



LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE QUARTERLY REPORT

June 31, 2022

The Snohomish County Land Conservation Initiative (LCI) is a program focused on identifying and preserving priority properties across Snohomish County to be conserved for the benefits of agricultural production, recreation, habitat, carbon sequestration, urban green space and other values. In addition to identifying priority properties, this project will develop an acquisition prioritization approach, identify funding strategies, address operation and maintenance needs, develop a strategy for enhancing forest stands and provide seed money for a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

Four million dollars in funding has been provided beginning with the 2022 budget to accomplish three key priorities:

1. Establish a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) bank
2. Develop a Strategic Land Acquisition and Management Plan
3. Implement a Healthy Forest Forestry Program

Efforts in 2022 have focused on scoping and identifying consultant support for the program and program initiation. It is anticipated that work for both the TDR bank and Strategic Land Acquisition and Management Plan will begin in 2022, with the majority of work completed in 2023.

The current status of these priorities is as follows:

Establish a Transfer of Development Rights Bank		<i>Staff Contacts:</i> <i>Linda Neunzig & Kye Iris</i>
Funding is provided for consultant support for bank establishment and initial operation and also to provide seed money for the bank.		
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Proposal (RFP) has been drafted and is with Purchasing for release and selection of consultant 	
What's Next:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of consultant • Establishment of consultant contract • Project kick off 	
Remaining Budget:		\$2,750,000

Develop a Strategic Land Acquisition and Management Plan		<i>Staff Contacts: Sharon Swan & OES Manager</i>
Funding is provided for consultant support to develop strategic plan.		
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two consultant teams responded to RFP and submittals have been evaluated Evaluation of need for interviews to select final firm 	
What's Next:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible consultant interviews Negotiate contract Project kick off 	
Remaining Budget:		\$400,000

Implement a Healthy Forest Forestry Program		<i>Staff Contacts: Sharon Swan & Adam Jackson</i>
Funding is provided to continue/support Forterra's Healthy Forest Program and consider opportunities for advanced forest management for current DCNR custodial properties in both urban and rural areas. This program is envisioned to be further supported by a new Forester position to be funded by the Conservation Futures program.		
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Forest Program continuing with projects selected for completion in 2022 Preparing priority package for Conservation Futures funded Forester position to be considered as part of 2023 budget process 	
What's Next:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to coordinate with Forterra to implement Healthy Forest Program Develop a scope for an expanded forestry strategy, which is envisioned to include development of a Forest Management Plan for all DCNR custodial forest stands Draft RFP for Forest Management Plan, release the RFP and go through consultant selection process Submit a priority project for Conservation Futures funded Forester position through the 2023 budget process 	
Remaining Budget:		\$164,000

Other Notes:

- Staffing needs are being considered through all stages of the LCI program.
- OES Manager position has recently been filled with a start date of July 11th, and this position will help support implementation of LCI program.