



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Conservation, Sustainability, and Recreation **Analyst:** Nicole Gorle
ECAF: 2022-0757 **Date:** August 18, 2022
Motion: 22-336

Consideration:

Approve a Land Use Agreement with Wildlands of Washington LLC, for inundation of County property with the removal of four dikes for the Blue Heron Slough Restoration Project.¹

Background:

Wildlands and the Port of Everett are sponsors of the Blue Heron Slough Restoration Project, located between Everett and Marysville (and own the property where the project is taking place). The County owns property adjacent to the project site. As part of restoration, Wildlands intends to breach four dikes that were initially constructed for agricultural purposes. Once the dikes are breached, the County's Property and a large portion of an Access Easement also owned by the County will be covered with water and restored to estuarine habitat.

Because the County Property and Access Easement were purchased using a grant from the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the use of the property must be consistent with the purpose stated when the property was acquired. RCO has reviewed the agreement and determined the use to be consistent with the stated original purpose.

Current Proposal:

Scope: Execute an agreement with Wildlands that would allow water from four breached dikes to inundate County property. The County would still own the property, but it would be restored to its natural habitat.

Duration: Perpetuity

Fiscal Implications: If approved, Wildlands would pay the County \$4,400.

2022 Budget: Yes

Future Budget Impact: No

Handling: Normal

Approved-as-to-form: Yes

Risk Management: Yes

Executive Recommendation: Approve

Attachment: Approved-As to Form Email - PA

Amendments: None

Request: Move to GLS on August 24th for consideration.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Wetlands/Mitigation/Wetland-mitigation-banking/Mitigation-bank-projects/Blue-Heron-Slough>