

Fact Sheet

Environmental Impacts from an International Airport at the Thurston County Central Greenfield Site.



Photo of an acreage in Thurston County with eco-asset valuation identified for three asset types — wetlands, Mazama pocket gopher and Oregon white oak. The ecosystem valuation was 40% higher, with potential for use as mitigation banking, when compared to value for ranching, timber extraction, and housing development. (EASI, 2019, Jul 8.)

<http://www.easillc.com/2019/07/08/eco-asset-value-boosts-land-appraisal-in-thurston-county-washington/>

The Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee (CACC) has severely underestimated the environmental impacts for the Thurston County Central Greenfield (TCCG) site.



Prairie on JBLM Photo by Jaal Mann.
<http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/about/spp-staff-2/joint-base-lewis-mcchord-jblm/>

Sensitive Watersheds

The proposed airport site would directly impact wetlands and waterways in the Henderson Inlet, and Deschutes and Nisqually Rivers watersheds. It would dramatically affect water quality and quantity in these watersheds and ultimately Puget Sound and its sensitive and protected fish and wildlife species, including salmonids and orca. Over 500 acres of wetlands would be destroyed including wetlands designated as “high conservation value”. (Refer to Wetlands Fact Sheet). This entire area is a critical aquifer recharge area including for the Mcalister Springs aquifer groundwater sensitive area. (Refer to Aquifer Fact Sheet)

Forests, Grassland and Prairie

There is an extensive forested landscape in the TCCG. Many of these trees are more than 80 years old (legacy trees). They provide habitat for many types of wildlife and store massive amounts of carbon and water. The Nature Conservancy estimates that only about three percent of native Puget Sound prairies still exist and some of the most valuable areas are in Thurston County. Preserves and Research Natural Areas abutt the TCCG and support habitat for multiple conservation targets including at least 6 federally threatened species.

Fish and Wildlife

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, approximately 12 federally threatened or endangered species could be impacted by developing the TCCG. Significant portions of the designated critical habitat for the Mazama pocket gopher and the Oregon spotted frog are within or adjacent to the TCCG. The TCCG supports rare habitats that are only becoming more rare so it is logical that they also support threatened and endangered species. (Refer to Conservation at Risk Fact Sheet)

Climate Change

The TCCG supports mature and well-established wetlands, forests, and grasslands that are significant natural carbon sinks mitigating greenhouse gasses that are currently existing and helping us to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals. (Refer to climate Change fact sheet).

Successful mitigation for these impacts is likely impossible.