

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone (206) 477-0860
hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E20CT017**
Proposed ordinance no. **2021-0024**
Parcel nos. **2321059052 and 2321059057**

WIL AND LESLEY SALMONSON

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: 15309 SE 344th Street, Auburn

Applicants: **Wil and Lesley Salmonson**
15309 SE 344th Street
Auburn, WA 98092
Telephone: (206) 853-6221
Email: lesley.salmonson@yahoo.com

King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
represented by **Megan Kim**
701 S Jackson Street Suite 701
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 477-4788
Email: megan.kim@kingcounty.gov

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Recommendation: Approve 0.77 acres for 50% of assessed value
Conditionally approve 2.78 acres for 40% of assessed value

Examiner's Recommendation: Approve 0.77 acres for 50% of assessed value
Conditionally approve 2.78 acres for 40% of assessed value

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On January 22, 2021 the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E20CT017 to the Examiner.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a telephonic public hearing on the application on February 4, 2021.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. General Information:

Owners:	Wil and Lesley Salmonson 15309 SE 344th Street Auburn, WA 98092
Location:	15309 SE 344th Street, Auburn
STR:	SW-23-21-5
Zoning:	RA-5
Parcel nos.:	2321059052 and 2321059057
Total acreage:	3.71 acres

2. The Applicants timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2021. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.

3. A summary of relevant PBRs categories follows below. (Plain text represents a category an applicant requested an award for and that DNRP agrees is warranted. Any ~~strickethrough~~ represents a category an applicant requested an award for but that DNRP disagrees is warranted. Any *italics* represents a category an applicant did not request an award for, but that DNRP nonetheless concludes is warranted. And any *asterisk* represents a category where DNRP finds an award is warranted, but only if certain contingencies or conditions are met.)

PBRs categories:	<u>Open Space Resources</u>	
	<i>Buffer to public in current use classified land</i>	3
	*Farm and agricultural conservation land	*
	<i>Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat</i>	5
		<hr/> 8

The DNRP-recommended score of 10 points results in a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.

4. Additional credit may be awarded administratively under the farm and agricultural conservation land category, subject to submittal of a King Conservation District-approved farm plan by October 31, 2021. Award of this credit will increase the enrolled acreage by 2.01 acres and increase the point total by five, resulting in a current use valuation of 40% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.
5. As to the land area recommended for PBRS enrollment, the Applicant did not request specific acreage, and DNRP recommends 0.77 acres, with the potential to add 2.01 acres and to increase the total enrolling area to 2.78 acres. (Enrollment acreage is the entire parcel less the excluded area, as calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor's official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)
6. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the February 4, 2021, public hearing are correct and incorporated herein by reference. Copies of this report and DNRP's report will be provided to the Metropolitan King County Council for final approval.
7. Approval of eight points and a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for 0.77 acres (and conditional approval of five additional points and 40% of assessed value for 2.78 acres) of the property are consistent with KCC Chapter 20.36 and with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. APPROVE a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for the 0.77-acre enrolled portion of the property.
2. CONDITIONALLY APPROVE a current use valuation of 40% of assessed value for a 2.78-acre enrolled portion of the property, subject to submittal of a King Conservation District-approved farm plan by **October 31, 2021**.

DATED February 10, 2021.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A person appeals an Examiner recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230, including filing with the Clerk of the Council a sufficient appeal statement and a \$250 appeal fee (check payable to the King County FBOD). Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal. KCC 20.22.230 also requires that the appellant provide copies of the appeal statement to the Examiner and to any named parties listed on the front page of the Examiner’s recommendation.

Prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on *March 8, 2021*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov and a paper copy of the appeal statement must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council's Office, Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. If the Office of the Clerk is not officially open on the specified closing date, delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

Unless both a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *March 8, 2021*, the Clerk of the Council shall place on the agenda of the next available Council meeting a proposed ordinance implementing the Examiner’s recommended action. At that meeting the Council may adopt the Examiner’s recommendation, defer action, refer the matter to a Council committee, or remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

If a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *March 8, 2021*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2021, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF WIL AND LESLEY SALMONSON, FILE NO. E20CT017

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Megan Kim participated in the hearing on behalf of the department.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

Exhibit no. 1	DNRP report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. 2	<i>Reserved for future submission of the affidavit of hearing publication</i>
Exhibit no. 3	Legal notice and introductory ordinance to the King County Council
Exhibit no. 4	Arcview/orthophotograph and aerial map
Exhibit no. 5	Application signed and notarized

DS/jo