



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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May 29, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: Proposed Boundary Expansion at Dabob Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

Jefferson County Fire District #2
Quilcene Fire Rescue
Commissioner Art Frank
PO Box 433
Quilcene, WA 98376

To Commissioner Frank,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold a public hearing to provide information and receive testimony on a proposal to expand the Dabob Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) boundary by about 3,860 acres. During the meeting, staff will review the boundary expansion proposal and present a brief overview of the natural area designation and management process.

Dabob Bay NRCA Boundary Expansion Hearing

When: June 17, 2024: 6:00 pm Presentation and Q&A, 6:45 Public Hearing.

In-person location: Laurel B. Johnson Community Center, 923 Hazel Point Road, Quilcene, WA 98376.

Why expand the boundary? The purpose of the expansion is to protect features within the current boundary by improving hydrologic influences on streams, wetlands, and bays, expanding terrestrial-aquatic linkages, and improving connectivity of forest habitats. Expanding the boundaries of this Natural Area will also conserve "Carbon Sequestration Forests" that DNR has identified on state trust lands, as directed by the Legislature in the 2023 session (and described in ESSB 5200, Sec. 3130).

What is an NRCA boundary? A proposed natural area boundary is a designation of lands eligible for inclusion within a state-owned natural area. **Inclusion in a conservation area boundary allows DNR to work with partners and granting agencies to raise funds and negotiate to buy privately owned parcels from willing sellers at market value. Landowners will be under no obligation, at any time, to sell their lands to DNR.** And no lands within the boundary are part of the natural area unless they are acquired by DNR.

Written comments on the proposal will also be accepted until close of business on June 28th, 2024, at: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, ATTN: Proposed NRCA Boundary Expansion, PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014, or via this site:

<https://wadnr.commentinput.com?id=JcYaDUFWk>

Or scan this QR Code:



Where can I find out more about the proposal or need accommodations? Enclosed is a fact sheet that includes a map and brief description of the proposal. You can also contact Jayana Marshall, Assistant Division Manager for Conservation, at (360) 789-3062 or Jayana.marshall@dnr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jayana Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jayana Marshall
Assistant Division Manager, Conservation
Recreation and Conservation Division
Washington Department of Natural Resources

Enclosures: Fact sheet about the Dabob Bay NRCA boundary expansion proposal and map.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Dabob Bay NRCA

Proposed boundary expansion

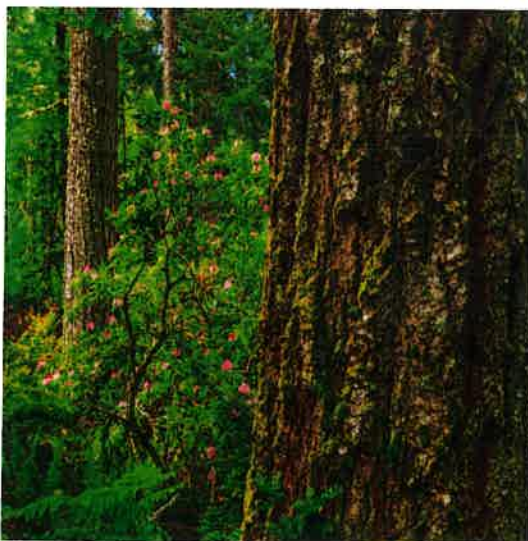
Jefferson County, Washington



The Dabob Bay Natural Area was established in 1984 to protect rare examples of intact salt marsh and sand spit plant communities within one of Washington's highest functioning coastal spit and tidal wetland systems. Initially created as a Natural Area Preserve (NAP), the site was enlarged in 2009, and again in 2016, to include additional land designated as NAP, along with lands designated as Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). This provides additional opportunities for low-impact public use.



The natural area includes mature coastal forests, coastal streams, feeder bluffs, forage fish spawning areas, eelgrass beds, native Olympia oyster beds, nearshore tidelands and mudflats utilized by juvenile salmon and shorebirds, and open marine waters utilized by salmon, marine birds, harbor seals and orcas. The current NAP/NRCA boundary encompasses 7,735 acres, of which DNR owns and manages 4,094 acres of shoreline, marsh and forestland in the Dabob Bay watershed.



A proposed natural area boundary is a designation of lands eligible for inclusion within a state-owned natural area. Lands located within the boundary only become part of the natural area if they are acquired by DNR. The boundary is simply an administrative tool to indicate where DNR will work with willing-seller property owners, and it imposes no change in land use zoning or any other restrictions on landowners. Over time, land is purchased at market value, which is determined by an independent, third-party appraisal.

The potential Dabob Bay NRCA boundary expansion of approximately 3,860 acres would provide more complete protection and improved long-term viability of features within the current site by further protecting hydrologic influences on streams, wetlands, and bays, expanding terrestrial-aquatic linkages, and improving connectivity of forest habitats.

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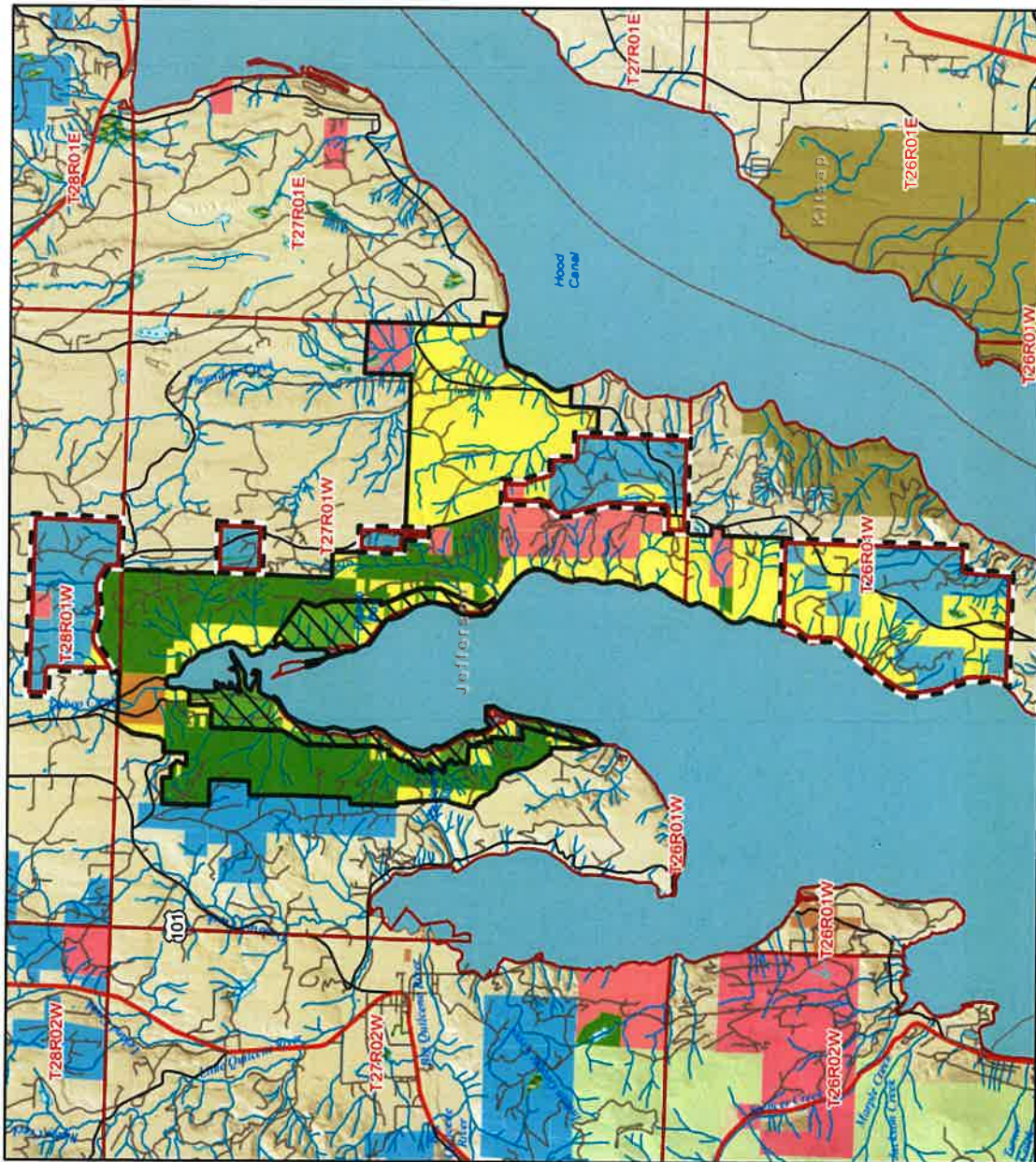
Under Title 79 of the Washington State Legislatures Revised Code of Washington, titled 'PUBLIC LANDS', chapter 79.71.020 RCW states that characteristics of lands to be considered worthy for consideration for conservation purposes must be (1) Lands identified as having high priority for conservation, natural systems, wildlife, and low-impact public use values; (2) An area of land and water, or land and water, that has flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or similar features of critical importance to the people of Washington and that has retained to some degree or has reestablished its natural character; (3) Examples of native ecological communities; and (4) Environmentally significant sites threatened with conversion to incompatible or ecologically irreversible uses.

Expansion to the north (see map) would contribute to hydrologic protection for a freshwater wetland within the existing NRCA and NAP. The expansion would protect the eastern portion of the tributaries which insures the watershed processes in those locations are intact and thus help provide hydrological protection for the wetlands at the mouth of Tarboo Creek, which includes forage fish habitat in the bay.

Expansion to the east, adjacent to the current Dabob Bay NAP and NRCA lands further protects watershed tributaries and streams leading to the bay. Acquisition of these parcels into conservation status protects ecosystem processes throughout the site, meeting the goals for the natural area preserve under RCW 79.70 and for the natural resources conservation area under RCW 79.71.

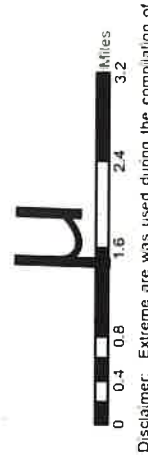
The expansion area to the south of current Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resource Conservation Area, would protect the ecosystem processes along Dabob Bay, and additionally adds adjacent forested uplands.

Dabob Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area



MAP LEGEND

- NAP Boundary
- NRCA Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve (NAP)
- Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA)
- Lands Eligible for Inclusion
- Granted Trust Lands
- Forest Board Trust Lands
- WA State Parks
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other Federal
- Proposed NRCA Expansion



Disclaimer: Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Conservation Lands - Melrose - May 2024



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