

# **Springwood Ranch**

## **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan**

**Commissioner Cory Wright, Kittitas County BOCC**

**Dave Blodgett, Yakama Nation, Fisheries Program Manager**

**Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Car LLP, representing Trust for Public Lands**

**Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District, Secretary Manager**

**Cynthia Wilkerson, WDFW Lands Division Manager**

**Mike Livingston, WDFW Region 3 Director**





## Presentation Outline

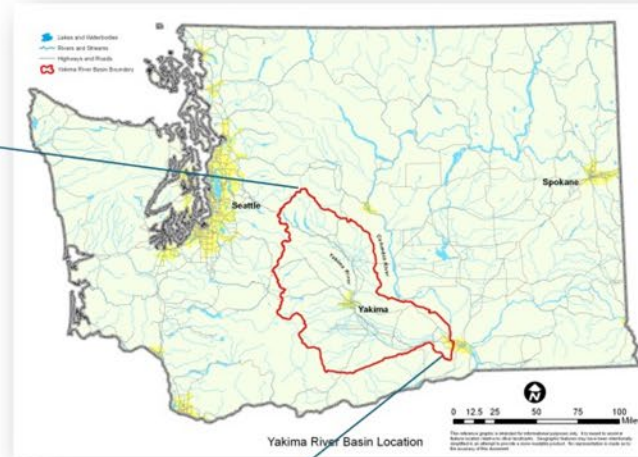
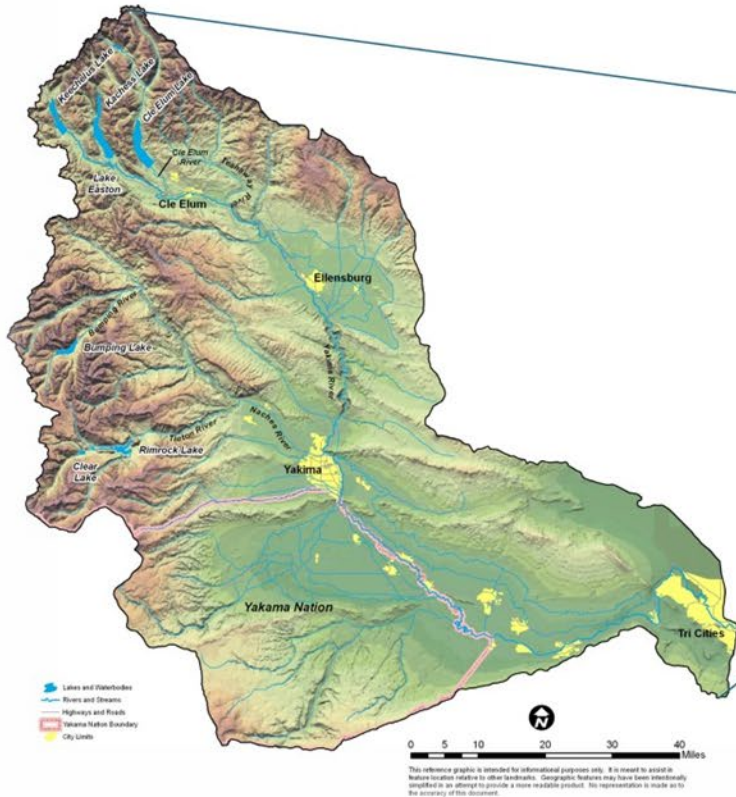
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan & Water Storage Goal
- Springwood Ranch Legislation & Acquisition
- Future Ownership
- Yakama Nation & WDFW Proposed Co-Ownership





# **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan:**

# Yakima Basin



- Basin size: 6,155 sq. miles
- Population: 360,000
- \$4.5 billion agriculture economy
- Historically, second only to Snake River in supporting Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs





# Our Challenge

## Unreliable water supply



YAKIMA BASIN  
BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE  
& WORKING LANDS

- Surface water is over-appropriated
- Droughts in 1992-1994, 2001, 2005, 2015, and 2019
- Pro-ratable irrigation districts
- Snowpack declining



# Our Challenge

## Reduced fisheries



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& WORKING LANDS



- Historic 800,000 salmon and Steelhead run
- Less than 20,000 fish last 10-15 years
- Coho, Sockeye and summer Chinook being reestablished after extirpation
- Spring and fall Chinook drastically reduced
- Steelhead and bull trout ESA Threatened species



# Conflict...



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& WORKING LANDS

By the mid-2000's....

- Decades of conflict over water supplies
- Proposal to import Columbia River water failing
- Fisheries declining
- Climate change alarming



*Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime*



# 2009 - Diverse stakeholder coalition formed



& Many More!

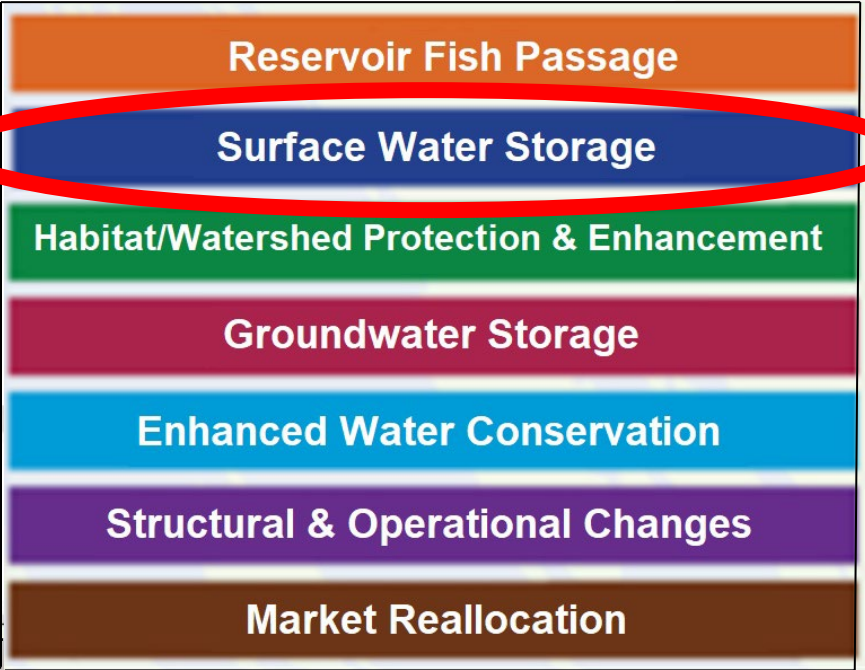
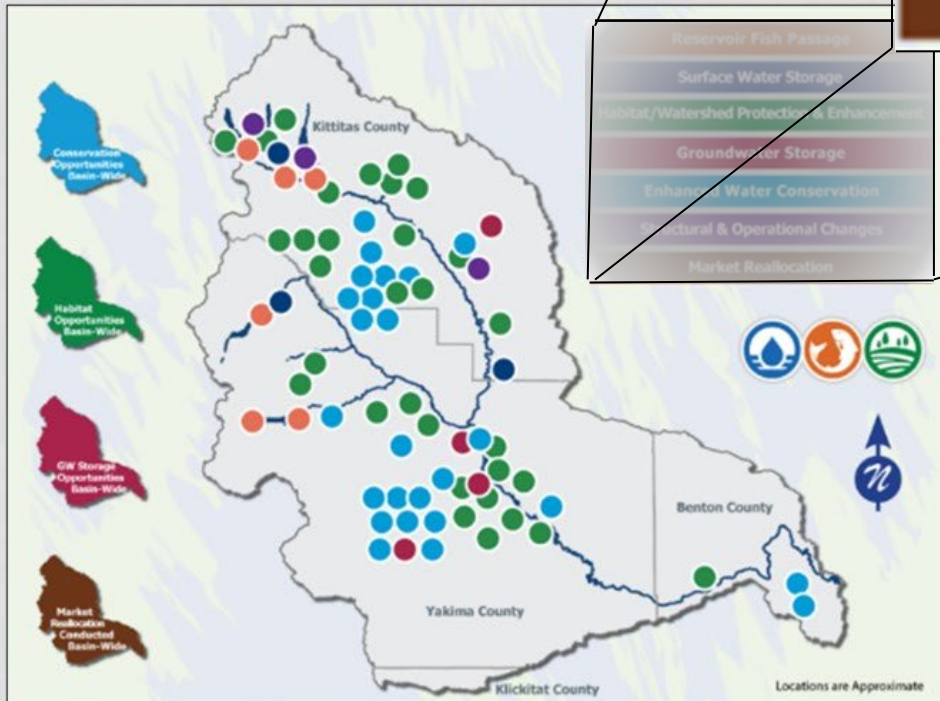






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 BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE  
 & WORKING LANDS

# YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN



## Goals:

- Restore and enhance environment, fish and wildlife, including fish passage at federal dams
- Improve water supply during drought years (70% proratable supply)
- Provide for efficient and adaptable water supply management
- Contribute to sustainable economy and environment



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BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE  
& WORKING LANDS



# Basin Water Supply Needs





# **Our Opportunity: Springwood Ranch**



# LOCATION OF SPRINGWOOD RANCH





# Springwood Ranch: A Rare Opportunity



# Springwood Ranch: A Rare Opportunity



- 3,600 acres – all or nothing
- Legislative Proviso
- TPL Purchase Mar '23
- TPL transfer of ownership '24





# Springwood Ranch: A Rare Opportunity

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3073. FOR THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD Springwood Ranch in Kittitas County (91001663)

The appropriations in this section are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(1) Except as provided under subsection (4) of this section, the appropriations in this section are provided solely for a grant from the agency to The Trust for Public Land to cover the costs of the Trust's acquisition, disposition, and temporary management of real property in upper Kittitas County known as Springwood Ranch in exchange for an agreement to reconvey the real property for public purposes as described in this section.

(2) **The recreation and conservation office** shall enter into a grant agreement with **The Trust for Public Land** that allows for the disbursement of the funding described in subsection (1) of this section to The Trust for Public Land for the following purposes:

(a) **To convey a portion of the Springwood Ranch property to Kittitas County** for its ownership and management, including maintenance of existing agricultural uses and future uses allowed under current zoning or that provide a **public use or benefit**;

(b) **To convey a portion of the Springwood Ranch property to the department of fish and wildlife** for its ownership and management to provide **public use and benefit**;

(c) **To convey a portion of the Springwood Ranch property to the Yakama Nation** for its ownership and management to **provide public benefit**;

(d) **To convey a portion of the Springwood Ranch property to the Kittitas Reclamation District**, which shall hold the property until a transfer, without compensation and subject to section 8039 of this act, **to the United States bureau of reclamation for the purposes of construction of a water supply reservoir for managing instream flow in accordance with the Yakima Basin integrated plan**, or until such purpose is declared by the bureau of reclamation as no longer feasible; and

(e) To assist in achieving the goals of the Yakima Basin integrated plan.

(3) If the bureau of reclamation determines that the construction of a water supply reservoir is not feasible as described in subsection (2)(d) of this section, the Kittitas Reclamation District must work with Kittitas County, the Yakama Nation, the department of fish and wildlife, and other interested stakeholders to identify the appropriate public owner and manager and convey, without compensation and in accordance with RCW 87.03.136, as amended in section 8039 of this act, the Kittitas Reclamation District's portion of Springwood Ranch to that entity.

(4) The recreation and conservation office may use up to one percent of the appropriations in this section, if necessary, to recover its administrative costs.

Reappropriation: State Building Construction Account—State. . . . . \$10,000,000

Appropriation: State Building Construction Account—State. . . . . \$11,600,000  
 State Taxable Building Construction Account - State. . . . . \$2,400,000  
 Subtotal Appropriation. . . . . \$14,000,000

Prior Biennia (Expenditures). . . . . \$0  
 Future Biennia (Projected Costs). . . . . \$0

**TOTAL. . . . . \$24,000,000**



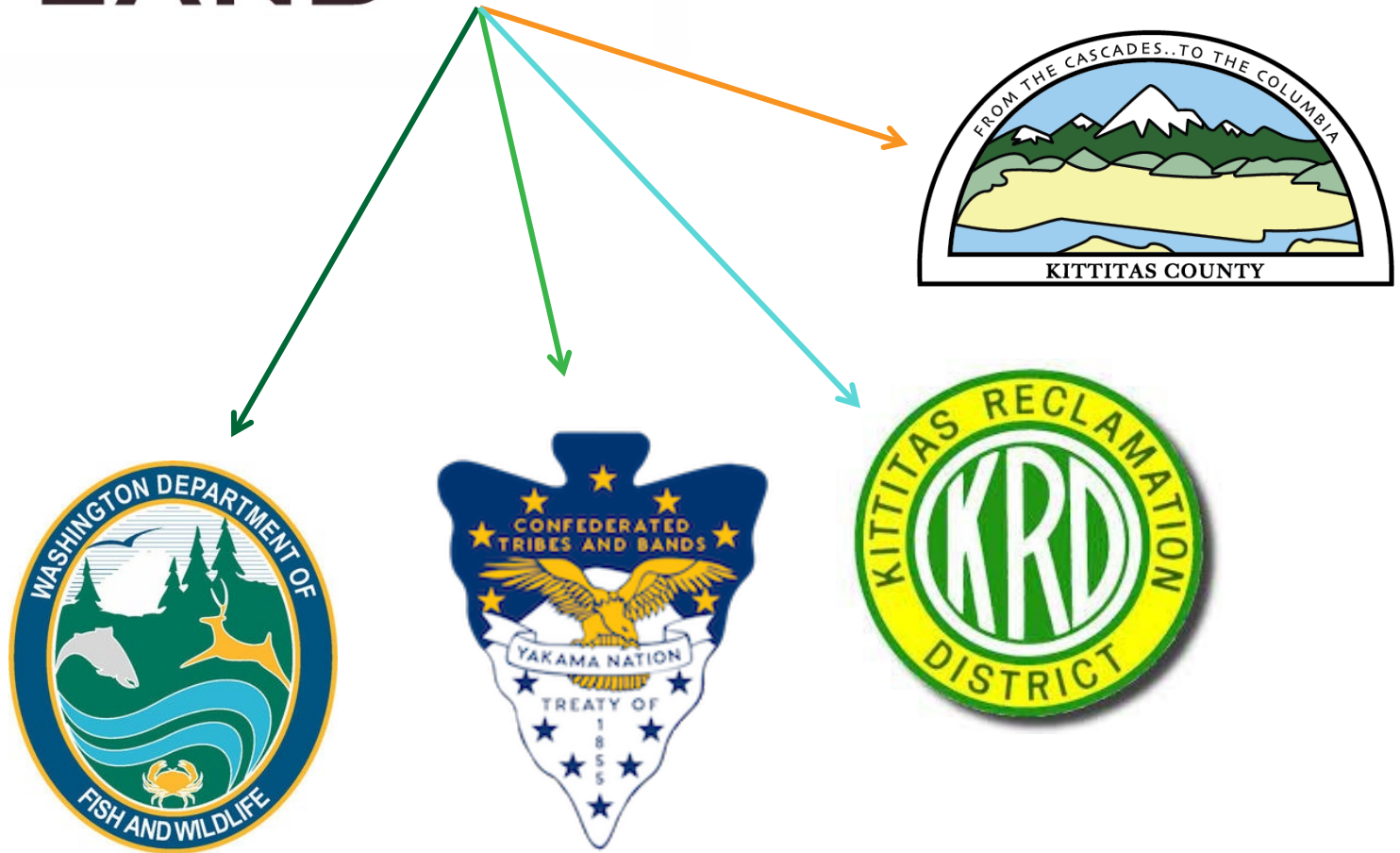


# **Springwood Ranch: Future Ownership**

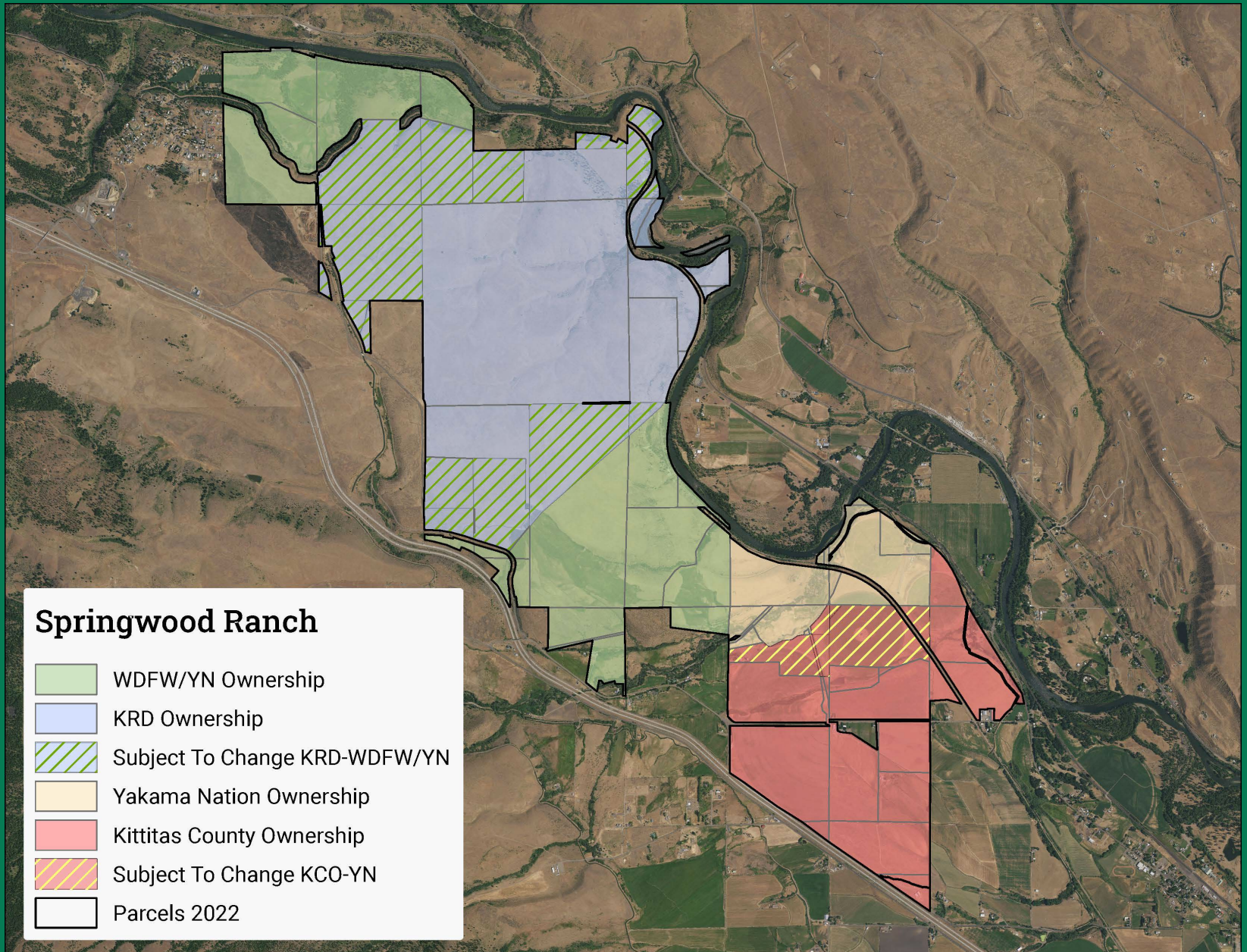




# TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

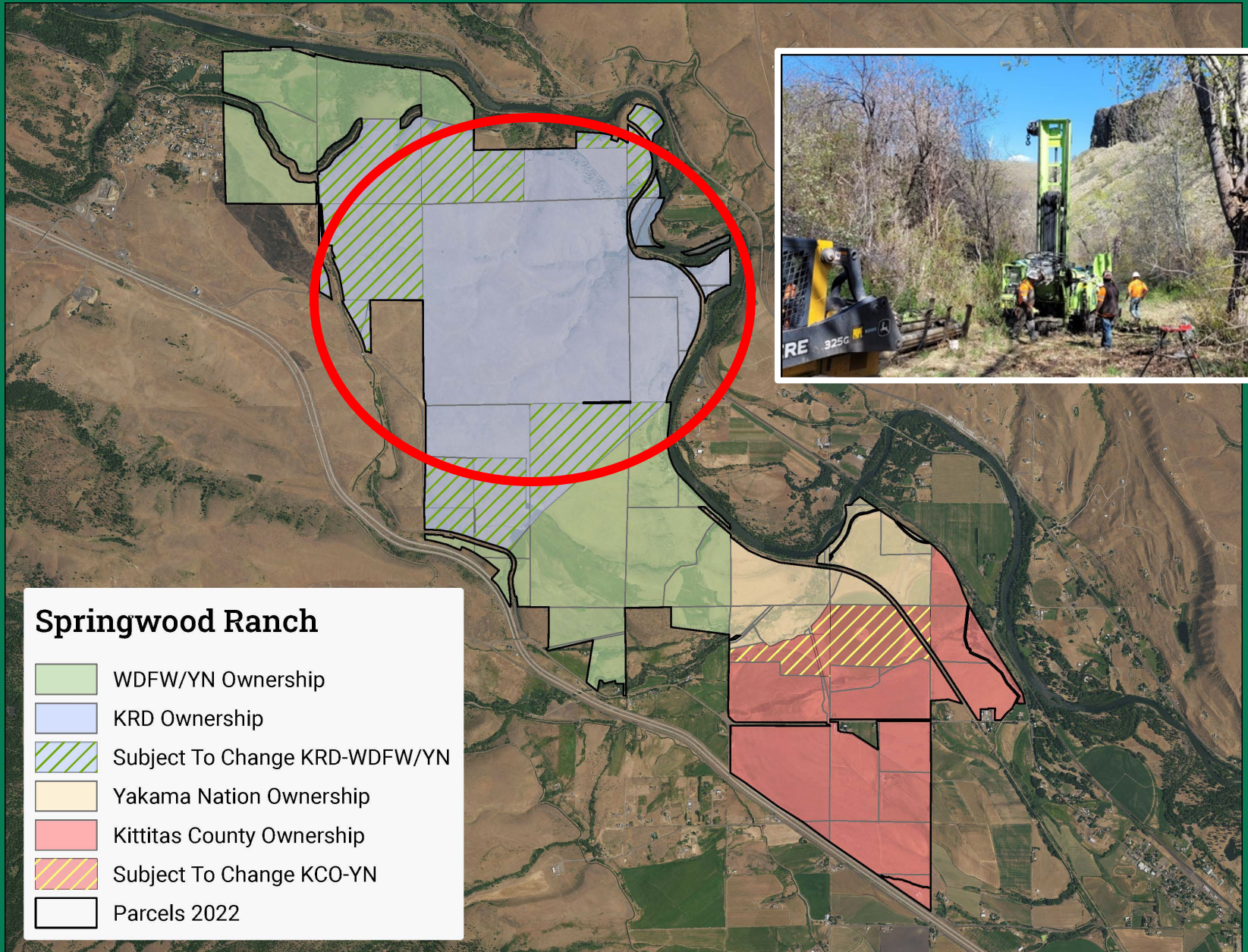


# Overview Future Ownership



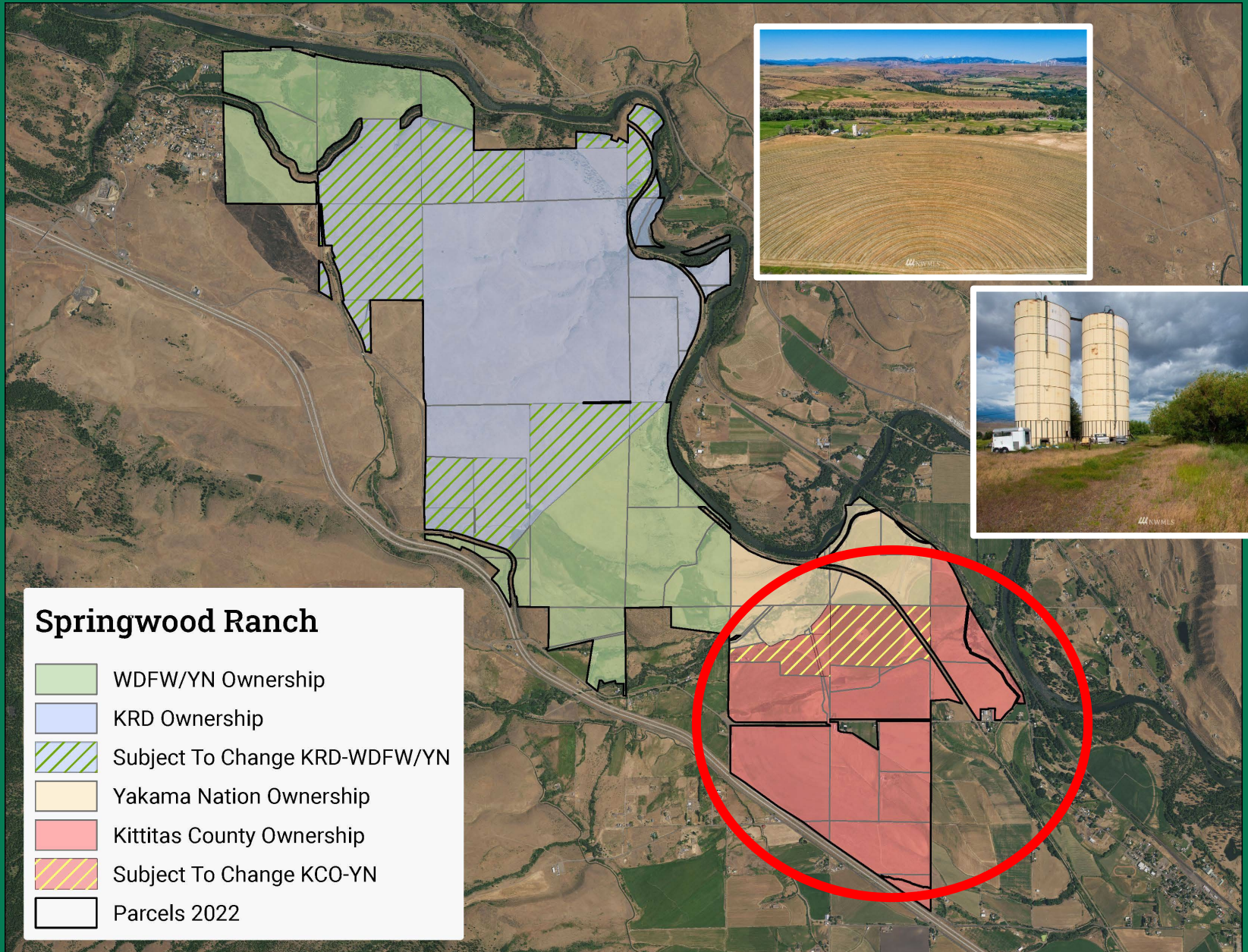


# Kittitas Reclamation District



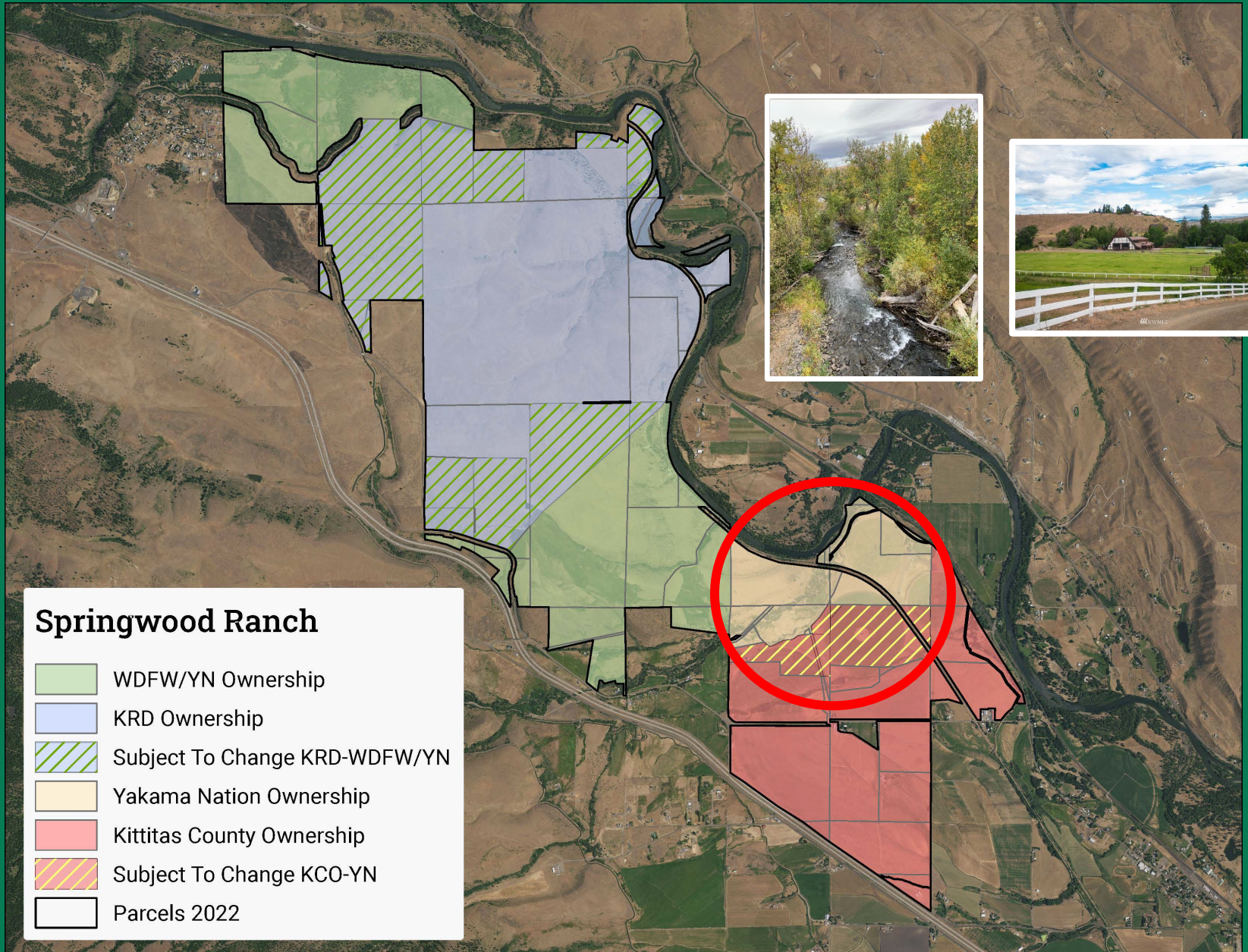


# Kittitas County



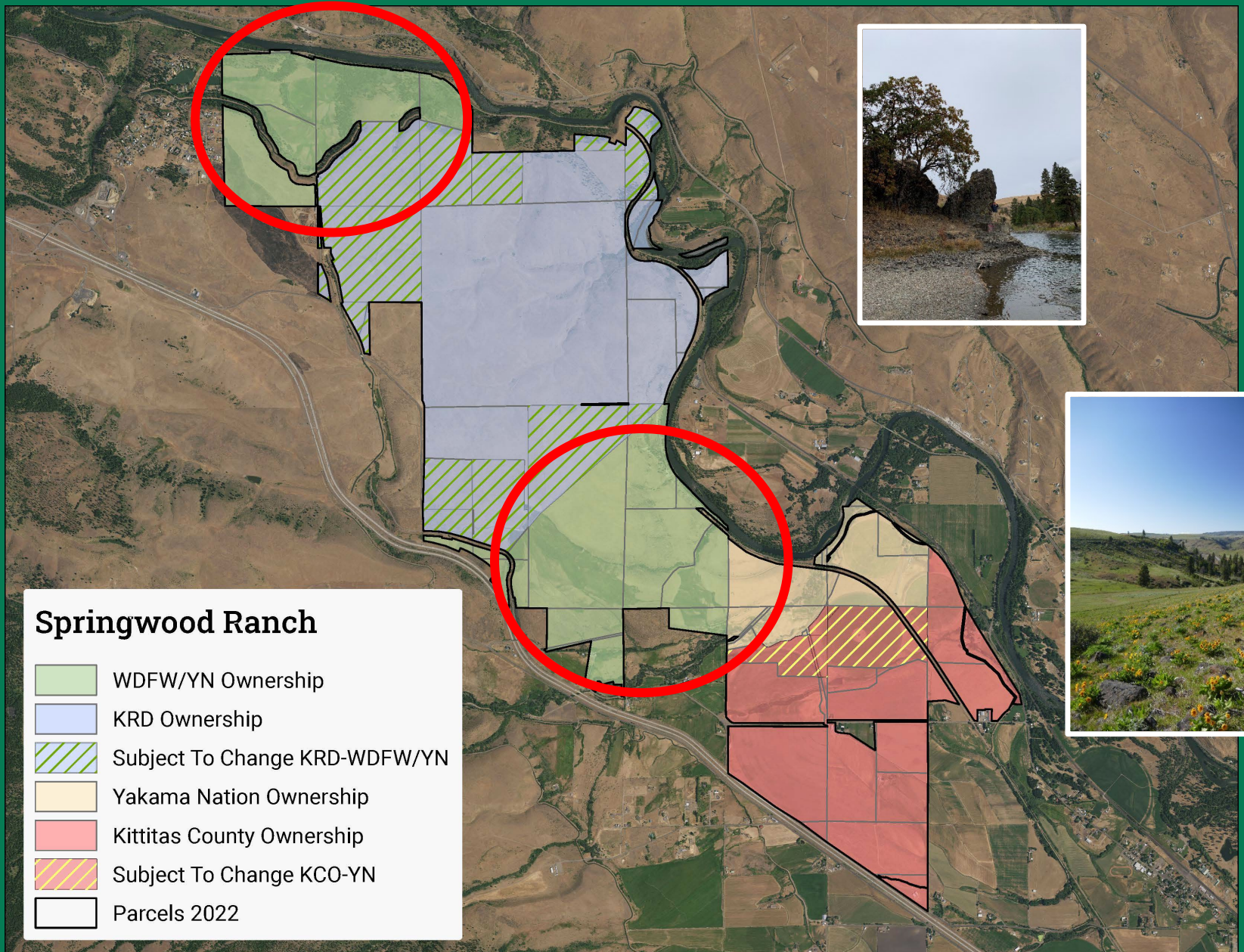


# Yakama Nation





# WDFW & Yakama Nation





# **Springwood Ranch: WDFW & YN Joint Ownership**

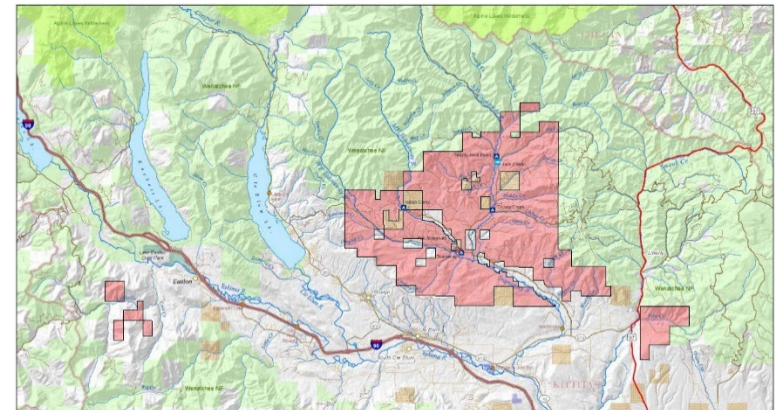


# WDFW & YN

## Ownership and Management

### Shared Ownership Examples:

- Kukutali Preserve
  - Swinomish
  - WA State Parks
- Teanaway Community Forest
  - WDNR
  - WDFW





# Yakama Nation and WDFW Joint Ownership and Management

## Why joint ownership & management

- 1) Springwood Ranch is part of the YBIP
- 2) The future reservoir will require careful use and management of surrounding watershed
- 3) Reflective of our commitment to reservoir for instream flow needs for fish
- 4) Consistent with WDFW Strategic Plan to strengthen relationships with tribes
- 5) Will reduce WDFW's operating costs
- 6) Unique opportunity to provide quality access for general and tribal publics



# Yakama Nation and WDFW Joint Ownership and Management

## How will we do this?

- MOU with Guiding Principles
- Interim Management Plan
- Full Management Plan



# Yakama Nation and WDFW Joint Ownership and Management

## Guiding Principles consistent with:

- YBIP Goals
- WDFW's Mission and Mandate
- Land mgt WAC & Strategic Plan
- YN Treaty Rights & Cultural Importance



# Yakama Nation and WDFW Joint Ownership and Management

## Guiding Principles Emphasize:

- Habitat restoration & management
- Quality access opportunities for the Public and Tribal Members
- Regular coordination with other landowners





# Next Steps

- Finalize Boundaries
- Complete MOU with Guiding Principles
- Maintain cross boundary grazing lease
- Present transaction in March to full commission





**QUESTIONS?**