Appendix A: SWOT Analysis Matrix

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Large size • Existing trails • At least one access point • Ability to set rules (own) • Conservation easement: rules set • Long term steward-IC=stability • Adequate stewardship account • Don't have to immediately take action – land is OK now • Existing volunteer base • Park staff support • Commissioner support • Lack of non-corridor weeds • Wildlife corridor • Watershed protection and aquifer recharge • Compatibility w IC Parks Plan and Trail Plan • Not next to large population center • On bus route • ADA trail	• Large size • Limited parking • Invasive species onsite • Budgetary constraints: <staff, $ • More trails than want • Lack of infrastructure, e.g., parking • Need for forest mgmt. and plan • Political – leadership at IC will change • Lack of multiple access points, esp. on south and west • Share border with 54 parcels • Northern neighbor road easement
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Passionate community interest/history • Positive press coverage • FWSD use • Connection to SW State Park and MBarC and opportunity for expansion • Educate community • Partnership with other organizations (tribes education, science) • Enhance natural resources/protection • Carbon sequestration • Ability to take LONG view • Future grant opportunities • Create planned community access • User group support, resources, volunteer, $$ • Opportunity to receive revenue from effective management that would offset other stewardship expenses	• People with existing use patterns • Misuse by people, horses, dogs, bikes • Fire • Illegal camping • ORVs • Brush pickers and harvesters of forest products • Hunting/firearms • Freeland Water and Sewer District • Invasive species off-site • Future development around site • Community resistance to education • Insects/disease • Neighbor trails into property • Over management of forest; making $$ • Neighbor disputes • Growing population, incl. Freeland

Appendix B:
Trillium Community Forest - Management Plan Issue Paper

Wildlife Habitat

1. Introduction.

The Vision states that, "The Trillium Community Forest is a healthy forest ecosystem which supports a **vibrant native wildlife community** where people experience the wonders of nature." Guiding Principle 1 states that, "The primary purpose for the Trillium Community Forest is ecological protection and restoration. This means that the forest is increasingly healthy, diverse, and progressing to old-growth characteristics and **wildlife habitat connections are protected and, if needed, restored**." The first part of Guiding Principle 2 states that, "The Trillium Community Forest is welcoming and accessible to the public for non-motorized uses **in harmony with nature**." (Bold added).

The Vision Statement and the Guiding Principles make clear that one of the highest priorities for the Trillium Community Forest is protecting and enhancing habitat and corridors for native wildlife. The forest's wildlife habitat can be protected in two principal ways. The first is balancing the needs of wildlife with outdoor recreation. The second is expanding the Community Forest to provide additional habitat and to protect wildlife corridors between important natural areas. Please refer to the *Boundary Expansion Issue Paper* for details concerning expansion. In addition, forest thinning over the next 30+ years by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust will restore wildlife habitat by accelerating the return of old-growth characteristics.

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the case of wildlife and trails, sustainability is about enjoying trails today without precluding the ability of future generations to enjoy wildlife. A trail contributing to the sustainability of an area meets people's desire to experience nature while not compromising the ecological integrity of the area. Sustainability requires careful planning of trails so that they do not degrade biodiversity. (This paragraph derived from *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind,* CO State Parks Sept. 1998).

2. Background Information.

In order to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, public use must be managed. One of the most common ways that humans affect wildlife is by fragmenting habitat with trails. As the Community Forest accommodates more users, impacts to wildlife will grow. The challenge today is to effectively and appropriately balance wildlife protection with human recreation.

Much of the information below was derived from two documents: Referred to below as "Lit 1" is *Wildlife Corridors and Permeability, A literature review* (April 2010, OR Metro). Referred to below as "Lit 2" is *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, A Handbook for Trail Planner*s (Sept. 1998, CO State Parks). For a discussion on deer browse and impacts on birds, please see the *Public Use Issue Paper.* The premise of this Issue Paper is that all recreation in the Community Forest will be non-motorized. This

Issue Paper is not a scientific document but rather a guide for decision-makers in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat in the Community Forest.

A. Habitat Fragmentation

(1) Habitat fragmentation is considered by many biologists to be the single greatest threat to biological diversity. An area crisscrossed with trails ends up with few areas not somehow influenced by humans. (Lit 2)

(2) Habitat fragmentation diminishes the landscape's capacity to sustain healthy native wildlife populations primarily through habitat loss, reduced habitat patch size, increased edge habitat, increased isolation of patches and modification of disturbance. (Lit 1)

(3) Habitat loss and fragmentation partially or fully isolate many remaining habitat patches. Over time, isolated habitat patches tend to lose wildlife species, and without connectivity, these species cannot repopulate an area.

(4) Fragmentation reduces the amount of and access to habitats needed to meet species' requirements, thereby lowering the number of individuals of a given species that can be supported, reducing population sizes and increasing the likelihood of local extinctions. (Lit 1)

(5) Habitat fragmentation increases the extent and proportion of edge habitat, increasing ecological effects associated with edges. Invasive plant and animal species are much more prevalent in edge than in interior habitats. Although the number of species is sometimes higher in edge habitats, the number of habitat specialists, which tend to be more sensitive or at-risk species, decreases. Some species rely on large areas of relatively undisturbed interior habitat, and many sensitive species, such as migratory songbirds, avoid edges. (Lit 1)

(6) Some bird species, including the following species in the Community Forest, may be particularly sensitive to habitat fragmentation or disturbance and appear to require large habitat patches during the breeding season: Rufous Hummingbird, Swainson's Thrush, Pacific Wren, Brown Creeper, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. (Lit 1)

B. Wildlife Corridors and Connections

(1) Improving habitat connectivity will help maintain the region's biodiversity by allowing species to move as needed to fulfill their life cycle requirements. (Lit 1)

(2) The general scientific consensus is that connections between habitat fragments are crucial to the persistence of many species and populations, and that well-designed corridors can play a key role in maintaining ecosystem functions. Corridors provide the opportunity for many species to traverse through habitat that is not suitable for permanent residency to locate better habitat, find a mate, disperse from natal areas, escape predation or other dangers, and access habitats needed seasonally or at different stages of life. (Lit 1).

(3) Some species, such as many migratory songbirds, may be unwilling or unable to traverse developed areas. Developing a regional map of core wildlife habitats and existing or desired connectivity

provides a way to target specific species and areas to yield the highest ecological return for dollars spent. (Lit 1).

(4) Wildlife corridors serve as conduits for animal movement and provide habitat. An important additional function is genetic exchange between populations. (Lit 1)

C. Habitat Size

(1) Some studies suggest that breeding bird species and some small mammals in forested habitats may be sensitive to habitat patch size during the breeding season, including the following found in the Community Forest: Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Downy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hairy Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrust, Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, and Douglas squirrel, Townsend's chipmunk and Trowbridge's shrew. (Lit 1)

(2) Studies in Oregon find that habitat patch sizes of 30 acres is probably close to a minimum "large" patch with some species requiring much larger habitat patches. (Lit 1)

(3) There are benefits to preserving smaller or edge-dominated habitat patches as well. Although wider is clearly better, long narrow habitats may provide key connecting corridors. Small patches interspersed between larger patches provide important stepping stones for wildlife movement. (Lit 1)

D. Trails and Edge Effects

(1) It seems clear that even relatively unobtrusive recreation, such as hiking and biking on trails, can have impacts on songbirds. For this reason, concentrating recreation and associated trails in currently used areas is recommended rather than spreading use to relatively un-impacted areas (van der Zande et al. 1984).

(2) Trails create edge habitat and may cause a variety of ecological impacts including trampling, soil compaction, erosion, fragmentation and edge effects, and introduction and spread of invasive plant species. (Lit 1)

(3) Trails introduce human disturbance, causing a flight response in birds at various distances from people (the "flush distance"). Nearly all bird species will flush if approached too closely by humans, and larger species or those species active near the ground tend to be less tolerant of disturbance. (Lit 1)

(4) Research indicates that dogs on or near trails disturb wildlife more than humans alone. Off-leash dogs may be particularly detrimental because some wildlife species can habituate to predictable disturbances but the behavior of off-leash dogs is unpredictable. (Lit 1).

(5) Despite the potential for disturbance, trails can provide opportunities to increase wildlife connectivity. Some species seem able to habituate to trails, including some habitat generalists and urban-associated species. However, these species are doing well while more sensitive species are

losing ground as disturbances increase in areas these species rely on for parts of their life cycles. (Lit 1)

(6) It is likely that simplified vegetation structure associated with edge habitat and urbanization, including lack of native shrubs, reduces the amount and quality of breeding habitat available for forest-dwelling songbirds. Native shrubs are important to both breeding and wintering native birds. (Lit 1).

E. Future Changes

(1) Urbanization (residential and commercial development) is likely to have a stronger and more rapid effect on local habitat than global climate change. Nonetheless, climate change is important to consider as it will likely trigger migration of animals and elevate the need for connectivity for wildlife and plant species as ranges shift. Also, anticipating species' ranges and habitat needs now may help them survive. (Lit 1)

(2) With climate change, existing habitat stressors including fragmentation, habitat loss and invasive species encroachment, will likely worsen. Scientists believe that corridors facilitating wildlife movement will be necessary for some species' survival. (Lit 1)

3. Recommendations:

A. Leave large areas of wildlife habitat undisturbed by humans to provide refuges for wildlife.

B. Identify migratory neo-tropical birds, owls and woodpeckers as the keystone species to conserve in the Community Forest.

C. Promote healthy habitat conditions for wildlife by:

(1) Increasing the structural diversity of native vegetation (ground cover, shrub, understory and canopy). The Land Trust should continue restoration thinning to help restore the forest to old-growth characteristics.
(2) Maintaining native vegetation and leaving woody debris on the forest floor.
(3) Eliminating invasive species that are causing significant habitat or species degradation.
(4) Providing functional habitat corridors and protecting adjacent undeveloped properties.
(5) Minimizing human intrusion and edge effects by limiting recreational use to a well-designed trail system.
(6) Practicing adaptive management.

D. Close trails that run through otherwise undisturbed areas, reroute trails near significant wetlands, and reroute trails or temporarily close trails near sensitive wildlife areas.

E. Reduce trail widths on old logging roads to reduce the zone of human impact on wildlife.

F. Require that dogs be kept on-leash and on-trail and limit the number of dogs in any one group. Consider seasonal exclusions to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Appendix C:
Trillium Community Forest - Management Plan Issue Papers

Public Uses

1. Background:

Determining which public uses are permitted in the Community Forest must include how those activities align with the Vision and Guiding Principles for Trillium Community Forest. Part of the Vision includes providing a place where current and future generations can experience the wonder of nature.

Any discussion of public use must begin with the realization that any use creates impacts. "People directly and indirectly affect the environment when they visit natural areas for the purpose of outdoor recreation" (Ewert, 1999). All uses are in some way damaging to a site. It is important to minimize damage to the Community Forest in the years to come in order to be consistent with the Vision for the property.

The Forest has been, and continues to be, used by the public in a variety of ways. Horseback riders, hikers, bicyclists, and hunters have used the property and have expressed interest in continuing these activities. The Land Trust conducted a series of focus group meetings in 2011. Each user group was invited to express concerns, interests and priorities with regard to the future management of the Forest. During the public meeting held in May 2011, participants emphasized public recreational opportunities as a focus for the community. See the *Public Comment Summary* document for more details.

The following summarizes the uses considered in this analysis. Uses not on this list may be permitted but require approval by the Land Trust. Generally, motorized uses are prohibited and therefore are not included in this analysis.

Permitted Public Uses Analysis for Trillium Community Forest

Use	Trail Impact	Impact on Wildlife	Impact on Other Users	Permitted	Permit Required?	Special Considerations*
Biking (no structures)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Yes	No	Group size limited to 12
Emergency Services Training	Low	High	Low	Yes	Yes	Night and vehicle use require User Permit
Geocaching • Placement • Searchers	 Low Low	 Low Medium	 Low Low	 Yes Yes	 Yes No	Placement requires User Permit and all users limited to trail system. No off-trail use allowed.
Horseback Riding	High	Medium	Medium	Yes	No	Group size limited to 12
Hunting	Low	High	Low	Yes	No	Limited deer only season as determined by Land Trust; closed to all other uses during hunting period.
Nature Photography	Low	Low - Medium	Low	Yes	No	Group size limited to 16

On-Leash Dog Walking	Low	High	Medium	Yes	No	No off-leash
Personal Berry and Mushroom Picking	Low	Medium	Low	Yes	No	No commercial; no off-trail.
Scientific Research	Low	Low-Medium	Low	Yes	Yes and No	Requires User Permit for off-trail use, more than 16 pedestrians if not guided, and 25 pedestrians if guided.
Skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades	Low	Medium	Medium	Yes	No	Allowed only on Community Way
Tours and Field Trips	Medium	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes and No	Guided group size limited to 25 pedestrians; User Permit required for larger group size
Walking, Running, Hiking	Low	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Group size limited to 16
Animal Carting	High	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes	User permit required and only allowed on Community Way

Not Permitted

Use	Trail impact	Impact on Wildlife	Impact on Other Users	Permitted	Permit Required	Special Considerations
Camping	High	High	Medium	No	N/A	No
Commercial Harvesting of Secondary Forest Products	Medium	High	High	No	N/A	No
Competitive Events	High	High	High	No	N/A	No
Concerts	High	High	High	No	N/A	No
Technical Stunt Mountain Biking	High	High	High	No	N/A	No

*See individual section for details on special considerations

2. The following activities are permitted:

A. <u>Biking</u>: Many different types of bike riders use trails on Whidbey Island. Families go on easy rides with kids, which require smooth surfaces and relatively wide trails. Individuals ride for fitness and outdoor enjoyment, some riding alone and others in groups. There is also a smaller group of technical riders that look for challenging courses, often with structures, to practice tricks and skills.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Medium*
A 2001 study noted that "hikers have the same effect as bikers do, regardless of the number of trips along the path" (Thurston, 2001). "Feet and hooves will trample more than bicycle tires. The instantaneous sheer forces exerted on a plant by a foot or hoof will have much more of a tearing effect than the rolling over and crushing forces of a bicycle wheel". On the other hand, bicycles can travel a much farther distance than hikers in the same time and if riders travel at excessive speeds, or take corners at a high rate of speed, the impact to trails increase.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Bicyclists stay on trails so there will only be a moderate disturbance to wildlife. A study measured wildlife responses to the passage of hikers and bicyclists "…the large degree of overlap between the 95% confidence intervals for hiking and biking is indicative of a lack of biological difference between wildlife responses of these activities" (Taylor, 2003).

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Bikers can travel at higher speeds than other users. It will be important to ensure visitor safety, especially on narrow trails. Too many bikes can create a safety problem and create ruts Technical riders often want to build structures to create jumps and ramps, all of which pose a safety hazard to visitors and can damage trails.

Recommendation: *Permitted for group size up to 12***.** Informing visitors of the etiquette of interactions between users will help to prevent accidents on trails. Technical structures are not permitted as they pose a safety risk to visitors. If structures are found they will be removed immediately. Group size is limited to 12 bikers.

B. <u>Emergency Services Training</u>: The local Fire Department, Search and Rescue (SAR) team, and Navy periodically use large natural areas to practice wildland rescue. In 2011, the local SAR team used the Community Forest to practice tracking with dogs. This practice gives the SAR a better understanding of the area in the event of an actual emergency.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
There would be little impact since this activity occurs rarely and the group size would be small.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
The type of activity determines the degree of disturbance. Off-trail travel will be necessary so there will be some disturbance of wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
The degree of disturbance to other users will depend on the type of training. This activity, however, will happen no more than a few times a year so the degree of disturbance is still low.

Recommendation: *Conditionally Permitted***.** Daylight hour training, night training or training requiring vehicles on Community Way must be approved by the Land Trust. If the activity creates too high an impact either on habitat or other users, then that training will be prohibited. No training activities are permitted during the hunting season.

C. <u>Geocaching</u>: Geocaching involves the placement of a physical "cache" at a hidden location chosen by the owner of the cache. Visitors use GPS units to find the cache from GPS coordinates that are posted online by the cache owner. The cache itself is usually a small waterproof box that contains a logbook and several mementos that can be exchanged.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
Geocaching involves only walking in search of the hidden caches. If the geocaches are appropriately placed along permitted trails then there are only limited impacts.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Wildlife will be disturbed only by visitors walking the trails and searching for caches. The premise is that caches will only be located along permitted trails. There is a potential for visitors going off trail if caches are improperly placed, so staff or volunteers will need to monitor cache locations.

Disturbance to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
Geocaching visitors travel at slow walking speeds and are infrequent visitors that are unlikely to disturb other users.

Recommendation: Limited to locations along trails. *Caches are Conditionally Permitted; Geo-cache searchers permitted for group size up to 16.* A Use Permit must be secured prior to placing a cache. This permit shall have the following restrictions to limit adverse impacts on the property.

(1) Caches must be placed within one-foot of the trail tread and must be reachable by visitors who are on the trail.
(2) Cache placement must limit disturbance to vegetation and cannot be located in a sensitive area (e.g. wetland).
(3) If a cache is located in an improper location or if a cache location starts to create additional disturbance (i.e. social trails, ground disturbance, etc.), it will be removed and, if easily determined, the cache owner contacted.
(4) Night caches are not permitted. These caches have reflective surfaces and are meant to be found at night. The forest is not open to the public after dusk.

D. <u>Horseback Riding</u>: The equestrian community has been using the Community Forest for many years while the property was in private ownership. The M-Bar-C Ranch is a close neighbor to the south and many rides originate from that location. Once a parking lot is created that is large enough to hold horse trailers, more riders will use the property.

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
Of all of the potential recreational users, equestrians have the greatest impact on the trail system. "As a general rule, horses wear trails three times more than hikers" (Williams, 1998). Horses impact trails by loosening soil, thereby increasing the detachability of soil particles and increasing sediment erosion (Deluca, 1998). The impact is increased by the higher weight of the animal concentrated on a small surface area that is partially metal. (Keen, 2008)

Disturbance to Wildlife and Vegetation: *Rating – Medium*
Horseback riding, like walking, has a moderate impact on wildlife. Studies have shown that horses "passing along a trail provide sound rhythms in the cadence of a four-footed hoofed prey animal to wildlife, which inform wildlife of a non-threatening presence"(Quinn, 2004). They also leave the trace scent of an herbivore on the trail, as opposed to humans and dogs. Horse manure can introduce non-native and invasive plant species, which can adversely impact native vegetation.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Many people are not aware of the proper way to pass horses on a trail. Education is needed in this regard. Unlike dog-walkers, horseback riders are not used to picking up their animals' manure and this creates a conflict with other users. In addition, the north end of the property has a paved road that provides legal access to up to 13 private property owners. These owners have expressed strong criticism of horse manure left on the roadway.

Recommendation: *Permitted for group size including up to 12 horses***.** Despite the increased trail impact, horseback riding is a permitted activity in the Community Forest. It is one of the few properties on Whidbey Island large enough to accommodate horse travel for the public. It will be important to recognize the greater impacts of horses and make good decisions about which trails are appropriate for horse use. Group size is limited to 12 horses.

Education of the horseback riders is necessary to ensure they pick up horse manure. Horse owners should clean up their horses' manure at the parking lots and trailheads and on the paved portion of Community Way. Mountain bikers can lose control of their bike when encountering fresh horse manure and walkers dislike having to walk around it. When safe to do so, equestrians should dismount and move horse manure to the side of trails and roads. Equestrians should organize regular clean-up work parties. Equestrian groups that receive a User Permit are required to have a clean-up crew go back to the trails that were used and move the horse manure to the side of trails and roads

As with the bikers, trail etiquette is important. This includes riding at a moderate speed and interacting constructively with other users. Trails that are used by horseback riders may need surface improvements to harden the trail tread. Volunteers from the horseback community should help make these trail upgrades. Group size is limited to twelve riders. Requests for larger groups will be considered case by case. The equestrian community needs to be aware that use could be curtailed or prohibited if closed trails are used and manure is not removed properly.

E. <u>Hunting and Trapping</u>: With the exception of deer hunting, no other type of hunting or trapping is permitted in the Community Forest, including hunting or trapping of coyote, rabbit, raccoon, bird or any other species.

Deer have been hunted in the Community Forest for more than a hundred years. Deer hunting will help maintain the level and health of the forest's deer population. A managed deer population enhances the conservation values of the Community Forest by protecting vegetation used by other wildlife. Shrubs are favored as browse by deer but are also needed by many species of forest birds for breeding, nesting and raising young. Deer hunting provides an appropriate management tool in the absence of former predators on the Island, such as wolves and cougars.

The hunting season for deer typically occurs between September 1 and December 31. The Land Trust and Steering Committee decided to reduce access for deer hunters and other recreationists during the 2011 hunting season as a pilot project. The Community Forest was open to hunters from October 15 through October 28 and November 17 – December 11 and closed to all other users. These dates included portions of both Modern Firearm and Archery seasons. Closing the property to all other users during the time the Community Forest is open to deer hunting reduces user conflicts and addresses safety concerns often brought up by non-hunters. The closure occurs during the darkest and wettest time of the year when recreational use is generally low.

Trail Impact: *Rating –Low*
Hunters travel by foot and do not create any additional impacts than that of walkers. They travel alone or in very small groups, which also limit impacts. Travel off-trail can lead to the creation of social trails, which will need to be monitored and, if an issue, addressed.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
Hunters are allowed off-trail, which creates a larger disturbance to wildlife. The actual harvesting of a deer disturbs the deer population.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
The area is closed to all but deer hunters during the hunting access period. The time of year for opening the property to hunting is when few others make use of the property due to inclement weather. In addition, safety concerns are reduced significantly.

Recommendation: *Permitted with date limits on access***.** Deer hunting is the only hunting allowed in the Community Forest and is allowed as a management tool. During hunting season the Community Forest will be closed to all other users.

Generally, access for deer hunting will be allowed during the modern firearm season (approximately 23 days) and the first 23 days (more or less) of the late archery season. (On Whidbey Island, hunting with modern firearms is limited to shotguns.) The Land Trust can lengthen or shorten the season to adjust to the size and health of the deer population and to reduce the over-browsing of native vegetation.

F. Nature Viewing and Photography:

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
Nature viewing and photography have limited impacts to trails. Users may walk only along the designated trail corridors unless special permission is given. There is minimal soil disturbance and users do not tend to travel in large groups.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Low to Medium*
Nature photography, and especially wildlife photography, requires the photographer to be still and quiet. This reduces disturbance to surrounding wildlife. In some cases, however, photographers may get too close to a bird nest, or over-use recorded bird calls.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
Nature viewing and photography cause little disturbance for other users since the photographers tend to be quiet, travel at slow speeds, don't tend to block trails, and travel in small groups.

Recommendation: *Permitted with group size limited to 16.* Nature viewing and photography should take place only along trail corridors and group size is limited to 16 people. Any off-trail travel requires permission from the Land Trust. Blinds or other structures to camouflage presence are prohibited.

G. On-Leash Dog Walking:

Off-Leash Dog Issues: The Community Forest is being used by a number of people as an off-leash dog area. This has created numerous conflicts with other users, including off-leash dogs threatening both users and dogs that are on-leash. It has also led to dogs killing poultry on neighboring properties. It has likely led to wildlife harassment by off-leash dogs. This is a problem that requires vigilance in order to keep neighbors, visitors and domestic and wild animals safe from harassment.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
On-Leash dog walking has limited impacts to trails. Owners need to keep dogs from digging or otherwise degrading the tread surface. Owners need to clean up after their dogs. However, a pack of dogs on leash may have higher impacts on trails.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
Dogs affect wildlife by chasing, barking, digging, and can cause direct or indirect mortality (GGNRA, 2011). Domestic dogs can potentially introduce diseases (canine distemper, canine parvovirus, and rabies) and transport parasites into wildlife habitats (Sime, 1992).

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Safety must be considered in allowing dogs on the property. Restricting use to on-leash limits the potential for negative interactions with other visitors. Dog waste is a health issue and source of annoyance to other users. Off-leash dogs often travel off the trails, cutting switchbacks that may then be used by humans. Off-leash dogs are much more likely to disturb horse and bicyclists and reduce safety. The number of dogs with a group will also create safety concerns.

Prohibiting commercial dog walking will reduce disturbance of wildlife, other recreational users and trail conditions. The Steering Committee thoroughly discussed the issue of limiting the number of dogs in a group. However, the committee decided to work with owners first and add restrictions only if needed. Visitors must have all dogs on a leash and pack out all animal waste. Dog walkers need to know that the privilege of bringing dogs into the Community Forest is dependent on their keeping dogs on leashes and bagging and removing dog waste from the site. Forest kiosks should provide information about nearby off-leash dog parks to give such users other options.

Recommendation: ***Dogs on leash only are*** *permitted. Commercial dog walking is prohibited.*

H. Personal Fruit and Mushroom Picking:

Visitors walking the trails often take a moment to grab some berries for a snack or pie or take a couple of mushrooms to add to a salad. Commercial gathering is prohibited.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
Minimal impacts related to human foot traffic.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Picking berries and mushrooms along trails will disturb vegetation. Impacts to wildlife can be reduced by volunteers monitoring the degree of harvesting. Mushroom hunters are not permitted to travel off-trail.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
This activity, provided it occurs while the user is on the trail system, will have a minimal disturbance to other users, forest vegetation and wildlife. Reminders will be posted at the entrance kiosks that commercial harvest of mushrooms or berries off-trail is prohibited.

Recommendation: *Permitted***.** Fruit and mushroom picking from trails should be permitted.

I. <u>Scientific Research:</u> A variety of scientific research could take place on the Community Forest. Projects could originate from local schools, volunteer interest, or from nearby colleges. For example, in 2011, a group of college students used the property to monitor wildlife movements with motion activated cameras. It will be necessary to evaluate each potential study to determine the expected impact on both conservation values (soil disturbance, off trail travel, etc.) and staff time (special access, review of materials, etc.).

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
No significant impact to trail surfaces besides walking. Some off trail travel could promote social trail creation, which will need to be monitored.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Low to Medium*
Disturbance to wildlife will depend on the type of research. Assuming most research projects require off-trail travel, there is at least a medium degree of disturbance.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
Researchers would be infrequent visitors and travel in small groups or individually.

Recommendation: *Conditionally Permitted.* Scientific research should be permitted on the property. Permission is required for projects to determine the project's specific impacts. The results of the research should be shared with the Land Trust so that it can augment knowledge about the forest.

J. <u>Skateboards, Scooters, and Rollerblades</u>: The paved portion of Community Way is the only likely area that would see these users since the other trail surfaces are not smooth enough for skateboards, scooters, or rollerblades to move effectively. The following rating scale is based on impacts by these users, assuming they are only on the paved portion of Community Way.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Low*
They pose no impact threat to Community Way since it is paved.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Since these users can travel at relatively fast speeds there will be some impact to wildlife along Community Way.

Disturbance to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
The greatest disturbance to other users will be related to the speed of the users. The paved portion of Community Way is wide enough to accommodate several users without conflict. The only area of concern is conflict with vehicles on the road.

Recommendation: *Conditionally Permitted*. Skateboards, scooters and rollerblades should be permitted as long as there is not a safety risk with vehicles. They are allowed only on the paved portion of Community Way. As more homes are built on the neighboring northern property, the road will be more heavily used. At some point it may be necessary to mark off an area on the side of the pavement to create a space for skateboarders, scooters and rollerbladers.

K. Guided Tours and Field Trips: Trillium Community Forest provides outstanding opportunities for environmental education. Several schools and local environmental organizations have approached the Land Trust asking permission for field trips. The Land Trust has also held forestry, birding and botany field trips on the property.

Trail Impact: *Rating – Medium*
Tours involve relatively large number of people on the trails at one time and will be more likely to cause soil disturbance.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Larger groups make more noise and there is the possibility of some off-trail travel for tours, which may disturb wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Tours and field trips can disturb other users who have to get around a tour group. Parking also becomes an issue for visitors if the tour or field trip does not involve a carpool.

Recommendation: Guided tours and field trips are *permitted for up to 25 people and conditionally permitted for more than 25 people.* Generally, tours should be limited to 25 people, though larger groups may be permitted on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Land Trust.

L. Walking, Running, and Hiking:

Trail Impact: *Rating - Low*
Walking, running and hiking all have limited effects on existing trails. Human foot travel is the least disturbing form of transportation to soil surfaces. There is a potential for impact through the creation of new trails, such as "social trails" and other illegal trail creation.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Walkers create only a moderate disturbance to wildlife. Group sizes will be limited since the number of people in the forest at any one time increases the degree of disturbance.

Disturbance to Other Users: *Rating – Low*
There are minimal disturbance to other users.

Recommendation: *Permitted for group size up to 16***.** Walking, running and hiking should be permitted. No permission for these activities is required unless the group numbers more than 16.

M. Animal Carting: Animal carting refers to an activity where an animal is hitched to a wagon, carriage, cart, sleigh or other animal-drawn vehicle. Animals that would pull carts include horses, ponies, mules, donkeys and dogs. The sizes of the carts vary greatly depending on the type and number of animals pulling it. Sizes can range from a small cart pulled by a dog to a large wagon pulled by several horses.

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
Vehicles pulled by horses or other animals can greatly impact trail surfaces. Only Community Way is wide enough to accommodate animal-drawn carting.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – Medium*
Sound and ground disturbance related to carting will create greater disturbance to wildlife than horseback riders alone.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Animals with carts take up more trail width, making it difficult for other users to pass. It also creates safety concerns.

Recommendation: *Conditionally permitted; user permit required and allowed only on Community Way.*
While Community Way is wide enough to allow the travel of animal carts there is not a planned parking lot that would allow carts to access Community Way. So a Land Trust staff person would have to meet the group at the gate to give them access to the property. Since this is a time burden on staff there should be a limit to the number of times this activity can take place. No competitive or race training or events should be allowed due to safety concerns.

3. The following activities are not permitted:

A. Camping: Many tourists come to Whidbey for the weekend and there are several campgrounds on the Island. The closest available camping area near the Community Forest is South Whidbey State Park to the northwest. The Community Forest has no history of camping.

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
The establishment of campsites off any of the trails will destroy vegetation and create social trails.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
Visitors staying overnight will further disturb wildlife as opposed to visitors just moving through the property. Creation of camping areas will require the removal of habitat.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – Medium*
Campsites often accumulate trash and large groups can disturb visitors looking for peace and quiet. Camping increases the risk of wildfire which increases risk to other users and neighboring property owners.

Recommendation: *Not Permitted*

B. Commercial Harvesting of Secondary Forest Products:

Trail Impact: *Rating – Medium*
Depending on the type of harvesting, wheel barrows or other equipment are used, which would increase the impact to trail surfaces.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
Harvesting forest products takes away potential food and habitat for wildlife. To find many of the products, such as mushrooms, individuals would leave trails to forage, further disrupting wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – High*
Removal of vegetation and other products on a high level can damage the appearance of a trail. Equipment necessary to carry out harvested material could block visitors. Aggressive behavior towards other users is often a concern.

Recommendation: *Not Permitted*

C. Competitive Events: Competitive events considered in this analysis include running, walking, mountain biking, orienteering, and equestrian events. Whidbey Island often draws race organizers since races with scenic beauty are popular in the Northwest.

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
Competitive events tend to draw large groups of participants, spectators and vendors. Large groups in the forest at one time will have a large impact on trail infrastructure. Parking is insufficient to accommodate large crowds. Participants traveling at high speeds increase damage trail surfaces.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
The amount of noise caused by these competitions would disrupt wildlife in the trail corridors. The more people out on the property at one time, the greater the disturbance to wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – High*
Large crowds on the property would disrupt other users by blocking trails. Parking will be limited or unavailable to other users.

Recommendation: *Not Permitted*

D. Concerts:

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
Large crowds damage trail surfaces. Concert spectators also often bring food and beverages to concerts that would potentially be left as litter on trails and in the forest.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
The noise associated with a concert and the crowds attending would greatly disturb wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – High*
Loud noises would disturb other users looking for a peace, quiet and solitude. Large crowds would also limit parking available for other users.

Recommendation: *Not Permitted*

E. <u>Technical Stunt Mountain Biking</u>: Technical stunt riding involves creating structures and features to increase the difficulty of the trail. Structures include bridges, ramps and jumps. These are usually built of wood.

Trail Impact: *Rating – High*
Construction of large structures necessary for stunts would greatly disturb soil stability on and near trails. The speed necessary to complete these stunts would result in increased erosion.

Disturbance to Wildlife: *Rating – High*
Faster speeds, louder travel from bicycles hitting the structures, and disturbance to nearby vegetation for structure building, all highly disturb wildlife.

Disturbances to Other Users: *Rating – High*
Stunt riding poses a high safety risk to both the riders and any other visitors using the trails at the same time. Other properties that allow this activity have a history of requiring ambulances to enter the property to assist injured riders.

Recommendation: *Not Permitted*

4. References:

- Deluca, Thomas. Llamas, Horses, and Hikers: Do They Cause Different Amount of Impacts? 1998.
- Ewert, Alan. Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Management: An Uneasy Alliance.1999.
- Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area. Dog Management Draft Plan/EIS. 2011.
- Keen, Woody. Comparing Relative Impacts of Various User Groups. 2008.
- Sime, Carolyn. Domestic Dogs in Wildlife Habitats. 1992.
- Sprung, Gary. Natural Resource Impacts of Mountain Biking. 2007.
- Taylor, Audrey and Richard Knight. Wildlife Responses to Recreation and Associated Visitor Perceptions. 2003.
- Thurston, Richard. Impacts of Experimentally Applied Mountain Biking and Hiking on Vegetation of a Deciduous Forest. 2001.
- Quinn, Adda. Environmental Aspects of Horses on Trails. 2004.
- Wildlands CPR. Ecological Impacts of Mountain Biking: A Critical Literature Review. 2003.
- Williams, Buzz. Horses in Ecological Reserves. 1998.
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- Wood, Gene. Land Ethics for Equestrian Trail Users. 2004.

Appendix D:
Trillium Community Forest - Management Plan Issue Papers

Infrastructure

1. Introduction:

A. Existing Infrastructure. Currently, structures and developed features in the Trillium Community Forest ("Community Forest") include the paved road, old logging roads of both gravel and dirt, a gravel entry road to a parking area for 14 cars (under 22 feet in length), three metal gates, one kiosk, six rules and regulations signs and eight trail directional signs.

B. Guiding Concept. The Community Forest is as an ecological reserve for wildlife where people are encouraged to walk or ride on designated trails to enjoy nature. People are encouraged to enjoy nature and the trails and leave no trace of their visit. The forest is not intended or designed to host group activities in single locations, such as organized sports, picnicking, playing games, group activities, races, and similar activities.

2. Parking Lots and Trailheads: (Parking lots serve as trailheads for the trail network.)

A. Current Access and Parking. Currently, the only designated public access to the Community Forest is located at Highway 525 and Pacific Dogwood ("Northeast Parking Lot"). During its ownership, the Land Trust developed a gravel road from this public access up to a gravel and paved parking area that accommodates 14 cars under 22 feet in length. The Steering Committee determined that this parking lot would not be suitable for horse trailers or larger vehicles, such as RVs or buses. The decision was based on the high rate of vehicle speed on this section of Highway 525, the turning radius required for large vehicles and the long incline of the highway for vehicles traveling north. Therefore, this parking lot would be limited to vehicles less than 22 feet long.

Many locals know alternative access into the Forest through neighboring parcels. There are often informal agreements between neighbors and friends that allow people to cross private lands to access the Community Forest. This is especially prevalent on the south and east sides of the forest. This is not a desirable situation as it causes adverse impacts on neighbors and results in the development of "social trails." These trails disrupt Wildlife Refuge Areas, are not located or built correctly and invite trespassing on private lands.

B. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** – Parking lots are needed to provide adequate parking for the public. They provide a defined space for visitors and, by design and construction, limit the number of users on the property at any one time to ensure the site is not overcrowded or overused. Parking lots protect adjacent soils and vegetation. They prevent unsafe parking such as along the highway, blocking access roads, or parking along neighborhood streets.

(2) **Con** – The larger the parking lot, the more people that can be on the property at any one time, so the size of the parking lot must be carefully evaluated. Construction of a parking lot requires clearing of native vegetation, which decreases wildlife habitat and increases run-off. Clearing may introduce non-

native plant species. Pavement increases the extent of impervious surface on the property, reducing aquifer recharge and could cause problems with drainage. Low impact development (LID) designs will mitigate drainage issues. Parking lots cost money to properly design and install and will require regular maintenance.

(3) **Northwest Parking Lot - Horse Trailer Parking (P2).** The Steering Committee determined that, after analyzing numerous alternatives, the best location for horse trailer and other larger vehicle parking was in the northwest section of the Forest off of Smugglers Cove Road (see A*ppendix B* for location). As compared to Highway 525, fewer vehicles travel Smugglers Cove Road and typically at lower speeds. In addition, if the appropriate property can be purchased, it will provide for a wider parking area that would permit trailers to turn around. The Northeast Parking Lot is limited by topography, including steeper slopes to the north and wetlands to the south. If the Northwest parking area is developed, a new trail is needed to connect with existing trails. Additionally, this location would provide access for people living on the west side of the Community Forest and is located near South Whidbey State Park. See *Appendix B: Access and Expansion Map* for proposed location.

(4) **Southeast Parking Lot - ADA Accessible Parking (P3)**. Due to sloping topography throughout the Community Forest there are limited opportunities for a parking area that allows people to access an ADA compliant trail system. It appears that the best option at this time is located off of Bounty Loop. The surrounding area is flat and there is sufficient space for a parking lot designed for ADA vehicles next to ADA accessible trails. See the *ADA Accessibility Issue Paper* for more details.

(5) **Guidelines for all Future Parking and Access Creation.**

- Detailed design and discussion is needed before a parking area is approved by the Land Trust and Island County.

- Low impact development (LID) should be used in construction parking areas, including minimizing impermeable surfaces and damage to surrounding vegetation.

C. Recommendation: Permit parking lots at the main trailheads. The first construction priority is the main entrance off of State Highway 525 (northeast corner of the Community Forest). This location is part of the Community Forest property. The second parking lot priority is adjacent to the northwest part of the Forest and is not part of the Community Forest and will need to be acquired. This parking lot is proposed to be the main access point to accommodate horse trailers. The third priority is located adjacent to the southeast part of the property and is proposed as the main access point to accommodate ADA use (see *Access and Expansion Issue Paper*).

The second and third priorities will require acquisition of private property from willing sellers. A design and construction plan for each of the three parking lots will be required before any construction. This plan will need to address:

- minimizing impacts to natural resources,
- determining the maximum number of spaces,
- planning traffic circulation, and
- considering ADA needs.

As a rule, parking lots should not be paved unless absolutely necessary. Lot size will need to reflect the vision and guiding principles for the property so that the area is not overused. Parking plans will need to

be approved by the Land Trust and Island County. Funding from grants and volunteer assistance, both in construction and maintenance, are strongly encouraged to lower the Land Trust's costs.

3. Restrooms:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** – Restrooms provide visitors with an added level of comfort and convenience. There are no nearby restroom facilities between Freeland and Greenbank Farm, so having a restroom for visitors would be appreciated by Community Forest users. Restrooms also protect public and environmental health.

(2) **Con** – One goal for the Community Forest is to provide recreation for trail users who will not congregate for other uses, such as picnicking. Construction of a restroom that includes plumbing entails a large capital cost and requires routine maintenance. Porta-potties are less expensive, but also require regular maintenance. Restrooms, both in-ground facilities and porta-potties, are sometimes vandalized. Vandalism to plumbed, permanent restrooms is much more costly than vandalism to porta-potties. Visitors also tend to leave trash inside restrooms that creates additional clean-up and maintenance costs.

B. Recommendation: Porta-Potties are permitted only if adequate funding exists for them to be leased and serviced regularly. This option will provide convenience to visitors and address health concerns without the financial burden required for constructing a permanent restroom. It will help keep the Forest safe and sanitary. These temporary facilities may discourage users from congregating in one spot. Porta-Potties are permitted only in approved parking areas. In the future, if funding becomes available, the construction of permanent facilities would be permitted.

4. Signs and Kiosks:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** - Signs and kiosks provide visitors with information, both directional and interpretive. They are an important tool to educate the public and alert them to various conditions and issues.

(2) **Con** – Kiosks and signs cost money to install and maintain. Vandalism is often an issue.

B. Recommendation: Signs are permitted in the Community Forest if they are needed to inform visitors of conditions and issues and are consistent with the following:

(1) A consistent design theme giving all signs on the property a consistent appearance.
(2) Rules and regulation signs placed at all entrances to the forest. Information should be clear, concise, and, where possible, positive.
(3) An entrance sign for the main entrance(s) to the property with a design that reflects the vision and core values for the Community Forest.
(4) Directional signs placed at trail intersections and other locations where visitors require orientation.
(5) Interpretive signs to inform the public about important natural resources and processes.
(6) Temporary signs announcing such things as hunting season or restoration areas
(7) Volunteers are encouraged to maintain signs.

(8) Kiosks are allowed in or adjacent to parking areas.

5. Picnic Tables, Shelters and Playground Structures:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro –** Picnic tables provide visitors a place to eat and rest before or after taking a walk or ride through the property. Shelters give users a place to get out of the elements while still enjoying the property. Any playground structures, such as swing sets or slides, would give families an added activity when visiting the forest.

(2) **Con** - The concept for the Community Forest is for people to enjoy and appreciate nature but not linger at constructed facilities. In this respect, picnic and playground facilities are inconsistent with the vision for the Community Forest. In addition, there are significant maintenance costs associated with picnic tables, shelters and playground structures. Maintenance upkeep and repairs from vandalism are costly. Funding and staff time may be insufficient funding to repair damages. Picnic areas attract trash. Playground structures are a potential liability risk and will require additional maintenance. Organized group activities at recreational structures often result in habitat degradation and impacts to native wildlife.

B. Recommendation: The vision and guiding principles for the Community Forest are inconsistent with the construction and maintenance of structure for group activities. Inappropriate structures include, but are not limited to, such things as shelters, picnic tables, and playground equipment.

6. Benches:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro –** Benches provide visitors with a place to rest and enjoy the solitude of the forest. The Island has an aging population that would benefit from having spots to sit during their hikes.

(2) **Con –** Construction and maintenance of benches require staff time and material costs. Placement of benches in inappropriate areas, such as wetlands, can damage sensitive habitat.

B. Recommendation: Benches are permitted only if there are sufficient funds for construction and maintenance and if location, materials and design are pre-approved by Land Trust staff.

7. Bridges and Boardwalks:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro –** Trail structures, such as bridges and boardwalks, can bypass sensitive areas and avoid unnecessary trail degradation. Trail structure projects provide an opportunity for the community to give back to the forest.

(2) **Con –** Bridges and boardwalks allow access areas that may not be suitable for such uses. When not built or located correctly, bridges and boardwalks can degrade sensitive natural features. These

structures are costly to install and will require on-going and often expensive maintenance to prevent them from becoming a safety hazards.

B. Recommendation: Bridges and boardwalks are permitted only if they are absolutely necessary to upgrade a designated trail to prevent harming natural features. Prior to construction, an analysis will determine if the trail should be closed or re-rerouted, each of which is a preferred alternative to constructing bridges or boardwalks. If such facilities are determined to be necessary, sufficient funding and manpower are required to design, complete and maintain these structures. Volunteer support and donations or grants should be used to accomplish these tasks. The guiding concept is that, it is better to reroute, improve, permanently close, or seasonally close a trail rather than cross terrain that is likely to need bridges and boardwalks. See *Trail System Issue Paper – Non-Routine Trail Maintenance* for details.

8. Mountain Biking Technical Structures:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** – Wooden technical structures built for mountain bikers provide an increased difficulty level for experienced riders.

(2) **Con** –Mountain biking that includes structures is not consistent with the vision for the Community Forest. This type of user is primarily focused on the recreational attributes of biking and not on the natural environment. Wooden structures built on the trail system present a high safety risk to other visitors. Ramps and jumps encourage mountain bikers to travel at high speeds and attempt risky stunts that may lead to the injury of the riders and bystanders. The increased speeds required for stunts degrade trails and cause erosion. This type of biking is inconsistent with providing recreational users a place to enjoy nature.

B. Recommendation: Mountain biking structures are not permitted on the property due to their inconsistency with the vision and guiding principles for the Community Forest, the safety risk and associated liability, negative impacts on conservation values, and disruption to visitors who are on the property to enjoy nature.

9. Deer Hunting Tree Stands:

A. Analysis:

Definition of Tree Stand– *Any structure that is constructed or placed in a tree for the purpose of supporting and concealing a person engaged in hunting, photographing, or observing wildlife.*
Note: Hunting blinds are prohibited; these are structures built on the ground. Blinds create too much vegetation disturbance.

(1) **Pro** – Tree stands are often an important tool for deer hunters, especially bow hunters. They are also used for observing and photographing wildlife. Tree stands allow users to get above the vegetation for better sighting and to better camouflage their position.

(2) **Con** – Older types of tree stands and permanent tree stands that require nailing into trees damage trees and are a source of entry for tree disease and insects. Sometimes hunters cut other trees and brush near their stand in order to have an unobstructed “shooting lane”.

B. Recommendation: Permanent tree stands and any type of stand that requires nailing, screwing to trees or other damage to trees or understory vegetation are not permitted. Hunters are allowed to install temporary, non-damaging tree stands 48 hours before the hunting season opens. These stands must be removed within 48 hours after the close of the hunting season. Cutting of any vegetation to accommodate temporary tree stands or create "shooting lanes" is strictly prohibited. Prohibited tree stands and those in violation of this recommendation will be removed and disposed of without notice. The name of the owner and contact information should be placed on the tree stand. If a tree stand is to be used for photography, permission must be obtained from the Land Trust using the user permit application and specifying a time span.

10. Bike Racks:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro –** Bike racks provide a place for cyclists to leave their bikes so they can hike the trails. It can encourage hikers to get to the Community Forest on non-motorized modes of transportation.

(2) **Con** – Bike racks cost money to install and have the potential to be vandalized, which creates an additional maintenance cost.

B. Recommendation: If the community expresses a strong interest and funds are made available from the community or grant sources, and if the time and expense do not adversely impact Land Trust staff, bike racks are permitted. Bike racks shall be located only in designated parking lots. Location, materials and design shall be pre-approved by Land Trust staff.

11. Hitching Posts:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** – Hitching posts provide a place for equestrians to tie up their horses before and after a ride. They are simple structures to construct and can use all natural materials.

(2) **Con** – Construction and maintenance of the hitching post will incur some cost.

B. Recommendation: If the community expresses a strong interest and funds are available from the community or grant sources, and if the time and expense do not adversely affect Land Trust staff, hitching posts are permitted. Hitching posts shall be located in designated parking lots. Location, materials and design shall be preapproved by Land Trust staff.

12. Trash/Recycling, Doggie Bag Stations, and Composting Bins:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro –** Trash and recycling bins give visitors a place to put trash and empty drink containers thus lessening littering in the forest. Doggie bag stations encourage visitors to pick up their dogs' waste. Compost bins are potential receptacles for cuttings from trail and invasive species maintenance and horse manure.

(2) **Con** – Installing and maintaining trash and recycling bins incur costs. Bins are simple to install, but require constant emptying and maintenance. Doggie Bag stations need to be refilled regularly and if there are no trash bins for the bags, some owners will leave the full bags behind, causing more than a litter problem. A compost bin costs money to install and requires staff or volunteer oversight to manage and rotate the material. Even when managed properly, it is difficult to control what is put into the compost bin.

B. Recommendation: Trash and recycling bins should only be used if there is sufficient staff and funds to keep them maintained. The Land Trust strongly encourages an ethic of pack-it-in pack-it-out and leave no trace. Doggie bag stations should be installed if a volunteer group, such as Fetch, is willing to assist in the replacement of bags. Compost bins should not be permitted as they require too much maintenance. Even with a volunteer group to manage the bins it is too likely that visitors will misuse the bin for trash.

13. Artwork:

A. Analysis:

(1) **Pro** – Thoughtful artistic pieces can add visual pleasure for users when correctly chosen and placed.

(2) **Con** – Depending on the size and location of the object, there is the potential for negative impacts to vegetation, wetlands and soils. In addition, the beauty and appropriateness of artwork is highly subjective and can be controversial. The vision for the Community Forest is to provide a place where nature prevails rather than man-made structures.

B. Recommendation: Artwork is not allowed. Exceptions can be made when pre-approved by the Land Trust and only when such artwork is made a part of permitted structures, such as signs, hitching posts, kiosks or parking lots, and where the artwork enhances the natural ecological values of the Community Forest.

Appendix E:
Trillium Community Forest - Management Plan

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) Access

1. **Introduction**: At this time no public access points meet the legally-defined standards needed to allow mobility disabled individuals to access the Trillium Community Forest ("Community Forest"). In addition, only a few sections of a few trails in the forest meet these standards.

2. **Background:**

A. Federal Regulations: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for ADA regulations, which are laid out in the "*Americans with Disabilities Act -- Standards of Accessible Design*". This Act governs the construction and alteration for places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities. There are no rules for ADA trails in wildland areas like the Community Forest. However, any new "facilities" that are constructed in the Community Forest, such as gates and bathrooms, must be ADA accessible even if existing trails are not. The current standards are centered on wheelchair accessibility.

The DOJ recently released new rules for ADA compliance -- "*Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices*" (OPDMDs). Starting in March 2012, all trails open to the public are required to consider allowing the use of other power-driven mobility devices on trails. OPDMDs are defined as devices powered by batteries, fuel or other engines used by individuals with mobility disabilities. The regulations also require entities with public trails to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to allow the use of OPDMDs. It allows an exception if the entity can document that it has completed an assessment of the facility, trail, route or area (before the person requesting the use of the device arrived on site), and found that some or all classes of OPDMD could not be used in that location due to one or more of the following DOJ assessment factors:

(1) The type, size, weight, dimensions, and speed of the device;
(2) The volume of pedestrian traffic (which may vary at different times of the day, week, month, or year);
(3) The design and operational characteristics (e.g., whether its service, program, or activity is conducted indoors, its square footage, the density and placement of stationary devices, and the availability of storage for the device, if requested by the user);
(4) Whether legitimate safety requirements can be established to permit the safe operation of the other power-driven mobility device in the specific facility; and
(5) Whether the use of the other power-driven mobility device creates a substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or natural or cultural resources, or poses a conflict with Federal land management laws and regulations.

If an entity does not document that OMDMDs are not appropriate before a person requesting use of such a device arrives on the site, then until such time as this is documented, the device is considered an allowed device.

B. Guidelines for ADA Accessibility: Two agencies provide guidelines on providing accessibility for people with disabilities, as described below:

(1) **U.S. Access Board – Outdoor Developed Areas Draft Plan:** The U.S. Access Board is an independent Federal agency devoted to promoting accessibility for people with disabilities. The Board is a leading source of information on accessible design and develops the design criteria for ADA guidelines. The Board is developing new guidelines for outdoor developed areas that will address access to trails, beach access routes, and picnic and camping areas. A draft of the proposed guidelines for trails and outdoor recreation facilities has been released for public comment. Trail standard regulations will apply only to new trail construction or substantial alterations to existing trails or trail segments. Also the affected segment must be connected to an accessible trailhead or to another accessible segment. The National Center for Accessibility published a good summary of the proposed trail standards, which can be found online.

(2) **Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines:** In 2006, the Forest Service published trail standards for accessible trails on Forest Service land. These guidelines will be merged with the Access Board plan described above. These guidelines are good reference materials for trails in the Community Forest.

3. Analysis and Recommendations:

A. Access for ADA: Since no one standard currently exists for outdoor natural areas, the Land Trust used a combination of the proposed Access Board guidelines and the Forest Service guidelines to review the current trailheads and trails in the Community Forest to see where possible ADA accessible trails and facilities could be incorporated into the management plan.

The DOJ rules require that access for individuals with mobility disabilities must be considered for all trails; however not all trails have to be accessible. In the future, if new trails are planned, an analysis must be conducted to determine to what extent ADA access can be provided.

(1) **Current Trailhead Analysis: An** analysis of the existing parking area concluded that the current trailhead off of Highway 525 is not safely accessible by mobility-disabled individuals. The slope of the road exiting the parking area is too steep for wheelchairs.

(2) **Potential ADA Trailheads and Parking Lots:**

- **Northeast parking lot off Highway 525:** The conceptual plan for the primary public parking area (See *Access and Expansion Issue Paper*) identifies a spot that would allow access for mobility-disabled individuals. The parking area is flat and will have a compacted surface, such as gravel. When planning the barricade surrounding the parking area, the trailhead access needs to be a minimum of 36 inches wide to allow wheelchairs and similar devices to easily pass through. However, the terrain adjacent to this proposed parking lot include steep grades not suitable for ADA trails.

- **Southeast parking lot:** With adequate funding and a willing landowner, an undeveloped privately-owned property located at the northwest corner of Bounty Loop (See *Access and Expansion Issue Paper*) could be purchased. A parking area could be built here primarily to provide access for the mobility disabled. Trails in this area do not have the steep grades prevalent in the northern part of the Community Forest. This parking area, if acquired, should be used for ADA access

and not for general public access because of the negative impact general public access would have on the neighborhood.

- **Northwest parking lot:** Undeveloped privately-owned property adjacent to the northwest boundary of the Forest (off of Smugglers Cove Road) could be a parking area for west side users and larger vehicles, including buses and horse trailers (See *Access and Expansion Issue Paper*). Initial indications are that this location will not be suitable for ADA access due to the steepness of the slopes up to the established trail. Additional analysis is needed to confirm this assessment.

(3) **Potential ADA Accessible Trails:**

- **Existing Accessible Trails:** No current trails in the Community Forest are accessible for the mobility disabled due to the lack of an appropriate public trailhead and parking area. The majority of the existing trails have sections of trail that exceed the slope requirements for ADA accessible trails.

- **New Accessible Trails:** The Land Trust will analyze options for ADA accessible trails and parking areas. Any trail construction will follow the Access Board and Forest Service guidelines.

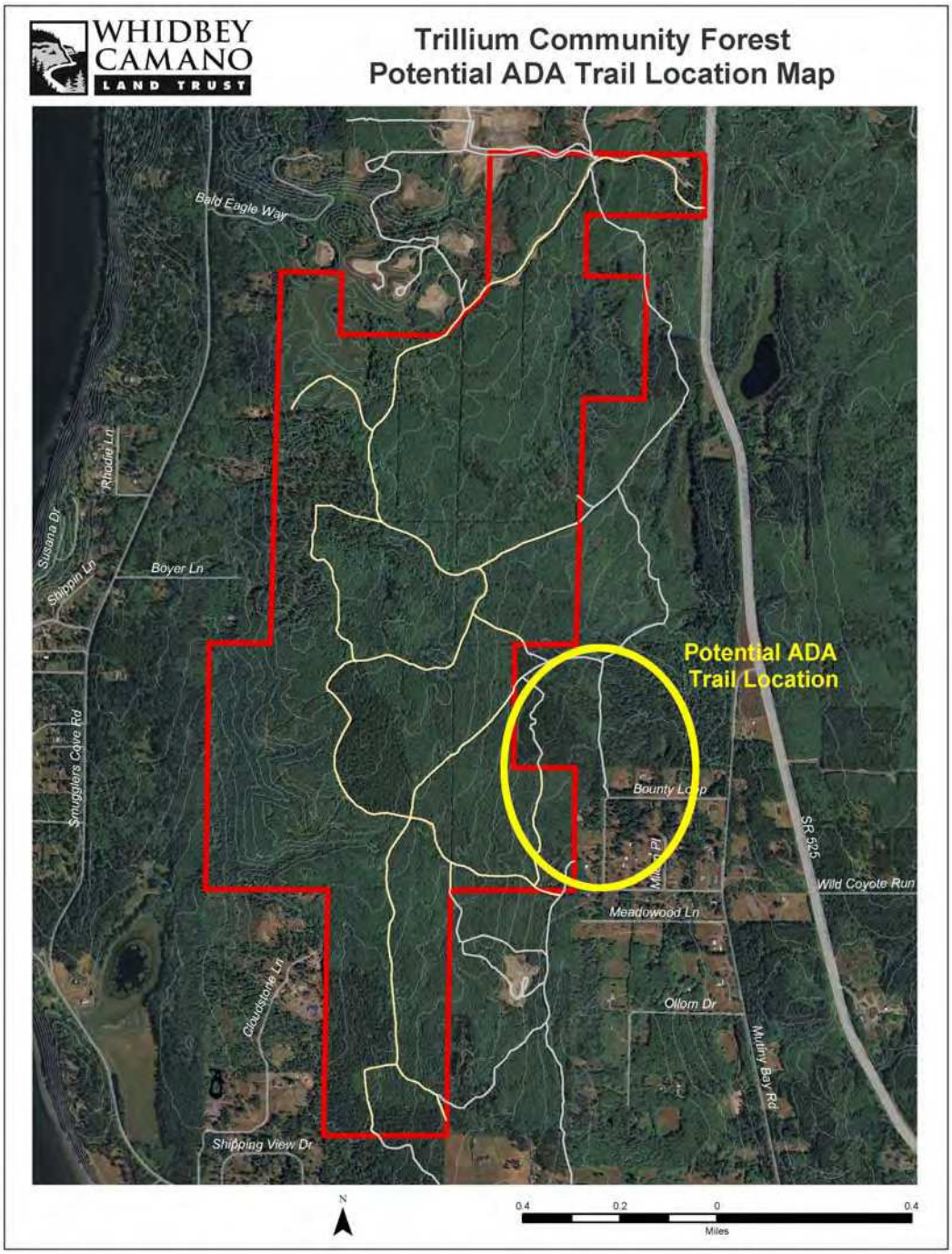
B. Assessment of OPDMDs: Currently, based on the DOJ assessment factors listed above, the only trail that is appropriate for access for OPDMDs is the main, former logging road running through the center of the property before curving to the east and exiting the property on Bounty Loop Rd. It is possible to allow OPDMDs here with the following restrictions:

(1) The OPDMD must stay on the main road. Use of the side trails is not permitted.
(2) The OPDMD must be electric-powered. Internal combustion engines are not permitted.
(3) The OPDMD must be no more than 44" in width
(4) The OPDMD must not exceed 5 miles per hour while on the road.

These restrictions protect the safety of visitors to the Community Forest, by limiting the speed, size and trail access of OPDMDs. The main trail is also the primary access route used by bicyclists, equestrians and hikers. This main trail is wide enough to permit passage. However, these restrictions will limit the risk of a safety conflict between OPDMDs and non-motorized users. These restrictions also reduce environmental impacts on side trails without the width necessary for OPDMDs and other users to safely pass each other. In addition, steep terrain, soft trail surfaces and disturbance of wildlife make these side trails unsuitable for OPDMDs.

4. References:

U.S. Forest Service Accessibility Guidelines, http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/
U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, http://www.access-board.gov/
National Center for Accessibility, http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/8accessible-trails.shtml
American Trails – Accessibility Library - http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html
Island County Public Works, 2006 Non-Motorized Trails Plan


WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST
Trillium Community Forest
Potential ADA Trail Location Map
Bald Eagle Way
Rhoda Ln
Susana Dr
Shippin Ln
Boyer Ln
Smugglers Cove Rd
Potential ADA Trail Location
Bounty Loop
Wild Coyote Run
Meadowood Ln
Cloudstone Ln
Ollom Dr
Mutiny Bay Rd
Shipping View Dr
SR 525
N
0.4
0.2
0
0.4
Miles

Appendix F:

Trillium Community Forest Management Plan

Boundary Expansion Issue Paper

1. Introduction

The primary guiding principle for the Community Forest is ecological protection with a specific goal of protecting and enhancing habitat for native wildlife. The scientific consensus is that connections between habitat fragments are crucial to the persistence of many species and populations, and that well-designed corridors play a key role in maintaining ecosystem functions. Corridors provide the opportunity for many species to traverse through habitat that is not suitable for permanent residency to locate better habitat, find a mate, disperse from natal areas, escape predation or other dangers, and access habitats needed seasonally or at different life history stages. (This paragraph taken from *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind,* CO State Parks Sept. 1998).

Wildlife corridors tend to be most effective if they are not too long relative to a species' movement abilities, there are few gaps and blockages, the width is sufficient to meet species' needs, and the corridor does not harbor an excessive number of predators.

Connectivity can be difficult or impossible to regain after urbanization. Habitat loss and fragmentation have partially or fully isolated many habitat patches. Over time, isolated habitat patches tend to lose wildlife species, and without connectivity, these species cannot repopulate an area. Improving connectivity will help maintain the region's biodiversity by allowing species to move as needed to fulfill their life history requirements. (Lit 1)

With climate change and the continuing growth of human population, habitat stressors including fragmentation, habitat loss and invasive species encroachment, will likely worsen. Scientists believe that corridors facilitating wildlife movement will be necessary for some species' survival. (Lit 1)

2. Boundary Expansion

Boundary expansion entails an assessment of which lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation principles of the Trillium Community Forest ("Community Forest"). Expansion options could include:

- Entering into written agreements with adjacent property owners to advance a shared property management goal.
- Securing trail easements from adjacent property owners.
- Securing conservation easements from adjacent property owners to protect important conservation values.
- Accepting donations of adjacent properties.
- Purchasing high priority properties and trail easements if funding is available.

A. Wildlife Habitat and Travel Corridors

Appendix B: *Access and Expansion Map* illustrates the priorities for protecting additional lands that will most benefit native wildlife. These areas are described as follows:

A1. This is a large tract of undeveloped forest land in good condition located between Highway 525 and the east boundary of the Community Forest. Most of this land is held by one landowner. Acquisition of this property will keep the area from developing into homesites which would negatively impact an important wildlife corridor along Highway 525. The property also includes an existing and popular trail system that connects into the Community Forest. Acquisition will depend on securing adequate funding. Therefore, in the meantime, it would be advantageous to secure formal trail easements to allow visitors to make use of the trails.

A2. This 80 acre property is located on the southeast part of the Community Forest. It is owned by the Freeland Sewer and Water District and is forested and undeveloped with the exception of an abandoned gravel pit. This forest land will add wildlife habitat and the trails on the property would expand the Community Forest's trail system. Formal trail easements should be secured to allow visitors to make use of these additional trails.

W1. This corridor creates a safe passageway between South Whidbey State Park and the Community Forest and will allow wildlife to move freely between the two protected properties with limited human interference. Conservation easements could be useful in creating this corridor. This area is not a good option for trail connections because the topography consists of steep ravines and it would connect to an area of the State Park where no trails are allowed.

W2. This corridor would connect the Community Forest to Mutiny Bay, adding important diversity of wildlife habitat, including a large wetland complex, grasslands and marine water.

B. Trail Connections

Another guiding principle for the Community Forest is appropriate non-motorized public use including the creation of connections to a larger trail network. The connections include creating an expanded north-south corridor that could then link into the greater Island County Trails Plan. The *Access and Expansion Map* shows three potential areas for such trail connections. In addition, the acquisition areas described above also create trail connections.

T1. No formal trails connect to the north boundary of the Community Forest. The Island County Trails Plan identifies a future north-south island trail located along the west side of Highway 525. Connecting the Community Forest to that trail corridor or connecting to a residential trail that keeps the public further from the highway are both options to consider.

T2. If the Northwest Parking Lot (P2) is installed it will be desirable to create a safe connection between the parking lot and the trails in South Whidbey State Park located on the west side of Smugglers Cove Road. A trail, with an appropriate cross-walk, could be built along the side of Smugglers Cove Road.

T3. No formal trail leads out of the south end of the Community Forest. Securing an easement to connect a trail between the Community Forest and Shore Meadow Road will improve access to the forest for M-Bar-C Ranch and the equestrian community. Such a trail could also provide a connection to the Island County Trail system via Bush Point Road.

C. Expansion Priorities

First

- Acquisition and construction of Northwest Parking Lot (P2)

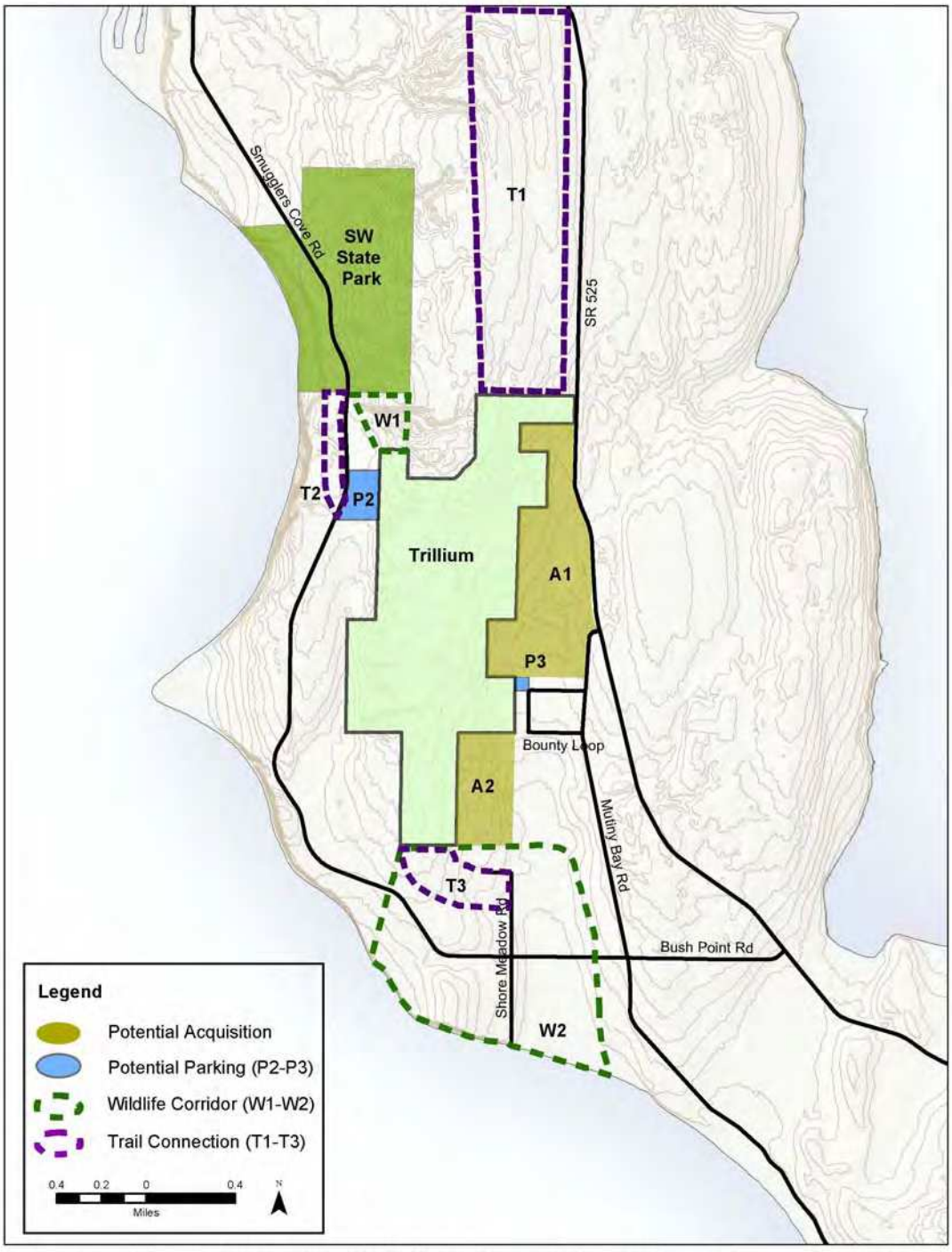
Second

- Shoulder improvements or markings in T2 (if P2 parking lot is secured)
- Acquisition of A1
- Securing trail easements through A1
- Acquisition and construction of Southeast Parking Lot (P3)
- Easements in W1

Third

- Trail easements in T3
- Conservation easements in W2
- Trail easements in T1
- Trail easements in A2

Figure 9. Access and Expansion Map



Note: Descriptions of T1-T3, P2-P3, and W1-W2 can be found in the Access and Expansion Issue Paper.

Appendix G:
Trillium Community Forest - Management Plan Issue Paper

Trail System

1. Introduction: The vision for the Trillium Community Forest ("Community Forest") is for a healthy forest ecosystem supporting a vibrant community of native wildlife where people experience the wonders of nature. Guiding Principle 3 states that, "The Trillium Community Forest is welcoming and accessible to the public for non-motorized uses in harmony with nature. This means that the trail system is integrated and connected to a larger trail network and is well-designed, located and maintained. Users experience peace and solitude with minimal impact to the forest environment and the trails provide reasonable access for people with all abilities." The challenge is how to provide trail opportunities for a variety of appropriate and non-motorized uses while protecting wildlife habitat.

Trails provide outdoor exercise and wonderful opportunities for people to experience nature. However, as with anything we build in the landscape, a trail changes its surroundings. Some of these changes are minor and temporary—such as when a deer moves away from a hiker, to return to browse once the hiker has gone. Other changes have wider ramifications and duration—such as when aggressive bird species follow trails, expanding their habitat, displacing sensitive species and preying on songbirds and other sensitive neotropical birds. These changes to a trail's surroundings may extend for hundreds or even thousands of feet on either side of a trail. Collectively, these effects define a "zone of influence." This zone is also the primary experience area for recreationists using the trail. Without wildlife in this zone, trail users would have a diminished experience. Characteristic of a trail's zone of influence are what biologists refer to as "edge effects." Edges attract more generalist species at the expense of more specialist species, which have fewer options in increasingly human-dominated landscapes. (This paragraph taken from *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind,* CO State Parks Sept. 1998).

Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the case of wildlife and trails, sustainability is about enjoying trails today without precluding the ability of future generations to enjoy wildlife. A trail that is contributing to the sustainability of an area is meeting people's fundamental desire to experience nature while not compromising the ecological integrity of the area. This implies careful planning of trails so that they do not degrade biodiversity. (This paragraph taken from *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind,* CO State Parks Sept. 1998).

2. Trail Plan Guiding Principles:

A. Design and manage trails that reflect the Vision and Guiding Principles described in the Site Management Plan, including keeping Wildlife Refuge Areas free from human intrusion and minimizing crossings of riparian corridors.
B. Keep trails, and their zones of influence, away from specific areas important to sensitive species
C. In constructing or upgrading a trail, disturb as narrow an area as possible.
D. Align a trail along or near an existing human-created ecological edge rather than bisecting undisturbed areas.
E. Retain the natural characteristics of the Community Forest while providing safe, non-motorized trails.
F. Increase the number of ADA accessible trails.
G. Consider upgrading and rerouting certain trails to improve trail conditions and reduce maintenance.
H. When planning trails, consider future trail connections and development on adjacent lands.
I. Methodically assess and inventory trails for purposes of efficient maintenance and monitoring.

3. Trail Standards: The trail standards for the Community Forest follow the standards identified by the Island County Non-Motorized Trail Plan. The exception is the main trail, which will be maintained for management and emergency traffic. All of the remaining trails within the forest comply with the "wildland trail" standards set by Island County. The standards for future ADA trails are covered in the *ADA Accessibility Issue Paper*.

	Max Sustained Grade	Max Short Grade	For Max Distance	Min Clearing Width	Min Clearing Height	Min Tread Width	Tread Surface
Hiker							
Easy	8%	15%	100'	8'	10'	24"	Develop for stability
Moderate	12%	20%	200'	6'	8'	24"	Minor obstacles, Steps and stairs ok
Difficult	20%	25%	100'	6'	8'	18"	Negotiable obstacles, Steps and stairs ok
Equestrian							
Easy	8%	15%	200'	8'	10'	24"	Develop for stability
Moderate	12%	20%	200'	6'	8'	24"	Minor obstacles
Difficult	15%	25%	100'	6'	8'	18"	Negotiable obstacles ok
Bicycle							
Easy	5%	10%	100'	60"	8'	24"	Mainly smooth
Moderate	8%	20%	100'	48"	8'	18"	Minor obstacles
Difficult	10%	30%	50'	36"	8'	12"	Negotiable obstacles ok

Trail Maximum Tread Widths: Since many of the trails in the Community Forest originated as old road beds there are many trails that are wider than a wildland trail should be. Many trails already exceed 60" of trail tread. The maximum tread width for trails should be limited to 36" with the exception of the main road. Trails should be maintained at the minimum tread width whenever possible.

4. Trail Inventory: Land Trust staff inventories trails using a Trimble GPS and digital camera. Trail widths were measured in the field and trail lengths were measured using GIS mapping software. Below is an inventory of the forest's trails. Only paths that allow for pedestrian traffic were inventoried. Deer path and trails that have been closed were not inventoried.

5. Trail Evaluation: The following evaluation system was developed to determine if specific trails in the inventory should remain open and to identify any needed maintenance. See *Appendix A: Individual Trail Analysis for* more details.

GOOD

- Trail does not disturb any wetland or sensitive plant areas.
- Trail does not dead end at a property boundary unless an agreement has been made with the neighboring landowner.
- Greater than 50% of the trail is at a 5-10% grade.
- Trail does not break up a large contiguous piece of wildlife habitat.
- Trail is already established and does not require additional effort to achieve appropriate trail standards.
- Trail is a popular route.
- Trail type allows for multiple uses.

FAIR

- Trail may pass through a wetland area, but not for longer than 50'.
- Trail may dead end at a property boundary, with a potential trail connection to neighboring trails.
- 50% of the trail is at 5-10% grade, 50% is at a 10% grade and above.
- Trail may break up a contiguous piece of wildlife habitat, but not one of size sufficient to warrant closure.
- Trail is established and requires only minimal effort to achieve trail standards.
- Trail is being used by the public.

POOR

- Trail passes through a wetland area for a stretch longer than 50' and conditions cannot be improved by trail maintenance.
- Trail breaks up a large contiguous piece of wildlife habitat.
- Trail dead ends at a private residence, without the potential for a trail connection.
- Less than 50 % of the trail is at 5-10% grade, with high potential for erosion.
- Trail would require large effort to achieve trail standards.
- Trail is not currently used by the public, only minimal use by a few individuals.

6. <u>Trail Evaluation Summary</u>: Land Trust staff inventoried 17 miles of trails and roads for the trail analysis. Six miles are located on adjacent properties owned by private individuals or the Freeland Sewer and Water District. Trails not located on Land Trust property were not evaluated. The Land Trust owns and maintains eleven miles of trails. See table below for mileage details and *Appendix B: Trail Evaluation Results* Map for locations.

Evaluation	Miles	Short Term Maintenance Needs
Good	3.7	Only minimal annual maintenance
Fair	2.2	One or more trail repair projects needed within the next three years
Poor	5.2	Trails should be permanently closed within the next three years

Closed Trails: There are approximately 5.2 miles of trails needing permanent closure. For trail locations see *Trail Evaluation Results Map*. These trails received a poor rating in the individual trail analysis. See *Section 6: Procedure for Closing Trails* for details on steps involved in closing trails.

Trail System: The final trail system will depend on the number of trail easements and property acquisitions that can be arranged with adjacent landowners. One of the goals for the property is to have an integrated trail system that connects with other trails on the Island. If legal connections cannot be made to these adjacent trails then the trail connection should be closed.

A. ***Existing Trail System (See Appendix C)*** The map shows the location of currently used trails in the Community Forest and on adjacent private land. All trails given a 'poor' evaluation have been removed from the map. Verbal agreements have been made with the landowners of the adjacent private property for use of the trails. This trail system will be in place for until formal agreements can be made.

B. ***Future Trail System Without Expansion or Trail Easements (See Appendix D)*** The map shows the proposed trail system if no agreements are made with the neighboring private and public landowners. An additional two miles of trails will need to be closed to prevent visitors from creating unsanctioned connections with the neighboring properties. The map shows one potential new trail to create loop trails within the property. Other trail projects intended to create loops within the forest would be considered, but only with approval of the Land Trust and Island County.

C. ***Future Trail System With Possible Expansions or Trail Easements (See Appendix E)*** This proposal includes the fullest trail system that should be allowed on the property. There is an emphasis on loop trails, while still protecting large areas of wildlife habitat. The system also includes two possible parking areas and associated new trail segments. Priority should be on securing access to the trails north of Bounty Loop as they create the longest trail loops for visitors. See the *Access and Expansion Issue Paper* for details on parking and property acquisition.

7. Procedure for Closing Trails: Any of the trails rated as 'poor' will be scheduled for closure. There are more than five miles of trails that need to be closed; it will take multiple years to ensure these trails are closed properly. Volunteers should assist with this task. As part of restoration thinning the area being thinned should be inventoried for any trails that need to be closed using the machinery available. The following steps should be taken to close a trail:

A. Block the trail at the entrance for a minimum of 50 feet. Downed woody debris can be used to block the trail to clearly show that the trail is no longer passable.
B. Depending on the size of the trail, plant salvage may be needed to help restore the old trail tread to native vegetation.
C. Place a sign at the entrance for the first few months, explaining that the trail has been closed and that plant restoration is occurring.
D. Update trail maps, including those located at the kiosk and trail intersections, to illustrate changes in the trail system.

8. Seasonal or User Restrictions: Trails should be monitored to determine conditions and adverse effects either by a specific user group or during a certain time of year. Restricting trail use by user type or season requires a high level of staff time to enforce and should only be considered if the damage being done to the trail cannot be repaired. For some of the trails ranked "Fair" that cross a wetland, seasonal restrictions may be required, especially if upgrades have not been made to those sections and damage is occurring.

9. ADA Accessible Trails: For information on the ADA trail analysis and recommendations see the *ADA Accessibility Issue Paper*.

10. Trail Names: Trail names were chosen by the Steering Committee using a list of names provided by the community through discussions with user groups and nominations from the community.

A. Community Way
B. Smugglers
C. Wild Berry
D. Dragonfly Glades
E. Peaceful Firs
F. Crossroads
G. Raven and Crow
H. Uncle Buck

11. New Trail Development and Trail Connections: No new trails will be created without permission from the Land Trust and Island County. Requests to construct new trails should be sent to Land Trust stewardship staff for review. There must be significant reasons for the new trail. This includes trail re-routes. A re-route may be considered if it improves conservation values or protects a natural feature. The Land Trust will work to create formal

trail easements to adjacent lands to enhance the trail system. Refer to the Access and Expansion Issue paper for more details.

12. <u>Routine Trail Maintenance:</u> The following activities should take place several times throughout the year:

A. Trail Inspection: Volunteers play an important role in trail inspection. Establish a system enabling volunteers to monitor and report any problems with the trails.

B. Trail Sweeping/Brushing: Volunteers can help maintain trails. Work parties, adopt-a-trail programs, and community partnerships will enable periodic upkeep of trails.

C. Mowing: Some trails will require annual mowing. Mowing alongside the paved roadway will always be required to give visitors a place to get off the road and to increase visibility for drivers

D. Trash Removal: Trash removal from trail corridors is important from both a safety and an aesthetic viewpoint. Encourage volunteers to include trash pickup in their work parties. The ethic of 'pack it in, pack it out' is important in reminding users to take care of their own trash. It would be useful to have a trash can at the trailhead, especially in managing waste from dog-walkers.

13. <u>Non-Routine Trail Maintenance</u>: The following projects are larger in scale and will take sufficient funds and manpower to complete. Some projects, especially road repair, will require contractors to complete.

A. Trail Sign Repair/Replacement: Repair and replace signs in a timely manner.

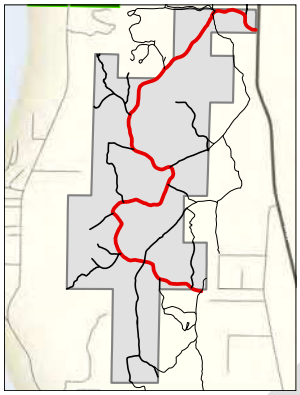
B. Trail Repair/Replacement: As trails are inspected, rank repairs in order of priority. The time between observation and repair of a trail should depend on whether trail condition is deemed hazardous and the degree to which the needed repair affects the safety of trail users. Another important consideration will be whether the needed repair can be performed by Land Trust staff and volunteers or if it should be contracted out to an agency or contractor. Construction of turnpikes, water bars, or check dams may be necessary in some of the wet trail segments. Written approval by the Land Trust is required before beginning any of these projects.

14. <u>Upgrading Existing Trails</u>: The following list ranks current trail upgrades in order of priority. Priorities are areas near wetlands or with moist soil conditions and road sections with potholes or other water damage. The following list will change with use of the property, availability of trail funding, and other conditions. *See Appendix F: Trail Upgrade Priority Map* for details on project location.

A. Trail Closures – Permanently close those trails identified in the trail evaluation process.
B. Parking lot – Construct a passenger vehicle parking lot off of Highway 525
C. Water damage on road – Install a drainage structure to prevent erosion from water flowing on the road.
D. Muddy trail sections – Reinforce the trail tread and install drainage structures to keep visitors from widening the trail when it gets muddy.
E. Steep section – this trail passes through a ravine. The grade of the trail is excessive and it drops into a wet spot. Re-route the trail to bypass the steep ravine.
F. Uneven tread – this is a primitive trail that had some motor bike activity in the past which has created an undulating and uneven tread. Grade the trail to prevent water pooling and erosion.
G. Secondary parking lot – New parking lot construction will depend on successful acquisition of new property and sufficient funds. See Access and Expansion Paper for details. New trail segments will also need to be built to connect the parking lot to the existing trail system.

APPENDIX A: Individual Trail Analysis

Community Way: Length of 2.72 miles with paved and gravel portions



Main Trail - Section 1: 0.71 long and paved

Description: Road is 0.7 miles and is located from the entrance at HWY 525 and Pacific Dogwood to the red gate at the start of the gravel road.

Width: 22 feet wide with a maintained grass shoulder of approximately 4 feet on each side.
Surface: Paved, smooth surface
Evaluation: Good

Annual Maintenance: Due to grass and alder regeneration, a 4 foot wide strip on both sides of the road needs to be mowed to maintain visibility for drivers and to give users a path to get off of the pavement. The strip along the road also gives horses a place to walk without leaving manure on the paved road.

Issues: Safety is the main concern for this stretch of trail. Post signs need at the parking area warning visitors that cars use the road. Maintaining the strip of grass along the side of the road will also enable walkers to get off the road. A pedestrian lane could also be painted on the road.

Main Trail -- Section 2: 2.07 miles long and gravel

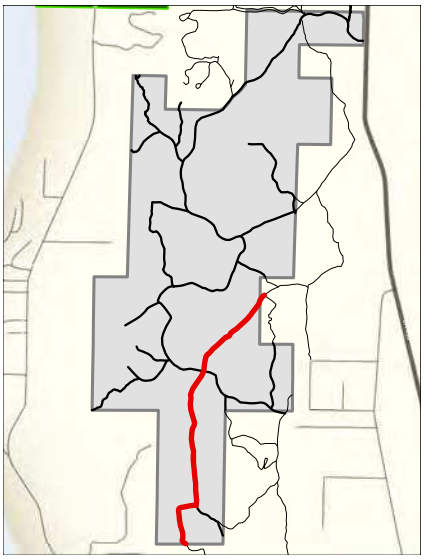
Description: Road is 2.07 miles long and winds through the center of the property. This road will remain open to vehicles for maintenance and emergencies.

Width: 8-9 feet wide
Surface: Hard-packed gravel and dirt
Evaluation: Good

Annual Maintenance: Keep the road mowed so alder and other plants do not become established in the center of the road, restricting access. Fill the potholes and address water drainage on the segment between intersection A and B.

Issues: Besides the need to maintain the road for vehicle traffic there, are no major issues at this time

<u>Crossroads Trail</u>: 1.14 miles long



Description: This trail begins at the most southern end of the property, crosses the Main Trail and terminates on the forest's eastern boundary. Of the forest's trails, equestrians use this trail most frequently. It connects to the M-Bar-C Ranch to the south after passing through two private properties.

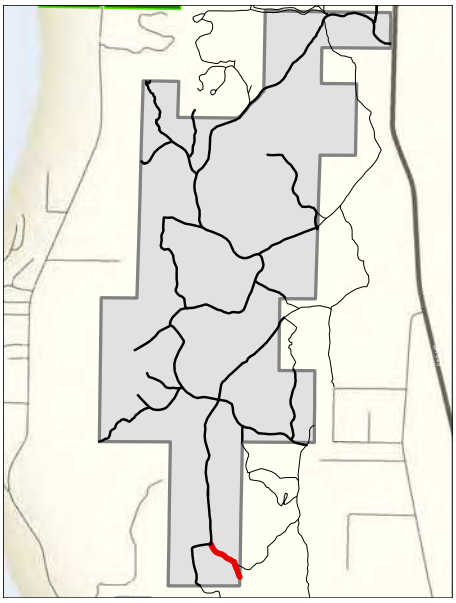
Width: 5-8 feet wide
Surface: Hard-packed dirt with gravel
Evaluation: Fair

Reason for evaluation: The trail passes through two small wetlands and both ends connect to private property.

Annual Maintenance: Basic brushing and clearing. Tread repair.

Issues: The trail passes through one wet area. Approximately 20 feet of trail is impacted during the wet season. The trail requires an upgrade in this area or should be seasonally closed. The trail ends at private property both at its southern and northern terminus. An official trail connection should be made in the future with the adjacent land either through acquisition or easement. If no official connection can be made the trail should be rerouted to connect with the Salal Trail.

<u>Uncle Buck</u>: 0.16 miles long



Description: A short section of this trail connects the Crossroads Trail to the Freeland Sewer and Water property. This trail has added significance to locals since the trail leads to a memorial site referred to as Enramada. The trail was created as a logging road and has begun to close in with grass and understory vegetation.

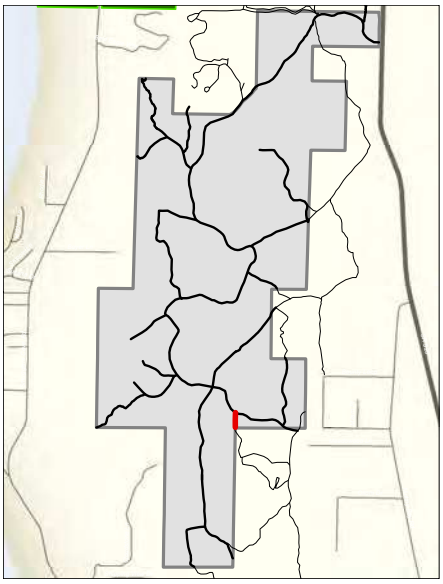
Width: 2-5 feet wide
Surface: Dirt with patches of softer sand.
Evaluation: Fair

Reason for evaluation: The trail is not a popular hiking route, but does provide access to a memorial site on the adjacent property to the east. The trail ends at private property, though the Freeland Sewer and Water District has given verbal permission for use of their trails.

Annual Maintenance: Basic brushing, clearing and tread repair.

Issues: The trail ends at Freeland Sewer and Water District property. A formal trail connection should be made to allow for travel between the two properties. If no formal connection can be made the trail should be closed at the intersection with the Crossroads Trail.

Happy Trails: 0.05 miles long



Description: This trail connects the main road to the trail network of the Freeland Sewer and Water District.

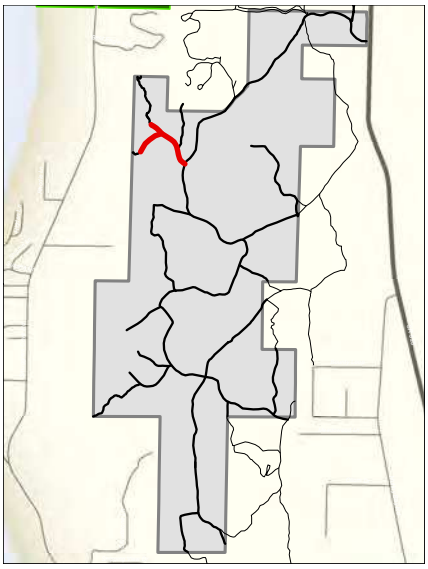
Width: 1-2 feet
Surface: Hard packed dirt
Evaluation: Fair

Reason for evaluation: The trail is not a popular hiking route. It ends at private property, though the Freeland Sewer and Water District has given verbal permission for use of their trails. The trail will require some tread maintenance.

Annual Maintenance: Basic brushing and clearing. Tread repair.

Issues: The trail was a dirt bike access path before motorized vehicles were excluded from the forest. Some tread upgrade is required to maintain a stable surface, especially during wet seasons. An official trail connection should be made in the future with the adjacent land either through acquisition or easement. If no official connection can be made the trail should be closed at the connection with the Main Trail.

Smugglers: 0.31 miles long



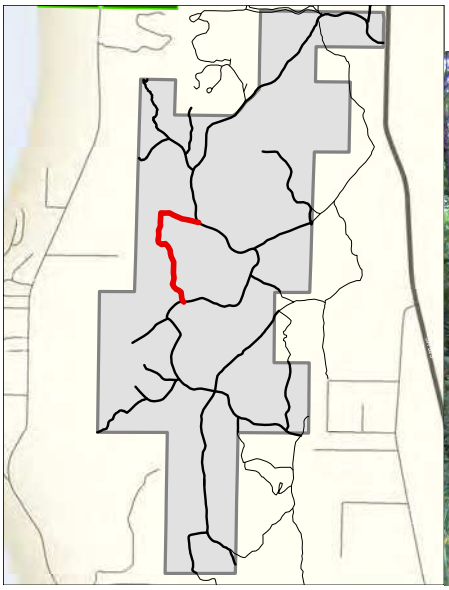
Description: This trail is a connection to one of the proposed trailhead locations (See Access Issue Paper). The Forest Stewardship Plan identifies it as access for possible future thinning of the young forest stand.

Width: 4-8 feet wide
Surface: Hard-packed gravel and dirt, mostly covered in grass
Evaluation: Good

Annual Maintenance: Grass has covered much of the surface of these roads. Annual mowing will be required to keep a path clear. Volunteer trail project to create a clear trail tread would lessen the need for annual mowing.

Issues: Trail currently dead ends near the forest's NW corner. Two social trails extend off of the road. These trails should be closed.

Wild Berry: 0.56 miles long



Description: This trail started as a logging road. It travels into one of the small ravines on the property.

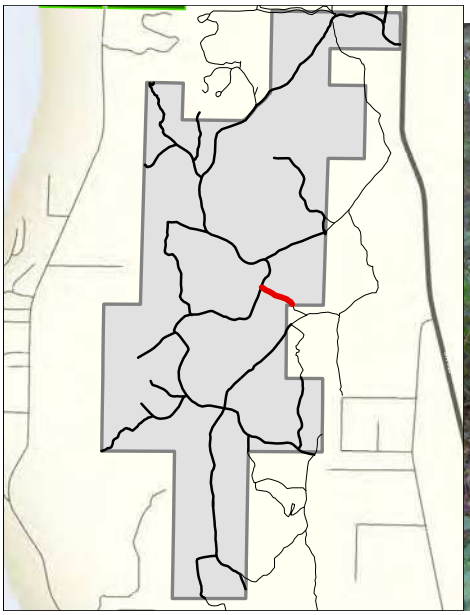
Width: 2-4 feet wide
Surface: Hard packed dirt
Evaluation: Fair

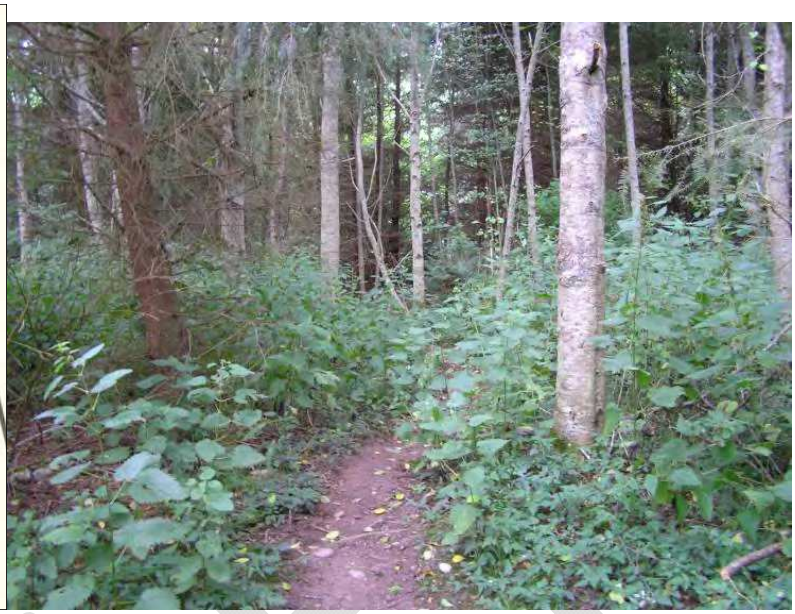
Reason for evaluation: Trail passes through one wetland area at the bottom of a small ravine.

Annual Maintenance: Grass has covered much of the surface of this old logging road. Annual mowing will be required to keep a path clear. Volunteer trail project to create a clear trail tread would lessen the need for annual mowing.

Issues: The trail passes through a small ravine. The trail's steep grade has led to some erosion by users. Fifteen feet of the trail at the bottom of the ravine can become saturated during the wet season. The trail requires an upgrade in this area or should be seasonally closed.

Peaceful Firs: 0.12 miles long





Description: This is a footpath between the Main Trail and neighboring private property. This trail is narrow and travels through dense forest

Width: 1-3 feet wide
Surface: Dirt
Evaluation: Fair

Reason for evaluation: This trail ends at private property. Its tread requires maintenance to reach trail standards.

Annual Maintenance: Basic clearing, brushing and tread repair.

Issues: This is a narrow trail with sections impacted by horse traffic during the wet season. Some tread repair projects are needed to upgrade the trail for increased use. The trail terminates in the east at private property. An official trail connection should be made with the adjacent land either through acquisition or easement. If no official connection can be made, the trail should be closed at the connection with the Main Trail or rerouted to connect to the Crossroads Trail.

<u>Raven and Crow</u>: 0.26 miles long

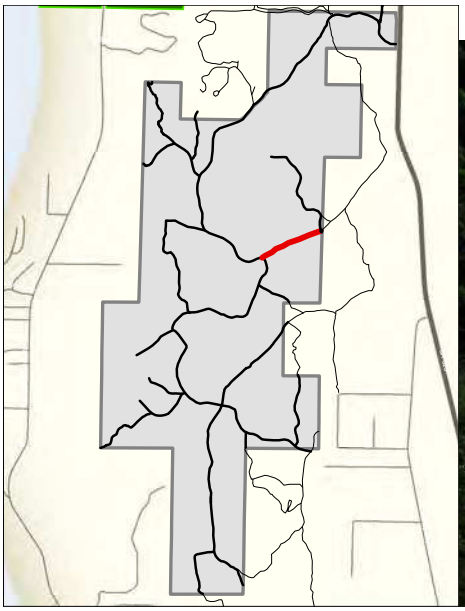
Description: This footpath travels from the Main Trail north towards private property. It's a level trail with little elevation change.

Width: 2-4 feet wide
Surface: Hard packed dirt
Evaluation: Good

Annual Maintenance: Basic brushing, clearing and tread repair.

Issues: The trail ends at private property both at its northern and southern terminus. An official trail connection should be made with the adjacent land either through acquisition or easement. If no official connection can be made, the trail should be rerouted to connect with the Crossroads Trail.

Dragonfly Glades: 0.22 miles long



Description: This is an old logging road that travels from the Main Trail eastward towards private property. The trail has some gentle elevation change and passes through one wetland area.

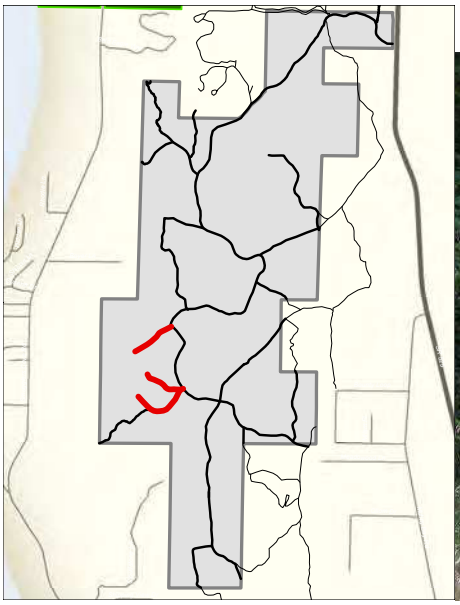
Width: 5-8 feet wide
Surface: Hard-packed dirt with some gravel.
Evaluation: Fair

Reason for evaluation: Trail ends at private property and passes through two wetlands.

Annual Maintenance: Basic brushing, clearing and tread repair.

Issues: The trail passes through one wet area. Approximately 30 feet of trail is soggy during the wet season, requiring upgrading or seasonal closure. The trail ends at private property at its eastern terminus. An official trail connection should be made with the adjacent land either through acquisition or easement. If no official connection can be made a reroute should be considered, either connecting the trail to the Salal Trail or the Main Road. Any analysis of reroutes should investigate consequences for habitat. If rerouting is not feasible the trail should be closed at the point the trail leaves the property.

<u>Unnamed -1</u>: short segments



Description: Old logging roads leading to proposed home sites.

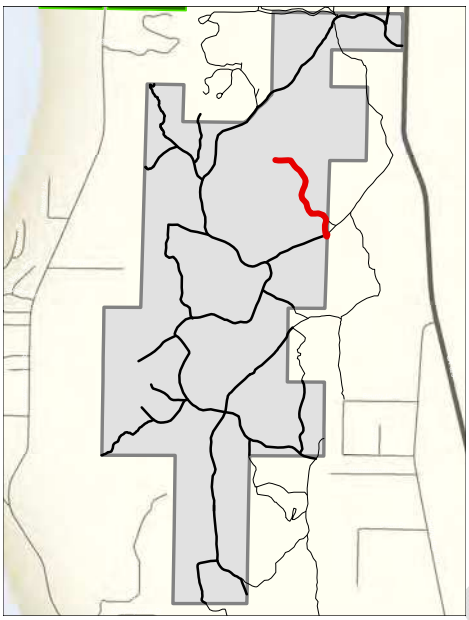
Width: 1-3 feet wide
Surface: Hard packed dirt and gravel. Grass has grown on much of the trail.
Evaluation: Poor

Reason for evaluation: The trail breaks up a large contiguous piece of wildlife habitat and connects to trails with high potential for erosion. The trails receive only minimal use.

Annual Maintenance: Initial maintenance will be required to keep the trail closed.

Issues: These trails need to be closed

Unnamed - 2: 0.25 miles long



Description: An old overgrown logging road that is level with only a small section of gradual elevation gain. Vegetation has covered much of the trail. It currently dead ends at an alder patch.

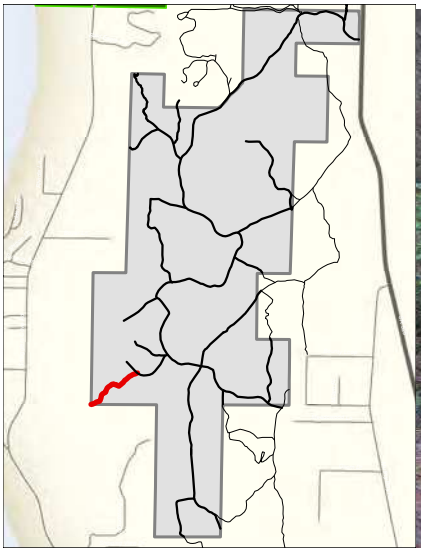
Width: 0-4 feet wide
Surface: Hard packed dirt and gravel; grass and understory vegetation has grown on much of the trail.
Evaluation: Poor

Reason for evaluation: The trail breaks up a large contiguous piece of wildlife habitat and passes through a wetland. The trail is rarely used and is beginning to close in with vegetation.

Annual Maintenance: Initial maintenance will be required to keep the trail closed

Issues: This trail needs to be closed.

<u>Unnamed - 3</u>: 0.15 miles long



Description: This trail begins at the end of the southernmost View Trail. The first portion of the trail has a gentle descent. About a third of the way down, the trail begins a steep descent. Recent horse activity has damaged the steep section of trail, widening the trail significantly.

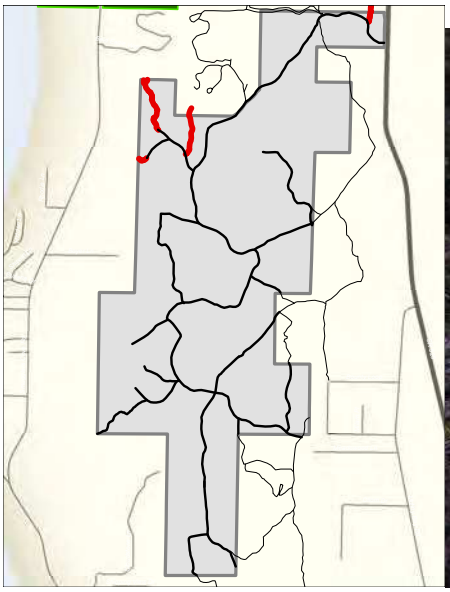
Width: 3-6 feet or less
Surface: Dirt
Evaluation: Poor

Reason for evaluation: This trail has some severely degraded sections due to erosion by visitors. The trail's steep slope will lead to continued erosion in the future.

Annual Maintenance: There will be maintenance for the first few years associated with keeping the trail closed.

Issues: The trail needs to be closed.

<u>Social Trails</u>: varying lengths



Description: Small trails lead from the main roads directly to neighboring private property. These trails are used by the neighboring homeowners to gain access to the Community Forest.

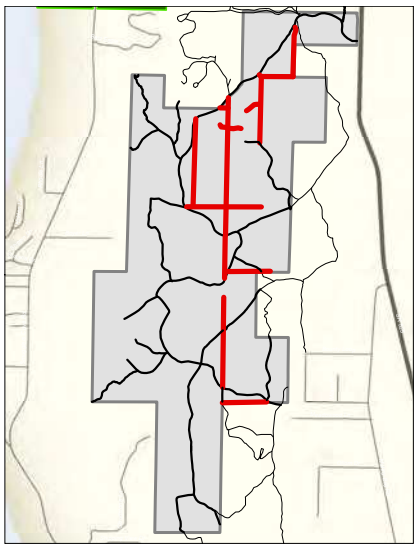
Width: 1 foot or less
Surface: Dirt or grass
Evaluation: Poor

Reason for evaluation: All these trails lead to private property. They are narrow and misleading to visitors. Trails are used only by a couple of individuals at this time. Some trail segments travel through steep terrain that could quickly erode.

Annual Maintenance: There will be maintenance for the first few years associated with keeping this trail closed.

Issues: Closing trails and unsanctioned trail creation.

Utility Trails: total of 2.58 miles



Description: Approximately 2.58 miles of utility corridors were cleared during the development phase of the property. A bulldozer cleared paths along survey lines. The corridors mapped in red are still visible. Some of the corridors have trails developed by people and wildlife traveling the corridors. Many of the trails are barely visible and are beginning to grow back.

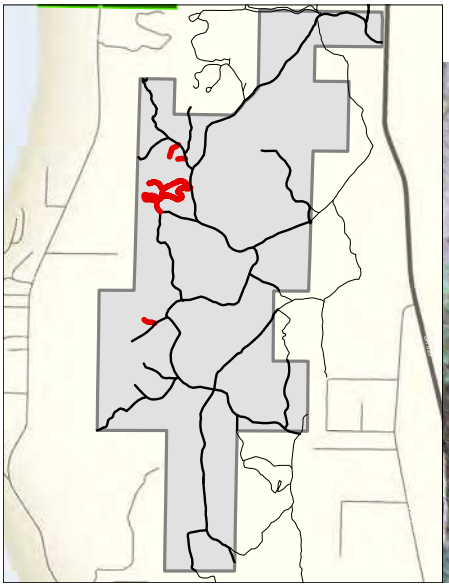
Width: 0-2 feet
Surface: Dirt or grass
Evaluation: Poor

Reason for evaluation: These trails cross into habitat areas for wildlife. Trail conditions are variable and are now mostly covered in vegetation.

Annual Maintenance: There will be maintenance for the first few years associated with keeping the trail closed.

Issues: These trails need to be closed.

Logging Skid Trails: total of 1.79 miles



Description: Skid trails created by logging equipment can be found off some of the established logging roads. These trails are beginning to grow back and many do not have any evidence of visitor traffic.

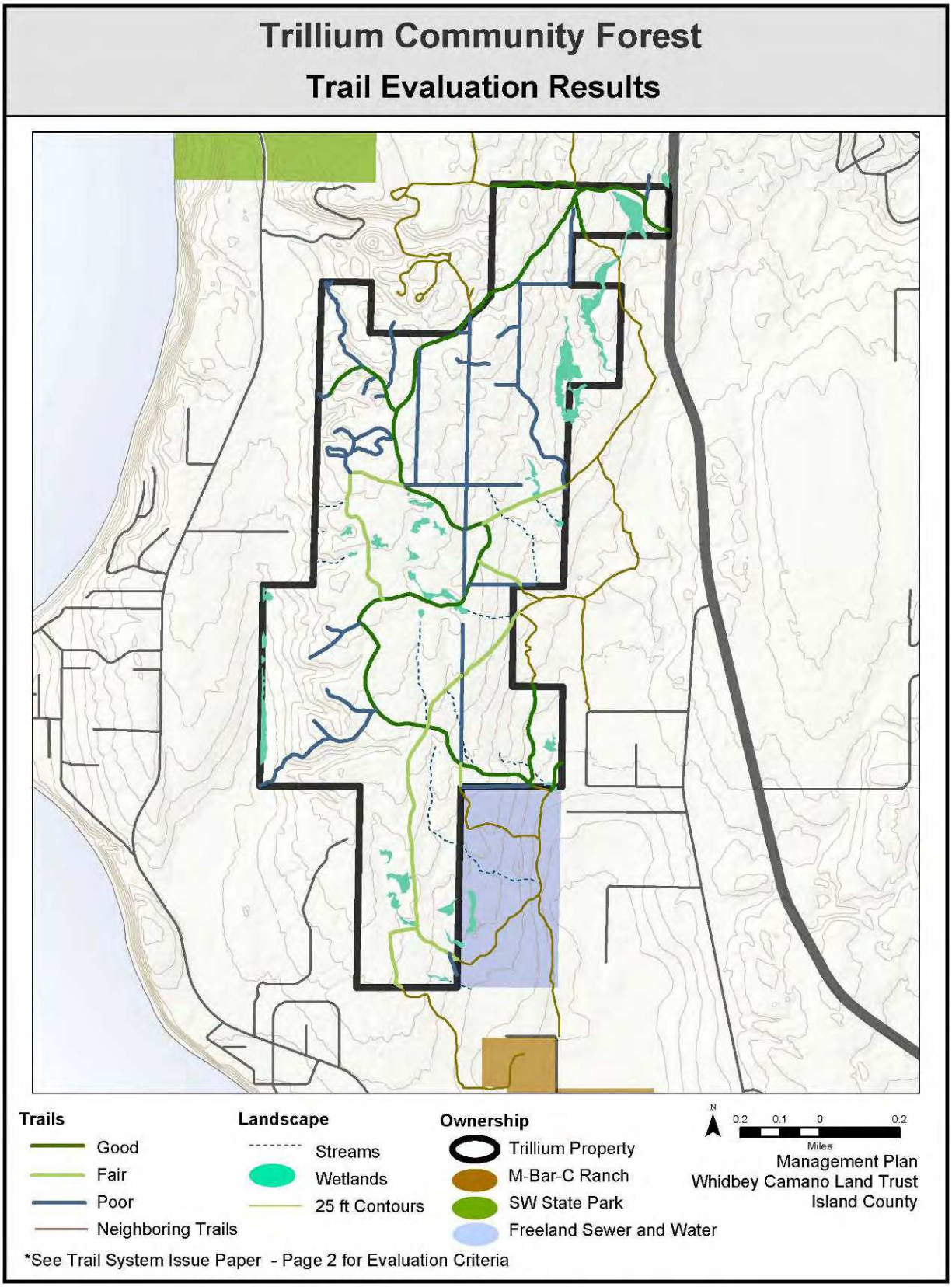
Width: 0-4 feet wide
Surface: Dirt covered in a mix of native vegetation
Rating: Poor

Reason for rating: These trails cross into habitat areas for wildlife. Trail conditions are variable and trails are now mostly covered in vegetation.

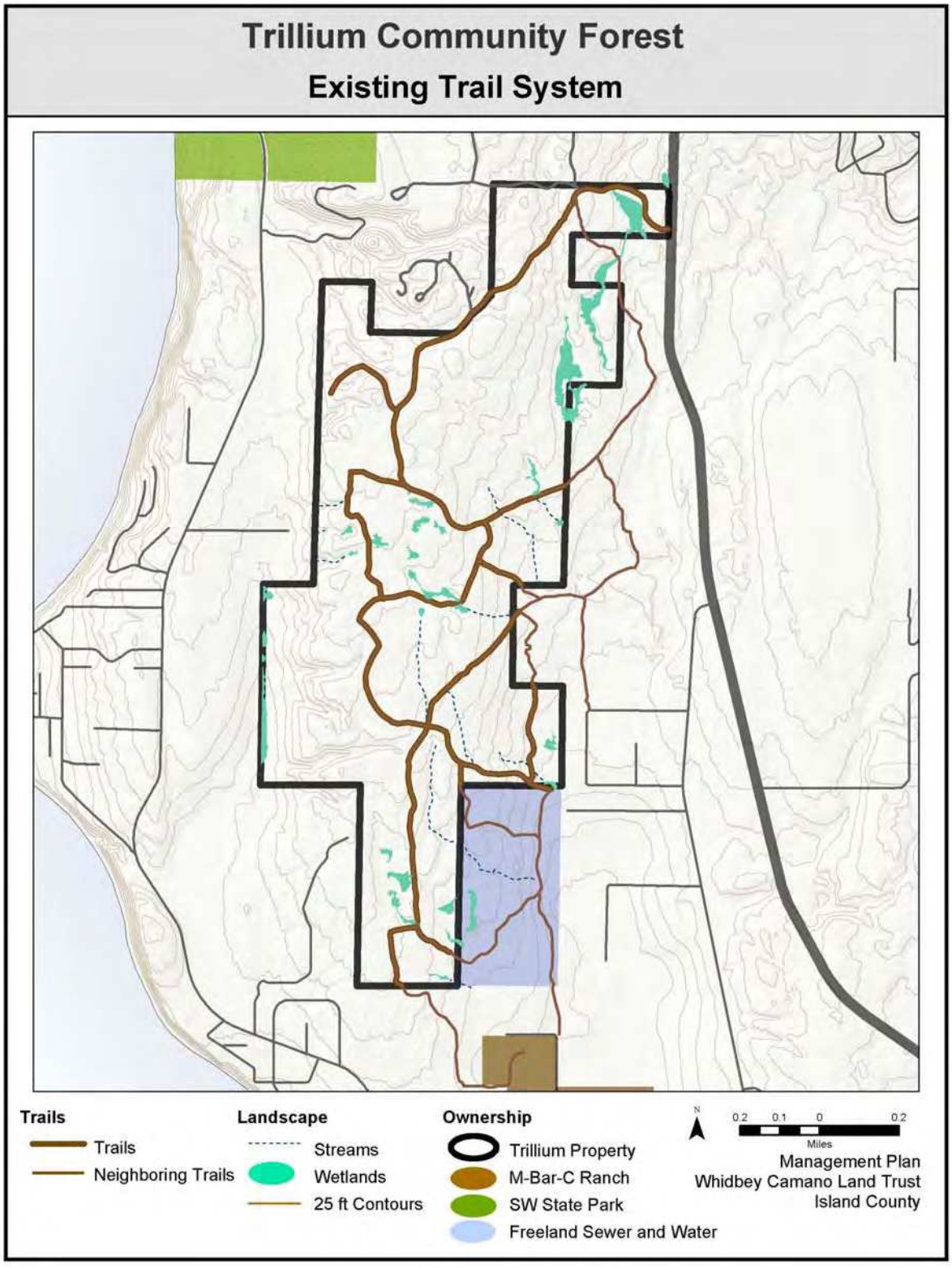
Annual Maintenance: There will be maintenance for the first few years associated with keeping trails closed.

Issues: These trails need to be closed.

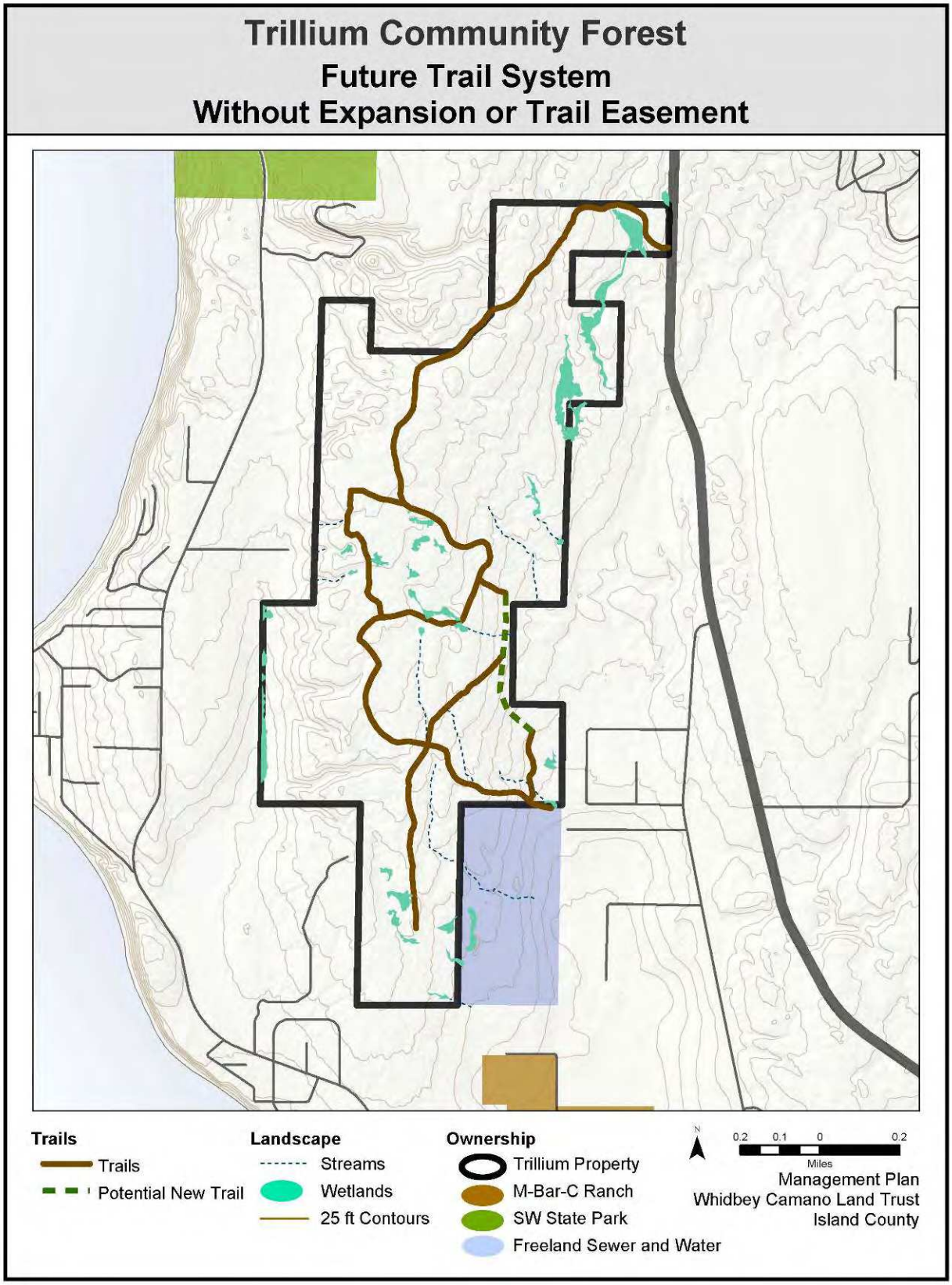
APPENDIX B


Trillium Community Forest
Trail Evaluation Results
Trails
Good
Fair
Poor
Neighboring Trails
Landscape
Streams
Wetlands
25 ft Contours
Ownership
Trillium Property
M-Bar-C Ranch
SW State Park
Freeland Sewer and Water
N
0.2 0.1 0 0.2
Miles
Management Plan
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Island County
*See Trail System Issue Paper - Page 2 for Evaluation Criteria

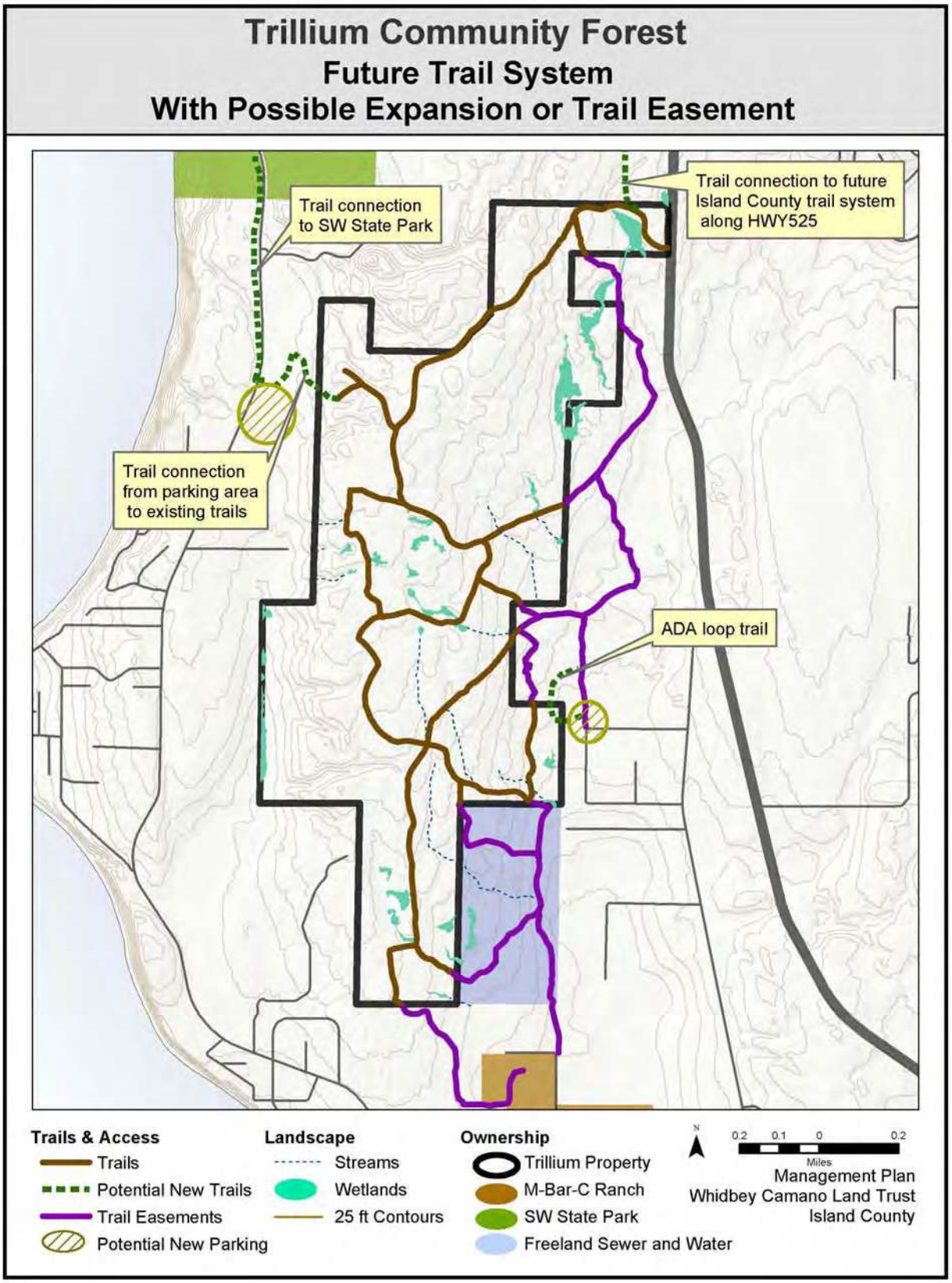
APPENDIX C


Trillium Community Forest
Existing Trail System
Trails
Trails
Neighboring Trails
Landscape
Streams
Wetlands
25 ft Contours
Ownership
Trillium Property
M-Bar-C Ranch
SW State Park
Freeland Sewer and Water
N
0.2 0.1 0 0.2
Miles
Management Plan
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Island County

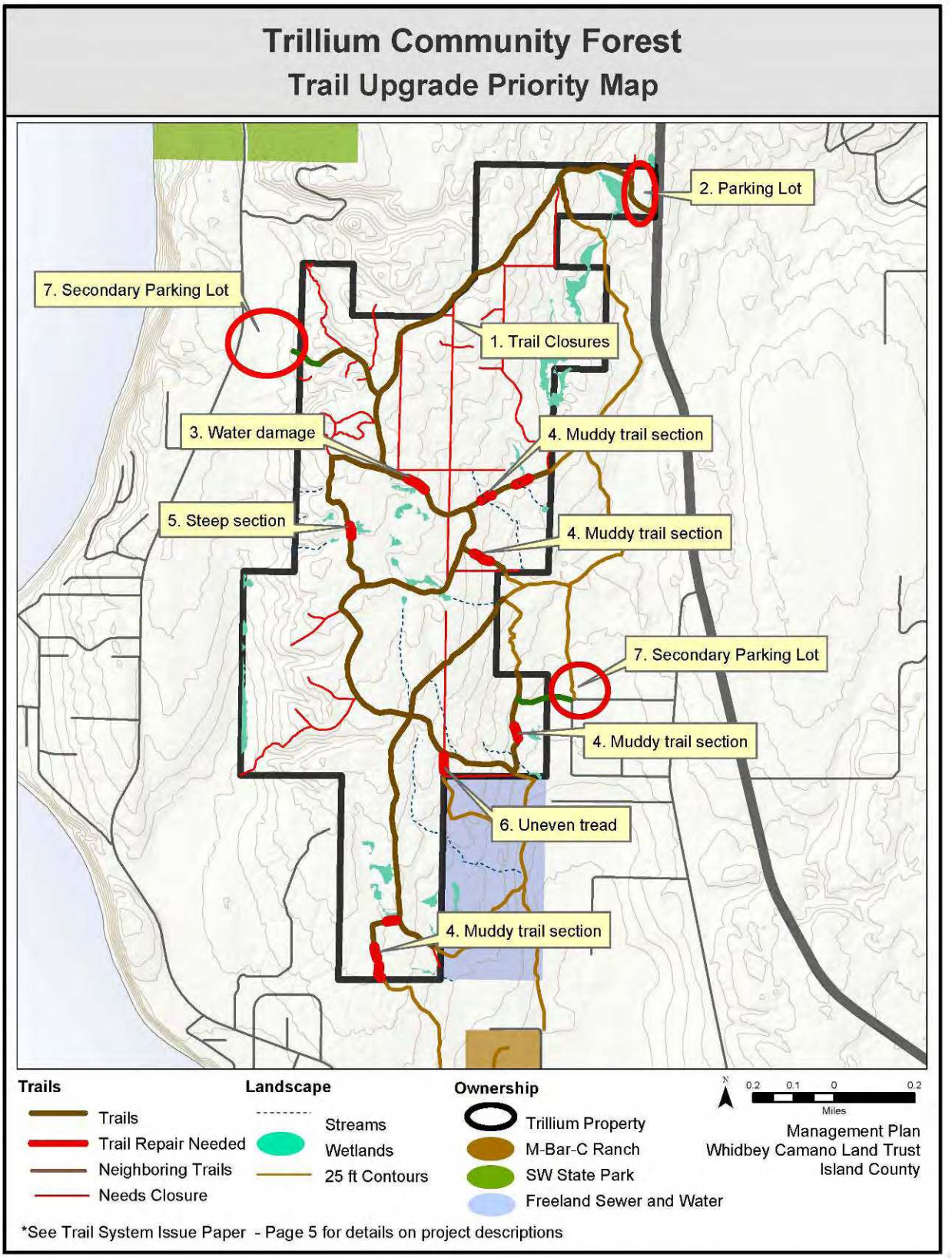
APPENDIX D


Trillium Community Forest
Future Trail System
Without Expansion or Trail Easement
Trails
Trails
Potential New Trail
Landscape
Streams
Wetlands
25 ft Contours
Ownership
Trillium Property
M-Bar-C Ranch
SW State Park
Freeland Sewer and Water
N
0.2 0.1 0 0.2
Miles
Management Plan
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Island County

APPENDIX E


Trillium Community Forest
Future Trail System
With Possible Expansion or Trail Easement
Trail connection to SW State Park
Trail connection to future Island County trail system along HWY525
Trail connection from parking area to existing trails
ADA loop trail
Trails & Access
Trails
Potential New Trails
Trail Easements
Potential New Parking
Landscape
Streams
Wetlands
25 ft Contours
Ownership
Trillium Property
M-Bar-C Ranch
SW State Park
Freeland Sewer and Water
N
0.2 0.1 0 0.2
Miles
Management Plan
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Island County

APPENDIX F


Trillium Community Forest
Trail Upgrade Priority Map
2. Parking Lot
7. Secondary Parking Lot
1. Trail Closures
3. Water damage
4. Muddy trail section
5. Steep section
4. Muddy trail section
7. Secondary Parking Lot
4. Muddy trail section
6. Uneven tread
4. Muddy trail section
Trails
Trails
Trail Repair Needed
Neighboring Trails
Needs Closure
Landscape
Streams
Wetlands
25 ft Contours
Ownership
Trillium Property
M-Bar-C Ranch
SW State Park
Freeland Sewer and Water
N
0.2 0.1 0 0.2
Miles
Management Plan
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Island County
*See Trail System Issue Paper - Page 5 for details on project descriptions

Appendix H:

Trillium Community Forest Management Plan – Issue Papers

Community Stewardship

This management plan suggests many projects for the maintenance, stewardship and improvement of the Trillium Community Forest. Some will require funding and the work of paid staff and contractors. However, many projects can be done by forming partnerships with businesses, with volunteers and community groups, and governmental agencies.

1. Volunteer Sources

The Community Forest benefits from a substantial level of volunteer activity. The community feels strongly about protecting the Forest and supports continuing community stewardship. The greatest challenge in regards to volunteers is coordinating activities and maintaining commitment to on-going tasks, such as noxious weed removal.

A. User groups – A network of groups uses the Community Forest, most composed of volunteers. Several groups have been actively volunteering or have expressed interest in volunteering. These groups include:

- Wildlife and Habitat Organizations – Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Whidbey Audubon, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Native Plant Stewards.
- Hiking clubs – Sons of the Beach, Senior Striders, Whidbey Walks, Meet Feet
- Biking clubs – Evergreen Mountain Bike Assn., Whidbey Island Bicycle Club.
- Hunting Clubs - Whidbey Bowman, Central Whidbey Sportsman Association, Holmes Harbor Rod Gun Club
- Equestrian Clubs - Backcountry Horsemen, M-Bar-C, 4-H, Equestrian Crossings
- Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts
- "Friends" Groups and neighborhood associations

B. Area businesses – Many local businesses have patrons that recreate in the Community Forest or have an interest in seeing wildlife habitat protected for future generations. Below are examples of the types of businesses that could partner on projects in the Community Forest by donating or giving discounts on materials, sponsoring work parties or participating in other ways.

- Outdoor recreation and supplies
- Building supply and home improvement
- Physical fitness
- Printing and copying
- Heavy equipment contractors
- Landscapers
- Gravel and topsoil
- Sign makers
- Professionals: surveyors, engineers, etc.
- Realtors, banks, etc. for sponsoring work parties

- Restaurants and grocery stores (donating food/drink for gatherings)

C. Schools and Universities – Many local schools are looking for places to send students for service learning. There is also the potential for internships and other longer term commitments. Examples include:

- Local middle and high schools (public and private)
- Skagit Community College
- Seattle Pacific University
- Edmonds Community College
- Pacific Rim Institute
- Washington State University Extension Service
- University of Washington
- Everett Community College

2. Possible Projects

A. Stewardship

Continued stewardship is needed to protect wildlife habitat and maintain a healthy forest. It is also necessary to maintain public recreation in the Community Forest for future generations. The following is a sample of potential projects that could be accomplished by volunteers.

- Trail closures, maintenance and repair,
- Invasive species mapping and removal,
- Wildlife improvements, such as installation of nest boxes,
- Monitoring trail conditions,
- Design, construction, and maintenance of any approved structures, such as kiosks and benches,
- Monitoring and correcting problematic behavior, such as letting dog run off-leash ,
- Basic maintenance, including litter clean-up and sign repair, and
- Maintenance of dog poop bag stations, if installed.

B. Education

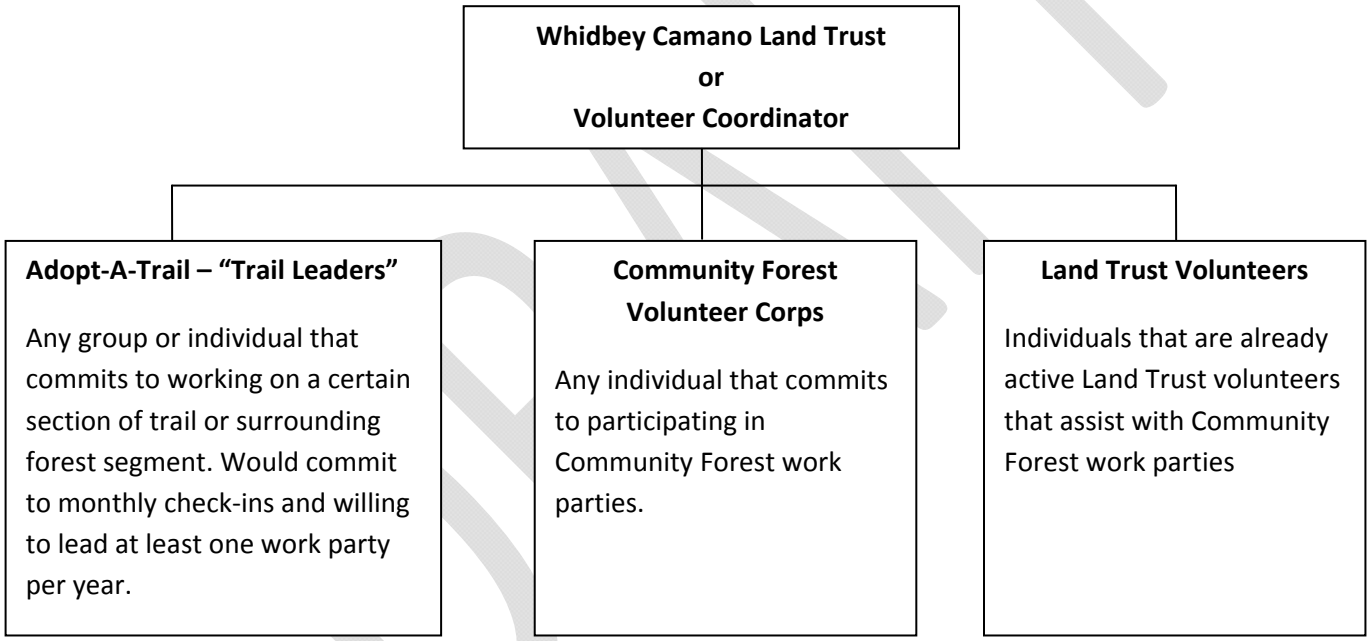
Opportunities abound to educate the public about the Community Forest's natural features and processes. Land Trust staff do not have time sufficient to lead any of these programs. It would be beneficial for volunteer groups or individuals to take on these projects as they will enhance the community's appreciation of the Community Forest and also gather valuable information for the future stewardship of the property. Some sample activities include:

- Kiosk material – keeping materials updated, including posters and other graphic representations of natural processes or recreational ethics,
- Tours – leading organized tours for the public, and
- Research – projects could include plant surveys, hydrologic surveys, wildlife surveys, public use surveys, and many others.

3. Developing Volunteer Involvement

The Land Trust's Site Steward program supports volunteers in taking on specific responsibilities. Tasks are tailored to the volunteer's strengths and guidance is provided by Land Trust staff. Tools and other supplies are provided by the Land Trust and staff work with volunteers to rank projects based on need. Land Trust staff could coordinate activities until a volunteer coordinator can be found. This coordinator would take on the responsibility of communicating with the Site Stewards and reporting progress and volunteer hours.

A. Proposed Volunteer Structure:



4. Coordination

Coordination of volunteer activity will be important to ensure:

- No duplication of requests to volunteer groups or funders,
- A consistent approach across groups and, where necessary, monitoring and regulation,
- Support and coordination among volunteer groups for particular activities, and
- Joint promotion and recruitment.

Coordination could initially be undertaken by Land Trust staff, with the intent of recruiting lead volunteers or a group to take over this important function.

5. Resources

A. Training – The Land Trust can provide training to volunteers at varying levels based on the volunteers' interest and experience.

B. Equipment – The Land Trust supplies tools and equipment for volunteer work parties. Several of volunteer groups, such as the Backcountry Horsemen, have their own tools to support work parties. The Land Trust should start a system of tool check-outs to encourage volunteers to make use of tools needed for specific projects.

C. Finance – Grant funding is needed for any large project to cover cost of materials and required consulting expertise. The Community Forest Stewardship Fund will be the source of funds for Land Trust staff-related costs including time and travel. Qualified volunteers can assist with grant writing and research in order to obtain funding for specific projects. Donation drives led by volunteers could provide funds to create parking area and trailheads and for other major projects.

Appendix I: Public Comment Summary

Public input was an important part of the planning process for the Trillium Community Forest Management Plan. The Land Trust conducted the following activities to gather public comment and recommendations:

February 2011 - Natural Resources Focus Group Meeting
February 2011 - Equestrian Focus Group Meeting
March 2011 - Hunter Focus Group Meeting
March 2011 - Walkers Focus Group Meeting
April 2011 – Mountain Biker Focus Group
April 2011 - Neighbors Focus Group Meeting
May 2011 - Public Workshop followed by website comment period
October 2012 – Public Workshop preceded and followed by website comment period

Summary of Focus Group Results

The Land Trust convened and facilitated six meetings with a range of user groups. Each Focus Group meeting consisted of between six to ten community members. Each meeting started with a short PowerPoint presentation updating the group on the project. A facilitator then asked series of questions to elicit concerns and comments on the future management of the Community Forest. The top concern for five of the six groups was to protect the forest for habitat conservation.

Natural Resources Focus Group Findings:

1. Set habitat protection as the primary goal and recreation as the secondary goal.
2. The future vision for the forest is that it progress to an old-growth condition. Old growth forests in lowland Puget Sound are rare as are the species that depend on this type of forest system.
3. Progression to an old-growth condition will require appropriate human manipulation, such as forest thinning. Develop a habitat plan that outlines how to achieve an old growth condition. Then, based on that plan, determine appropriate uses and locations for necessary public infrastructure, such as trails and parking lots.
4. If the forest progresses in a natural way, it will protect important natural resources, including plant and animal species, wetlands, watershed, and aquifers. The key is to figure out how to educate the public so people understand and support the larger vision. Once this occurs, allowed uses will make sense.
5. Educating the public needs to be a high priority and it needs to be done in a way that explains the decisions that have been made rather than to state the outcome of such discussions.

Equestrian Focus Group Findings:

1. Priority is for access, horse trailer parking and trails.
2. Would like for the neighbors to be able to enter the property on private trails.
3. Putney Woods is an important example for volunteer management.
4. Horse community is very interested in maintaining trails.
5. Educate users about the proper interaction with horses on trails. Educate riders about picking up horse manure in parking areas and moving manure off the paved road.
6. A mass meeting of users would be good, to get all of the different groups at the same table.
7. Trails are extremely important. Closing trails is not a popular idea. If they are closed, equestrians want to know why.

Hunter Focus Group Findings:

1. Priority is to keep the forest natural and undeveloped.
2. Hunters are willing to have restrictions, either with a hunter sign-up program or limited season
3. Use the various user groups as sources of volunteers.
4. Public education on hunting is important.
5. Use monitors and education programs to encourage ethical hunting.
6. Property should be open to a variety of uses.
7. There are not a lot of public places left to hunt on Whidbey.

Walker Focus Group Findings:

1. Habitat protection and conservation is the highest priority.
2. It is important to explore expanding the forest and to secure trail easements that connect to other trails. Having a trail connecting Trillium to South Whidbey State Park is a priority.
3. Through peer oversight create a culture of care and respect for the property.
4. Create a Friends of the Forest volunteer organization that is sustainable over the long-term.
5. Limit structural developments, such as picnic tables, to discourage overuse and the generation of garbage.
6. Secure other access points into the property.
7. Consider having single user trails, multi-use trails and seasonally used trails.
8. Set the tone of the property at the main entrance – it sets the wrong image now.
9. Explain why we are doing things so people understand and then are more likely to comply.

Mountain Biker Focus Group Findings:

1. The highest priority is for the forest to remain preserved from development and available for public use.
2. Put human activity where we want it to protect wildlife.
3. A friends group is a good way to encourage volunteers.
4. It would be nice to be able to do events.
5. Forest should be a place for education tours, signs, etc.
6. Parking is important for visitors.
7. Property should be open to many different users.
8. Consider which trails should be open to the different user groups.
9. Great to have another place to go ride for locals and visitors of all skill levels.

Neighbor Focus Group Findings:

1. The highest priority is habitat protection and conservation.
2. Encourage opportunities for environmental education.
3. Allow access for many users: hikers, bikers, horseback, hunting, etc.
4. Use responsible forest management to improve forest heath.
5. Have community access points to limit individual neighbor trails
6. Maintain a designated trail network and keep the public from creating new trails.
7. Post updates regarding the Trillium Community Forest on the Land Trust website.
8. The group is willing to be extra “eyes and ears” to help with monitoring the property.

Public Workshop – May 2011

The Land Trust conducted a Public Workshop at the Unitarian Church in Freeland. The event was advertised through email, the Land Trust website and local newspapers. A total of 47 participants attended and provided comments. The comments were written on comment cards collected at the end of the meeting.

The forty-seven participants provided more than 130 comments. The following topics received the most written comments:

- Trails – loop trails, limit closures, varying opinions on trail restrictions (40)
- Stewardship – many offering help with trails and maintenance (22)
- Use – Allow for multitude of uses, mainly hiking, horseback and biking (14)
- Hunting – both for and against allowing hunting, suggestions on limitations (14)
- Forestry – overall support, questions about funding, support for the old-growth "vision" (13)
- Vision – overall support of vision (10)
- Dogs - both on and off leash supporters (6)
- Parking – horse trailer access (4)

Three large posters were placed on the walls listing a variety of priorities. Participants were asked to place dots next to the areas they cared the most about. The following received the most dots.

- Allow horseback riding (32)
- Allow hunting (24)
- Prohibit hunting (12)
- Primary goal is habitat protection with recreation secondary (9)
- Allow active forest management to achieve old-growth forest condition (9)

Following the workshop, the material was posted on the Land Trust website. Over 30 additional comments were submitted through email. Topics were of similar focus to those supplied at the workshop.

Public Workshop – October 2012 (to be completed after the workshop)

Appendix J: Conservation Easement

Will be inserted after it is completed and approved by Island County and Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Appendix K: Wildlife List

The following species have either been seen in Trillium or are species known to frequent habitat similar to the current conditions on the property. This list will continue to grow as more observations by volunteers and staff are made in the field.

Trillium Community Forest Bird List – September 4, 2012 (confirmed by Sarah Schmidt, Steve Ellis and other members of Whidbey Audubon Society)

Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Barn Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Western Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Hutton's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Steller's Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Bushtit
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Bewick's Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Varied Thrush
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Western Tanager
Spotted Towhee
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak
Purple Finch
House Finch
Red Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

Trillium Community Forest Mammal List

Eastern Cottontail
Deer Mouse
Red-Backed Vole
Townsend's Vole
Townsend's Chipmunk
Northern Flying Squirrel
Douglas Squirrel
Trowbridge's Shrew
Shrew Mole
Blacktail Deer
Myotis Bats
Big Brown Bat
Silver-Haired Bat
Hoary Bat
Coyote
Weasel
River Otter
Raccoon

Appendix L:
Trillium Community Forest Management Plan

User Permit Application

Application Instructions:
Step 1: Complete all parts of the application. Attach any additional information such as route maps, equipment lists, vehicles and anything else you need to describe or explain.
Step 2: Return the application at least 45 days before the event. Applications can be

- Scanned and emailed to: info@wclt.org
- Faxed to: 360-222-3315
- Mailed to: Whidbey Camano Land Trust, 765 Wonn Rd, Barn C-201, Greenbank, WA 98253

Step 3: Land Trust staff will review your application and provide a response within 30 days.
Note: School groups or other organizations planning multiple or recurring activities can submit one application covering multiple dates.

Applicant name:_____

Organization:_____

Address/city/state/zip:
_____
_____

Daytime phone:_____ Evening/weekend phone:_____

Email address:_____

Activity category. Please refer to the Permit Conditions table for a comprehensive list of activities that require this permit. Please check all that apply:

___ Large group size
___ Research or science project
___ Tour, training or field trip
___ Night time activity
___ Carting
___ Other

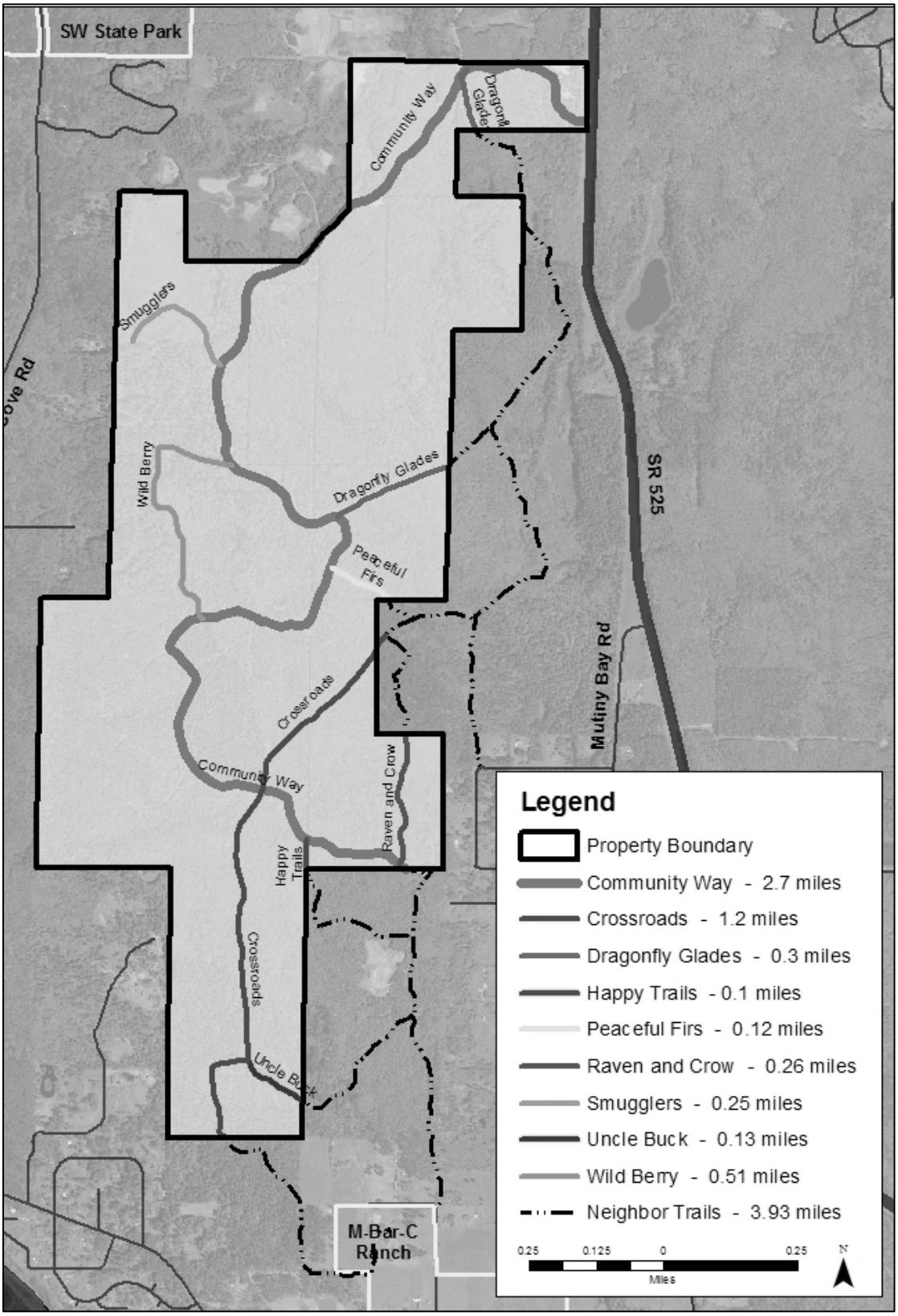
Description of activity (Please attach additional information as necessary):
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Number of people:_____

Date of activity:_____ Time of activity:_____

Activity	**Conditions or Additional Information Required**	**Required Post-Activity**
Pedestrian group size over 16		Repair of any trail damage
Equestrian group size over 12		Clean-up of animal waste, repair of any trail damage
Bicyclist group size over 12		Repair of any trail damage
Tour or field trip over 25 people	Should be of interest to natural area users and promote natural area education.	Repair of any trail damage
Research or science project	On or off trail use	Synopsis of project and results to Land Trust staff
Animal Carting	Carting allowed only on Community Way	Repair of any trail damage
Night time activity		
Release/introduce wildlife or insects	Beneficial research, or enhances wildlife communities (ex. Raptor release)	Synopsis of project and results to Land Trust staff
Public safety related training (e.g. Search dog training)	Beneficial to public welfare	Repair of any trail damage

Activity Location. Highlight area where activity is to take place.



For Land Trust use only:

Date application was received: _____ Date of Reply: _____

Additional approval conditions/ Reasons for denial:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Approval: _____ _____
Signature Printed Name

_____ _____
Title Contact Information

PLEASE NOTE: Permit must be in possession of applicant at the time of event and must be shown to any citizen or law enforcement officer inquiring as to the applicant's activities.

Appendix M: Trillium Community Forest Activity Approval Matrix

Activity	Land Trust Approval	Island County Approval	Island County Notification
Parking lot construction	X	X	
New trail construction	X	X	
Bridge or boardwalk construction	X	X	
Major road repair or major soil disturbance	X	X	
Permanent restroom construction	X	X	
Storage shed or other small structure construction	X	X	
Forest restoration – thinning & planting	X		X
Permanent/Seasonal trail closures	X		X
Deer hunting date changes	X		X
Installing Porta-potties in parking lots	X		
Design and placement of trail signs	X		
Kiosk construction and placement	X		
Placement of interpretive signs	X		
Bench construction	X		
Bike rack construction	X		
Hitching post construction	X		
Trash can placement	X		
Doggie bag station placement	X		
Artwork/Sculpture placement	X		
Emergency services training	X		
Photography tree stand placement	X		
Geocache placement	X		
Biking – more than 12 participants	X		
Horseback – more than 12 participants	X		
Hiking – more than 16 participants	X		
Scientific research	X		
Tours – more than 25 participants	X		
Animal carting	X		
Memorial placement	X		