



KING COUNTY
Signature Report
September 18, 2012

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion 13729

Proposed No. 2012-0251.2

Sponsors Phillips

1 A MOTION responding to Ordinance 17232, Section 85,
2 Proviso P2, which requires the executive to transmit a plan
3 to develop trailhead and parking facilities associated with
4 the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest acquisitions.

5 WHEREAS, the 2012 adopted budget ordinance, Ordinance 17232, included a
6 proviso that limits the expenditure or encumbrance of \$100,000 until the King County
7 executive transmits and the King County council adopts by motion a plan developing
8 trailhead and parking facilities associated with the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest
9 acquisitions, and

10 WHEREAS, the plan called for in the proviso has been completed and is now
11 transmitted to the King County council by the King County executive;

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

13 A. The council hereby acknowledges receipt of the plan, Attachment A to this
14 motion, and that the executive has responded to the requirements of the 2012 Budget
15 Ordinance, Ordinance 17232, Section 85, Proviso P2.

16 B. The council finds that there are concerns regarding the limited vehicular
17 access, particularly for vehicles pulling horse-trailers, at the proposed location identified
18 in Attachment B to this motion. Due to this, the executive is requested to submit a new
19 plan to the King County council for approval by motion prior to seeking any

20 appropriation to develop trailhead and parking facilities associated with Grand Ridge
21 Park-Mitchell Hill Forest. This new plan should include, but not be limited to:
22 evaluation of whether there is safe and adequate vehicular access, particularly for
23 vehicles pulling horse-trailers, along the entire span of 280th Drive SE, which provides
24 access to proposed location identified in Attachment B to this motion; evaluation of
25 currently available and/or future possible alternate locations that provide more safe and
26 adequate vehicle access, particularly for vehicles pulling horse-trailers, than is currently
27 possible at the location identified in Attachment B to this motion; and a summary of
28 public feedback on the trailhead development proposal received at the planned September
29 27, 2012, public meeting. If, after the executive completes the evaluation, the executive
30 determines that the location identified in Attachment B to this motion is the preferred
31 location, the executive is requested to include in the plan a trailhead development
32 proposal that: allows for only non-horse-trailer parking at the location identified in
33 Attachment B to this motion; and identifies opportunities to provide additional, or
34 maximize existing, horse-trailer parking at other locations associated with Grand Ridge
35 Park-Mitchell Hill Forest.

36 C. The executive shall file one paper copy and one electronic copy of this plan

37 with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers and the lead staff of
38 the transportation, economy and environment committee, or its successor.
39

Motion 13729 was introduced on 7/16/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/17/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.
McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



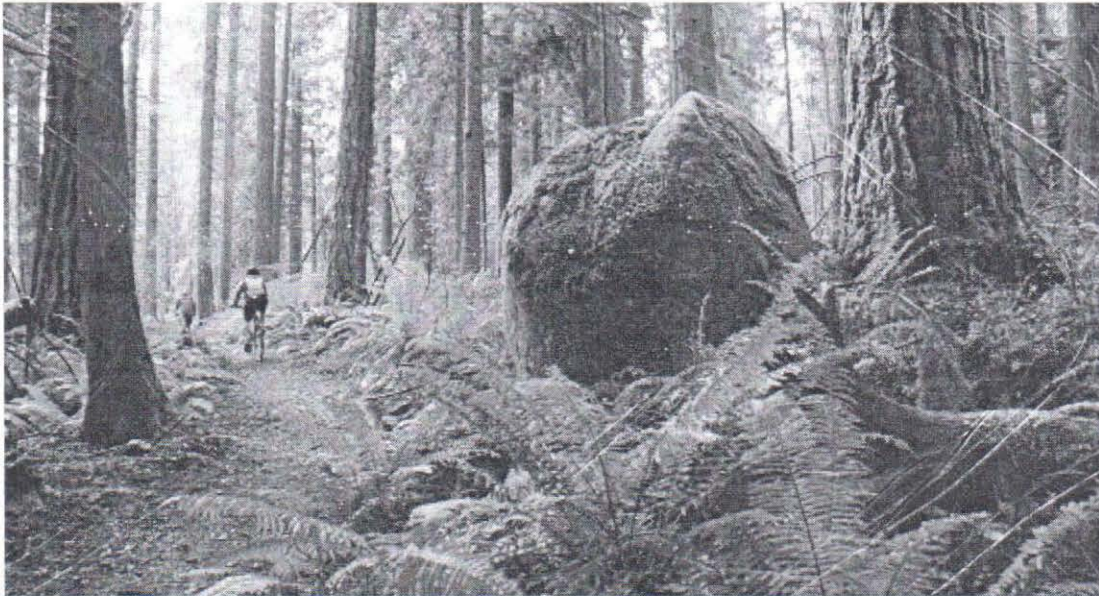
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Proposed Grand Ridge Park - Mitchell Hill Forest Trailhead Facility Development Plan, B. Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill Proposed Trailhead, C. Trailhead Facility Conceptual Design

**Proposed Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest Trailhead Facility
Development Plan**

June 08, 2012

**King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division**




King County Parks **Your**  King County
Big Backyard

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Proposed Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest Trailhead Facility Development Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to Ordinance 17232, Section 85, and P2, which directed the King County Executive, by June 30, 2012, to transmit a plan to develop trailhead facilities at the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest. The Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resource and Parks (the Division) would be responsible for this project. Specifically, the plan is to include the proposal's scope, schedule, budget and funding sources for the development.

The following is a summary of the report:

- Limited parking in the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor necessitates additional trailhead facilities. Policy and planning documents, as well as feedback from stakeholders, document the importance of such facilities.
- The proposed trailhead facility will provide parking for five to seven vehicles and two horse trailers, a small picnic shelter, interpretive signage, restroom facilities and waste receptacles.
- Due to existing site conditions, the costs for developing the trailhead facility will be minimized—estimated to be approximately \$55,000.
- The goal is to complete the facility in the next few years; grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office will be pursued in the next year.
- The project design and the presence of large native trees on the site will mitigate potential impacts to the neighboring properties.
- Site security will be enhanced through the installation of gates and closing of the facility during the evening hours.
- Public involvement is an important part of the project planning process. Initial steps have been taken to notify the community of the current plan and proposed action steps, including a public meeting.

BACKGROUND

Ordinance 17232, Section 85, Proviso 2, requires the Division to propose a plan for developing a trailhead facility within the 1,700-acre Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor that was recently acquired with Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Acquisition Levy funding. The proposed trailhead development will enhance public passive recreation and interpretive opportunities, including increased trail access and associated trailhead parking.

Specifically, the proviso states:

Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits a report and a motion that acknowledges receipt of the report and references the proviso's ordinance, section and number and the motion is adopted by the council.

The report shall detail the division's plan to develop the trailhead and parking facilities associated with the acquisitions referred to in this ordinance as CIP project Ordinance 17232 358212, Mitchell Hill forest inholdings, in the parks capital fund and CIP project 315232, Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill, in the conservation futures subfund. The report shall include, but not be limited to: 1) the funding sources of the proposed development of these holdings; and 2) the scope, schedule and budget of the proposed development.

TRAILHEAD FACILITY PROPOSAL

General Project Description

(See Attachment B (Grand Ridge –Mitchell Hill Proposed Trailhead) and Attachment C (Trailhead Facility Conceptual Design))

The proposed trailhead parking facility will:

- Accommodate about five to seven vehicles and two horse trailers;
- Utilize an existing 10,000 square foot area currently occupied by a house, detached garage, barn, attached carport, and other small outbuildings;
- Be accessed by an existing driveway (which will need to be minimally widened);
- Connect to the existing backcountry trail network at Grand Ridge Park;
- Include a small picnic shelter, interpretive signage, restroom facilities and waste receptacles;
- Be secured with a gate that would be kept locked during park closure hours;
- Retain the existing large native trees to provide a visual buffer between the facility and the residential neighborhood; and
- Install additional signage that indicates the road beyond the site is private, with no public vehicle access to the King County's Grand Ridge Park or Mitchell Hill Forest.

Project Budget and Funding Sources

- Since the facility would be built on an existing site, with existing pervious surface and driveway system, the cost of construction would be minimal--estimated to be about \$55,000.
- Potential funding sources for development include:
 - Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) (although this funding is very limited due to declining revenues);
 - Grants (most likely from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office); or
 - Future Parks Capital Levy funding (dependent on future levy funding level/scope).

Project Schedule

- The schedule for the construction would be based on availability of funding and timing required for future public involvement.
- The goal for the completion of the trailhead facility is by 2015.

Need for Trailhead Facility

Factors contributed to the need for the trailhead facilities are:

1. Grand Ridge Park currently contains seven miles of backcountry trails, used by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. The Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor contains 1,700 acres and is located directly south of the 120 acre Duthie Hill Park (which contains a highly popular mountain bike park) and northwest of the 120 acre Preston Ridge Forest (which presently has minimally used social trails).
2. Currently there are very few parking facilities to support public use of the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor. Parking is available for those accessing the park from the west at the City of Issaquah's Central Park and limited parking is also available at the south end of the park near the Issaquah-Preston Trail (see Attachment B - Grand Ridge - Mitchell Hill Proposed Trailhead).
3. The East Plateau Regional Trail corridor lies within Grand Ridge and Duthie Hill Park. Although still in the planning stages, this future regional trail will link trails within a 2,000 acre county-owned park corridor from Soaring Eagle Park to the north at the western edge of the City of Sammamish, south through Duthie Hill and Grand Ridge Park, to I-90. The proposed regional trail will be designed to connect to the East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail as well.
4. Several planning and policy documents direct the Division to increase trailhead facilities countywide, and specifically within the Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor:
 - The 2001 Grand Ridge Park Site Management Plan:
 - Calls for the identification of well-defined entry points and trail corridors to protect Grand Ridge Park's natural systems.
 - Includes a recommendation directing the exploration of appropriate locations for trailhead parking, including sites that could accommodate horse trailer parking.
 - The 2010 Parks/Open Space Plan (Appendix VII, Acquisition Guidance) calls for land acquisitions that:
 - Allow for a backcountry trailhead and/or parking facility; and
 - Resolve a land or resource management issue, such as providing public access.

5. Several citizen reports also support the need for enhanced trailhead facilities:
 - The King County Parks Citizen Oversight Board Report (December 12, 2011) presented to the King County Council included a recommendation to increase focus of property acquisitions that support broad public access and use.
 - The 2011 Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division Customer Survey included two findings related to trailhead development:
 - Citizens surveyed feel more restroom facilities are needed along trails.
 - A large percentage of respondents learn about their favorite trails and parks through on-site signage and facilities.
 - The King County Parks and Recreation Division Customer Satisfaction Focus Groups Summary Report (August 24, 2011) noted two important factors in determining satisfaction with a park or trail:
 - Accessibility, so that citizens can easily reach parks; and
 - A safe place, including safe facilities.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Division is aware of interest in the proposal by both park trail users who have been advocating for additional trailhead facilities, and those living in the vicinity of the proposed site. Because of the strong interest, a public involvement strategy has been developed and some initial steps have been taken. Below is a brief description of actions taken and those proposed.

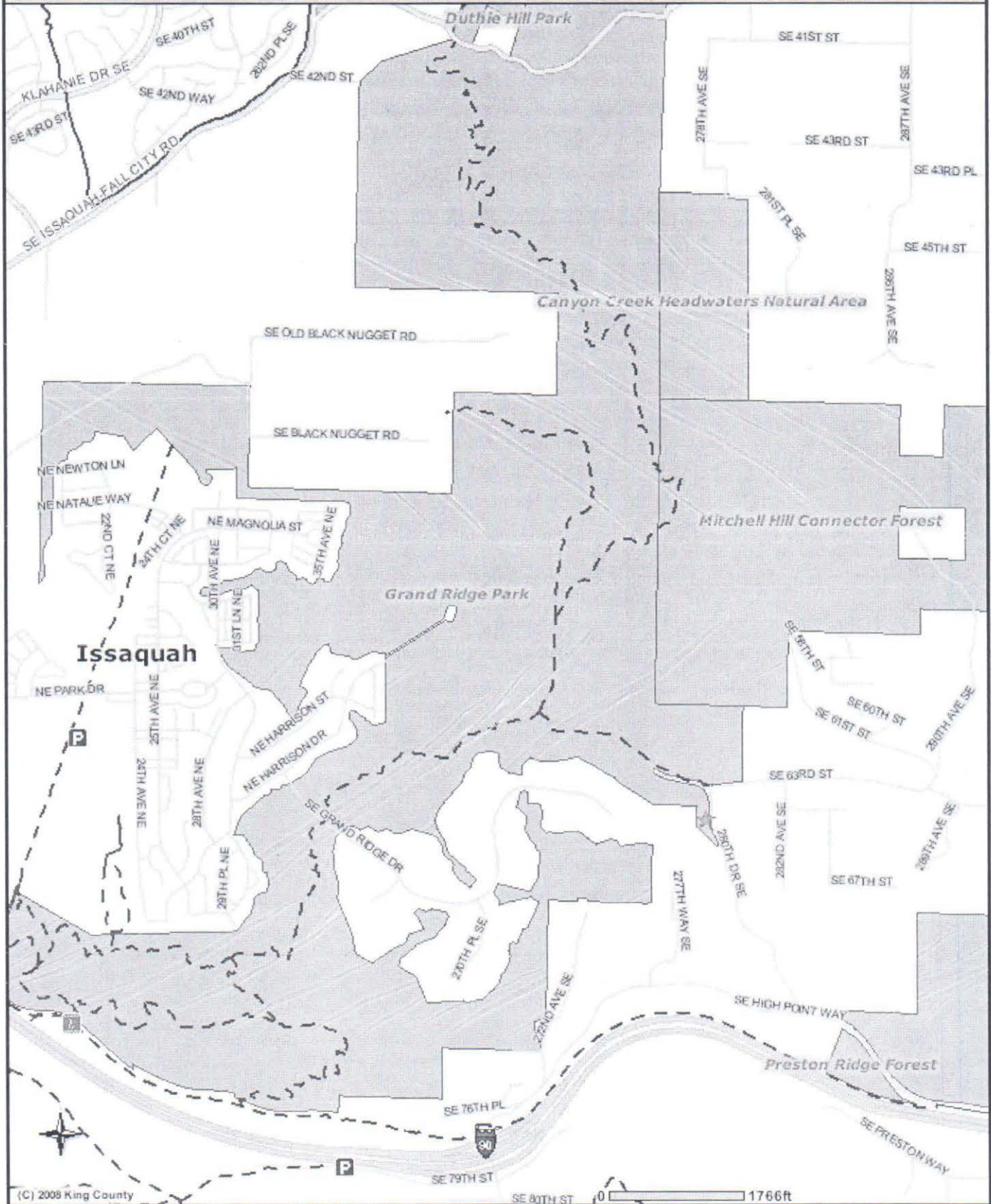
- In 2011, the Conservation Futures Tax Citizens Committee (CFT) recommended acquisition of the proposed trailhead property. The CFT's July 1, 2011, report noted that large trees on the proposed trailhead property could buffer a small parking area from the road and from neighboring properties. The CFT also encouraged King County to provide signage warning of the end of the public road.
- Division staff provided a brief written summary of the trailhead proposal which was distributed by a community leader at an April 3, 2012, Grand Ridge Community meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss private road maintenance responsibilities.
- A letter to the Grand Ridge Community providing a summary of this report will be distributed in June to:
 - Landowners whose property is served by SE 280th Drive, the road adjacent to the proposed trailhead facility and to the Grand Ridge Community; and
 - The sign-in list from the April 3, 2012, Grand Ridge Community meeting.
- The Division will hold a public meeting in the late summer or early fall of 2012 to provide citizens with more specific information and to solicit comments about the trailhead facility proposal.

CONCLUSION

The Division recently acquired property in the 1,700-acre Grand Ridge Park-Mitchell Hill Forest corridor in order to provide for trailhead park facilities. The need for parking facilities and improved access to the park lands is well documented in park user surveys and in various planning and policy documents. As funding is not available to construct the proposed facility, the Division is currently working with partners and planning to apply for grant funding in the next year. Due to a high level of interest in the proposal, a public involvement strategy has been developed to ensure successful community participation.

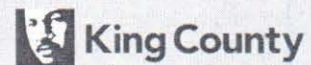
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Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill Proposed Trailhead



















































(C) 2008 King County

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Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill Proposed Trailhead

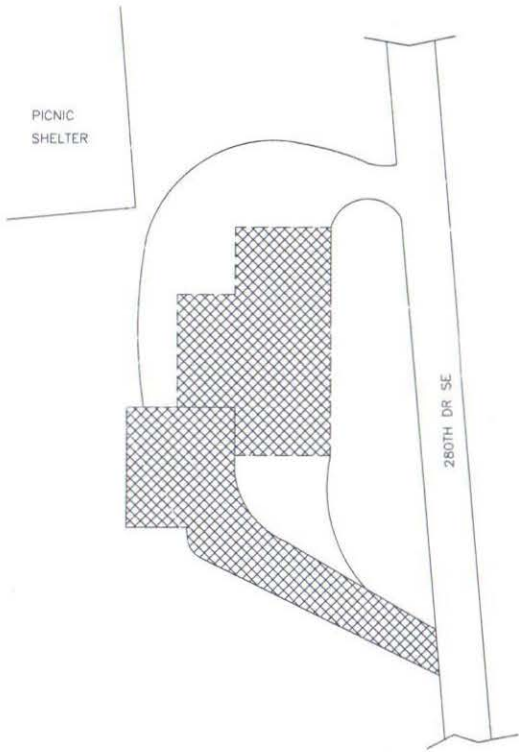
Legend

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  County Boundary |  Office |  Soft Surface Trail |
| Park Facilities - Main |  Off-Leash Dog Area |  Surface Unknown |
|  Amphitheater |  Open Play Field | Highways |
|  Baseball Field |  Parking Lot | Streets |
|  Boat Launch Trailer Ramp |  Picnic Area |  Highway |
|  Boat Moorage Dock |  Picnic Shelter |  Arterials |
|  Boat Put-in Area (Non-motorized) |  Play Equipment Area |  Local |
|  Bridge |  Restroom | Parks |
|  Climbing Rock |  Soccer Field |  King County Parks |
|  Community Center |  Stadium Grandstand |  County |
|  Community Garden |  Stage |  City |
|  Cricket Field |  Swimming Pool |  State |
|  Drinking Fountain |  Tennis Court |  Federal |
|  Emergency Storage Container |  Trail Head |  Park District |
|  Fishing Pier |  Velodrome |  School District |
|  Football Field |  Volleyball Court |  Other Government |
|  Group Campsite Area | Trails | |
|  Handball Court |  Paved Trail | |
|  Multi-Purpose Court |  On Street Trail | |
| (cont) | (cont) | |

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Date: 6/10/2012 Source: King County IMAP - King County Parks (<http://www.metrokc.gov/GIS/IMAP>)





LEGEND
 EXISTING HARD SURFACES



KING COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION		STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM			
		HOVER PROPERTY PROPOSED PARKING LOT			
DRAWN BY: D. SIZEMORE	SIZE	FSCM NO.	DWG NO. C1	REV	
DATE: MAY 2012	SCALE 1 IN = 60 FT			SHEET	