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President
Doug Schoenrock
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Memphis, Tennessee

RE: Letter of intent to apply for funding in 2022

June 18, 2022

TO: Snohomish County Conservation Futures Board

Organization Name: Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU)

Project Location: 132 63rd Avenue NE, Everett, WA, 4 parcels comprising the 105 acres. 29051500400200, 29051500400500, 29051500400400, 29052200100100.

Grant funding anticipated: 2 million

Status of Willing Landowner: The landowner is motivated to sell and listed the four properties for \$3.5 million. The realtor and landowner met with DU and now understand that DU can only pay Yellow Book Appraisal (Interagency Land Acquisition Conference UNIFORM APPRAISAL STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITIONS).

Therefore the first step in the process is conducting the appraisal to determine if the price meets the landowners' needs. WDFW has existing grant funds that they can re-allocate for an appraisal and the appraisal can begin as soon as they can finish reallocating funds. The appraisal will take 60-90 days. DU should have an appraisal by November 2022 and will know the landowners' intentions and our price at that time.

The landowner wishes to remain anonymous and currently has rental units, he does not want to create awareness he is selling and risk losing the rental income.

Matching grant funding anticipated: \$900K WDFW, DU secured funding \$500K

The anticipated timeline for the willing landowner letter: November 2022

Brief Description of future project proposal: Acquisition of 105 acres at the north end of Ebey Island. DU would hold the property with the intent of interim wetland management, and future restoration, and with the intent of transferring final disposition to a local entity, likely Snohomish County. The County owns 184 acres at the tip of the island, this acquisition would acquire additional 105 adjacent acres including most of Dead Man Slough. In the short term these lands can be managed for freshwater wetland habitat in the longer term these parcels are key acquisitions needed for a potential 381-acre tidal marsh restoration that would set back dikes to restore tidal wetlands. Another 90 acres of private would still need to be acquired for the project as envisioned. These properties are in the historic tidal wetland in the Snohomish River delta. Tidal flow on these properties is either restricted or eliminated by perimeter dikes and tide gates that lie directly between the project areas and tidal waters.

A tidal here project could remove the need for 13,000' of dike. Replacing it with a much shorter 2,300' cross dike to protect the island. Conceptually the diking district has expressed support for shortening the dike on the north end of the island. By reconnect approximately 381 acres of tidal marsh to the floodplain, it will mitigate land subsidence and help the marsh better keep up with sea-level rise and help the island and estuary be more resilient to climate change.

Tidal marsh in the lower Snohomish River provides important rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and other species. However, 90% of these historic estuary habitats were lost due to diking. This loss of rearing habitat is considered one of the primary factors limiting the recovery of Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

C.K. Eidem, Regional Biologist

Leader in Wetlands Conservation

POTNETIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION
Ebey Island
DUCKS UNLIMITED
June 2022

