



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

October 2008

**Item #12:** **Project #07-1660 – Dabob Bay Match Waiver**

**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Section Manager

**Presented By:** Brian Abbott, Section Manager

**Approved by the  
Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Board Review**

**Summary**

On behalf of the sponsor, the Recreation and Conservation Office is asking the board to waive the match requirement on project #07-1660, subject to Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) review per WAC 420-04-030.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the waiver of the match requirement for project #07-1660 by motion.

Suggested language for motion

Move to approve the waiver of the match requirement for project #07-1660, Tarboo-Dabob Bay Acquisition and Restoration.

**Background**

Project #07-1660, Tarboo-Dabob Bay Acquisition and Restoration, will preserve and restore 50 acres of high-quality nearshore habitat (coastal saltmarsh spit pocket estuary, intertidal, and forested shoreline habitat) for federally listed summer chum salmon and Chinook salmon. The project is part of a larger conservation project in north Hood Canal. The proposed project would secure three threatened properties that are a critical first step in forming a continuous nature preserve surrounding Tarboo-Dabob Bay.



Board policy requires a minimum 15 percent local match, which can include cash, donated materials, donated property value, and/or donated labor. The sponsor, Northwest Watershed Institute, proposed using the value of Jefferson County's permanent deed restriction (conservation easement) on a county-owned property as its match. The 20- acre property, called Broad Spit, includes a pristine coastal salt marsh spit, lagoon, and steep forested shoreline. The proposed donated property value was \$300,000, or 30 percent of the project total.

The RCO cannot accept the easement as a match because it is subject to a Board policy<sup>1</sup> that makes publicly owned lands ineligible for acquisition unless the following circumstances apply:

1. State law requires that the agency owning the land must receive compensation, *and*
2. The land was not originally acquired by the agency for habitat conservation (for habitat conservation proposals), salmon habitat recovery (for salmon habitat recovery proposals), or recreation use (for outdoor recreation proposals), *and*
3. The land has never been publicly managed for habitat conservation (for habitat conservation proposals), salmon habitat recovery (for salmon habitat recovery proposals), or recreation (for outdoor recreation proposals).

A private landowner gave the property to the county with no restrictions. The property meets requirements #2 and #3, but there are no state laws requiring that Jefferson County (the agency owning the land) receive compensation.

The sponsor and RCO met on July 25, 2008 to resolve the issue. At that time, a waiver of the match requirement was proposed as a solution.

## **Analysis**

Jefferson County remains committed to placing a permanent deed restriction (conservation easement) on the property. The value of that easement will meet the intent of the match policy, regardless of the waiver.

By waiving the match requirement, the RCO director will be able to eliminate the RCO policy conflict and allow the sponsor to proceed with the work to protect the Broad Spit property.

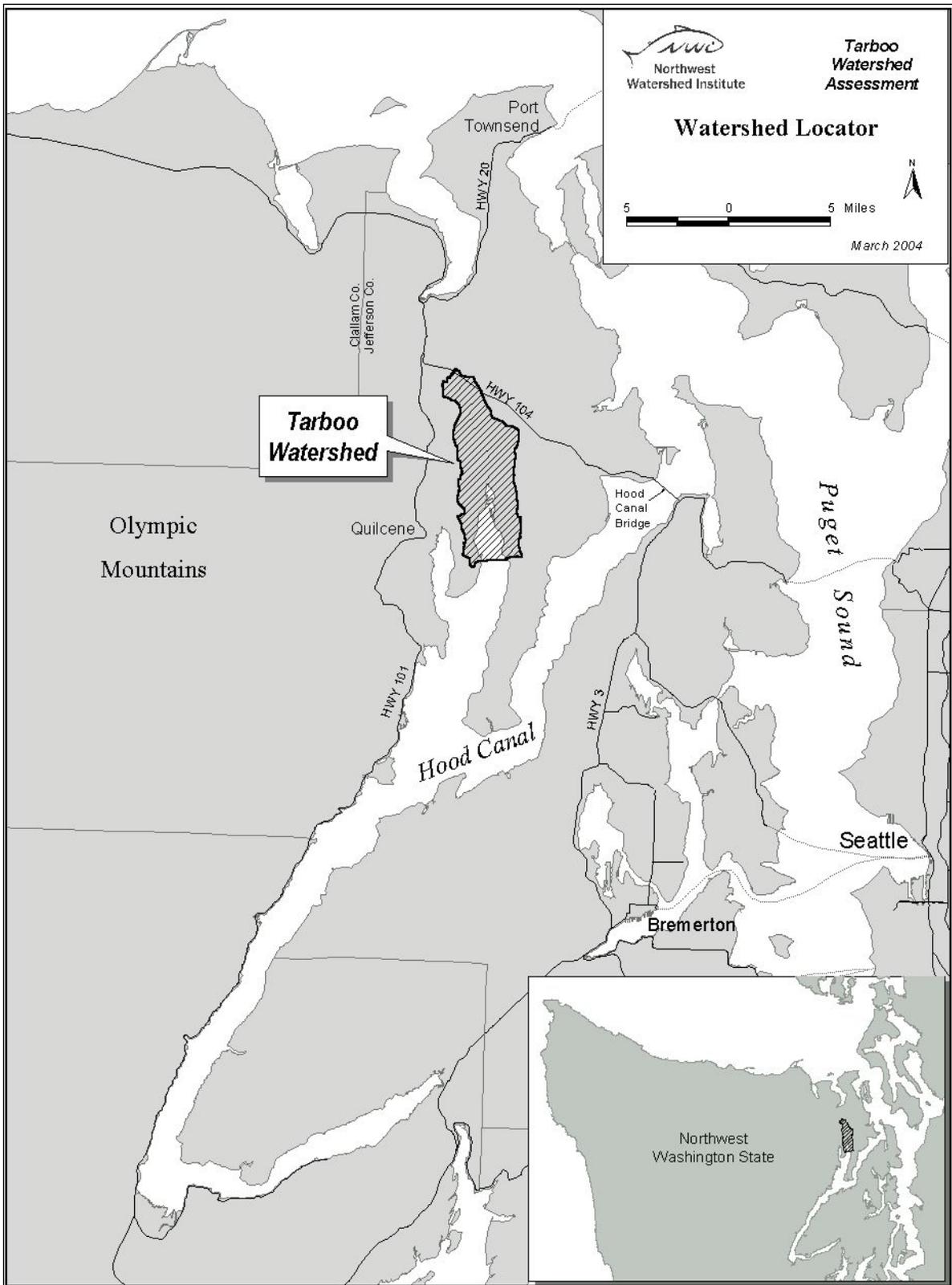
Staff believes that waiving the match requirement is justified in this situation because of the unique circumstance of the match property.

## **Attachments**

- A. Maps and photographs of project

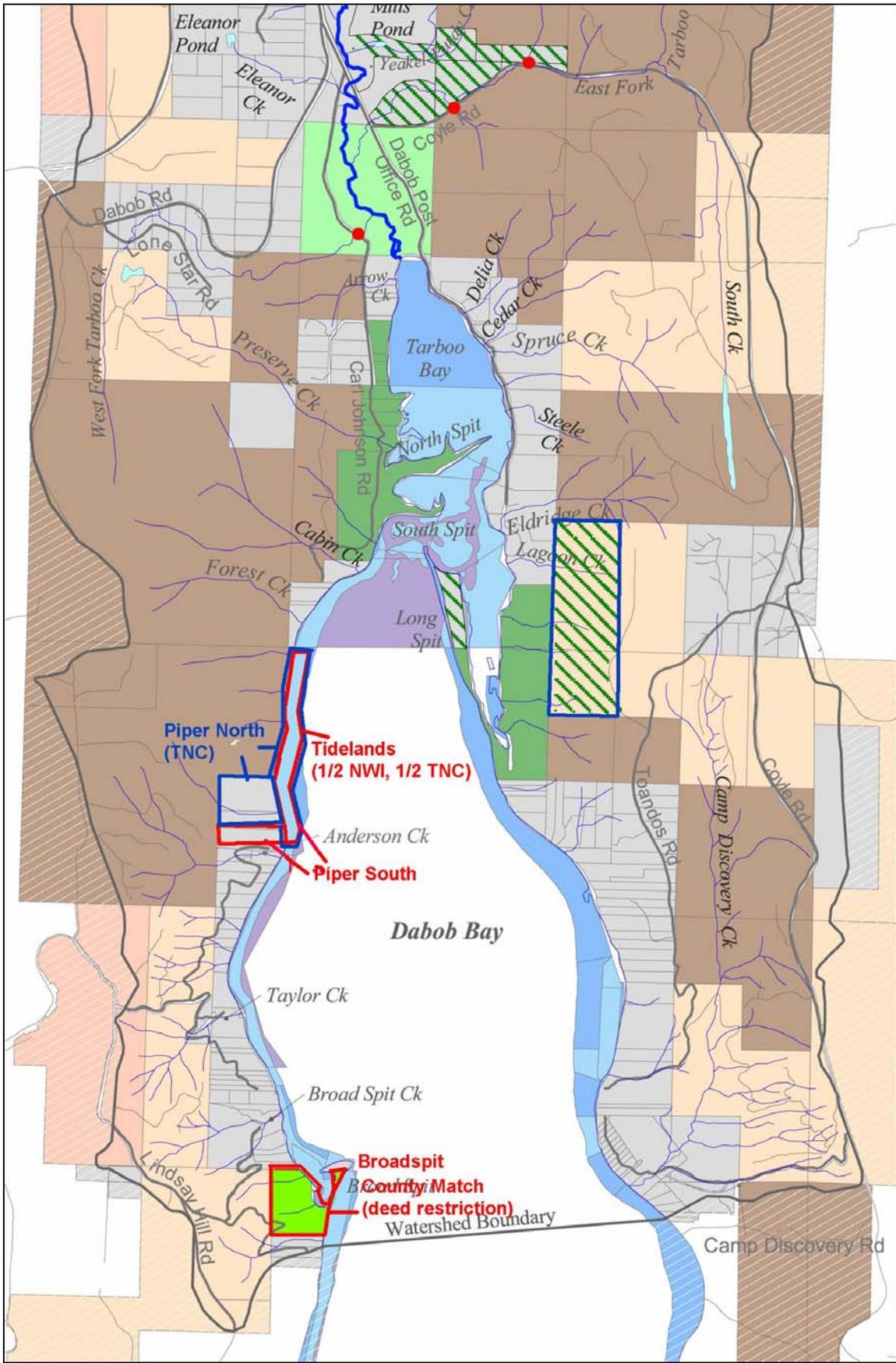
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<sup>1</sup> Manual 3, *Acquiring Land*, "Acquiring Publically Owned Land"



**Figure 1. The Tarboo watershed is located in northern Hood Canal, Washington.**





**Figure 3. Tarboo-Dabob Bay proposed acquisitions and Broadspit property match (deed restriction) in red in relation to other conservation projects underway.**



**Figure 4. Proposed 10-acre Piper South and 20-acre tidelands (1/2 interest) adjacent to TNC proposed 28-acre Piper South acquisition along feeder bluff.**



**Figure 5. 20-acre county-owned Broadspit property proposed for deed restriction as a match to the SRFB grant.**



**Figure 6. View south of proposed tidelands, Piper South and Broad Spit acquisitions**



**Figure 7. Bulkhead and backfill proposed for removal on Piper South beach**