

### Proposed Certification for a Wetland Mitigation Bank in Grays Harbor County

Interested parties are notified the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is considering the certification of the Weatherwax Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank in Grays Harbor County.

#### Overview

Ecology is seeking public comment regarding a proposal to construct and operate a publicly-owned, 120-acre wetland mitigation bank within Ocean Shores, Wash. A wetland bank is a site where wetlands are restored, created, enhanced or preserved before unavoidable, authorized wetland losses occur. The Weatherwax Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank is designed to provide for sale to the general public high-quality consolidated, watershed-based compensatory mitigation. Wetland bank credits would be available – subject to regulatory approval – for future projects with unavoidable impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources.

Ecology will take public comment to evaluate state certification for the proposed bank from April 2, 2015 through May 2, 2015.

#### Location

The proposed Weatherwax Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank is located on the Ocean Shores Peninsula, at 209 Overlake Street SE, approximately 4 miles south of the City entrance. The site is located on parcels 617121121000 and 617121011003 in the south quarter of Section 2 and the north quarter of Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian. The bank site is located within Grays Harbor County. For the exact location, **please see the attached project vicinity map (Figure A-1).**

#### Applicant

City of Ocean Shores  
ATTN: Alicia Bridges  
PO Box 909  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
Phone: 360-589-7660

Weatherwax Wetland  
Mitigation Bank

**Public Notice Date:**  
April 2, 2015

**Comment Period  
Ends:**  
May 2, 2015

**Send written  
comments to:**  
Kate Thompson  
Department of Ecology  
SEA Program  
Post Office Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[kate.thompson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kate.thompson@ecy.wa.gov)

A more detailed description of the project is available in the *Weatherwax Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument*, dated March 3, 2015, available at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/public-notice](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/public-notice)

Interested parties also can review the document at:

Ocean Shores Public Library  
573 Point Brown Ave NW  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569

and

Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive, SE  
Lacey, WA 98504

## Existing Conditions

The proposed bank is part of a mature interdunal wetland system with upland mosaic area. A relict 10-12 foot sand berm indicative of a possible past shoreline runs north to south through the western portion of the property. The bank site contains over 17 acres of Category I Depressional wetlands and meets characteristics of two Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats: Old Growth/Mature Forests and Biodiversity Area/Corridor.

## Proposed Improvements

The general goal of the bank site design is to preserve the last remaining large, undeveloped segment of land within the City which includes a Category I wetland mosaic as well as valuable old growth and mature forest habitat. Openings in the forested canopy within parts of the bank will be enhanced by controlling invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs.

## Proposed Service Area

The proposed service area where mitigation credits may be used covers the coastal plain from Copalis Beach to Heather, WA. The service area includes projects with impacts to freshwater depressional or lacustrine fringe wetlands that do not have an outlet or drain to Grays Harbor, north Willapa Bay, or the Pacific Ocean. **Please see the attached proposed service area map for the project (Figure E-1).**

## Additional Information

For more information about wetland mitigation banking in Washington, see:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/index.html>.

To receive updates about wetland mitigation banking in Washington or sign up for Ecology's listserv, go to:  
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=wetlands-information>.

## Comment and Review Period

Ecology will evaluate all public comments received by 5 p.m., May 2, 2015, to determine whether it would be in the public interest to certify the bank. Comments can be made by email or postal mail to:

Kate Thompson  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[kate.thompson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kate.thompson@ecy.wa.gov)

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.

## Special accommodations

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at 360-407-6600.

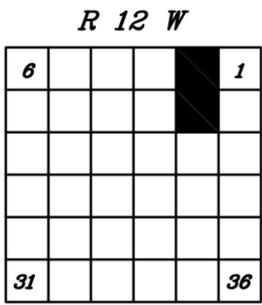
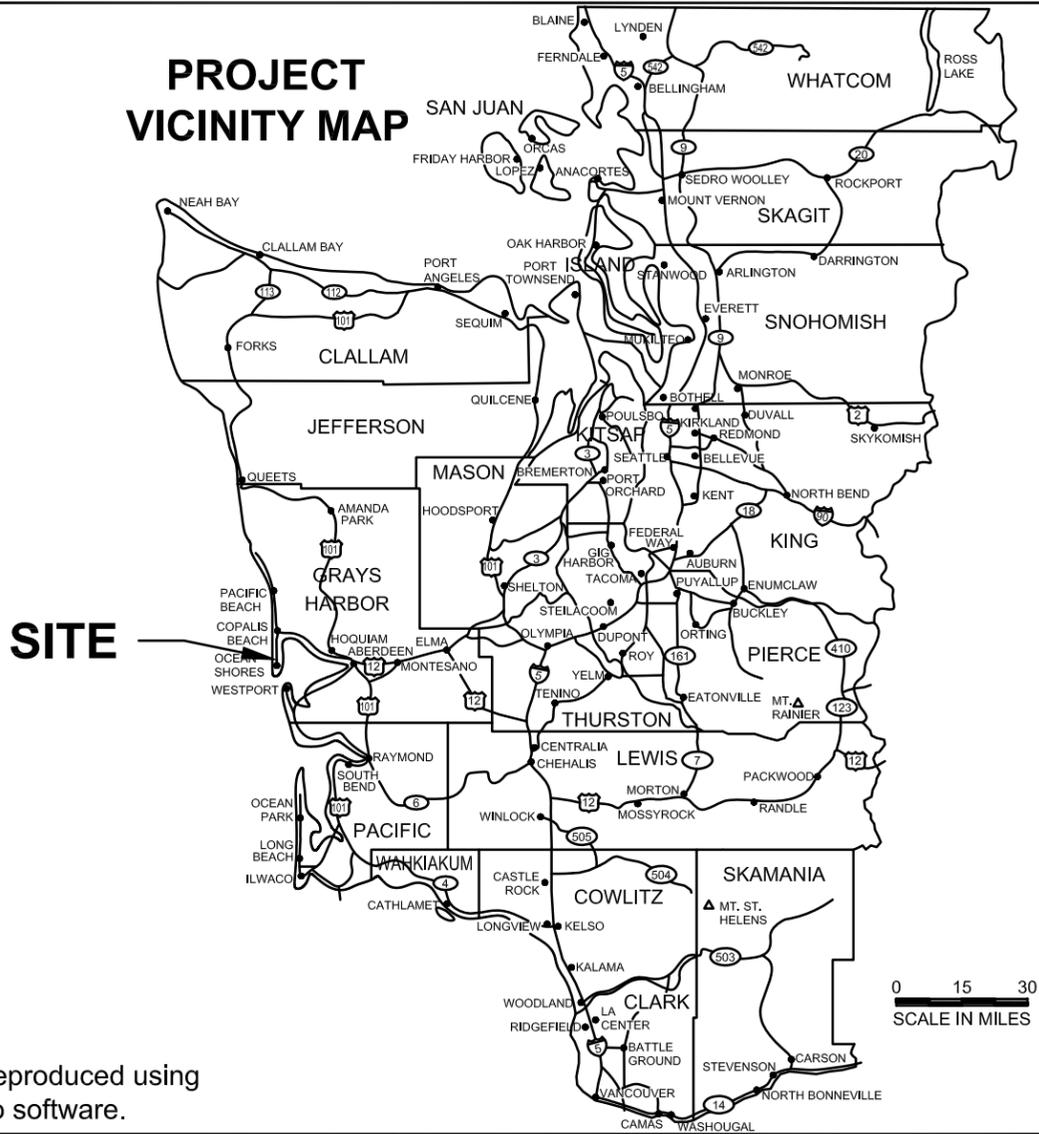
Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

WASHINGTON



46.980556 Latitude  
-124.148611 Longitude  
**LOCATION MAP**

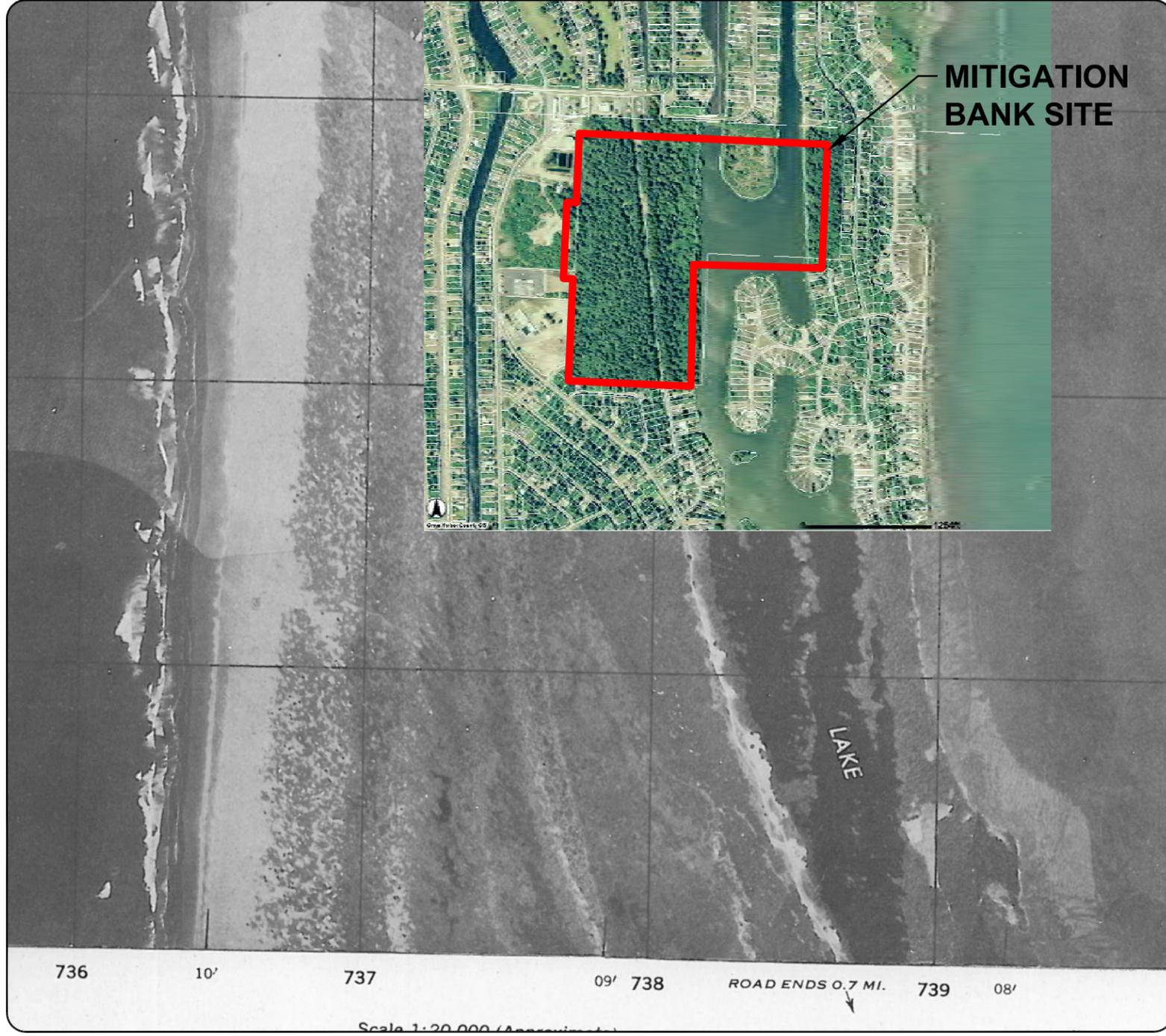
**PROJECT VICINITY MAP**



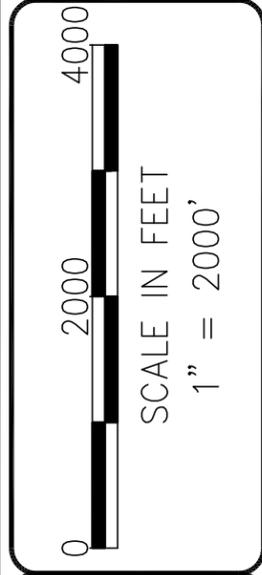
**NOTE:**  
USGS topographic quadrangle map reproduced using MAPTECH Inc., Terrain Navigator Pro software.

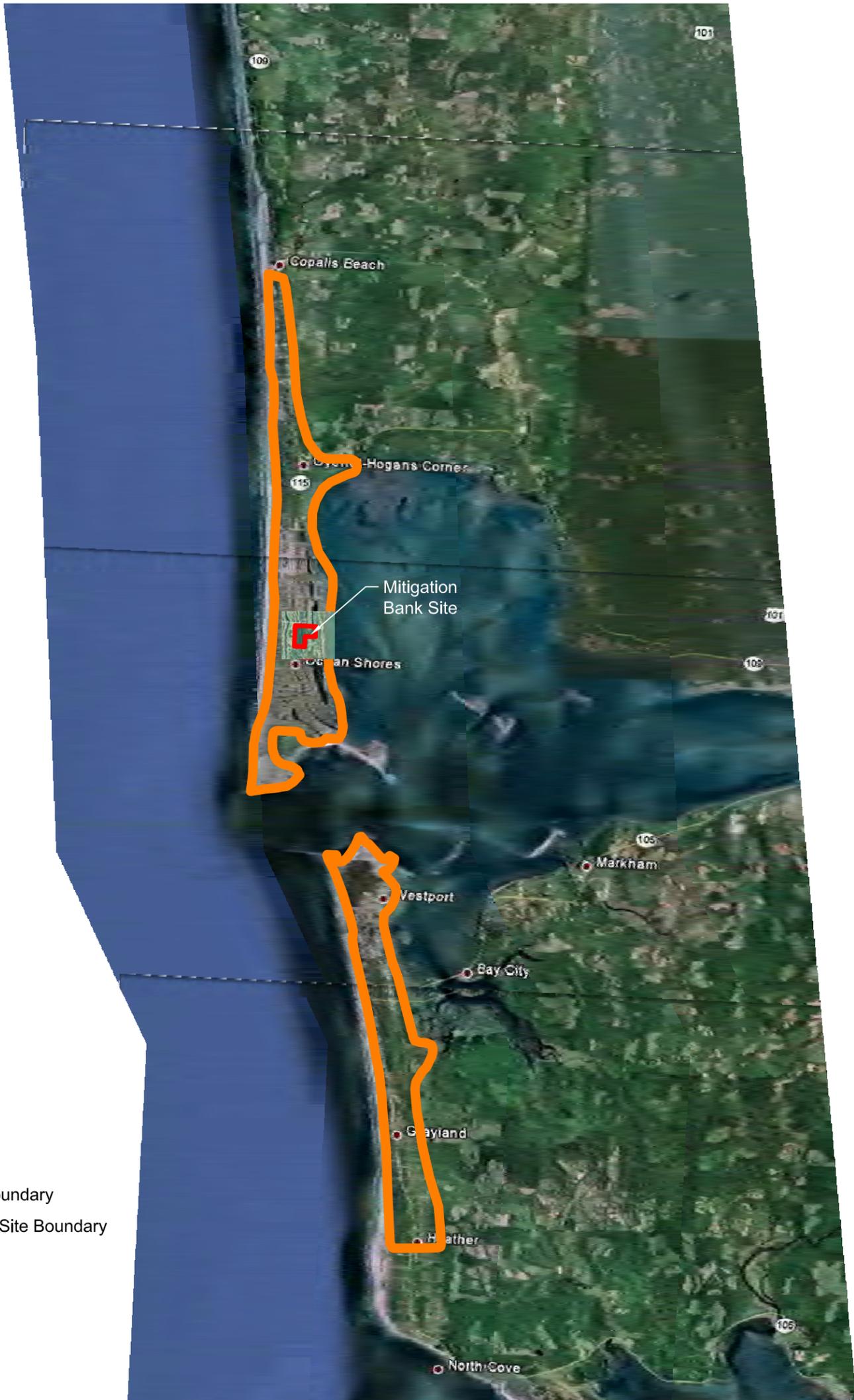
**Figure A-1**  
Vicinity Map  
Weatherwax Mitigation Bank  
City of Ocean Shores  
City of Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, Washington  
Sections 2 & 11, Township 17N, Range 12W, W.M.

DATE: 2/27/15  
DWN: JKJ  
REQ. BY: SK  
PRJ. MGR: FN  
UPDATE: COS  
PROJECT NO: 1808.02



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



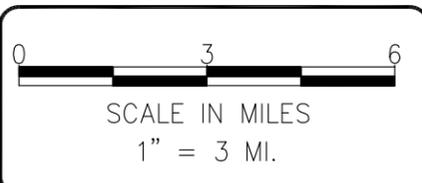


**LEGEND:**

-  Service Area Boundary
-  Mitigation Bank Site Boundary

**NOTE(S):**

1. Aerial photograph (2006) provided by Google Earth™.



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

DATE: 2/25/15  
 DWN: JKJ  
 REQ. BY: SK  
 PRJ. MGR: FN  
 UPDATE: COS  
 PROJECT NO:  
 1808.02

Figure E-1  
**SERVICE AREA**  
 Weatherwax Mitigation Bank  
 City of Ocean Shores  
 City of Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, Washington  
 Sections 2 & 11, Township 17N, Range 12W, W.M.