

Proposed Certification for a Wetland Mitigation Bank in Lewis County

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is considering the certification of the Chehalis Basin Wetland Mitigation Bank in Lewis County, Washington.

Overview

Ecology is seeking comment regarding a proposal to construct and operate a privately-owned, 175-acre wetland mitigation bank near Centralia, Washington. A wetland bank is a site where wetlands are restored, rehabilitated, created, enhanced or preserved before unavoidable, authorized wetland losses occur. The purpose of the Chehalis Basin Wetland Mitigation Bank is to provide, for sale to the general public, high-quality, consolidated, watershed-based compensatory mitigation. Wetland bank credits would be available – subject to regulatory approval – for future projects with unavoidable impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources.

The public comment period to evaluate state certification for the proposed bank starts June 26, 2012 and ends July 26, 2012.

Location

The address for the proposed Chehalis Basin Wetlands Mitigation Bank is west of TCM's office at 913 Big Hanaford Creek Road; approximately at mile post 3 on Big Hanaford Road. The site is located on parcels 023428000000, 023431000000, 023432003003, 023436000000, 023439001001, 023438001000, 023434002010, 023434002014, 023434002011, 023434002007, in Sections 23, 25, 26 of Township 15 North, Range 2 West, Willamette Meridian, near the city of Centralia WA. The bank site is located within the jurisdiction of Lewis County. **Please see the attached Project Vicinity Map for exact location.**

Applicant

WCEI Chehalis MB, LLC
8065 Leesburgh Pike
Tysons Corner, VA 22182
ATTN: Bob Sokolove, President
Phone: (703)790-7921
Bob.Sokolove@wcecoi.com

Chehalis Basin Wetland Mitigation Bank

Public Notice Date:
June 26, 2012

Comment Period Ends:
July 26, 2012

Send written comments to:
Brad Murphy
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
brad.murphy@ecy.wa.gov

A more detailed description of the project is available in the *Chehalis Basin Wetland Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument*, dated March 2012, available at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/public-notices

Interested parties also can review the document at:

Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98504

Special accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at 360-407-6600.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Existing Conditions

The proposed 176.97 acre mitigation bank site is predominantly wetland. Uplands are generally limited to constructed features (e.g., sediment pond berms and ditch spoils) that will be re-graded during site construction. The wetland area appears to have originally developed as riverine forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent classes prior to being converted to agricultural lands. Big Hanaford Creek, tributary streams, and adjacent wetlands were ditched in the early 1900s to increase drainage and reduce floodplain and wetland interaction and to increase farmlands and pasture; the site includes approximately 8,050 linear feet of ditches. Native vegetation was removed and replaced with pasture and hay grasses. Several sediment ponds were constructed in the 1970s in the northeast corner of the proposed bank site.

Proposed Improvements

If the bank is approved and certified, the site would be permanently protected as a natural area through a conservation easement. Implementation of the Chehalis Basin Mitigation Bank would re-establish, rehabilitate and enhance approximately 175-acres of forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetlands and associated upland habitat.

Proposed Service Area

The proposed service area where mitigation credits may be used covers the Upper Chehalis Basin (WRIA 23). **Please see the attached proposed service area map for the project.**

Additional Information

For more information about wetland mitigation banking in Washington:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/index.html>

To receive updates about mitigation banking in Washington sign up for Ecology's wetlands information listserv:

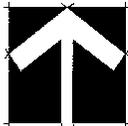
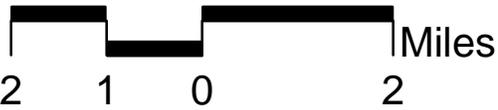
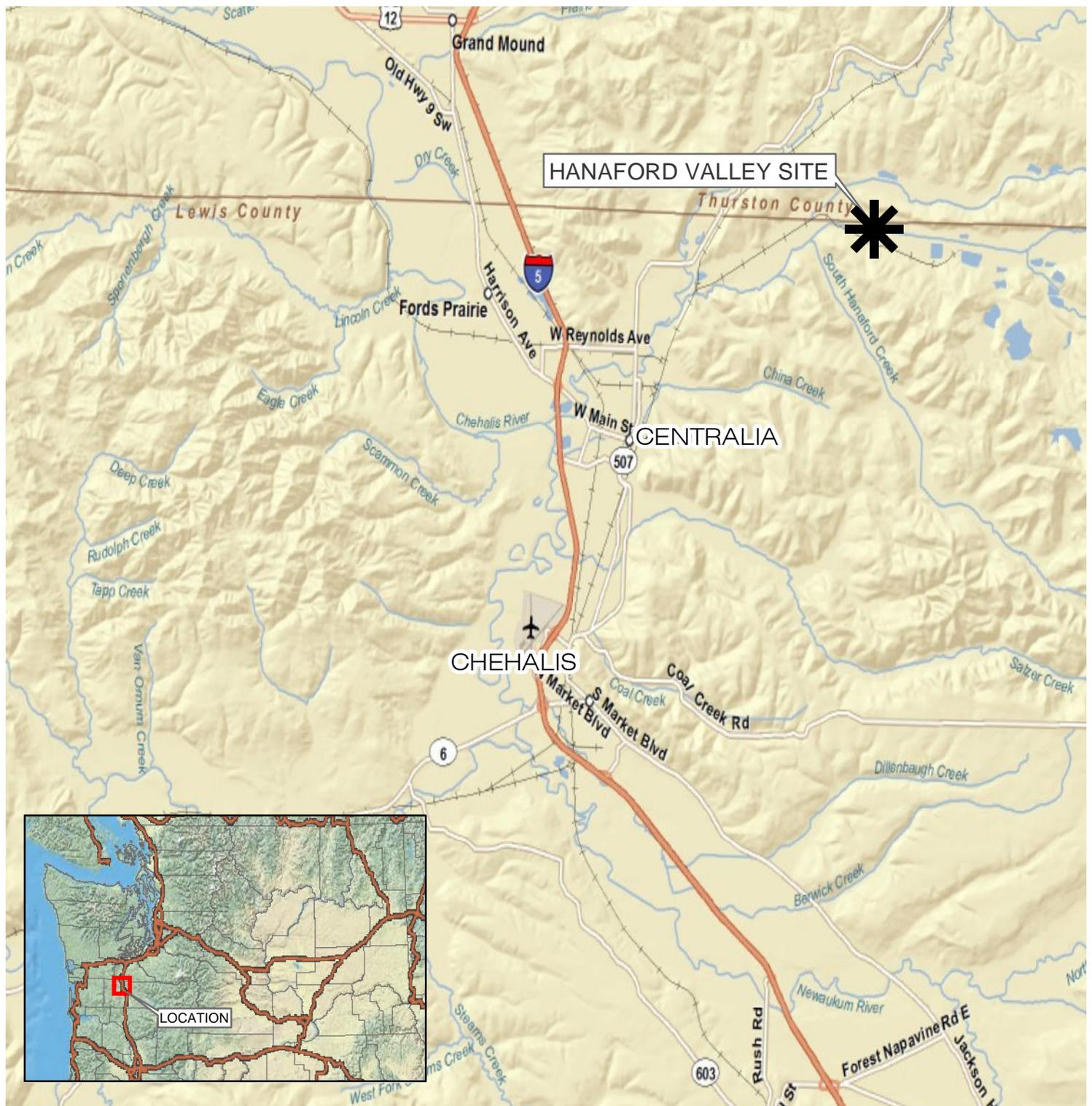
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WETLANDS-INFORMATION>

Comment and Review Period

Written comments on the proposed project must be received within 30 days of the publication date of this notice to the address below. Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the public record.

Brad Murphy
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
brad.murphy@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology will evaluate all the comments received to determine whether it would be in the public interest to certify the bank. To request a public hearing on the proposed bank certification, submit your request in writing to Ecology before the end of the comment period. Any request for a public hearing must include the reason why a public hearing is warranted.



SCALE: 1 INCH = 2 MILES

LATITUDE: 46° 45' 42.50" N
 LONGITUDE: 122° 53' 02.00" W

SOURCE: ESRI STREET MAP USA

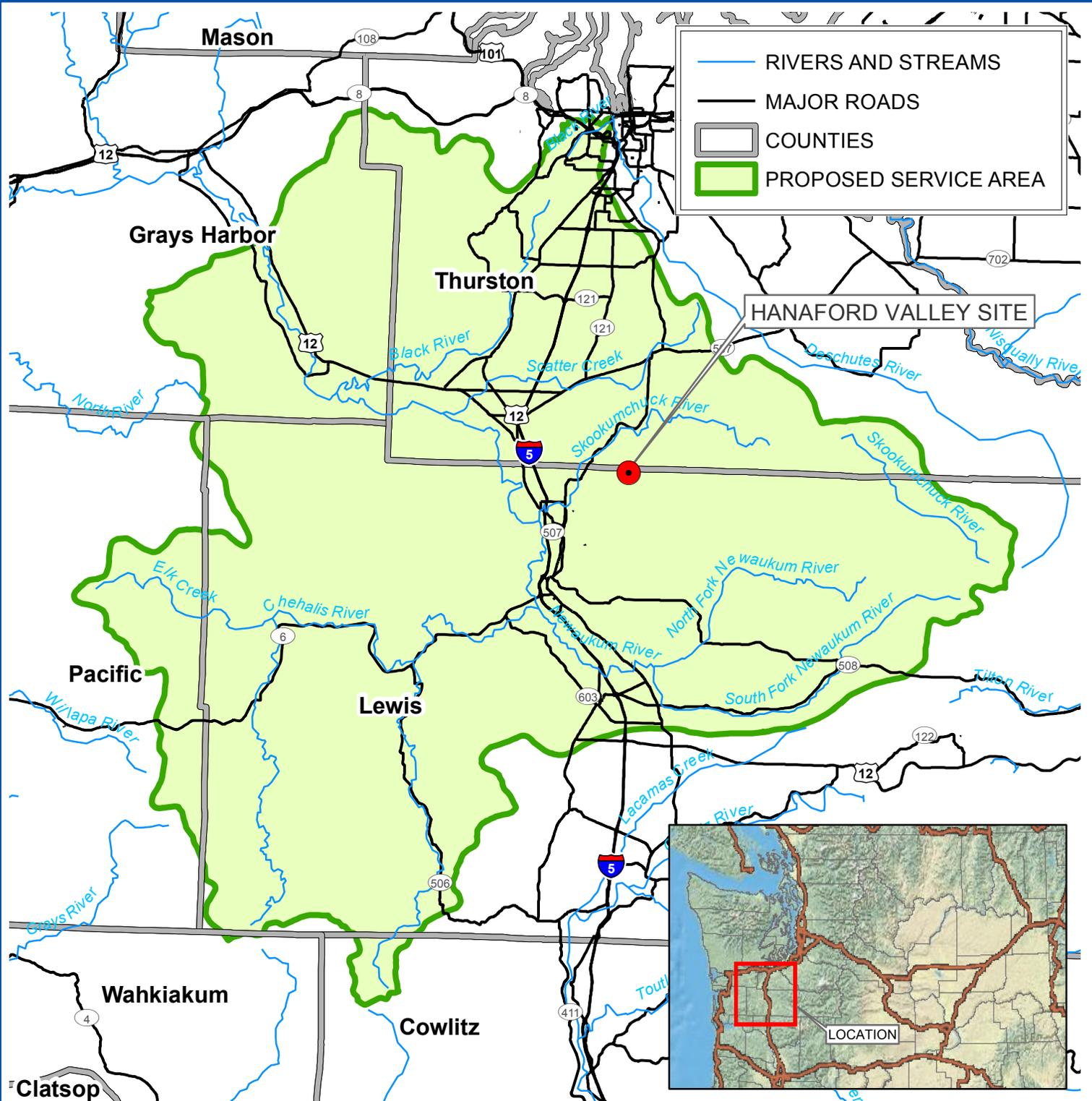
CASCADE
 ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



FIGURE A-1
VICINITY MAP
 CHEHALIS BASIN MITIGATION BANK -
 HANAFORD VALLEY SITE

CENTRALIA, WA

SEPTEMBER 2011



- RIVERS AND STREAMS
- MAJOR ROADS
- COUNTIES
- PROPOSED SERVICE AREA

HANAFORD VALLEY SITE



SCALE: 1 INCH = 40,000 FEET

LATITUDE: 46° 45' 42.50" N, LONGITUDE: 122° 53' 02.00" W

CASCADE
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



FIGURE E1
HANAFORD VALLEY SITE SERVICE AREA
CHEHALIS BASIN MITIGATION BANK

E.1.1. SERVICE AREA
 A. The Service Area for the Bank extends to the limits of WRIA 23, the Upper Chehalis Basin, including the full extent of the following sub basins: Black River-Chehalis River, South Fork Chehalis River-Chehalis River, Newaukum River, Skookumchuck River, Independence Creek-Chehalis River.

SOURCE: USGS HUC, ESRI

CENTRALIA, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 2011