

Clatsop County Parks and Natural Areas

Natural Resources Stewardship Plan



prepared by



in association with



Clatsop County Parks and Recreation Lands

Parks are in RED; Rec lands are in BLUE



Scale = 1 : 3.20 (In : Mile)



Natural Resources Stewardship Plan

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Clatsop County Parks



Section 1

Policy Recommendations



Trail at Big Creek County Park

Introduction and Executive Summary

Clatsop County's abundant beauty and rich natural resources are well represented in the County's park system. In 2006, the County Parks Master Plan was adopted, and it provides a comprehensive overall assessment of park resources and facilities, as well as opportunities and challenges facing the park system. A key finding of the Plan was that further assessment of the natural resources in the parks is needed. Indeed, the planning process revealed that a system-wide natural resources inventory would be an important step in enabling the County to fully capitalize on the recreational and wildlife habitat potential of these park and natural area lands.

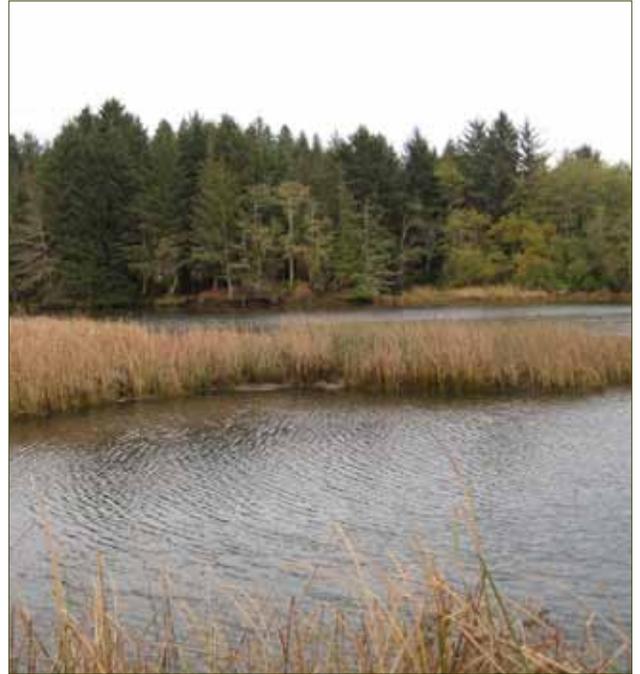
Our assessment team worked collaboratively with the County Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee, county staff, and local conservation groups to develop a comprehensive approach to recreational land stewardship for the County's portfolio of properties. Clatsop County's parks and natural area ownership addressed in this process consists of 11 parks totaling 545 acres and six recreation/natural area sites totaling 282 acres of land. The assessment was focused on the key issues of invasive vegetation, erosion, safety hazards to the public, dumping, flooding and tree windthrow dangers. This report includes detailed findings and recommendations for each parcel, as well as a broader policy framework to guide future decision making around natural resource issues.

Summary of Findings

Taken together, the Clatsop County Parks and Natural Areas contain a tremendous richness and diversity of wildlife habitats and recreation opportunities.

Of the seventeen properties we studied:

- Nine are located on major fish-bearing streams or rivers
- Three are located on lakes
- Three contain old growth (trees more than 150 years old)
- Five contain or are immediately adjacent to active bald eagle nests
- Four contain significant forested wetlands
- Five contain old farm fields or other clearings that add to habitat diversity



Battle Creek tidelands

The threats to the ecological integrity of these properties include:

- The spread of non-native invasive plants, which can displace native vegetation and reduce habitat and scenic values
- Erosion near streams due to poorly designed trails and/or overuse, as well as natural stream channel migration processes
- Natural events such as flooding and windstorms
- Human caused disturbances such as timber trespass, salvage logging, or littering/dumping

Other issues we identified include safety hazards, such as leaning/diseased trees near trails, roads or facilities, and issues related to ecological functions, such as lack of large woody debris in streams, which reduces fish habitat values.

With this natural resources inventory in place, the County can implement stewardship projects targeting priority areas and issues, in collaboration with key partner groups.

The Inventory and Assessment Process

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this resource inventory and assessment is to provide County officials and staff with guidance for the integrated management of the County's parks and natural areas. These resources in-

clude sensitive fish-bearing streams and rivers, saltwater and freshwater wetlands, healthy and diverse upland forests and special wildlife habitat, including older forest stands and legacies. Habitat stabilization and conservation strategies are discussed. Opportunities for habitat restoration and improvements and additional protections in sensitive areas are proposed. Accurate resource information and comprehensive management strategies are critical to ensure the responsible long-term stewardship of these important properties.

Specifically, this resource assessment serves to:

- Inventory and map each property’s features, resources and conditions
- Describe resource management issues
- Provide an overall approach and resource policy framework to guide future management decisions
- Suggest management priorities and methods for monitoring the success of stewardship activities

This plan establishes a framework that will guide management of the County parks and natural areas over time. It is not intended to provide all the answers for future management decisions. Periodic operating plans will provide substantial additional detail relative to proposed activities, and may require additional planning and monitoring work.

Inventory and Assessment Process

The inventory and assessment process involved several steps (Figure 1). Resource inventories and assessments were conducted on each County property. Management strategies and policies were considered for the ownership as a whole, and recommended actions were detailed for each of the parks and natural areas.

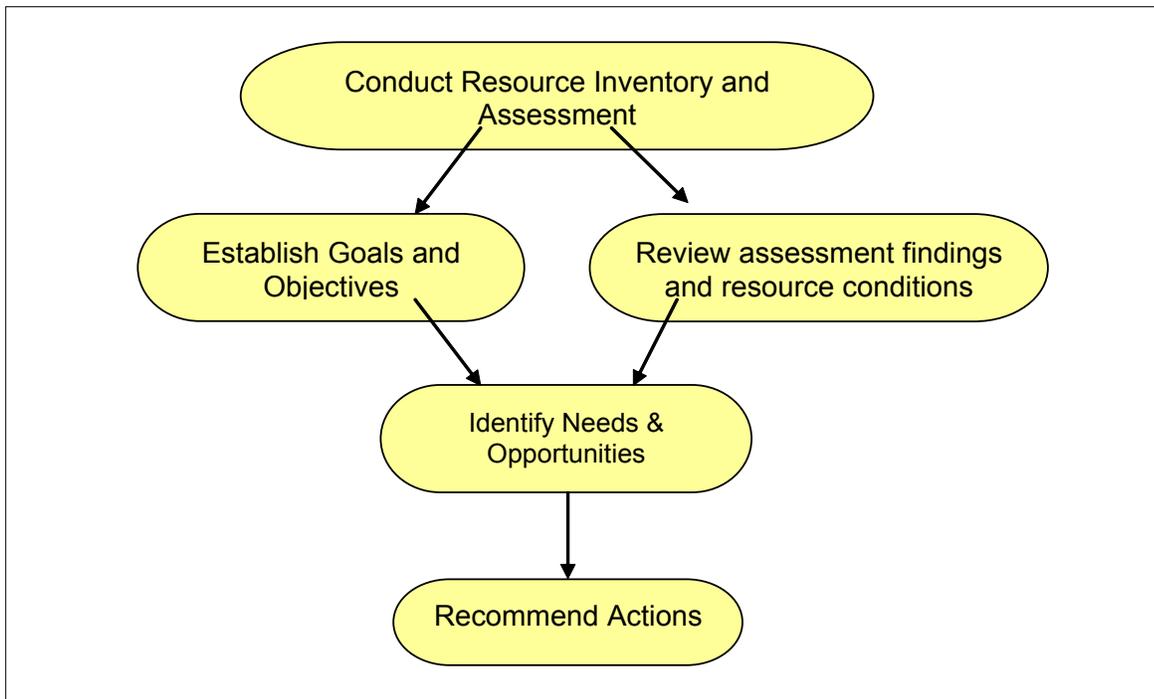


Figure 1

Field survey work involved reconnaissance of each site, delineation into major vegetation/habitat types, and a sampling method employing intuitive meandering transects. This strategy allowed surveyors to focus in on areas with high likelihood of invasive species, for example.

Features recorded in the hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) computers, and therefore used in the maps include:

- Individual old growth trees (if occurring in a matrix of younger forest)
- Old growth stands
- Springs or seeps
- Wetlands
- Unmapped streams
- Waterfalls
- Significant wildlife habitat elements such as old snags, eagle nests, areas of heavy deer or elk use, etc.
- Significant park improvements that are not detectable through inspection of aerial imagery, such as trails or other features that may be obscured by tree cover
- Safety hazards
- Areas of significant erosion or riparian instability
- Littering or dumping

This plan was developed in consultation with numerous public agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. The process began in the spring of 2009 by inviting the Recreation Lands Advisory Committee as well as additional stakeholders on a tour of several of the County's properties and a workshop to describe the planning process. Following that tour, an e-mail list of stakeholders was developed, including more than two dozen representatives from local agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. As maps and draft recommendations were developed through the remainder of the process, they were distributed to this list for comments and suggestions, and to keep the community apprised of the process and findings. In December 2009, a public meeting was held in Astoria to present initial findings and recommendations and solicit additional input. Key results of that meeting are presented in Appendix A.

Representatives from the following organizations have participated in the planning process:

- Clatsop County Department of Transportation and Development
- Clatsop County Parks
- Clatsop County Property Division
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clatsop/Tillamook Natural Resource Conservation Service



Youngs River as seen from the Astoria Column

- Necanicum Watershed Council
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force (CREST)
- North Coast Watershed Association
- Oregon State University Extension Service
- Columbia Land Trust
- Private citizens

Ownership Objectives and Resource Policies

Ownership Objectives

The properties are actively managed for multiple objectives (cited in the County Parks Master Plan) including:

- Recreation (public health and wellness);
- Open space;
- Plant and animal habitat;
- Economic contribution (enhances value for adjacent homeowners and businesses);
- Tourism;
- Water quality and flood control;
- Cultural and historic preservation (historic buildings and biological legacies); and
- Public education (natural resource knowledge and appreciation).

With this vision, the County parks and natural areas will provide a model for sustainable resource management that will be an inspiration and legacy of stewardship for future citizens. The County's demonstration of stewardship practices will encourage others who strive to become better caretakers of our important natural resources.

Resource Policies

Vegetation Management

Invasive Species

It is the policy of Clatsop County to promote native plant communities and actively monitor, control and reduce invasive plant populations.

Natural Area Succession

It is the policy of Clatsop County to manage their properties to provide a variety of types of vegetation communities and habitat conditions. Stable, later successional plant communities will be fostered and protected.

Restorative Approach

In ecosystems that are being degraded or threatened by invasive species or disturbance, it is the policy of Clatsop County to stabilize ecosystems to prevent degradation first, then restore important areas where it is feasible and economically sustainable.

Management Capacity and Resources

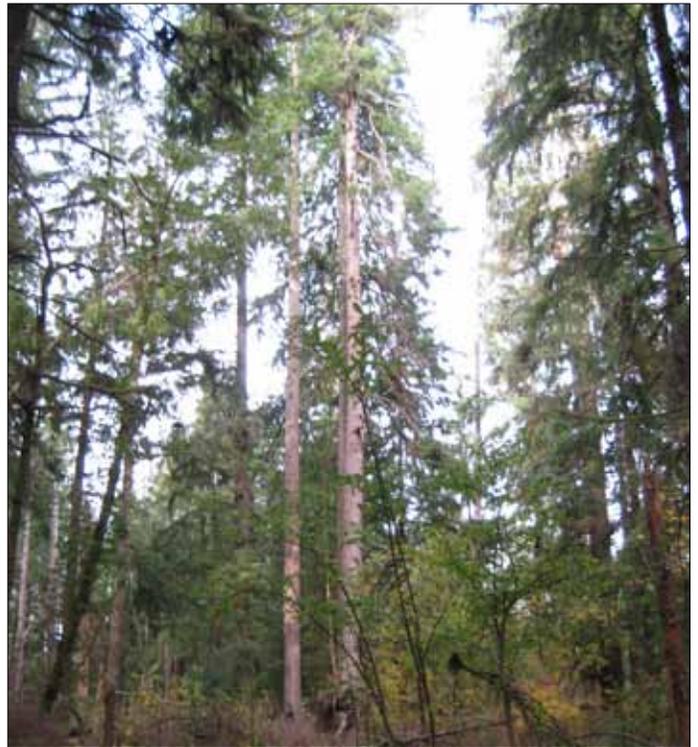
Use of Available Resources

It is the policy of Clatsop County to use parks staff and employee time on supervision, maintenance and monitoring tasks; when special improvement or restoration projects are undertaken, the County will seek partners within the conservation and consulting community for managerial, technical and funding support.

Park Development

Developed versus Natural Areas

It is the policy of Clatsop County to provide recreational opportunities within its parks and natural areas in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner. New developed areas and trails will be designed and maintained to insure the minimum impact on natural ecosystems and plant communities. Areas with rare or threatened habitats will be protected from development.



Claremont Road forest

Public Education

It is the policy of Clatsop County to provide educational opportunities to the recreating public to improve understanding and appreciation of natural ecosystems.

Property Disposition

It is the policy of Clatsop County to maintain ownership of current parks and natural areas, unless the property does not contribute to meeting County objectives listed above, or the park or natural area could be transferred to a public entity or conservation organization that has similar objectives.

Synthesis of Findings

Maps provided in Section 2 include substantial spatial detail about locations of invasives and other issues identified during the inventory process. In addition, we have synthesized findings in order to provide County managers and other stakeholders with a framework for assessing various properties and issues.

The first level of analysis is categorizing major habitat types across all the properties. We used broad habitat types that make sense to professional resource managers while remaining accessible to the interested public.

Figure 2 provides the summary for this analysis. Habitat types are grouped into Blue (water related habitats), Green (forest habitats at different successional stages), and Yellow (early successional or grassland communities).

Property	Size (acres)	Major Habitats							
		Forested wetlands	Wetlands/ Marsh	Riparian forest	Old growth forest	Mid-aged forest (80-150 yrs)	Young forest (<80 yrs old)	New conifer plantings	Old farm fields/ clearings
Big Creek Park	36			●			●	●	●
Carnahan Park	31			●			●		
Cullaby Lake Park	165	●	●			●	●		●
David Douglas Park	64			●	●	●	●		
Lee Wooden Park	47			●		●	●		●
John Day Park/Boat Ramp	58	●	●				●		
Kloutchy Creek Park	25			●		●	●	●	
Nehalem Park	49				●		●		
North Fork Nehalem Park	3			●		●	●		
Sigfridson Park	64			●			●		●
Smith Lake Park	3	●	●				●		
Battle Creek Tidelands	13		●						●
Claremont Road tracts	3				●	●	●		
Twilight Eagle Sanctuary	15		●				●		
Area east of Astoria Column	121					●	●	●	
Williamsport Road area	72					●	●	●	
Cedar Street Wetlands	58	●					●		
Total	827								

Figure 2

The second level of analysis focuses on the threats identified during the inventory process. These include those the County specifically requested we analyze, such as invasive species, safety hazards, and erosion. We extended the analysis to incorporate other natural disturbances such as flooding and windthrow, as well as human-caused disturbances such as salvage logging or littering.

Figure 3 summarizes this analysis by visually displaying the range of threats to ecological integrity at each property, along with a qualitative assessment of the nature of the risk in each case. As an example, the Williamsport Road area tracts contain significant areas of established invasive plants, and moderate risk for windthrow due to topography and stand conditions. In addition, the property was salvage logged in 2008. Although that process was completed using lower impact tower logging techniques for log suspension and high standards were implemented for retention of wildlife trees, much of the soil in the harvest area was disturbed, providing an opportunity for aggressive invasive plants to begin colonizing the area. This additional risk factor increases the likelihood for expansion of non-native invasive plants. Finally, the property is adjacent to the waste transfer station, and past dumping has occurred on and around the property. Taken together, these factors provide for an overall assessment of the threats faced by each property relative to the others.

Figure 3

		Summary of ecological threats to Clatsop County properties									
Property	Size (acres)	Threats									
		Invasives	Safety hazards	Erosion	Flooding	Windthrow	Recently logged	Timber trespass	Dumping		
Parks	Big Creek Park	36	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
	Carnahan Park	31	○	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	
	Cullaby Lake Park	165	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	
	David Douglas Park	64	○	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	
	Lee Wooden Park	47	○	●	○	●	●	○	○	●	
	John Day Park/Boat Ramp	58	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	
	Kloutchy Creek Park	25	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	
	Nehalem Park	49	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	●	
	North Fork Nehalem Park	3	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	
	Sigfridson Park	64	●	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	
	Smith Lake Park	3	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	Rec. Lands	Battle Creek Tidelands	13	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○
		Claremont Road tracts	3	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○
Twilight Eagle Sanctuary		15	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	
Area east of Astoria Column		121	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	
Williamsport Road area		72	●	○	○	○	●	●	○	●	
Cedar Street Wetlands		58	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	
Total	827										

○	very minor issue, not likely to cause degradation	●	a problem in some areas, some degradation possible	●	a significant problem, degradation likely
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Policeman's helmet



English ivy

Taking this analysis one step further, we created a framework for comparing current ecological health and risk of degradation, based on the factors identified in Figure 3. (Figure 4).

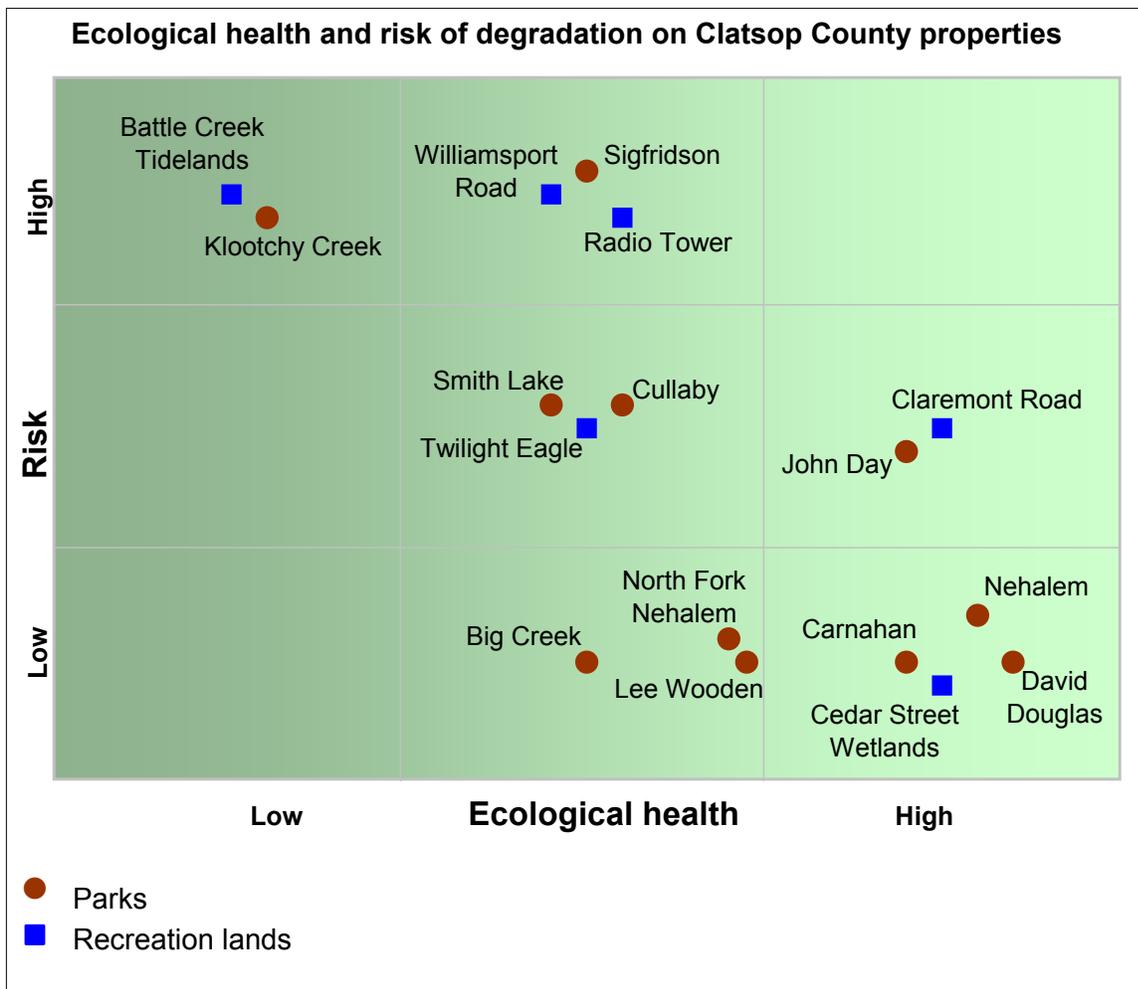


Figure 4



Tansy ragwort



Himalayan blackberry

Finally, since invasive species control has continually risen to the top of the list of priorities during this stewardship planning process, we analyzed the data in Section 2 to create Figure 5, which groups the properties into high, medium and low infestation levels and identifies the species present on each property.

Figure 5

Summary of invasive species on Clatsop County Parks and Rec. Lands properties											
Property	Size (acres)	Species									
		Himalayan blackberry	Scotch broom	English ivy	English holly	Knotweed	Clematis	Policeman's helmet	Tansy ragwort	Other	
High	Kloutchy Creek Park	25	●	○		○	●	○	●	●	○
	Sigfridson Park	64	●	●	●	●	●				
	Williamsport Road area	72	●	●	●	●					●
	Cullaby Lake Park	165	●	●	●	○		○			
Medium	John Day Park/Boat Ramp	58	●	○	●	○				○	
	Cedar Street Wetlands	58	●		●	●					
	Carnahan Park	31	●	○	●	●					
	Area east of Astoria Column	121	●	●							
	Smith Lake Park	3			●	●					
	Big Creek Park	36	●			●					
	David Douglas Park	64	●	●							
	Twilight Eagle Sanctuary	15	●		○	○					
	North Fork Nehalem Park	3		○		●					
	Battle Creek Tidelands	13	●								
Low	Lee Wooden Park	47	○								○
	Nehalem Park	49	○	○							
	Claremont Road tracts	3				○					
	Total	827									

○ present, but only a few plants ● scattered on the property or limited to a couple problem areas ● widespread or with areas of substantial infestation

General Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

General Recommendations

Safety Hazards

Several safety hazards have been identified by the assessment team, including hazard trees, unsafe trails and a deteriorating boat ramp. These problems should be addressed first.

Control of Invasive Plants

System-wide, the most pressing problem is the need to control invasive vegetation, particularly in areas of recent disturbance (Klootchey Creek Park and Williamsport Road) or other areas with high potential for rapid spread (Sigfridson Park and Cullaby Lake Park). The general management approach and strategy is discussed below.



Cedar Street wetlands spruce blowdown

Developed Areas

Mowing should be adjusted to allow natural regeneration on steeper slopes and in riparian or buffer areas. There are opportunities to reduce mowing costs and improve habitat, particularly in Carnahan, Cullaby and Big Creek Parks. Trail improvements, reconstruction, or closures should be considered for areas where trails are eroding or where they appear to be excessive (Cullaby, Big Creek). New trails should be planned to improve visitor experience at; Cullaby Lake wetlands, Carnahan upland forest Cedar Street Wetlands, and possibly at Smith Lake. Entry orientation and environmental education signage could be provided at all parks and natural areas to help citizens become better stewards of their natural resources. Additional or improved public access could be planned for parks such as Nehalem/Red Bluff, David Douglas and Sigfridson, as well as at most natural areas.

Status of Properties

The County requested a review of its Parks and Recreation Lands portfolio to identify opportunities where a land sale or transfer may be desirable and appropriate. Of the County Parks, only one (North Fork Nehalem Park) was assessed for possible trade or sale. All six natural areas properties were analyzed for sale or transfer. See Section 6 below for a discussion of the factors considered and specific recommendations. In summary, it is recommended that North Fork Nehalem Park be retained, Battle Creek Tidelands be sold, and Cedar Street Wetlands be retained or transferred to retain wetlands.

Implementation Strategies

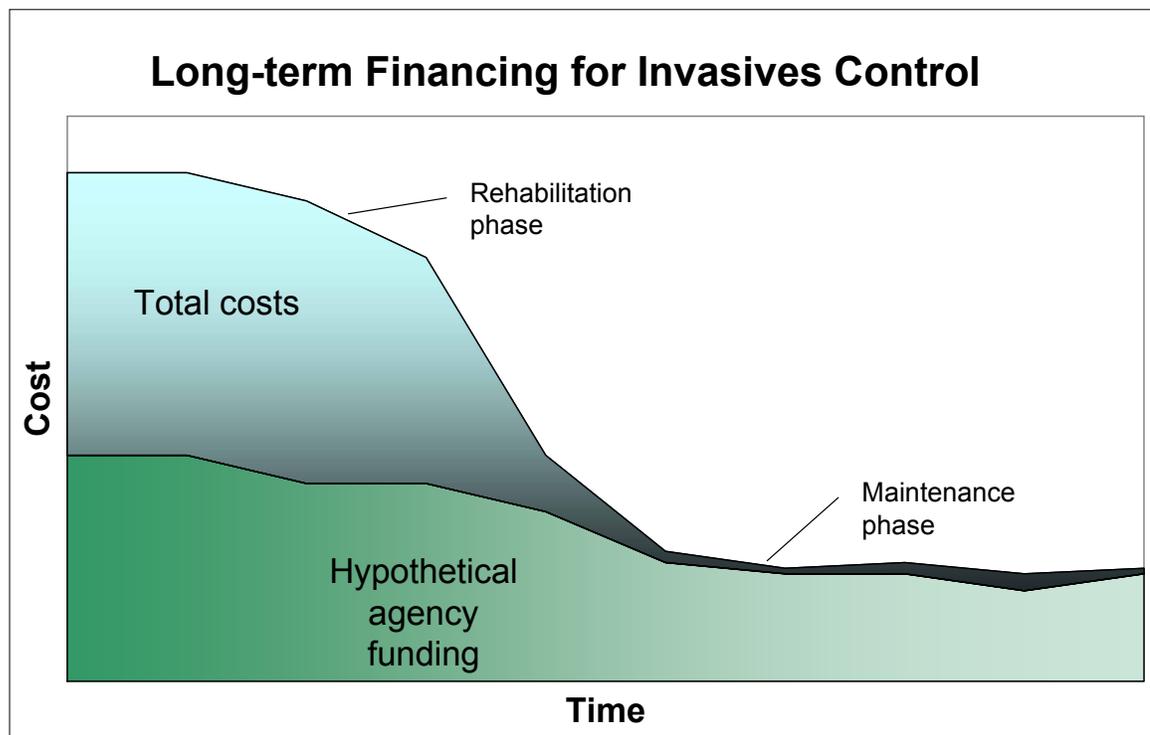
Current Management Capacity

The seventeen properties of the County Parks and natural area system are managed by a Natural Resources Manager, and this position's responsibilities are evenly divided between the County's fisheries program and park lands. In addition, there is one full time Park Ranger and two seasonal (six months/year) part-time positions (20 hours/week and 30 hours/week). The management focus is maintenance and management of the facilities and high-use areas of the developed parks. Current staffing provides only limited capacity for managing and implementing additional stewardship activities.

Develop Partnerships

Outside partners (watershed councils, conservation groups, government agencies) have technical, managerial and financial resources that will be crucial to successful implementation and monitoring of recommended activities. The County should actively seek help from these groups and strengthen existing relationships. Figure 6 demonstrates the two phases of invasive plant control and suggests that outside funding may be required to attain conditions that can readily be maintained. Once these conditions are achieved, maintenance costs should be relatively low and stable over time.

Figure 6





Nehalem County Park

Project Implementation and Monitoring Plans

Brief, site-specific operational plans that document and implement stewardship activities will be a helpful management tool. Such plans should include baseline documentation of existing conditions (e.g. photos, maps and descriptions) and provisions for project follow-up and monitoring.

Invasive Control Approach

Given the current field conditions and the nature and implications of the threat from non-native vegetation, the County's strategy for invasive plant control should include:

- Stop the spread of existing infestations
- Protect the best and least impacted properties and areas
- Focus on rapid and new invaders
- Be pragmatic, i.e. do not try to do everything everywhere

County Staff Skill Development

Active management of natural resources will be a new activity for County staff. There will be a learning curve that may require new training, equipment, trial and error. A maintenance review or audit could be done to help identify opportunities to reduce or change mowing patterns. New technical skills needed may include invasive plant identification and BMPs for control.

Monitoring

Measurement of resource conditions on a periodic basis provides a baseline of initial conditions, and helps to measure change in the resource and impacts of management activities. Annual monitoring visits for all properties are recommended. A property-wide reassessment should be done at least every ten years. There may be cases where special monitoring projects are developed to answer specific questions. These can provide educational opportunities for students or interested citizens who want to be involved in data collection, with coordination and evaluation support from a resource professional.

A monitoring program should include: invasive species mapping, notes on habitat changes, erosion, stream changes, project implementation and effectiveness of treatments.

Property Status/Disposition Recommendations

The County has requested a review of their Parks and Recreation Lands portfolio to identify opportunities where a land sale or transfer may be desirable and appropriate.

Parks

Among the County Parks, only one—North Fork Nehalem—has been specifically discussed for potential sale or trade. The rationale for such a transaction is the remote location of the site from Astoria, where parks personnel are based, the small size (3.5 acres) and the location of the Park adjacent to a State-operated fish hatchery.

However, past discussions with the State have not progressed, and current Recreation Lands Advisory Committee sentiment seems to favor keeping the Park under County ownership. The maintenance requirements for this park are fairly light.

Recommendation: Retain County ownership



North Fork Nehalem County Park

Natural Areas

The County has requested recommendations for each of the Natural Areas.

Battle Creek Tidelands

This property has no legal access except via water travel, so can't be used for public recreation. It is a small area that is highly disturbed by regular flooding and livestock grazing. The Columbia Land Trust, which owns and manages the nearby Haven Island property just downstream in Youngs River, has expressed no interest in acquiring or managing the County's land. The County previously tried to sell the property by public auction, but there were no bidders. A sealed bid sale might be of interest to adjoining landowners.

Recommendation: Offer the property for sale by sealed bid

Claremont Road tracts

These taxlots have no legal access, so can't be used for public recreation. The property contains an interesting example of older conifer forest, including at least one very large old growth spruce (82 inches diameter-breast-height), and old growth down logs. Neighboring landowners have in the past pursued ownership of the tracts, requesting that the County put them up for auction. The County has decided to maintain ownership, and we concur. The best guarantee for retaining the habitat and legacy values of this small property would be retaining public ownership.

Recommendation: Retain County ownership

Twilight Eagle Sanctuary

This taxlot contains a bald eagle nest and a variety of other wildlife habitats, and is adjacent to land owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy and Columbia Land Trust. The property has a few invasives issues that should be addressed, but are not overwhelming. The County has leased the property to the Oregon Eagle Foundation, which officially manages the site for eagle habitat. The County should retain this property as a public natural area.

Recommendation: Retain County ownership

Area east of Astoria Column/Williamsport Road tracts

These properties, taken together, help form an impressive natural area backdrop for the City of Astoria. The wildlife habitat and scenic values of these properties are outstanding. The Williamsport Road tract has a long-term bald eagle nest, and there is an active eagle nest immediately to the east of the Astoria Column tracts on City-owned land. During field work for this plan, five pileated woodpeckers were seen on a single large snag.

The County should retain ownership of these tracts while developing a partnership with the City of Astoria to explore combining these County tax lots with City owned lands to form a single unified “Forest Park” for mutual benefit of the citizens of the City and the County. This would facilitate a coordinated approach to trail development, natural resource management and monitoring.

Recommendation: Retain County ownership and explore partnership with the City of Astoria



View of Columbia River from near the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary



Cedar Street Wetlands

Cedar Street Wetlands

This area is a forested wetland and is providing an important water retention function that helps reduce the impact of flooding on the neighboring communities of Warrenton and Hammond. It is also providing important wildlife habitat for deer, elk and many bird species. The property is surrounded on the north, west and east by housing development. To the south is a small property owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy.

This property would make a compelling and appropriate addition to the County's park system; however, current budget limitations make this unfeasible. Located within the Warrenton city limits, the most likely conservation options would be: 1) Negotiating a transfer or sale to the City or Warrenton with a deed restriction requiring park or open space designation (grant funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and other sources could be pursued to facilitate such a transaction), or 2) Negotiating a transfer of the property to The Nature Conservancy in exchange for wetlands credits to offset potential development at the County's North Coast Business Park property.

The development of a small trail system involving boardwalks over seasonally or perennially wet areas would allow user access to the interior of the property for hiking, bird watching, and other low impact recreation. Over time, the maturation of the forest will enhance the aesthetic values and uniqueness of the property.

Recommendation: Explore 1) placing a deed restriction on the property and transferring or selling to the City of Warrenton, and 2) transferring the property to The Nature Conservancy in exchange for wetlands credits

Clatsop County Parks



Section 2

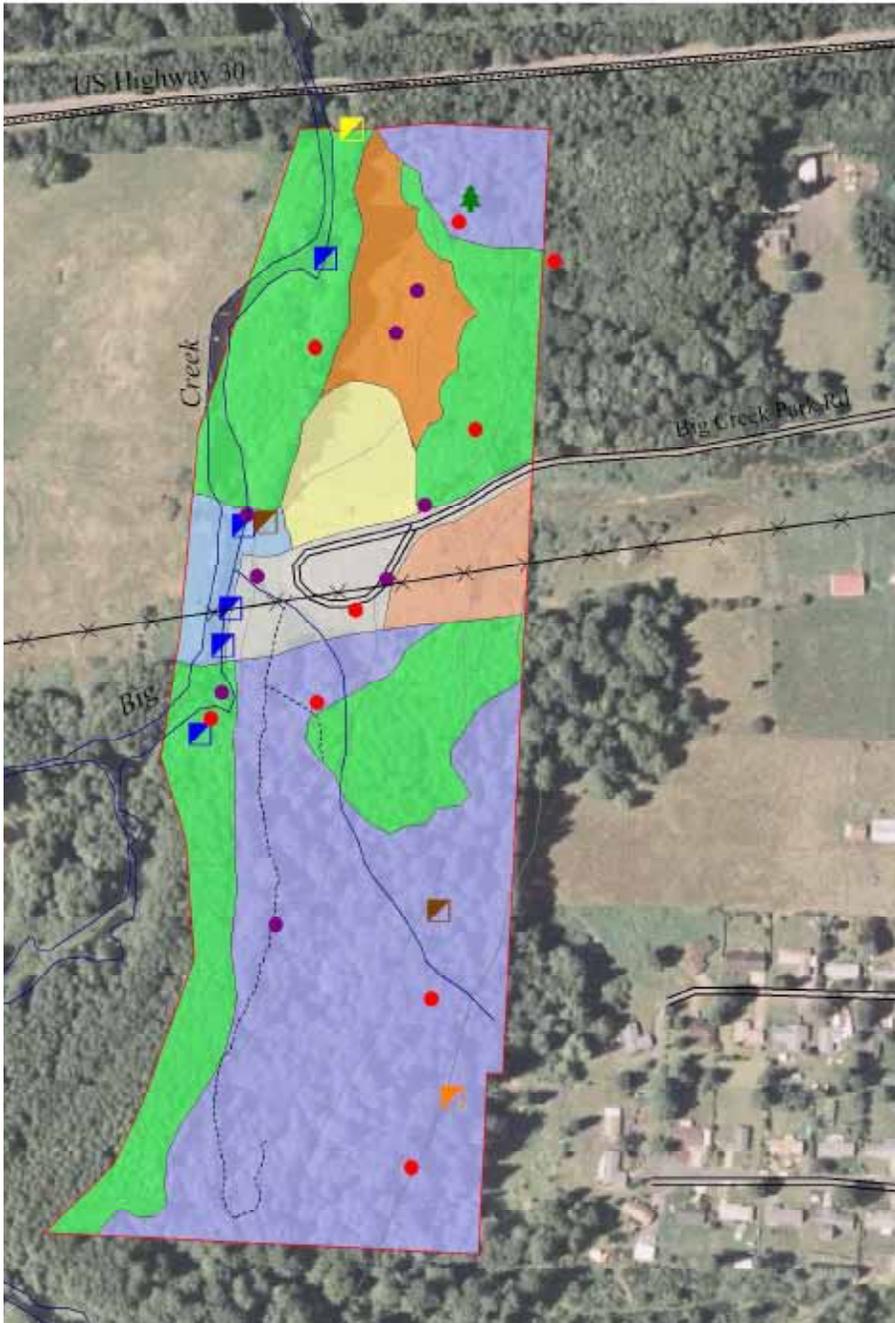
Findings and Recommendations

Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Big Creek

T 8 N R 7 W, Section 19

Elevation: 30'-120'
33.6 acres



Legend

- ✕ Power lines
- Streams
- Invasive plants(by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
- Issues(by Type)**
 - 'dumping'
 - 'erosion'
 - 'fire hazard'
 - 'riparian stability'
- == Roads
- Trails
- 100' elevation contours
- 20' elevation contours
- County Parks
- Wildlife features(by Type)**
 - 🌲 'large tree'
- Vegetation types(by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Alder'
 - 'Brush/young spruce'
 - 'Grass'
 - 'Low riparian vegetation'
 - 'Mixed forest'
 - 'Open'
 - 'Powerline right-of-way'
- 📷 2005 aerial photo



600 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 350.00 (In : US Feet)



Big Creek County Park

33.6 acres | Elevation: 30'-120'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Overall risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 45% Upland mixed species (maple, spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, alder, cedar) forest (30-60 years old)
- 19% Alder riparian forest (40 years old)
- 14% Alder upland forest (20-40 years old)
- 6% Early successional spruce forested wetland (10 years old)
- Big Creek stream channel

Special Features:

- Salmon runs (hatchery upstream)
- One 5' DBH second-growth spruce
- Large bigleaf maples

Threats:

- Riparian erosion due to fishing use
- Invasive species: blackberry in open areas, holly in woodland
- Slight fire hazard in blowdown near residential housing



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Place boulders and/or steps along stream bank to reduce erosion from fishing use
- Provide defined access to creek at multiple points.
- Remove holly from south woodland
- Annual monitoring for early detection and control of invasive species
- Maintain low fuel levels near homes

Restoration:

- Increase riparian buffers – recent conifer plantings need maintenance to thrive, additional planting is probably warranted, and shrubs can be planted under power lines
- Shrink parking area and move away from creek
- Reduce mowed area, especially in south woodland area and allow understory recovery
- Place large woody debris in creek to enhance salmon habitat
- Control blackberries north of softball field to promote spruce growth
- Pre-commercial thin in upland alder to promote conifer restoration

Recreation:

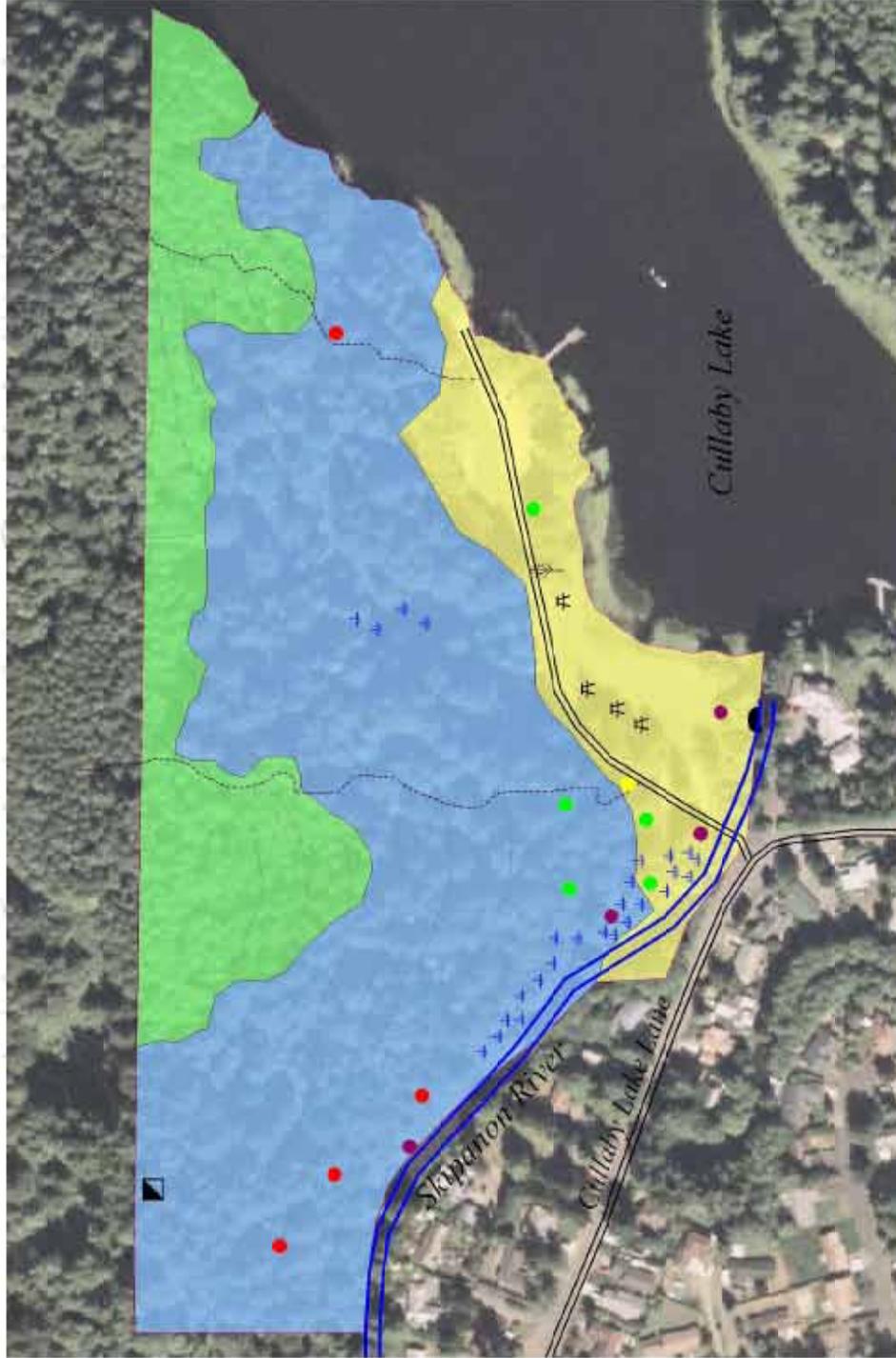
- Re-route trail to make broader loop through upland forest—could be wheelchair accessible due to moderate slopes
- Consider conversion of softball field to group picnic area with rentable shelter

Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Carnahan

Elevation: 20'-160'
31.4 acres

T 7 N, R 10 W, Section 15



Legend

- Invasive plants(by Type)**
 - 'Himalayan blackberry'
 - 'english holly'
 - 'english ivy'
 - 'scotch broom'
- Issues(by Type)**
 - 'Landslide area'
- Streams**
- Trails**
- Roads**
- Wetlands**
- Snag**
- Dam and lake outlet**
- Picnic tables**
- 20 foot elevation contours**
- County parks**
- Vegetation(by Type)**
 - 'Alder 50 yrs old'
 - 'Open'
 - 'Spruce 40-60 yrs old'

CARNAHAN.TIF



Scale = 1 : 275.00 (In : US Feet)



Carnahan County Park

31.4 acres | Elevation: 20' - 160'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 63% Spruce/hemlock forest (50+ years old)
- 21% Alder forest (50-60 years old)
- 1,700 feet of lake shoreline
- 1,300 feet of river shoreline

Special Features:

- Wetlands associated with Skipanon River
- Structurally diverse conifer and alder forest

Threats:

- Invasive species in edge habitat
- Deteriorating boat pier
- Lake water quality

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives on habitat edges

Restoration:

- Control invasive blackberry in wetland area, replant with native shrubs
- Reduce mowed area and revegetate with native species

Recreation:

- Improve and connect old trails to provide hiking loop in upland area
- Rebuild pier

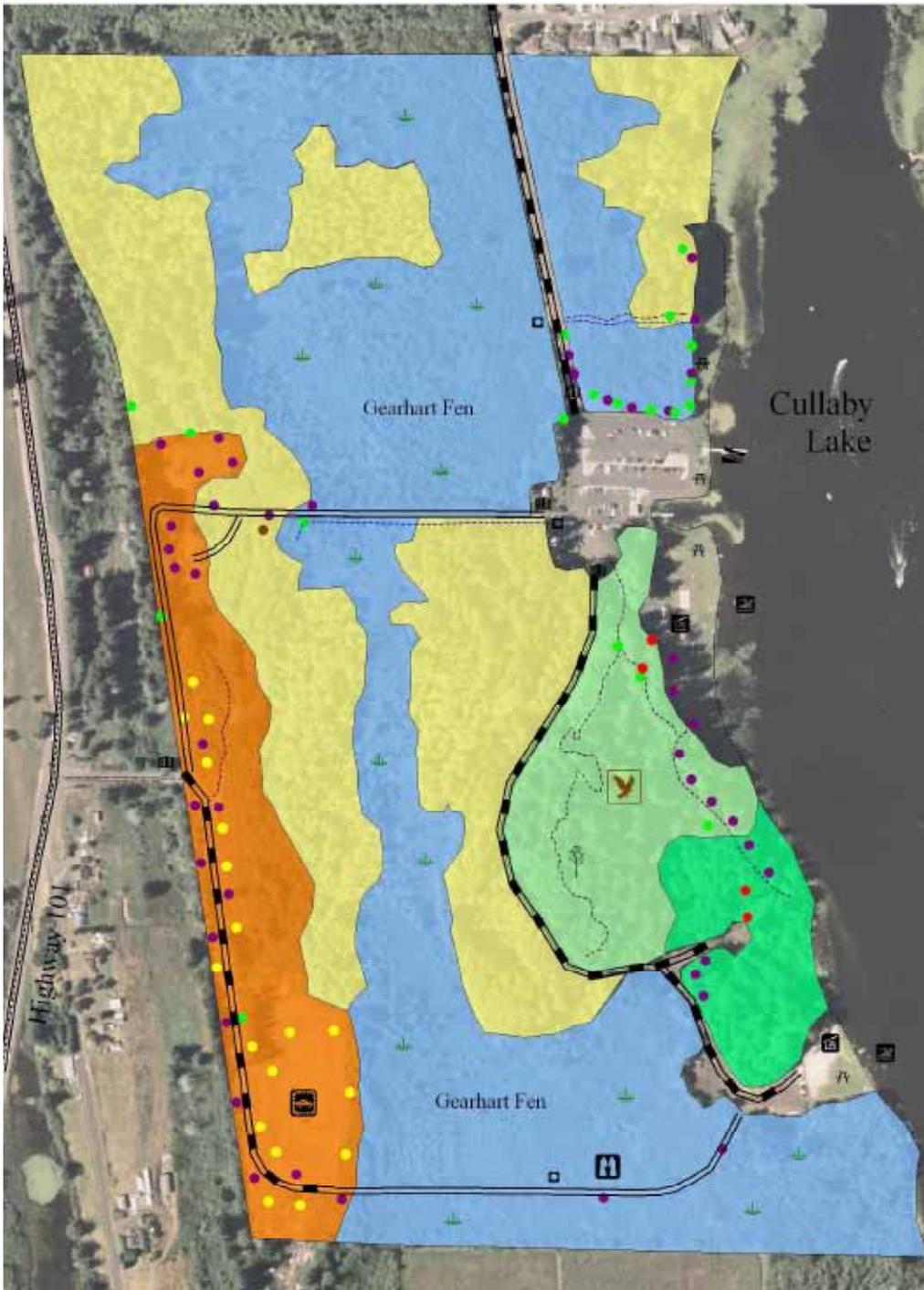


Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Cullaby Lake

T 7 N, R 10 W, Section 15

Elevation: 30'-60'
165 acres



Legend

Roads(by Type)

- ▬ 'Paved'
- ▬▬▬ 'Primary Highway'
- ▬▬▬▬ 'Rocked'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Abandoned'

CULVERTS

- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ Wetland
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ Streams

invasive plants(by Type)

- 'English holly'
- 'English ivy'
- 'Himalayan blackberry'
- 'Scotch broom'
- 'Clematis'

Wildlife features(by Type)

- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Old snag'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Bald eagle nest'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ Viewing platform
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ GATES
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ BOAT RAMPS
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ Old track
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ Picnic areas
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ TRAILS

Vegetation(by Type)

- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Developed area'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Impacted drier site'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Mixed upland forest'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Spruce upland forest'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Wetland forest'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 'Wetland shrub'
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬ 2005 aerial photo



Cullaby Lake County Park

165 acres | Elevation: 30' - 60'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Risk of ecological deterioration: Medium to High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 45% Wetland shrub
- 25% Wetland forest
- 12% Upland forest
- 4,400 Feet of lake shoreline

Special Features:

- Northern extension of Gearhart Fen
- Bald eagle nest
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat

Threats:

- High concentrations of invasive species in edge habitats
- Degraded area on west line and at old track site
- East/West rocked roads divide wetland and reduce ecological functions
- Invasive aquatic weeds
- Soil erosion on Ridge Trail (poorly located)



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives on habitat edges
- Treat large infestation of scotch broom in degraded area
- Rebuild or relocate steep southern section of Cullaby Ridge Trail

Restoration:

- Reconnect wetland areas by eliminating east/west rocked roads or providing better subsurface drainage connections
- Re-vegetate 17 acre degraded area with appropriate native species (prairie grassland or forest)
- Reduce amount of mowed area, especially on slopes and in riparian zones, and revegetate with appropriate native plants
- Evaluate need for some roads and decommission those not needed

Recreation:

- Expand trail system by using and connecting vacated roads
- Provide one or more additional viewing areas or blinds along fen
- Rebuild or relocate south part of Ridge Trail to lessen grades and prevent erosion

Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

David Douglas

T 5 N R 8 W, Section 21

Elevation: 1,160'-1,410'

64.4 acres

Legend

Old growth trees (300+)(by Species)

- 'Cedar'
- 'Douglas-fir'
- 'Hemlock'
- 'Pacific silver fir'
- 'Sitka spruce'
- 'Snag'

ROADS(by Type)

- 'Dirt'
- 'Paved'
- 'Rock'

Gates

- Gates

STREAMS

Invasive plants(by Type)

- 'himalayan blackberry'
- 'scotch broom'

Issues(by Type)

- 'dumping'
- 'erosion'

Culverts

- Culverts

Wildlife features

- Wildlife features

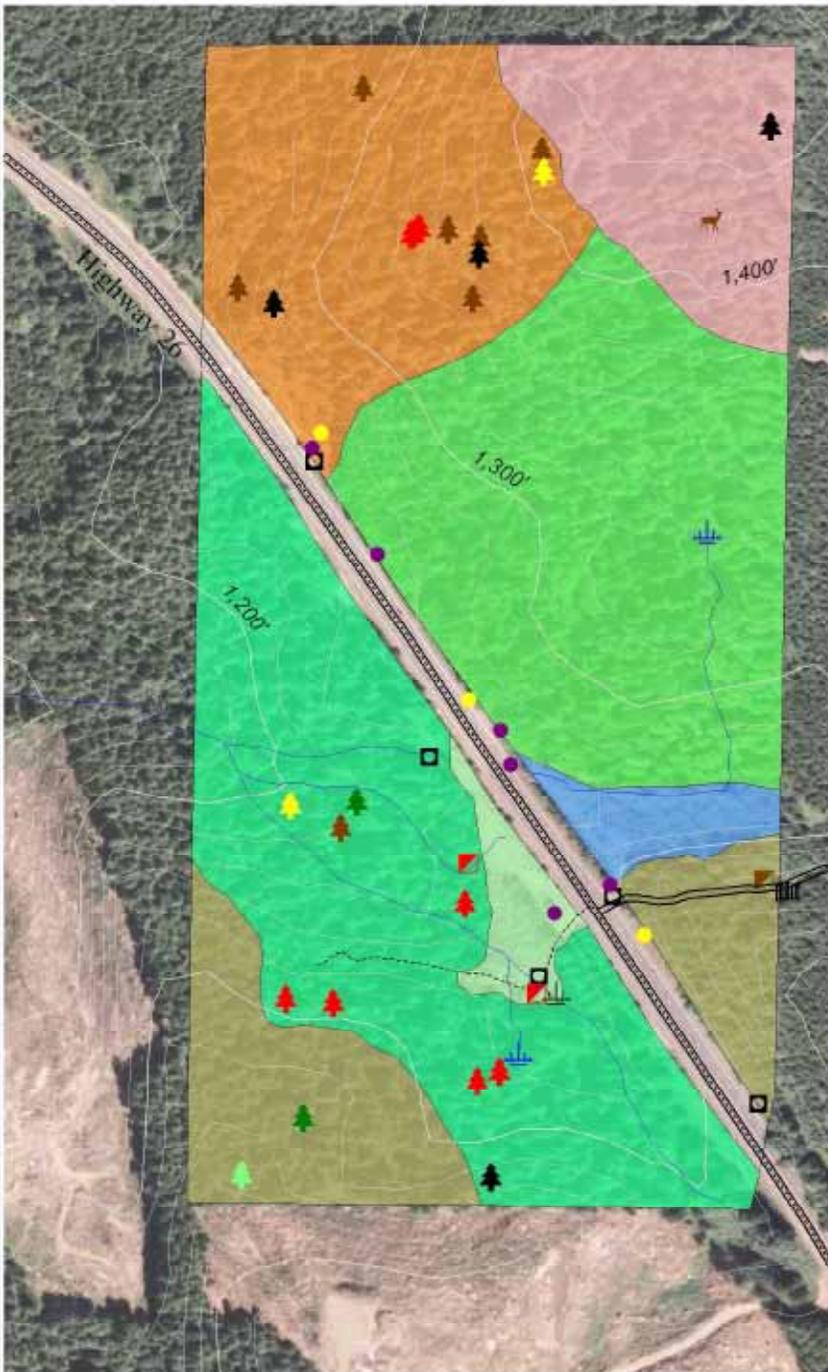
Wet areas(by Type)

- 'pond'
- 'seep'
- 100' elevation contours
- 20' elevation contours

Vegetation types(by DESCRIPTION)

- 'Alder 30 yrs old'
- 'Hemlock uneven age (200+)'
- 'Hemlock/silver fir 70+ yrs old'
- 'Mixed conifer uneven age (150+)'
- 'Mixed conifer uneven age (500+)'
- 'Mixed conifer uneven aged (300+)'
- 'Road right of way'
- 'Wet area w/ young alder'

2005 aerial photo



600 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 400.00 (In : US Feet)



David Douglas County Park

64.4 acres | Elevation: 1,160' - 1,410'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 78% Uneven-aged mixed conifer with old growth trees (150-500+)
- 11% Second growth mixed conifer forest (70+ years old)
- 4% Alder riparian forest (<30 years old)

Special Features:

- Spectacular true old growth trees of a variety of species
- Potential Oregon State Champion Pacific Silver Fir (50" DBH)
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat
- There are virtually no invasives in the interior of the property.
- There are access challenges here because there does not appear to be a safe location for a parking area that could be accessed by drivers going both ways on Highway 26. Currently there are no trails providing access to the more interesting areas of the property.

Threats:

- Timber trespass in old growth (two old growth trees were mistakenly cut in 2009 during a road right-of-way clearing conducted by ODOT)
- There is a blocked culvert located south of Highway 26, and potential for erosion as a result



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along highway right-of-way, monitor site annually to limit invasive presence

Restoration:

- Evaluate pond area behind plugged culvert on old access road south of highway
- If it is not providing important habitat values, the culvert and road fill should be removed to restore the natural channel.

Recreation:

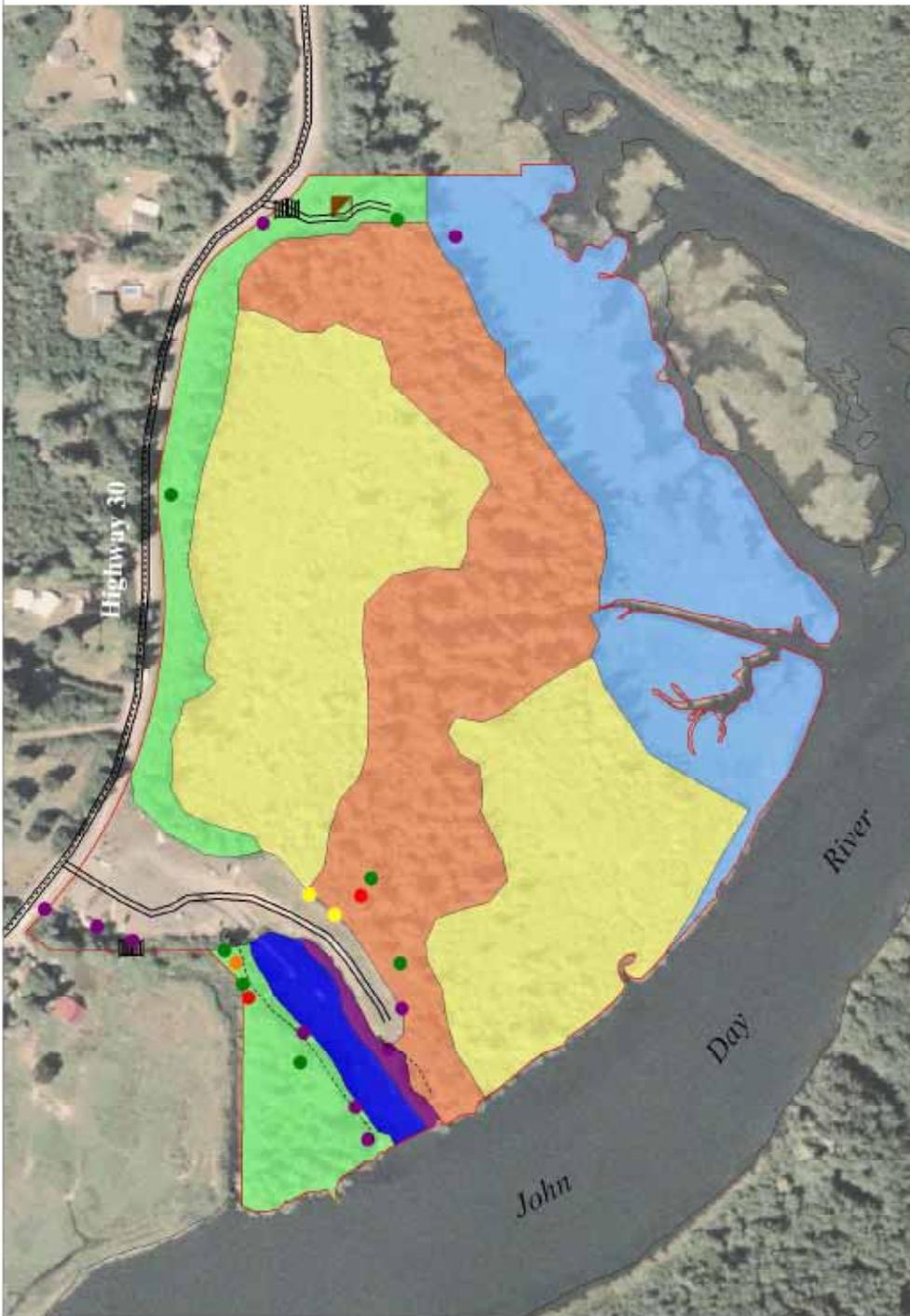
- A small parking area on the south side of the Highway could be developed to allow drivers heading east to pull in. A median in the highway would probably be required to prevent drivers from returning to the west on the highway, due to limited visibility.
- A small trail could be developed simply by cutting brush through the old logging road.
- A more ambitious approach to access would require major road engineering, including the possibility of a pedestrian tunnel under the highway to access the north side of the property.

Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

John Day

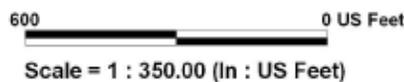
T 8 N R 9 W, Section 13

Elevation: 0'-30'
52.4 acres



Legend

- ROADS
- Trails
- Invasive plants (by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'english ivy'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
 - 'scotch broom'
 - 'tansy ragwort'
- Issues (by Type)**
 - 'dumping'
 - Gates
 - County Parks
- Vegetation (by Type)**
 - 'Blackberries'
 - 'Facilities'
 - 'Marsh'
 - 'Shrub swamp'
 - 'Spruce swamp'
 - 'Spruce/alder'
 - 'Water'
- Rivers
- 2005 aerial photo



John Day County Park

52.4 acres | Elevation: 0' - 30'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Medium

Findings and Analysis

Key habitats:

- 35% Shrub swamp
- 23% Spruce swamp
- 21% Marsh
- 11% Spruce/alder forest

Special Features:

- Swamp contains lots of biodiversity
- Potential bald eagle nesting habitat as spruce trees age
- Marsh land and water edges provide habitat for waterfowl

Threats:

- Significant invasive infestations around developed portions of park; proximity to highway and heavy traffic in parking area will continue to bring new weeds to the park
- Trespass and dumping issues along northern boundary

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Annual monitoring for invasive species, especially at use area margins
- Remove English ivy infestations
- Remove Scotch broom and blackberry infestations

Restoration:

- Improve landscape at use area margin using native plants

Recreation:

- Access challenges, no trails
- Provide better viewpoint/seating area at edges of boat ramp
- Provide boardwalk to viewpoint/blind within swamp area

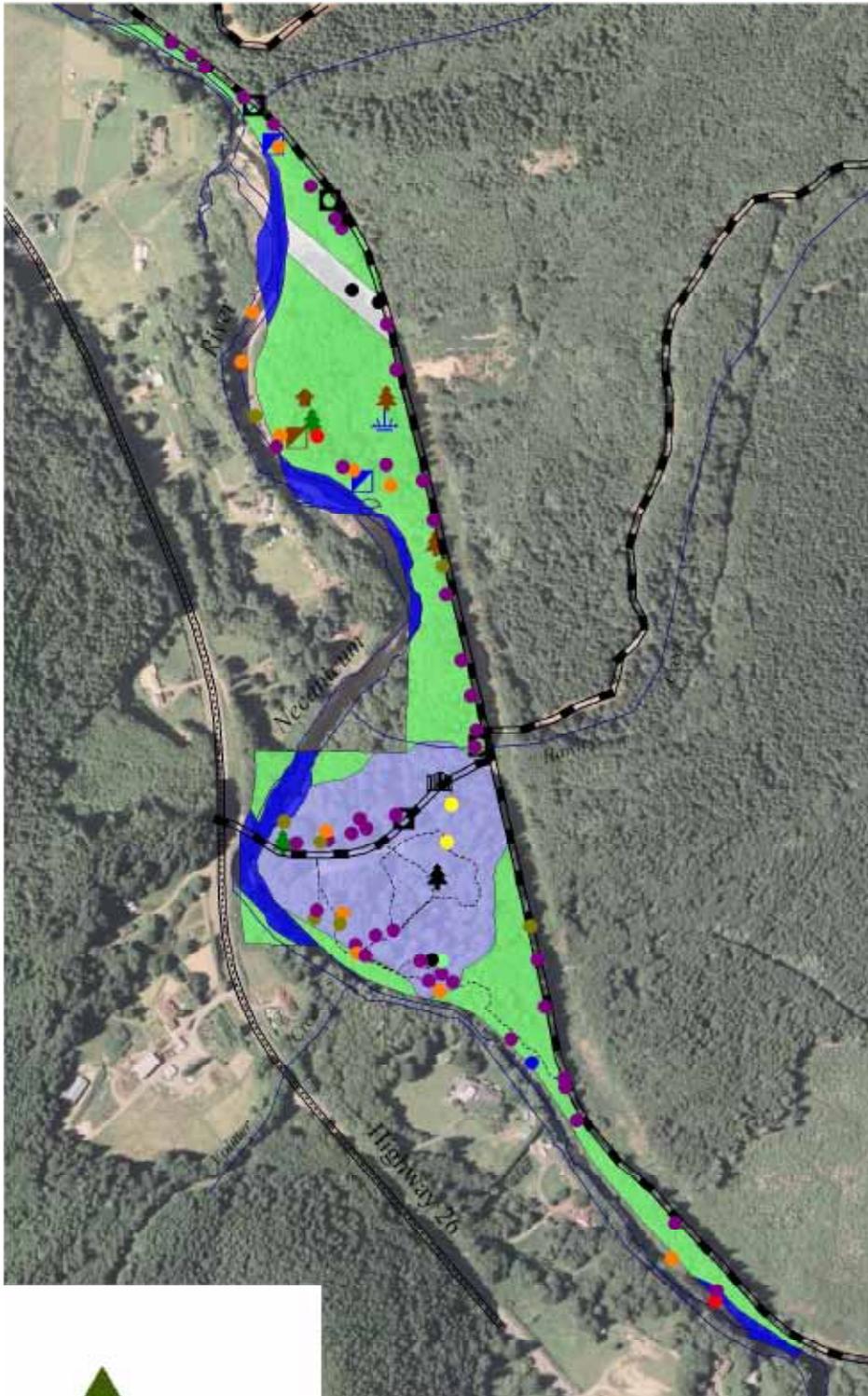


Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Kloutchy Creek

T 5 N R 10 W, Section 14

Elevation: 60'-80'
42.3 acres



Legend

Invasive plants(by Type)

- 'clematis'
- 'english holly'
- 'himalayan blackberry'
- 'knotweed'
- 'scotch broom'
- 'tansy ragwort'
- 'policeman's helmet'
- 'norway maple'

Issues(by Type)

- 'dumping'
- 'riparian stability'

— Streams

⏏ Wet area

⋯ Roads

⋯ Trails

Road improvements(by Type)

- 'culvert'
- 'gate'
- ⏏ Abandoned house

Wildlife features(by Type)

- ⏏ 'deer/elk sign'
- ⏏ 'large tree'
- ⏏ 'old growth snag'

Vegetation types(by DESCRIPTION)

- 'Alder'
- 'Clearing'
- 'Mixed conifer'
- 'Stream channel'
- ⏏ 2005 aerial photo



1000 0 US Feet
Scale = 1 : 600.00 (In : US Feet)



Kloutchy Creek County Park

42.3 acres | Elevation: 60'-80'

Overall ecological health: Low

Risk of ecological deterioration: High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 51% Alder riparian forest
- 31% Mixed conifer forest with some older trees

Special Features:

- Kloutchy Creek Giant Spruce, now a snag
- Important fish habitat—Necanicum River and tributaries
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat

Threats:

- Invasive species are well established—roads and river are both sources for new infestations
- Erosion from Necanicum River along logging road

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives
 - Along river edge
 - Roadsides and along trails
 - In area disturbed by salvage logging in 2008

Restoration:

- Ensure replanted area is well stocked with native tree species
- Logging road along northern edge of the property may need to be relocated

Recreation:

- Potential trail in northern portion along stream

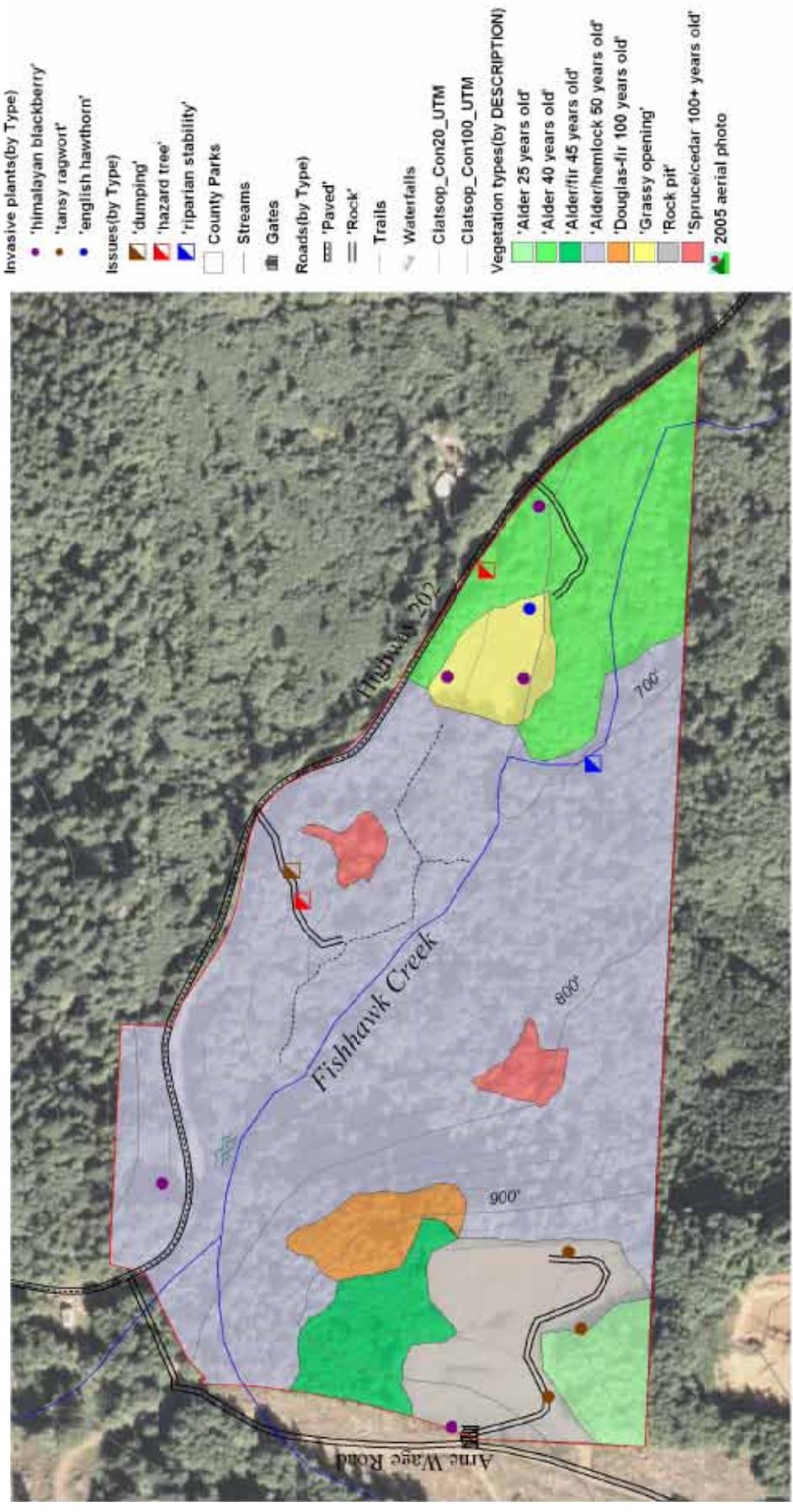


Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls

T 6 N, R 7 W, Section 32

Elevation: 680'-960'
47.15 acres



Legend

- Invasive plants (by Type)**
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
 - 'fancy ragwort'
 - 'english hawthorn'
- Issues (by Type)**
 - 'dumping'
 - 'hazard tree'
 - 'riparian stability'
- County Parks**
- Streams**
- Gates**
- Roads (by Type)**
 - 'Paved'
 - 'Rock'
- Trails**
- Waterfalls**
- Clatsop_Con20_UTM**
- Clatsop_Con100_UTM**
- Vegetation types (by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Alder 25 years old'
 - 'Alder 40 years old'
 - 'Alder/fir 45 years old'
 - 'Alder/hemlock 50 years old'
 - 'Douglas-fir 100 years old'
 - 'Grassy opening'
 - 'Rock pit'
 - 'Spruce/cedar 100+ years old'
 - 2005 aerial photo



Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls County Park

47.15 acres | Elevation: 680' - 960'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 76% Alder/mixed conifer forest (45-50 years old)
- 17% Alder forest (20-40 years old)
- 3% Douglas-fir forest (100 years old)
- 3% Grassy opening
- 2% Spruce/cedar forest (100+ years old)
- Fishhawk Creek stream channel

Special Features:

- Fishhawk Falls
- Small areas of older forest
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat

Threats:

- Current parking area is too close to the river
- Very minor hazard tree and invasive issues
- Potential expansion of rock pit

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization and safety:

- Treat/remove blackberry at park perimeter
- Remove hazard trees
- Maintain meadow with periodic mowing
- Annual monitoring for invasive species and soil erosion due to recreation use

Restoration:

- Relocate parking area to edge of grassy field to restore riparian area closer to falls (currently planned for spring 2010)
- Place large woody debris in creek to enhance fish habitat

Recreation:

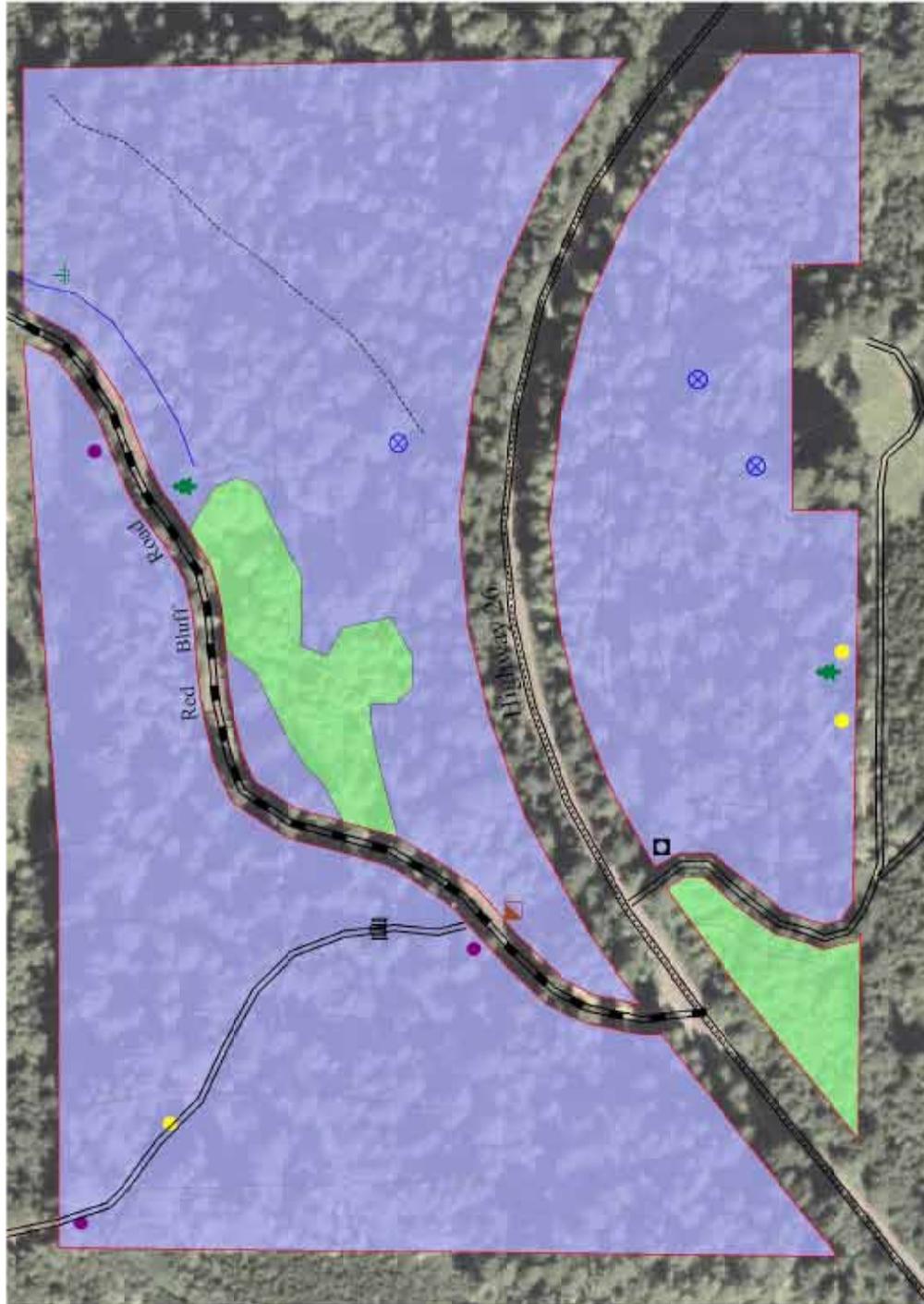
- Improve the trail system
- Consider creating ADA trail and fishing access



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Nehalem (Red Bluff Rd)
T 5 N R 7 W, Section 32

Elevation: 440'-640'
49.27 acres



Legend

- ROADS (by Type)**
 - 'Highway 26'
 - 'Old dirt grade'
 - 'Paved'
 - 'Rock'
- Wildlife features (by Type)**
 - 'mountain beaver'
 - 'old/large tree'
 - Gate
- Invasive plants (by Type)**
 - 'Himalayan blackberry'
 - 'scotch broom'
- Issues (by Type)**
 - 'Dumping'
 - Stream
 - Pond
 - Culvert
 - County parks
- Vegetation types (by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Alder 40 years old'
 - 'Mixed conifer uneven aged'
 - 2005 aerial photo
- 20 foot elevation contours



Nehalem County Park

49.27 acres | Elevation: 450' - 650'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 93% Uneven-aged mixed conifer older forest (150-200 years old)
- 7% Young alder forest (40+ years old)

Special Features:

- Undisturbed older forest developing old growth characteristics
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat

Threats:

- Easy, uncontrolled access from Highway 26
- Potential for blowdown

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along highway right of way and Red Bluff Road
- Annual monitoring for new invasive presence

Restoration:

- Not needed beyond invasive species management

Recreation:

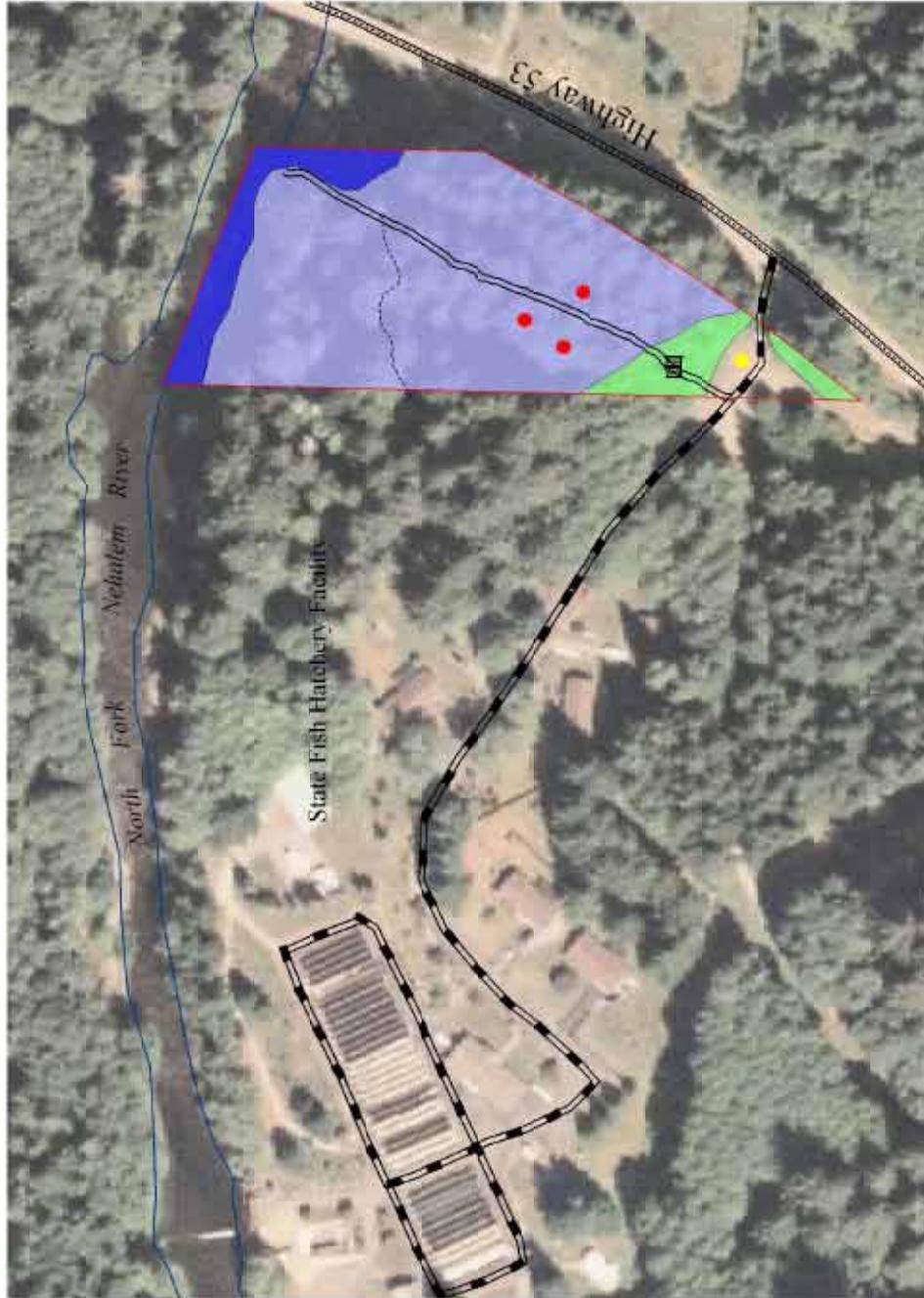
- Discourage use because of distant location and lack of trails
- Potential for small trailhead development and interpretive display on old growth/mature forest ecosystems



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

North Fork Nehalem
T 4 N, R 9 W, Section 22

Elevation: 150'-180'
2.8 acres



Legend

- Roads
- County Parks
- Invasive plants(by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'scotch broom'
- Gates
- Trails(by Condition)**
 - 'Dirt'
 - 'Paved'
- Vegetation type(by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Road'
 - 'Alder (40 year old)'
 - 'Mixed conifer (100 year old)'
 - 'River/riparian'
 - Streams
 - 2005 aerial photo



0 US Feet



Scale = 1 : 175.00 (In : US Feet)



North Fork Nehalem County Park

2.8 acres | Elevation: 150' - 180'

Overall ecological health: Medium - High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Finding and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 79% Mixed conifer forest (100 years old)
- North Fork Nehalem River stream channel and riparian zone

Special Features:

- North Fork Nehalem River access
- Small area of older forest
- Potential marbled murrelet habitat

Threats:

- Established English holly
- Potential for windthrow in older conifers
- Remote location means infrequent monitoring

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

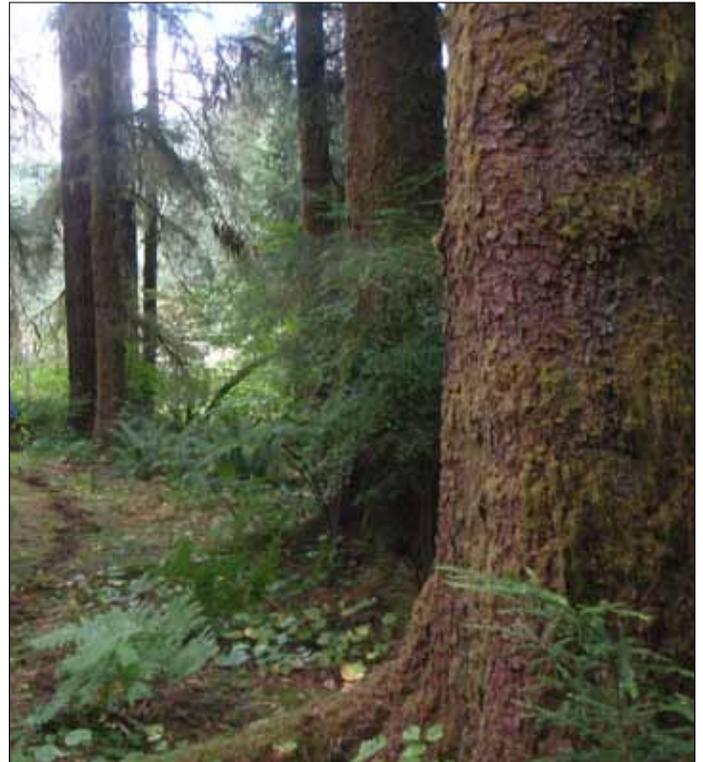
- Treat/remove invasives

Restoration:

- No actions required beyond invasives control

Recreation:

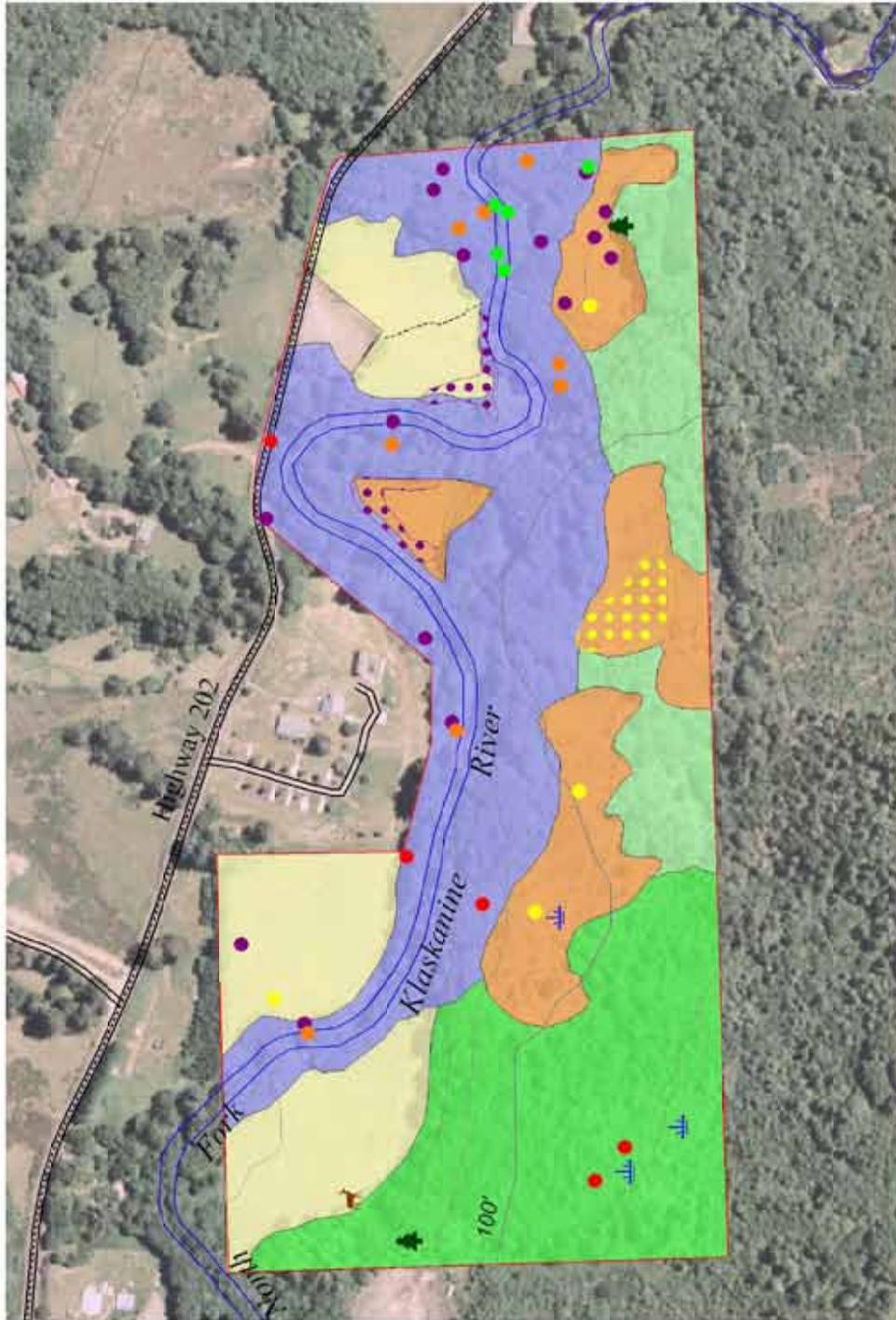
- Improve the river access with a trail or boulders for fishing



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

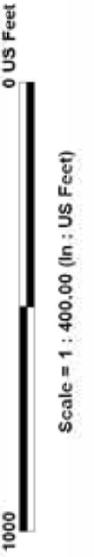
Sigfridson
T 7 N, R 8 W, Section 18

Elevation: 40'-130'
64.43 acres



Legend

- Invasive plants(by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'english ivy'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
 - 'knotweed'
 - 'scotch broom'
- Wet areas**
- Wildlife features(by Type)**
 - 'deer/elk sign'
 - 'old/large tree'
- Invasive plant areas(by Type)**
 - 'Himalayan blackberry'
 - 'Scotch broom'
- 20' elevation contours
- 100' elevation contours
- Roads(by Type)**
 - 'Paved'
 - 'Rock'
- Streams
- Trails
- County Parks
- Vegetation types(by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Field'
 - 'Mixed upland forest'
 - 'Old field'
 - 'Parking lot'
 - 'Riparian'
 - 'Spruce/hemlock/alders 40-70 yrs'
 - 2005 aerial photo



Sigfridson Park

64.4 acres | Elevation: 40' - 130'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Risk of ecological deterioration: High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 36% Riparian forest and stream channel
- 34% Old agricultural fields
- 22% Mixed spruce/hemlock/alder forest
- 10% Mixed upland forest, including maple and Douglas-fir

Special Features:

- North Fork Klaskanine River
- Rich riparian habitat and heavily used fishing holes
- Old agricultural fields—unique among the County's properties
- Must cross river to see most of the property

Threats:

- Heavy invasive presence throughout property
- Streambank erosion from unplanned trails for fishing access
- Large parking area encourages use without well designed trail system



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along edges

Restoration:

- Aggressively treat invasives throughout the property using a multi-year coordinated approach to ensure success and long-term maintenance.
- Consider options for old agricultural fields—maintain in grassland condition, or allow natural succession to woody plants?

Recreation:

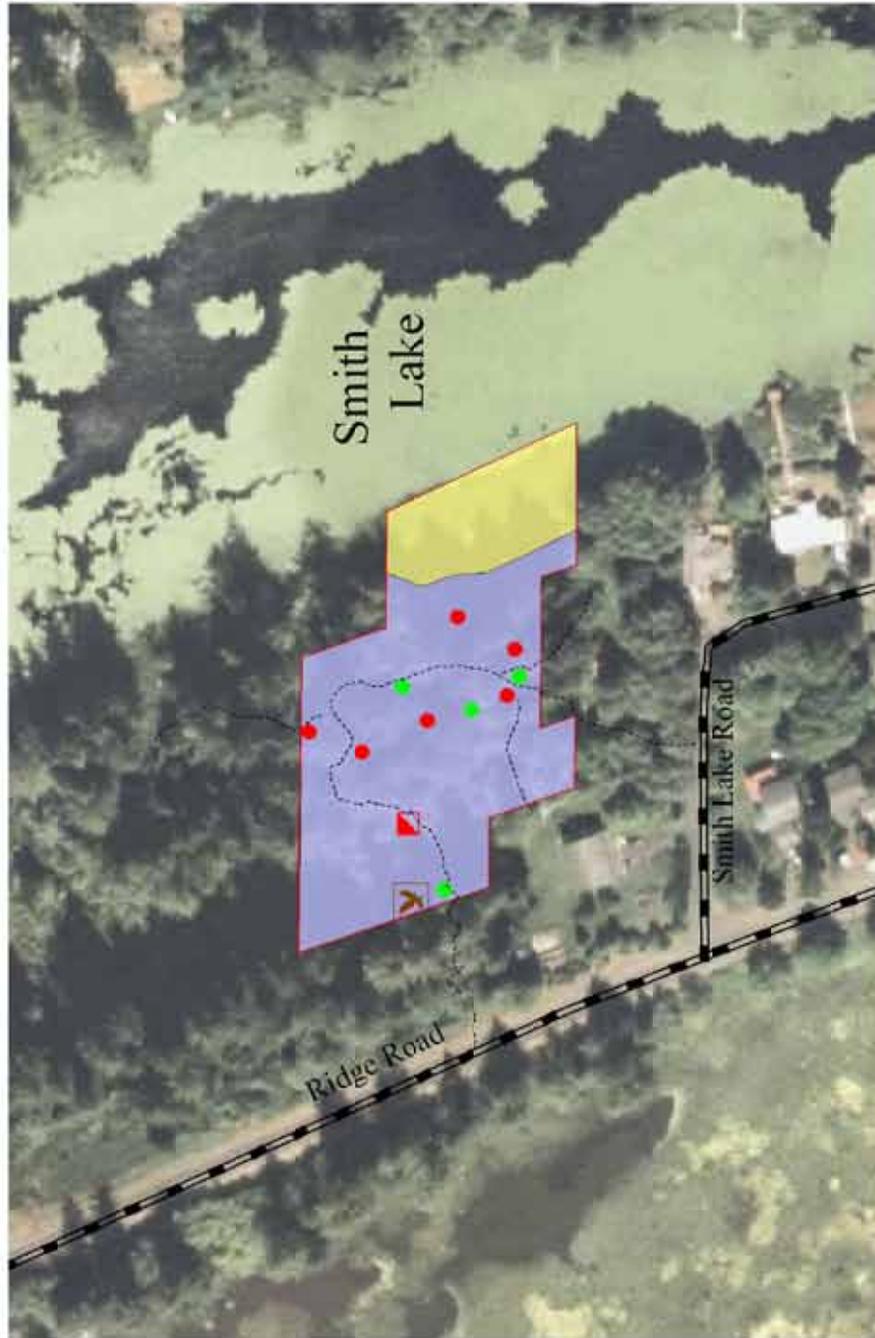
- Design trail system to allow fishing and hiking access while minimizing impacts to stream bank.

Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Smith Lake

T 8 N R 10 W, Section 33

Elevation: 20'-25'
2.5 acres



Legend

- Roads(by Type)**
 - 'Paved'
- Wildlife features(by Type)**
 - 🦅 'Bald Eagle Nest'
 - Trails
- Issues(by Type)**
 - 🚩 'Unsafe trail log'
- Invasive plants(by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'english ivy'
- Property Line
- Vegetation types(by DESCRIPTION)**
 - 'Wetland Forest'
 - 'Wetland Shrub'
 - 🌳 2005 aerial photo



Smith Lake County Park

2.56 acres | Elevation: 20'-25'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Risk of ecological deterioration: Medium

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 80% Wetland Forest (Spruce/hemlock > 60 years old)
- 20% Wetland Shrub

Special Features:

- Bald eagle nest
- Spruce wetlands

Threats:

- Continued spread of invasive English ivy and English holly
- Unsafe trail condition

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat English ivy and English holly infestations

Restoration:

- Not needed beyond invasive species management

Recreation:

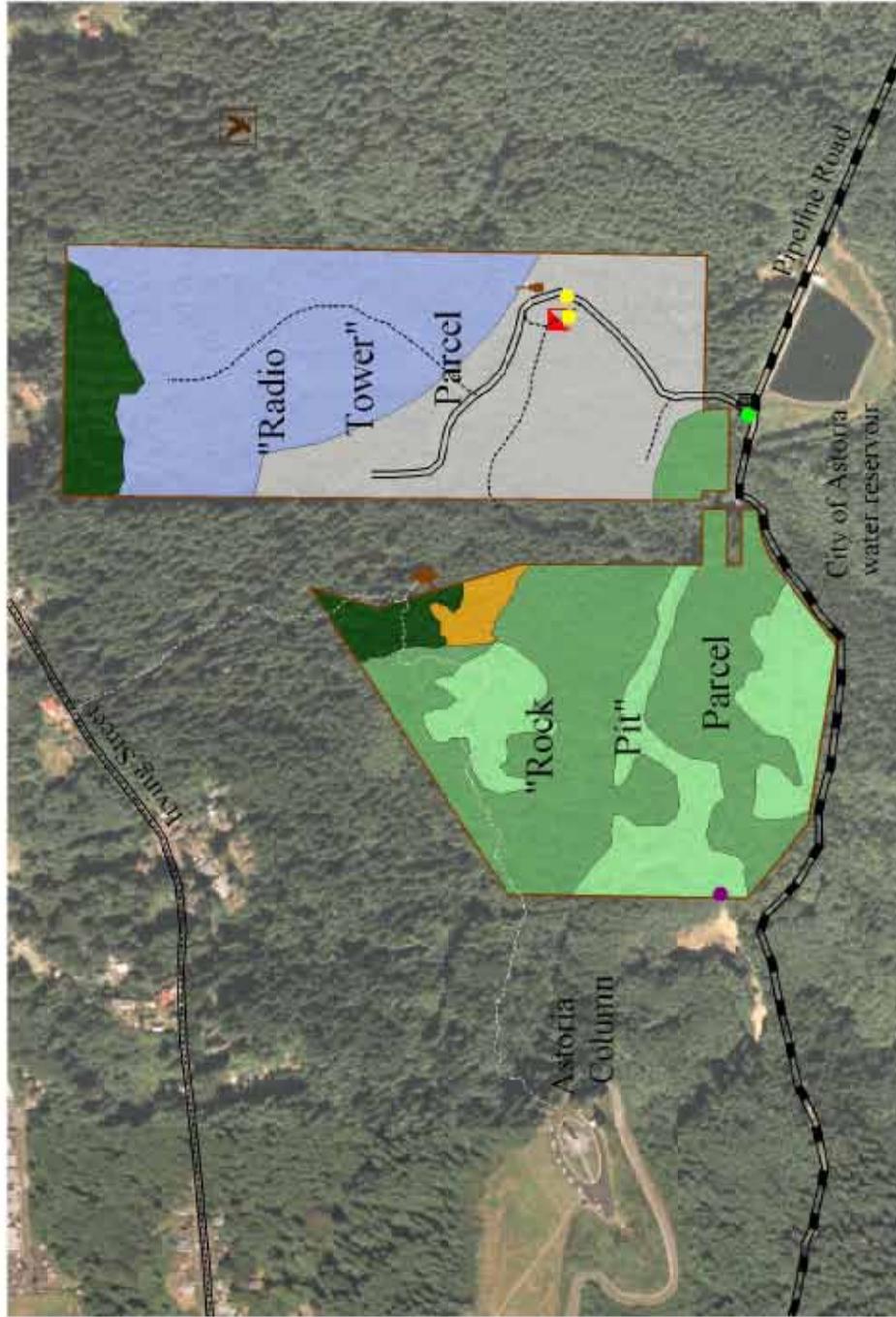
- Improve trails and add interpretive site with lake view



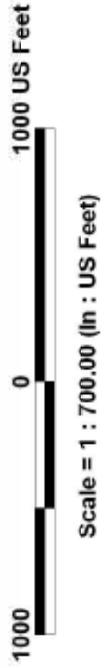
Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Area east of Astoria Column
T 8 N R 9 W, Section 16

Elevation: 240'-560'
111.5 acres



- Legend**
- Radio tower
 - Trails
 - Wildlife features (by Type)
 - 'bald eagle nest'
 - 'old growth'
 - Invasive plants (by Type)
 - 'english ivy'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
 - 'scotch broom'
 - Roads (by Type)
 - 'Dirt'
 - 'Light Duty'
 - 'Primary Highway'
 - 'Rock'
 - Property boundary
 - Issues (by Type)
 - 'erosion'
 - Gate
 - Vegetation (by Type)
 - 'Alder'
 - 'Alder/mixed conifer'
 - 'Mixed conifer'
 - 'Mixed conifer - older'
 - 'Recently logged'
 - 'Recently planted'
 - 2005 aerial photo



Area East of Astoria Column

"Rock Pit" and "Radio Tower" parcels
111.5 acres | Elevation: 240' - 560'

Overall ecological health: Medium
Risk of ecological deterioration: High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 29% Mixed conifer forest
- 26% Alder/mixed conifer forest
- 24% New conifer plantations (hemlock, spruce, cedar, and Douglas-fir)
- 14% Alder forest
- 7% Older mixed conifer forest

Special Features:

- Bald eagle nest on adjacent City property
- Wildlife habitat diversity
- Adjacent to Cathedral Spruce tree (old growth) on City land
- Trail to Astoria Column

Threats:

- Recent salvage logging increases risk for colonization by invasives
- Blowdown risk is high due to ridgetop location

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along edges

Restoration:

- Aggressively treat invasives in areas disturbed by logging in 2008 and 2009 to ensure planted seedlings and natural regeneration are free to grow. Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberries should be the main focus here.

Recreation:

- Potential for a system of trails accessing these tracts and connecting to the Astoria Column and parcels to the east.

The importance of this property, in conjunction with nearby County and City owned land, as a large natural area and backdrop for the City of Astoria would be difficult to over-estimate. Several hundred acres in size when taken together, the area forms an urban forest similar to what Forest Park is to the City of Portland. Working with the City to develop a long-term vision for these properties is highly recommended.



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Battle Creek Tidelands
T 7 N, R 9 W, Section 10

Elevation: 0'-5'
13.74 acres



Legend

- == Dike maintenance road
- County Recreation Lands
- ◐ Tide gate
- Invasive plants(by Type)
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
- Vegetation(by Type)
 - 'Pasture'
 - 'Tidal marsh'
- 📷 2005 aerial photo



1000 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 600.00 (In : US Feet)



Battle Creek Tidelands

13.74 acres | Elevation: 0' - 5'

Overall ecological health: Low

Risk of ecological deterioration: High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 67% Tidal marsh

Special Features:

- Tidal marsh on Youngs River
- No recreational potential due to limited access and small size

Threats:

- Regular flooding
- Established Himalayan blackberry
- Livestock grazing
- Dikes need ongoing maintenance



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Blackberries are regularly sprayed by adjacent farmers that maintain the dikes

Restoration:

- There are limited options for restoration as long as the dike bisects the property

Recreation:

- No recreation potential

We recommend that Clatsop County explore selling the property. Columbia Land Trust owns the nearby Haven Island property, but initial talks with their local representative indicate little interest in the property.

The County should offer the property for sale by sealed bids to attempt to get the property back on the tax rolls.



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Cedar Street Wetlands

T 8 N, R 10 W, Section 21

Elevation: 10'-20'
75.5 acres

Legend

Invasive plants(by Type)

- 'English holly'
- 'English ivy'
- 'Himalayan blackberry'

— Stream

ROADS(by Type)

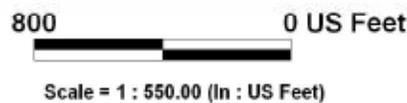
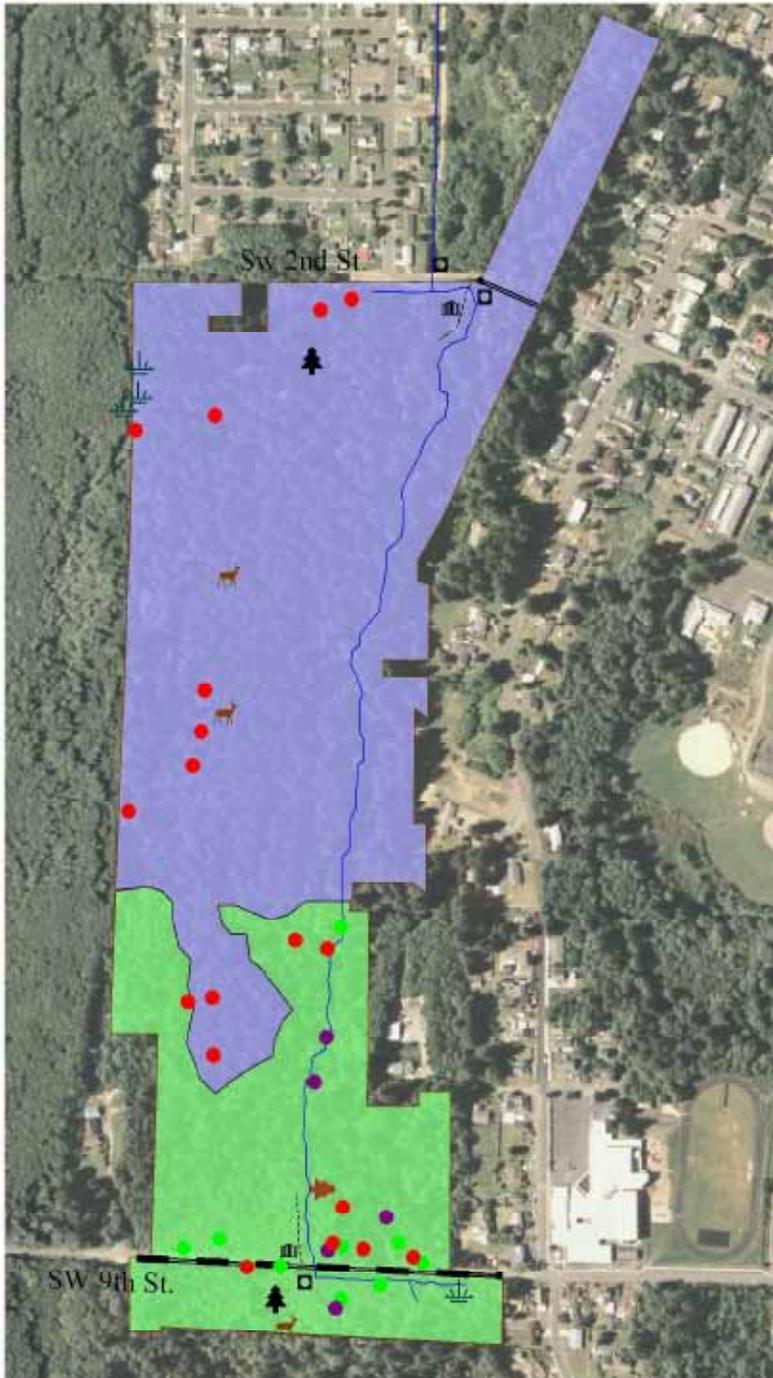
- 'Dirt'
- 'Paved'
- ▤ Gates
- ▤ Ponds/wet areas
- Culverts
- Property Line

wildlife(by Type)

- ▤ 'deer/elk sign'
- ▤ 'old snag'
- ▤ 'blown down spruce'

Vegetation(by Type)

- 'Alder/spruce swamp'
- 'Conifer swamp'
- ▲ 2005 aerial photo



Cedar Street Wetlands

75.5 acres | Elevation: 10' - 20'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 68% Conifer swamp
- 32% Alder/spruce swamp

Special Features:

- Wetland water storage capacity in residential area (flood abatement)
- Rich wildlife habitat (species and structural diversity)

Threats:

- High concentrations of invasive species along 9th Street
- Future development of residential areas
- Stormwater runoff from surrounding development



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat roadside invasives

Recreation:

- Establish trail system featuring wetland ecosystem. This would most likely involve boardwalk type construction through wet areas. The trails would need to tie in to the well developed Warrenton area trail system.

We recommend exploring transferring the property to the City of Warrenton as a park or to The Nature Conservancy for wetlands credits.



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Claremont Road Tracts

T 8 N, R 8 W, Section 19

Elevation: 50'-100'
~3.5 acres



Legend

- Streams
- Roads
- 100' elevation contours
- 20' elevation contours
- Invasive plants (by Type)
 - 'english holly'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
- Wildlife features (by Type)
 - 'old growth'
 - 'old growth down log'
- Property Boundary
- Vegetation (by Type)
 - 'Alder'
 - 'Mixed conifer'
- 2005 aerial photo



Claremont Road Tracts

3.5 acres | Elevation: 50' - 100'

Overall ecological health: High

Risk of ecological deterioration: Low

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 92% Mixed conifer, with some residual old growth
- 8% Alder upland forest

Special Features:

- Rich uneven-age forest with old growth, down wood and snags

Threats:

- Potential for development (platted for subdivision)
- Blowdown

Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat English holly

Recreation:

- The county has no legal access to the property, so the development of recreational amenities is not appropriate

We recommend retaining this property in the County's portfolio to preserve the unique habitat and older forest conditions found here. Neighboring landowners have expressed interest in purchasing the property, but we feel the county's interests in the property are best served and protected by continuing to own the property. Although the property is not accessible to the public, it serves a public good by providing older forest habitat for wildlife.

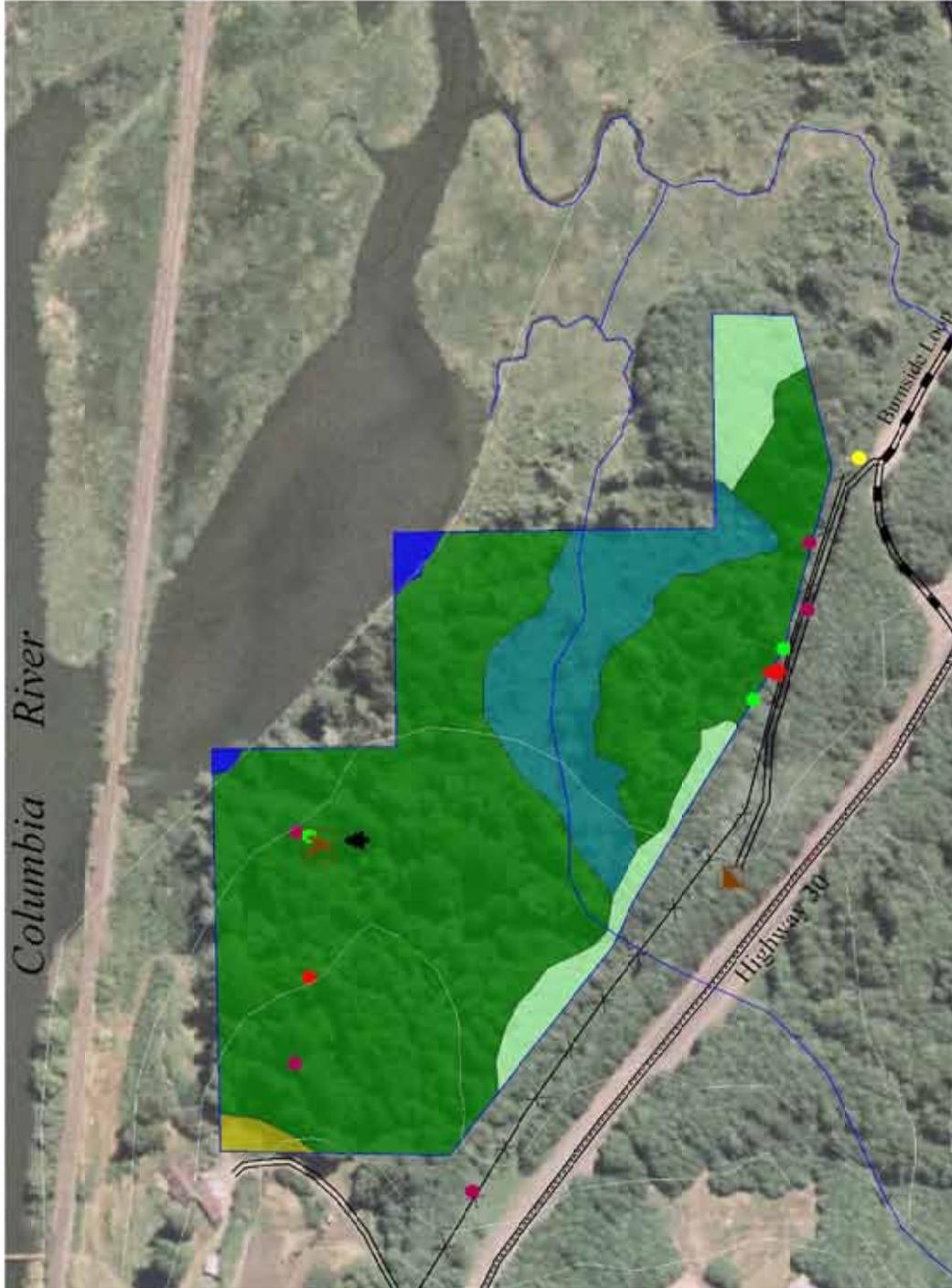


Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

Twilight Eagle Sanctuary

T 8 N, R 8 W, Section 20

Elevation: 0'-60'
14.1 acres



Legend

- 20' elevation contours
- Streams
- Wildlife features (by Type)**
 - 'bald eagle nest'
 - 'large tree'
 - 'old snag'
- Issues (by Type)**
 - 'dumping'
- Invasive plants (by Type)**
 - 'english holly'
 - 'english ivy'
 - 'himalayan blackberry'
 - 'scotch broom'
- County Recreation Lands
- Roads
- Vegetation (by Type)**
 - 'Alder'
 - 'Cleared area'
 - 'Mixed spruce/alder/shrubs'
 - 'Water'
 - 'Wetland'
- POWER LINES
- 2005 aerial photo



Twilight Eagle Sanctuary

14.1 acres | Elevation: 0' - 60'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Risk of ecological deterioration: Medium

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 75% Mixed spruce/alder forest with shrub-dominated openings
- 15% Wetland
- 8% Alder forest

Special Features:

- Bald eagle nest
- Wetlands
- Older second growth timber

Threats:

- Heavy invasives presence along edges, and new English ivy infestation in interior
- Encroachment from neighbors



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along edges

Restoration:

- Aggressively treat invasives, including the English ivy infestation in interior of property

Recreation:

- Appropriate recreation uses of the property are unclear. Use of the site by bald eagles, along with wet soils, may make trail development inappropriate.
- The nearby Twilight Eagle Sanctuary signs on Burnside Loop once afforded bird watchers the opportunity to view the County property and potential eagle activity there. Heavy branching by two alder trees in the road right of way has obscured the view. The County should explore having these alder trees pruned and/or removed to enhance the view.

This property is adjacent to a parcel owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy, which in turn abuts land owned by the Columbia Land Trust. Taken as a whole, this area provides important wildlife habitat and open space.



Clatsop County Parks - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

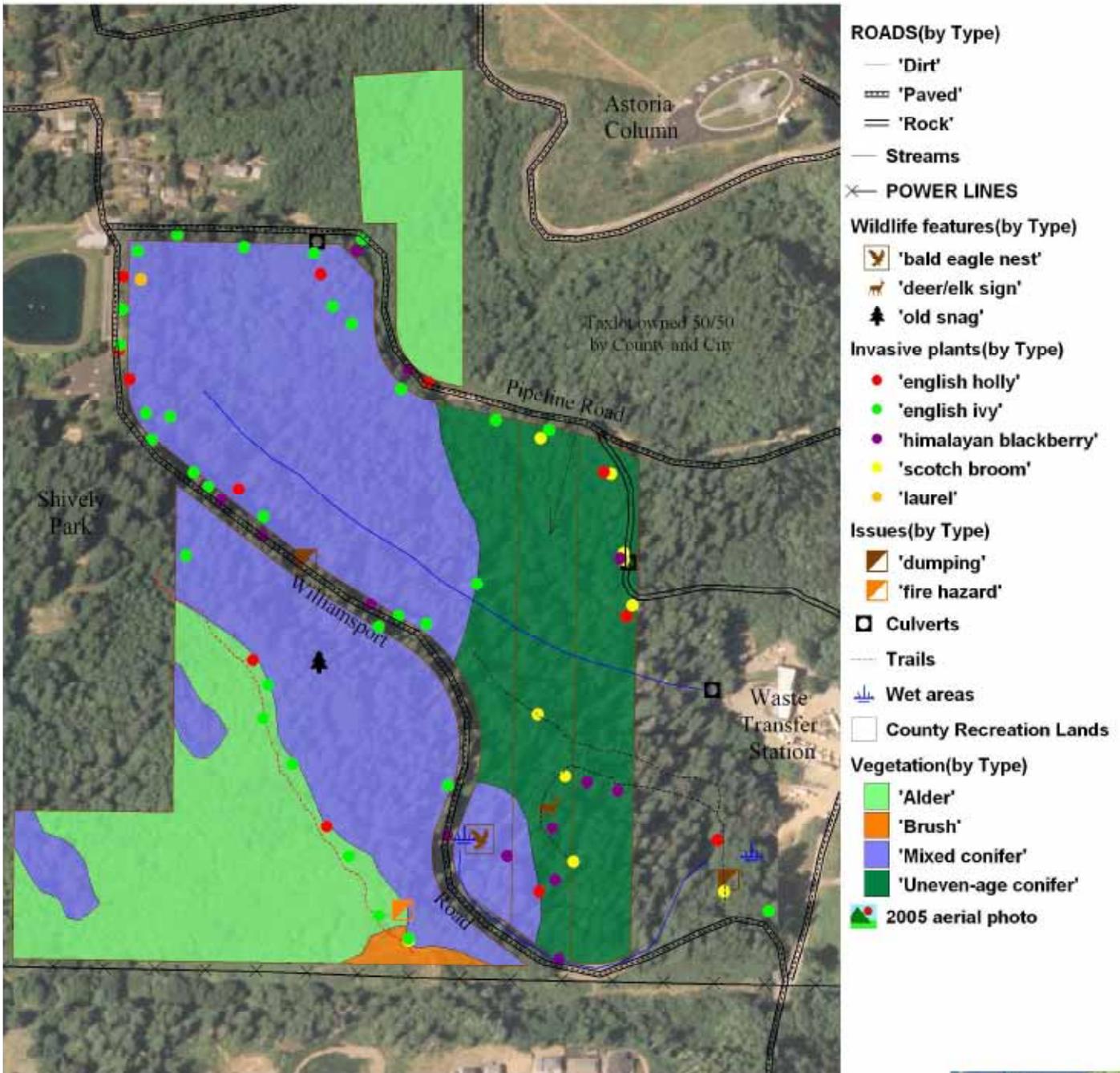
Williamsport Road Tracts

T 8 N R 9 W, Section 17

Elevation: 100'-420'

60.9 acres

Legend



700 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 400.00 (In : US Feet)



Williamsport Road Area

60.9 acres | Elevation: 100' - 420'

Overall ecological health: Medium

Risk of ecological deterioration: High

Findings and Analysis

Key Habitats:

- 48% Mixed conifer forest
- 28% Alder upland forest
- 24% Uneven aged conifer forest

Special Features:

- Bald eagle nest
- Wildlife diversity – deer, pileated woodpecker, and more
- Residual old growth snags and older second growth timber

Threats:

- Adjacent to waste transfer station—increased risk for litter and invasive species
- Established infestation of English ivy
- Recent salvage logging increases risk for colonization by invasives
- Blowdown



Recommendations

Management Options

Stabilization:

- Treat invasives along edges

Restoration:

- Aggressively treat invasives, including a coordinated multi-year strategy for removing English ivy from the northern portion along Williamsport Road
- Aggressively treat invasives in areas disturbed by logging in 2008 to ensure planted seedlings and natural regeneration are free to grow. Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberries should be the main focus here.
- As the young plantings develop, thinning may be advisable in about 10 years to achieve optimal spacing and species composition.

Recreation:

- Potential for a system of trails accessing these tracts and connecting to the Astoria Column and parcels to the east.

The importance of this property, in conjunction with nearby County and City owned land, as a large natural area and backdrop for the City of Astoria would be difficult to over-estimate. Several hundred acres in size when taken together, the area forms an urban forest similar to what Forest Park is to the City of Portland. Working with the City to develop a long-term vision for these properties is highly recommended.



Clatsop County Parks



Appendix



Desired Level of Intervention

What is the appropriate level of intervention for managing natural areas in Clatsop County Parks?

Parks



Recreation

Place your sticker where you think Parks should be managed along the "level of intervention" line.

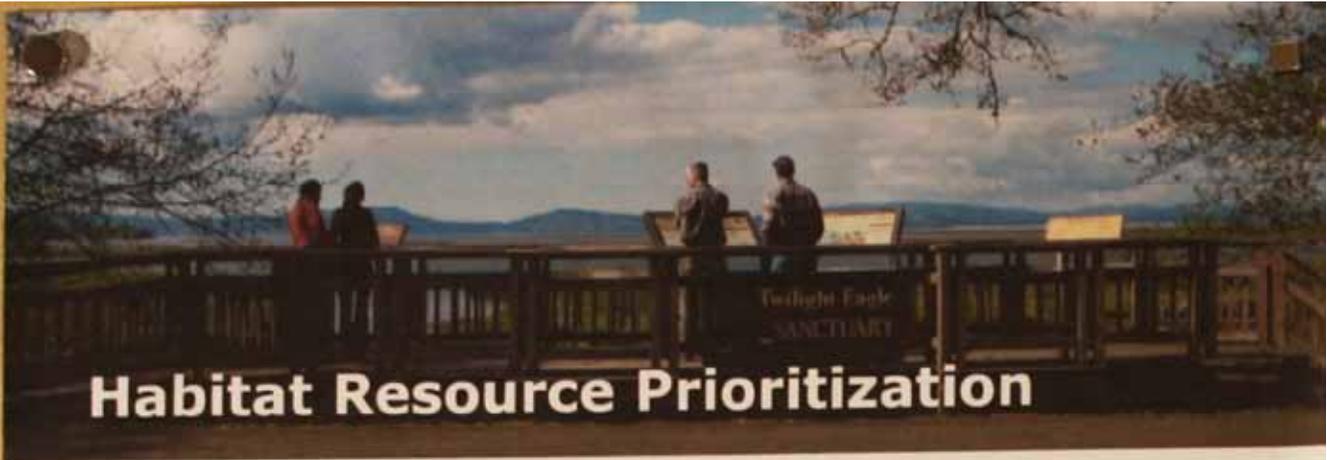


Potential Management Actions

What are the highest priorities for action?

Invasive Species Control	
Large Wood Recruitment for Fish, Amphibians, and Birds	
Erosion Control	
Managing Younger Forests to Improve Habitat	
<u>Safety</u> Forest Fuel Reduction	
Public Education/ Environmental Information	
Other	
<u>Trails & user mgmt.</u>	





Habitat Resource Prioritization

Where should we focus our work?

