Appendix E

Management Recommendations for Locally Important Species Found in the East Link Project Area

Management Recommendations for Locally Important Species Found in the East Link Project Area

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Introduction

Title 21A of the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties and cities in Washington to designate and protect critical areas, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.170. The GMA requires local jurisdictions to designate and protect critical areas, using the best available science (BAS) in developing policies and regulations to protect critical area functions and values. The purpose of the GMA is to avoid the possibility of uncoordinated and unplanned growth as the population in the state continues to rise and development increases. The GMA is intended to protect the public's health and safety by requiring county and city governments to create local based plans and regulations that are centered on land use and natural resource issues as guided by the state legislature. Critical areas are one of the two primary natural resource areas addressed in the GMA planning process. Critical areas include wetlands, critical recharge areas for potable water aquifers, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazard areas, and Fish and Wildlife habitat conservation areas.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Fish and Wildlife habitat conservation areas are the primary way the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) works to conserve wildlife habitat in Washington State. While WDFW is charged with protecting and maintaining fish and wildlife populations, WDFW has little authority over the habitats used by fish and wildlife species. Protection is primarily achieved through the voluntary actions of landowners and through existing state regulations, including the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the Growth Management Act, the Forest Practices Act (FPA), and the Shoreline Management Act (SMA). WDFW primarily serves an advisory role, by reviewing proposals for development and offering guidelines for species management on private property. WDFW has written management guidelines for all state and priority listed species. Priority species include species and wildlife congregations that are priorities for conservation due to their population status, sensitivity to disturbance, economic, recreational or tribal importance. These species may or may not be listed as an endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species by the state or federal government. The management recommendations are generalized guidelines and are not enforceable regulations. They are based on the needs of fish and wildlife species, and are not based on land use objectives.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas are lands that are managed for perpetuating species in suitable habitats within their natural range, and to prevent the creation of isolated

subpopulations. As set forth in the WAC guidelines, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas include:

a. Areas with which federal and state endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, and state candidate species, have a primary association;

b. Habitats and species of local importance;

c. Commercial and recreational shellfish areas;

d. Kelp and eel grass beds; herring and smelt spawning areas;

e. Naturally occurring ponds under 20 acres and their submerged aquatic beds that

f. Provide fish or wildlife habitat;

g. Waters of the state;

h. Lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a governmental or tribal

i. Entity; or

j. State natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas.

In order to meet the requirements established by the GMA, King County and the Cities of Bellevue, Mercer Island and Redmond created Critical Areas Ordinances to ensure the management and protection of lands used by listed and locally important species. Species of Local Importance include native species that are in danger of becoming federally or state listed or extirpated if current population trends continue. The long-term preservation of the species is dependent on the protection it receives. Without the additional protection, the species or habitat is likely to decline in the future. Localized populations that are vulnerable or in decline, or species or habitats that offer some special value may also be considered locally important. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas also include areas associated with state priority species, and areas critical for habitat connectivity. These wildlife habitats are classified and rated by a variety of internal (site specific) and external (contextual) habitat conditions.

King County Comprehensive Plan

The King County code protects critical areas as well as their buffers in order to protect the health and safety of the County's residents and its environment. In October of 2006, King County adopted ordinances 15605-15607, amending the 2004 Updated Comprehensive Plan. Chapter 4 of the King County Comprehensive Plan establishes recommendations for protecting listed and locally important wildlife and their breeding habitats. Protection is given to species of local importance using regulations, incentive programs, land purchases, networking of wildlife corridors, and development clustering. Species considered to be locally important in King County are shown in Table 1. In addition, King County is required to protect designated wildlife corridors, riparian corridors, and the breeding sites of two species of raptors and herons. These four species and their breeding habitats are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1
King County Designated Locally Important Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
Locally Important Species listed by King County (King County Comprehensive Code Chapter 4)					
Trumpeter Swan	*Cygnus buccinator*	Bird		Known in the study area	Rare visitor to Marymoor Park during the winter. Seen fewer then 10x at Marymoor Park. Trumpeter Swans spend the winter from November to April in the open fields and estuaries of Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Recently, their range has expanded to Grays Harbor and other areas of western Washington. There are currently no trumpeter swans breeding in Washington
Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus*	Bird		Known in the study area	Rare visitor to Marymoor Park during the winter. Seen fewer then 10x at Marymoor Park. Tundra Swans are common in fresh- and saltwater habitats throughout the lowlands of northwestern Washington from November to April. Almost 2,000 winter in Skagit County.
Snow Goose	*Chen caerulescens*	Bird		Known in the study area	Rare visitor to Marymoor Park during the winter. Seen fewer then 10x at Marymoor Park. Typically observed in large flocks. Up to 55,000 winter in western Washington. Most gather in the Skagit River Delta from mid-October to early May.
Band-tailed Pigeon	*Patagioenas fasciata*	Bird	Known in the study area		Found in low- and mid-elevation conifer and mixed conifer/deciduous forests. Requires a component of mature conifers. Band-tailed Pigeons prefer forest edges, especially open sites bordered by tall conifers.
Harlequin Duck	*Histrionicus histrionicus*	Bird		May Occur	In western Washington, harlequins historically bred in the Olympic and Cascade mountains. Wintering areas include northern Puget Sound, northern Hood Canal, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and the Pacific coast. In winter they are common in marine waters along rocky shorelines and jetties. They are more common in northern Puget Sound then in southern portions of the Sound.
Western Bluebird	*Sialia Mexicana*	Bird		Known in the study area	Rare visitor to Marymoor Park. Seen fewer then 10x at Marymoor Park. In western Washington, Mountain Bluebirds

TABLE 1
King County Designated Locally Important Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
					are uncommon in the Fort Lewis area, and rare in forest clearings in King, Pierce, Thurston, and Mason Counties.
Brant Goose	*Branta bernicla nigricans*	Bird	No	No	Found in estuaries, beaches, bays and spits where they feed and rest before their migration north to Arctic breeding grounds. Ninety-five percent of their diet is composed on eelgrass (*Zostera marina* and *Zostera japonica*) which grow on inter-tidal mudflats.
Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Bird	No	No	Black-crowned Night-herons have been known to breed in western Washington's eastern Puget Trough lowlands. Frequently nest on island and in large trees in small colonies. Usually found in fresh and saltwater wetlands. In spring and fall, they can be found in wetlands flanking large river basins.
Blue Grouse	*Dendragapus obscurus*	Bird	No	No	In Washington, blue grouse are found in three distinct areas east of the Cascades. Blue grouse are found in mountainous areas wherever open coniferous forests are present. They are closely associated with true fir (*Abies* spp.) and Douglas fir *(Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests.
Mountain Quail	*Oreortyx pictus*	Bird	No	No	Found on mountain slopes and foothills, in areas with dense cover supporting scattered open areas. Often found in dense thickets created by fires or clear cuts.
Mountain Goat	*Oreamnos americanus*	Mammal	No	No	Found in the Cascade Mountain range.
Columbian Black-tailed Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*	Mammal	None	Locally Important	Found along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern California.
Elk	*Cervus elaphus*	Mammal	No	No	Found in the mountain ranges and shrub lands of the Olympic and Cascade mountains.
Marten	*Martes americana*	Mammal	No	No	Strongly associated with mature conifer forests. Historically found throughout the mountains of Washington, Oregon and California.
Mink	*Mustela vison*	Mammal	Known in the study area		Rare visitor to Marymoor Park. Seen fewer then 10x at Marymoor Park.

In addition, King County wrote local guidelines for ten terrestrial species most often encountered during proposal reviews in the County (Table 3). Section 198 of the King County Comprehensive Plan requires the county to protect the active breeding sites of these species, as well as the immediate area surrounding each site to prevent any disturbance to breeding activities. All ten species are either listed by the State as an endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate or monitor species, or are listed as a locally important species by King County. The species include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*, great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus)*, peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) , Townsend's big eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii)*, Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi)*, red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis)*, and goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).

For all other species included in the King County Comprehensive Plan, the County is required to establish protective standards if a breeding site is discovered during a project review. The protective standards are based on management guidelines and recommendations established by WDFW. Most of the species listed in the King County Comprehensive Plan do not occur in the East Link project area, as they are not found in urban or commercially developed areas. In some cases however, their breeding habitat is still protected, even though the species itself is not actively breeding or occurring at the location.

TABLE 2
Wildlife Breeding Habitats Designated as having Local Importance in King County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
Species Whose Breeding Habitats are Included in King County's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (King County Comprehensive Code Chapter 4)					
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea Herodias*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in small to medium sized colonies ranging from 3 to 30 nests. Colonies usually in secluded deciduous forests, but can adapt to some levels of disturbance gradually, over time. Will use conifer forests occasionally. Colonies often <1mile away from wetlands or large water bodies. Listed due to its sensitivity to disturbances and dependence on wetlands, wet meadows, and water bodies.
Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Bird	No	No	Black-crowned Night-herons have been known to breed in western Washington's eastern Puget Trough lowlands. Usually nest on island and in large trees in small colonies. Often found in fresh and saltwater wetlands. In spring and fall, they can be found in wetlands flanking large river basins.
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	Bird	Known in the study area		Found in areas with a mix of forests and open spaces, including agricultural land, grasslands, wetlands and meadows. Small mammals, especially rodents, are their

TABLE 2
Wildlife Breeding Habitats Designated as having Local Importance in King County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
					primary prey.
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in exposed trees or platforms that provide a clear, unobstructed view of surrounding area. Nests close to large bodies of water. Territorial. Several known active nests and territories in Segments B, C, and E.

TABLE 3
King County Designated Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Breeding Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area	Protective Nesting Habitat Recommendations when Active Nesting or Breeding is Determined for a Site:
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	400-foot radius from active nest	• No alterations within 800 feet from March 15 through April 30 (incubation and first three weeks of brooding). • Maintain a 400 foot radius around nest trees. • Prohibit use of land-clearing machinery within 800 feet from January 1 through August 31.
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	820-foot radius from the rookery. WDFW can increase radius up to an additional 164 feet if population of rookery is declining	• No clearing or grading disturbance from January 1 through July 31 within 924 feet around existing rookeries. • Maintain 820 foot radius around existing rookeries that are known to be stable; buffer may be increased by 164 feet if population of rookery is declining.
Marbeled Murrelet	Bracyrhampus marmuratus	One-half mile radius around an active nest	• Protect area within 0.5 mile of nest trees.
Northern Spotted Owl	Strix Occidentalis	3,700-foot radius from an active nest	• Protect 3,700 foot radius from nest tree.
Goshawk	Accipter gentilis	1,500-foot radius around an active nest located outside of the Urban Growth Area (UGA)	• Maintain 1,500 foot radius around active nest sites located outside the urban growth area.
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	230-foot radius around an active nest	• No disturbance within 660 feet from April 1 through September 30. • Maintain 230 foot radius around active nest.

TABLE 3
King County Designated Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Breeding Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area	Protective Nesting Habitat Recommendations when Active Nesting or Breeding is Determined for a Site:
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Extending 1,000 feet of an eyrie on a cliff face, the area immediately above the eyrie on the rim of the cliff, and the area immediately below the cliff	• No human activity along the nest cliff rim, immediately below nest cliffs, or on the cliff face within 1,000 feet at any time of year. • No surface-disturbing activities that would produce loud noises (e.g. blasting, operation of chainsaws and heavy machinery) from March 1 through June 30 within .5 miles of nest. • Route power lines 1,000 feet from eyries.
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	325-foot radius from an active nest located outside of the UGA	• Maintain an area with a radius of 325 feet from an active nest located outside the urban growth area. • Clearing and grading is not allowed within 660 feet of an active nest located outside of the urban growth area from March 1-July 31
Common Name	Scientific Name	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area	Protective Nesting Habitat Recommendations when Active Nesting or Breeding is Determined for a Site:
Vaux's Swift	Chaetura vauxi	300-foot radius around an active nest located outside of the UGA	• Maintain a 300 foot radius around active nest sites outside the urban growth area. • No clearing or construction activities within 400 feet of active or potential nest trees from April 1 through October 31, unless potential nest tree is proved to contain no nests.
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	June 1-Oct 1 – 450-foot radius around from entrance to a cave or mine located outside of the UGA, within an active nursery colony Nov. 1-March 31 – 450-foot radius around the entrance to a cave or mine located outside the UGA serving as a winter hibernacula	• Maintain a minimum 450' radius in all directions from the entrance of a cave or mine of an active and alternate nursery sites located outside of the urban growth area from June 1-October 1 • Establish 450 foot radius around the entrance to the cave or mine serving as winter hibernacula November 1 - March 31 outside of the urban growth boundary • A building, bridge or tunnel, or other structure used solely for day or night roosting shall not be altered from March 1-November 30 • The entrance to a cave or mine that is

TABLE 3
King County Designated Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Breeding Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area	Protective Nesting Habitat Recommendations when Active Nesting or Breeding is Determined for a Site:
			protected because of bat presence is protected from human entry May 1 – September 15 • Gate entrance to cave or mine that is protected because of bat presence must be designed to allow bats to enter and exit.

Specifically, King County is required to protect:

1. habitat for all federally and state listed endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, and state candidate species
2. habitat used by locally important species
3. designated WDFW wildlife corridors
4. riparian corridors
5. locally important salmonid habitats
6. commercial and recreational shellfish beds
7. kelp and eelgrass beds
8. herring, sand lance and smelt spawning areas
9. habitat used by nesting red-tailed hawks
10. habitat for raptors and herons of local importance: osprey, great blue heron and black-crowned heron, and
11. habitat used by locally important marine species: freshwater mussels, geoduck clam, Pacific oyster, Dungeness crab, Pandalid shrimp, red urchins, white sturgeon, Pacific herring, channel catfish, longfin smelt, surfsmelt, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, black rockfish, copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, lingcod, Pacific sand lance, English sole and rock sole.

Bellevue Ordinance #5680

Bellevue updated its Land Use Code in 2001 to incorporate critical area regulations. Under LUC 20.25H.025, any habitat associated with a species of local importance is designated a critical area. Furthermore, if a habitat associated with a species of local importance is impacted by a proposed development, the proposal shall implement the WDFW wildlife management plan designed for that species. If the habitat does not include a critical area or critical area buffer, but is occupied by a locally important species, then only the guidelines in the wildlife management plan need to be followed. Updating the Land Use Code also led

to the creation of a Critical Areas Overlay District. This district excludes downtown Bellevue, as it focuses on the recognition of natural, sensitive and hazard areas and imposes regulations on the use and development of these properties. Locally important species in Bellevue are show in Table 4.

TABLE 4
Designated Locally Important Wildlife in the City of Bellevue

Common Name	Scientific Name	Animal Group	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
Locally Important Species listed by the City of Bellevue (LUC 20.25H.150)					
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in wooded areas with larger trees within a half mile of large bodies of water. Highly territorial of nesting tree. May have more than one nest tree per territory, as well as roost and perch trees. Several known territories in Segments A, B, and E.
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Bird	Known in the study area		Two historical and recent eyries in Segment A. Nests in sheltered cliff areas naturally, has adapted to using bridges and buildings for nesting sites.
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	Bird		Known in the study area	Population has declined due to acid rain, pollution, industrial contamination of water bodies and lead poisoning. Artificial floating nesting platforms have reduced the negative impact of fluctuating water levels from human activities to nests.
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	Bird	Known in the study area		Requires wooded forests with a component of dead and dying trees and snags for foraging and nesting. Prefers deciduous forests. Will occur in conifer forests with some deciduous tree component. Found at Marymoor Park. One bird observed in WR-5.
Vaux's Swift	*Chaetura vauxi*	Bird		Known in the study area	Nests and forages in groups with 30 or more birds. Nest is a cup shaped nest placed in a dark, confined cavity. Breeds in mountains and foothills, usually >700 meters in elevation. Forages over wooded areas and more open habitats, including towns.
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	Bird	Known in the study area		Seen during the nesting season at Marymoor Park.
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in structures over water bodies, including natural cavities, pilings, and man-made housing structures. Forages over open water or wet areas for insects while in flight. Nesting

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Animal Group	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
					observed at Marymoor Park in 2003, but no activity since. Population believed to be in decline throughout its range.
Western Grebe	*Aechmophorus occidentalis*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in colonies numbering up to several hundred birds on large inland lakes or in coastal marshes of the western United States. Birds breeding in the northern extent of their range migrate to the western coastal ocean to spend the winter.
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in small to medium sized colonies ranging from 3 to 30 nests. Colonies usually in secluded deciduous forests, but can adapt to some levels of disturbance gradually, over time. Will use conifer forests occasionally. Colonies often <1mile away from wetland or large water bodies. Listed due to its sensitivity to disturbances and dependence on wetlands, wet meadows, and water bodies.
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	Bird	Known in the study area		Nests in exposed trees or platforms that provide a clear, unobstructed view of surrounding area. Nests close to large bodies of water. Territorial. Several known active nests and territories in Segments B, C, and E.
Green Heron	*Butorides virescens*	Bird	Known in the study area		Breeds in small wetlands on a platform built nest that is either in a tree or shrub, close to the water. Feeds on small fish, insects, and amphibians. Nests at Marymoor Park.
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	Bird	Known in the study area		Found in areas with a mix of forests and open spaces, including agricultural land, grasslands, wetlands and meadows. Small mammals, especially rodents, are their primary prey.
Townsend's western Big-eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*	Bat		May Occur	Areas with a mosaic of woodland/grassland and/or shrub land, esp. coniferous mosaics. Found in Pierce County, Fort Lewis.

TABLE 4
Designated Locally Important Wildlife in the City of Bellevue

Common Name	Scientific Name	Animal Group	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
Keen's myotis	(*Myotis keenii*	Bat		Unlikely to occur in the study area.	Keen's myotis has one of the most limited ranges of any bat species in North America**.** Habitat use is restricted to dense forests with old growth characteristics. Range is limited to the Olympia Peninsula and low elevation conifer forests in Puget Sound region.
Long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*	Bat		May occur	Occurs in forested areas statewide. Prefers mountainous, coniferous forests. Often found along forest edges, can occur at high elevations in cool, wet forests.
Long-eared myotis	*Myotis evoti*	Bat		May occur	Found in wooded areas statewide; however, it is most common in eastern Washington lodgepole pine forests. Does occur in humid coastal forests with good ground cover. Will occur in any forested habitat except those with no ground cover or in mid-to-high density developments.
Oregon spotted frog	*Rana pretios*)	Amphibian		Unlikely to occur in the study area.	Highly aquatic amphibian, usually found in or near permanent bodies of still water 9 acres in size or more, including lakes, marshes, and wetlands, and vegetated, slow-flowing perennial streams. Population has experienced heavy declines in the last 20 years. In 1997, only three known populations remained in Washington.
Western Toad	*Bufo boreas*	Amphibian		May Occur	Found in a variety of habitats, including slow-moving rivers and streams, and near ponds and lakes. Large population declines in the Northwest. Listed as occurring in the Lake Washington Basin.
Western pond turtle	*Clemmys marmorata*	Amphibian		Unlikely to occur in the study area.	The western pond turtle is a highly aquatic turtle that has been extirpated from almost all of its Washington range. The Washington population consists of a few isolated and scattered populations. The range historically included streams, ponds, lakes, and permanent and ephemeral wetlands throughout the Puget Sound lowlands

TABLE 4
Designated Locally Important Wildlife in the City of Bellevue

Common Name	Scientific Name	Animal Group	Expected Occurrence in Study Area		Preferred Habitat / Basis for Occurrence Determination
			Likely Present	Possibly Present	
Chinook salmon	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	Fish	Known in the study area		Found in Lake Washington, Sammamish River, and Bear Creek, Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek, Sturtevant Creek, West Tributary to Kelsey Creek, Goff Creek, Valley Creek, and Sears Creek. Found in Segments A, B, D, and E.
bull trout	*Salvelinus confluentus*	Fish	Known in the study area		Found in Lake Washington, and possibly in Sammamish River and Bear Creek, but rare in all cases. Found in Segment A, and possibly in Segment E.
Coho salmon	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*	Fish	Known in the study area		Found in Lake Washington, Sammamish River, and Bear Creek, Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek, West Tributary to Kelsey Creek, Goff Creek, Valley Creek, and Sears Creek. Found in Segments A, B, D, and E.
River lamprey	*Lampetra fluviatilis*	Fish	Known in the study area		Found in Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek, Sammamish River, and Bear Creek. Found in Segments A, B, and E.

City of Mercer Island Locally Important Species

The City of Mercer Island Comprehensive Land Use Plan includes Ordinance No. 05C-12, which details their critical areas regulations. In order to streamline their critical areas regulations, the City of Mercer Island adopted WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species program in its entirety in 1998. The City of Mercer Island relies solely on the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and WDFW for species listings. WDFW management guidelines and recommendations for state listed species are followed. In addition, the City of Mercer Island's City Council has not designated any species as having local importance.

City of Redmond Locally Important Species

The City of Redmond's Critical Areas Ordinance (Ordinance #2259) applies species protection to State Species of Concern, Priority Species designated by WDFW, and locally important species. Only one species, the great blue heron, is currently listed as a locally important species in Redmond. The red-tailed hawk was listed as a locally important species until 2004.

Redmond's critical areas ordinance established a set of recommendations for development within the urban growth boundaries of the city. These recommendations focus on using

incentive programs, density transfers and existing state regulations to minimize impacts to natural areas. This is accomplished by clustering developments and, when possible, avoiding development in critical areas or their buffers. The primary framework of habitat management in the City of Redmond is the creation of habitat reserves and linking these reserves together using wildlife corridors. Following guidelines established in NE-79 and NE-90, the City of Redmond recommends using reserves and corridors to reduce the effects of habitat fragmentation. Section NE-84 also calls for protecting habitats having a primary association with state and federally listed species and candidate species, and species of local importance.

Conclusion

Locally important wildlife species do occur in the East Link project area. WDFW has been contacted in regards to any mitigation or conservation measures they may require for the East Link project. Any conservation measures will follow the management guidelines established by WDFW for those specific species. These guidelines and recommendations may be enforceable if they fall under the guidance of state regulations such as SEPA. In addition, WDFW or King County may also require management guidelines to lessen the impact to locally important species as detailed in their critical areas ordinances.

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