

June 26, 2024

## **Project Narrative**

Snohomish County PUD No.1 proposes to improve the Woods Creek Hydropower site with an emergency access on the dam's west side, and to construct new parking, a covered structure, and a new trail. The emergency access will increase public safety, and the structure/trail will increase recreational and educational opportunities at the site.

The project area occurs within the Rural Conservancy shoreline environment associated with East Fork Woods Creek. This project requires a Shoreline Substantial Development permit (SSDP) because the total cost of the project will exceed \$8,504.00 and exemption criteria within WAC 173-27-040 are not met. This project also requires a Shoreline Conditional Use Permit because work is associated with a dam (SCC 30.67.595(2)(c)(ii)(b)).

The project will also require a Land Disturbing Activity permit because ground disturbance is proposed within critical area buffers and this project does not meet the permit exemptions set forth in SCC 30.63B.070. The project will not require a Flood Hazard Permit since the on-site portion of East Fork Woods Creek is mapped by FEMA (Firm Panel 53061C1100F, eff. 6/19/2020) as Zone X, or "areas of minimal flood hazard".

### **Interpretive Trail**

The applicant is proposing to install an interpretive trail with an associated shelter structure and additional parking to provide educational and recreational uses to the Woods Creek Hydro Project site. The parking lot and a portion of the interpretive trail are located within the Rural Conservancy shoreline environment. The covered structure is outside of shoreline jurisdiction.

### **Utility Maintenance Road**

The applicant constructed a gravel access road from Old Pipeline Road to the western side of the dam to allow for emergency dam maintenance, and is now applying retroactively to permit the access. The entire access road is located within the Rural Conservancy shoreline environment.

## **Shoreline Impacts**

Project activities occur with the **Rural Conservancy** shoreline environment.

### **Interpretive Trail**

Within the Rural Conservancy shoreline environment, 1,421 square feet of existing scrub-shrub vegetation and 2,458 square feet of maintained lawn are proposed to be replaced with an interpretive trail. The trail has been configured to minimize impacts to the shoreline environment. A proposed parking lot addition associated with the trail will replace 4,703 square feet of maintained lawn and 455 square feet of existing gravel within the shoreline environment.

### **Emergency Access Road**

The emergency access road that was installed to provide access to the western side of the dam impacted 5,372 square feet of non-mature forest, 7,154 square feet of scrub-shrub, and 1,930 square feet of emergent vegetation within the Rural Conservancy shoreline environment.

Permanent impacts to the shoreline environment due to the interpretive trail and emergency access road are proposed to be mitigated for by providing 36,161 square feet of new buffer pursuant to Table-3 of SCC 30.62A.320.