

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager
DATE: June 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Grant Amendment #3 for Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Phase 2

1) Recommended Action:

Review and schedule the attached Grant Amendment #3 for the July 18, 2023 City Council consent calendar with a recommendation of approval.

2) Background:

Working together with the Port of Olympia and large group of stakeholders, the City is completing Phase 2 and starting Phase 3 of the process of preparing the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with consultant assistance from ICF Jones & Stokes, LLC. The HCP is required as part the City and Port's incidental take permit application with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher, the streak-horned lark, the Oregon spotted frog, and the Oregon vesper sparrow.

The goal of the HCP is to allow responsible growth to occur in the City, while providing superior species protection over what an ad-hoc, case by case permitting approach is providing currently. It is the intent of the HCP to cover all actions by private and public landowners that require City development approvals.

The HCP will allow operations and maintenance, recurring activities, and development to occur in some areas frequented by endangered species, offsetting any habitat loss with other, contiguous mitigation sites.

If the Bush Prairie HCP were not completed, development in a large portion of the City from small additions to single-family houses to larger development, as well as the City and Port's ongoing operations and maintenance activities would require individual HCPs and incidental take permits U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

The third amendment to the Phase 2 grant with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will allow the City and the Port to complete Phase 2 of the project that is intended to support completion of the public draft of the HCP and the NEPA/SEPA review process for the HCP.

3) Policy Support:

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Goal C-1: Recognize the significant role played by natural features and systems in determining the overall environmental quality and livability of Tumwater.

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Policy C-2.16: Protect and preserve habitats for species, which have been identified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive by the state or federal government, giving "special consideration: to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

4) Alternatives:

☐ None

5) Fiscal Notes:

This is attached Grant Amendment #3 is part of the Phase 2 federal grant administered by WDFW and an internally funded work program task.

6) Attachments:

A. Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Phase 2 Grant Amendment #3