labor could help with completion of the road.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE DRAFT PLAN:

1. Any of the three parking locations are acceptable, especially with the addition of the road described above.
2. "No Parking" signs along the west side of Iverson Beach Road as indicated in each of the plans are not acceptable to the local residents along Iverson road. It probably would be OK along Iverson Beach Road between the access point to Option #3 parking and the stop sign. The west side of Iverson road must be accessible to visitors of the home owners for parking at all times, but especially in the summer months.
3. There is no mention of an "off-leash" dog area or control of dogs off leash. Dogs and lack of control by the owners are and will continue to be a major factor in the use of the preserve and adjacent beaches. The dog issues by the water and on the trails must be addressed for successful control of the land. This includes aggressive dogs, dogs agitating the natural bird life, excessive barking, dogs off leash, and dog feces in and near the water.
4. Iverson Road no longer uses the "S" designation. It is an obsolete modifier apparently used in the past as a help to the fire department when the Island was separated into North and South areas. The postal service asked us to drop the "S" designation.
5. The traffic counters were placed off-season during rainy and cold weather and are not representative of usual traffic patterns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert & Claudine Paczkowski
360 387-2487

analiese@nwecological.com

From: CELEEN3359 [dbceleen@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 12:46 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Iverson preserve

Hi Analiese:

Here are some of my comments per our phone conversation this morning. I wasn't able use the pdf format sheet sent to use for comments. I believe it came to me in a read only format.

2.2.1 Managed Agriculture: To my recollection the main drainage ditches have been in place since the early 1950's or before.

2.2.2 Fish and Wildlife: We have seen deer within and outside the preserve boundaries. This also goes for Canadian Geese which show up in late fall or early winter and stay until Spring.

2.3.3 Dogs: Comment: Leave the on leash regulation in place but designate a off leash area in the north part of the field by the parking area in suggested parking plan 1 and 2.

4.2.5 Hunting: I have observed over the past two weekends hunting taking place within the preserve. The hunters in fact have bypassed the normal parking area and went threw the north field past the drainage ditch going over the burm and into the preserves interior. I believe they hunted on the beach, for I heard multiple shots coming from that area. One of my neighbors was with his kids in the preserve when one incident happened and needless to say the shots got their attention real quick. I've been told by the county per phone call that its legal to hunt in the preserve if it's done from the shoreline per your statement this is not true. This issue needs to be cleared up.

For the proposed parking plan suggestions: I prefer plan #3 for the reason that it would decrease traffic on Iverson road and make the usage of the preserve more limited because of the long distance from the parking to the preserve. Therefor helping to preserve the preserve. Although there probably will be a high degree of drop off then park occurring. My second choice is option #2.

As I mentioned I have been part of the Iverson beach community for nearly sixty years and would gladly answer any questions concerning the area.

Thank you,

Doug Celeen
133 Inverson Rd.
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11-11-16 Clark Comment Sheet

From: Kevin Clark [kevinc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Steve Marx; analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Comment Sheet

Steve and Analiese:

Was a lengthy public draft document to wade through with the real issues of the document never really fully addressed or vetted.

I believe the document continues to grossly understate the current peak usage of the preserve and fails to address the reality that it has become an "active" recreational property. To provide parking designs for a mere 30 vehicles and to understate the number of vehicles and people on any summer weekend at the preserve when the weather approaches the mid to upper 70's is a significant piece of missing information in the document. One merely needs to look at photos provide to Steve Marx and statements from adjoining property owners about crowds on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day). With crowds of over 100-150 people, mostly families and groups of youth, using the beach for recreation your proposed designs are grossly inadequate. To not detail the peak visitor data within the document, or the current trend of greater and greater visitors to the preserve is a major oversight. Without addressing this issue this document will not tell the full story to the elected individuals that need to read, understand and then act on your document. Your information provided doesn't provide the full and real picture of what has happened with regards to public usage and the continued growth in the patterns of usage. We have had two unusually wet and cold summers and had we had the "typical" pattern of weather I think you would find the adjoining property owners providing significantly larger number counts of visitors and cars.

If I were to weigh in on what design would allow Island County to limit the use of the preserve so as to not have it "over loved" and impact the permanent community on Iverson Beach and its roads I would support option 3 with a larger parking lot. In addition you would need to design signage and enforcement to stop people from parking along the north end of Iverson Road otherwise the south end parking lot and new trail system will not be used. People wishing to gain access to the beach with their beach toys, blankets, coolers, etc. are not going to want to haul their stuff the full length of the County Preserve. Which, if it is the intent of the County to make the recreational use of the beach that much less attractive, works.

So the question that isn't addressed anywhere in the document – is Island County, the property owner of the preserve, prepared to spend the time and money to properly create a safe recreational beach with adequate parking, toilets, garbage pickup and policing to enforce rules of behavior and time of operations (closed at dusk) – or is Island County going to reduce the visitor "demand" on the Preserve by reducing easy "beach" access for the public by moving the parking lot to the very south of its property so as to reduce the continued growth of use as a recreational beach site until such time as it has the time and funds to properly do a master plan to address all issues of safety, health for Preserve visitors and the existing residential community adjacent to the preserve?

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Clark

17 Iverson Road

Camano Island, WA

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11-11-16 Clark RE Comment Sheet

From: Kevin Clark [kevinc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 10:48 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com; Steve Marx
Subject: RE: Comment Sheet

Was I off base in reading we never really addressed the current and future pressure on the property to be a recreational beach for the island and Stanwood area? That's the real issue that has brought the demand that a master plan be done on the property.

The document does well on the vegetation, wild life, critical watershed and wetland issues the property supports, but seems to tread lightly that the beach has a high demand by the public and appears to be getting greater and greater.

Parking, traffic (speeds) and the fact that the community road wasn't designed for the volume of traffic associated with the visitor's to the preserve on any given summer weekend is never really put on the front page or addressed in this document.

Add to that there absolutely needs to be sanitation (toilets and garbage pickup) demanded by high volume of people and length of stay. Those are critical issues not address IF the document is to give a conclusion that recreation is going to be one of the objectives of this valuable waterfront property.

Honestly that has to be the big question asked and answered. Can the objectives of preserving the critical aspects of preserve (the shoreline, wetlands, marshlands and farmland) be met with what you've laid out as the 3 options for visitors to have access to the preserve property for various uses (hiking, bird watching & beach recreational use)?

I don't think the document lays out clearly what parking and public access options 1-3 will do to the Preserve and how it will impact the local property owners. It doesn't go into the necessary details for how the County is going to address the issues of the residents on Iverson Road (traffic, parking enforcement, sanitation, garbage, policing behavior and hours of operations, trespassing) when the continued growth of people wanting to use the beach for greater and greater recreational use (sunbathing, swimming, digging in the sand, picnicking, fishing, crabbing, clamming, etc.) hasn't been truly looked at with respects to funding and the environmental impact of large public use.

What option 3 does is makes the parking so far removed from the public beach it will do one of two things – it will cause people to still park on the north end of Iverson Road and enter the park as they do now. Which doesn't solve anything if you don't enforce some type of restricted parking rules and we know the County doesn't have funding to parking enforcement on Iverson Road. If the County does enforce and ticket those choosing to not use the south end parking lot to access the public beach then people will think twice about coming down to the Preserve to spend the day at the beach if they half to walk half or three quarters of a mile to get to the beach with all their picnic stuff. So you've cut demand by making the recreational beach that much less attractive to get to.

Big void in the document if it is to be given to County Commissioners to move forward on choices and funding for the Preserve.

Kevin

From: analiese@nwecological.com [mailto:analiese@nwecological.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 9:13 AM
To: Kevin Clark; 'Steve Marx'
Subject: RE: Comment Sheet

Dear Mr. Clark,

Thank you for your response. I appreciate your continued involvement with the Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan project and your thorough review of the draft document. We will discuss your comments with Island County as we begin to prepare the final draft.

Sincerely,

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

From: Kevin Clark [mailto:kevinc@ARGOSYCRUISES.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Steve Marx; analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Comment Sheet

Steve and Analiese:

Was a lengthy public draft document to wade through with the real issues of the document never really fully addressed or vetted.

I believe the document continues to grossly understate the current peak usage of the preserve and fails to address the reality that it has become an “active” recreational property. To provide parking designs for a mere 30 vehicles and to understate the number of vehicles and people on any summer weekend at the preserve when the weather approaches the mid to upper 70’s is a significant piece of missing information in the document. One merely needs to look at photos provide to Steve Marx and statements from adjoining property owners about crowds on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day). With crowds of over 100-150 people, mostly families and groups of youth, using the beach for recreation your proposed designs are grossly inadequate. To not detail the peak visitor data within the document, or the current trend of greater and greater visitors to the preserve is a major oversight. Without addressing this issue this document will not tell the full story to the elected individuals that need to read, understand and then act on your document. Your information provided doesn’t provide the full and real picture of what has happened with regards to public usage and the continued growth in the patterns of usage. We have had two unusually wet and cold summers and had we had the “typical” pattern of weather I think you would find the adjoining property owners providing significantly larger number counts of visitors and cars.

If I were to weigh in on what design would allow Island County to limit the use of the preserve so as to not have it “over loved” and impact the permanent community on Iverson Beach and its roads I would support option 3 with a larger parking lot. In addition you would need to design signage and enforcement to stop people from parking along the north end of Iverson Road otherwise the south end parking lot and new trail system will not be used. People wishing to gain access to the beach with their beach toys, blankets, coolers, etc. are not going to want to haul their stuff the full length of the County Preserve. Which, if it is the intent of the County to make the recreational use of the beach that much less attractive, works.

So the question that isn’t addressed anywhere in the document – is Island County, the property owner of the preserve, prepared to spend the time and money to properly create a safe recreational beach with adequate parking, toilets, garbage pickup and policing to enforce rules of behavior and time of operations (closed at dusk) – or is Island County going to reduce the visitor “demand” on the Preserve by reducing easy “beach” access for the public by moving the parking lot to the very south of its property so as to reduce the continued growth of use as a recreational beach site until such time as it has the time and funds to properly do a master plan to address all issues of safety, health for Preserve visitors and the existing residential community adjacent to the preserve?

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Clark

17 Iverson Road

Camano Island, WA

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11-11-17 Hilton FW Iverson Beach preserve

From: Steve Marx [S.Marx@co.island.wa.us]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 11:48 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: FW: Iverson Beach preserve

fyi

From: Robin Hilton [mailto:robinskool@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:38 PM
To: Steve Marx
Cc: kevinc@argosycruises.com
Subject: Iverson Beach preserve

As a resident of the beach on Iverson Road, I've watched the beach and the adjacent land over the last several years with trepidation. As background, I first was introduced to this beach before I started kindergarten. I am now 60 years old, and owning a home on this beach has been a lifetime dream fulfilled. I feel very protective of this special place. It's so close to town, yet in many ways very wild. I believe management and oversight of the beach and its use is essential for it to survive as population density increases and that everyone using the beach and the bay—residents, their visitors, park users, people fishing or hunting—should be accountable and responsible. Unfortunately too often people don't police their own actions, and outside oversight is scarce. I'm telling you this so you have an idea of where I'm coming from.

I'd like to comment on the existing park and the site plan document recently released against this background. I have questions and concerns related to how the park or preserve space currently is operated, and I have even more of the above in terms of the planning document. I also have questions about the interplay of access at this site and at the state park on the island

First, let me say that the park as it has become was promoted in the area as a preserve, with limited access. As a homeowner I knew that the classic NIMBY should kick in, but I've always thought it was sad that more people didn't have access to this beautiful and special part of the world. I was naïve. What has happened is the creation of what is, for all intents and purposes, an attractive nuisance. The space is poorly managed, mostly unsupervised, and left to find its own way. My understanding is that much of the site development was done by a non-governmental group of volunteers with donated materials prior to the development of a comprehensive plan. Although "free" is a great concept, clearly there has been a price to be paid and we now find ourselves with a public property that has been laid out in the vision of a small group of people that the county is now trying to legitimize. I would say fund, but clearly that hasn't happened to date and given the economy I have no idea where funding for better management would come from. The idea of providing access isn't bad, it's just bad as it's been implemented. The current setup appears to have encouraged more use of the site than the area can reasonably bear. You may "know" this, you may even agree, but until you have seen that site overrun with people, with garbage strewn and dogs roaming without being cleaned up after, you don't know the impact on this quiet neighborhood or, for that matter, the beach and sound. You can study and analyze wildlife, plant life, the water, whatever, but the bottom line is that if a natural place is over-loved and over-visited, especially without regular site management, much of what has made it special will be gone. This is all aside from the traffic and parking issues. Having seen the comments, I have little to add except to say on those issues other than that the road is used as the primary route for moving among houses on foot, especially at high tide, and more traffic makes that a riskier proposition.

My understanding of reading the site plan document is that there are several aspects of development being considered for this beach. I'm not clear how

much of this is an attempt to better manage a park that appears to have evolved without adequate public oversight, and how much of it is designed to encourage and manage greater use of the area. In either case I believe that if you, invite people in as the county has done, the county has some responsibility to manage the crowds. That has been done poorly, and the vision of more people without more routinized oversight is depressing. Specifically I have the following concerns:

1. The road is narrow. Putting lines on it may remind people it's narrow, but they can already see that it is, indeed, narrow. It won't provide more driving space. Speed bumps? Do they work? Making it wider…you can see how close the road is to many of the houses. Yes, I recognize that there is an easement but just because widening it might be legal doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Aside from the impact on the neighborhood, and the invitation to more and faster traffic, there is the issue of drainage. This beach can be a mess during winter storms and there is often water (and driftwood) on the road. More pavement will mean less drainage.

2. Parking. The idea of the no parking signs (hopefully with resident permits allowed) isn't bad in theory. But who is going to enforce it? In my conversations with county staff on other issues—specifically with professional fireworks being stored in a house on the beach and then fired off with piles of debris left—I was told more than once that I could call the sheriff on July 4 but if there's anything else on the island happening no one would come. So really, if there is unlikely to be a response to a potentially dangerous situation (dry beach, lots of sparks, chemicals in the water), what do you think the chances are that cars will be towed or ticketed? The parking lots are an interesting idea but really, how many people will walk from the south end of the beach? They'll be parking up by the current entrance unless it's closed off, and then will require to be fenced and gated.

3. The beach in front of the houses is private property. Yes, we can put signs up, but again—what are the chances of enforcement? I don't mind small numbers of people strolling the beach, but I do object to an open invitation and no means to control access.

Bottom Line: Without more oversight and enforcement of "rules"—which means an adequate, dedicated budget--this park is a disaster. Could it be a good thing? Of course, but it would require more money, time, and attention than is realistic to expect from the county. Honestly, the county didn't have money to develop and manage the existing site. Why on earth did it allow development? And why should we believe that anything better will be done in this next round?

I do have a few ideas, all of which would depend on more money and management:

1. Close the current entrance, allow no parking in the current site, and route people to parking lots on the current farmland. This would serve to keep the cars off Iverson Rd (I hope) and if people are aware this is no parking or easy entrance at that end hopefully they would not be driving up and down the road looking for parking.

2. Provide better signage (no pet signs easier to see, fines listed for violations of rules, etc) , garbage management, and sanitary facilities. Again, to be effective requires management (and funds).

3. Have routine and frequent inspection with personnel authorized to fine those abusing the place (fires, camping, etc). Effectivness? See above.

4 . Coordinate with the state. I recognize that it is a separate governmental agency, but clearly the actions of the state in regards to the state park on the island is going to impact other public spaces. I'm thinking two things specifically:

a–Instead of throwing more money at the Iverson site, partner with the state to make the state park, which already has public services in place, more accessible. Help with maintenance expense? Offset parking expenses? Whatever.

b–Coordinate access/parking policies. If the state is going to charge parking or user fees, other public parks without those fees will feel the fallout. If the state charges, the county should as well. If the state doesn't, there won't be as great a need for the county to. We are in the time of user fees, and it looks to me like it's time to institute them for these kinds of parks and then designate those fees for park support.

My overriding concern comes down to this. Any use of the beach needs to be done responsibly. That isn't happening now. There is no indication that the country is going to have the funds to provide even a bare minimum of management and support let alone develop parking and improved road access. As a taxpayer I keep thinking--what are they thinking? The county doesn't have, or chooses not to expend, the means to do this up in a small way, let alone a bigger one. I would hope that there is still some interest in keeping the idea of a preserve in mind and that there will be a reasoned approach to site management that would minimize impact while providing some limited access.

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11-11-18 Brock Response to Draft Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan
From: wes&barbarabrock [wbbrock@wavecable.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 10:09 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Response to Draft Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan

Hi Analiese- Please consider this email my response to the Draft Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan. I was happy to see mention several times in the Draft Plan that it was important for short term decisions to consider the possible long term interest in considering salmon recovery issues, should future studies show that this would be possible without adverse impact to the existing residential area.

An important point mentioned several times in the Draft Plan, is the different environment between the high energy shoreline along the southern sections, and the low energy environment along the northern edge. These different environments require quite different management.

I also recognize that with the current economy and budget constrains, it may be difficult to fund even short term goals.

I was very happy to see Porta Pottys recommended year round. That is very important for public health and the general athestics. A dog poop station is good, if it can be serviced.

Of the 3 proposed parking alternatives proposed, I definitely favor Alternative #1. It would have the least impact on the resource for future planning. Alternative #2 puts parking right in the middle of possible future use. Alternative #3 puts parking so far away from the beach access, the main drawn for the Preserve, that it would seriously limit use to only the more able-bodied.

Another important issue is the tide gate. The Draft Plan mentions under Challenges, that the Tide Gate has lacked maintenance, is basically non-functional, and is a fish passage barrier. My observations are that in spite of increased County attention, the tidegate flap is not moveable, whether because of metal corrosion or the accumulation of encrusting marine life. I have been on-site when the tide level was very low, which normally would have allowed the tidegate flap to open and drain out considerable water. Instead, the water "upstream" of the dike/tidegate was high and stagnant. There is also mention in the Draft Plan that beaver activity may be impacting tide gate action. My observations have been that the main beaver activity is approximately 100 feet "upstream" of the tide gate and has had the affect of raising the water level upstream, rather than affecting the tide gate action. The wire mesh fencing surrounding the
upstream end of the tidegate has kept the beaver from damming there.
Further study of the tidegate issue may hold the key to water stagnation/mosquito issues for the entire Preserve.

I would like to add a few suggested additions or corrections to information in the Draft Plan:

Page 17 mentions that Great Blue Heron occur with the Preserve. I would add that the shores of Iverson Preserve are a very important feeding ground for many Great Blue Heron as there is a major Heronery within 2 miles.

Page 18 mentions that Ospresy are summer residents and would be expected to forage in the habitats at the Preserve. I would add that there are several active osprey nests just across Port Susan Bay by the mouth of Hatt Slough, and 3-4 additional osprey nests just a few miles north in Skagit Bay along West Pass

Page 23 mentions that Whidbey-Camano Land Trust owns over 3,000 acres in Port Susan Bay. I would also mention that in addition, The Nature Conservancy owns over 4000 adjacent acres in Port Susan Bay and on the mainland.

A final comment, Appendix A, the Port Susan and Stillaguamish River
1886 US Coast and Geodetic Survery map, provides an excellent overview of how much

habitat once existed and what has been lost between the time of the mapping and the present, and emphasizes the importance of Iverson Preserve.

Thank you for considering my comments on the Draft Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan.

Barbara Brock
3302 Walnut Court
Camano Island

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11-11-18 Mullenberg Iverson preserve draft comments

From: Brandon Mullenberg [brandon_in_seattle@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 1:05 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com; S.Marx@co.island.wa.us
Subject: Iverson preserve draft comments

My wife and I, and our two children are newer residents on Iverson Road. We purchased our home in July of 2010. We had not received the prior emails about the preserve and just found out about the draft plan so I am quickly writing in a last ditch effort to have my comments recorded. Our greatest concern is that of traffic on Iverson Road.

I have a 2.5 year old and a 1 year old. This summer we noticed a constant flow of traffic to the spit, much higher than in 2010. It seemed like every 2-3 minutes we had to pull our toddler off the road while doing a neighborhood walk.

I would like to see it noted that once alternative # 3 is met as for parking that Iverson road would no longer be used except for handicap parking access to the preserve and emergency vehicles. In my opinion it is very important to have a long term goal of getting all traffic off and keeping it for the private residences of Iverson road, except for those who are unable to get to the preserve without assistance.

I would like to suggest that a small parking fee be added to generate revenue to more quickly move the preserve from its short term targets to long term targets. This parking fee could also be used to pay for regular garbage pickup to the preserve during the summer months and/or staff to cleanup the preserve (my toddler found a condom in the preserve parking lot this summer). It would seem to me that with the increased traffic to the preserve will come more waste, litter, etc.. and being a preserve I believe its important to keep the site and beach clean.

As for a few other comments and smaller concerns, they would be the increase in crime in our community due to the increased traffic to the area. 2 months ago at 4 AM, someone lit our a parked trailer in our yard on fire ?? and I have heard of other neighbors being robbed. Because we are a small community who knows one another, If we can eventually restore the dead end road and have it marked "for private access only" I believe it could reduce crime to our homes.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.
Brandon Mullenberg
71 Iverson Road, Camano Island
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Jason GriffithFrom: Jason Griffith [jgriffith@stillaguamish.com]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 4:04 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: Comments- DRAFT Iverson Mgmt Plan
Hi Analiese-

I am finally getting around to looking at the DRAFT site mgmt plan (Steve forwarded it a week ago). Not sure if the comment deadline has been extended, but I have a few:

1. The draft plan does mention the value of the salmonid habitat that was lost to diking in the 1940's, but I think it may be good to point out that this loss of rearing habitat meant a direct loss of adult salmon coming back to spawn. Back of the envelope calcs (based on our local sampling data, and published studies by Greg Hood and others) would indicate that a fully restored Iverson could rear several thousand juvenile Chinook and many thousand other salmonids. I think it is interesting that no money is generated from leasing the land behind the dikes. If this isn't some form of political favoritism and the land is indeed this poorly suited to Ag, it seems like restoring it for salmon would be a better investment (and cut down on traffic for the neighbors!). Commercial and recreational fishing opportunities bring in a lot of money, and are limited by poor habitat currently.

It is important to stress that while some restoration feasibility work has been done, there are still some data gaps cited in the reports. Further work (if allowed by concerned citizens) could go a long way in helping folks understand what a restored landscape would look and function like. Fear of the unknown seems to be prevalent in the local community currently. Based on my years spent on Port Susan, I think that the threat of flooding is not from behind them (where there is no fetch) but from the storm surge coming up Port Susan from the south (further work would help flesh out the flooding threat). While it may be disconcerting to have water surrounding the spit, any overflow past the seawalls could be dealt with with tide gates in any new set-back dike fairly easily.

Bottom line: It would be great to restore as much of Iverson as possible to tidal influence. I know I am in the minority here....

2. Parking options 1 or 3 would be preferable as they don't hinder future restoration opportunities as much.

3. Was there any talk of interpretive signage that could stress the importance of estuaries for shorebirds, forage fish, and salmon? I skimmed it, so it may be there. I think it would be good to have a enlargement of the T-sheet to show the habitat that was lost by diking and draining.

OK, thanks for the opportunity to comment!

Jason Griffith

Fisheries Biologist

Stillaguamish Tribe, Natural Resources Department

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<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

On 10/13/2011 2:46 PM, analiese@nwecological.com wrote:
Hello Jason and Franchesca,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss your thoughts on the Iverson Preserve. I will incorporate the information into the draft Site Management Plan. If you have any other ideas, please feel free to give me a call or e-mail.

I included your names on the e-mail list-serve that will be use to notify when the draft Site Management Plan is available for comment. Thank you again for your time.

Cheers,

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

Northwest Ecological Services, LLC

1911 C Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

O 360.734.9484

C 360.920.0512

www.nwecological.com

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11-11-28 Schrammeck RE Allhands Fwd Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
From: Joan Schrammeck [Joan.Sch@frontier.com]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 6:58 PM
To: analiese@nwecological.com
Subject: RE: [Allhands] Fwd: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Analiese,

I apologize for being late. Your draft document was long so it took some time for me to review it and write a response. I live on the NW corner of Camano. Whenever I have out-of-town guest, I take them to Iverson Preserve to walk the beach, play on the driftwood, bird-watch, seal-watch, have a picnic, bring a book and read in the sun, wade and swim. I swim there as often as I can on good weather summer and fall days. I love the fact that we have one accessible beach that is sandy and swim-able. I have never had a problem finding a space to park.

My responses to your draft are as follows:

1. Section 6.1.1 Parking: I dislike parking alternative 3. The idea of moving parking a long way away from the current parking area is untenable in my opinion. It would be difficult to carry items, babies, children, picnic baskets, blankets, towels, binoculars, etc. Therefore, I am NOT in favor of item 1 under Long Term at the top of page 36 (when funding is available, evaluate longer term benefits of alternative three for possible final location of parking).

2. Section 6.1.3 Traffic/Speeding: I suggest putting in an electronic sign that reads how fast the car is moving with a reminder of how low the speed limit is.

3. Section 6.1.5 support facilities: I'm not sure I understand why it is a good thing to remove the trash can? Is it too expensive to have trash pickup service? Does it blow over? Of course, I am not opposed to a packing trash out policy, I just think most people will put trash in the trash can if it's available to them.

4. Section 6.1.7 Trails; perhaps my comment belongs under a new heading such as beach entrance. I appreciate the steps and railings up and over the existing dike but it is not easy to carry a kayak from my car to the water's edge. I think there should be an entrance that is "straight" up and down to make it easier. I like the rest of the Trails plan.

5. ACCESS: how does a disabled person get to the beach, or a person in a wheelchair? Is this plan ADA compliant?

6. Section 6.2.1 Agricultural Production: I think the lease should include requirements that the farm does not use chemicals or pesticides at all.

7. Section 6.2.2 Ecosystem – I just want to report that I have never observed smelt spawning. On the beach near where I live, I frequently see smelt spawning. I understand that smelt spawn at high tide on pebble-beaches. Only some small sections of Iverson Preserve beaches are pebbles.

8. Section 6.2.4 Noxious Weeds – add signage explaining which weeds are noxious so that people leave educated to spot noxious weeds in their own yards. Also: are chemical controls appropriate at this location?

Joan Schrammeck

1067 Scenic Ave, Camano Island, Wa 98282

360-387-9589 or Joan.Sch@Frontier.com

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <analiese@nwecological.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!
To: analiese@nwecological.com

Hello,

My name is Analiese Burns and I am an ecologist with Northwest Ecological Services. Island County Public Works recently hired my firm to complete a Site Management Plan for Iverson Preserve. We recently held a public meeting on Camano Island, unfortunately, I only recently learned that you are a potential stakeholder. Although I wish you could have attended the public meeting, I would be most grateful if you would share your thoughts about the site. Specifically, I am interested in the following:

1) What is working well at the site

2) What is not working well at the site

3) Any suggestions on how to improve the site

Unfortunately, due to funding requirements the draft Site Management Plan is due Oct. 31st so your prompt response is much appreciated. I will also be sure to include you on an e-mail list-serve so you are notified when the draft Plan is open for comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time.

Analiese Burns, PWS, LEED AP

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11-11-28 Schrammeck RE Allhands Fwd Iverson Preserve- your recommendations!

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11-11-30 Egbers Draft Iverson Plan

From: Eric Egbers [ebegbers@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 10:52 AM
To: analiese@nwecological.com; Tina Garreis; Roland Garreis
Subject: Draft Iverson Plan

Hi Analiese. My input to the plan is more of a plea than a specific comment to a line item. The county wishes to "preserve" the sanctity of the local biota and history of farming in the area. What seems to have been lost is the preservation of beach living by the families along South Iverson Road. Those families chose to purchase and build in an area with immense beauty and peacefulness, where their children and grandchildren could feel safe and enjoy their surroundings. The "preserve" as it now exists has seriously compromised that feeling of safety and peacefulness. Clearly the first two proposed options will exacerbate the problem; expanding the parking areas to accommodate more vehicles and visitors traversing the roadway and utilizing the small beach area, expanding the usefulness of the area by people and pets without real scientific scrutiny of their impact on the biota, disregard of the impact on the residents living there with respect to traffic, noise, lights, litter, human and animal waste products, etc. Based on the three presented options only the third seems to reduce (slightly) the impacts to the residents. It would eliminate the traffic, noise, lights, litter, and safety issue along South Iverson Road, and it would slow traffic coming down or going up the curvy hill approaching or leaving the entrance to the parking area. Mitigation efforts seem very doable along the base of the timber and traversing the field ditches and wet areas. And the hike to the beach may deter some, allowing for a reduced impact on a small beach parcel. The island has two distinct major public beach areas in place, namely the two state parks. It is highly unusual for an area as small as the island to have received such. The cost issue? I've paid mine to access those and other parks in the state even though I have a beach in my immediate grasp. Without supporting that cost, many of our state parks will be removed from the system and municipal and private lands will take the brunt, much like the Iverson Preserve has most recently.

If the county respects the current (and future) residents along the beach, reduce the impact by instituting option 3. Reduce the number of parking spaces, minimize the user friendly services and appurtences, and encourage the use of existing beach access such as the state parks.

Thank you for your kind attention to this plea, and I apologize for this tardy response.

Eric Egbers

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