

CORN STUBBLE FIELDS FOR DUCK AND GOOSE HUNTING, 2011-2012

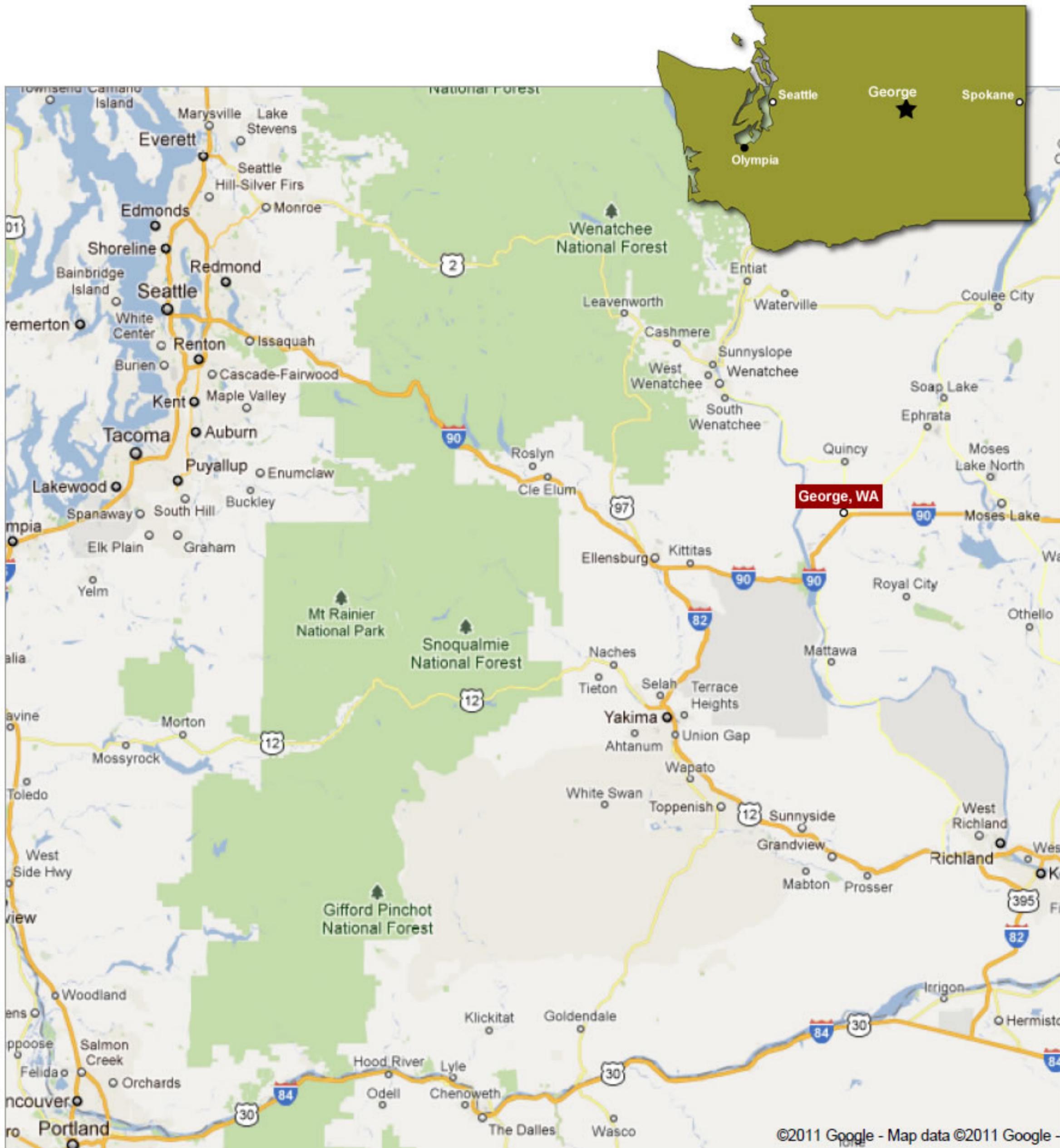
The corn stubble retention project (CSRP) began in 2003 in response to an apparent decline in hunting opportunity and distribution of waterfowl using the Columbia Basin during winter. Minimum basic requirements for waterfowl to remain in an area are: suitable forage and some degree of undisturbed, open water for roosting.

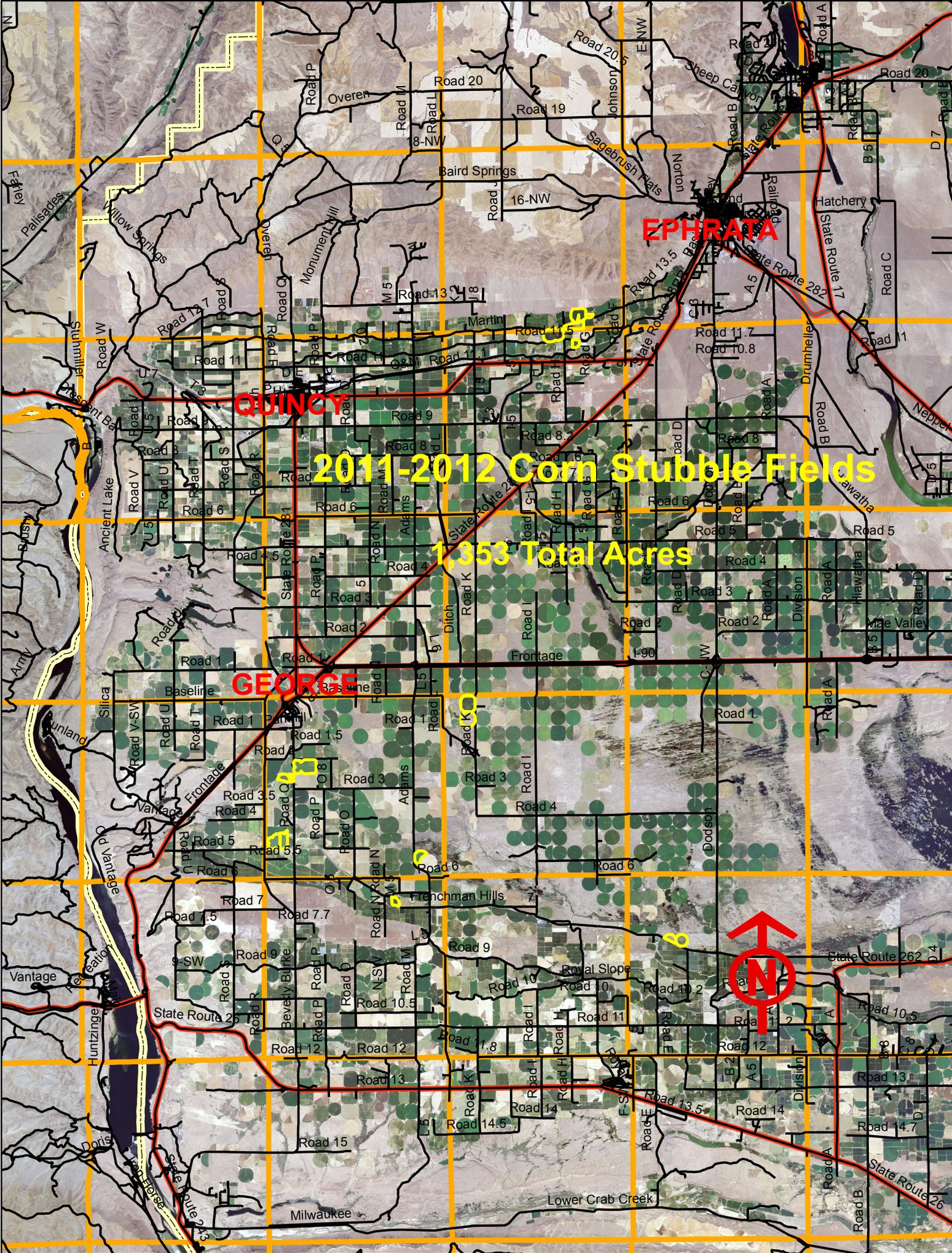
During fall, winter, and early spring, mallards in the Columbia Basin feed primarily on waste grain such as corn and wheat, and supplement nutritional deficiencies of agricultural grain by selecting natural foods (i.e., wetland plants). Efforts had been made to increase the availability of natural foods by wetland management but little had been done to increase the abundance of agricultural foods for waterfowl in this area.

Needless to say, the acreage of grain planted in a specific area has a direct impact on the abundance of waste grain available to waterfowl in that area. Disking or plowing a corn field after harvest can reduce available waste grain by as much as 77-97%. Therefore the longer a field remains free from disking, the greater food availability for waterfowl.

Since 2003, the CSRP has been successfully encouraging grain corn growers to modify stubble treatment to benefit waterfowl by offering a monetary payment. These fields are all part of WDFW's Feel Free to Hunt access program, and are available to hunters as soon as corn harvest is completed in the fall and winter.

Areas circled in yellow on the accompanying map are open for the 2011-2012 waterfowl season. Fields are located near George and Quincy, WA.





QUINCY

EPHRATA

GEORGE

2011-2012 Corn Stubble Fields

1,353 Total Acres

