



**MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
BANNER FOREST HERITAGE PARK
2015**



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	5
Introduction.....	7
Early History.....	8
1990-92: Development Threat and Citizen Intervention...	10
1995 Management Plan.....	11
2000 Kitsap County Acquisition.....	12
2002 Management Plan.....	13
2010 – 2012 Banner Forest Watch Group.....	15
2015 Management Plan Strategies.....	21
Trails.....	28
Habitat.....	31
Education.....	34



Appendices

Appendix A	Conservation Easement (2000)
Appendix B	Banner Forest Watch Group (2010-2012)
Appendix C	Banner Forest Master Plan (2002)
Appendix D	Habitat Protection (2010-2012)
Appendix E	Trails System Maps and Field Notes (2011)
Appendix F	Wetlands Report (2010)



Executive Summary

Banner Forest is a natural park in southeastern Kitsap County. At the center of the 635-acre park is a 139-acre protected conservation area containing three wetlands and their associated drainage systems. A fourth designated wetland lies outside the conservation core but within park boundaries.

The land has been in public ownership since Washington achieved statehood in 1889. Kitsap County acquired the parcel from the Washington Department of Natural Resources in 2000 to maintain the natural environment and deter development on the site.

The forest has historically been used for habitat education and passive recreational pursuits. Until its acquisition by Kitsap County, the forest was selectively logged to raise revenue for public school construction.

In 1995, the Management Plan created by community volunteers working with state and county staff sought to blend the needs of continued timber harvest with education about timber resource management, the environment and passive recreational activities. Kitsap County amended the Management plan in 2002 to reflect the discontinuance of timber harvesting and to update strategies for long-term stewardship of the park.

In 2010, Commissioner Garrido responded to concerns about conflicts among competing recreational uses by appointing the Banner Forest Watch Group. The task force was asked to examine current uses of the forest, review and update the existing management strategies, and establish parameters for an ongoing stewardship initiative to monitor park management into the future. Scientific reports on the soils, trees, habitat and wetlands were also contracted to determine current conditions of the forest and identify any needed changes in management practices.

Subsequently, while understanding the park users' appreciation and use of the varied network of trails currently in Banner Forest, the Watch Group also understood the benefits and mandate of protecting habitat throughout the park. In particular, the conservation area and all four wetlands within Banner Forest demand particular attention and the Watch Group recommended rerouting or decommissioning trails, where appropriate, to preserve the natural habitat in those areas. This document outlines the strategies proposed for ongoing maintenance management and stewardship of an important natural community asset: Banner Forest.

Introduction

Banner Forest is a natural area located in southeast Kitsap County. The 635-acre forest includes a variety of trees including old-growth timber, lush undergrowth, wetlands and ponds. A central 139-acre area is protected by a conservation easement held by the Great Peninsula Conservancy. Kitsap County acquired Banner Forest in 2000 to preserve the undeveloped park land for wetland protection, public education and passive recreational uses.



Four distinct wetlands have been identified on the property, three of which are located within the conservation area. The wetlands are fed by the underlying water table, rainfall and runoff from adjacent properties and none drains into waterways that flow off-site. By the terms of the conservation easement, Great Peninsula Conservation will retain the 139-acres forever in its natural and open space condition and prevent uses that would impair or interfere with the conservation values of the site. Great Peninsula Conservancy prohibits commercial uses, logging, creation of active recreational areas, walking dogs off-leash, and riding horses, bicycles, and recreation motor vehicles except on trails approved by grantee.

Banner Forest has historically provided a venue for solitude and peaceful reflection, habitat, education, walking, running, bicycle and horseback riding, mushroom picking, and contracted commercial brush harvests.

Numerous trails course through the forest, including the central wetlands area. The vast majority of trails are for low-impact use by walkers, joggers, horseback riders and bicyclists. Although the current network of named trails is well established and beneficial to the park users, trail surveys revealed some areas of unauthorized tree-cutting, trail start ups, crossover trails, brush clearing, motorcycle tracks, and human-constructed log jumps. In these areas, some of the original habitat has been disrupted or destroyed, including areas within the conservation easement. An active Stewardship Committee can help eliminate this activity in the future.

This Banner Forest Management Plan sets forth practices as adopted by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners in 2002 and amended in 2014. Amendments are based on recommendations by the Banner Forest Watch Group appointed by Commissioner Garrido in 2010. The plan addresses a vision for management of Banner Forest in four areas:

Education: Banner Forest will be an open laboratory for the study of natural biology, ecological processes, wildlife, forestry/forest management and forest history, through partnerships with user groups as well as public and private organizations.

Habitat: The Banner Forest ecosystem and wildlife will be protected, preserved and enhanced in its natural state through accepted forest management techniques.

Public Use: The Banner Forest will provide an opportunity for individuals and groups seeking recreational activity, education and outdoor enjoyment in a forest setting.

Recreational Activity: Banner Forest will provide a quiet and safe area for individuals and groups to use designated forest trails for walking, bicycling and horseback riding.

The Watch Group also recommended a process for establishing a representational Stewardship Group to manage Banner Forest in perpetuity.

Early History

The South Kitsap area encompassing Banner Forest was first populated by Native Americans belonging to the Suquamish Tribe.

Banner Forest Heritage Park is in the Ancestral Territory of the Suquamish People, who hunted and gathered food plants and medicinal plants in the forests and marshes between Long Lake and Puget Sound including Banner Forest. Hunting parties and family groups traveled inland throughout the year from villages at Colby and Olalla and from seasonal camps at Southworth Point and Point Command.

Ethnographers collected place names in the native Lushootseed language from Suquamish elders in the early 1900s and 1950s. The place names indicate the kinds of activities that were undertaken and augment the written historic record based primarily on recollections by early Euro-American settlers.

Listed below are Suquamish place names and historic information documenting Suquamish use of the area near Banner Forest Heritage Park.

Bek a k bix	An ancient village site at the mouth of Curley Creek. People gathered from throughout the area. A cedar plank longhouse was standing in the mid-1800s. The area was occupied in the winters and during salmon runs as a fishing station to catch salmon as they ascended Curley Creek.
Katultc	Southworth Point was used as a camping area to collect grass for weaving.
Sceye	A large rock on the shoreline north of Olalla was used as a navigation landmark.
Dex k it ut	A plant-collecting site was at Point Command. Grass was gathered to weave into mats.
Witube	The promontory on the north side of the Olalla Creek inlet was used as a navigation landmark.
Ulu ladx	A village site at Olalla, named Teka on early maps, had a cedar long house and palisade. Salmon were caught as they ascended Olalla Creek and were dried. Cattails in the wetlands were collected and used to weave mats. Olalla is an English transliteration of the Lushootseed name.

Suquamish ancestors caught salmon in the estuaries of Harper Creek, Wilson Creek, Fragaria Creek and Olalla Creek.

Early Euro-American settlers reported tree burials on the Long Lake vicinity.

Non-native settlers began arriving in number after Congress enacted the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, granting each homesteader 320 acres of free land (640 acres for a married couple) provided the property was improved upon and occupied for five years. Washington Territory was established in 1853, and Kitsap County in January 1857.

By the 1860s timber harvesting had become a thriving local industry, and Kitsap County was the wealthiest county per capita in the United States, with five of the largest sawmills in almost constant production.

Olalla was settled in 1881 and its post office created in 1884. At that time, the South Kitsap area was heavily forested with stands of large, old-growth timber and smaller, younger trees amidst a luxuriant blend of native foliage. By 1889, approximately 50 settlers lived in the vicinity of Banner Forest.

Washington became the 42nd State of the Union by order of President Benjamin Harrison in November of 1889. The new State government was granted two sections out of every township - Sections 16 and 36 – for commercial use to financially support common school construction. Each section consists of one square mile, or 640 acres.

Banner Forest is Section 16 of Township 23 North in the South Kitsap area; thus the property was set aside as trust land to be managed by the new Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Under federal rules, trust land generates income for school construction by sale of timber harvesting rights to private companies, with 75 percent of all proceeds from timber sales going directly into the Common School Construction Fund.

In 1893, local residents established Banner School District #40 and used state trust fund revenue and timber from the property to build a school on the northeast corner of the forest off what is Banner Road today. The original school building was later moved across the road and eventually demolished.

Banner Forest timber was selectively logged throughout the first century of Washington's statehood. During that time, as surrounding forest land in Kitsap County gave way to new development, local residents created pathways and trails within the publicly owned acreage of Banner Forest to use the wooded area for low-impact recreational activities and natural education.



Old Banner School was built in 1893 using Lumber from the property and funds from the State Common School Construction Fund, which was supported by local timber sales.



Students and teachers at the school in 1914 were, front row: Albert Lloyd, Harold Olderness, Della Olsen, Doris King, Signe Eastgard, Bessie Thompson and Almarie King; Second row: Seval Eastgard, Martha Petersen, Irene Olsen and Edmond Auer; third row, Margaret Johnsen, Agnes Auer, Dorothy Garland and Anna Jonsen; fourth row: Elmer Hansen and Boyde King; top row: Peter Petersen, Raymond Martin, Minnie Peart and Lillian Bancroft.

1990-92: Development Threat and Citizen Intervention

In early 1990, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff negotiated with private developers who owned property adjacent to State trust lands on King County's Tiger Mountain. The developers offered to trade their King County property to the state in exchange for Banner Forest, where they proposed to build 320 homes on half of the site and retain the rest of the property for future development. The DNR and development team signed a Letter of Intent for the land swap in February 1990. Over the following months, the parties worked on logistics of the trade, including establishing land valuations, terms and pricing.

These ongoing negotiations came to the attention of a local citizen, who alerted others in the South Kitsap community in May of 1991. Upon inquiry, they were told by the county commissioner representing South Kitsap that the proposed trade was "a done deal"

However, the newly formed Olalla Community Council, which had been organized to work on land use and growth management issues, quickly mobilized to address the proposal. They created a Banner Forest committee whose members met regularly developing maps and information about the site's wetlands, indigenous wildlife, trees and plants; and exploring public uses for the property.

This small group of concerned citizens began informing the local community about the proposed land development deal by posting signs, disseminating flyers and eliciting media coverage for the effort. They then organized meetings, formed committees, solicited funds, circulated petitions and launched a letter-writing campaign, ultimately engaging hundreds of community residents.

When the DNR sponsored the first public hearing regarding the proposal on May 21, 1991 at the Kitsap County Courthouse, state and county officials and the petitioning developers were greeted by a standing-room-only crowd. Opponents spilled into the hallways and out the doors. More than 800 citizens attended a second hearing at South Kitsap High School, increasing pressure on local elected officials and the DNR to stop the deal.

On June 24, 1991, Kitsap County Commissioners responded to the public outcry by reclassifying the Banner Forest site from "rural residential" to "resource protection" land. This action removed much of the property's development potential and placed a roadblock in the path of the developers, who in turn sued the county for "illegal spot zoning". Local citizens turned out *en masse* at a July 8 meeting of the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners to express appreciation for the rezone and support continued efforts to save Banner Forest from development.

On July 17, the developers notified the DNR they were no longer interested in swapping the Banner Forest property for their Tiger Mountain holdings, effectively ending the development threat. Although the Commissioners' rezone was subsequently struck down by the courts in January 1992, the community effort to save Banner Forest had prevailed.

1995 Management Plan

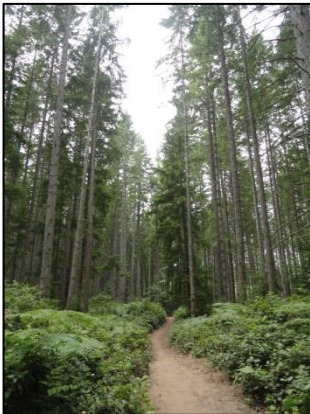
Following withdrawal of the development proposal, a group of citizens from the Olalla Community Council began working in cooperation with the DNR to develop a 20-year management plan for Banner Forest. After hundreds of hours of meetings, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners adopted the 1995 Banner Forest Management Plan.

The overall goals of the plan were to maintain Banner Forest as a “working forest”, contributing a revenue stream for school construction while maintaining its esthetic value to the public.

Specifically, the plan called for:

- Continuing current timber harvest and reforestation activities, treating Banner Forest as a “sustained yield unit” that preserves wildlife and enables the concurrent uses of Banner Forest for commercial, educational activities. Planners estimated bringing in approximately \$4.7 million for state school construction over the next 20 years.
- Employing “silvicultural” techniques to promote the growth of a variety of plant and animal species as timber is selectively harvested, to include preservation of old-growth stands throughout Banner Forest and a 55-acre core wildlife area.
- Using Banner Forest as an environmental laboratory for the study of natural sciences and forest management, with participation by local school districts.
- Maintaining Banner Forest for passive recreational opportunities, and not developing it for active uses “such as trail or camp areas”.
- Engaging volunteers to help patrol and manage Banner Forest and develop educational programs with clean-up activities.

The Management Plan and its implementation have been held up as a great example of community and government collaboration.



The 1995 Management Plan called for balancing timber harvest and reforestation with techniques for promoting forest health such as tree topping and removal of diseased trees, forestry and environmental education, and passive recreational pursuits.

2000: Kitsap County Acquisition

The Washington State Legislature enacted the Trust Land Transfer law in 1999, to set aside trust lands with “important social or ecological values” for preservation rather than commercial harvest. Under the new law, the state would compensate the school construction fund for anticipated lost revenue from timber sales.

Kitsap County and DNR staff began working toward property conveyance shortly after the Trust Land Transfer Program made it possible for the county to acquire Banner Forest. Both agencies ordered appraisals of the property and timber thereon early in the summer of 1999.

The proposed transfer went to the State Board of Natural Resources in May 2000, and in September that Board agreed to sell Banner Forest to Kitsap County for \$6.51 million. Kitsap County paid \$1.31 million in Conservation Futures Funds from its Open Space Program, and the Trust Land Transfer Program contributed \$5.2 million in to the Common School Construction Fund to compensate for lost timber sales. In October 2000, Kitsap County received the deed to Banner Forest.

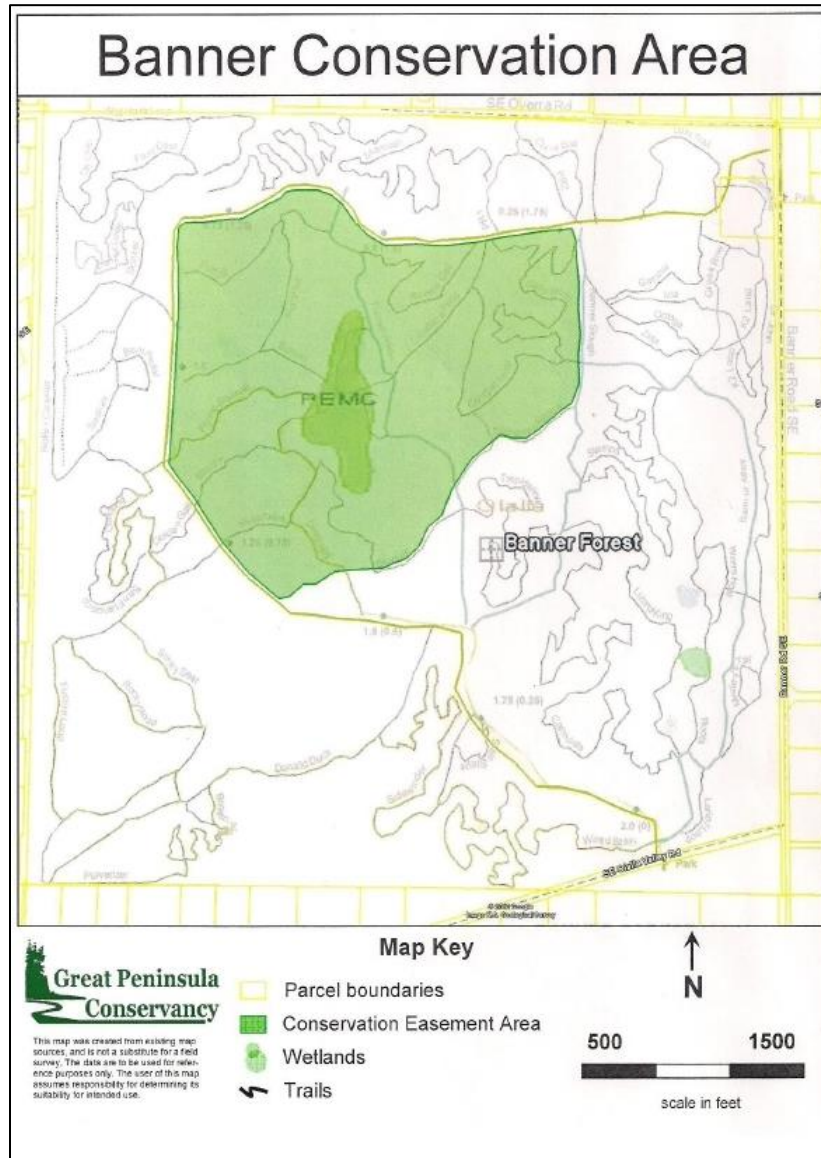


Community members celebrate Kitsap County’s acquisition of Banner Forest in October 2000 at the Olalla Community Hall. From left are Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, County Extension Agent Chris Smith, Beth Wilson, Karla Crowell, Chuck McGuire, State Department of Natural Resources Forester Andy Card, Maxine Doyle, Michelle McFadden, Julie Tappero and Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Jennifer Belcher.

2002 Management Plan

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners immediately undertook two steps to protect Banner Forest and lay the groundwork for long-term management.

1. A Conservation Easement Agreement was signed with the Great Peninsula Conservancy to ensure the protection and perpetual maintenance of 139 acres of centrally located wetlands and their associated drainage system (Appendix A). This easement expanded the conservation area, adding 84 acres to the 55-acre protected wildlife core identified in the 1995 Management Plan.



Kitsap County and the Great Peninsula Conservancy signed an agreement to maintain 139 acres at the center of Banner Forest. The conservation area contains three of the four fragile wetlands in Banner Forest.

2. A Banner Forest Stewardship Committee created in December 2000 would develop a master plan for uses and management of Banner Forest, and provide a framework for ongoing stewardship. Committee members represented the interests of hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, education, motorized vehicles, nature, history, arts, neighbors, youth, and accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Stewardship Committee met monthly for a year and a half, beginning in February 2001. Committee members established four working committees; History, Habitat, Education and Trails. They solicited public input at the monthly meetings and through the committees. Additional outreach efforts included a public forum on the use of motorized vehicles in Fall 2001, a booth at the Summer 2001 Olalla Bluegrass Festival, and a June 2002 open house.

Based on these efforts, the Stewardship Committee developed a Banner Forest Master Plan that was adopted by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on December 9, 2002.

The 2002 Management Plan contained four recommendations:

1. **Habitat:** Preserve and protect Banner Forest habitat while providing for passive use and enhancement of the natural environment. The plan specified that “all activities must respect the environment and minimize their impact on the habitat”, and identified acceptable uses as “walking, bicycling and equestrian activity only, and only on specified trails”. Firearms and hunting were prohibited, and motorized vehicle use would be restricted to “authorized user” handicap mobility carts and official maintenance vehicles.
2. **Education:** Enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest by collecting and disseminating information about the history, habitat, trails and opportunities available for involvement by citizens of all ages, multiple interests and abilities.
3. **Trails:** Provide opportunities for the community to use Banner Forest for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment; and enlist the community’s help in managing its public use.
4. **Proposals:** Provide for the ongoing stewardship of Banner Forest by posting interpretive signs, identifying and marking trails, and recommending others to be decommissioned; create a one-acre handicapped-accessible nature walk and other accessible public amenities; create a Forest Watch program; develop a database of maps, photos and other information about Banner Forest and its natural features; and outline responsibilities to be undertaken by the County and citizen volunteers for ongoing programs, maintenance and monitoring.

2010 – 2012 Banner Forest Watch Group

In 2010, concerns about conflicts arose between user groups. The Kitsap County Commissioners appointed the Banner Forest Watch Group in late 2010 to ensure that the park is used in a manner consistent with the previously adopted management plan (Appendix B).

The Watch Group met through December 2012 to review and recommend revisions to the 2002 Management Plan, and to determine a process for establishing a representational stewardship group to maintain Banner Forest into the future. The Banner Forest Watch Group was charged with proposing how to:

- Keep the forest environment healthy, vigorous and available;
- Protect the 139-acre wetlands and wetland basin;
- Promote environmental education and awareness opportunities;
- Provide opportunities for people to use Banner Forest as a place of solitude and passive enjoyment, as well as, for hiking and riding; and
- Determine appropriate recreational uses for the site.

In October 2012, the Banner Forest Watch Group presented their findings and recommendations to the Kitsap County Parks Department, the County Commissioners, and to the public in an open house in the Commissioner's Chambers.

General Area Recommendation

The Watch Group recommends activating a stewardship group for the successful maintenance of Banner Forest into the future. Stewards will take responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources in conjunction with the Parks Department and according to priorities defined in an annual stewardship work plan.

With 635 acres and multiple entrances in a somewhat rural location, Banner Forest is an easy target for independent activities. An active stewardship group can provide a positive presence and “eyes on the park” that help deter vandalism and other unwanted social problems.

Stewards can organize work parties and recruit volunteers for key projects such as pruning back overgrown vegetation along trails, decommissioning unnecessary trails, and installing signage, informational kiosks or boardwalks in wet areas. Stewards also can organize guided educational walks that promote forest appreciation and also may invite participation by more volunteers.

The Banner Forest Watch Group recommended formation of an ongoing Stewardship Committee to oversee implementation of the above components of the Management Plan and ensure appropriate use and protection of the park into the future.

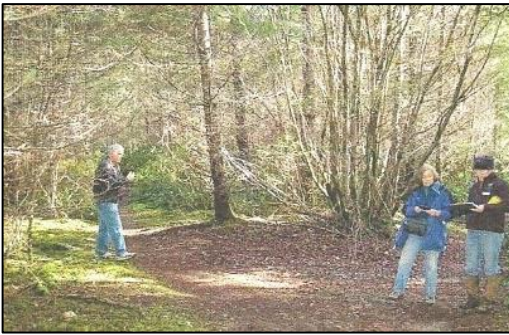


Committees

The Watch Group members formed three working committees according to the 2002 Master Plan components: Trails, Habitat and Education.

1. The Trails Committee's goal was to provide opportunities for community members to use Banner Forest for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment, and enlist their help in managing public use. The group physically inventoried existing trails on foot and horseback and made recommendations regarding trail identification, creation and decommission; allowable uses, maintenance, and removal of human-made hazards.

Methodology: In eight visits to Banner Forest between February and August of 2011, the Trails Committee walked 14 major trails and the perimeter service road. They compiled detailed written and photographic records of the conditions of trails and bridges, noting potential hazards and needed improvements such as removal of fallen trees. They recorded evidence of unauthorized human activity, including tree cutting and creation of "log rides" for use by trail bikes. The types and conditions of trees and foliage were documented, citing specific damaged or diseased trees.



Members of the Trails Committee walked and rode the park's major trails over seven months in 2011 to record the conditions and needs of each trail.

2. The Habitat Committee's goal was to protect the habitat of the Banner Forest, while providing passive recreation that is consistent with conservation of the natural environment for the present and future. The members of this committee worked with interns from Western Washington University who mapped trails and park boundaries and compared current forest conditions against historical data. They drew upon a 2010 wetlands report prepared by Wiltermood Associates, Inc. and a soils survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in preparing their recommendations (Appendix D).

Methodology: The Habitat Committee evaluated information from soils maps and other conditions that influence forest health, such as drainage and water availability. Committee members studied the soils survey completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service* and the Wetlands Report prepared by Wiltermood Associates, Inc.*.

In February and March 2012, student interns from Western Washington University (WWU) surveyed Banner Forest trails in half-mile increments using hand-held global positioning system (GPS) equipment. The students recorded their observations on the condition of trails throughout the property including trail width, spurts and intersections, overhanging vegetation and associated foliage, and equestrian accessibility. They also documented boundaries of Great Peninsula Conservancy's conservation easement and the forest wetlands.

Banner Forest primarily consists of second-growth timber, with scattered legacy old growth trees. There are groves of Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Western White, Pine, Alder, Wild Cherry, Nootka Rose, Dogwood, Spirea and Willow. The understory contains Red Cedar and Madrona trees; berries (blackberries, huckleberries, salmonberries, elderberries, and twinberries); and a variety of lush ferns and mosses, mushrooms, holly, salal, honeysuckle, wildroses, foxglove and other woodland flowers. Numerous forest creatures are indigenous to the area, including woodpeckers and other birdlife and some rare frogs.

Wetlands Report: A Wetlands Report prepared by Wiltermood Associates in 2010 was a key reference for the Habitat Committee. Wiltermood Associates tested soil samples, prepared maps, and used aerial and on-site photographs to document and classify the wetlands throughout Banner Forest. The consultant recorded detailed descriptions of the four wetlands on the property, using State Department of Ecology and U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife standards in accordance with the Kitsap County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). The report was submitted to Kitsap County and Great Peninsula Conservancy on November 30, 2010.

Wetland A, the largest of the four wetlands, is situated within the conservation easement as are two smaller systems, Wetlands C and D. The fourth, Wetland B, lies within the southeastern section of Banner Forest, outside the conservation easement area.

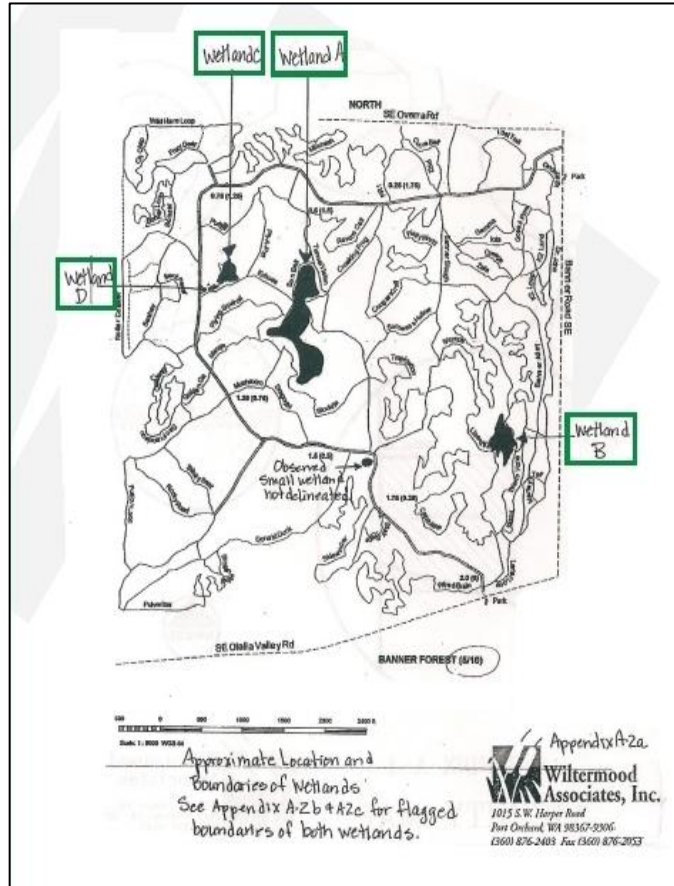
Wetlands A and B are Depressional Category II systems, which require a base buffer of 100 feet; and Wetlands C and D are Depressional Category III systems requiring a base buffer of 50 feet. In the introduction to the document, Wiltermood Associates noted biological impacts saying that Wetlands A and B are currently impacted by trail use. However, Wiltermood Associates also stated that the hydrological function of the wetlands “do not appear to have been significantly impacted by trail activities in that they retain their historic functions, but trails that cross the wetlands or are immediately adjacent to wetland areas should be moved so that they lie at least 50 feet away from the wetlands to minimize future impacts”.

Wiltermood Associates classified Wetland A to be a depressional scrub/shrub system without an inlet outlet and noted that Wetland A “is surrounded by second-growth forest, but there are many trails in and around this wetland that are used by bicyclists, horseback riders and hikers with dogs so that the corridor (from the wetland) to other habitats is considered disturbed. Activities within the buffers reduce wildlife passage between wetland and upland habitat even if it occurs infrequently.”

Wetland D “is within an undeveloped forest but the corridor is interrupted by trails, which decrease its opportunity as habitat”.

“Noise generated on the trails where they cross run next to or within 50 feet of the wetlands is the main impact that has and does occur to the wetland function with specific impact to biological support or wildlife usage.”

The Wiltermood report recommends that all trails crossing or lying within 50 feet of a wetland be relocated and that minimum buffers be maintained around all four identified systems.



Specifically, the report recommends that trails “that exist within the 50-foot buffer and most particularly those that lie very close to the wetland boundaries should be blocked from future usage and reconstructed so that they are 40 feet outside Wetlands C and D and 50 feet from the boundaries of Wetlands A and B.

“No new trails should be constructed except where they replace abandoned trails so as to minimize the removal of existing forested vegetation and to avoid creating any new corridor disruptions.”



3. The Education Committee's goal was to enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest by collecting and disseminating information about the history, habitat, trails and involvement opportunities available to citizens of all ages, multiple interests and abilities.

Methodology: The Education Committee collected information from area citizens on-site at Banner Forest and distributed surveys to determine future educational opportunities for park visitors.



1995 Plan

Environmental Laboratory

Use Banner Forest for the study of natural sciences and forest management, invite participation by local school districts. Engage volunteers to help patrol and manage education and cleanup programs.

Silviculture Techniques

Promote the growth of a variety of plant and animal species as timber is selectively harvested, preserving old growth stands and a 55-acre core wildlife area.

Passive Recreation

Maintain Banner Forest for passive recreation and not develop it for active uses "such as trail or camp areas".

Timber Activities

Treat Banner Forest as a "sustained yield unit" for harvest and reforestation; that preserves wildlife and commercial, educational and recreational activities.

2002 Plan

Education

Enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest by collecting and disseminating information about the history, habitat, trails and opportunities available for involvement by citizens of all ages, multiple interests and abilities.

Habitat

Preserve and protect Banner Forest habitat while providing for passive use and enhancement of the natural environment.

Trails

Provide opportunities for the community to use Banner Forest for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment; and enlist the community's help in managing its public use.

Proposals

Provide for the ongoing stewardship of Banner Forest by posting interpretive signs, identifying and marking trails, and marking others to be decommissioned.

2015 Plan

Education

Banner Forest will be an open laboratory for the study of natural biology, ecological processes, wildlife, forestry/forest management and forest history, through partnerships with user groups as well as public and private organizations.

Habitat

The Banner Forest ecosystem and wildlife will be protected, preserved and enhanced in its natural state through accepted forest management techniques.

Trails

Banner Forest will provide an opportunity for individuals and groups seeking recreational activity, education and outdoor enjoyment in a forest setting. Banner Forest will provide a quiet and safe area for individuals and groups to use designated forest trails for walking, bicycling and horseback riding.

Stewardship

The Banner Forest Stewardship Group will take responsibility for managing, protecting, and maintaining Banner Forest and its resources in conjunction with the Kitsap County Parks Department. Stewardship priorities will be defined in an annual work plan that is developed by the stewardship group and approved by the Parks Department.







Banner Forest Heritage Park Management Strategies 2015

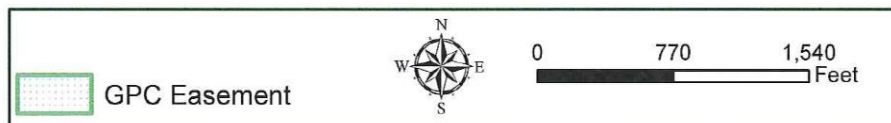
INTRODUCTION

Banner Forest Heritage Park provides unique, varied and outstanding experiences to the community. The publically-managed park also provides protection to the exceptional wetlands and forestland ecosystems. The management of Banner Forest requires a critical approach to ensure a balance of recreational uses and habitat protection. Too many areas, similar to our own have become “loved to death.” Overuse, additional competing uses, and the expansion of manmade features have forced land managers to limit or prohibit uses to address the deteriorating balance with the natural environment. To ensure that utilization remains within the capacity of which the land can accommodate, certain governing trail development thresholds need to be established for a five year period through 2020.

Presently, there are nearly 29 miles of “named” trails and 4 miles of “unnamed” trails (see map on next page). The threshold on trail development will be based on:

1. Decommissioning all “unnamed” trails and connectors
2. Retaining all “named” trails from the original 1997 trails map and those added to present date, with the exception of decommissioning trails known as “Stinky Seat”, “Lariat Loop”, Foxy Deer”, “Oh, Crap”, and portions of “Banner Slough”, “Wild Hare Loop”, “Roller Coaster”, and “Banner Alley”.
3. No new trail shall be constructed unless a minimum of equal length of existing trail is decommissioned.

MAP DEPICTING ALL CURRENT TRAILS (1997 in Blue)

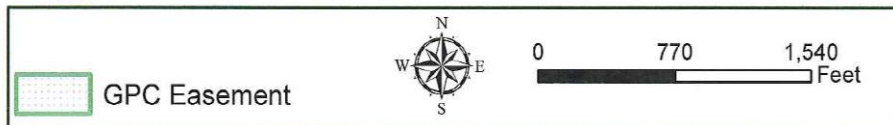


Created 2014/08/01 by Kitsap County GIS

Map Document Location: Q:\astiffler\Projects\Banner Forest Map



MAP DEPICTING TRAILS TO BE DECOMMISSIONED (IN PINK)



Created 2014/08/01 by Kitsap County GIS

Map Document Location: Q:\astiffler\Projects\Banner Forest Map



MAP DEPICTING THE FOREST – LESS DECOMMISSIONED TRAILS

Banner Forest Trails



Created 2014/08/08 by Kitsap County GIS

Map Document Location: Q:\astiffler\Projects\Banner Forest Map



Banner Forest Heritage Park Management Strategies

This Banner Forest Heritage Park Management Plan sets forth practices as adopted by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners in 2002 and amended in 2014. Amendments are based on recommendations by the Banner Forest Watch Group appointed by Commissioner Garrido in 2010. The plan addresses a vision for management of Banner Forest in three goal areas:

Trails: Banner Forest will provide an opportunity for individuals and groups seeking recreational activity, education and outdoor enjoyment in a forest setting. The forest will provide a quiet and safe area for individuals and groups to use designated forest trails for walking, bicycling and horseback riding.

Habitat: The Banner Forest ecosystem and wildlife will be protected, preserved and enhanced, using forest management techniques.

Education: Banner Forest will be an open laboratory for the study of natural biology, ecological processes, wildlife, forestry/forest management and forest history, through partnerships with user groups as well as public and private organizations.

The management of Banner Forest is a cooperative effort between the Kitsap County Parks Department, Great Peninsula Conservancy, and the Banner Forest Stewardship Group. It is recommended the County and the Stewardship Group continues to develop a strategy to implement and sustain this plan.

This is an “adaptive management plan,” which means when new and better information becomes available, established management strategies should be re-evaluated.

For example, more detailed biological inventories and records of user impacts may lead to changes in the extensive trail system on site. Those changes may include:

- Seasonal trail closures
- Re-routing trails
- Permanent closure of trails
- Addition of new trails
- Creation of wildlife preserves with access for scientific research only

TRAILS

A. Trail Construction and Development

1. Design Standards

- a. Trails will be designed per Kitsap County Park trail standards (based on U.S. Forest Service standards)
- b. Multiple use trails will be encouraged by limiting single use to a maximum of 10% at full build out
- c. Trail designations will be assigned by the Kitsap County Park Director

2. Construction

- a. Trails will be constructed per Kitsap County Park standards
- b. Kitsap County Parks Department will obtain all necessary permits
- c. ADA accessible trails will be developed adjacent to the Banner Road parking area
 - Accessible trail access from the Banner Road parking area will be established by the end of 2017
 - An accessible loop trail will be designed and constructed per ADA standards for accessible trails by the end of 2017

3. Evaluation

- a. Use: Is trail use consistent with trail design?
- b. Safety: Monthly evaluations need to include safety inspections consistent with downed trees, washouts, degradation of trail tread, brush encroachment, and structural integrity of trail feature, such as bridges, boardwalks, benches, etc.
 - Any safety issues should be documented with a written report and photos
 - All reports will be forwarded to the Trail Maintenance Chairperson and Park staff
- c. Location: As property characteristics change and evolve, trails may need to be relocated to accommodate these changes; i.e. downed tree, increase in water or natural runoff.
- d. Capacity
 - Is the trail able to accommodate the amount of use without degradation?
 - If not, a trail reroute may need to be considered
 - Trails may be decommissioned due to lack of use

4. Maintenance and Repair

- a. Trails will be maintained per the Kitsap County Park Trail Standards
 - Trails should be brushed to 10 feet high and 8 feet wide. All material removed should be safely scattered off trail, down slope, and away from trail structures
 - The back slope of all trails should be maintained at an angle less than 45 degrees. All material removed while maintaining the proper back slope should be safely scattered well off trail, down slope, and away from trail structures
 - Trail tread should always be 36" to 48" wide, smooth, hazard free, free of standing water and mud, properly sloped for effective surface water runoff, and consist of hard-packed mineral soil, gravel, or crushed rock
 - Culverts, water bars, and drainage ditches should be maintained to allow maximum trail drainage and prevent water from flowing on to the trail. If materials are damaged, rotten, or easily kicked out of place, the structure should be replaced
- b. Roads will be maintain using Forest Practice Standards
 - Roadway should be returned to original width to accommodate emergency response vehicles
 - Existing 12" culverts should be replaced with present standard width 18" culverts
 - Standard 18" culverts shall be used in all new installations
- c. ADA accessible trails will be maintained per ADA standards
 - Trail tread should be at least 4 feet
 - Slope should be maintain at no greater than 5%
- d. A multi-year (5-year) maintenance work plan will be developed by January 2016 to include the:
 - Decommission of approximately 3.9 miles of trails identified on map, page 25, by year 2020, per the Pacific Crest Trail Skills College Curriculum.
 - Full review of approximately 14.8 miles of trails, original to 1997, to evaluate changes to storm water runoff, drainage, slopes, habitat disturbance, etc., which may have occurred over time, and make necessary changes or replacement.
 - Evaluation of remaining 13 miles of named trails constructed after 1997.
- e. An annual maintenance work plan will be developed for the following year at the end of each year.

- f. Maintenance will be done by volunteers under the direction of the Park Stewardship Coordinator, unless it is deemed that maintenance is beyond the ability of volunteers then Kitsap County staff will conduct repairs.

B. Public Accessibility

1. Signage

- a. Conservation and wetlands boundaries will be identified and posted
- b. Trail signs will also include trail use designation and distance
- c. Park entrances should include a park rules sign, a “Pack It In / Pack It Out sign, and seasonal appropriate signs.

2. Trail Names and Designation

- a. Trails to be named per the Kitsap County Parks naming policy. Kitsap County Parks will develop a trail naming policy by the end of 2017.
- b. Trail names and trail designation to be consistent with map

3. Maps

- a. Maps to be consistent with trail signs
- b. Maps to be printable and electronically downloadable
- c. Maps to be available at each kiosk and at key locations in the park

C. Boundaries

1. Identify park boundaries and monitor for private property encroachments - ongoing
2. Establish wetland boundaries by the end of 2016
3. Identify other sensitive habitat areas – ongoing

HABITAT

Goal: To restore and protect the natural habitat of Banner Forest, while providing for recreation that is consistent with conservation of the natural environment.

Management Objectives: The following elements are key to reaching this goal:

A. Inventory/survey Banner Forest:

The Kitsap County Parks & Recreation Department will continue to:

1. Lead efforts to establish and mark property boundaries
2. Assemble maps, inventories and surveys for review by the Stewardship Committee every five years to determine whether changes are needed in the park stewardship plan to meet habitat goals. Sources of information might include:
 - Existing maps and photographs
 - Historic and current inventory of trees and plant life
 - Historic and current inventory of wildlife including birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, and reptiles
 - Soil types and topography identification and mapping
 - Water and wetland resources identification and mapping
 - Historic and current trails maps, vetted by the Trails Committee

B. Usage:

Establish environmentally responsible human uses:

1. Minimal impact: All activities must respect the environment and minimize their impact on the habitat
2. Trail Use: Trails may be used for walking, running, bicycling and equestrian activity. Some activities may be restricted to designated trails or areas to protect habitat values.
3. Refuse: Users must follow a policy of “pack it in and pack it out”.
4. Prohibitions: Explosives, fireworks, paintball guns, fires, camping, hunting and discharge of firearms are prohibited in Banner Forest.
5. Vehicles: Motorized vehicle usage shall be restricted to “authorized user” handicap mobility carts and official maintenance vehicles.
6. Harvest: Commercial harvest of forest products is prohibited unless authorized by County-issued sale or collection permit.
7. Trail construction: No unauthorized trail construction or maintenance is allowed.
8. Vegetation removal: No unauthorized removal of trees or native vegetation is allowed.

9. Pets: Pets must be kept under control at all times. Dog droppings will be removed by the pet owner to protect water quality.
10. Conservation: All activities within the conservation area must be consistent with the Conservation Easement.

C. Conservation and Restoration:

Determine conservation or restoration actions to meet habitat goals. The Kitsap County Parks Department will work with habitat experts, the Kitsap County Forester and the Banner Forest Stewardship Committee to determine needed habitat management activities to:

1. Assessment: Assess the condition (e.g. health, vigor and safety) of existing trees and plant life and recommend any thinning or planting that is needed for the health of Banner Forest and the control and removal of invasive plant species.
2. Trails: Work with the Trails Committee to identify potentially damaging trails for modification or decommission.
3. Education: Work with the Education Committee to provide materials for educational use, such as historical, biological and ecological education guides.

D. Conservation:

Conservation will be an ongoing stewardship effort necessary to assure that usage maintains the health, vigor, peace and tranquility of Banner Forest. This may include:

1. Maintenance: Establishing a road and trail maintenance plan for habitat protection.
2. Stewardship: Organizing a Stewardship Committee with rotating officers and a membership that represents all user groups.

E. Wetland and Forest Hydrology Restoration Strategies:

Two activities typically have significant impact on wetlands and forest hydrology, namely the construction and use of service roads and timber harvesting. Historic clear-cuts did cause increased surface water flows into the depression type wetlands in the park, specifically the large wetland in the Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Area. With no clear-cutting in the past 30 years, the forest canopies are well established and the forest hydrology has been restored. The service road and trails are the only remaining source for surface water problems. Road and trail maintenance is required to mitigate silting problems.

Ditch and culvert cleaning in November of 2013 prevented the March 2014 rain events from softening and serious road erosion. The management of water flowing on and crossing trails is equally important. The property management of water on trails will prevent soil erosion and premature sedimentation or eutrophication of Banner's wetlands.

F. Wildlife Habitat Restoration Strategies

Conifers dominate Banner Forest with Douglas Fir being the species in highest quantity followed by Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar and Western White Pine. Conifers 20 inches and larger in diameter are considered priority habitat by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Approximately 450 acres or 70 percent of Banner Forest have significant quantities of priority wildlife Conifers.

Wildlife need and use all strata or layers of vegetation from the groundcover up through the shrub layer, mid-canopy, and upper canopy. Different wildlife species or species groups use each layer. The best habitat has multiple, 2-plus tree canopies along with multiple shrub and herbaceous plant layers. Other key habitat features include snags and wildlife trees (dead and dying trees), coarse woody debris, understory vegetation and forest wetlands and riparian areas. All of these features supply the food shelter and cover necessary for the maintenance of approximately 400 species of forest-dependent birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish found in western Washington forestlands.

The bulk of Banner Forest natural Conifer stands are becoming more diverse and as the dominant trees age and mortality increases, the spacing between trees widens over time. The eleven second growth stands at Banner Forest have an average of 280 trees per acre. Ideal trees spacing for wildlife habitat would be 100 to 120 trees per acre. The five stands planted since 1971 with Douglas Fir have stocking levels that excess of 300 trees per acre. For these young 3rd growth stands, ideal tree spacing for wildlife would be 140 trees per acre. Both of these wildlife thinning prescriptions would enhance the wildlife habitat potential for the Banner Forest Heritage Park.

EDUCATION

Enhanced Educational Strategies

Banner Forest will be an open laboratory for the study of natural biology, forest ecology, wildlife and cultural history. This will be accomplished in partnership with the Great Peninsula Conservancy, WSU Kitsap County Extension, Kitsap Audubon and the Kitsap County Forest Stewardship Program.

Goal: To enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest by collecting and disseminating information to the public about its history, habitat and trails, and opportunities to volunteer.

A. Outreach: Encourage local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest with public involvement such as stewardship and educational programs

1. Participation: Create a public involvement and education plan

Invite community partners and Kitsap County residents representing various areas of interest such as hiking, biking and equestrian enthusiasts. Participants may include the South Kitsap School District, the West Sound Technical Skills Center, the Kitsap County Historical Society, Girl and Boy Scout troops, senior citizen organizations, community clubs, grange halls, outdoor groups, the Department of Natural Resources, and local photographers and artists.

2. Communication: Develop methods for communication such as posting maps, brochures and curricula; using the Park Department's online calendar and web site to post Banner Forest events, presentations and other publications.
3. Volunteers: Organize a volunteer program through county and public resources such as existing lists and advertising.
4. Schools: Encourage educators to partner with the Parks Department for learning and stewardship opportunities.

Related educational activities in Banner Forest may include:

- *Signage: Assure appropriate signage*
- *Volunteers: Coordinate and educate*
- *Communication: Post information via kiosks, webpage*

B. History: Convey the history of Banner Forest.

1. Timeline: Develop a history timeline. Collect photos and data about each period.
2. Archives: Collect and archive oral histories.
3. Publication: Publish a history of Banner Forest

Related educational activities in Banner Forest may include:

- *Exhibit: Provide a model logging exhibit*
- *Kiosks: Upgrade informational kiosks*
- *Booklet: Develop educational booklet for distribution*

C. Educational Strategies

Develop a broad appreciation for the flora and fauna of Banner Forest, for protecting and enhancing its wildlife habitat values and functions, and for associated natural resources.

- Species: Research species lists for trees, shrubs, other flora, mammals, birds and insects; and resource those inventories to outline the best management practices for Banner Forest.
- Walks: Develop nature walks
- Communication: Publish Banner Forest photographs, and perhaps develop a calendar
- Education: Provide information to the public about Banner Forest habitat via videos, brochures, information sheets, etc. Formalize a Docent Program of information and volunteers to educate casual visitors.

Related educational activities in Banner Forest may include:

- Species: Inventory plants and animals living within Banner Forest
- Activities: Organize nature mapping activities.
- Walks: Create and sign a one-acre nature walk area
- Information: Place information in kiosks.
- Exhibits: Photograph habitat features
- Volunteers: Invite docents to lead nature walks.
- Schools: Coordinate and conduct school field trips, art classes, etc.

D. Access Strategies

Enhance access and recreation in Banner Forest; and establish trail etiquette for multiple uses to include walking, biking and horseback riding, while protecting wetlands and sensitive areas.

- Communication: Create maps with photos to delineate trails. Design specialized trail maps showing distances and best uses for each trail; to include history, nature, fitness walking, biking and horseback riding.
- Stewardship: Work with the Great Peninsula Conservancy to assure stewardship in all areas designated as conservation areas.
- Education: Post trail maps and other information on kiosks at entrances to Banner Forest and at major points internally.

E. Stewardship:

Goal: To develop a committee of volunteers to assist Kitsap County Parks with the long-term care and operation of the Banner Forest property.

Management Objectives: The following elements are key to reaching this goal:

1. Knowledge: Maintain familiarity with the 2014 Banner Forest Heritage Park Management Plan
2. Monitoring: Monitor Banner Forest for damage, including noxious weed intrusion, trail damage such as blow-downs and hazardous trees, unauthorized trail modification or creation, and illegal

uses. Enlist the help of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board, Kitsap County Parks and Kitsap County Sheriff's Office as needed.

3. Restoration: Fill ruts, plant trees, and otherwise rehabilitate damaged areas.
4. Conservation: Work with Great Peninsula Conservancy in its stewardship efforts within the designated conservation easement.
5. Trails: Facilitate use of Banner Forest by all individuals by working to improve or develop some of the trails as ADA accessible. Volunteer park stewards can help clear pathways of obstacles, identify trails that need to be decommissioned and flag unauthorized timber cuts.
6. Parking: Identify parking problems, suggest solutions and provide assistance to Kitsap County Parks to implement changes.
7. Trails: Schedule/provide training on trail building/maintenance/repair, and schedule work parties with Kitsap County Park Department.
8. Signs: Implement signage.
9. Hazards: Identify potential fire hazards and work with the Kitsap County Fire Marshal's Office to develop a fire emergency plan to present to the County Commissioners.
10. Consultancy: Act as guides and consultants on Banner Forest Park issues as requested by Kitsap County Parks during normal operations and/or emergencies (fire, injuries, etc.).
11. Communication: Maintain a presence at County Commissioner or Kitsap County Parks meetings concerning the management and disposition of the Banner Forest trail system, offering assistance as deemed appropriate by said departments.
12. Finances: Coordinate fundraising and grant development efforts to raise money to be used for park-related projects as appropriate. Consider applying for 501C3 status for the stewardship committee.
13. Forestry: Work with Kitsap County to ensure actions taken in Banner Forest under the integrated Forest Stewardship Policy are consistent with the goals and objectives of this management plan.
14. Work with the county forester and create a Forest Stewardship Plan for Banner Forest Heritage Park

F. Proposed Signage

1. Signage Types: Three categories of signs are needed in Banner Forest
 - a. Entrance Signs at major trailheads into Banner Forest (and limited placement internally)
 - i. Map of Banner Forest
 - ii. Park hours and contact information
 - iii. Banner Forest etiquette:
 1. Enjoy the forest and respects its habitat
 2. Guard against all risk of fire
 3. Keep your dogs under close control



4. Take your litter home
 5. Protect wildlife, plants and trees
 6. No motor vehicles or weapons
 7. Respect Banner Forest neighbors
- b. Interpretive signs at significant points
- i. The Land Trust wetland boundaries
 - ii. The “nature walk” area
 - iii. The Banner School site
 - iv. Major trails
- c. Way-marking signs for trails within Banner Forest
- i. Small, with arrow pointing to trail
 - ii. Main trails, including distance to next trail; may also indicate if trail use is limited
2. Signage Style: Consistent with Kitsap County Park guidelines.



Appendices

Appendix A	Conservation Easement (2000)
Appendix B	Banner Forest Master Plan (2002)
Appendix C	Habitat Protection (2010-2012)
Appendix D	Trails System Maps and Field Notes (2011)
Appendix E	Wetlands Report (2010)



Appendix A: Conservation Easement (2000)



PHIL BEST
P.O. BOX 310
SILVERDALE, WA 98383
(360) 698-4918



Document Title(s)

Conservation Easement for Banner Forest Wetlands

Reference Number(s) of related documents

None

Grantor(s) Last name, first name, middle initials

Kitsap County
614 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA 98336

Grantee(s) Last name, first name, middle initials

Great Peninsula Conservancy
Box 5060, West Hills Branch
Bremerton, WA 98312

Legal Description (abbreviated form: Plat name, lot, block, section, township, range, quarter/quarter)

A portion of Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian in Kitsap County, Washington.

Additional Legal on Exhibit A

Assessor's Property Tax Parcel/Account Number

162302-1-001-2006

The Auditor/Recorder will rely on the information provided on this form. The staff will not read the document to verify the accuracy or completeness of the indexing information provided herein



FILED FOR RECORD AT REQUEST OF:

Philip M. Best
Attorney at Law
PO Box 310
Silverdale, WA 98383
(360) 698-4918

EXCISE TAX EXEMPT JAN 10 2001

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT is made this December 19, 2000, by KITSAP COUNTY, a Washington municipal corporation, Grantor, in favor of GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY, a non-profit Washington corporation, Grantee.

ARTICLE 1. RECITALS

Section 1.1 Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property in Kitsap County, Washington, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"), and

Section 1.2 The Property possesses natural, scenic, open space and educational values (collectively, "conservation values") of great importance to Grantor, the people of Kitsap County and the people of the State of Washington, and the primary purpose of this easement is to maintain the property in its natural condition; and

Section 1.3 Under the Washington State Open Space Act, RCW Chapter 84.34, eligible lands include lands designated by the County or lands such as the subject property where the preservation in its present use would conserve and enhance natural resources and open spaces; and

Section 1.4 In particular, the property contains a stream, is wooded and undeveloped, and serves as habitat for wildlife; and

Section 1.5 The specific conservation values of the Property are documented in an inventory of relevant features of the Property dated _____ on file at the offices of GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY and incorporated by this reference ("Baseline Documentation"), which consists of reports, maps, photographs,

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 1 of 11

200101100180
Page: 2 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA



and other documentation that the parties agree provide, collectively, an accurate representation of the Property at the time of this grant and which is intended to serve as an objective information baseline ("Baseline Condition") for monitoring compliance with the terms of this grant; and

Section 1.6 Grantor intends that the conservation values of the Property be preserved; and

Section 1.7 Grantor further intends, as owners of the Property, to convey to Grantee the right to preserve and protect the conservation values of the Property in perpetuity; and

Section 1.8 Grantee is a publicly supported, tax-exempt nonprofit organization, qualified under Section 501(c)(3) and 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, and also qualified as a non-profit natural conservancy corporation under RCW 64.04.130 and RCW 84.34.250, whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the waters, wetlands, aquatic and wildlife habitat, timberlands, scenic areas, open spaces, recreational lands, and agricultural lands of or in proximity to Kitsap County, Mason County and that part of Pierce County West of Puget Sound; and

Section 1.9 Grantee agrees by accepting this grant to honor the intentions of Grantor stated herein and to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the Property for the benefit of this generation and the generations to come;

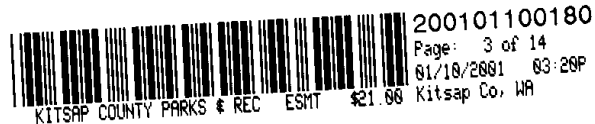
ARTICLE 2. GRANT OF EASEMENT

In consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions contained herein, and pursuant to the laws of the State of Washington, in particular RCW 64.04.130 and RCW Chapter 84.34, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys to Grantee a conservation easement in perpetuity over the Property of the nature and character and to the extent hereinafter set forth ("Easement").

Section 2.1 Purpose. It is the purpose of this Easement to assure that the property will be retained forever in its natural and open space condition and to prevent any use of the property that will impair or interfere with the conservation values of the Property. Grantor intend that this Easement will confine the use of the Property to such activities, including, without limitation, those involving preservation of wetland habitat for wildlife and plants, and public education as are consistent with the purpose of this Easement.

Section 2.2 Rights of Grantee. To accomplish the purpose of this Easement the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this Easement:

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 2 of 11



2.2.1 To preserve and protect the conservation values of the Property;

2.2.2 To enter upon the Property at reasonable times in order to monitor Grantor's compliance with and otherwise enforce the terms of this Easement; provided that such entry shall be upon prior reasonable notice to Grantor, and Grantee shall not unreasonably interfere with Grantor's use and quiet enjoyment of the Property;

2.2.3 To prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement and to require the restoration of such areas or features of the property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use;

2.2.4 Without having any obligation to do so, to maintain the property in its Baseline Condition and to have access for such purpose;

2.2.5 Without having any obligation to do so, to conduct pre-arranged, educational visits to the property and to have access for such purpose; and

2.2.6 To make scientific studies of the conservation values of the property, provided that such studies shall be upon prior reasonable notice to Grantor, and Grantee shall not unreasonably interfere with Grantor's use and quiet enjoyment of the property.

Section 2.3 Prohibited Uses. Any activity on or use of the Property inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement is prohibited. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following activities and uses are expressly prohibited:

2.3.1 Subdivision and development;

2.3.2 Commercial or industrial use;

2.3.3 Structures, except as are intended to enhance the conservation values;

2.3.4 Commercial logging and any other removal of trees or vegetation except as may be required for reasons of safety or to prevent the incursion of destructive or non-native species;

2.3.5 Trimming of trees or shrubs to create or enhance views of neighboring properties;

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 3 of 11

200101100180
Page: 4 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA



2.3.6 Filling or grading except as may be necessary to construct a trail for walking and observation of natural features of the property, which trail shall be designed to have minimal impact on the property;

2.3.7 Fields for football, baseball, soccer or similar sports;

2.3.8 Motor vehicles of all kinds, except that vehicles that might be required for allowed construction or stewardship may be allowed on a temporary basis;

2.3.9 Parking lots;

2.3.10 Dogs off leash, or other domestic animals (provided however, that dogs may be permitted in designated areas).

2.3.11 Bicycles or horses except on designated trails approved by Grantee.

Section 2.4 Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves to itself, and to its successors and assigns, all rights accruing from its ownership of the Property that are not inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights are expressly reserved: Low-environmentally-impacting trails and associated structures such as signs and protective fencing to accommodate and enhance hiking and the observation of flora and fauna.

Section 2.5 Notice of Intention to Undertake Certain Permitted Actions. Grantor shall give Grantee prior notice of their intent to undertake any development or alteration of the property. The purpose of requiring Grantor to notify Grantee prior to undertaking these activities is to afford Grantee an opportunity to ensure that the activities in question are designed and carried out in a manner consistent with the purpose of this Easement. Whenever notice is required Grantor shall notify Grantee in writing not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date Grantor intend to undertake the activity in question. The notice shall describe the nature, scope, design, location, timetable, and any other material aspect of the proposed activity in sufficient detail to permit Grantee to make an informed judgment as to its consistency with the purpose of this Easement.

2.5.1 Grantee's Approval. Grantee shall grant or withhold its approval in writing within sixty (60) days of receipt of Grantor's written request therefor. Grantee's approval may be withheld only upon a reasonable determination by Grantee that the action as proposed would be inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 4 of 11



200101100180
Page: 5 of 14
01/18/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA

2.5.2 Arbitration. If a dispute arises between the parties concerning the consistency of any proposed use or activity with the purpose of this Easement, and Grantor agrees not to proceed with the use or activity pending resolution of the dispute, either party may refer the dispute to arbitration by request made in writing upon the other. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of such a request, the parties shall select a single arbitrator to hear the matter. If the parties are unable to agree on the selection an arbitrator, then in such instance the presiding Judge of the Kitsap County Superior Court, on petition of a party, shall appoint an arbitrator. The matter shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of RCW Chapter 7.04 or other appropriate body of rules then in effect, and a judgment on the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The prevailing party shall be entitled, in addition to such other relief as may be granted, to a reasonable sum for all its costs and expenses related to such arbitration, including, without limitation, the fees and expenses of the arbitrator and attorneys fees, which shall be determined by the arbitrator or any court of competent jurisdiction that may be called upon to enforce or review the award.

Section 2.6 Grantee's Remedies.

2.6.1 If Grantee determines that Grantor is in violation of the terms of this Easement or that a violation is threatened, Grantee shall give written notice to Grantor of such violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation and, where the violation involves injury to the Property resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement, to restore the portion of the Property so injured. If Grantor (a) fails to cure the violation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice thereof from Grantee; (b) under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonably be cured within a thirty (30) day period, fails to begin curing such violation within the thirty (30) day period; or fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, Grantee may bring an action as provided in the following subsection.

2.6.2 Grantee may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Easement, to enjoin the violation, ex parte as necessary, by temporary or permanent injunction, to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Easement or injury to any conservation values protected by this Easement, including damages for the loss of natural, educational, or open space values; and to require the restoration of the Property to the condition that existed prior to any such injury. Without limiting Grantor's liability therefor, Grantee, in its sole discretion, may apply any damages recovered to the cost of undertaking any corrective action on the Property.

2.6.3 If Grantee, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation

values of the Property, Grantee may pursue its remedies under this Section without prior notice to Grantor or without waiting for the period provided for cure to expire.

2.6.4 Grantee's rights under this Section apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened violations of the terms of this Easement, and Grantor agrees that Grantee's remedies at law for any violation of the terms of this Easement are inadequate and that Grantee shall be entitled to the injunctive relief described in this Section, both prohibitive and mandatory, in addition to such other relief to which Grantee may be entitled, including specific performance of the terms of this Easement, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies. Grantee's remedies described in this Section shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.

2.6.5 Costs of Enforcement. Any costs incurred by Grantee in enforcing the terms of this Easement against Grantor, including, without limitation, costs of suit and attorneys' fees, and any costs of restoration necessitated by Grantor's violation of the terms of this Easement shall be borne by Grantor. If Grantor prevails in any action to enforce the terms of this Easement, Grantor's costs of suit, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees, shall be borne by Grantee.

2.6.6 Grantee's Discretion. Enforcement of the terms of this Easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance by Grantee to exercise its rights under this Easement in the event of any breach of any term of this Easement by Grantor shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by Grantee of such term or of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term of this Easement or of any of Grantee's rights under this Easement. No delay or omission by Grantee in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver.

2.6.7 Acts Beyond Grantor's Control. Nothing contained in this Easement shall be construed to entitle Grantee to bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the Property resulting from causes beyond Grantor's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement, acts unauthorized acts or omissions by third parties, or from any prudent action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Property resulting from such causes.

Section 2.7 Access. Access by the general public shall be at the discretion of Grantor.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 6 of 11



200101100180
Page: 7 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA

Section 2.8 Costs and Liabilities. Grantor retains all responsibilities and shall bear all costs and liabilities of any kind related to the ownership, operation, upkeep, and maintenance of the Property, including the maintenance of adequate comprehensive general liability insurance coverage. Grantor shall keep the Property free of any liens arising out of any work performed for, or materials furnished to Grantor.

2.8.1 Taxes, Assessment, Fees and Charges. Grantor shall pay before delinquency all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed against the Property by competent authority (collectively "taxes"), including any taxes imposed upon, or incurred as a result of, this Easement, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request. Grantee is authorized but in no event obligated to make or advance any payment of taxes, upon fifteen (15) days prior written notice to Grantor, in accordance with any bill, statement, or estimate procured from the appropriate authority, without inquiry into the validity of the taxes or the accuracy of the bill, statement, or estimate, and the obligation created by such payment shall bear interest until paid by Grantor at the lesser of 2 percentage points over the rate of interest charged by the county from time to time on delinquent taxes or the maximum rate allowed by law.

2.8.2 Hold Harmless. Grantor shall hold harmless, indemnify, and defend Grantee and its members, directors, officers, employees, agents, and contractors and the heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns of each of them (collectively "Indemnified Parties") from and against all liabilities, penalties, costs, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action, claims, demands, or judgments, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from or in any way connected with: (1) injury to or the death of any person, or physical damage to any property, resulting from any act, omission, condition, or other matter related to or occurring on or about the Property, regardless of cause, unless due to the negligence of the indemnified parties; (2) the obligations specified in this Section; and (3) the existence or administration of this Easement.

Section 2.9 Assignment. This Easement is transferable, but Grantee may assign its rights and obligations under this Easement only to an organization that is a qualified organization at the time of transfer under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or any successor provision then applicable), and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder, and authorized to acquire and hold conservation easements under RCW 64.04.130 and 84.34.250 (or any successor provision then applicable). As a condition of such transfer, Grantee shall require that the conservation purposes that this grant is intended to advance continue to be carried out.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 7 of 11

 200101100180
Page: 8 of 14
01/10/2001 03:28P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co. WA



Section 2.10 Amendment. If circumstances arise under which an amendment to or modification of this Easement would be appropriate, Grantor and Grantee are free to jointly amend this Easement; provided that no amendment shall be allowed that will affect the qualification of this Easement or the status of Grantee under any applicable laws, including RCW 64.04.130, RCW Chapter 84.34, or Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any amendment shall be consistent with the purpose of this Easement and shall not affect its perpetual duration. Any such amendment shall be recorded in the official records of Kitsap County, Washington.

Section 2.11 Subsequent Transfers. Grantor agrees to incorporate the terms of this Easement in any deed or other legal instrument by which they divest themselves of any interest in all or a portion of the Property, including, without limitation, a leasehold interest. Grantor further agrees to give written notice to Grantee of the transfer of any interest at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such transfer. The failure of Grantor to perform any act required by this paragraph shall not impair the validity of this Easement or limit its enforceability in any way.

Section 2.12 Estoppel Certificates. Upon request by Grantor, Grantee shall within thirty (30) days execute and deliver to Grantor any document, including an estoppel certificate, which certifies Grantor's compliance with any obligation of Grantor contained in this Easement and otherwise evidences the status of this Easement as may be requested by Grantor.

Section 2.13 Notices. Any notice, demand, request, consent, approval, or communication that either party desires or is required to give to the other shall be in writing and either served personally or sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

To Grantor: Kitsap County
 614 Division Street
 Port Orchard, WA 98366

To Grantee: Great Peninsula Conservancy
 Box 5060, West Hills Branch
 Bremerton, WA 98312

or such other address as either party from time to time shall designate by written notice to the other.

Section 2.14 Recordation. Grantee shall record this instrument in timely fashion in the official records of Kitsap County, Washington and may re-record it at any time as may be required to preserve its rights in this Easement.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 8 of 11

200101100180
Page: 9 of 14
01/10/2001 03:28P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co. WA



Section 2.15 General Provisions.

2.15.1 Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this Easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Washington.

2.15.2 Liberal Construction. Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Easement shall be liberally construed in favor of the grant to effect the purpose of this Easement and the policy and purpose of RCW 64.04.130, and RCW Chapter 84.34. If any provision in this instrument is found to be ambiguous, an interpretation consistent with the purpose of this Easement that would render the provision valid shall be favored over any interpretation that would render it invalid.

2.15.3 Severability. If any provision of this Easement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Easement, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, as the case may be, shall not be affected thereby.

2.15.4 Entire Agreement. This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the Easement and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings, or agreements relating to the Easement, all of which are merged herein. No alteration or variation of this instrument shall be valid or binding unless contained in an amendment that complies with the Amendment Section of this Easement.

2.15.5 No Forfeiture. Nothing contained herein will result in a forfeiture or reversion of Grantor's title in any respect.

2.15.6 Binding Effect. The terms, conditions and restrictions of this Conservation Easement shall constitute covenants running with the land and shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the signatories hereto and their respective successors and assigns who become parties hereunder.

2.15.7 Termination of Rights and Obligations. A party's rights and obligations under this Easement terminate upon transfer of the party's interest in the Easement or Property, except that liability for acts or omissions occurring prior to transfer shall survive transfer.

2.15.8 Captions. The captions in this instrument have been inserted solely for convenience of reference and are not a part of this instrument and shall have no effect upon construction or interpretation.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 9 of 11

 200101100180
Page: 10 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA

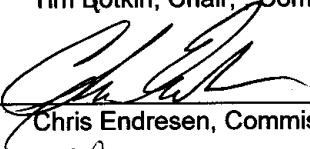
Section 2.16 Schedule of Exhibits.

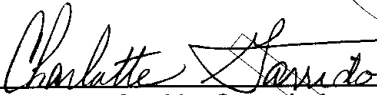
A. Legal description of the property

IN WITNESS WHEREOF Grantor and Grantee have set their hands on the day and year first above written.

GRANTOR: Kitsap County

By: 
Tim Botkin, Chair, Commissioner, District 3

By: 
Chris Endresen, Commissioner, District 1

By: 
Charlotte Garrido, Commissioner, District 2


GRANTEE: Great Peninsula Conservancy

By: 
Gary A. Cunningham, President

By: 
Celia Parrott, Secretary

State of Washington
County of Kitsap

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 10 of 11

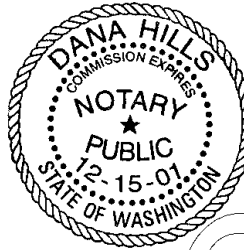
 200101100180
Page: 11 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
Kitsap Co, WA
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00



I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Charlotte Garrido, Chris Endresen, and Tim Botkin are the persons who appeared before me, and said persons acknowledged that they signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

Dated: 12/18/00

Dana Hill
(Seal or stamp) Notary Public
My appointment expires 12-15-2001

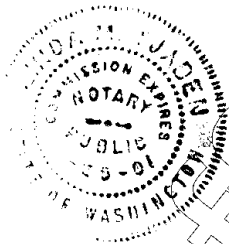


State of Washington
County of Kitsap

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Gary A. Cunningham and Celia Parrott are the persons who appeared before me, and said persons acknowledged that they signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

Dated: 12-19-2000

Sandra M. Tjaden
(Seal or stamp) Notary Public
My appointment expires 8/25/01



200101100180
Page: 12 of 14
01/10/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co. WA

CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Page 11 of 11



Exhibit A

Banner Forest Conservancy Easement

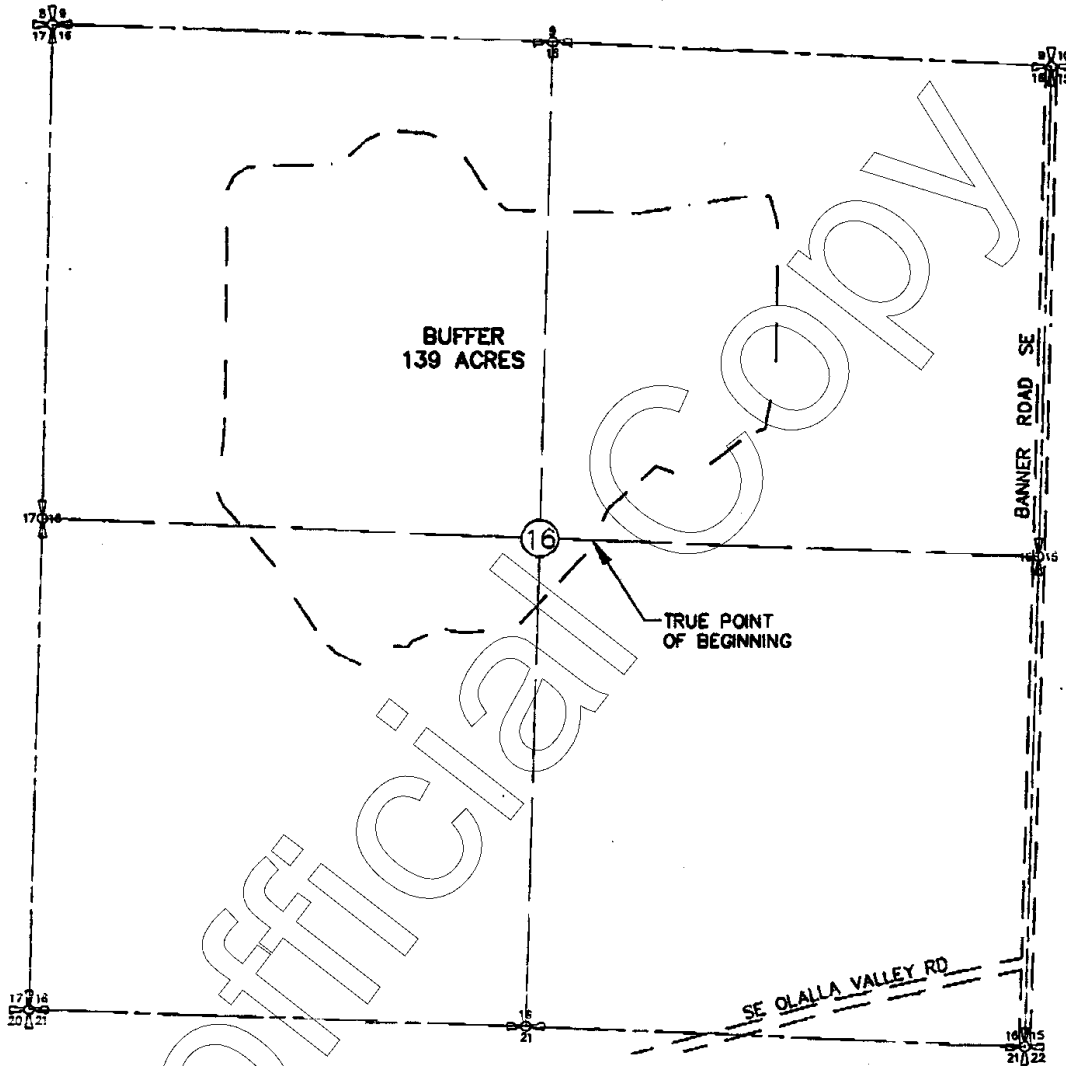
That portion of Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian in Kitsap County Washington, described as follows:

Commencing at the east 1/4 section corner of said Section 16; thence along the east-west centerline of said section, North 87° 48' 49" West 2374.08 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence along the perimeter of said buffer for the following 39 courses: South 25° 37' 52" West 85.51 feet; thence South 42° 13' 15" West 534.97 feet; thence South 83° 16' 17" West 286.80 feet; thence North 81° 17' 23" West 128.75 feet; thence South 66° 12' 33" West 165.22 feet; thence South 35° 42' 04" West 38.33 feet; thence North 86° 04' 35" West 74.62 feet; thence South 59° 14' 54" West 201.98 feet; thence North 64° 18' 45" West 148.85 feet; thence North 47° 07' 18" West 107.07 feet; thence North 32° 27' 36" West 498.08 feet; thence North 39° 40' 51" West 412.94 feet; thence North 21° 18' 27" West 82.36 feet; thence North 08° 11' 25" East 262.11 feet; thence North 02° 03' 52" East 306.23 feet; thence North 00° 24' 30" East 1052.80 feet; thence North 25° 33' 48" East 86.25 feet; thence North 56° 55' 56" East 81.71 feet; thence North 87° 55' 21" East 439.22 feet; thence North 68° 30' 24" East 98.50 feet; thence North 47° 58' 36" East 159.31 feet; thence North 67° 01' 52" East 115.93 feet; thence South 85° 16' 44" East 197.68 feet; thence South 72° 09' 19" East 163.69 feet; thence South 33° 07' 13" East 331.72 feet; thence South 48° 46' 51" East 125.91 feet; thence South 88° 37' 15" East 707.19 feet; thence North 80° 38' 47" East 510.00 feet; thence North 86° 56' 13" East 185.90 feet; thence South 14° 01' 36" East 166.03 feet; thence South 00° 25' 21" West 236.22 feet; thence South 00° 43' 03" West 554.52 feet; thence South 11° 01' 18" West 307.43 feet; thence South 74° 51' 36" West 80.43 feet; thence South 51° 33' 03" West 284.74 feet; thence South 72° 44' 54" West 163.78 feet; thence North 69° 55' 48" West 126.19 feet; thence South 47° 38' 21" West 339.35 feet; thence South 25° 37' 52" West 195.68 feet to the true point of beginning.

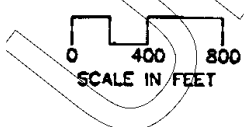
Containing 139 acres, more or less.

200101100180
Page: 13 of 14
01/18/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co, WA





FILE: 157876401
DATE: 12/12/00



**Exhibit A
Map of Conservancy
Easement**

 200101100180
Page: 14 of 14
01/18/2001 03:20P
KITSAP COUNTY PARKS & REC ESMT \$21.00 Kitsap Co. WA



Appendix B:

Banner Forest Master Plan (2002)



Banner Forest Master Plan

*Adopted
December 9, 2002*

**Prepared by the Banner Forest
Stewardship Committee**



Banner Forest Stewardship

Committee

Oliver Call
Karla Crowell
Sue Felix
David Foote
Ryan Forstrom
Charlotte Garrido
Amy Harding
Frank Holcom
Michele McFadden
Charles McGuire
John McRee
Robert Pilger
Patricio Saludo
Chris Smith
Juli Tappero
Bob Wiltermood
Nancy Yargus

Kitsap County Board of

Commissioners

Tim Botkin, Char
Jan Angel
Chris Endresen

Kitsap County Park and Recreation

Department Staff

Cris Gears, Director
Rick Fackler, Park Planner
Joseph Coppo, Park Planner

And other committed citizens

Troy Brown
Patricia Cobb
Patty Wible-Crouch
Maxine Doyle
Per Johnson
Dan and Pat Lanning
Rex Nelson



Table of Contents

	Page
Banner Forest Stewardship Purpose and Mission	1
Banner Forest Area Purpose and Mission	2
History	3
Banner Forest Master Plan Elements	8
Habitat	8
Education	10
Trails	12
Proposals	14

Appendices

- A 1995 Banner Forest Management Plan
- B Conservation Easement – Summary Statement and Agreement
- C Banner Forest Stewardship Committee
- D Proposed Signs for Banner Forest
- E Inventory of Banner Forest Trees and Plants



BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Banner Forest is a beautiful 635-acre public open space in the Olalla area. The forest, which includes trees, ponds and wetlands, was acquired by Kitsap County in October 2000 after ten years of community effort to preserve this resource in its present state for all citizens in perpetuity. The Banner Forest Stewardship Committee is outlining how to

- Keep the forest environment
- Provide opportunities for people to use the forest as a place of solitude and enjoyment as well as for hiking and riding
- Promote environmental education and awareness opportunities
- Protect the 139-acre wetlands and wetland basin
- Determine appropriate recreational uses for the site

BANNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To develop a master plan for the protection and preservation of Banner Forest as a recreational and educational asset for public use by Kitsap County residents.

MISSION: To identify environmentally appropriate uses of Banner Forest that will preserve and protect the natural habitat of the forest while allowing for recreation, solitude, education and outdoor enjoyment of the forest area.

VISION FOR:

- **Education:** Banner Forest will be an open laboratory to study natural biology, ecologic process, wildlife, forestry/forest management and forest history through partnerships with user groups as well as public and private organizations.
- **Habitat:** The Banner Forest ecosystem and wildlife will be protected, preserved and enhanced in its natural state through accepted forestry management techniques.
- **Public Use:** Banner Forest will provide an opportunity for individuals and groups seeking recreational activity, solitude, education and outdoor enjoyment in a natural setting.
- **Recreational Activity:** To provide a quiet and safe area for individuals and groups to use designated forest trails for walking, bicycling and horseback riding.

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

BANNER FOREST AREA

PURPOSE: To provide an area for individuals and groups to enjoy the natural beauty of the forest flora, fauna and wildlife in an environment that has been preserved for those seeking solitude, education, and recreation.

MISSION: Banner Forest Stewardship is committed to preserving, protecting and enhancing Banner Forest for the purpose of providing a safe and natural habitat that will provide ecological, biological and forestry educational opportunities for individuals and groups; and an opportunity for those individuals and groups seeking solitude and outdoor recreational enjoyment through hiking, bicycling and horseback riding in a quiet and natural setting.

VISION: To preserve and protect the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of Banner Forest as an educational classroom and as a place for individuals and groups to interact with nature.



12/09/02

2



HISTORY

GOAL:

To relay what is known about the background of Banner Forest from geologic periods to the present-day human uses of the land.

1. Develop a history timeline that includes:

Geologic

Native-American (Kitsap County and Banner/Olalla area)

1850 – 1990 Early school, logging, DNR

1991--2000 Transitional – OCC Banner Forest Committee

2000 – County Park Purchase, celebration, stewardship committee

2. Collect photos and data about each period.

3. Publish a history of Banner Forest

Native-American

The earliest settlers in South Kitsap found great forest lands with huge old growth timber. The Banner section was just such a plot of land. The area was first populated by local American Indian tribes. Non-native settlers started coming to this area in the early 1880s.

1850-1990

In 1889 the Omnibus Enabling Act set aside two square miles out of every 36 square miles as part of the federal grant lands, in conjunction with granting statehood to several of the western states. The purpose of this land was to produce financial support for common schools, specifically through the construction of public school buildings. The one square mile, (640 acres, or one full section, known as Section 16) which we refer to as Banner Forest, was a part of these trust lands when President Benjamin Harrison signed the Proclamation creating Washington State as the U.S.'s 42nd state. At that time, there were approximately 50 settlers living in the area and they had a post office, school and general store. Washington's trust lands are managed by the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Forestry practiced on these lands generates income for school construction by granting private companies the rights to harvest and sell the timber. 75% of the proceeds from these sales goes directly to the construction of public schools.

Since 1889, Banner Forest has been utilized by Washington State as a source of school construction funds. Publicly and privately owned forest lands in Washington have decreased as our population has increased. Citizens seeking recreation in a forest setting have increasingly turned to publicly owned properties, such as Banner Forest. Banner Forest has been used for a variety of recreational uses including solitude and peaceful reflection, walking, running, bike riding, horseback riding, nature watching, mushroom picking, brush picking, nature education, off-road vehicles, and many other uses. Banner Forest was even the recipient of its own income when the Banner School District #40 was created in 1893 and a one-room school building was built in the forest's NE corner on Banner Road (this building was later moved across the road and subsequently demolished).

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

HISTORY (cont.)

Early in 1990, the DNR engaged in discussions with developers in Washington State regarding swapping Banner Forest for privately held forest land on Tiger Mountain in King County. The intent was to develop 320 homes on half of Banner Forest, with the remaining acres reserved for future development. The DNR would gain forest lands contiguous with other DNR forest pieces in King County. In February 1990 the DNR signed a Letter of Intent with the development group. By July 1990 they were engaged in serious discussions and the DNR stated that the prospects for this land swap looked very positive. During that summer, they worked on the logistics of the land swap, investigating the value of the lands involved, and discussing the terms and prices.

1991-2000

In May 1991 a citizen learned of this pending deal and alerted the community in South Kitsap. When the South Kitsap county commissioner was asked about the proposed trade, he replied, "It's a done deal." The newly-formed Olalla Community Council, which had organized to work on land use and growth management issues, quickly mobilized to address the DNR land trade. Over the next two or three years, a Banner Forest committee of the Olalla group met regularly. They began to pull together information about this forest. They developed maps, learned more about wildlife, and plants, including wetlands and forestry; and explored public uses.

This small organization of concerned citizens put up signs, passed out flyers, and alerted the media to the pending land swap. Organizational meetings were held, committees formed, funds donated, petitions signed, a letter writing campaign began, and hundreds of people became involved. The first public hearing sponsored by the DNR on May 21, 1991 was held at the Kitsap County Courthouse. This standing-room-only hearing, with concerned citizens spilling into the hallways and out the doors, was the beginning of a concerted effort to stop the land swap. On June 25, another hearing was held at South Kitsap High School, with more than 800 people in attendance. Increasing pressure was put on elected officials and the DNR to stop the deal.

In response to the overwhelming reaction from South Kitsap, the County Commissioners reclassified Banner Forest's zoning from rural residential to "resource protection" land on June 24, 1991. This change removed much of the development potential of the property and placed a frustrating roadblock in the path of the developers. They then sued Kitsap County, calling the rezoning of the forest land an illegal spot zoning (meaning that this particular piece of land was selected for different zoning than other similar pieces of land). The community turned out in mass at a July 8 public meeting to thank the county commissioners and to support for their efforts to save Banner Forest. Then, on July 17, 1991, the developers notified the DNR that they were no longer interested in swapping their land on Tiger Mountain for the Banner piece, ending the immediate threat to Banner. Although the Commissioner's downzone was struck down by the courts in January 1992, it had served its purpose.

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

HISTORY (cont.)

This chapter in the story was followed by several more years of work by the South Kitsap community and the DNR. A group of citizens from the Olalla Community Council began working in cooperation with the DNR to develop a 20-year management plan for Banner. After hundreds of hours of meetings, a 1995 Banner Forest Management Plan was adopted and implemented. (See Appendix A)

The goal of the 1995 Management Plan was to maintain Banner Forest as a “working forest,” contributing a revenue stream for school construction, while maintaining its esthetic and recreational value to the citizens. Specifically, the goals were to conserve and enhance the natural resources to produce a long-term stable income for the DNR, address the concerns of the local community, provide recreational opportunities for the community, and create a partnership between the DNR and the community. Subsidiary – and compatible – goals included managing the timber resources on a sustained yield basis, providing passive recreation, maintaining the aesthetics of the property, utilizing community volunteers, encouraging the development of educational uses of the forest, and protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. The Management Plan and its development has been held up as a wonderful example of community and government working together in a spirit of cooperation.

In the spring of 1999, the Washington State legislature passed the Trust Land Transfer legislation. A section of the Trust Land Transfer program would pay the costs of timber on the Banner property, allowing Kitsap County to purchase Banner Forest for the appraised land value only.

2000 - Kitsap County Acquisition of Banner Forest

Kitsap County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began working toward property conveyance shortly after the Trust Land Transfer program made it possible for Kitsap County to acquire Banner Forest. Both agencies ordered appraisals of the Banner property and timber early in the summer of 1999. By May, 2000, the DNR staff was preparing information for presentation to the Board of Natural Resources; and, in September 2000, the Board agreed to sell Banner Forest to Kitsap County for \$6,510,000. Kitsap County paid \$1,310,000 for the land from Conservation Futures Funds from the County's Open Space Program. The Trust Land Transfer program paid \$5,200,000 for the timber on the property, which was also deeded to Kitsap County. A 30-year restriction on the property prohibits any development other than open space, park, or recreational uses.

On October 23, 2000, Banner Forest was deeded to Kitsap County.

2000 - Kitsap County Acquisition of Banner Forest

Stewardship work

Two critical actions were taken by the Kitsap County commissioners to enhance the long-term management of Banner Forest. First, a conservation easement agreement was signed with the Great Peninsula Conservancy to assure that 139 acres of wetlands

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

and their associated drainage system be maintained in perpetuity.¹ (See Appendix B). Second, a Banner Forest Stewardship Committee was appointed on December 18, 2000. The group's short-term purpose has been to develop a master plan for uses and management of the property, and will continue with longer-term goals of implementation and stewardship. The members of this group represent the following interests: hiking, biking, horseback riding, education, motorized vehicles, nature, history, art, accessibility through the Americans with Disabilities Act, neighbors, and youth. (See Appendix C).

The Stewardship Committee met monthly for a year and a half, beginning in February, 2001. Four subcommittees were established: History, Habitat, Education, and Trails. The Stewardship Committee sought public input at each monthly meeting through the subcommittees and outreach efforts, including a public forum to hear about the use of motorized vehicles in Banner Forest (Fall, 2001), a booth at the Summer 2001 Olalla Bluegrass Festival, and a June 2002 open house.



Old Banner School

¹ This is an increase of 84 acres, up from 55 in the 1995 Banner Forest Plan. Subsequently, in 2000, a wetlands biologist delineated the wetland and associated drainage basin as 139 acres.

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



Banner School ca 1914

Front Row: Albert Lloyd, Harold Olderness, Della Olsen, Doris King, Signe Eastgard, Bessie Thompson, Almarie King

Second Row: Seval Eastgard, Martha Petersen, Irene Olsen, Edmond Auer

Third Row: Margaret Johnsen, Agnes Auer, Dorothy Garland, Anna Jonsen

Fourth Row: Elmer Hansen, Boyde King

Top Row: Peter Petersen, Raymond Martin, Minnie Peart, Lillian Bancroft

12/09/02

7

BANNER FOREST MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

The Banner Forest Master Plan consists of four elements, each of which contains a goal and recommended actions to achieve that goal. Some of the actions have already been achieved to some degree, but all will require ongoing attention by Kitsap County as the owner and manager of this unique county park property.

The four elements are: Habitat
 Education
 Trails
 Proposals

HABITAT

GOAL:

To preserve and protect the habitat of the Banner Forest, while providing for passive usage (as outlined in paragraph 1, below) and enhancement of the natural environment for the present and future. The following are key steps to reach our goal:

1. **Establish Environmentally Responsible Uses**
 - a. All activities must respect the environment and minimize their impact on the habitat
 - b. Walking, bicycling, and equestrian activity only, and only on specified trails
 - c. Pack it in, pack it out (no littering)
 - d. Firearms and hunting shall not be allowed, as already provided by law
 - e. Motorized vehicle usage shall be restricted to "authorized user" handicap mobility carts and official maintenance vehicles requiring entry
2. **Inventory/survey of the Forest** - Request & obtain any existing inventories and surveys from DNR, Kitsap County, Audubon Society, etc., and solicit help from any interested groups (such as forestry students, scout groups, environmental organizations, etc.) on any additional inventories that are needed.
 - a. Establish and mark property boundaries (county)
 - b. Obtain maps, photographs
 - c. Inventory of existing trees and plant life (See Appendix D and Education Item 3a).
 - d. Inventory of wildlife (including birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles)
 - e. Soil types and lay of the land
 - f. Water and wetland resources
 - g. Trails (led by trails sub-committee)

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

HABITAT (cont.)

3. **Determine Enhancements that are Needed** – Enlist the help of the County, DNR, arborists, environmental organizations, user groups, community service clubs, schools, etc. as necessary.
 - a. Determine condition (health) of existing trees/plantlife and determine any thinning or planting that is needed for the health of the forest
 - b. Determine which trails should be retained and which should be decommissioned (work with trails sub-committee)
 - c. Provide for nature walks, handicap access
 - d. Signage for different uses
 - e. Enhancements for educational use (history, plant & animal and ecology education)
 - f. Cleanup of garbage, litter, etc.
 - g. Once we have determined what enhancements are necessary and we have commitments from interested parties, propose a budget estimate to submit to the County along with recommended resources, e.g., brush picking revenue to enhance Banner Forest.

4. **Preservation** – Elements are necessary to assure that usage does not degrade the habitat, peace, and tranquility of the forest, and maintains an ecological balance.
 - a. Establish a road maintenance and abandonment plan
 - b. Organize work parties for maintenance, improvements
 - c. Designate specific uses for selected trails as necessary. Public education on preserving the forest environment through signage, school programs, flyers, internet website, etc.

NOTE: In order to successfully accomplish our stewardship goals, representatives of the Banner Forest Stewardship Committee attended the 2002 DNR Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop, with tuition being funded by the County. It is expected that these members will assist with forest stewardship details as needed in future planning efforts.



Illustration by Marta Morris

12/09/02

9

EDUCATION

Goal:

To enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest by collecting and disseminating information about the history, habitat, trails and involvement available to citizens of all ages, multiple interests, and abilities. The focus is on local community assets as well as on activities in Banner Forest.

1. **Enhance local knowledge of the unique qualities of Banner Forest with public involvement stewardship and education programs.**
 - a. Create a public involvement and education plan
 - b. Invite community partners, i.e., SK School District, Vocation Skills Center, SK residents (hiking, biking enthusiasts, for example), Kitsap Historical Society, scouts, seniors, community club, grange, outdoor groups, ADA, DNR, photographers, artists.
 - c. Develop methods for communication – maps, brochures, curricula, calendars, signs, Banner Forest events, presentation, web site, publications
 - d. Organize a volunteer program
 - e. Design a program checklist that acknowledges concerns of forest habitat, educational workshop, and recreation.
 - f. Encourage educators to use Banner Forest.

Activities in Banner Forest to include:

- a. Assure appropriate signage for appreciation of Banner features. Three categories of signs are needed in Banner Forest: entrance, interpretive, and waymarking. (See Appendix D for more detailed recommendations
 - b. Coordinate volunteers for Banner Forest events - cleanups, tours, special events.
 - c. Place information kiosks regarding Banner Forest and programs.
 - d. Train for and monitor volunteer activities.
 - e. Provide a suggestion box, waste disposal
2. **Relay what is known about the history of Banner Forest.**
 - a. Develop a history timeline. Collect photos and data about each period.
 - b. Conduct oral histories
 - c. Publish a history of Banner Forest

Activities in Banner Forest will include:

- a. Provide a model logging exhibit
- b. Place information kiosks
- c. Design school curricula for history
- d. Someday, recreate Banner School

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

EDUCATION (Cont.)

3. **Develop a broad appreciation for the flora and fauna of Banner Forest. Protect and enhance the habitat and natural resources of the Banner Forest and/or adjacent to Banner Forest.**
 - a. Research species (trees, shrubs, other flora, mammals, birds, insects), resources, and best management practices for Banner Forest. (Appendix E).
 - b. Define nature walks
 - c. Collect existing maps and data, including periphery of Banner Forest.
 - d. Organize what is known about Banner Forest habitat and forest resources
 - e. Publish Banner Forest photographs, perhaps a calendar.
 - f. Publish information about Banner habitat (videos, brochures, information sheets).
 - g. Recommend a school curricula for flora and fauna features.

Activities in Banner Forest include:

- a. Inventory plants and animals living within Banner Forest
- b. Create and sign a one-acre 'nature walk' area
- c. Organize nature mapping activities
- d. Place information kiosks
- e. Photograph habitat features
- f. Invite docents to lead monthly nature walks.
- g. Coordinate and conduct school field trips, art classes.

- IV. **Enhance multiple modes for access and recreation in Banner Forest and establish trail etiquette (Enjoy the forest and respect the setting for others' enjoyment – staying on the trails, keep dogs under control, etc.)**

Trails Uses

Walking	Horseback riding
Biking	Protecting wetlands and sensitive areas

- a. Collect maps and photos to delineate trails.
- b. Provide information for the design of a trails map – include distances.
- c. Design specialized trail maps – history, nature, fitness walks/rides, horseback
- d. Work with the Great Peninsula Conservancy to assure stewardship in wetlands.

In Banner Forest:

- a. post trail maps/information kiosks at entrances to Banner and at (limited) major points internally.
- b. Inventory all trails and decide which to keep and which to decommission.
- c. Monitor human impacts of trail uses and prioritize trail repairs/cleanups
- d. Prioritize trail uses, i.e., footpaths, bridleways, mixed use trails. Create at least one ADA-accessible trail.

TRAILS

Goals:

Provide opportunities for the community to use Banner Forest for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment, and enlist the community's help in managing public use.

1. **The public will be able to use trails in Banner Forest consistent with preserving the other portions of the tract as a functioning natural area.**
2. **Handicapped persons will be able to use suitably adapted access points and trails.**
3. **Trails will be safe for their designated uses.**
4. **Adjacent property owners will be able to enjoy their properties without undue noise and disturbance from trails users.**
5. **Signs will guide appropriate trails usage in Banner Forest (See Appendix D)**
 - a. Large signs at the Banner Road and Olalla Valley Road entrances will indicate the forest's hours and permitted and non-permitted uses. No Motorized Vehicles, No Hunting, No Brush Picking, No Campfires, No Overnight Use and Pack-It-In – Pack-It-Out will be part of each sign.
 - b. Signs will indicate the boundary of the wetlands easement granted to Great Peninsula Conservancy and inform visitors of the uses permitted there.
 - c. Main trails will be named and signs will indicate their starting points and distances. If any of these trails will have limited uses, the signs will so indicate.
 - d. Banner Forest brochures, complete with a map on which named trails are indicated, will be available to users at the Banner Road and Olalla Valley Road entrances.

Permitted Uses

1. Trails may be used by walkers, bicyclists, horseback riders, dogs under control of their owners and handicapped individuals in mobility carts. For reasons of safety, some trails may be designated for specific groups of users.

Problems/Issues

1. Unauthorized construction of new trails and misuse of established trails have resulted in the destruction of vegetation, the erosion of road banks and the creation of potholes.
2. The use of Banner Forest trails by persons on foot, horseback, and bicycles, and with dogs as well as the potential for use by handicapped persons makes safety across all user groups an issue which will require ongoing monitoring and adjustments.

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

TRAILS (cont.)

3. Adjacent property owners have complained about noise from motorized vehicles using the Forest in the past.
4. Parking at the Banner Road and Olalla Valley Road entrances to Banner forest is inadequate.
5. Litter is an occasional problem along the trails (pop cans, paintball residue and paper are the major offenders).

Non-permitted Uses

1. Motorized vehicles, with the exception of handicapped mobility carts and official vehicles, are not permitted in Banner Forest.
2. Users may not create new trails.

Banner Forest Stewardship Committee Actions)

The Banner Forest Stewardship Committee (BFSC) will

1. Inventory trails, decide which to keep and which to decommission and provide that information to whomever makes the map for the Banner Forest brochure.
1. Assess damage to trails and prioritize the order of repair.
2. Work with volunteers to fill ruts, plant trees and otherwise rehabilitate damaged areas.
3. Monitor the forest for noxious weeds, blow-downs and hazard trees and illegal uses and enlist County Weed Board, Parks Department and Sheriff's Office help as needed.
4. Work with Great Peninsula Conservancy in its stewardship efforts on the conservation easement within the Forest.
5. Facilitate use of the Forest by handicapped individuals.
6. Request assistance from the County Parks Department in remedying the parking problem.

PROPOSALS

The Banner Forest Stewardship Committee proposes that implementation of this Master Plan begin by adopting annual objectives that adhere to the vision and goals. When developing an annual work plan at the end of each calendar year for the following year, the following issues will be considered:

- Program areas for attention;
- Data needs for the project(s);
- Roles and responsibilities of the Parks Department and the Stewardship Committee for ongoing Banner Forest stewardship.

2003 Program Areas for Attention

1. Create a map of trails and recommend any that need to be decommissioned
2. Place interpretive signs at park entrance, and waymarking signs to indicate trails and distances
3. Plan a one-acre ADA accessible "nature walk"
4. Improve parking lots
5. Develop a volunteer Forest Watch program

Data Needs for the Project(s)

1. Collect existing maps and aerial photos -- periphery map of Banner Forest, site plan, topography and drainage, and area south of Olalla Valley Road
2. Gather relevant data -- including Stewardship Plan, relevant information about ADA, examples of signs, lists of interested volunteers

Ongoing Banner Forest Stewardship

1. Parks Department Responsibilities. Roles and responsibilities for ongoing maintenance and capital development will need to be established for the Banner Forest once the Master Plan has been adopted. Typical responsibilities might include obtaining available maps and photos, assistance with carrying out proposed improvements, and maintaining a record of the Committee work.
2. Stewardship Committee. The long-term goals are for implementation and stewardship. Typical responsibilities might include organizing volunteer efforts to map the trails or monitor the property, conducting routine trail maintenance, or leading educational tours of the forest .

Appendix A
1995 Management Plan



BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



(Photo by ANDY CARD)

*BANNER FOREST COMMITTEE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1995*

PLAN PREPARED BY
ANDREW CARD
SEABECK UNIT FORESTER
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



BANNER FOREST PLAN SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This management plan was developed for the Banner Forest in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 02 East, with the cooperation and input of the Banner Forest Committee, to meet the needs of both DNR and the neighbors of the Banner Forest. The plan encompasses suggestions and issues proposed by the community about the management of the parcel and will be used as a tool in developing future timber harvests while providing opportunities for education and recreational use of the property. The plan was developed over the course of a year in which monthly meetings were held with the community to gather ideas and understanding of community issues as well as teaching the community about forestry, forest policy and issues facing the DNR.

GOALS

Conserve and enhance the Natural Resources of the Banner Forest, producing long term, stable income from the land. Create a "Working Forest" within this rural community. Natural Resources includes, timber, other vegetation, wildlife, wetlands and mineral resources found on the Banner Forest.

Meet the legal and department goal requirements as expressed in the policy of the DNR's Forest Resource Plan, July 1992.

Address where possible the concerns of the Banner community in the use and management of the forest as allowed by budget and legal restrictions.

Provide opportunities for the community to use the forest as an area for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment and enlist the communities help in controlling and managing public use.

Create a partnership between the Banner Community and DNR in the planning and management of the Banner Forest to meet the goals and objectives of the plan and to discuss issues involved with land, resource and public use.

PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Consider Banner Forest a single, "sustained yield unit" in the harvest and growing of timber crops. Obtain the highest value for those products and show that a "working forest" within a rapidly developing area can produce timber revenue. Harvesting can be done in a manner that creates wildlife habitat, allows recreational opportunities and creates a diversified forest landscape. Obtain the highest return for the products removed.

2. Harvesting on the forest will try different "silvicultural" techniques that will create an increase in the variety of timber species and products and create a diversity of forest stand conditions with varied aesthetic landscapes and create habitats to allow for a variety of wildlife species. Establish on the forest an area that will be deferred from harvest as long as possible; that may develop "natural old growth" stand characteristics and act as a wildlife core area. Institute "managed old growth" stands on other parts of the forest, which are developed with harvest and management techniques.

3. Use the Banner Forest as a rich educational environment; providing an interesting outdoor laboratory to study the sciences and forest management. How extensive this will become depends on the Banner community and the participation of local school districts.

4. Keep the Banner Forest as a passive recreational opportunity and not develop facilities or additions such as trail or camp areas. The goal of the community is to find an equilibrium of uses for motorized and non-motorized activity. Banner Forest cannot provide all uses for all users because of its size but through community volunteer effort, can provide some limited use for most of the community.



HARVEST ACTIVITIES

To meet the Common School Trust economic requirements an "annual harvest" was developed for the forest. This harvest is estimated to be about 280 thousand board feet of timber removed per year which equates out to a minimum of \$150,000. This is a conservative estimate and with creative and innovative marketing of the products on the forest, much more annual income can be achieved. Current and future harvest include:

Colvos Pole Timber Sale, sold in 1993, has not been logged yet. It will remove about 22 trees per acre in the Inventory Map Units # 5 and 7. This sale will bring in about \$ 510,000.

In the next two decades, more sales will be sold which will remove timber in Inventory Map Units 7, 9 and 12 15, 16 and 18. These sales will be the removal of high value forest products such as poles, peeler logs and log house logs, rather than just a "camp run" of timber. These sales will follow the goals and objectives of the plan and DNR will review each proposed sale with the Banner Forest Committee for input of design, and other objectives. These sale will be designed around an 55 acre wildlife core area which will be deferred from harvest.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION	1
GOALS AND ISSUES	
PRIMARY GOALS	1
SUB GOALS	2
ISSUES	3
BANNER COMMUNITY PROSPECTIVE	3
DNR PROSPECTIVE	3
FORESTRY AND HARVEST	
FORESTRY GOALS	5
FORESTRY OBJECTIVES	5
HARVEST OBJECTIVES TO MEET OTHER GOALS	6
RECREATION	
AESTHETICS	
EDUCATION	
WILDLIFE	
MEETING FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	
INTRODUCTION	8
INVENTORY MAP UNIT HARVEST PLAN PRESCRIPTIONS	8
SUMMARY	12
COMMUNITY AND DNR EFFORTS TO MEET PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.	12
APPENDIXES	
SUSTAINED YIELD OR EVEN FLOW	13
CHART 1 BANNER FOREST AGE DISTRIBUTION	15
TABLE A	16
BANNER PARCEL INVENTORY INFORMATION	
TABLE B	17
EVEN FLOW HARVEST CALCULATIONS, 70 YEAR ROTATION	
TABLE C	18
HARVEST VOLUME, NEXT TWO DECADES	
BANNER FOREST COMMITTEE LIST	19
MAPS	



TABLE OF CONTENTS
CONTINUED
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR BANNER FOREST

PUBLIC USE PROBLEMS ON BANNER PARCEL	1
PHYSICAL FEATURES OF BANNER FOREST WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC USE PROBLEMS	1
PLANNING FOR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	2
DNR EXPECTATIONS OF VOLUNTEER JOB	3
TIME AND DOLLAR COMMITMENT BY DNR	4
VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTIONS	
BANNER FOREST PATROL	5
BANNER FOREST PATROL LEADER	6
BANNER WORK PARTIES	7
RECREATION PROGRAM FOR BANNER FOREST (TO BE DEVELOPED)	
EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR BANNER FOREST (TO BE DEVELOPED BY BANNER FOCUS GROUP)	



BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

This management plan was developed for the Banner Forest in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 02 East, with the cooperation and input of the Banner Forest Committee, to meet the needs of both DNR and the neighbors of the Banner Forest. The plan encompasses suggestions and issues proposed by the community about the management of the parcel and will be used as a tool in developing future timber harvests while providing opportunities for education and recreational use of the property. The plan was developed over the course of a year in which monthly meetings were held with the community to gather ideas and understanding of community issues as well as teaching the community about forestry, forest policy and issues facing the DNR. The following is a culmination of that effort.

GOALS AND ISSUES

PRIMARY GOALS:

Conserve and enhance the Natural Resources of the Banner Forest, producing long term, stable income from the land. Create a "Working Forest" within this rural community. Natural Resources includes, timber, other vegetation, wildlife, wetlands and mineral resources found on the Banner Forest.

Meet the legal and department goal requirements as expressed in the policy of the DNR's Forest Resource Plan, July 1992.

Address where possible the concerns of the Banner community in the use and management of the forest as allowed by budget and legal restrictions.

Provide opportunities for the community to use the forest as an area for recreation, solitude, education and enjoyment and enlist the communities help in controlling and managing public use.

Create a partnership between the Banner Community and DNR in the planning and management of the Banner Forest to meet the goals and objectives of the plan and to discuss issues involved with land, resource and public use.



SUB GOALS:

Forestry

Manage the Banner Forest timber resources on a sustained yield bases, producing enough income from this resource base to allow the property to be maintained as a "working forest"; creating diversity in stand structure, species composition, high value forest products and healthy forest stands that fully use the growing capacity of the site.

Recreation

Provide for "passive" recreation on the Banner Forest by using existing trails and roads or those created by forest management activities. "Passive" recreation means enjoying the natural surroundings and minimizing disturbance of the forest by not creating trails or facilities .

Aesthetics

Maintain the aesthetic values of the property. Keep the "walk in the woods environment" intact and reduce visual impacts where possible during harvest and forest management activities.

Encourage users of Banner Forest to continue to pick up garbage and other wise maintain forest trails and roads.

Sign up volunteers as patrol sweepers which will inform DNR of major problems and suggest recreation control methods.

Education

Encourage the development of educational use of the Banner Forest such as an open laboratory to study natural biological and ecological processes as well as studying forestry and forest management.

Encourage educators to develop a plan to use the forest.

Enlist volunteers to inventory the educational opportunities of the site and recommend to DNR areas of potential use.

Wildlife

Protecting and where possible enhancing wildlife habitat present on and/or adjacent to the Banner section.



ISSUES

During the planning process many issues were brought up and discussed about the Banner parcel and about how it should be managed.

Community issues and concerns:

- * Banner should be kept as a forest environment with opportunities of local residents to use the forest as a place of solitude and enjoyment.
- * Use the Banner Forest to promote educational opportunities in environmental education, forest management and plant species identification and inventory.
- * Keep the Banner Forest as open space area free of development and conversion uses.
- * Keep Banner Forest from being over run by motorized vehicle use as surrounding areas for such use becomes scarce.
- * Keep some areas in the forest uncut (un-managed) to be used as natural stands of "Native Trees".
- * Keep and protect some of the scattered "old growth" trees in the forest.
- * Protect the small wet lands and their habitat located within the forest.
- * Develop a "Native Garden" and nature trails within the forest.
- * Promote and protect wildlife habitat and use within the forest.
- * Forest to be kept in "natural state" long enough for some stands to develop the "old growth" characteristics.
- * Allow the Banner Community to give input to the DNR about issues of management and land use.

Management issues from DNR prospective:

- * Increased land values, local zoning of surrounding property, pressure by neighbors to enter into expensive CRID's and the desires of public institutions to place facilities, requires DNR seek a highest and best use value for the Banner property. The trust is given equal opportunity by law to realize value of highest and best use and the DNR as trust manager needs to seriously consider these opportunities as they come up.
- * Develop a "Banner Forest Sustained Yield Unit" to determine an annual harvest. This is not intended to be a hard and fast "regulation" method for removing old trees and replacing them with new growth or for strict volume control developed for large tracts of lands. It is a means of showing that a "level of harvest" can be continued indefinitely and be continuously replaced by growth and tree production. It allows for the production of income at a level which equates to a positive net gain from management activities and to show that the parcel pays



for itself as "forest resource land". The higher the income flow the lower the priority becomes for the trust to convert and realize a higher and best use of the property. This "sustained yield unit" allows DNR to meet the stated goals and objectives of the plan.

* There is a neutral aspect of the Banner Forest as it fits into the regional or western Washington allowable cut calculations. Due to the relatively small size of the parcel and its volume and value, it has minimal impact to that cut and therefore has little influence as an income producer from forest products when comparing Banner with other parcels. Banner Forest does have valuable resources which need to be used to meet the income priorities and requirements that provide funds for common school construction and plays a prominent roll in the Seabeck Unit's annual harvest cut calculations.

* Limited budget for enforcement, control of use, recreation and educational programs, demonstrate the need to develop a volunteer effort, using local residents. These volunteers, in concert with DNR, would then promote and manage recreation and educational programs, that otherwise would not be accomplished.

FORESTRY AND HARVEST

FORESTRY GOALS

Manage the 640 acres of timber resources as a "sustained yield unit" producing enough income from this resource base to allow the property to be maintained as a "working forest" and add income to the common school construction fund.

Establish on the Banner Forest, a diversity of merchantable forest timber species, products various wildlife habitat conditions and a varied aesthetic landscape. This would satisfy some concerns of the Banner community and create educational opportunities for environmental studies.

Establish on the forest, an area that will be deferred from harvest as long as possible, that can develop "natural old growth" stand characteristics and act as a wildlife core or stable area. Institute "managed old growth" stands on other parts of the forest, which are developed with harvest and management techniques.

Promote silviculture practices that will produce, healthy, long term timber crops and products that fully use the growing capacity of the forest site while minimizing aesthetic impacts and promoting species diversity. Promoting varied ages and stages of forest stands will require using different silviculture and harvest techniques. Forest health and growing capacity will be a major determination in which methods are used and what techniques best meet the annual cut and other objectives.

FORESTRY OBJECTIVES:

Develop a "sustained yield unit" for the Banner Forest to be used when making assumptions about harvest volumes and values. Develop from this "unit", an annual harvest level guideline which should not be exceeded over a 10 year or decade average.

Develop harvest sales, based on the harvest "guideline" calculations for the Banner Forest, that provide the highest income for the trust while meeting other goals. This level is to be \$150,000 per year for the Banner Forest and is an average figure used in state wide calculations to determine trust income projections.

Create harvest units and use various silvicultural harvest techniques (shelterwood, seed tree, clear cut), which establish the different "stand structure stages" on the Banner Forest, during the next two decades.



Develop harvest sales in the next decade which fully utilize marketing of timber products and generate future high value products of the residual trees.

The deferred harvest area left as a wildlife core will be shown on harvest maps and reflected in individual harvest sale areas.

HARVEST OBJECTIVES THAT MEET OTHER GOALS

Recreation Goal:

Harvest activities should leave the cutting units in a condition that will preserve the passive recreation experience of the Forest.

Keep the passive nature of recreation on the Banner Forest by maintaining with volunteers help, most existing trails for non-motorized recreation use. Motorized use to be managed or restricted to location or time.

Passive recreation means enjoying the natural surroundings, and using existing management roads and trails, found on the site.

Harvest Objectives:

Keep to a minimum the length and width of all trails, roads and landings of harvest operations. Block roads, trails and where possible obscure them to discourage re-opening or continued use by motorized vehicles.

Aesthetics Goal:

Maintain the aesthetic values of the property. Keep the "walk in the woods environment" in tack and reduce visual impacts where possible during harvest and forest management activities.

Protect the wet land area from impact of timber harvest and user activities.

Harvest Objectives:

Design harvest unit boundaries to take advantage of topography and residual vegetation and not allow large, open visual vistas.

Practice "light touch on the land" techniques where possible when designing silviculture and harvest methods for each harvest unit.

Use un-even age silviculture techniques such as pole harvest, shelterwood harvest, partial cutting and seed tree harvest, that would foster the development of tree stands that would take on "old growth characteristics". Even aged silviculture would develop the stand structure characteristics of



the initiation and stem exclusion stage forests.

Educational Goal:

Encourage the development of education on Banner Forest as an open laboratory to study natural biological and ecological processes as well as studying forestry and forest management.

Harvest Objectives:

Create different niches for both animals and plants during harvest operations that are different from closed canopy in the forest. This variety of species and habitat makes the area more interesting for study. Forest practice techniques and silviculture methods would be demonstrated on the ground by management activities.

Wildlife Goal:

Protecting and where possible enhancing wildlife habitat present on and/or adjacent to the Banner section.

Harvest Objectives:

Prescribe silviculture techniques in harvest units that create or maintain wildlife habitat features which will encourage wildlife species to live and use the Banner forest. This would include leaving dead and green trees of various sizes up to and including large "old growth" trees.

Defer harvest on approximately 55 acres of older timber which is adjacent to the small wetland area in center of section. This could be used as wildlife core area that species could use as a habitat area to stabilize populations.

Leave adequate buffers around the wetlands at final harvest that meet legal requirements and protect the integrity of the wetlands.

MEETING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Introduction

To meet management goals and objectives the establishment of an adequate timber inventory of the Banner Forest including stand structure, stand volume, soil, tree and stand growth and site index was initiated. The on going gathering of data for this inventory was started by district personnel in the Forest Tech Program as a training exercise. Forest product inventories will be collected to indicate the best and most valuable products for individual sales. Chart 1 shows the distribution of timber by age class and acres. Target harvest volume described in this plan came from the 60 and 70 year old age classes. Table C shows the harvest volume for the next two decades as well as which mapping units this volume is taken from and the amount of volume deferred to meet other objectives.

A sustained yield or allowable harvest guideline was established using this inventory data and by growth modeling using DNRIMPS (see Appendix A). This annual harvest level guideline is established at 278,600 board feet scribner and will not be exceeded over a 10 year or decade average.

Harvest prescriptions were developed for each "inventory map unit" and are described in the next few pages. These prescriptions include current stand assessment, stand objectives, silviculture options and alternative prescriptions. Individual sales of forest products will be developed using this information and may cross mapping unit boundaries.

INDIVIDUAL MAPPING UNIT HARVEST PRESCRIPTIONS

MAPPING UNIT # 7:

A. Assessment: This stand consist of two age classes 100 years and 130 years. This 22 acre stand is comprised of Douglas fir and western hemlock with some red cedar and madrona and has a volume of 48 mbf/acre to make a total volume of 1067 mbf. The diameter size range from 8 to 42 inches. This is a slow growing stand on rocky, sandy type soil and contains tight grained wood. Stand impact considerations include a moderate wind throw hazard and moderate hazard to natural reproduction do to soil conditions. White pine blister rust will be a problem as well as some mortality due to root rots.

B. Objectives:

Develop a stand structure that approximates an understory reinitiation stage in this unit which should form an "old growth" stage with the next one or two rotations.

Create wildlife habitat and minimize visual impacts by



leaving the larger diameter, older trees.

Maximize value by marketing poles and other high value trees.

Leave the "old growth" trees to meet the concerns of the community.

C. Preferred prescription alternative :

Two harvest entries beginning with a pole harvest (Colvos Pole Timber Sale), leaving the larger diameter, older trees and developing a younger understory by planting Douglas fir. This seed tree silviculture harvest method will leave the 130 year age class, representing about 10 trees per acre and about 5 trees per acre of the 100 year age class for a total of 15 trees per acre.

D. Alternative prescriptions:

Remove all but 6 trees per acre (FPA & Policy requirements), and develop an initiation stage new stand. The volume removed would be 1067 mbf. and would quickly put the harvest near the annual guideline of 2786 for the first decade. This would not be as acceptable to the Banner community and would not meet our aesthetics objectives.

A single harvest entry, leaving the same trees described in the preferred alternative, would meet most plan objectives. Poles however produce the best income for the trust by being sold separately from other timber. Thus the best income is derived with two entries.

MAPPING UNIT # 12:

A. Assessment: Two age classes are represented in this stand, 92 year old and 66 years old. The 92 year old stand represents about 1703 mbf of the volume and the 66 year old component about 1468 mbf. Total volume is 3171 mbf on the 71 acres. Stand impact considerations include a moderate wind throw hazard and moderate hazard to natural reproduction due to soil conditions. White pine blister rust will be a problem as well as mortality from root rots.

B. Objectives:

Create an understory reinitiation stage stand on part of the unit and small initiation stage units on other parts of the area.

Defer harvest on about 35 acres of Unit 12 to be left as part of the wildlife core area.

Create wildlife habitat and minimize visual impacts by leaving the larger diameter, older trees.

Maximize value by marketing poles and other high value trees.

C. Preferred prescription alternative:

To use both an even aged final and a seed tree silviculture harvest methods. The seed tree method leaves 10 to 15 trees per acre of the larger size class. Even age final harvest will leave

the required 6 trees per acre. Unit design will use topography and curved unit boundaries as well as alternating seed tree units and clear cut units with leave units, to reduce the visual impacts of large, cleared areas. Harvest units will be laid out using part of Unit 12 and 16. A pole harvest would be the first harvest of the area followed by one or two further entries, based on product and market availability of the residual timber.

D. Alternative prescriptions:

Remove all but 6 trees per acre (FPA & Policy requirements), and develop an initiation stage new stand. The volume removed would be 3171 mbf, but would be more than the annual harvest guideline of 2786 for the first decade. This would not be as acceptable to the Banner community and would not meet our aesthetics objectives.

A single harvest entry, leaving the same trees described in the preferred alternative, would meet most plan objectives. Poles however produce the best income for the trust by being sold separately from other timber. Thus the best income is derived with two or more entries.

MAPPING UNIT # 16:

A. Assessment: This unit contains two distinct stands of timber which are designated Sub-Unit 16 and Sub-Unit 16A. Unit 16 contains 26 acres with approximately 1425 mbf of timber volume of 75 year old trees. The size distribution on Unit 16 is about the same as on Unit # 7. Unit 16A contains about 232 mbf of volume of 130 year old trees on about 18 acres. Trees on Unit 16A are spaced at about 10-15 trees per acre with young reproduction to sapling size trees growing underneath. Stand impacts would be from the wind throw potential and from competing brush which could be a problem on this site two ground during stand re-establishment.

B. Objectives:

Create an understory reinitiation structure stage stand, developing "managed old growth" forest stand in the future.

Develop mapping units 12, 16, 16A and 18 into a single "harvest management unit" in which timber sales would be laid out in various sizes, shapes and configurations to meet aesthetic, recreational and educational goals and objectives.

Defer about 10 acres of this unit for part of the wildlife core defer area.

Create wildlife habitat and minimize visual impacts by leaving the larger diameter, older trees.

Maximize value by marketing poles and other high value trees.



C. Preferred prescription alternative:

Several entries into this "harvest management unit" starting with a pole removal. Each entry would be based on highest valued products and after the last entry, an uneven aged managed stands mixed with even aged stands would be present on the landscape. Both Unit 16 and 16A would retain 10-15 trees per acre. Blowdown is a potential problem and evaluating whether to use standing timber to screen seed tree harvest units or clear cut large or small strip areas would need to be done when doing pre-sales planning. Unit 16 A would be left as is, the 10 trees per acre condition of this unit would meet our intended stand stage objective.

D. Alternative prescriptions:

Same as units 7 and 12 above.

MAPPING UNIT #19 (Map 3)

A. Age, Acres and Volume: This Unit is in the SE corner of the section, isolated by the Ollala Valley County Road. It is a triangle shaped parcel of 8 acres having about 332 mbf of timber. Timber type and size is similitier to unit 12 and 16. Stand impacts would be from a moderate blowdown hazard potential and from the effects of the county roads.

B. Objectives:

Remove this timber and begin an initiation stage stand of DF on this isolated parcel with the next rotation.

Reduce falling tree hazard to county road and adjacent properties.

C. Preferred prescription alternative:

Silviculture harvest would be that of an even aged, single unit stand which is isolated by road from the rest of Banner Forest. Six trees per acre would have to be left to meet policy and legal requirements, but these could be of smaller size, 12" DBH and could be chosen so they are not be a hazard to the county roads or neighbors buildings. Reforestation would be in the form of hand planting DF seedlings. Other species would populate the site naturally.

D. Alternative prescriptions:

Alternatives for the parcel include a leaving of 10-15 trees per acre in an seed tree method harvest or leaving the stand uncut due to the proximity of the major county road.

A no harvest alternative would leaves us with a short fall of income for the forest over the next two decades. This would

require a higher volume harvest on the other mapping units which would require larger clear cut units or less core leave area. Harvesting this unit in relation to the other units gives better spacial distribution of harvest units.

Leaving 10-15 trees per acre could be accomplished by leaving smaller trees and judiciously placing them to avoid falling on the county roads or adjacent property.

SUMMARY

Sale layouts and design would occur during the pre-sales phase, using different silviculture methods, size and shapes of cutting units, to meet the goals and objectives of the Forest and the objectives of individual inventory units.

Timber harvest in these mapping units in the next decade will accomplish most of the plan's objectives. An estimated 1.8 million dollars could be realized over the next 10 years with approximately 4.7 million in the next two decades. These timber sales will develop a variety of stand structure stages, culminating in some "managed old growth" stands. A 55 acre wildlife core area will be established and larger older trees will be left scattered across the forest. These harvest units will create various plant and animal niches and will enhance educational and recreational opportunities.

COMMUNITY AND DNR PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS TO MEET PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Encourage the continuation of the Banner Forest Committee to take on projects such as clean up days, organizing and coordinating activities of local school teacher and administrations to use the forest for outdoor educational school activities. Work with the county extension agent to create educational programs.

B. Develop a core group of volunteers who would be willing, on a official capacity, to patrol and talk to users of the forest, explain rules and allowed uses of the forest. This would require and designated leader and at a minimum, 3 additional volunteers to do this activity on a regular (weekly?) bases. DNR would train and over see these people.

C. DNR would commit to meeting regularly with the Banner Forest Committee to explain future plans, activities, specifics of timber sales and other forest management activities and to here concerns or adjustments to this plan.



APPENDIX A

SUSTAINED YIELD UNIT" OR EVEN FLOW HARVEST CALCULATIONS

The Banner Forest is established as a "sustained yield unit" based on the inventory completed and on the projected annual harvest flow guideline. Table "A" summarizes the results of the inventory and Table "B", summarizes the analysis of the annual harvest. The following is a discussion of factors and considerations used in developing the annual harvest forecast and creating the "sustained yield unit".

Chart 1 shows the age distribution for the Banner Forest, derived from that inventory. This chart shows that most of the timber resources on the forest are mature or near mature and would be available for harvest under a regional or statewide, even age silviculture harvest scenario in the next decade. To establish a Banner Forest "sustained yield unit", harvest of this mature volume would need to be accomplished over a period of several decades which would allow for meeting the objectives of stand structure stage representatives on the forest. To develop some stands into an "managed old growth" stage, the older timber in some stands could be deferred from harvest and alternative silviculture practices and select "product" harvest could accelerate late serial stage stand structure development.

The other part of the "sustained yield unit" equation as it relates to annual harvest is estimating stand growth. An analysis using DNRIMPS growth model was done on tree stands within the forest to develop a mean annual increment or growth over a rotation period. Table "B" summarizes that analysis.

To complete the even annual harvest flow, a rotation age of 70 years was assumed. This fits with state policy and guidelines for state common school construction trust lands in western Washington. The site index for 80 per cent of this section is 100, with 20 percent in site index of 120. Growth projections (DNRIMPS model) show substantial merchantable volume is available after age 35 years, indicating the use of this 70 year rotation age.

Annual harvest analysis

Table "B" shows that there is approximately 4,759 MBF of merchantable, over mature (over 70 years) timber on the section. Harvest deferred on approximately 1,834 MBF (see Harvest Unit Prescriptions) would leave 2,925 MBF of volume available for harvest in these units. Projecting growth out 1/2 a rotation age (35 years) on the immature stands, a cumulative mean annual increment of 236,830 board feet scribner was derived. Using the formula "Annual Cut is equal to the Volume of mature timber divided by the Rotation age plus the increment of immature stands", annual harvest guideline for the Banner Forest would be 278,600 board feet scribner.



This annual harvest would project out an average annual harvest value of approximately \$150,000+ per year, based on recent average stumpage values. Product marketing and development of forest products on the forest would accomplish even higher values.

Conclusion

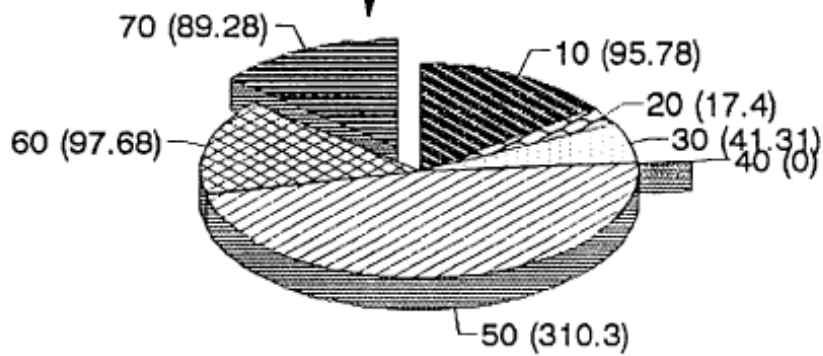
The harvest flow guideline projected by this analysis should create an annual harvest which will allow the DNR to exceed the annual harvest income objective of \$150,000. Individual harvesting units would create timber stands with varied structural development stages, provide for deferral of timber to meet community concerns and wildlife objectives.

BANNER FOREST

Ten Year Age Class Distribution

Chart 1

Mature timber, over 70 years old



(Acres in each 10 year Age Class)

TABLE "A"
BANNER PARCEL INVENTORY INFORMATION

MAPPING UNIT	MAP SYM	PRM SP	CONIF BA	% STOCK	CONF STEM PER AC	HWD BA	STAND ORIGIN	ACRES	SITE INDEX	VOLUME GROSS PER AC. MBF	VOLUME GROSS MAP UNIT MBF	STAGE STRUCTURE DEVELOP.	SOIL
8910003	3	DF	18	95%	1879	0	1986	18.46	103	0.00	0	INITIATION	HARSTINE
8910004	4	DF	150	78%	202	8	1938	123.08	106	18.64	2294	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910005	5	DF	32	97%	244	0	1979	17.4	103	0.00	0	INITIATION	HARSTINE
8910006	6	WH	213	110%	389	10	1937	1.88	90	25.60	48	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910007	7	DF	213	61%	242		1859	22.01	103	48.50	1067	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910008	8	DF	8	100%	749	0	1986	59.32	103	0.00	0	INITIATION	HARSTINE
8910009	9	WH	213	110%	389	40	1937	13.1	90	25.60	335	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910010	10	DF	91	47%	172	10	1971	41.31	103	0.00	0	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910012	12	DF	333	117%	414	0	1928	70.79	95	44.79	3171	EXCLUSION	KAPW/HARST
8910013	13	DF	81	42%	140	0	1937	25.19	103	20.74	522	EXCLUSION	KAPOWSIN
8910014	14	RA	6	32%		40	1936	8.09	109	24.06	195	EXCLUSION	ALDERWOOD
8910015	15	DF	128	58%	280	4	1938	138.96	103	14.96	2079	REINITIATION	KAPOWSIN
8910016	16	DF	180	70%	131	4	1924	26.07	121	54.58	1423	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910016	16A	DF	50	18%	15	15	1864	18	121	12.87	232	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910017	17	DF	7	97%	1020	0	1986	26.89	103	4.48	120	INITIATION	HARSTINE
8910018	18	DF	200	100%	228		1928	23.17	103	14.96	347	REINITIATION	HARSTINE
8910019	19	DF	196	89%	230		1900	8.46	103	54.58	462	EXCLUSION	HARSTINE
8910011	11	SMALL WET AREA						5.6	N/C			CLASS B	NORMA
TOTAL								647.78			12295		

17-May-95



TABLE "B"
EVEN FLOW HARVEST CALCULATIONS
70 YEAR ROTATION

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
17-May-95

MAPPING UNIT	MAP SYMBOL	PRI CONIF SPE	2 BA	HWP STOCK	STAND ORIGIN	Total Age	AGE CLASS	ACRES	SITE INDEX	VOLUME PER ACRE	TOTAL VOLUME MAPPING UNIT	1/2 ROTATION AGE				
												TOTAL NIA 1994	AGE PER AC	TOTAL NIA		
IMMATURE STANDS (LESS THAN 70 YEARS OF AGE)												NBF	NBF			
AGE CLASS 10																
0910008	8	DF	8	42	0	1986	10	10	59.32	103	0.00	0	0	45	395	23414
0910017	17	DF	7		0	1986	10	10	26.89	103	0.00	0	0	45	428	11508
0910003	3	DF	18	952	0	1986	10	10	18.46	103	0.00	0	0	45	540	9964
AGE CLASS 20																
0910005	5	DF	32	172	0	1979	15	20	17.4	103	0.00	0	0	50	532	9260
AGE CLASS 30																
0910010	10	DF	91	472	10	1971	23	30	41.31	103	0.00	0	0	58	634	26201
AGE CLASS 50																
0910014	14	RA	6		40	1936	58	50	8.09	109	4.48	36	425	93	9	71
0910013	13	DF	81	422	0	1936	58	50	25.19	103	11.80	279	5125	93	127	3196
0910004	4	DF	150	782	8	1938	56	50	123.08	106	18.64	1927	40959	91	496	61015
0910015	15	DF	128	582	4	1938	56	50	138.96	103	14.96	2079	37122	91	418	58943
0910009	9	WH	213	1102	40	1937	57	50	13.1	90	25.60	335	5884	92	758	9928
0910006	6	WH	213	1102	10	1937	57	50	1.88	90	25.40	48	844	92	758	1425
AGE CLASS 60												16.846	4705	552		
0910018	18	DF	200	1002	0	1928	66	60	23.17	103	29.90	693	10497	101	296	6860
0910012	12	DF	333	952	0	1928	66	60	70.79	95	20.74	1468	22242	101	353	16169
TOTAL IMMATURE STANDS (COLUMN TOTALS)									567.64			6865	128002	6295	237053	

TOTAL MEAN ANNUAL INCREMENT IMMATURE STANDS, DB. FT. SCRIBNER : 237053 :

MATURE STANDS 70 PLUS YEAR OF AGE	HARVEST VOLUME (NBF)		DEFERRED VOLUME (NBF)		AVAILABLE VOLUME (NBF)								
	VOLUME	AGE	VOLUME	AGE	VOLUME	AGE							
0910012	128	DF	160	422	1902	92	90	95	24.06	1703	601	1102	
0910016	16	DF	180	702	4	1919	75	70	16.1	121	54.58	757	
0910016	16A	DF	50	182	15	1864	130	130	18	121	12.871	232	
0910016	16B	DF	180	702	4	1919	75	70	10	121	54.58	546	
0910019	19	DF	196	892	0	1900	94	90	8.46	103	39.30	332	
0910007	7	DF	213	612	0	1894	100	100	22.01	103	48.50	1067	
0910011	11	SMALL WET AREA							M/C			318	
TOTAL MATURE STANDS (COLUMN TOTALS)									74.57		4759	1834	2925
TOTAL MATURE AND IMMATURE STANDS (COLUMN TOTAL)									642.21		11624		

WILDLIFE CORE AREA	VOLUME MATURE AND OVER MATURE TIMBER (70 YR+)	2925207 BF Scrib.
ACRES UNIT VOL	INCREMENT OF IMMATURE STANDS	237053 BF Scrib.
10 168 545800		
25 12 601425	ANNUAL CUT=V/R+I	278842 BF Scrib.
TOTAL	NUMBER OF YEARS TO REMOVE MATURE TIMBER	10 Years
35 1147225		



TABLE C
 HARVEST VOLUME, NEXT TWO DECADES
 VOLUMES IN THOUSAND BOARD FEET

MAPPING UNIT	TOTAL VOLUME	DECADE GROWTH	DEFERRED VOLUME	CORE AREA VOL	AVAIL VOLUME	NOTES
04	2294				367	
07	1067		318		749	POLE
12	3171	222	414	1116	1863	
13	297				118	
15	2079				85	POLE
16	1423		122	546	755	POLE
16A	232		232		0	
18	693	105	137		661	
19	332		15		317	
TOTAL VOLUME HARVEST GUIDE					4916 2788 PER DECADE	



multiple use activities.

-Maintaining all trails would be the responsibility of the volunteers.

- Can access be managed or controlled by physical barriers? Minimal control of access by barriers will require re-establishment of road blocks by DNR heavy equipment and continuous maintenance by volunteers.

- What is the tolerance of fire arm shooting on the Banner Forest?

The counties shooting ordinance would allow for shooting on the Banner parcel in some areas. The focus group however wants no shooting due to walking, biking and horse use and the encouragement of continuous use by wildlife species. We may need to establish this with the county sheriffs office.

IV. DNR Expectations of Volunteer Job.

- Patrol roads and trails during high use times, ie weekends and after work on sunny days. Talk to users and explain rules and answer basic questions about management plans, goals and objectives. Establish a "Banner Forest Patrol".

- Clean up garbage, report to DNR, abandoned vehicles.

- Maintain blocked roads and trails by activities which can be accomplished by hand tools and "people power". Report major problems to DNR in timely manner.

- Report illegal activities to Sheriffs office and DNR ASAP.

Minimum training and equipment requirements.

_ Training in confrontation management, basic first-aid, CPR, and basic knowledge of RCW and WAC rules.

- Minimal equipment to include, hand tools, vehicle, 1st-aid kit and flashlight.

- Due to location, immediate communication would not be required but desirable.

V. Time and Dollar Commitment by DNR.

- Block illegal roads and trails by heavy equipment, -

Quarterly visit of one to two days by heavy equipment,

- Training of volunteers in confrontation management, basic RCW and WAC knowledge and procedures.

- Development of good lock system for gates and establishment of better gate on Ollala Valley Road side.

- Supplies for Volunteers (some):

Power saw when required, Green Mt Volunteers.

Pulaskie and shovel.

1st Aid kit or pack, similar to GM vol.

Keys to gate.

- Provide garbage removal services.

_ Once a month contact by DNR Volunteer Coordinator, Matthew.

VI. Volunteer Job Descriptions.

BANNER FOREST PATROL

Banner Management Plan, Volunteer Plan

May 18, 1995



- Six to Eight volunteers recruited from community.
- Each volunteer to provide own transportation, liability insurance, valid drivers licence and vehicle to be well maintained.
- Some hand tools and other personal equipment.
- 1st aid card from local Fire Department.
- Fair physical conditioning.
- Cell phone desirable yet not required.

Specific Job Duties:

- Check all roads and trails for un-authorized use and evaluate entry points.
- Check blocked road locations and note any required work.
- Visit Banner Forest on week end days and on evenings during months with long daylight hours.
- Walk trails.
- Be eyes and ears for DNR.
- Distribute maps and information.
- Answer basic questions about forest plan and DNR management activities. Offer to pass on questions or comments to DNR.
- Provide or call for emergency assistance.
- Keep written log of activities, events or occurrences.

BANNER FOREST PATROL LEADER

- Group will appoint a volunteer leader who is established in community, and is good organizer, willing to make contacts in the community.
- Leader will organize and direct the group, developing patrol schedules, insure volunteers meet minimum requirements and find work party leaders and/or recruits.
- Leader will be the primary contact for Banner Forest Patrol, both from DNR and volunteers.
- Leader will be contact person for DNR in emergency situations. Leader will provide assistance to emergency crews.

BANNER WORK PARTIES

- * Garbage clean up
- * Repair of road blocks.
- Work parties will be organized by Banner Forest Patrol Leader or patrol representative.
- Each volunteer worker would be responsible to bring tools if requested. Some tools could be acquired from DNR and kept by leader.
- Each volunteer is responsible to get to work site.
- Organization of work parties using service clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts or other organizations will be done through and by the Banner Forest Patrol Leader or patrol representative.
- One Banner Forest Patrol person should be present with work parties.

NEXT 10 YEAR DECADE HARVEST PLAN



Inventory Units Available
For Harvest

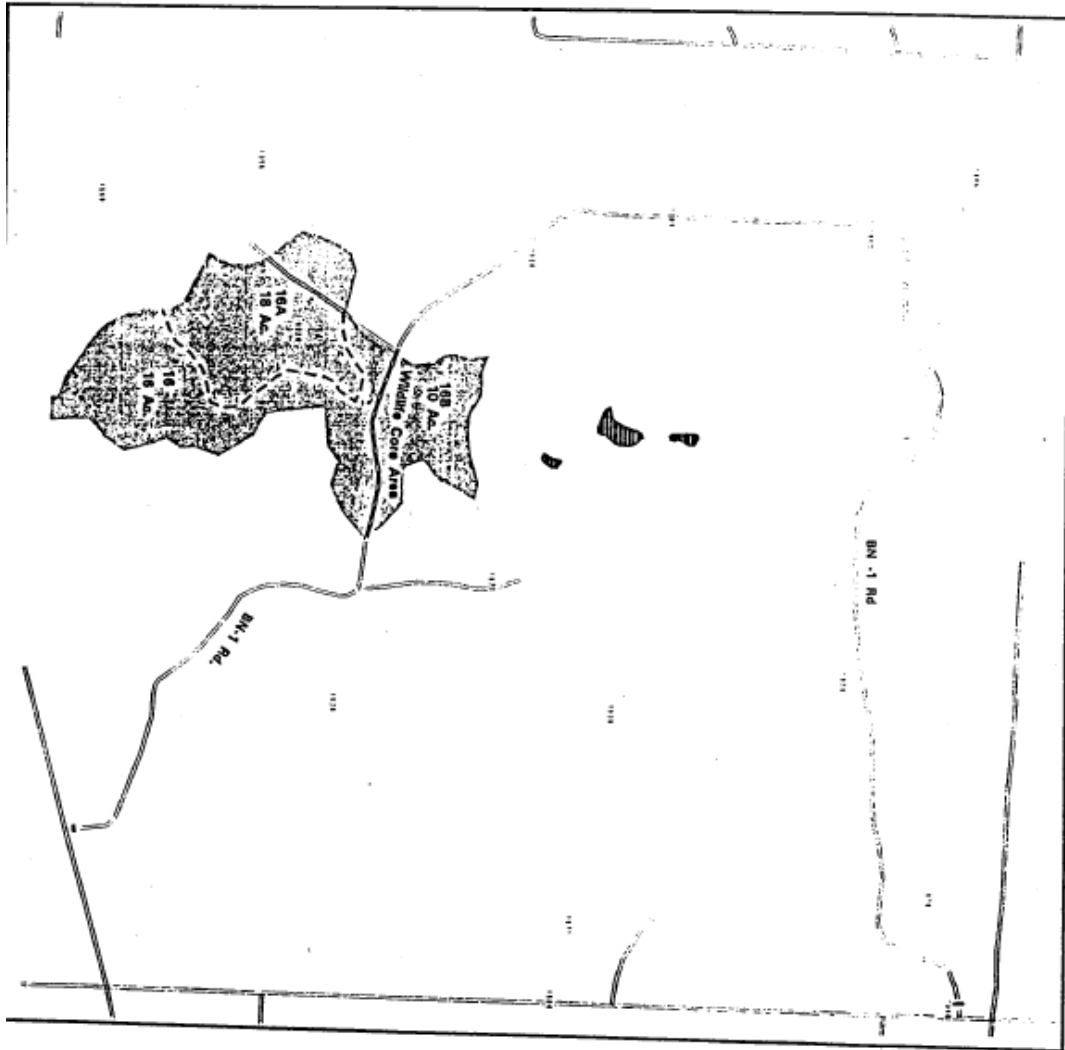
Harvest next 10 years
Meets Even Flow Objecti

Harvest 2nd Decade
Meets Even Flow Objecti

Defer Harvest
Core Area



Inventory Map Unit 16



Inventory Map Unit 19



APPENDIX B

Conservation Easement – Summary Statement and
Agreement

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT
SUMMARY STATEMENT**

On December 18, 2000, Kitsap County granted to Great Peninsula Conservancy a conservation easement on a 139 acre portion of Banner Forest. These 139 acres, approximately a quarter of the total area of the Forest, contain a wetland and the woodland area surrounding it. The easement document, including a map locating the site, is Appendix A of the Banner Forest Master Plan.

Purpose of the Conservation Easement

Because of its value as wildlife habitat and its perceived importance to the public as an educational, scenic and open space area, Kitsap County declared its intention to preserve the site forever in its present use. To that end, the County conveyed to Great Peninsula Conservancy the right to preserve and protect these 139 acres. -

Great Peninsula Conservancy Great Peninsula Conservancy is a publicly supported, tax-exempt nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the waters, wetlands, aquatic and wildlife habitat, timberlands, scenic areas, open spaces, recreational lands and agricultural lands in Kitsap County and parts of Mason and Pierce Counties.

Responsibilities of Great Peninsula Conservancy

By the terms of the conservation easement, Great Peninsula Conservancy is charged with retaining the 139 acres forever in its natural and open space condition and with preventing uses which would impair or interfere with the conservation values of the site. Because of the seasonal fragility of the easement site, the Conservancy has determined uses there may be more restricted than in other parts of Banner Forest. It remains the Conservancy's intent, however, to permit uses which don't compromise the site's conservation values.

Section 2.3 of the Conservation Easement for Banner Forest Wetlands details uses prohibited on the site. They include but are not limited to: subdivision and development, commercial or industrial use, commercial logging, construction of sports fields, operation of recreational motor vehicles, walking dogs off leash and riding bicycles and horses except on trails designated by Great Peninsula Conservancy.

Amendment

Should the need arise, Kitsap County and Great Peninsula Conservancy may jointly amend or modify the easement providing the amendment doesn't compromise the purpose of the easement or its perpetual duration.

***THE FULL TEXT OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT WILL BE
PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.***

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Parametrix, Inc.



DATE: 12/12/02



**Exhibit A
Map of Conservancy
Easement**

200101100180
Page: 14 of 14
01/18/2001 03:28P
KITSPF COUNTY PARKS & REC. EDIT REVISOR Kitsap Co. WA

12/09/02

18



APPENDIX C

Banner Forest Stewardship Committee

BANNER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

BANNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Resident of</u>	<u>Add'l interests</u>
Original Banner Forest Committee	Chuck McGuire Michelle McFadden Chris Smith Julie Tappero ¹	Banner Road Port Orchard Olalla	trust lands horseback riding teaching, horticulture open space
ADA	Nancy Yargus	Olalla	neighbor
ATVs	Ryan Forstrom	Olalla	open space
Bicycling	Patricio Salgado	Port Orchard	DNR Focus group
Education	Marian Brennan	Olalla	taught grade school
Flora	Frank Holcom ²	Olalla	environmental ed.
Forestry	Robert Pilger	Port Orchard	bicycling
Hiking	Sue Felix	Port Orchard	community service
Horse riding	Maureen Kelly ³	Port Orchard	park patrol
Neighbors	John McRee ⁴	Port Orchard	recreation
Recreation	David Foote	South Colby	Leadership Kitsap
Wildlife	Doris Small ⁵	Olalla	recreation
Youth	Charlotte Garrido ⁶	Olalla	public involvement

¹ Alternate is Karla Crowell.
² Alternate is Bob Wilermood.
³ Alternate is Oliver Call.
⁴ Alternate is David Hemmerick.
⁵ Alternate is Chris Magill.
⁶ Alternate is Amy Harding.

APPENDIX D

Proposed Signs for Banner Forest

Three categories of signs are needed in Banner Forest:

Entrance signs at major trailheads into Banner Forest (and limited placement internally)

- Map of Banner
- Park hours, contact information
- Banner Forest etiquette:
 - Enjoy the forest and respect its habitat
 - Guard against all risk of fire
 - Keep your dogs under close control
 - Take your litter home
 - Protect wildlife, plants, and trees
 - No motor vehicles, weapons
 - Respect Banner Forest neighbors

Interpretive signs at significant points

- The Land Trust wetlands
- "Nature walk" area
- Banner school site
- Major trails

Waymarking signs for trails within Banner Forest (small, arrow points to trail. Main trails include distance to next trail, may also indicate if there is a limited trail use)

APPENDIX E

Inventory of Banner Forest Trees and Plants

WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.

Appendix C:

Habitat Protection (2010-2012)





BANNER FOREST HABITAT GOAL:

To conserve and protect the habitat of the Banner Forest, while providing for recreation that is consistent with conservation of the natural environment.

The Banner Forest Watch Group habitat subcommittee established the following objectives to protect habitat and natural resources within Banner Forest:

Highest protection for highest quality habitat

Identify best soils & conditions for forest growth

Identify sensitive habitats (e.g. wetlands)

Identify species or groups of species with specific habitat needs

Lowest disturbance in highest quality habitats

Protect wetlands & wetland buffers

Prevent habitat fragmentation

Provide wildlife corridors

Protect water quality

Evaluate soils & slopes for trail suitability

To identify the highest quality habitat in Banner Forest, we evaluated information from soil maps and other conditions that influence forest health, such as drainage and water availability. This information is available from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>) as a "web soil survey report".

The tree site index indicates potential tree height and is a measure of forest productivity. In

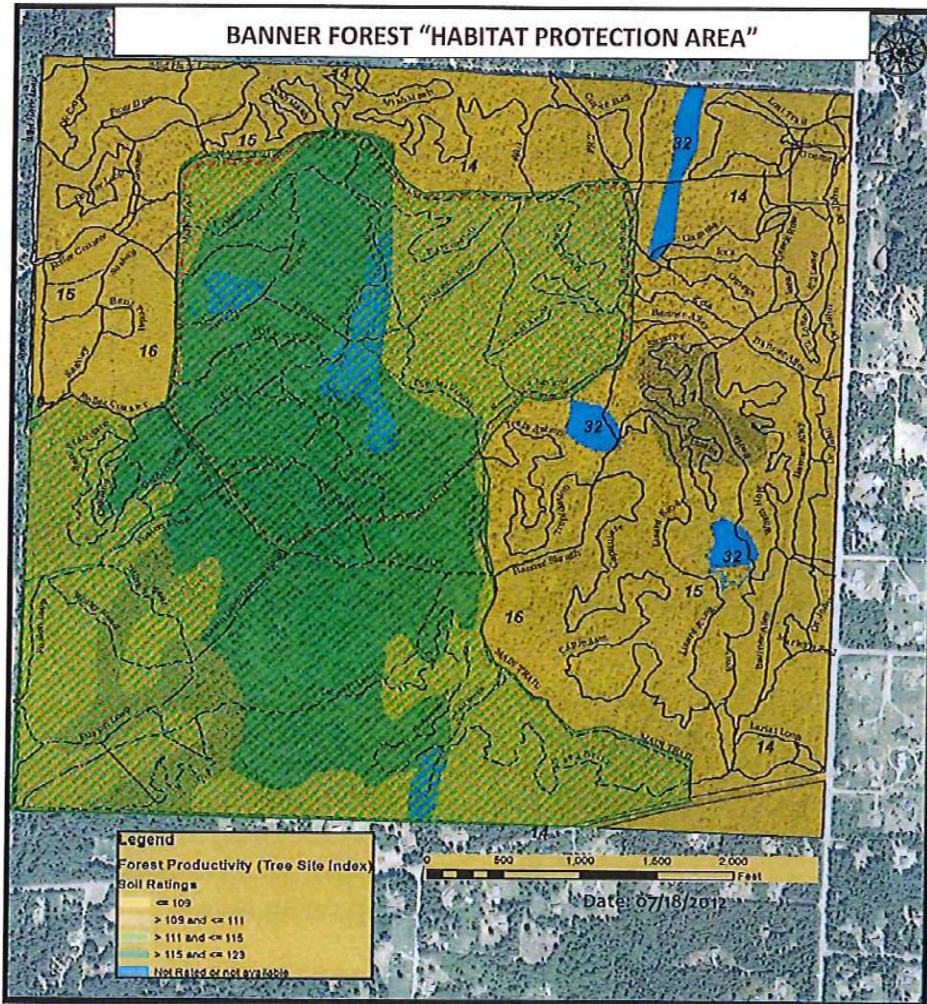


this graphic from the report, the tree site index is shown over an aerial photograph of Banner Forest. The darker colors (green and dark brown) represent the tall trees of the future based on soils, water availability, slope, drainage and other factors.

The conservation easement granted by Kitsap County to the Great Peninsula Conservancy is also shown on this map as a red dashed line. This area was set aside for additional management measures in 1999 to assure protection of this high quality habitat.

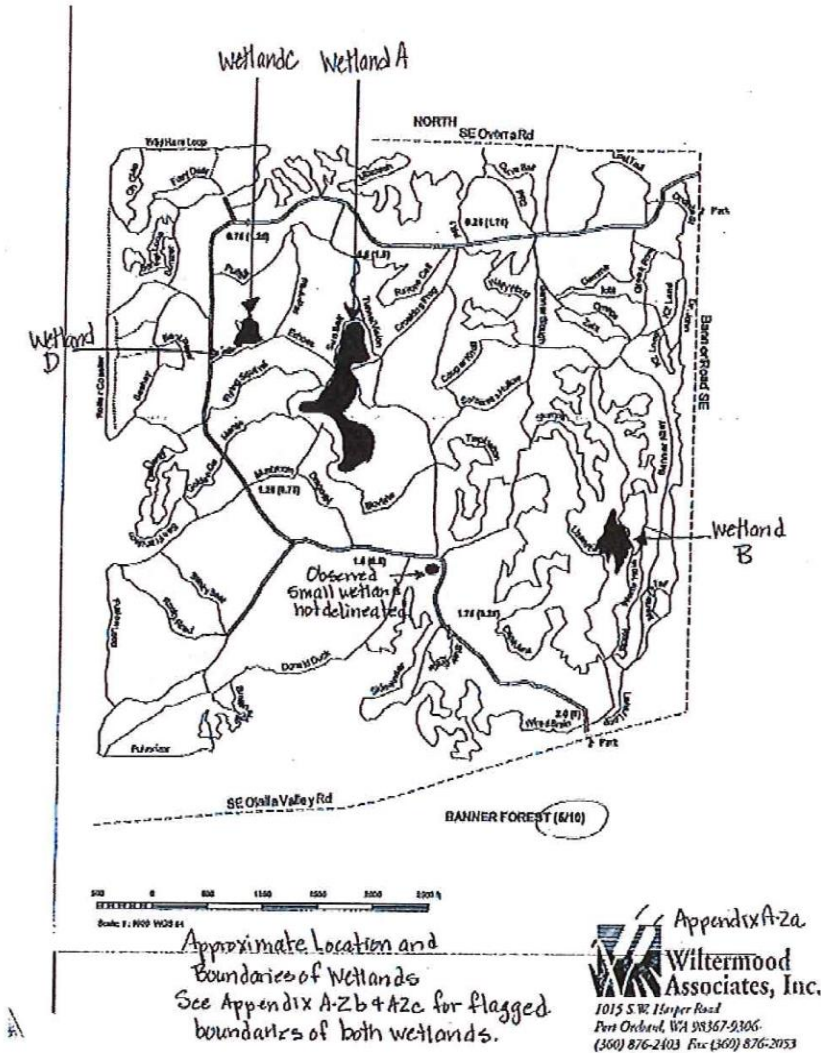
ACTION 1: IDENTIFY THE HIGHEST QUALITY HABITAT IN BANNER FOREST

Based on the analysis, the subcommittee recommends that the cross-hatched area in the map below be identified as the highest quality habitat potential within Banner Forest. This area contains the conservation easement area as well as most of the highest potential forest productivity within the Forest.



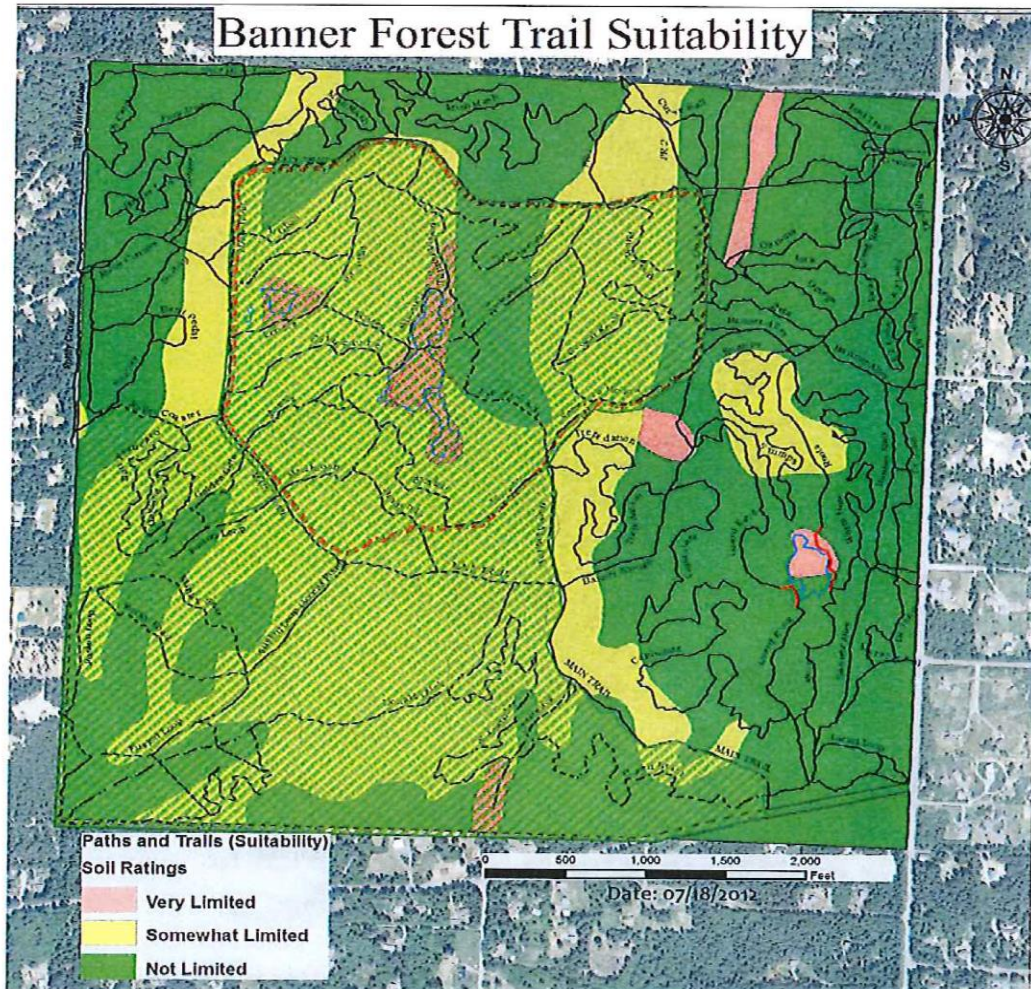
Location	Within Habitat Protection Area	Outside of Habitat Protection Area
Area (square miles)	0.52	0.48
Estimated miles of "named" trail	12.2	16.9
Density (miles of "named" trail per square mile)	23.5	36.1

In addition to the Habitat Protection Area, wetlands should receive protection as a high quality habitat for Banner Forest resources. Almost all of the larger wetlands identified within the wetland report by Wiltermood Associates (2010) are within the proposed Habitat Protection Area. Wetland "B" is outside of the area, but should be managed to remain high quality habitat.



The subcommittee also looked to identify wildlife species of special concern or needing special habitat conditions. The forest has much to offer for wildlife, but the Priority Habitat and Species database from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife did not note occurrences of priority species (e.g. bald eagle nests, mountain quail) or identify additional habitats of concern, other than the wetlands previously indicated.

While evaluating the soil conditions in Banner Forest, the habitat subcommittee also considered which locations within Banner Forest had limitations for trail building or maintenance. This map was also generated from the soils report and indicates, based on soil types, drainage and slope, that trail suitability within the forest is generally good. The area with the least limitations (“not limited”) is generally outside of the proposed Habitat Protection Area, while the “somewhat limited” area was generally outside of the proposed Habitat Protection Area. Known wetland sites were identified as “very limited”.



ACTION 2: IDENTIFY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WITHIN HIGH QUALITY HABITAT

Current recreational use within the forest is relatively low impact. College interns working with the habitat subcommittee surveying the trails observed some signs of erosion (deep trail paths), trail widening and trail spur construction, generally considered to be signs of trail impacts from high use. However, the erosion and widening was typically localized. Spur building appeared most concentrated near trailheads. These metrics need continued monitoring to avoid additional impacts.

Trail densities should be kept low to avoid habitat fragmentation, disturbance of sensitive wildlife species, and prevent water quality impacts. This large tract of forest is used by large and small animals, some of which are more sensitive to disturbance than others. If disturbance increases, more sensitive wildlife species may no longer be able to use the forest as habitat.

We recommend the following principles for habitat protection to avoid additional trail density impacts and mitigate existing impacts from trail construction. These principles should be implemented within both the Habitat Protection Area and outside of the Habitat Protection Area (managed as separate units).

NO NET GAIN OF TRAIL LENGTH: If construction of a new trail is desired (and approved by Kitsap County Parks), then a trail of equal length should be removed.

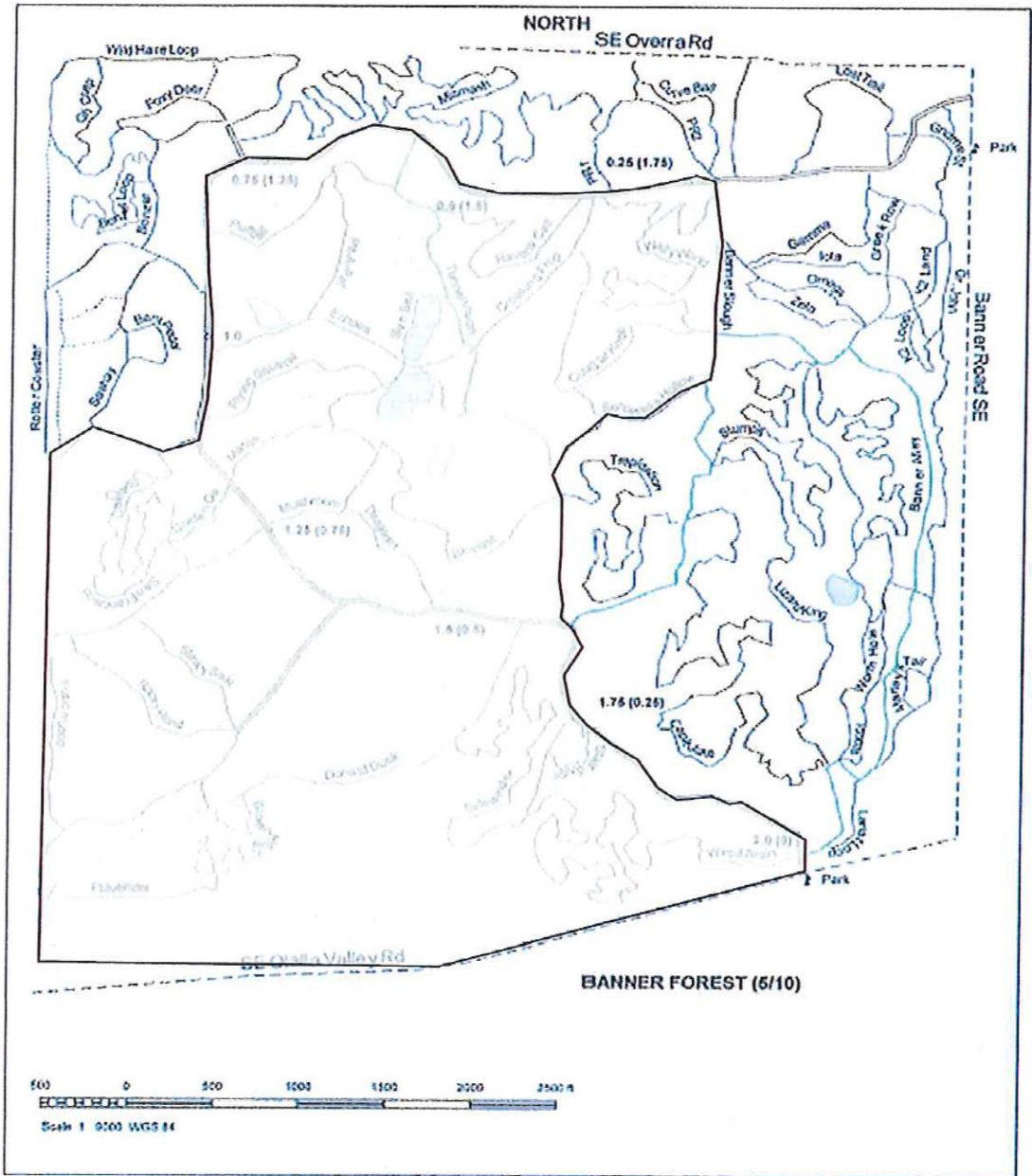
DECOMMISSION “UNNAMED” TRAILS, SPURS & CONNECTORS: The major trails of Banner Forest, as identified by interns working with the habitat subcommittee, are correctly located and named on a user-group map produced in May 2010 and widely circulated. Trails that are not identified by name on this map should be decommissioned, including small spurs and connectors between trails, to keep trail impacts minimal. We recommend that the Banner Forest Stewardship committee (to be formed) begin this work starting with the Habitat Protection Area and moving on to the area outside of the Habitat Protection Area.

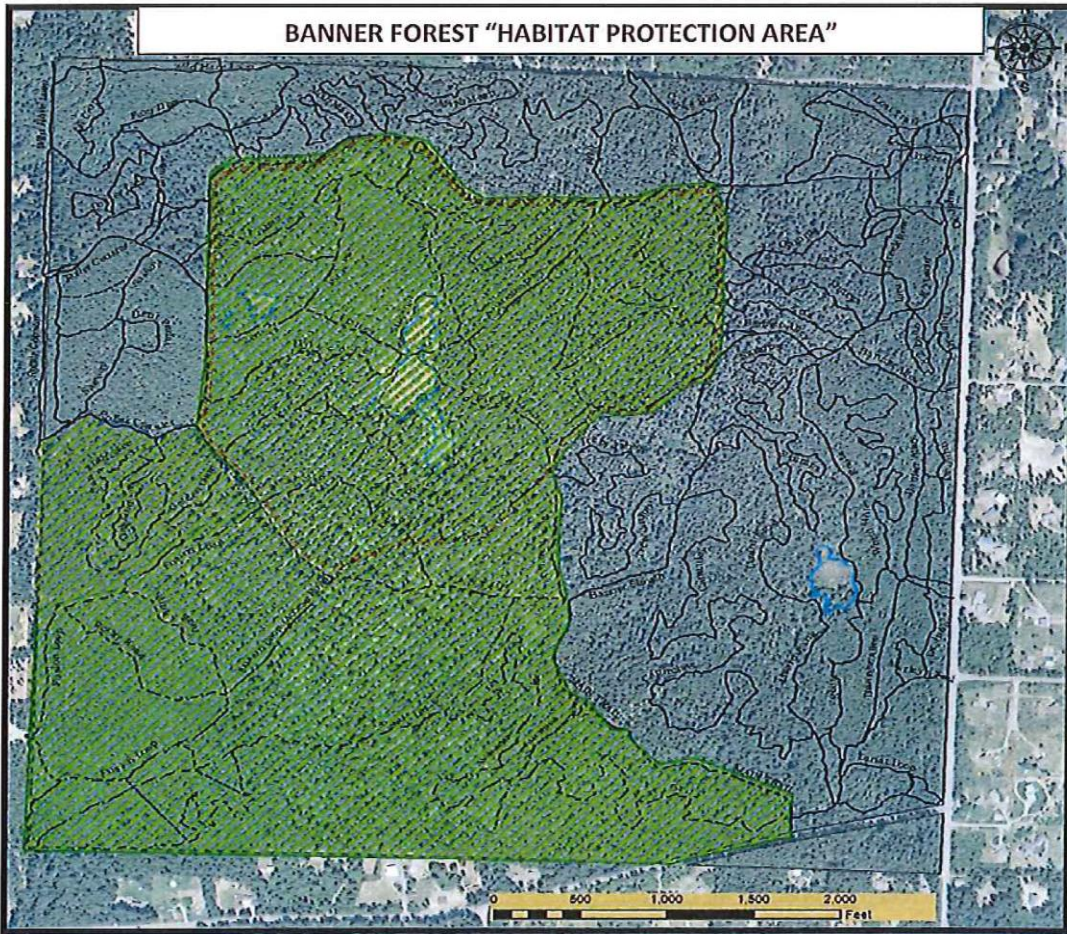
EVALUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE TRAIL DENSITY WHEN CLOSE TOGETHER: Where trails are very close (within sight, e.g. Greek Row), we recommend that the Stewardship Committee evaluate opportunities to reduce trail density. Densely packed trails impact wildlife movement and amplify impacts to vegetation and water quality.

Adaptive Management principles are important to guide habitat protection measures. We recommend that the Stewardship Committee (working with Kitsap County Parks and Recreation) implement an adaptive management plan for Banner Forest to:

- Monitor the potential impacts of trails in terms of trail density, widening, erosion, etc.
- Monitor biological factors such as vegetation growth, diversity, health
- Evaluate the monitoring information to assess the effectiveness of the habitat protection measures

- Suggest and implement improved management strategies, where needed.
- Begin the feedback loop again by monitoring the effectiveness of improved habitat protection measures.

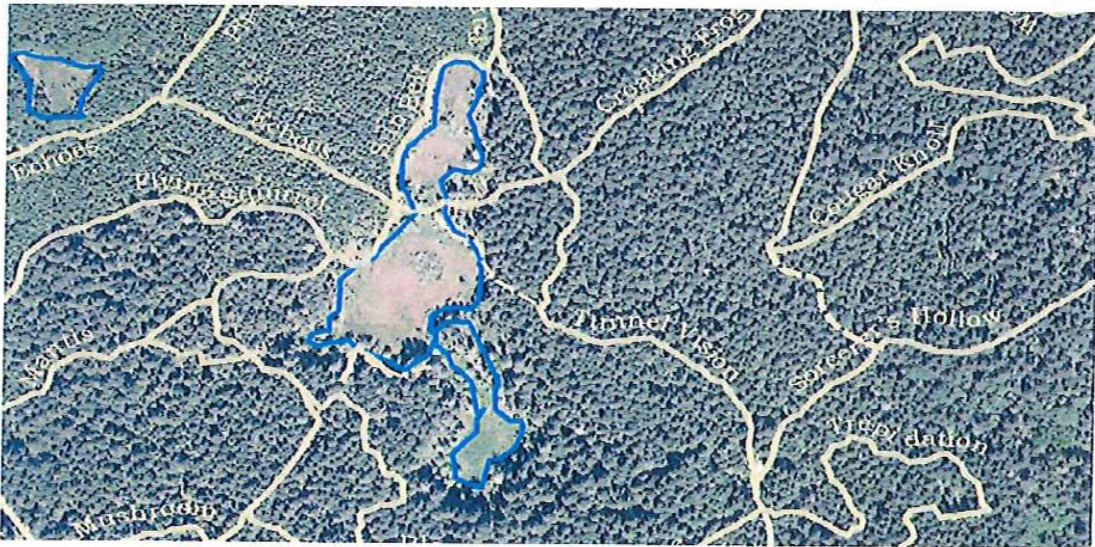




Wetlands and Wetland Buffer Habitat Protection Measures: Wetlands and wetland buffers are described in the wetland report by Wiltermood Associates in 2010 and included as an appendix in the Banner Forest Management Plan report. Kitsap County Critical Area Ordinance requires buffers of undisturbed vegetation on the identified wetland for new construction. While trail use is relatively low impact, the Banner Forest Watch Group habitat subcommittee recommends that the trails within the buffers of Wetland A and Wetland B be modified as follows to protect wetland habitat.

Wetland A: Some of the named trails around the wetland are within the 50 foot buffer identified by the Kitsap County Critical Area Ordinance as needed for habitat protection. Sun Belt and Echoes are also two of the oldest established trails in the park and serve as popular connecting trails to access many locations in the park. The habitat subcommittee and interns evaluated the trail and observed relatively low impact of the Sun Belt trail. As most of the wetland buffer is undisturbed, we recommend that the trail remain in place within the buffer,

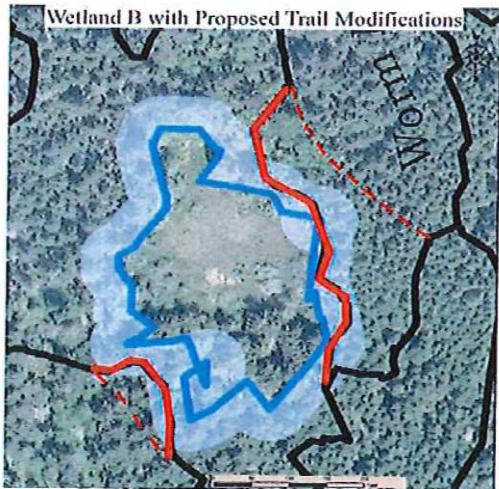
since moving the trail could cause greater disturbance. The crossing of the wetland at Echoes would be improved by use of a crossing structure (small bridge, culverts). There were also several unnamed trails around (and through) the wetlands which should be decommissioned to reduce impacts.



Recommendations for Wetland A:

Decommission unnamed trails around edge of wetland (dashed lines)

Build structure at wetland crossing to reduce impacts (multi-user friendly)



Wetland B: This wetland is located between long established trails Lizard King and Worm Hole. Some of the wetland is forested and not easily identified by appearance alone. Forested wetland is difficult to replace and should receive high protection. The subcommittee recommends that trails within the 50 foot buffer (by Kitsap County Critical Area Ordinance) be modified to remain outside of the buffer area.

Recommendations for Wetland B:

Modify trail sections within 50' of Wetland B to

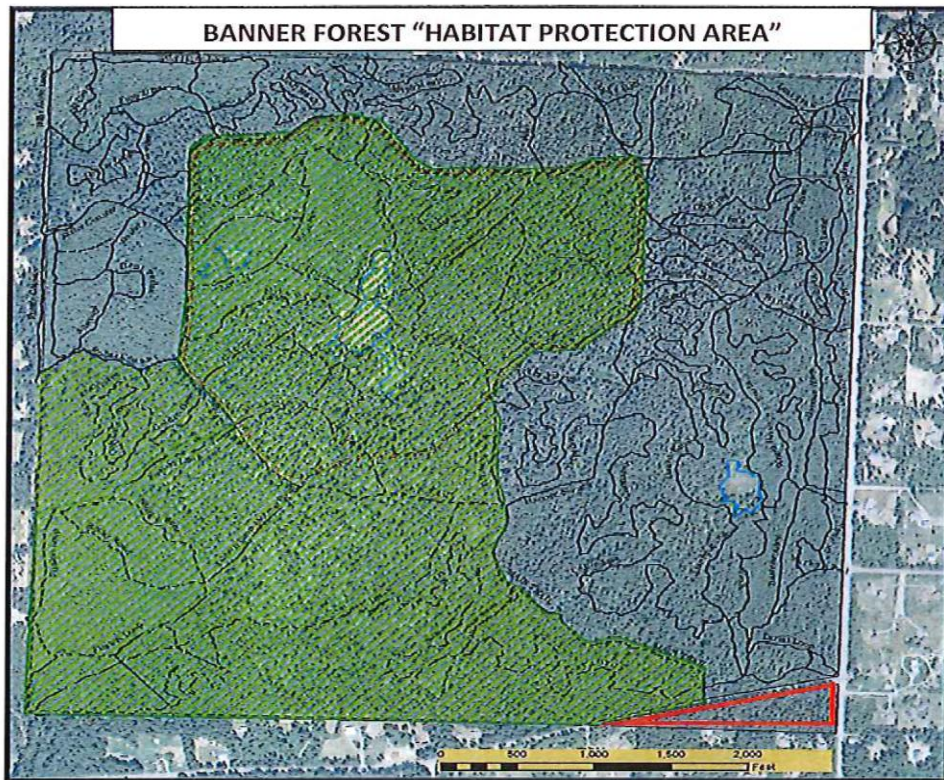
protect forested wetland habitat

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION PLAN:

ACTION 3: The southeast corner of the park has a triangular shaped piece that is cut off from the rest of the park by the County road. While this area supports large trees and other natural resources, the location decreases habitat values as it is not directly connected to larger portion of the park. In addition, park users do not tend to recreate in this area.

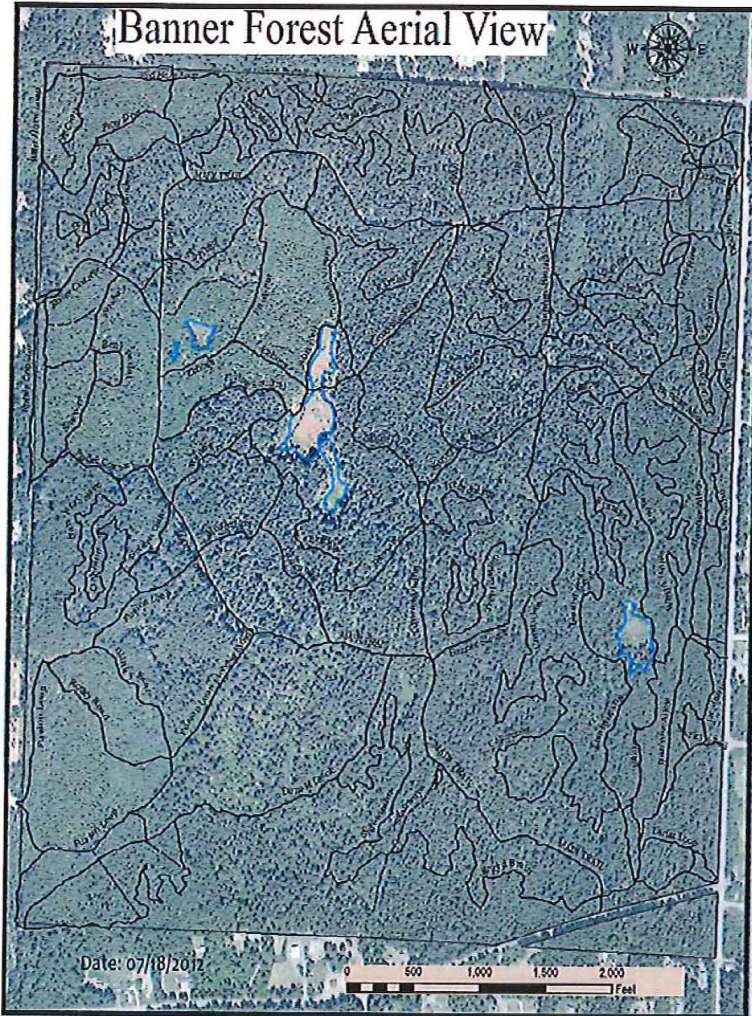
The habitat subcommittee suggests that the County consider using this portion of the park to address parking issues or to do a land swap that would provide better habitat value for the park.

This suggestion has not been discussed with neighboring property owners, nor are any parcels for a potential land swap been identified. However, it is important to point out that this area is not highly important for habitat and may be the best place to look to solve other issues, such as parking, without decreasing high value habitat.



ACTION 4: Evaluate trail system to retain, decommission or modify trails based on safety and recreational considerations:

<u>Safety</u>	<u>Recreational considerations</u>
<i>Sight distance</i>	<i>Multi-use overall</i>
<i>Multi-user conflict</i>	<i>Trail connections & duplications</i>
<i>Speed</i>	<i>Variety of recreational types</i>
<i>Steep terrain</i>	



Potential trail modifications could include:

<i>Alternate trail route</i>	<i>Seasonal use</i>
<i>Change alignment</i>	<i>User restriction</i>
<i>One way travel</i>	<i>Maintenance recommended</i>

Summary of Proposed Recommendations for Banner Forest Management Plan
(to be adopted by Kitsap County Parks and the Kitsap County Commissioners and implemented by the Banner Forest Stewardship Committee)

Identify and apply greater protection to "Habitat Protection Area".

Maintain trail density inside of Habitat Protection Area and outside of Habitat Protection Area – no net gain in trail mileage for either area of the park.

Within Wetland A vicinity:

- *Decommission all informal trails within wetland*
- *Install footbridge or other structure at wetland crossing*
- *Adopt seasonal use policy for Sun Belt & wetland crossing, if needed, and until wetland crossing structure complete*

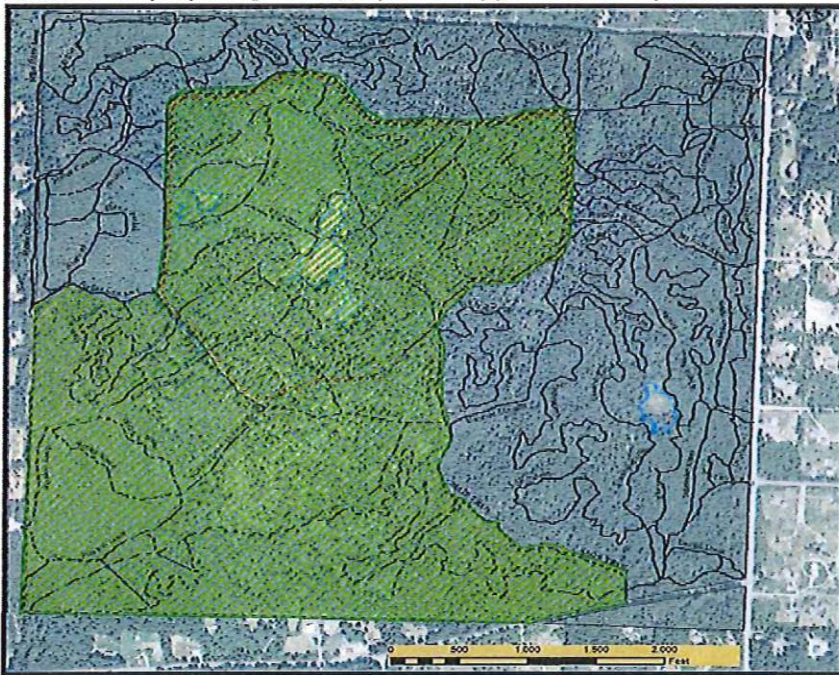
Within Wetland B vicinity:

- *Modify Lizard King & Worm Hole to pass outside of wetland buffer area*

Beginning within the "Habitat Protection Area", reduce density of unauthorized trails by closing unnamed trails (by May 2010 map), connectors, spurs, etc.

Sign these closed trails to indicate vegetation restoration is taking place (let it heal).

Consider "re-purposing" triangle portion of forest south of road



Adaptive Management:

Stewardship committee, in coordination with Kitsap County Parks staff, monitors over next two years and determine if additional modifications or closures needed (e.g. combining trails, reduce switchbacks, seasonal use, etc.)



Appendix D:

Trail System Maps and Field Notes (2011)

Available at the Parks Department upon request





Appendix E

Wetlands Report (2010)

Available at the Parks Department upon request

