



WHIDBEY CAMANO

LAND TRUST



2018–2023 LAND PROTECTION PLAN

*Adopted by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Board of Directors on February 7, 2018*





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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW




The Whidbey Camano Land Trust works on Whidbey and Camano Islands in Island County and has been protecting both islands' most important lands and water since 1984. The Land Trust's overall mission is to actively involve the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our Islands and in the waters of Puget Sound. The deep commitment by its members – who support the Land Trust's operations – is protecting the quality of life that visitors and residents enjoy on Whidbey and Camano islands.

The Land Trust permanently protects lands and waters by purchasing and accepting donations of fee lands and conservation easements from willing, private owners. The Land Trust wants to ensure that protected properties are held and managed by the most appropriate organization, and so in addition to acquiring land and conservation easements we will also protect land even if the Land Trust is not the end owner or conservation easement holder. The Land Trust refers to these kinds of properties as “facilitated projects”, where land is protected on behalf of another organization or agency. For example, the Land Trust may protect 10 acres of old-growth forest adjacent to a state park by working with the private owner, securing the funding, and handling the real estate transaction with Washington

BY THE ACRE

As of January 1, 2018, the Land Trust has protected a total of **9,041 acres** of land across Whidbey and Camano Islands. Below is the breakdown of how this acreage has been protected by the Land Trust.



23%

Facilitated Projects

2,114 acres are facilitated projects where agencies like Island County, Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clinton Water District, and South Whidbey Parks and Recreation hold and manage the properties.



43%

Tideland and Wetland Fee Ownership

3,845 acres are tidelands and wetlands owned in fee by the Land Trust.



24%

Conservation Easements

2,151 acres are conservation easements where the land continues to remain privately owned and managed.



10%

Upland Fee Ownership

931 acres are uplands owned in fee by the Land Trust.

State Parks owning the property in the end. Ownership decisions like these are generally made at the beginning of a project with agreement between relevant parties.

We have a successful track record, and as of January 1, 2018, we have protected a total of 9,041 acres of land across Whidbey and Camano Islands (*see sidebar for more detail*). There is still a lot more to do. Permanent changes to the islands' landscapes are accelerating. The next ten years will be pivotal to the future of Whidbey and Camano Islands – now is the time to proactively and strategically protect these islands' lands and waters.

We are also an active member of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national

organization that works on behalf of land trusts to increase the pace and quality of land conservation by advocating favorable tax policies, training land trusts in best practices, and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats.

In early 2012, we earned national accreditation with LTA and were re-accredited in 2017. Being accredited means that we meet national standards for excellence in upholding the public trust and ensuring the land we conserve is permanently protected. We're proud to be one of only 386 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated a commitment to high standards and our communities.

SECTION 2: PLANNING



Summary of Land Trust Plans

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust takes a proactive and strategic approach to land conservation and is recognized widely for its effective and ambitious land protection and stewardship work. About every five years, the Land Trust develops a new Strategic Plan to review its mission and set a course for its operations, ensuring that the organization is protecting what is most important and will make a permanent difference in our Island landscapes and way of life. The Land Trust Board of Directors and staff are embarking on a complete overhaul of its Strategic Plan in 2018 to create an enduring plan that looks ahead at least 20 years.

Under the umbrella of the Strategic Plan, the Land Trust follows a number of plans to further carry out and implement the Strategic Plan's goals. They include this Land Protection Plan, Annual Plans, Board Committee and Staff Annual Work Plans, and Property Management Plans. The organization's Annual Plan and annual work plans are tied to an annual budget.

Management plans are developed for fee lands owned by the Land Trust. Where applicable, the Land Trust will also develop restoration plans for its fee owned properties e.g. Admiralty Inlet Preserve for

golden paintbrush and prairie restoration and Crockett Lake for removal of large swaths of invasive weeds and replanting with native vegetation. Other types of management plans include the Public Use Plan for Trillium Community Forest that was prepared by the Land Trust in close partnership with Island County and the community. The Land Trust will sometimes assist other agencies and prepare draft management plans for facilitated projects, as was the case with Barnum Point County Park.

Land Protection Planning

History

In 2003, at a time when the Land Trust was growing from an all-volunteer organization to one that was professionally staffed, the need to ensure that its land protection efforts resulted in protecting the islands' most threatened and important lands compelled the Land Trust to develop its first land protection plan. One of the Land Trust's primary goals in developing its first land protection plan was to be proactive to the greatest extent possible by identifying the most important lands and contacting landowners of high priority property, rather than waiting for opportunities that were brought to us.

In 2003 and 2004, the Land Trust compiled data, information, and input from credible agencies, organizations, and the public regarding natural resources, community values, and land use. This input and data collection lead to the creation

of a robust, multi-layered map and database using a geographic information system (GIS) that allowed the Land Trust to analyze and map areas of importance.

After presenting this information for input from the

public and Land Trust members, a final Land Protection Priorities Map was developed that outlined the key landscapes that were of highest priority to protect. That GIS map formed the basis of the Land Trust's first Land Protection Plan in 2004.



In 2009 and 2010, the Land Trust went through a planning process to update its Land Protection Plan. By that time, the Land Trust had invested in its own GIS software, allowing the Land Trust to complete its data collection and analysis in house. With new and updated natural resource data available, the Land Trust returned to the public to seek input on new findings and updated priority areas. The 2010 Land Protection Plan included an up-to-date Land Protection Priorities Map as well as a plan document that contained goals and objectives and a schedule for completing identified projects within a five year timeframe.

The focus of land protection efforts identified in the 2004 and 2010 plans was to protect the most significant and threatened lands that enhance the health and connectivity of the islands' natural systems and retain its agricultural and rural character. In addition, the plans emphasized the importance of protecting lands and waters that contribute most significantly to the health and ecological viability of landscapes and that provided the full

complement of native species, ecological functions and processes, or accomplished the same with minimal restoration. Additional emphasis was placed on protecting larger parcels and/or lands adjacent to existing protected lands, or those areas of land that serve as corridors between blocks of protected lands.

2018 Land Protection Plan Update

Many lands and waters in Island County continue to be worthy of permanent protection, and far more opportunities are offered than the Land Trust has the capacity to handle at any one time. To ensure it is responding most effectively to this continuing situation, the Land Trust updated its Land Protection Plan in 2017 and 2018, primarily by refining its Land Protection Priority Map and expanding and improving its land evaluation process, both of which further informed our strategic priorities for land protection. The map now incorporates new natural resources data from agencies and organizations and more detailed information to help the Land Trust make informed

and strategic decisions about protection efforts.

Discussions during the Land Trust's 2015-2020 strategic planning process and input from the public that was collected in 2017 and 2018 revealed that the essence of the 2010 Land Protection Plan is still valid.

As with the first two plans, the goal of this 2018 update is to ensure that the Land Trust's efforts result in permanent protection of the most important and irreplaceable lands and waters on Camano and Whidbey islands.



Protecting and restoring a state endangered plant and prairie ecosystem.

SECTION 3: INVENTORY



Overview of Island County

The following information is partially taken from “Island County Profile” by Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D., regional labor economy. Updated September 2015.

Island County is situated in northern Puget Sound in the Salish Sea in Northwest Washington. As its name suggests, it is made up of several islands. The two largest are Whidbey and Camano with the much smaller islands being Ben Ure, Smith, and Baby islands (see **Map 1**. Location Map).

Island County is the second smallest county in Washington by landmass, just larger than neighboring San Juan County. Island County is bounded to the north by Deception Pass and by Puget Sound to the south. Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage are located to the east and Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca are west of Island County. Skagit and Snohomish Counties lie to the east of Island County and the Olympic Peninsula lies across the water to the west.

Island County covers 208.5 square miles and lies approximately 30 miles north of Seattle and about 50 miles south of the Canadian border. Located in Puget Sound in the Salish Sea, Whidbey Island stretches



Map 1. Location Map

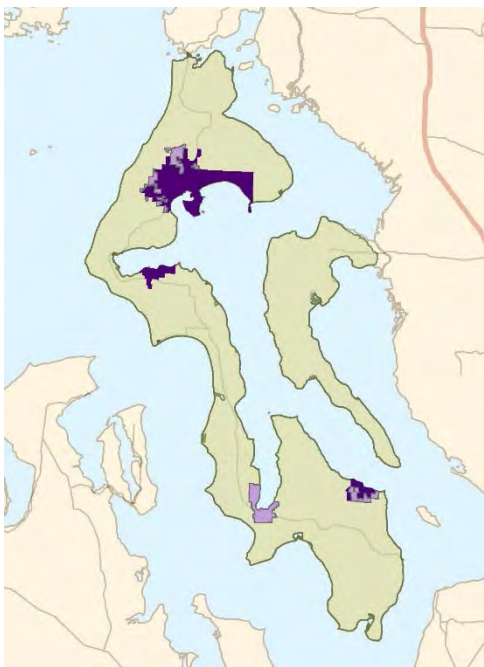


Base map data provided by Island County. Priority Area data created by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust after analysis of critical areas, parcel size, and wildlife habitat data.

0 2 4 8 12 16
Miles

Island County Population Statistics

Urban Growth



Island County's incorporated areas (dark purple) and urban growth areas (light purple).

Population



82,790

Unincorporated (56,880 people)

Incorporated (25,910 people)

Housing



40,234

Occupied (32,746 units)

Vacant: (32,746 units)

- Second Home (4,687 units)
- Vacant – for sale or not occupied (2,801 units)

45 miles in length and has 148 miles of shoreline, making it the longest island in the continental United States. Whidbey Island is connected to the mainland on the north by Deception Pass Bridge and by state ferries at Clinton on the south and at Keystone near Coupeville on the central part of the island. Camano Island also stretches into Puget Sound and is connected to the mainland by a 2-lane bridge. There is no public or private ferry service between Whidbey and Camano islands.

Island County has a total population of 82,790 (WA Office of Financial Management 2017). Many residences are owned as second homes and/or vacation rentals. At 397.17 people per square mile, Island County is the fifth densest county in Washington State (WA Office of Financial Management 2017). The population grew 5.4% between 2010 and 2017.

Due to its beauty, abundance of parks, beaches and recreational opportunities, and proximity

to the Interstate 5 corridor and the cities of Seattle, Bellevue and Everett, Whidbey and Camano islands are popular tourist destinations. Tourism has grown steadily over the last several years.

Growth is encouraged in the three cities: Oak Harbor, Langley and Coupeville, and in two additional community areas: Freeland and Clinton. Camano Island does not have any designated growth areas.

As part of the Washington State Growth Management compliance, Island County zoned much of properties lying outside development areas, and not already in subdivisions, as Rural 5 which means subdivision is allowed in minimum five-acre sizes. This encourages rural sprawl and significantly impacts the integrity of wildlife and human corridors. Although lands zoned for forest and farmland exist, these areas are relatively minor and primarily affect lands already in public ownership or that were working farms and forests at the time of the zoning revisions for

compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Camano Island

Due to its unique geographic location and its size, Camano Island is primarily residential with little commercial or industrial uses. It is 16 miles long and has 52 miles of shoreline. Camano Island is about a 90-minute drive from the county seat of Coupeville. The nearest town to Camano is Stanwood and often Camano Islanders relate more to Snohomish County than Island County because of its geographical position. Camano Island has two state parks, Cama Beach and Camano Island.

Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island is made up of three distinct areas: north, central, and south.

North Whidbey is the most populous and contains the city of Oak Harbor, Island County's largest city with a population of 22,840 (WA Office of Financial Management 2017) and the main commercial, industrial, residential and office areas. The Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, the largest employer in the County, is also located on

North Whidbey. Three state parks are located in this area: Deception Pass, Dugualla, and Joseph Whidbey.

Central Whidbey includes the town of Coupeville, the county seat, and the small-unincorporated town of Greenbank. Coupeville, with approximately 1,900 residents, was founded by 19th century sea captains, is a historic farming community and is within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve ("Ebey's Landing"), a unit of the National Park Service. Ebey's Landing is the nation's first historical reserve, created in 1978, to protect a rural working landscape and community. The Reserve covers 17,500 acres, including Penn Cove, with a significant number of working farms, historic structures, native prairies, and three state parks: Fort Casey, Fort Ebey, and Ebey's Landing.

South Whidbey includes unincorporated Freeland and Clinton, and the city of Langley with about 1,200 residents (WA Office of Financial Management 2017). A significant number of residents commute by ferry from Clinton to jobs on the

mainland. State Parks in the area include: Possession Sound and South Whidbey.

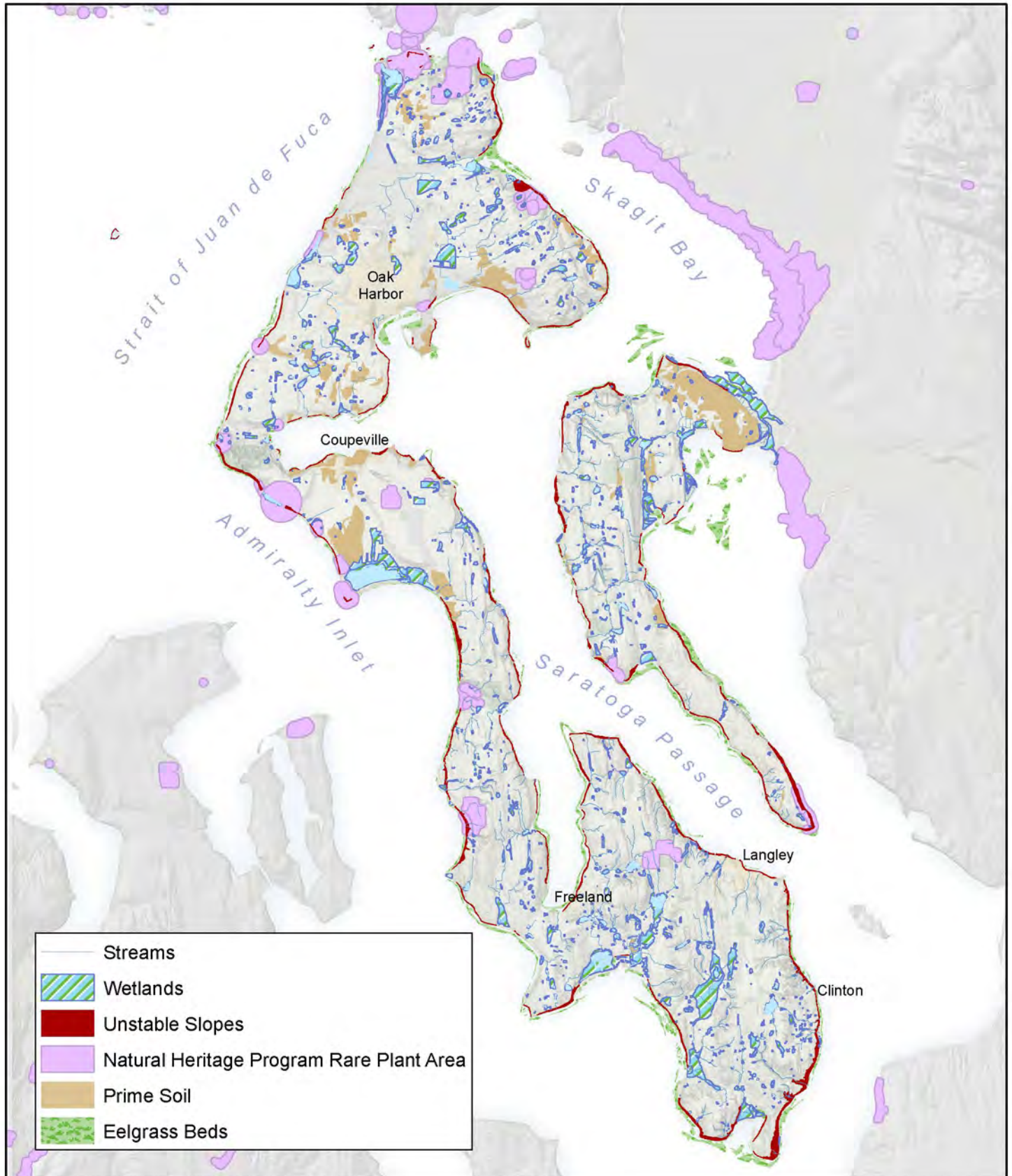
Natural Systems

Overview

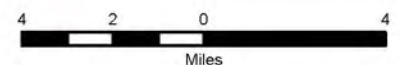
A birds-eye view reveals Whidbey and Camano Islands' prominent location in Puget Sound. They are part of a complex living system where the saltwater of the ocean meets the freshwater flowing from the major rivers of the Skagit, Stillaguamish, Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers.

Spread out along the two islands are more than 200 miles of shoreline, coastal bluffs, and 15 major bays and coves that provide estuarine habitat for birds and marine life, and nurseries for forage fish and salmon. Between the hilltops and this coastline are 118 watersheds with wetlands, streams, forests and fields providing wildlife and plant habitat, clean water, clean air and aquifer recharge. A closer view reveals farms, trails, and the spectacular vistas that define and enrich the islands' community life and draws visitors from afar.

Map 2. Natural Features



Mapped natural features data collected from Island County, WA Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resource Committee, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Whidbey Island contains 108,641 upland acres while Camano Island is less than one-quarter of that size at 25,519 acres. The two islands include approximately 14,000 acres of tidelands.

Whidbey and Camano Islands have outstanding natural attributes, including clean air, clean water, rolling hillsides, mature conifer forests, scenic views, coastal shoreline with beaches, working farmland and native wildlife – all surrounded by the waters of Puget Sound. **Map 2** shows Whidbey and Camano Islands' natural features.

Whidbey and Camano Islands are surrounded by some of the most awesome scenery in the nation. To the east are the Cascade Mountains and to the west are the Olympic

Mountains, with peaks up to 14,000 feet high. The central and northern parts of Whidbey Island lie within what is referred to as the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains, which means that precipitation is much lower there than surrounding areas.

As part of the Puget Sound lowlands, Island County was formed through a process of glaciation. The remaining permeable sands and gravels tend to accumulate water that serves as the drinking water source for most of the population. Camano Island and those areas of Whidbey Island outside of the City of Oak Harbor are solely reliant upon groundwater for a source of potable water.

Approximately 72% of the County's population use

groundwater as a source of potable water. Because of this reliance, EPA, at the request of Island County, designated both Camano and Whidbey islands a Sole Source Aquifer in 1982. This is important because aquifer and drinking water protection is of the utmost concern to island residents. Oak Harbor primarily is served by water that comes from the Skagit River and is transported to Whidbey Island over Deception Pass via Deception Pass Bridge.

Geology

Whidbey and Camano islands were shaped by multiple advances of glaciers from Canada over a period of two million years. The sediments left behind by those glaciers and the sediment-laden outwash are 250 to 800 meters (800 to 2,600 feet) thick below Whidbey Island, but thin northward toward Deception Pass, where the underlying bedrock is exposed.

17,000 years ago, along the west coast of North America, the last continental glaciation extended south from British Columbia into the Puget Sound lowland, reaching as far as what is now Olympia. Ice



Predominant Protected Lands

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve



More than 17,000 acres in size. Primarily in private ownership with conservation easements and fee ownership held on key properties by the National Park Service, State Parks, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Island County, The Nature Conservancy and the town of Coupeville.

Greenbank Farm & Forest



Protected by Island County and owned by the Port of Coupeville, this historic farm located in Central Whidbey now feature open space and forest as well as commercial and retail space.



Trillium Community Forest

More than 700 acres and offers over 8 miles of multi-use trails just north of Freeland. It is owned and managed by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust with a conservation easement held by Island County.

covered the region for about 1000 years, then began to melt and retreat.

The maximum ice thickness near Coupeville was 1200 meters (3,900 feet). The weight of the ice on what was to become Whidbey Island was about 576 billion tons and depressed the land (the Earth's crust is flexible and responds to overlying masses like glaciers). At the same time, the growth of glaciers caused a lowering of global sea level with water locked up in glacial ice. The combination of lowered sea level and depressed land placed the island about 150 meters (500 feet) below what is today's sea level.

With a warming climate, the glaciers' termini began to recede northward at 340 meters (1100 feet) per year. As the glaciers melted, the Land surface rose (rebounded) and sea level simultaneously rose. On Whidbey Island, the rate of rising land exceeded that of the rising sea and as it rose, terraces were cut into the land by waves; the terraces are now visible around the island like bathtub rings.

From Crockett Lake to the northern shore of Penn Cove are features left by a stagnant ice front and higher sea level— river deltas from melting ice that were deposited in a shallow sea (which is now Ebey's Prairie). Blocks of melting calved ice, encased by sediments formed the Kettles in Island County's Kettles Park and Fort Ebey State Park.

The northern tip of Whidbey Island, in Deception Pass State Park, is older bedrock that was eroded by the glaciers. The largest erosional features around Island County are now flooded by the sea — Saratoga Passage, Holmes Harbor, Penn Cove and Admiralty Inlet.

Glacial advances and retreats have left deposits of material that are characterized by outwash sands intermingled with layers of compacted glacial till. The permeable sands and gravels tend to accumulate water that serves as the drinking water source for most of the population. Camano Island and those areas of Whidbey Island outside of the City of

Oak Harbor are solely reliant upon groundwater for a source of potable water.

Protected Lands

Despite its small area, Island County has a significant number of protected lands held by federal, state, local and non-profit conservancy organizations. The state highways on Whidbey Island (Highways 525 and 20) are designated by Washington State as a Scenic Byway and are referred to as “Whidbey Island’s Scenic Isle Way”.

Island County holds hundreds of acres of mostly undeveloped forest lands in addition to areas that provide public beach access, and local parks that include Double Bluff Beach, Putney Woods, Saratoga Woods, and Rhododendron Park on Whidbey Island and Barnum Point, Camano Ridge and Four Springs on Camano Island.

Whidbey Island has eight State Parks: Possession Point, South Whidbey, Fort Casey, Ebey’s Landing, Fort Ebey, Dugualla, Joseph Whidbey, and Deception Pass. The two state parks on Camano Island are Cama

Beach and Camano Island. Deception Pass State Park is the most frequented State Park in Washington State.

The Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island is composed of three geographically separate facilities located on the northern third of Whidbey Island totaling about 7,755 acres. Although some of this is developed with naval facilities, including housing, much of the land remains wild and undeveloped. The Outlying Field (OLF), located in the southern part of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve, south of Coupeville, contains 680 acres, and is used for “touch-and-go” landing practice by navy jets. The OLF is mainly open field with a forest fringe and is part of the historic Smith Prairie. The Navy owns significant coastal shoreline along Admiralty Inlet on the northwest part of Whidbey Island, just south of Deception Pass State Park and north of Joseph Whidbey State Park. It also owns most of the Crescent Harbor shoreline east of Oak Harbor.

Predominant Protected Lands cont’d

Camano Ridge



More than 300 acres of forest on Camano Island that is owned and managed by Island County and includes mature forest and public trails.

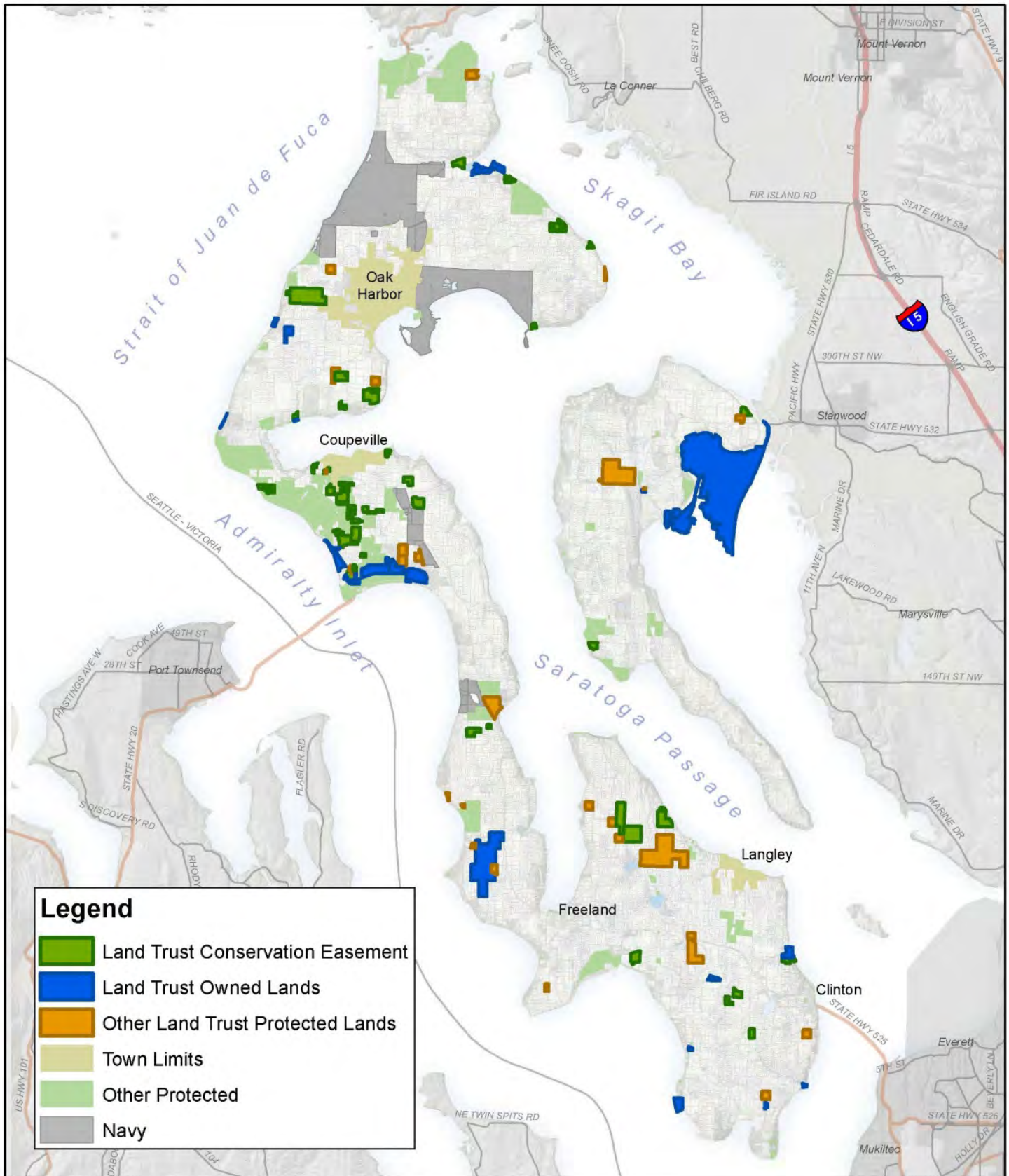
Barnum Point County Park



Island County’s Barnum Point County Park on Camano Island includes incredible views and a trail network. The Land Trust and the County have been partnering for several years to increase the size of the park to 129 acres.



Map 3. Land Trust Protected Properties



Property boundaries are taken from Island County GIS tax parcel maps. These boundaries are approximate and may not match on-the-ground fencelines or actual survey markers.



SECTION 4: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



The Land Trust is defined in state and federal law as a 501(c) 3 private nonprofit nature conservancy organization. The purpose of nature conservancy organizations is to protect lands and waters that are of great benefit to the public. Therefore, the Land Trust's needs assessment is narrowly construed as to what lands and waters in Island County are important to protect to benefit citizens, visitors, and other living organisms. We do not work to protect public recreational opportunities for more intense uses requiring conversion, such as ball fields, swimming pools, motorized activities, tennis courts or facilities located in buildings. For the purposes of this plan, we identified needs based on fish and wildlife habitat conditions, and trends and public input.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Fragmentation

Habitat fragmentation breaks larger, intact habitat areas into less-hospitable, smaller disconnected areas. Many wildlife species cannot thrive in fragmented habitats because they can no longer move freely to access a sufficient area or range of habitats required to accommodate their various life histories. Fragmentation, therefore, leads to the loss of healthy native wildlife populations. Certain

species, such as crows and robins, starlings and pigeons, are not impacted by fragmentation, but typically these are the most highly-adaptable and, often, non-native species. Many native species are much more sensitive to having their habitat fragmented, and without larger habitat areas and corridors for wildlife to travel between them, such populations dwindle and become more vulnerable to future local extinctions. When habitat connectivity is lost, overall species diversity declines.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors connect large protected habitat areas and provide increased areas to breed and find refuge, shelter, and access to food and water. The movement, migration, and dispersal of plants and animals that results from having protected corridors also increase genetic diversity amongst species. Corridors are rarely linear. Birds do not need contiguous corridors but swaths of protected habitat between natural areas. Various research projects have also found that, generally, the greater the area of habitat and the more interconnected it is, the more beneficial it is for native species. It is the intention of the Land Trust to continue to protect wildlife corridors through fee simple land and conservation easement acquisition.

Climate Change and Resiliency

Climate continues to change, and at an increasingly rapid pace, and the Land Trust is incorporating the best available science to guide its land protection strategies. One common characteristic of much of the current research is the importance of resilience, or the ability of a system to survive disruption and to maintain its ecological functions and biological diversity despite climate change.

Many factors influence a landscape's resilience to climate change. In 2015, The Nature Conservancy published a document on "Identifying Resilient Terrestrial Landscapes in the Pacific Northwest." In this update to the Land Protection Plan, the Land Trust is using the coarse outputs from this regional analysis and refining them with inputs from finer scale GIS data and aerial imagery. As an example of the latter, Island County partnered with SeaGrant and recently published "Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flood Risk Assessment: Island County, Washington." This assessment provides appropriate detail to address sea level rise, one of the larger concerns with climate change, for which The Nature Conservancy's analysis was determined to be too coarse to be useful on the scale at which we are working. Information from this report is also reflected in the Land Trust's protection strategies and restoration approach.

Protecting resilient sites identified through such analyses is a focus of the Land Trust's updated Protection Plan and influenced updates to the Priority Areas. Moreover, broader corridors for wildlife and plant migration have been identified using the above approach, and the Corridors Map shows high probability corridors for wildlife movement across the Islands that will be used during project evaluations.

Public Outreach and Input

To better understand and include the community's needs, values, and priorities, the Land Trust actively sought public input as part of the development of this Plan. The Land Trust primarily gathered input through a series of public workshops and from the results of an online survey. Many others participated by emailing comments to the Land Trust.

Public Workshops

More than 80 people participated in three public workshops that the Land Trust hosted in October 2017. The workshops, held in Freeland, Coupeville and on Camano Island, were well advertised in newspapers, by email, on the Land Trust's website, and in our newsletter.

Participants viewed the Land Trust's Priority Areas Map and could select up to three Priority Areas or other locations in Island County that were most



important to them. The Priority Areas Map did not show the corridor connections between Priority Areas nor did it emphasize existing public lands, such as State and County parks, that are already protected.

Based on the results from the three meetings, 185 of the 229 selections (81%) were made in existing priority areas while the remaining 44 were located elsewhere in the County, but mostly fell within or nearby the corridor connections that the Land Trust has identified internally.

The top five most selected priority areas, which accounted for 38% of the selections made within priority areas, were South Whidbey Forest Complex, Monroe Landing Farmland, Kristoferson Creek, Maxwellton, and Greenbank.

Participants also shared with staff their opinions on what kinds of conservation benefits and passive outdoor recreational activities matter most to them and were invited to complete a questionnaire where they could vote on their top choices related to these topics.

The results revealed that the participants throughout the County shared similar values. The top three selected conservation benefits at each of the three workshops were: environmental benefits, protection of wildlife habitat; and protection of open spaces and scenic views. The communities' priorities for public recreation were also the same at all three workshops.

The top three activities identified as the highest importance were: hiking/walking; beach walking; and bird watching.

Based on the public's input and responses to these three topics, it was clear that the Land Protection Priority Areas and efforts were in line with the public's priorities.

Land Trust Survey

The Land Trust distributed an online survey to its members and the public in the last quarter of 2017. The survey was sent out in December 2017 and was closed at the end of January 2018. It was distributed through direct email, newspapers, social media, and with a link on staff emails. A total of 206 surveys were

Public Workshops in 2017

At its workshops, the Land Trust met and discussed with participants whether the Land Trust should:

- Concentrate its conservation efforts in the places of greatest importance.
- Focus its protection efforts on the most important resources and conservation values.
- Create the kinds of passive outdoor recreational opportunities that are most sought after in the County.

Top 5 Protection Priority Areas

1. South Whidbey Forest Complex
2. Monroe Landing Farmland
3. Kristoferson Creek
4. Maxwellton Watershed
5. Greenbank

Conservation Benefits in Ranked Order

Environmental Benefits

Protection of Wildlife Habitat

Protection of Open Spaces & Scenic Views

Local Farming & Food Production

Recreational Trails

Access to protected lands for quiet use

Public Beach Access

Preserving family and historic lands

Other (varied answers)

Local, sustainable timber production

Economic Benefits

completed. Respondents represented a broad spectrum of the community. About two-thirds of the respondents were Land Trust members and, while 39% were from South Whidbey, all geographic areas within the County were represented with at least 19 respondents. An additional 16% of respondents lived off island, and likely have a second home on the islands. The complete survey and results are found in Exhibit A.

The findings from the survey were consistent with what the Land Trust learned at its public meetings – that our work is in line with the values and priorities of our constituents. Respondents overwhelmingly (100 percent!) agreed that we focus our conservation efforts in the places that are of the highest priority to them and, those that responded, unanimously agreed that we were working on the right things and focusing on the correct issues.

Large natural areas, coastal lands, and wetland and stream corridors were

ranked as the types of lands most important for protection. Respondents consistently ranked all the threats to land conservation as “high threat”. Wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors were also high priorities and, when added together, outranked natural areas.

Island County Outreach

The Land Trust and Island County partnered on a 2011 Park, Recreation and Habitat Plan to guide Island County. A consultant was hired to develop the plan under the guidance of a planning advisory committee that included the Land Trust. This plan was substantively included and adopted in Island County’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan in Element 7: Parks and Recreation.

SECTION 5: ANALYSIS AND RESULTS



Land Trust staff reviewed numerous documents and surveys about land protection and passive outdoor recreation to determine what Conservation Targets (described below) are most important, where they are best represented, and what landscapes are critical to protect. Included were dozens of federal, state and local government plans, surveys and other information that was subsequently confirmed by local input at our recent public workshops and survey. All information indicated the public's desire, above all else, for the protection of large natural areas that allow wildlife to thrive.

Conservation Targets

The Conservation Targets are described in this following section.

Large Natural Areas

Natural areas are primarily undeveloped and contiguous landscapes that may contain a variety of land types, including coastal lands, farms and fields, forests, wetlands and streams, and edge habitat such as hedgerows and the interface between forest and fields. Natural areas benefit native plant species and

communities, native fish or wildlife species and communities, aquifer recharge, drainage control, protection of groundwater and surface water, water quality, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and dark night skies.

Coastal Lands

Coastal lands are identified as tidally-influenced land (or about 200' from high water mark), including tidelands, eelgrass beds, estuarine habitat, beach, bluffs, and coastal forests. Island County includes over 200 miles of coastline. Coastal lands provide critical habitat for species of biological and economic value, including an impressive array of salmonid species and other fishes, birds, and marine mammals.

High protection priority preference goes to estuaries or historic estuaries that can be relatively easily restored, public beach access, tidelands adjacent to public tidelands, intact eelgrass bed tidelands, functioning feeder bluffs, and forage fish habitat. These resources are critical for the survival of native salmon stocks and orca whales. In addition, ensuring geologically unstable feeder from inappropriate development safeguards people and reduces the likelihood of catastrophic and expensive slides.

Wetlands and Stream Corridors

Freshwater lakes, wetlands, streams and riparian corridors. Wetlands recharge aquifers, act as filtration systems, protect and improve water quality, and retain excess water during flood events. They also provide habitat for numerous plant and animal species from invertebrates to amphibians, birds and mammals. More than 80 percent of all animals use riparian areas at some stage of their lives, and more than half of these species are riparian obligates (NRCS, Chaney et al.). The importance of riparian areas includes:

- Helping control nonpoint source pollution by holding and using nutrients and reducing sediment.
- Supplying food, cover, and water for a large diversity of animals and serve as migration routes and



stopping points between habitats for a variety of wildlife. Trees and grasses in riparian areas stabilize streambanks and reduce floodwater velocity, resulting in reduced downstream flood peaks.

High preference is given to healthy native riparian vegetation, perennial water sources and flows, unimpeded flows, and habitat for salmon.

Forests

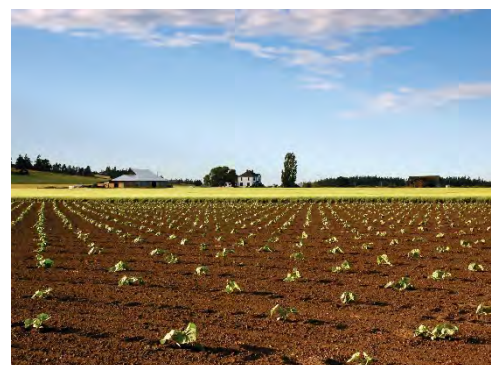
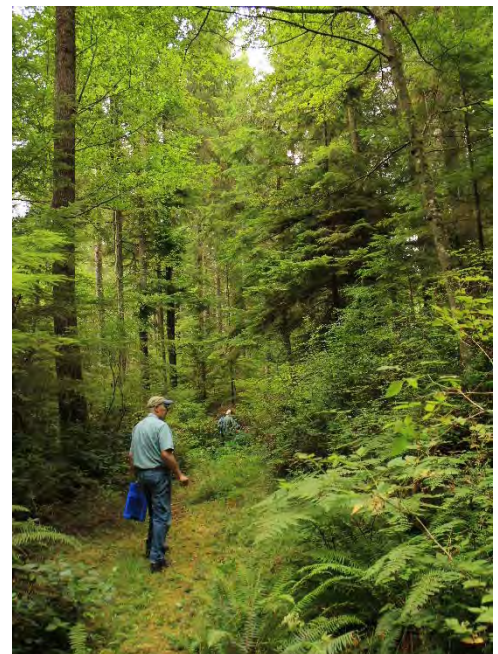
Forested areas include those lands managed for timber, wildlife habitat, and/or other natural resource features. Well-managed working forests are compatible with conservation efforts, offering watershed protection, clean air, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat in addition to timber products and related educational opportunities. Forests protected as natural areas have these same benefits as well.

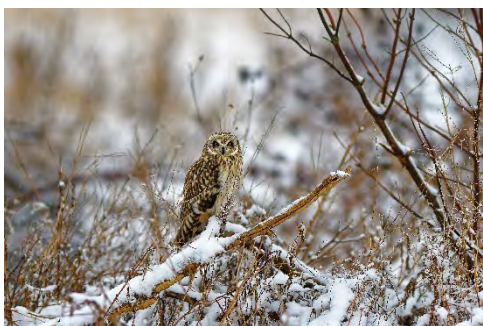
High preference is given to retaining mature, diverse forest cover (or the ability to achieve this with minimal restoration), large tracts of intact forest, and forests with a diversity of edge conditions (estuarine, freshwater, field) and with rare species or communities. Preference for working forests (where long-term harvesting and replanting is practiced) are those that have been actively managed for many decades and are economically sustainable.

Working Farmland

Land used for agricultural purposes, such as growing crops or raising animals. Habitat, open space, and local food production are lost forever when farmland is replaced by development. Farmland is vital to our islands' heritage and future. Protecting farmland ensures that open space and livable communities can continue to co-exist. Large blocks of farmland also provide habitat for native species such as raptors and small mammals.

High preference is given to large, contiguous acreages of farms with prime soils and/or soils of statewide importance. These are the properties most vulnerable to conversion to non-agricultural uses.





Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Corridors

This category includes habitat for native plant and animal species and communities, and important watersheds. Local, state and federal agencies have identified certain flora and fauna species and communities as important, sensitive, vulnerable, and declining or threatened with extinction. These habitats are susceptible to changing landscape uses, invasive plants and climate changes. However, many common native species have seen significant declines due to fragmentation and other habitat degrading activities. Protecting large contiguous areas with corridor connections to other protected lands is crucial to ensure we continue to enjoy native wildlife on the islands.



Scenic Open Spaces

This category includes relatively unobstructed areas which may intentionally be left undeveloped or unimproved, such as for view amenity or conservation purposes. Scenic open spaces provide pleasing, and often beautiful views of iconic, natural and pastoral landscapes, such as mountains, rolling hills and valleys, open farmland, fields and prairies, water bodies, or mature forests seen from roads. Scenic open spaces are often found along transportation corridors, e.g., roads, trails, and water bodies or seen from destination areas, e.g., towns, parks, or boats and ferries.



Low-Impact Recreation

Low-impact recreation refers to passive leisure activities that typically have minimal impact on the natural environment. Generally, this includes walking, hiking, birding and other wildlife viewing, photography, fishing, painting, non-motorized boating, etc. In appropriate places, it can also include horseback riding and bicycling.



Community Open Space

Open space near population centers, neighborhood trails, and scenic views are included in this category. Community open spaces add to the quality of life for island residents and visitors. These areas are used for low-impact recreation,

providing access to local natural areas, beaches, walking trails, bird watching and scenic vistas. High preference is given to active involvement and financial commitment by the local community.

Land Protection Priority Areas

Background

The Land Trust, as described in a prior section, developed its Land Protection Priority Areas Map over many years. This Geographic Information System (GIS) map development process incorporated data from government agencies, with refinement through direct input from natural resource experts, to determine the highest protection priorities based on federal, state and local needs assessments. For example, five fisheries biologists from the northwest regional office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife sat down with Land Trust staff and discussed where we should focus our efforts to best benefit fisheries and marine life. Despite their differing specialties, consensus was achieved on the most important nearshore and upland places for which protection would result in the greatest benefit for forage fish, salmon and other water dependent species. From the GIS data and expert input, draft protection priority areas were drawn, and the map taken out for input from at Land Trust meetings and member meetings. The areas chosen through the natural resource and expert inventory effort were all verified by the public as the key places to protect.

Most of these Priority Areas have been previously identified in government or nature conservancy type of organizations as important. For example, Penn Cove, Crockett Lake, Cultus Bay, Useless Bay/Deer Lagoon, and Crescent Harbor have all been identified as Audubon Important Bird Areas. Federal soils maps and Island County through its Comprehensive Plan have identified the Priority Areas with working farmland as important conservation priorities. Salmon recovery plans have identified Dugwalla Bay, Chapman Creek, Livingston Bay, Kristoferson Creek, Deer Lagoon, Glendale Creek, Maxwellton Creek and several other Priority Areas as critical for salmon recovery and water quality.

In 2010, and now again in 2017-2018, the Land Trust has updated the Land Protection Priorities Area Map with new information produced primarily from state and local agencies. During this time, the map has been taken to dozens of public venues, most recently our three public input sessions. Feedback has been positive. None of the current Priority Areas were identified as a surprise to anyone that reviewed the maps (including landowners lying inside the boundaries). It is always made clear that these designations carry absolutely no regulatory control and represent the areas in which the Land Trust focuses its voluntary protection efforts, working only with willing landowners. None of the current Priority Areas were challenged, nor were new ones recommended, indicating that the importance of these Priority Areas rings true with the broader community.

Criteria for Priority Areas

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust focuses its land protection efforts on landscapes with high quality and high priority examples of its adopted Conservation Targets. The landscape areas designated as

“Land Protection Priority Areas” were specifically identified using several methods, including use of scientific and natural resource data, information from natural resource experts, and public input.

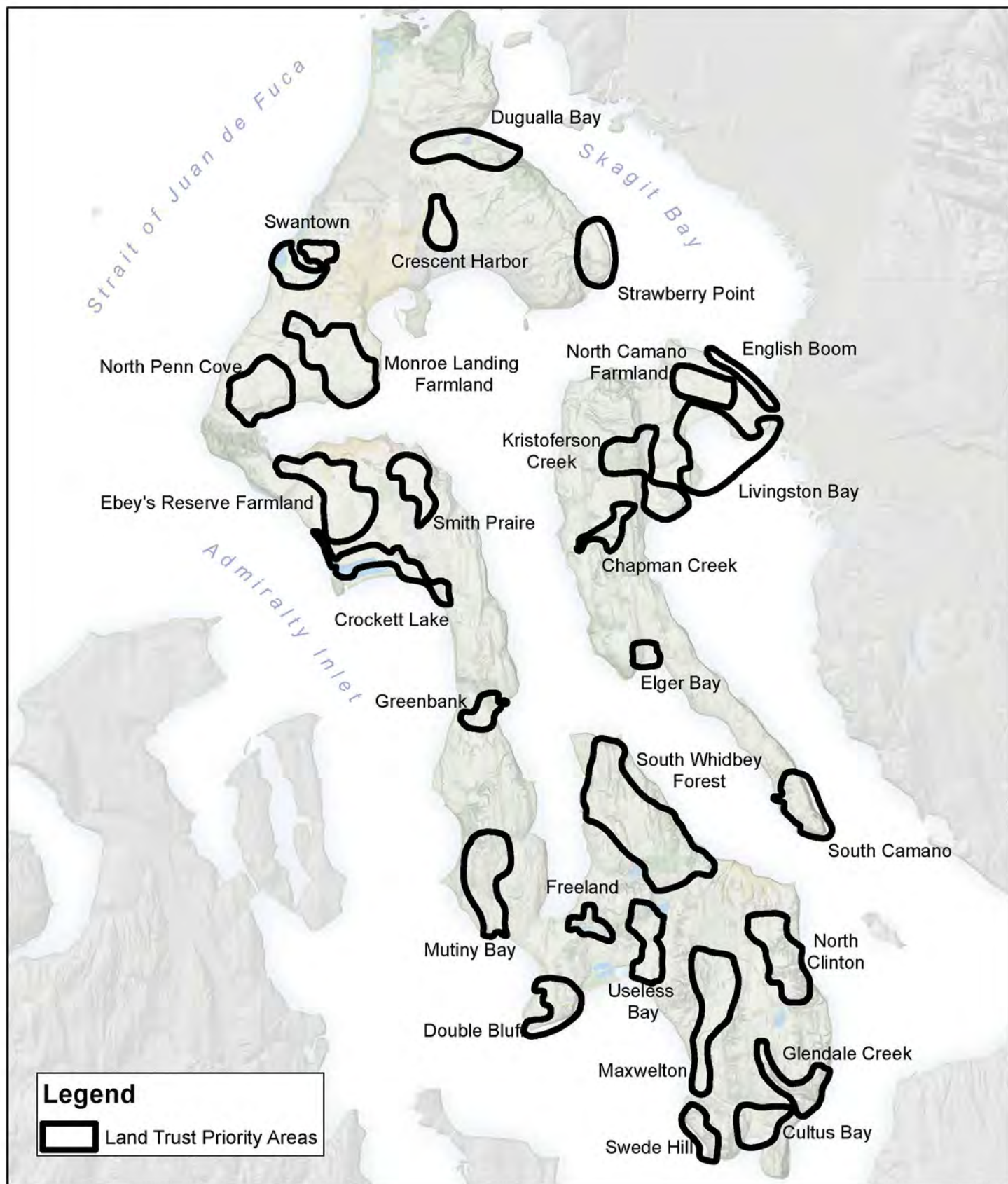
Analysis then considered the following conditions:

- Lands and waters possessing high-quality Conservation Targets or, with minimal restoration, can provide the same.
- Lands and waters with high-quality Conservation Targets that are threatened with conversion to incompatible land uses.
- Lands and waters that will provide or significantly enhance protection of healthy, ecologically viable and functioning natural system(s) or, with minimal restoration, can accomplish the same.
- Lands and waters that add important habitat buffers or connectivity to already protected areas and/or provide a corridor between protected lands and waters. High preference is given to protected areas under federal, state, local or Land Trust ownership.
- Landscapes that will help protect the special character of Whidbey and Camano Islands, including agricultural and rural character, quality of life, scenic vistas and outdoor opportunities.
- Lands and waters meeting the above criteria in large ownership acreages or within large blocks of farmland, forestland or natural areas.

Continued application of the above criteria has led to several revisions in this update. Two Priority Areas were removed from this 2018 Plan, one being deemed no longer viable (Cranberry Lake), and the other was deemed no longer an opportunity (Sunset Wetlands). Two additional priority areas (Upper and Lower Maxwellton) were merged, after concluding that they constitute a single system. Lastly, a new Priority Area was added since the last update (North Clinton), as greater opportunities have been identified in the vicinity of the Land Trust’s Waterman Shoreline Preserve and Zimmerman Conservation Easement.

The Land Protection Priorities Map (see **Map 4**) shows the location and extent of the Land Trust’s Land Protection Priority Areas and the Corridors Map (see **Map 5**) shows the habitat corridors that run through the islands and are links by the Land Trust’s Protection Priority Areas. The Priority Areas are further shown by name and number in the following inset maps and are described in the following section.

Map 4. Land Trust Priority Areas

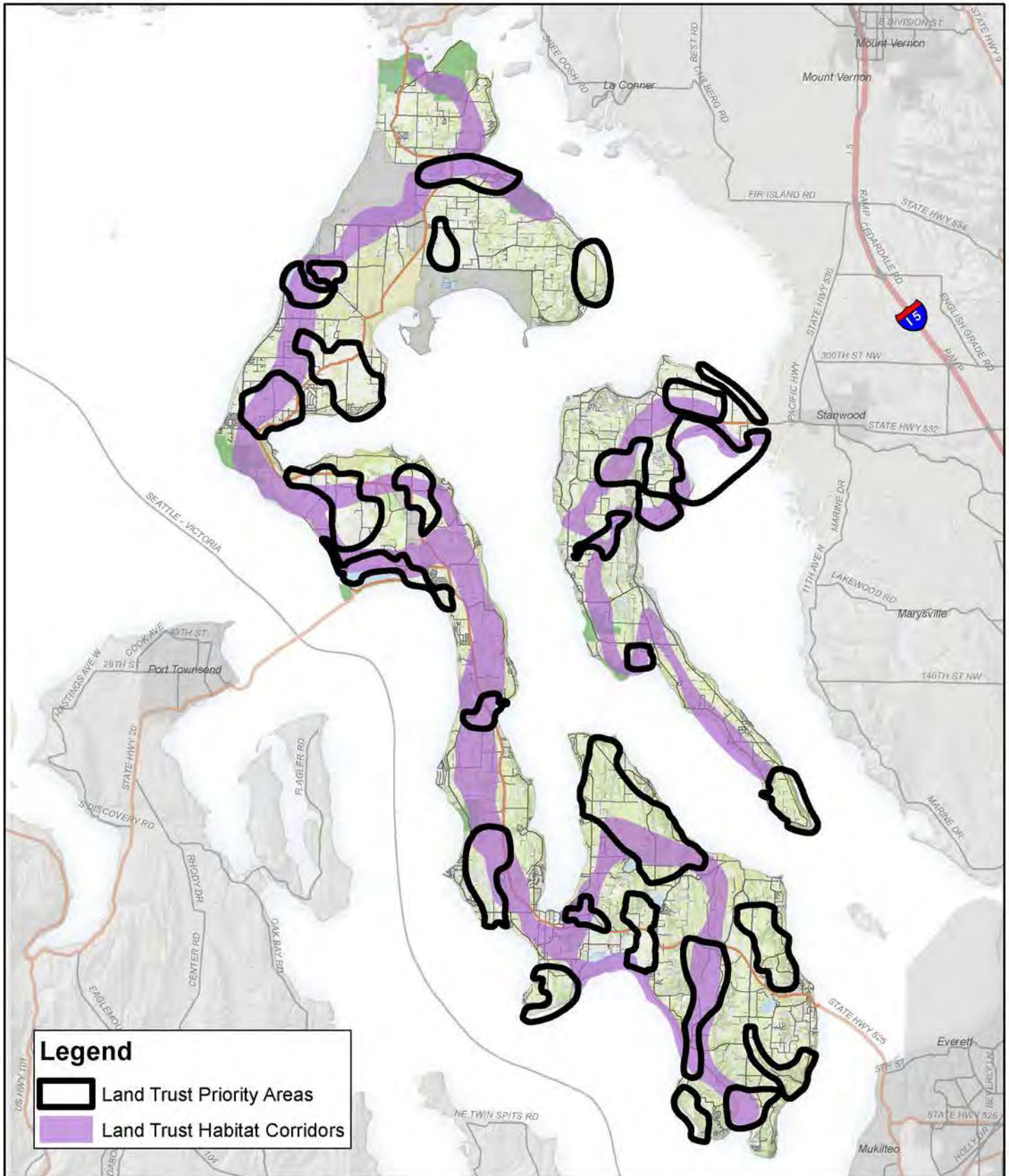


Base map data provided by Island County. Priority Area data created by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust after analysis of critical areas, parcel size, and wildlife habitat data.





Map 5. Corridors



Property boundaries are taken from Island County GIS tax parcel maps. These boundaries are approximate and may not match on-the-ground fencelines or actual survey markers.

22,000 11,000 0 22,000
Feet

Descriptions of Protection Priority Areas

North Whidbey Priority Areas

1. Dugualla Bay

The east side of this Priority Area is one of highest ranked areas for potential salmon recovery in Island County due to the opportunity to restore estuarine habitat for juvenile salmon, as well as the nearshore habitat, including eelgrass beds, that are important feeding grounds for juvenile salmon migrating from the Skagit Delta. The west side of the Priority area contains prime farmland, and freshwater wetlands.

2. Crescent Harbor

The area includes large areas of prime farmland soils that are working farms. The stream that flows through the Priority Area has important wildlife and riparian benefits.

3. Strawberry Point

Strawberry Point has mature coastal forest, eroding bluff shoreline, farmland, wetlands, deciduous and coniferous forest, and shrub habitats that are of high benefit for fish and wildlife. The nearshore habitat provides significant refuge and forage for juvenile salmon and other fish and wildlife. There are trail opportunities that would allow people to enjoy a mosaic of habitat types.

4. Swantown

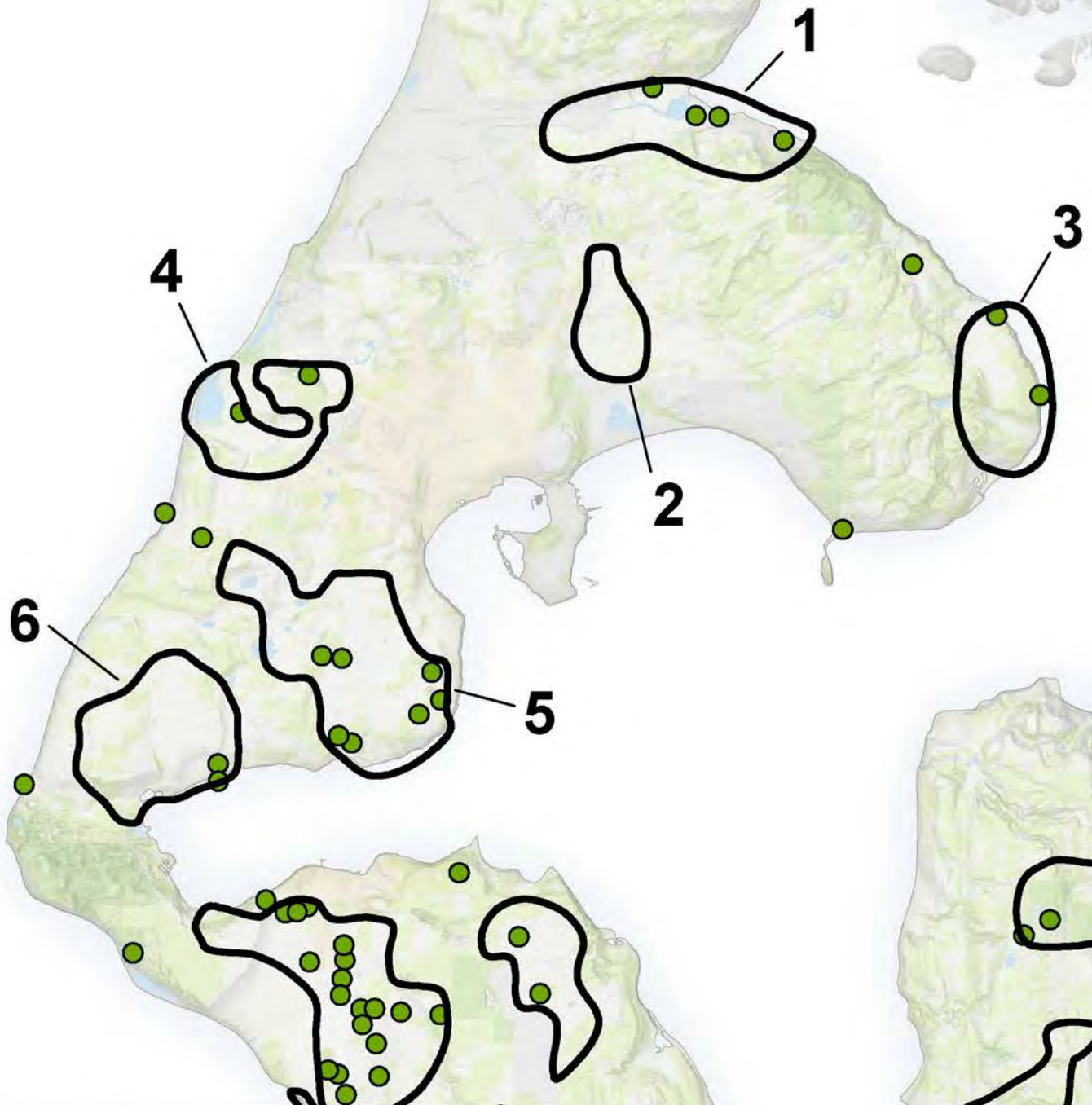
Encompassing the lower reaches of a 3,793-acre watershed, this Priority Area functions as an important filtration system for runoff originating in Oak Harbor. The area includes important prime and historic farmland, aquifer recharge areas, mature forests, and freshwater streams draining into Swan (aka Boss) Lake and Puget Sound.


The diversity of habitats, including freshwater and estuarine habitats, is important for fish and wildlife. The area is very scenic with farmland, lake, marine waters and the Olympic Mountains in the viewshed. Protected lands in the area include a large portion of Swan Lake, a 315- acre conservation easement on the historic Fakkema Farm held by the Land Trust, Joseph Whidbey State Park, and 40 acres of trust land transfer forestland owned by Island County. The threat of subdivision and development is much greater than most other island areas due to its proximity to the City of Oak Harbor.

5. Monroe Landing Farmland

The prime feature is the large working farmlands with prime soils. There are also scenic views, woodlots and mature forest, and shoreline along north Penn Cove shoreline. Wildlife habitat values are significant. The southern edge of the Priority Area includes Blower's Bluff, where Peregrine Falcons and Pigeon Guillemot nest. Penn Cove is an important mussel growing area and it is essential to protect its water quality. This Priority Area lies between two Audubon Important Bird Areas, Crescent Harbor and Penn Cove. There are trail opportunities that could eventually connect into Oak Harbor.

North Whidbey Priority Areas



-  Land Trust Priority Areas
-  Land Trust Protected Lands

6. North Penn Cove

Much of the farmland in this Priority Area is the northern gateway to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. The area includes a large working farmland and smaller farms, all with prime soils, and intermittent woodlots. This priority area also has scenic vistas of Penn Cove, open fields, and the Olympic and Cascade Mountains and shoreline along north Penn Cove shoreline. The National Park Service holds a scenic conservation easement on Grasser's Hill which protects the scenic views but not the habitat. The Land Trust owns a conservation easement on a view farmland. Except for a few farm fields, much of this area has been developed with homes and protection opportunities are limited.

Central Whidbey Priority Areas

7. Ebey's Reserve Farmland

Farms in this Priority Area have been cultivated for over 150 years; most have prime soils and are designated as farmlands of statewide significance. Farmland protection provides for current and future local food production and is important for the tourism economy. Protecting "gaps" in the middle of protected farmland areas helps retain connectivity and keep agriculture economically viable. In addition, these farmlands and their intermittent woodlots provide critical wildlife habitat, especially for raptors. There are significant opportunities to create a large trail network.

This area is within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, created in 1978 as a unit of the National Park Service to help keep a historic, agricultural landscape intact.

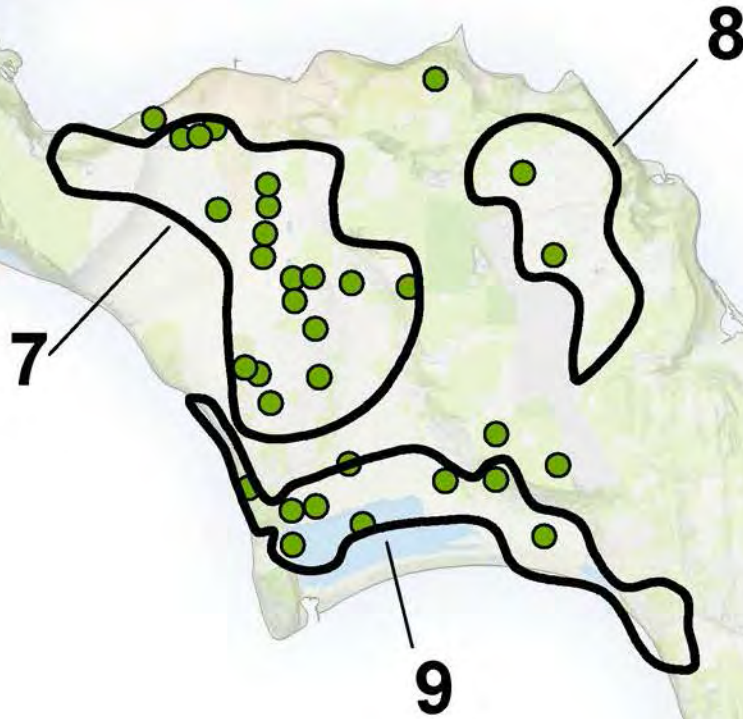
Ownerships include Washington State Parks, U.S. National Park Service with fee simple and conservation easement lands, Whidbey Camano Land Trust with fee simple and conservation easement lands and includes two significant nature preserves, Crockett Lake and Admiralty Inlet. Development pressure is high as much of the undeveloped land is in protected status. Most lands are zoned 5, 10 and 20 acres.


8. Smith Prairie

This Priority Area includes native prairie remnants where active prairie restoration is occurring. There are also farmlands with prime soil, forest, and two economically viable conifer seed orchards. Smith Prairie is a very important aquifer recharge area, with wells serving the municipal water system for Coupeville and the surrounding area.

As the southern gateway to Ebey's Reserve, protection of the farmland and open space will maintain historic integrity of the landscape and the scenic views. The Naval Outlying Field is part of this Priority Area. The Land Trust holds two conservation easements on conifer seed orchards. There are large undeveloped acreages that could be connected to existing protected areas with trail connections.

Central Whidbey Priority Areas



-  Land Trust Priority Areas
-  Land Trust Protected Lands

9. Crockett Lake

This Priority Area includes several habitat types, including the lake itself, surrounding freshwater and estuarine wetlands, mature riparian forest, and farmland as well as two prairie remnants, coastal bluffs and an old-growth forest in the adjacent uplands. Crockett Lake is an Audubon Important Bird Area. Protection will also maintain the scenic views of Admiralty Inlet, the Olympic Mountains, Crockett Lake and farmlands. Fort Casey State Park is adjacent to this area.

The Land Trust owns nearly 500 acres in the Crockett Lake wetland area. (Crockett Lake Preserve) State Parks owns another 345 acres adjacent to the Preserve as well as the main portion of Fort Casey State Park. The Land Trust also owns 84 acres in the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve and helped protect an additional 147 forested acres on Keystone Hill Road.

10. Greenbank

The area provides significant benefits to wildlife and provides public recreational opportunities. Within the Priority Area are mature forest and Greenbank Farm with public walking trails, a portion of former estuary, and open fields. The area is a destination for tourists.

Land in and around this Priority Area is primarily under public ownership and includes Lake Hancock, owned by the U.S. Navy; part of the Lake Hancock wetlands and forest buffer owned by The Nature Conservancy, forestland on both sides of Highway 525 owned by Island County, and Greenbank Farm, owned by the Port of Coupeville with a conservation easement, facilitated by the Land Trust, held by Island County. The Land Trust also holds several conservation easements on lands within this Area.

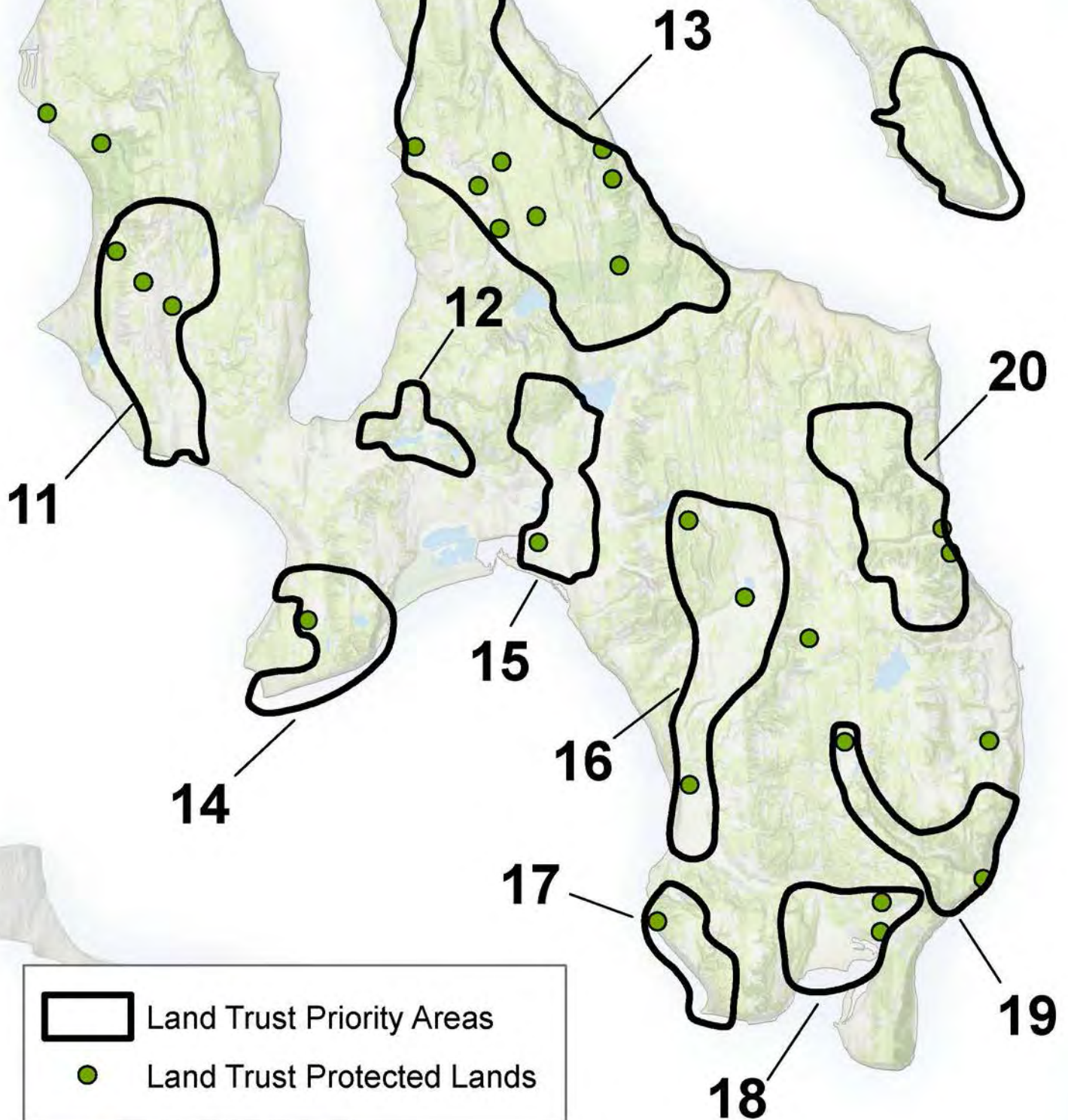
Unplanned development in this narrow part of the Island could sever north-south wildlife movement. Undeveloped lands exist between the Greenbank Priority Area and the Mutiny Bay Priority area and protecting a wildlife corridor between these areas is a priority.

South Whidbey Priority Areas

11. Mutiny Bay

This Priority Area encompasses a portion of the Mutiny Bay watershed. Protection is a priority because of the mature forest stands and the importance of stream headwaters and wetlands that exist throughout the area. This priority area includes the 730-acre Trillium Community Forest, located just south of South Whidbey State Park, the majority owned by the Land Trust with two parking areas owned by Island County as well as a conservation easement on much of the Land Trust property. The Trillium Community Forest includes significant trail system could be expanded. The Priority Area includes the possibility of connecting to wetlands and the shoreline.

South Whidbey Priority Areas



12. Freeland

Located north of Freeland, this Priority Area is a mosaic of forest, farmland, and wetlands. Of significance is a sphagnum bog – a rare wetland type. Whidbey Watershed stewards owns a wetland adjacent to the east side of Freeland.

Because of the area's proximity to Freeland, the pressure for growth and spread of development is higher than in many other places on Whidbey Island. There are, however, large undeveloped tracts of land here. There are also possibilities for partnerships to help protect land in the area.

13. South Whidbey Forest

This Priority Area predominantly consists of large blocks of forestland held in private and public ownership. The focus of this Priority Area is to protect a large, intact forest system with functional stream systems and important wildlife habitat. Private forest lands are threatened with residential subdivision and development.

The Land Trust has three conservation easements, including a 176-acre mature forest, a 140-acre mature forest, and the 118-acre Saratoga Woods Preserve. The Land Trust helped protect three forested parcels totaling 157 acres and the 604-acre Putney Woods, all owned by Island County.

There are significant opportunities to create a larger trail network to link Raven's Forest Forever, Skyline Trust Land Transfer (TLT), High Point TLT, Brainers TLT, Harry's Forest Forever, Saratoga Woods, Putney Woods and the Metcalf Trust Lands.

14. Double Bluff

This area includes marine feeder bluffs, conifer and deciduous forests, and freshwater wetlands, streams and a lake. There are also small pockets of farmland. There are excellent opportunities for low-impact trails to connect to protected areas, including Deer Lagoon, Double Bluff Beach, and the Wahl Road Forest, all owned by Island County. Development pressures are high in this area.

15. Useless Bay

This area includes a valuable combination of freshwater lake and wetlands, coastal estuarine habitat, forest, and farmland with forest edges. The farmland has prime farmland soils. Deer Lagoon, which lies adjacent to the Priority Area, has been identified as an Audubon Important Bird Area. Shorebirds and waterfowl congregate here, attracted to the wetlands, rich estuaries and farmland within and around the Priority Area. There are opportunities for an expanded trail network.

The Land Trust and County co-hold a 54-acre property protected by an agricultural conservation easement. Island County owns nearly 500 acres of Deer Lagoon. State Parks owns tidelands along the southern shore and mudflats on eastern Deer Lagoon.

16. Maxwellton

This Priority Area includes much of the Maxwellton Watershed, the largest watershed on Whidbey Island. The Area includes extensive wetlands, forests, riparian habitat and Maxwellton Creek, one of just two salmon-spawning streams on Whidbey Island.

Protecting land in this area will help maintain and enhance ecological targets and riparian function. There are also working farms that, along with the other land cover types provide excellent “edge effect” for wildlife, increasing habitat diversity and food sources.

There are numerous trail opportunities in this area, including a future trail network from Highway 525 through the Trustland Trails down the Maxwellton Valley to Dave Mackie county park, and up to Whidbey Institute.

17. Swede Hill

While some farmland soils of statewide importance are found in this Priority Area, the primary conservation targets are forests with old-growth characteristics and high bluffs along the Cultus Bay/Possession Point shoreline. One of the biggest threats to the mature forests along the shoreline is timber harvest because of the size and quality of the trees and the eroding bluffs.

The Land Trust owns 30 acres of upland forest and 34 tideland acres at its Indian Point Preserve. There are opportunities for conservation easements as well.

18. Cultus Bay

Located in the lower part of the Cultus Bay watershed, this Priority Area includes large forest and estuarine wetland tracts, waterbird habitat, salmon habitat, feeder bluffs, and eelgrass beds.

Existing protected land in the area includes a small recreation site owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Land Trust’s 9.5-acre Hammons Preserve, and a 40-acre mature forest the Land Trust facilitated for Island County.

19. Glendale Creek

Glendale Creek is a relatively short and contained watershed with significant land protection opportunities. The headwaters include a large wetland complex which then flows down through a steep, forested and relatively wide ravine that narrows through the bottom portion of the watershed. The area includes one of two salmon-spawning streams on Whidbey Island.

The Land Trust’s Glendale Beach property includes the outlet of the creek and beach access for the public which is rare in this area of south Whidbey. There are also large forestland ownerships and additional shoreline included in this Priority Area. The Land also holds a 28-acre conservation easement in the northern portion of the Priority Area.

20. North Clinton

Comprised primarily of forest and forested wetlands, this Priority Area also contains high habitat for juvenile salmon on their way to and from the large salmon spawning rivers on the mainland. Bluff

waterfront that is important for maintaining the high-quality nearshore habitats and coastal processes also found here. These habitats include abundant eelgrass beds that serve as critical rearing and foraging. Island County notes there is a lack of longer trails and habitat protection in the Clinton area.

The Land Trust owns the 54-acre Waterman Preserve with 2,000 feet of coastal shoreline and a walking trail. It also holds a conservation easement on 28 acres located on the south boundary of the Waterman Preserve.

Camano Island Priority Area

21. English Boom

Located along the Pacific Flyway, this Priority Area provides critical habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Along the shoreline, eelgrass beds provide habitat for forage fish, which in turn provide food for salmonid species migrating from the nearby Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers. The Land Trust protected the 65-acre Davis Slough including property owned by WDFW with an easement held by Island County as well as a conservation easement on adjoining land owned by the Land Trust.

Protecting additional land in this area would provide more opportunities for habitat enhancement.

22. North Camano Farmland

The Area is comprised of prime farmland soils and farmland soils of state importance. It includes the largest working farm on Camano Island. The farm fields are a source for local food production, provides excellent wildlife habitat as it is close to Livingston Bay, and offers scenic views along the only route onto and off Camano Island.

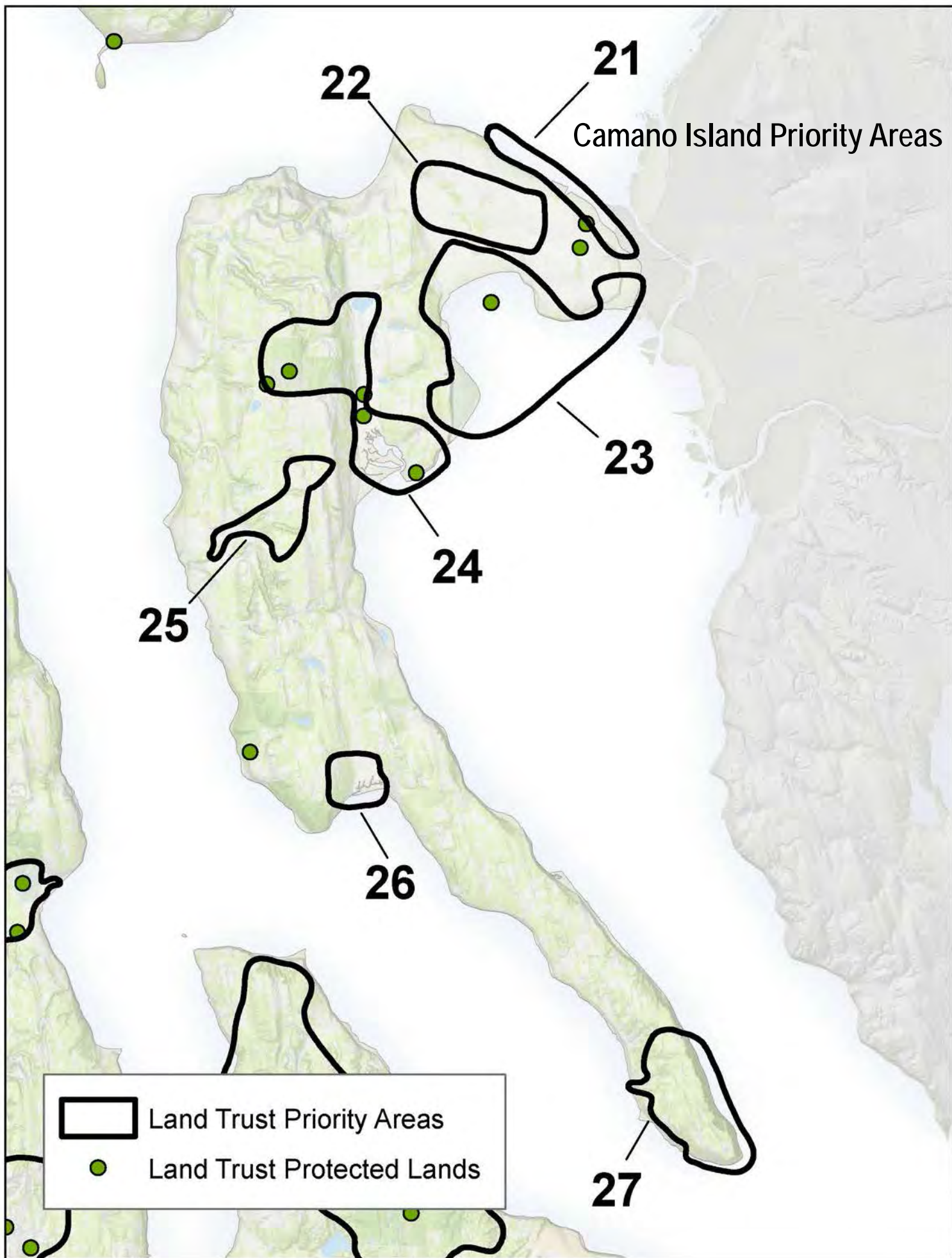
23. Livingston Bay

The Livingston Bay Priority Area covers the western half of Port Susan Bay from the Camano shoreline to the Snohomish County line. It also includes diked agricultural land and forested uplands. This area is a federally-recognized important bird area as it is a critical stopover point for shorebirds and waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The Land Trust owns more than 3200 acres of tidelands in Livingston Bay. Livingston Bay is an important salmon area.

24. Kristoferson Creek

Kristoferson Creek is currently the only salmon-bearing stream on Camano Island. This Priority Area includes a large working farm, a freshwater lake, extensive stream and riparian areas and Triangle Cove, a large intact estuarine ecosystem. It also includes Barnum Point. The Land Trust is currently working to increase the size of the county park to 129 acres with a mile of beach and 2.5 miles of upland trails.

This Priority Area has exceptional wildlife habitat because of the variety of habitat types. There are opportunities to connect the Barnum Point county park trail system up into the Kristoferson Priority



Area and adjacent to a commercial area. The Land Trust, in partnership with Island County, has protected 10 acres at the mouth of Kristoferson Creek and the healthy mature forest on Island County's Camano Ridge property.

25. Chapman Creek

This Priority Area covers about half of the Chapman Creek watershed and encompasses the creek's riparian area from its headwaters to Saratoga Passage. Much of the area is in mature forest cover. Land protection in this area will help maintain and improve watershed functions. The outlet to Chapman Creek is under the county road and it is drop to the sound which limits salmon recovery efforts in the watershed.

26. Elger Bay

This Priority Area includes a large un-diked estuary that provides important habitat for salmon, birds, and other and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Adjacent forested properties provide opportunities to protect connections from the shoreline to Cama Beach and Camano Island State Parks.

27. South Camano

This Priority Area contains a rare big-leaf maple/fringe cup forest plant community that is listed as a Natural Heritage Element Occurrence by the Washington State Natural Heritage Program. This Priority Area also includes Camano Head, a feeder bluff that is crucial to migrating salmon heading to and from the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers. There is also a perched wetland. Island County notes this area is important as for aquifer recharge. In addition, there is little habitat protection or trails on South Camano.

Trails

Background

Many public surveys and other public outreach efforts in Island County have concluded that there is a high demand for trails on both Whidbey and Camano islands. This demand will likely remains high as population continues to grow and the islands remain a sought after tourist destination. As of 2017, the Land Trust manages 15 miles of trail on six properties. Offering opportunities for the public to experience the land is important to gain continued support for land conservation, including ongoing stewardship. Acquisition of large acreages with trail networks, like Trillium Community Forest, is uncommon as few of these types of properties exist. Creation of trail systems by connecting a series of protected properties or trail easements is a high priority. These trail systems can also serve a dual purpose as wildlife corridors and recreational opportunities.

Trail connections can be made by fee acquisition, conservation easement, or trail easement. The Land Trust has identified several locations for potential trail networks. These sites have high connectivity with existing trails and protected areas. Forested trails, open scenic trails, and beaches are all areas of

focus. Partnership with other agencies is key to the success of future trail systems. Island County, Washington State Parks, National Park Service, and the Town of Coupeville are just a few of the partners that the Land Trust is working with to create cohesive trail connections.

Generally, the Land Trust adopts Island County's Trail Access Needs, as described in its 2016 Element 7 of the Comprehensive Plan.

More specifically, the Trail Connections and Potential Project Areas Map (**Map 6**) shows conceptual trail concepts across both islands. The map includes trail existing trails on Land Trust and other partner agency properties. Conceptual trail connections are shown where there is potential for future projects. Some of these trails are on already protected lands and will need funding for trail planning and development. Other trails are on unprotected lands and acquisition of some property interests will be needed before additional trail planning or development could occur.

Trail Project Areas

Swantown Trails

This trail area focuses on helping Oak Harbor residents get from the city to West Beach Road. Partnership with Island County on shoulder improvement work and with State Parks, Oak Harbor, and the Navy to connect to nearby protected lands.

- Projects: Fakkema Trail and parking lot

Walking Ebey's Trails

The Land Trust has been working for the past decade on priority land protection within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Most of the conservation easements that Land Trust holds within this area also include trail easements. A conceptual plan was created in 2016 for the development of this trail network and grant funding for a construction plan was awarded in 2017. Additional funding will be necessary for further development of the trail network that will create over eight miles of new public trail and connect the Keystone Ferry and Fort Casey State to the Town of Coupeville, Rhododendron Park, Kettles area, and Fort Ebey State Park.

- *Projects:* Walking Ebey's and small parking areas

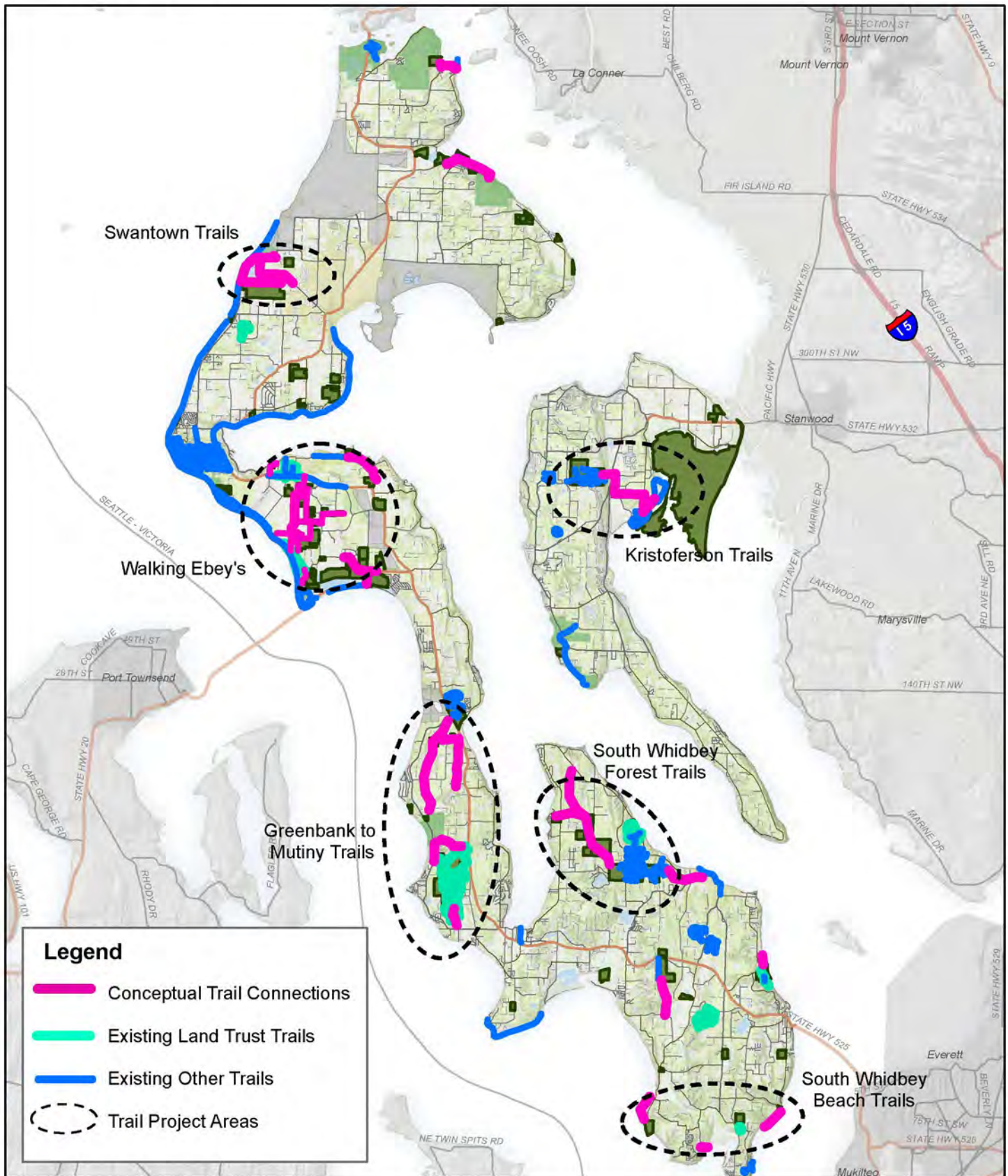
Greenbank Mutiny Trails

This area includes Trillium Community Forest, South Whidbey State Park, and Greenbank Farm. Each of these areas have developed trail systems, and several opportunities exist to provide direct trail access between these areas and to other protected lands.

- *Projects:* Bakken Road to Lagoon Point Trail, Smugglers Cove to SW State Park Trail, Freeland Sewer and Water Trails



Map 6. Trail Connections and Potential Project Areas

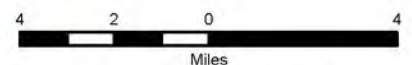


Legend

- Conceptual Trail Connections
- Existing Land Trust Trails
- Existing Other Trails
- Trail Project Areas



Property boundaries are taken from Island County GIS tax parcel maps. These boundaries are approximate and may not match on-the-ground fencelines or actual survey markers.



South Whidbey Forest Trails

This area includes Saratoga and Putney Woods, both popular hiking destinations owned by Island County. Recent conservation easements, north of these properties, have shown potential for a new or expanded trail network within this large forested area.

- *Projects:* Raven's Forest Forever Trail, Putney to Langley Trail

South Whidbey Beach Trails

This project area includes the Land Trust's Glendale Beach, Hammons Preserve, and Indian Point Preserve, and the County's Glendale Trustland Transfer property. Beach access is an important priority across both islands. Acquiring tidelands in fee ownership or with trail easements across tidelands can add to existing stretches of public beach.

- *Projects:* Glendale Shoreline, Hammons Preserve Indian Point to Maxwellton Shoreline, Waterman Shoreline

Kristoferson Trails

Protection of Barnum Point County Park added over three miles of trails open to the public on Camano Island. Creating connections between Barnum Point County Park, Iverson Spit Park, Camano Ridge Park, and Kristoferson Creek will greatly increase hiking opportunities on north Camano.

- *Projects:* Barnum to Iverson Trail, Barnum to Kristoferson Trail, Kristoferson to Camano Trail

Beach Access

According to Island County information, more than 60% of County-owned water access sites are less than one acre in size. Many beach access points are not inventoried and/or lack support facilities and infrastructure to support public use (from: Element 7 Comprehensive Plan, 2016). On Camano Island 83% of the shoreline is privately owned.

Additional access to beaches is a top priority from the Land Trust's public outreach and Island County's outreach efforts. Beach access needs center on having room for a variety of activities and beach access for walking.

The Land Trust is adopting Island County's Beach Access needs as identified in its 2016 Comprehensive Plan, Element 7. The goal is to provide beach access within three miles of homes. In addition, the Land Trust prioritizes securing private beach and tidelands where public access opportunities are enhanced.

SECTION 6: GOALS AND POLICIES



Mission

The mission of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is to actively involve the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our Islands and in the waters of Puget Sound. The following goals and policies implement the mission of the Land Trust and ensure that the most important lands and waters are being protected, cared for, and restored for today and generations to come.

Goal 1. Lands and Waters

Provide a quality, connected, and sustainable system of protected lands and waters throughout Island County that prioritizes habitat conservation and provides benefits at a landscape-scale relative to the size of the islands.

- 1.1 Protect a system of natural areas that support native biodiversity and ecological function and protect ecosystem services, such as clean air and water. Natural Areas include coastal lands, wetlands and streams, forests, and fields.

- Focus on acquiring large acreages, or consolidation of acreages, which typically have higher habitat value and greater resilience. Small properties should contribute to larger protected areas, contain important habitat, or provide a wildlife corridor between protected areas.
 - Focus on acquiring lands that provide habitat for native wildlife that is more easily disturbed by human activity (e.g., neotropical birds, raptors, shorebirds, etc.) and specialized habitat needed for species like amphibians and reptiles, migratory bird stopover areas, breeding/nesting habitat, etc.
 - Focus on acquiring land that has high or medium resource value to minimize restoration requirements.
 - Focus on protecting and, if needed, restoring estuaries and intact nearshore habitat for salmon recovery.
- 1.2 Protect ecological corridors between protected lands and Puget Sound to promote climate resiliency and allow viable movement of native fish and wildlife.
- 1.3 Protect lands with prime farmland soils, prioritizing large acreages that are working farms. Inclusion of habitats (wetlands, brush rows, forests, etc.) within or adjacent to these farmlands are an added conservation benefit.
- 1.4 Enhance public access to beaches by acquiring private tidelands and beach access easements when these efforts will add to or connect existing public tidelands and/or provide adequate area for appropriate low-impact recreational opportunities that respect the ecological integrity of the shoreline ecosystem.
- Prioritize protection efforts where island residents do not have access to adequate beaches using the Beach Access Needs Map in Element 7 of the 2016 Island County Comprehensive Plan as a starting point for identifying these areas.
- 1.5 Foster partnerships and county-wide collaboration among park and habitat providers to improve the provision of habitat conservation and low-impact outdoor recreation services.
- 1.6 Assist public agencies in acquiring lands and easements that are consistent with this Plan.
- 1.7 Prioritize potential lands for acquisition of fee or easement ownership based on alignment with this Plan, landscapes within the Land Protection Priorities Areas, and identified corridor connections, as well as other federal, state, and county adopted plans.
- 1.8 Keep the Land Protection Priorities Area Map updated with current resource information and changes in land use.

- Continue to update and add information to the GIS database by working with partners.
- The following lands are included as being within a Land Protection Priority Area although they are not shown on the Priority Area Map. These are protected lands not owned or held by the Land Trust that are greater than 20 acres in size and permanently protected for conservation purposes, in either fee simple or with conservation easements, by entities including but not limited to, Island County, park districts, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Recreation Commission (State Parks), National Park Service, Native American Tribes, and other natural resource agencies and nonprofit nature conservancy organizations.
- Using current and strategic land and water conservation selection criteria, determine the highest priority lands for protection, identify possible fund sources, and initiate conversations with landowners.

Goal 2. Outdoor Recreation

Provide for appropriate low-impact and passive outdoor recreation opportunities where appropriate and compatible with conservation values and biodiversity.

- 2.1 Improve and expand passive outdoor recreational opportunities for public enjoyment, focusing on trail development and connections to existing trails to create networks throughout the islands, especially near population centers.
- 2.2 Increase public access to beaches and shoreline areas for recreation opportunities that respect the ecological integrity of the shoreline ecosystem.
- 2.3 Strive to provide areas where people can walk at least one mile in nature within a 20-minute drive from most county residences.
- 2.4 Coordinate with other entities and private landowners to support trail development and maintenance throughout Island County.
- 2.5 Secure trail easements on private lands to connect trails and public beaches.
- 2.6 Promote trail development practices that are respectful of private property owners' rights.
- 2.7 Promote trail use in rights-of-ways, easements, and road improvement plans.

Goal 3. Stewardship

Continue to develop a stewardship program that cost-effectively protects Land Trust fee lands and conservation easements with an emphasis on sustainable methods and design, and the protection of habitat quality, conservation value, and resources for current and future generations.

- 3.1 Expand our ability to steward and maintain Land Trust preserves by building stewardship networks on the islands.
- 3.2 Continue to grow the Land Trust’s volunteer program to help maintain and steward our fee properties and maintain trails by expanding the volunteer site steward program, holding work parties at different times of the week, engaging with neighbors for a “preserve watch” type of program, and partnering with other stewardship organizations.
- 3.3 Develop management plans and, as appropriate, restoration plans within one year of acquisition of preserves. Update and revise as needed.
- 3.4 Manage all Land Trust preserves according to approved management and, as applicable, restoration plans.
- 3.5 Monitor all conservation easements annually for compliance and maintain positive relationships with owners of these lands. At a minimum, traverse the boundaries of conservation easements and update the Baseline Documentation reports and photos for conservation easements every five years.
- 3.6 Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat functions and processes, and other ecological values on Land Trust preserves.
- 3.7 Invest in preventative maintenance and restoration to maximize long-term benefits.

Goal 4. Community Engagement

Engage Island County residents and visitors in caring for preserves and trails. Provide effective communication to reach a wider audience.

- 4.1 Increase community stewardship efforts by publicizing through a variety of information sources.
- 4.2 Provide appropriate opportunities to connect with Land Trust protected properties, including educational opportunities and tours.
- 4.3 Promote and implement a “Leave No Trace” program and encourage Island County citizens to adopt this ethic.
- 4.4 Publicize Land Trust successes through a variety of methods, including community events, property celebrations, property protection signs, informational kiosks, and print and on-line media.

Goal 5. Funding

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to acquire lands and conservation easements, restore properties to ecological health, and develop, operate, maintain, and sustain Land Trust preserves and conservation easements.

- 5.1 Establish funding for long-term stewardship of preserves and conservation easements.
- 5.2 Actively seek innovative funding methods to retain financial flexibility and increase ability to steward and restore lands and waters.
- 5.3 Continue to prepare and present excellent grant applications to leverage funding to acquire lands and conservation easements and restore lands to ecological health.
- 5.4 When appropriate and as staff capacity allows, launch capital and “close the gap” campaigns to acquire high priority preserves and conservation easements and more actively involve the broader community in protection efforts.
- 5.5 Continue to cultivate donations of qualifying lands and conservation easements, focusing on conservation easements to create wildlife corridors and protect farmland.
- 5.6 Develop partnerships with public and private organizations and agencies to leverage funding for the support of parks, natural areas, and passive outdoor recreation opportunities.

SECTION 7: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Land Acquisition and Protection

The properties listed below were identified in the Land Trust's planning process as properties of highest importance. The Land Trust only works with willing landowners and these acquisitions will only occur

PROPERTY & TYPE	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Duguala Bay							
Farmland CE 1	RCO; USFWS; WDOE; CFF; USN			●	●	●	●
Farmland CE 2	RCO; USFWS; WDOE; CFF; USN		●	●	●	●	
Tidelands Expansion	RCO; Navy	●	●				
Strawberry Point							
Borgman Preserve and adjacent Fee & CE	Donation; Private; RCO; Foundations	●	●	●			
Swantown							
Swan Lake Farm & Wetlands Fee & CE	RCO; CFF; Navy; Donation		●	●	●		
Monroe Landing							
Penn Cove Farmland CE	RCO; NRCS; CFF	●	●				
Working farmland CEs	RCO; NRCS, CFF, Navy	●	●	●	●		
North Penn Cove							
Working Farmland CE	RCO; NRCS; CFF; Navy; LWCF					●	●
Wildlife Corridor to Duguala CE	CFF; Navy; Donation			●	●		

KEY: Fund Sources

CFF
Island County Conservation Futures Fund

LWCF
Land & Water Conservation Fund

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RCO
Recreation & Conservation Office

WDOE
WA Department of Ecology

USFS
US Forest Services

USFWS
US Fish & Wildlife Service

USN
United States Navy

WDNR
WA Department of Natural Resources

WDFW
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

Other:

Foundation
Private/Philanthropic Foundations

Private
3rd Party Buyer/Private Fundraising

Donation
Landowner Donation/Bargain Sale

PROPERTY & TYPE	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ebey's Reserve							
Sherman Farms CE	RCO; Navy; NRCS		●	●	●	●	
Jean Sherman Farms CE	RCO; Navy; NRCS			●	●	●	
Sullivan Farm CE	RCO; LWCF; Navy				●	●	●
Boldt Farm CE	RCO; LWCF; Navy				●	●	●
Smith Prairie							
Pacific Rim Institute CE	WDNR/USFWS; Navy; CFF; LWCF			●	●	●	
Youderian Farm & Forest CEs	Navy; CFF; RCO					●	●
WA Dept Fish & Wildlife Fee & CE	3rd party; Navy			●	●	●	
Crockett Lake							
Lea Forest and Farm CE	USFWS/DOE; RCO; CFF; Navy				●	●	●
Wannamaker Road Farms CE	Navy; Donation; 3rd party	●			●	●	●
Keystone Avenue Lots Fee & CE	Donation; Private Funds	●	●	●	●		
Greenbank							
North – South Wildlife Corridor CE's	Donation; CFF	●	●	●	●	●	●
Allen CE	Donation	●					
Mutiny Bay							
Trillium Waterman Fee	USFS/WDNR; RCO; Private			●	●	●	●
Trillium Highway 525 Fee & CE	RCO; CFF; Donation; Private		●	●	●	●	●
Trillium to State Park Corridor CE & Fee	RCO; State Parks; CFF		●	●	●	●	●
South Wetlands CE	RCO; CFF; Donation				●	●	●
Double Bluff							
Large forest & farm tracts CE & Fee	RCO; USFWS/WDOE; CFF; Donation				●	●	●

PROPERTY & TYPE	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Useless Bay							
Lone Lake forest, farm, lake CEs	RCO; CFF			●	●	●	●
South Wetlands Fee & CE	RCO; CFF; Donation			●	●		
Langley Community							
Fossek Farm	CFF, Private		●	●	●		
South Whidbey Forest							
Frei Working Forest CE	USFS/WDNR; CFF; RCO	●	●	●	●	●	●
Large Tracts & Connections CEs	USFS/WDNR, CFF, RCO	●	●	●	●	●	●
Maxwelton							
Sher forest, farm and wetlands CE	RCO; CFF; NRCS; Donation	●	●	●	●	●	●
Whidbey Institute CE	CFF; Donation	●	●				
Working Farmland CEs	RCO; CFF; NRCS; Donation			●	●	●	●
Farm and wetland CE	Donation	●	●				
Large wetland and forest CEs	Donation			●	●	●	●
Swede Hill							
Coastal properties CE	Donation, RCO		●	●	●		
Cultus Bay							
Collins & Green CE	RCO, USFWS/WDNR, Donation		●	●	●	●	
Rohwer CE	Donation	●					

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USN
United States Navy

WDNR
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WDFW
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

Other:

Foundation
Private/Philanthropic Foundations

Private
3rd Party Buyer/Private Fundraising

Donation
Landowner Donation/Bargain Sale

PROPERTY & TYPE	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Glendale							
Headwater wetlands CE	RCO, CFF, Donation		●	●	●		
Swanson forest and coast CE	RCO, USFS/WDNR, CFF, Donation			●	●	●	●
Pearson CE & Fee	RCO, CFF	●	●	●	●		
North Clinton							
Beach Connections CE & Easements	Donation	●	●				
Surface Road Forests CE	Donation	●	●	●			
English Boom							
Expansion of County Park CE & Fee	CFF; Donation		●	●			
Farm and Wetland tracts CE & Fee	RCO, USFWS/DOE, CFF			●	●	●	
North Camano Farmland							
Working Farm CE	RCO; NRCS; CFF			●	●	●	●
Livingston Bay							
Diked Farmland CE	USFWS/WDOE, RCO			●	●	●	●
Kristoferson Creek							
Barnum Point Park Expansion Fee	RCO, CFF, USFWS/WDOE	●	●				
Kristoferson Forest & Farm CE	RCO, CFF, Donation			●	●	●	●
Wildlife Corridors	Donation		●	●	●	●	●
Chapman Creek							
Upper Watershed CEs	Donation					●	●
North Wildlife Corridor CEs	Donation	●	●	●			
Cama & Camano State Parks							
Expansion CE and Fee	RCO, State Parks			●	●	●	●

PROPERTY & TYPE	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Elger Bay							
Wetlands and Buffer CE and Fee	Donation, RCO, CFF	●	●	●			
South Camano							
Coastal, forest and wetland CE & Fee	RCO, WDNR,	●	●	●	●	●	●

Facilities

FACILITY/PROJECT	FUND SOURCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Whidbey Island							
Swantown Trails	CFF; Private; Donation	●	●	●			
Walking Ebey's Trails	CFF; RCO; Donation; Private	●	●	●	●		
Greenbank to Mutiny Trails	CFF; RCO; Donation; Private			●	●	●	
South Whidbey Forest Trails	RCO; Donation; Private	●	●	●	●	●	
South Whidbey Beach Trails	RCO; CFF; Private; Donation			●	●	●	●
Camano Island							
Kristoferson Trails	RCO; Donation; CFF; Private	●	●	●	●	●	
State Park Trails	RCO; WA State Parks; Private; Donation			●	●	●	●

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USFS
US Forest Services

USFWS
US Fish & Wildlife Service

USN
United States Navy

WDNR
WA Department of Natural Resources

WDFW
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

Other:

Foundation
Private/Philanthropic Foundations

Private
3rd Party Buyer/Private Fundraising

Donation
Landowner Donation/Bargain Sale

EXHIBIT A: 2018 CONSERVATION PLAN SURVEY

The mission of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is to protect our treasured lands and waters throughout Island County. Entering our 34th year, we recognize that our long-term success in this mission is critically linked with community partnership and support. We are currently updating our Conservation Plan to ensure that our work continues to align with the values and priorities of our members and the broader community. Our planning process started in October with several public input sessions on Whidbey and Camano Islands. Now we are seeking additional input to better understand your and others' interests. We would appreciate 10 minutes of your time to let us know how you think we are doing.

1. Are we focusing our conservation efforts in the places of highest priority to you on Whidbey and Camano Islands? (See map of priority areas below)

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

If you disagree, where should we focus our work: _____

Strongly Agree	22.84%	45
Agree	63.96%	126
Disagree	2.54%	5
Strongly Disagree	0.51%	1
If you disagree, where should we focus our work?	10.15%	20
Answered		197
Skipped		9

2. To conserve the character and ecological integrity of Camano and Whidbey islands, please rank the types of lands and waters most important for us to protect.

- ☐ Large natural areas (e.g., contiguous undeveloped landscapes)
- ☐ Working farms (e.g., food or feed crops, livestock or poultry)
- ☐ Working forests (e.g., trees are harvested and replanted)
- ☐ Wetland and stream corridors
- ☐ Wildlife habitat (places for wildlife)
- ☐ Wildlife corridors connecting protected lands
- ☐ Coastal lands (bluffs, beaches and tidelands)
- ☐ Scenic landscapes
- ☐ Places for people to pursue outdoor recreation
- ☐ Other: _____

	Score
Large natural areas (e.g., contiguous undeveloped landscapes)	6.78
Working farms (e.g., food or feed crops, livestock or poultry)	4.34
Working forests (e.g., trees are harvested and replanted)	3.32
Wetland and stream corridors	6.34
Wildlife habitat (places for wildlife)	6.06
Wildlife corridors connecting protected lands	5.64
Coastal lands (bluffs, beaches, and tidelands)	6.15
Scenic landscapes	3.38
Places for people to pursue outdoor recreation	3.44
	202
	4

3. Please indicate the level of threat posed by the following (0 being the least threat and 5 being the highest)

- a. Population growth
- b. Climate change
- c. Environmental pollution
- d. Disengagement from nature
- e. Loss of natural areas
- f. Loss of forest land
- g. Loss of farmland
- h. Loss of wildlife habitat
- i. Loss of scenic views
- j. Loss of shoreline access
- k. Other: _____ (open comment field)

	Weighted Average
Population growth	3.97
Climate change	3.92
Environmental pollution	3.75
Disengagement from nature	3.44
Loss of natural areas	4.05
Loss of forest land	3.9
Loss of farmland	3.58
Loss of wildlife habitat	4.1
Loss of scenic views	3.12
Loss of shoreline access	3.6
Other (please specify)	
	204
	2

4. Are there other issues or areas you believe the Land Trust should be working on?

☐ No. I believe you are working on the right things - maintain focus!

☐ Yes. Please consider working on: _____

	Weighted Average
Population growth	3.97
Climate change	3.92
Environmental pollution	3.75
Disengagement from nature	3.44
Loss of natural areas	4.05
Loss of forest land	3.9
Loss of farmland	3.58
Loss of wildlife habitat	4.1
Loss of scenic views	3.12
Loss of shoreline access	3.6
Other (please specify)	
	204
	2

5. Where do you live?

- ☐ Camano Island
- ☐ North Whidbey
- ☐ Central Whidbey
- ☐ South Whidbey
- ☐ Seattle/Bellevue area
- ☐ Everett area
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Primary residence
- ☐ Second home

Answer Choices	Responses	
Camano Island	9.27%	19
North Whidbey Island	9.76%	20
Central Whidbey Island	25.37%	52
South Whidbey Island	39.02%	80
Seattle/Bellevue area	5.85%	12
Everett area	0.98%	2
Other (please specify)	9.76%	20
	Answered	205
	Skipped	1

6. If you do not live on Camano or Whidbey islands, what is your connection to the islands?

Answer Choices		Responses	
I have a second home on Camano Island.		5.71%	2
I have a second home on Whidbey Island.		40.00%	14
I used to live on Camano Island.		2.86%	1
I used to live on Whidbey Island		8.57%	3
I visit/vacation on Camano Island.		8.57%	3
I visit/vacation on Whidbey Island.		14.29%	5
I have friends or family living on Camano Island.		8.57%	3
I have friends or family living on Whidbey Island.		11.43%	4
Other (please specify)			12
		Answered	35
		Skipped	171

7. Are you a member of the Land Trust (make an annual financial donation and/or volunteer regularly)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Answer Choices		Responses	
Yes		66.83%	135
No		28.22%	57
Other (please specify)		4.95%	10
		Answered	202
		Skipped	4

8. Age Group

- ☐ Under 30 years
- ☐ 31-50 years
- ☐ 51-70 years
- ☐ 71 years or older

Answer Choices		Responses	
Under 30 years	0.97%		2
31-50 years	12.62%		26
51-70 years	61.65%		127
71 years or older	24.76%		51
		Answered	206
		Skipped	0

EXHIBIT A: ADOPTION RESOLUTION

Whidbey Camano Land Trust RESOLUTION 04-2018

Adoption of 2018 Land Protection Plan

Whereas, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is required to meet the planning requirements of WAC 286-27-040 to submit grant applications to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

Whereas, staff have prepared an update to the 2011 Land Protection Plan to meet these criteria and to add new information; and

Whereas, this information was presented and discussed by the Board of Directors at its February 7, 2018 board meeting.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust approves the 2018 Land Protection Plan for submission to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Dated: February 7, 2018

Signed:


Dan Matlock, Acting President

Attested:


Michael Stansbury, Treasurer