Land use planning in Washington State

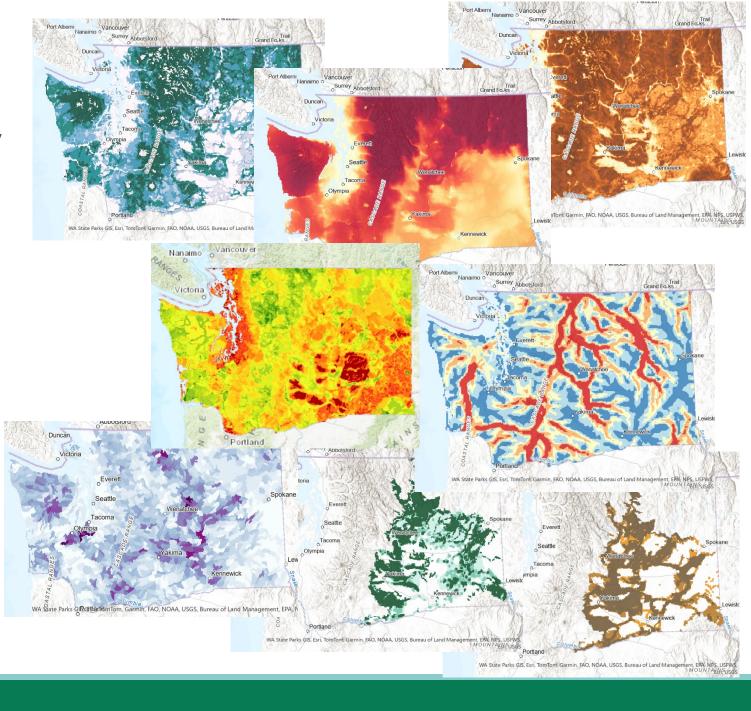
- Washington state code clearly provides language to support identifying and protecting connectivity through land use planning.
- Multiple tools, policies, and approaches exist.

- How does WAHCAP help?
- What more do we need?

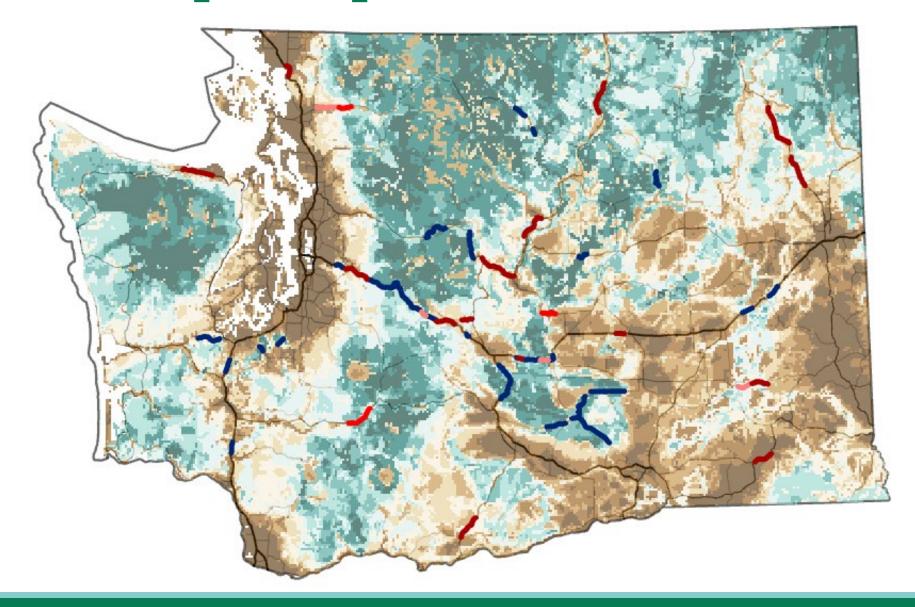
WAHCAP

Connectivity values

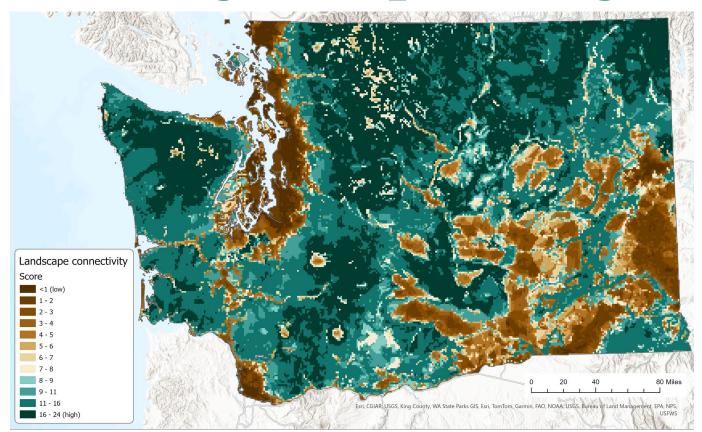
- 1. Ecosystem (structural) connectivity
- 2. Network importance
- 3. Local landscape permeability
- 4. Focal species models
- 5. Existing prioritizations ALI-BAC
- 6. Existing prioritizations WSRRI
- 7. Species of greatest conservation need
- 8. Climate connectivity



Provides spatial priorities





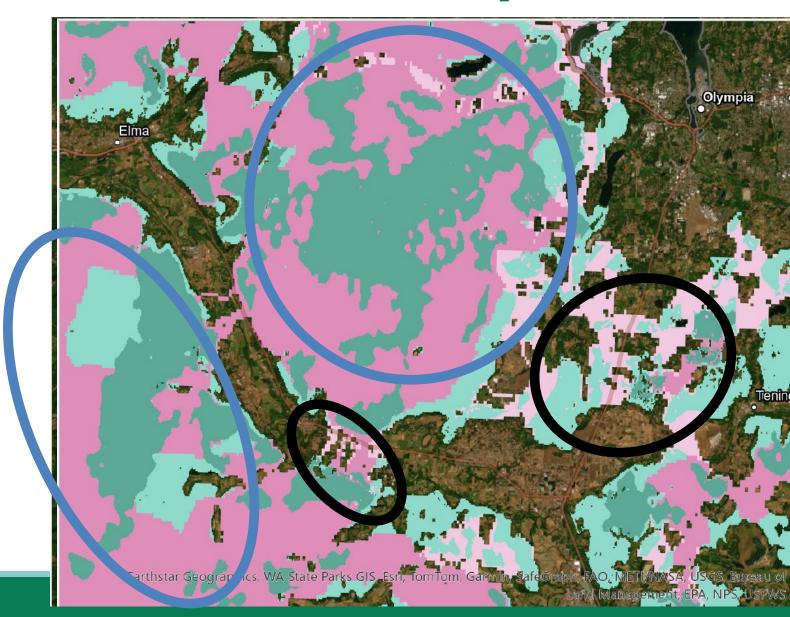


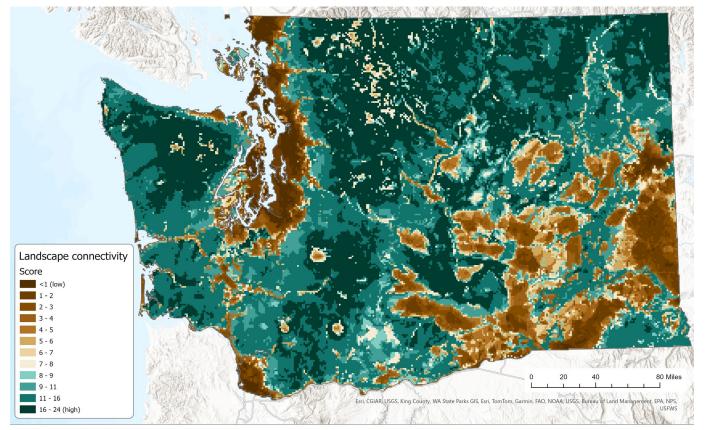


Diffuse vs. Channelized Connectivity

Diffuse: broadly permeable areas

Channelized: narrow bands of remnant habitat.

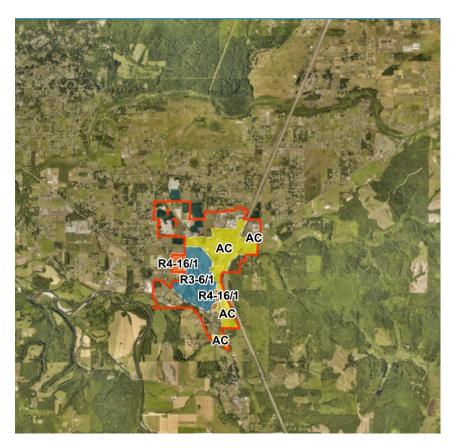


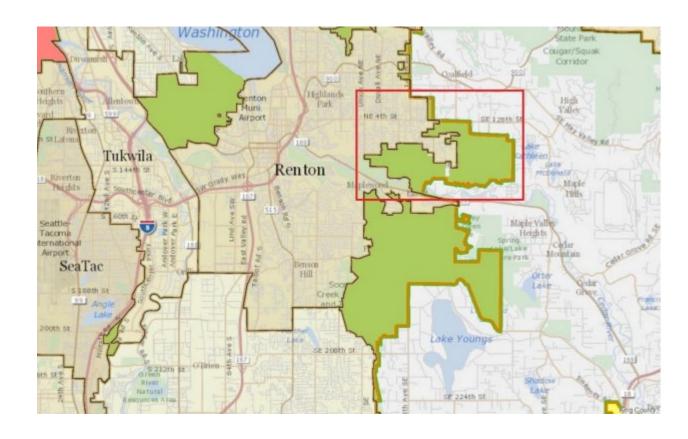


Examples:

- Urban Growth Boundaries
- Zoning
- Major project siting
- Mitigation bank siting

Expansion of Urban Growth Areas (RCW 36.70A.110)

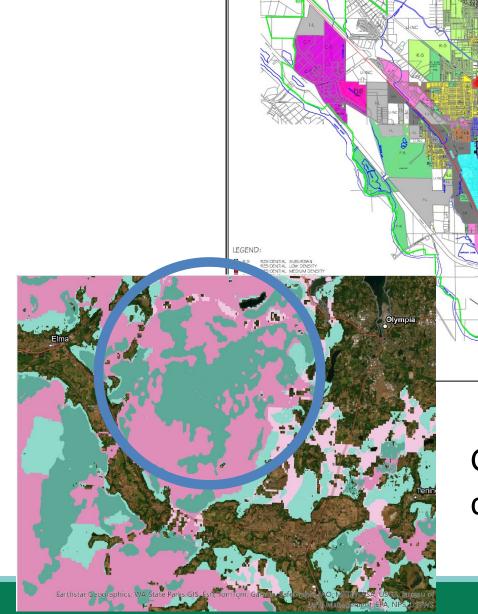




Review UGA expansion proposals and recommend AVOID expanding UGAs into high value connectivity areas.

Zoning, Rezoning, and Overlays

- AVOID "upzoning" high value connectivity areas for higher development densities.
- Zoning for resource use (e.g., agriculture and forestry) is often compatible with connectivity.
- Open space overlays can provide special protections.

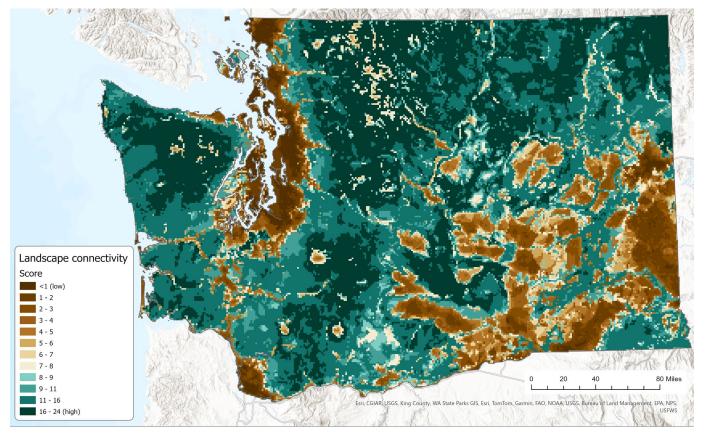


Good for diffuse connectivity!



Siting major projects

- High value connectivity areas are high priority for AVOID.
- Once a project is sited in these areas, impacts are extremely difficult to avoid, minimize, or mitigate.
- New WDFW Wind and Solar Guidelines coming soon!



Spatial considerations:

- Coarse resolution is ok
- Gradient
- Good for diffuse connectivity.

Pros: flexibility

Cons: where to draw the line?

Once a project is sited, design the project to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.

Example tools:

- Critical areas protections.
- Designate and protect corridors.
- Open space overlays.
- Conservation subdivisions. connectivity!



Once a project is sited, design the project to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.

Spatial data:

- Finer resolution
- Discrete boundaries provide clarity
- Gradients can provide flexibility





Ecosystem cores and corridor network.

3 Tiers of quality

Cores

Habitat Intactness

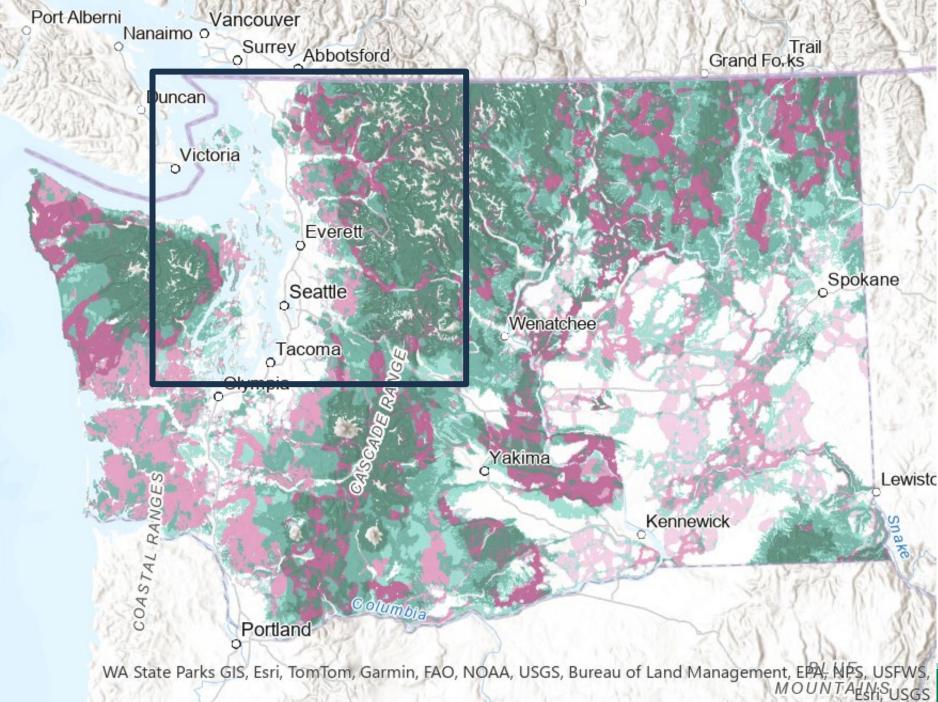
High Low

Corridors

Habitat Intactness

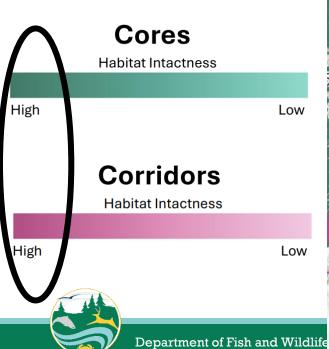
High Low

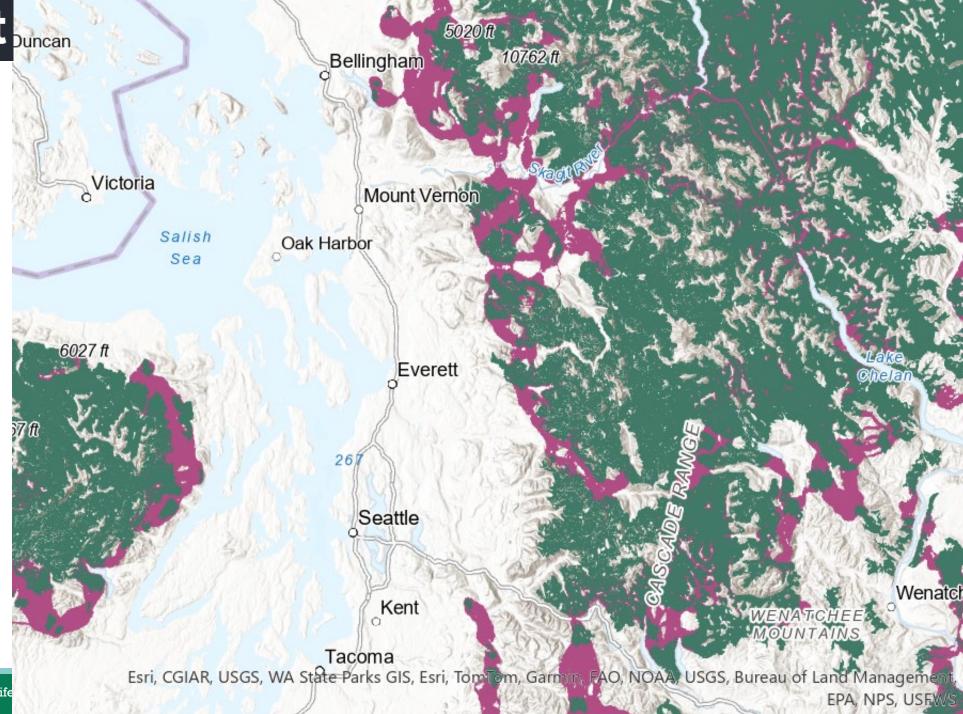






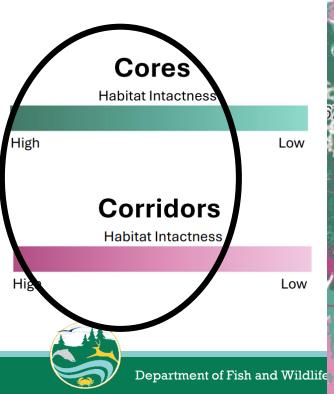
Tier l ecosystem

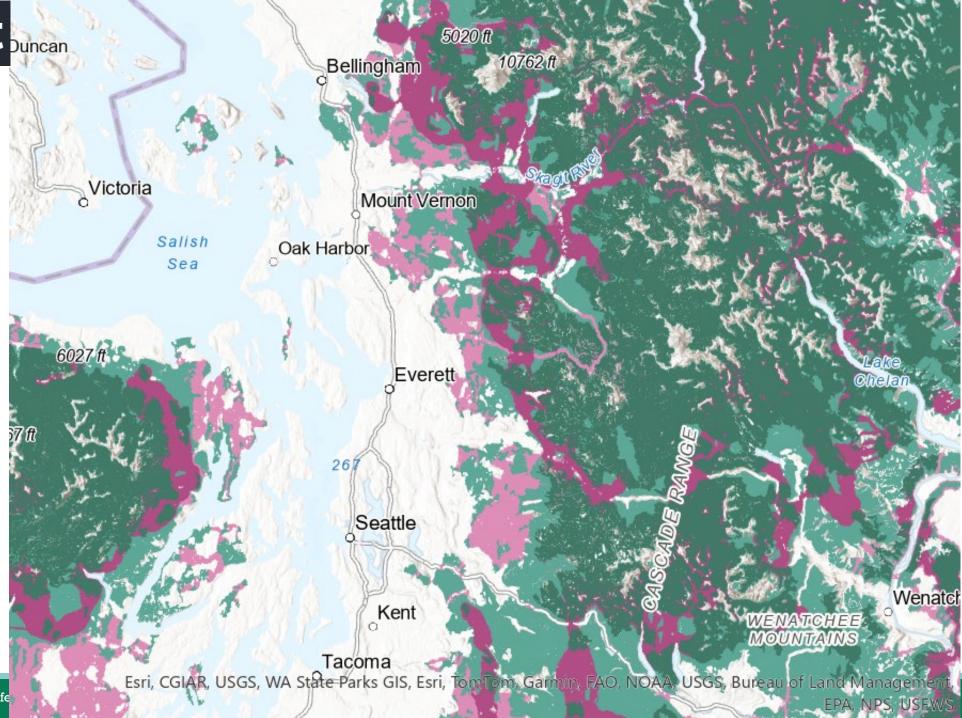




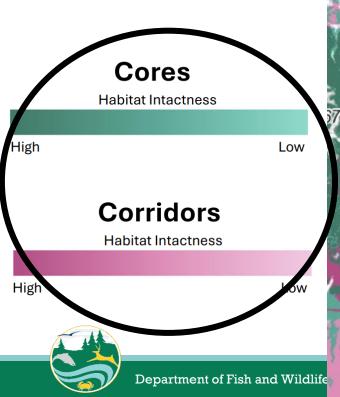
Terradapt

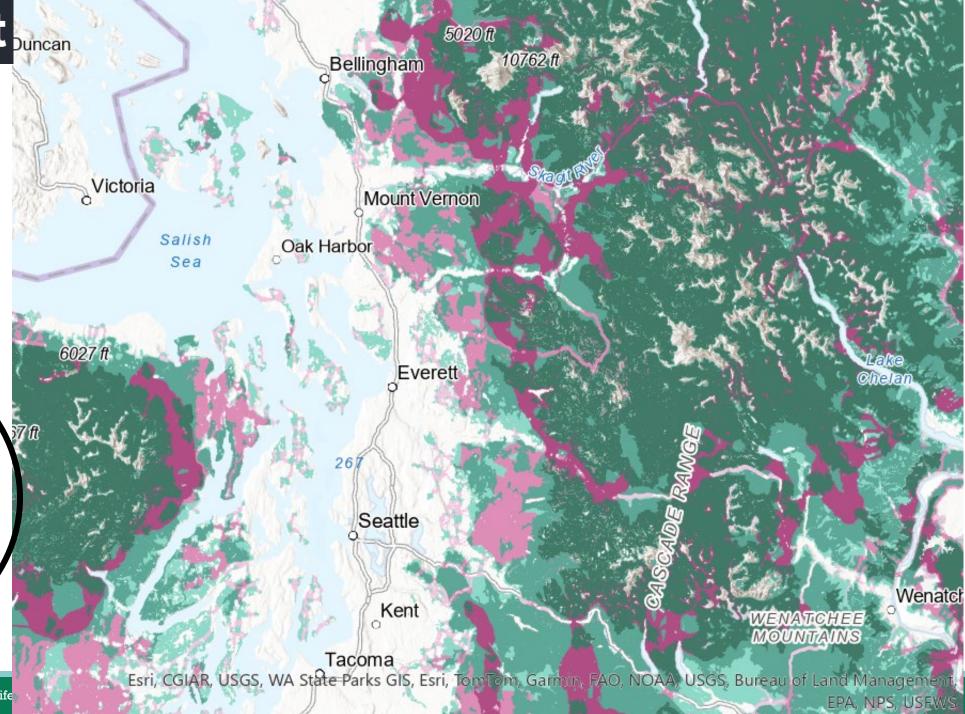
Tier 1 and 2 ecosystem





Tier 1, 2, and 3 ecosystem

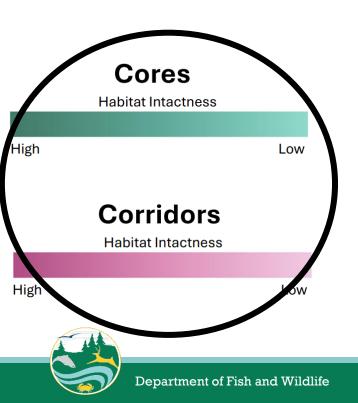


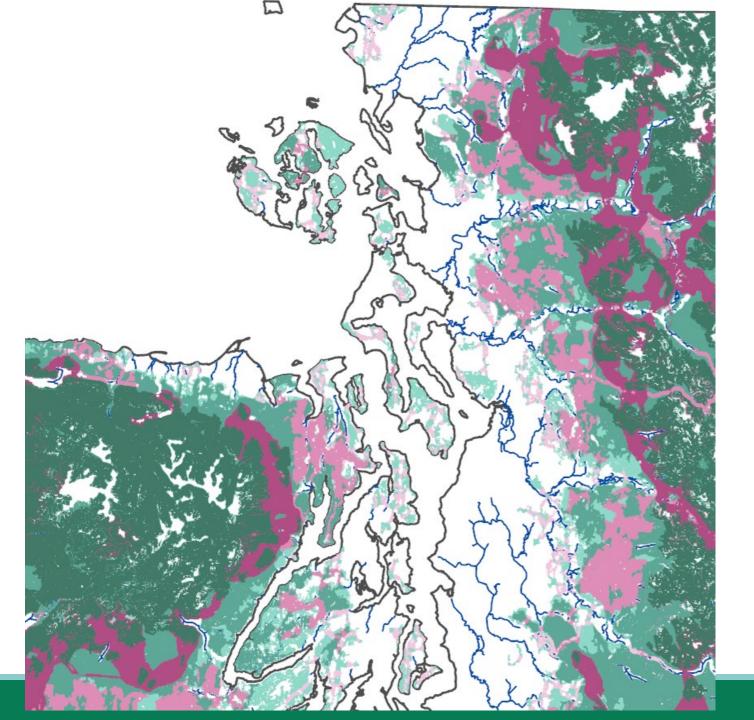


Terradapt

Tier 1, 2, and 3 ecosystem

+ Riparian

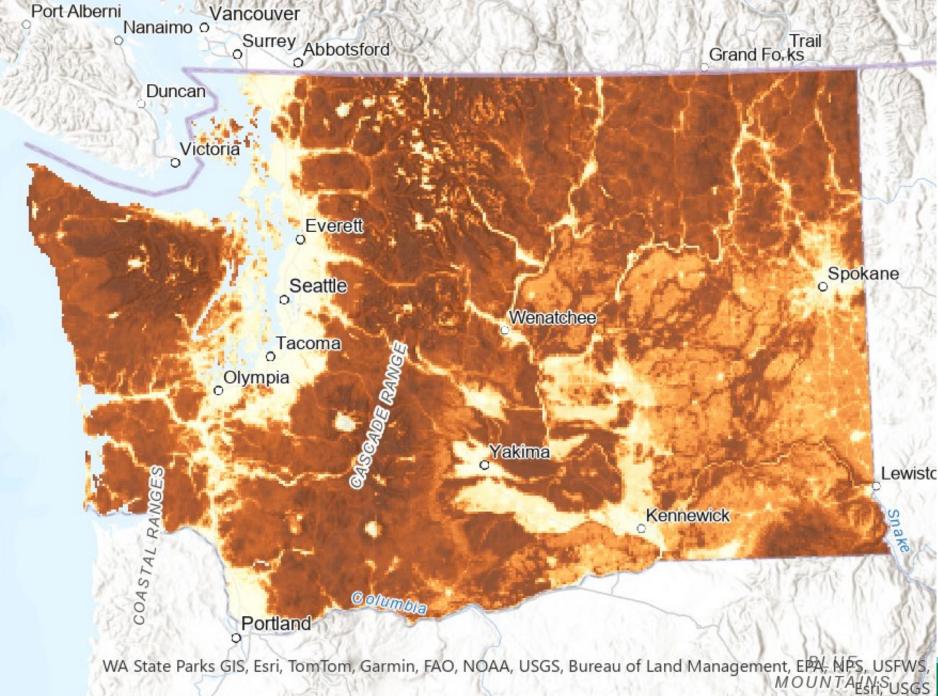






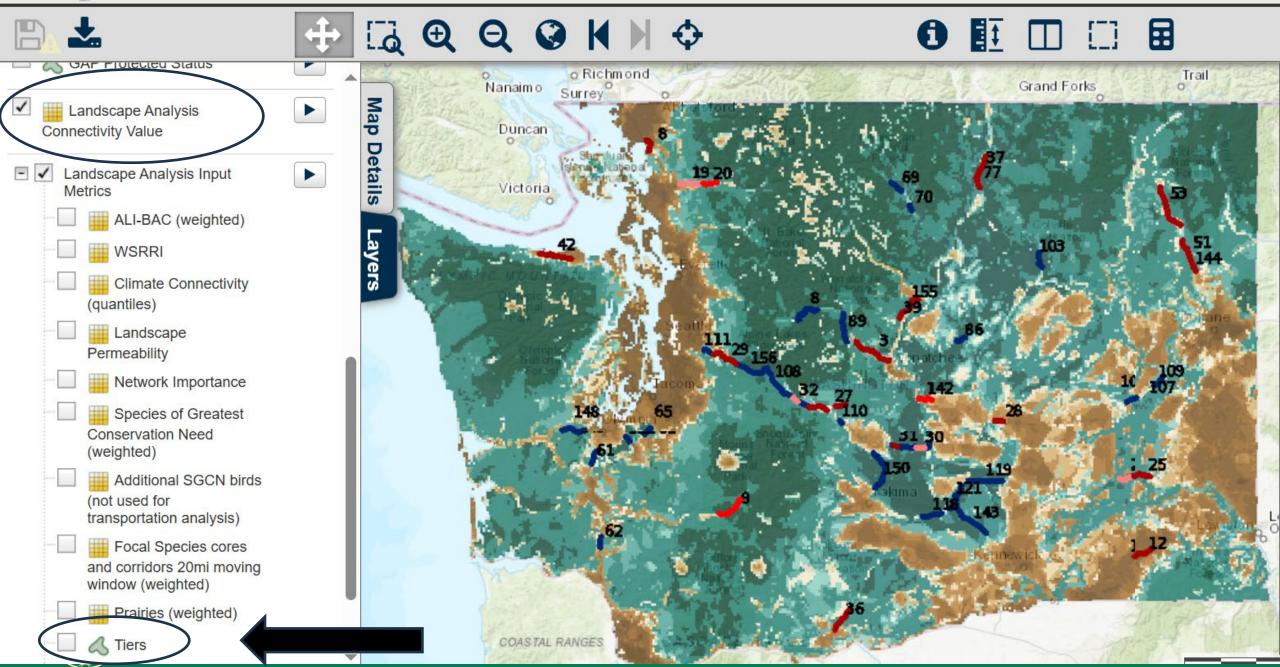
Local landscape permeability







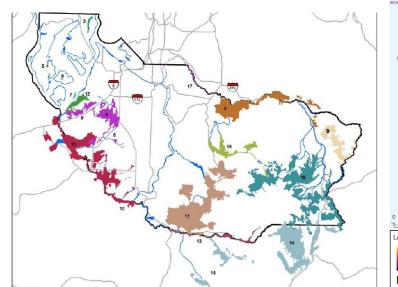


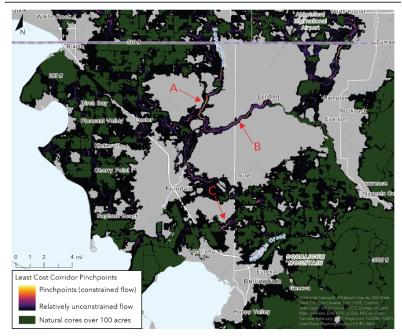


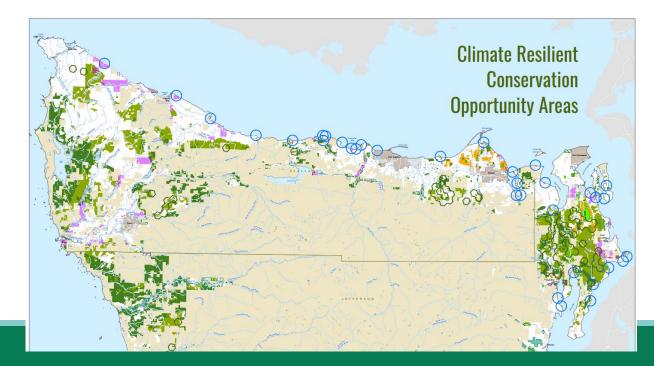
Recognizing and connecting with local plans

- Whatcom County
- City of Bellingham
- Jefferson Land Trust
- Pierce County
- ???

Not included in the spatial analysis – will be referenced in the report.





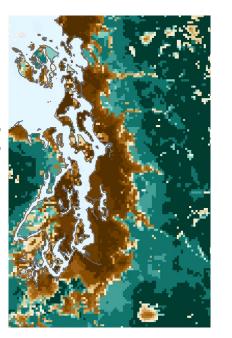


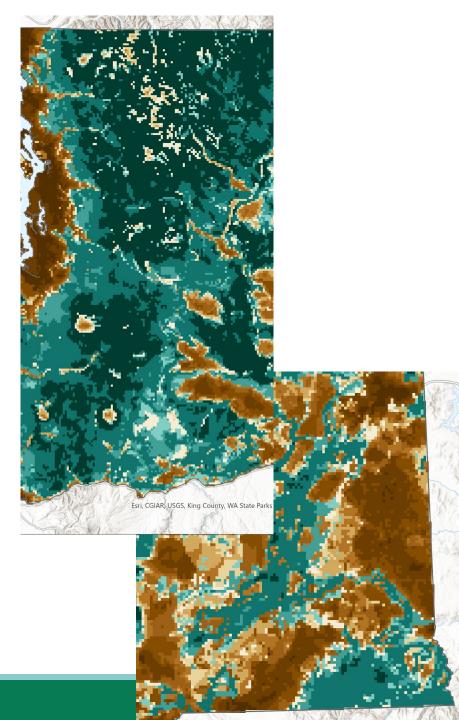


Challenges

Connectivity is important everywhere.

- Some places have too much, some too little.
 - Some places need prioritization within what is identified.
 - Others need expansion where nothing was identified.

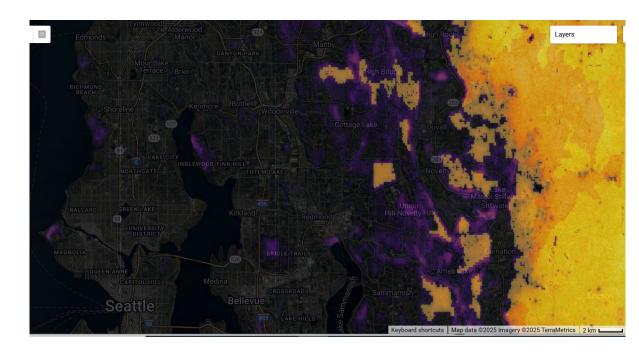


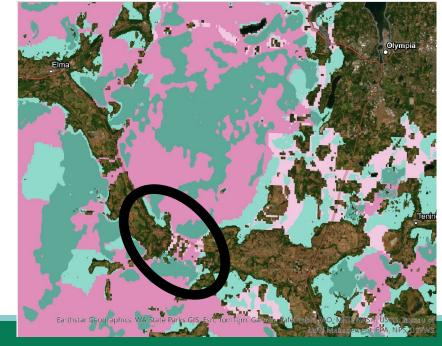


Challenges

 How to translate continuous connectivity values into discrete landscape units?

Models only get you so far.







WA Habitat
Connectivity Action
Plan
(WAHCAP)

WDFW working in partnership with cities and counties

- Literature review to identify critical thresholds.
- Refine definitions to be appropriate for Critical Areas context.
- Work with Counties to "downscale" WAHCAP maps.

Local scale corridor designation
Local and site scale guidance for
implementation



