

April 3, 1997
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Introduced By: Derdowski
Miller, Phillips
Sullivan

Proposed No.: 97-187

10189

MOTION NO. 10189

1
2 A MOTION adopting the Implementation Plan for
3 Preserving Working Forests under the Arts and
4 Natural Resources Initiative.
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6 WHEREAS, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 11914 on July
7 31, 1995 authorizing appropriation of \$10.5 million in general obligation
8 bond funds for the Arts and Natural Resources Initiative, and

9 WHEREAS, the Farm and Forest Initiative Study was funded by
10 proceeds of the Arts and Natural Resources Initiative and was intended to
11 explore the barriers to agriculture and forestry in King County and
12 identify potential incentives to overcome those barriers, and

13 WHEREAS, the King county Council adopted the report entitled "Farm
14 and Forest: A Strategy for Preserving the Working Landscapes of Rural
15 King County", and recommendations contained therein, through Motion
16 10000, and

17 WHEREAS, the King County Council adopted Motion 10000 placing
18 \$400,000 of the funds for the Working Forest Preservation Incentive
19 Program in a reserve account pending adoption by the Council of a
20 detailed implementation plan, and

21 WHEREAS, the Executive has submitted a detailed Implementation Plan
22 for Preserving Working Forests;

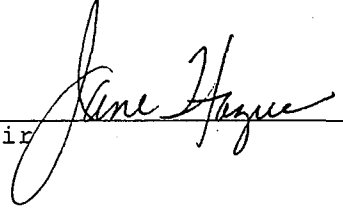
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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

Attachment A entitled "Implementation Plan for Preserving Working Forests" is hereby adopted, and the \$400,000 being held in the reserve account is hereby released to begin program implementation.

PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 14th day of April, 1997.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


~~ACTING~~ Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Implementation Plan for Preserving Working Forests

10 189

Attachment A

**Implementation Plan
for
Preserving Working Forests**

March 3, 1997

This document is the implementation plan for the use of \$500,000 in funds from the Arts and Natural Resources Initiative (ANRI) for forestry support and incentive programs. These programs represent a portion of the County's rural forest program, and supplement the staffing and programs in King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division. The \$500,000 total accounted for in the following program plans includes the \$100,000 already distributed by Motion 10000.

This plan contains descriptions of five programs:

<u>Program</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
Technical Assistance to Forest Landowners	\$150,000*
Economic Support for Forest Retention	\$150,000*
Education and Training	\$ 90,000
Forestry Research	\$ 60,000
Right to Forest Program	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total Requested for Forestry Programs	\$500,000**

- *The \$50,000 for each of these programs already distributed by Motion 10000 is included the total for the program.
- **This total includes The \$100,000 of forestry program funds already approved in Motion 10,000.

Technical Assistance to Forest Landowners
(including Friend of the Forester)
ANRI Funding Request: \$150,000

Program Description

The program will provide technical assistance to rural property owners to encourage forest management and retention of forest land. The Friend of the Forester will be available to landowners for on-site assistance, and will advise on forest management techniques, alternative forest products, the development of forest management plans, related county and state regulations and permitting processes, tax relief programs, and other services available to support forestry in King County.

Services will be marketed to the rural forest districts and other forested rural areas through newspaper articles, the Farm and Forest newsletter, and through other organizations with foresters as clients (e.g., King Conservation District, Washington Farm Foresters Association). The FOF will be an important part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the forest incentive programs, providing information about what works and what doesn't, and what are the major problems faced by forest landowners.

Program Elements

The essence of the program are the two full-time Friends of the Foresters in the Resource Lands Section, one funded through the Cedar River Forest Incentive Program (1FTE), the other funded by ANRI. The two positions have essentially the same work program, but different target geographic areas. The FOF's will spend most of their time providing direct assistance to property owners through individual assistance by phone or on-site, or teaching classes (see below). The program will also catalogue and maintain materials describing the resources available to landowners. The Farm and Forest Newsletter, to be sent twice a year to landowners in and near the rural forest districts, will market the FOF services, and will serve as direct technical assistance, with articles on incentive programs and other resources.

Links to Other Programs

The Friends of the Forester will coordinate with a similar grant-funded position at DDES. The focus of the DDES forest educator is assisting with conversion option harvest plans, and other aspects of forest practice permits, working closely with the DDES foresters.

The FOF's will assist in teaching classes organized by WSU Cooperative Extension King County (see workplan for Education and Training).

The FOF will use materials produced by the Resource Lands Incentives Program (e.g., PBRS and Timberlands brochures), Cooperative Extension, and Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust (Conserving Land in King County). The FOF will also identify the need for additional materials based on landowner requests.

The Friend of the Forester will be advertised in conjunction with the Friend of the Farmer using the joint newsletter, Farm and Forest. The Friends will coordinate on issues that affect both constituent groups.

Time Frame and Budget

<u>Prog. Element</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
Hire Friend of the Forester	RL Staff	Q1/'97	-----
Market services through newsletter	RL Staff	Q3/'97 Q3/'98	\$ 10,000* \$ 10,000
FOF Staff costs \$120,000*		Q1/'97 - Q4/'98	
Develop and produce materials	WLRD Staff	Q1/'98	\$ 10,000

* Note that the newsletter will be produced twice per year. Costs are shared with the Right to Forest Program, as well as agriculture programs.

** This \$120,000 includes \$50,000 already allocated in 1997.

Economic Support for Forestry Retention (including TDR project)

ANRI Funding Request: \$150,000

Program Description

The goal of the Economic Support program to preserve rural forest land by offsetting or reducing the economic incentive to convert forests to urban uses. Several tools will be developed or better marketed to target properties in rural forestry areas, including the transfer of development rights (TDR) project, property tax incentives and pilot project "seed" money. The TDR Project will transfer, usually by sale, development rights (or density credits) from rural lands to either urban lands or other appropriate rural lands. Suitable locations for transfers will be identified based on environmental and market conditions, and mechanisms to implement the density transfers will be established. Existing tax reduction and deferral programs will be promoted within rural forest areas and an amendment to the County's Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) will be pursued to provide for small rural woodlot eligibility. Finally, money will be set aside to pay preapplication review fees or priority processing fees for TDR or combined clustering/forest retention pilot projects.

Program Elements

The primary element of this program is the TDR project and support for related pilot projects. The TDR Project involves several phases, from background research to follow-up analysis on actual transfers. In 1997, the project will develop and issue a Receiving Areas Plan/EIS, a market study, and will begin the public involvement program. (The initial \$50,000 grant authorization from the ANRI is funding the project through September 1997.) During October 1997 to June 1998, the project will concentrate on implementation, education, and continuing public involvement. Implementation will also include facilitating the first transfers of density credits. Education will target the real estate industry to increase their understanding of opportunities under the Program. Public involvement will involve meetings with communities, neighboring jurisdictions and developers.

ANRI funding for the taxation programs will be limited to reprinting an existing tax relief brochure (covered under the Technical Assistance - FOF program budget). As an incentive for the early review and follow-up analysis of a limited number of pilot TDR or clustering/resource retention proposals, ANRI funds will be used to offset the development review fees. Existing Resource Lands staff will coordinate potential applicant participation in pre-application review meetings and will track any subsequent priority processing of final development proposals. Post-permit analysis of pilot projects will also be compiled by Resource Lands staff.

Links to Other Programs

A grant for \$125,000 from the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) is funding the TDR Receiving Areas Plan/EIS and portions of public involvement. King County may apply for an additional grant from CTED for the second phase of the TDR Project. A Policy Intern from the University of Washington is assisting on the market study and public involvement under a separate grant. Information on tax programs will be disseminated by the Friend of the Forester, through the training and education program and by the PBRs program.

Time Frame and Budget

<u>Prog. Element</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
TDR Project Coordination	RL staff	Q1/'97 - Q3/'98	\$16,000
TDR Project Development Rec. Areas Plan/EIS (grant funded) Market Analysis Regulatory / Organizational Review Public Involvement	RL Staff	Q1/'97 - Q4/'97	\$42,000
TDR Project Implementation Administration/Monitoring Public Involvement Education with Real Estate Industry Establish TDR Bank	RL staff	Q4/'97 - Q3/'98	\$38,000
Printing Expenses TDR Users Guide & other educational materials	WRLD staff	Q1/'97 - Q3/'98	\$4,000
Reprint existing tax relief brochure	WRLD staff	Q1/'98	<i>covered under FOF request</i>
KC DDES pre-app and priority process subsidy	RL staff	Q1/'98 - Q4/'98 ¹	\$50,000

¹ actual timing dependent on identification of pilot projects

Education and Training

ANRI Funding Request: \$90,000

Program Description

Funds will be disbursed to WSU Cooperative Extension King County for a series of classes and workshops for forest landowners, covering forest management and silviculture, products and marketing, environmental values, harvesting techniques, tax and incentive programs, and forest practice regulations. Cooperative Extension has submitted a detailed plan for classes and workshops, accompanied by a budget.

Program Elements

Cooperative Extension will hire a part time training coordinator, who will be responsible for organization of courses, advertising, development of a brochure, compilation of materials, and follow-up with participants. The coordinator will draw upon the expertise of WSU foresters, the Friends of the Foresters, and other experts, to teach the courses. Courses offered will include: the Forest Advisor Volunteer series, a seventy hour course for landowners who are willing to serve as forest advisors following the training; short courses or workshops offered on one or several topics; and training sessions for independent loggers. Extension will also produce a brochure on the values of working forests and encouraging forest stewardship.

Links to Other Programs

The Friend of the Forester (FOF) will assist in teaching classes, will refer landowners to the classes, and will advise Cooperative Extension on what classes should be offered based on landowner requests. The FOF will also work closely with the volunteers trained in the Forest Advisor series.

The Environmental Education team (DNR/DDES) conducts, with Washington DNR, a site management series for landowners, which includes a forestry component, in which the landowner completes a forest stewardship plan. They will offer the series twice in 1997.

The Washington Contract Loggers Association offers a forty-hour certification program for loggers, which includes a component taught by WSU Cooperative Extension.

Time Frame and Budget

<u>Prog. Element</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
WSU/Cooperative Extension Contract		Q1/'97 - Q4/'98	\$90,000
Forest Volunteer Series will be offered each year.			
Workshops will be offered at least twice per year.			
Forest Stewardship brochure will be produced in 1997.			

Forestry Research

ANRI Funding Request: \$60,000

Program Description

The Forestry Research Project will be a major element of the rural forestry support program. It will provide managers of small and moderately sized rural forests with up-to-date information on new technologies and trends in forestry. As needs are identified, specialized research projects will investigate gaps in existing research or will adapt promising studies to local conditions.

Program Elements

The first element of the project will be a compilation of existing research on smaller scaled forest management techniques (including issues related to forestry near urban areas), new forest products ideas and alternative marketing approaches. The project will hire a consultant familiar with forestry literature sources and electronic data search techniques (possibly a graduate student from a Forestry school) to conduct a comprehensive and analytic search of international writing related to forestry. Results of the search will be cataloged and a report on the most promising information and possible follow-up research needs will be prepared.

Subsequent local area-specific research will constitute the second phase of this project. Two to three grants for further investigation will be guided by the initial literature search, as well as by property owner response to the initial report. Possible topics could range from local marketing strategies to local application of successful forestry approaches from other regions. Additionally, research funds may be used to investigate the unique issues surrounding King County's active management of any purchased rural forest lands. Such research would likely include the development of a detailed implementation strategy for long term forest management on County properties.

Links to Other Programs

The research program will be coordinated with the other forestry support programs. The Friend of the Forester (FOF) will utilize the results of the literature to update property owners and will collect ideas for future research needs. Similarly, the education and training programs will be used to compile research requests and to disseminate current information. Results of the research project will also be reported in the Farm and Forest newsletters.

ANRI property acquisitions and other County forestry purchases (including development rights acquisitions) will be tracked to determine if work on a County lands forest management implementation strategy is warranted.

Time Frame and Budget

<u>Prog. Element</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
Conduct literature search & prep. report	Consultant w/RL staff	Q2/'97	\$15,000
Individual Forestry Research Projects (2-3)	Consultants w/RL staff	Q3/'97 - Q4/'98	\$30,000- 45,000

Right To Forest Program

ANRI Funding Request: \$50,000

Program Description

The Right to Forest Program is designed to minimize complaints about and other interference with appropriate forest practices in the rural area. The target audience for the program are the non-foresters living within or near the rural forest districts, or considering buying property in the vicinity of the districts. The program will increase awareness about the value of rural forests and the types of forest activities to expect in the rural area. The program will use a variety of educational and outreach methods.

Program Elements

Displays, with information about forest practices and the county's forestry programs, will be set up at several locations, including DDES and rural King County libraries.

Staff will develop a simple electronic "slide show" with maps and informative slides, which can be paged through on a computer. This will be part of the library information display, and will be an inexpensive, space-efficient mechanism for making the information available in numerous locations.

The Farm and Forest newsletter, which will be mailed to landowners in rural areas where there is a predominance of resource uses, will feature articles on forest practices and the multiple values of rural forests.

The County sign shop will create a rural forest district sign to be posted on major roads entering the rural forest districts, or on properties participating in the forestry incentive programs.

Links to Other Programs

The Right to Forest program will be closely linked to the Right to Farm program, as many of the issues are similar.

Right to Forest legislation: The forestry program staff will propose a change to county code to add the rural forest districts to the area where resource land notification is required on building permits and plats. Staff will also pursue changes to the state real estate disclosure law to include on Form 17 whether a property is located in a designated resource or rural resource area.

Realtor education: the Environmental Education team (DNR/DDES) will include rural forest district information in its Realtor education classes, to raise awareness of potential conflicts between residential and resource uses.

Staff education: the Environmental Education team will hold several classes for County staff to raise awareness of the goals of the forestry program, forest practice issues, and incentives available to landowners.

Time Frame and Budget

<u>Prog. Element</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>ANRI Funds</u>
Signs		'98	\$5,000
Newsletter	WLRD staff	Q1/'98	\$10,000
	WLRD staff	Q1/'99	\$10,000
Displays	WLRD staff*	'98	\$10,000
Electronic Slide show	WLRD staff*	'98	\$5,000
Additional PR efforts	WLRD staff*	'98	\$10,000

Planning for displays, signs, and PR campaign will occur in 1997 by DNR staff. Program will be implemented and costs incurred in 1998.

* The text and graphics for the displays and slide show will be done by the WLRD public outreach section, or by a consultant if necessary.