

**AGENDA ITEM #5**  
**PROPOSED LAND TRANSACTIONS**  
December 2021

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## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

12/3/2021

**Agenda item #5:**

Proposed Land Transactions

**Presenter(s):**

Karen Edwards – Real Estate Manager

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**Background summary:**

**Item 1: Proposed Acquisition of 290(+/-) acres in Yakima County – Cowiche Watershed**

This proposal of the Trepanier property is to acquire 290(+/-) acres of intact, quality shrub steppe habitat. The property links two existing Department of Fish and Wildlife Area Units within the Oak Creek WLA; Cowiche and Oak Creek, and will be added to the Oak Creek WLA management plan. This property is significant for both mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk. The property will complement the current management strategy and greatly increase public recreational opportunities, including hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and equestrian use.

Approved through Lands 20/20 in 2014 with a portion added earlier this year, the property appraised at a value of \$220,000 which will be provided through a Critical Habitat grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been a close partner on this project.

**Item 2: Proposed Acquisition of a 34(+/-) acre Conservation Easement in Thurston County – Oregon Spotted Frog**

This proposal on the Rogers property is to acquire a 34(+/-) acre conservation easement providing wetland habitat for Oregon spotted frog, a federally threatened and Washington State endangered species. Oregon Spotted frog need shallow wetlands and marshes for breeding and oviposition (egg laying) sites. This property has been evaluated and has excellent quality habitat for this purpose and, has Allen creek running through it which is a deep water channel important for Oregon Spotted frog escape.

Approved through Lands 20/20 in 2017, the appraised value of this conservation easement is \$290,000 which will be provided through a Critical Habitat grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommend approval of these land transactions.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

Protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

Operations and Maintenance costs and payment in lieu of taxes for item #1. Conservation easement monitoring costs for item #2.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Approval of these land transactions as presented.

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**Draft motion language:**

Motion: I move to approve the land transactions as presented by staff.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

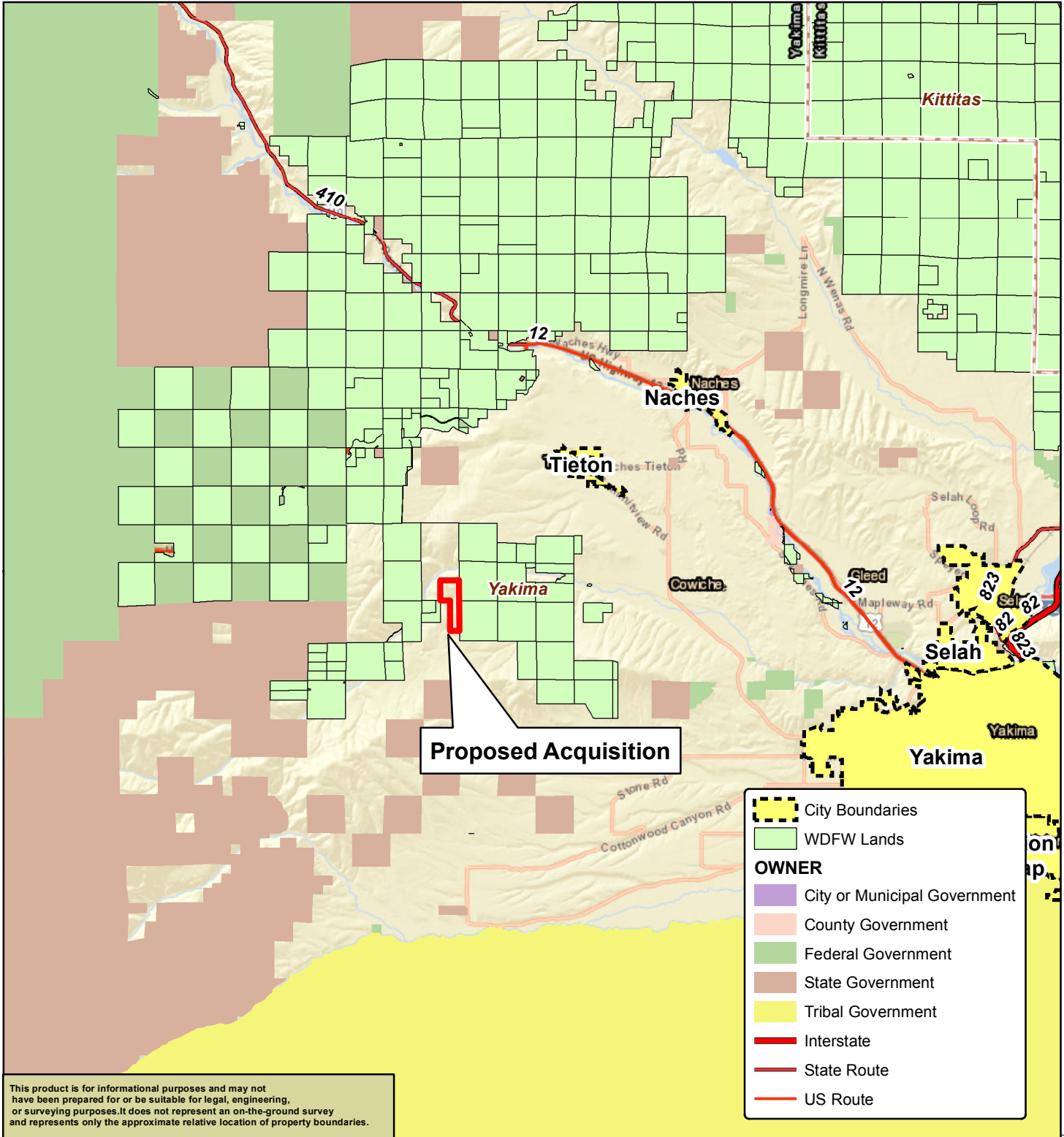
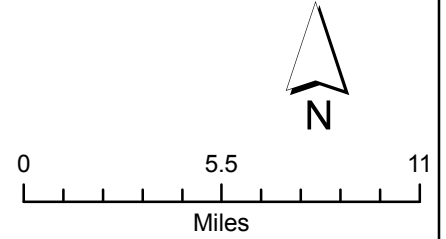
WDFW will distribute a press release informing the public of these actions.

# ITEM 1: PROPOSED ACQUISITION, COWICHE WATERSHED

**YAKIMA COUNTY**

**LEGAL: SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 14N, RANGE 16E, W.M.  
SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 13N, 16E, W.M.**

**ACRES: 290 (+/-)**



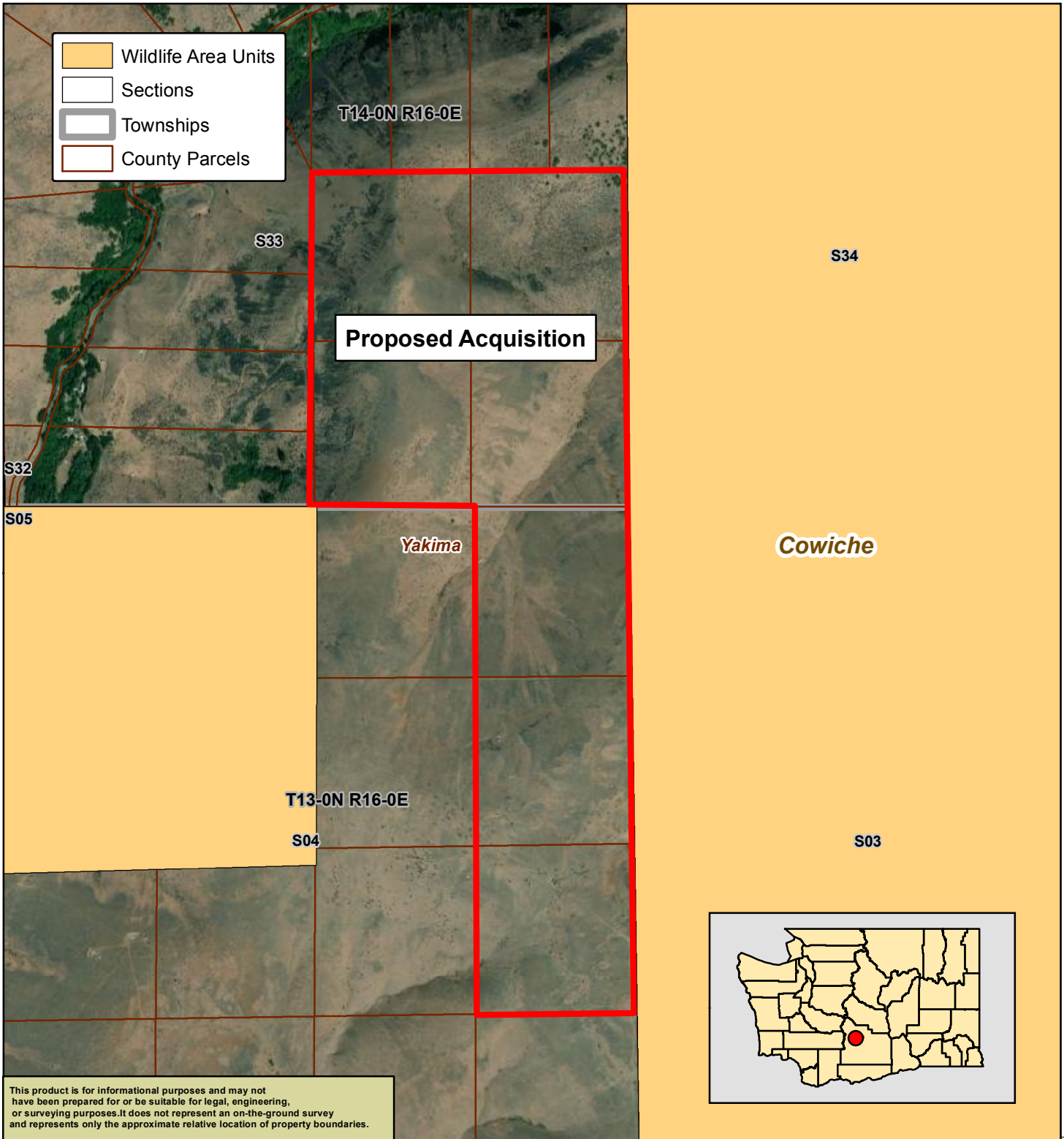
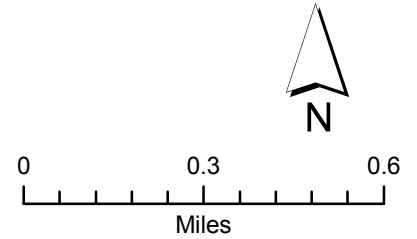
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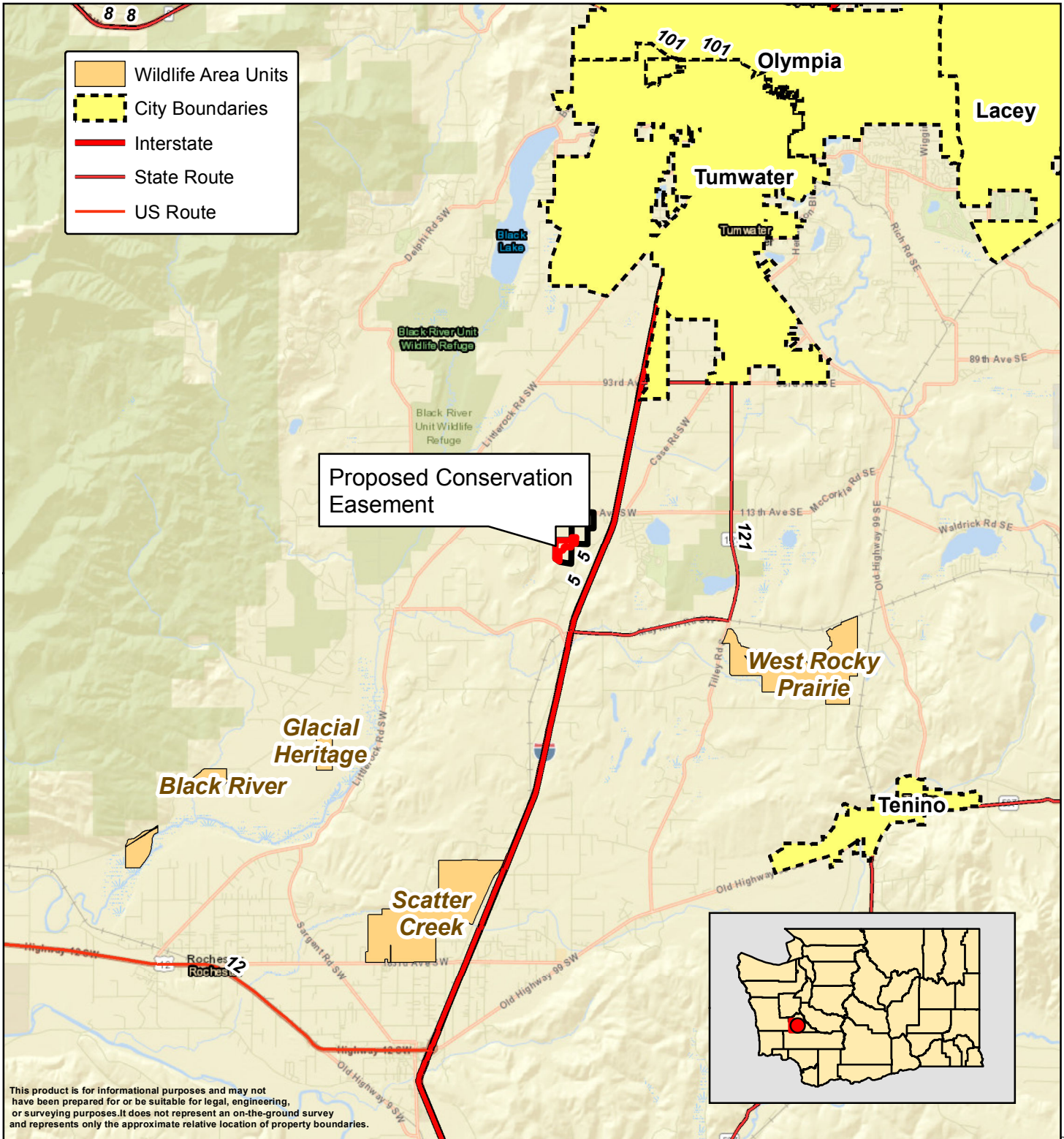
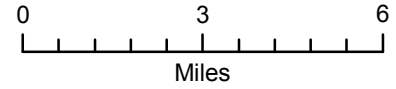


# ITEM 2: PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENT, OREGON SPOTTED FROG

THURSTON COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 17N, RANGE 2W, W.M.

ACRES: 34



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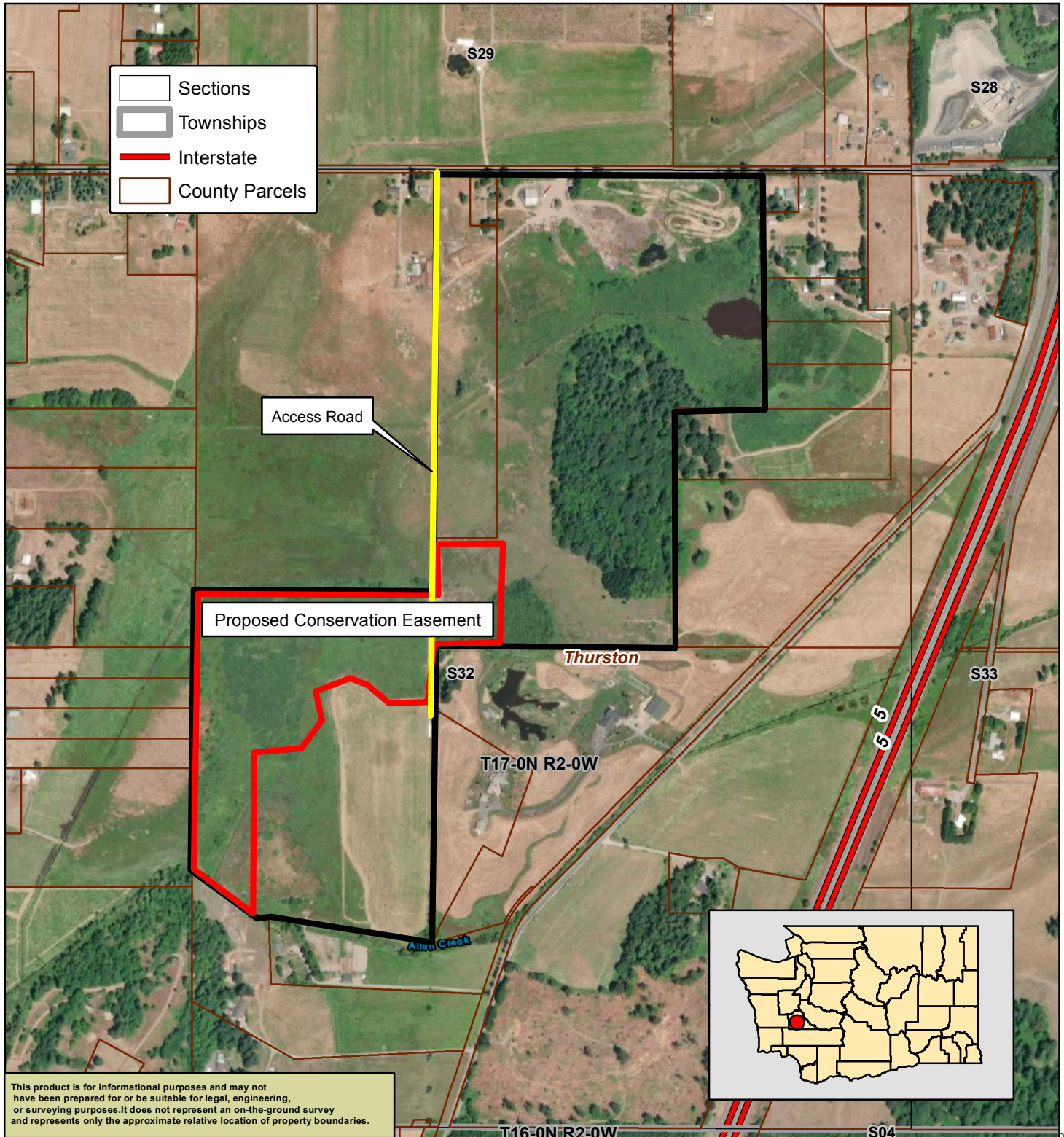
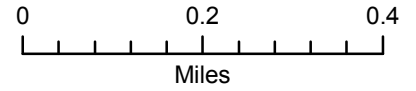


# ITEM 2: PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENT OREGON SPOTTED FROG

## THURSTON COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 17N, RANGE 2W, W.M.

ACRES: 34



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