Fish & Wildlife Service Announces $20 Million in Grants, $7.5 Million to Six Washington Counties

Local News

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Washington DC - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe announced $20 million in grants to 24 critical coastal wetland projects in 13 states and territories to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and their fish and wildlife habitat. An additional $21.3 million in matching funds willbe provided by partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups through the 2013 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program. The

announcement includes eight grants in six Washington counties worth more than $7.5 million. “When President Obama unveiled his America’s Great Outdoors initiative three years ago, ourgoal was to work with communities across the country to create a 21st century conservation ethic,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said. “Our coastal grants program is a model of thiskind of partnership, conserving vital wetlands hand-in-hand in partners from Maine to the PacificNorthwest to as far away as American Samoa in the South Pacific.”Coastal areas comprise less than 10 percent of the nation’s land area yet support a significantnumber of wildlife species, including 75 percent of migratory birds, nearly 80 percent of fish andshellfish and about half of all threatened and endangered species.“These coastal wetlands are extremely important to the future of both wildlife and humans,”Ashe said. “As Superstorm Sandy showed, it is essential to have natural wetlands available to actas a buffer against extreme weather events.“Coastal wetlands also serve as some of nature’s most productive fish and wildlife habitat whileproviding improved water quality and abundant recreational opportunities for local communities.These grants will help our state partners implement some high-quality projects that supportconservation and outdoor recreation.”

The grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat. The National Coastal Wetlands
Conservation Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and funded under provisions of the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Funding is provided by
Sport Fish Restoration Act revenue – money generated from an excise tax on fishing equipment, motorboat
and small engine fuels.Coastal Wetland Grants in Washington announced today include:Lower Dungeness Floodplain and Estuary Restoration (Clallam County)The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition,
proposes to acquire and conserve 28 acres of wetlands, shoreline and buffers within the Lower Dungeness
Floodplain and Estuarine Basin. This project will build upon a network of properties that are already in
conservation in the Basin and leverage other state funded acquisitions. This project will also remove unused

buildings, utility poles, septic tanks and approximately 400 cubic yards of creosote-contaminated debris from
estuarine and marine wetlands adjacent to and at the project site. The Dungeness River estuary supports a
rich and diverse ecological community that includes more than 250 bird species, 44 species of land mammals, 11 marine mammal species, 10 species of reptiles and amphibians and 23 species of fish.
Grant: $930,300Non-federal cost share: $517,250Total project cost: $1,456,550North Livingston Bay Wetlands Phase 1 (Island County)The Washington Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, proposes to
permanently protect and begin restoration of 113 acres of coastal wildlife habitat, including 45 acres of
tidelands, in Livingston Bay on Camano Island. The wetlands are part of Port Susan Bay and are adjacent to
the Skagit and Stillaguamish River Deltas, which together account for more than a 36 percent of tidal wetlands in Puget Sound and support significant runs of salmon that use the wetlands throughout Port Susan
Bay. This acquisition is a priority for The Puget Sound Partnership Nearshore Action Agenda. Phase 1 is the
first step in a larger acquisition and restoration project that will provide both direct and indirect benefits to a
large and diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species, including salmon, forage fish, waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, seabirds, neotropical migratory birds, raptors, marine mammals and many other
species.Grant: $1,000,000Non-federal cost share: $450,000Total project cost: 1,450,000
Tarboo-Dabob Acquisition and Restoration Phase 3 (Jefferson County)The Washington Department of Ecology, in partnership with Northwest Watershed Institute, is proposing to
permanently protect 119 acres that are critical to forming a continuous nature preserve surrounding Tarboo-
Dabob Bay, one of the least developed coastal embayments remaining in Puget Sound. This area represents
the most threatened and biologically significant private parcels that are within the state-designated 6,284-
acre Dabob Bay Natural Area, identified in 2009 as state-wide priority for protection by the Department of
Natural Resources’ Natural Heritage program. In previous phases, multiple properties totaling 3,681 acres
were protected from the headwaters to the estuary. The project will protect a diversity of at-risk freshwater
and estuarine species including five salmon stocks, forage fish species, numerous shorebird, waterfowl, and
land bird species. This project is essential for the continued success of the effort by 42 project partners,
including state, federal, tribal, shellfish grower, and landowner interests, to protect and restore these Puget
Sound coastal wetlands of state-wide and national significance.Grant: $1,000,000Non-federal cost share: $500,000Total project cost: $1,500,000Snow Creek Salt Marsh and Near Shore Restoration Phase 2 (Jefferson County)The Washington Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and
Wildlife and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, proposes to restore the Snow Creek estuary and

nearshore
areas. Phase 2 builds upon work in Phase 1 to restore the natural processes, conditions, functions, and
biological resources to approximately 21.4 acres of shoreline, estuary and uplands that have been severely
impacted by past development. The wetlands provide important habitat for summer chum salmon, Puget
Sound Chinook and steelhead, coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and numerous other fish and wildlife species
such as shellfish, forage fish and migratory shorebirds. The project involves removal of a creosote-
impregnated trestle over Snow Creek; tide channel construction to restore 2 acres of salt marsh; alteration of
1760 feet of railroad grade; removal and replacement of a private waterline utility; and planting 1.4 acres of
marine riparian areas with native vegetation.Grant: $815,435Non-federal cost share: $370,669Total
project cost: $1,186,104Port Gamble Bay Shoreline Acquisition (Kitsap County)The Washington
Department of Ecology, in partnership with Kitsap County, proposes to acquire 225 acres of
diverse estuarine bay, wetland complexes, tidelands, and adjacent maritime forest. The Port Gamble Bay
Shoreline Acquisition project is part of a large landscape-scale conservation initiative known as the Kitsap
Forest and Bay Project which seeks to protect 1.78 miles of shoreline and 6,690 acres surrounding Port
Gamble Bay. The project area contains some of the most pristine nearshore habitat in the upper Hood Canal
watershed, featuring gravel beaches, mud flats, sand spits, and freshwater input from numerous small
streams. Port Gamble Bay provides important, refuge and feeding habitat for salmonids as well as spawning
habitat for the second largest stock of Pacific Herring in Puget Sound. This proposal will provide both direct
and indirect benefits to a diverse array of wildlife species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds,
neotropical migratory birds, raptors and owls, anadromous fish, forage fish, mammals, and other
species.Grant: $1,000,000Non-federal cost share: $520,000Total project cost: $1,520,000Fudge
Point Shoreline Acquisition (Mason County)The Washington State Parks and Recreation
Commission (State Parks) proposes to protect 31 acres of
tidelands, wetlands, and forested uplands on Harstene Island through a fee acquisition. This is part of a larger
project to protect tidelands, wetlands, and associated uplands at Fudge Point. The property has been an
acquisition priority for State Parks since the 1960s and supports many regional and local plans, including
The Puget Sound Partnership’s Action Agenda. The Fudge Point acquisition protects sandy beaches, feeder
bluffs, high-functioning marine riparian habitats, unarmored shoreline, and a 4.6-acre pocket estuary. Puget
Sound Chinook, coho, and steelhead will benefit from this project. Spawning sites for sand lance and rock

sole, forage fish that are an essential part of the Puget Sound food web, are documented on site, as well as on
adjacent beaches.Grant: $1,000,000
Non-federal cost share: $1,010,000Total project cost: $2,010,000Oakland Bay Estuary Conservation Phase 3 (Mason County)The Washington Department of Ecology, working with multiple partners, proposes to acquire, restore, and
permanently protect 76 acres of biologically-sensitive estuary, nearshore, and riparian habitat in the Johns
Creek watershed which empties into Oakland Bay. The project will reconnect the project site to Oakland
Bay, reestablish tidal inundation and nearshore function, and return a golf course area to native saltmarsh,
shrubs and trees. The project site includes a 4,000 foot stretch of marine shoreline with remnant channels and
emergent salt marsh and the mouth and part of lower Johns Creek, all of which provide important fish and
wildlife habitat. This project is part of a larger strategic effort to conserve key marine near-shore and freshwater habitat in the Oakland Bay watershed as outlined in the South Puget Sound Salmon Recovery
Plan. Oakland Bay is one of the largest commercial shellfish production areas in Puget Sound.Grant: $1,000,000Non-federal cost share: $1,300,000Total project cost: $2,300,000Kindred Island Acquisition (Pacific County)The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to acquire and conserve 355 acres of
wetlands, shoreline, and forested buffers along one of the most pristine bays in the country and its tributaries.
The acquisition of Kindred Island ensures that the ecological integrity of northern Willapa Bay will be preserved and supports the WDFW’s goal of protecting and restoring the critical estuarine habitats in
Willapa Bay. Once the acquisition is complete, WDFW plans to eventually remove a dike that restricts tidal
inundation of the pastures. This will enable the site to return to a mosaic of estuarine mudflats, marshes, and
channels and will benefit multiple species of fish, waterfowl, and shorebirds.Grant: $803,500
Non-federal cost share: $373,237Total project cost: $1,176,737Including the 2013 grants, the Service has awarded about $320 million to coastal states and territories since
the program began in 1992. When the 2013 projects are complete, about 298,000 acres of habitat will have
been protected, restored or enhanced as a direct result of these grants. A complete nation-wide list of projects
funded by the 2013 grant program can be found online at
http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2013/pdf/2013awardslist_v2.pdf.