

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ANNUAL STATE LAND ACQUISITION COORDINATING FORUM

July 9, 2015

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group



DNR Mission: In Partnership with citizens and governments, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities and a rich quality of life.



NA Mission: The Natural Areas Program at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources protects outstanding examples of the state's extraordinary diversity. These lands represent the finest natural, undisturbed ecosystems in state ownership, often protecting rare or vulnerable plant and animal species. The program manages two types of conservation lands: Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves.

Conservation Lands

- 92 sites total more than 152,000 acres, or about 2.5% of all DNR-managed lands
- Two Conservation Categories
 - Natural Area Preserves
 - Natural Resources Conservation Areas



DNR Natural Areas Objectives

1972 Natural Area Preserves Act (RCW 79.70)

- Lands that have retained natural character or protect rare species
- Representative ecosystem types



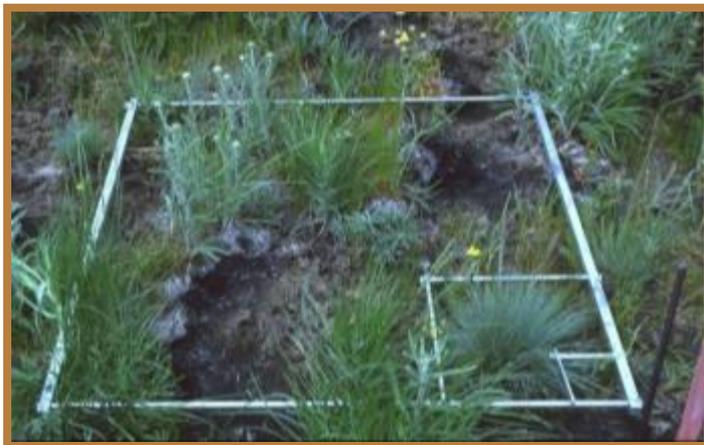
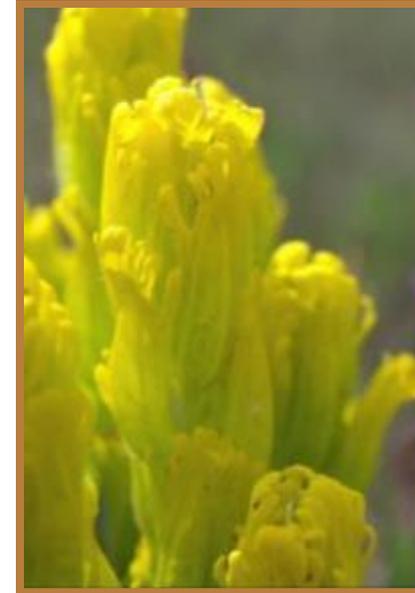
1987 Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act (RCW 79.71)

- High conservation values, scenic or historical values plus opportunities for low-impact public use



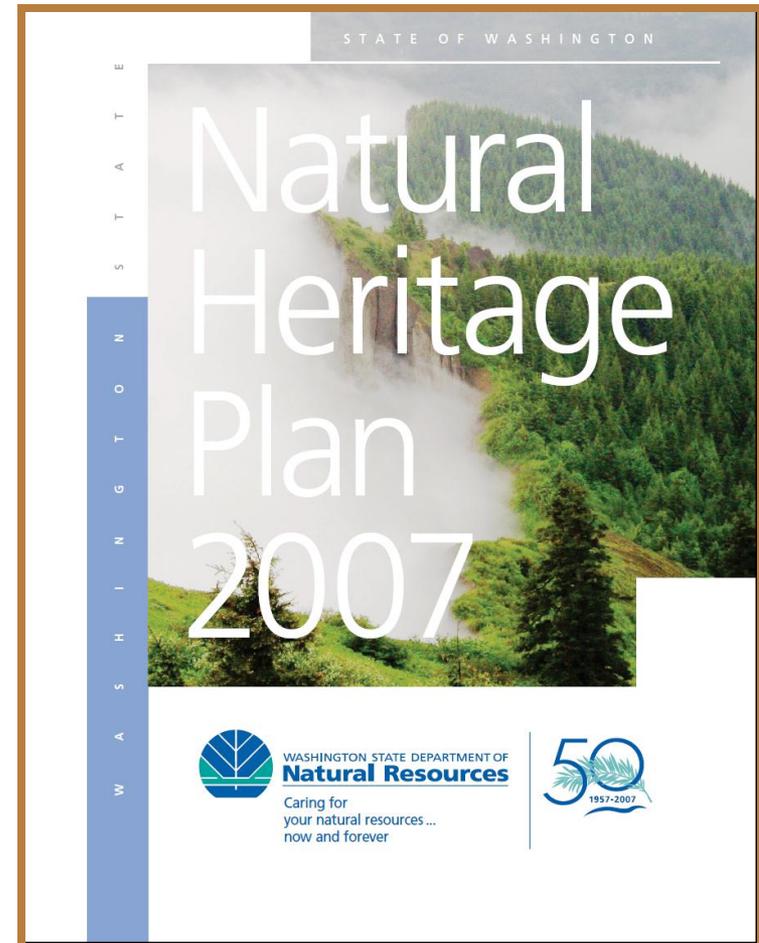
DNR Natural Area Purpose

- Scientific research
- Educational access
- Baseline / reference areas
- Habitats for vanishing species
- Opportunities for low-impact public use where appropriate



Natural Area Selection Process

- Features listed in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*
- Rare plants, animals and ecosystems
- Conservation, scenic or historical values of statewide significance
- Recommended by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council



Natural Area Boundary Designation Process

Public Outreach

- Site visits with members of the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and conservation partner organizations
- Onsite visits with landowner(s)
- Community meetings and mailings
- Public hearings



Natural Area Boundary Designation Process

Candidate sites identified/analyzed

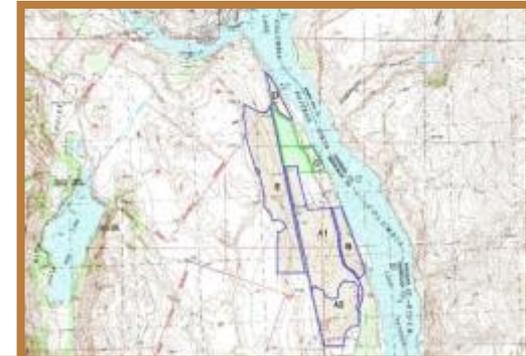
NH/NA Staff recommend sites to
Natural Heritage Advisory Council

Public meetings/hearings

Commissioner of Public Lands makes
final determination

Funding sought

Lands acquired

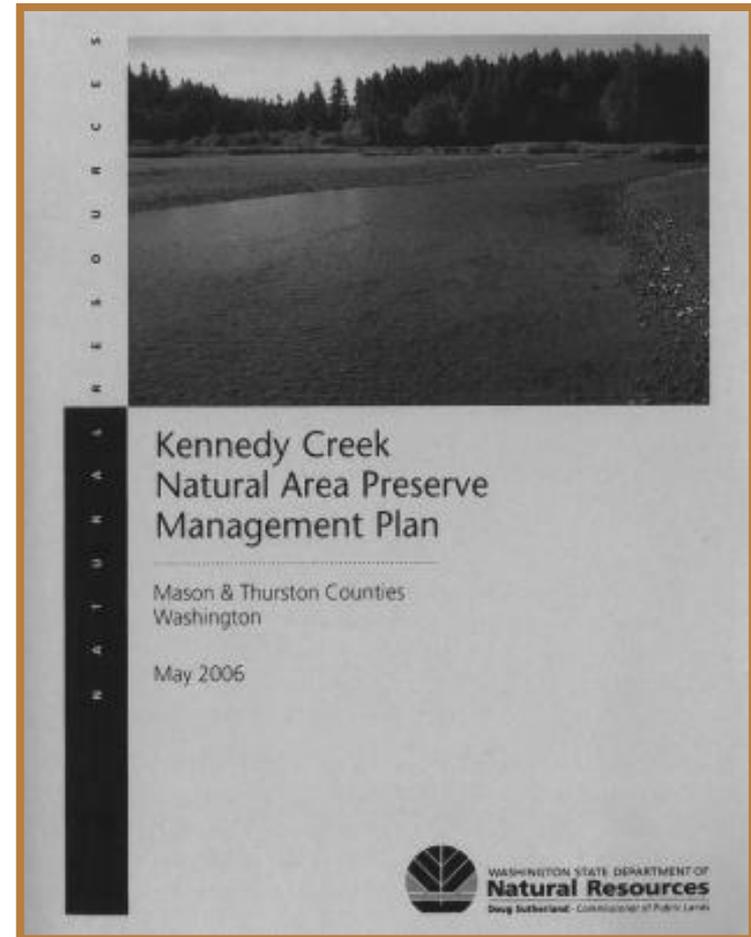


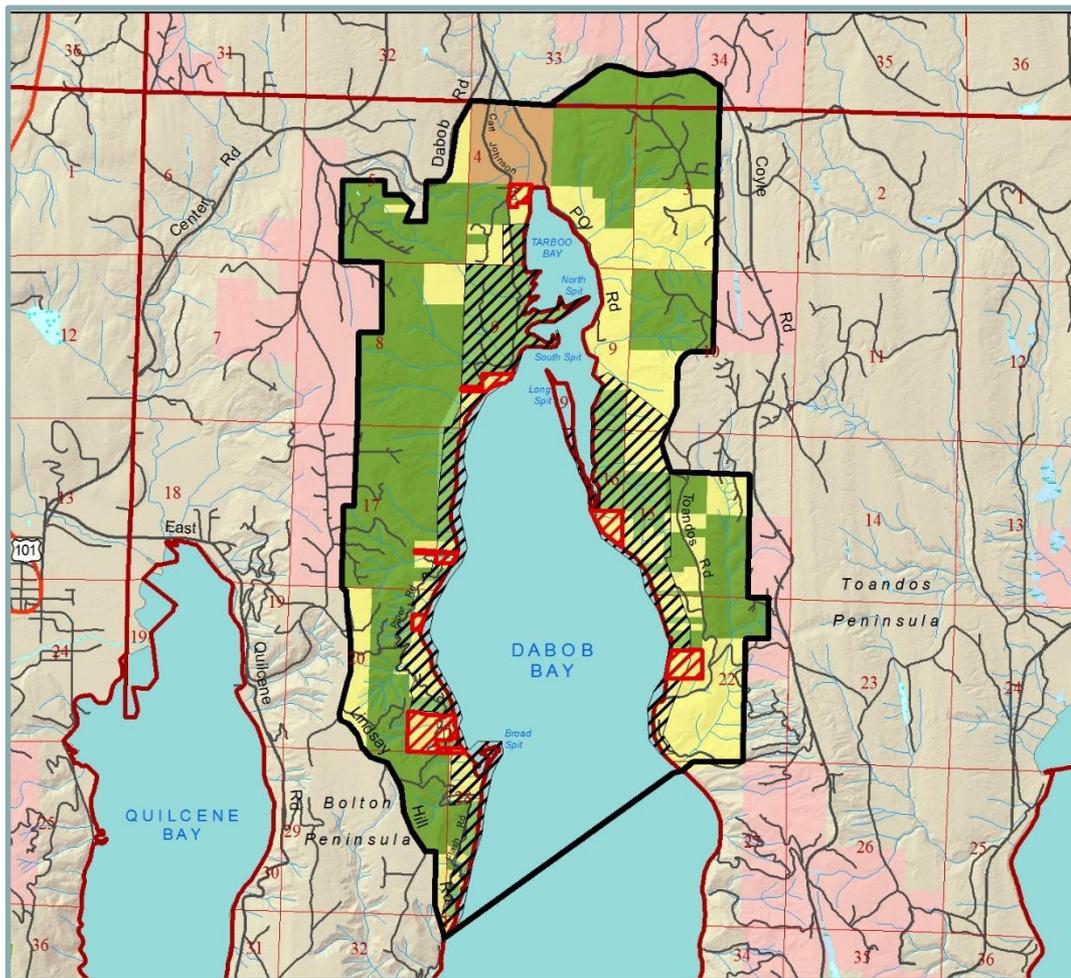
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Natural Area Management Planning

Management Planning

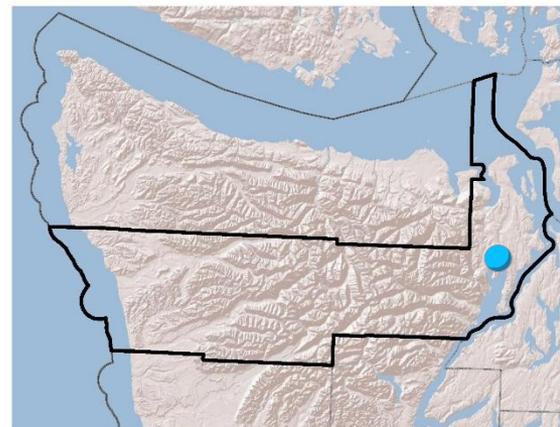
- Review site-specific conservation goals
- Public meeting for draft plan review
- For NRCAs, planning level SEPA review
- Adoption by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and DNR for NAPs, or the Commissioner of Public Lands for NRCAs





MAP LEGEND

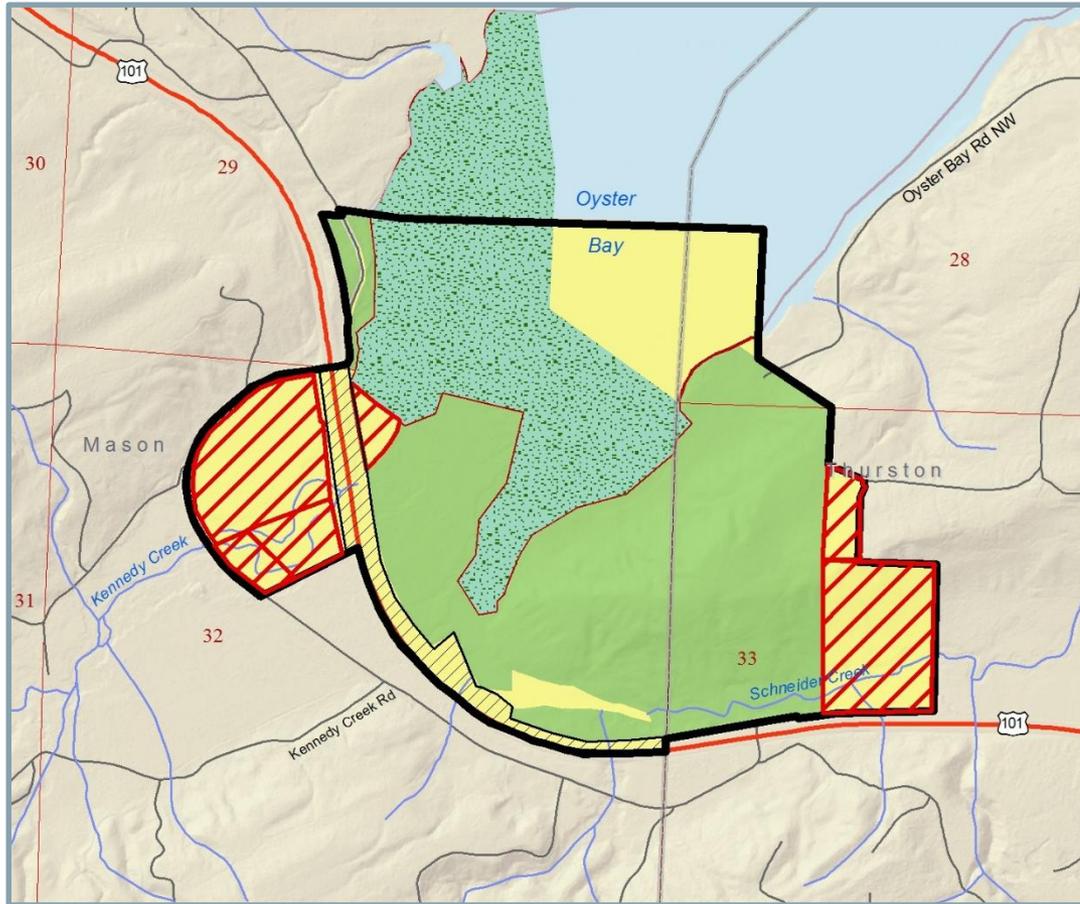
-  NAP Boundary
-  NRCA Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Natural Resources Conservation Area
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  DNR Trust Lands
-  WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Dabob Bay Natural Area contains four high quality examples of coastal spits. This site includes coastal bluffs and shorelines that provide sediment and woody debris for continued ecological function of the coastal spits. Additionally, two high-quality examples of under-represented forest vegetation types listed in the Natural Heritage Plan are included in the site. The target area consists of three ownerships (with some development) and acquisition will allow opportunity to remove shoreline hardening and restore natural features.
Estimated Acres	100
Requested Amount	\$3.24 million
Funded Amount	\$3.24 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple and Conservation Easement
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection NOAA: Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) DOD: Encroachment Protection Agreement
Legislative District	24
Existing Uses	The priority parcels have potential for residential and recreational uses.
Intended Uses	The priority parcels will add to the protection of the existing natural area and help support the statewide system of natural areas, provide access for education and research and possible low-impact recreation.
Future Capital Costs	\$20,000 (RMAP) / \$200,000 (restoration; federal grant requested)
Future Operating Costs	\$2,525 / year
PILT Estimate	\$818 / year

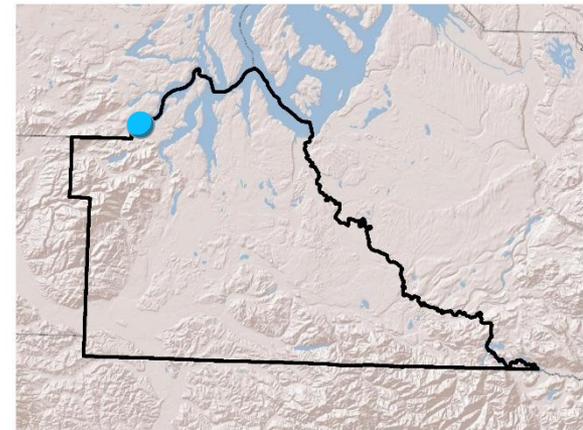


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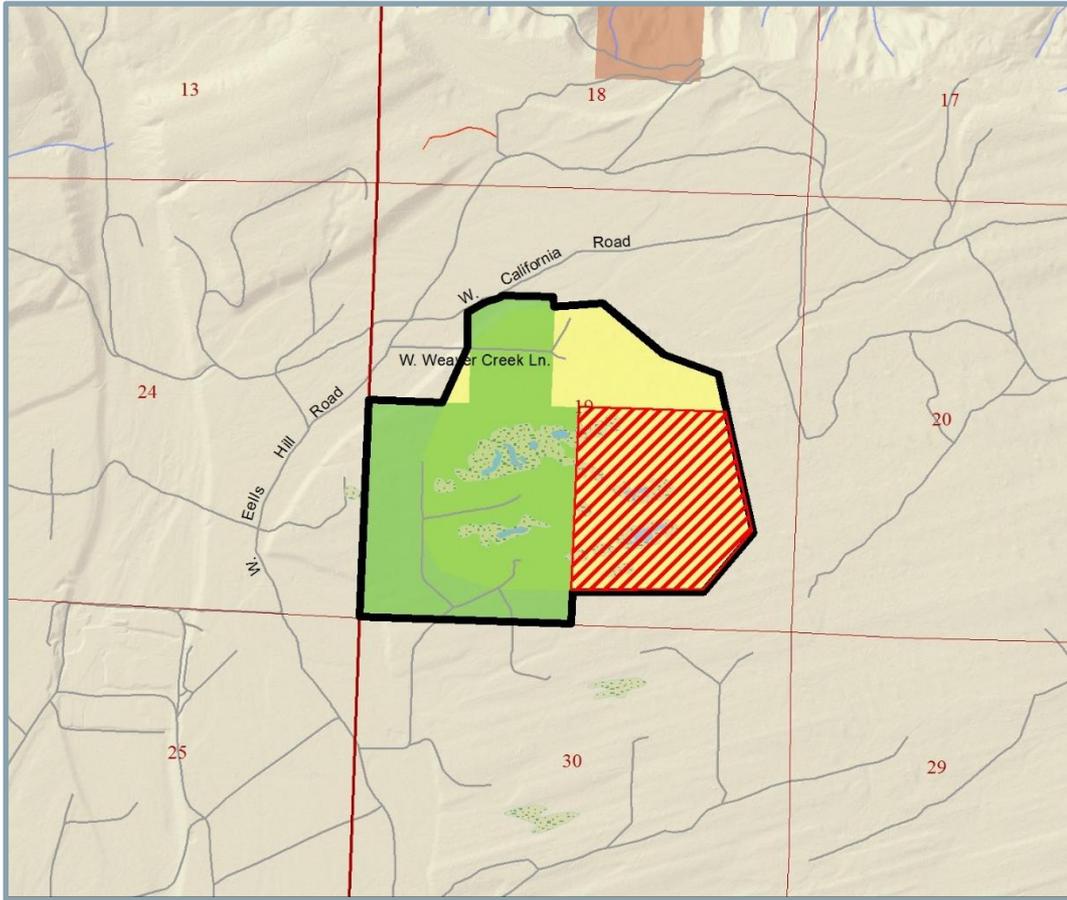
MAP LEGEND

- NAP Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve
- Lands Eligible for Inclusion
- Dept. of Transportation Right of Way
- State Tidelands withdrawn from Leasing for Conservation Purposes
- Priority Parcels for Acquisition



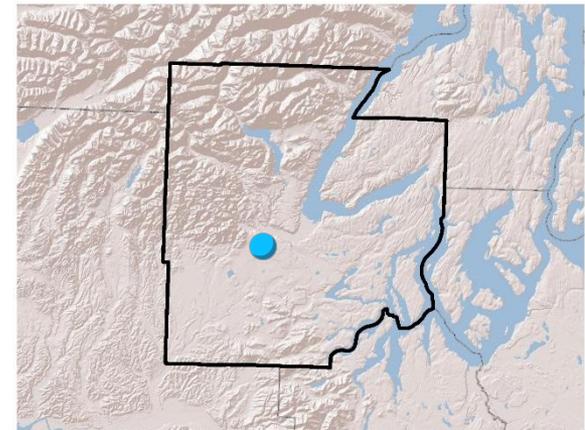
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Kennedy Creek NAP project area will increase protection for one of the few remaining high quality salt marsh communities in Puget Sound, including vital habitat for migrating shorebirds and salmon. It includes the protection of a segment of Schneider Creek which supports the health of the salt marsh ecosystems.
Estimated Acres	80
Requested Amount	\$846,659
Funded Amount	\$846,659
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	35
Existing Uses	Potential and existing residential development, agricultural pasture and wetland open space.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas by adding to the existing natural area. The parcels will be available for education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$0
Future Operating Costs	\$1,524 / year
PILT Estimate	\$2,109 / year

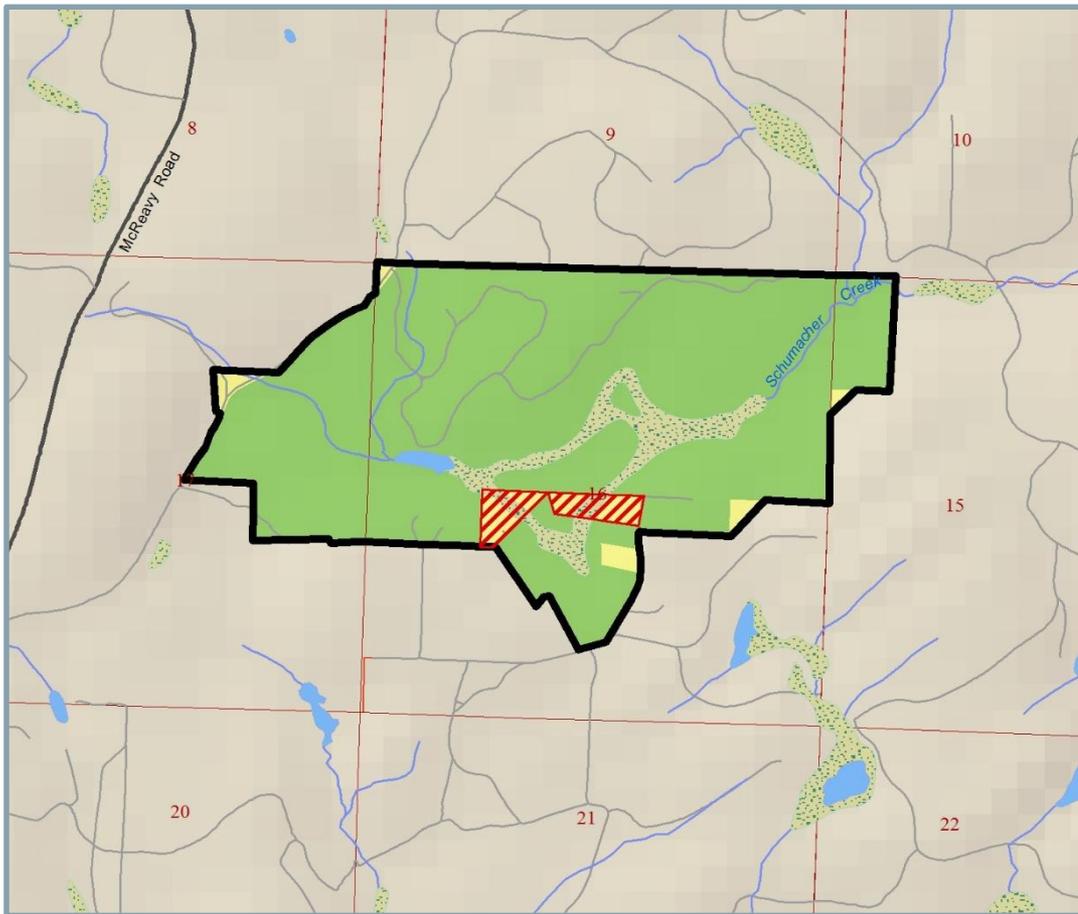




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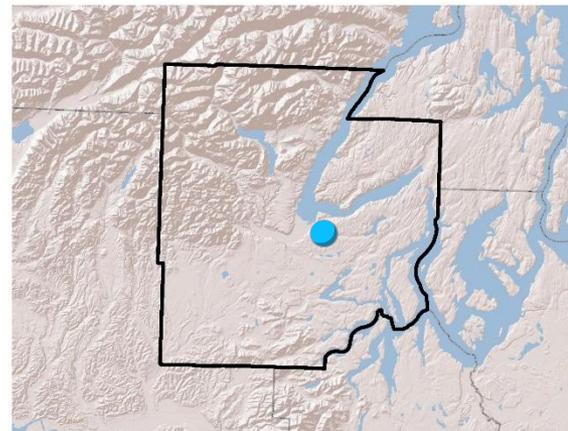
-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition





MAP LEGEND

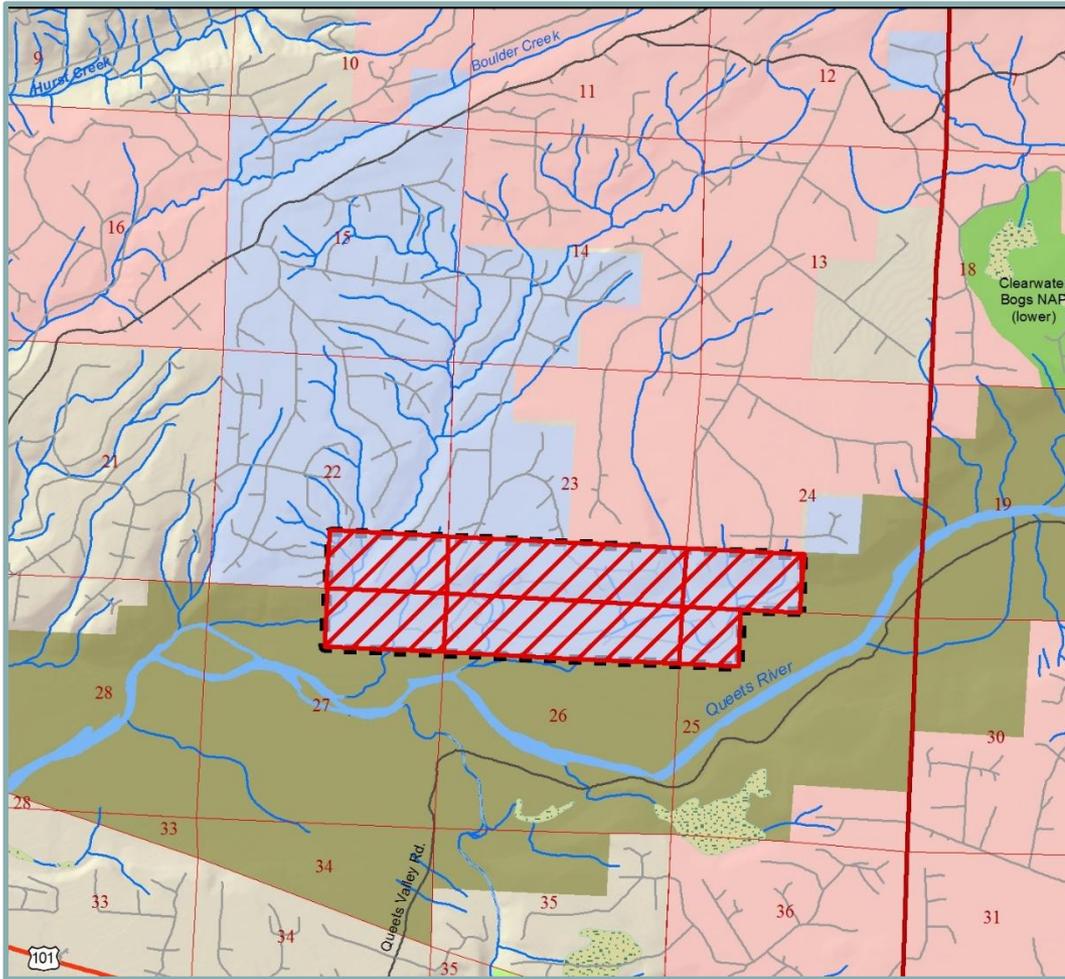
-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	<p>The project areas contain wetlands that are an extremely rare feature in the Puget Trough ecoregion; there are no other opportunities to protect such a feature. It is located within one of the largest blocks of forestland remaining within the Puget Trough Ecoregion. The Douglas' spirea/sphagnum community found at Ink Blot is considered imperiled in Washington State. The two occurrences at Ink Blot are the highest quality examples remaining in the state. One of the plant communities found at Schumacher Creek, the Sitka alder/skunk cabbage-water parsley community, has a very restricted geographic range; it is only found in the Puget Trough ecoregion and is critically imperiled. The wetland systems at both Schumacher Creek and Ink Blot remain intact with little evidence of human disturbance or exotic species invasion.</p>
Estimated Acres	114
Requested Amount Funded Amount	\$2.21 million \$2.21 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	35
Existing Uses	Resource management though extensive areas are wetland habitats.
Intended Uses	<p>This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas by adding significant wetland area to the existing natural area. The parcels will be available for education and research.</p>
Future Capital Costs	\$4,000 (RMAP)
Future Operating Costs	\$1,626 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,801 / year

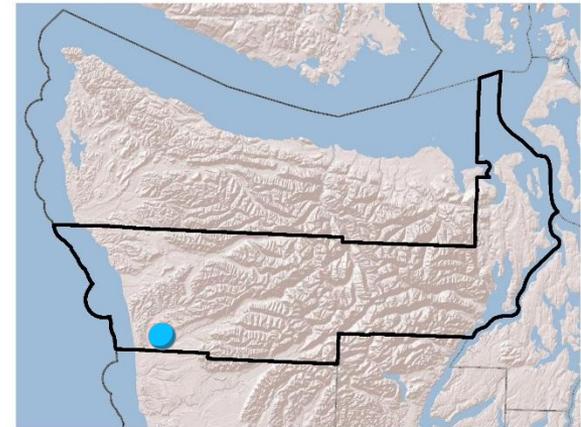


Queets River Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area



MAP LEGEND

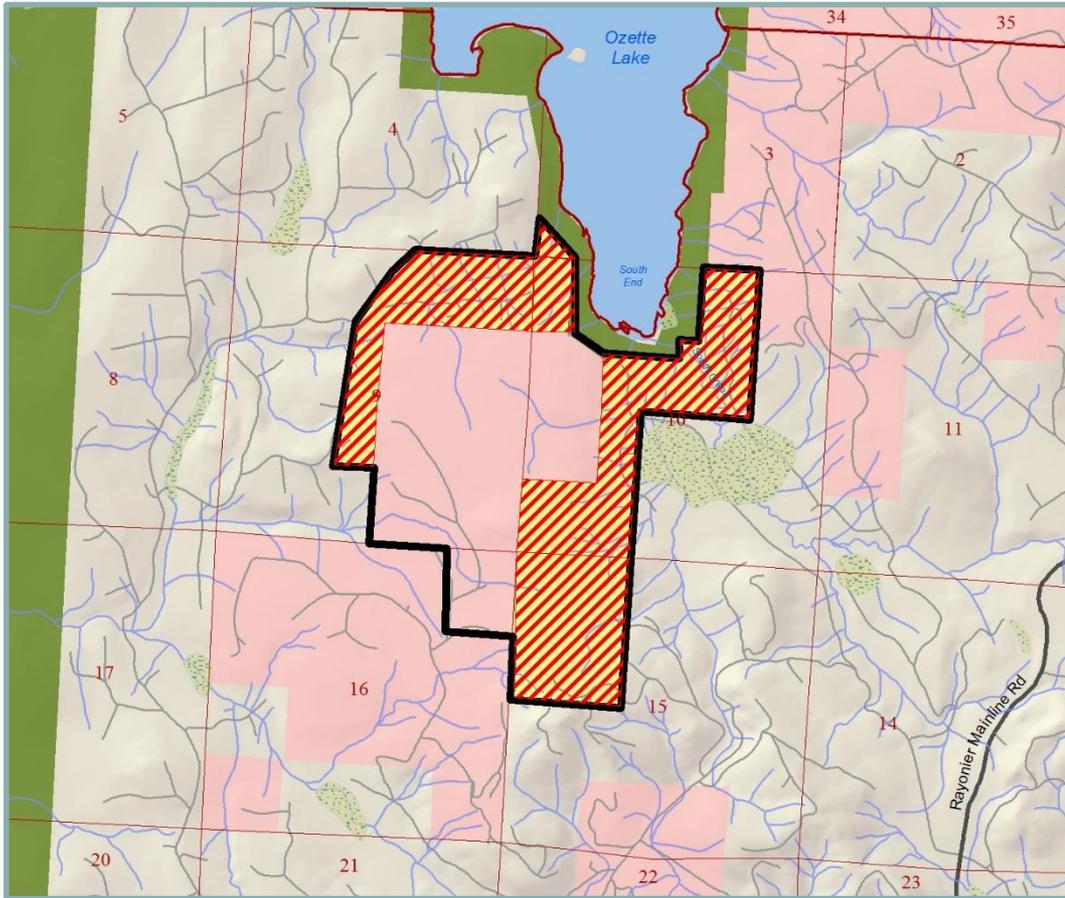
- Proposed NRCA Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve
- DNR Trust Lands
- Olympic National Park
- Quinault Indian Reservation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Queets River Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area

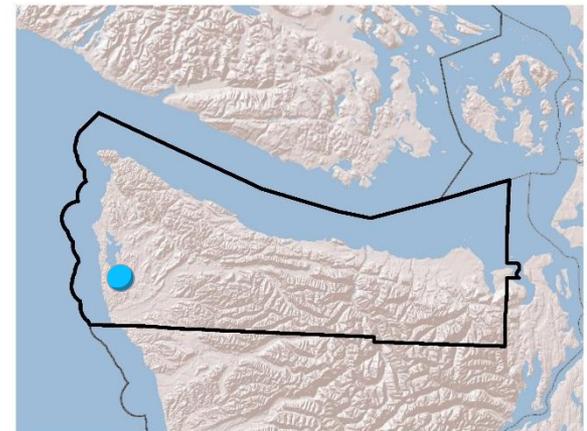
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	To protect 585 acres of riparian forest and floodplain along the Queets River, one of the most pristine river systems in the U.S. outside of Alaska, to benefit salmon and wildlife and allow the North Pacific Hypermaritime Sitka Spruce forest to grow to old forest conditions. Managed as a NRCA, the property will provide significant protection to the important habitats within the Queets River floodplain and enhance protection of the land directly south, which is part of Olympic National Park. Overall, the project will protect 585 acres of land, including 9.2 miles of river and stream bank, 282 acres of upland forest habitat, 35 acres of wetlands, and 268 acres of riparian habitat within the Queets River floodplain.
Estimated Acres	585
Requested Amount	\$1.64 million
Funded Amount	\$123,220
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	24
Existing Uses	The priority parcels have potential for residential and recreational uses.
Intended Uses	The priority parcels will add to the protection of the existing natural area and help support the statewide system of natural areas, provide access for education and research and possible low-impact recreation.
Future Capital Costs	n/a
Future Operating Costs	\$2,525 / year
PILT Estimate	\$4,785 / year





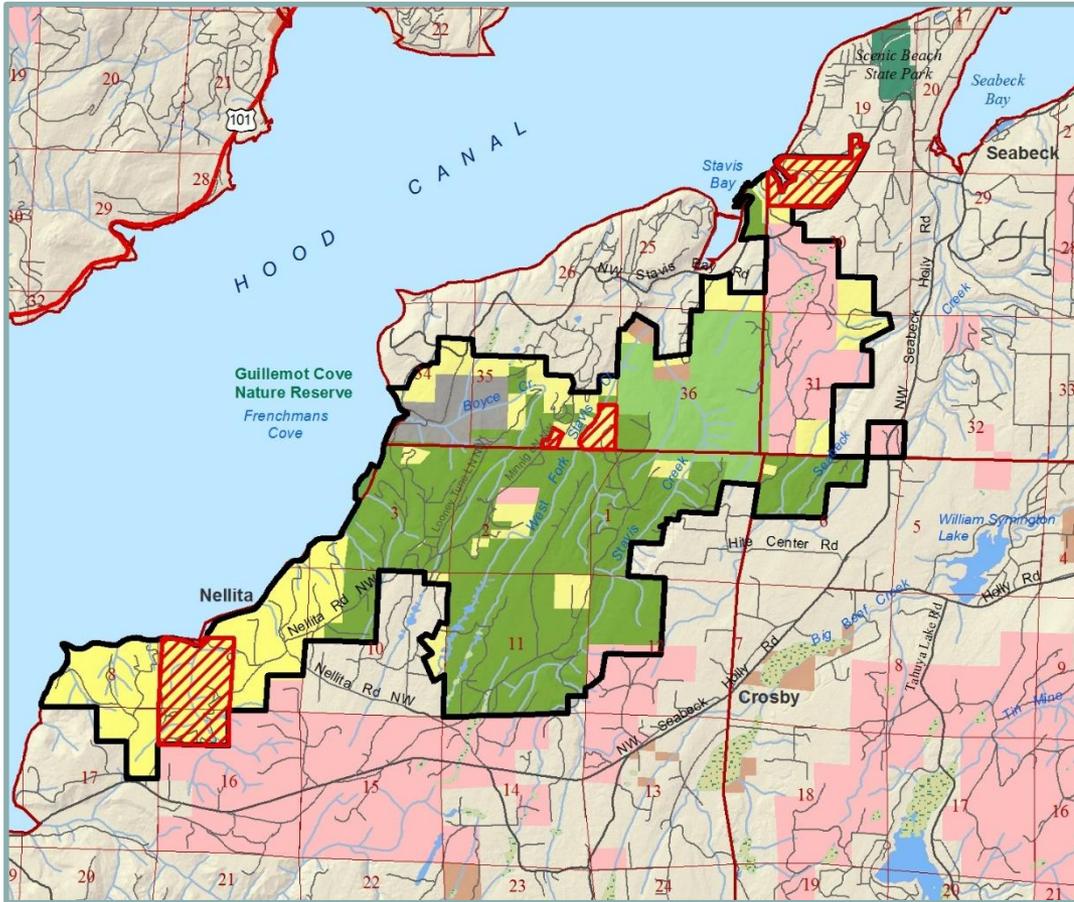
MAP LEGEND

-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  DNR Trust Lands
-  Olympic National Forest
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



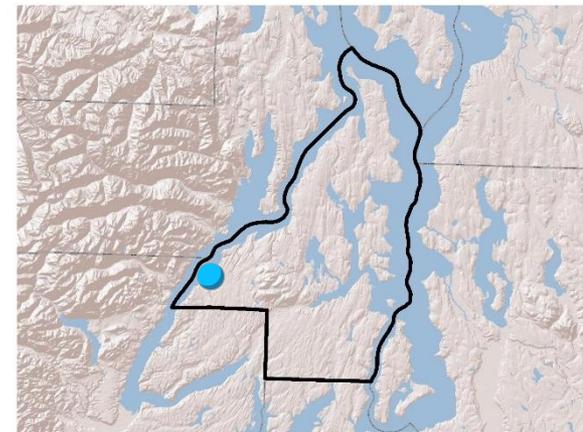
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The project area consists of old-growth forest, natural second-growth forest and forest plantations near the south end of Lake Ozette. The high quality Sitka spruce forest communities mixed with old-growth western red cedar-western hemlock forests within the identified boundary are not well represented in protected status in state or federal ownership. In 1991, the first survey for spotted owl located a pair; however, a nest site was not located at that time. Vegetation under the stands also include salal with Alaska huckleberry, deerfern or swordfern.
Estimated Acres	465
Requested Amount	\$1.58 million
Funded Amount	\$119,112
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	24
Existing Uses	Resource management including wildlife habitat, recreational access.
Intended Uses	The proposal will add under-represented natural heritage features to the statewide system of natural areas and protect representative forest ecosystems not presently adequately protected. It will provide opportunities for environmental education and research along with increased biodiversity protection.
Future Capital Costs	\$5,000 (RMAP) / \$20,000 (restoration)
Future Operating Costs	\$3,855 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,874 / year





MAP LEGEND

-  Natural Area Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Natural Resources Conservation Area
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  DNR Trust Lands
-  WA State Parks
-  WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
-  County or Municipal
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Stavis NRCA project area contains the highest quality occurrence of a rare forest community type and a variety of high quality wildlife habitats including mature forest conditions, Hood Canal shoreline and salmon spawning habitat and freshwater wetlands. This proposal would allow protection of a significant area of marine shoreline.
Estimated Acres	436
Requested Amount Funded Amount	\$3.76 million Funded as an alternate; however, there is a high likelihood that the project will receive rolldown funding.
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple and Conservation Easement
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Trust Land Transfer
Legislative District	23
Existing Uses	Potential residential development, some resource management, recreational access, open space.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas and adds to habitats in the existing natural area. The parcels will also provide opportunities for low-impact recreation and education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$15,000 (RMAP)
Future Operating Costs	\$3,848 / year
PILT Estimate	\$10,654 / year

