

February 4 & 5, 2011

PROPOSED LAND TRANSACTIONS

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GREEN SHEET

Meeting/Workshop: February 4 & 5, 2011
Agenda Item: PROPOSED LAND TRANSACTIONS
Staff Contact: Dan Budd
Presenter: Dan Budd

Background:

The Department is recommending the following actions:

Proposed conservation easement on 960 acres in Kittitas County

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

This action will protect critical fish and wildlife habitat and provide public recreational opportunity.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

This donated conservation easement is phase two of a voluntary conservation measure by Puget Sound Energy. This is a complimentary step in a 20,000 acre windpower mitigation project that has been reviewed and approved through WDFW's Lands 20/20 process, the Energy Facility Siting and Evaluation Committee, and local government. Previous steps in this project have been reviewed and funded by direct legislative appropriations and also through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

Approval of the proposed land transaction as presented.

Draft motion language:

Move to approve the proposed land transaction as presented.

Justification for Commission action:

These actions will protect critical fish and wildlife habitat and provide public recreational opportunity.

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE PROGRAM
LANDS DIVISION
REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

February 4, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Philip Anderson
Director

FROM: Dan Budd
Real Estate Manager

SUBJECT: **ITEM 1: PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF A 960-ACRE
CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON WILDHORSE WIND FARM
SKOOKUMCHUCK WILDLIFE AREA
KITITAS COUNTY**

Puget Sound Energy has offered to donate a second conservation easement to WDFW on the Wildhorse Wind Farm in eastern Kittitas County. This is phase two of a voluntary conservation measure in addition to traditional mitigation requirements. This phase adds 960 acres to the 2008 conservation easement, which encumbered 6,500 acres of PSE land. The conservation values of the property are elk and other wildlife, springs, creeks, riparian areas, and shrub steppe lands.

The wind farm is in a popular hunting area and is surrounded by WDFW's Whiskey Dick, Skookumchuck, and Quilomene wildlife areas. The conservation easement allows wind power generation, public recreation, and cattle grazing, but not subdivision, residential use, cultivation, or other development.

WDFW staff recommends the acceptance of this conservation easement because it removes the threat of residential development in an area that is interior to WDFW's wildlife areas.

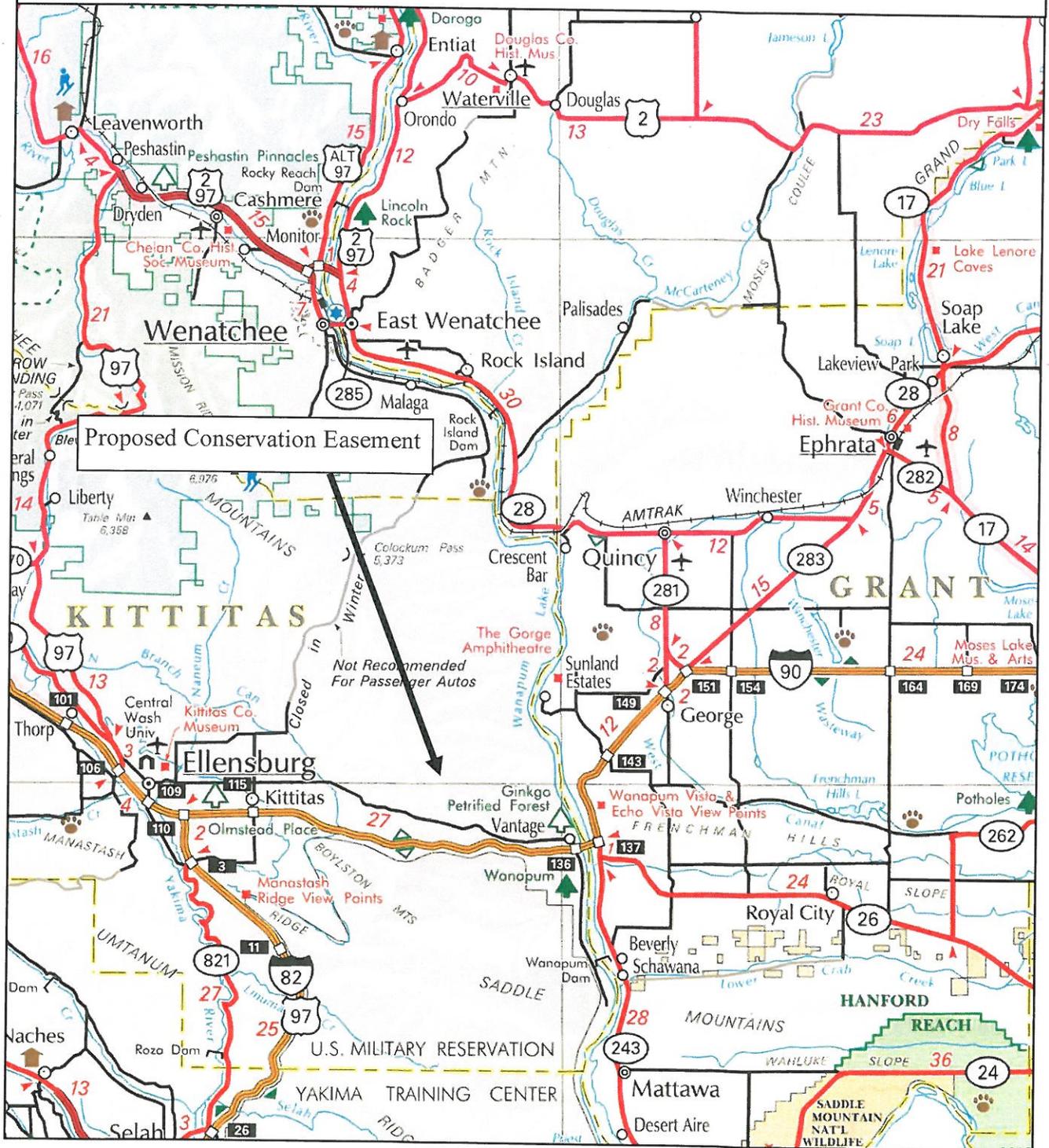
WDFW recommends approval of the acceptance of a donated conservation easement over 960 acres to protect critical fish and wildlife habitat and provide public recreation opportunity.

**TITLE: ITEM 1: PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENT
WHISKEY DICK WILDLIFE AREA (PSE)**

COUNTY: KITTITAS COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 8, 17, TOWNSHIP 18 N, RANGE 21E. W.M.

ACRES: 960 ACRES



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WHISKEY DICK WILDLIFE AREA (PSE)**

COUNTY: KITTITAS COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 8, 17, TOWNSHIP 18 N, RANGE 21E. W.M.

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