

# 2017-19 STATE LAND ACQUISITION FORECAST REPORT

**Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group**



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# 1 | INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the Legislature created the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to improve the visibility and coordination of the purchase and sale of land by state agencies for habitat and recreation.

The intention is to ensure that state agencies acquiring lands are coordinating their efforts with one another. That directive was driven in part by citizens and local officials who wanted to know about purchases planned in their areas. Different land buyers using different planning processes had made it difficult for them to track what was going on. They wanted to know: Who was planning to buy land in their counties? What land was planned for purchase? Why was the land being bought? How could they get involved in the planning process?

The lands group has become a key vehicle for improving the visibility and coordination of land purchases by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks).

The Washington State Legislature has extended the lands group twice, with a current sunset date of 2027.

In 2013, the Legislature asked the Recreation and Conservation Office to provide an inventory of lands in Washington owned by federal, state, and local governments, and by Native American tribes. The resulting 2014 Washington Public Lands Inventory Web application is at <http://publiclands.smartmine.com/>.

While state-owned habitat and recreation lands make up only a small percentage of land in Washington, there is increased scrutiny of the costs and benefits of state ownership. State natural resource agencies are struggling to meet their public mandates to protect habitat and recreation lands for current and future generations with fewer resources available for purchasing and maintaining those lands. This report helps to highlight where improvements can be made.

### Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The lands group is comprised of representatives from these Washington State natural resources agencies:

- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Conservation Commission
- State Parks and Recreation Commission

The lands group also includes representatives of nonprofit organizations, local governments, the Legislature, and others including American Farmland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Washington Forest Protection Association, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, and the Washington Association of Land Trusts.

The Recreation and Conservation Office provides support and hosts the lands group's Web site at [www.rco.wa.gov/boards/hrlcg.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/hrlcg.shtml).

## Visibility and Coordination

The lands group visibility and coordination process occurs on the biennial funding cycle and has the following components:

- Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum, which brings together state agencies, local governments, non-government organizations, landowners, tribes, and citizens to share ideas on proposals for state habitat and recreation land purchases and disposals.
- State Land Acquisition Forecast Report, which gives information about the state land purchases and disposals that are being planned around the state.
- Biennial State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report, which shows whether state agencies achieved their initial acquisition project objectives.

## What Stakeholders are Requesting

- Early notification about planned purchases in their areas.

- Meaningful opportunity to engage in the planning process for purchases in their areas.
- Complete, consistent, and accessible information about proposed projects, such as why projects are proposed for purchase, who the proposed purchasers are, what the proposed funding sources are, and maps.
- State land purchase data on a county-wide and statewide scale.
- Follow-up information that shows how well projects met intended objectives.

## Next Steps

- May 2016 – Publish biennial *State Land Acquisition Forecast Report* (this report)
- December 2016 – Submit annual *Progress Report* to the Office of Financial Management
- Summer 2017 – Host 8th Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum
- December 2017 – Publish *Biennial State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report*

## This Report

The report provides early notification about plans for land purchases by the state natural resources agencies. This and previous years' reports are available on the lands group Web site:

[www.rco.wa.gov/boards/hrlcg.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/hrlcg.shtml).

**Early notification about projects** – The forecast provides early information on state land acquisition project proposals for the upcoming biennium. The forecast is published several months before final state capital funding is approved by the Legislature to give citizens time to engage in the planning process.

**Comprehensive overview** – The report gives a comprehensive look at what's being planned around the state. It provides county-wide and statewide maps and data, as well as maps and data about specific project sites.

**Clear and accessible data** – The forecast provides data such as project descriptions, number of acres, costs and types of acquisitions, future costs, and funding sources. The data are standardized to allow comparative analyses, such as comparing the cost of one agency's proposal with the cost of another's. The forecast also includes Geographical Information System (GIS)

data and is published on the lands group Web site for easy access.

**Potential projects** – The projects in this report are potential acquisitions and disposals that are either in the planning stage or part of a grant application or an agency budget request to the Legislature. The agencies do not have money for these transactions and will not proceed until all approval processes have been completed. The projects and costs in this report may differ from those in the presentations on the lands group Web site because they were refined as the agencies submitted grant applications.

**Snapshot information** – This report provides a snapshot designed to help planners and others who want to know the status of project proposals. The data are based on best estimates as of May 2016. Because the projects are in the early planning stages, the data are likely to change before the projects are complete.

**Natural resource agency projects** – This report covers information about potential habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal projects proposed for funding in the 2017-2019 Biennium by the following state agencies:

- DFW
- DNR
- State Parks

**New information to the report** – In response to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee’s recent report on State Recreation and Habitat Lands (15-1) and 2016 legislation on reforming the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (Senate Substitute Bill 6227), the lands groups has added new information to this report, including:

- Current use of the property
- Link to the agency’s strategic plan
- Anticipated project outcomes
- Current progress on outcomes
- Partners
- Anticipated future costs
- Local government support

## Report Contents

**Section 1 – Introduction:** Describes the lands group and what will be found in this report.

**Section 2 – Context:** Provides an overview of public lands in Washington State, including costs and benefits of state habitat and recreation land

ownership and state agency visions for the future.

**Section 3 – State Agency Profiles and Acquisition Priorities:** Describes the habitat and recreation land acquisition missions, priorities, and processes of the three natural resources agencies.

**Section 4 – Proposed State Land Acquisitions 2017-2019:** Presents acquisitions proposed for funding in the 2017-2019 Biennium. Provides a summary table and maps of proposed acquisitions by county, as well as maps and details of each project. Data and maps were provided by the purchasing agency. The land for these projects has not yet been purchased and the funding has not been approved. Data shown are not final; final data will be available after this report is published.

## Report Terms

**Acquisition type** – Type of real property interest that is proposed to be purchased. May indicate fee simple, conservation easement, or leasehold interest.

**Anticipated future costs** – Cost estimates on future capital costs, future operating costs, future maintenance costs, and additional costs to the agency

from the addition of the property. Agencies used guidance from the Office of Financial Management to derive cost estimates.

**Legislative district** – Legislative district in which the proposed project is located.

**Local government support** – Whether there is local government support for the proposed project.

**Parcel maps** – Project area proposed for purchase as of May 2016.

**Partners** – Agencies, tribes, nonprofits, or other groups that are helping with the proposed purchase.

**Planning link** – How the proposed project aligns with statewide and other strategic plans and how it is a strategic investment for the agency.

**Project outcomes and current progress**– Anticipated outcomes of the acquisition in detail, including specific development plans, service improvements, habitat restoration needs, and projected accomplishments. Current progress on achieving the detailed project outcomes.

**Proposed acquisition cost** – Total cost proposed for purchasing with funds requested for the 2017-2019 Biennium.

**Proposed acres** – Total acres proposed for purchase with 2017-2019 funds.

**Proposed funding source** – All sources of funding proposed for purchasing the land. May include state, federal, and other sources, including grants.

**Proposed project description and purpose** – Project description as of May 2016, what makes it significant, and details about how the purchasing agency intends to use the land.

**Revenue generation** – The money the agency expects to raise from use of the land.



## 2 | CONTEXT

## History of Washington State Public Lands

Most government-owned lands in Washington State were acquired before or within the first 20 years of statehood. The largest government landholdings were in place before the first half of the twentieth century. The estimated total land area of Washington State is 45,663,000 acres. As a percent of land area, non-public ownership is roughly 57 percent.<sup>1</sup>

**Federal lands** – When Washington achieved statehood in 1889, the federal government granted lands to the State to stimulate settlement and economic development in the West. Of the 19.8 million acres in public ownership, the federal government owns 12.7 million acres of land for various purposes such as wildlife refuges, national forests and parks, fish hatcheries, forest reserves, military bases, and post offices. Federal lands represent about 64 percent of land in public ownership.<sup>2</sup>

**State lands** – State trust lands comprise the largest block of state-owned lands. At its inception, the state was granted lands by the federal government to be managed in trust for particular purposes

such as common schools, higher education, penal institutions, and state capitol buildings. The State also manages trust lands that support local county services such as firefighting and road maintenance. In 1990, the State invested in additional trust forestlands to provide support for community and technical colleges. The State also has acquired land for various other purposes including preserving lands for fish and wildlife habitat and providing public recreational opportunities. State-owned natural resource and recreation lands represent roughly 6.5 million acres, or 33 percent of public lands in Washington State.<sup>3</sup>

**Local lands** – Washington’s 39 counties, numerous cities, and most special purpose districts, such as fire districts, school districts, and port districts, are authorized to own land. Locally-owned lands represent about 3 percent (622,879 acres) of land in public ownership.<sup>4</sup>

## Washington State Habitat and Recreation Lands

Washington State natural resource agencies—DFW, DNR, and State—purchase land to protect important state resources such as recreation opportunities and habitat for threatened

and endangered species. As population increases, there is greater need to preserve these resources for current and future generations.

At the same time, population growth and declining revenues has led to an increased scrutiny of the costs and benefits of state land ownership. Costs and benefits can be non-economic (e.g. social, cultural, and environmental). Economic costs and benefits can be direct and indirect.

Some economic studies have been conducted on specific public lands, but there are few economic studies that can be applied statewide because they depend on land use, location, and other factors. Similarly, non-economic costs and benefits are difficult to quantify and compare.

## Costs of State Habitat and Recreation Lands

### Acquisition and maintenance costs –

The State incurs the one-time cost of purchasing the land and the ongoing costs for the operation and maintenance of the land. Funding for ongoing maintenance has decreased over the years, leaving some to ask why the State

is purchasing lands it might not have money to maintain.

### **Reduced property tax revenues –**

Public lands are tax-exempt and reduce the property tax revenue to counties and other tax revenue districts. In some cases, property taxes are increased on the remaining private sector to offset impacts of lost tax revenue. In other cases, local governments receive payments, such as Payments in Lieu of Taxes, to offset lost tax revenue. Some also believe there is a cost of lost opportunity to the local community that would have yielded more property tax revenues if the land had been developed for residential and commercial purposes.

On the other hand, public lands generate other taxes for local benefit. For example, increased tourism, public access to recreation opportunities, and enhanced quality of life can draw businesses to areas of high public land ownership, resulting in more tax revenue.

A 2014 economic analysis of outdoor recreation by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office showed that outdoor recreation generates \$2 billion in state and local taxes.<sup>5</sup>

### **Loss of economic opportunities –**

Some citizens and local communities feel that employment and rural economic development opportunities are lost because of public land ownership. On the other hand, communities benefit from the spending by tourists and resident outdoor recreationists on recreation opportunities provided on state-owned lands.

### **Benefits of State Habitat and Recreation Lands**

Opportunities for nature-based and cultural activities – Getting people, especially kids, outdoors provides lasting economic and non-economic benefits to Washington. A 2014 economic analysis showed that Washingtonians and visitors annually spend \$21.6 billion on outdoor recreation and that outdoor recreation supports 199,000 jobs in Washington.

Introducing young people to nature improves their health and sparks an interest in nature-based recreation and careers. By promoting volunteerism to maintain trails and facilities among children, college students, veterans, retirees, and others, states can better rely on private and nonprofit efforts to ease the strain on public funding sources.

Washington's habitat and recreation lands generate these opportunities.

**Protects wildlife habitat –** Habitat protection laws reflect our desire to preserve Washington's forests, mountains, wildlife, waters, and other natural resources to increase the quality of life for present and future generations. The economic analysis evaluated the non-market values, such as the value of ecosystem services provided by the trees, water, and animals found on public recreation lands. Those services – clean water, habitat for wildlife, aesthetic beauty, and enhanced recreational experiences – have a combined value of between \$134 billion and \$248 billion a year.

Public laws recognize that population growth has created greater stress on public lands and that residential and commercial development can destroy species and habitat forever. Land acquisition is an essential tool used by the state natural resources agencies to meet their public mandates to preserve habitat and provide sustainable recreational opportunities.

**Promotes tourism and generates jobs –** Washington's land and waterways support a robust tourism industry, bringing travelers from across the world.

The 2014 economic analysis showed that out-of-state visitors spend an estimated \$3.4 billion per year in Washington State. Many local communities depend on a strong tourist industry.

### Payments to local communities –

The state natural resources agencies pay local governments offsetting revenues from the state’s ownership of habitat and recreation lands. Some examples of these revenues are:

- Benefit assessments – Payments to local taxing districts for costs such as weed protection and fire protection.
- Local Improvement District assessments – Payments to cities, towns, diking districts, drainage districts, or port districts.
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes – The DFW and DNR make payments to local governments for habitat and recreation lands based on the amount of taxes that would be paid on the property if it were taxed under the current use assessment laws.
- Leasehold Excise Taxes (LET) – These are payments on certain leasehold interests on public property.

- Real estate excise taxes and forest land compensating taxes – When applicable, these are paid to counties and sometimes cities when the land is taken off the tax rolls.

While some criticize the payments because they spread local burdens across the state, the state natural resources agencies support compensation mechanisms to local governments because they recognize it as necessary to being good neighbors.

Governor Jay Inslee’s veto letter regarding the 2013 budget bill directed the Department of Revenue to work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Office of Financial Management to examine the Payment in Lieu of Taxes methodologies. Recommendations generated from the 2013 report (<http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2013/PILTReport2013.pdf>) may drive future legislative changes.

## Vision for the Future

### DFW

Washington’s population has more than quadrupled in the past 80 years, reducing fish and wildlife habitat to a fraction of what existed in the early

1900s. With the population expected to grow from the current 7 million to 8.7 million by 2030, critically important lands and waterways will face increasing development pressure.

In this context, land acquisition and conservation easements are important strategies for preserving Washington’s legacy of habitat and recreational lands. With broad public support, they have become two of DFW’s most successful conservation tools. Once the agency acquires property or a conservation easement, it strives to be a good neighbor by restoring habitat, controlling weeds, providing quality recreation access, and undertaking a myriad of other stewardship and conservation activities. This proven combination – sound acquisition priorities and responsible stewardship – reinforced by strong community partnerships across the state, will continue to guide DFW land acquisition in the coming years.

In 1939, the Department of Game purchased about 14,000 acres of winter range for mule deer – land that became the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area in Okanogan County. Since then, the DFW lands portfolio has grown to about 1 million acres and more than 700 water access sites. In addition to conserving fish and

wildlife habitat, these properties generate substantial economic benefit by employing local residents and providing places for millions of Washingtonians and visitors to fish, hunt, watch wildlife, and enjoy other recreational activities.

DFW conducts a rigorous process to determine whether acquisition is the best conservation strategy available. Local community support is essential, as is the application of science to determine which lands are best-suited for habitat and wildlife needs. In addition to extensive internal review, acquisition options are reviewed by local governments, citizens, and other interested parties.

Partnerships with conservation groups, hunting and fishing organizations, and other public agencies help DFW preserve iconic landscapes that no single organization could do on its own.

Partners include The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Northwest, Ducks Unlimited, the Mule Deer Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Wilderness Society, and local lands conservancies and councils.

DFW strives to acquire lands that provide the highest benefit to fish, wildlife, and the public, and only from willing sellers. Broad public support is also critical.

These principles have served fish, wildlife, and the people of Washington very well over the years and will continue to guide the department's efforts in the future.

### DNR

DNR manages two different kinds of natural areas to conserve and restore special state-managed lands.

**Natural Area Preserves** – Natural Area Preserves protect the best remaining examples of many ecological communities including rare plant and animal habitat. The DNR Natural Heritage Program identifies the highest quality, most ecologically important sites for protection as natural area preserves. The resulting network of preserves represents a legacy for future generations and helps ensure that blueprints of the state's natural ecosystems are protected forever.

The preserve system includes more than 38,290 acres in 56 sites throughout the state. In eastern Washington, habitats protected on preserves include outstanding examples of arid land shrub-steppe, grasslands, vernal ponds, oak woodlands, subalpine meadows and forest, ponderosa pine forests, and rare plant habitats. Western Washington preserves include several large coastal

preserves supporting high quality wetlands, salt marshes, and forested buffers. Other west side habitats include mounded prairies, sphagnum bogs, natural late-successional forests, and grassland balds.

### Natural Resources Conservation Areas –

Natural Resources Conservation Areas protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems; habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants and animals; and scenic landscapes. Environmental education and low-impact public use are appropriate on conservation areas where they do not impair the protected features. Critical habitat is conserved in these areas for many plant and animal species, including rare species. Natural Resources Conservation Areas include coastal and high elevation forests, alpine lakes, wetlands, scenic vistas, nesting birds of prey, rocky headlands, and high-quality native plant communities. Conservation areas also protect geologic, cultural, historical, and archeological sites. More than 118,700 acres are conserved in 36 Washington State Natural Resources Conservation Areas.

## State Parks

The state park system continues as a “work in progress” since its creation by the Legislature in 1913. At the core of the commission’s approach is the recognition that as the state’s population grows, so too must its park system to meet expanding demand. During times of economic hardship, land prices are low and owners of priority lands are more willing to sell. Even if funds are not available to develop properties into full-service state parks, acquiring property for future generations is necessary and appropriate. State Parks’ land acquisitions typically fall into one or more of the following categories:

**Properties that address park management** – These properties fall within a designated long-term park boundary identified through the agency’s public planning process. These properties address park management concerns, remove incompatible land uses, resolve trespasses, connect disjointed properties, and remove inholdings. These smaller properties come on the market quickly and require swift action to acquire.

**Stand-alone properties held for future generations** – These are properties held for development of new parks, have

extensive natural and/or cultural resources, and clearly meet the agency’s vision of premier destinations of uncommon quality. These are typically very high-quality properties (e.g., expansive undeveloped waterfront) that form the nucleus of a future major park. Over time, adjacent properties are acquired as landowners become willing sellers and as funding permits. In most cases, these properties remain undeveloped for decades with access limited to pedestrian use only. Full-scale development of these properties only occurs after critical mass is achieved and there is sufficient public will to commit necessary funds.

**Properties that serve a sub-system** – Park sub-systems are properties that work together to create a natural, cultural, or recreational experience that is greater than the sum of its parts. An example of this is the Cascadia Marine Trail where even small, modest sites are acquired for overnight campsites to facilitate use of the iconic marine trail.

**Properties that assist with the agency’s transition to self-sufficiency** – These include properties that can be used to enable partnerships with other organizations or that generate operating income (e.g., waterfront, residential

properties rented as public vacation rentals). These properties also lend themselves to day-use activities that likely will attract a lot of visitors, and therefore promote the sale of Discover Passes and daily permits. An example of these are small properties that serve as trailheads for the agency’s cross-state trail and regional trail systems.

**Long-term development** – As State Parks transitions to a self-funding model without significant General Fund support, the agency is evaluating what kinds of overnight and day-use opportunities are feasible to provide the public. Without General Fund support, all park operating expenses must be covered by funds from permits and fees. Some additional work may be offset by expanded volunteer efforts and activities that promote sale of Discover Passes (e.g., special events, arts festivals, interpretive and recreational programs).

## 3 | STATE AGENCY PROFILES AND ACQUISITION PRIORITIES

## State Agency Profiles

This section describes the state agency land acquisition processes and priorities.

State agency acquisition goals are based on recreation and conservation needs expressed by the public and on state and federal legal requirements to provide recreational opportunities and protect threatened and endangered wildlife. Each agency has distinct missions directed by legislation designed to meet those needs. Agency acquisition plans establish criteria for identifying priority purchases that will best fulfill the agency mission, and processes for pursuing the priorities.

DFW	DNR	State Parks
<p><b>Missions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish and wildlife species</li> <li>• Maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserving Washington’s native species and ecosystems, today and for future generations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Missions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase access to free or low-cost recreational opportunities<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Acquire and manage state park lands to maintain and enhance ecological, aesthetic, and recreational purposes<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Statewide Plan</b></p> <p><i>Lands 20/20: A Clear Vision for the Future (2005)</i></p>	<p><b>Statewide Plan</b></p> <p><i>Natural Heritage Plan (2011)</i></p>	<p><b>Statewide Plan</b></p> <p>Transformational Plan (2010)</p>
<p><b>Statewide Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide benefits for fish and wildlife (identify and prioritize crucial habitats for priority species and habitats as identified in department plans).</li> <li>• Provide benefits for the public (available and accessible fish and wildlife related recreation and educational opportunities; local or state economic benefits).</li> <li>• Operational excellence (habitat values maintained, wildlife area management plans updated, operation and maintenance support ensured, partnerships and citizen involvement utilized.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Statewide Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify priority ecosystems and species for conservation.</li> <li>• Build and maintain a database for priority ecosystems and species.</li> <li>• Share and use the information to ensure potential public and private acquisitions have high conservation value.</li> <li>• Maintain a statewide system of natural areas representative of Washington’s ecosystems and natural features.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Statewide Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fix what we have.</li> <li>• Upgrade existing parks, trails, and services.</li> <li>• Add new parks, trails, and services and work towards opening new parks.</li> </ul>

DFW

**Mission**

The DFW has a dual mandate to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities. The agency is charged with sustaining all wildlife species other than plants, including invertebrates, fish and marine invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, and birds and mammals.

The department's *2015-17 Strategic Plan* applies conservation principles to the following goals:

Goal 1: Conserve and protect native fish and wildlife

Goal 2: Provide sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife related recreational and commercial experiences

Goal 3: Promote a healthy economy, protect community character, maintain an overall high quality of life, and deliver high quality customer service

Goal 4: Build an effective and efficient organization by supporting the workforce, improving business processes, and investing in technology.

**Plan**

The department's *Lands 20/20: A Clear Vision for the Future* guides decisions on the agency's land portfolio.

- Provide benefits to fish and wildlife
- Provide benefits for the public
- Ensure operational excellence

The *2016-2021 Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Lands RCO Grant Eligibility Plan* qualifies the department to participate in certain Recreation and Conservation Office grant programs that have a planning requirement.

Land acquisition is an essential tool used by the department to meet its legislative mandate. Its land acquisition work is aimed at maintaining a citizen-supported portfolio of lands that will sustain Washington's diverse wildlife and their habitats into the next century.

**Land Acquisition Process**

The department assesses species and landscape conservation needs using species recovery and management plans, habitat conservation plans, biodiversity

conservation framework, habitat connectivity analyses, and other data.

Department staff and conservation partners identify potential habitat and recreation lands using the Lands 20/20 framework. Internal policy and the "Lands Evaluation Tool" screen projects for grant categories.

The agency evaluates compatibility with statewide and regional conservation initiatives including the Governor's priorities and initiatives from other state, federal, city, county, and non-government organizations.

Staff applies for federal and state grants and, when awarded, works with willing sellers to acquire either conservation easements or fee interest.

## DNR

### Mission

Habitat and recreation lands purchased by the DNR are managed by the Natural Areas Program. The program's primary mission is to protect outstanding examples of the state's biodiversity. The program manages land under two natural area designations: Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area. Some sites are given dual designation to provide for low-impact public access while providing protection for more sensitive features.

Natural Area Preserves protect plant and animal populations and ecosystems that are rare or that are representative of healthy, functioning native habitat. The preserves contain some of the most uncommon and sensitive plant and animal communities native to Washington, including several species that are found nowhere else in the world. Some preserves also include intact ecosystems that can be used as reference sites of natural ecological function. While public access to Natural Area Preserves generally is limited to research and education, low-impact recreation is allowed in appropriate areas on some sites.

The Natural Resources Conservation Areas are similar to Natural Area Preserves, with important distinctions. The conservation areas have a broader mission by including as priorities, lands with outstanding natural scenic values, geological or archaeological significance, or environmentally significant sites under threat of conversion to other uses. Natural Resources Conservation Areas provide opportunities for low-impact recreation.

### Plan

The *Natural Heritage Plan* establishes the criteria for natural area selection and the process by which natural areas are approved. The plan lists the statewide conservation priorities for ecosystems and rare species, which are established by the Natural Heritage Program in consultation with others. The conservation priorities listed in the plan drive the designation of areas as Natural Area Preserves, Natural Resources Conservation Areas, or a combination of the two.

### Land Acquisition Process

Natural area boundaries are initially identified by scientists in the Natural

Heritage and Natural Areas Programs, primarily based on an assessment of the protection needs of the particular features (species and/or ecosystems) for which the natural area has been identified. Potential and expansions of existing natural areas are presented to the Natural Heritage Advisory Council. Upon approval by the council, proposed sites go through a public process including information meetings, opportunities for landowners to meet with scientists and land managers, and a public hearing. Some Natural Resources Conservation Areas are designated by the department without review by the council. Natural Heritage Advisory Council recommendations and information from the public meetings and hearing are forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Lands. The commissioner establishes the boundary within which staff then is authorized to pursue acquisition. Staff identifies potential funding sources and works with willing landowners.

### State Parks

#### Mission

The State Parks mission focuses on managing how people interact with natural, historic, and developed landscapes. State Parks acquires land to protect and manage natural resources that are important for people. State Parks additionally acquires lands within and adjacent to state parks to provide new or improved recreational opportunities to the public.

through donations from second parties, or through property transfers from other government organizations.

#### Plan

Property acquisitions are prioritized through the Classification and Management Planning or CAMP process. Once prioritized, the commission adopts a biennial listing of priorities through agency's capital budget. The majority of funding used in acquiring new land is provided by grants managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office and other grant sources.

#### Land Acquisition Process

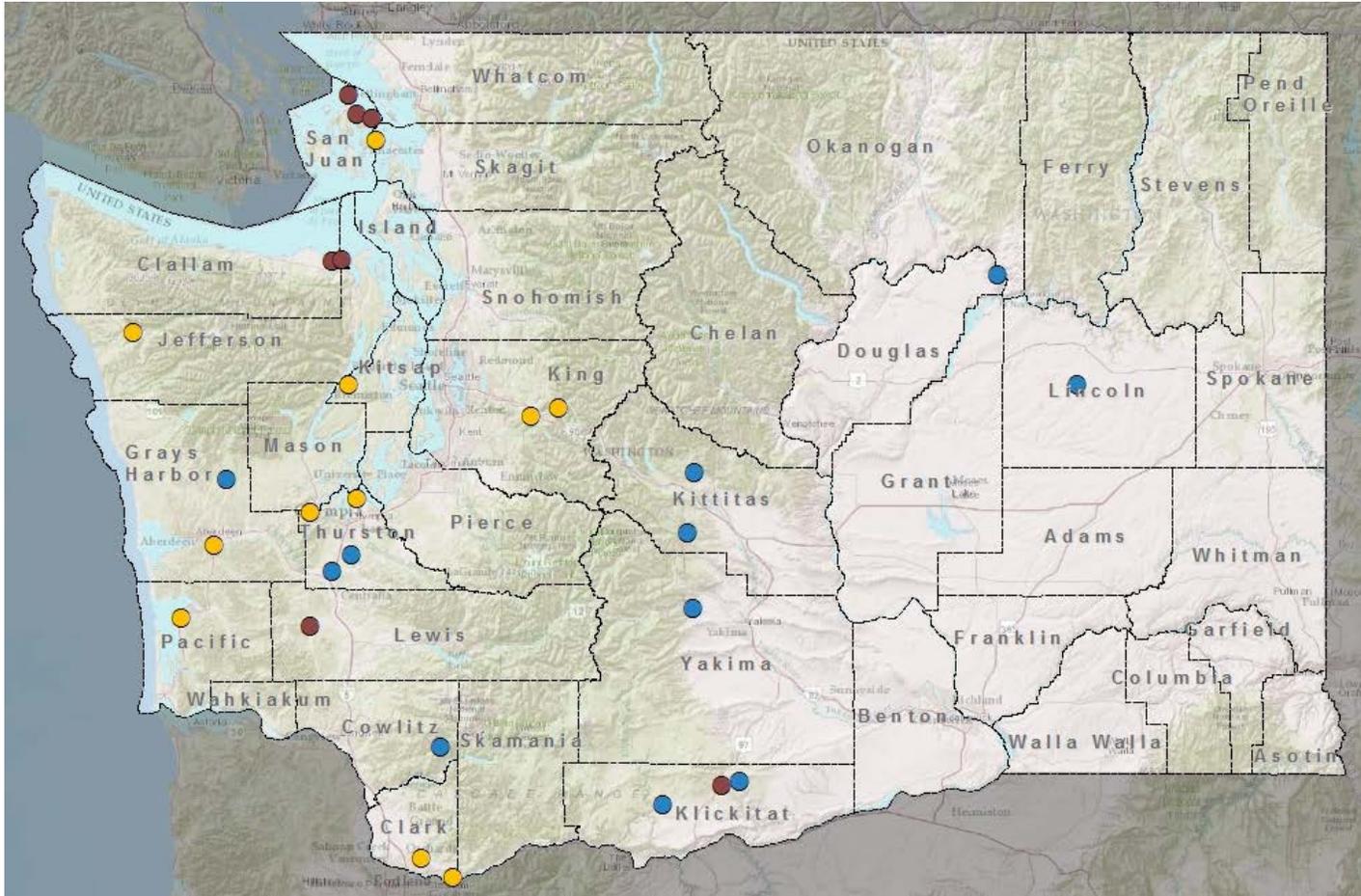
Properties are acquired from willing sellers after appraisal in accordance with the priority rankings as provided through the CAMP process. State Parks occasionally acquires new lands through land exchanges with second parties,

## State Agency Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisition Priorities

DFW	DNR	State Parks
<p><b>Natural Area Preserves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems</li> <li>• Populations of endangered, threatened, sensitive, rare, or diminishing animal species</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural Area Preserves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems</li> <li>• Rare or diminishing plant or animal populations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural Area Preserves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife Areas</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Focus on lands that are necessary to recover, maintain, or enhance the integrity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> Priority species, habitat values, biodiversity, appropriate and accessible recreation, research and education, economics, fiscal accountability, stewardship, partnership, and citizen involvement.</p>	<p><b>Natural Resources Conservation Areas</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Areas with high priority for conservation, natural systems, wildlife, and low-impact public use values</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> Flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or similar features; native ecological communities; connectivity between protected areas; protection of Natural Area Preserves’ core areas; and opportunities for low-impact public use</p>	<p><b>Classification and Management Planning</b></p> <p><b>Includes:</b> Natural Area Preserves, Natural Areas, Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Protect a view shed or stewardship of natural and cultural resources.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> Significance, popularity, experiences, uniqueness, flora and fauna, scenery, size, condition, and revenue.</p>
<p><b>Recreation Lands</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Acquire property to provide fish and wildlife related recreational opportunities for the public and for department administrative support.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> Need, site suitability and design, diversity and compatibility, performance measures, public benefit, and population proximity.</p>	<p><b>Recreation Lands</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> DNR does not buy land primarily for recreation purposes; however, DNR-managed state trust lands offer a variety of public access and uses compatible with the revenue-generation purpose of trust lands and conservation areas offer low-impact recreation as a secondary use when compatible with conservation goals.</p>	<p><b>Recreation Lands</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Acquire parkland for outdoor recreational opportunities for the public</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> Significance, popularity, experiences, uniqueness, flora and fauna, scenery, size, condition, and revenue</p>

## 4 | PROPOSED STATE LAND ACQUISITIONS 2017-2019

### Statewide Summary



- DFW
- DNR
- State Parks

Agency	Number of Proposed Acquisitions	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost
DFW	11	17,810	\$21,300,000
DNR	10	4,770	\$27,359,774
State Parks	6	753	\$12,124,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23,333</b>	<b>\$60,783,900</b>

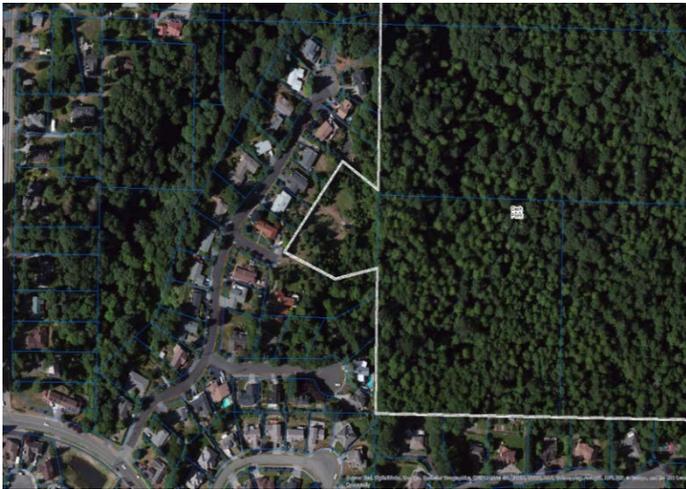
## Statewide Summary by County

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District	Report Pages
<b>Clallam County</b>							
Jones Trust and Douglass Trust	State Parks	59	\$3,300,000	Fee Simple	State	24	24-26
<b>Clark County</b>							
Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve	DNR	167	\$2,592,858	Fee Simple	State	18	27-29
Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	182	\$1,336,022	Fee Simple	State	18	27, 30-31
<b>Cowlitz County</b>							
Merrill Lake	DFW	271	\$2,300,000	Fee Simple	State	20	32-34
<b>Douglas County</b>							
Mid Columbia and Grand Coulee	DFW	7,250	\$4,000,000	Fee Simple	State, Federal	12	35-37
<b>Grays Harbor County</b>							
Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve	DNR	1,346	\$2,317,172	Fee Simple	State	19	38-40
7400 Road Access	DFW	20	\$500,000	Easement	State	24	38, 41-42
<b>Jefferson County</b>							
Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve	DNR	325	\$1,566,146	Fee Simple	State	24	43-45
<b>King County</b>							
Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area	DNR	917	\$3,421,143	Fee Simple	State, Federal	5	46-48
<b>Kitsap County</b>							
Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	DNR	360	\$3,569,499	Fee Simple, Easement	State, Federal	35	49-51
<b>Kittitas County</b>							
South Fork Manastash	DFW	1,602	\$1,500,000	Fee Simple	State	14	52-54
Teanaway Valley	DFW	215	\$2,500,000	Fee Simple	State	14	52, 55-56
<b>Klickitat County</b>							
Bowman Creek	DFW	60	\$500,000	Fee Simple	State	14	57-59
Simcoe	DFW	3,502	\$3,000,000	Fee Simple	State	14	57, 60-61

## Statewide Summary by County

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District	Report Pages
Western Pacific Timber	State Parks	200	\$344,746	Fee Simple	State	14	57, 62-63
<b>Lewis</b>							
Marwood Farms	State Parks	178	\$700,000	Fee Simple	State	20	64-66
<b>Lincoln County</b>							
Seven Springs	DFW	59	\$400,000	Fee Simple	State	13	67-69
<b>Pacific County</b>							
Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves	DNR	447	\$2,190,696	Fee Simple	State	19	70-72
<b>San Juan County</b>							
Harndon Island Property	State Parks	2	\$862,615	Fee Simple	State	40	73-75
Jones and Lawrence Point Properties	State Parks	274	\$5,926,765	Fee Simple	State	40	73, 76-77
<b>Skagit County</b>							
Cypress Island Natural Area	DNR	112	\$2,545,602	Fee Simple	State	40	78-80
<b>Thurston County</b>							
Kennedy Creek Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	840	\$4,312,549	Fee Simple	State	35	81-83
South Sound Prairie	DFW	240	\$1,600,000	Fee Simple	State, Federal	20	81, 84-85
West Rocky Prairie	DFW	167	\$2,000,000	Fee Simple	State	20	81, 86-87
Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	74	\$3,508,087	Fee Simple	State	22	81, 88-89
<b>Yakima County</b>							
Cowiche Watershed 2016	DFW	4,424	\$3,000,000	Fee Simple	State	14	90-92
<b>Statewide</b>							
Inholdings	State Parks	40	\$1,000,000	Fee Simple	State	Unknown	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,333</b>	<b>\$60,783,900</b>				

## Statewide Inholdings | State Parks



**Location:** Statewide  
**Legislative District:** Not applicable  
**Local Government Support:** Unknown  
**Current Use:** Varies  
**Partners:** Unknown

Financials	
Proposed Acres	Usually less than 40
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$1 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category
Anticipated Future Costs	Future costs cannot be determined until willing sellers are confirmed from candidate properties as prioritized by the agency
Revenue Generation	None

### Project Description and Purpose

This project will purchase smaller properties in or next to state park boundaries. It is intended to be a flexible source of funding that will allow the agency to act quickly and opportunistically to buy smaller or lower-cost inholdings as they come on the market. It also will facilitate the purchase of smaller properties that might not score competitively, but that address conflicting uses in park long-term boundaries and are essential to more effective park operations.

### Planning Link

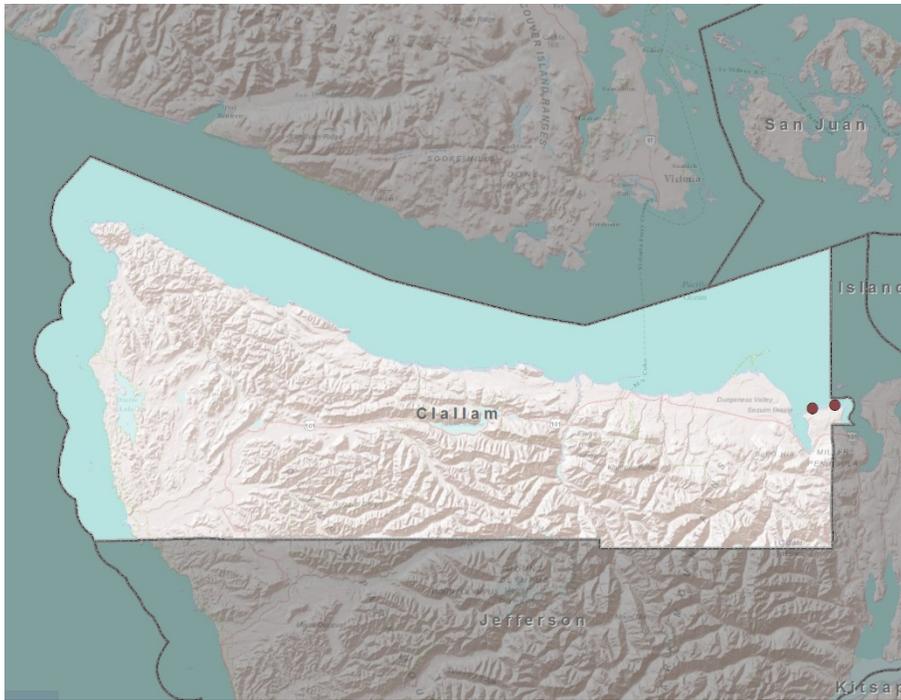
The inholdings category pursues the highest ranked properties that demonstrate a clear potential to become developed into a new use that conflicts with the agency’s mission. The majority of properties acquired are in some form of open space or are undeveloped with the current landowner working towards development of the property.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** The agency works from a ranked list based on agency priority then pursues land based on the willingness of the landowner to sell the property at market value.

**Progress:** Currently, the agency has a ranked list containing more than 50 candidate properties.

### Clallam County Summary



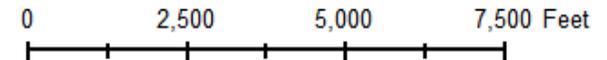
● State Parks

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Jones Trust and Douglass Trust	State Parks	59	\$3,300,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>\$3,300,000</b>			

### Jones Trust and Douglass Trust | State Parks



**Miller Peninsula  
Jones Trust & Douglass Trust**



**Legend**

- Park Boundaries
- Land Acquisition Candidates



## Jones Trust and Douglass Trust | State Parks



**Location:** Next to Miller Peninsula State Park property, near Sequim.

**Legislative District:** 24

**Current Use:** Undeveloped residential

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Partners:** None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The 21-acre **Jones Trust** land, next to the northwest corner of the park, is for sale. The forested land includes a quarter-mile of shoreline and a small stream in a ravine. Because much of the state park property is very high bank, this land is one of the few places on the north side of Miller Peninsula where it might be possible to build beach access. Currently, there is no road access to the Jones Trust property.

The 38-acre **Douglass Trust** land, next to the northeast corner of Miller Peninsula, is forested and encompasses about a quarter-mile of saltwater shoreline, including part of a pocket estuary. It is easily accessed from neighborhoods, which has resulted in trail trespass issues.

### Planning Link

The Miller Peninsula State Park property encompasses about 2,800 acres of the north Olympic Peninsula and includes an extensive trail system popular with hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and wildlife viewers. Although a master plan has not been completed, the parcels next to the northwest and northeast corners would be obvious choices for inclusion in the park’s long-term boundary.

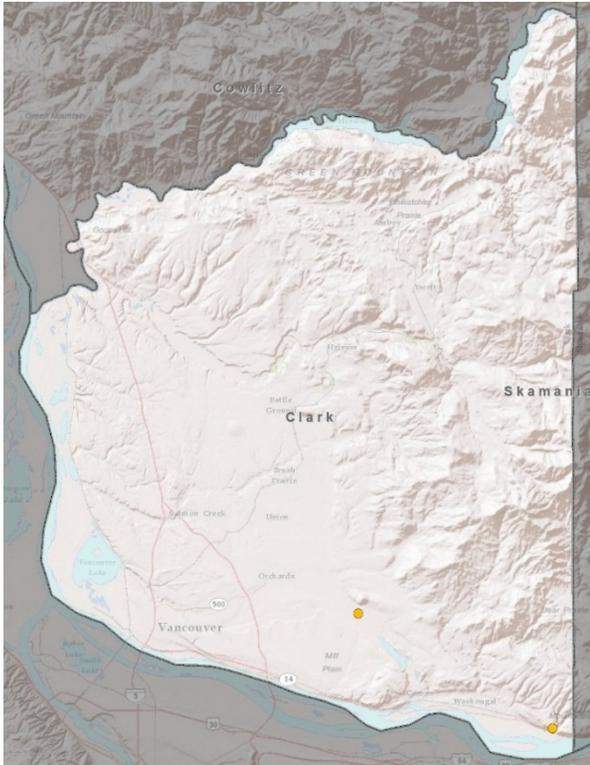
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Both parcels provide potential public access routes to the shoreline that do not exist within the northern boundaries of the future state park. If acquired, one or both properties would be developed as a trail connection from the uplands to the shoreline.

**Progress:** The land is privately owned. The Jones Trust has a willing seller and the Douglas Trust does not.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	59
Proposed Acquisition Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jones Trust: \$1.2 million</li> <li>Douglass Trust: \$2.1 million</li> </ul>
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future capital costs for the property estimated at \$200,000 (trail connections).</li> <li>Future operating costs are unknown, pending initial park development in 2030.</li> <li>Future maintenance costs are unknown, pending initial park development in 2030.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

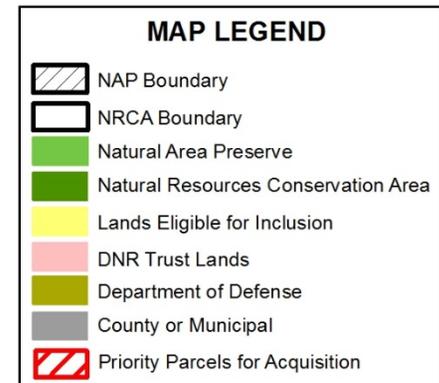
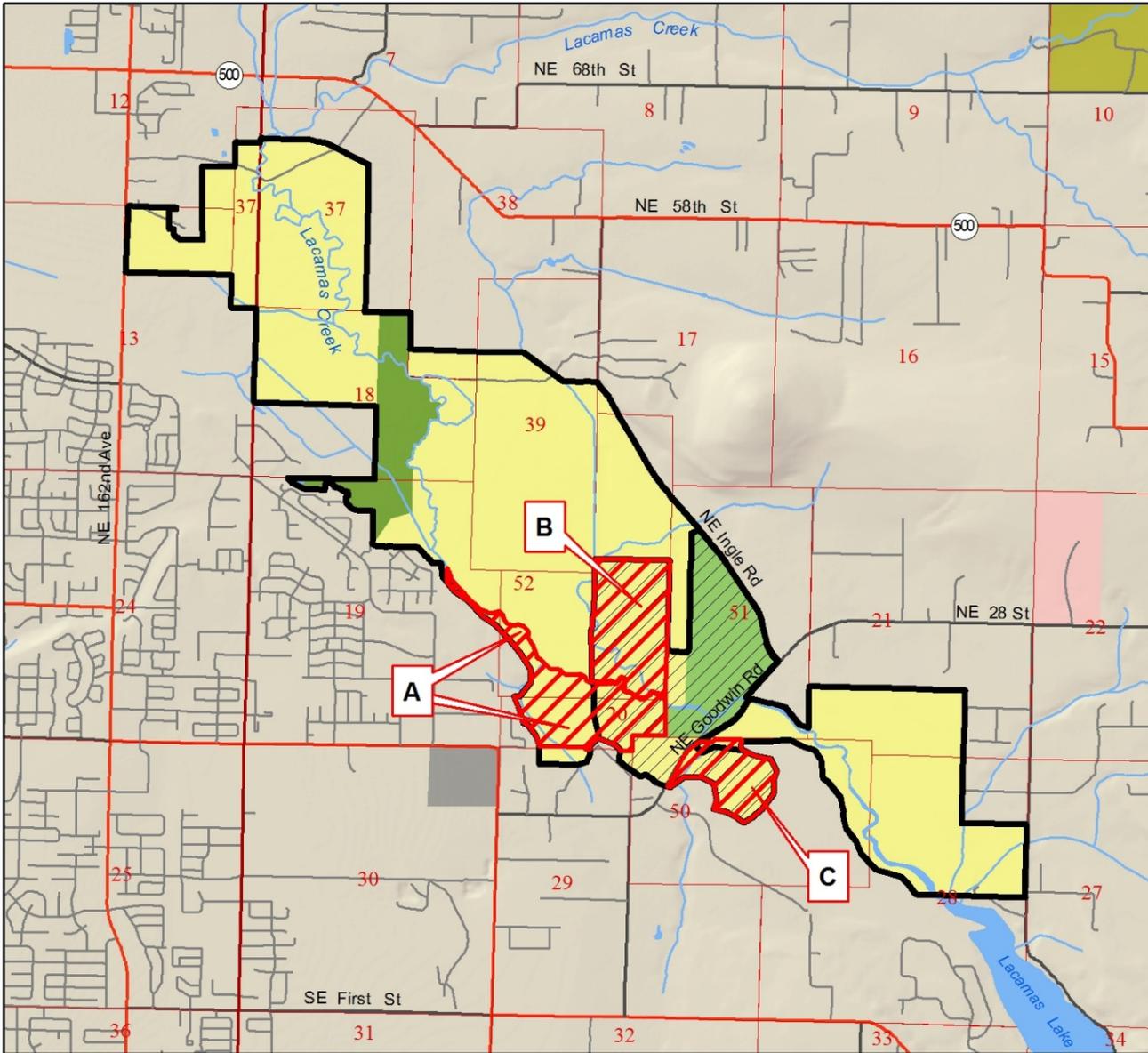
### Clark County Summary



● DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve	DNR	167	\$2,592,858	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category	18
Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	182	\$1,336,022	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>349</b>	<b>\$3,928,880</b>			

Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve | DNR



Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve | DNR



**Location:** Northeast of Vancouver Washington.

**Legislative District:** 18

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Low-intensity grazing and buffer; open space as part of adjacent development.

**Partners:** Clark County, Columbia Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	167
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2,592,858
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,330 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$800 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Protection of rare plant ecosystems and rare species within the Puget Trough/Willamette Valley ecoregion. The Willamette Valley wet prairie ecosystem at this site represents the only example of its size and quality in Washington. These ecosystems are seriously threatened by habitat destruction and degradation in one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in the state. The priority parcels also support Bradshaw's lomatium, a globally critically imperiled, federally-listed endangered plant species, as well as five state sensitive plant species and one rare animal species, the slender-billed white breasted nuthatch.

Planning Link

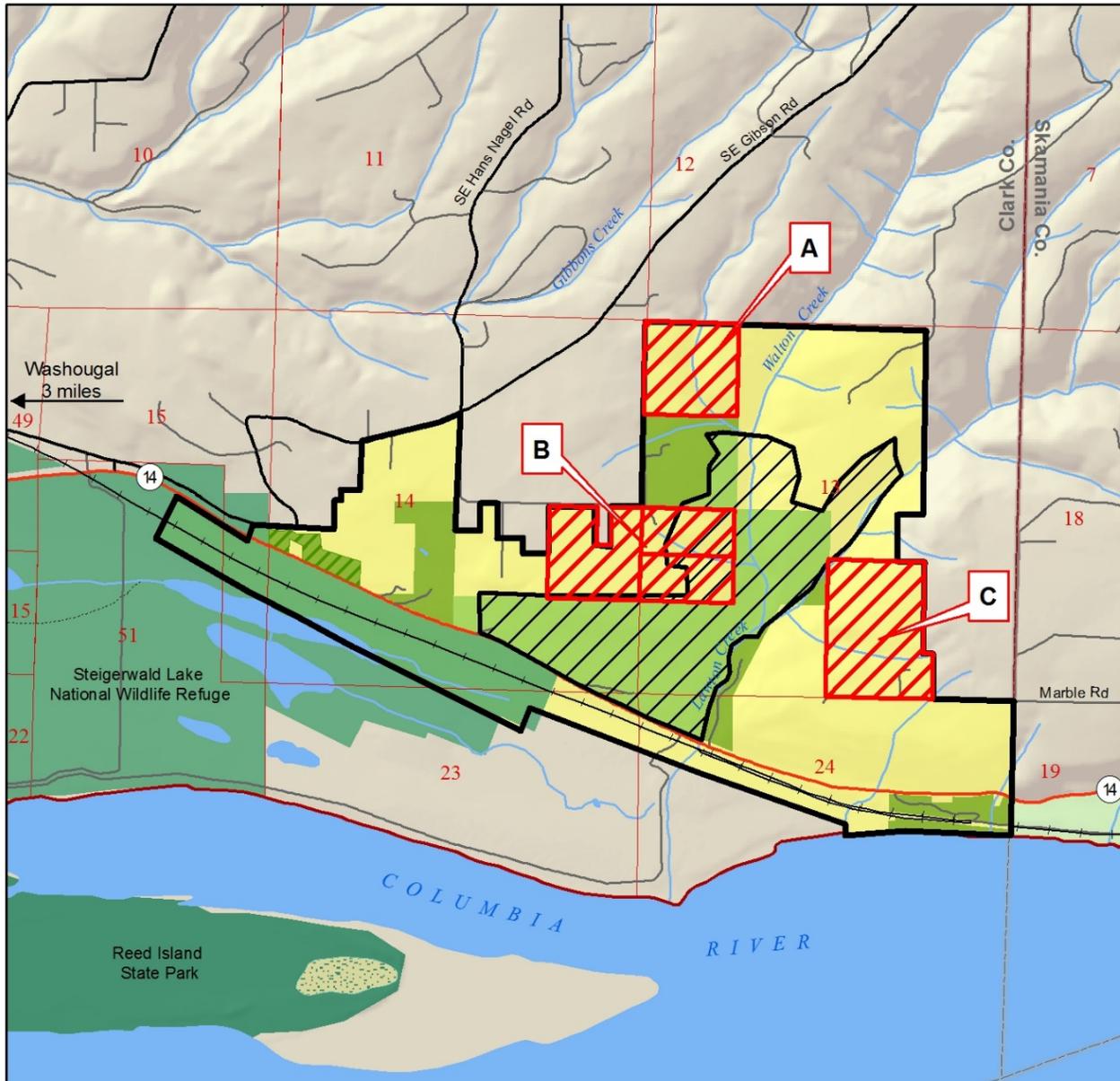
Implements conservation priorities of Washington's *Natural Heritage Plan* and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for Bradshaw's lomatium. Within approved boundary for Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species and ecosystems. Protect or restore ecological processes. Primary species is Bradshaw's lomatium, and a secondary conservation priority is the imperiled wet prairie ecosystem and Oregon white oak habitat. Access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** The agency owns 201 acres in preserve designation and manages for conservation and restoration.

Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



## Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve-Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



**Location:** About 3.5 miles east of Washougal on State Highway 14

**Legislative District:** 18

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Undeveloped, small-scale agriculture, buffer

**Partners:** Audubon Society (Vancouver), Columbia Land Trust, Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, Oregon Oak Communities Working Group, South Puget Sound Prairie and Oak Site Conservation Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, multiple U.S. Forest Service Research Station projects, Washington Native Plant Society.

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition of priority property east of Washougal at the western edge of the Columbia River Gorge. This project encompasses the largest, high-quality native oak woodland remaining in western Washington.

### Planning Link

Implements conservation priorities of the Washington’s *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved boundary of a Natural Area Preserve.

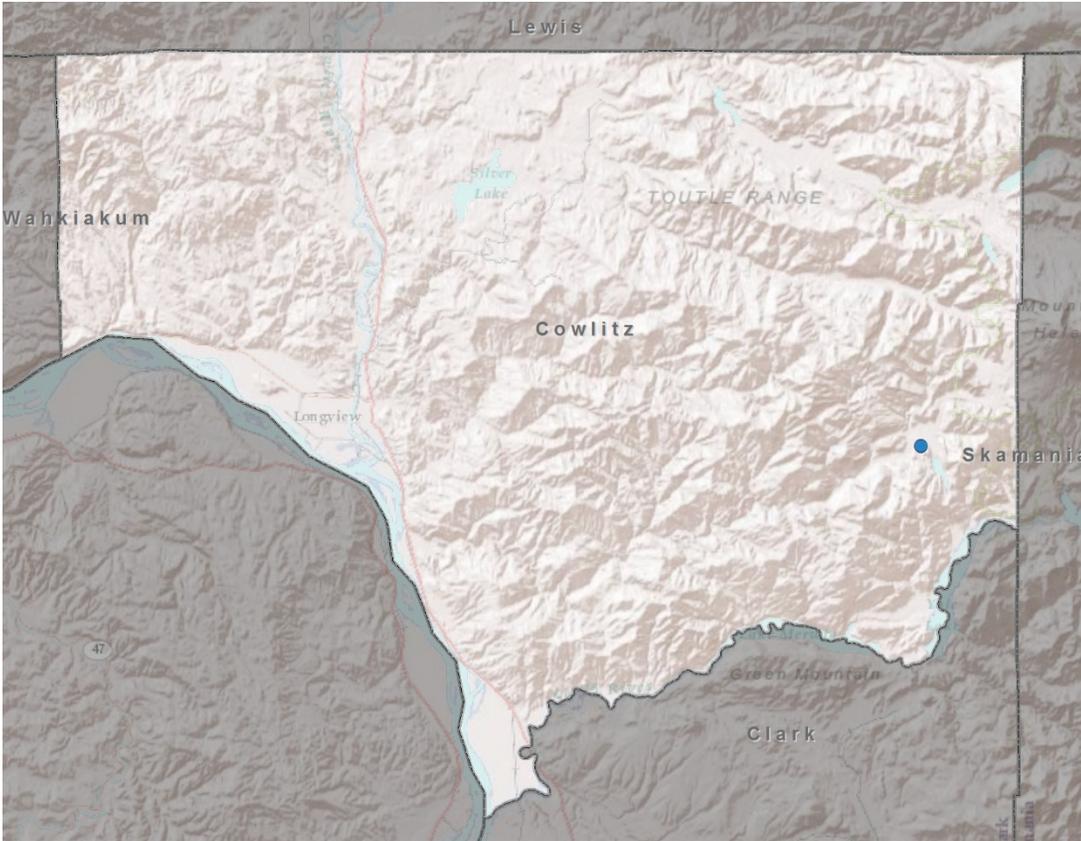
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species and ecosystems. Protect or restore ecological processes. Conservation priority is Oregon white oak habitat and related species. Access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** The agency owns 164 acres in conservation designation, and manages for conservation and restoration.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	182
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$1,336,022
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3,830 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$800 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes," to the county.</li> <li>\$130,000 one-time cost for restoration of oak forest habitat.</li> <li>\$20,000 one-time capital appropriation for road work or other initial site management capital need.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

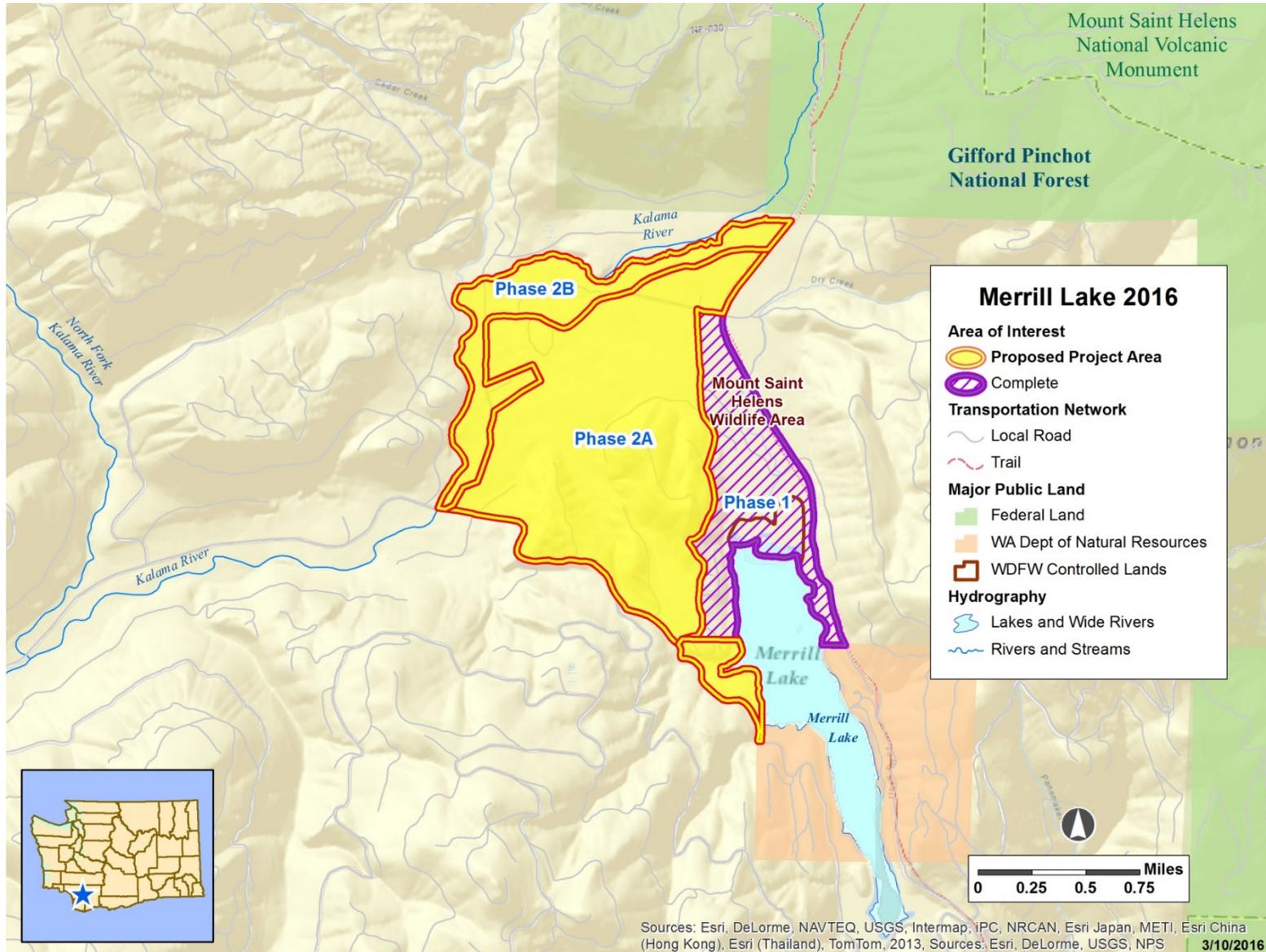
### Cowlitz County Summary



- DFW

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Merrill Lake	DFW	271	\$2,300,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat and Riparian Protection Categories	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>\$2,300,000</b>			

Merrill Lake | DFW



## Merrill Lake | DFW



**Location:** Southwest of Mount Saint Helens

**Legislative District:** 20

**Local Government Support:** Region has informed Cowlitz County commissioners.

**Current Use:** Commercial timber production, hunting, fishing, horse trails. This parcel is connected to DNR's Natural Resources Conservation Area.

**Partners:** Coordinated with the Columbia Land Trust, DNR, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Supporters: Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Clark/Skamania Fly Fishers, Cowlitz County commissioners, Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Lower Columbia Fly Fishers.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	271
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2.3 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat and Riparian Protection Categories
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10,377 for operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$13,652 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes," to the county</li> <li>Possible future recreational boat ramp</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This acquisition would protect a unique diversity of habitats including old growth and mature growth forests, lava beds, falls, and lake shoreline. This area is important transition to winter range habitat for elk and deer, and the unique habitats support bats and rare amphibians. Conservation of this site will assure habitat connectivity between Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument, DNR lands, and PacifiCorp mitigation lands. Federally-listed species include northern spotted owl, Bull Trout, steelhead, and Chinook Salmon.

### Planning Link

Will be incorporated into the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area, next to the Natural Resources Conservation Area. Possible future boat launch.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** The land provides public access to the key catch-and-release Trout Lake and the Kalama River for steelhead and salmon. New public access for diverse recreation, managed overstocked young conifer stands to meet habitat needs, and habitat connectivity with federal lands.

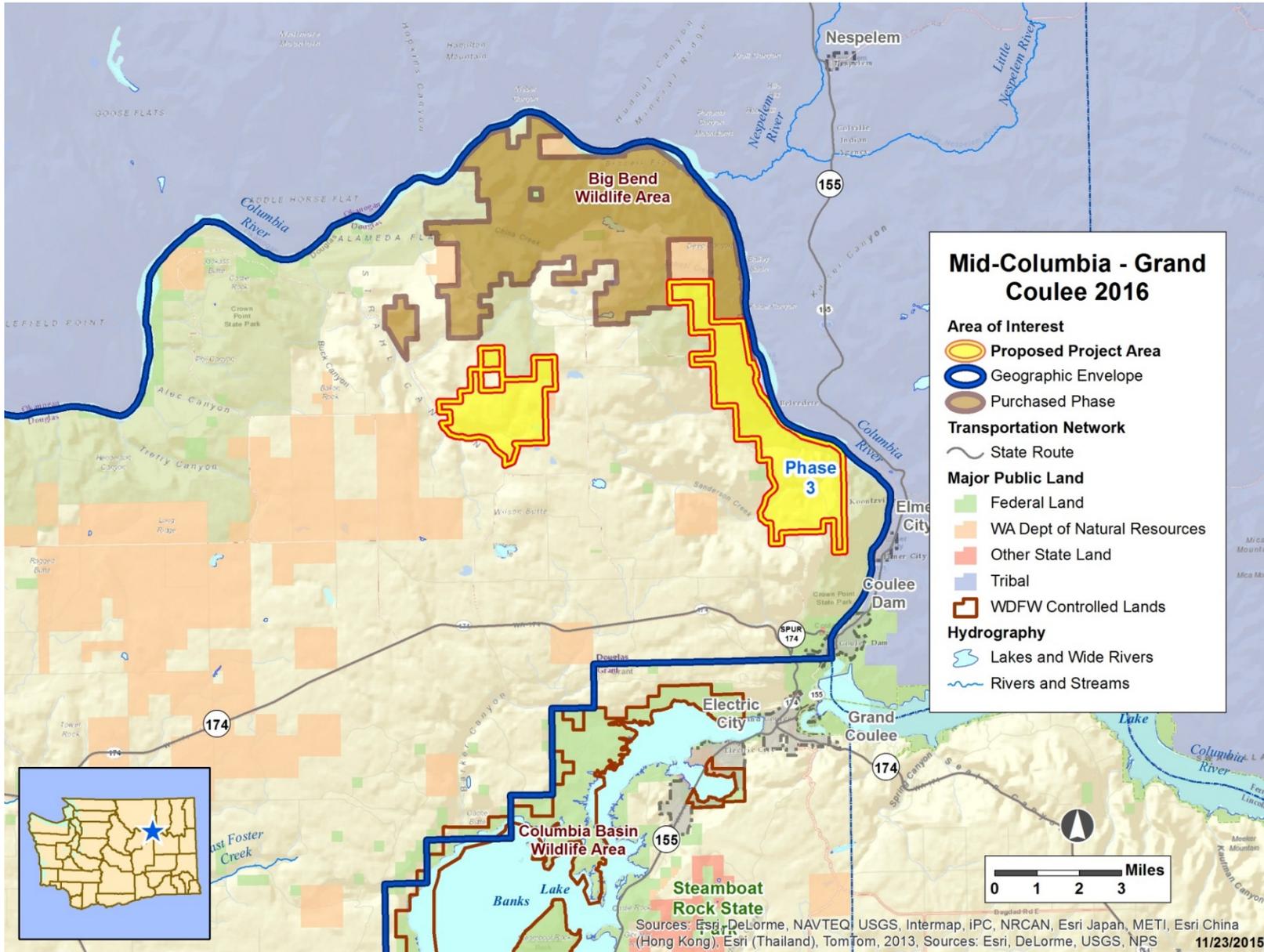
### Douglas County Summary



● DFW

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Mid Columbia and Grand Coulee	DFW	7,250	\$4,000,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6)	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,250</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>			

Mid Columbia and Grand Coulee | DFW



## Mid Columbia and Grand Coulee | DFW



**Location:** Northernmost Douglas County on the south shore of the Columbia River

**Legislative District:** 13

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Cattle ranching, small scale irrigation, dry farming, deer hunting

**Partners:** Douglas County commissioners

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This land provides important habitat connectivity for sharp-tailed grouse in Douglas, Lincoln, and Okanogan Counties, and a strategic component in the department’s ongoing efforts to maintain and recover sharp-tailed grouse in these counties. A diversity of habitats are on the site: bunchgrass-dominated expanses, riparian draws, stands of aspen and Ponderosa pine, seasonal wetlands, and pothole lakes. Other habitat features include basalt cliffs, caves, talus, and snags. The land supports a variety of priority species including Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, sage thrasher, golden eagle, and mule deer. Recreational use will provide an important regional community value.

### Planning Link

Enhances the Big Bend Wildlife Area by creating large contiguous areas of shrub-steppe habitat, important connectivity for sharp-tailed and sage grouse.

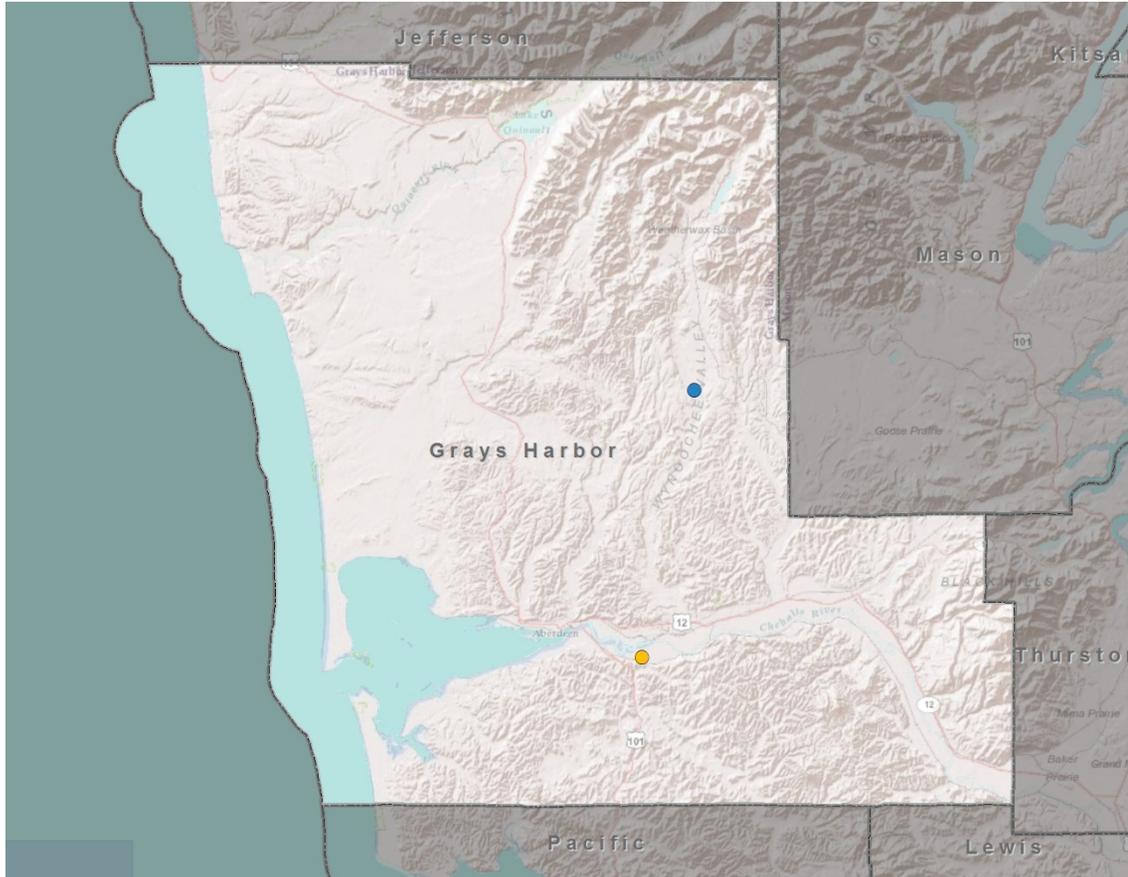
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Provides expanded habitat for sharp-tailed and sage grouse and increases opportunities for public recreation such as deer hunting and wildlife viewing.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	7,250
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$4 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category</li> <li>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6</li> </ul>
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$65,250 for operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$7,758 for annual “Payment in Lieu of Taxes” to the county</li> <li>Future public fishing access</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass



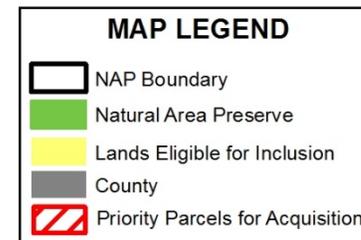
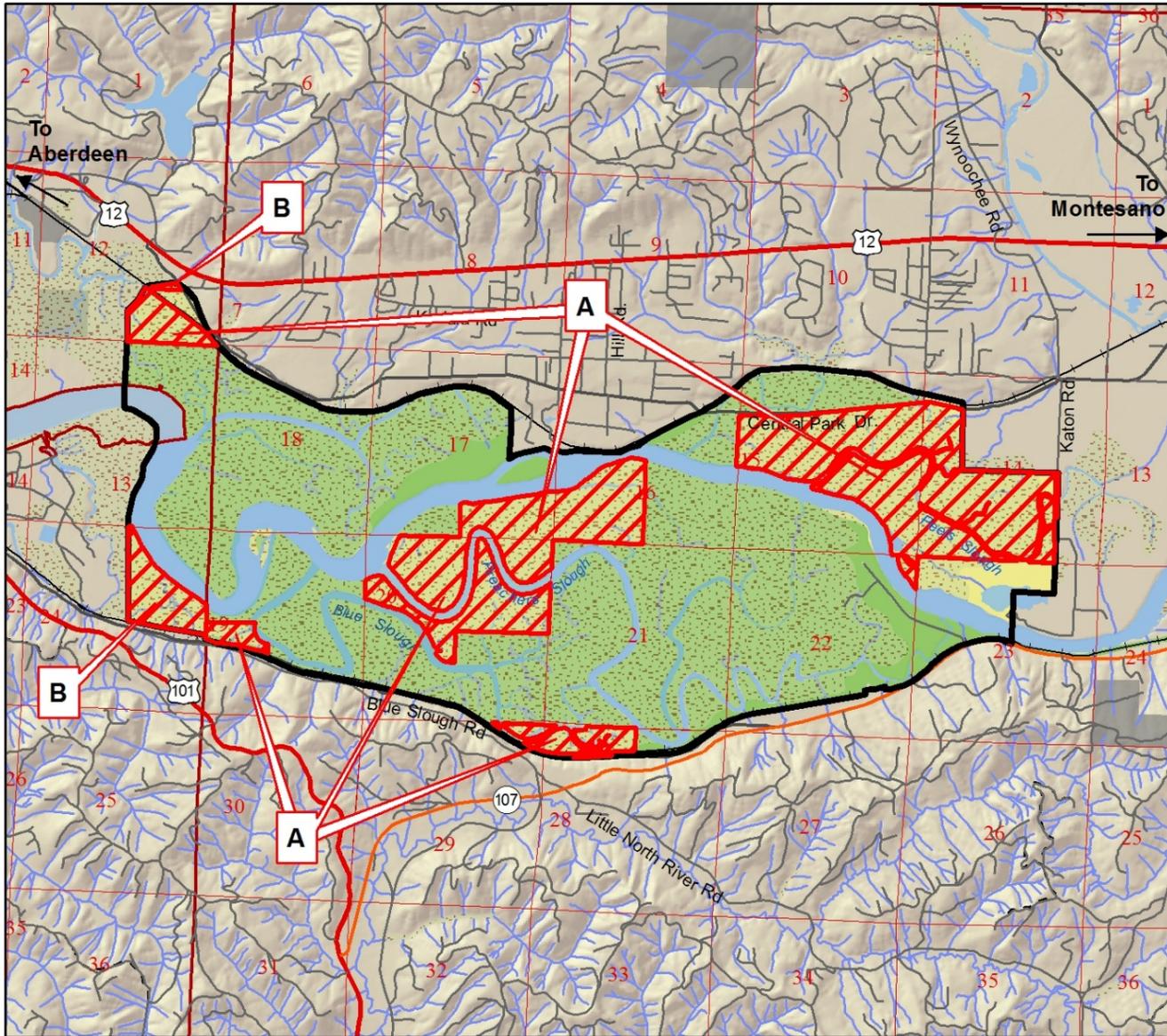
### Grays Harbor County Summary



- DFW
- DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve	DNR	1,346	\$2,317,172	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category	19
7400 Road Access	DFW	20	\$500,000	Easement	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Water Access Category	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,366</b>	<b>\$2,817,172</b>			

### Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve | DNR



## Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve | DNR



**Location:** Southwest of Montesano in Grays Harbor County

**Legislative District:** 19

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Open space and riparian-uplands interface.

**Partners:** Chehalis Basin Education Consortium, Friends of Grays Harbor, Grays Harbor Audubon, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the partner agencies of the Chehalis River Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	1,346
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2,317,172
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3,490 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$6,900 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition of priority properties, including estuarine and riverine wetland communities, and habitat for salmon and other fish including the Olympic mud minnow. Restoration will occur on about 150 acres of wetlands, including removal of invasive species and planting of native species.

### Planning Link

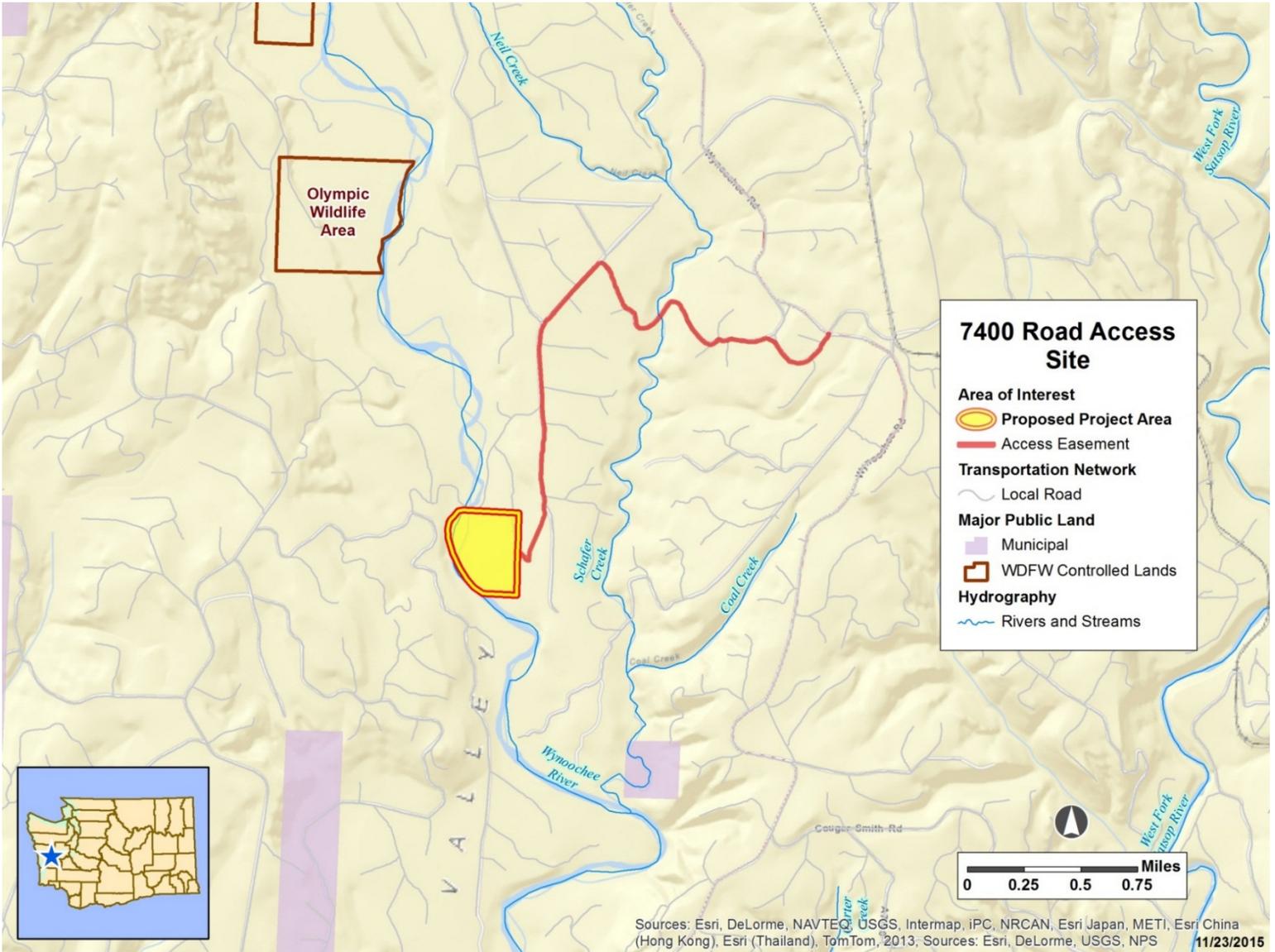
Implements conservation priorities of Washington's *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved boundary of a Natural Area Preserve. Managed under the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve management plan and in cooperation with the partner agencies of the Chehalis River Cooperative Weed Management Area.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species and ecosystems; protection and restoration of riparian habitat and ecological processes; and access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** The agency owns 3,024 acres in conservation designation, and manages for conservation and restoration.

### 7400 Road Access | DFW



## 7400 Road Access | DFW



**Location:** North of Montesano  
**Legislative District:** 24  
**Local Government Support:** Region has informed Thurston County commissioners.  
**Current Use:** Commercial forest  
**Partners:** Grays Harbor Poggie Club, Inc.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	20
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$500,000
Type of Acquisition	Easement
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Water Access Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,000 operations and maintenance</li> <li>Capital: gravel parking lot</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The department plans to buy a 15-acre easement and additional road easements for fishing access on the middle Wynochee River. This access recently was lost when a landowner installed a gate on the road. The land once provided significant access to the middle stretch of the river. The department's goal is to increase fishing of hatchery salmon and steelhead.

### Planning Link

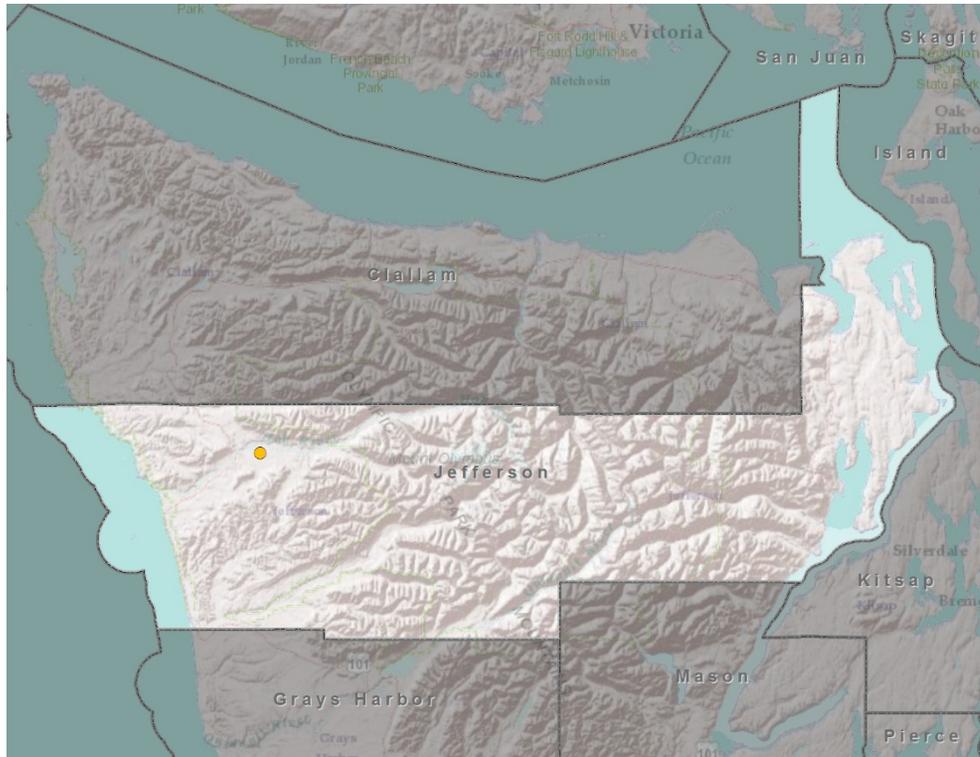
This water access site meets significant public demand for a place to launch boats on the Wynochee River as well as a place for fly fishing.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Site will be developed as an unimproved boat launch with a gravel parking area.



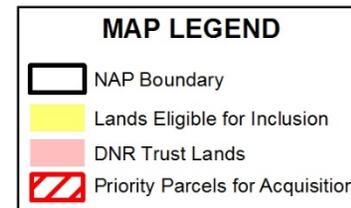
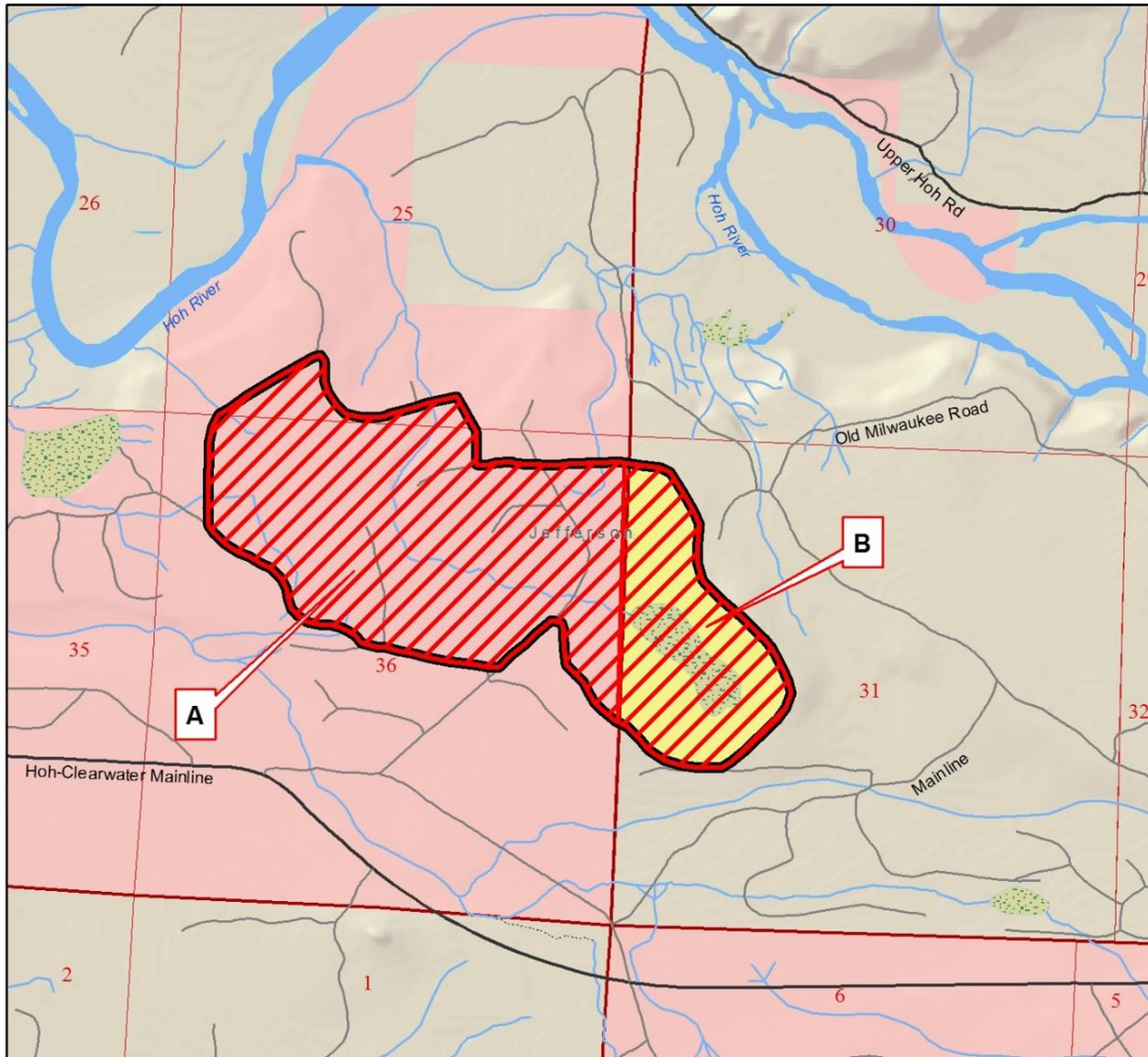
### Jefferson County Summary



● DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve	DNR	325	\$1,566,146	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>325</b>	<b>\$1,566,146</b>			

### Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve | DNR



## Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve | DNR



**Location:** About 14 air miles southeast of Forks, just south of the Hoh River.

**Legislative District:** 24

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forestry, streamside buffer

**Partners:** None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Protection of the only known plateau bog in the western conterminous United States, also includes forested sphagnum bog and low elevation sphagnum bog ecosystems and the Makah Copper butterfly.

### Planning Link

Implements conservation priorities of Washington’s *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved boundary for a Natural Area Preserve-Natural Resources Conservation Area.

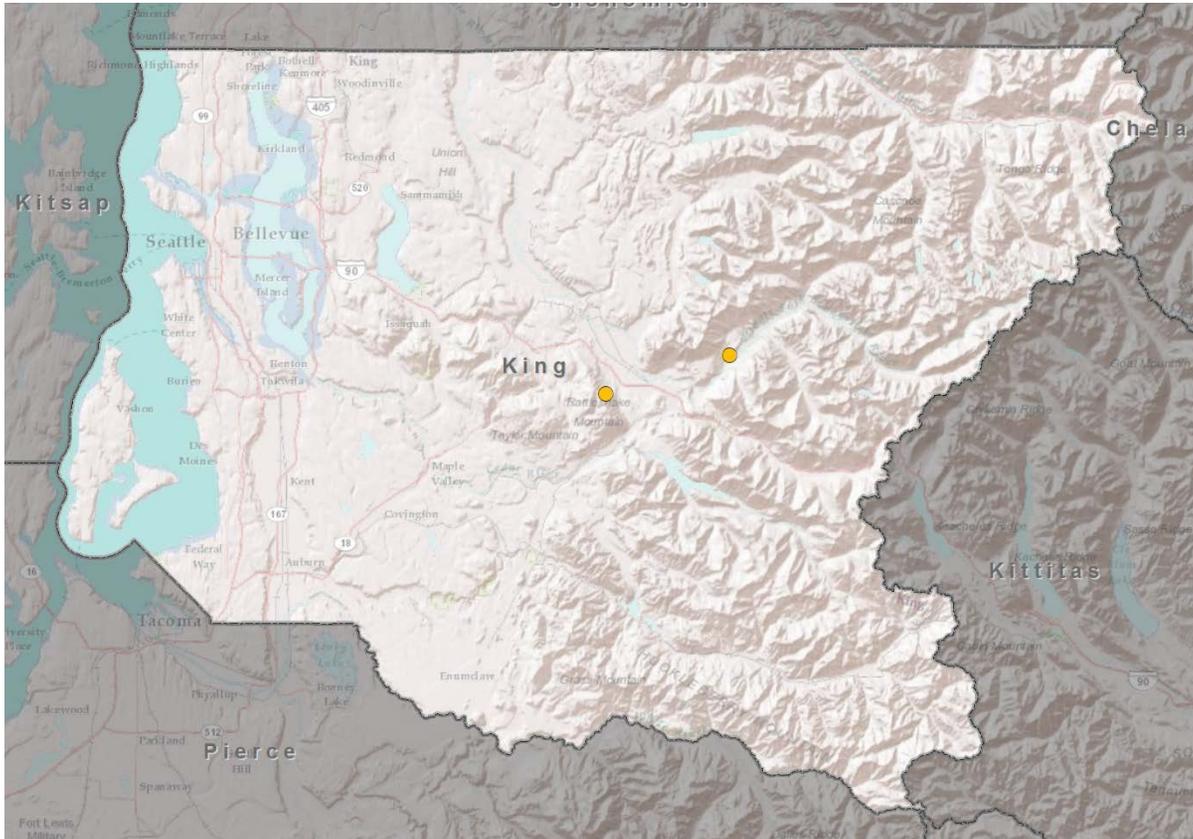
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Provide habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species and ecosystems; protection and restoration of riparian habitat and ecological processes; and access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** Preserve boundary established in January 2016.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	325
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$1,566,146
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3,050 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$2,800 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

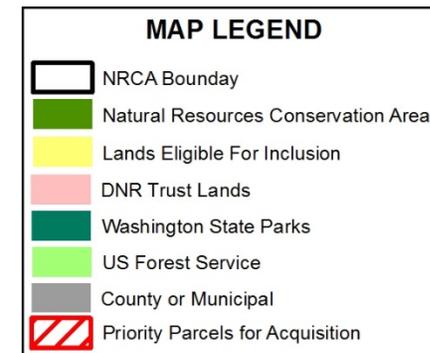
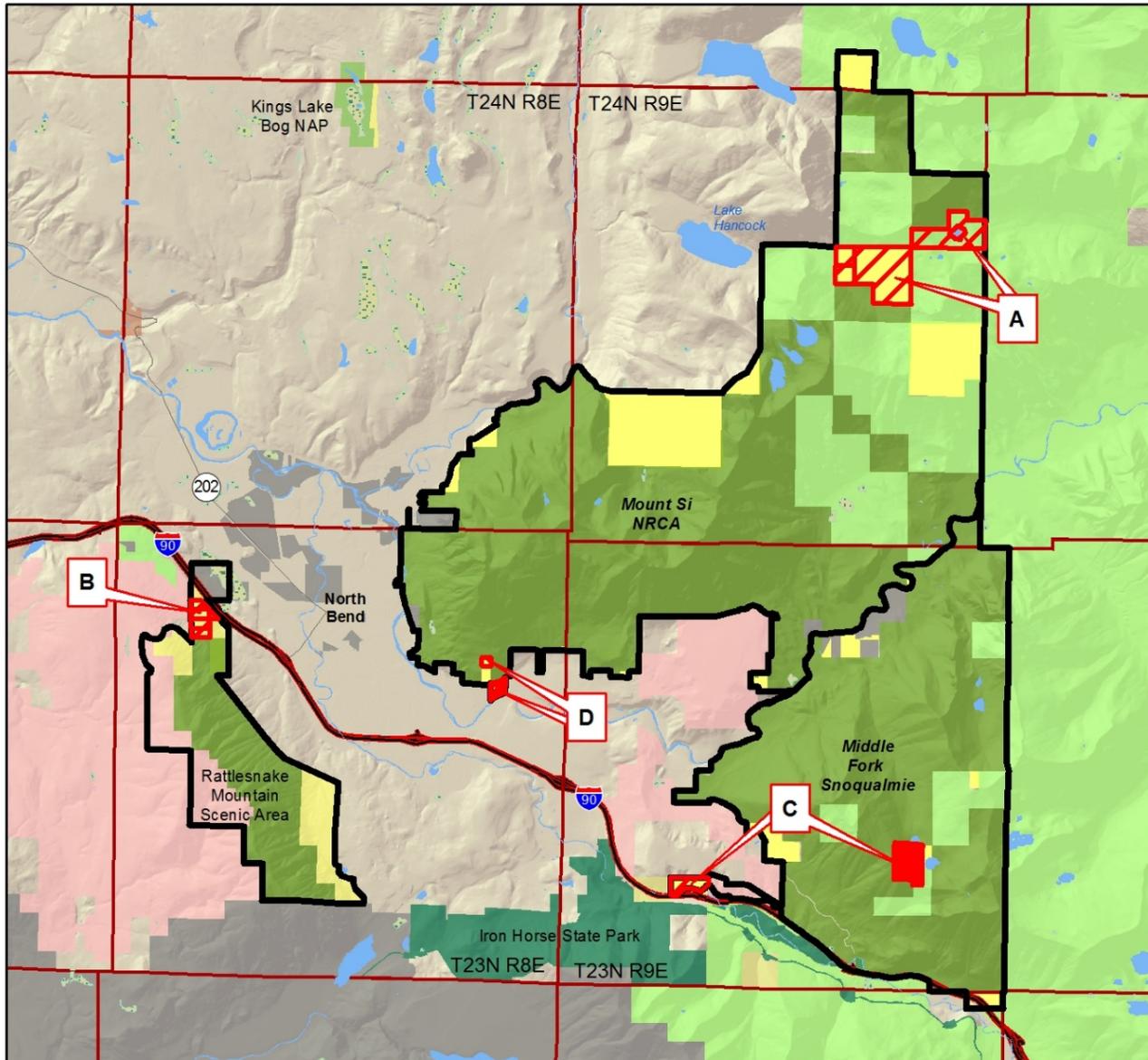
### King County Summary



● DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area	DNR	917	\$3,421,143	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6)	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>917</b>	<b>\$3,421,143</b>			

## Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area | DNR



## Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area | DNR



**Location:** Eastern King County outside of North Bend

**Legislative District:** 5

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forest, some undeveloped residential areas

**Partners:** Forterra, King County, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Washington Conservation Corps, and Washington Trails Association

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition will provide crucial wildlife habitat in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Distinctive features include old growth forests, snag-rich wildlife habitats, numerous riparian systems, cliffs, steep slopes, and wildlife corridors. This land is high quality because of its habitat diversity, remote character, and the wildlife connections to the surrounding region. A variety of wildlife use the area, including northern spotted owls.

### Planning Link

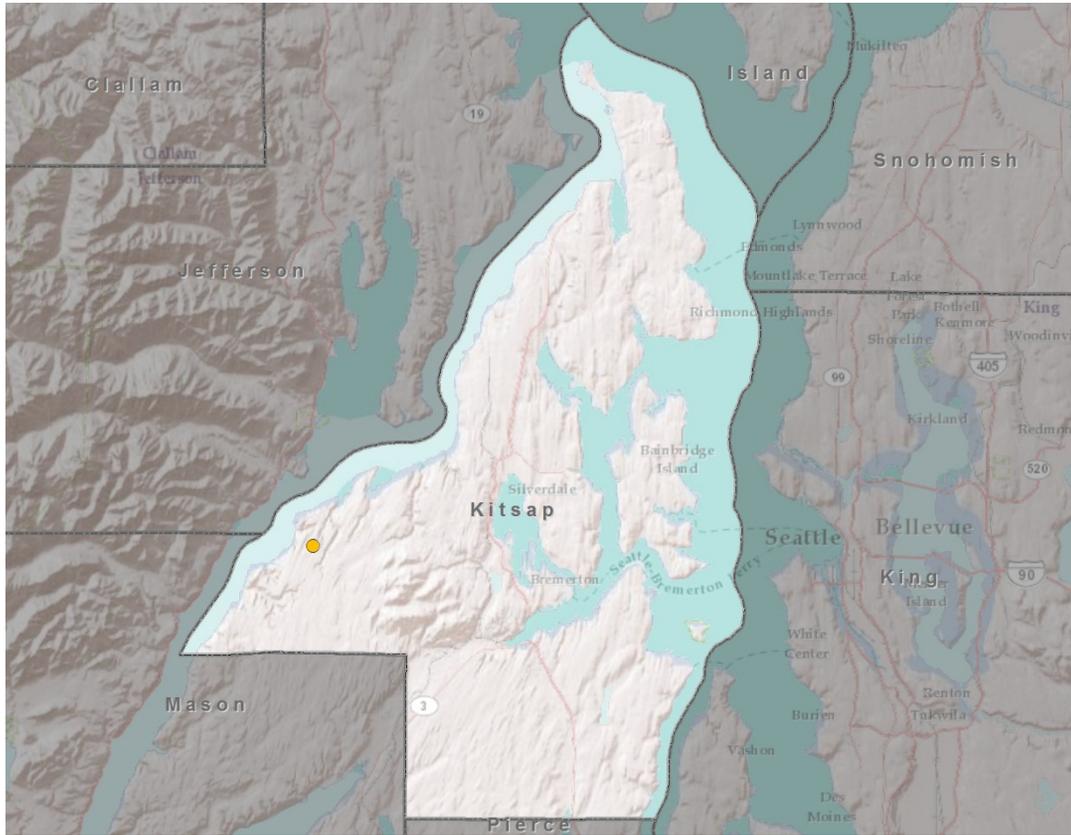
Implements conservation priorities of Washington’s *Natural Heritage Plan*. Each conservation area has a site-specific management plan and additional management direction is provided by the *State of Washington Natural Resources Conservation Areas Statewide Management Plan*.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Protect ecological processes, maintain wildlife habitat and scenic values, and provide access for environmental education, research, and low-impact recreation (e.g. hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, photography). **Progress:** Agency owns 13,073 acres at Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area, 9,000 at Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area, and 1,771 at Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	917
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$3,421,143
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Category</li> <li>Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6)</li> </ul>
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$7,750 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$9,500 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> <li>\$20,000 one-time capital appropriation for road work or other initial site management capital need.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

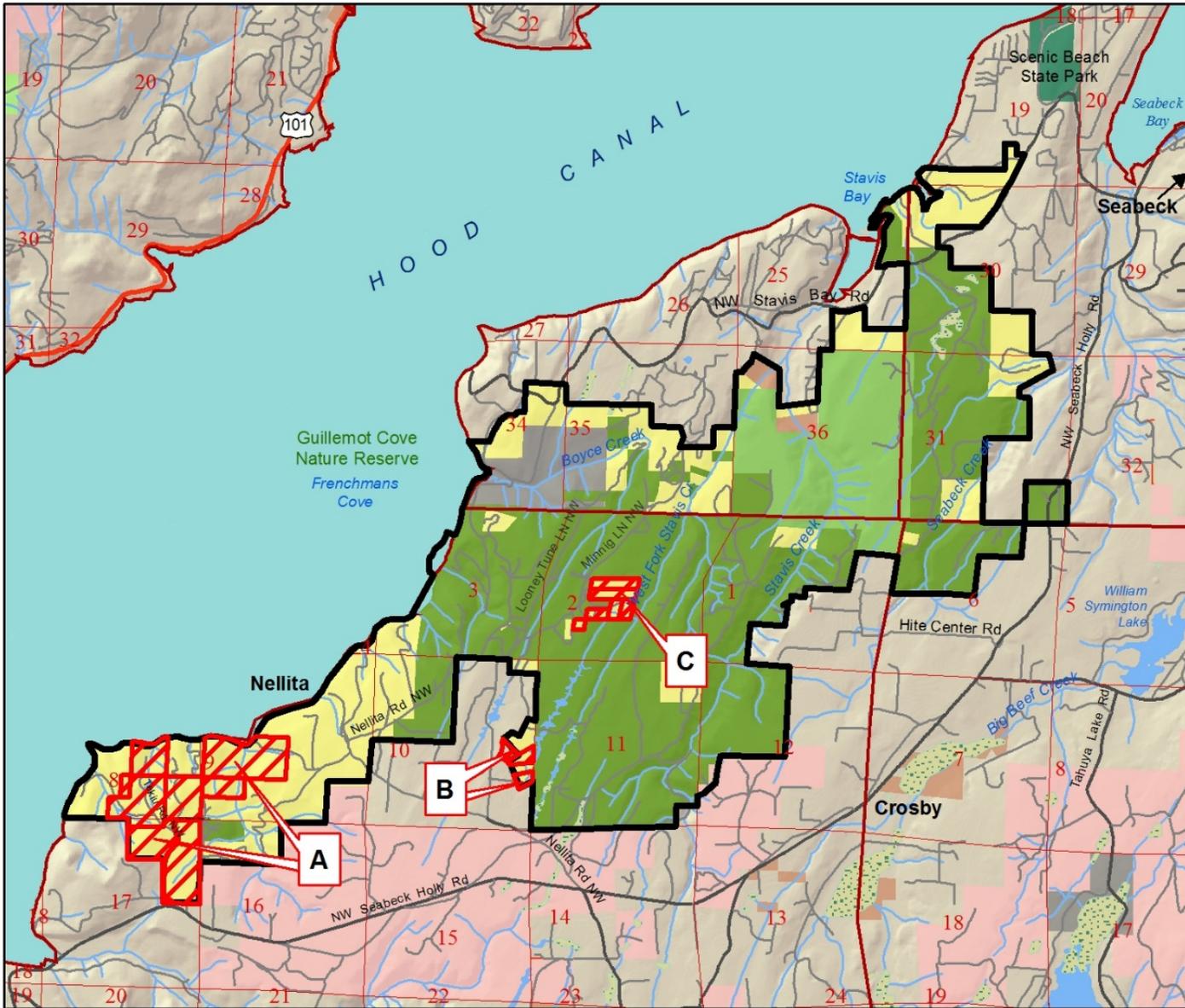
### Kitsap County Summary



● DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	DNR	360	\$3,569,499	Fee simple, easement	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category, U.S. Department of Defense: Encroachment Protection Agreement	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>360</b>	<b>\$3,569,499</b>			

Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve | DNR



## Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve | DNR



**Location:** Near Bremerton’s Urban Growth Area in Kitsap County

**Legislative District:** 35

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forest, some undeveloped rural residential areas

**Partners:** Department of Defense (U.S. Navy), DFW, Great Peninsula Conservancy, Hood Canal Alliance, Kitsap County, Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This acquisition will greatly enhance the long-term viability and quality of wildlife habitat in the area, including high quality freshwater wetlands and streams as well as three rare forest communities, including one of the best remaining examples of Douglas fir-western huckleberry forest left in Washington State.

### Planning Link

Implements conservation priorities of Washington’s *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved boundary for a Natural Area Preserve-Natural Resources Conservation Area

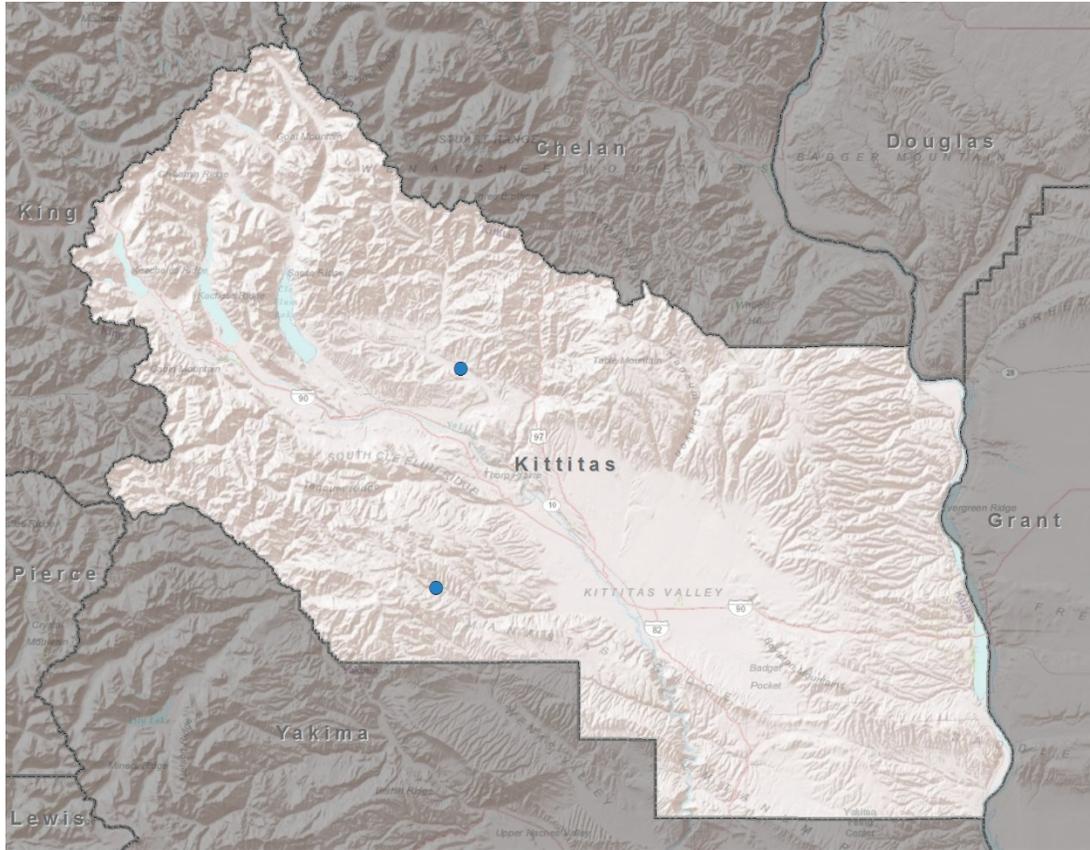
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Protect ecological processes, maintain wildlife habitat and scenic values, and provide access for environmental education, research, and low-impact recreation (e.g. wildlife viewing, picnicking, photography).

**Progress:** The department owns 2,855 acres in conservation designation, plus 572 acres in adjacent Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	360
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$3,569,499
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple and conservation easement
Proposed Funding Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category</li> <li>U.S. Department of Defense: Encroachment Protection Agreement</li> </ul>
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3,880 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$8,800 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> <li>\$25,000 one-time capital appropriation for road work or other initial site management capital need.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

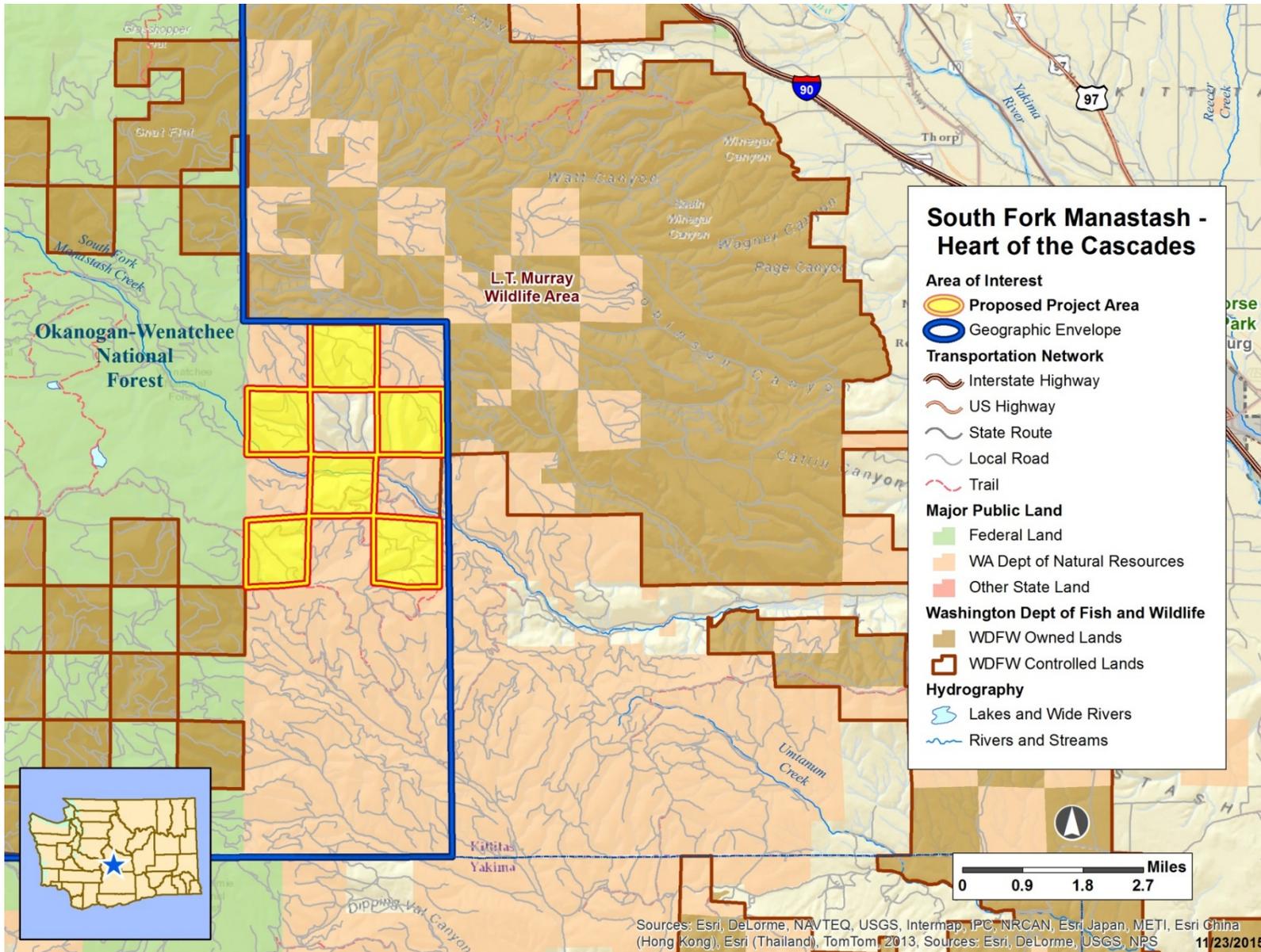
### Kittitas County Summary



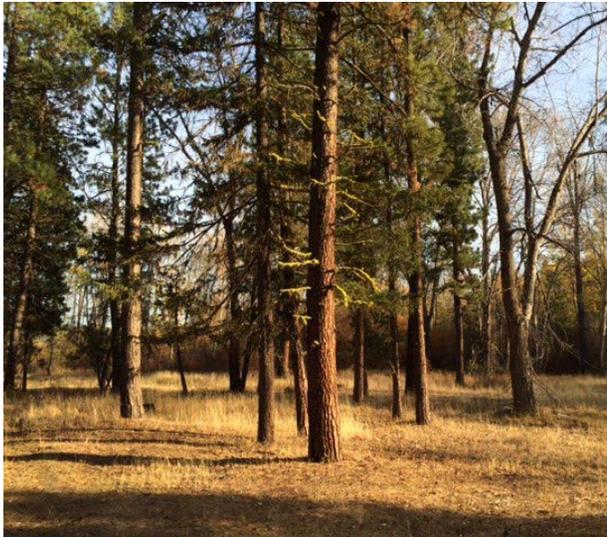
● DFW

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
South Fork Manastash	DFW	1,602	\$1,500,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category	14
Teaway Valley	DFW	215	\$2,500,000	Fee title	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,817</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>			

South Fork Manastash | DFW



## South Fork Manastash | DFW



**Location:** Northern and central Kittitas County

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:**  
Ongoing discussions with Kittitas County commissioners

**Current Use:** Commercial Forest

**Partners:** Collaborating with DNR, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Kittitas County commissioners, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Water Trust

Financials	
Proposed Acres	1,602
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$1.5 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30,000 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$15,300 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The department has targeted the acquisition of up to 3,328 acres near the south fork of the Manastash River. The acquisitions will provide critical connectivity within the central Cascades, providing breeding and foraging habitat for northern spotted owls and supporting large ungulate herds, which in turn support several large carnivore species. The primary habitats that will be protected include the remaining mixed conifer forests and a variety of aquatic habitat. The primary species supported by these habitats include a diverse list of terrestrial and aquatic fish and wildlife species, federally- and state-listed species, species of concern, and priority habitat species including, northern spotted owl, northern goshawks, mule deer, elk, gray wolves, tailed frogs, western toads, long-toed salamanders, steelhead, Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout, and West Slope Cutthroat Trout.

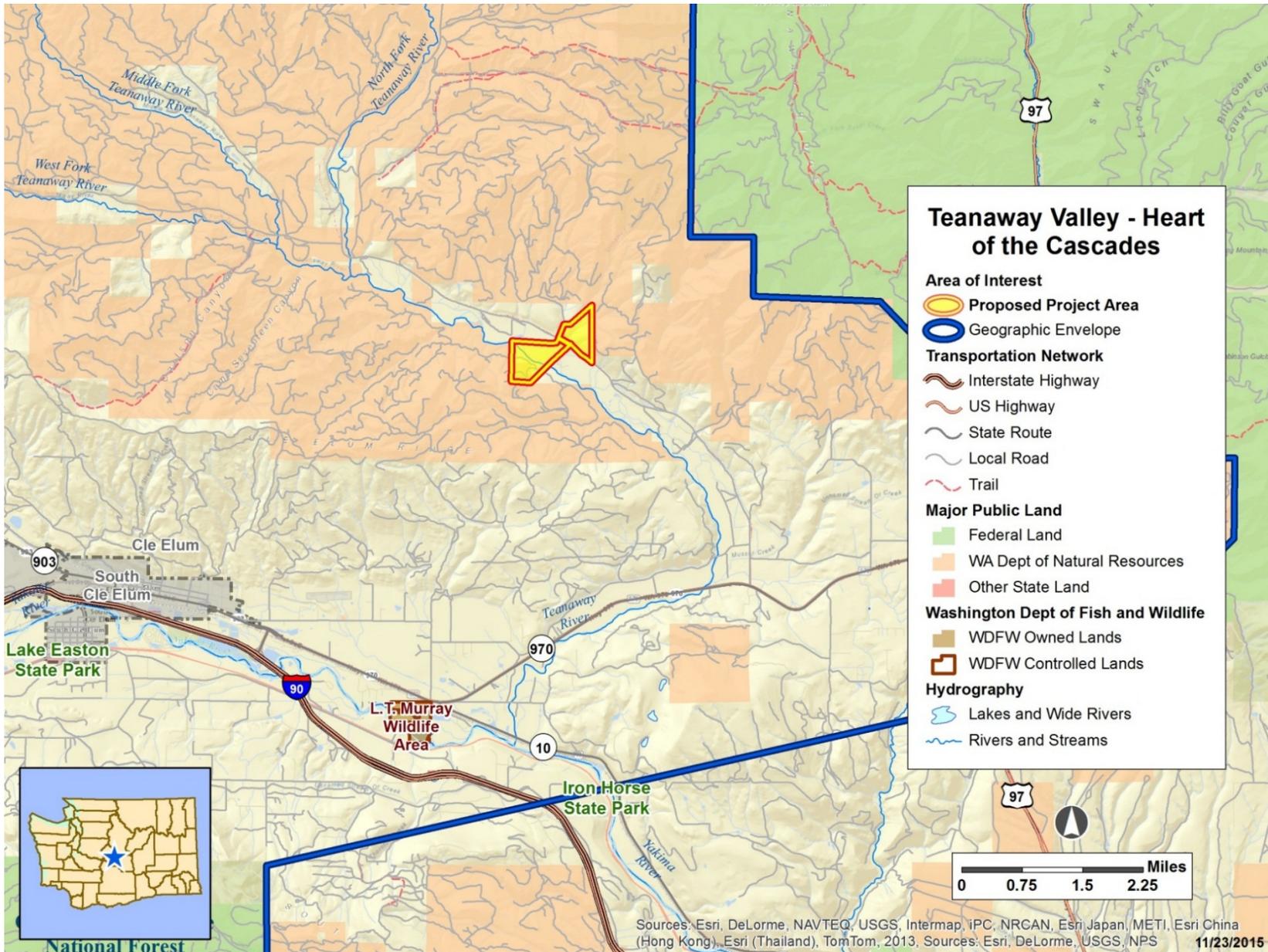
### Planning Link

Property provides significant connectivity in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Areas and the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest to the west.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Increases opportunity for public recreation such as hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Teanaway Valley | DFW



## Teaway Valley | DFW



**Location:** Northeast of Cle Elum

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Agriculture, irrigated hay fields, forest management

**Partners:** DNR, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Trust for Public Lands, Washington Water Trust

Financials	
Proposed Acres	215
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2.5 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee title
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,935 for operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$989 for "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The department will protect 215 acres along the Teaway River, 8 miles upriver from the confluence with the Yakima River. The purchase will protect about .6 mile of the Teaway River, 2 fish-bearing tributaries, about 34 acres of floodplain, and 136 acres of mature conifer forests, wetlands, and meadows. This reach of the Teaway River is used by Bull Trout and middle Columbia River steelhead (spawning-rearing), both listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook Salmon (spawning-rearing), and Rainbow and Cutthroat trout. The uplands and floodplain are used by elk, deer, bears, beavers, cougars, gray wolves, northern spotted owls, and others.

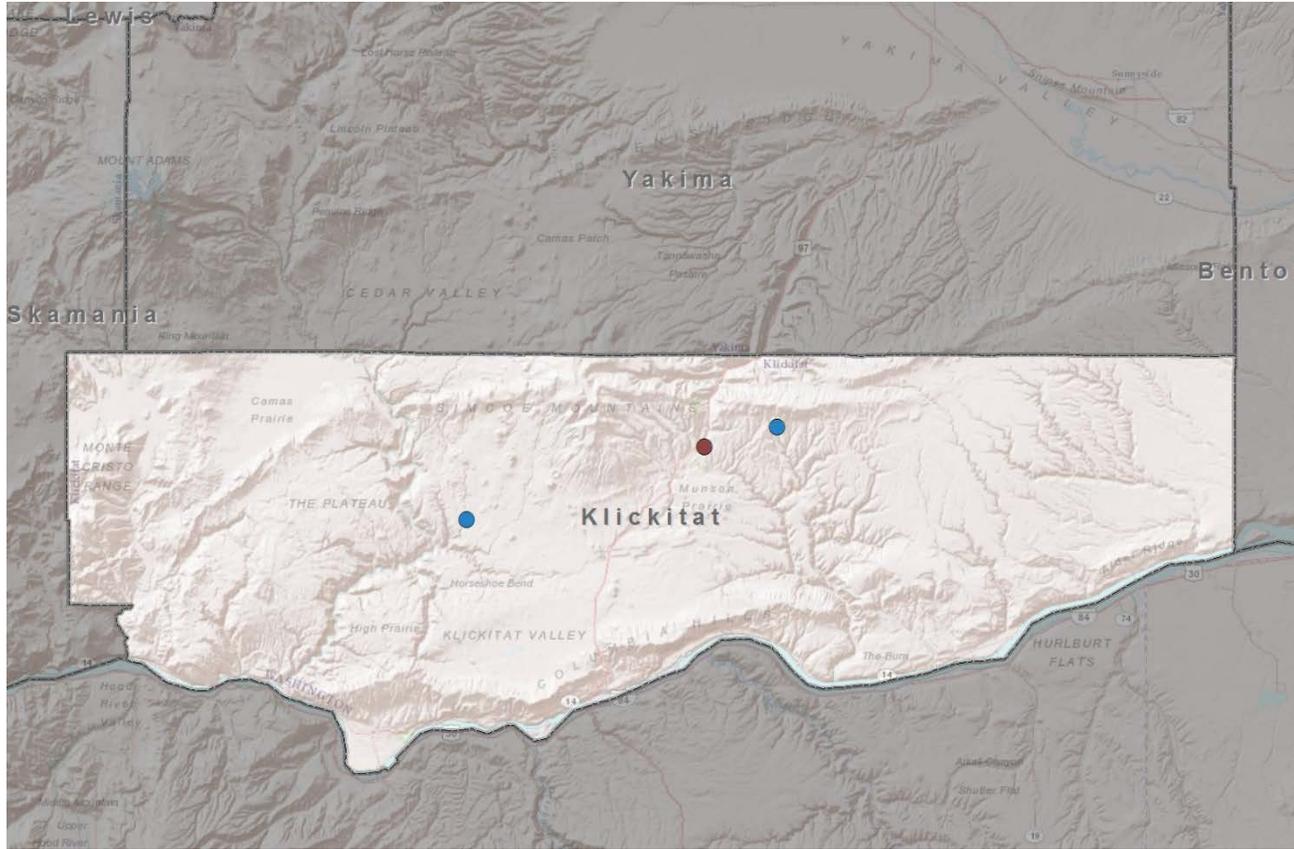
### Planning Link

The land is an inholding in the Teaway Community Forest, which is owned by DNR and jointly managed with DFW for recreation and habitat.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Increase opportunities for public recreation such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and birdwatching. Provide for future enhancement of floodplain and side channels.

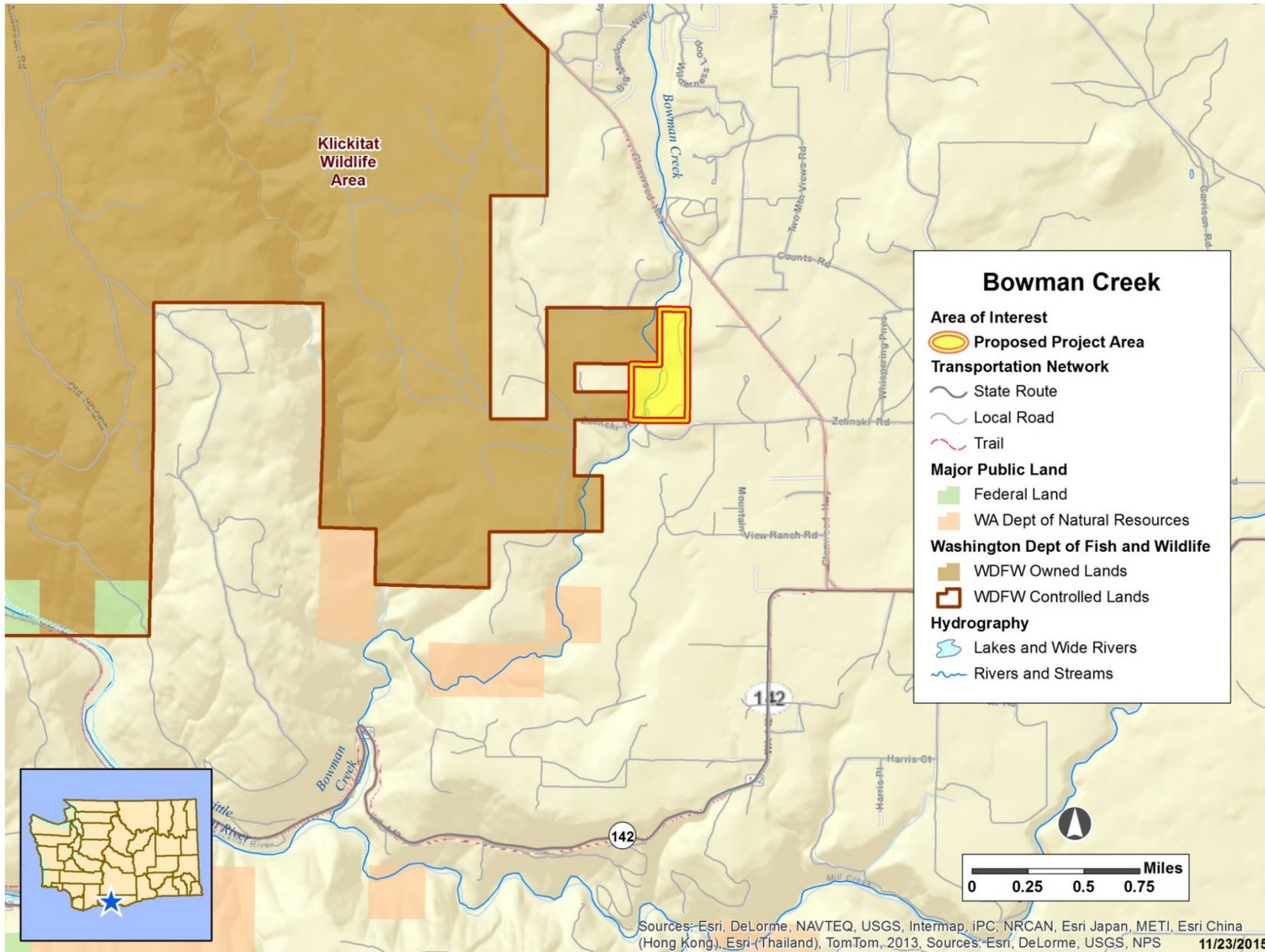
### Klickitat County Summary



- DFW
- State Parks

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Bowman Creek	DFW	60	\$500,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category	14
Simco	DFW	3,502	\$3,000,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category	14
Western Pacific Timber	State Parks	200	\$334,746	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,762</b>	<b>\$3,834,746</b>			

Bowman Creek | DFW



## Bowman Creek | DFW



**Location:** About 13 miles northwest of Goldendale in central Klickitat County

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:** Region has informed Klickitat County commissioners.

**Current Use:** Conservation

**Partners:** Columbia Land Trust

Financials	
Proposed Acres	60
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$500,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation: Riparian Protection Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$540 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$460 "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The project is to buy 60 acres of undeveloped land, in one block, to secure permanent protection for a perennial fish-bearing stream with associated riparian habitat, pine-oak habitat occupied by western gray squirrels, and steppe habitat that is in good to moderately good condition. All upland habitat is occupied by black-tailed deer and wild turkeys, both of which are priority species for management in the Klickitat Wildlife Area. This purchase would improve the department’s ability to manage its land by making a more contiguous block of parcels, and improve access for public recreation by acquiring another parking spot for vehicles in a better location than is presently available.

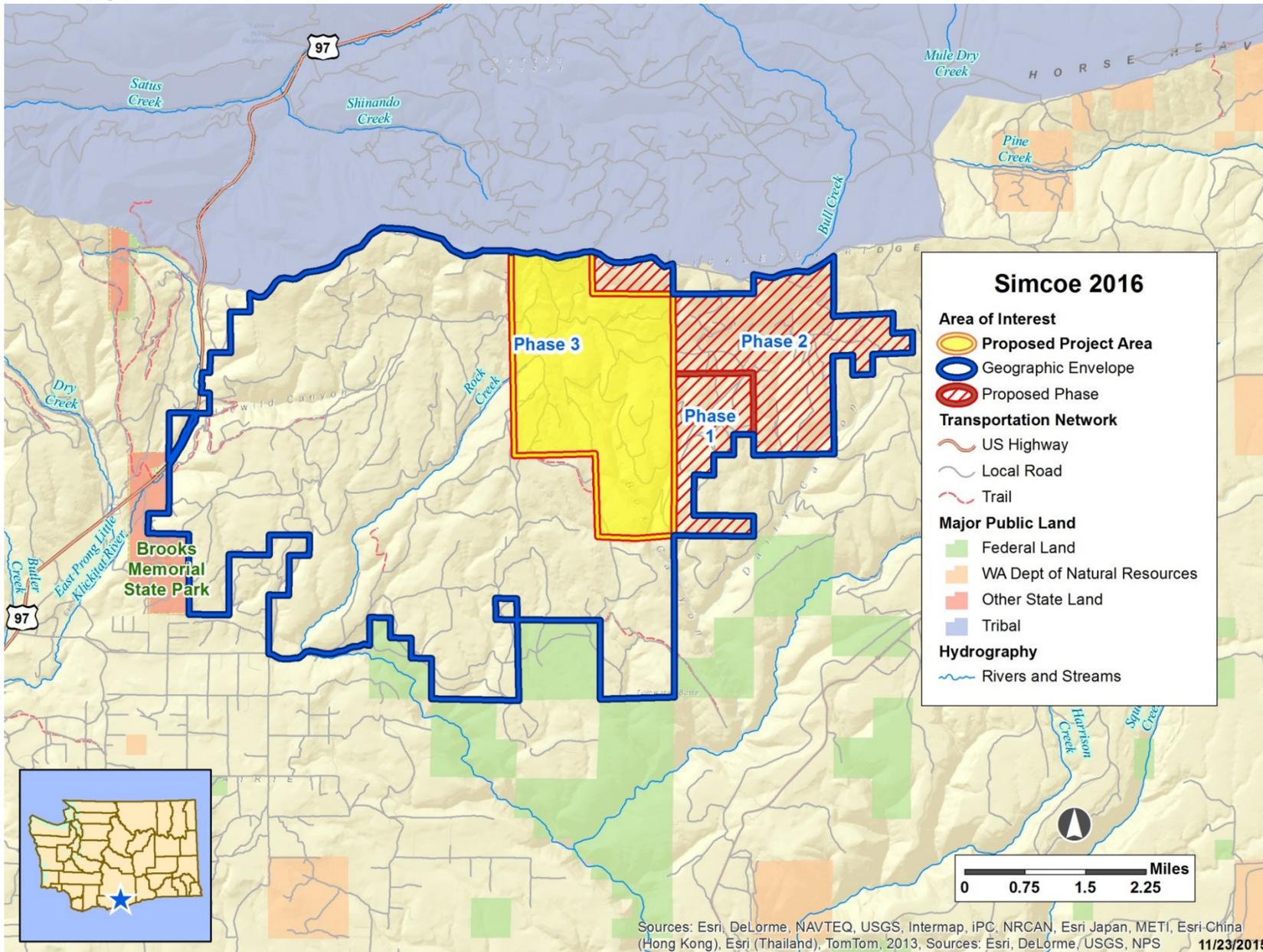
### Planning Link

Property is an edge holding to the Soda Springs Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife Area. This acquisition enhances public access to the southeast portion of the unit and preserves additional habitat for black-tailed deer and wild turkeys, and pine-oak habitat for western gray squirrels.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Increases opportunity for public recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. Provides improved access by gaining another parking area in a better location than presently available.

Simcoe | DFW



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS

Simcoe | DFW



**Location:** Simcoe Mountains east of U.S. Highway 97

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:** Region has informed Klickitat County commissioners

**Current Use:** Commercial forest and rangeland

**Partners:** Eastern and Central Klickitat Conservation Districts, State Conservation Commission

Financials	
Proposed Acres	3,502
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$3 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$31,500 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$26,800 in "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass, managed forestry and grazing

**Proposed Project Description and Purpose**

This project is a unique landscape that includes primarily ponderosa pine, Oregon white oak, white alder, shrub steppe, grasslands, cliffs, and 10 miles of riparian habitat that includes upper Rock Creek. Priority species that would be protected include federally-listed steelhead, Chinook Salmon, state threatened western gray squirrel, burrowing owl, and western toad. Acquisition of this land would provide quality public recreation (hiking, fishing, and hunting) unavailable in this area. Restoration would focus on managing riparian and upland habitats for critical species longevity. Local economy would continue to benefit from compatible grazing and forest management to reduce wildfire risk.

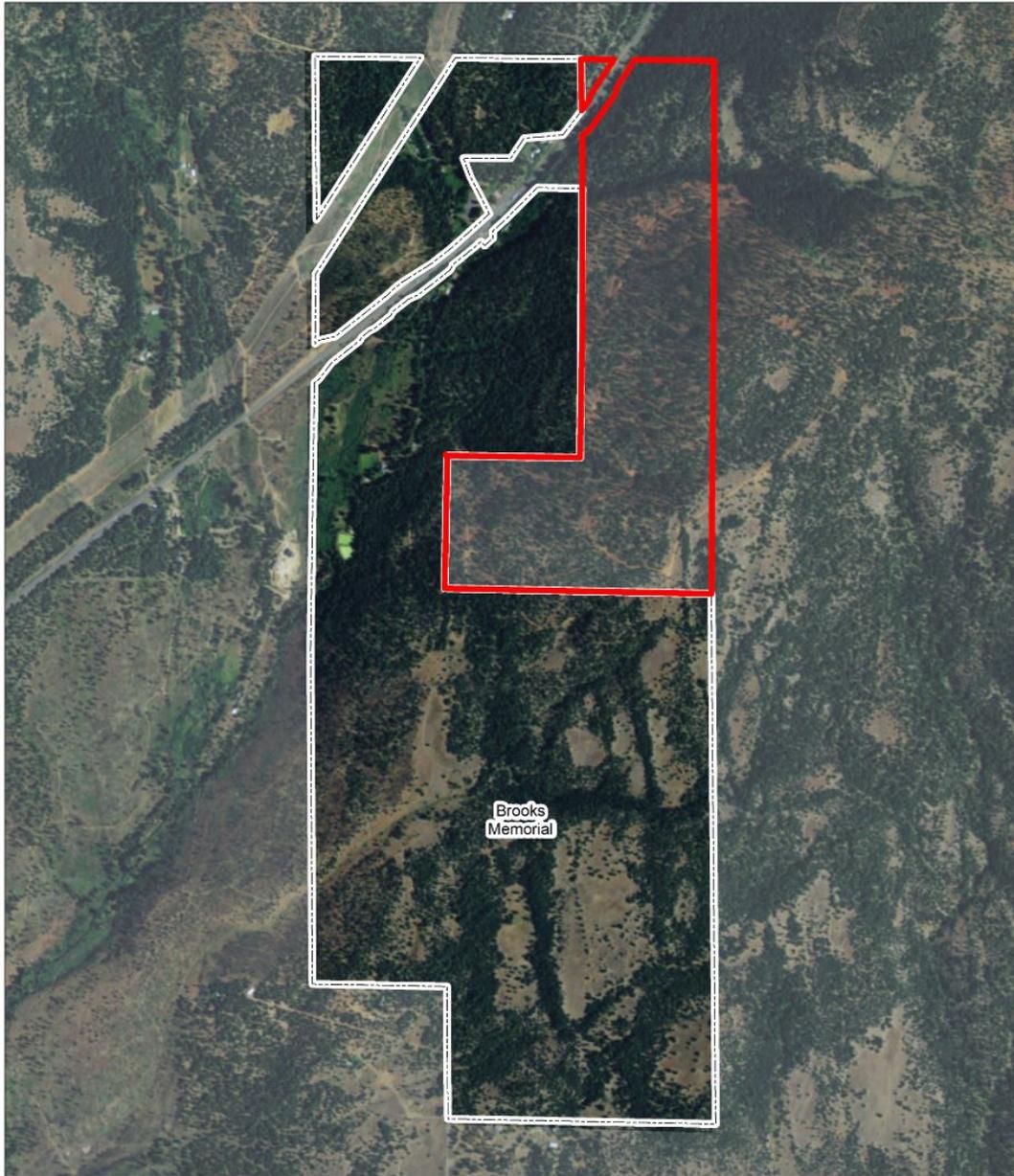
**Planning Link**

Property will become a new wildlife area in eastern Klickitat County. Acquisition provides connectivity from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains for protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

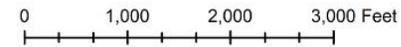
**Project Outcomes and Current Progress**

**Outcomes:** Provides expanded winter habitat for the Klickitat deer herd, aides in the recovery of threatened western gray squirrel, increases opportunity for public recreation, and provides continued working lands with grazing and forest management compatible with habitat preservation.

## Western Pacific Timber | State Parks



### Brooks Memorial - Western Pacific Timber



**Legend**

- Park Boundaries
- Land Acquisition Candidates



## Western Pacific Timber | State Parks



**Location:** Next to Brooks Memorial State Park

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Commercial forest

**Partners:** None

Financials	
Proposed Acres	200
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$334,746
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	RCO State Parks only Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future capital costs are less than \$10,000 (new trail construction).</li> <li>• Future operating costs are less than \$1,000 annually (routine patrol).</li> <li>• Future maintenance costs are less than \$1,000 annually (weed and fire control).</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This 200-acre acquisition will protect the view shed, offer trail hiking opportunities, and solve a trespass issue with a state park trail that traverses over this private property.

### Planning Link

The project would acquire one of the two remaining privately-owned properties next to Brooks Memorial State Park. The project will protect important oak habitat and one of the last three regional habitats of the threatened western grey squirrel in Washington.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** The elimination of the future threat from residential development as more and more people build vacation homes in the area and there is a real potential for logging of the Douglas-fir/oak forest. Acquisition also secures land needed to expand the park trail system.

**Progress:** The owner is a willing seller and has postponed plans to log the land pending the outcome of the proposed purchase.

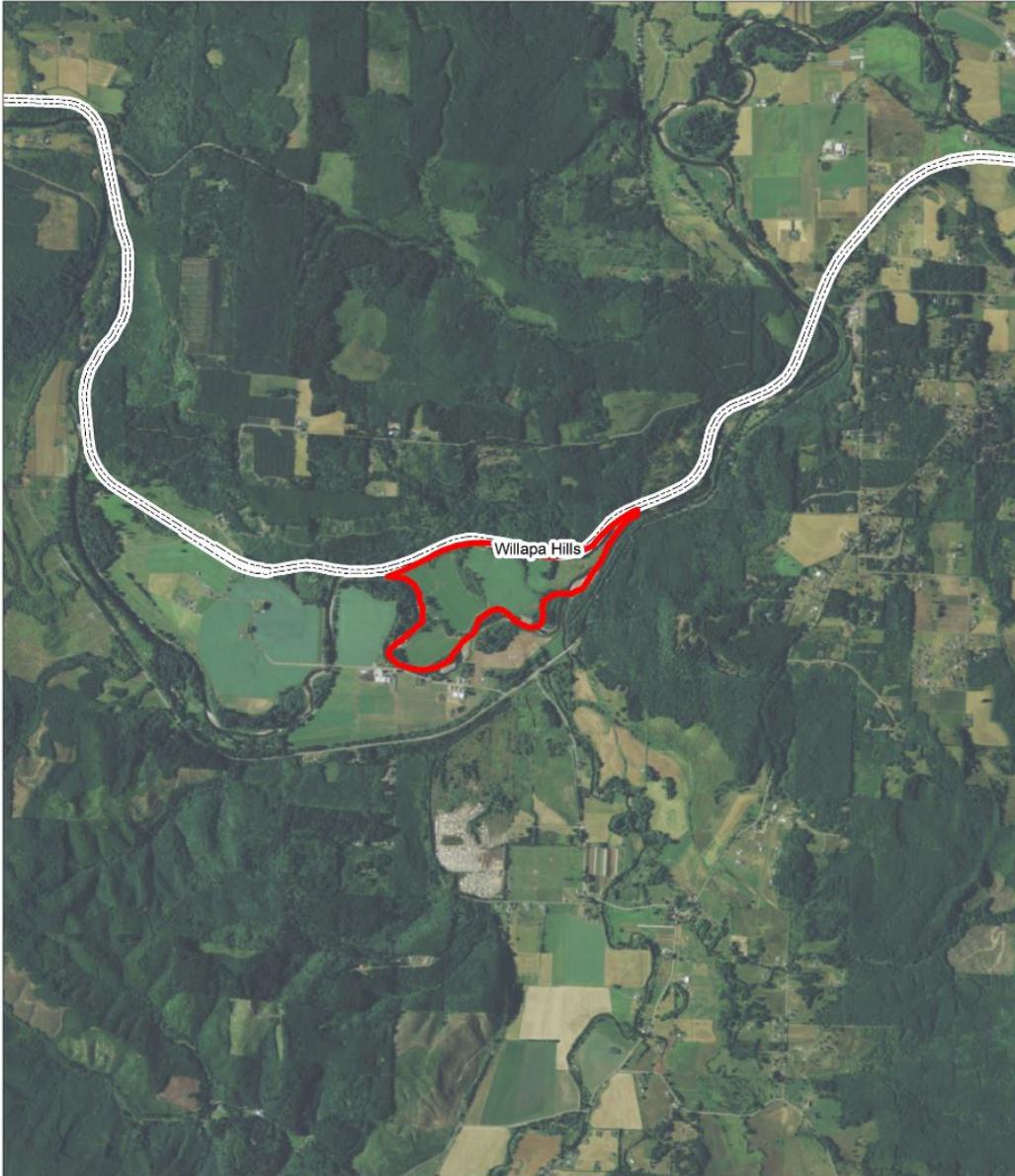
### Lewis County Summary



● State Parks

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Marwood Farms	State Parks	178	\$700,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>			

## Marwood Farms | State Parks



### Willapa Hills Trail- Marwood Farms

0 0.5 1 Miles

**Legend**

-  Park Boundaries
-  Land Acquisition Candidates



## Marwood Farms | State Parks



**Location:** Alongside the Willapa Hills Trail  
**Legislative District:** 20  
**Local Government Support:** Yes  
**Current Use:** Working farm  
**Partners:** None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This land is about 6.5 miles east of Rainbow Falls on the Willapa Hills Trail in a remote area along the Chehalis River near Ceres Hill Road. The land could give visitors a stopover place with hiker-biker campsites, restrooms, and picnicking on the river. Acquisition of the land also would provide opportunities for ecological restoration of the floodplain and shoreline associated with the Chehalis River.

### Planning Link

The Willapa Hills Trail is a 53 mile long trail that runs east to west from Chehalis to South Bend. The trail is being developed in Lewis County with completion of several bridge projects that have connected remote segments of the trail

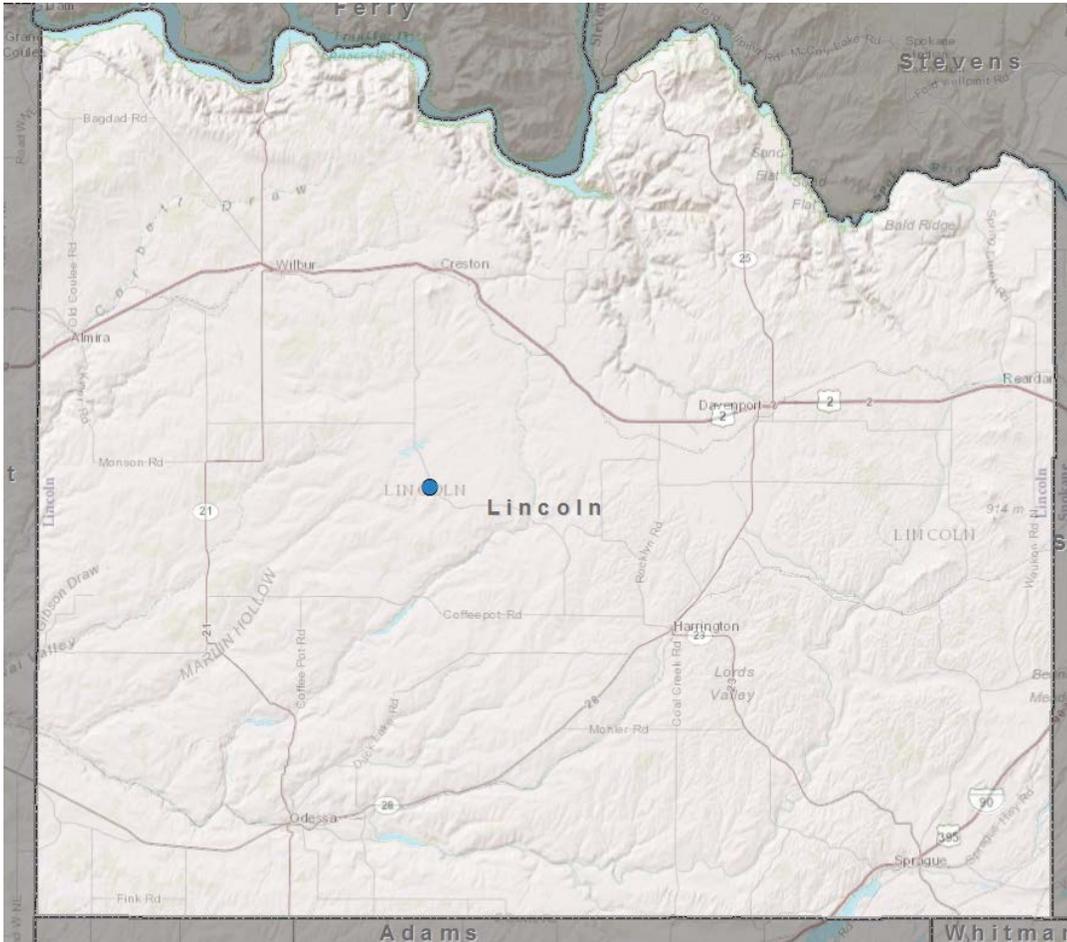
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** The project will provide a future development site for a variety of potential uses including day-use facilities, water access to the Chehalis River, and locations to develop administrative facilities needed to maintain the trail. The project would eliminate a conflicting use associated with motorized farm equipment using the trail.

**Progress:** The land is owned by a willing seller.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	178
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$700,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital costs are not anticipated in the next 5 years.</li> <li>Future operating costs are estimated at less than \$2,000 annually (weed control and routine patrol).</li> <li>Future maintenance costs are dependent on completing a master facility plan in 2018</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Potential to lease some of the farmland for agricultural production

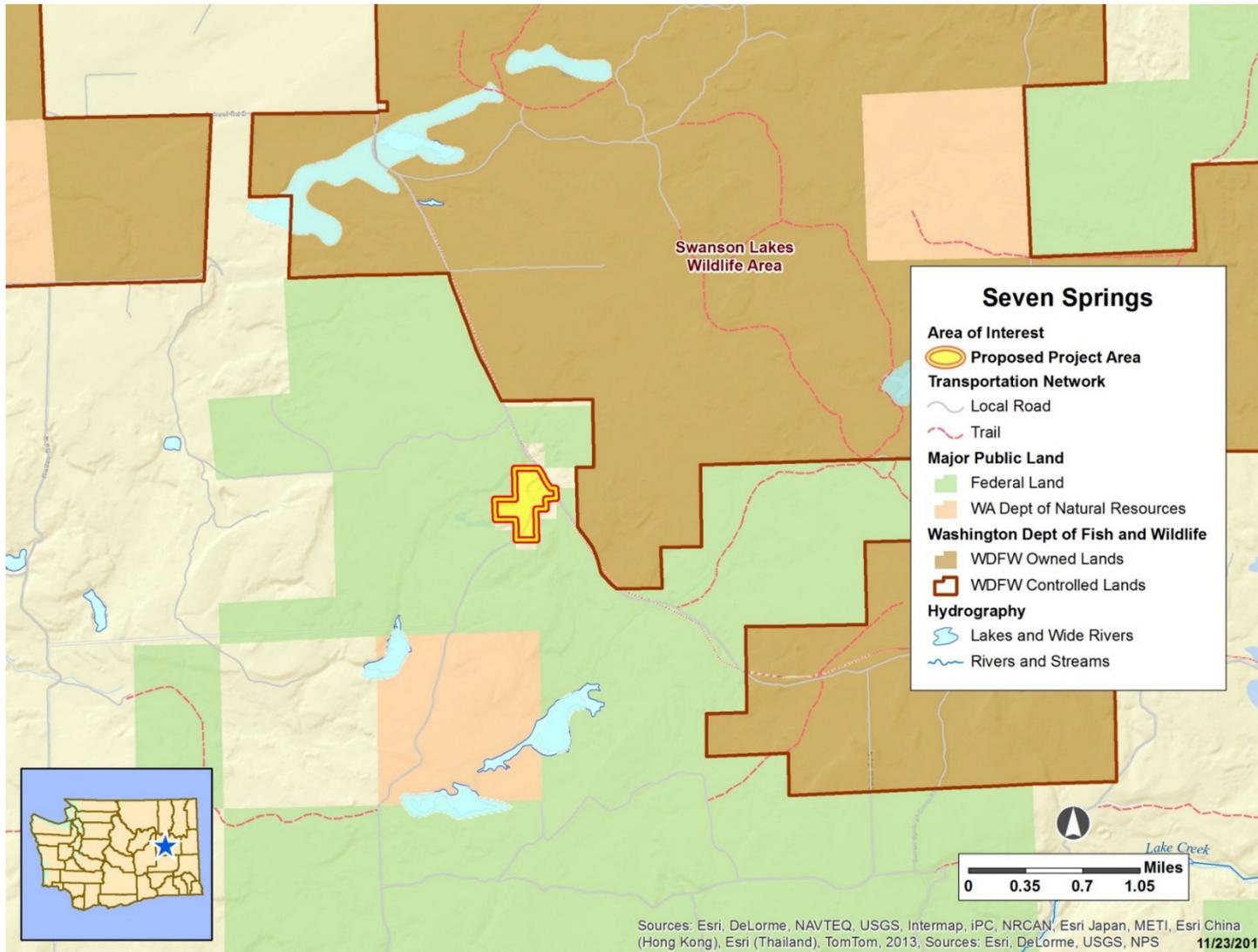
### Lincoln County Summary



- DFW

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Seven Springs	DFW	59	\$400,000	Fee simple	Capital Budget	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>			

### Seven Springs | DFW



## Seven Springs | DFW



**Location:** Central Lincoln County

**Legislative District:** 13

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Private residence with a large single-story house, garage, shop, and large barn on 2 acres. History of grazing.

**Partners:** Bureau of Land Management, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, Lincoln Conservation District, Spokane Chapter of Audubon Society

Financials	
Proposed Acres	59
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$400,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Capital budget
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$531 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$82 in "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This 59-acre parcel includes a large single-story house, garage, shop, and barn on about 2 acres. The other 57 acres consist of shrub-steppe, grassland, and two small aspen groves. This habitat is valuable for prairie grouse (greater sage grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse) habitat. The only sage grouse lek in Lincoln County is 1 mile of this property. The property is an inholding, located between land owned by DFW and the Bureau of Land Management. The residence would replace the current Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area headquarters, which is too small for the staff and has substandard septic and well systems. This property also is on a county road at a location often used as a headquarters for fighting range fires that occur regularly in the area.

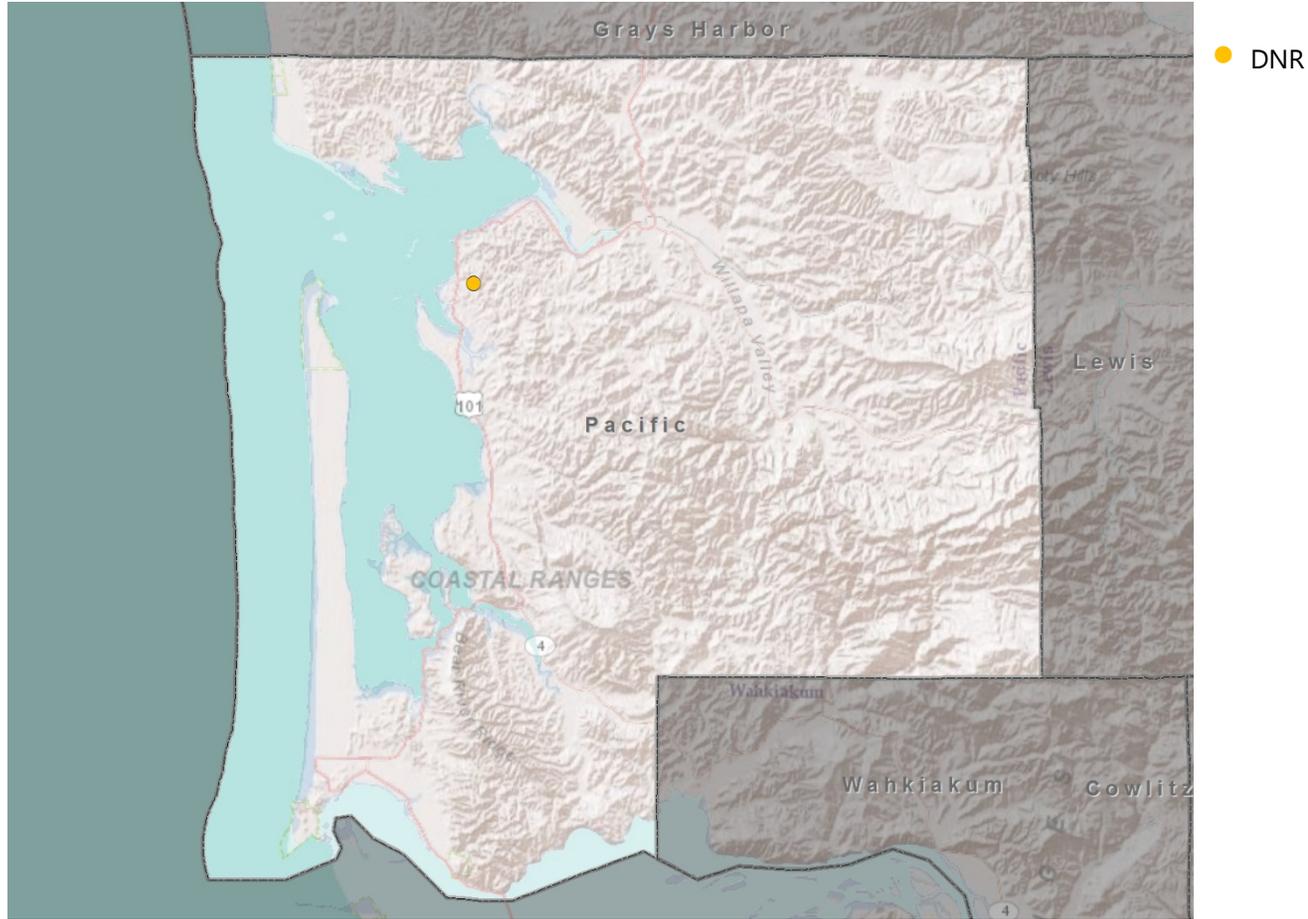
### Planning Link

Adjacent to the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

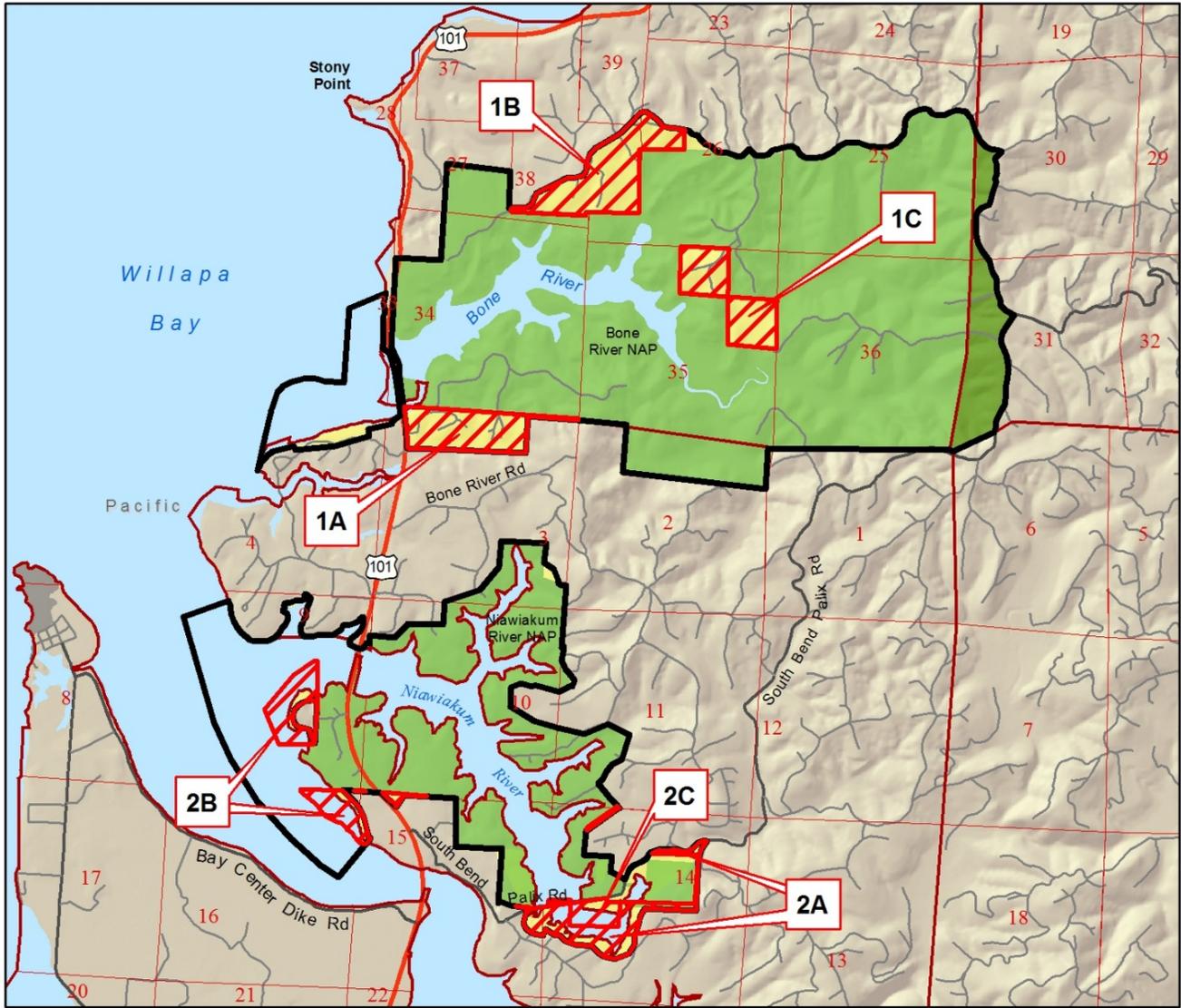
**Outcomes:** Replaces Swanson Wildlife Area headquarters office, station for fire crews and coordinating fire response, recreation and sage grouse habitat.

### Pacific County Summary



Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves	DNR	447	\$2,190,696	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>447</b>	<b>\$2,190,696</b>			

### Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves | DNR



## Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves | DNR



**Location:** Adjacent coastal watersheds between Bruceport and Bay Center Junction on U.S. Highway 101

**Legislative District:** 19

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forest, some undeveloped rural residential areas

**Partners:** Forterra, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Native Plant Society

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition of high priority properties within Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves. The project will contribute to the maintenance of the ecosystem health of these two high quality estuarine ecosystems.

### Planning Link

Implements conservation priorities of Washington’s *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved Natural Area Preserve boundaries.

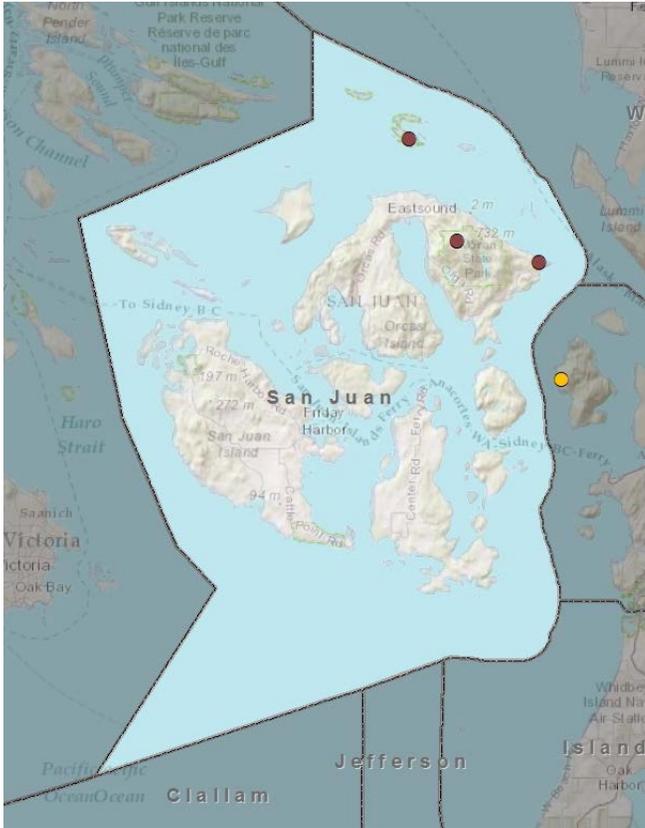
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species and ecosystems. Protect or restore ecological processes. Access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** Agency owns 2,720 acres at Bone River Natural Area Preserve and 1,098 acres at Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserve.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	447
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2,190,696
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,550 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$2,500 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### San Juan County Summary



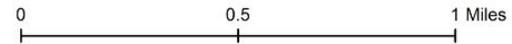
● State Parks

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Harndon Island Property	State Parks	2	\$862,615	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category	40
Jones and Lawrence Point Properties	State Parks	274	\$5,926,765	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>276</b>	<b>\$6,789,380</b>			

## Harndon Island Property | State Parks



**Sucia Island -  
Harndon Island**



**Legend**

-  Park Boundaries
-  Land Acquisition Candidates



## Harndon Island Property | State Parks



**Location:** Adjoining Sucia Island State Park

**Legislative District:** 40

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Single family vacation home

**Partners:** None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Harndon Island is largely undeveloped with rocky shoreline and upland Douglas-fir and madrona forest. This property, which is for sale, is within the park’s long-term boundary.

### Planning Link

Situated within Echo Bay of Sucia Island, 2-acre Harndon Island is one of the few remaining privately-owned properties in the vicinity. Acquisition of this parcel would protect the Sucia Island view shed and advance efforts to keep shoreline areas intact and retain the critical linkage between juvenile salmon and important terrestrial food sources.

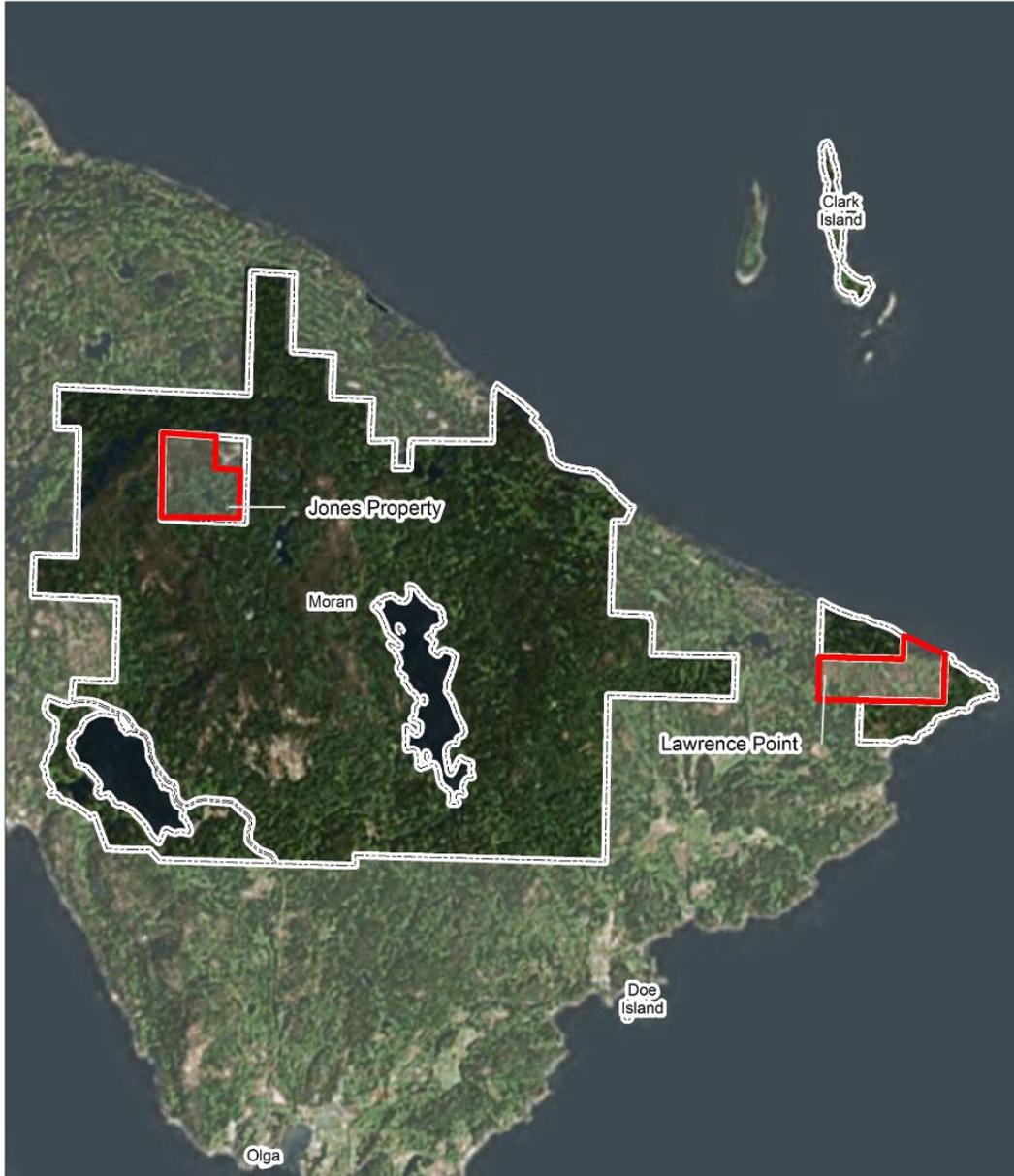
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** The vast majority of Sucia and its adjoining small islands are part of Sucia Island State Park. This acquisition would remove the most significant privately-owned property in the park. Sucia lies directly within one of the highest priority areas for conservation of Chinook Salmon in the San Juans. Present plans call for the removal of the vacation home as needed to restore the island to a more natural condition.

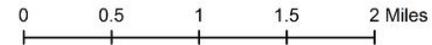
**Progress:** The land is for sale.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	2
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$862,615
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future capital costs are estimated at less than \$25,000 (one time) for building demolition.</li> <li>• Future operating costs are estimated at less than \$500 annually (routine patrol).</li> <li>• Future maintenance costs are estimated at less than \$7,000 annually If the vacation home is not demolished.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	The vacation home could be converted into a rentable structure.

### Jones and Lawrence Point Properties | State Parks



### Moran State Park - Jones Property & Lawrence Point



**Legend**

- Park Boundaries
- Land Acquisition Candidates



## Jones and Lawrence Point Properties | State Parks



**Location:** In Moran State Park’s long-term boundary.

**Legislative District:** 40

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Commercial forest

**Partners:** None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

The property contains large wetlands and creeks, grassland balds, and forested plant associations that are imperiled in the state. The property has been privately owned since 1938, and this is the first opportunity State Parks has had to acquire it.

### Planning Link

**Jones Property:** This property encompasses an antenna farm and undeveloped, forested land, which is surrounded by Moran State Park. Under the proposed acquisition, the landowner would keep the about 24-acre antenna farm and an access easement, and State Parks would buy the remaining 140 acres.

The 134-acre **Lawrence Point property** will provide improved water access at Moran State Park, which currently has little saltwater shoreline, as well as hiking trails and views of other islands and the mainland. The property is next to park lands, making protection and management more efficient for staff.

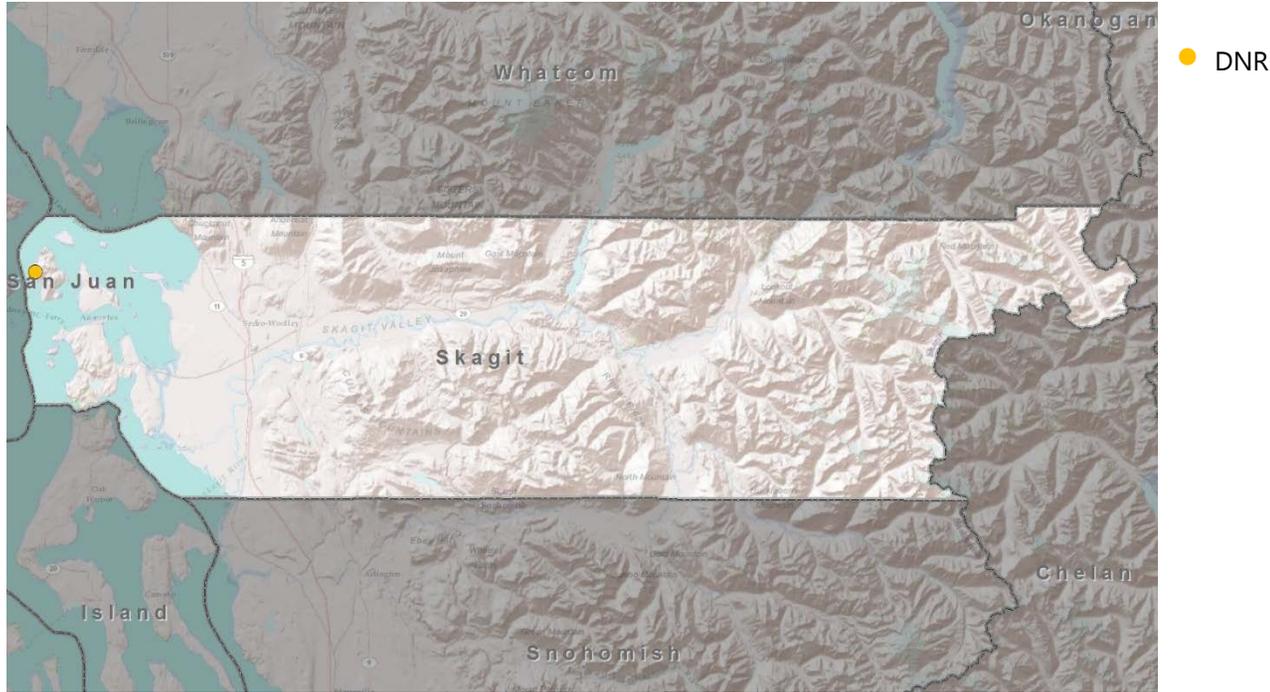
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** There are developed trail systems crossing the property, as well as unauthorized user-built trails. As a result, the purchase would resolve multiple trespass issues. Development plans include new trails and connections to the overall trail system.

**Progress:** The landowner has contacted the agency and is a willing seller.

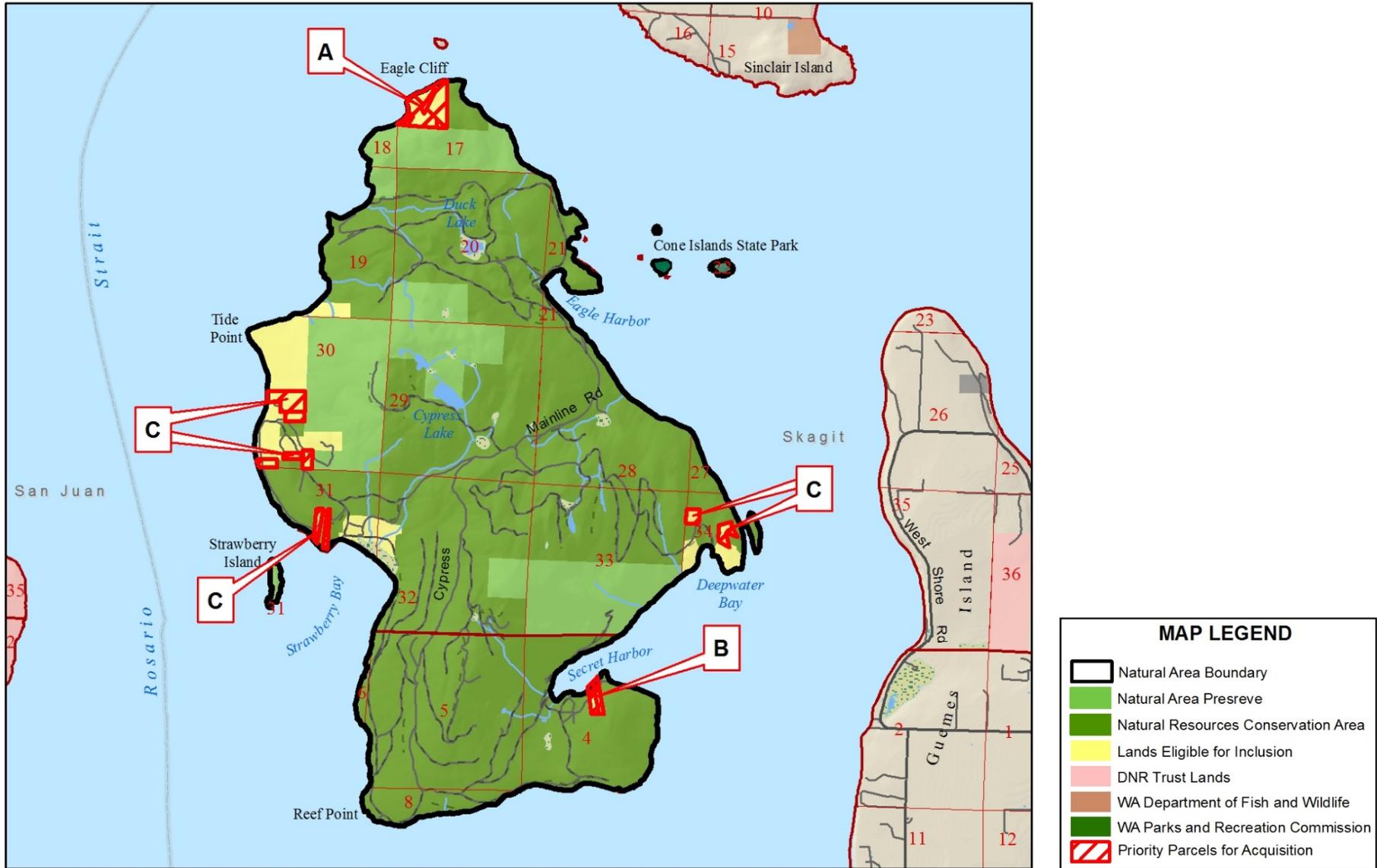
Financials	
Proposed Acres	274
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$5,926,765
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future capital costs are estimated at less than \$50,000 (one time) for trail development</li> <li>• Future operating costs are estimated at less than \$1,000 annually (litter pick up and routine patrol).</li> <li>• Future maintenance costs are estimated at less than \$500 annually (trail maintenance).</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### Skagit County Summary



Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Cypress Island	DNR	112	\$2,545,602	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Category	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>\$2,545,602</b>				

Cypress Island Natural Area | DNR



## Cypress Island Natural Area | DNR



**Location:** Cypress Island, within the San Juan Archipelago

**Legislative District:** 40

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forest, some undeveloped rural residential area

**Partners:** Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, Skagit Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, The Trust for Public Lands

Financials	
Proposed Acres	112
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2,545,602
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,620 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$ 5,000 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> <li>\$80,000 one-time cost (likely grant funded) for restoration of riparian and forest habitat</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition of waterfront properties on Cypress Island, eliminating the risk of conversion to incompatible and/or ecologically irreversible uses. The natural area provides opportunities for directed public use and environmental education, while protecting critical habitat and rare plant communities.

### Planning Link

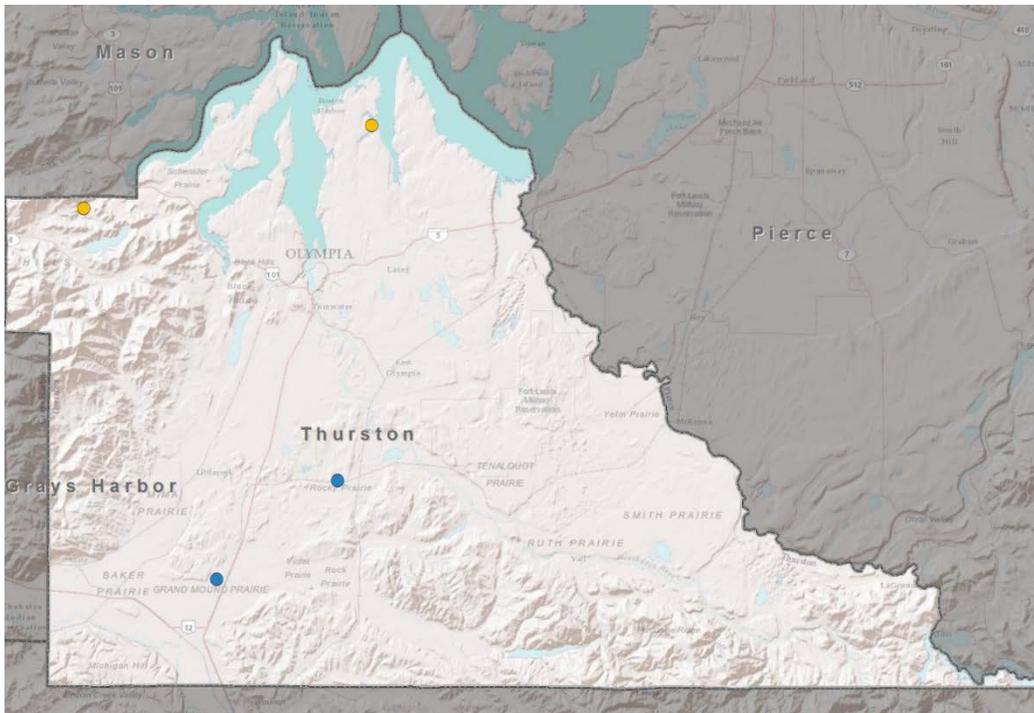
Implements conservation priorities of Washington's *Natural Heritage Plan*. Within approved natural area boundary.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Protect ecological processes and habitat for salmonids. Access for environmental education, research and low-impact recreation (e.g. hiking, wildlife viewing, photography).

**Progress:** Agency owns 1,072 acres in Natural Area Preserve designation and 4,134 acres in Natural Resources Conservation Area designation.

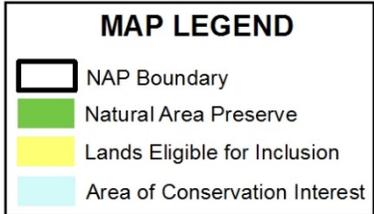
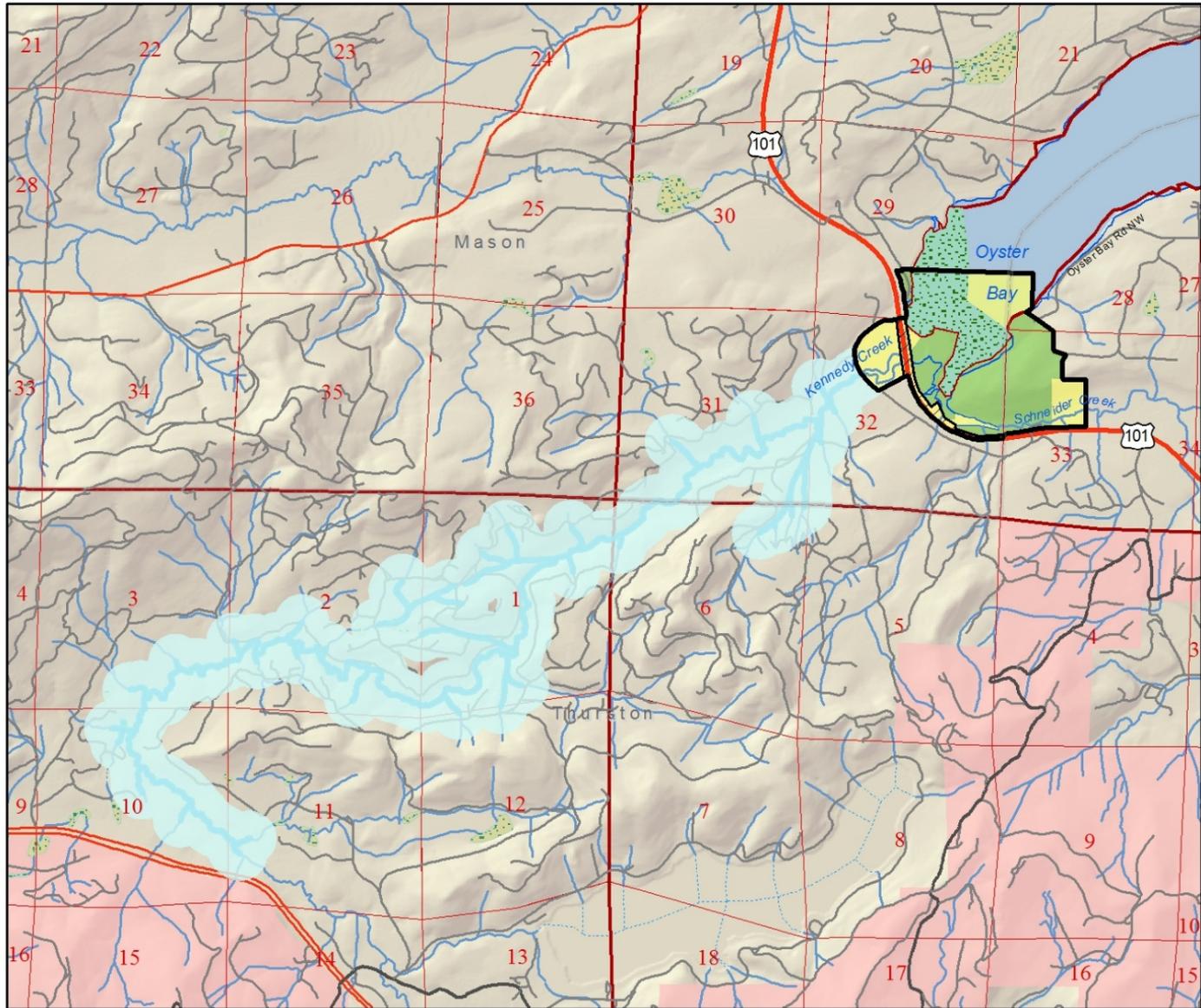
### Thurston County Summary



- DFW
- DNR

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Kennedy Creek Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	804	\$4,312,549	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category	35
South Sound Prairie	DFW	240	\$1,600,000	Fee simple, easement	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6)	20
West Rocky Prairie	DFW	167	\$2,000,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category	20
Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	DNR	74	\$3,508,087	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,285</b>	<b>\$11,420,636</b>			

### Kennedy Creek Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



## Kennedy Creek Proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



**Location:** About 12 miles west of Olympia, near State Highway 101 and the Mason-Thurston County line

**Legislative District:** 35

**Local Government Support:** No

**Current Use:** Forested shoreline area under forest land management and related buffer.

**Partners:** None

Financials	
Proposed Acres	840
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$4,312,549
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$19,350 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$25,000 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county.</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Preliminary proposal for a Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area. This project will contribute to the long-term maintenance of Kennedy Creek as high quality habitat for Chum Salmon and to the ecosystem health of the estuary at the mouth of Kennedy Creek (within the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve). The project also will provide recreational access to the creek bank corridor.

### Planning Link

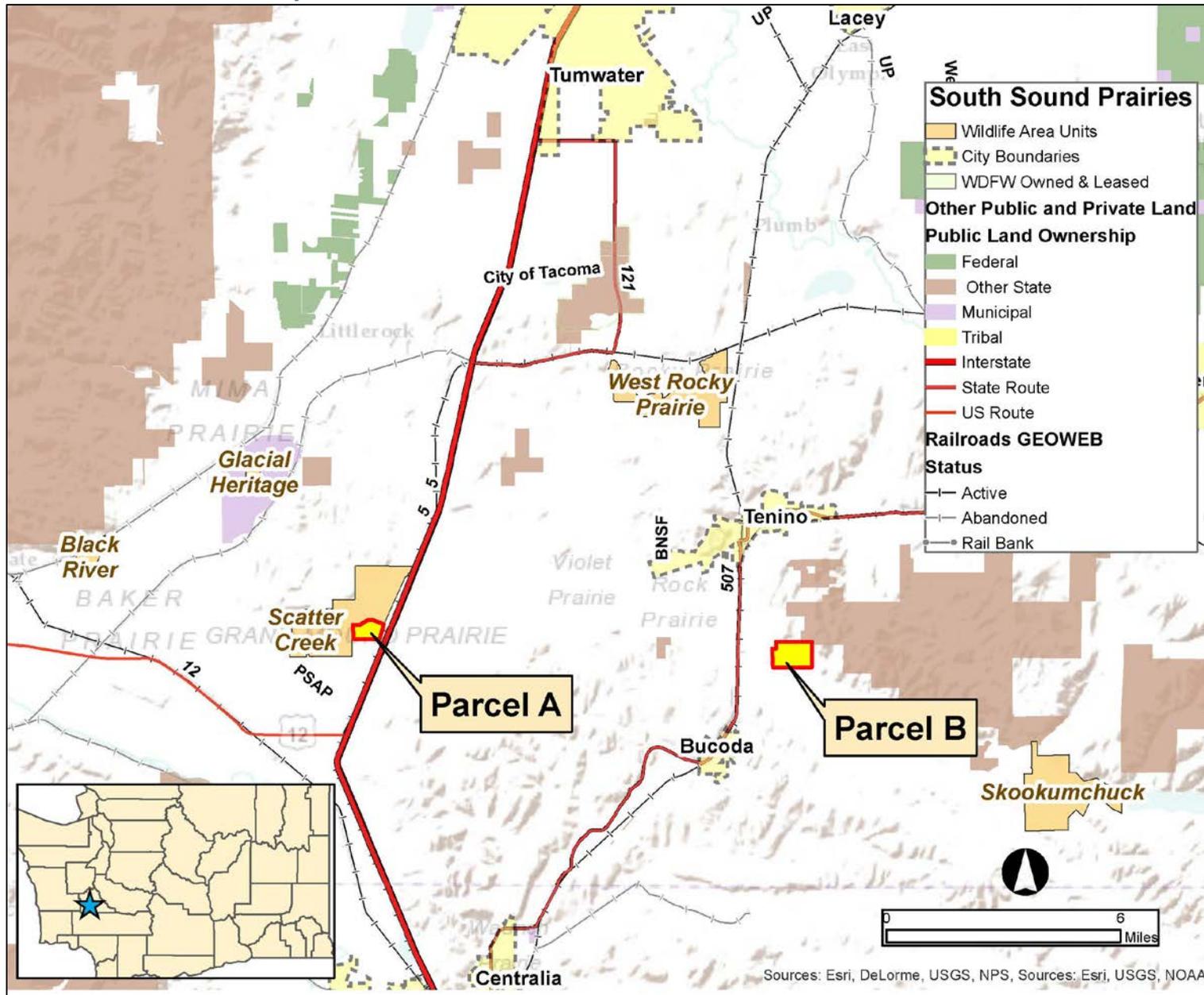
Implements conservation priorities of Washington's *Natural Heritage Plan*, in support of existing Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Protect ecological processes and habitat for salmonids. Access for environmental education, research, and low-impact recreation (e.g. wildlife viewing, photography).

**Progress:** Scope of boundary expansion under review. Existing Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve is 207 acres.

South Sound Prairie | DFW



## South Sound Prairie | DFW



**Location:** South Thurston County

**Legislative District:** 20

**Local Government Support:** Region has informed Thurston County commissioners.

**Current Use:** Private property, agricultural fields

**Partners:** Sentinel Lands Working Group, which is made up of the Capital Land Trust, Center for Natural Land Management, Nisqually Land Trust, Thurston County, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Financials	
Proposed Acres	240
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$1.6 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple and/or conservation easement
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6)
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,160 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$6,400 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This proposal is to acquire either fee title or a conservation easement for two properties focused on the conservation of the south Puget Sound prairies. Species conservation focuses on the Mazama pocket gopher. Acquisition of the properties will enhance opportunities for habitat maintenance and restoration.

### Planning Link

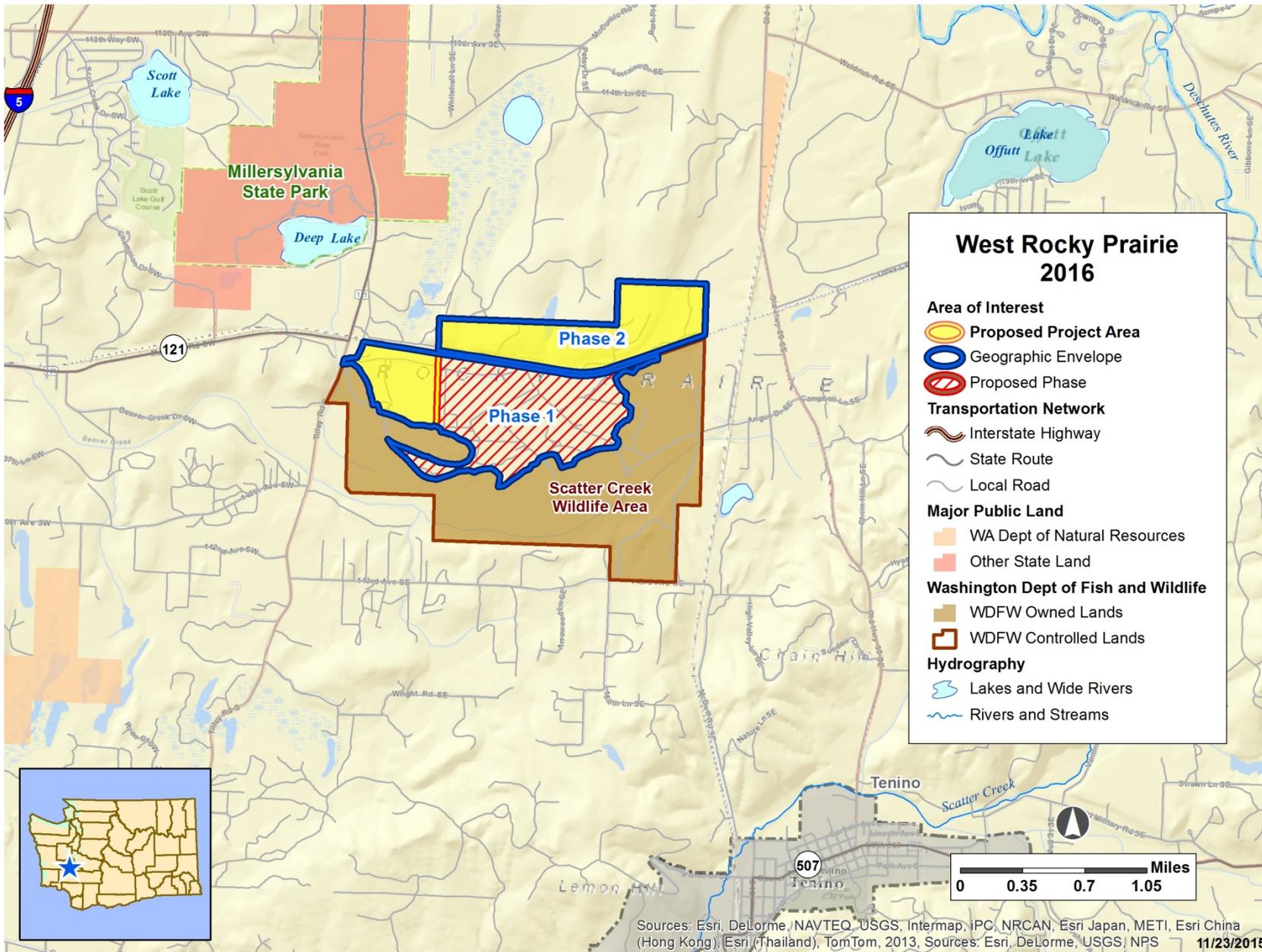
Adjacent to or near the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area; managed for prairie and oak habitat, freshwater wetlands, and riparian habitats including critical habitat for Mazama pocket gopher, Taylor’s checkerspot and Mardon skipper butterfly species.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Provides expanded prairie habitat for Mazama pocket gopher and butterfly species; increases opportunity for public recreation including wildlife viewing and low impact trails.



West Rocky Prairie | DFW



## West Rocky Prairie | DFW



**Location:** South Thurston County

**Legislative District:** 20

**Local Government Support:**

Region has informed Thurston County commissioners.

**Current Use:** Undeveloped land, gravel mine

**Partners:** Center for Natural Lands Management, Forterra Friends of Puget Prairies, Joint Base Lewis McChord, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Financials	
Proposed Acres	167
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$2 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$6,700 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$32,000 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This proposal continues the protection of the largest available tract of unique prairie-oak-wetland habitat mosaic in south Puget Sound. Protects habitat for reintroduction of golden paintbrush, streaked horn lark, Oregon spotted frog, Mardon skipper butterfly, and Mazama pocket gopher. This acquisition would expand the wildlife area by improving the viability of species, core habitats, and buffers. Recreation activities include wildlife viewing, hunting (big game and upland bird), and hiking.

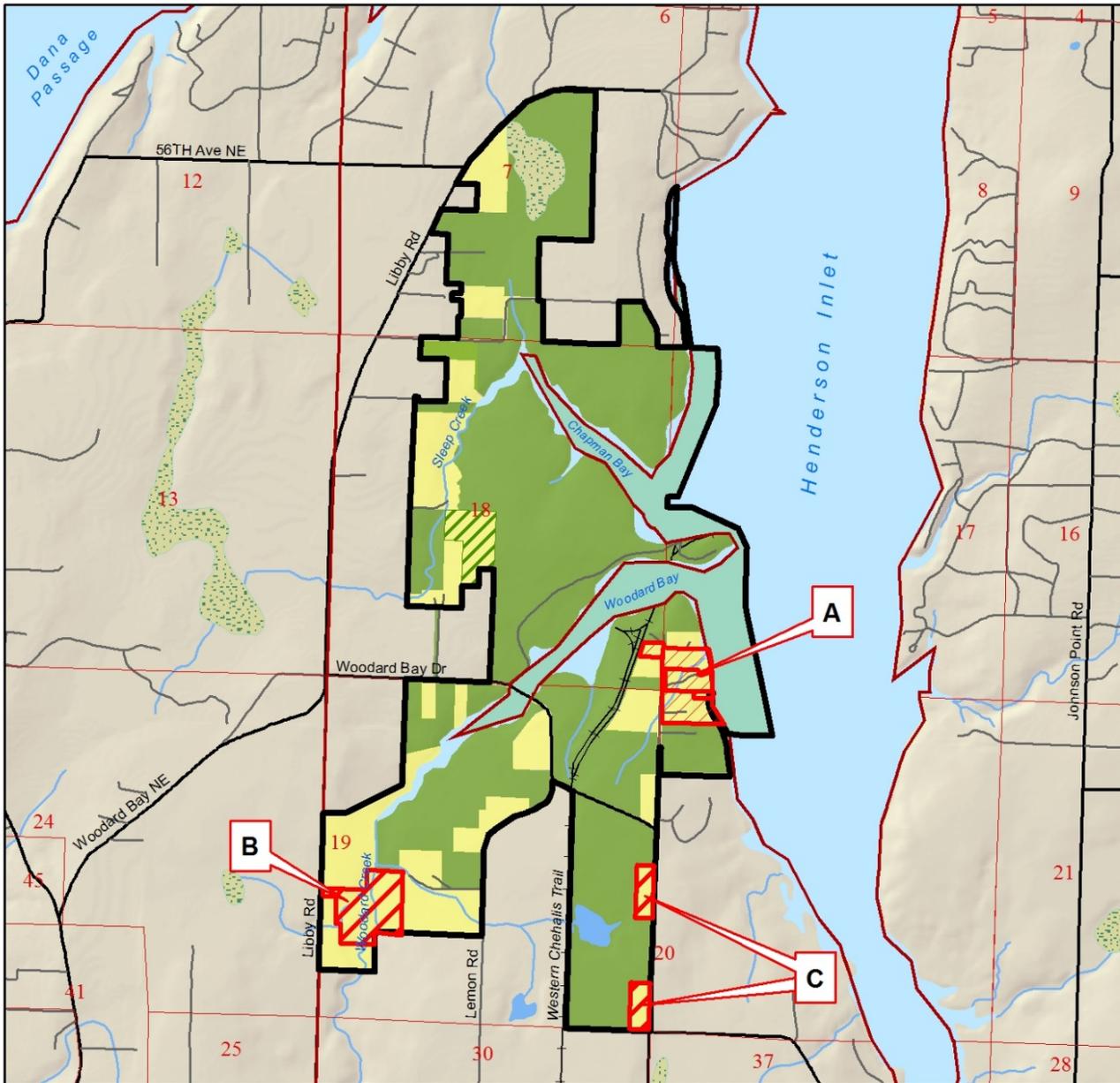
### Planning Link

Adds to the West Rocky Prairie unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Primary habitat management focus is restoration and maintenance of prairie habitats using prescribed fire, exotic plant control, and re-establishment of native species.

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Protects unique prairie-oak-wetland habitat, provides site for reintroduction of prairie species, increases opportunity for public recreation including wildlife viewing

## Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



## Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area | DNR



**Location:** About 5 miles north of downtown Olympia

**Legislative District:** 22

**Local Government Support:** Yes

**Current Use:** Forest, some undeveloped residential areas

**Partners:** DFW, People for Puget Sound, Squaxin Island Tribe, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Department of Ecology

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

Acquisition of properties along the shoreline of Henderson Inlet, portions of Woodard Creek, and other small tributaries. The project will help protect important habitat for wildlife, including nesting bald eagles, a significant heron rookery, and the largest harbor seal nursery in south Puget Sound.

### Planning Link

Implements conservation priorities of Washington's *Natural Heritage Plan*. Managed under the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area management plan. Within approved natural area boundary.

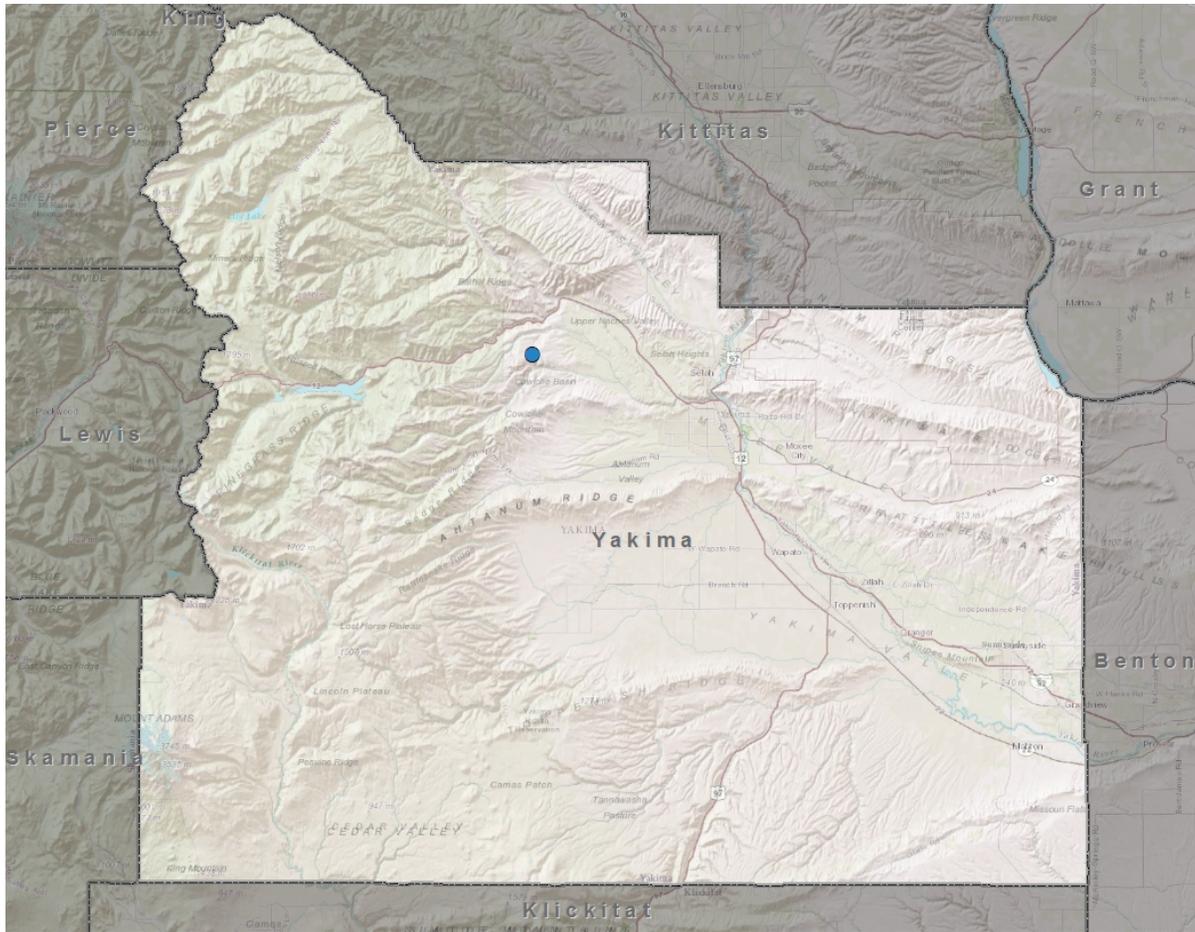
### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcome:** Protect ecological processes and wildlife habitat. Access for environmental education and research.

**Progress:** Agency owns 881 acres at Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Financials	
Proposed Acres	74
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$3,508,087
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,520 estimated annual operating costs for site visits, routine weed control and property management, annual forest assessments, etc.</li> <li>\$2,200 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" paid directly to the county</li> <li>\$95,000 one-time cost (likely grant funded) for saltwater-adjacent upland field restoration</li> <li>\$25,000 one-time capital appropriation for road work or other initial site management capital need</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	None

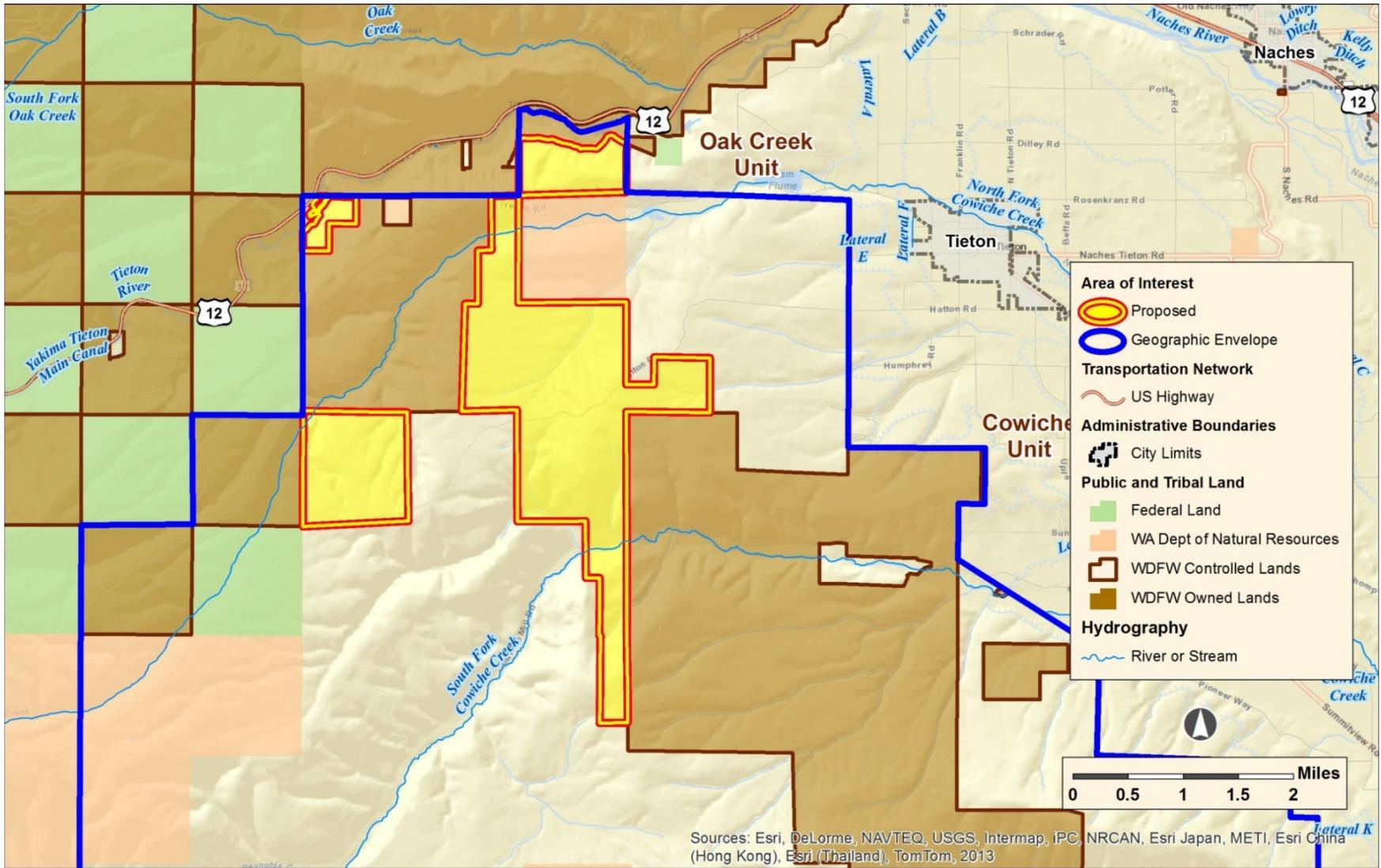
### Yakima County Summary



● DFW

Proposed Acquisition	Agency	Proposed Acres	Proposed Cost	Acquisition Type	Proposed Funding Source	Legislative District
Cowiche Watershed	DFW	4,424	\$3,000,000	Fee simple	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,424</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>			

Cowiche Watershed | DFW



## Cowiche Watershed | DFW



**Location:** Northwest of Yakima

**Legislative District:** 14

**Local Government Support:**

Ongoing discussions with Yakima County commissioners

**Current Use:** Grazing, forest management, recreation

**Partners:** Bureau of Land Management, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Wild Sheep Foundation, Yakima County

Financials	
Proposed Acres	4,424
Proposed Acquisition Cost	\$3 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee simple
Proposed Funding Source	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat Category
Anticipated Future Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30,500 operations and maintenance</li> <li>\$15,950 annual "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" to the county</li> </ul>
Revenue Generation	Discover Pass

### Proposed Project Description and Purpose

This project is a key location between two department wildlife area units (Cowiche and Oak Creek) and is adjacent to other public lands. The area contains large parcels of valuable habitats found in the shrub steppe/forest transitional zone including: shrub steppe, stream, aspen, oak woodlands, and big game winter range. These priority habitats meet the needs of target species including: raptors, bats, woodpeckers, mid-Columbia steelhead, mule deer, and elk. The project includes an inholding to DFW’s Oak Creek Wildlife Area located along the Tieton River and U.S. Highway 12, on both sides of the river including an island. The area supports strong public recreation including hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, and mountain biking.

### Planning Link

Connects two wildlife units, will be managed as part of the Cowiche Wildlife Area as a vital migration corridor for big game, allows for restoration of riverbank habitat to improve steelhead opportunities

### Project Outcomes and Current Progress

**Outcomes:** Increased opportunity for public recreation such as hiking and hunting. Enhances habitat for big game winter range.

## 5 | ENDNOTES

## Endnotes

<sup>1-4</sup>Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. (2014). *Washington Public Lands Inventory: Final Report*. Retrieved from: [www.rco.wa.gov/doc\\_pages/other\\_pubs.shtml#plip](http://www.rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/other_pubs.shtml#plip).

<sup>5</sup>Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State*, Retrieved from <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup>Revised Code of Washington 77.04

<sup>7</sup>Revised Code of Washington 79A.05

<sup>8</sup>Revised Code of Washington 79A.05