Washington's Wild Future:

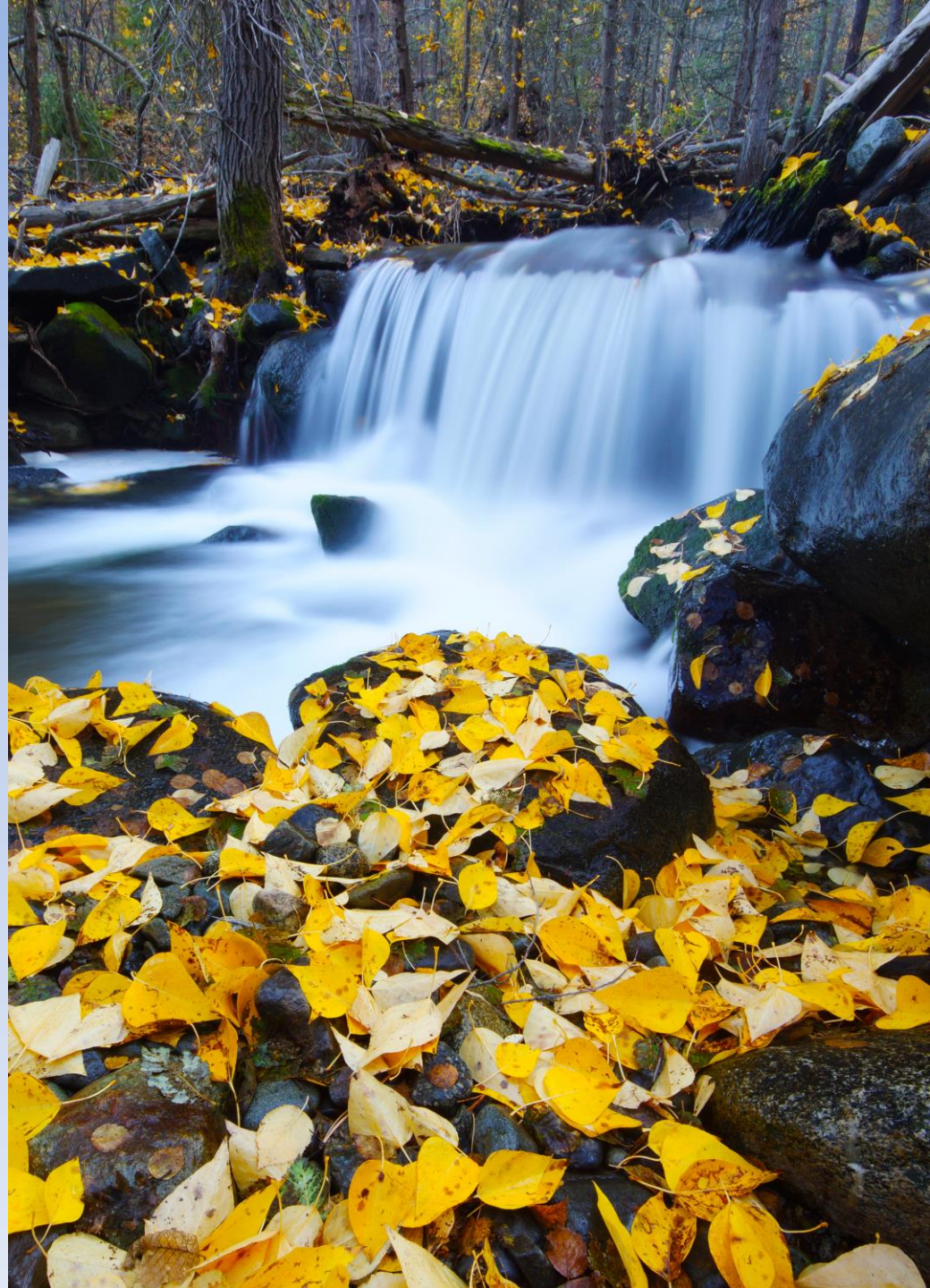
A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Regional Forums
Fall 2015

WDFW's 'Wild Future' initiative

We welcome you as we begin a new multi-year outreach initiative:

- **Fall 2015** – Listen to our partners, customers, stakeholders
- **2016** – Report what we heard and what we are going to do in response
- **2017** – Make internal improvements. Use input to guide funding, policy, and potential license fee proposals



Tonight's meeting is the start of a conversation

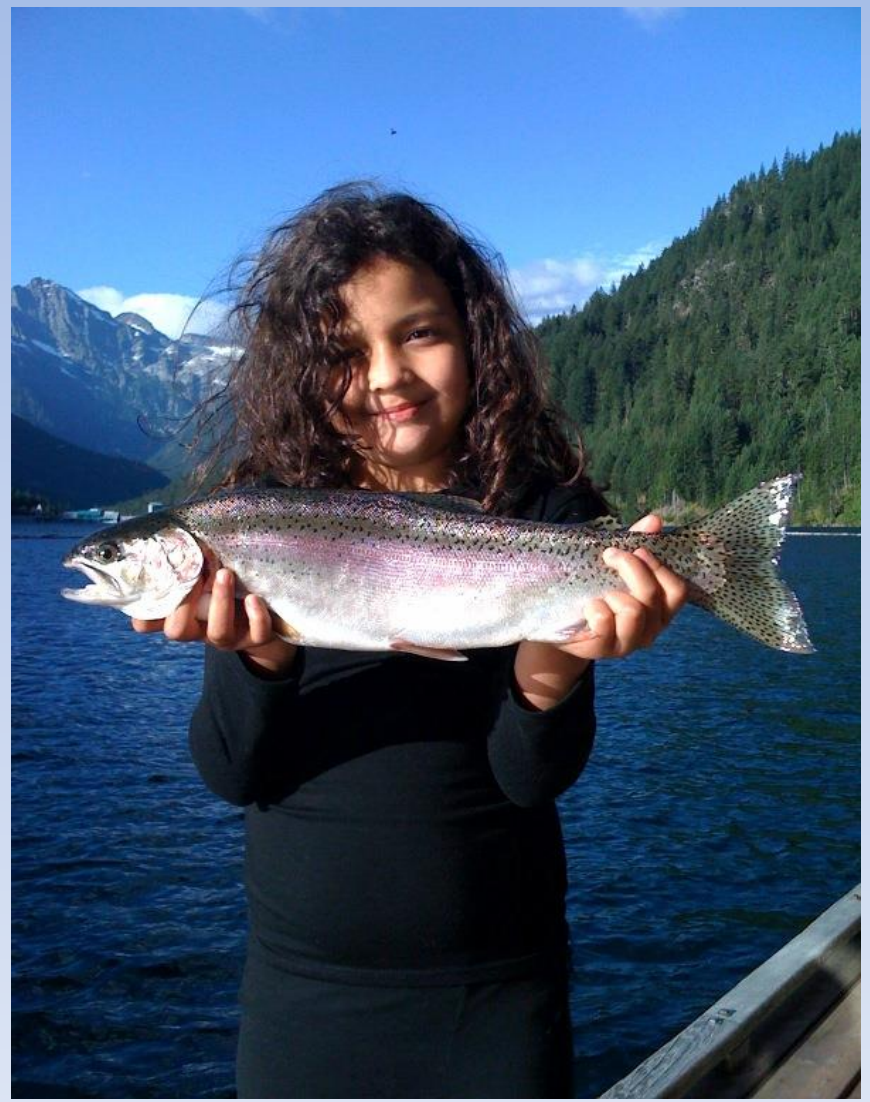
This won't be a typical government hearing:

- WDFW staff are available for one-on-one and small group discussions
- Let us know exactly what you think:
  - What's working well? What's not?
  - Do you have specific ideas and proposals?

After this evening:

- Comment online: www.wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture
- Email : WildFuture@dfw.wa.gov
- Join the discussion: www.facebook.com/WashingtonFishWildlife

Why are we having these forums?



- Focusing on the future
- Difficult management challenges ahead
- Rising costs, ongoing budget constraints
- We can’t succeed by going it alone – partnerships are producing great results
- We need your help – and your ideas
- We hope to strengthen our relationships, to earn and keep your trust

Outdoor recreation in Washington

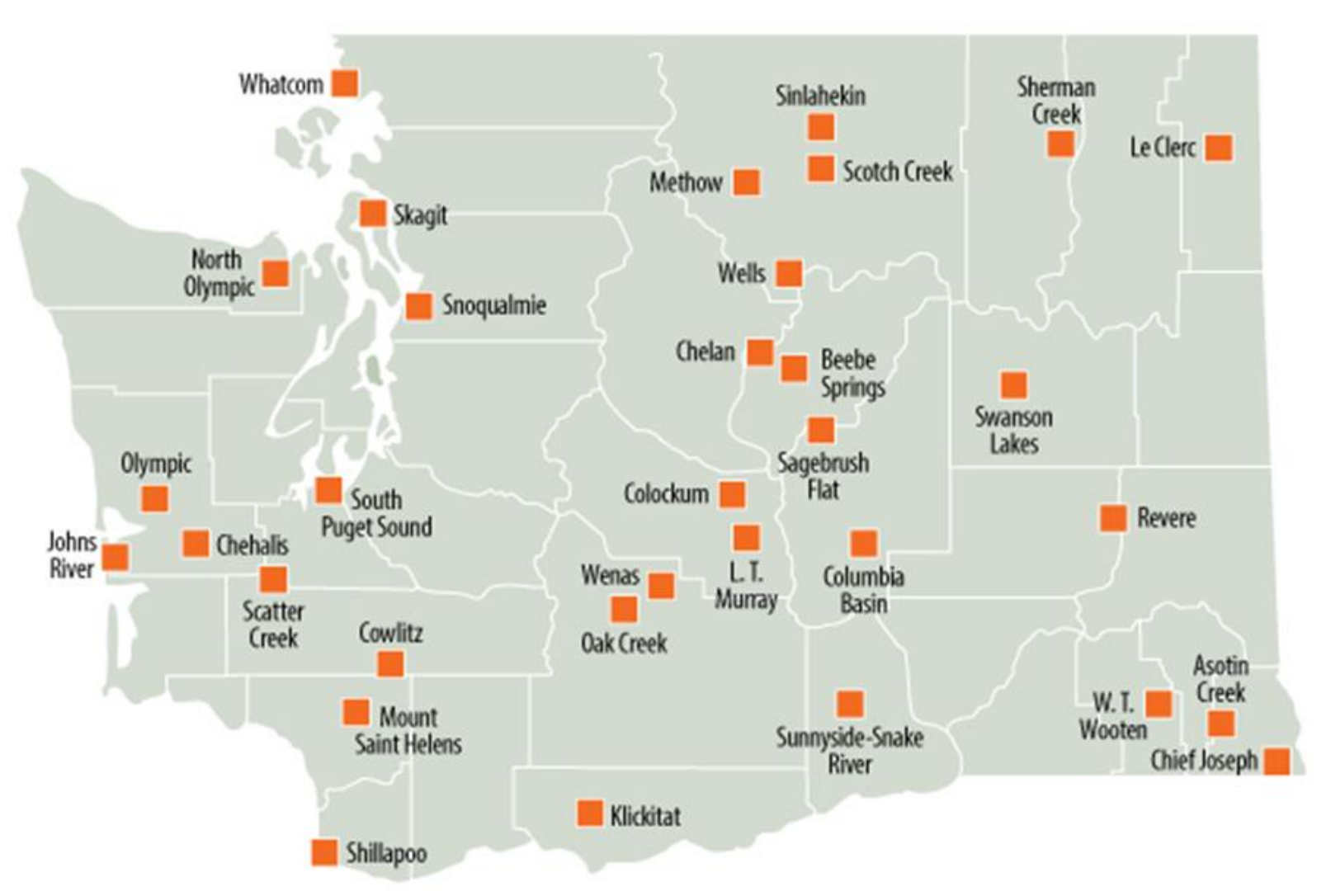
- We recreate outdoors an average of 56 days a year
- We fish, hunt, boat, hike, climb, and ride horses, bikes, and ATVs… many of us recreate just to enjoy the scenery
- And we spend: $22 billion per year, supporting nearly 200,000 jobs
- The result: A strong recreation business sector and high quality of life
- **Conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitat make it all possible**

WDFW plays a key role in the outdoors

Each year, WDFW's 1,500 employees:

- Partner with 600 businesses to sell millions of hunting and fishing licenses
- Manage 1 million acres for habitat, hunting, and recreation at 33 wildlife areas
- Make 300,000 enforcement and public education contacts
- Manage 83 hatcheries and 700 water access sites
- Remove fish passage barriers
- Manage commercial and recreational fisheries

Wildlife areas for conservation and recreation



WDFW's 33 wildlife areas provide 1 million acres of valuable fish and wildlife habitat

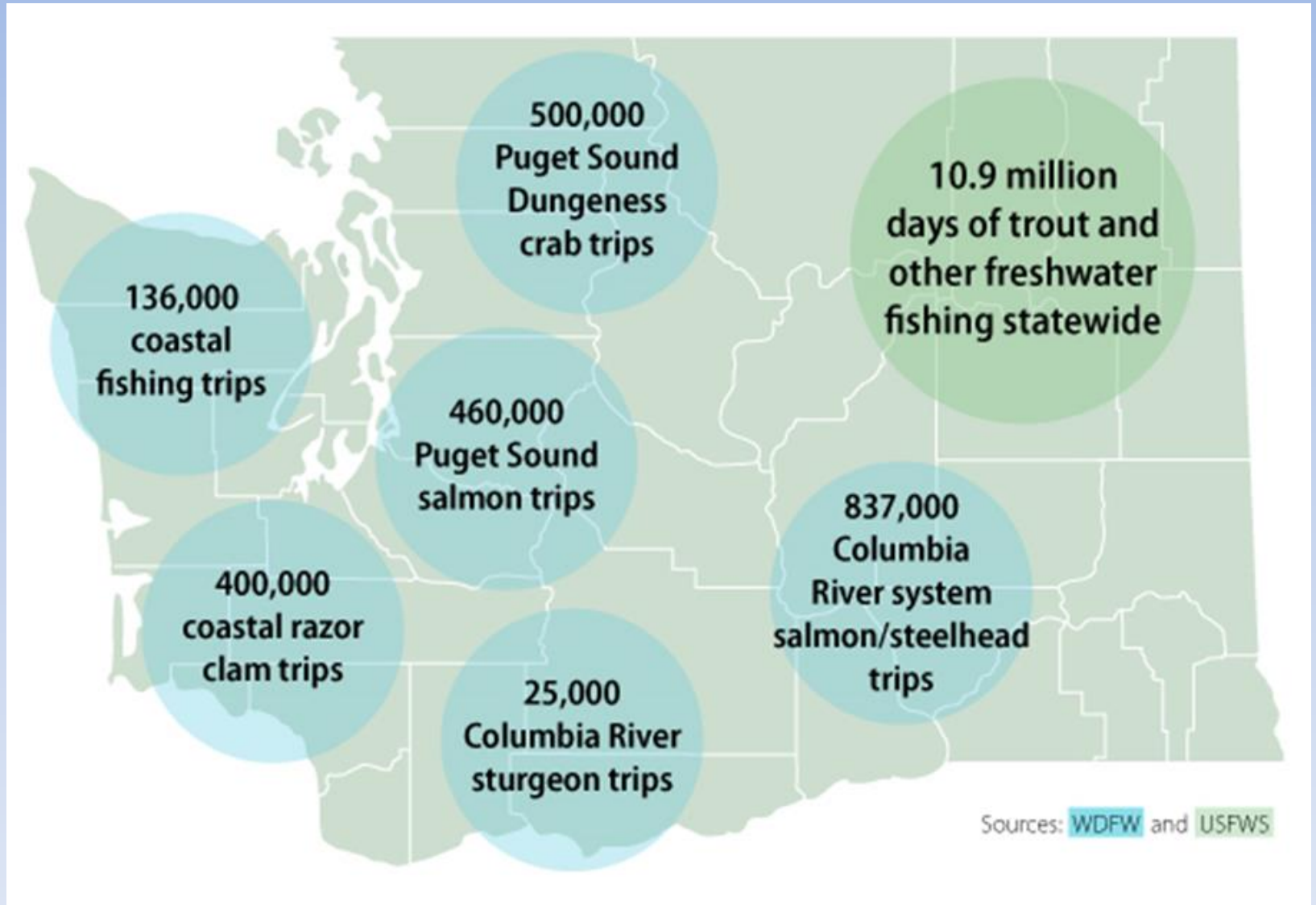
Across the state, wildlife viewing and photography alone generate $7 billion each year

Recreational fishing produces statewide benefits

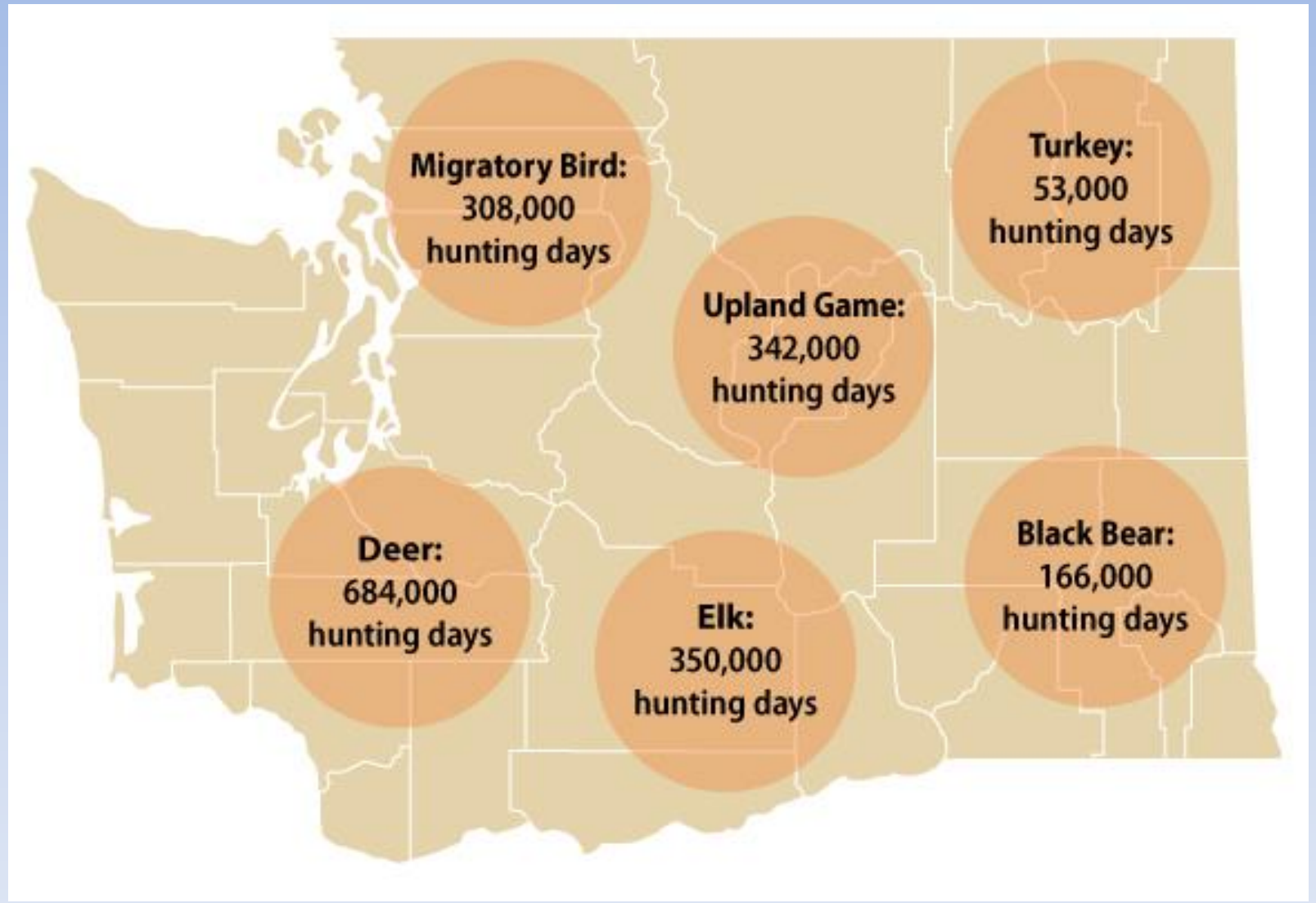
More than $1 Billion in economic activity each year

One in six Washington residents buys a license

The average angler spends $40 per day



Hunters have opportunities in every region

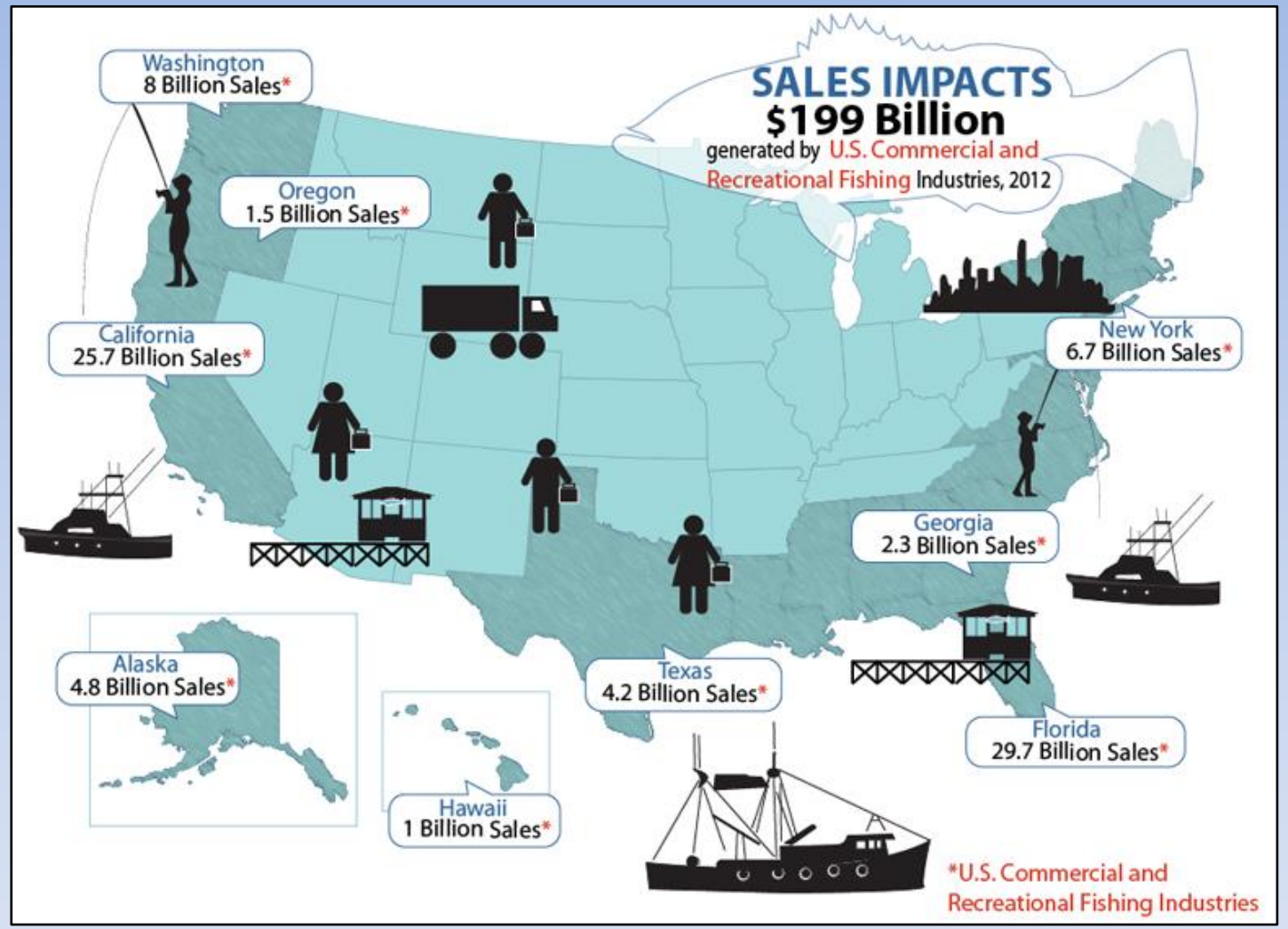


Hunters generate $356 million in economic activity per year

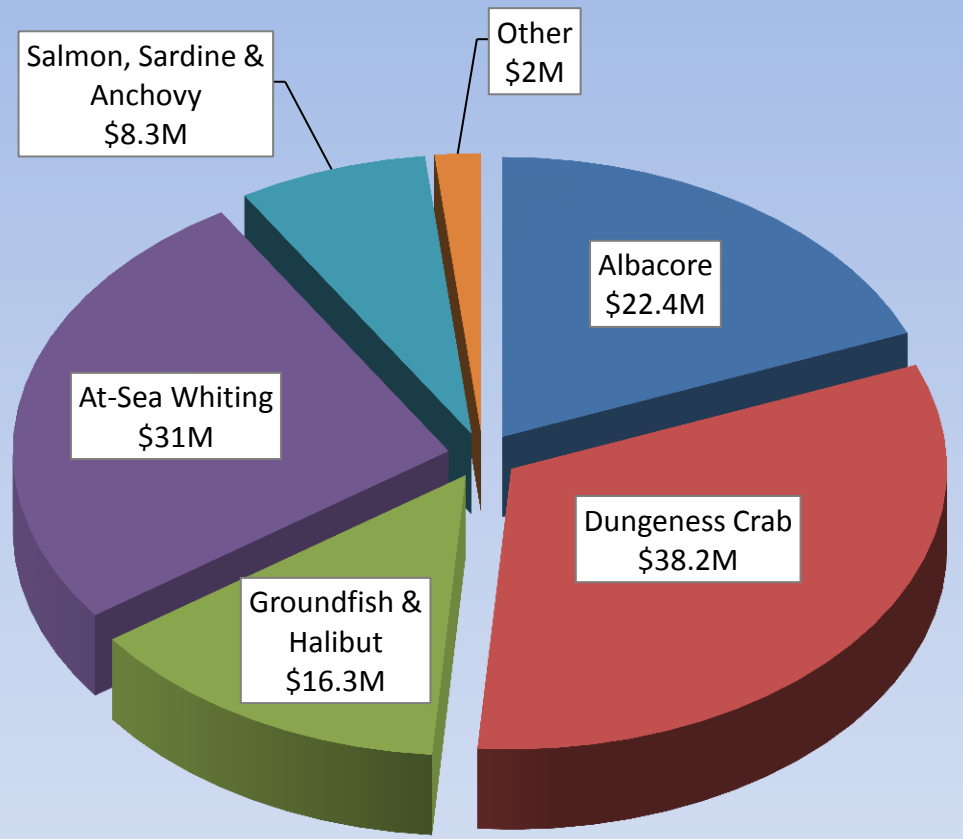
557,000 hunting licenses sold in 2014

The average hunter spends $64 per day

Fishing supports our economy



Washington ranks 3rd in recreational and commercial fishing sales

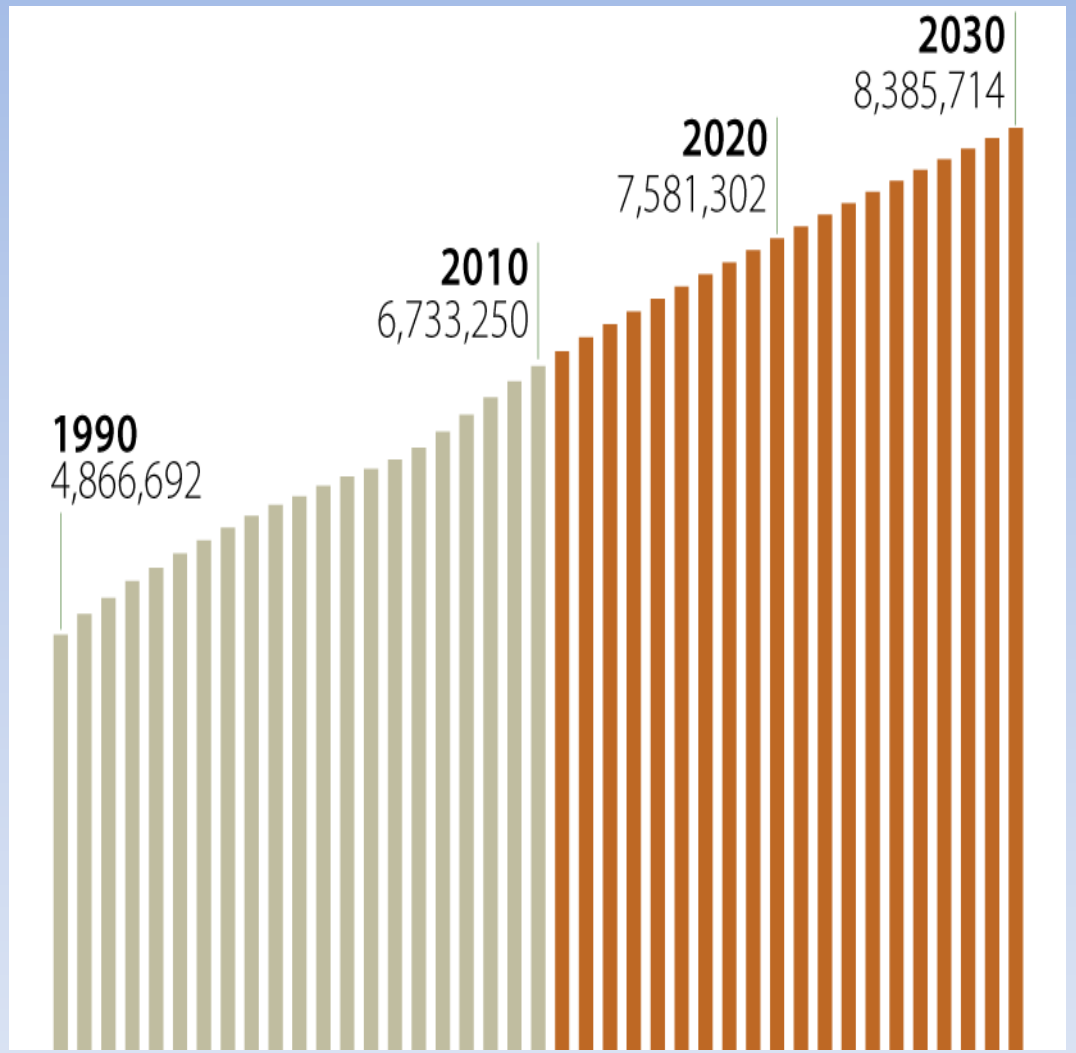


Coastal Commercial Fisheries:
Average Revenue 2010-2014

Washington faces big challenges

- Population growth – Another 1 million people expected by 2030
- Habitat loss
- Complex ESA-related requirements
- Increasing operating costs
- Recurring fires and droughts

Projected population growth



How can we preserve outdoor opportunities?

- Build conservation partnerships
- Locate development away from important wildlife lands
- Provide clean, abundant water
- Promote recovery of salmon and other species
- Protect and restore habitat
- Ensure recreational access

So let's talk turkey …
… or salmon or elk

Tonight's questions:

- How are we doing?
- What should we be doing better?
- What would you like us to do that we're not doing?
- What's your highest priority for fish and wildlife in Washington?

…Tonight, we're here to listen
www.wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture
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