

LANDS 20/20 OVERVIEW AND PROPOSED ACQUISITION GRANT SUBMITTALS FOR 2014

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LANDS 20/20 PRESENTATION

20/20 Land Acquisition Overview

- Strategic goals and objectives
- Land acquisition history
- Land acquisition process

2015-17 Project Proposals

- Proposed Projects
- Public comment summary
- Next steps

Preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities

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 our workforce, improving business processes, and investing in technology.

WDFW Conservation Tools

Regulatory

Species Augmentation

Land Use Planning Assistance

Private Lands Partnerships

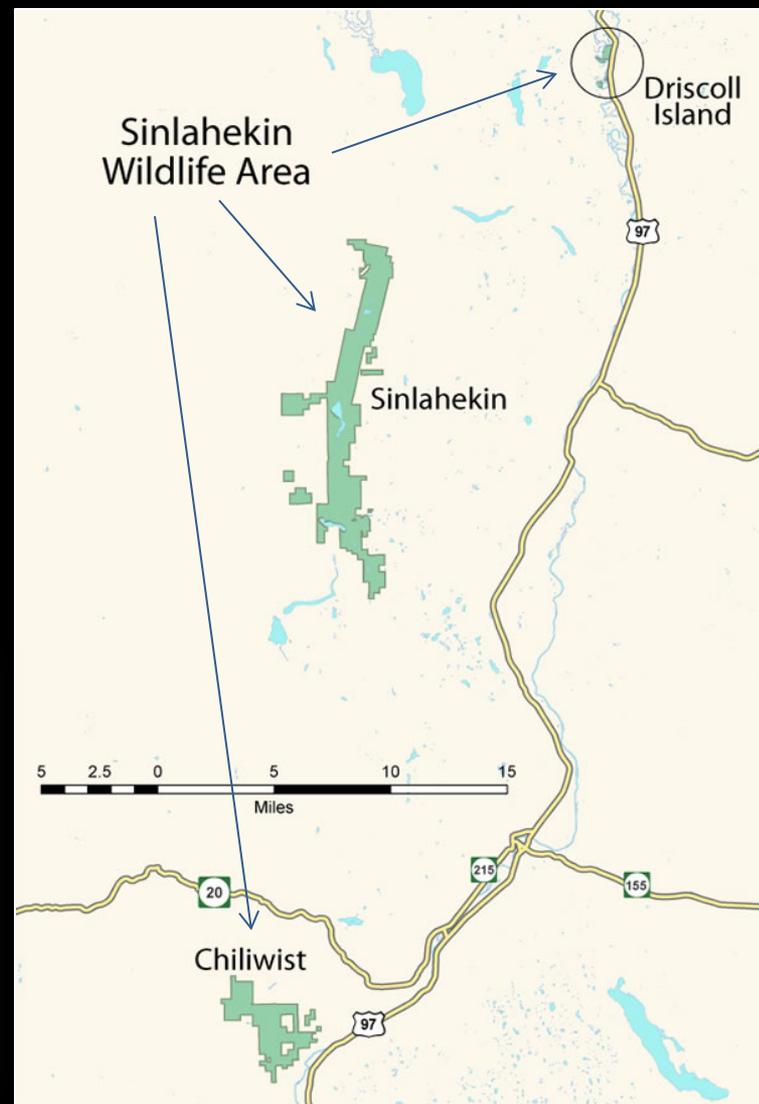
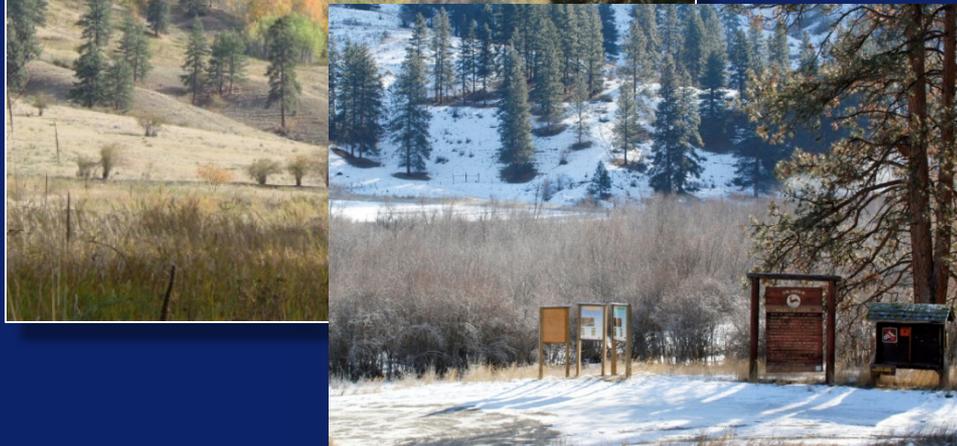
Real Property Management and Transactions





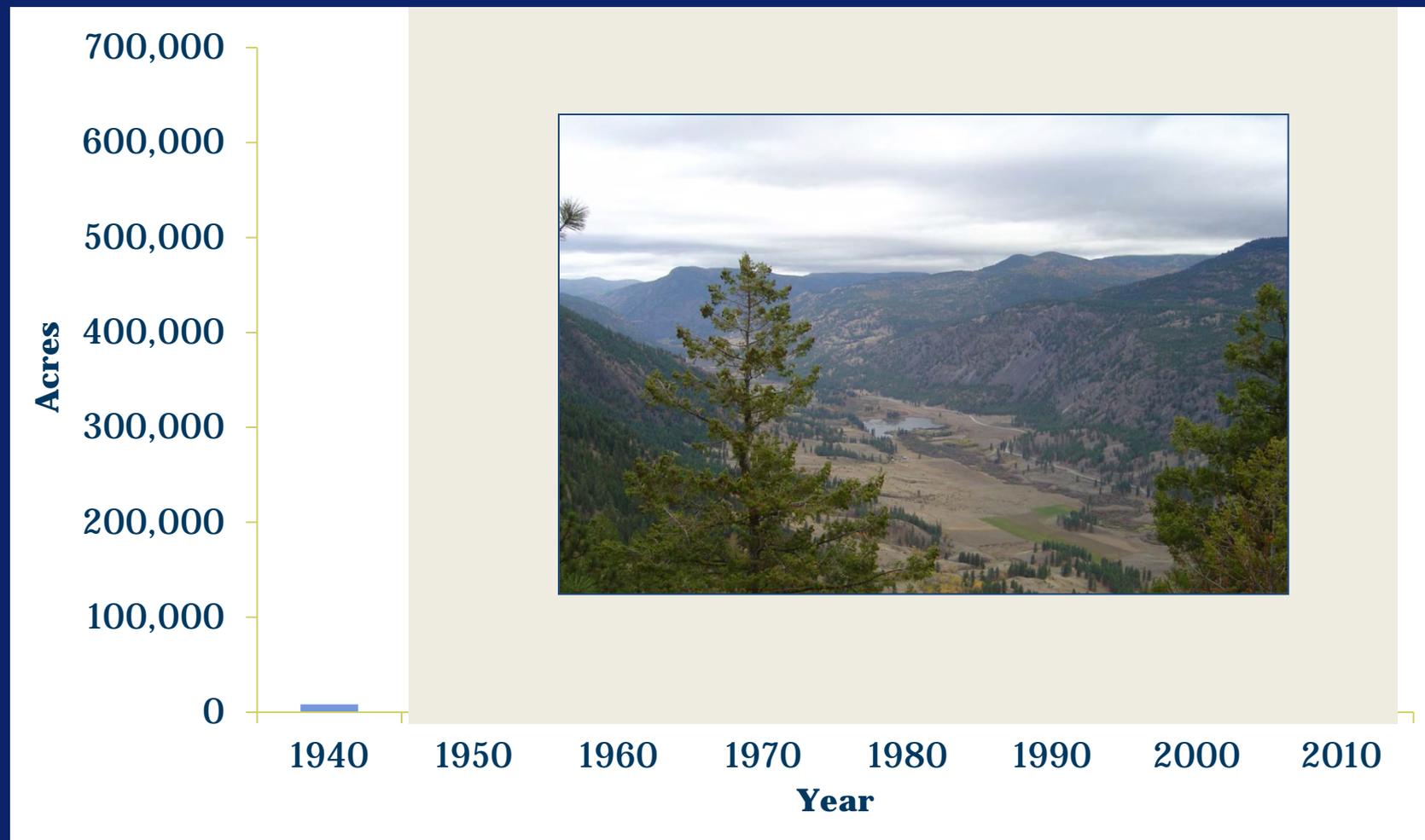
Started with Sinlahekin in 1939

75th Anniversary in 2014



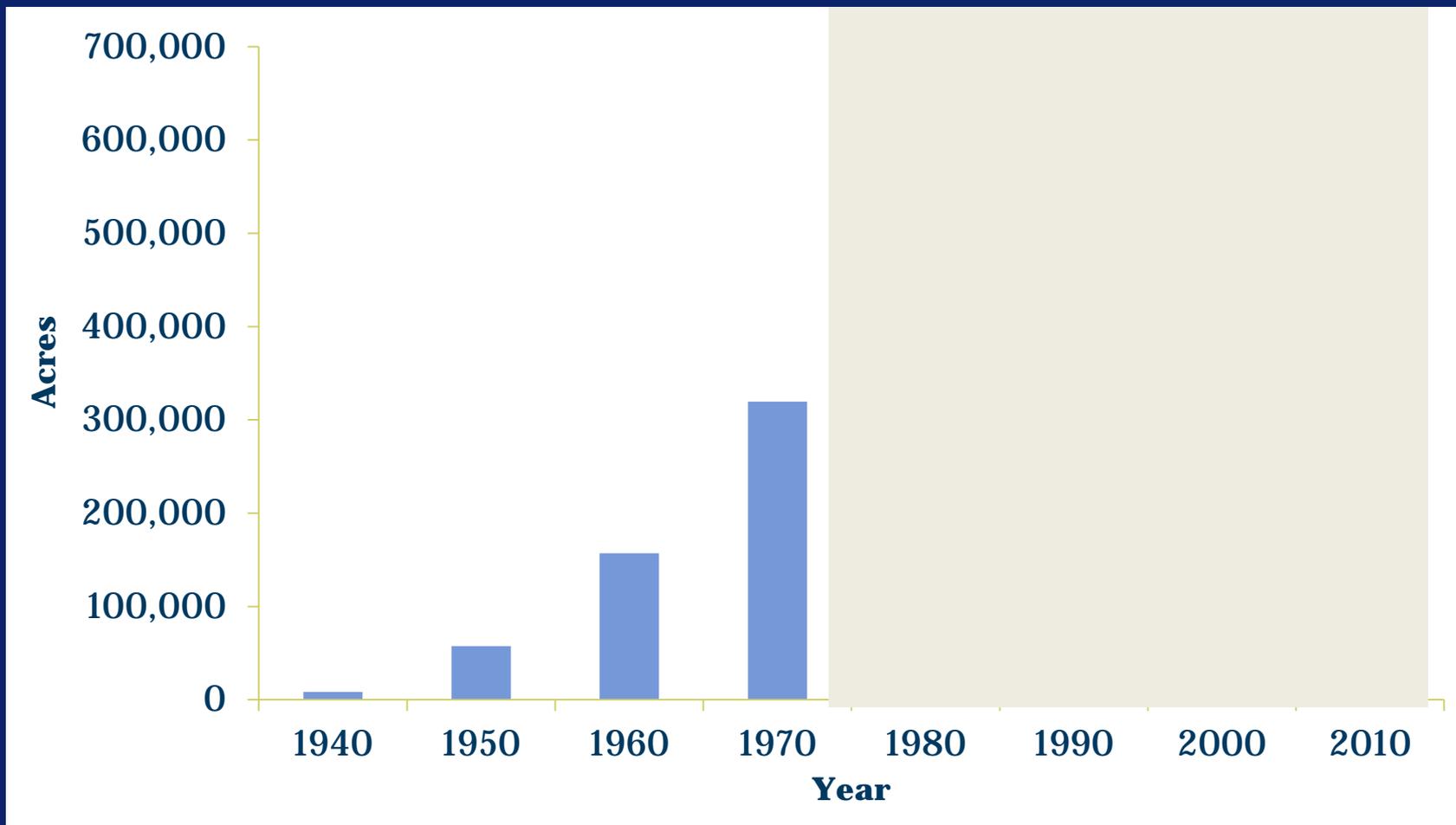
Acquisition History

- 1933: Department of Game established
- 1939: First Acquisition - 80 acres of Mule Deer Winter Range – Sinlahekin



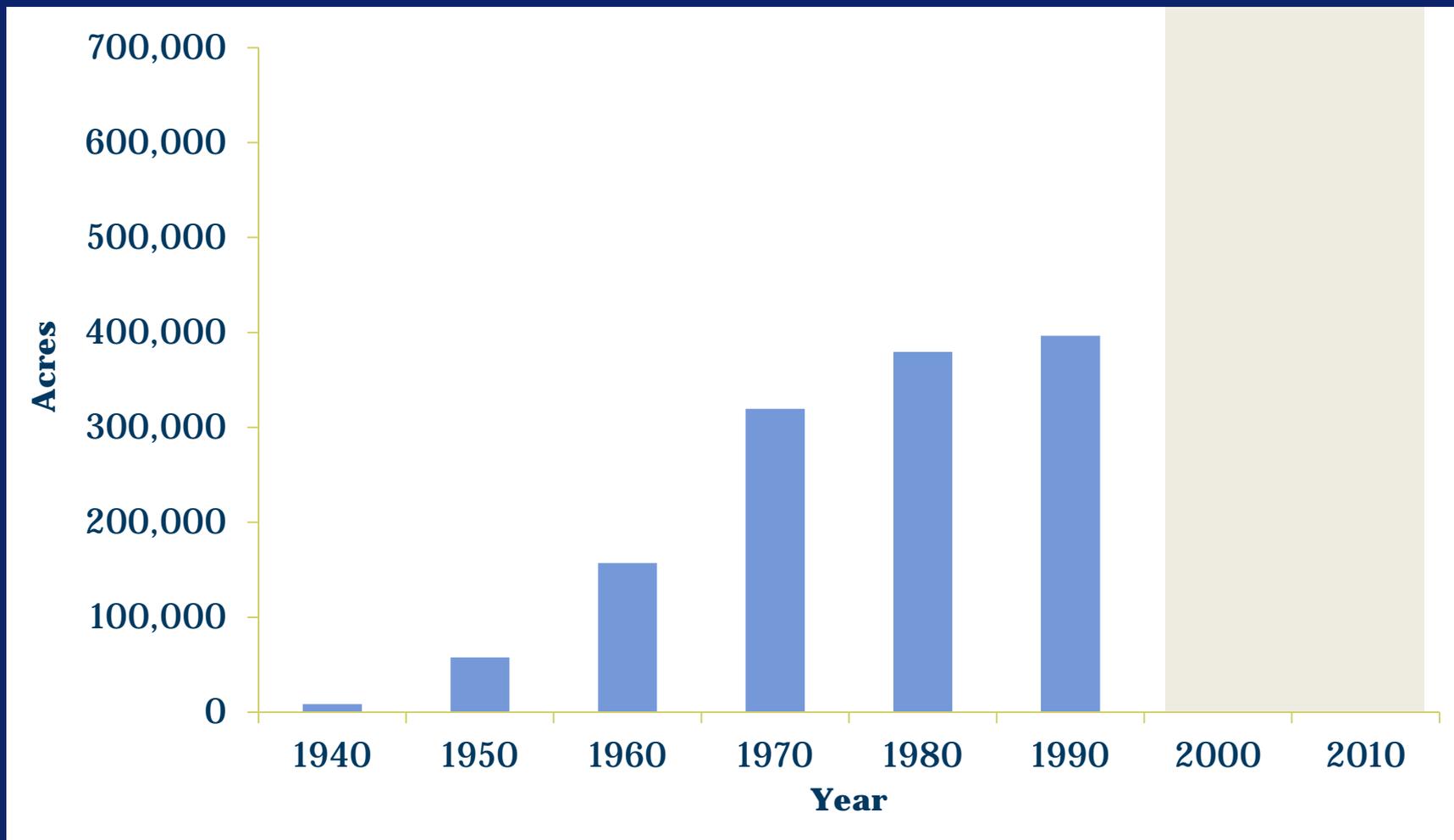
Acquisition History

- 1940 to 1970: WDFW ownership grows to ~340,000 acres
- Federal Funding: Pittman Robertson (PR), Dingell Johnson (DJ), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



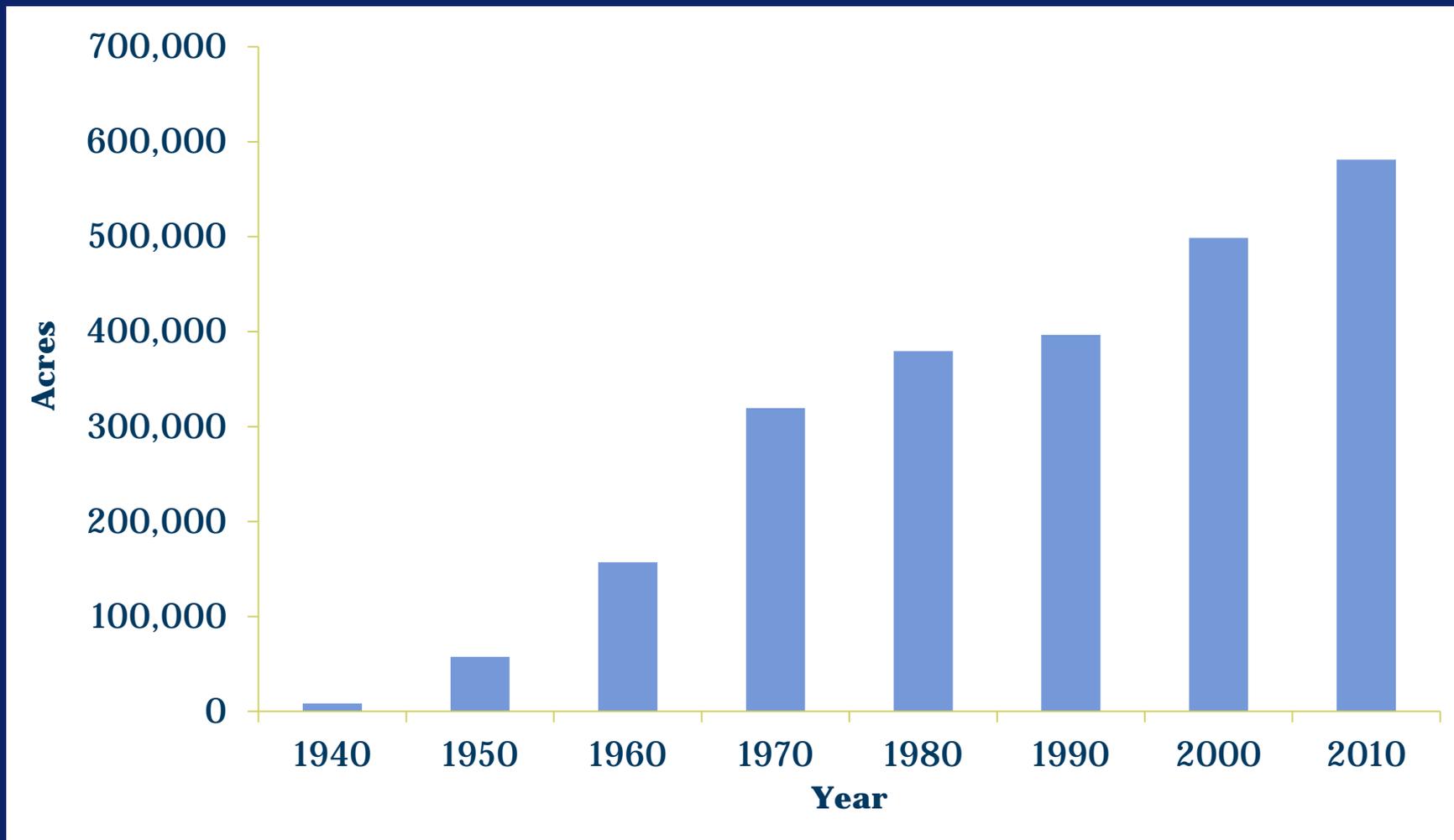
Acquisition History

- 1970-1990: Smaller number of acres and acquisitions
- Mitigation Funding: Public Utilities Districts (PUD's), Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)



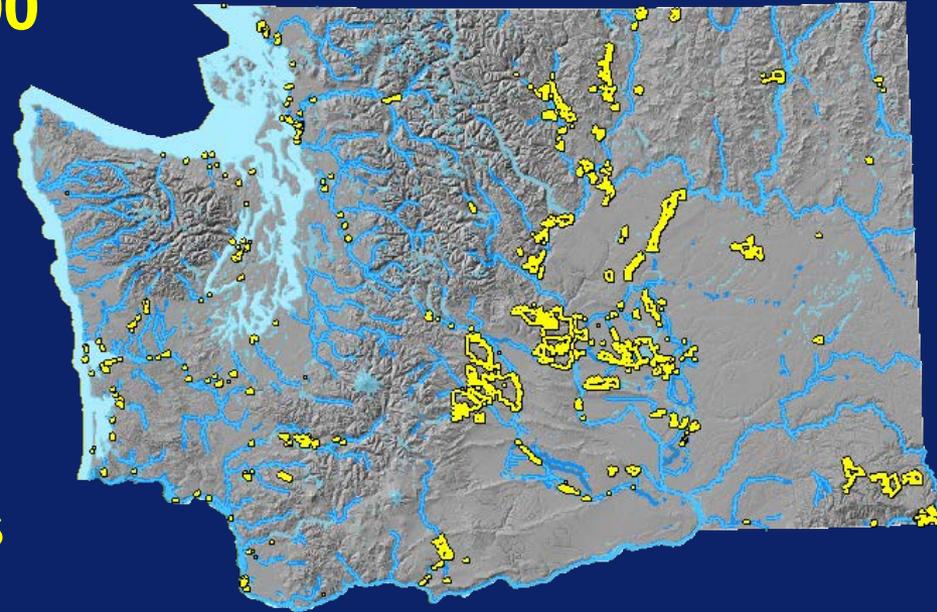
Acquisition History

- 1990 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program established
- Ability to leverage federal Endangered Species Act acquisition funding (“Sec 6”)



WDFW Lands

- ▣ **Wildlife Areas = ~1,000,000 acres**
 - ▣ **Open 365 days/ year**
 - ▣ **Four million visitors/ year**
- ▣ **Boat launch/Water Access Sites = 700**



Acquisition Process

Scoping
and Need

Evaluation and
Prioritization

Land
Transaction

Integrating
Ownership

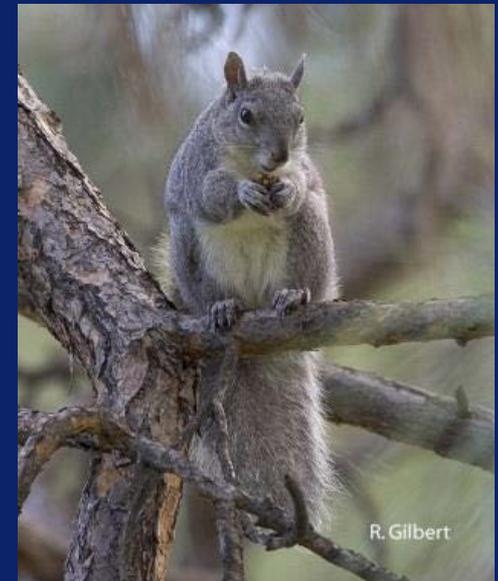
WDFW Land Acquisition Priorities

Aquatic Habitats



WDFW Land Acquisition Priorities

Critical Habitat for Specific Species



WDFW Land Acquisition Priorities

Terrestrial Habitats



WDFW Land Acquisition Priorities

Other Priorities for Acquisition



WDFW Land Acquisition Principles

- ❑ **Optimize, pursue, and use partnerships**
- ❑ **Evaluate whether acquisition is the best conservation alternative**
- ❑ **Pursue lands that provide long-term opportunities**
- ❑ **Pursue lands that will provide long-term ecological value**
- ❑ **Place a higher value on acquisitions that create blocks of ownership**
- ❑ **Pursue easements or other non-fee title options on smaller tracts**
- ❑ **Prioritize lands that are ecologically or socially important**

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WDFW Lands 20/20 Process Steps

- I. Identification of parcel(s) or areas of interest based on Statewide and Regional Priorities**
- II. Regional Program Review**
- III. Headquarters Review**
- IV. Commission Review**
- V. Director Approval to Solicit Grants (Funding)**

Grant Source Categories

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (2015-17)

- ▣ Critical Habitat, Riparian Habitat, Urban and Water Access

Section 6 (FY 2014-15)

Duck Stamp

North American Wetland Conservation Act (FY 2014-16)

Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (FY 2014-15)

Acquisition Process

Scoping
and Need

Evaluation and
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Acquisition Process

Scoping
and Need

Evaluation and
Prioritization

Land
Transaction

Integrating
Ownership

Strengthen common, shared values

Open Spaces



Protection of Water



Working Lands



Rural Economy

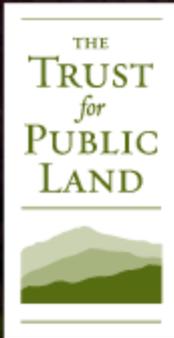


Outdoor Recreation

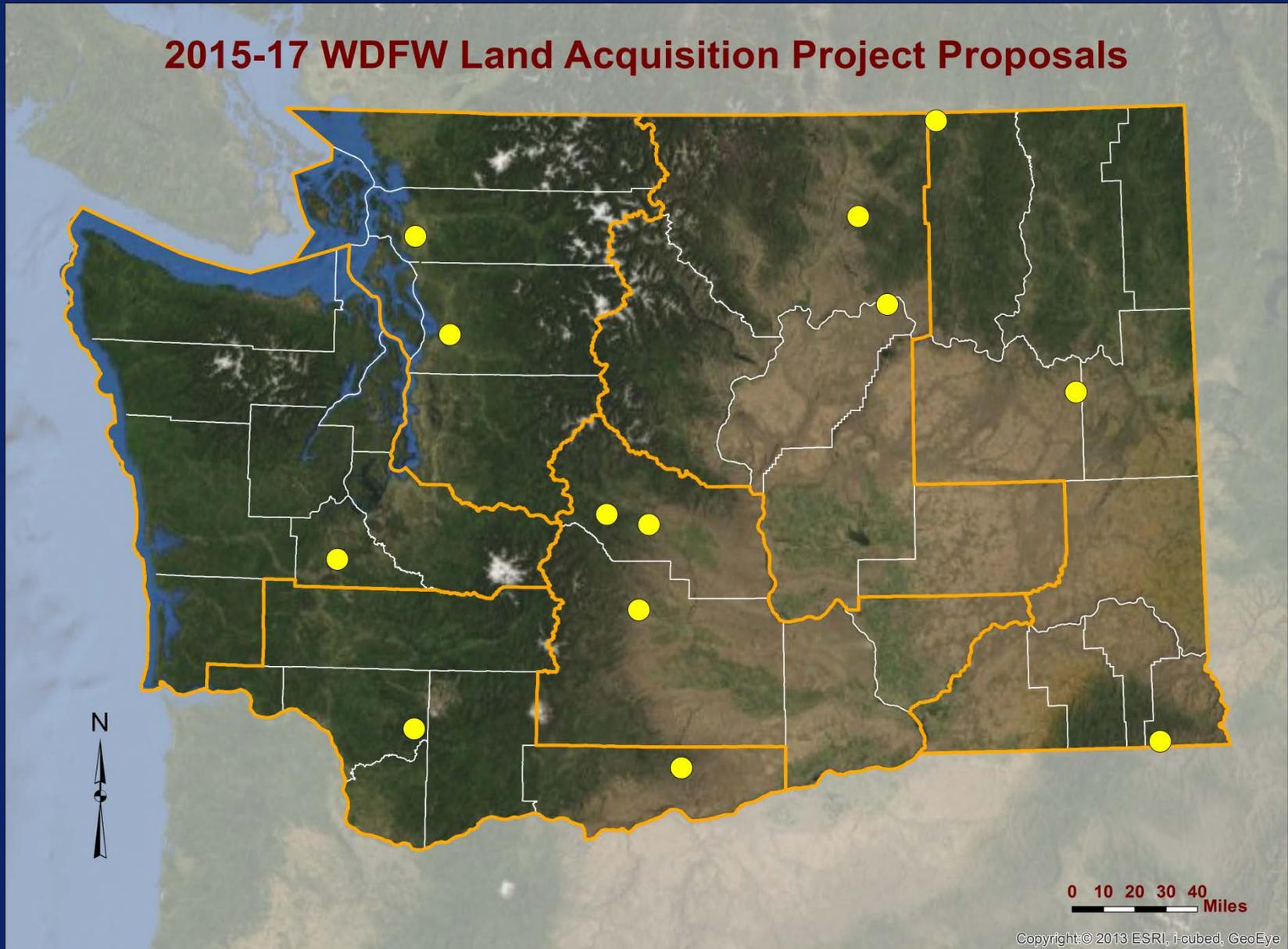


Conservation Partners

Recreation & Conservation Funding Board
Trust for Public Lands
Local Land Trusts
Conservation Northwest
The Nature Conservancy
Mule Deer Foundation
Duke Foundation
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
DNR
State Parks
BLM
Private landowners.



2015-17 WDFW Land Acquisition Project Proposals



Region 1



Kettle River



Reardan Audubon Lake

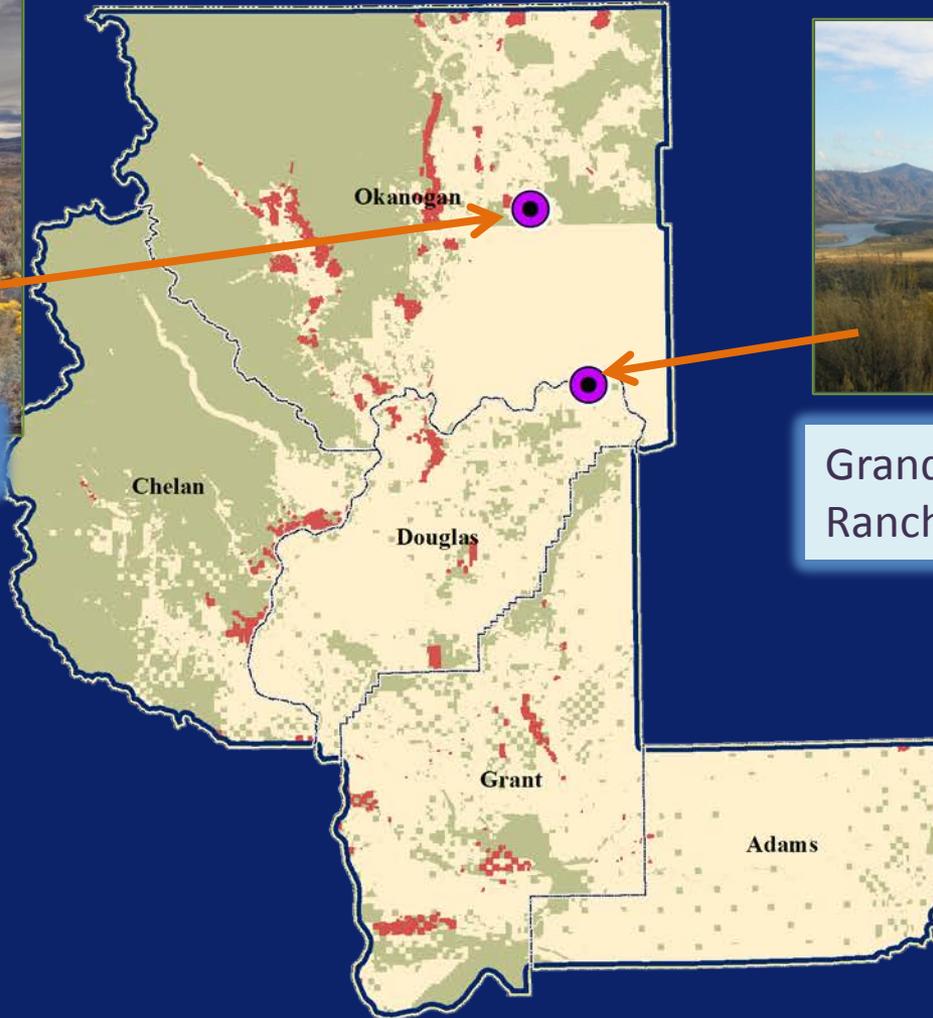


Mountain View

Region 2



Tunk

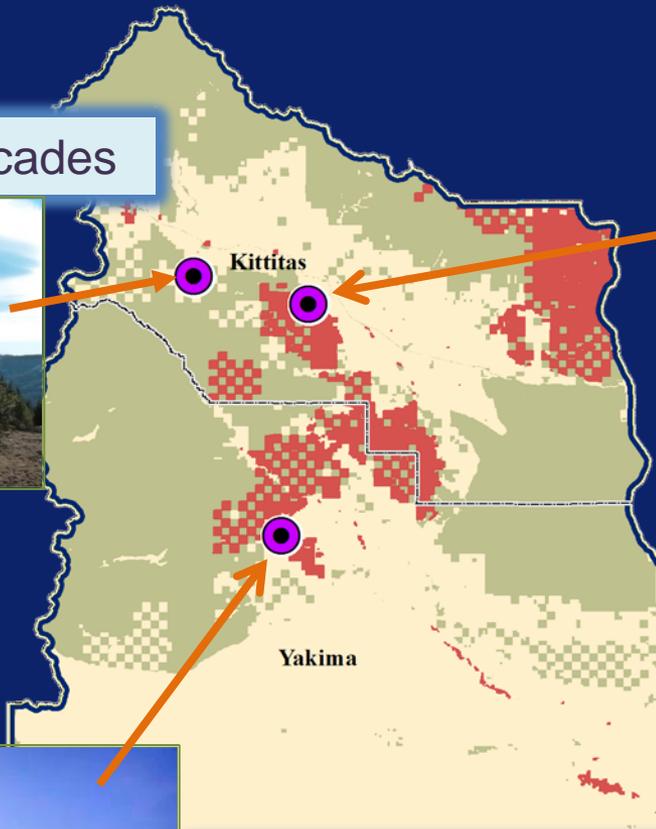


Grand Coulee Ranch



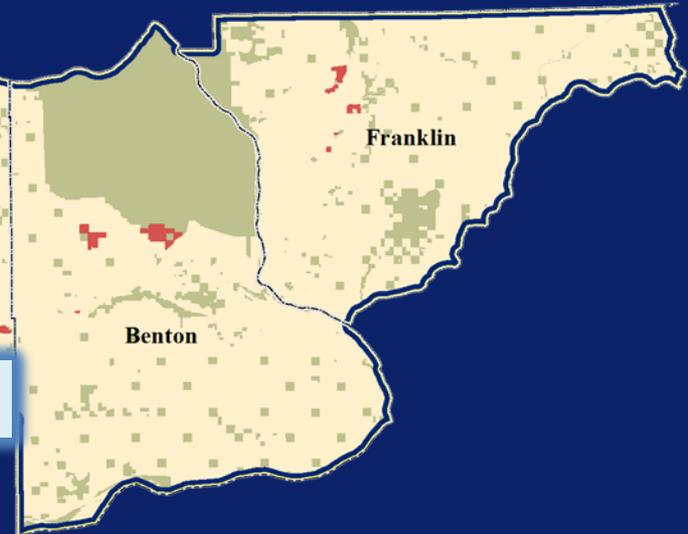
Region 3

Heart of the Cascades



Taneum Creek
Floodplain

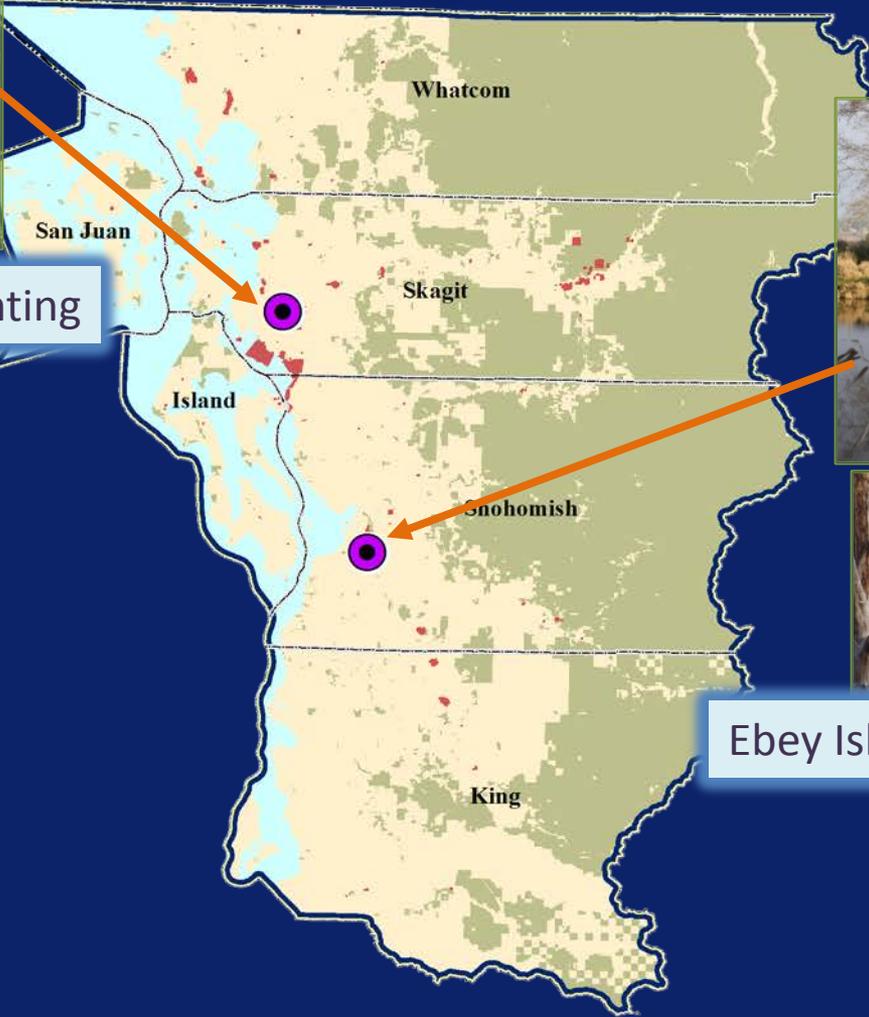
Cowiche Watershed



Region 4



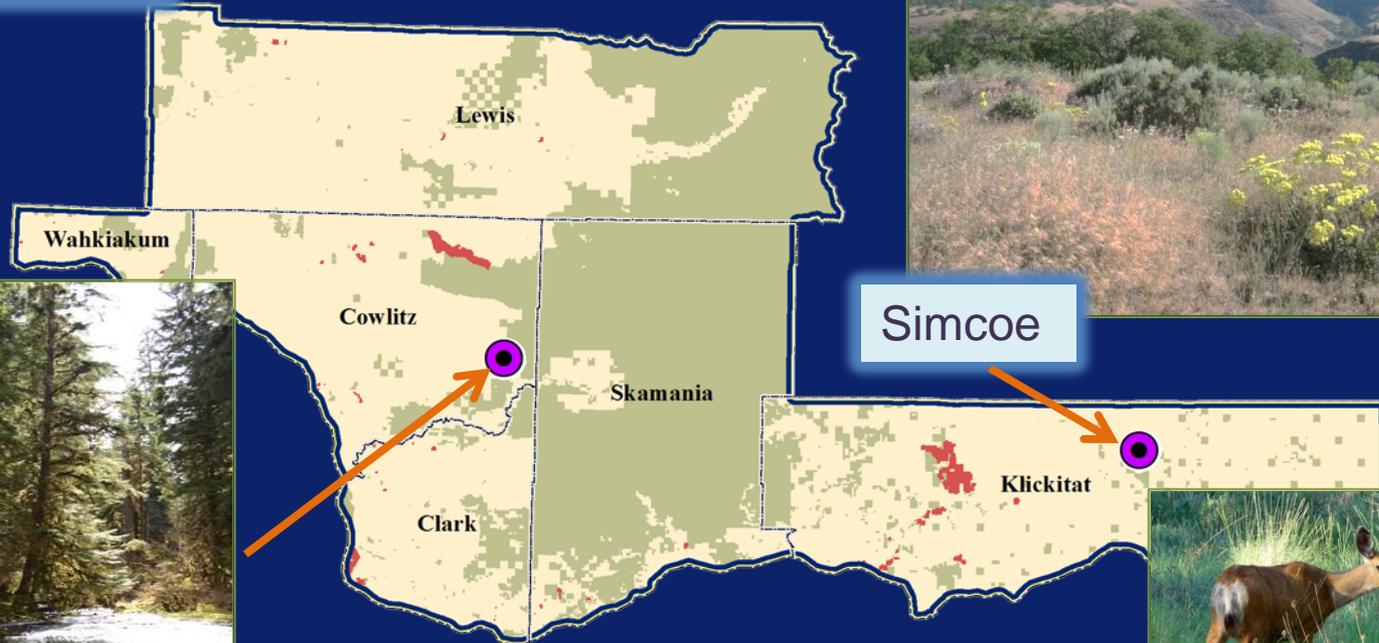
Skagit Recreational Hunting



Ebey Island Access

Region 5

Merrill Lake



Simcoe



Region 6



West Rocky Prairie



LANDS 20/20 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment Summary

- ▣ 151 Total comments received
- ▣ 127 Support
- ▣ 21 opposed

Public Comments

- ▣ Supporting comments highlighted the public benefits of fish and wildlife conservation and recreational access (birding, hunting, fishing).
- ▣ Hunting and fishing access is becoming limited as more and more properties are being purchased by private entities.

Summary of Comments

- ▣ Counties losing working lands

DFW response: Conservation easements provide local economic benefits from working lands.

- ▣ Not in agreement with current land management strategy

DFW response: Agency is implementing a new Wildlife Area planning process with heavy emphasis on public involvement and input.

Summary of Comments

- ▣ Lack of operations and maintenance funding

DFW Response: With Discover Pass revenues we have adequate funding in the current biennium for O & M needs.

- ▣ State does not adequately pay taxes on property

DFW Response: Agency has supported full payment to counties of PILT. Subject to Legislative appropriation. Not fully funded this biennium.

Next Steps

- ▣ Director approval
- ▣ Lands Division Manager will announce approved projects to the regions
- ▣ RCO Lands Forum - March 2014
- ▣ Project sponsors will develop applications for submittal with appropriate funding source