



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Commission

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2020

Natural Resource Building – 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501, Room 172

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

8:00 AM Hatchery Policy Review Emerging Science Report Workshop – Briefing, Public Comment

Location: Room 172

Staff will brief the Commission on the key findings of the recently completed science report titled, "A review of hatchery reform science in Washington State."

Staff Report: Joe Anderson, Research Scientist and Ken Warheit, Supervisor of Genetic and Fish Health Laboratories

Public Comment – This Item Only

12:00 PM Recess

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1:00 PM Wolf Committee Meeting – Commissioners Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville

Location: Room 172

Agenda topics:

- Recovery plan sideboards – initial discussion
- PSR post doc update
- General discussion – current events
- Wolf agenda setting

2:30 PM Fish Committee Meeting – Commissioners Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill

Location: Room 172

Agenda topics:

- Willapa Bay Comprehensive Review update
- Willapa Bay 2020 guidance (agenda item preview)
- Columbia River Policy Review next steps

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING

7:00 AM Wildlife Committee Meeting – Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Anderson, Linville

Location: Room 172

Agenda topics:

- Hunting Contest options discussion
- Wildlife agenda setting
- Traditional weapon philosophy – weapon modernization discussion
- General discussion – current events

8:30 AM

1. Call to Order

- a. Commissioners' Discussion
- b. Meeting Minutes Approval
- c. Committee Reports

30 min

9:00AM	2. <u>Open Public Input</u> The Commission is a direct link between the citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. NOTE: During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that do not already have public input time on the agenda.	<i>45 min</i>
9:45 AM	3. <u>Director's Report</u> The Director will brief the Commission on various items.	<i>30 min</i>
10:15 AM	4. <u>Land 20/20 – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision</u> Staff will provide a briefing on the Lands 20/20 process and seek funding for projects approved through this process. Staff Report: Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager	<i>40 min</i>
<u>Public Comment – This Item Only</u>		
10:55 AM	<u>Break</u>	<i>15 min</i>
11:10 AM	5. <u>2020 Forest Restoration Project Approval Requests – Briefing, Decision</u> Staff will seek approval from the Commission on forest management projects that involve harvesting volumes exceeding one million board feet. Staff Report: Richard Tveten, Forest Management Team Lead	<i>10 min</i>
11:20 AM	6. <u>Columbia River Policy Review Next Steps - Briefing</u> Director Susewind will report on 2020 Columbia River fisheries policy and negotiations with Oregon Director Curt Melcher and the Commission will discuss potential next steps for Policy C-3620.	<i>80 min</i>
12:40 PM	<u>Lunch</u>	<i>60 min</i>
1:40 PM	7. <u>Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy – Briefing, Public Comment</u> Staff will provide the Commission an annual review briefing on Grays Harbor salmon management as stipulated within Policy C-3621, providing guidance for Grays Harbor salmon fisheries. Staff Report: Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst, and Mike Scharpf, District Biologist	<i>60 min</i>
<u>Public Comment – This Item Only</u>		
2:40 PM	8. <u>Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622- Briefing, Public Comment, Decision</u> Staff will provide a briefing on the performance of policy implementation and seek guidance from the Commission on implementing the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) for 2019 brood year fall chinook hatchery releases and 2020 fishery management objectives and measures. Staff Report: Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager	<i>90 min</i>
<u>Public Comment – This Item Only</u>		
4:10 PM	<u>Break</u>	<i>15 min</i>

- 4:25 PM 9. **Lower Columbia Sturgeon Stock Status – Briefing, Public Comment** 45 min
Staff will provide the Commission an annual review on lower Columbia River sturgeon population status, as stipulated within Policy C-3001. The Commission will discuss 2020 fisheries and provide guidance on the delegation to set 2020 fisheries.
- Staff Report: Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant

Public Comment – This Item Only

5:10 PM Recess

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

- 7:00 AM **Big Tent Committee Meeting** – Commissioners Baker, Thorburn, Smith, McIsaac
Location: Room 172
Agenda topics:
- Strategic planning
 - Public Affairs update
 - Recreation on WDFW lands
 - Boy Scouts proposal
- 8:30 AM 10. **Open Public Input** 60 min
The Commission is a direct link between the citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. **NOTE:** During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that do not already have public input time on the agenda.
- 9:30 AM **Break** 15 min
- 9:45 AM 11. **Hunting Contests – Briefing, Public Comment** 60 min
Staff will brief the Commission on the Washington laws and regulations that apply to hunting and fishing contests and provide an update on recent changes to hunting contests in other States.
- Staff Report: Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager
- 10:45 AM 12. **Pollinator Projects and Backyard Sanctuaries – Briefing** 45 min
Staff will brief the commission on best practices related to small scale habitat projects specifically related to pollinators and backyard sanctuaries.
- Staff Report: Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager
- 11:30 AM 13. **Hatchery Policy C-3619 Review– Briefing, Public Comment** 45 min
Staff will provide the Commission with the remaining schedule and process in the hatchery policy review. The Commission will discuss next steps subsequent to the workshop on February 6.
- Staff Report: Laurie Peterson, Fish Program Science Division Manager

Public Comment – This Item Only

- 12:15 PM **14. Future Meeting Planning – Discussion** *30 min*
Commissioners and staff will discuss upcoming meetings and conference calls and adopt a tentative draft agenda for the March Commission meeting in Tri-Cities.
- 12:45 PM **15. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief** *15 min*
The Commission will discuss items that arise immediately before or during the meeting and after the preliminary agenda is published.
- 1:00 PM **Adjourn**

***Times on the agenda are approximate,
the Commission may adjust the agenda to meet scheduling needs. ***

MEMBERS

Contact the Commission office with questions at (360) 902-2267, or by email to commission@dfw.wa.gov

Larry Carpenter, Chair, Mount Vernon
(Western Washington position, Skagit County)
Occupation: Retired Business Owner
Term: 08/14/2017 - 10/31/2020

Barbara Baker, Vice-Chair, Olympia
(At-large position, Thurston County)
Occupation: Attorney/Retired Administrator
Term: 01/17/2017 - 12/31/2022

Jim Anderson, Buckley
(At-large position, Pierce County)
Occupation: Retired Administrator
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

David Graybill, Leavenworth
(Eastern Washington position, Chelan County)
Occupation: Owner FishingMagician.com LLC
Term: 03/23/2015 – 12/31/2020

Robert Kehoe, Seattle
(At-large position, King County)
Occupation: Executive Director, Purse Seine
Vessel Owners' Association
Term: 01/01/2015 – 12/31/2020

Molly Linville, Palisades
(Eastern Washington position, Douglas County)
Occupation: Cattle Rancher/Farmer
KV Ranch
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

Donald McIsaac, Ph.D., Hockinson
(Western Washington Position, Clark County)
Occupation: Retired Executive Director of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council; Part-time
Consultant
Term: 08/14/2017 – 12/31/2022

Kim Thorburn, MD, MPH, Spokane
(Eastern Washington position, Spokane County)
Occupation: Retired Public Health Physician
Term: 01/23/2017 - 12/31/2022

Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham
(Western Washington position, Whatcom County)
Occupation: Dean Emeritus, Environmental
Science
Western Washington University
Term: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2020

Contact the Commission Office with questions and to identify special accommodation needs:

Phone (360) 902-2267; TTY (800) 833-6388, Email: commission@dfw.wa.gov.

Meeting agendas, audio transcripts, changes to the meeting calendar, updates and additional materials are available for viewing electronically by clicking on the following link:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/>



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 13-14, 2019 – Bellingham

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Bob Kehoe
Dave Graybill
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Anis Aoude
Julie Watson
Bill Tweit
Steve Caromile
Craig Burley
Samantha Montgomery
Rachel Blomker
Dayv Lowry
Phill Dionne
Chris Eardley

Laurie Peterson
Aaron Dufault
Edward Eleazer
Ryan Lothrop
Kelly Cunningham
Justin Spinelli
Edie Thomas
Brendan Brokes
Kyle Adicks

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Bryan Townley
Comer LaRue
Steve Stout
John Westfield
David Parnicky
Irene Martin
Kent Martin
Tom Allen
John Gurdee
Russell Carver
Rob Larsen
Ron Wesen
Curt Kramer
Charles Malmgren
Bill Schmidt
Phil Brockman
Sandy Atkinson
Dale Dennis

Curt Wilson
Shannon Moore
Jacob DeCraft
Alan Chapman
James Howe
Marc Wallace
Mike Rathvon
Bob Cooper
Roger Goodan
Chris Johnson
Amy Fenlon
Brad Felger
Frank Bob
Leland Brown
Chris Parrish
Brian Lipscomb
John Jonasson
Martha Jordan
Heath Heikkila

Art Thomas
Steve Fransen
Karl Frantz
Steve Carpenter
David Radosevich
Mike Gurnee
Charles Silver
David Taylor
Hilda Wiens
Sean Mitchell
Hernandez Ruffin
Tino Villaluz
Shannon Moore
Patrick Pattillo
Doug Davidson
Gary Hagland
Dave Thomas
Janis Schweitzer
Ron Pera

Joel Nania
Steve Lebsack
Dana Steiner
Brian Henderson
Mel Walters
Daniel Zimmerman
Riley Starks
Phil Anderson
Jerry Montogue
Rob Harriman
Martha Hall
Franchesca Perez
Shaun Seaman
Doug Karlberg
Rachel Vasak
Jesse Pecor
Bill Hebner
Gordon Ruh
Larry Bucklin

Friday, December 13, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

No general discussion was addressed with the Commissioners.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the November 15 conference call.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the November 15 conference call as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Wolf committee received an update by Julia Smith, Wolf Coordinator, on the status of post recovery planning now that scoping has closed. Committee members and staff discussed the role of the committee and commission in plan development moving forward. Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, provided an update on the status of the periodic status review. The contract to model the state wolf population and recovery by a UW post doc has been instituted. Committee members discussed the department's response to the Governor's letter and the members' interest in further discussing wolf conservation and management with the Governor during our annual meeting.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Wildlife committee was provided an update by Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director and Anise Aoude, Game Division Manager, and program staff, on the current work around the Cougar CR-102 scoping and related wildlife conflict. Staff have made efforts to communicate public safety and started a video series educating the public about [Washington's Cougars](#). The committee was provided an overview of Washington's existing work on non-lead was ammunition in preparation for the briefing that would be provided the Commission the following day.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Baker, Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill and Anderson

Chair Carpenter reported that the Fish committee staff briefed that Ron Warren, Fish Policy Director, gave an update on Willapa Bay. Craig Burley, Fish Program Deputy Director briefed on agenda item #15, HB1579 options based on public feedback before its presentation to the Commission. Staff provided a briefing on the status of Puget Sound Crab. Chair Carpenter asked the staff to research the Puget Sound Crab policy further and add it as a fish committee agenda item and the January meeting.

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Anderson, Smith, Linville, Kehoe

Commissioner Smith reported that the Habitat committee was briefed by Margen Carlson, Habitat Director on HPA civil authority rulemaking and provided the committee with the [flow chart of tools](#) available for compliance as provided by the legislature. The priority habitats and species – Riparian volume 2 document it is in the process of being updated. The department is currently working with tribal and community partners to ensure equity in aquatic and terrestrial presentation. The

committee didn't have enough time to discuss fish passage and screening rulemaking. The intent is to start the conversation as fish passages have never had formal rule making.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Larry Bucklin – Overharvest concerns | Janis D. Schweitzer – Skagit elk issues |
| Charles Malmgren – Chinook enhancement for SRKW | Phil Brockman – Skagit elk issues |
| Curt Kraemer – Game fish seasons during North of Falcon | Randy Good – Skagit elk issues |
| Sandy Atkinson – Stillaguamish closure | Gary Hagland – Skagit elk issues |
| Ron Pera – Stillaguamish closure | Bill Schmidt – Skagit elk issues |
| Martha Jordan –North American Non-Lead Partnership | Thomas Freeburg – Stillaguamish closure |
| Ron Wesen – Skagit elk issues | Martha Hall – Non-hunting representation |
| Dave Thomas – Skagit elk issues | Dale Dennis – Stillaguamish closure |
| Ron Garner – HSRG, Crab policy, 10 year – Resource management plan | Gordon Ruh – Puget Sound crab policy |
| Steve Fransen – Opposing closing recreational angling | Robert Sudar – Columbia River Policy |
| Larry Bucklin – Puget Sound Anglers | Doug Karlberg – Hatchery management |
| Shannon Moore – Hatcheries | Tino Villaluz – Skagit elk issues |

Chair Carpenter requested that the director provide a report out on the Skagit Elk efforts since the June briefing to the Commission.

3. Director's Report

The Director provided written highlights on the following:

- Forage fish research
- Waitt's lake opening day
- Partnership to protect biodiversity and working lands
- Partnership with Mobius Science Center
- Leque Island estuary restoration

New Region 4 Director Brendan Brocks provided a summary of major activities in the region. The Director gave a lightning-round summary of important meetings and activities.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director asked the Commission for approval of a land donation by former Commissioner Larry Cassidy. Located in the Chief Joseph Wildlife, Snyder Bar Access Areas. This proposal is to acquire by donation, 1.8 (+/-) acres in Asotin County from Frank (Larry) and Marilou Cassidy, to be added to the Snyder Bar Water Access Area. The property is valued at \$32,000 and the acquisition costs are being provided by the Fish Program.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Thorburn seconded by Chair Carpenter moved to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Amendment to Dealer Fee WAC for CRSSE and License Package – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Governmental Affairs, briefed the Commission and requested approval on proposed edits to the dealer fee WAC to eliminate references to the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement and to clarify the cumulative dealer fees charged to bundled license packages.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Kehoe, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn moved to amend WAC 220-220-320, as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Southern Resident Killer Whales – Briefing

Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead, briefed the Commission on the status of Southern Resident Killer Whales, the Department's implementation of the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force Year 1 recommendations and provided an overview of the Task Force's Year 2 recommendations.

Commissioner Smith asked that the Commission is kept in the loop of meetings being held as to have the option to participate in the scoping process.

7. Blue Sheet: Non-toxic Ammunition and North American Non-lead Partnership – Briefing

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director gave an introduction of Christopher Parish, The Peregrine Fund and Leland Brown, Oregon Zoo, founders of North American Non-lead Partnership. They briefed the Commission on non-toxic ammunition and the North American Non-lead Partnership.

Commissioner Thorburn requested that staff look into how the department can participate in the partnership.

8. Marine Fish and Shellfish Sport Fishing Rule Simplification – Decision

Dayv Lowry, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, Phill Dionne, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator asked the Commission to adopt the proposals to simplify and improve marine fish and shellfish recreational rules while addressing conservation objectives.

Commissioner Thorburn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt the following Forage Fish, Marine Fish, and Shellfish Sport Fishing Rule Simplification proposals as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

220-315-010 Forage Fish-Lawful gear

220-315-030 Smelt-Areas and seasons

220-310-160 Daily limits forage fish and other food fish not otherwise provided for

220-300-040 Definitions-Bottomfish

220-300-130 Definition-Forage fish

220-300-370 Food fish-Classification

220-330-010 Shellfish—Daily limits.

220-330-020 Personal-use shellfish gear—Unlawful acts.

220-330-040 Crab—Areas and seasons—Personal use.

220-330-070 Shrimp—Areas and seasons.

220-330-090 Crawfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, goose barnacles—Areas and seasons, personal-use fishery.

220-330-120 Clams, oysters, mussels—Unlawful acts.

220-330-150 Oysters and clams on private tidelands—Personal use.

220-320-060 General provisions—Shellfish.
220-314-020 Possession limits-Bottomfish.
220-314-030 Halibut – Seasons-daily and possession limits.
220-314-040 Lingcod – Areas and seasons

Repealed:

220-330-030 Personal-use crab pot gear requirements.
220-330-050 Crab—Unlawful acts—Personal use.
220-330-060 Personal-use shrimp pot gear requirements.
220-330-080 Shrimp containers.
220-330-100 Personal-use crab, shrimp, crawfish—Unlawful acts.
220-330-130 Oysters and scallops—Gear.
220-330-180 Squid, octopus.
220-300-300 Geographical definitions—District 1.
220-300-310 Geographical definitions—District 2.

9. Sturgeon Sport Rules Update- Decision

Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager, Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, provided the Commission an updated briefing and asked for a decision on rule proposals for sturgeon sport fishing.

Commissioner McIsaac, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn, moved to adopt recreational sturgeon fishing regulations permanent amendments to; 220-310-100 - Fish handling rules - Removal from water. 220-316-010 - Sturgeon - Areas, seasons, limits and unlawful acts as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

10. Hatchery Reform Policy C-3619 – Briefing, Public Comment

Laurie Peterson, Fish Science Division Manager, and Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy provided the Commission with a status update on the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619) review project.

The following people provided comments:
Bob Harriman

Ron Warren asked for Commission guidance on a Tribal request to consider a joint Co-Managers policy on salmon hatcheries and another meeting between Tribal policy representatives and the Commission on the State Hatchery Policy.

Commissioner McIsaac provided comments on possible guidance from the Commission on the process moving forward and the questions about further Tribal involvement. Chair Carpenter requested a written summary of Commissioner McIsaac's talking points to provide Commissioners and to staff. Written guidance was provided to the Commission and is available [here](#).

11. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during and the public was not permitted to attend. Location: Boundary Bay Conference Room. Executive session ended at 5:00pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

12. Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager provided the Commission an update on the progress and discussions conducted by the PRC toward the purpose of recommending a possible revision to the Columbia River Salmon Management Policy C-3620 that can be accomplished concurrently among Oregon and Washington.

The following people provided comments:

Irene Martin	Art Thomas
Heath Heikkila	Shannon Moore

No action on such policy issues was taken by the Commission at this meeting. The Commission prioritized discussion of the process to optimize public notice and opportunities for public comment leading to final Commission action at some point in the future.

Commissioner McIsaac presented a [policy review process](#) for notice to the public that included a multiple meeting process for the Joint-State Policy Review Committee (PRC) with one meeting in an east-side location and a two meeting Washington Commission process to consider any PRC recommendations with one meeting on the west side and one meeting on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. The Commission agreed to move forward with this process.

Vice Chair Baker noted a letter from Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher suggesting that he and Director Susewind work together to provide concurrency and allocation direction for the upcoming North of Falcon planning since the PRC process is not completed. The commission agreed to delegate these preparations to the Director for the 2020 North of Falcon negotiations.

13. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Heath Heikkila – Hatchery management
Steven Fransen – Recreation fishing season closures
Rob Larsen – Marine mammals
Chris Johnson – Salmon management
Bob Harriman, Robo duck, sportsman license, 2 deer tag system, turkey harvest weapons
Charles Sullivan – Hatchery management
Alan Chapman – Hatchery management
Shannon Moore – Samish bay fishery
Kent Martin – Alternative fish gear

Chair Carpenter requested an oyster briefing around species restoration and water quality. Staff will provide a timeline at the next Fish committee meeting in January.

14. Baker Lake and Skagit River Sockeye Salmon Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Aaron Dufault, Anadromous Resources Policy Analyst, and Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager, provided the Commission with an overview of Baker Lake and Skagit River sockeye fishery management and an update on this year's fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Steven Fransen	Ron Robertson
John Westerfield	Bryan Townley
Heath Heikkila	Roger Goodan
Bob Cooper	Bob Harriman
Comer LaRue	Rob Larsen

Mike Stefanick Jacob DeCraft
Art Thomas

The Commission provided staff guidance to discuss with the Tribes the goal to address and prioritize the harvest equity during the North of Falcon 2020 season setting process.

15. Implementation of House Bill 1579, and Freshwater Gamefish Rule Housekeeping – Public Comment, Decision

Steve Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager, and Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager asked the Commission to adopt the presented proposals for the purpose of implementing the Southern Resident Killer Whale HB1579 (Section 2) as it relates to liberalizing bag limits for walleye, bass, and channel catfish in anadromous waters in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts. Other technical and housekeeping rule changes for freshwater gamefish were also considered for adoption.

The following people provided comments:

David Taylor	Joe Boyd
David Parnicky	Bob Harriman
Marc Wallace	Hernandez Ruffin
Joel Nania	Steve Lebsack

Commissioner McIsaac, seconded by Commissioner Graybill moved to adopt game fish housekeeping rules and Option B2 permanent amendments as listed below and presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

220-310-070 Statewide bait rules

220-310-090 Game fish possession limits and size limits

220-312-010 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rule –General rules

220-312-020 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules –Coast

220-312-030 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Southwest

220-312-040 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Puget Sound

220-312-050 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Eastside

Commissioner Thorburn presented a Blue Sheet on development of a policy document on non-native game fish & fisheries, deadline end of 2020. It will be assigned to the Fish program.

Commissioner Graybill made a motion to accept the Blue Sheet on development of a policy document on non-native game fish & fisheries, seconded by Commissioner Linville. All in favor. Motion passed.

16. Future Meeting Planning

Chair Carpenter tabled the future meeting planning discussion until the December 27, 2019 conference call.

Commissioner McIsaac is unable to attend the December 27 conference call and will provide draft agenda and year at a glance edits to Nikki to present at the call.

17. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Chair Carpenter tabled further discussion until the December 27, 2019 conference call.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 7 & 8, 2020
Agenda item: LANDS 20/20 PREVIEW
Presenter(s): Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager

Background summary:

The annual Lands 20/20 process has identified eighteen potential acquisition projects under consideration by the WDFW director for 2019/20. These projects have been through the public comment portion of the Lands 20/20 process and are being presented to the Commission as a briefing. The next step is for the Director to approve the list of projects to pursue funding through grants or other sources. The early review process provides the Commission with information on these land acquisition proposals including a summary of public comments.

Projects:	County	Acres	Region
Chapman Lake Update	Spokane	Ph. 1 - 22.5/ up to 507 total	Region 1
Green Gulch <i>withdrawn</i>	Asotin	643.5	Region 4
Grouse Flats Addition <i>withdrawn</i>	Garfield	720	Region 4
Harlow Ridge <i>withdrawn</i>	Asotin	4654	Region 4
Mountain View (Phase 6) <i>withdrawn</i>	Asotin	770	Region 4
Flat Lake	Grant	59.9	Region 2
Peshastin Mill	Chelan	1	Region 2
Hunter Mountain	Okanogan	420	Region 2
Rendezvous	Okanogan	208	Region 2
Wenas/Cleman Mtn.	Yakima	1105	Region 3
Ebey Island	Snohomish	58	Region 4
Samish River	Skagit	109	Region 4
Modrow	Cowlitz	52	Region 5
Moss Cave	Skamania	2.3	Region 5
Horseshoe Falls	Clark	67.4	Region 5
Davis Creek Addition	Grays Harbor	up to 416	Region 6
Discovery Bay	Jefferson	6.2	Region 6
Theler Wetlands	Mason	160.18	Region 6

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Thorough analysis and evaluation of proposed land acquisitions intended to protect and preserve critical habitats and recreational access. Outcome is success in funding for either fee title or conservation easement acquisitions.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Public involvement has included regional staff coordination with local governments, a web-based public review period and inclusion in the State Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group. This Group provides coordination between state agencies for potential habitat and recreation acquisition projects. We received 210 public comments, 180 (86%) of which were positive, 29 of which were negative. Of the negatives, 24 were opposed to any land acquisition by WDFW. More specifics on public comment will be presented.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

None, briefing only.

Post decision communications plan:

Briefing only.

WDFW Land Acquisition Project Proposals



● Projects Proposed in 2020

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

12/3/2019

Agenda Item # 5

Lands 20/20



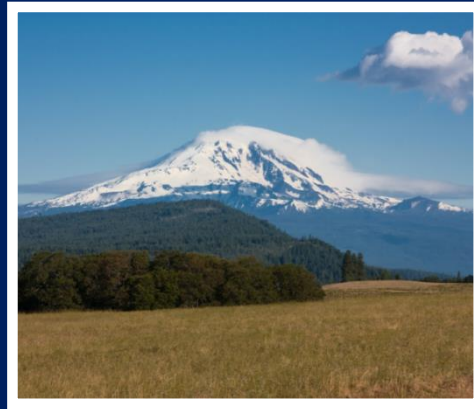
Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Cynthia Wilkerson
Lands Division Manager
Wildlife Program

February 7 & 8, 2020, Commission Meeting Presentation

WDFW Lands

Protecting Land and Water for Wildlife and People



Our vision is a Washington where fish and wildlife thrive in healthy habitats, and where people experience and enjoy our state's natural gifts for generations to come.

WDFW Lands

Protecting Land and Water for Wildlife and People



- Provide access for fishing, hunting, and other wildlife related recreation
- Foster experiences and exploration
- Preserve natural and cultural heritage

Why Does WDFW Buy Land?

Protecting Land and Water for Wildlife and People

- Conserve and restore the diversity of Washington's fish and wildlife species and habitats
- Enhance sustainable fishing, hunting and other wildlife-related outdoor opportunities
- Improve management of current WDFW Lands
- Preserve working lands for agriculture, forestry, and other sectors of the outdoor economy, particularly in rural areas

Questions WDFW Asks

Protecting Land and Water for Wildlife and People

- Willing seller
- Partnerships
- Best Conservation Alternatives?
- Conservation easements?
- Long-term opportunities and ecological values
- Larger, contiguous habitats
- Ecological and social importance

Acquisition Steps

6

Scoping
and Need

Lands 20/20
and Funding

Land
Transaction

Integrating
Ownership



Acquisition Steps

7

Scoping
and Need

Lands 20/20
and Funding

Land
Transaction

Integrating
Ownership



7

WDFW Land Acquisition Project Proposals



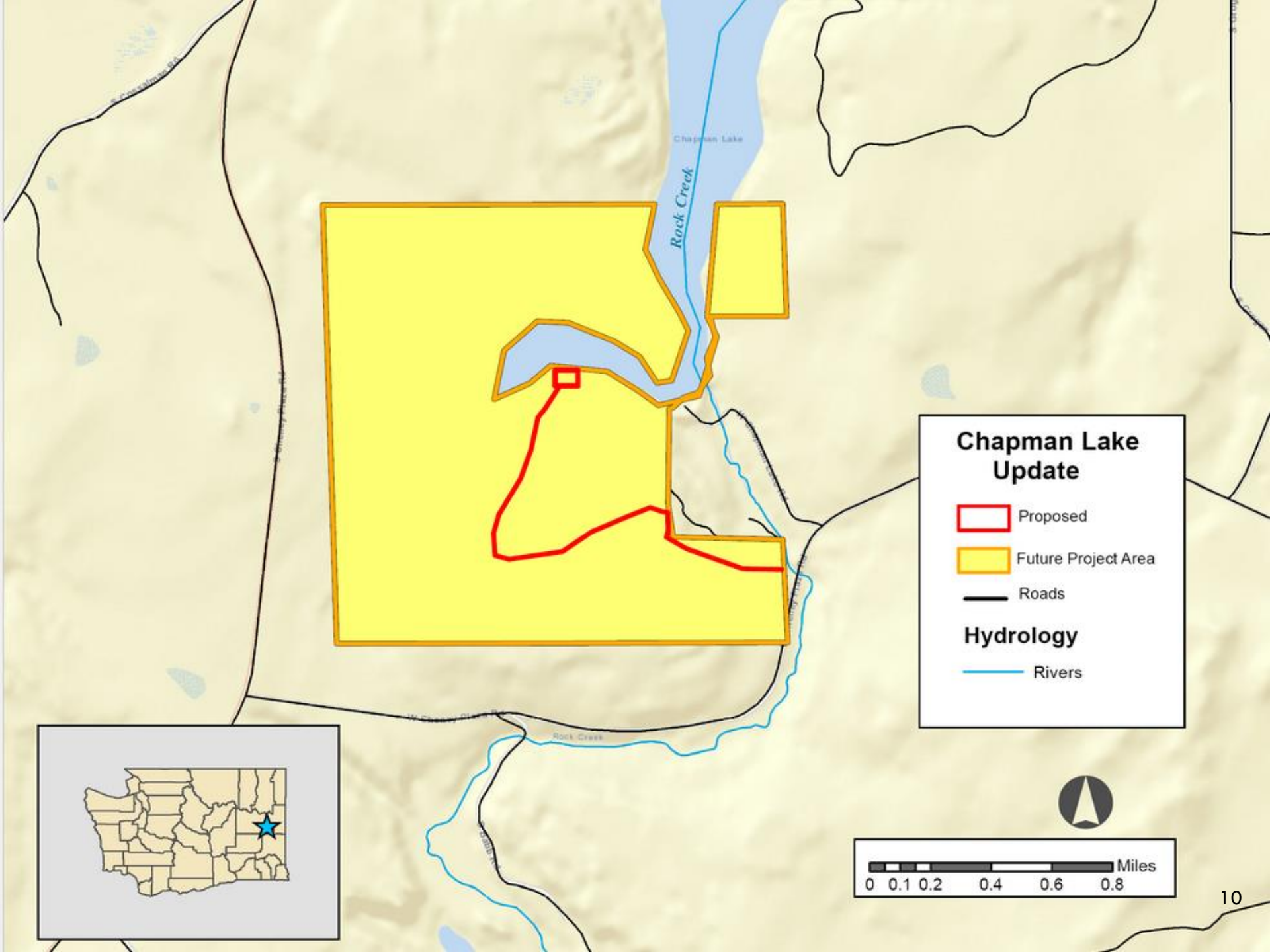
● Projects Proposed in 2020

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

12/3/2019

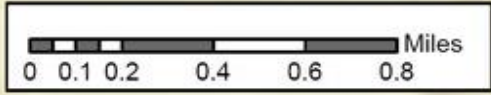


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This project ensures public boating access to this lake that was previously accessible only through a private resort which closed in 2011. This project is an update and change of location for the access on the lake. The intent is to purchase road access and a small lakefront footprint with existing grant funds and pursue funding for a land exchange or purchase of the remaining property in this section.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Acquisition of this property assures that, once again, anglers can access one of the best bass fisheries in eastern Washington, and one of the only kokanee fisheries in Spokane County. Both of these species generate tremendous angler interest and would ensure extensive use by the public. In addition to anglers using this site, it would also serve as a valuable recreation area for hikers, kayakers, hunters, and wildlife watchers.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Spokane County Commissioners, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane Fly Fishers</p>



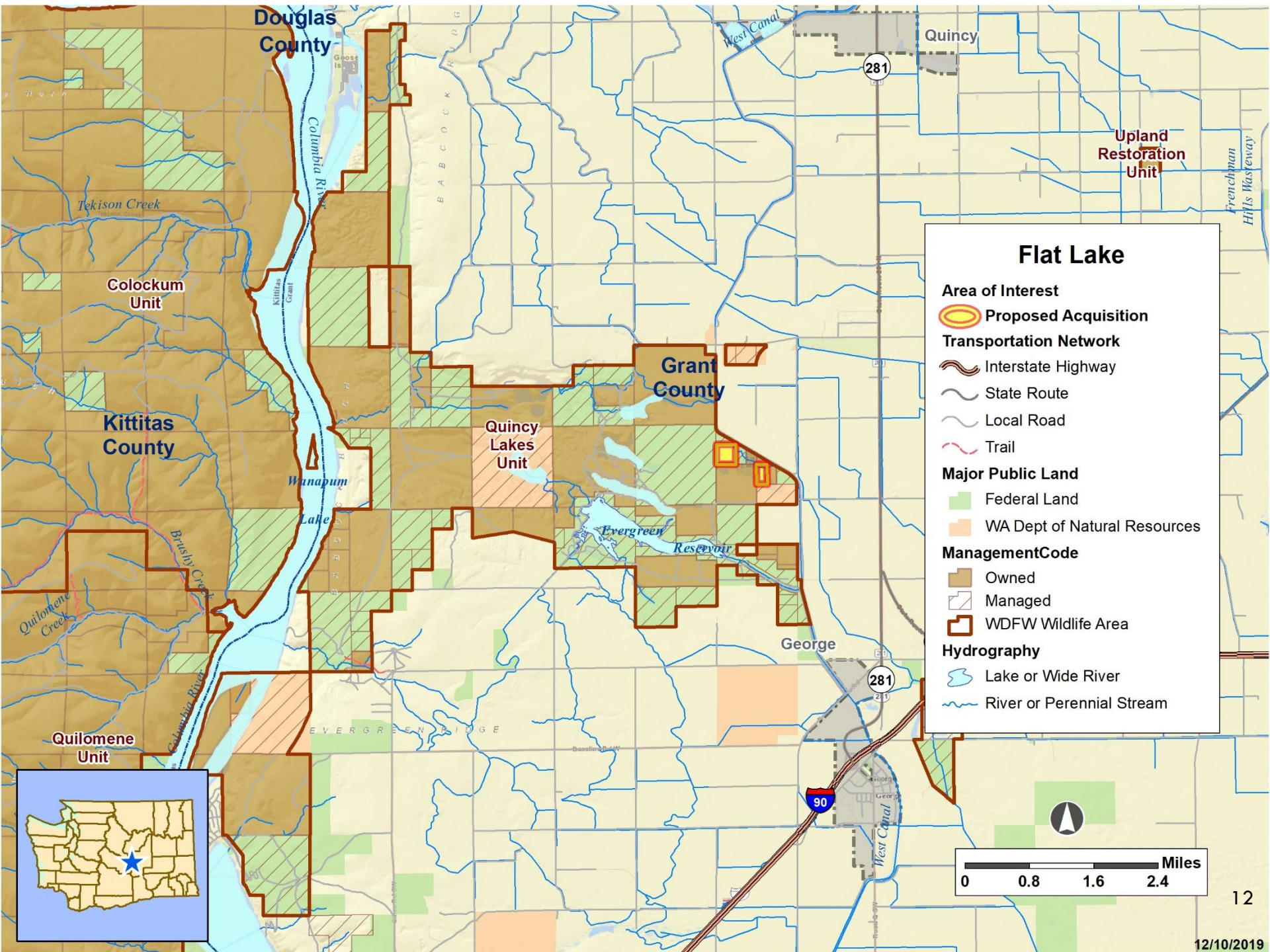
Chapman Lake Update

-  Proposed
-  Future Project Area
-  Roads
- Hydrology**
-  Rivers





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This property acquisition of two separate parcels totaling 60 acres in Grant County would remove a private inholding within the Quincy Lakes Wildlife Area to ensure development would not occur.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Recreational opportunities are plenty on this project area and would include hunting for small game, waterfowl, and potentially big game, fishing, and wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Pheasants Forever and Washington Waterfowl Association</p>



Douglas County

Quincy

Upland Restoration Unit

Grant County

Quincy Lakes Unit

Colockum Unit

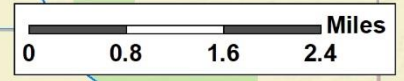
Kittitas County

Wanapum Lake

Evergreen Reservoir

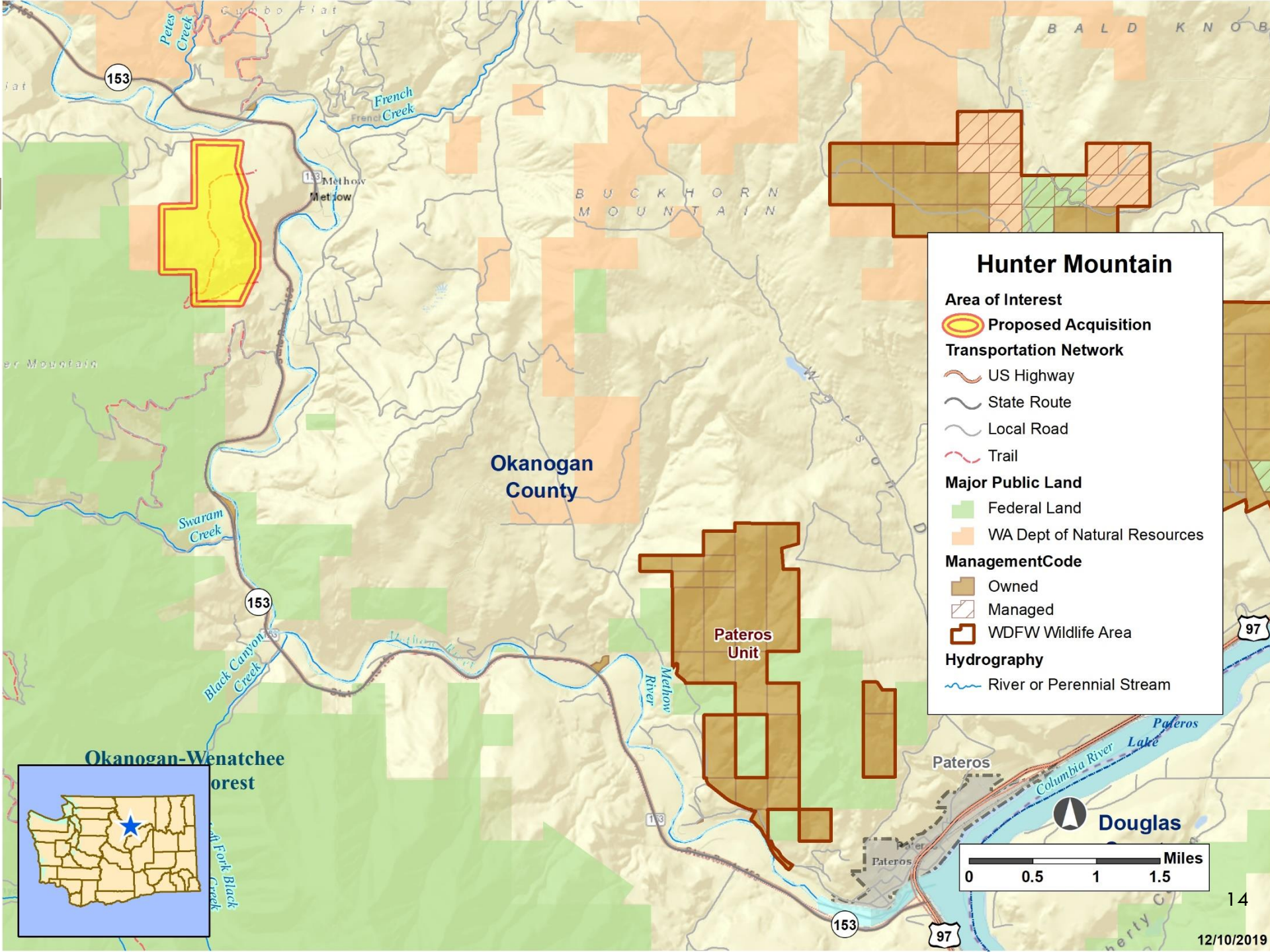
George

Quilomene Unit



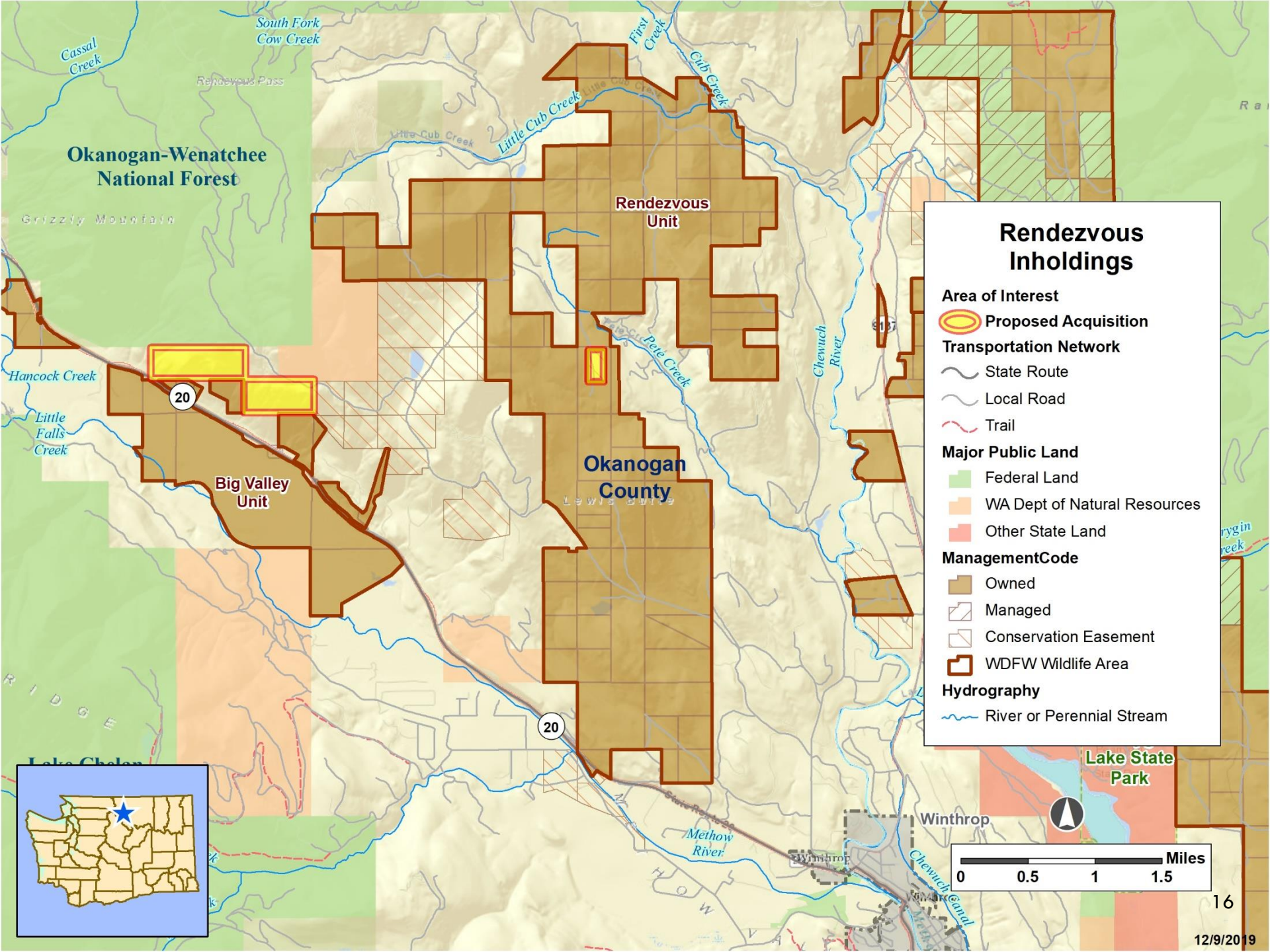


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This acquisition project protects crucial sagebrush steppe habitat in the lower Methow Valley and cultivates a critical partnership with Okanogan County. WDFW’s acquisition of this 420 acres provides an opportunity to partner with the county and facilitate their access to additional rock sources for public works projects.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Conservation of sagebrush steppe habitat for winter mule deer populations, sagebrush dependent species and the state endangered gray wolf. The acquisition improves species mobility by enhancing the north-south wildlife corridor connecting state and federal lands.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Okanogan County, Methow Conservancy, North Central Audubon Society, Okanogan Land Trust</p>





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>The goal of this project is to acquire three separate parcels owned by two individuals within the Rendezvous Unit and adjacent to the Big Valley Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. By purchasing these parcels, WDFW protects state imperiled Inter-mountain Basins, Big Sagebrush Steppe and Ponderosa Pine Woodland and Savanna Ecological Systems. In addition, important quaking aspen stands are present throughout and at least one wetland is on the property where a number of amphibian species have been observed.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>These parcels are within a crucial mule deer migration corridor or stop over area on their journey to and from higher elevations of the Okanogan National Forest or Pasayten Wilderness Area. Adjacent to these parcels are significant state and federal lands where public recreational opportunities are available such as hiking, biking (on USFS and county roads), wildlife watching, and hunting.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Okanogon County, Methow Conservancy, Methow Valley Citizens Council, Mazama Advisory Committee, North Central Audubon Society, Okanogon Land Trust</p>



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Rendezvous Unit

Big Valley Unit

Okanogan County

Rendezvous Inholdings

- Area of Interest**
- Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
- State Route
- Local Road
- Trail
- Major Public Land**
- Federal Land
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Other State Land
- ManagementCode**
- Owned
- Managed
- Conservation Easement
- WDFW Wildlife Area
- Hydrography**
- River or Perennial Stream





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This donation project in Chelan County will provide a small parking lot for additional access to the Peshastin Mill Access Area connecting to and complementing a trail that runs .87 miles along the Wenatchee River.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Provides public parking where parking did not exist to a small parking area for use of the trail and for wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Complete the Loop Coalition, Icicle Chapter of Trout Unlimited</p>

Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest

Peshastin Mill

- Area of Interest**
 - Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
 - US Highway
 - Local Road
 - Trail
- Major Public Land**
 - Federal Land
 - WA Dept of Natural Resources
- ManagementCode**
 - Owned
- Hydrography**
 - River or Perennial Stream

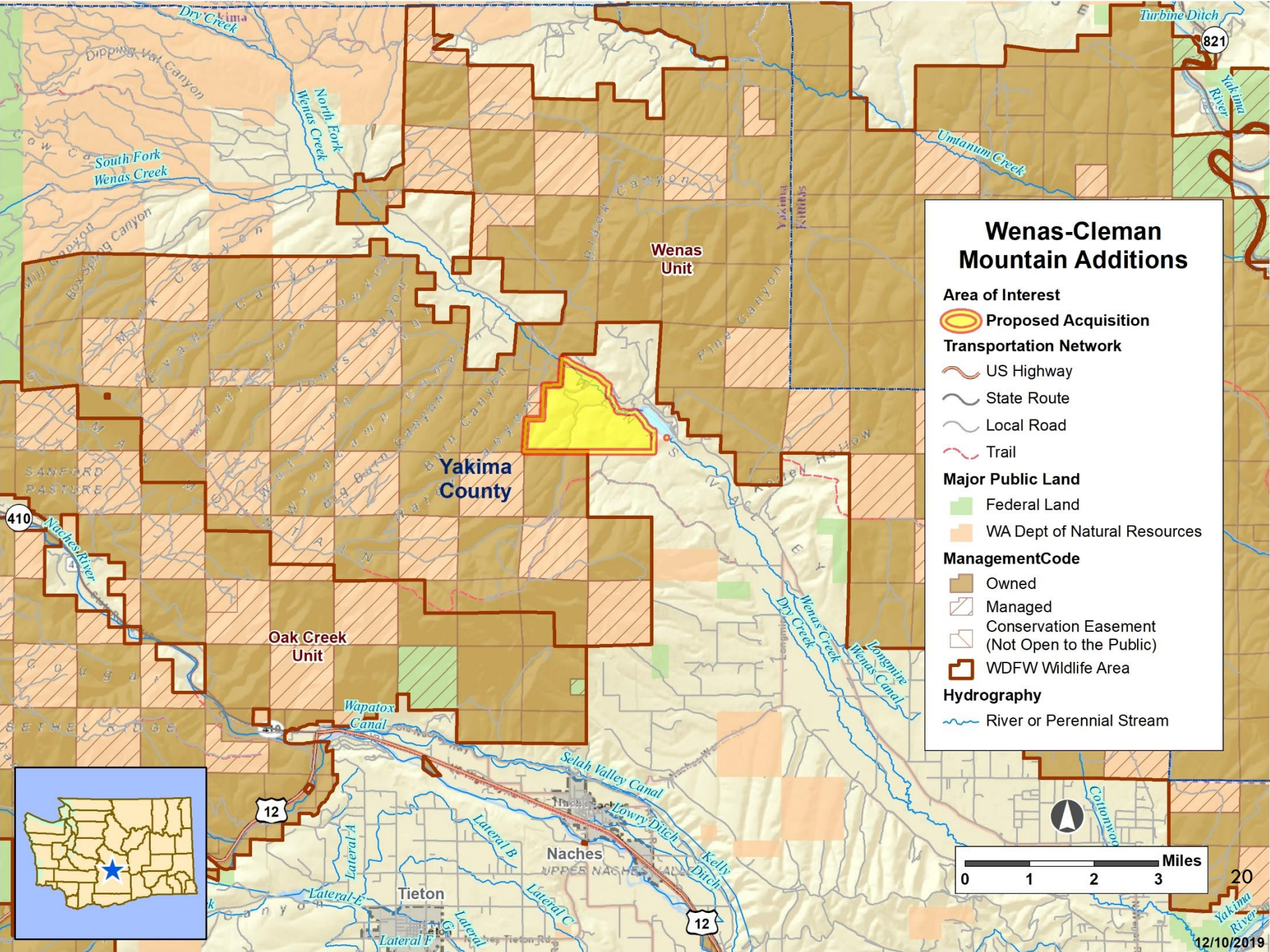
Chelan County

Peshastin





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This property proposal is a acquisition and/or conservation easement on habitat land along with an infrastructure area for potential wildlife area headquarters. The conservation easement will protect habitat values including shrubsteppe, flood plain, wetland, and riparian habitat.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>The property would provide hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, birding, hiking and photography as well as the conservation of diverse habitats. The existing infrastructure would provide a more public headquarters for the Wenas Wildlife Area, with office space for all employees, storage for equipment and hay, meeting space and opportunities for interagency coordination, community outreach and education.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, Yakima Audubon, and Washington State Audubon</p>



Wenas-Cleman Mountain Additions

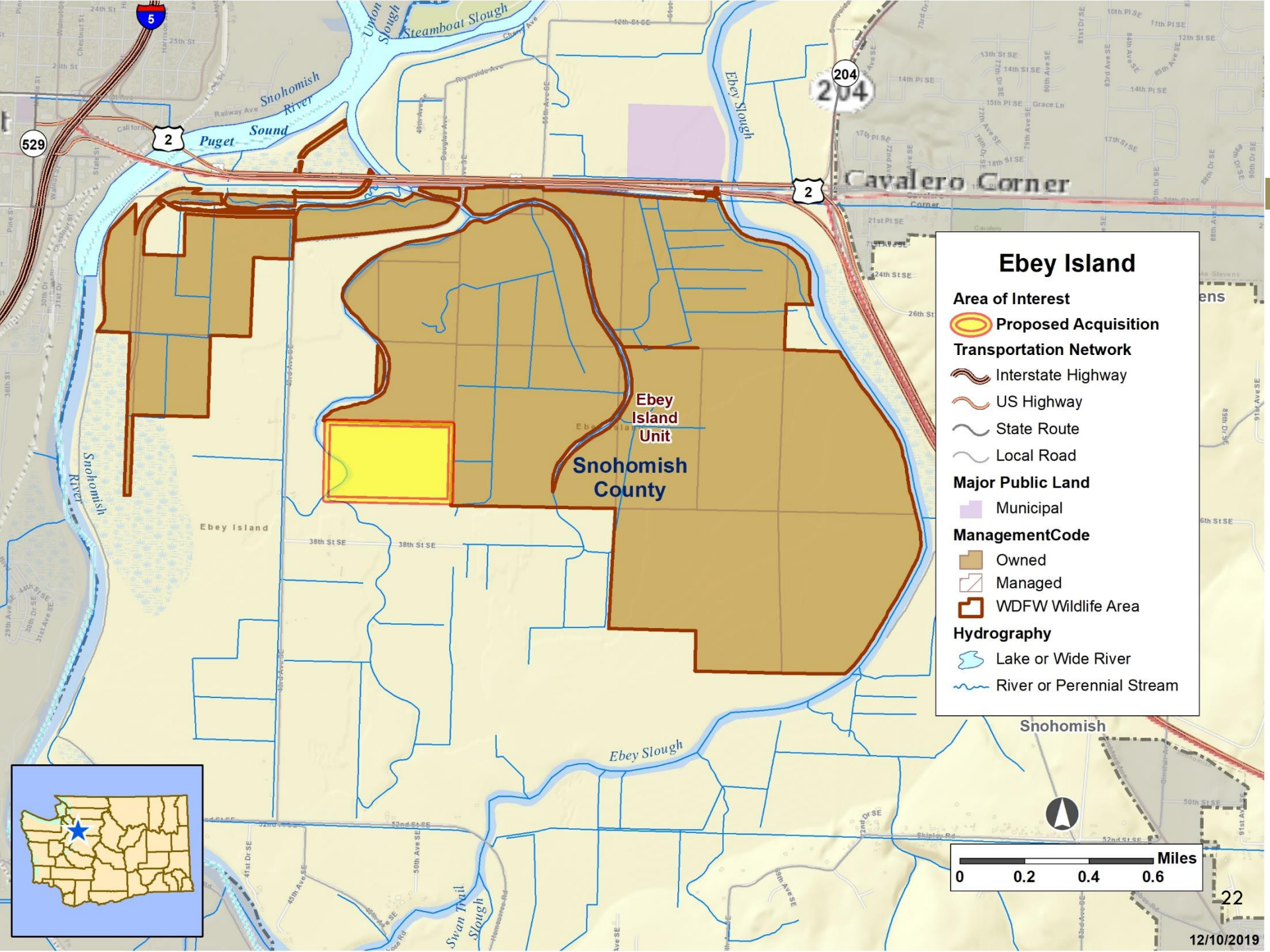
- Area of Interest**
- Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
- US Highway
 - State Route
 - Local Road
 - Trail
- Major Public Land**
- Federal Land
 - WA Dept of Natural Resources
- ManagementCode**
- Owned
 - Managed
 - Conservation Easement (Not Open to the Public)
 - WDFW Wildlife Area
- Hydrography**
- River or Perennial Stream

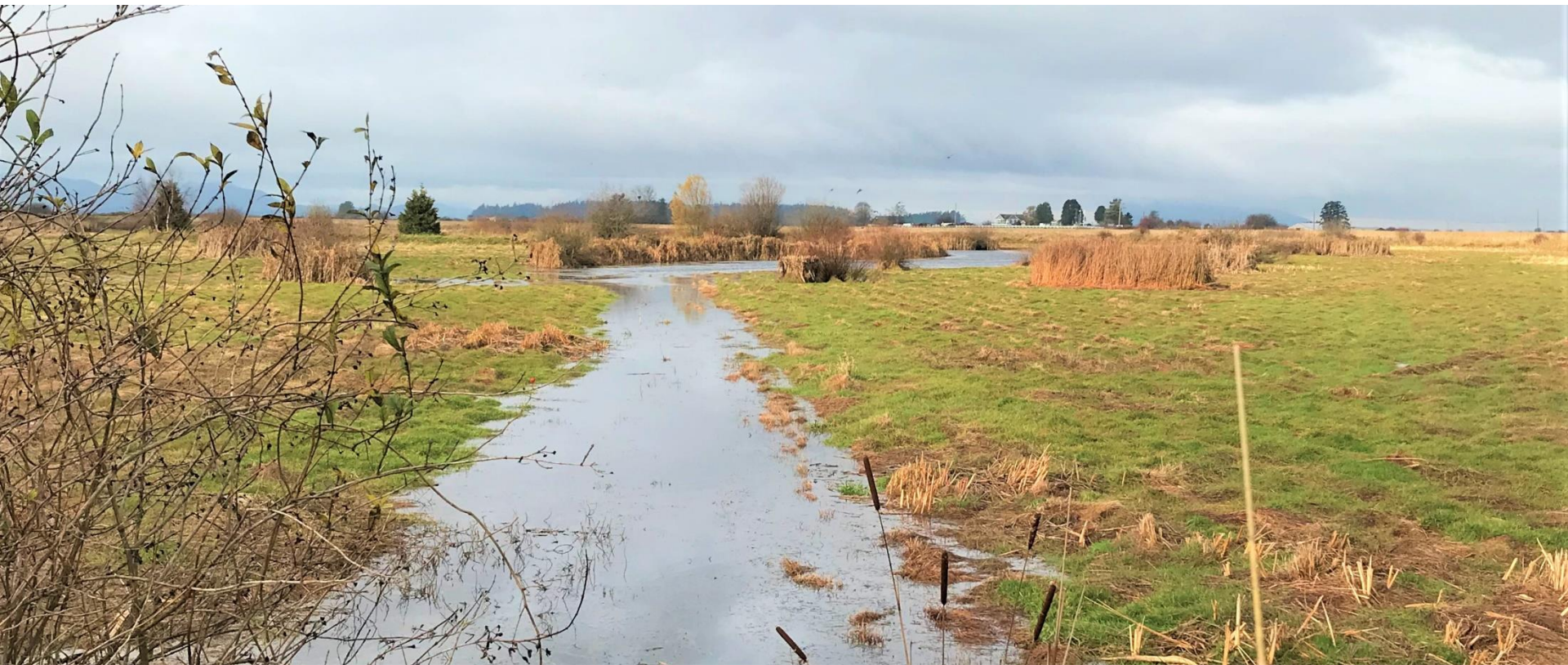


Ebey Island – 58 Acres

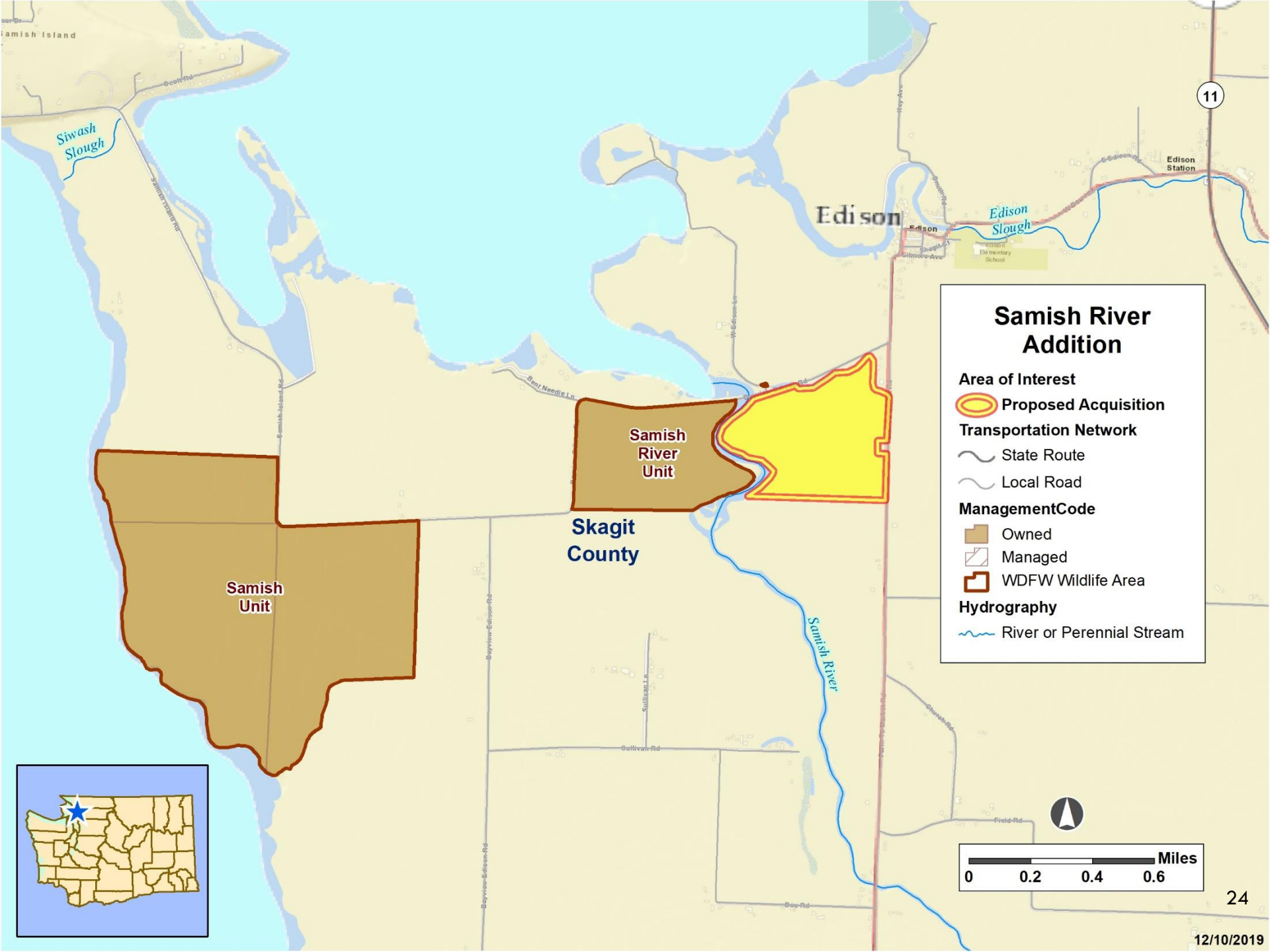


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This project acquisition of approximately 58 acres includes a 25-acre managed open wetland and 20 acres of forested wetland adjacent to the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area’s Ebey Island Unit.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>The property provides wetland habitats that benefit amphibians, shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl and will also provide recreational access for hunting and wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Ducks Unlimited</p>





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This project would acquire approximately 109 acres, which includes 23 acres of managed wetland and water access to the Samish River.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Ownership of this property will provide recreational fishing, hunting, bird watching, and photography access. Acquisition of this property will contribute significantly to improving fishing access that is in high demand on the Samish River. This seasonal wetland with water control infrastructure and agricultural fields will provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Skagit County Commissioners</p>



11

Edison

Samish River Addition

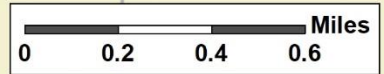
- Area of Interest**
- Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
- State Route
 - Local Road
- ManagementCode**
- Owned
 - Managed
 - WDFW Wildlife Area
- Hydrography**
- River or Perennial Stream

Samish River Unit

Skagit County

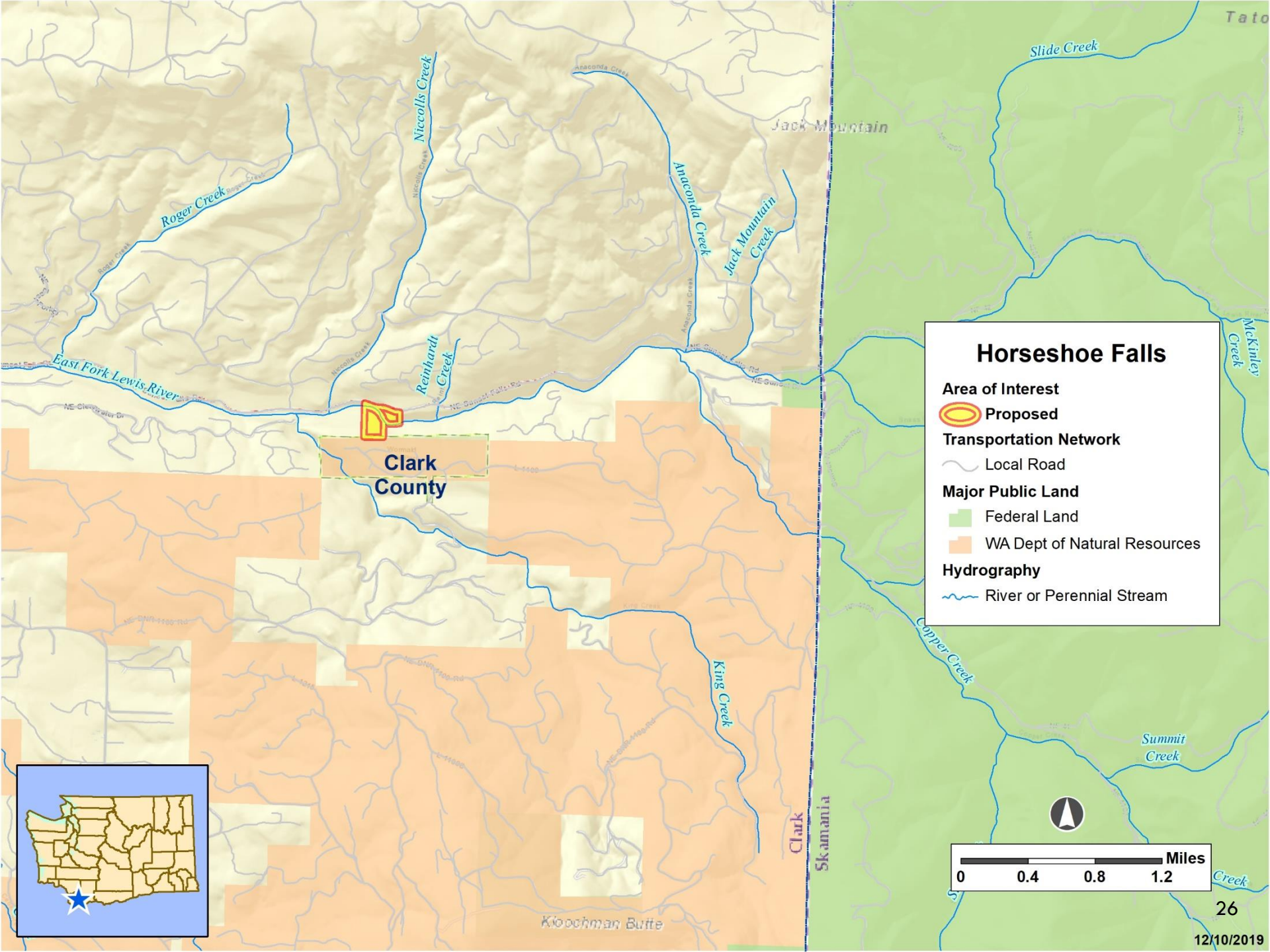
Samish Unit

Samish River



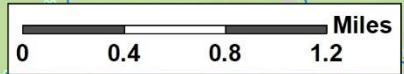


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>Acquisition of this 20-acre riparian project would provide protection of a known holding pool and staging area for native summer run steelhead.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>The falls present a stream flow barrier to anadromous fish during winter and spring making the area impassable for a time to steelhead until flows drop at the falls and allow them to continue migration. The site also is an important monitoring location for steelhead and provides recreational opportunities for kayakers moving through the property and on to downstream areas.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Columbia Land Trust, Clark County, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers</p>



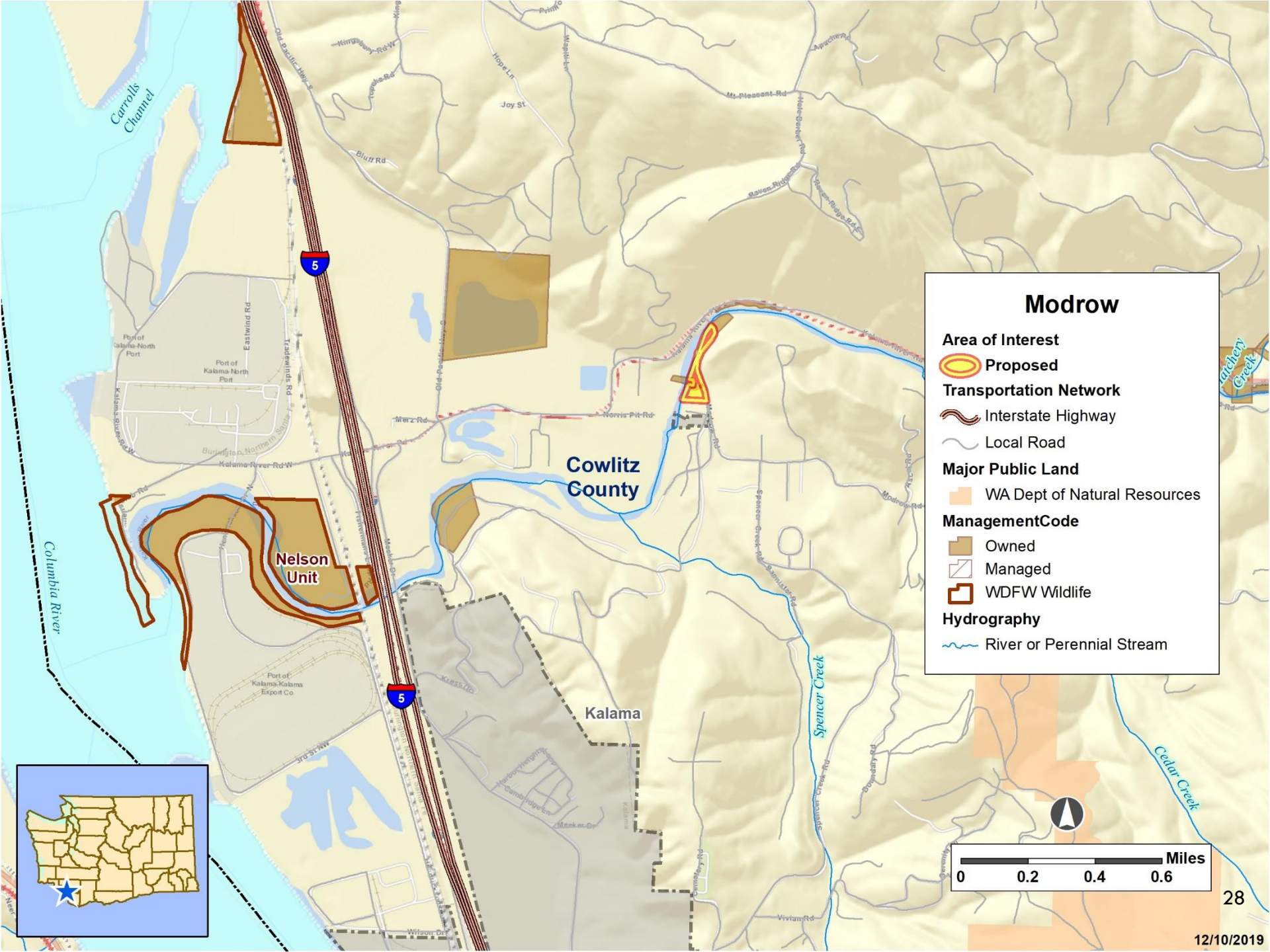
Horseshoe Falls

- Area of Interest**
 - Proposed
- Transportation Network**
 - Local Road
- Major Public Land**
 - Federal Land
 - WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Hydrography**
 - River or Perennial Stream





<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This acquisition project will provide 2.5 acres along the Kalama River for multiple objectives. This acquisition would facilitate the long term conservation of multiple Endangered Species Act listed salmonids by protecting state resources necessary to operate the Modrow Fish Trap and Fallert Creek Hatchery. Additionally it would add approximately 1,000 feet of river access adjacent to the existing Modrow Bridge access area and the Modrow Trap property resulting in connection of both properties.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>The acquisition would include a building to house staff to ensure the operational integrity of both sites. The connective nature of the acquisition would lend itself to long term conservation of the riparian zone in the Lower Kalama River, increase fishing opportunities, and promote wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Cowlitz County</p>



Modrow

- Area of Interest**
- Proposed
- Transportation Network**
- Interstate Highway
- Local Road
- Major Public Land**
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- ManagementCode**
- Owned
- Managed
- WDFW Wildlife
- Hydrography**
- River or Perennial Stream



Moss Cave – 68 Acres



Project Description

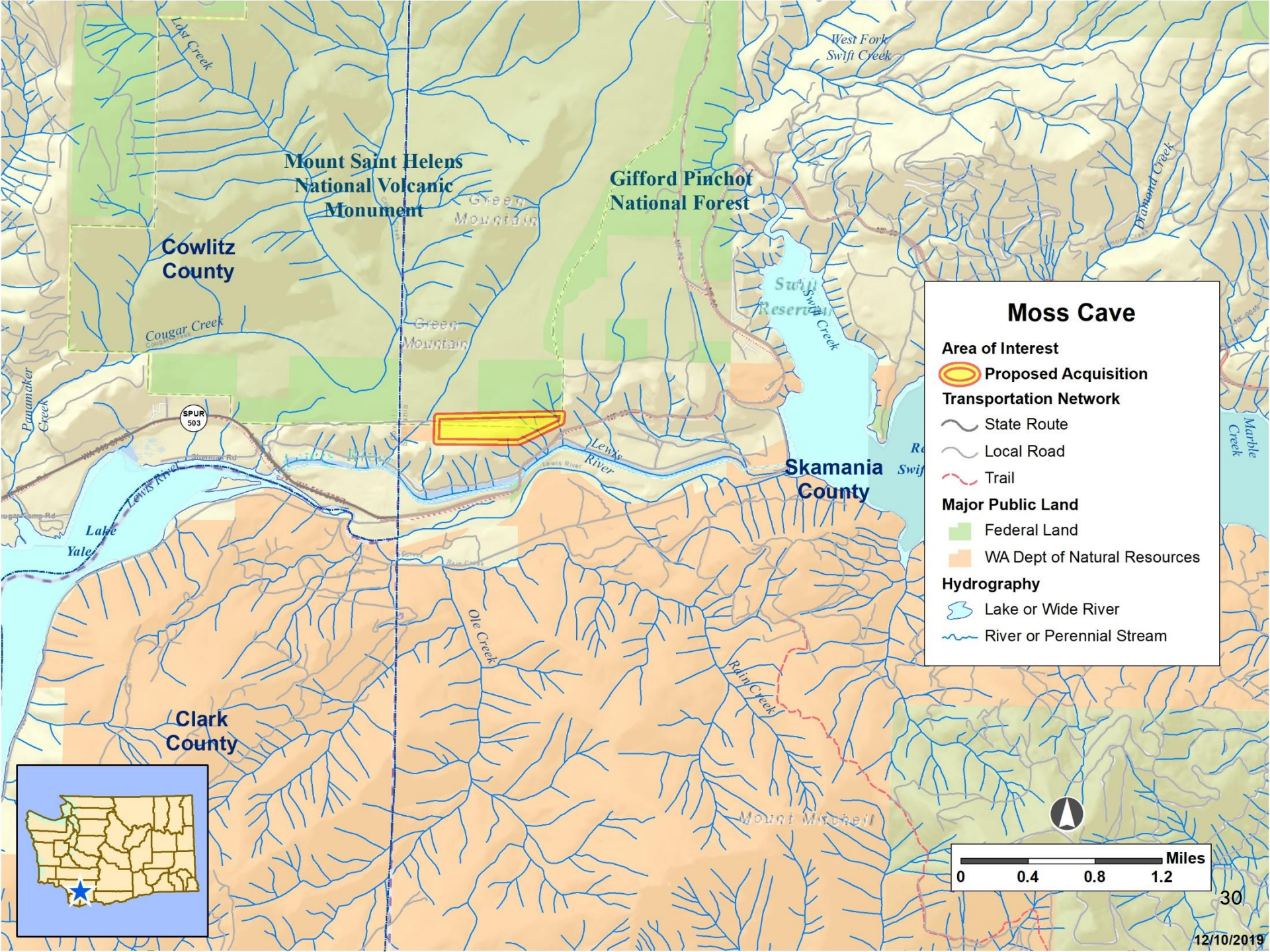
This project will result in a conservation easement on 68 acres in Skamania County.

Project Benefits

The project assures perpetual conservation and ensures Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife staff access to continue to monitor the bat population that resides in the caves. Recreation including hunting and wildlife viewing would also be allowed.

Support

Pacific Corp, Cowlitz PUD, Cowlitz Tribe, The Nature Conservancy



Mount Saint Helens
National Volcanic
Monument

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

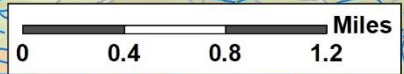
Cowlitz
County

Skamania
County

Clark
County

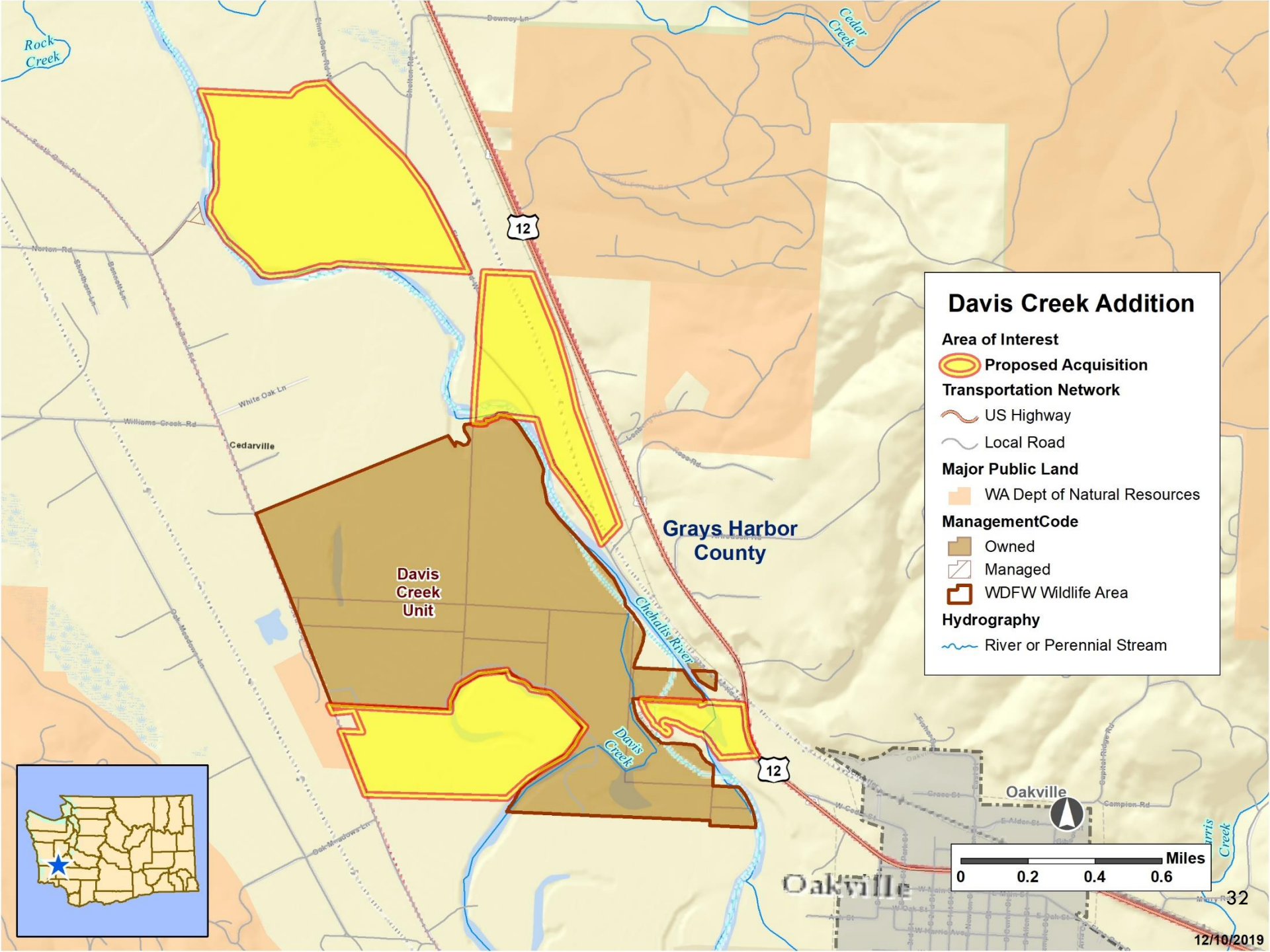
Moss Cave

- Area of Interest**
- Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
- State Route
- Local Road
- Trail
- Major Public Land**
- Federal Land
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Hydrography**
- Lake or Wide River
- River or Perennial Stream



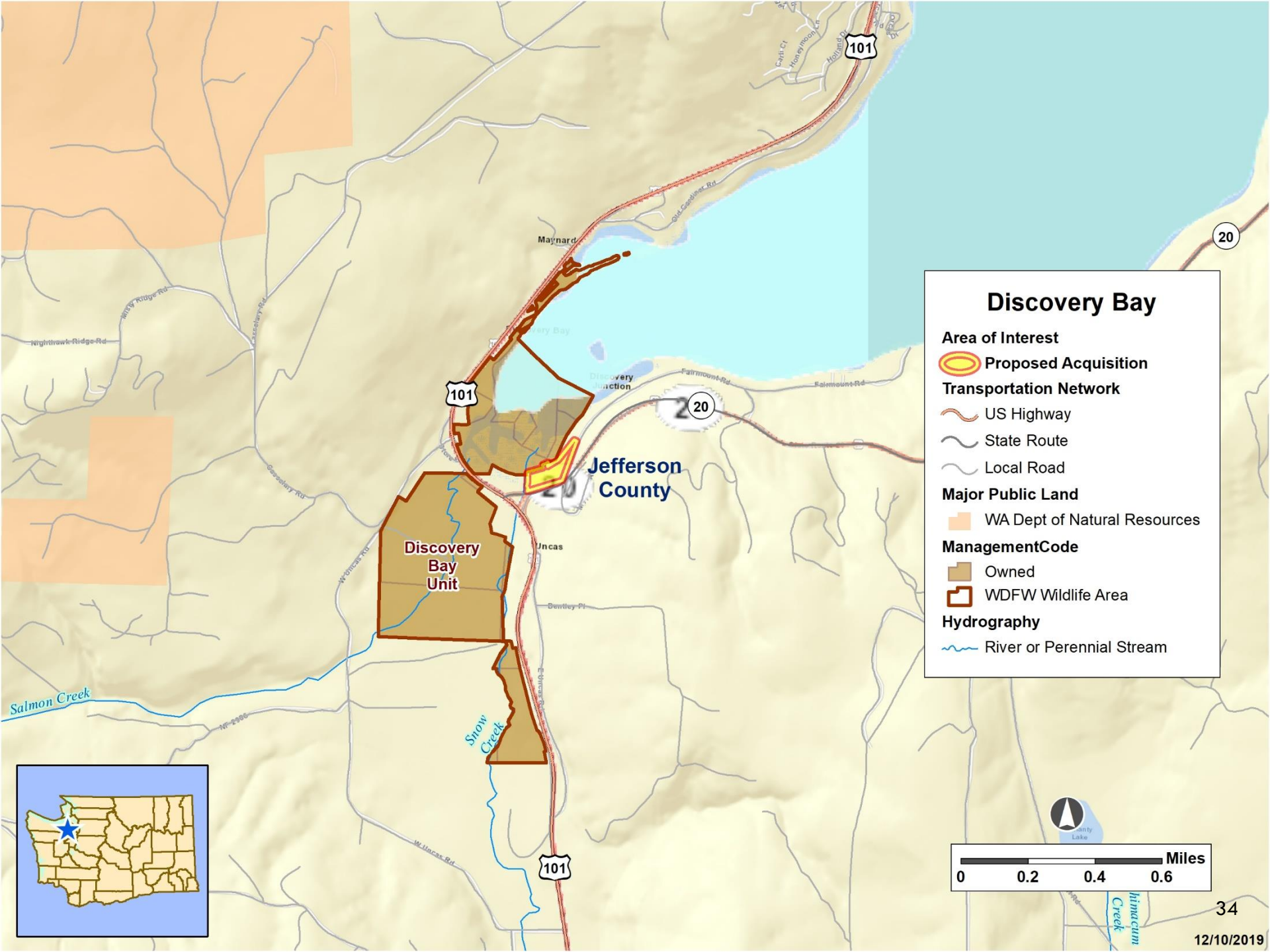


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>Acquisition of up to 416 acres adjacent to the Davis Creek Wildlife Area unit will protect Oak woodlands and Chehalis River floodplain habitats that includes fresh water wetlands, river oxbows, and up to 4 miles of riverbank. The addition would maintain riparian corridors and help permanently connect terrestrial wildlife habitats on public lands in Capitol Forest to Chehalis state forest</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Recreational opportunities here include; waterfowl, upland bird, and big game hunting, fishing, boating, and multiple wildlife watching opportunities. Habitat benefits will apply to various species of fish and wildlife identified as species of greatest conservation need or state priority.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>Ducks Unlimited, Black Hills Chapter of the Audubon Society</p>



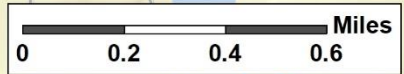


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This project is the transfer of 6 acres in the Discovery Bay estuary. The project is adjacent to the Discovery Bay Unit of the North Olympic Wildlife Area in Jefferson County.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>The transfer continues long term habitat stewardship and increase public access to the estuary with its addition to WDFW’s ownership at Discovery Bay. This property will help reconnect tidal channels and restore upland areas. Public access here will allow recreational shellfish harvest and waterfowl hunting areas.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Jefferson Land trust, and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council</p>



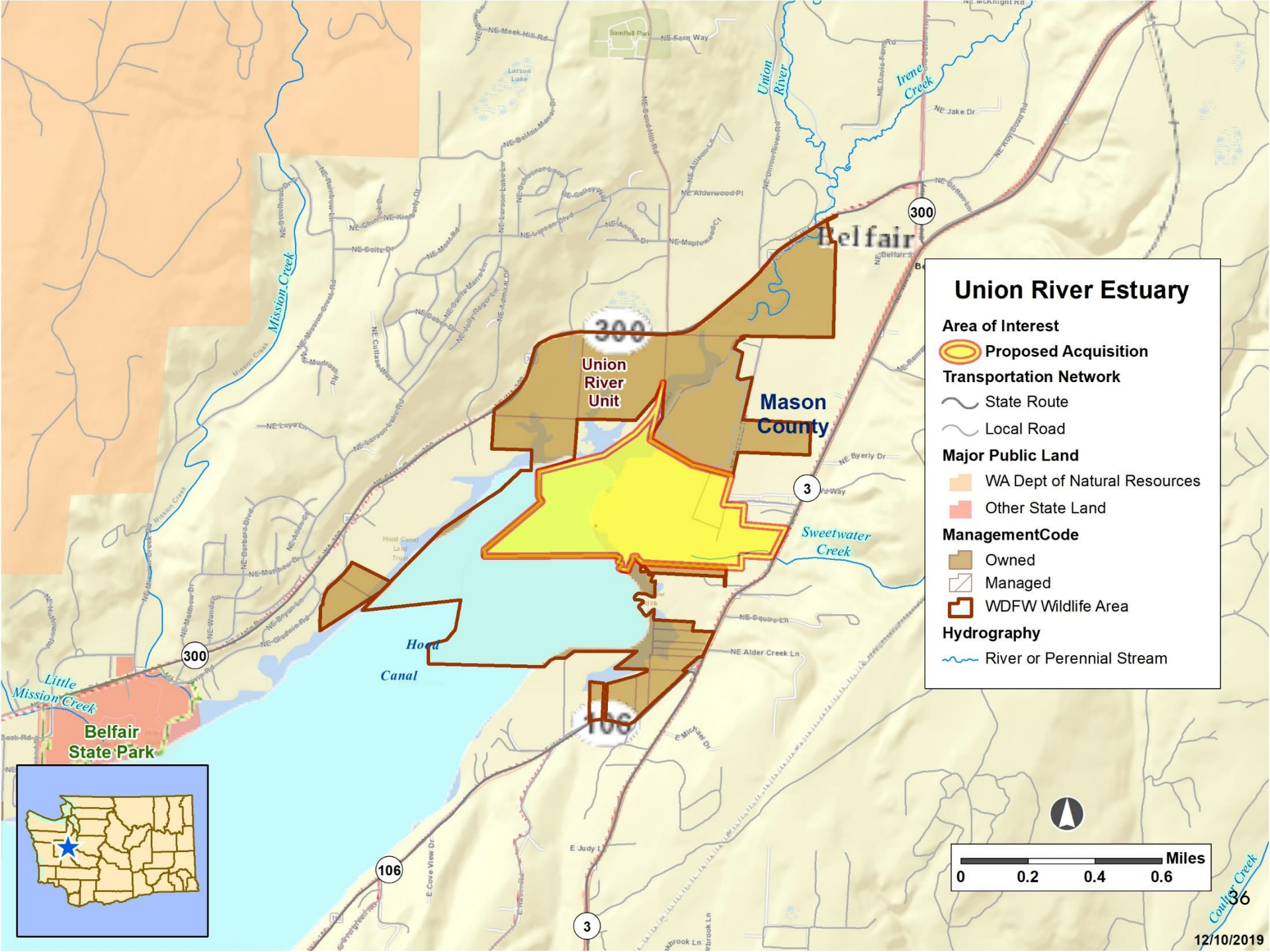
Discovery Bay

- Area of Interest**
 - Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
 - US Highway
 - State Route
 - Local Road
- Major Public Land**
 - WA Dept of Natural Resources
- ManagementCode**
 - Owned
 - WDFW Wildlife Area
- Hydrography**
 - River or Perennial Stream



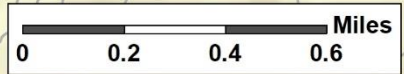


<p>Project Description</p>	<p>This project is a transfer of 160 acres of quality habitat within the Union River Estuary located in Mason County. The project is mostly surrounded by the Union River Wildlife Area Unit.</p>
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Conservation and restoration opportunities of the estuarine habitat for the benefit fish and wildlife species is the key focus of this project. Marine resources include salmonids, forage fish, ground fish, and shellfish. This property also contains a very popular recreational loop trail along the estuary with boardwalks, a pier, and interpretative signs. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to maintain the public access and education. The location is well known for its wildlife viewing and educational opportunities.</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p>North Mason School District, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, Black Hills Chapter of the Audubon Society</p>



Union River Estuary

- Area of Interest**
- Proposed Acquisition
- Transportation Network**
- State Route
- Local Road
- Major Public Land**
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Other State Land
- ManagementCode**
- Owned
- Managed
- WDFW Wildlife Area
- Hydrography**
- River or Perennial Stream



Public Comment Highlights

Public Review – 210 comments
received

SUPPORT (~85%)

- Enhanced open space/outdoor recreation
- Connectivity for wildlife
- Enhanced wildlife habitat and species protection
- Public access

Public Comment Highlights

CONCERNS (~15%)

- Potential to making overcrowding of bank fishing worse
(Samish River)
- Elk damage to fields in Asotin County
- PILT in Asotin County, Garfield County
- Operating budget

Next Steps

- Director's Final Approval to pursue funding
- Grant applications
- Transaction processing
- Land management



Questions?

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 7-8, 2020

Agenda item: 2020 Forest Restoration Project Approval Requests - Briefing

Presenter(s): Richard Tveten, Forest Manager Team Lead, Lands Division

Background summary:

Forest management projects that involve harvest volumes exceeding one million board feet require commission approval. The Lands Division is requesting approval of two upcoming projects.

Staff recommendation: Complete the following projects

Weatherly – Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Complex: Thin 1.8 million board feet on 300 acres. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will leave between 20 and 40 (in general) of the best available trees per acre to improve habitat quality and put forests on accelerated trajectories to once again develop into resilient, fire-climax forests. The project will also protect and create snags.

Windy Point - Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Thin excess small trees on 800 acres totaling up to 1.6 million board feet. WDFW will leave between 25 and 35 (in general) of the best available trees per acre to maximize habitat quality and put forests on accelerated trajectories to once again develop into resilient, fire climax forests. The project will also protect and create snags.

In both cases fire suppression and high-grade logging practices prior to acquisition have resulted overstocked conditions with:

- 1) Elevated pathogen levels, insect activity and wildfire risk.
- 2) Less diverse and less resilient wildlife habitat.

To thin timber, ground-based equipment, including feller bunchers and rubber-tired skidders on slopes of <40.

WDFW will maximize the use of existing roads (open or abandoned), skid trails and landings. Previously abandoned and new temporary roads (if any) will be abandoned at the discretion of the Wildlife Area Manager. The project will meet or exceed State Forest Practice Regulations.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

These projects are designed to restore ecological integrity, improve habitat quality for multiple species including deer and elk, address forest health concerns, reduce wildfire risks and increase the proportion of large diameter trees.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

The Weatherly project will likely generate some timber revenue.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

WDFW will follow the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) public review process.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of the proposed Weatherly and Windy Point forest restoration thinning projects.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to approve the proposed commercial thinning project as presented.

Post decision communications plan:

Wildlife Area staff will notify the public regarding temporary access impacts.

Forest Management Project Approval Requests for 2020



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

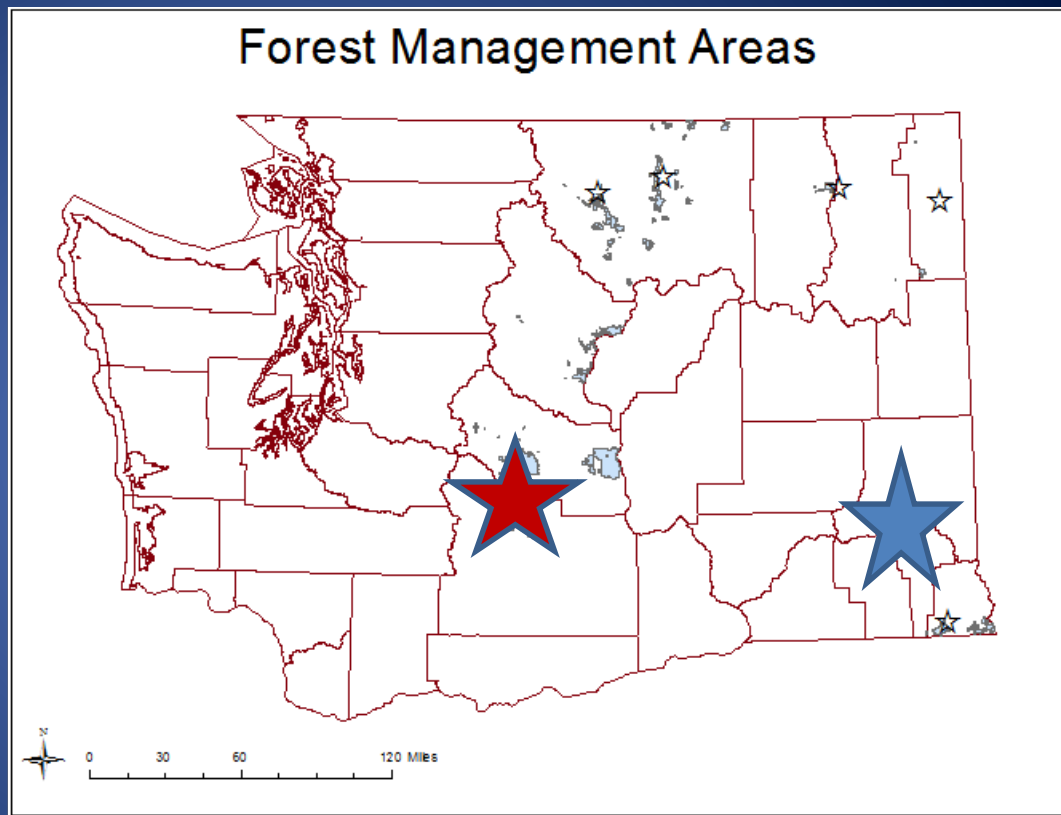
Richard Tveten
Forest Management Team Lead, Lands Division
Wildlife Program

Commission Approval Requests

- Blue Mountains – Weatherly
 - 1.8 million board feet.
 - 300 acres.
 - About one truck load per acre.
 - Leave 20-40 of the best trees per acre.
- Oak Creek – Windy Point
 - Up to 1.6 million board feet.
 - 800 acres.
 - About $\frac{3}{4}$ truck load per acre.
 - Leave 25-35 of the best trees per acre.

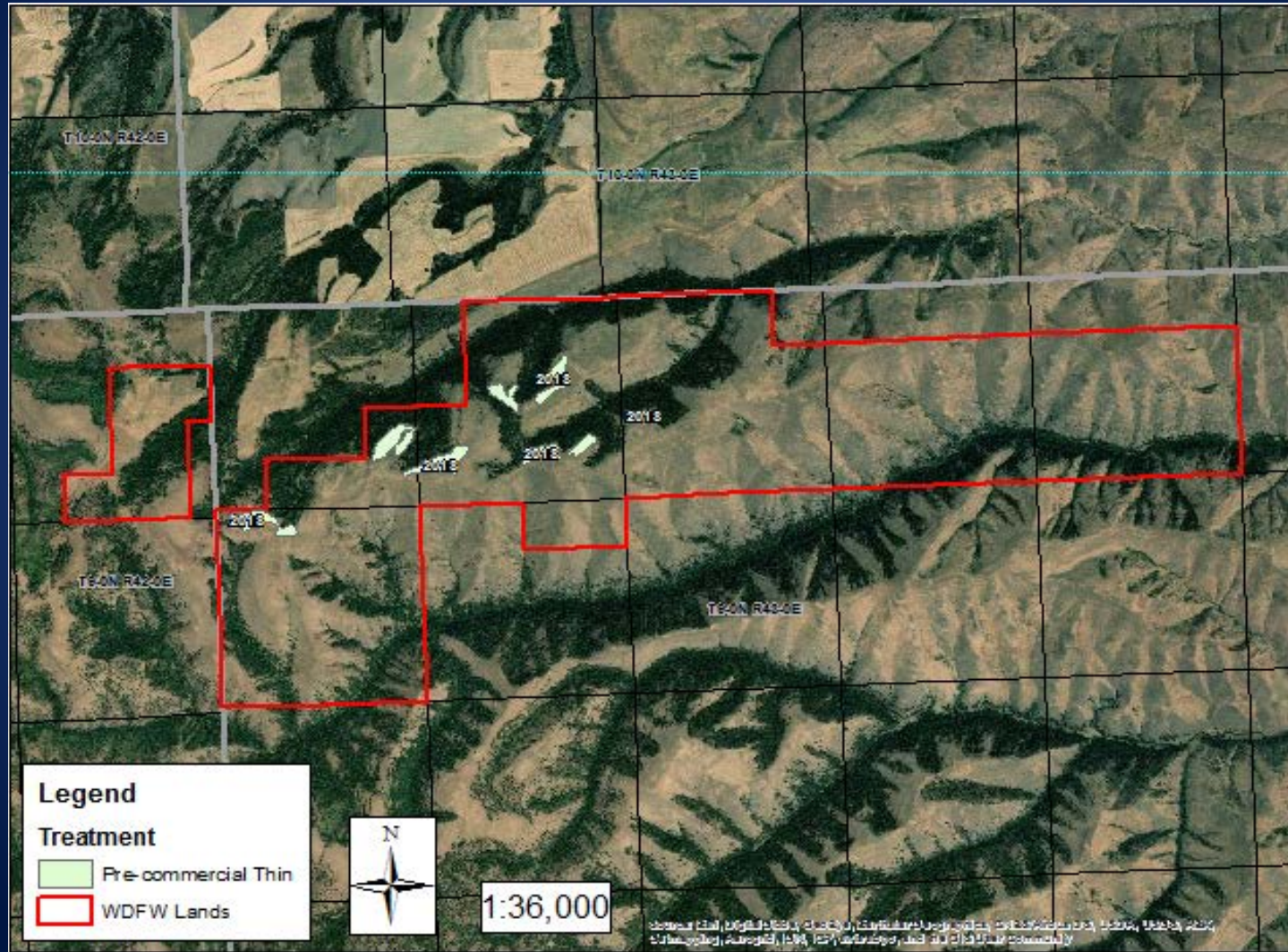
2020 Thinning Project >1,000,000 board feet

- ★ Weatherly
- ★ Windy Point



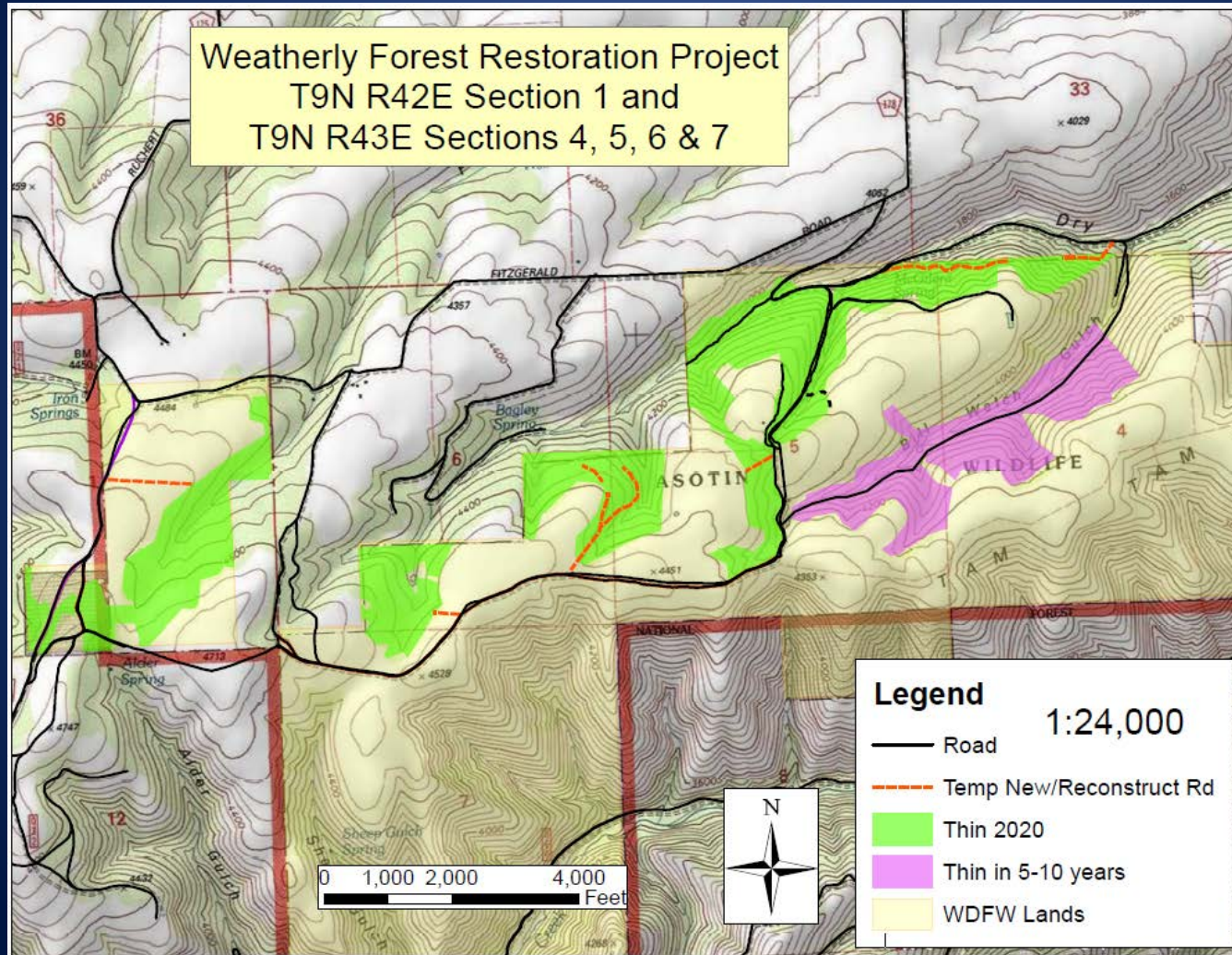
Weatherly (Asotin County)

Thinned - 54 acres



Weatherly (Asotin County)

Planned thinning - 300 acres



Weatherly

Current Condition



Expected post treatment

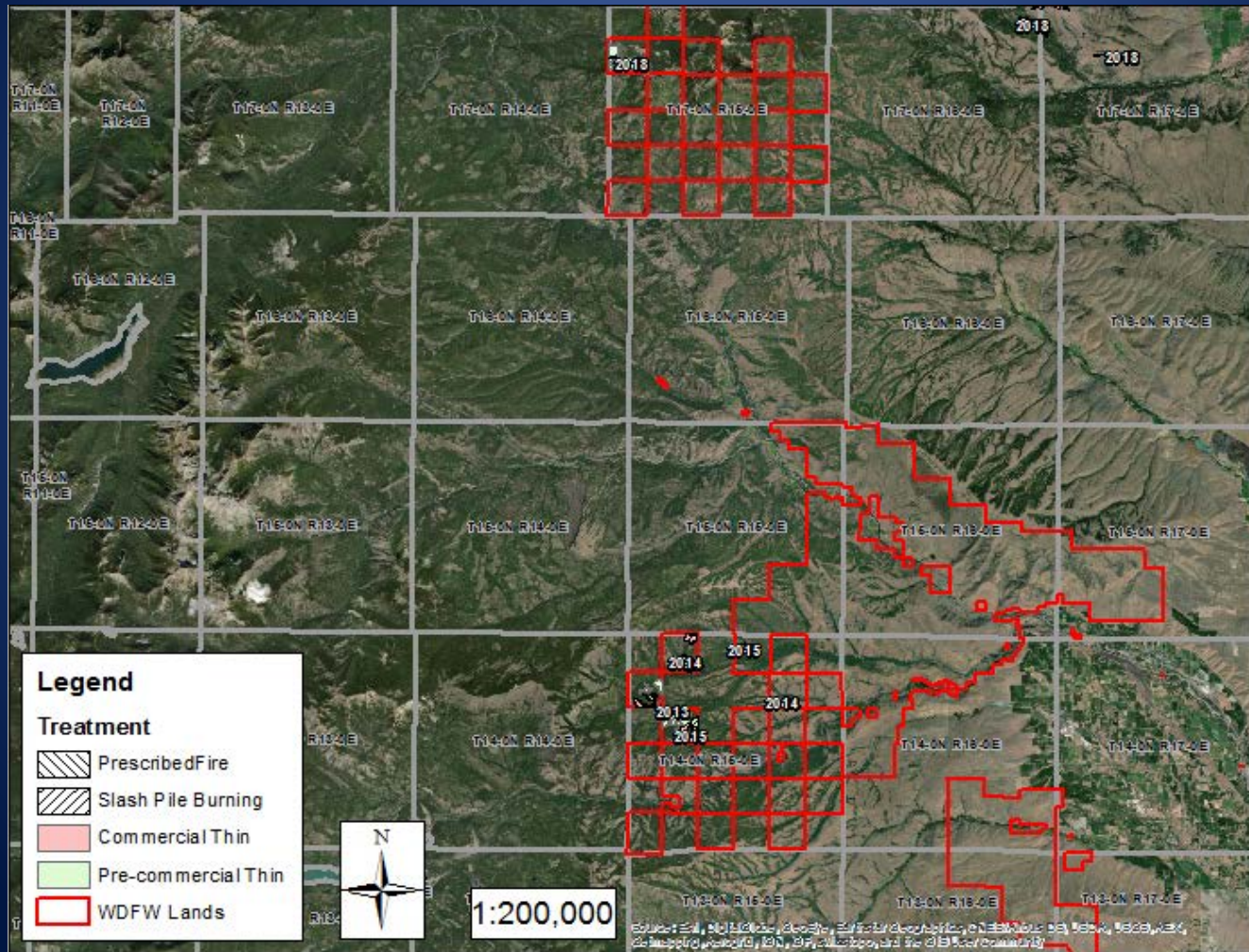


Desired future condition



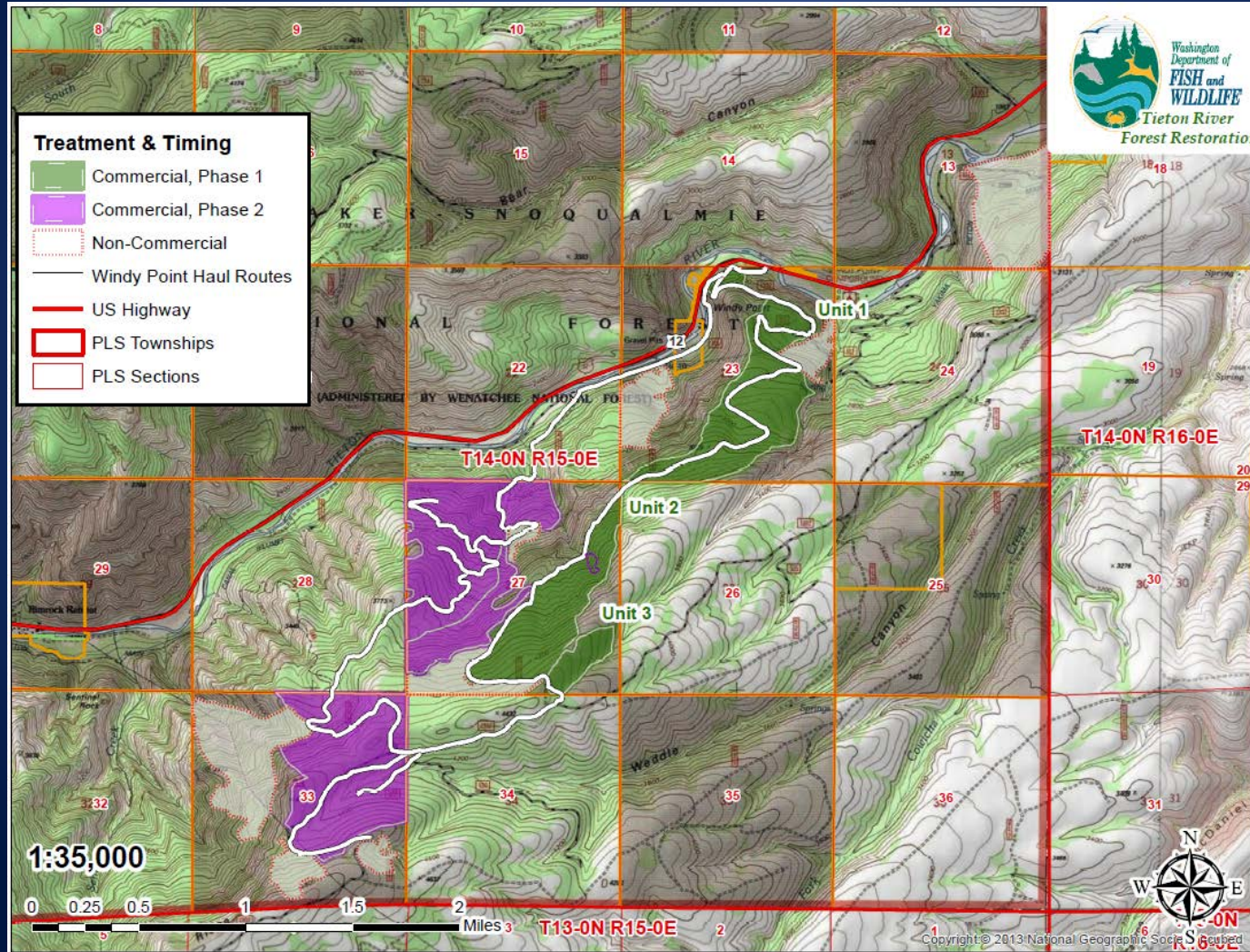
Oak Creek (Kittitas County)

Thinned - 3,129 acres, Rx fire – 270 acres



Oak Creek (Kittitas County)

Planned thinning 800 acres



Windy Point

Current condition



Expected post treatment



Desired future condition



Questions?



January 29, 2020

Mary Wahl, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Salem, OR _____

Re: Columbia River Salmon Management Policy

Dear Chair Wahl:

On behalf of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), I am writing to communicate the results of our January 16-18, 2020, Commission meeting on the review of Columbia River Salmon Management Policy (Policy). First, the Commission greatly appreciates the good work of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff over the course of 2019 on this important topic of mutual interest and appreciate your communication in advance of the January Commission meeting.

Towards the goal of achieving a high level of certainty on upcoming salmon fisheries in joint waters of the Columbia River, the Commission delegated responsibility to our Director Kelly Susewind to negotiate directly with your Director Curt Melcher with the goal of achieving a concurrent regulatory approach in 2020, and requested Director Susewind report the results of these negotiations at the Commission's upcoming February meeting. Given the recent salmon run-size forecast information, it appears likely that many of the current differences between the Washington Policy and Oregon's rules are moot in 2020. Nevertheless, the Commission believes it is important to strive for as much certainty as possible as both States plan for the 2020 season. However, the Commission has provided direction to Director Susewind that this negotiation process between our respective Directors is limited to 2020. Our Commission believes that future changes to the Policy, if any, should be based on the best scientific information available and an open, transparent process, as opposed to a one-year negotiated compromise between the two Directors.

During our January Commission meeting, several Commissioners expressed their desire to move forward with the ongoing Commission review process with the goal of completing the review in a timely manner. In November 2018, WDFW published its comprehensive review of the Policy performance over its initial five years. *See Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620, 2013 – 2017*. The Executive Summary of the document states:

The large economic benefits for both commercial and recreational fisheries expected from the Policy were not observed during the implementation period. Commercial Select Area enhancements and alternative gear development have not replaced mainstem fisheries. Recreational fisheries have only seen marginal benefits to changes in allocations. The expectations in the development of the Policy were not met.

Letter composed by Commissioner Kehoe for February 2020 Commission meeting discussion.

Over the course of 2019, the Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC) completed a substantial amount of analysis on alternatives to address current shortcomings in the Policy identified in the comprehensive review. In addition, the PRC explored new policy initiatives intended as improvements. The Commission has scheduled an agenda item for our February 7-8, 2020 meeting to decide the next steps in concluding our Policy C-3620 review process in a manner that is timely and includes public comment opportunity in both eastside and westside areas of Washington State.

The Commission acknowledges and respects your decision to suspend the PRC process for the time being. We wish you much success in your newly appointed position as chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry Carpenter

Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

C: Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Kelly Susewind
Ron Warren
Bill Tweit

Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy Annual Review
Policy C-3621 – (Briefing and Public Comment)

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: Feb 7, 2020 Commission Meeting

Agenda item: Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy Annual Review.

Presenter(s): Chad Herring, South Coast Policy
Mike Scharpf, District 17 Biologist

Background summary:

The Commission adopted a Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy in February of 2014. As part of the Adaptive Management section, the department is required to report to the Commission annually: "Annual Fishery Management Review. The Department shall annually evaluate fishery management tools and parameters and identify improvements as necessary to accurately predict fishery performance and escapement."

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

N/A

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Department staff compiled comments from the public over the past 6 months regarding the policy and fisheries management.

Action requested:

N/A – Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Post decision communications plan:

Department will provide presentation and commission comments to interested parties via email and post on the website.

Form revised 9/13/17

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

POLICY DECISION

**POLICY TITLE: Grays Harbor Basin
Salmon Management**

POLICY NUMBER: C-3621

Cancels or
Supercedes: NA

Effective Date: March 1, 2014
Termination Date: December 31, 2023

See Also: Policies C-3608, C-3619

Approved February 8, 2014

by: *Miranda Wecker*, Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The objective of this policy is to advance the conservation and restoration of wild salmon. Where consistent with this conservation objective, the policy also seeks to maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state, provide the public with outdoor recreational experiences and a fair distribution of fishing opportunities throughout the Grays Harbor Basin, and improve the technical rigor of fishery management. Enhanced transparency and information sharing are needed to restore and maintain public trust and support for management of Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

Definition and Intent

This policy sets a general management direction and provides guidance for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) management of all Pacific salmon returning to the Grays Harbor Basin. The Grays Harbor Basin is defined as Grays Harbor and its freshwater tributaries.

General Policy Statement

This policy provides a cohesive set of principles and guidance to promote the conservation of wild salmon and steelhead and improve the Department's management of salmon in the Grays Harbor Basin. The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) recognizes that management decisions must be informed by fishery monitoring (biological and economic), and that innovation and adaptive management will be necessary to achieve the stated purpose of this policy. By improving communication, information sharing, and transparency, the Department shall promote improved public support for management of Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

State commercial and recreational fisheries will need to increasingly focus on the harvest of abundant hatchery fish. Mark-selective fisheries are a tool that permits the harvest of abundant hatchery fish while reducing impacts on wild stocks needing protection. As a general policy, the Department shall implement mark-selective salmon fisheries, unless the wild populations substantially affected by the fishery are meeting

spawner (e.g., escapement goal) and broodstock management objectives. In addition, the Department may consider other management approaches provided they are as or more effective than a mark-selective fishery in achieving spawner and broodstock management objectives.

Fishery and hatchery management measures should be implemented as part of an “all-H” strategy that integrates hatchery, harvest, and habitat systems. Although the policy focuses on fishery management, this policy in no way diminishes the significance of habitat protection and restoration.

In implementing the policy guidelines, the Department will work with the tribes in a manner that is consistent with *U.S. v. Washington* and other applicable state and federal laws and agreements.

Guiding Principles

The Department will apply the following principles in the management of salmon in the Grays Harbor Basin:

- 1) Promote the conservation and restoration of salmon and steelhead by working with our partners (including Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups and Lead Entities) to protect and restore habitat productivity, implementing hatchery reform, and managing fisheries consistent with conservation objectives.
- 2) Meet the terms of *U.S. v. Washington* and other federal court orders and promote a strong relationship with the Quinault Indian Nation. Spawning escapement goals, fisheries, and artificial production objectives will be developed and jointly agreed with the Quinault Indian Nation. The Department shall seek agreement with the Quinault Indian Nation to manage fisheries with the intent of meeting the Chinook and coho salmon spawner goals for the Humptulips River and the Chinook and coho spawner goals for the Chehalis River. Agreements between the Department and the Quinault Indian Nation related to salmon in the Grays Harbor Basin shall be made available to the public through the agency web site.
- 3) The Department will work through the Pacific Salmon Commission to promote the conservation of Grays Harbor salmon and, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, pursue the implementation of fishery management actions necessary to achieve agreed conservation objectives.
- 4) Within the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process, the Department will support management measures that promote the attainment of Grays Harbor conservation objectives consistent with the Council’s Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 5) In a manner consistent with conservation objectives, seek to enhance the overall economic well-being and stability of Grays Harbor Basin fisheries.

- 6) When establishing fishery seasons, the Department shall consider the anticipated impact of both Quinault Indian Nation and nontreaty fisheries in the Grays Harbor Basin.
- 7) In a manner consistent with conservation objectives, fishing opportunities will be fairly distributed across fishing areas and reflect the diverse interests of WDFW-managed fishers.
- 8) Recreational and WDFW-managed commercial fisheries shall be structured (e.g., schedule, location, gear) to minimize gear and other fishery conflicts. WDFW-managed commercial gillnet fisheries in a fishing area or aggregate area (i.e., Area 2A/2B/2D; or Area 2C) shall be scheduled, if possible, so that in any given calendar week there are a minimum of three consecutive days when no treaty or state-managed commercial fisheries occur. If the treaty fishery occurs 4 or more days in a calendar week, no WDFW-managed commercial fishery shall occur in the remaining days of the week.
- 9) Monitoring, sampling, and enforcement programs will adequately account for species and population impacts (landed catch and incidental fishing mortality) of all recreational and WDFW-managed commercial fisheries and ensure compliance with state regulations.
- 10) If it becomes apparent that a scheduled fishery will exceed its preseason catch expectation, and the overage will put at risk the attainment of conservation objectives, the Department shall implement inseason management actions that are projected to enhance the effectiveness of fishery management relative to the attainment of the conservation objectives and impact sharing in the preseason fishery plan.
- 11) Salmon management will be well documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable. The Department shall strive to make ongoing improvements in the transparency of fishery management and for effective public involvement. These shall include: a) clearly describing management objectives in a document available to the public prior to the initiation of the preseason planning process; b) enhancing opportunities for public engagement during the preseason fishery planning process; c) communicating inseason information and management actions to advisors and the public; d) seeking Quinault Indian Nation support for the inclusion of observers in co-management meetings; and e) striving to improve communication with the public regarding co-management issues that are under discussion.
- 12) The Department shall seek to improve fishery management and technical tools through improved fishery monitoring, the development of new tools, and rigorous assessment of fishery models and parameters.

- 13) The Department shall explore and pursue options to increase hatchery production in the Grays Harbor Basin in a manner consistent with the Hatchery and Fishery Reform policy (C-3619). These shall include:
 - a. The Department shall work with the public and parties to the Wynoochee Settlement Agreement with the goal of submitting to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by September 30, 2014 the Wynoochee Dam mitigation plan and initiate spending of the mitigation funds in an expeditious manner thereafter.
 - b. The Department shall seek restoration of hatchery funding cut in the Grays Harbor Basin since the 2007-2009 biennium.

- 14) When a mark-selective fishery occurs, the mark-selective fishery shall be implemented, monitored, and enforced in a manner designed to achieve the anticipated conservation benefits.

Fishery and Species-Specific Guidance

Subject to the provisions of the Adaptive Management section, the following fishery-and species-specific sections describe the presumptive path for achieving conservation objectives and a fair sharing of harvestable fish.

Spring Chinook Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage spring Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild spring Chinook. In no case, shall WDFW-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the natural-origin adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.

- 2) Prioritize freshwater recreational fisheries, with an objective of opening freshwater areas no later than May 1.

Fall Chinook Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage fall Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery Chinook. In no case, shall WDFW-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the natural-origin adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.

- 2) The fishery management objectives for fall Chinook salmon, in priority order, are to:

- a) achieve spawner goals;
 - b) provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities; and
 - c) limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species.
- 3) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts in the Grays Harbor Basin between WDFW-managed commercial, marine recreational, and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

- a) WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in the Grays Harbor Basin shall have the following impact limits:

Areas 2A, 2B, 2D: the impact rate of the state-managed commercial fishery shall be 0.8% on natural-origin Chehalis fall Chinook when the impact of the recreational fishery is equal to or greater than 4.2%. The impact rate of the WDFW-managed commercial fishery may be less than 0.8% when conservation concerns for natural-origin Chehalis fall Chinook result in a less than 4.2% impact rate in the recreational fishery.

When the terminal run of natural-origin Chehalis fall Chinook reaches an abundance of 18,793, the impact rate of the WDFW-managed commercial fishery shall linearly increase from 0.8% to a maximum of 5.8% at a terminal run of 25,000 natural-origin Chehalis fall Chinook.

Area 2C: the impact rate of the state-managed commercial fishery shall be 1.2% on natural-origin Humptulips fall Chinook when the impact of the recreational fishery is equal to or greater than 3.8%. The impact rate of the WDFW-managed commercial fishery may be less than 1.2% when conservation concerns for Humptulips natural-origin fall Chinook result in a less than 3.8% impact rate in the recreational fishery.

When the terminal run of natural-origin Humptulips fall Chinook reaches an abundance of 3,779, the impact rate of the WDFW-managed commercial fishery shall linearly increase from 1.2% to a maximum of 5.4% at a run of 4,070 natural-origin Humptulips fall Chinook.

- b) Chehalis Fall Chinook. Fisheries shall be developed with the intent of achieving the following sharing of impacts within the recreational fishing sector:

Run Size	% to Freshwater	% to Area 2-2
Small ¹	73%	27%
Large	52%	48%

- c) Humptulips Fall Chinook. Fisheries shall be developed with the intent of achieving the following sharing of impacts within the recreational fishing sector:

Run Size	% to Freshwater	% to Area 2-2
Small	78%	22%
Large	63%	37%

Coho Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage coho salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery coho salmon. In no case, shall WDFW-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the natural-origin adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.
- 2) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts in the Grays Harbor Basin between marine recreational and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

- a) Chehalis Coho. Fisheries shall be developed with the intent of achieving the following sharing of impacts within the recreational fishing sector:

Run Size	% to Freshwater	% to Area 2-2
Small	73%	27%
Large	55%	45%

- b) Humptulips Coho. Fisheries shall be developed with the intent of achieving the following sharing of impacts within the recreational fishing sector:

Run Size	% to Freshwater	% to Area 2-2
Small	82%	18%
Large	66%	34%

¹ A small run is defined as a run size less than 110% of the spawner goal. A large run is defined as more than 182% of the spawner goal for fall Chinook salmon and more than 156% of the spawner goal for coho and chum salmon.

Chum Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage chum salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery chum salmon. In no case, shall WDFW-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the natural-origin adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.
- 2) No fisheries directed at chum salmon shall occur unless the adult coho salmon return exceeds spawner objectives, or if coho salmon impacts remain after coho and Chinook salmon fisheries.
- 3) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts between marine recreational and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.
 - a) Fisheries shall be developed with the intent of achieving the following sharing of impacts within the recreational fishing sector:

Run Size	% to Freshwater	% to Area 2-2
Small	>98%	≤2%
Large	>98%	≤2%

Adaptive Management

The Commission recognizes that adaptive management will be essential to achieve the purpose of this policy. Department staff may implement actions to manage adaptively to achieve the objectives of this policy and will coordinate with the Commission, as needed, in order to implement corrective actions. Components of the adaptive management will be shared with the public through the agency web site and will include the following elements:

- 1) Annual Fishery Management Review. The Department shall annually evaluate fishery management tools and parameters and identify improvements as necessary to accurately predict fishery performance and escapement.

As a component of the annual fishery management review, the Department shall assess if spawner goals were achieved for Chehalis spring Chinook, Chehalis fall Chinook, Humptulips fall Chinook, Chehalis coho, Humptulips coho, and Grays Harbor chum salmon. If the number of natural-origin spawners was less than the goal in 3 out of the last 5 years (beginning in 2009), the Department shall implement the following measures:

- a) The predicted fishery impact for that stock in WDFW-managed fisheries in the Grays Harbor Basin will not exceed 5% of the adult return to Grays Harbor; and
 - b) If a spawner goal for fall Chinook salmon is not achieved, the Grays Harbor control zone² off of the mouth of Grays Harbor will be implemented no later than the second Monday in August and continue until the end of September.
- 2) Inseason Management. The Department shall develop, evaluate, and implement fishery management models, procedures, and management measures that are projected to enhance the effectiveness of fishery management relative to management based on preseason predictions.
 - 3) Spawner Goals. The Department shall review spawner goals to ensure that they reflect the current productivity of salmon. The review shall be initiated with Chinook salmon in 2014.

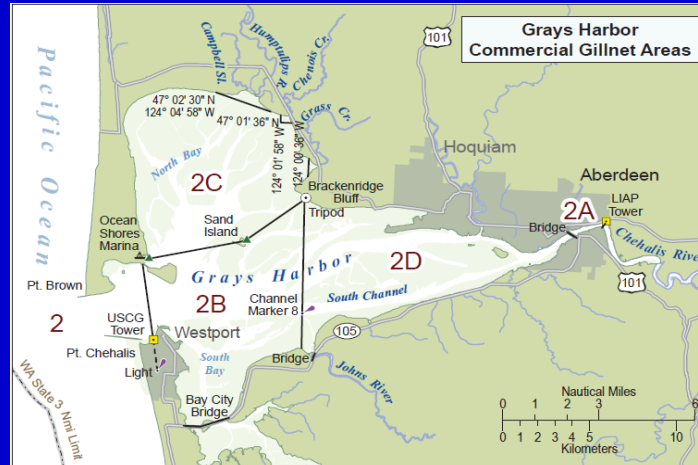
To promote improved management of chum salmon, the Department shall include in the 2015 annual review an evaluation of options to improve chum salmon stock assessments. The Department shall subsequently initiate in 2015 a review of the spawner goal for chum salmon.

Delegation of Authority

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the North of Falcon stakeholder consultation process, to set seasons for recreational and WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in Grays Harbor, to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries, and to make harvest agreements with treaty tribes and other government agencies.

² The Grays Harbor control zone is defined as an area at the entrance to Grays Harbor bounded by a line from the lighthouse 1 mile south of the south jetty to buoy #2 to buoy #3 to the tip of the north jetty to the tip of the exposed end of the south jetty.

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy 2019 Season Review



Chad Herring/Mike Scharpf - Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February, 2020

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Presentation Outline

- Review of key Policy elements
- Review 2019 planning
- Report on 2019 results
 - All 2019 data are preliminary
- 2020 implementation
- Wynoochee Mitigation update

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Key Policy Elements

- **Enhance conservation focus**
- **Reduce gear conflict**
- **Sharing of impacts**

3

Enhance Conservation Focus

- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon**
- **Limit the impacts of WDFW-managed fisheries to a maximum of 5% of the adult return if:**
 - **natural origin forecasts are less than 10% over goal.**
 - **spawning goals for natural spawning salmon are not met in three out of the previous five years.**

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Reduce Gear Conflict

- *“... if possible, so that in any given calendar week there are a minimum of three consecutive days when no treaty or state-managed commercial fisheries occur. If the treaty fishery occurs 4 or more days in a calendar week, no WDFW-managed commercial fishery shall occur in the remaining days of the week.”*

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Sharing of Impacts

Fishery management objectives, in priority order, are:

- 1) Achieve spawner goals**
- 2) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities for Chinook**
- 3) Limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species**

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Review of 2019 Planning

- **Constraining stocks:**
 - **Humptulips River natural-origin coho below spawner goal – 5% impact limit**
 - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook below goal 3 of 5 years – 5% impact limit**
 - **Chehalis River spring Chinook forecast below the 1,400 escapement goal.**
- **Developed fisheries to comply with key policy elements**

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2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

- **Pre-season forecast did not provide for fishing opportunity**
- **In-season fisheries closure in spring Chinook waters.**

Spring Chinook

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		581	
Naturally Spawning	1,400	580	1,185

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2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

- **Maximum WDFW impact 5%**
- **No directed fisheries on Chehalis fall Chinook**
- **WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in Areas 2A and 2D allowed up to 0.8% impact**

Chehalis Natural Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size Natural Origin		13,568	12,500
Naturally Spawning	9,753	9,924	11,000
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.5%	3.8%
NT Commercial HR	0.8%	0.65%	0.5%

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

- **Meet conservation objective**
- **WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in Areas 2C allowed up to 5.4% impact**
- **Co-manager collaboration for data collection used for escapement estimate**

Humptulips Natural Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size Natural Origin		5,592	2,014
Naturally Spawning	3,573	4,214	2,250
NT Commercial HR	5.4%	2.45%	4.5%

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Preliminary Coho Performance

- **Achieved conservation objective 3 of the past 5 years and forecast abundance is above 110%**
- **Policy guidance, develop fisheries in conjunction with conservation objectives**

Chehalis

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season
Run-Size Natural Origin		60,841
Naturally Spawning	28,506	38,189
		N/A

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Preliminary Coho Performance

- **Have not achieved conservation goal 3 of the past 5 years, forecasted abundance less than conservation goal.**
- **WDFW-managed fisheries limited to 5% impact under Policy guidance**

Humptulips

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season
Run-Size Natural Origin		5,089
Naturally Spawning	6,894	3,669
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.4%

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Preliminary Chum Performance

- Achieved conservation objective 3 of the past 5 years and forecast abundance is above 110%
- Policy guidance, achieve conservation objective
- Conservation objective was achieved.

Grays Harbor Chum

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		71,959	38,304
Naturally Spawning	21,000	33,367	27,930
NT Commercial harvest		12,972	3,377

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Actual Performance

WDFW-Managed Commercial Catch/Impacts

Species	Pre-season		Actual	
	NOR	HOR	NOR	HOR
Chinook	280	190	117	32
Coho	2,528	1,918	1,742	258
Chum	12,972		3,377	

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Actual Performance

WDFW-Managed Commercial Ex-vessel Value Policy long term projection \$74,042

Year	Predicted	Actual
2015	\$121,386	\$43,210
2016	\$62,556	\$13,608
2017	\$66,190	\$66,347
2018	\$55,225	\$37,925
2019	\$139,700	\$61,777

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2019 Summary

- **Chehalis Fall Chinook**
 - Preliminary 2019 escapement estimate is 11,000
 - Third year in the past five achieving the goal
- **Commercial Fishery:**
 - Provide more days on the water
 - Lower catch than predicted
- **Recreational Fishery:**
 - In-season regulation change
 - Recreational catch was a mixed message

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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2020 Implementation

- **Constraining Stocks:**
 - **Ocean conditions were not favorable for coho survival, low coho forecasts expected**
 - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho**

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Wynoochee Mitigation Update

- **Worked with Quinault Tribe to develop a plan**
- **Public meeting on Sept. 24 to present the plan**

The Plan provides:

- **100,000 unmarked coho release into the Wynoochee River**
- **400,000 adipose clipped coho released from Bingham Creek hatchery**
- **65,000 additional late winter steelhead release into the Wynoochee River**

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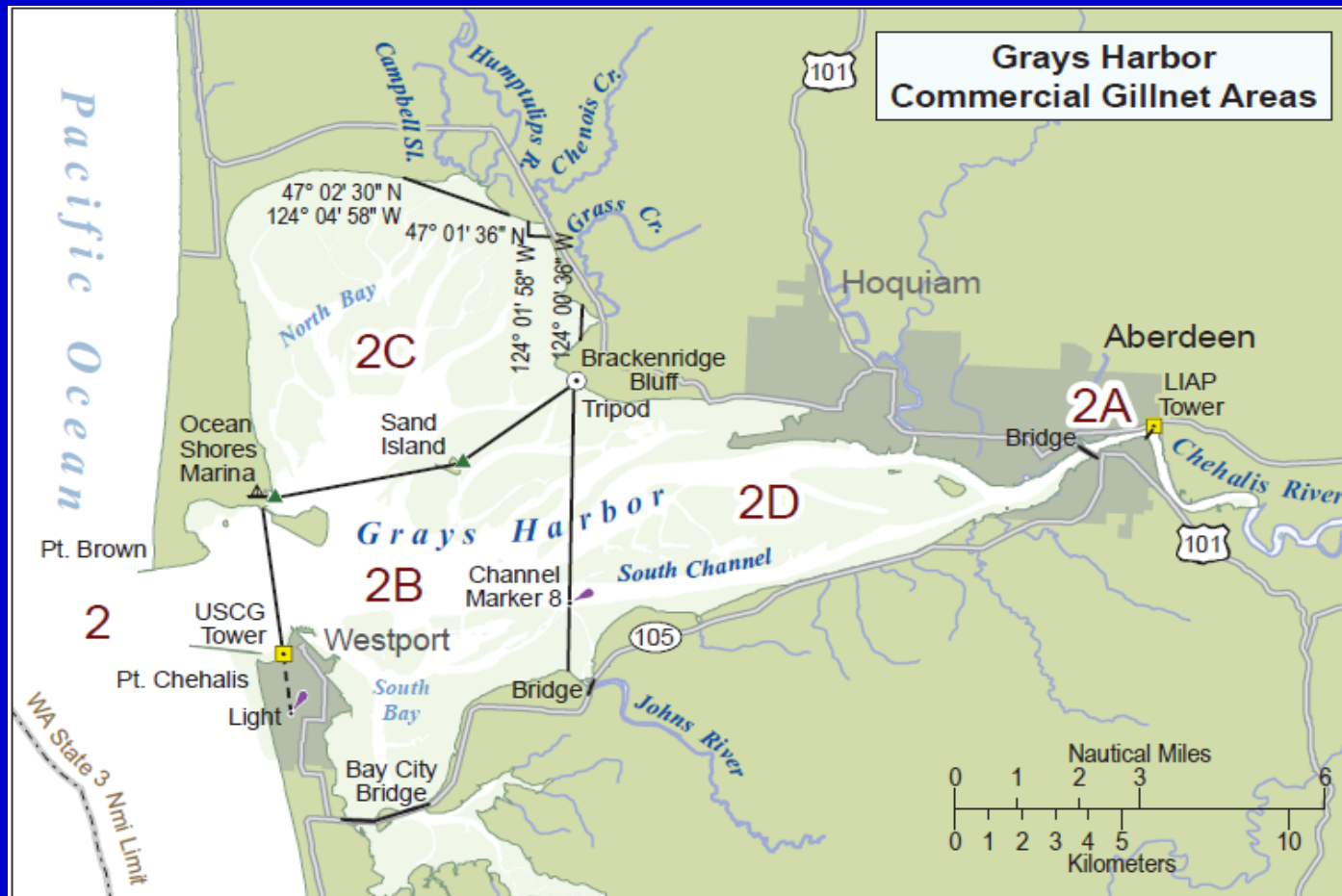
Questions?

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation
February, 2020

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Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy 2019 Season Review



Chad Herring/Mike Scharpf - Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February, 2020

Presentation Outline

- **Review of key Policy elements**
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- **Wynoochee Mitigation update**

Key Policy Elements

- **Enhance conservation focus**
- **Reduce gear conflict**
- **Sharing of impacts**

Enhance Conservation Focus

- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon**
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Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622)
Comprehensive Review (Briefing/Public Comment/Decision)

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates:	February 7, 2020
Agenda item:	Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) Comprehensive Review
Presenter(s):	Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst

Background summary:

In the fall of 2014, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), supported by Department staff, initiated a process in order to develop a salmon management policy for Willapa Bay. The intent of the policy is to provide Department staff with general guidance and management objectives for salmon management in Willapa Bay.

To advise in the development of this policy, a Willapa Bay Advisory Group was formed. The group consisted of stakeholders representing recreational and commercial fishers. Public engagement in the development of Policy C-3622 included four meetings with the Willapa Bay Advisory group, four public workshops, and one workshop with the Pacific County Commissioners. These meetings took place in fall 2014 through spring 2015.

In June 2015, the policy was adopted by the FWC as the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy – C-3622. The objectives of the policy “is to achieve the conservation and restoration of wild salmon in Willapa Bay and avoid ESA designation of any salmon species. Where consistent with this conservation objective, the policy also seeks to maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the commercial and recreational fishing industry in the state, provide the public with outdoor recreational experiences, and an appropriate distribution of fishing opportunities throughout the Willapa Bay Basin. Enhanced transparency, information sharing, and improved technical rigor of fishery management are needed to restore and maintain public trust and support for management of Willapa Bay salmon fisheries.” Policy also provides fishery management objective for fall Chinook to achieve spawning escapement goals and to provide for an enhanced recreational fishing season. The policy recognizes uncertainty in implementation, depends on continued economic and biological analysis, and relies on an adaptive management approach.

The implementing structure of the policy consisted of two phases; Phase I included years 1 through 4 post-adoption (covering the 2015 through 2018 fisheries) and Phase II included years 5 through 21 (July 2019 through June 2035). In 2019, the FWC provided staff with additional guidance for management of salmon fisheries prosecuted in Willapa Bay applicable to the 2019 season only. In the adaptive management section of Policy C-3622, the Commission requested a comprehensive and thorough review of the implementation and performance of the Policy upon completion of Phase I as well as annual briefings on the performance and implementation of the policy guidance.

This presentation will provide a preview of fishery and stock assessment data relating to the performance of Policy C-3622 in Phase I (2015 through 2018 fisheries) that is currently being developed for the comprehensive review document. Also, staff will provide preliminary fishery and stock performance data for 2019 fisheries. Lastly, staff will seek Commission guidance on conservation and management objectives to be utilized in pre-season planning for 2020 fisheries and for the 2019 brood year fall Chinook hatchery releases for Willapa Bay facilities.

Staff recommendation:

Staff continues to work on the comprehensive review of this Willapa Bay policy but seeks guidance on policy provisions needed for the 2020 pre-season planning process.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Policy guidance to the Department for defining conservation and fishery management objectives for the 2020 salmon fishing season in Willapa Bay for commercial and recreational fishing opportunity and for the 2019 brood year fall Chinook hatchery production within Willapa Bay.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Fishery management options to be considered by the Commission would not result in the need for any additional resources. Fishery monitoring and evaluation programs are currently in place.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Public involvement in the review is included throughout the review process. To-date, Department staff have sought public input through public meetings as well as at the conclusion of each meeting of the Willapa Bay Salmon Advisory Group leading up to the January meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Additional meetings of the Willapa Bay Salmon Advisory Group have been conducted through September of 2019; these too offered an opportunity for public input.

It is anticipated this review process will conclude in the form of a final presentation to the FWC summarizing information from a detailed report intending to provide answers to specific questions regarding the implementation and performance of Policy C-3622. Questions that are to be developed with commissioner, advisory, and public involvement.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Consider adoption of guidance to be utilized in the 2020 North of Falcon process regarding 2020 Willapa Bay salmon fishing season and for the 2019 brood year fall Chinook hatchery production within Willapa Bay.

Draft motion language:

Not applicable.

Post decision communications plan:

Once guidance is adopted, the guidance will be posted on website and communicated to constituents and advisory groups at meetings during the North of Falcon process.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Willapa Bay Salmon Management

POLICY NUMBER: C-3622

Cancels or
Supersedes: NA

Effective Date: June 13, 2015
Termination Date: December 31, 2023

See Also: Policies C-3608, C-3619

Approved June 13, 2015 by:



Chair

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The objective of this policy is to achieve the conservation and restoration of wild salmon in Willapa Bay and avoid ESA designation of any salmon species. Where consistent with this conservation objective, the policy also seeks to maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the commercial and recreational fishing industry in the state, provide the public with outdoor recreational experiences, and an appropriate distribution of fishing opportunities throughout the Willapa Bay Basin. Enhanced transparency, information sharing, and improved technical rigor of fishery management are needed to restore and maintain public trust and support for management of Willapa Bay salmon fisheries.

Definition and Goal

This policy sets a general management direction and provides guidance for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) management of all Pacific salmon returning to the Willapa Bay Basin. The Willapa Bay Basin is defined as Willapa Bay and its freshwater tributaries.

General Policy Statement

This policy provides a cohesive set of principles and guidance to promote the conservation of wild salmon and steelhead and improve the Department's management of salmon in the Willapa Bay Basin. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) recognizes that management decisions must be informed by fishery monitoring (biological and economic), and that innovation and adaptive management will be necessary to achieve the stated purpose of this policy. By improving communication, information sharing, and transparency, the Department shall promote improved public support for management of Willapa Bay salmon fisheries.

State commercial and recreational fisheries will need to increasingly focus on the harvest of abundant hatchery fish. Mark-selective fisheries are a tool that permits the harvest of abundant hatchery fish while reducing impacts on wild stocks needing protection. As a general policy, the Department shall implement mark-selective salmon fisheries, unless the

wild populations substantially affected by the fishery are meeting spawner (e.g., escapement goal) and broodstock management objectives. In addition, the Department may consider avoidance, alternative gears, or other selective fishing concepts along with other management approaches provided they are as or more effective than a mark-selective fishery in achieving spawner and broodstock management objectives.

Fishery and hatchery management measures should be implemented as part of an “all-H” strategy that integrates hatchery, harvest, and habitat systems. Although the policy focuses on fishery management, this policy in no way diminishes the significance of habitat protection and restoration.

Guiding Principles

The Department shall apply the following principles in the management of salmon in the Willapa Bay Basin:

- 1) Prioritize the restoration and conservation of wild salmon through a comprehensive, cohesive, and progressive series of fishery, hatchery, and habitat actions.
- 2) Work with our partners (including Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups, nonprofit organizations, the public and Lead Entities) to protect and restore habitat productivity.
- 3) Implement improved broodstock management (including selective removal of hatchery fish) to reduce the genetic and ecological impacts of hatchery fish and improve the fitness and viability of salmon produced from Willapa Bay rivers (see Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy C-3619). Achieve Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) broodstock management standards for Coho and Chum salmon by 2015, and work toward a goal of achieving standards for Chinook salmon by 2020.
- 4) Investigate and promote the development and implementation of alternative selective gear. The development of alternative selective gear may provide an opportunity to target fishery harvests on abundant hatchery fish stocks, reduce the number of hatchery-origin fish in natural spawning areas, limit mortalities on non-target species and stocks, and provide commercial fishing opportunities.
- 5) Work through the Pacific Salmon Commission to promote the conservation of Willapa Bay salmon and, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, pursue the implementation of fishery management actions necessary to achieve agreed conservation objectives.
- 6) Within the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process, support management measures that promote the attainment of Willapa Bay conservation objectives consistent with the Council’s Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 7) Monitoring, sampling, and enforcement programs will adequately account for species and population impacts (landed catch and incidental fishing mortality) of all recreational

and commercial fisheries and ensure compliance with state regulations. Develop and implement enhanced enforcement strategies to improve compliance with fishing regulations and ensure orderly fisheries.

- 8) If it becomes apparent that a scheduled fishery will exceed the aggregated pre-season natural-origin Chinook mortality (impact) expectation, the Department shall implement in-season management actions in an effort to avoid cumulative mortalities of natural-origin Chinook in excess of the aggregated pre-season projection.
- 9) Salmon management and catch accounting will be timely, well documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable. The Department shall strive to make ongoing improvements in the transparency of fishery management and for effective public involvement in planning Willapa Bay salmon fisheries, including rule-making processes. These shall include: a) clearly describing management objectives in a document available to the public prior to the initiation of the preseason planning process; b) enhancing opportunities for public engagement during the preseason fishery planning process; c) communicating in-season information and management actions to advisors and the public; and d) striving to improve communication with the public regarding co-management issues that are under discussion.
- 10) Seek to improve fishery management and technical tools through improved fishery monitoring, the development of new tools, and rigorous assessment of fishery models and parameters.
- 11) When a mark-selective fishery occurs, the mark-selective fishery shall be implemented, monitored, and enforced in a manner designed to achieve the anticipated conservation benefits.

Fishery and Species-Specific Guidance

Subject to the provisions of the Adaptive Management section, the following fishery-and species-specific sections describe the presumptive path for achieving conservation objectives and an appropriate distribution of fishing opportunities.

Fall Chinook Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage fall Chinook salmon fisheries and hatchery programs consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following additional guidance:

- 1) The Department shall initiate a two-phase rebuilding program to conserve and restore wild Chinook salmon in Willapa Bay. The progressive series of actions is intended to result in achieving broodstock management standards by 2020 and spawner goals by years 16-21. Within the conservation constraints of the rebuilding program, Chinook salmon will be managed to provide for a full recreational fishing season with increased

participation and/or catch anticipated in future years.

- 2) Rebuilding Program - Phase 1 (Years 1-4). The objectives of Phase 1 shall be to increase the number of natural-origin spawners and implement hatchery program modifications designed to meet broodstock management standards in the subsequent cycle.
 - a. Implement hatchery broodstock management actions to promote re-adaptation to the natural environment and enhance productivity of natural-origin Chinook salmon in the North/Smith, Willapa, and Naselle rivers:
 - North/Smith – Manage as Wild Salmon Management Zone with no hatchery releases of Chinook salmon.
 - Willapa – Implement an integrated program with hatchery broodstock management strategies designed to achieve broodstock management standards consistent with a Primary designation in the subsequent cycle.
 - Naselle – Implement hatchery broodstock strategies designed to achieve broodstock management standards consistent with a Contributing designation in the subsequent cycle.
 - b. Pursue implementation of additional mark-selective commercial fishing gear to enhance conservation and provide harvest opportunities. The Department shall provide to the Commission by January 2017 a status report and by January 2018 an assessment of options to implement additional mark-selective commercial fishing gear in Willapa Bay. The assessment shall identify the likely release mortality rates for each gear type, the benefits to rebuilding naturally spawning populations, and the benefits and impacts to the commercial fishery.
- 3) Rebuilding Program - Phase 2 (Years 5 – 21). The combination of fishery and harvest management actions is projected to result on average in the achievement of spawner goals for the North, Naselle, and Willapa populations in the years 16-21. Additional fishery and hatchery management actions will be considered during this time period if the progress toward the spawner objectives is inconsistent with expectations.
- 4) Fishery Management Objectives. The fishery management objectives for fall Chinook salmon, in priority order, are to:
 - a. Achieve spawner goals for the North, Naselle, and Willapa stocks of natural-origin Chinook and hatchery reform broodstock objectives through the two phase rebuilding program described above.
 - b. Provide for an enhanced recreational fishing season. The impact rate of the recreational fishery is anticipated to be ~3.2% during the initial years of the

policy, but may increase in subsequent years to provide for an enhanced recreational season as described below:

- Manage Chinook salmon for an enhanced recreational fishing season to increase participation and/or catch including consideration of increased daily limits, earlier openings, multiple rods, and other measures.
- Conservation actions, as necessary, shall be shared equally between marine and freshwater fisheries.

c. Provide opportunities for commercial fisheries within the remaining available fishery impacts.

5) Fishery Management in 2015-2018. To facilitate a transition to the Willapa River as the primary Chinook salmon population, fisheries during the transition period will be managed with the following goal:

- a. The impact rate on Willapa and Naselle river natural-origin fall Chinook in Willapa Bay fisheries shall not exceed 20%. Within this impact rate cap, the priority shall be to maintain a full season of recreational fisheries for Chinook salmon in the Willapa Bay Basin.
- b. To promote the catch of hatchery-origin Chinook salmon and increase the number of natural-origin spawners, within the 20% impact rate cap the following impact rates shall be set-aside for mark-selective commercial fishing gear types with an anticipated release mortality rate of less than 35%:

Fishing Year	Mark-Selective Commercial Fishing Gear Set-Aside
2015	1%
2016	2%
2017	6%
2018	6%

The Commission may consider adjustments to the set-asides for 2017 and 2018 based upon the Department's reports to the Commission on commercial mark-selective fishing gear (paragraph 2(b)) or other adaptive management considerations.

- c. No commercial Chinook fisheries shall occur in areas 2T and 2U prior to September 16.
- d. No commercial Chinook fisheries shall occur in areas 2M, 2N, 2P and 2R until after Labor Day.

- 6) Fishery Management After 2018. Fisheries in the Willapa Bay Basin will be managed with the goal of:
- a. Limiting the fishery impact rate on Willapa and Naselle river natural-origin fall Chinook salmon to no more than 14%.
 - b. No commercial fisheries shall occur within areas 2T and 2U prior to September 16.
 - c. No commercial Chinook fisheries shall occur in areas 2M, 2N, 2P and 2R until after September 7.
- 7) Maintaining Rebuilding Trajectory. If the postseason estimate (as presented at the annual Commission review) of aggregated natural-origin Chinook salmon mortality (impacts) exceeds the preseason projection, the Department staff shall make a recommendation to the Commission regarding an adjustment to the allowable impacts for the subsequent year. The recommendation shall be based upon the percentage by which the postseason estimate of impacts exceeded the preseason projection, but may consider other factors such as the predicted abundance or other relevant factors.
- 8) Hatchery Production. Within budgetary constraints, and at the earliest feasible date, the Department shall seek to implement the following hatchery production of fall Chinook salmon:
- 0.80 million at Naselle Hatchery
 - 3.30 million at Nemah Hatchery
 - 0.35 million at Forks Creek Hatchery

Coho Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage Coho salmon fisheries and hatchery programs consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Broodstock Management Strategies. Manage Coho salmon with the following designations and broodstock management strategies:

	North/Smith	Willapa	Naselle
Designation	Primary	Primary	Stabilizing
Broodstock Strategy	No Hatchery Program	Integrated	Integrated

Coho salmon returning to all other watersheds will be managed consistent with a Contributing designation.

2) Fishery Management Objectives. The fishery management objectives for Coho salmon, in priority order, are to:

- a. Manage fisheries with the goal of achieving the aggregate spawner goal for Willapa Bay natural-origin Coho salmon. When the pre-season forecast of natural-origin adult Coho is less than the aggregate goal, or less than 10% higher than the aggregate goal, fisheries in the Willapa Bay Basin will be scheduled to result in an impact of no more than 10% of the adult return;
- b. Prioritize commercial fishing opportunities during the Coho fishery management period (September 16 through October 14); and
- c. Provide recreational fishing opportunities.

Chum Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage Chum salmon fisheries and hatchery programs consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1) Broodstock Management Strategies. Manage Chum salmon with the following designations and broodstock management strategies:

	North/Smith	Palix	Bear
Designation	Primary	Contributing	Primary
Broodstock Strategy	No Hatchery Program	No Hatchery Program	No Hatchery Program

Chum salmon returning to all other watersheds will be managed consistent with a Contributing designation.

2) Fishery Management Objectives. The fishery management objectives for Chum salmon, in priority order, are to:

- a. Achieve the aggregate goal for naturally spawning Chum salmon and meet hatchery reform broodstock objectives (see bullet 3);
- b. Provide commercial fishing opportunities during the Chum salmon fishery management period (October 15 through October 31); and
- c. Provide recreational fishing opportunities. Recreational fisheries will be allowed to retain Chum salmon.

3) Fisheries will be managed with the goal of achieving the aggregate goal for Willapa Bay

naturally spawning Chum salmon. Until the spawner goal is achieved 2 consecutive years, the maximum fishery impact shall not exceed a 10% impact rate and no commercial fisheries will occur in the period from October 15-31. If the number of natural-origin spawners was less than the goal in 3 out of the last 5 years, the Department shall implement the following measures:

- a. The predicted fishery impact for Chum in Willapa Bay Basin will be scheduled to result in an impact of no more than 10% of the adult return.
 - b. When the Chum pre-season forecast is 85% or less of the escapement goal, the predicted fishery impact for Chum in Willapa Bay Basin will be scheduled to result in an impact of no more than 5% of the adult return.
- 4) The Department shall evaluate opportunities to increase hatchery production of Chum salmon. If Chum salmon hatchery production is enhanced, beginning as early as 2018, fisheries in the Willapa Bay Basin may be implemented with a fishery impact limit of no more than 33% of the natural-origin Chum salmon return.

Adaptive Management

The Commission recognizes that adaptive management will be essential to achieve the purpose of this policy. Department staff may implement actions to manage adaptively to achieve the objectives of this policy and will coordinate with the Commission, as needed, in order to implement corrective actions.

The Commission will also track implementation and results of the fishery management actions and artificial production programs in the transition period, with annual reviews beginning in 2016 and a comprehensive review at the end of the transition period (e.g., 2019). Fisheries pursuant to this Policy will be adaptive and adjustments may be made. Department staff may implement actions necessary to manage adaptively to achieve the objectives of this policy and shall coordinate with the Commission, as needed, in order to implement corrective actions.

Components of the adaptive management will be shared with the public through the agency web site and will include the following elements:

- 1) Conduct Annual Fishery Management Review. The Department shall annually evaluate fishery management tools and parameters, and identify improvements as necessary to accurately predict fishery performance and escapement.
- 2) Improve In-season Management. The Department shall develop, evaluate, and implement fishery management models, procedures, and management measures that are projected to enhance the effectiveness of fishery management relative to management based on preseason predictions.

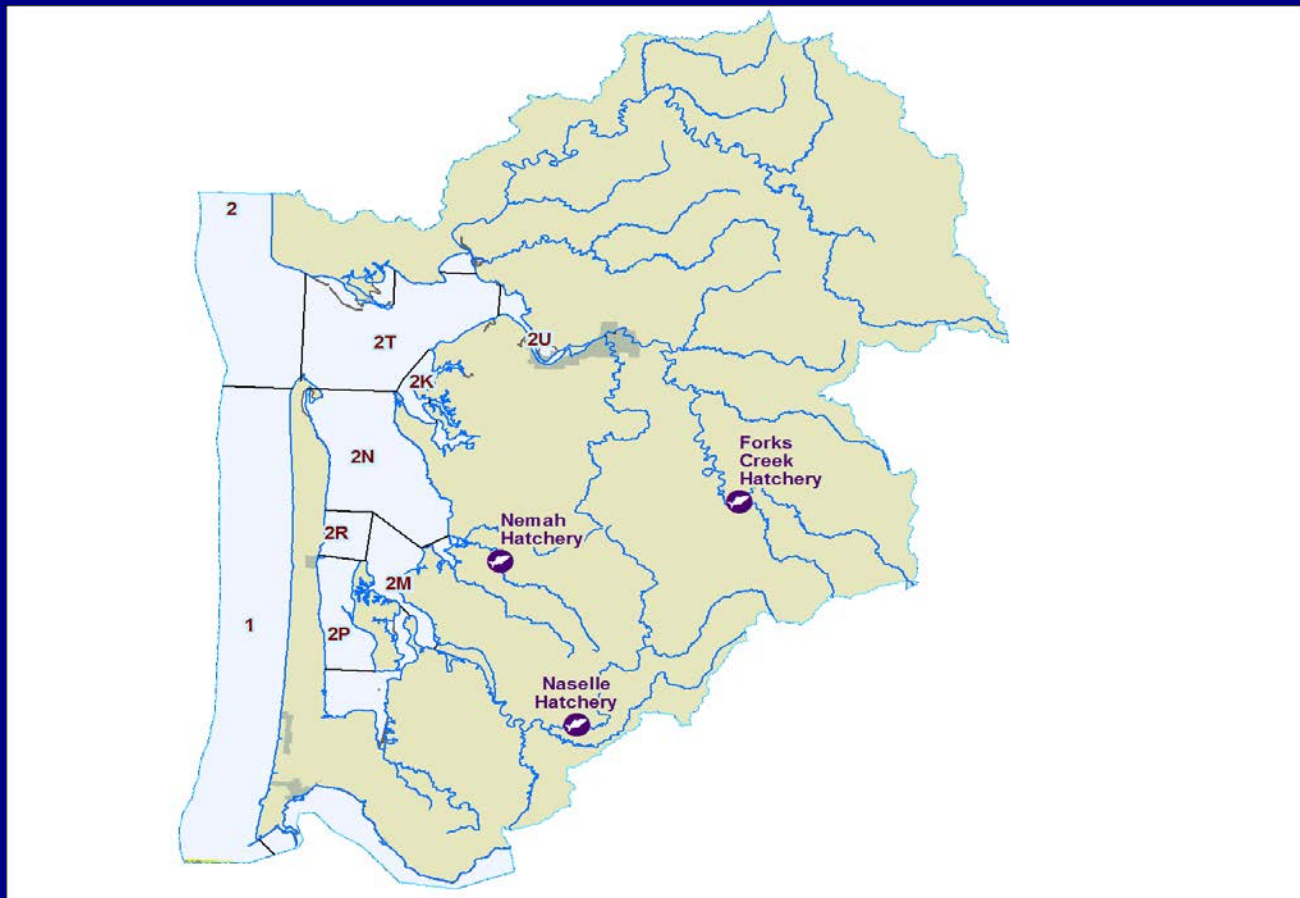
- 3) Review Spawner Goals. The Department shall review spawner goals to ensure that they reflect the current productivity of salmon within the following timelines:
 - a. Chum: September 1, 2016
 - b. Coho: January 1, 2016
 - c. Chinook: January 1, 2020
- 4) Comprehensive Hatchery Assessment. The Department shall complete a comprehensive review of the hatchery programs in the Willapa Bay region by June 2016. The review shall identify the capital funding necessary to maintain or enhance current hatchery programs, identify changes in release locations or species that would enhance recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, identify improvements or new weirs to increase compliance with broodstock management, and the use of re-use water systems, water temperature manipulation to increase production hatchery capacity.
- 5) Ocean Ranching Opportunities. The Department shall complete by January 2016 a comprehensive review of opportunities and constraints to implement ocean ranching of salmon in Willapa Bay.

Delegation of Authority

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the North of Falcon stakeholder consultation process, to set seasons for recreational and commercial fisheries in the Willapa Bay Basin, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries.

This guidance establishes a number of important conservation and allocation principles for the Director and agency staff to apply when managing the fishery resources of Willapa Bay. While this policy establishes a clear presumptive path forward with regard to many of the identified objectives, those principles and concrete objectives are intended to guide decision-making and are not intended to foreclose adaptive management based upon new information. Nor does this guidance preclude the need to gather and consider additional information during the annual process of developing fishery plans and the associated rule-making processes that open fisheries in Willapa Bay. The Commission fully expects that the Director and agency staff will continue to communicate with the public, and the Commission, to consider new information, evaluate alternate means for carrying out policy objectives, and consider instances in which it may make sense to deviate from the presumptive path forward. That is the nature of both adaptive management, and policy implementation, when faced with a dynamic natural environment.

Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy 2019 Season Review



Chad Herring – Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 7, 2020

Presentation Outline

- Review Performance of Policy C-3622 in Phase One, 2015-2018
 - Preliminary 2019 data – denoted by *
- Review Willapa Bay Hatchery Production
 - Background
 - 2019 egg takes
- Seek Guidance from Commission
 - 2020 management objectives
 - 2019 brood year fall Chinook hatchery releases

Policy C-3622 Performance

Chinook Exploitation Rates



- CWT analysis generated using FRAM
- Years 1992-2016
- Declining exploitation rate
- New PST annex in 2019
- Does not include recreational harvest data
 - No active monitoring programs

Policy C-3622 Performance

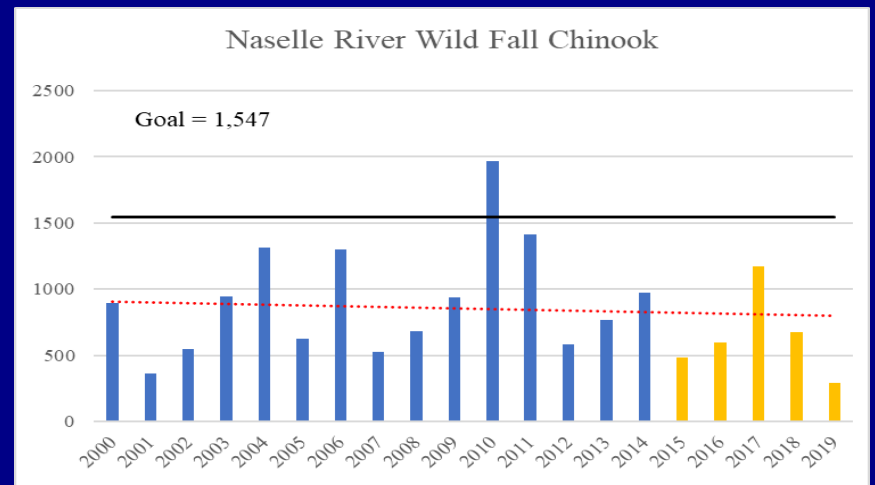
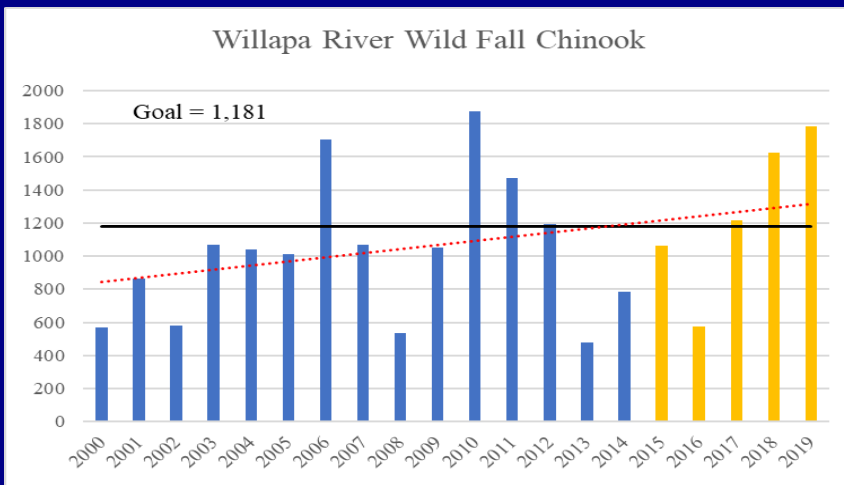
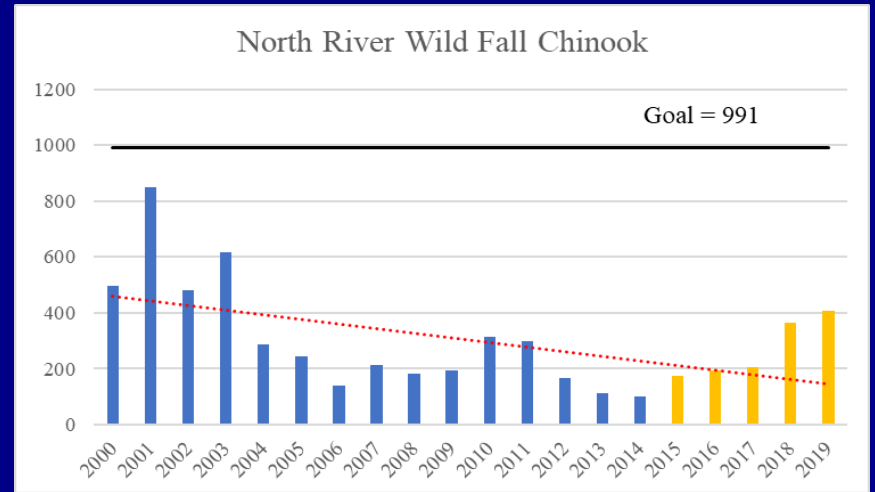
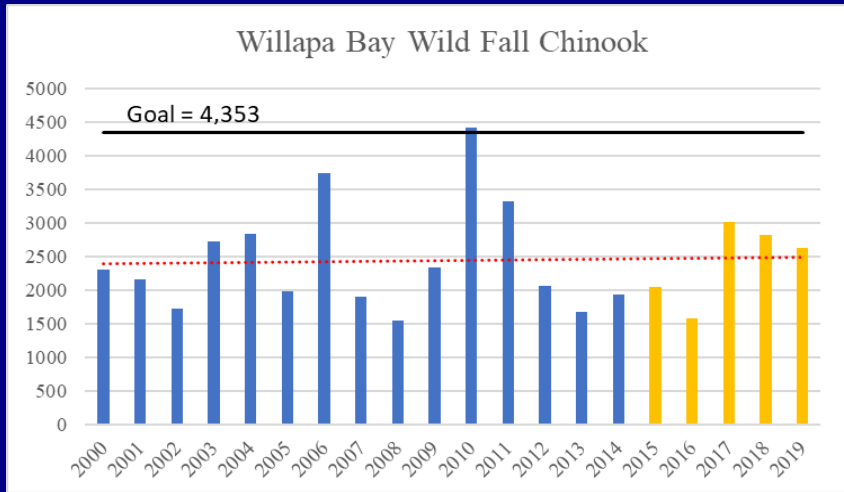
Willapa Bay Wild Chinook

Year	Runsize		Impact Rate		Spawning Escapement	
	Forecast	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual
2015	3,835	4,329	19.2%	22.3%	3,100	2,043
2016	3,258	2,433	20.0%	21.5%	2,610	1,580
2017	4,131	3,736	19.3%	15.8%	3,333	3,008
2018	3,840	3,188	17.8%	8.2%	3,153	2,821
2019*	4,309	3,418	15.4%	14.7%	3,647	2,636
<i>Avg</i>	<i>3,875</i>	<i>3,421</i>	<i>18.3%</i>	<i>16.5%</i>	<i>3,169</i>	<i>2,418</i>

- Actual performance affected by in-season management actions
- Management objectives
 - Wild impact rate = 20%
 - Spawning Escapement = 4,353 wild spawners

Policy C-3622 Performance

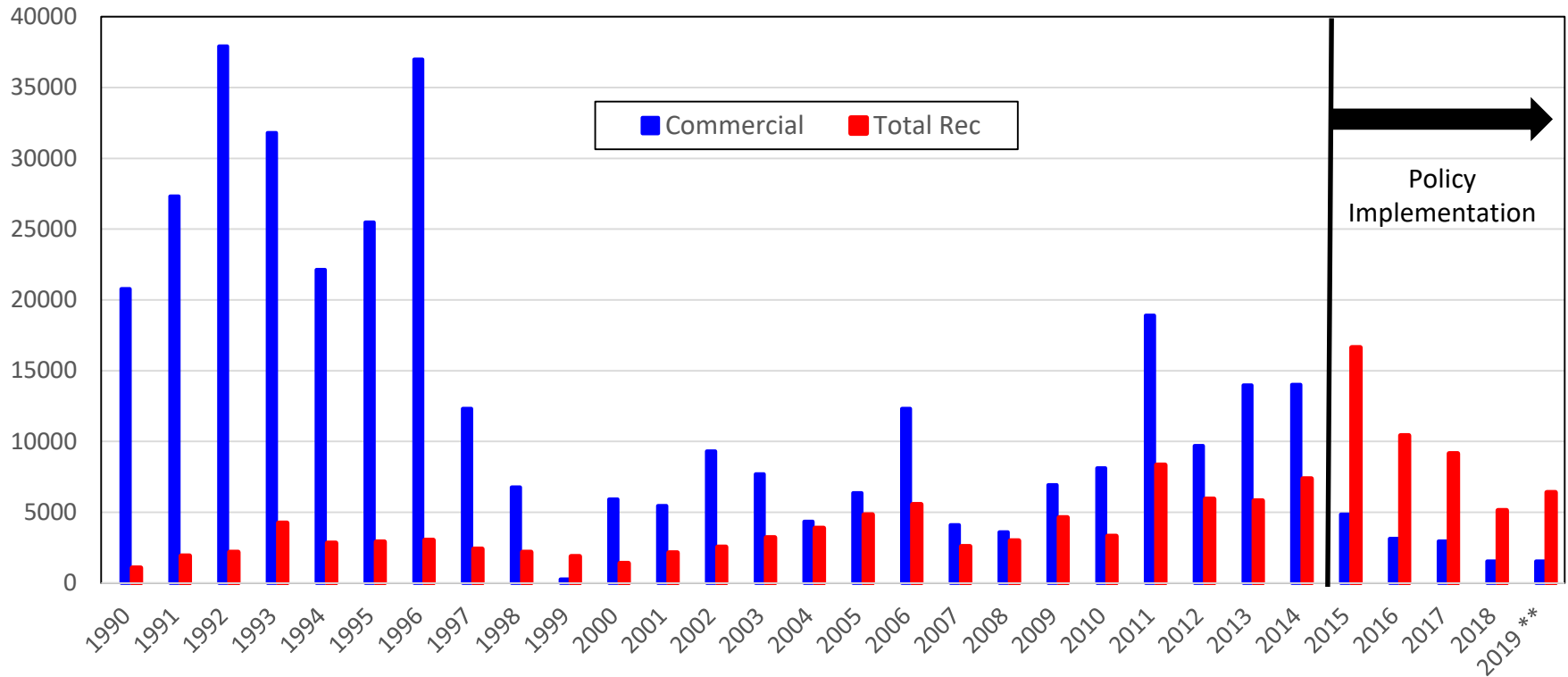
Wild Chinook Abundance Trends



Policy C-3622 Performance

Chinook

Willapa Bay Chinook Total Landed Harvest



** 2019 data - recreational freshwater harvest is estimated using recent 5 yr average harvest

Policy C-3622 Performance

Willapa Bay Chum

Year	Runsize		Impact Rate		Spawning Escapement	
	Forecast	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual
2015	39,994	48,631	10.0%	6.8%	35,986	44,147
2016	47,555	86,679	9.9%	6.6%	42,855	78,725
2017	57,726	22,602	10.0%	2.8%	51,932	20,191
2018	39,932	44,182	9.0%	6.2%	36,352	38,582
2019*	52,205	44,171	9.9%	0.7%	47,012	40,907
<i>Avg</i>	<i>47,482</i>	<i>49,253</i>	<i>9.8%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>42,827</i>	<i>44,510</i>

- Actual performance affected by in-season management actions
- Management objectives
 - Impact rate = 10%
 - Spawning escapement = 35,400 spawners

Policy C-3622 Performance

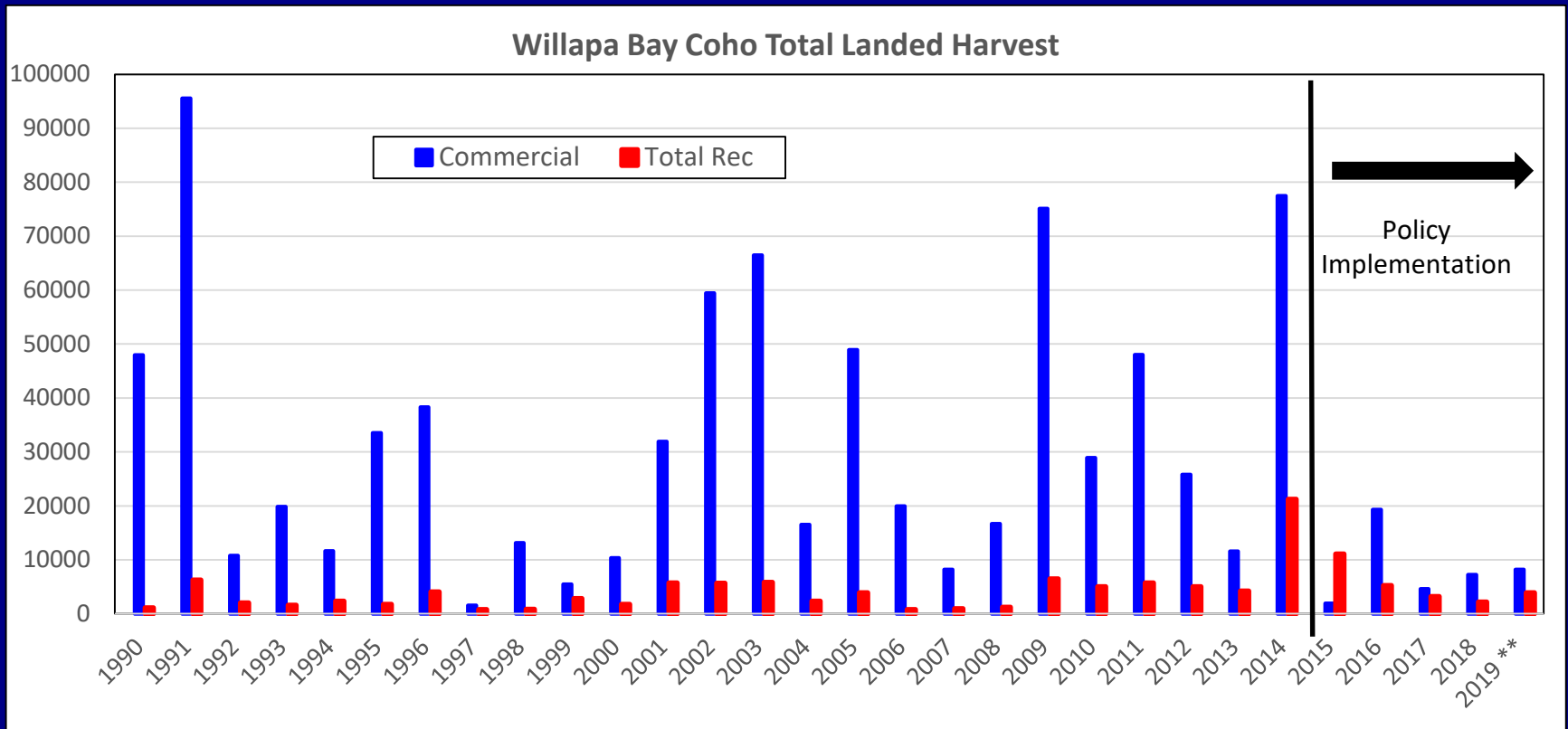
Willapa Bay Wild Coho

Year	Runsize		Impact Rate		Spawning Escapement	
	Forecast	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual
2015	38,505	14,480	30.4%	25.5%	26,795	10,366
2016	37,069	32,920	29.8%	23.2%	26,012	24,950
2017	34,425	13,601	39.8%	33.2%	20,719	8,750
2018	18,994	16,209	19.8%	28.4%	15,243	11,408
2019*	56,366	-	27.6%	-%	40,819	~13,000
<i>Avg</i>	<i>37,072</i>	<i>19,303</i>	<i>29.5%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>25,918</i>	<i>13,860</i>

- Actual performance affected by in-season management actions
- 2019 run reconstruction unavailable at this time
- Management objectives
 - Spawning escapement = 13,600 wild spawners

Policy C-3622 Performance

Coho



** 2019 data - recreational freshwater harvest is estimated using recent 5 yr average harvest

Willapa Bay Hatchery Production

Background



- MA 2-1 occurs in north bay
- Probability of recovery tool
 - CWT analysis
 - Developed in 2015
 - Commercial fishery recoveries
 - 2010 to 2017
 - Updated every year
- Willapa River Chinook important to north bay harvest

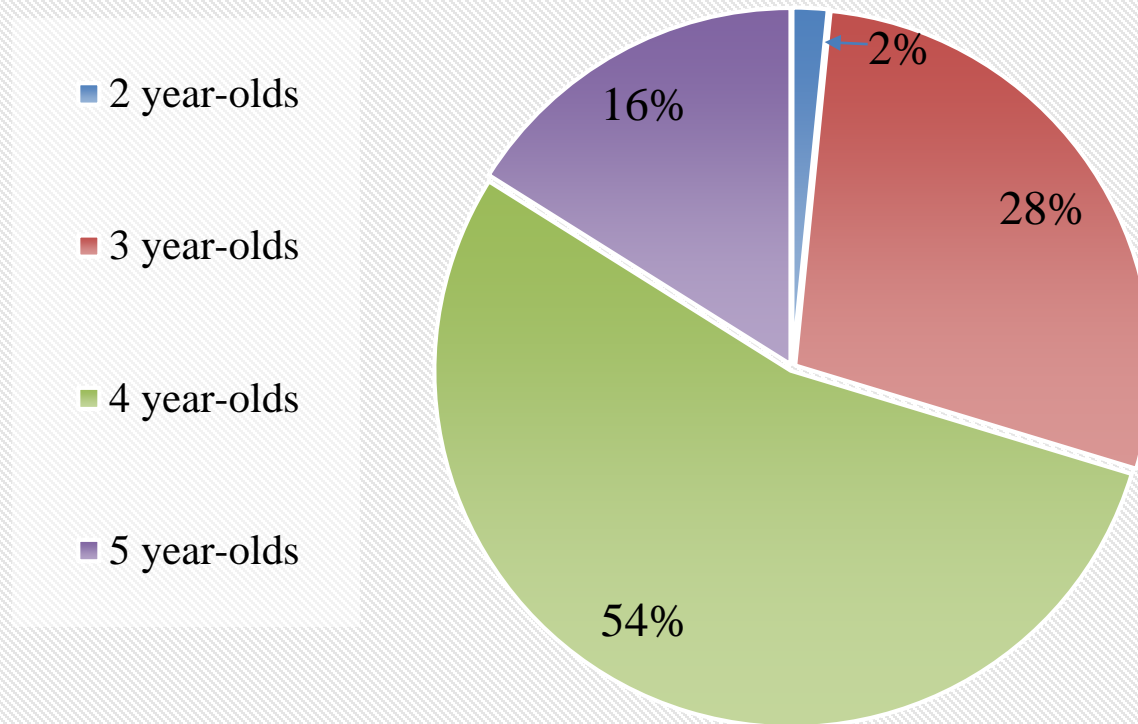
Commercial Catch Areas	Probability of recovery/release standardized by runsize		
	HOR		
	FORKS CREEK	NEMAH	NASELLE
WILLAPA BAY AREA 2M	0.021	0.020	0.960
WILLAPA BAY AREA 2N	0.155	0.015	0.830
WILLAPA BAY AREA 2R	0.055	0.017	0.928
WILLAPA BAY AREA 2T	0.601	0.002	0.398
WILLAPA BAY AREA 2U	0.793	0.001	0.206

Probability of recovery/release standardized by runsize		
NOR		
FORKS CREEK	NEMAH	NASELLE
0.082	0.004	0.914
0.436	0.002	0.562
0.198	0.003	0.799
0.862	0.000	0.138
0.941	0.000	0.059

Willapa Bay Hatchery Production

Background

Willapa Bay Chinook Age Composition 2015 - 2018



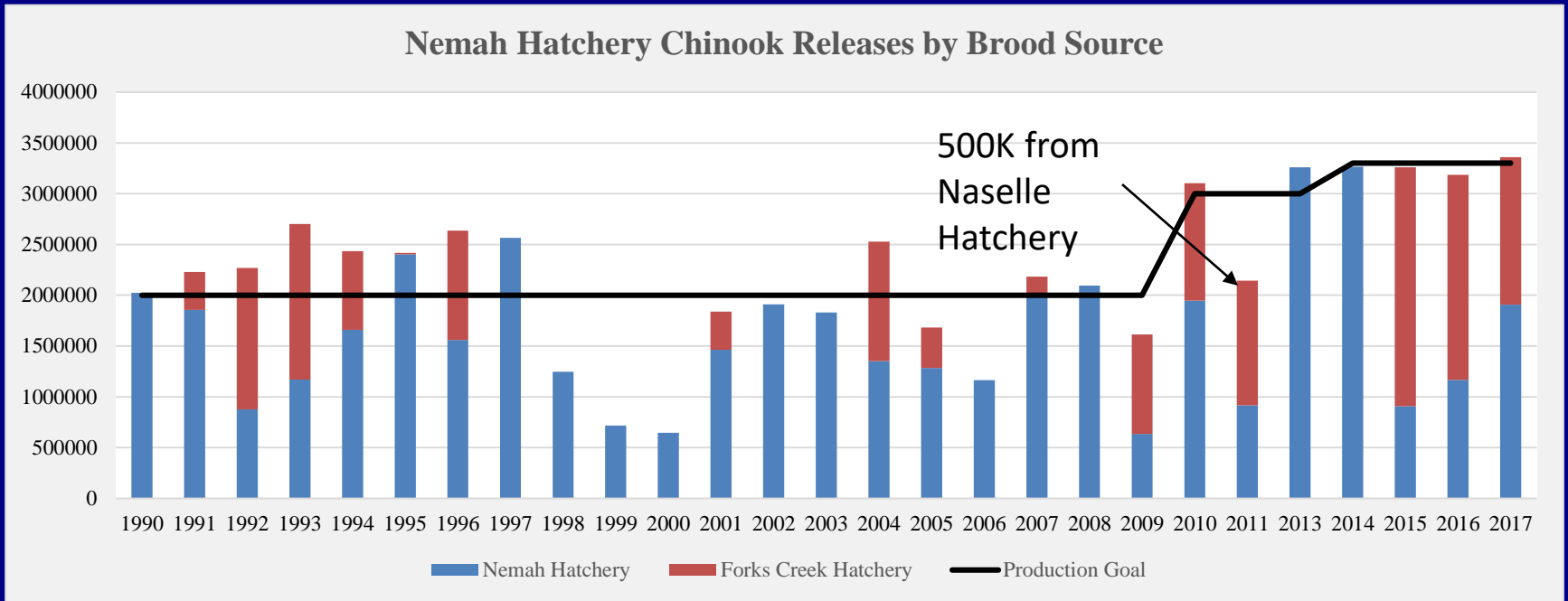
Willapa Bay Hatchery Production

Background

Facility and Brood Year	Smolts Released	Return Year						
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Forks Creek								
2014	3,221,073	2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo			
2015	379,192		2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5yo		
2016	368,537			2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo	
2017	365,864				2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo
Naselle								
2014	749,265	2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo			
2015	788,229		2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5yo		
2016	2,499,279			2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo	
2017	2,531,859				2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo
Nemah								
2014	3,264,062	2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo			
2015	3,259,623		2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5yo		
2016	3,185,438			2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo	
2017	3,358,383				2 yo	3 yo	4 yo	5 yo

Willapa Bay Hatchery Production

Background



Facility	Forks Creek	Nemah	Naselle
Brood Years	2003-2011	2003-2006	2003-2006, 2009-2011
Smolt-Adult Survival Rate (SAR)	0.43%	0.28%	0.43%

Willapa Bay Hatchery Production

2019 BY Egg Takes

Species	Eggtakes	Forks Creek Hatchery	Nemah Hatchery	Naselle Hatchery	Total
Chinook	On-hand	2.59M	1.22M	2.11M	5.92M
	Goal	0.4M	3.3M	5.0M	8.7M
Coho	On-hand	1.7M	-	2.1M	3.8M
	Goal	0.6M	-	1.7M	2.3M
Chum	On-hand	0.6M	1.4M	0.7M	2.7M
	Goal	0.5M	1.5M	0.5M	2.5M

- Goals for on-station releases
 - Includes increased production for SRKW/Enhance fisheries
 - 2.55M Chinook, 300K coho, and 1M chum
- Co-op production
 - 1.4M Coho; 200K chum

2020 Fishery Planning

2020 Considerations

- Predicted continuation of poor marine and freshwater environmental conditions
- Chinook
 - Hatchery production shift, North to South
 - Difficulty achieving hatchery broodstock
- Coho
 - 2015 through 2018, only 2016 made escapement
 - 2019 is still too early to report
- Chum
 - 2017 only year since policy not meeting escapement goals

2020 Fishery Planning

2020 Guidance Options

Species	Management Objectives	Policy C-3622	2019 FWC Guidance
Chinook	Harvest control rule	14% impact rate cap on UM Chinook	20% impact rate cap on UM Chinook
	Recreational Fisheries	Prioritize and enhance Chinook harvest	Staff flexibility in determining bag limits
	Commercial Fisheries	No fishery before Sept. 7 in south and Sept. 16 in north	No restrictions on time and area
Coho	Harvest control rule	Meet aggregate escapement goals	Meet aggregate escapement goals
Chum	Harvest control rule	Meet aggregate escapement goals	10% impact rate
	Commercial Fisheries	No restrictions	No commercial fisheries between Oct 15-31
	Recreational Fisheries	Allow retention	Allow retention

2020 Fishery Planning

Staff Recommendations

- 2020 management objectives
 - Continuation of 2019 FWC guidance
- 2019 brood year fall Chinook releases
 - Release Chinook in their current abundances
 - No backfilling



Questions?

Photo by Barbara McClellan of the Palix River

**Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Population Status
and Management Annual Review
(Briefing)**

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates:	February 7-8, 2020
Agenda item:	Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Population Status and Management Annual Review - (Briefing)
Presenter(s):	Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant to the Director (Fish Program)

Background summary:

The purpose of the Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management Policy (C-3001) “is to provide guidelines for management of the Lower Columbia River white sturgeon population and fisheries” and the intent “to provide consistent management guidelines that promote a healthy population and provide sustainable fisheries.”

The Commission has adopted a precautionary approach to management based on uncertainties around several factors affecting the population. The policy calls for an annual review for the Commission, as an essential component of this precautionary approach, to include updated information on:

- stock status;
- available information on pinniped predation;
- review of in-season management actions;
- summary of catch data, including handling of sturgeon in non-target fisheries, when available;
- recommended management changes; and
- other pertinent information.

Detailed information regarding stock status, predation, harvest, and by-catch is summarized in Attachment 1: “Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon – Stock Assessment and Fishery Management – 2019 Update”

Stock Status

Since 2010, setlines have been used to capture and tag sturgeon and, based on the number of recaptured tagged sturgeon, population estimates were calculated using the Petersen mark-recapture model. The Petersen model estimates the abundance of fish 20–200 inches fork length based on the setline catch rates and gear vulnerability, both of which vary with fork length. Based on this approach, abundance of legal-size fish declined from 2006 through 2012, but increased annually from a low of 72,200 fish in 2012 to 223,960 fish in 2016. The projected abundance for 2019 was 164,120 legal-size fish, based on data collected through 2018. The harvest guidance in 2018 was determined using the lowest available projection.

The mark-recapture estimate using the whole-population approach for 2019 is 168,200 legal-size fish. CPUE for legal-sized fish was consistent with mark-recapture estimates and produced an estimate of 170,200 legal-size fish for 2019.

The estimated number of adult White Sturgeon, fish larger than 65 inches FL, has generally trended upwards from 3,040 fish (95% CI: 1,810-4,268) in 2016 to approximately 11,900 fish (95% CI: 7,097-16,754) in 2017. This is a particularly difficult metric to monitor since sturgeon over 65 inch FL are not easily caught with stock assessment gear. This means that only a few fish are handled annually and a single fish can make a large difference in the point estimate for a given year. The three-year average adult abundance is used to better assess increases or

decreases in abundance trends through time. The three-year average adult abundance continued to increase from 6,470 in 2017 to 9,480 in 2019. In 2016, this estimate moved the adult status above the conservation threshold specified in Oregon's Lower Columbia River and Oregon Coast White Sturgeon Conservation Plan. In 2019, that estimate moved the adult abundance status above the desired level.

The continued low relative abundance of juvenile sturgeon indicates that there may still be prolonged productivity issues within the system. The annual sub-yearling production index in the mainstem Columbia River (0.33 catch-per-net) was down from the 2018 catch but higher than the 2015 and 2016 catch. Catch within the Willamette River (1.42 catch-per-net) was down from 2018, but still the third highest ever recorded in that area.

Pinniped Predation

Steller sea lion predation of White Sturgeon began around the mid-2000's in the gorge below Bonneville Dam. Numbers of Steller sea lions present in the tailrace immediately below the dam remain at high levels. Observed consumption of White Sturgeon at Bonneville Dam during the past five years has decreased annually, to less than 5% of the peak level reached 2011, indicating few sturgeon remain in the area when sea lions are present. The predation estimates are provided by the Corps of Engineers, who observe the mile-long stretch of river below Bonneville Dam. Predation throughout the remaining 145 miles of the lower Columbia River and in tributaries of the river are unknown at this time.

Although observed predation at Bonneville Dam has decreased, White Sturgeon recruitment in the lower mainstem Columbia river still appears to be negatively impacted by the abundance of pinnipeds in the Bonneville Dam tailrace in the spring. A significant negative correlation exists between White Sturgeon catch-per-net and observed Stellar Sea Lion abundance in the Bonneville Dam tailrace. This indicates that abundance of Stellar Sea Lions is a significant predictor of weak White Sturgeon recruitment. This may indicate that the observations of predation at Bonneville are incomplete (unknown levels of predation elsewhere in the river), that the presence of adult sturgeon by pinnipeds is affecting spawning success (increased stress has been shown to induce resorption of eggs), or that adult sturgeon are selecting less optimal spawning habitat to avoid pinniped predation.

In-season Management/Harvest

Sport Fisheries

In 2019, a short-duration retention sturgeon fishery opened for the third time since 2013. This fishery and harvest guidelines were set similarly to the 2017 and 2018 fisheries, targeting a 3.5-4.5% harvest rate. There were positive responses from anglers that participated in the fishery. While participation was still lower than pre-closure levels, overall angler trips (both retention and catch-and-release) increased when compared to the catch-and-release only seasons.

In the Estuary (below Wauna), the fishery was open for 11 retention days (May 13-June 5) with a 2pm closure, 2,960 fish guideline, and size limit of 44-50" fork length. Sport anglers harvested 2,838 fish from approximately 22,000 angler trips, accounting for 96% of the estuary sport fishing guideline. Upstream of Wauna to Bonneville Dam, the fishery was open for five retention days (September 21-October 24) with a 1,230 fish guideline and the same size limit. Sport anglers harvested 685 fish from approximately 12,000 angler trips, accounting for 56% of the Wauna-to-Bonneville sport fishing guideline.

The 2019 white sturgeon sport fisheries had a total guideline of 4,930 fish and a total catch of 3,523 fish. This catch accounts for 71% of the overall sport fishing guideline (including the Willamette River, which did not open for retention) and 84% of the Lower Columbia sport fishing guideline.

Commercial Fisheries

The retention of sturgeon in commercial fisheries was opened again in 2019, for the third time since 2013. In the mainstem, commercial fisheries were only opened for sturgeon retention in Late-August and harvested a reported 509 White Sturgeon. In the select area, commercial fisheries were opened for winter, spring/summer, and fall fisheries. Winter fisheries harvested 20 White Sturgeon, spring/summer fisheries harvested 459 fish, and Fall fisheries harvested 212 fish. In total, the commercial fisheries brought 1,200 White Sturgeon to markets in 2019, accounting for 98% of the 1230 fish commercial guideline.

Sturgeon harvest in areas outside of the lower Columbia River

Since 2014, retention of White Sturgeon has been prohibited in recreational and non-Indian commercial fisheries on the Oregon and Washington coasts, Puget Sound, and their tributaries. This continued through 2019.

By-Catch

The 2019 commercial fisheries were monitored at a minimal level by WDFW staff. Total sturgeon bycatch in 2019 is unknown.

During the recreational sturgeon fishery, an estimated 10,428 white sturgeon (5,388 sublegal-size, 25 legal-size, and 5,015 over legal-size) and 20 green sturgeon were caught and released. This represents 2.2% of the estimated 465,500 fish greater than 40 cm FL.

Recommended Management Changes

Staff will work with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop another short-duration sport retention fishery, similar to the fisheries of 2017-2019. Legal-size fish are still up from pre-closure levels, though estimates have declined from the high in 2016. Adult sturgeon, those spawning and contributing most to the population growth, has seen a positive increase in both the annual abundance estimate and three-year average abundance estimate. Additionally, the sub-yearling production index for the lower Columbia River continued to indicate some reproduction, though the estimate was lower than 2017, and the lower Willamette River was the third highest ever recorded. However, the current status of the overall population, which includes both the adult and juvenile segments, is not as robust as in the early 2000's. Uncertainty exists regarding future trends in legal and adult abundance, production of juvenile fish, and recruitment of juvenile fish to the legal-size segment (see Table 1 in Attachment 1).

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Briefing only. The current policy, C-3001 (Attachment 2), was adopted January 25, 2018.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

A 2020 sport retention fishery, similar to 2019, would require WDFW to sample the fishery and impacts to the agency would include employee time and salary for fish management staff and enforcement officers. The amount of fiscal impact would be affected by the length of time a fishery is open, the time-period in which it is open (i.e., weekday or weekend), and the intensity of the fishery (how many anglers are present).

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Staff met with the Columbia River Recreational and Commercial advisor groups on January 14, 2020, and provided updates on the status of the LCR White Sturgeon population. Both groups expressed some concern over the conservation status of the juvenile proportion of the population. Both groups also generally supported another retention fishery in 2020.

Action requested:

Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Post decision communications plan:

N/A

Form revised 9/13/17






Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Stock Assessment and Fishery Management 2019 Update

Summary Prepared by

**Joint Columbia River Management Staff
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife***

January 14, 2019

Table 1. Dashboard of key status indicators for lower Columbia River white sturgeon, 2019. Colored circles indicate status relative to Conservation Plan metrics and/or recent trend.

Metric	N	Interpretation	Brief Summary
Abundance Trends			
38" – 54" FL	168,204		Stable since 2018 but down from 2016 and 2017. However, trend in CPUE setline tagging fisheries is still upward overall.
Adult(>65" FL)	2019: 11,926 3-yr avg.: 9,484		2019 3-yr adult abundance average is above desired status level (threshold = 9,250 adults).
Population Structure	~52% juvenile		Low relative abundance of juvenile and sub-legal sized fish indicates population productivity issues; Below conservation status level (threshold = 60%)
Recruitment Index (CPN)	LCR: 0.33 WR: 1.42		Mixed results. Return to CPNs of <1 after strong 2017 in LCR; but 3 rd highest in LWR since monitoring began in 2010.
Fisheries	Estuary: 22,012 angler trips Total: 37,703 angler trips		Participation still down from pre-closure levels, but >10x higher than average effort when catch-and-release only. Overall participation increasing.

Abundance and CPUE Trends

Table 2. Estimated and projected abundance of 38–54 inch FL (96–137 cm) white sturgeon in the LCR from 2008–2019 based on mark-recapture surveys. Historic method is the number of fish present at the start of July (2008–2009) or May (2010–2012), while the setline method is the number of fish present at the start of the year. Preliminary estimates are italicized.

Year	Historic method estimate	Setline method		Harvest guideline
		Estimate (95% C.I.)	Projection	
2008	101,200	--	--	40,000
2009	95,000	--	--	40,000
2010	65,300	100,200	--	24,000
2011	72,800	80,500	77,000	17,000
2012	83,400	72,700	65,000	10,400
2013	--	114,200	74,300	10,105
2014	--	130,990 (75,500 – 186,480)	131,700	--
2015	--	143,890 (85,700 – 202,100)	138,200	--
2016	--	223,960 (118,300 – 329,600)	147,100	--
2017	--	199,830 (69,900 – 329,700)	237,900	6,235
2018	--	162,180 (93,400 – 230,950)	198,300	6,160
2019	--	168,200 (100,100-236,300)	<i>164,100</i>	6,160
2020	--		<i>148,800</i>	TBD

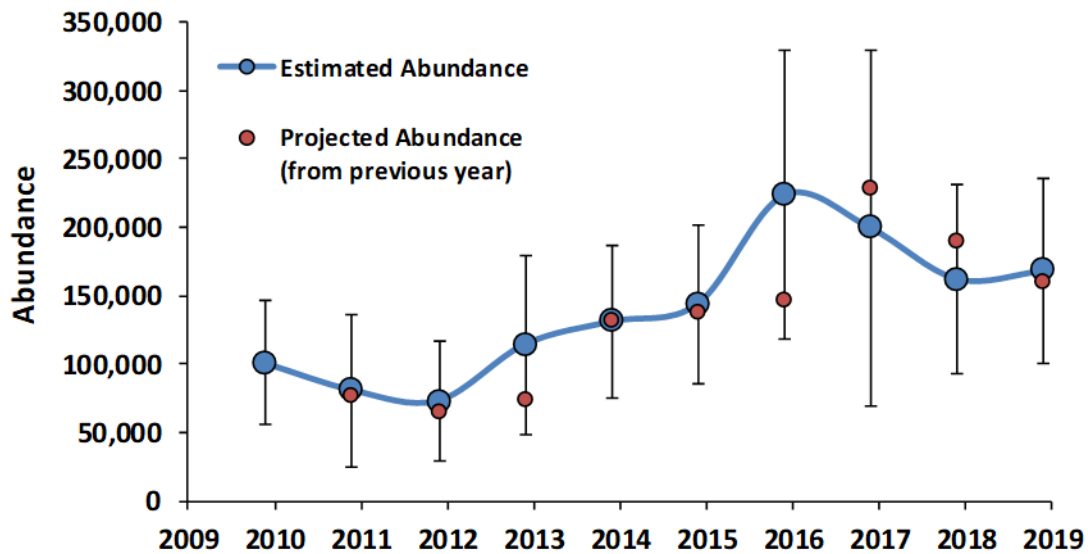


Figure 1. Estimated and projected abundance for 38'' - 54'' FL white sturgeon from the LCR, 2010 - 2019. Error bars represent 95% CI's for the estimated abundance.

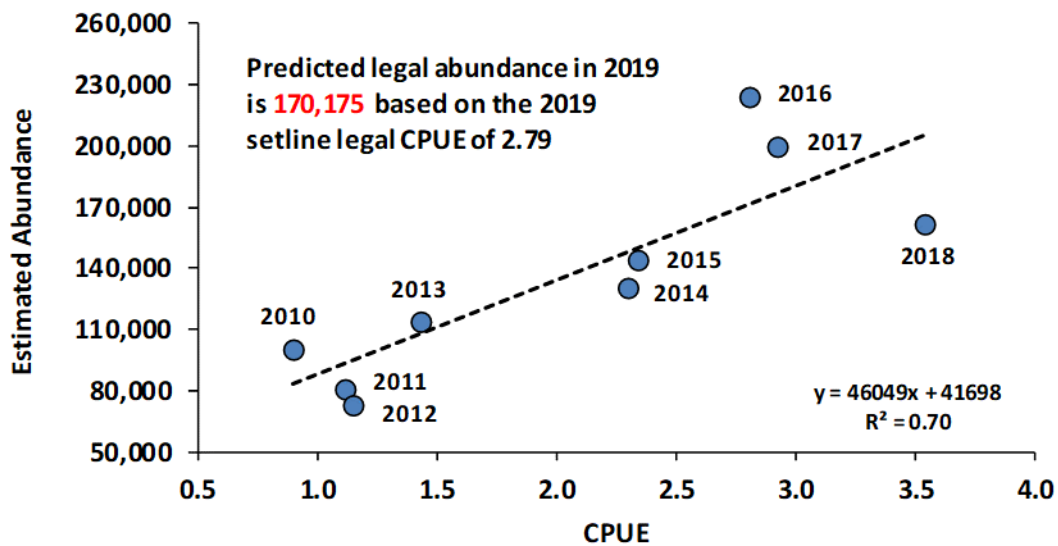


Figure 2. Relationship between annual estimated abundance and setline catch-per-set (CPUE) for 96-137 cm FL white sturgeon in the LCR, 2010-2018.

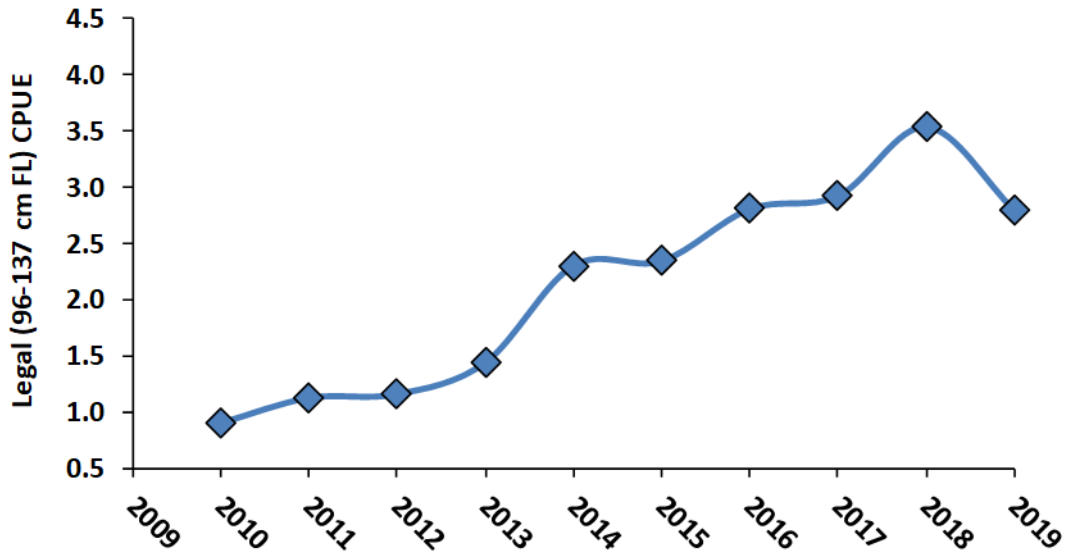


Figure 3. CPUE of 96–137 cm FL white sturgeon caught with setlines in the LCR, 2010–2019.

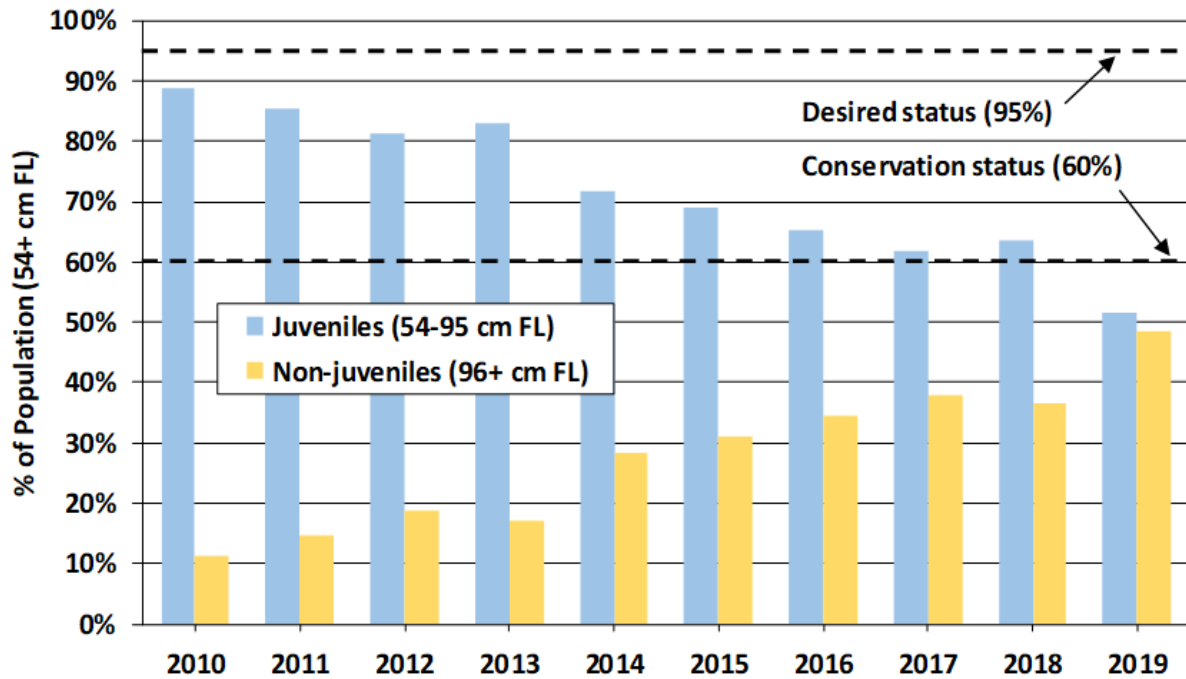


Figure 4. Annual proportion of juvenile and non-juvenile (sub-adults + adults) white sturgeon in the lower Columbia River, 2010–2019. Dashed horizontal line represents conservation status and desired status for juvenile white sturgeon.

Adult Abundance and CPUE Trends

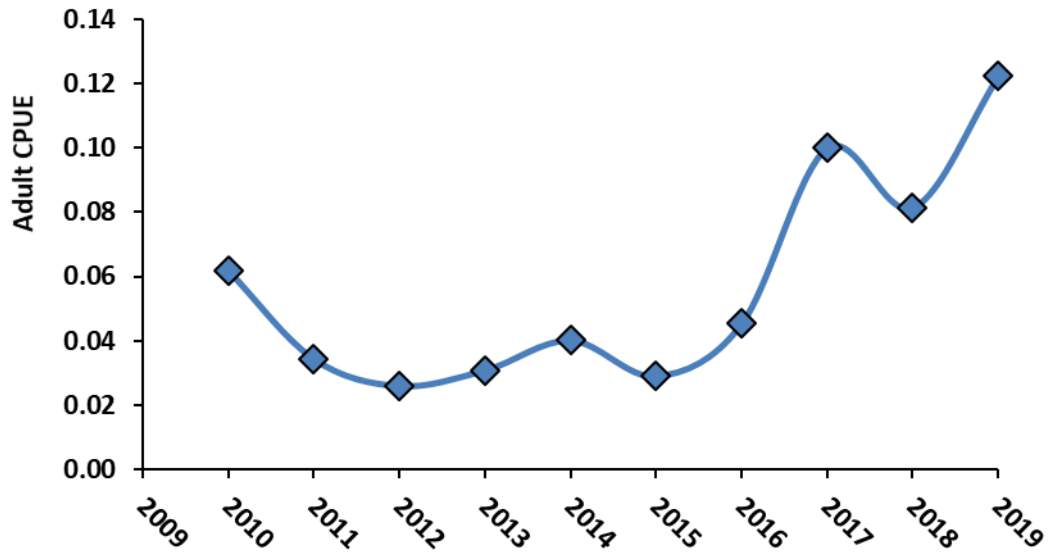


Figure 5. CPUE of adult (≥ 167 cm FL) white sturgeon in the LCR, 2010-2019.

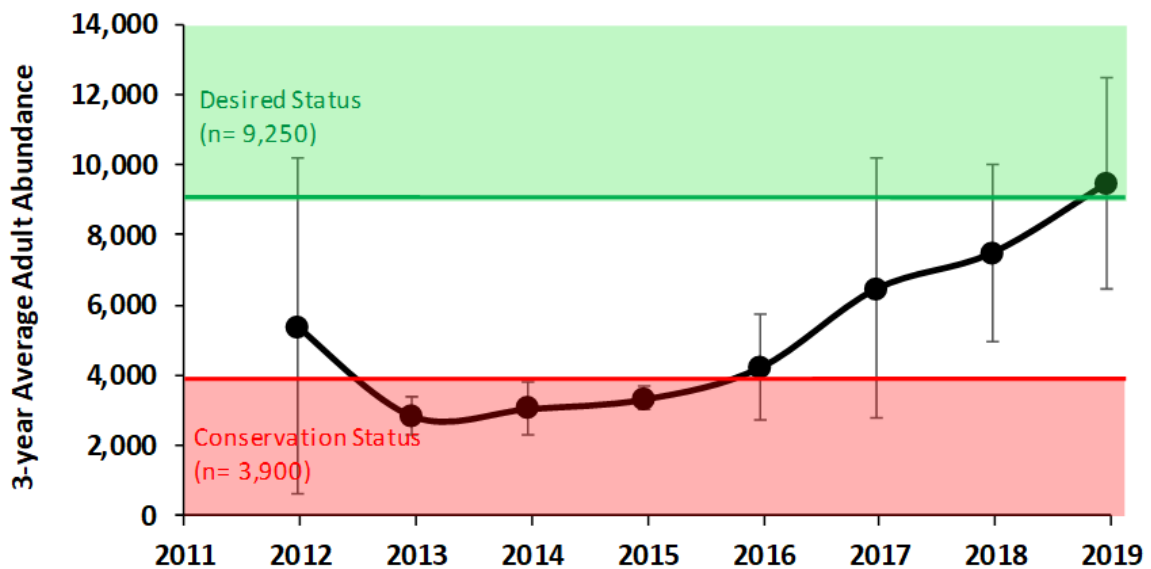


Figure 6. Three-year average estimated abundance for adult (≥ 167 cm FL) white sturgeon from the LCR, 2012–2019. Less than 3 years of data were available for 2010 and 2011 so no averages were calculated. Error bars represent 95% CI's for the estimated abundance.

Length Frequency Trend

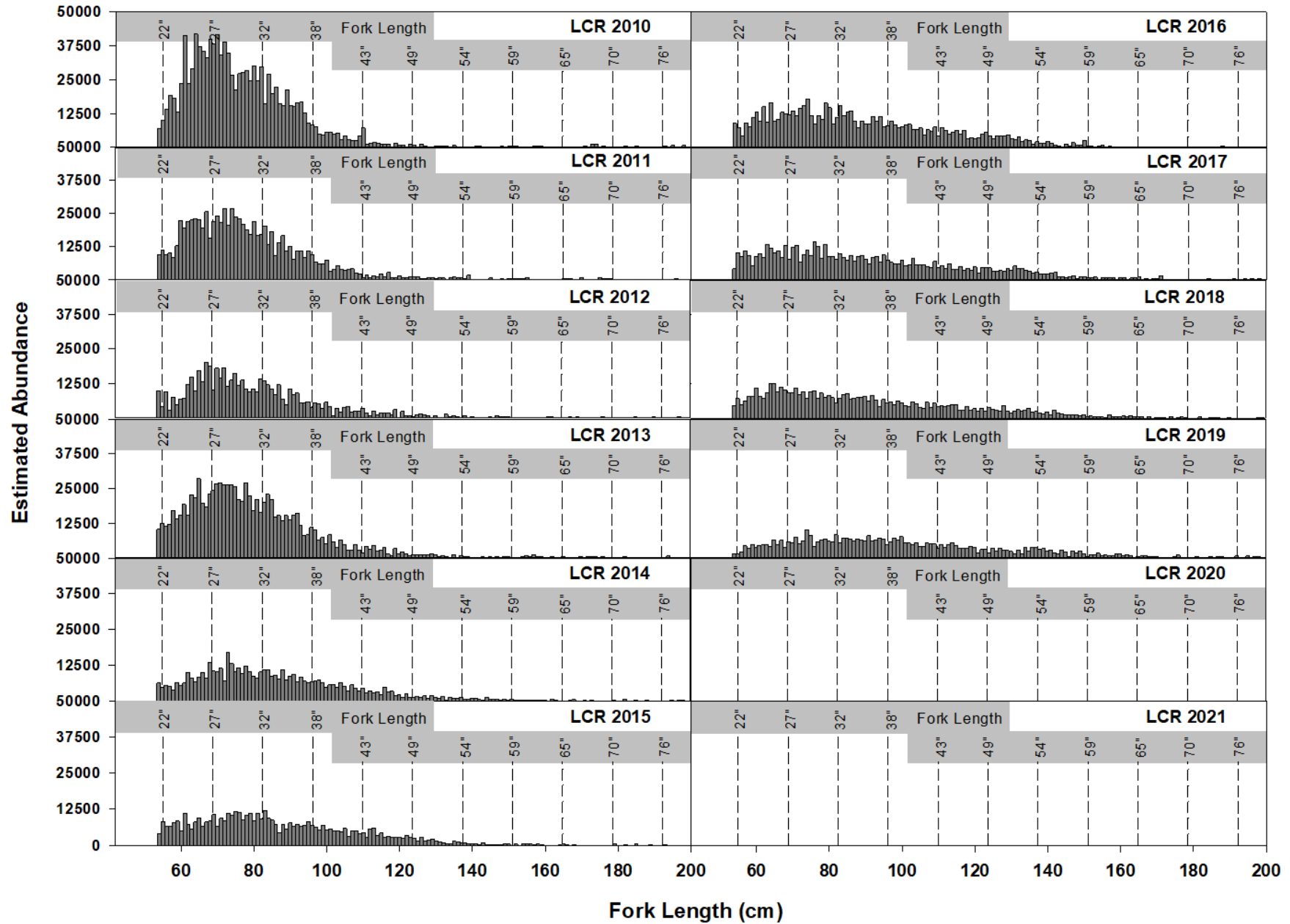
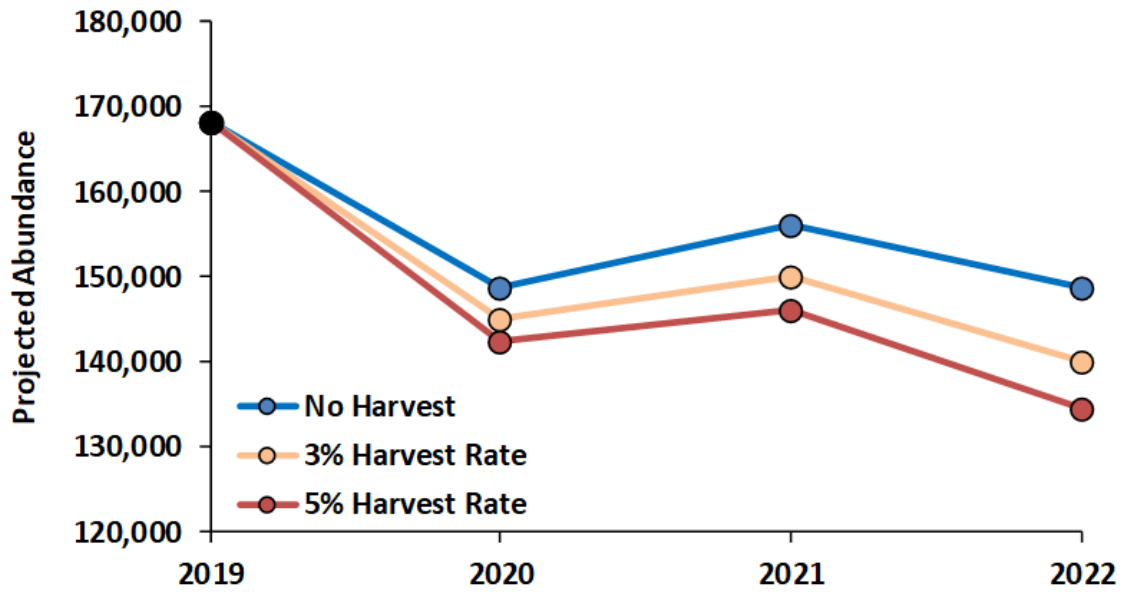


Figure 7. Estimated abundance of white sturgeon ≥ 54 cm FL in the LCR, 2010-2019.

Legal-size Abundance Forecasts

Figure 8 and Table 3. Projected abundance of 96–137cm FL white sturgeon in the LCR under various harvest rate scenarios.



Year	No Harvest	3% Harvest Rate	5% Harvest Rate
2019	168,205	168,205	168,205
2020	148,787	144,920	142,400
2021	156,063	149,992	146,131
2022	148,761	140,048	134,612

Sub-yearling (Age-0) Production

Figure 9 and Table 4. (A) catch-per-net (CPN) and (B) recruitment index (E_p) values for age-0 white sturgeon from the Willamette River and the mainstem lower Columbia River, 2005-2019.

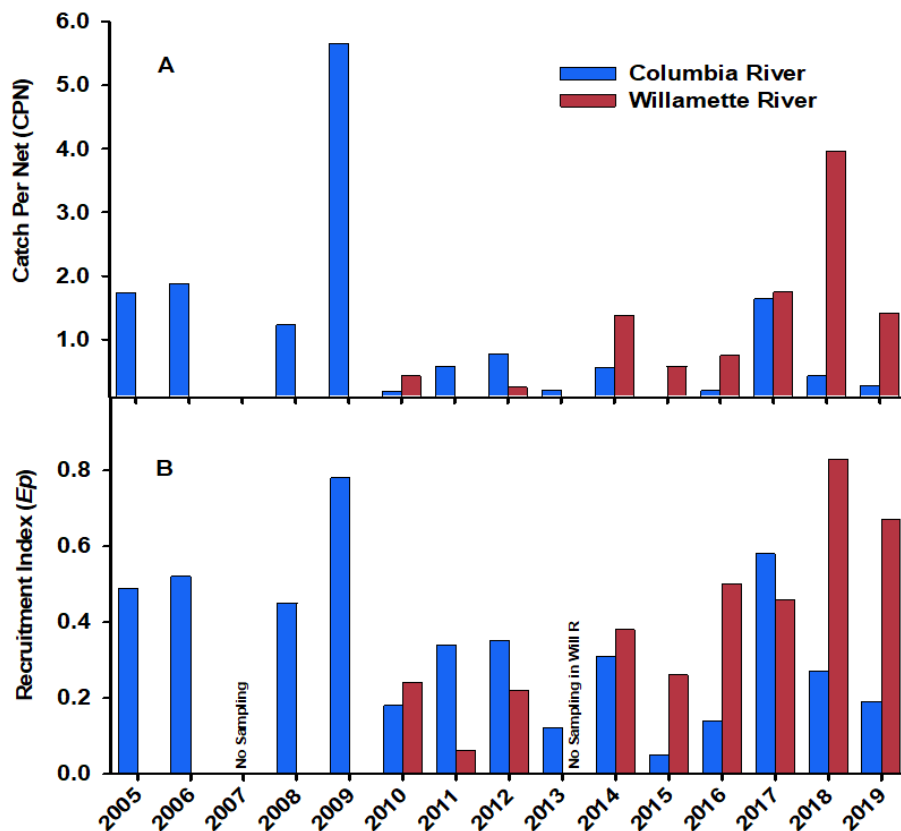


Table 4. CPN and proportion of positive sets (E_p) for YOY white sturgeon in the lower Columbia and Willamette rivers from 2004 - 2019.

Year	Lower Columbia R		Willamette R	
	CPN	E_p	CPN	E_p
2004	1.29	0.44		
2005	1.74	0.49		
2006	1.88	0.52		
2007	--	--		
2008	1.23	0.45		
2009	5.66	0.78		
2010	0.19	0.18	0.43	0.24
2011	0.58	0.34	0.06	0.06
2012	0.77	0.35	0.25	0.22
2013 ¹	0.21	0.12	--	--
2014	0.56	0.31	1.38	0.38
2015	0.06	0.05	0.58	0.26
2016	0.20	0.14	0.75	0.50
2017	1.64	0.58	1.75	0.46
2018	0.43	0.27	3.96	0.83
2019 ²	0.33	0.21	1.42	0.67

¹ Incomplete sampling year in both LCR and Willamette R.

² Preliminary assessments based on length frequency examinations.

Sea Lion Abundance and Predation

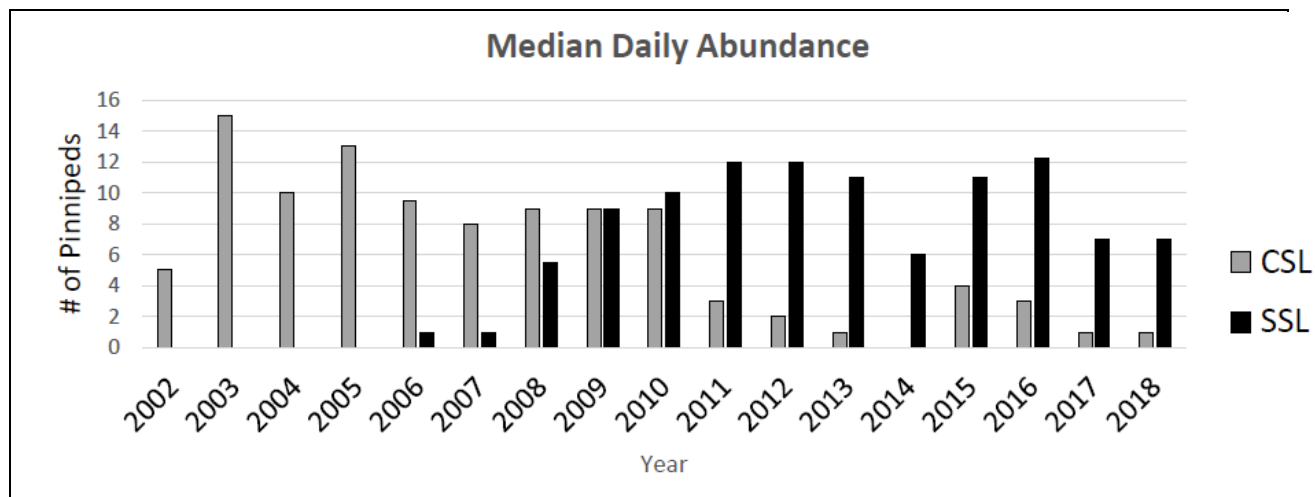


Figure 10. Abundance of California sea lions (CSL) and Steller sea lions (SSL) present at Bonneville Dam between January and the end of May 2002–2018. Figure from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2018 draft report.

Table 5. Consumption of white sturgeon by CSL and SSL observed during USACE spring monitoring of the Bonneville Dam tailrace, 2005-2018. Adjusted estimates include a proportion of the total unidentified catch.

Year	Total hours observed	Observed sturgeon catch	Sturgeon catch per hour observed	Adjusted sturgeon catch estimate
2005	1,109	1	0.001	--
2006	3,650	265	0.073	413
2007	4,433	360	0.081	664
2008	5,131	606	0.118	1,139
2009	3,455	758	0.219	1,710
2010	3,609	1,100	0.305	2,172
2011	3,315	1,353	0.408	3,003
2012	3,404	1,342	0.394	2,498
2013	3,247	314	0.097	635
2014	2,947	79	0.027	146
2015	2,995	24	0.008	44
2016	1,974	30	0.015	90
2017	1,142	6	0.005	24
2018	1,410	46	0.033	148

Appendix

Historic Abundance, Harvest and Monitoring Data

Appendix Table 1. Annual recreational white sturgeon catch and harvest guidelines LCR, 1994–2019¹.

Year	Below Wauna ¹		Above Wauna ¹		Sum	Combined	
	Kept Catch	Guideline ²	Kept Catch	Guideline ³		Guideline	Percent
1994	15,578	N/A	17,893	N/A	33,500	N/A	
1995	29,714	N/A	15,423	N/A	45,100	N/A	
1996	27,694	N/A	15,068	N/A	42,800	N/A	
1997	24,511	N/A	13,646	N/A	38,200	53,840	71%
1998	30,303	N/A	11,293	N/A	41,600	53,840	77%
1999	29,238	N/A	10,561	N/A	39,800	40,000	100%
2000	24,267	N/A	16,238	N/A	40,500	40,000	101%
2001	21,619	N/A	19,597	N/A	41,200	39,500	104%
2002	26,234	N/A	12,045	N/A	38,300	38,300	100%
2003	18,367	19,200	13,565	12,800	31,932	32,000	100%
2004	15,050	16,000	10,519	12,800	25,569	28,800	89%
2005	17,911	17,783	11,891	11,560	29,802	29,343	102%
2006	15,726	16,000	8,545	12,800	24,271	28,800	84%
2007	19,131	16,274	10,675	13,852	29,806	30,126	99%
2008	13,614	13,143	7,959	12,387	21,573	25,530	85%
2009	13,109	15,529	4,599	11,430	17,708	26,959	66%
2010	6,491	9,600	4,831	4,835	11,322	14,435	78%
2011	6,117	6,800	2,908	3,410	9,025	10,210	88%
2012	4,466	4,160	1,859	2,080	6,325	6,240	101%
2013	4,559	4,042	1,942	2,021	6,501	6,240	107%
2014-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
2017	3,235	3,000	430	1,245	3,665	4,245	86%
2018	2,412	2,960	1,049	1,230	3,461	4,190	81%
2019	2,838	2,960	685	1,230	3,523	4,190	84%

¹ Recreational catch estimates for 1993-2002 are above and below the western tip of Puget Island (RM 38).

² The switch to a 45-inch min. (TL) size limit in 2004 required a 17% reduction in the base guideline.

³ Actual in-season guidelines were different than represented here. Beginning in 2010, the guideline for the area above Wauna does not include the Willamette guideline.

Appendix Table 2. Annual recreational white sturgeon catch and harvest guidelines in the lower Willamette River, 2003–2019.

Year	Estimated annual kept catch ¹	Baseline ²	Catch in excess of baseline ³	Guideline	Percent of Guideline
2003	1,142	1,225	0	N/A	
2004	4,099	1,225	2,874	N/A	
2005	2,327	1,225	1,102	N/A	
2006	3,348	1,225	2,123	N/A	
2007	6,555	1,225	5,330	N/A	
2008	9,148	1,225	7,923	N/A	
2009	7,346	1,225	6,121	N/A	
2010	3,529	735	2,794	2,865	98%
2011	2,690	520	2,170	2,030	107%
2012	1,535	520	1,015	1,248	81%
2013	1,410	520	890	1,213	73%
2014-16	0	0	0	0	N/A
2017	0	0	0	745	0%
2018	0	0	0	740	0%
2019	0	0	0	740	0%

¹ No sturgeon retention allowed during 2014-16. A retention fishery was considered but did not occur in 2017–2019.

² Baseline harvest levels for the lower Willamette River were based on average harvest during 1986-1996 (1,225 fish). The lower Willamette River baseline was decreased to 735 fish in 2010 and 520 fish in 2011 consistent with reductions in the overall harvest guideline. The baseline concept was eliminated in 2017.

³ During 2003-2009, harvest in excess of the baseline was applied to the above Wauna recreational harvest guideline. Beginning in 2010, a separate harvest guideline was established for the lower Willamette River.

Appendix Table 3. Commercial catch of white sturgeon and harvest guidelines in the LCR, 1995-2019.

Year	Mainstem							Select Area			Grand Total	Guideline	%
	Winter Sturgeon ¹	Winter Salmon	Summer	Early August	Late August	Late Fall	Total	Spring/Summer	Fall	Total			
1995	0			0	0	5,980	5,980	110	70	180	6,160	8,000	77%
1996	800			0	330	6,580	7,710	580	110	690	8,400	8,000	105%
1997	2,710			1,740	140	7,790	12,380	350	100	450	12,830	13,460	95%
1998	2,680			2,540	90	8,060	13,370	360	170	530	13,900	13,460	103%
1999	1,780			2,770	60	4,180	8,790	520	190	710	9,500	10,000	95%
2000	2,260			2,490	300	5,130	10,180	540	160	690	10,870	10,000	109%
2001	3,060			4,720	1,020	0	8,800	490	20	510	9,310	9,100	102%
2002	2,720			1,340	380	4,200	8,640	650	330	980	9,620	9,800	98%
2003	1,490	27		2,170	410	3,430	7,527	250	170	420	7,947	8,000	99%
2004	1,696	174	9	1,550	917	3,219	7,565	184	117	301	7,866	8,000	98%
2005	473	70	1,369	1,129	965	3,793	7,799	279	74	353	8,152	8,200	99%
2006	288	1,651	544	1,548	363	3,492	7,886	317	109	426	8,312	8,000	104%
2007	1,424	47	414	2,646	91	2,734	7,356	257	148	405	7,761	7,850	99%
2008	869	17	523	2,706	103	3,170	7,388	337	134	471	7,859	7,927	99%
2009	1,697	21	624	2,213	756	2,001	7,312	311	114	425	7,737	8,000	97%
2010	518	28	289	1,578	297	1,348	4,058	211	116	327	4,385	4,800	91%
2011	50	125	504	967	353	1,187	3,186	201	0	201	3,387	3,400	100%
2012	40	14	281	592	410	344	1,681	225	0	225	1,906	2,080	92%
2013	15	274	326	0	719	324	1,658	254	100	354	2,102	2,021	100%
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
2017	0	0	0	0	485	239	724	266	237	503	1,227	1,245	99%
2018	0	0	0	0	413	0	413	296	117	413	826	1,230	67%
2019	0	0	0	0	509	0	509	479	212	691	1,200	1,230	98%

¹ Prior to 2003, values reflect all winter fisheries

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Lower Columbia
Sturgeon Management

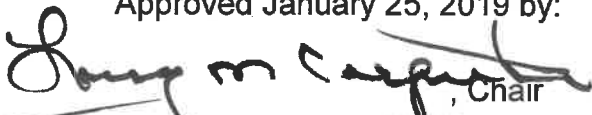
POLICY NUMBER: C-3001

Supersedes: 2014-2018 Lower Columbia
Sturgeon Management C-3001

Effective Date: January 25, 2019
Termination Date:

See Also: Policy C-3608

Approved January 25, 2019 by:


Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for management of the Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon population and fisheries.

Definition and Intent

The Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon population inhabits the waters of the Columbia River and tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam and migrates into ocean and coastal estuaries. The intent of the policy is to provide consistent management guidelines that promote a healthy population and provide sustainable fisheries.

General Policy Statement

Manage the Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon population with conservation and fishery management objectives that are consistent with a healthy population.

Policy Guidelines

Conservation Objectives:

- Provide regulatory protection to increase the abundance of the spawning population.
- Manage with a precautionary approach due to uncertainties in population parameters.
- Manage for an annual combined sport and commercial harvest of White Sturgeon to provide measurable population growth to achieve the goals of: (1) fully seeded habitats and (2) full representation of each size class within the population.
- Population Monitoring (within available resources):
 - Index young-of-the-year (YOY) to track spawning and recruitment success.
 - Estimate population abundance of all size classes.

- Evaluate methods to improve accuracy of abundance estimates.
 - Monitor sea lion predation for incorporation into stock status evaluations.
- Advocate for Columbia River flow regimes that promote successful spawning, incubation, and early rearing.

Fishery Management Objectives:

- Provide sufficient sturgeon spawning sanctuaries or other protective measures where and when appropriate.
- Quantify impacts of commercial and recreational fisheries on sublegal, legal, and over-size (including spawning adult) abundances.

When Retention Fisheries are Allowed:

- Manage Lower Columbia River sturgeon fisheries through an agreement with Oregon.
- Maintain concurrent Washington and Oregon regulations in the Columbia River.
- Manage fisheries in a manner that considers projected recruitment, with the objectives of increasing abundance of the legal size segment and increasing escapement into the spawning segment of the population. Management should consider all mortality sources, including both recreational and commercial fisheries and pinniped predation.
- Manage fisheries using an 80/20 sport/commercial harvest allocation.
- Strive for viable and diverse recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.
- Develop sport fishery regulations consistent with the following objectives:
 - Stay within approved harvest guidelines.
 - Balance catch between estuary and non-estuary fisheries.
 - Maintain fishery monitoring and management capabilities.
- Develop commercial fishery regulations consistent with the following objectives:
 - Optimize economic value (adjust to market needs).
 - Spread harvest opportunity throughout the year.
- Consideration of fisheries outside the Lower Columbia River must take into account the ability to monitor and manage those fisheries and be consistent with Lower Columbia River sturgeon conservation objectives.
- Maintain prohibition of Green Sturgeon retention until delisting occurs and retention can be re-evaluated.

Annual Review

Given the degree of uncertainty about various population parameters (e.g., recruitment success, pinniped predation, and size-class structure) of the Columbia River White Sturgeon, the Commission is adopting a precautionary approach to management. The Director will provide an annual review of the population status and fisheries for the Commission, as an essential component of this precautionary approach, to include updated information on:

- stock status;
- available information on pinniped predation;

- review of in-season management actions;
- summary of catch data, including handling of sturgeon in non-target fisheries, when available;
- recommended management changes; and
- other pertinent information.

This policy may be updated as part of any Lower Columbia sturgeon stock status review. The Director will provide the Commission a review of this Policy at least every five years.

Delegation of Authority

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director to develop and negotiate Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management Accords with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife that are consistent with these policies and objectives. The Director will consult with appropriate recreational and commercial advisory bodies during this process. Additionally, the Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact, to set seasons for recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries. The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Annual Review

Laura Heironimus and Bill Tweit
Columbia River Management Unit, Fish Program



1

Purpose

Annual review of stock status and fisheries.

- Commission Policy C-3001 "Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management"



2

Outline

- Policy Guidance
- 2019 Fisheries
- Stock Status
- Predation
- 2020 Fisheries



3

Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon

Distribution:

- The Columbia River, downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Nearshore marine areas and Washington and Oregon coastal bays and estuaries, including Puget Sound.



4

Policy Guidance: C-3001

"...to provide consistent management guidelines that promote a healthy population and provide sustainable fisheries."

Conservation Objectives:

- Increase abundance of spawning population
- Manage with a precautionary approach
- Population monitoring (within available resources)

Fishery Management Objectives:

- Quantify impacts of fisheries on sturgeon abundance
- Consider projected recruitment and mortality sources
- Monitor and manage fisheries

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director to develop and negotiate Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management Accords with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife that are consistent with these policies and objectives.



5

Recent Management

Lower Columbia sturgeon population closed to harvest in 2014.

Since 2017, the department has collaborated with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff to develop very limited White Sturgeon harvest fisheries in the lower Columbia River that are consistent with the reduced status of the population.



6

2019 Fishery Harvest Guidelines

- Total Catch Guideline: 6,160 fish
- Commercial Fishery: 1,230 fish (20%)
- Sport Fishery: 4,930 fish (80%)
 - CR Estuary: 2,960 fish
 - CR Wauna-Bonneville: 1,230 fish
 - Willamette River: 740 fish*

*no retention fishery opened



7

2019 Commercial Fishing Harvest

Select Area (SAFE):

- Winter: 20 fish
- Spring/Summer: 459 fish
- Fall: 212 fish
- **Total:** 691 fish (58%)

Mainstem:

- Early Fall: 509 fish (41%)

Total Harvest: 1,200 fish

98% of the 2019 commercial guideline



8

2019 Sport Fishing Harvest

Estuary (below Wauna):

- May 13-June 5 (11 d)
- 22,012 angler trips
- **Total:** 2,838 fish (96%)

Wauna to Bonneville:

- Sept. 21-Oct. 24 (5 d)
- 12,063 angler trips
- **Total:** 685 fish (56%)

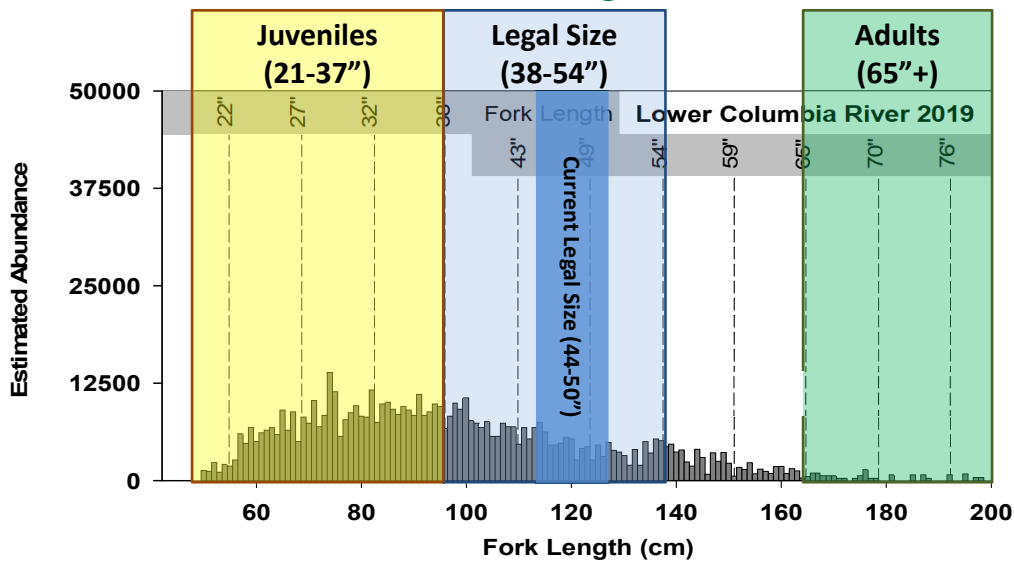
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- 37,703 total trips for retention and catch-and-release fisheries



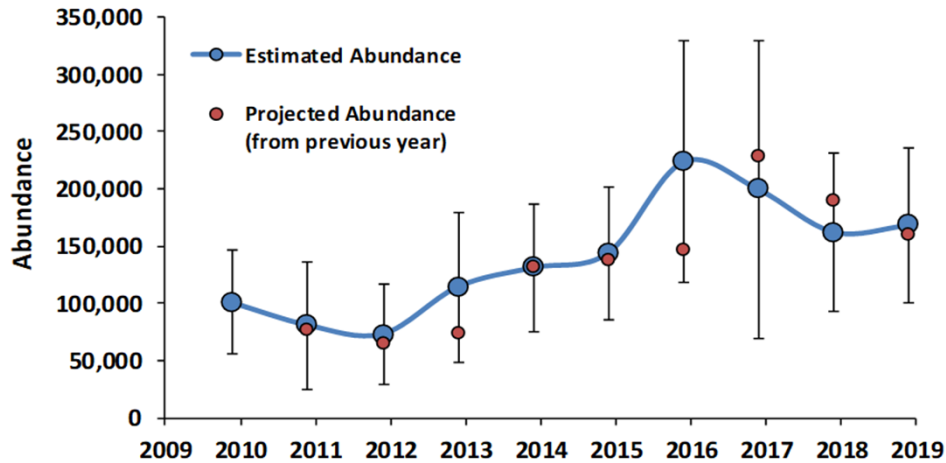
9

2019 Lower Columbia Sturgeon Size Distribution



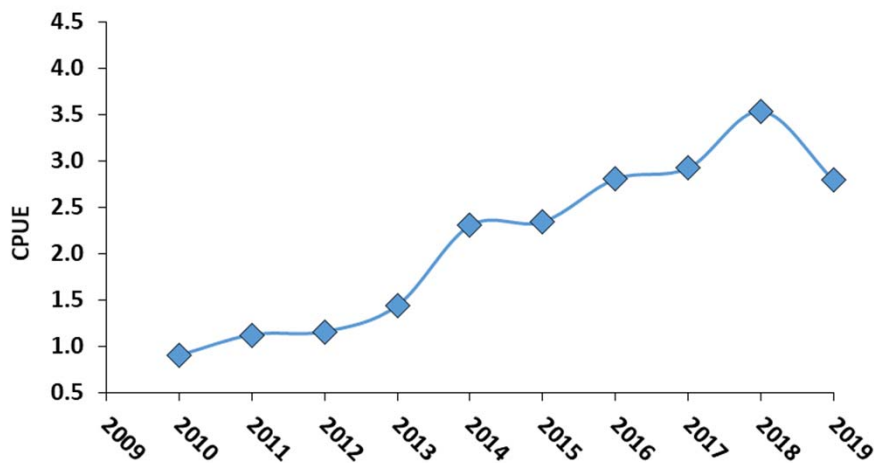
10

Trends in Legal Abundance (38-54" FL)



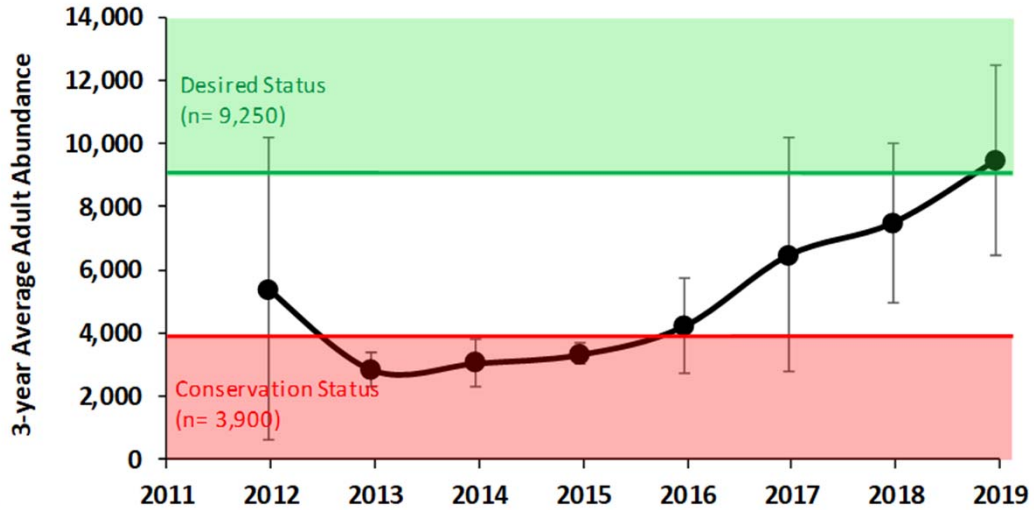
11

Trends in Legal CPUE (38-54" FL)



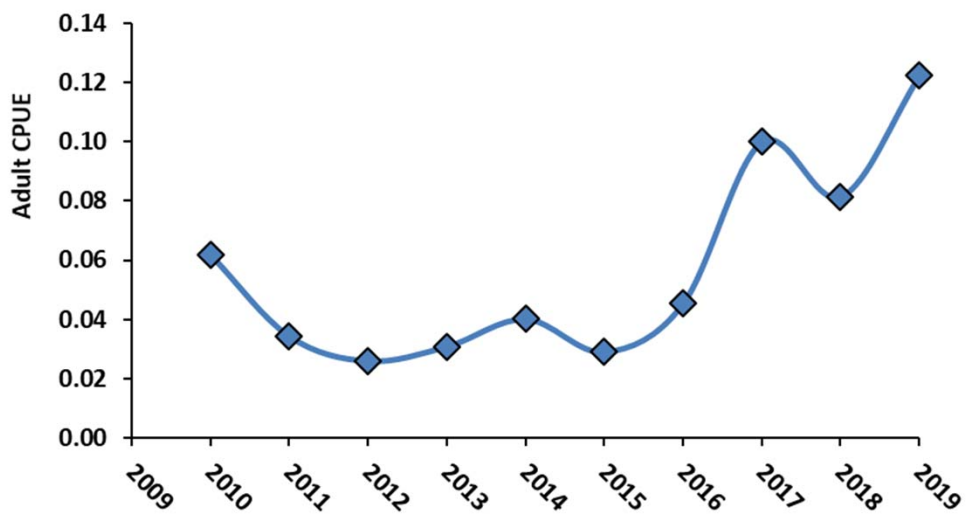
12

Trends in Adult Sturgeon Abundance (>65" FL)

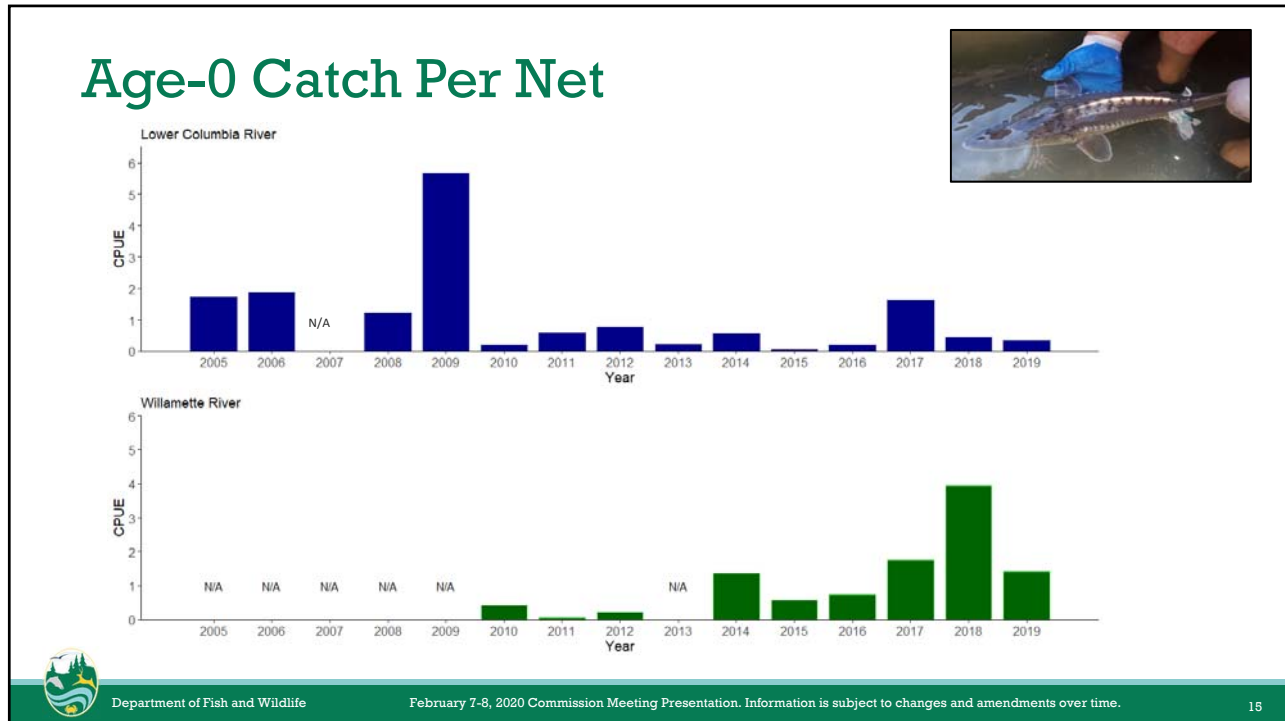


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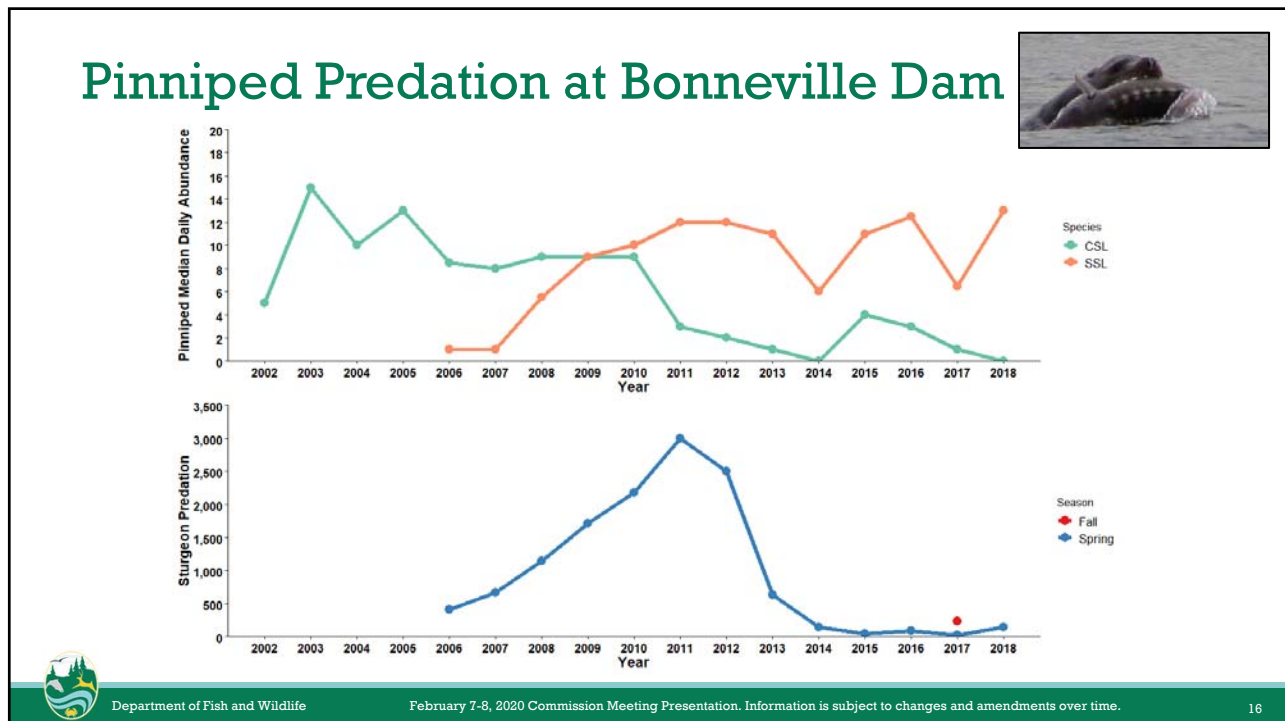
Trends in Adult Sturgeon Abundance (>65" FL)



14



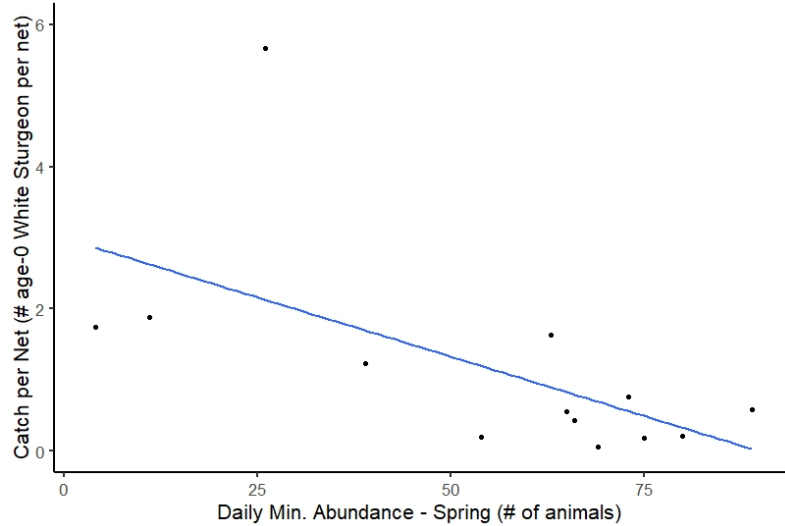
15



16

Pinniped Abundance vs Age-0 Catch Per Net

- Stellar Sea Lions are the primary predator for White Sturgeon in the Columbia River.
- The abundance of Stellar Sea Lions is a significant predictor of weak White Sturgeon recruitment.

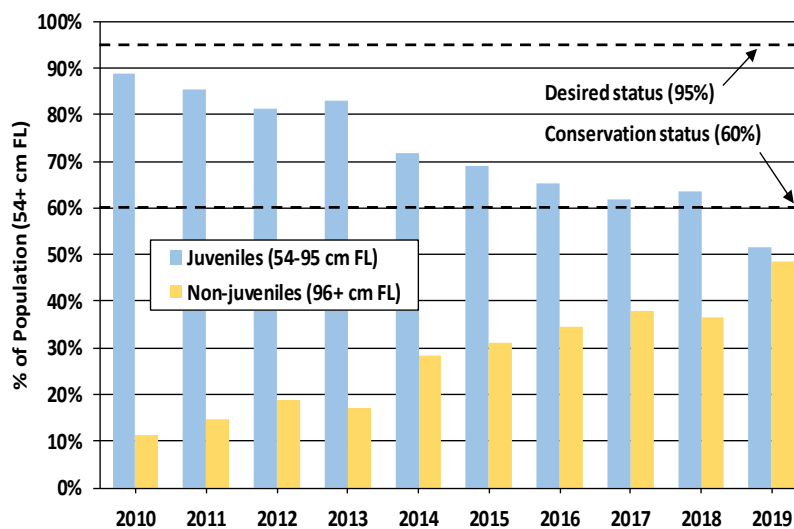


Source: Peter Stevens, ODFW 2019



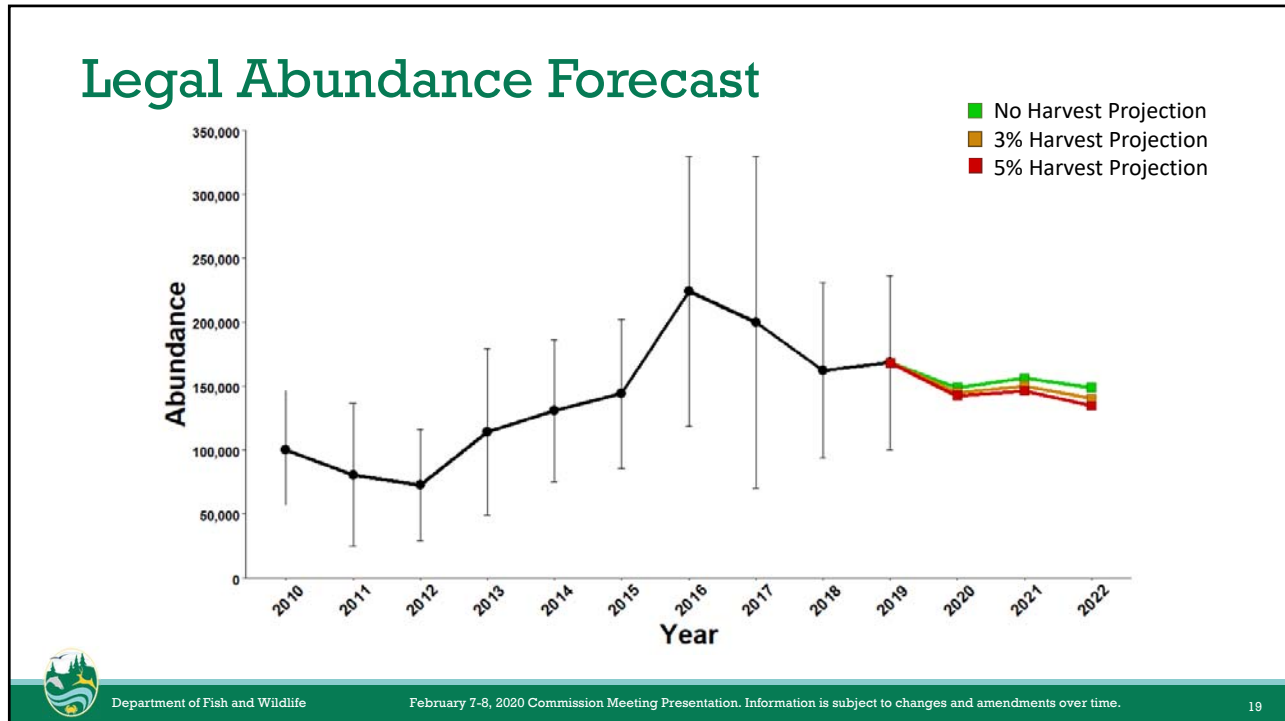
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Population Composition: 2010-2019



Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 7-8, 2020 Commission Meeting Presentation. Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.



19




2019 Summary

Metric	N	Interpretation	Brief Summary
Abundance Trends 38" – 54" FL	168,204	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable since 2018 but down from 2016 and 2017. However, trend in CPUE setline tagging fisheries is still upward overall.
	Adult (>65" FL) 2019: 11,926 3-yr avg.: 9,484	●	
Population Structure	~52% juvenile	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low proportional abundance of juvenile and sub-legal sized fish indicates population productivity issues; Below conservation status level (threshold = 60%)

Department of Fish and Wildlife
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20

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21

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22

Next Steps

- Work with ODFW to develop another short-duration retention fishery, similar to 2017-2019.
- Target low harvest rate to continue building population while providing sustainable fishing opportunity.



23

Thank you



Questions?



24

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Annual Review

Laura Heironimus and Bill Tweit
Columbia River Management Unit, Fish Program



Purpose

Annual review of stock status and fisheries.

- Commission Policy C-3001 “Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management”



Outline

- Policy Guidance
- 2019 Fisheries
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- Predation
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Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon

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- The Columbia River, downstream of Bonneville Dam.
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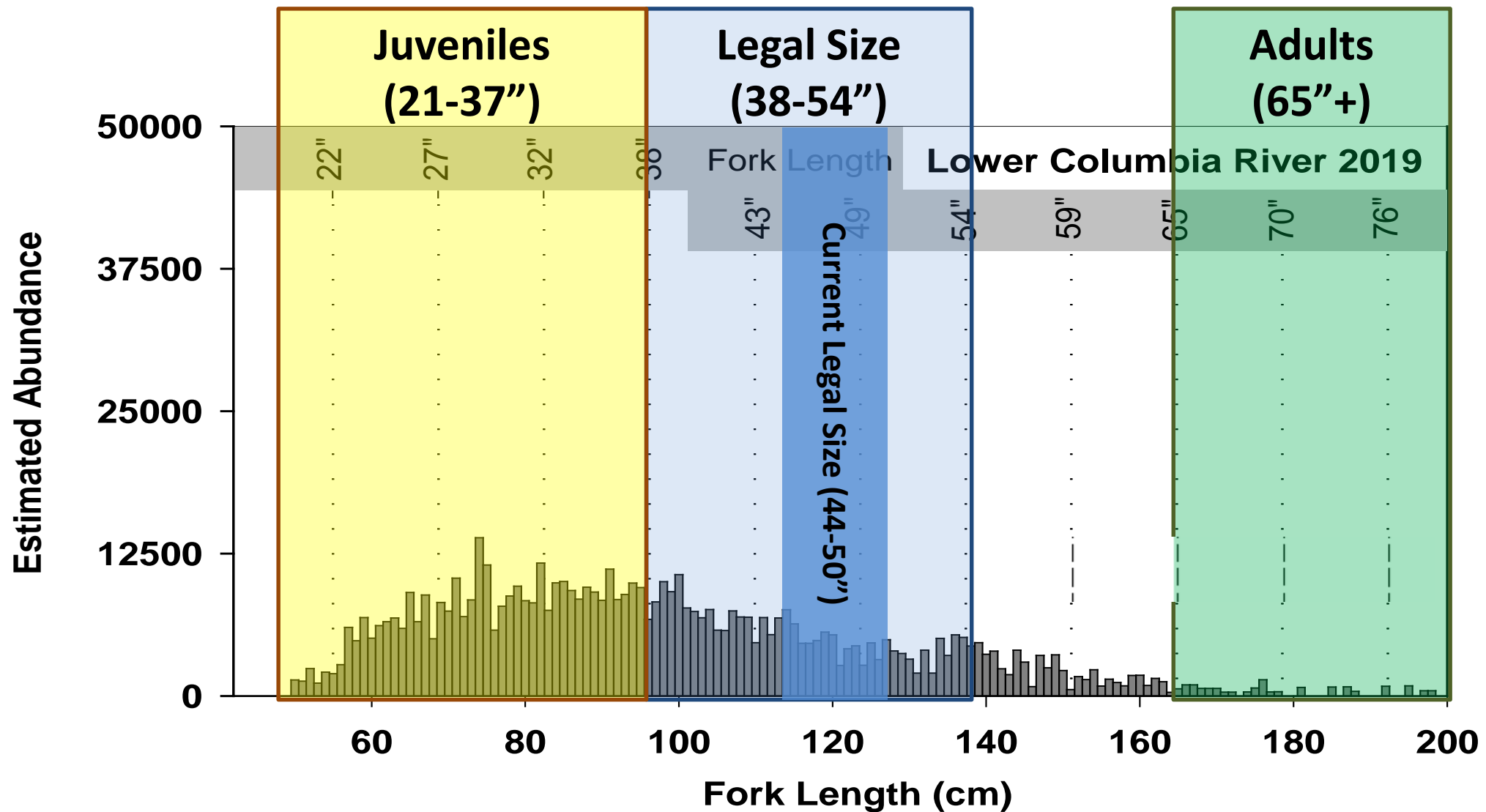
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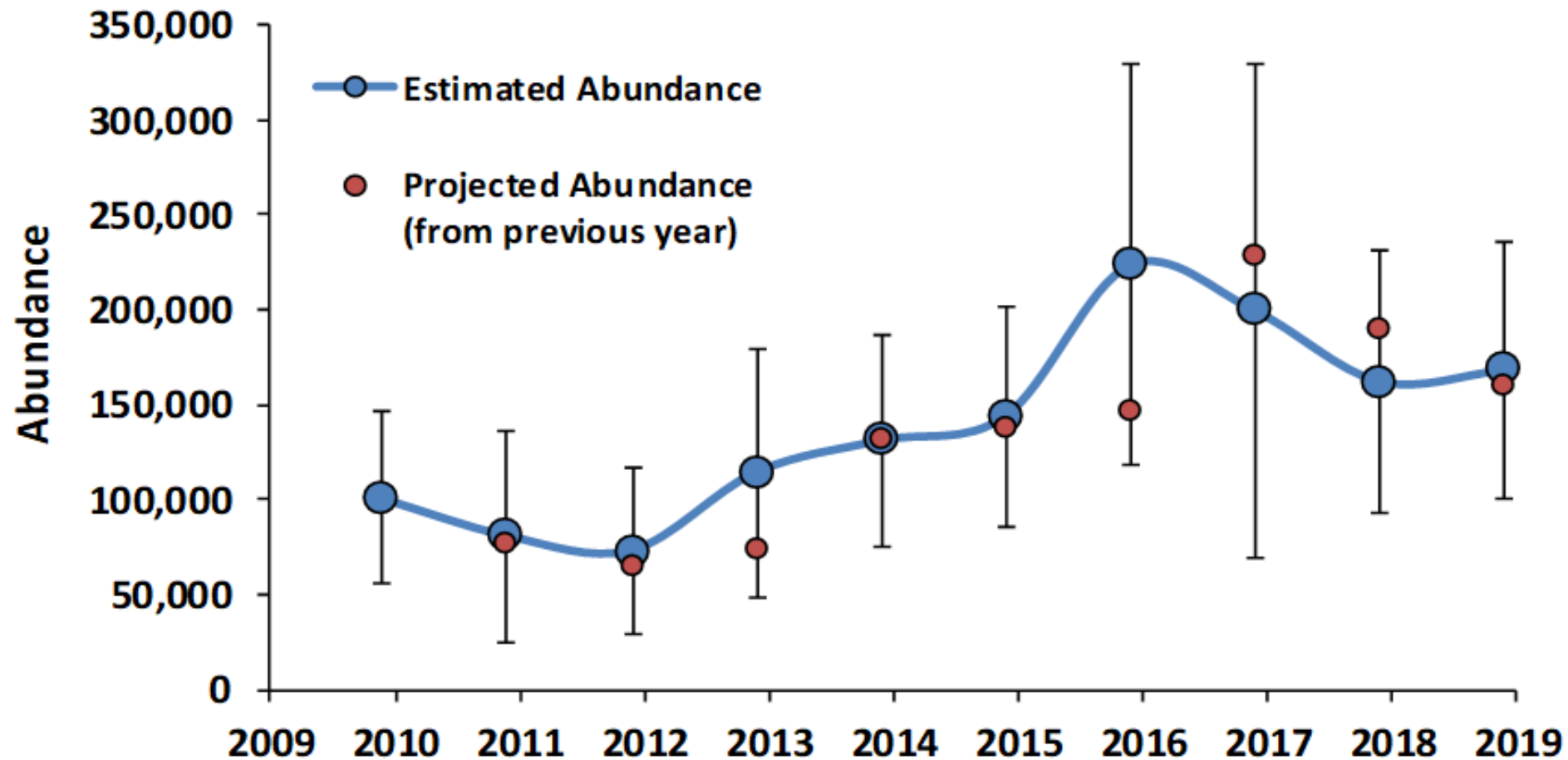
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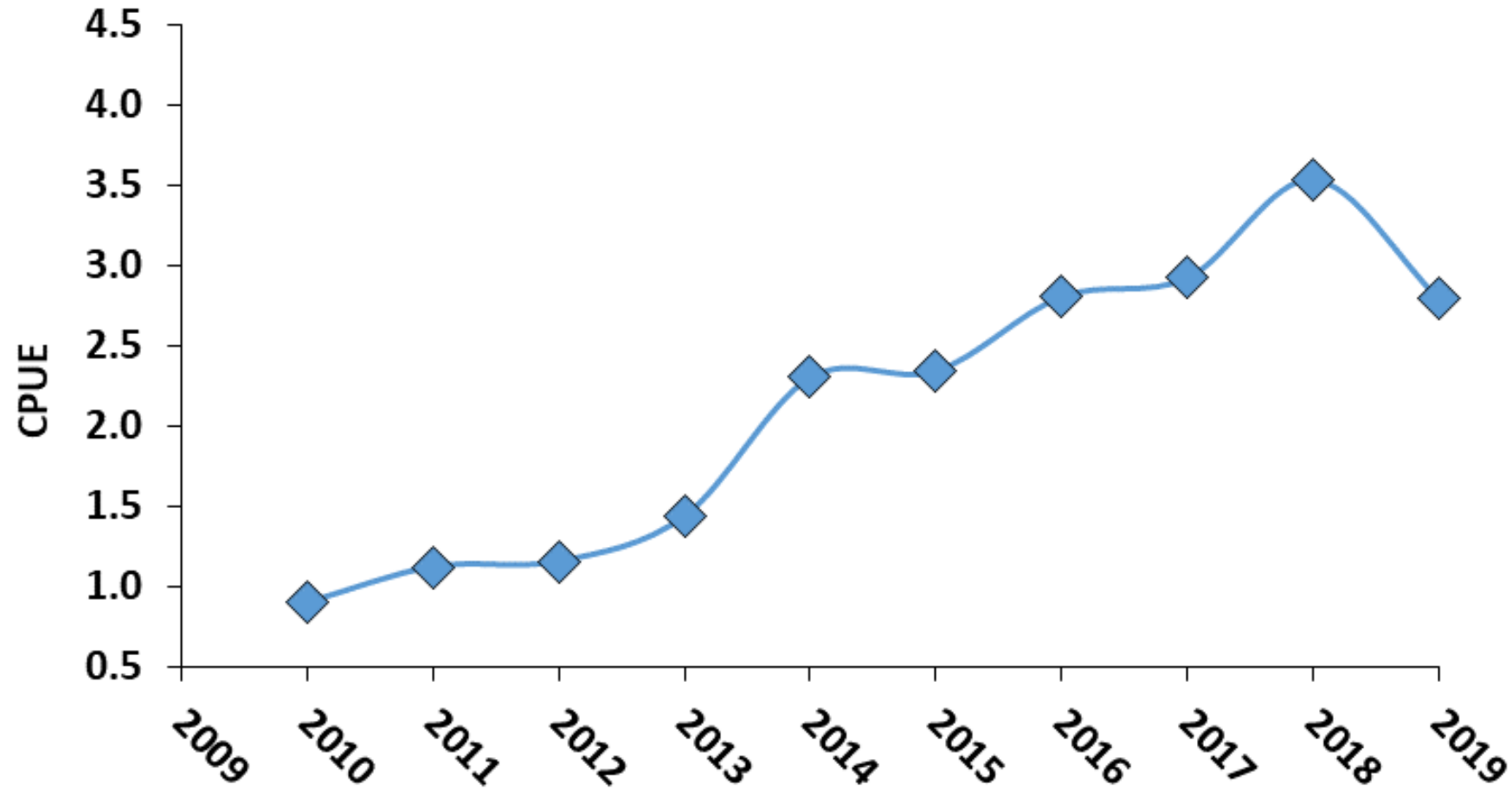
2019 Lower Columbia Sturgeon Size Distribution



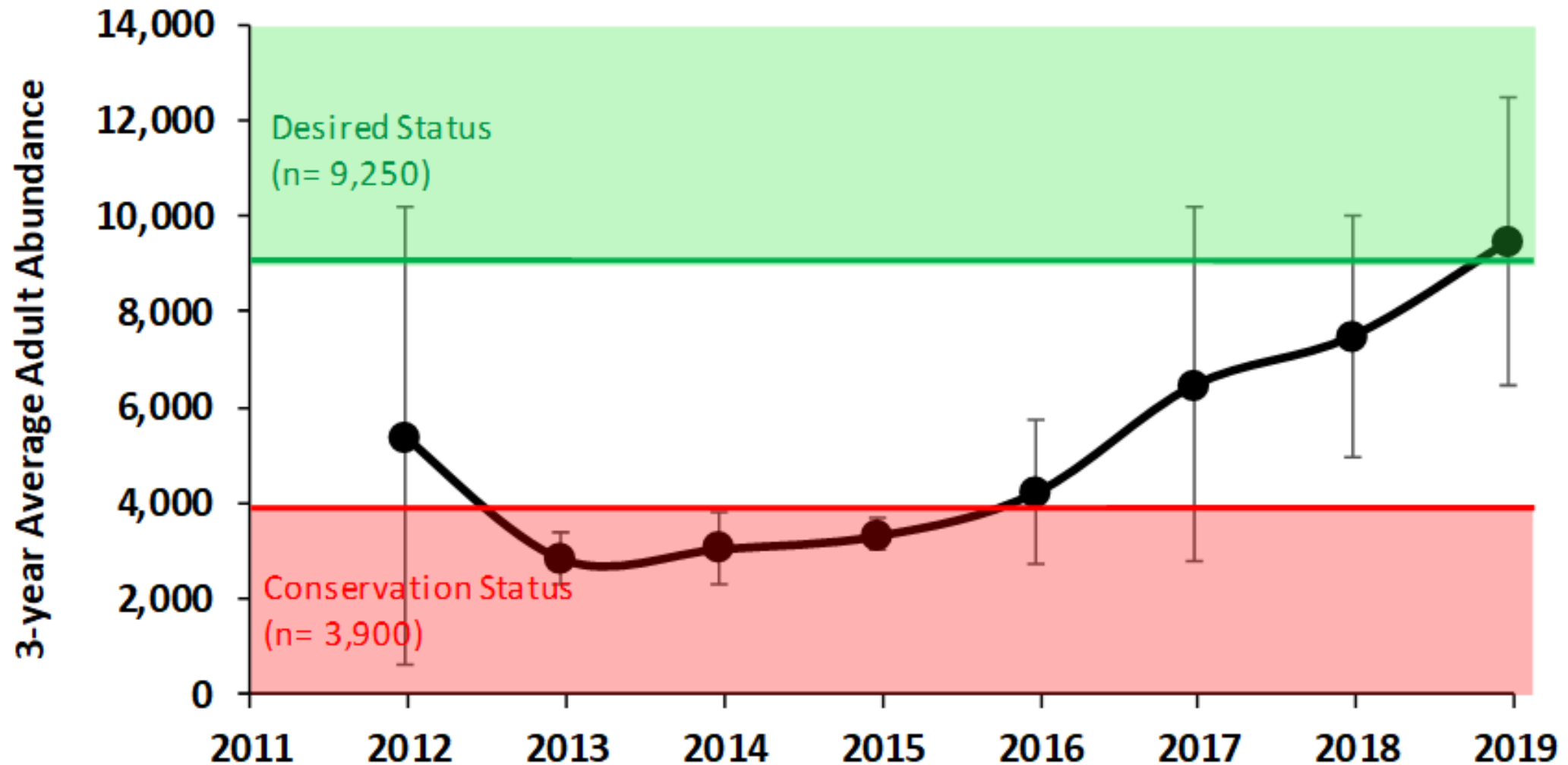
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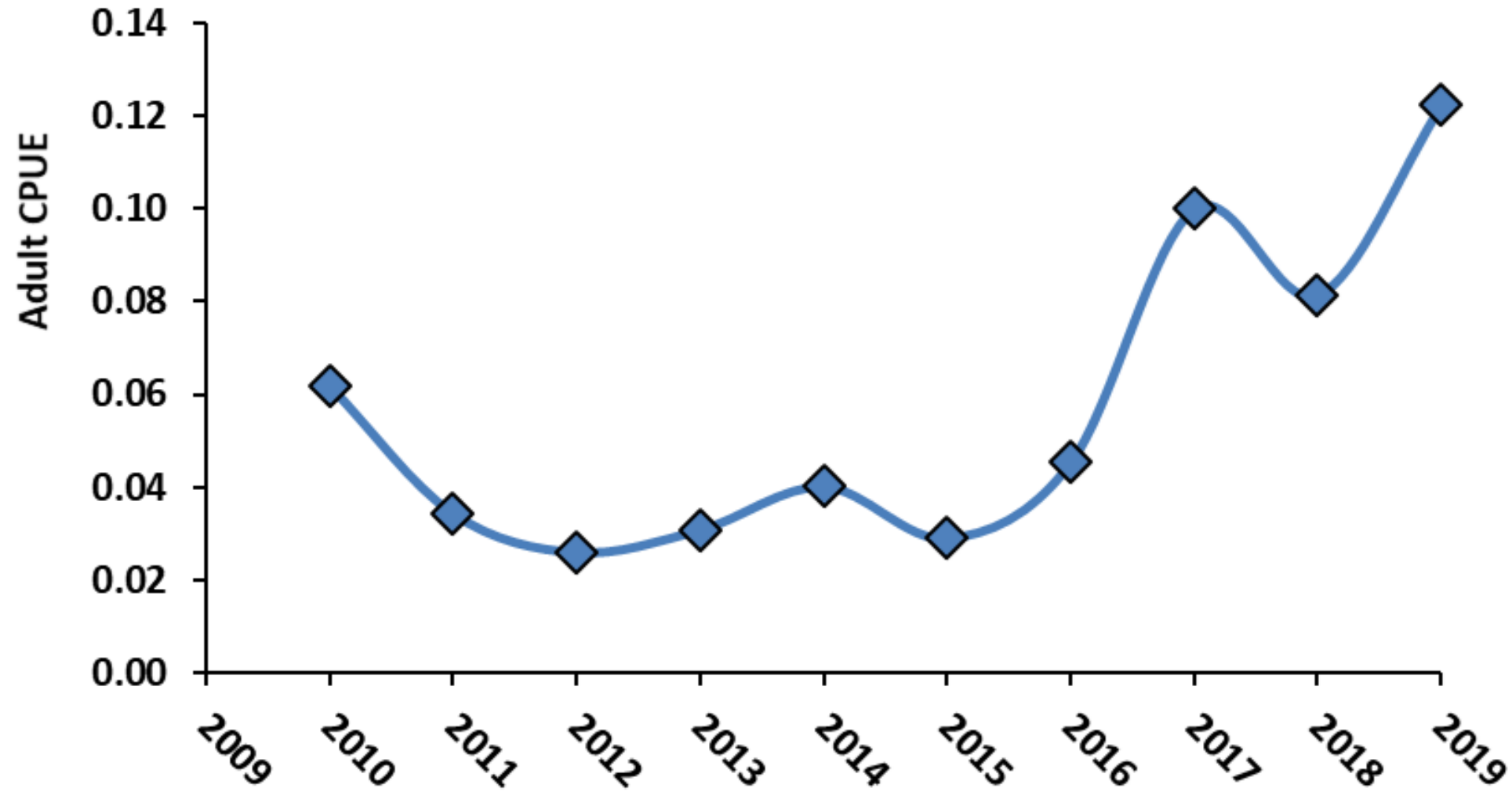
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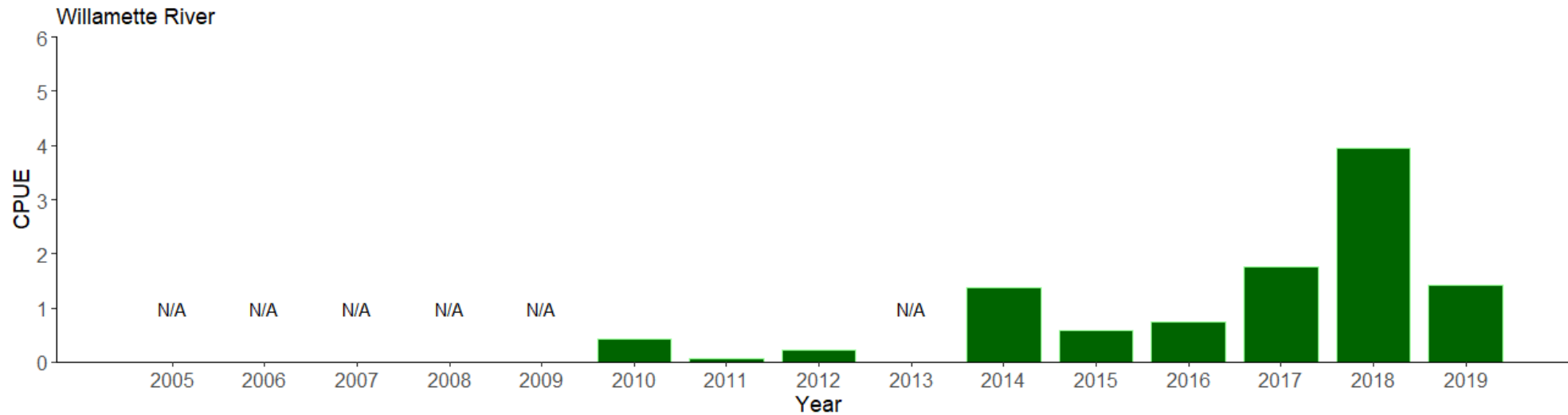
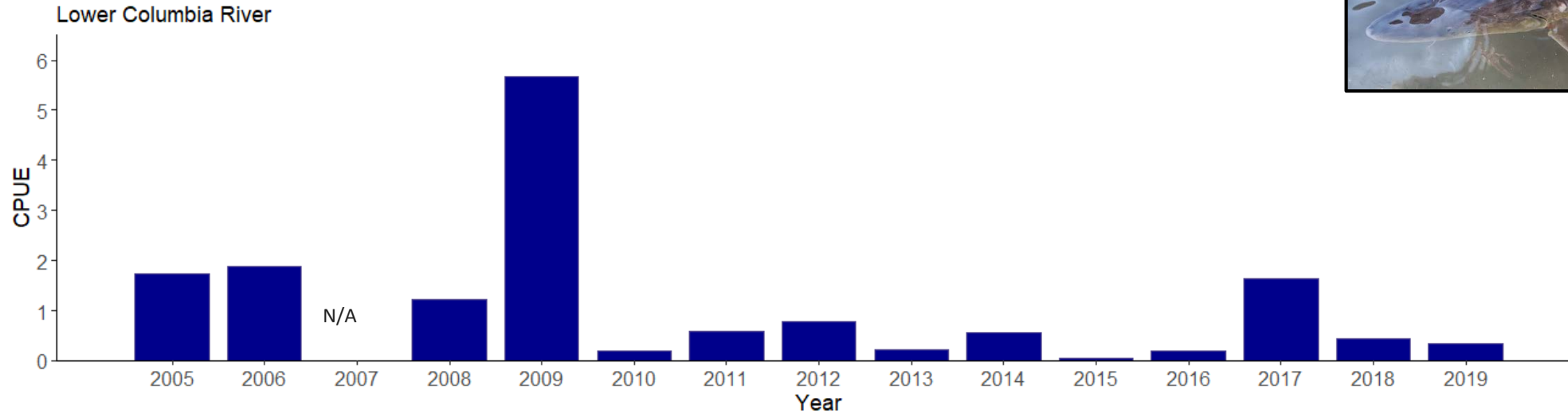
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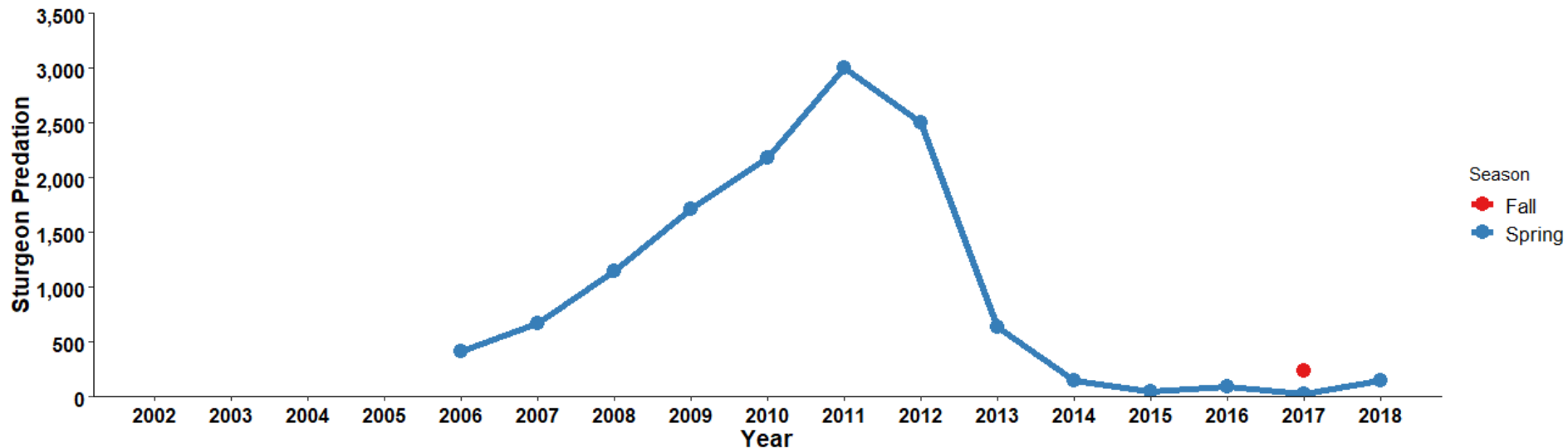
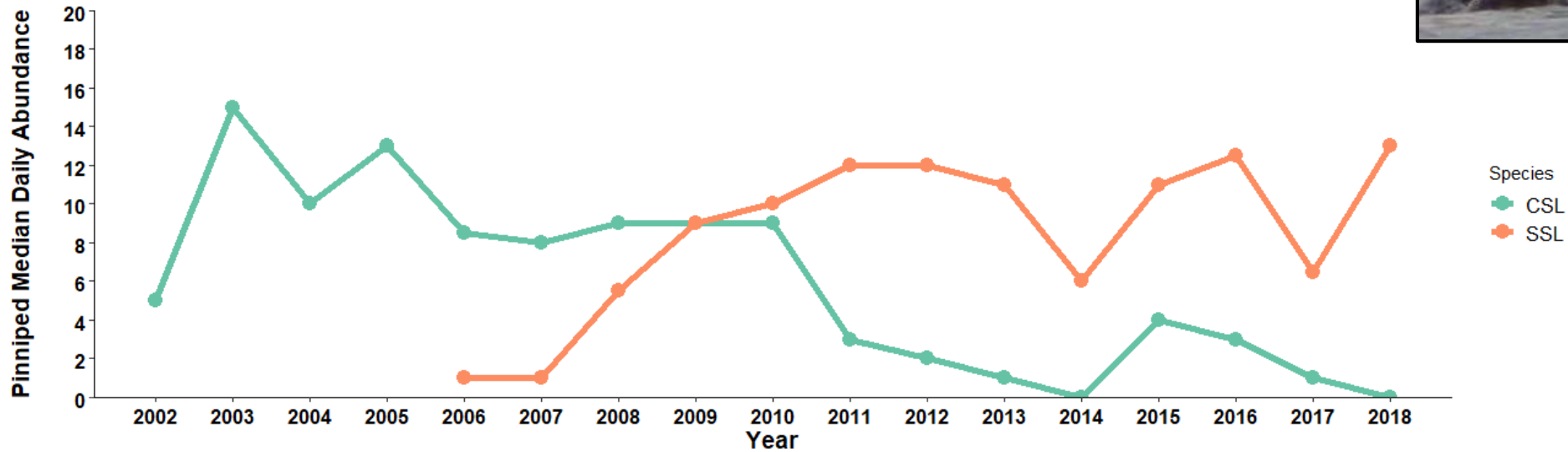
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Age-0 Catch Per Net

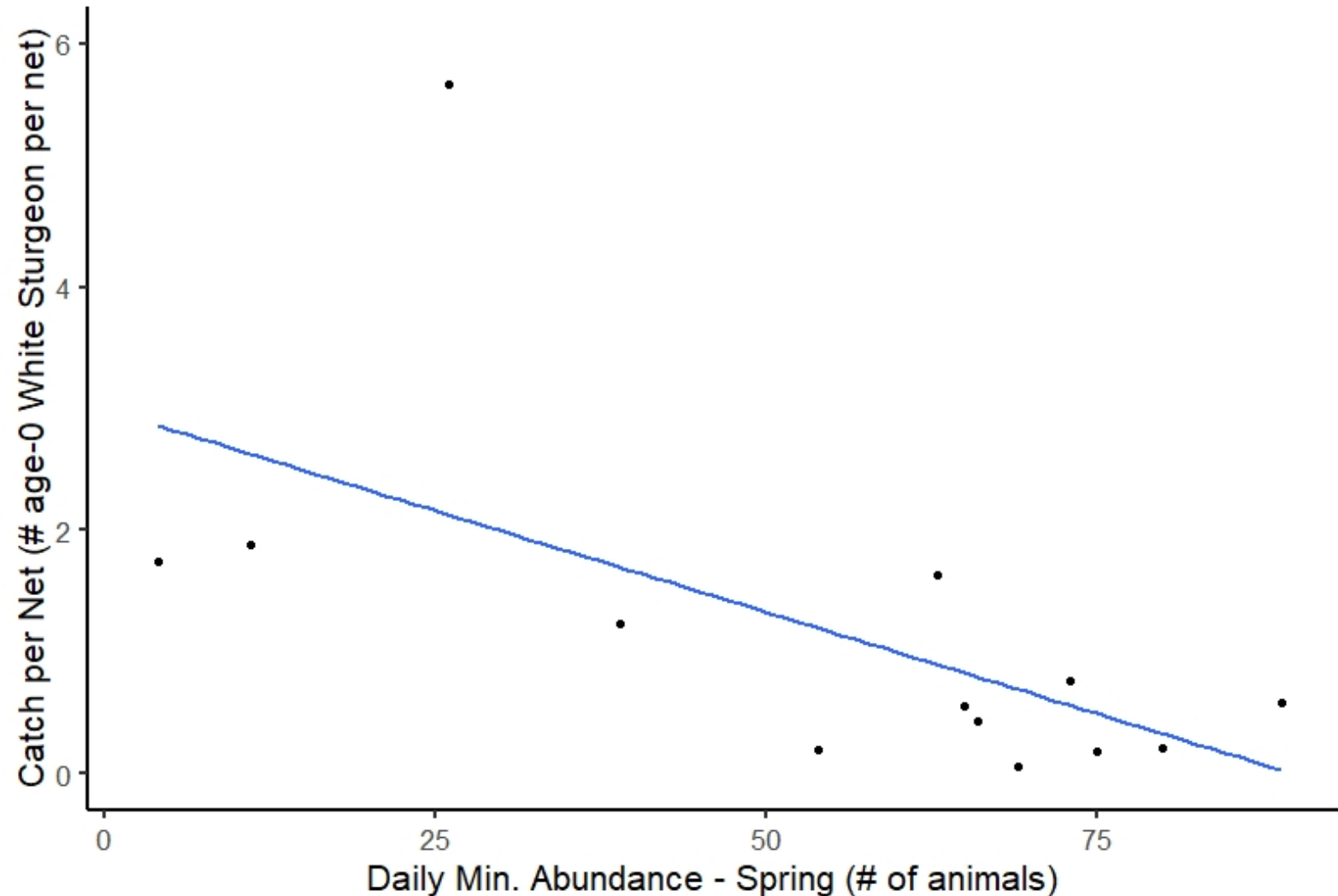


Pinniped Predation at Bonneville Dam



Pinniped Abundance vs Age-0 Catch Per Net

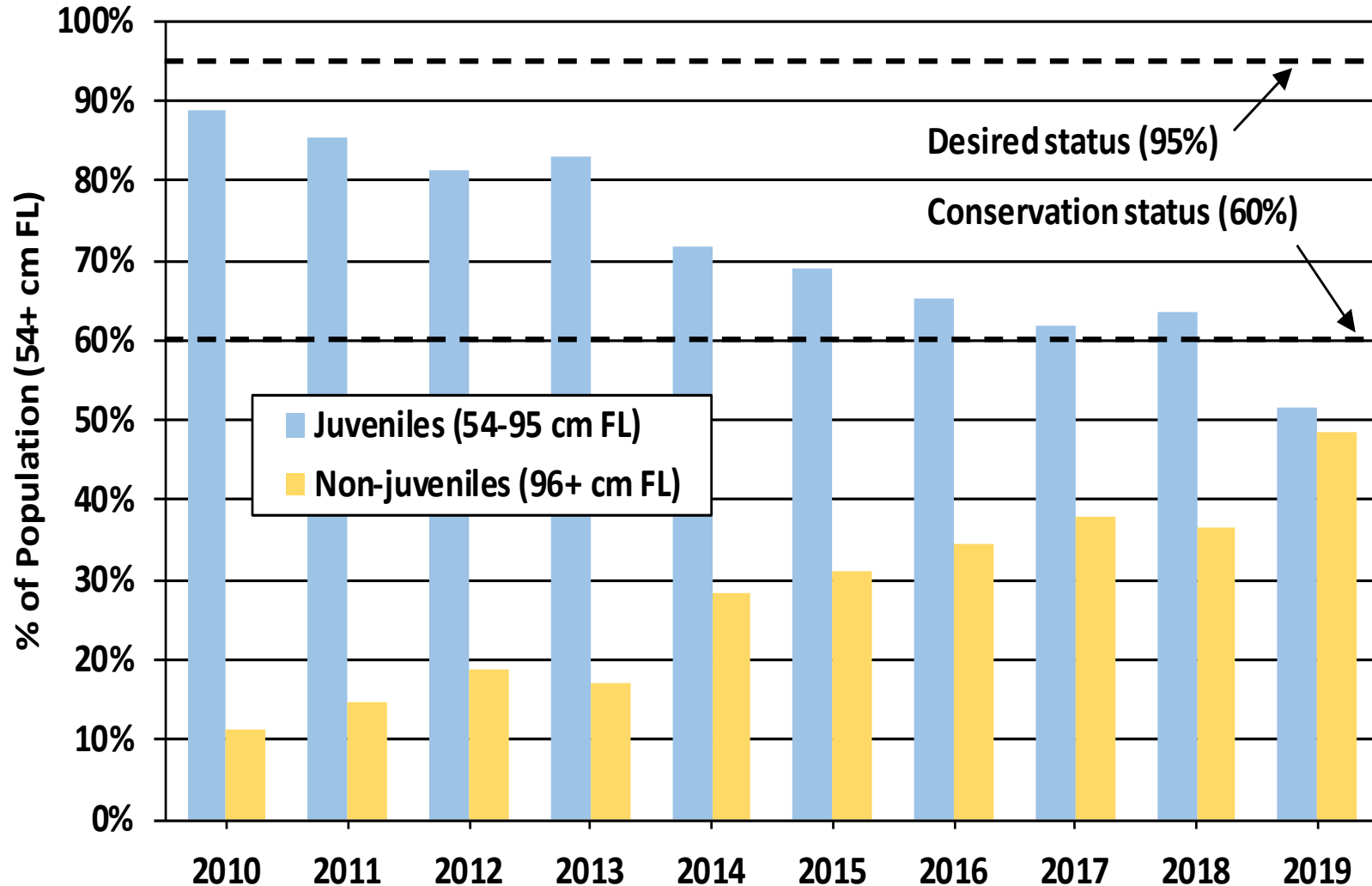
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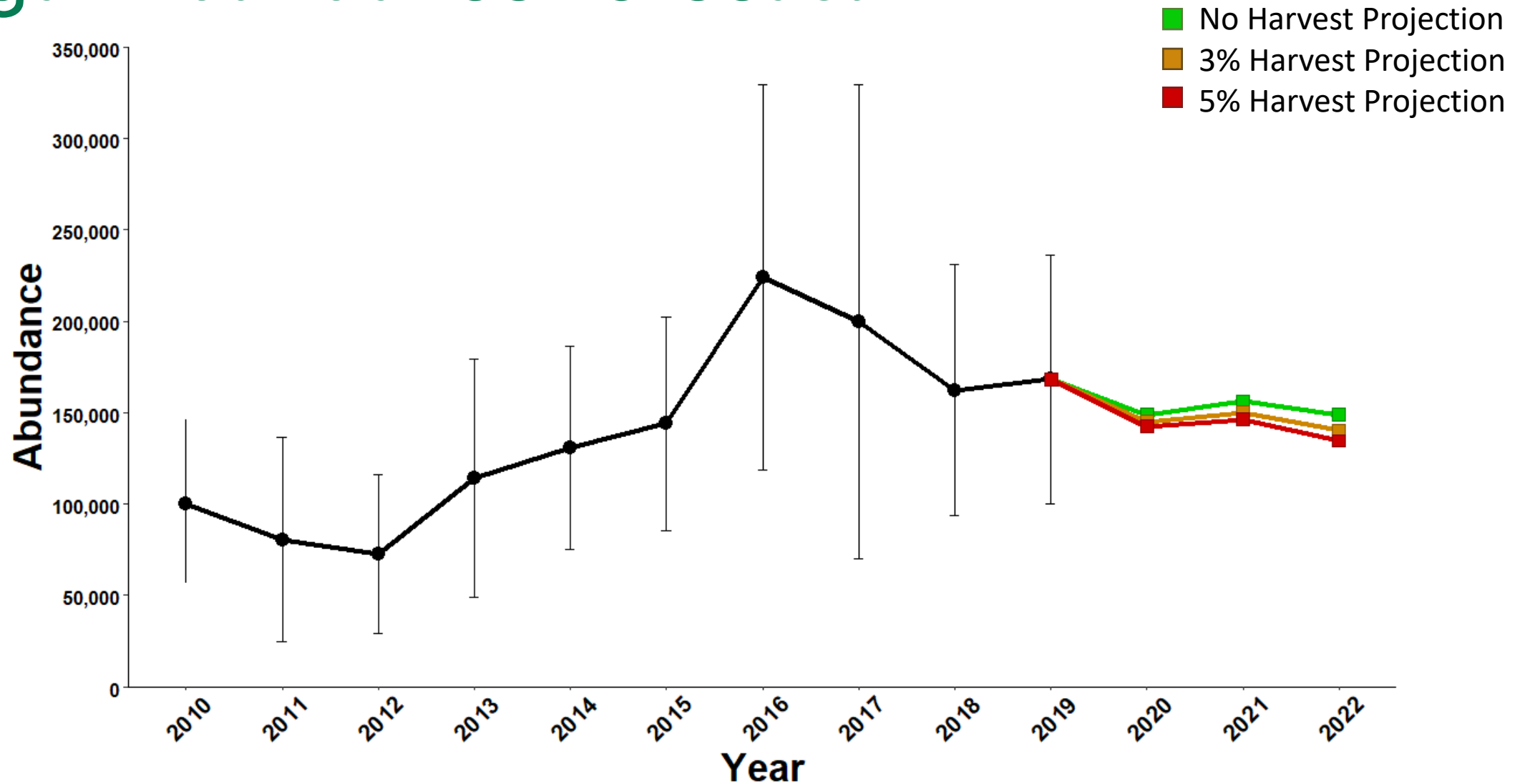
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Legal Abundance Forecast






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Next Steps

- Work with ODFW to develop another short-duration retention fishery, similar to 2017-2019.
- Target low harvest rate to continue building population while providing sustainable fishing opportunity.



Thank you



Questions?



Blue Sheet

Hunting Contests – Briefing and Public Comment



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Anis Aoude
Game Division Manager,
Wildlife Program

Background

- RCW 77.32.525: The Director shall administer rules adopted by the commission which govern the time, place and manner of holding hunting and fishing contests....
- RCW 77.32.540: A person shall not promote, conduct, hold, or sponsor a contest for the hunting or fishing of wildlife or a competitive field trial involving live wildlife for hunting dogs without first obtaining a hunting or fishing contest permit. Contests and field trials shall be held in accordance with established rules.
- RCW 77.65.480 (6): A fishing or field trial permit allows the holder to promote, conduct, hold, or sponsor a fishing or field trial contest in accordance with rules of the commission. The fee for a fishing contest permit is twenty-four dollars. The fee for a field trial contest permit is twenty-four dollars. The application fee is seventy dollars.

Process

- WAC 220-412-110: A person wishing to hold a hunting contest must comply with the following provisions:
 - Only organizations filed with the state of Washington as a nonprofit corporation may apply for a hunting contest permit.
 - Hunting contest permit applications shall be submitted to the department 30 days prior to the date for which the contest is proposed.
 - Applications must include the permit fee required by RCW 77.32.211. The fee will be returned if the permit is denied.
 - Contests are restricted to the species approved on the permit.
 - Total value of prizes per contest shall not exceed \$2000.
 - Entry fees or requests for donations are prohibited.
 - It is unlawful to fail to comply with the conditions of a hunting contest permit.

Hunting contests which may adversely affect wildlife resources will be denied.

Statistics

- Contests could be statewide, but typically encompass 1-12 counties.
- Contests could target any game species that can legally be hunted in Washington.
- We typically issue 1-6 permits annually.
- We have complete coyote harvest reports from 2014, 2015 and 2019, and they are 527, 335 and 119 respectively.

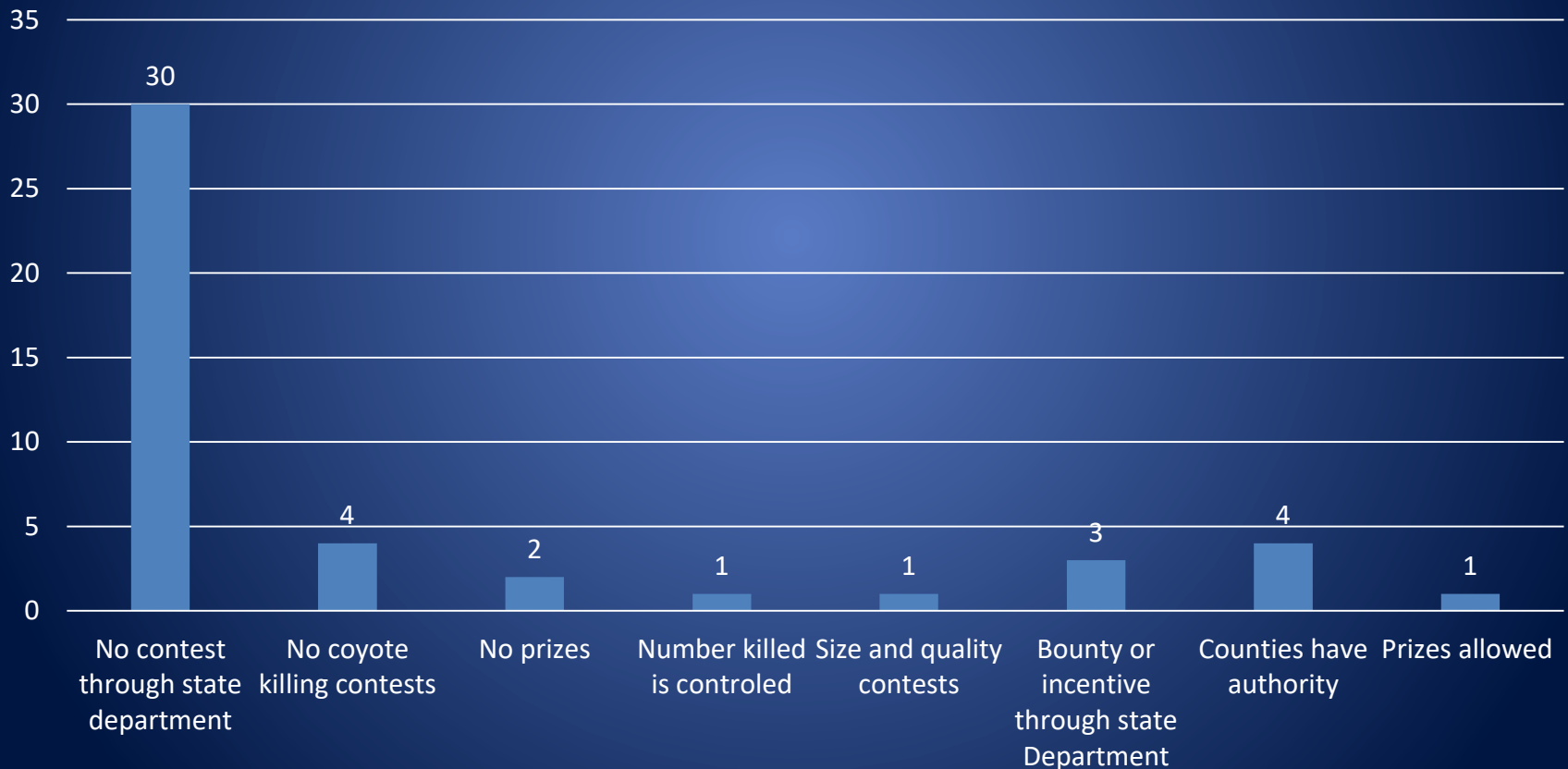
Statistics

NUMBER OF CONTESTS



Statistics Mainly for Coyote

State Strategies



Potential Options:

- Do nothing.
- Modify the permit conditions.
- Modify WAC 220-412-110.
- Potential modifications:
 - No numerically based contests.
 - No prizes. (Requires WAC change)
 - Limit the species that are allowed in contests.
 - Develop other options through public outreach.

Questions?

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 7-8, 2020

Agenda item: Blue Sheet: Hunting Contests - Briefing and Public Comment

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager – Wildlife Program

Background summary: Staff will brief the Commission on the Washington laws and regulations that apply to hunting and fishing contests. Commission will also be updated on recent changes to predator-focused hunting contests in other States.

Staff recommendation: Briefing only.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Briefing only.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Briefing only.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

None.

Commission Request to Department

"Blue Sheet"

Date of Request: 10.18.2019

Title of Request: briefing on relevancy projects

Commissioner: Baker & Smith

Request Due Date: February, 2020

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance: High Medium Low

Urgency: High Medium Low

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific.

best practices related to small scale habitat projects. Ongoing, but for purposes of this request, specific to pollinator projects & backyard sanctuaries.

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

briefing to full commission

For Commission Executive Assistant Use

Date Assigned: _____ Assigned To: _____
[At Debrief] [Program]

COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Guidelines for when the Commission makes requests to the Department for work products or information.

Commission Requests that Require a Significant Staff Workload:

Requests include, but are not limited to, information that benefits the Commission's decision-making process, requests for evaluation of information by Department staff, review of concepts to be included in the Department's public involvement process, and requests for information related to past or future actions of the Department.

- A. Requests are initiated by the Commission during a Commission meeting, work session, or conference call and are reviewed by a quorum of the Commission to determine desirability of the request. A Commissioner may also initiate requests for those times when a Commission meeting, work session, or conference call is not scheduled and an expeditious response is required, but the request must be presented for consideration to the full Commission during the next meeting.
- B. Commission staff forwards requests to the Director's Office for review, assignment and scheduling.
- C. The Director or designee discusses the request to staff at the debrief session, and the Commission Office forwards a copy to the appropriate program.
- D. Management Team members are responsible for ensuring Commission requests are completed in a timely manner.
- E. The Commission is responsible for reviewing the finalized assignment for completeness and may return the assignment for additional clarification and/or information as necessary.

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 7-8, 2020

Agenda item: Blue Sheet: Pollinator Projects and Backyard Sanctuaries – Briefing

Presenter(s): Taylor Cotten, Diversity Division – Wildlife Program
Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation Policy
Erin Sullivan, Woodland Park Zoo

Background summary: Department Staff, alongside with Erin Sullivan from the Woodland Park Zoo, will brief the Commission on the Pollinator Projects and the Backyard Sanctuaries.

Staff recommendation: Briefing only.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome: Briefing only.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation: Briefing only.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Briefing only.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

None.

Blue Sheet

Pollinator Projects and Backyard Sanctuaries— Briefing



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Taylor Cotten
Diversity Division,
Wildlife Program

Jeff Davis
Director of
Conservation Policy

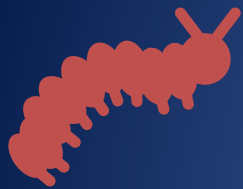
Erin Sullivan & Katie Remine,
Woodland Park Zoo

Background and Importance of Backyard Wildlife Habitat - People

- > 80% of Washingtonians:
 - Have interest in continuing and/or increasing their **wildlife watching** participation.
 - Enjoy **wildlife around their homes**.
- Most adults feel:
 - Exposure to nature promoted their physical, psychological, and social wellbeing.
 - However, felt their backyards are "manufactured" and "not natural", and therefore not considered nature.



Background and Importance of Backyard Wildlife Habitat – Pollinator Conservation



Pollinators

Among bumble bees, 28% of species in North America are considered threatened.

19% of butterflies in the US and Canada are at risk of extinction according to NatureServe.



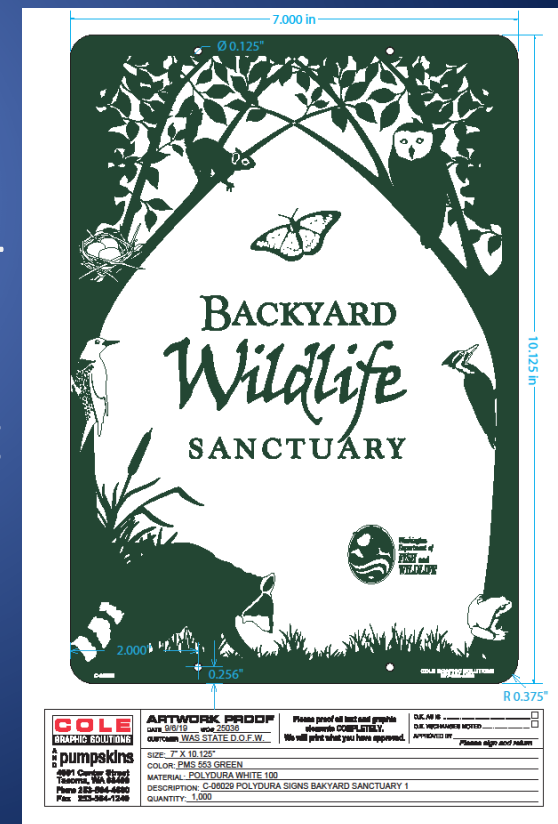
Habitat

Collections of small scale habitat are significant for invertebrate species.

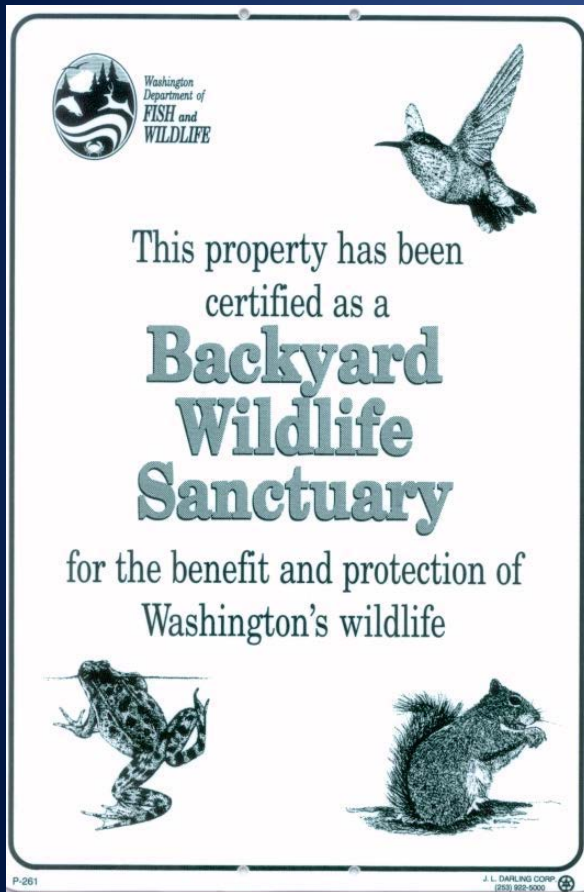
Urban areas have demonstrated higher bee diversity than other “converted” habitat.

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program

- Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Designation.
- Mimic's similar program run by National Wildlife Federation.
- First enrollee in 1985.
- Led out of Region 1 and Region 4 until moved to HQ in 2015.
- Provide general backyard habitat information collected as well as contact information.



Backyard Sanctuary Continued...



- Over 7,000 individuals have participated.
- \$10 fee provides certificate, yard sign, and newsletter(2018).
- Funds primarily support sign production.
- Average ~2 applications a week .

Backyard pollinator habitat BMPs, Xerces Society

- Rely on partners and available resources for pollinator best management practices.
 - Landscaping for Wildlife book published in 1999 in association with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - Xerces Society recommendations.



Xerces, Bumble Bee Atlas (public education)

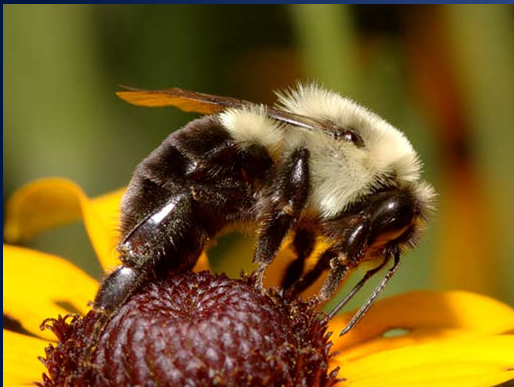
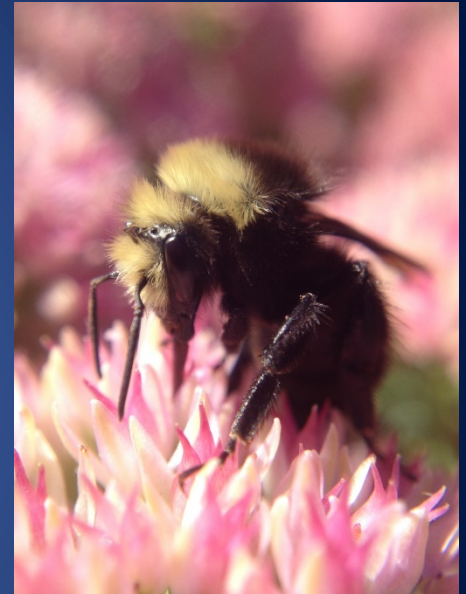
- Partners with neighboring states.
- Volunteer led effort to document bumble bees statewide.
- Over 2,500 volunteers submitted bumble bee observations in 2019 for WA.
- Demonstrated interest for pollinator conservation.
- Small pieces of habitat can make a difference.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST
BUMBLE BEE ATLAS

Woodland Park Zoo

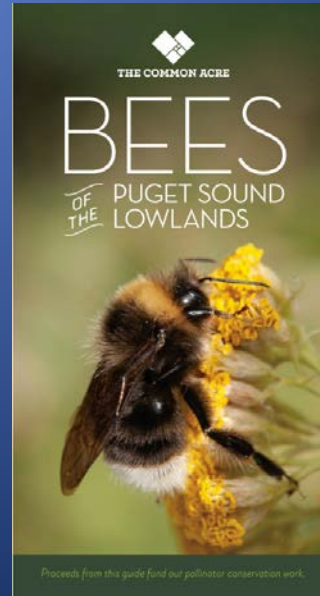
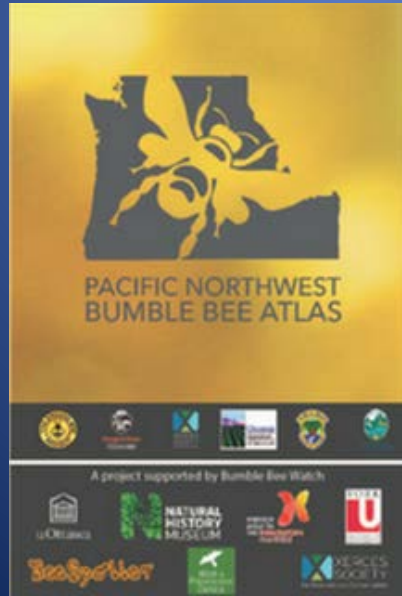
A diversity of native pollinators:



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

February 7-8, 2020 WDFW Commission Meeting Presentation

Pollinator Conservation- in the region and Woodland Park Zoo



What Woodland Park Zoo aims to do for pollinators:

- Open peoples' eyes to the diversity of pollinators we live with and depend on.
 - Cultivate an informed and observant band of community scientists logging pollinator observations in urban-to-rural landscapes.
- Facilitate actions to increase habitat for pollinators, and reduce the use of chemicals on the landscape.
- Collaborate and partner to extend the impact of our efforts.



Potential initiatives and projects we are exploring:

- Re-engage with Backyard Sanctuary enrollees.
- Tiered backyard certification program.
 - Update the sign-up process and criteria.
- Engage in neighborhoods and HOAs to help jointly build habitat, and create incentives around maintaining habitat.
- Promote the sanctuary program.
- Work closely with partners, including Woodland Park Zoo and Xerces Society.

Questions?

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 8th, 2020

Agenda item: **HATCHERY POLICY C-3619 REVIEW – BRIEFING, PUBLIC COMMENT**

Presenter(s): **Laurie Peterson**, Fish Science Division Manager, **Ron Warren**, Director of Fish Policy

Background summary:

At the June 15, 2018 Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) meeting, the FWC directed the agency to conduct a review of all sections and aspects of the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619). Subsequently, the following primary project elements emerged:

- Policy Review (Commission Assignment)
 - Science Update and Synthesis, including Emerging Science (led by WDFW; facilitated by Washington State Academy of Sciences)
 - Policy Performance Evaluation document (led by WDFW)
 - Joint Co-manager Hatchery Benefits document – will be authored by tribal and state co-managers examine the socio-ecological role of hatcheries, tribal legal considerations, and the ecosystem services provided by hatcheries.
- Engage Tribal Co-managers in Policy development
- Public Outreach and Engagement (led by consultant and WDFW)
- Commission considers final reports and policy recommendations (synthesizing information from the three documents above, incorporating input from tribes, partners, stakeholders, and the public).

On Feb. 6th, 2020 the FWC Commission and WDFW Fish Program scientists participated in a workshop in which the key findings from the Science Review report were summarized and discussed.

Staff will provide a status update on the rest of the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy Review project as well as receive feedback and guidance from Commissioners following the Science Review workshop.

Staff recommendation:

None at this time.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

None at this time.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

NA

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

3/15/19 – 3/31/19 – Stakeholder Interviews – conducted by Triangle Associates – thoughts and

opinions were collected and summarized by Triangle in a document available on the H&FRP Review webpage.

4/11/2019 – Open Public Meeting – facilitated by Triangle Associates – this was video recorded and a written summary was provided by Triangle. Both items are available on the H&FRP Review webpage

5/23/2019 – WSAS Science Workshop – a day long workshop for WDFW writers, WSAS' Committee members, supplemental reviewers, and observers. Written summary of workshop available on the webpage.

2/6/2020 – FWC Workshop – public will be in attendance at the workshop and will have the opportunity to make comments and provide feedback.

H&FRP Review Webpage Link:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/hatcheries/hatchery-reform-policy-review>

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Acceptance or further guidance on the science review report.

Draft motion language:

NA

Post decision communications plan:

NA



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy Review

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 8, 2020

Project Status Update

- Laurie Peterson, Fish Science Division Manager
- Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy

Project Elements

- Policy Review based on:
 - Science Review, Emerging Science
 - Policy Performance Evaluation
 - Joint Co-manager Hatchery Benefits document
- Engage Tribal Co-managers in Policy development
- Partners and Public - Outreach and Engagement
- Commission considers final reports, recommendations, and alternatives for possible policy changes.



Science Review – Emerging Science

Status: Complete

- Washington Academy of Sciences (WSAS) completed third (final) review – Oct. 31, 2019
- WDFW internal review process conducted during December-January
- January 2020: Distributed document to Commissioners, Tribes, Partners, Public

Policy Review & Evaluation

Status: Second draft – internal reviews

- Reviewed policy performance since adoption
- Evaluated 11 policy guidelines
 - Green, Yellow, Red report card format, relative to defined performance metrics
- WDFW authors completed first draft document in Nov. 2019
- Conducted first round of internal reviews
- Currently: WDFW leadership conducting review of second draft

Timeline Moving Forward

Feb '20

Mar '20

Apr '20

Jul-Aug '20

Oct '20

FWC Meeting & DFW Workshop: Science Review

FWC Meeting & DFW Workshop: Policy Performance

FWC Meeting: Final Presentation on DFW Review Documents

FWC Meeting; mark-up draft version of policy for public review

FWC Two Meeting Decision Process

Public Comments

Public Comments

Policy Recommendations

Public Comments

Public Comments

Public Comments

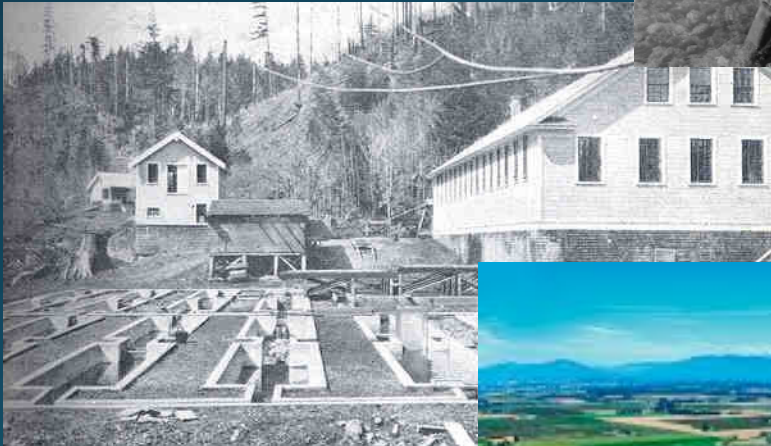
Co-manager's Hatchery Benefits Document

Tribal Co-Manager Engagement

Public and Partner Involvement

FWC Fish Committee Monthly Updates

Questions, Comments?



Year-at-a Glance

March 12-14, 2020 – Kennewick	Conference call – 3/27
Lands Transaction – B/PH/D Game Division 2020 Season Setting– B/PH Cougar Rules – B/PH Policy C-3619 Review - Workshop	
April 9-10, 2020 – Olympia Conference call – 4/24	May 2020 Conference call 5/15
Game Division 2020 Season Setting– D Cougar Rules – D Policy C-3619: Policy development guidance Recreational Clam and Oyster Seasons – B,PH 2020 legislative session de-brief Grazing Program Policy and WACs – B/PH Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review Policy C-3620 Review: Consider draft for public review– B/PC Strategic Plan – Consider draft for public review B/PC	
June 11-16, 2020 – Yakima	Conference Calls – 6/26, 7/17
2021-23 operating budget proposal development SFY2021 second supplemental operating budget proposal development 2023-23 capital budget proposal development 2021 agency request legislation development Target Shooting – B/PH Grazing Program Policy and WACs – D Policy C-3620 Changes – B/PC/D Strategic Plan – Consider adoption B/PC/D	
July 30- Aug 1, 2020 – Aberdeen	Conference Call – 8/21
Implementation of 2SSB 5577 – Protecting Orca Whales from Vessels – B/PH 2021-23 operating budget proposal approval SFY2021 second supplemental operating budget approval 2023-23 capital budget proposal approval 2021 agency request legislation approval Commercial Whale Watching – B/PH Review Status of Commercial Guide Logbook Requirements – B Target Shooting – D Willapa Bay Policy: Policy C3618 Comprehensive Review B/PC Policy C-3619: Consider draft for public review B/PC	
September 10-12, 2020 – Olympia	Conference call – 10/2

Year-at-a Glance

Implementation of 2SSB 5577 – Protecting Orca Whales from Vessels – D Commercial Whale Watching – D	
October 22-24, 2020 – Colville	Conference Call – 11/20
Policy C-3619 Changes – B/PC/D	
December 3-5, 2020 – Everett	Conference call – 12/18



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Commission

MARCH 12-14, 2020

Red Lion Columbia Center Kennewick 1101 N Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick, WA 99336 Room TBD

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

8:00 AM Hatchery Policy Evaluation Review Workshop – Briefing, Public Comment

Location: TBD

Staff will brief the Commission on the key findings of the Policy Evaluation Review report, which includes an assessment of implementation of the 11 policy guidelines relative to defined metrics in a report card format.

Staff Report: Andrew Murdoch, Eastside Science Manager, and Gary Marston, Hatchery Scientist.

Public Comment – This Item Only

12:00 PM Recess

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1:00 PM Wolf Committee Meeting – Commissioners Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville

Location: TBD

Agenda topics:

- Recovery plan scoping summary
- Refining recovery plan sideboards – process discussion
- General discussion – current events
- Wolf agenda setting

2:30 PM Fish Committee Meeting or Big Tent Committee Meeting Placeholder

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING

7:00 AM Wildlife Committee Meeting – Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Anderson, Linville

Location: TBD

Agenda topics:

- Target shooting rulemaking update
- Wildlife agenda setting
- General discussion – current events

8:30 AM 1. Call to Order

- a. Commissioners' Discussion
- b. Meeting Minutes Approval
- c. Committee Reports

45 min

- 9:15 AM 2. **Open Public Input** *30 min*
 The Commission is a direct link between the citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. **NOTE:** During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that do not already have public input time on the agenda.
- 9:45 AM 3. **Director's Report** *30 min*
 The Director will brief the Commission on various items.
- 10:15 AM 4. **Land Transaction– Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision** *40 min*
 Staff will provide a briefing on the Lands 20/20 process and seek funding for projects approved through this process.

 Staff Report: Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager

Public Comment – This Item Only
- 10:55 AM **Break** *15 min*
- 11:10 AM 5. **Landowner Hunting Permits and Landowner Raffle Hunts – Briefing and Public Hearing** *40 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on proposed changes to the standard operating procedure for the LHP program as well as adjusting the submission date to coincide with the new standard operating procedure.

 Staff Report: Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only
- 11:50 AM 6. **Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations and Hunter Education instructor incentive permits – Briefing and Public Comment** *30 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on the amendments to the migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations.

 Staff Report: Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager

Public Comment – This Item Only
- 12:20 PM **Lunch** *60 min*
- 1:20 PM 7. **Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds – Briefing and Public Comment** *20 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on recommending changes to rules pertaining killing crow and magpies depredating crops and damaging private property.

 Staff Report: Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager

Public Comment – This Item Only
- 1:40 PM 8. **Multi-season Deer and Elk Tags and Special Permits– Briefing and Public Comment** *20 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission about clarifying language to the multiple season and big game permits, as well as changes to the hunter education instructor incentive permits.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager

Public Comment – This Item Only

- 2:00 PM 9. **Deer General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Comment** 40 min
 Staff will brief the Commission on deer general seasons and special permits.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 2:40 PM **Break** 15 min
- 2:55 PM 10. **Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Comment** 30 min
 Staff will brief the Commission on Elk general seasons and special permits.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 3:25 PM 11. **Hunting Boundaries and Equipment – Briefing and Public Comment** 30 min
 Staff will brief the Commission hunting boundaries and equipment.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 3:55 PM 12. **Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Briefing and Public Comment** 40 min
 Staff will brief the Commission on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 4:35 PM 13. **Permits and Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease – Briefing and Public Comment** 20 min
 Staff will brief the Commission on the proposal to abolish WAC 220-413-200.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 4:55 PM **Recess**
- SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020**
- 8:00 AM 14. **Cougar Rules – Briefing, Public Comment** 60 min
 Staff will brief the Commission on options to choose from relating to recreational cougar harvest guidelines.
 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Game Division Manager
Public Comment – This Item Only
- 9:00 AM 15. **Open Public Input** 60 min
 The Commission is a direct link between the citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. **NOTE:** During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that do not already have public input time on the agenda.
- 10:00 AM **Break** 15 min

- 10:15 AM 16. **Hatchery Policy C-3619 Review– Briefing, Public Comment** *45 min*
Staff will provide the Commission with the remaining schedule and process in the hatchery policy review. The Commission will discuss next steps subsequent to the workshop on March 12.

Staff Report: Laurie Peterson, Fish Program Science Division Manager; Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy.

Public Comment – This Item Only

- 10:55 AM 17. **Future Meeting Planning – Discussion** *30 min*
Commissioners and staff will discuss upcoming meetings and conference calls and adopt a tentative draft agenda for the next Commission meeting.

- 11:25 AM 18. **Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief** *15 min*
The Commission will discuss items that arise immediately before or during the meeting and after the preliminary agenda is published.

- 11:40 AM **Adjourn**

***Times on the agenda are approximate,
the Commission may adjust the agenda to meet scheduling needs. ***

MEMBERS

Contact the Commission office with questions at (360) 902-2267, or by email to commission@dfw.wa.gov

Larry Carpenter, Chair, Mount Vernon
(Western Washington position, Skagit County)
Occupation: Retired Business Owner
Term: 08/14/2017 - 10/31/2020

Barbara Baker, Vice-Chair, Olympia
(At-large position, Thurston County)
Occupation: Attorney/Retired Administrator
Term: 01/17/2017 - 12/31/2022

Jim Anderson, Buckley
(At-large position, Pierce County)
Occupation: Retired Administrator
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

David Graybill, Leavenworth
(Eastern Washington position, Chelan County)
Occupation: Owner FishingMagician.com LLC
Term: 03/23/2015 – 12/31/2020

Robert Kehoe, Seattle
(At-large position, King County)
Occupation: Executive Director, Purse Seine
Vessel Owners' Association
Term: 01/01/2015 – 12/31/2020

Molly Linville, Palisades
(Eastern Washington position, Douglas County)
Occupation: Cattle Rancher/Farmer
KV Ranch
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

Donald McIsaac, Ph.D., Hockinson
(Western Washington Position, Clark County)
Occupation: Retired Executive Director of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council; Part-time
Consultant
Term: 08/14/2017 – 12/31/2022

Kim Thorburn, MD, MPH, Spokane
(Eastern Washington position, Spokane County)
Occupation: Retired Public Health Physician
Term: 01/23/2017 - 12/31/2022

Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham
(Western Washington position, Whatcom County)
Occupation: Dean Emeritus, Environmental
Science
Western Washington University
Term: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2020

Contact the Commission Office with questions and to identify special accommodation needs:
Phone (360) 902-2267; TTY (800) 833-6388, Email: commission@dfw.wa.gov.
Meeting agendas, audio transcripts, changes to the meeting calendar, updates and additional materials are available for
viewing electronically by clicking on the following link:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/>



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Commission

MEETING via CONFERENCE CALL Agenda

WHEN: Friday, February 21, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.

WHAT:

A. Petition –Whatcom Creek– Decision

Staff will brief the Commission on a petition to amend a rule that changes the current Statewide min. size/daily limit on Whatcom Creek from Woburn Street Bridge to Racine St. Foot Bridge to -Single point hook - Catch and Release – Fly Fishing only - Year-Round.

Staff report: Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager

B. Future Meeting Planning

The Commissioners will discuss upcoming meeting agendas.

C. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director will discuss recent activities and items of interest.

***WHERE:**

This meeting will take place by telephone conference call. The public may listen to the discussion. Please contact Commission staff at (360) 902-2267 or commission@dfw.wa.gov to obtain call in information no later than 3 p.m. on February 20, 2020

Upcoming Meetings

March 12-14, 2020– meeting (Kennewick)

March 27, 2020 – conference call

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(Western Washington position, Skagit County)
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Western Washington University
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COMMISSION OFFICE

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Additional meetings and/or conference calls may be scheduled as deemed necessary by the Commission. All meetings and conference calls are recorded and open to the public, except during Executive Sessions. Changes to the meeting schedule, agendas and additional materials are found on the Commission's website at:
<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/commission/meetings.html>