

## **“GREEN SHEET”**

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**Meeting:** January 8-9, 2010

**Agenda Item 8:** Proposed Land Exchange with Department of Natural Resources (DNR),  
Phase 2 – **Public Hearing and Commission Decision**

**Prepared By:** Jennifer Quan

**Presented By:** Jennifer Quan, Lands Division Manager, Wildlife Program

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### **Background:**

In December 2006, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) began the process of evaluating an exchange of properties that would eliminate checkerboard ownership and allow each agency to better address their respective management goals. In May 2008, appraisals were completed on approximately 55,000 acres of WDFW land and approximately 99,000 acres of WDNR land.

Nearly all of the WDFW parcels in the proposed exchange were acquired with federal or state funding grants. The granting agencies are U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), and the Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB). Each agency has its own set of rules/regulations regarding the “conversion” – disposal of lands they have funded - as well as what lands are eligible for replacement. These varying requirements have added a significant level of complication to what would appear to be a relatively straight forward exchange of lands.

Over the past year the funding agencies have been considering the eligibility of the parcels that would be acquired from WDNR as replacement lands. Given the complexities of designing a single exchange package that addresses all the rules and regulations, as well as the fact that the appraisals are now over a year old – WDFW and WDNR have embarked on “phasing” the land exchange.

Phase I (approved by the Commission at the Sept 11-12, 2009 meeting): Includes WDFW lands that have RCFB funding strings and a few parcels that have no funding strings. In this phase approximately 5,416 acres of WDFW lands would be exchanged for roughly 9,019 acres of WDNR lands (~\$5 million exchange).

Phase II (request Commission approval at the January 8-9, 2010 meeting): Includes WDFW lands with USFWS funding strings and any NPS lands that might be considered as having suitable WDNR replacement properties. In this phase 12,424 acres of WDFW lands would be exchanged for 25,849 acres of WDNR land (~\$13 Million exchange).

Phase III (timeline currently unknown): Include the WDFW lands that have NPS strings and the remaining WDNR parcels currently considered ineligible by NPS. The specifics of this phase are unknown at this time.

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### **Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

Protection of critical habitat and wildlife- related recreational opportunities. Improved management of WDFW lands.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

WDNR has conducted multiple public hearings throughout the exchange process. The most recent set of public hearings were held in April 2008. An additional public meeting was held in July 2009, and a 14-day State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) comment period on Phase I was completed in August 2009. No significant comments were reported during the Phase I comment period. The Phase 2 land exchange involved 30-day comment periods for both SEPA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). No significant comments were reported during the Phase II comment period either. To date significant comments have focused on the public's desire to maintain ownership of the Coffin Reserve and for WDFW insure that grazing leases being transferred from WDNR will continue to be honored.

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**Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):**

Approval of the Phase II portion of the WDNR land exchange.

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**Draft motion language:**

Motion to approve the proposed Phase II portion of the WDNR land exchange as presented.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

Protection of connected critical habitat and insuring continued and predictable access and wildlife related recreational opportunities on WDFW lands.

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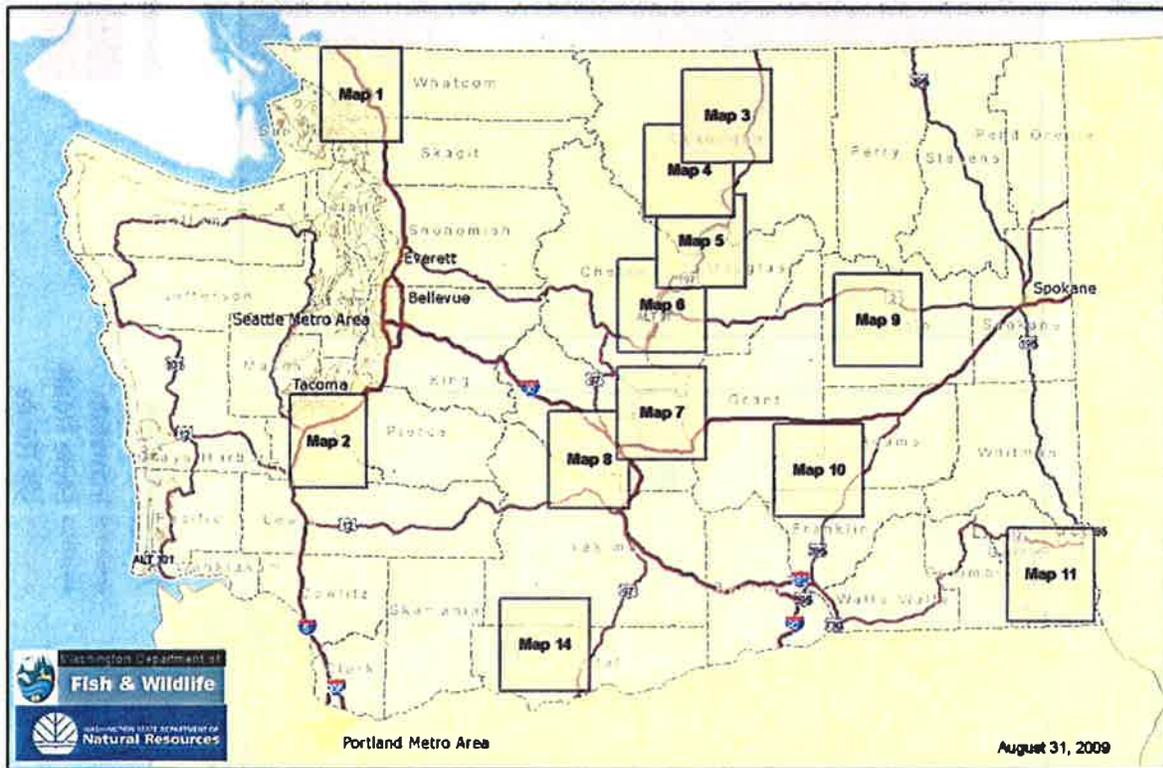
## Phase 2 Pre and Post Land Exchange Ownership Maps

The following maps illustrate which lands will be exchanged between agencies and how those changes will affect land ownership patterns,

Note: Maps for the Phase 2 Land Exchange are numbered 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 14. The incomplete numbering series represents a complete set of maps for the Phase 2 Land Exchange. The map numbering system was based on the below map index which includes all areas where exchanges would need to occur to meet overall exchange goals. Numbering consistency was maintained to prevent confusion.

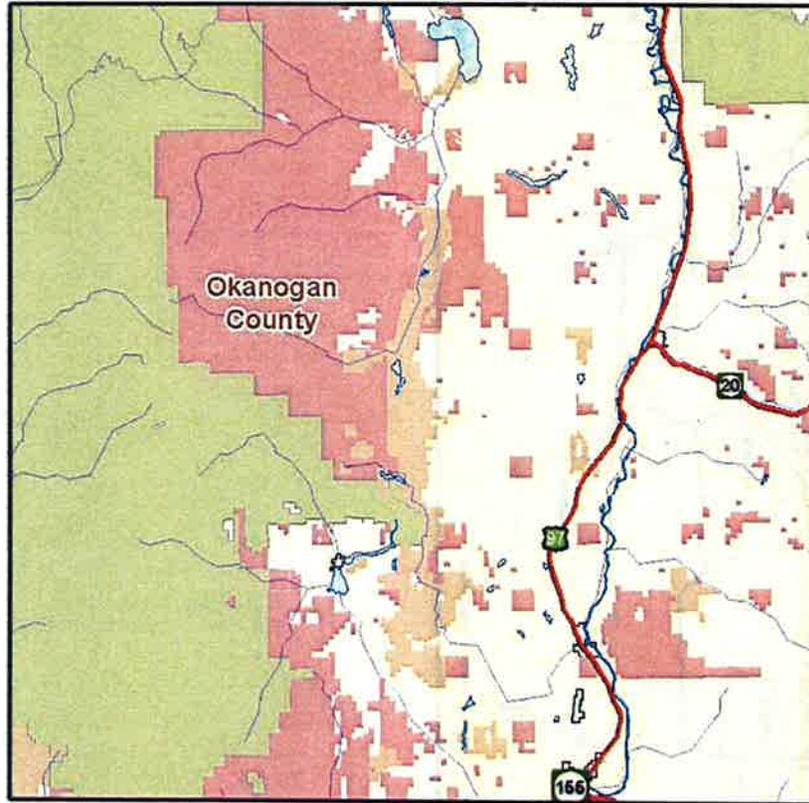
*Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife*

### Map Index of the WDFW Proposed Land Exchange

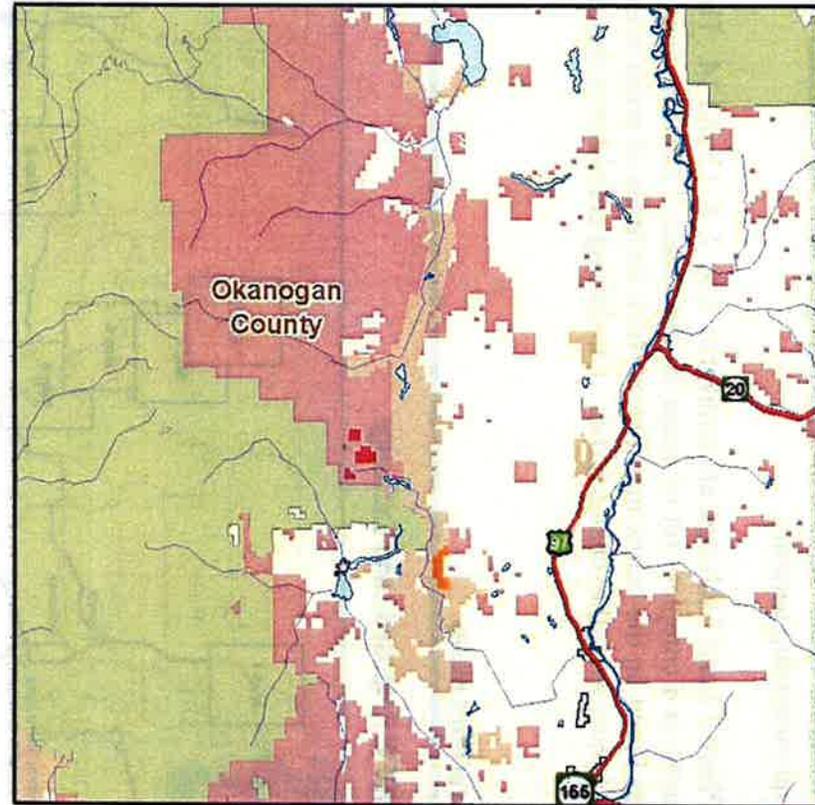


# Potential Phase 2 Exchange Parcels

Map Series 3



Pre-Phase 2 Ownership



Post-Phase 2 Ownership

### Ownership

- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service

### Transportation

- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Major Roads

### Ownership

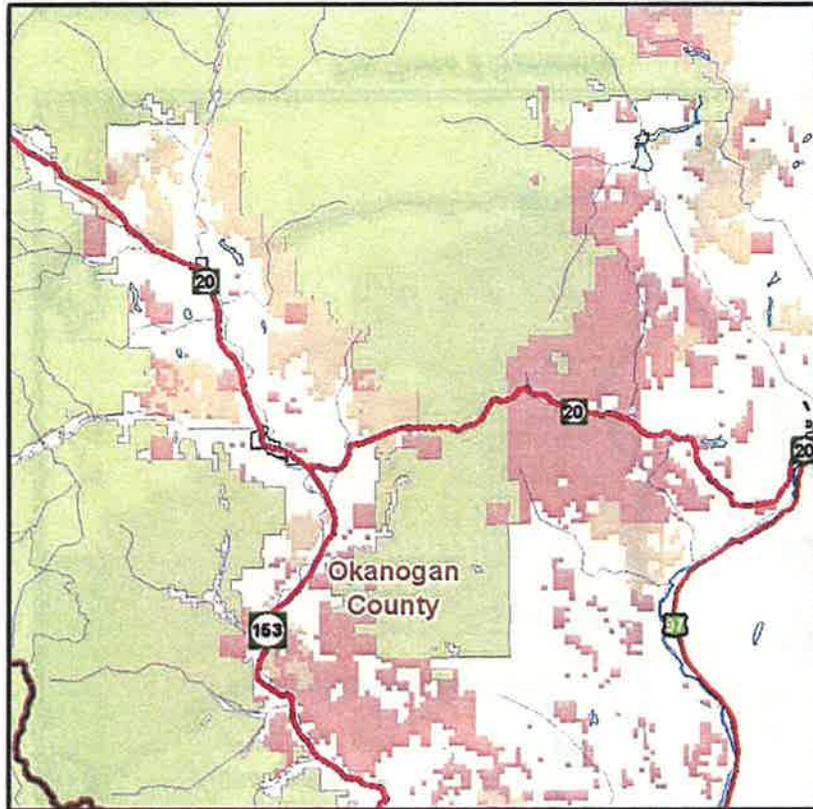
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



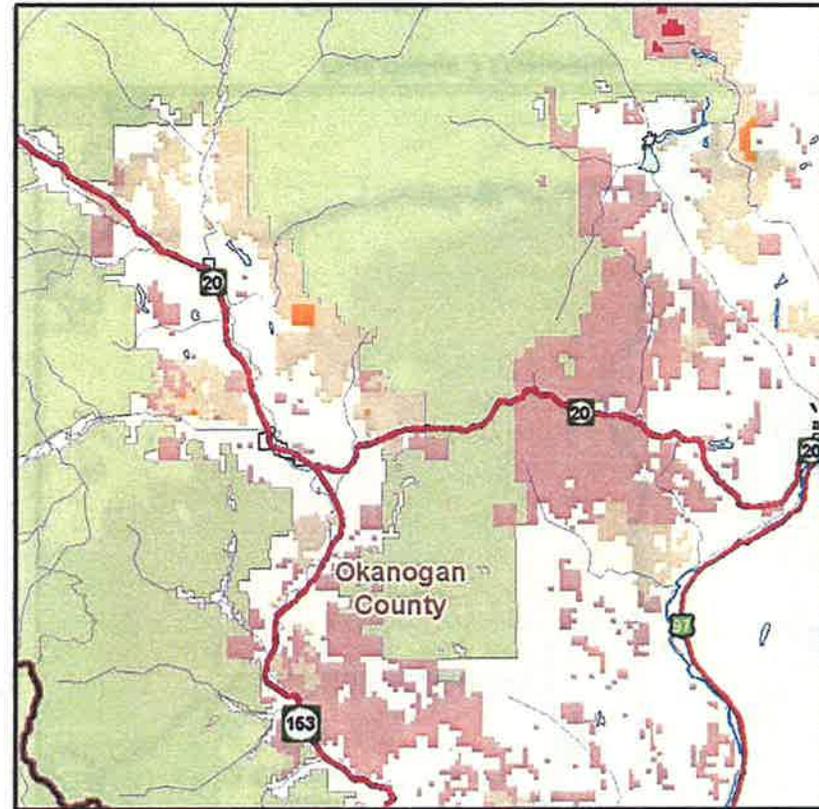
Date of Map: September 25, 2009

# Potential Phase 2 Exchange Parcels

Map Series 4



Pre-Phase 2 Ownership



Post-Phase 2 Ownership

### Ownership

- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service

### Transportation

- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Major Roads

### Ownership

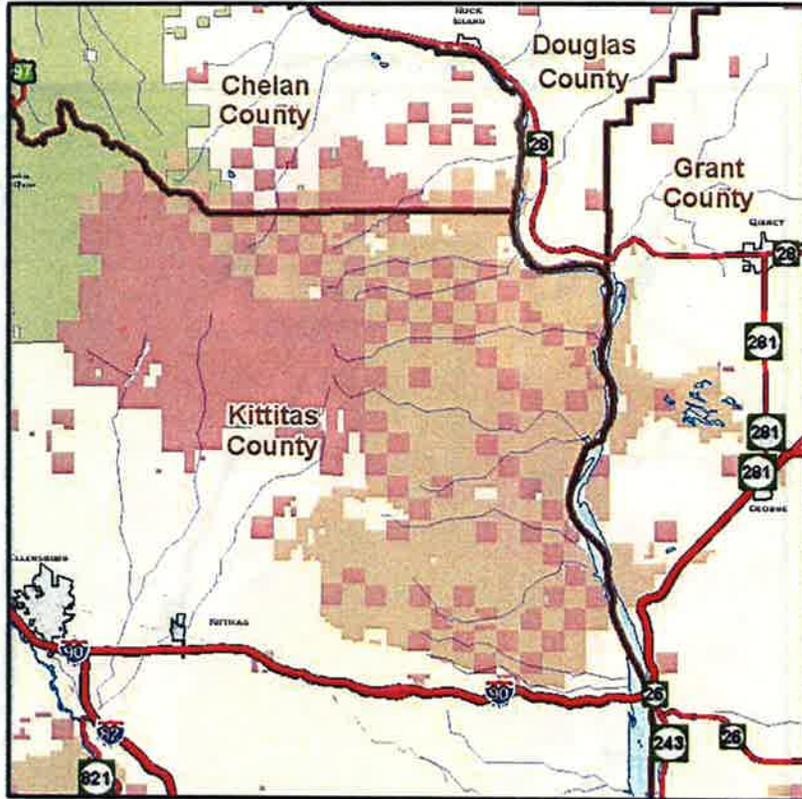
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



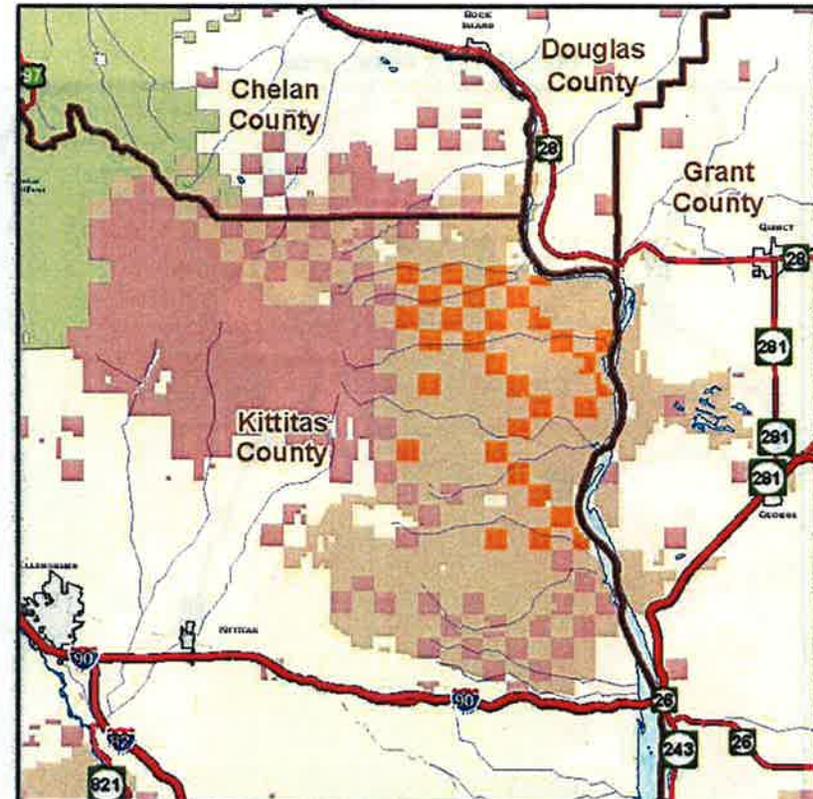
Date of Map: September 25, 2009

# Potential Phase 2 Exchange Parcels

Map Series 7



Pre-Phase 2 Ownership



Post-Phase 2 Ownership

### Ownership

- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service

### Transportation

- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Major Roads

### Ownership

- Parcels new to WA Dept of Natural Resources (none on this map)
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

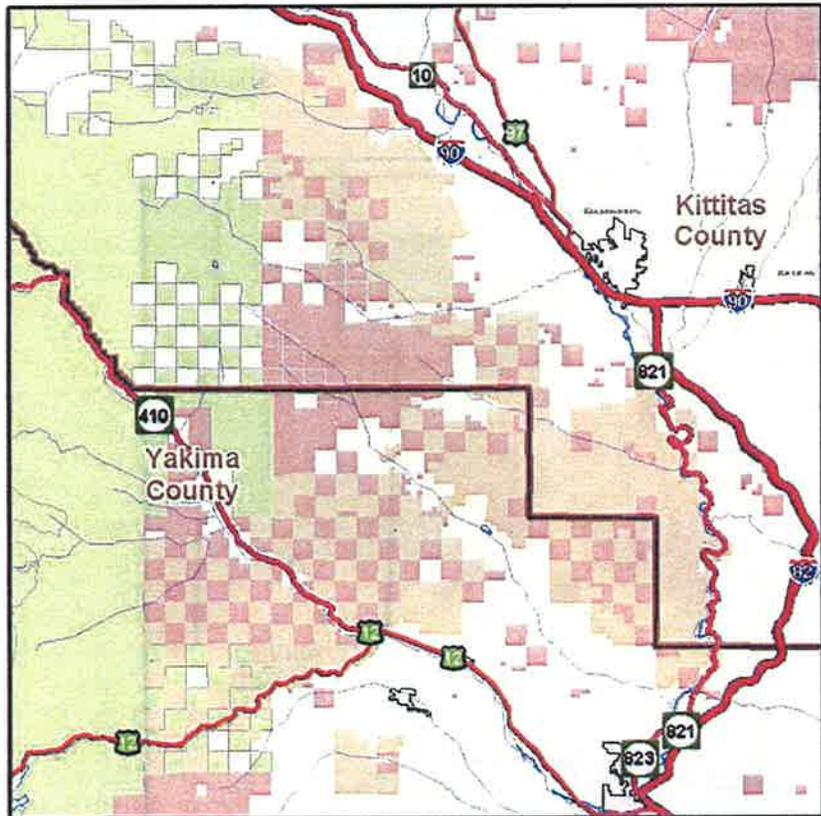
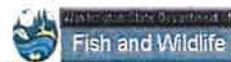
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



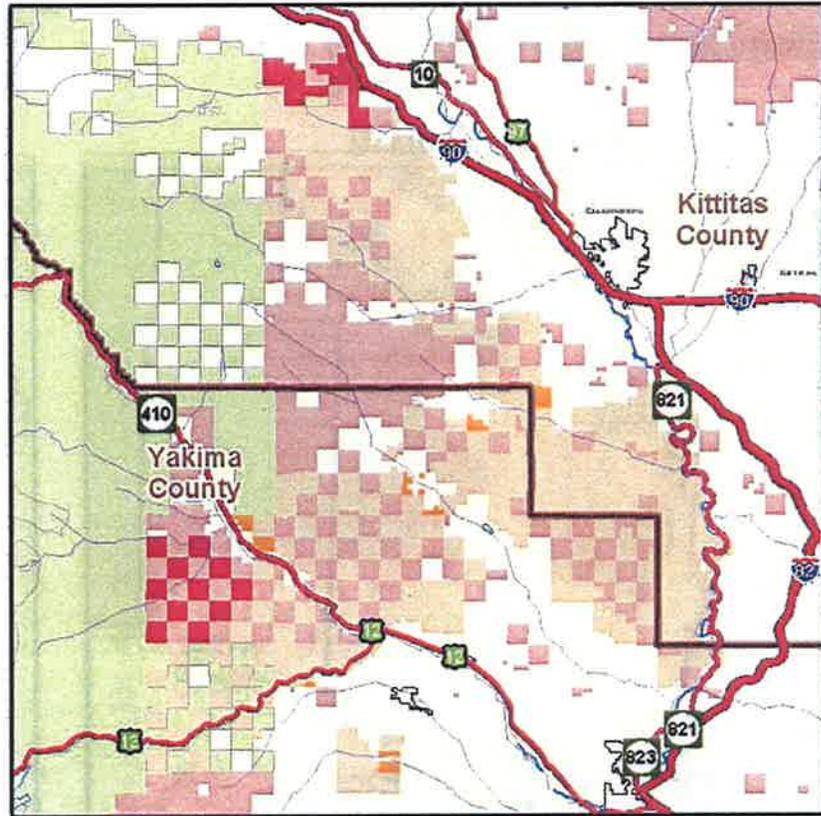
Date of Map: September 25, 2009

# Potential Phase 2 Exchange Parcels

Map Series 8



Pre-Phase 2 Ownership



Post-Phase 2 Ownership

### Ownership

- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service

### Transportation

- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Major Roads

### Ownership

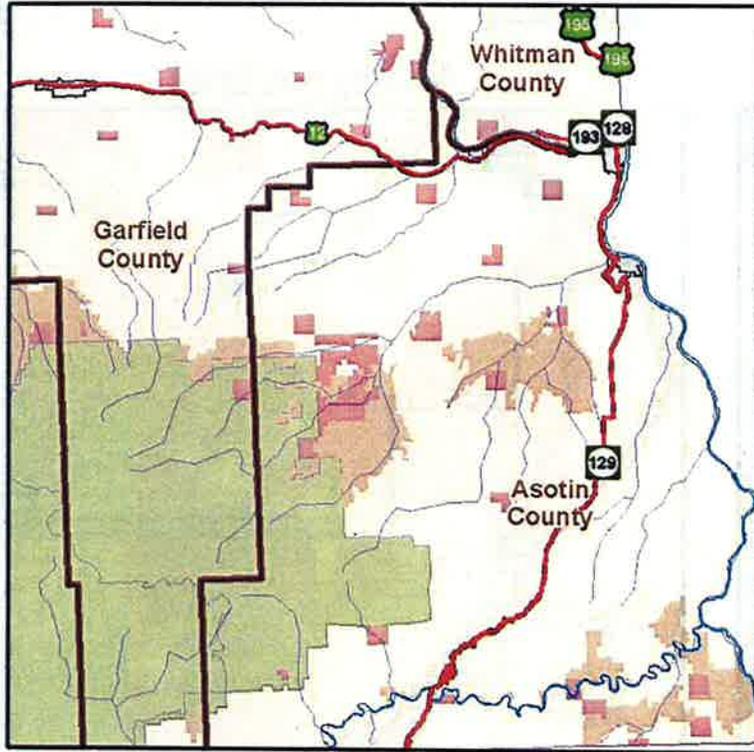
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



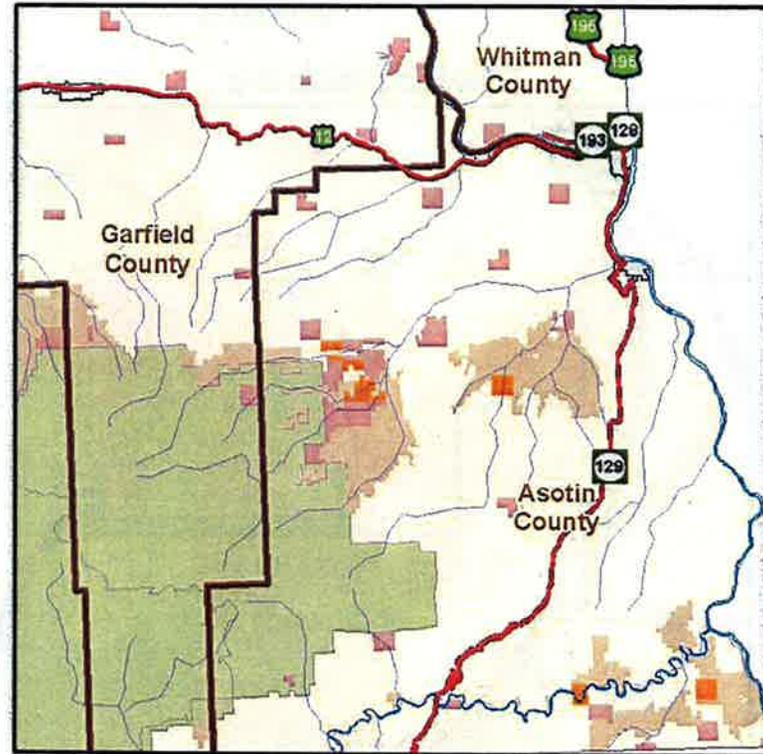
Date of Map: September 25, 2009

# Potential Phase 2 Exchange Parcels

Map Series 11



Pre-Phase 2 Ownership



Post-Phase 2 Ownership

### Ownership

- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service

### Transportation

- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Major Roads

### Ownership

- Parcels new to WA Dept of Natural Resources (none on this map)
- Parcels new to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



Date of Map: September 25, 2000