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GARY M. OLSON
AUDITOR

RETURN ADDRESS:

Jim Boaz
P.O. Box 96
Underwood, WA 98651

Please Print or Type Information.

Document Title(s) or transactions contained therein:

1. Wildlife Management Plan
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

GRANTOR(S) (Last name, first, then first name and initials)

1. Howard Scooter
 2. Jim Boaz
 3. Matthew Bronson
 - 4.
- ☐ Additional Names on page _____ of document.

GRANTEE(S) (Last name, first, then first name and initials)

1. Yamania County
 2. Bronson Short Plat
 - 3.
 - 4.
- ☐ Additional Names on page _____ of document.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Abbreviated: I.E., Lot, Block, Plat or Section, Township, Range, Quarter/Quarter)

Section 22, T3N, R10E, W1M

☐ Complete legal on page _____ of document.

REFERENCE NUMBER(S) Of Documents assigned or released:

Vol 3 of Short Plats on Page 302

☐ Additional numbers on page _____ of document.

ASSESSOR'S PROPERTY TAX PARCEL/ACCOUNT NUMBER

3-10-22-190

☐ Property Tax Parcel ID is not yet assigned.

☐ Additional parcel #'s on page _____ of document.

The Auditor/Recorder will rely on the information provided on the form. The Staff will not read the document to verify the accuracy or completeness of the indexing information.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA APPLICATION #NSA-96-45**

AUTHORITY: This wildlife management plan was prepared under authority of the Skamania County Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Ordinance (Ordinance No. 1993-04, Skamania County Code Title 22) and Chapter 43.97 RCW

PREPARED BY: Steve Manlow, Area Habitat Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
5405 Northeast Hazel Dell Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98663

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Bronson Short Plat, National Scenic Area Application #NSA-96-45. Subdivision of a 30.03 acre parcel into five residential building lots, within the General Management Area of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

**PROPERTY LOCATION/
DESCRIPTION:**

Skamania County Tax Lot #3-10-22-190, comprising approximately 30.03 acres, located in the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 03 North, Range 10 East, Willamette Meridian (See Exhibit A - legal description).

APPLICANT: Howard Sooter
Post Office Box 75
Underwood, WA 98651

AFFECTED SPECIES: Western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During reconnaissance level surveys in January and March of 1997, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologists discovered evidence of western gray squirrel presence on the project site. Two nest sites were located within a dense conifer stand that encompasses portions of proposed Lots 3 and 4, and a loose leaf platform ("dray") was located within an adjoining mixed conifer/oak stand on proposed Lot 2. These habitat areas are contiguous with other known western gray squirrel habitat areas to the south (Tax Lot 801), and to the east (Coopers Addition). Important habitat features on the project site include nesting and foraging habitat (conifer and mixed conifer/oak stands), a small stream with an associated impoundment, and a seasonal pond. The project site and adjacent habitat areas support the most westerly nest sites currently known to occur in the Columbia River gorge.

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In January of 1997, the Director of the Skamania County Department of Planning and Community Development issued a Preliminary Director's Decision for National Scenic Area Application #NSA-96-45. Based on the record before the Director, this application was found to be consistent with Skamania County Code (SCC) Title 22. The Preliminary Director's Decision specifies that the applicant must complete a wildlife management plan in accordance with Chapter 22.16 of SCC Title 22. The primary purpose of this plan is to document the special characteristics of the project site and the habitat requirements of affected wildlife species. The information in the plan shall provide a basis for the applicant to redesign the proposed use in a manner that protects sensitive wildlife areas and sites, maximizes his or her development options, and mitigates temporary impacts to the wildlife area, site and/or buffer zone.

WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL STATUS:

The western gray squirrel is the largest native tree squirrel in the Pacific Northwest. Historically, in Washington this species was associated with oak communities from southern Puget Sound south to the Columbia River, east along the Columbia River Gorge in the southern Cascades, and north along the eastern slopes of the Cascades to Lake Chelan. Significant population declines have occurred throughout the historic range of this species. Remnant western gray squirrel populations now exist only in southern Puget Sound (Fort Lewis), the Columbia River Gorge (Klickitat and eastern Skamania Counties), Chelan and Okanogan Counties, and possibly Yakima County (Oak Creek Wildlife Area). The Columbia River Gorge may harbor the last viable local populations of this species in Washington. Population declines are attributed to a combination of factors, including the following: habitat loss, fragmentation and conversion; fluctuating food supplies; disease; interspecific competition; human disturbance; road kills; and illegal shooting. The western gray squirrel is listed as a threatened species in Washington, and there are currently no signs of population recovery.

WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL HABITAT REQUIREMENTS:

Western gray squirrels need a variety of mast-producing trees and shrubs for food, cover, and nesting sites. Quality habitat for this species includes a moderately-closed tree canopy for arboreal travel, several mast-bearing tree species, large-sized trees for nests and mast production, and proximity to water. Most squirrels build round stick nests in conifer trees, about one third of the distance from the top, adjacent to the trunk. Nests are used year-round for cover, and loose leaf platforms ("drays") are also used for resting, especially in summer. Important components of nest tree sites include the presence of large coniferous trees, contiguous canopy cover, and proximity to water. Important food sources include acorns, herbaceous plants, hypogeous and epigeous fungi, conifer cones, and seeds. Western gray squirrels are secretive and prefer arboreal travel. Suitable habitat also includes trees of sufficient size and spacing to produce an interconnected canopy for arboreal travel.

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MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS:

The primary goals of this management plan are to maintain the long-term integrity and viability of western gray squirrel habitat at the project site, and to contribute toward maintenance of a viable western gray squirrel population in southeastern Skamania County. This will be accomplished by protecting existing nesting sites and habitat; protecting existing foraging habitat, including conifer and oak trees; maintaining connectivity between habitat on project site and occupied habitat to the east and south; maintenance of water sources and access to these areas; and limiting activities and disturbance within designated habitat areas. Consistent with these goals, the owner(s) shall perform and comply with the following requirements:

- 1) Residential development (including road construction, clearing, vegetation removal, and other land disturbing activities), shall only occur within building envelopes identified on the attached subdivision map filed with the County Auditor (Exhibit B).
- 2) Areas outside building envelopes shall be designated core habitat areas and shall be depicted on the final subdivision map. Core habitat areas shall be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions.
- 3) Consistent with the goal and purpose of this management plan, the core habitat areas identified on the attached map shall be left in a natural state. Unless otherwise authorized through a plan amendment as provided below, the following activities shall not occur within designated habitat areas: the construction of any structure; the removal, excavation, grading, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, or other materials; dumping, discharging, or fill with any material; or the destruction or alteration of vegetation through clearing, harvesting, or intentional burning; EXCEPT as provided in #4 and #5 below.
- 4) Removal of downed woody material and limited tree limbing (lower 1/3 of tree) may occur as minimally necessary to abate fire hazard, upon the written recommendation of the Skamania County Fire Marshall.
- 5) Vegetation removal may occur within the designated core habitat area on Lot 4 as minimally necessary to provide a maximum 20 foot wide driveway to access identified building sites. The access road shall be routed to avoid removal of trees to the maximum extent feasible.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

This wildlife management plan becomes effective upon execution by all parties and shall be binding on the owner(s), his successors, assignees, or purchasers. Any obligations made

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herein by the owner(s) shall be enforceable against all of their heirs, assignees and successors in interest into whose ownership the below-described real property (Exhibit A) may pass

DURATION AND AMENDMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

This wildlife management plan shall remain in effect in perpetuity, and may be altered or amended only based on mutual written agreement of the Skamania County Department of Planning and Community Development, State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the property owner(s). No parties may amend or alter this management plan unilaterally.

SIGNATURES:

We, owners of the above tract of land, hereby agree to all terms and conditions of this wildlife management plan

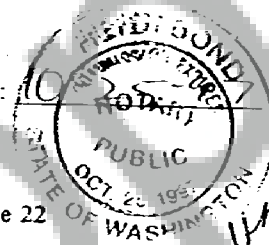
Howard E. Eaton 30 JUNE 97
Owner Date Owner Date

Owner Date Owner Date

On this day personally appeared before me Heidi Bond, to me known to be the individual(s) described in and who executed this instrument, and acknowledged that they signed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

Heidi Bond 6-30-97
Notary Public Date

My Commission Expires: 10



Reviewed and Approved for Compliance with Skamania County Title 22

Harpreet Sandhu 4-22-97
Harpreet Sandhu, Director, Skamania County Planning and Community Development Date

ATTACHMENTS: Legal Description(s) - Exhibit A
Subdivision Map - Exhibit B

EXHIBIT "A"

The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 3 North, Range 10 East of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Skamania, State of Washington.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. That portion deeded to Art Phemister by instrument recorded in Book 139, Page 743.
2. That portion deeded to Richard Lehmann by instrument recorded in Book 118, Page 800.
3. That portion deeded to Kenneth Dragoo by instrument recorded in Book 134, Page 587.
4. That portion deeded to Jim Boaz et ux by instrument recorded in Book 151, Page 674.
5. Lots 3 and 4 of the BERT SOOTER SHORT PLAT, recorded in Book 3 of Short Plats, Page 86.
6. Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 4 of the BERT SOOTER SHORT PLAT, recorded in Book 3 of Short Plats, Page 86, Skamania County Records; thence North 01 degrees 07' 18" East along the East side of said Lot 4 a distance of 240.00 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 4; thence South 89 degrees 10' 03" East 208.90 feet to a point on the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 22; thence South 01 degrees 09' 30" West along said East line 240.00 feet to the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 22; thence North 89 degrees 10' 03" West along the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 22 a distance of 208.75 feet, more or less to the point of beginning.

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EXHIBIT B



= core habitat area

