



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.

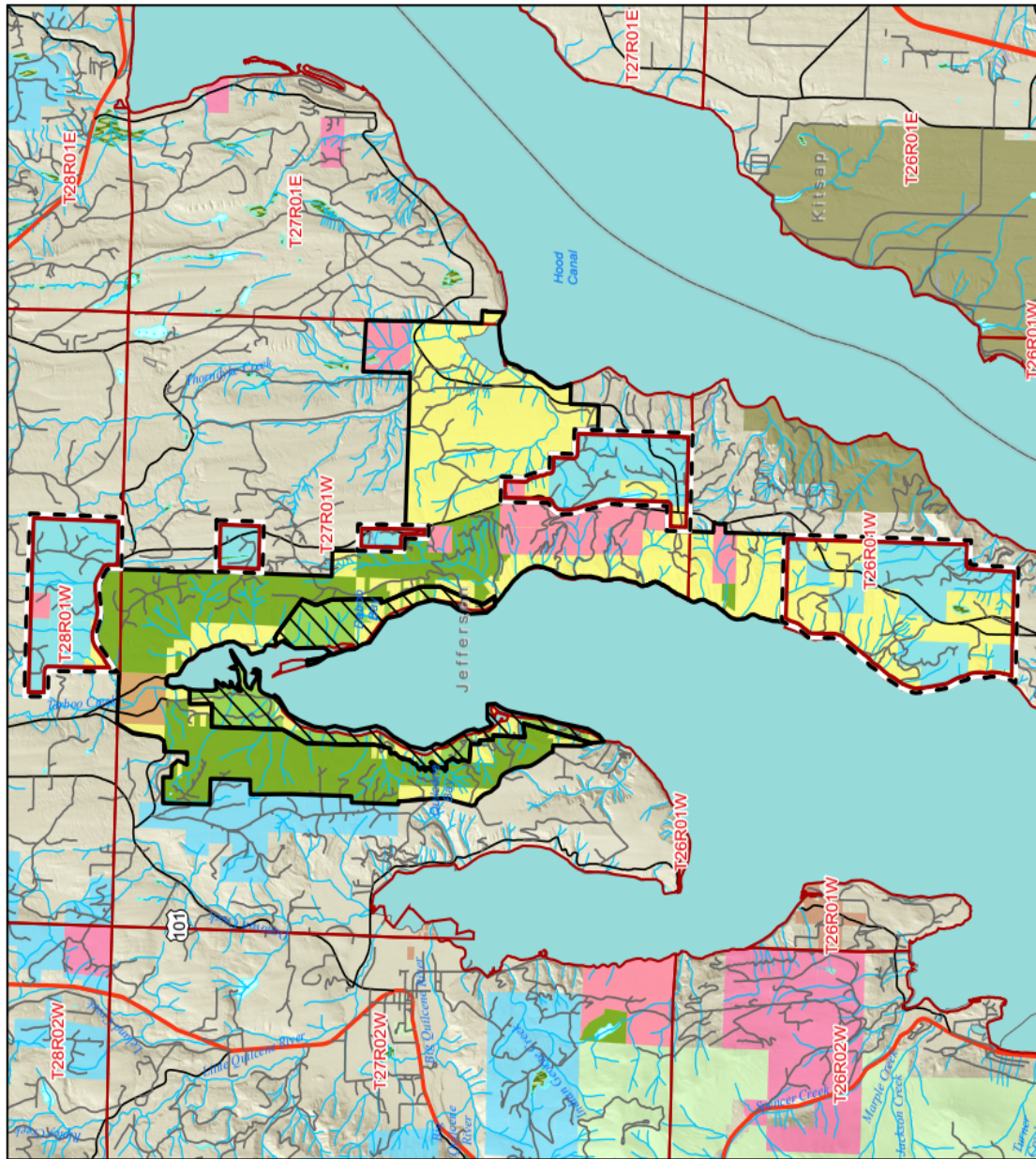
Under Title 79 of the Washington State Legislatures Revised Code of Washington, titled ‘PUBLIC LANDS’, chapter 79.71.020 RCW states that characteristics of lands to be considered worthy for consideration for conservation purposes must be (1) Lands identified as having high priority for conservation, 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.

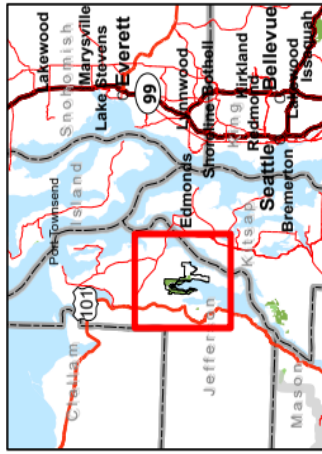
The expansion area to the south of current Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resource Conservation Area, would protect the ecosystem processes along Dabob Bay, and additionally adds adjacent forested uplands.

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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