

ISLAND TITLE CO. SB-8568 ✓

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

KATHY HILL
SKAGIT COUNTY TREASURER

NRCS-LTP-20

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WARRANTY EASEMENT DEED

RECORDED FILED

REQUEST OF

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM
AGREEMENT NO. 66-0546-6-22

THIS WARRANTY EASEMENT DEED is made by and between ROBERT K. EDGETT, JR., and SARAH J. EDGETT, husband and wife, of Mt. Vernon, WA (hereafter referred to as the "Landowner"), Grantor(s), and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by and through the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 (hereafter referred to as the "United States"), Grantee. The Landowner and the United States are jointly referred to as the "Parties." The acquiring agency of the United States is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the Department of Agriculture.

WITNESSETH:

Purposes and Intent. The purpose of this easement is to restore, protect, manage, maintain, and enhance the functional values of wetlands and other lands, and for the conservation of natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality improvement, flood water retention, groundwater recharge, open space, aesthetic values, and environmental education. It is the intent of NRCS to give the Landowner the opportunity to participate in the restoration and management activities on the easement area.

Authority. This easement deed acquisition is authorized by Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3837), for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of FORTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIX DOLLARS (\$41,666) the Grantor(s), hereby grants and conveys with general warranty of title to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and its assigns, the Grantee, forever, all rights, title, and interest in the lands comprising the easement area described in Part I and appurtenant rights of access to the easement area, but reserving to the Landowner only those rights, title, and interest expressly enumerated in Part II. It is the intention of the Landowner to convey and relinquish any and all other property rights not so reserved. This easement shall constitute a servitude upon the land so encumbered; shall run with the land in perpetuity; and shall bind the Landowner (the Grantor(s)), their heirs, successors, assigns, lessees, and any other person claiming under them.

SUBJECT TO an easement granted to Public Utility District No. 1 for the right to lay, maintain, operate, relay, and remove at any time a pipe or pipes, line or lines for the transportation of water and if necessary to erect, maintain, operate, and remove said lines, with right of ingress and egress contained in instrument dated August 24, 1950, recorded September 6, 1950, # 14905 under Auditor's No. 450545.

SKAGIT COUNTY WASHINGTON
Real Estate Excise Tax
PAID

9609030044

1 of 6
BK 1582 PG 0122

SEP 3 1996

Amount Paid \$ 637.49
Skagit County Treasurer
By: Deputy

PART I. Description of the Easement Area. The lands encumbered by this easement deed, referred to hereafter as the easement area, are described below:

T. 34 N., R. 4 E., W.M. (Skagit County)

A portion of sections 1 and 2 more particularly described as Wetlands Reserve Program Parcels A and C as shown on Record of Survey dated May 30, 1996, filed June 18, 1996, in Vol. 18 of Surveys, page 109, AFN 9606180044, and as described on Affidavit of Correction filed June 26, 1996, under AFN 9606260036.

Containing 23.78 acres, more or less.

PART II. Reservations in the Landowner on the Easement Area. Subject to the rights, title, and interest conveyed by this easement deed to the United States, the Landowner reserves:

A. **Title.** Record title, along with the Landowner's right to convey, transfer, and otherwise alienate title to these reserved rights.

B. **Quiet Enjoyment.** The right of quiet enjoyment of the rights reserved on the easement area.

C. **Control of Access.** The right to prevent trespass and control access by the general public.

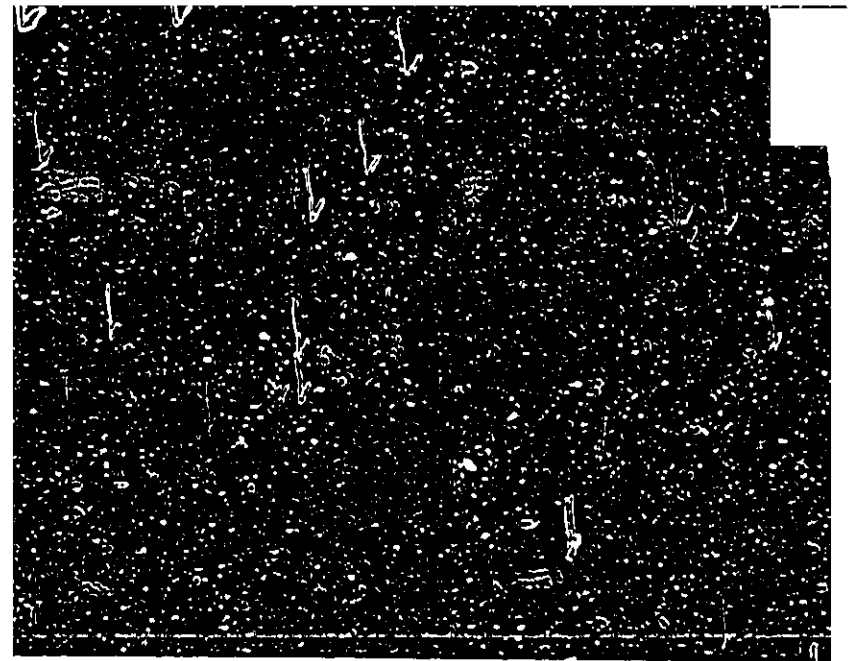
D. **Recreational Uses.** The right to undeveloped recreational uses, including hunting and fishing, and including leasing of such rights for economic gain, pursuant to applicable State and Federal regulations that may be in effect at the time.

E. **Subsurface Resources.** The right to oil, gas, minerals, and geothermal resources underlying the easement area, provided that any drilling or mining activities are to be located outside the boundaries of the easement area.

PART III. Obligations of the Landowner. The Landowner shall comply with all terms and conditions of this easement, including the following:

A. **Prohibitions.** Unless authorized as a compatible use under Part IV, it is expressly understood that the rights to the following activities and uses have been acquired by the United States and are prohibited of the Landowner on the easement area:

1. haying, mowing, or seed harvesting for any reason;
2. altering of grassland, woodland, wildlife habitat, or other natural features by burning, digging, plowing, disking, cutting, or otherwise destroying the vegetative cover;
3. dumping refuse, wastes, sewage, or other debris;
4. harvesting wood products;



5. draining, dredging, channeling, filling, leveling, pumping, diking, impounding, or related activities, as well as altering or tampering with water control structures or devices;

6. diverting or causing or permitting the diversion of surface or underground water into, within, or out of the easement area by any means;

7. building or placing buildings or structures on the easement area;

8. planting or harvesting any crop; and

9. grazing or allowing livestock on the easement area.

B. Noxious Plants and Pests. The Landowner is responsible for noxious weed control and emergency control of pests as required by all Federal, State, and local laws. A plan to control noxious weeds and pests must be approved in writing by the NRCS prior to implementation by the Landowner.

C. Fences. Except for establishment cost incurred by the United States and replacement cost not due to the Landowner's negligence or malfeasance, all other costs involved in maintenance of fences and similar facilities to exclude livestock shall be the responsibility of the Landowner.

D. Taxes. The Landowner shall pay any and all real property and other taxes and assessments, if any, which may be levied against the land.

E. Reporting. The Landowner shall report to the NRCS any conditions or events which may adversely affect the wetland, wildlife, and other natural values of the easement area.

PART IV. Allowance of Compatible Uses by the Landowner.

A. General. The United States may authorize, in writing and subject to such terms and conditions the NRCS may prescribe at its discretion, the use of the easement area for compatible economic uses, including, but not limited to, managed timber harvest, periodic haying or grazing.

B. Limitations. Compatible use authorizations will only be made if such use is consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland and other natural values of the easement area. The NRCS shall prescribe the amount, method, timing, intensity, and duration of the compatible use.

PART V. Rights of the United States. The rights of the United States include:

A. Management Activities. The United States shall have the right to enter unto the easement area to undertake, at its own expense or on a cost share basis with the Landowner or other entity, any activities to restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor the wetland and other natural values of the easement area. The United States, at its own cost, may apply to or impound additional waters on the easement area in order to maintain or improve wetland or other natural values.

B. Access. The United States has a right of reasonable ingress and egress to the easement area over the Landowner's property, whether or not the property is adjacent or appurtenant to the easement area, for the exercise of any of the rights of the United States under this easement deed. The authorized representatives of the United States may utilize vehicles and other reasonable modes of transportation for access purposes.

C. Easement Management. The Secretary of Agriculture, by and through the NRCS, may delegate all or part of the management, monitoring or enforcement responsibilities under this easement to any entity authorized by law that the NRCS determines to have the appropriate authority, expertise and resources necessary to carry out such delegated responsibilities. State or Federal agencies may utilize their general statutory authorities in the administration of any delegated management, monitoring or enforcement responsibilities for this easement. The authority to modify or terminate this easement (16 U.S.C. 3837e(b)) is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with applicable law.

D. Violations and Remedies - Enforcement. The Parties agree that this easement deed may be introduced in any enforcement proceeding as the stipulation of the Parties hereto. If there is any failure of the Landowner to comply with any of the provisions of this easement deed, the United States or other delegated authority shall have any legal or equitable remedy provided by law and the right:

1. To enter upon the easement area to perform necessary work for prevention of or remediation of damage to wetland or other natural values; and,
2. To assess all expenses incurred by the United States (including any legal fees or attorney fees) against the Landowner, to be owed immediately to the United States.

PART VI. General Provisions.

A. Successors in Interest. The rights granted to the United States shall accrue to any of its agents, successors, or assigns. All obligations of the Landowner under this easement deed shall also bind the Landowner's heirs, successors, agents, assigns, lessees, and any other person claiming under them. All the Landowners who are parties to this easement deed shall be jointly and severally liable for compliance with its terms.

B. Rules of Construction and Special Provisions. All rights in the easement area not reserved by the Landowner shall be deemed acquired by the United States. Any ambiguities in this easement deed shall be construed in favor of the United States to effect the wetland and conservation purposes for which this easement deed is being acquired. The property rights of the United States acquired under this easement shall be unaffected by any subsequent amendments or repeal of the Wetlands Reserve Program. If the Landowner receives the consideration for this easement in installments, the Parties agree that the conveyance of this easement shall be totally effective upon the payment of the first installment.

PART VII. Special Provisions - Notwithstanding the provisions of section A7 of Part III of this Warranty Easement Deed, the Parties hereby agree that the Landowner(s), and their heirs or assigns, shall have the right to maintain the access road in the southwestern corner of the easement area, the location of which is depicted on Exhibit A which is appended to and made a part of this easement deed, in perpetuity to its present dimension, location, and for its present use as vehicular access to the easement area and as an outlet to Mud Lake Road from another access road located west of the easement area.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, this Warranty Easement Deed is granted to the United States of America and its successors and assigns forever. The Landowner(s) covenants that he, she, or they are vested with good title to the easement area and will warrant and defend the same on behalf of the United States against all claims and demands. The Landowner(s) covenants to comply with the terms and conditions enumerated in this document for the use of the easement area and adjacent lands for access, and to refrain from any activity not specifically allowed or that is inconsistent with the purposes of this easement deed.

Dated this 26th day of August, 1996.


ROBERT K. EDGETT, JR.

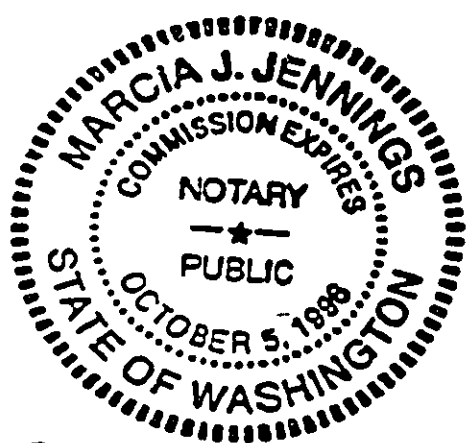

SARAH J. EDGETT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

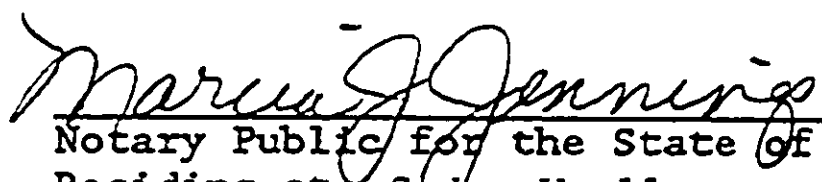
STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
County of SKAGIT)

On this 26th day of August, 1996, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State personally appeared ROBERT K. EDGETT, JR., and SARAH J. EDGETT, husband and wife, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year first above written.



9609030044


Notary Public for the State of Washington
Residing at Sedro Woolley
My Commission Expires 10/5/96

This instrument was drafted by the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1400.

OMB DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is approximately (60) minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture Clearance Office OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, D.C. 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB No. 057-0013), Washington, D.C. 20503.