

Proposed Certification for a Wetland Mitigation Bank in Vancouver area

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is considering the certification of the Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank in Clark County, Washington.

Overview

Ecology is seeking comment from the public, local, state and tribal governments, and other interested parties regarding a proposal to construct and operate a privately-owned, 160-acre wetland mitigation bank in Vancouver, Wash. A wetland bank is a site where wetlands are restored, created, enhanced or preserved before unavoidable authorized wetland losses occur. The purpose of the Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank is to provide, for sale to the general public, high-quality, consolidated, watershed-based compensatory mitigation. Bank credits would be available – subject to regulatory approval- for future projects with unavoidable impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources.

The public comment period to evaluate state certification for the proposed bank starts Dec. 4, 2008, and ends Jan. 5 2009.

Location

The address for the proposed 160-acre Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank is 3210 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver. The site is located on a portion of parcel no. 152370000, also known as parcel 6 of the former Rufener property, section 20, township 2N, range 1E, Willamette Meridian, within the city of Vancouver in Clark County, Wash. The bank site is located within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver and Clark County. **Please see attached Project Vicinity Map for exact location.**

Applicant

Clark County Mitigation Partners, LLC
15600 NE 173rd St.
Woodinville, Wash. 98702
ATTN: Victor Woodward
Phone: 425-785-8428
victorw@comcast.net

Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank

Public Notice Date:
December 4, 2008

Comment Period Ends:
January 5, 2009

Send written comments to:

Kate Thompson
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Wash. 98504-7600

kath461@ecy.wa.gov

A more detailed description of the project is available in the *Draft Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI)*,

This document is available on the Web at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/public-notices.html

Interested parties also can review the document at:

Fort Vancouver Public Library
1007 East Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, Wash. 98663

and

Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive. SE,
Lacey, Wash. 98504

Existing Conditions

Existing conditions at the bank site include approximately:

- 72 acres of upland habitat
- 70 acres of palustrine emergent wetland
- 10 acres of palustrine aquatic bed
- 6 acres of palustrine forested wetland
- 2 acres of scrub-shrub wetland

Proposed Improvements

If the bank is approved and certified, the site would be permanently protected as a natural area through a conservation easement. Clark County Mitigation Partners would create 27 acres of new wetland as well as enhance the remaining 133 acres of forested, scrub-shrub, emergent, and aquatic bed wetlands, and upland habitat areas.

Proposed Service Area

The service area is the geographic area within which mitigation credits generated may be used. The proposed service area for the Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank extends from river mile 68 – the downstream end of the confluence of the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers – upstream to the Bonneville Dam at river mile 146. The service area lies entirely within Washington State. **Please see the attached proposed service area maps for the project.**

In **Clark County**, the service area would include:

- Columbia River historic floodplain, identified by Ecology's Watershed Characterization of Clark County (Ecology, 2007)

In **Cowlitz County**, the service area would include:

- Portions of the six-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping for the Cowlitz River.
- Lecker Creek sub-basin (HUC 170800050802),
- Portions of the Lower Coweeman River (HUC 170800050804).
- Portions of the Lower Kalama River (HUC 170800030105).
- All of Burriss Creek sub-basin (HUC 170800030106).

In **Skamania County**, the service area would include only portions of:

- Latourell Creek (HUC 170800010704).
- Viento Creek (HUC 170800010703).
- Hamilton Creek (HUC 170800010702).
- Tanner Creek (HUC 170800010701).

Additional information

For more information about wetland mitigation banking in Washington

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/index.html>

If you would like to receive updates about wetland mitigation banking in Washington, sign up for Ecology's listserv:

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WETLAND-MITIGATION-BANKING>

Comment and Review Period

Anyone wanting to comment on this project may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the publication date of this notice to the address below. Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record.

Kate Thompson
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
kath461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology will evaluate all the comments received to determine whether it would be in the public interest to certify the bank.

To request a public hearing on the proposed bank certification, submit your request in writing to Ecology before the end of the comment period. Any request for a public hearing must include the reason why a public hearing is warranted.

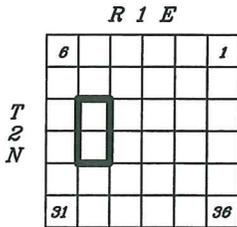
10/30/2008 11:08 AM S:\Clark-WA\County-Projects\1209-Habitat Banc NW\1209.03-Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank Site\1209.03-Figures\Master Drawings\1209.03-Vicinity Map.dwg Brian

WASHINGTON



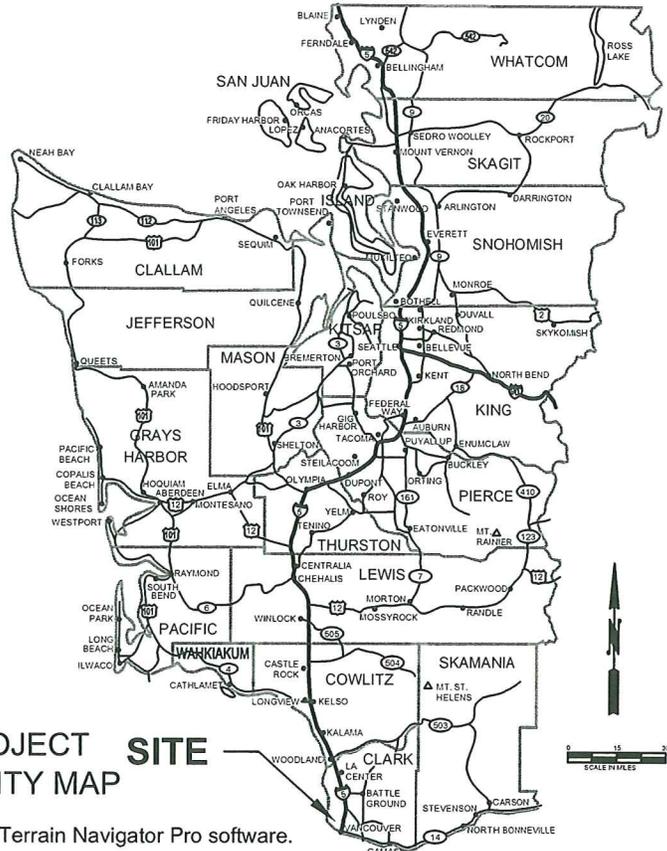
Latitude 45° 39' 4" North
Longitude 122° 42' 43" West

LOCATION MAP

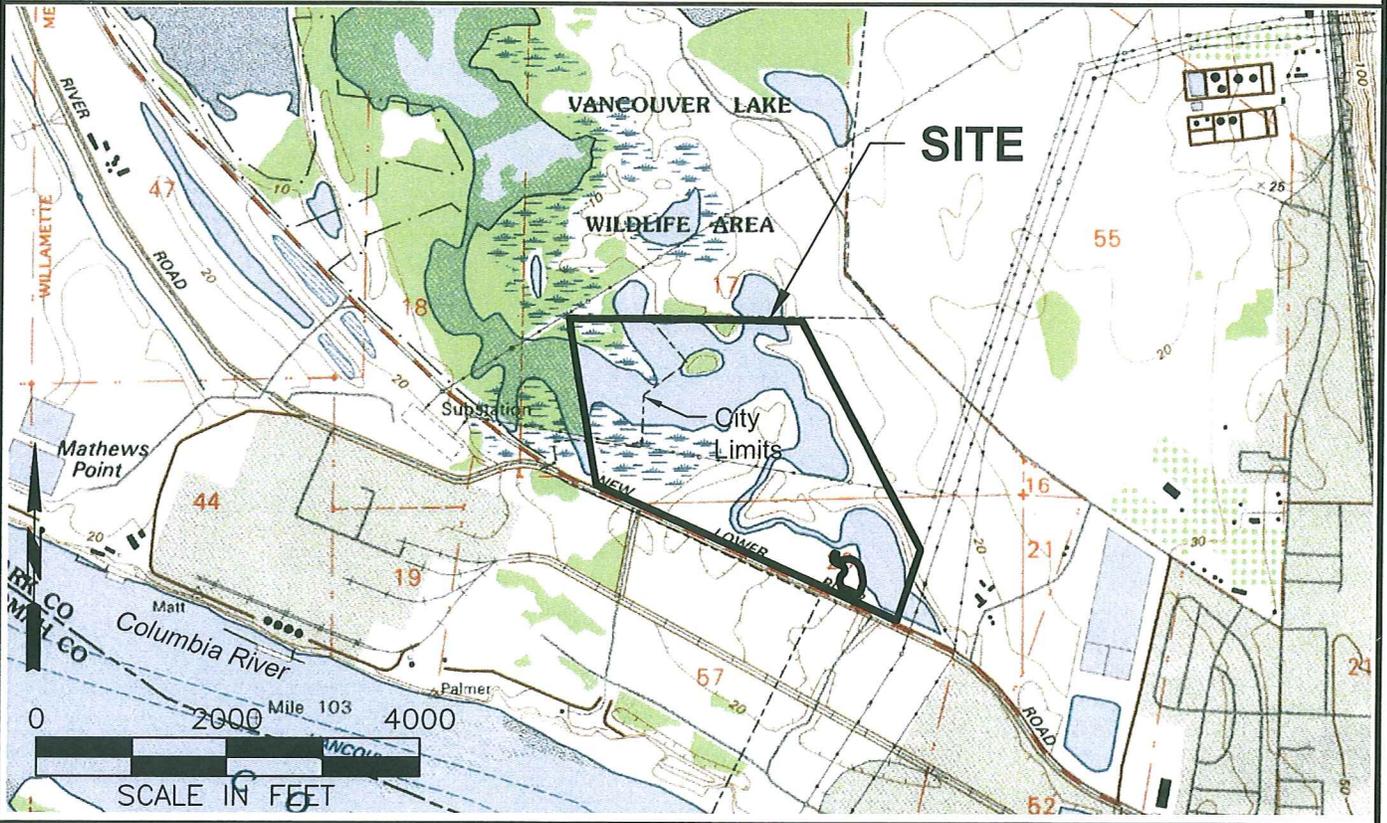


NOTE:

USGS topographic quadrangle map reproduced using MAPTECH Inc., Terrain Navigator Pro software.



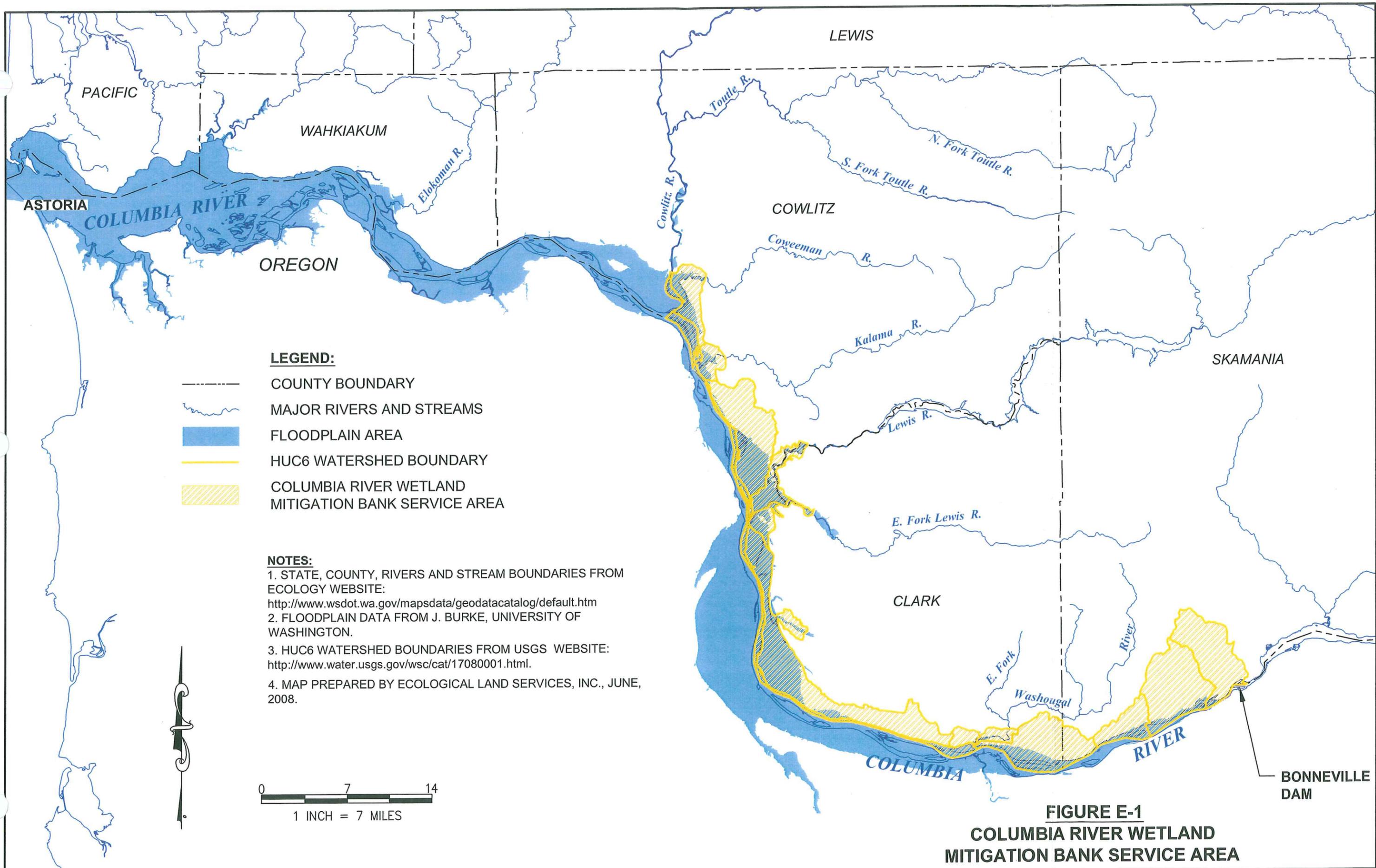
PROJECT SITE VICINITY MAP



 ECOLOGICAL LAND SERVICES, INC.
1157 3rd Ave., Suite 220 Longview, WA 98632
(360) 578-1371 Fax: (360) 414-9305

DATE: 9/11/08
DWN: MMM
REQ. BY: JT
PRJ. MGR: MMM
CHK:
APPR:
PROJ.#: 1209.03

Figure A-1
VICINITY MAP
Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank
Clark County Mitigation Partners, LLC
City of Vancouver, Clark County, Washington
Sections 17 & 20, Township 2N, Range 1E, W.M.





LEGEND:

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- MAJOR ROADS
- MAJOR RIVERS AND STREAMS
- FLOODPLAIN AREA

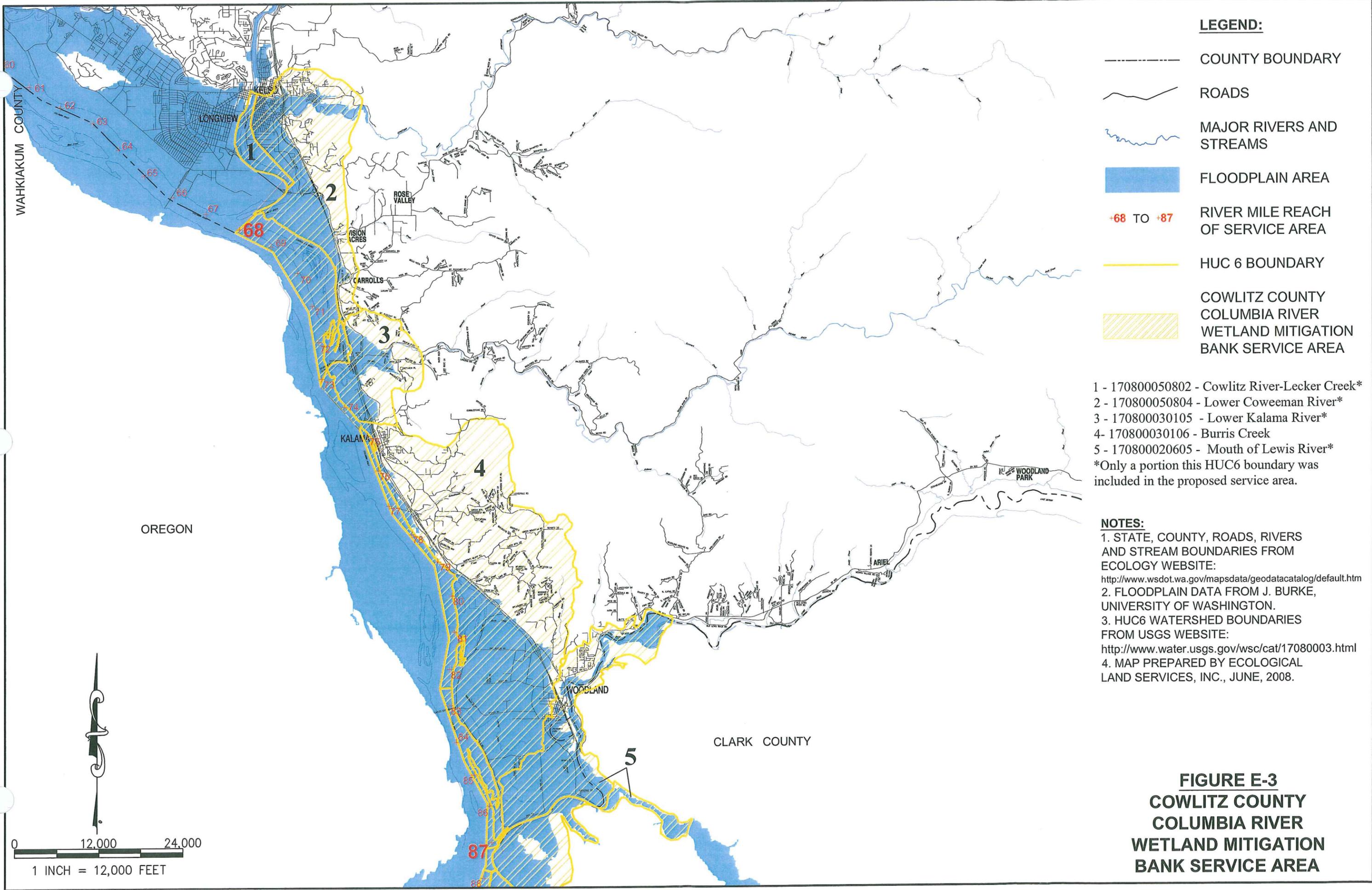
+ 87 TO + 129 RIVER MILE REACH OF SERVICE AREA

CLARK COUNTY COLUMBIA RIVER WETLAND MITIGATION BANK SERVICE AREA

NOTES:

1. STATE, COUNTY, ROADS, RIVERS AND STREAM BOUNDARIES FROM ECOLOGY WEBSITE: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/geodatacatalog/default.htm>
2. FLOODPLAIN DATA FROM J. BURKE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.
3. MAP PREPARED BY ECOLOGICAL LAND SERVICES, INC., JUNE, 2008.

**FIGURE E-2
CLARK COUNTY
COLUMBIA RIVER
WETLAND MITIGATION
BANK SERVICE AREA**



LEGEND:

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- ROADS
- ~~~~~ MAJOR RIVERS AND STREAMS
- FLOODPLAIN AREA
- +68 TO +87 RIVER MILE REACH OF SERVICE AREA
- HUC 6 BOUNDARY
- ▨ COWLITZ COUNTY COLUMBIA RIVER WETLAND MITIGATION BANK SERVICE AREA

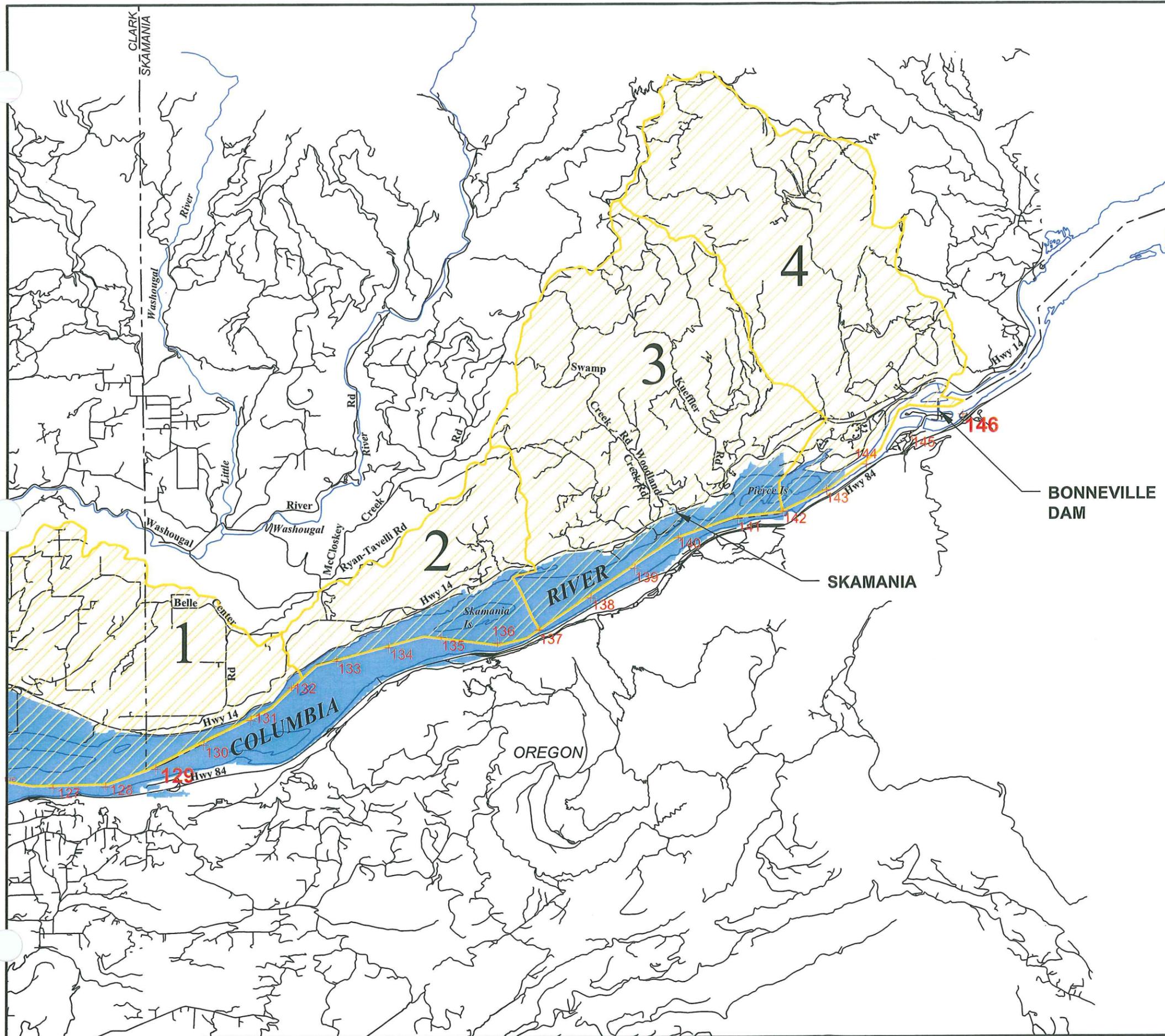
- 1 - 170800050802 - Cowlitz River-Lecker Creek*
 - 2 - 170800050804 - Lower Coweeman River*
 - 3 - 170800030105 - Lower Kalama River*
 - 4- 170800030106 - Burriss Creek
 - 5 - 170800020605 - Mouth of Lewis River*
- *Only a portion this HUC6 boundary was included in the proposed service area.

NOTES:

1. STATE, COUNTY, ROADS, RIVERS AND STREAM BOUNDARIES FROM ECOLOGY WEBSITE:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/geodatacatalog/default.htm>
2. FLOODPLAIN DATA FROM J. BURKE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.
3. HUC6 WATERSHED BOUNDARIES FROM USGS WEBSITE:
<http://www.water.usgs.gov/wsc/cat/17080003.html>
4. MAP PREPARED BY ECOLOGICAL LAND SERVICES, INC., JUNE, 2008.

**FIGURE E-3
COWLITZ COUNTY
COLUMBIA RIVER
WETLAND MITIGATION
BANK SERVICE AREA**

0 12,000 24,000
1 INCH = 12,000 FEET



LEGEND:

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- ~~~~~ ROADS
- ~~~~~ MAJOR RIVERS AND STREAMS
- █ FLOODPLAIN AREA
- +129 TO +146 RIVER MILE REACH OF SERVICE AREA
- HUC 6 BOUNDARY
- ▨ SKAMANIA COUNTY COLUMBIA RIVER WETLAND MITIGATION BANK SERVICE AREA

- 1 - 170800010704- Latourell Creek
- 2 - 170800010703 - Viento Creek
- 3 - 170800010702 - Hamilton Creek
- 4 - 170800010701 - Tanner Creek

NOTES:

1. STATE, COUNTY, ROADS, RIVERS AND STREAM BOUNDARIES FROM ECOLOGY WEBSITE: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/geodatacatalog/default.htm>
2. FLOODPLAIN DATA FROM J. BURKE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.
3. HUC6 WATERSHED BOUNDARIES FROM USGS WEBSITE: <http://www.water.usgs.gov/wsc/cat/17080001.html>
4. MAP PREPARED BY ECOLOGICAL LAND SERVICES, INC., JUNE, 2008.



**FIGURE E-4
SKAMANIA COUNTY
COLUMBIA RIVER
WETLAND MITIGATION
BANK SERVICE AREA**