

**Island County Conservation Futures Program  
Maintenance and Operations Funding  
Project title: Barnum point and Iverson spit preserve Noxious Weed Management  
Application Year: 2023**

Applicant's Name: Island County Noxious Weed Control Board

Applicant's Address: P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Contact Person: Seth Luginbill

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Property Owner Name: Island County Parks

Property Owner Phone: 360-679-7335

Address of Property: Barnum point is located at Long Beach, Camano Island, south of Iverson Spit and east of Triangle cove; Iverson Spit preserve is located at Long Beach, Camano Island, south of Livingston Bay and North of Barnum Point.

Tax Parcel Number(s): Barnum Point: R33105-065-0680, R33107-491-5130, R33107-466-5220, R33105-086-1670, R33105-077-1080, R33105-165-0750, R33105-220-0700, and R33107-443-5240; Iverson Preserve: R33105-426-3680, R33232-048-3440, R33232-027-4600, and R33232-221-3170

Acres or Square Feet of Property: Total 363 acres: Barnum Point (166 acres); Iverson Preserve (197 acres)

Percentage of Property Affected by Project: Approx. 110 acres (Barnum 40, Iverson 95)

Summary of Proposed Project Costs and Budget: The amount requested is **\$52,216** for two years of noxious weed control work. The amount requested would cover a noxious weed survey and control work in 2021 (\$21,869) and additional control work in 2022 (\$30,347).

Included with Application:

Attachment A – Maps of each CFF property

Attachment B – Estimated Project Budget

Attachment C – Budget Detail

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**Project Description:**

This proposal incorporates two separate CFF acquisition properties all dealing with noxious/invasive weed infestations. As a result of the unpredictable nature of noxious weed infestations it was deemed prudent by the noxious weed control board to encompass both properties into one proposal so as to easily divert resources to areas most in need depending on response to treatments in previous years as well as in the first year of this proposal if awarded. The properties included in this proposal are as follows: Barnum Point County Park and Iverson Spit preserve:

**Barnum Point:**

In 2020, IC parks was awarded CFF M&O funds to conduct a removal project to begin removal of the 900 mature English holly trees situated around the old farm footprint. While this work has gone a long way to minimize future infestations into the forested acreage surrounding the old farm there is already an established large population in the adjacent 5.5-forested acres. In the same manner that the removal of the larger trees and revegetation with natives will help the overall health of the surrounding ecosystems the removal of the smaller plants in this forest area will also serve to ensure that future re-establishment of English holly will not derail work already put into this site.

Similarly, there has been some work to deal with the encroachment of regulated and unregulated noxious weed species at numerous points throughout the park. Known species present include poison hemlock, Scotch broom, spurge laurel, Japanese knotweed, bull thistle, Canada thistle, and common tansy. In allocating designated funding towards eradicating and control these species parks staff can devote resources to other infrastructure and maintenance tasks. The main objectives of this portion of the project would be to continue the control/eradication of English Holly and other noxious weeds found throughout the park.

**Iverson Preserve:**

Iverson Preserve was purchased with Conservation Futures Funding in 1999. The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (Northwest Ecological Services, 2011) recognizes noxious weeds as one of the ecological challenges at Iverson Preserve. Although there have been several independent efforts to control the spread of noxious weeds in the preserve since its purchase, there was no long term noxious weed management plan to effectively guide the process. Controlling noxious weeds requires multiple years of effort using a combination of control methods. This is only possible when there is funding to provide for the necessary resources over the long term.

Noxious weed control in Iverson Preserve has primarily been funded through the awarding of two CFF M&O grants. The first in 2014 (\$11,230) and a subsequent grant in 2016 (\$37,886). The primary objective in these has been the implementation of the aforementioned "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan 2013-2020." Within

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this, a set of goals was established through a detailed implementation schedule to run through 2020. These major goals of the plan included:

- Eliminate over 95% of the Scotch Broom (the most prolific noxious weed at the site) in the Preserve.
- Reduce the levels of Canadian Thistle, Bull Thistle, and Poison Hemlock by at least 95% through treatment efforts.
- Eliminate common teasel, common fennel, herb-Robert, English Ivy, English Holly, and oxeye daisy completely in the Preserve.
- Control the spread of Himalayan blackberry, common St. Johnswort, wild carrot, and reed canary grass into any new areas and reduce existing infestations using mechanical, chemical, and cultural control methods.
- Re-vegetate areas cleared of noxious weed with native species as necessary.
- Conduct annual monitoring to assess infestations and success of previous control efforts.
- Conduct early detection and rapid response (EDRR) and eradicate any new infestations of noxious weeds discovered in the Preserve.

A. Ecological Integrity

**Barnum Point:** Controlling noxious/invasive weeds within the park's borders will help enhance habitat and continue to expedite the ecological recovery efforts for this park. While current infestations are localized failure to prevent their spread would lead to further decrease in biodiversity within the park and reduced access and safety for the public to utilize this resource moving forward.

**Iverson Spit preserve:** The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (Northwest Ecological Services, 2011) recognizes noxious weeds as one of the ecological threats at Iverson Preserve. Noxious weeds are known to displace native plants, reduce biodiversity, affect threatened and endangered species, alter ecological processes, decrease wildlife habitat, increase erosion and sedimentation and negatively impact salmon habitat. Iverson Preserve has been identified as one of 68 hot spots for birding by Washington Audubon and is found on the Great Washington State Birding Trail Map. Already, a significant portion of the Preserve has been taken over by non-native Scotch broom, reducing the diversity of foraging and nesting habitat for birds.

Other noxious weed species, such as Canada thistle, bull thistle, and poison hemlock have not been adequately controlled since the property was acquired. The accidental introduction of weed seed contaminated soil into the Preserve has resulted in the spread of poison hemlock into areas

**Island County Conservation Futures Program  
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of the Preserve where it was not present initially. This particular weed is a human health hazard as well as a threat to the managed agricultural area.

**B. Hazard of Liability**

Sites include a number of toxic species that can be harmful to people, pets, and stock animals who utilize the park. Two species: Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) both have toxic compounds within plants that can lead to potentially significant health risks if ingested or in some cases when dermal contact occurs.

Washington’s noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires landowners, including city, county and state land agencies, to control or eradicate certain noxious weeds that occur on their property. Since private citizens are equally responsible for controlling listed noxious weeds on their properties, the county could be liable and legally challenged for not obeying the same state laws. The noxious weed control work proposed for Barnum point and Iverson spit preserve will ensure compliance with noxious weed laws.

**C. Special Status**

The open, protected habitats within Iverson Preserve are becoming increasingly important to fish and wildlife populations as development expands on Camano Island and within the Stillaguamish Basin. The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (2011) presents the following table that summarizes species and habitats potentially present on or within the near vicinity of Iverson Preserve that are protected by the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance, listed by Washington State as a Species of Concern (i.e. Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, or Candidate) or as Priority Habitats, and/or are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Table 1: Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitats**

| Potentially On-Site      | Island County Protection | State Protection | Federal Protection |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Waterfowl concentrations |                          | x                |                    |
| Purple martin            |                          | x                |                    |
| Marbled murrelet         | x                        | x                | X                  |
| Great blue heron         | x                        | x                |                    |

**Island County Conservation Futures Program  
Maintenance and Operations Funding  
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|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Common loon                                    | x | x |   |
| Osprey   | x |   |   |
| Pileated woodpecker                            | x | x |   |
| Trumpeter swan                                 | x | x |   |
| Salmonids                                      | x | x | X |
| Eelgrass beds                                  | x |   |   |
| <b>Potentially Off-Site,<br/>near vicinity</b> |   |   |   |
| Surf smelt                                     | x | x |   |
| Dungeness crab                                 |   | x |   |
| Harbor seal                                    |   | x | X |
| Bald eagle                                     | x | x | X |
| Gray whale                                     | x | x | X |

Iverson Preserve is also an important area to upland birds and has been selected by Audubon Washington as one of 68 sites to be included on the Great Washington State Birding Trail Map. Many resident bird species nests within the Preserve and the diversity of habitats attract many migratory species as well. Noxious weeds are a threat to the diversity of habitats and native plants that provide an abundance of nesting and foraging options to birds and other wildlife. As an example, in a large portion of the Preserve Scotch broom is now the dominant shrub and habitat diversity is reduced. If long term funding is granted, noxious weeds can be controlled in the upland area of Iverson and be a success story similar to the *Spartina* control that has occurred offshore.

D. Habitat values not previously covered

N/A

E. Public Access

All parks have excellent public access. Barnum Point County Park has an established parking area installed in 2019 and portable waste facilities for public use. Iverson preserve has an established

**Island County Conservation Futures Program  
Maintenance and Operations Funding  
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parking area with an additional parking area to handle increased public traffic during summer months.

Management Plan

Currently there is a site-specific management plan in place for Barnum Point County Park developed by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and, to a lesser extent the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan that contains an overall outline for parks management, acceptance of new properties, and strategies for management. Specifically, Island County is moving toward a passive park infrastructure of which these properties qualify. There are several ideas outlined in the core of the specific management plan. One component being the removal of an invasive species and the restoration and reforestation being a major component of keeping the surrounding forest healthy and diverse.

A site-specific management plan was prepared for Iverson Preserve in 2011 by Northwest Ecological Services. The plan recognized noxious weeds as one of the ecological challenges at Iverson Preserve. In 2014 a noxious weed management plan for Iverson preserve was created. All the work outlined in this proposal is based out of this plan and work conducted from 2015-2020.

F. Supported by Community Plans

Barnum Point and Iverson Preserve are both owned and operated by Island County Parks. The Parks Plan which is in the Island County Comprehensive Plan supports noxious weed management. This project will reduce the time that the Island Parks Maintenance person has to spend controlling weeds at this site. In addition, The Camano Island Roads Department has historically mowed along some of the access roads and along the dike within Iverson Preserve to help control noxious weeds and other vegetation from encroaching on these public access areas. This project will reduce the need for the Public Works Department to provide services for this area.

Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) has been actively involved at both Barnum Point and Iverson Preserve since their inception in 2018 and 2000 respectively. Currently FOCIP has one dedicated site steward for each location who is a local resident and is on site regularly, focusing on trail maintenance. FOCIP also has irregularly scheduled work parties for trail maintenance and also weed control, especially mechanical control of Scotch broom. FOCIP supports long term funding for noxious weed control at Iverson Preserve and several FOCIP members have written letters of support for previous CFF grant applications for these funds.

**Island County Conservation Futures Program  
Maintenance and Operations Funding  
Project title: Barnum point and Iverson spit preserve Noxious Weed Management  
Application Year: 2023**

G. Existing Infrastructure

Both parks have established parking areas to allow hikers to all utilize the trails safely. Both parks have informational kiosk with pertinent maps and updates on park activities.

H. Develops infrastructure

N/A

I. Long Term Viability

Viability for these projects is very high. Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) has been actively involved at Barnum point preserve since its inception. FOCIP has irregularly scheduled work parties for trail maintenance and also weed control, especially mechanical control of Scotch broom. FOCIP supports long term funding for noxious weed control at Barnum point/Iverson Spit and several FOCIP members have written letters of support for previous CFF grant applications for these funds.

J. Other Resources

The current ICNWP Coordinator possesses a WSDA pesticide applicator's license (No. 93154) with aquatic and right-of-way endorsements. The ICNWP Coordinator is responsible for keeping the license current by earning the required number of recertification credits each year. The ICNWP Coordinator also has the necessary National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to be able to use appropriate herbicides in aquatic areas. The ICNWP Coordinator is knowledgeable about plants, their life cycles, ecosystem function, and integrated pest management techniques.

Volunteers will play an integral role and assist in the following activities

- Scotch Broom removal on both sites and holly removal at Barnum point.
- Noxious weed control program has supply of hand tools, herbicide, and other weed removal equipment to conduct work and volunteers when involved.

K. Public Ownership

Both properties are Fee simple and owned by Island County Parks

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 Maintenance and Operations Funding  
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 Application Year: 2023**

**Attachment A**

Map 1 – Barnum Point County Park





Island County Conservation Futures Program  
Maintenance and Operations Funding  
Project title: Barnum point and Iverson spit preserve Noxious Weed Management  
Application Year: 2023

Map 2 – Iverson Spit Preserve



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Maintenance and Operations Funding  
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Application Year: 2023**

**Attachment B**

| <b>Island County Conservation Futures Fund</b>         |              |                |                       |               |
|--|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| Barnum Point/Iverson spit noxious weed control         |              | Year 2023/2024 |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| Category   | CFF          |                | Other Funding Sources | Total Funding |
| Salaries and Benefits                                  | 3078         |                |                       | 3078          |
| Consultants/Sub-contracting                            |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Good and Services                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Travel & Per Diem                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Other  |              |                |                       | 0             |
| <b>Total Planning</b>                                  | <b>3078</b>  |                |                       | <b>3078</b>   |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| Salaries and Benefits                                  | 28980        |                |                       | 28980         |
| Consultants/Sub-contracting                            | 8400         |                |                       | 8400          |
| Good and Services                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Travel & Per Diem                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Other  |              |                |                       | 0             |
| <b>Total Maintenance/</b>                              | <b>37380</b> |                |                       | <b>37380</b>  |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Salaries and Benefits                                  | 8703         |                |                       | 8703          |
| Consultants/Sub-contracting                            |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Good and Services                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Travel & Per Diem                                      |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Other  |              |                |                       | 0             |
| <b>Total Management &amp; Admin</b>                    | <b>8703</b>  |                |                       | <b>8703</b>   |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| Technology Capital Items*                              |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Technology Supplies*                                   |              |                |                       | 0             |
| Equipment*   | 3055         |                |                       | 3055          |
| Other  |              |                |                       | 0             |
| <b>Total Equipment</b>                                 | <b>3055</b>  |                |                       | <b>3055</b>   |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| <b>Land Purchase</b>                                   | <b>0</b>     |                |                       | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>Other Acquisition Costs</b>                         | <b>0</b>     |                |                       | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>Total Acquisition Value</b>                         | <b>0</b>     |                |                       | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>Land Donation</b>                                   | <b>0</b>     |                |                       | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>Total Budget</b>                                    | <b>52216</b> |                | <b>0</b>              | <b>52216</b>  |
|  |              |                |                       |               |
| ase provided attached detailed list of items and costs |              |                |                       |               |

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**Attachment C**

| Barnum point/Iverson spit preserve CFF NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT   |       |       |                 |                                     |
|--|-------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Budget Attachment C  |       |       |                 |                                     |
| Budget Item:   |       |       | Work Year 2023  | Work Year 2024                      |
| Salary for IC Noxious Weed Program Coordinator<br>(No. of Hrs.x\$40.31/Hr.)  | 43.97 | 28.48 |                 |                                     |
| Noxious weed control work*   |       |       |                 |                                     |
| Project Planning/reporting   |       |       | \$1,539         | \$1,539                             |
| Field Time   |       |       | \$8,794         | \$8,794                             |
| seasonal staff   |       |       | \$ 5,696        | \$ 5,696                            |
| Restoration  |       |       |                 |                                     |
| Mulch  |       |       |                 | \$180                               |
| Native plantings   |       |       |                 | \$1,200                             |
| Other Equipment & Materials**  |       |       |                 |                                     |
| Mowing services  |       |       | \$1,000         | \$1,000                             |
| 14" Electric chainsaw  |       |       | \$365           |                                     |
| Battery's and Charger  |       |       |                 |                                     |
| Nitrile Gloves   |       |       | \$30            | \$30                                |
| Herbicide  |       |       | \$600           | \$450                               |
| Surfactant   |       |       | \$200           |                                     |
| Top soil   |       |       |                 | \$6,400                             |
|  |       | ST=   | \$18,224        | \$25,289                            |
| Public Health WC Adminstrative indirect rate (@20%)  |       |       | \$3,645         | \$5,058                             |
| <b>Total</b>   |       |       | <b>\$21,869</b> | <b>\$30,347</b>                     |
|  |       |       |                 | <b>Total For 2 Years = \$52,216</b> |
| * It is anticipated that most of the noxious weed control work would be done by IC Noxious weed coordinator.<br>When possible volunteer services would be incorporated   |       |       |                 |                                     |
| ** Equipment & Materials: Most of the equipment necessary for the control work will be supplied by the IC Noxious Weed Program Coordinator. Battery powered chainsaw will be used for larger holly plants. Other herbicides will be used for all other noxious weeds treated |       |       |                 |                                     |