

Island Unit Alternatives Analysis

Advisory Group Meeting #1

November 1, 2019



Presentation outline:

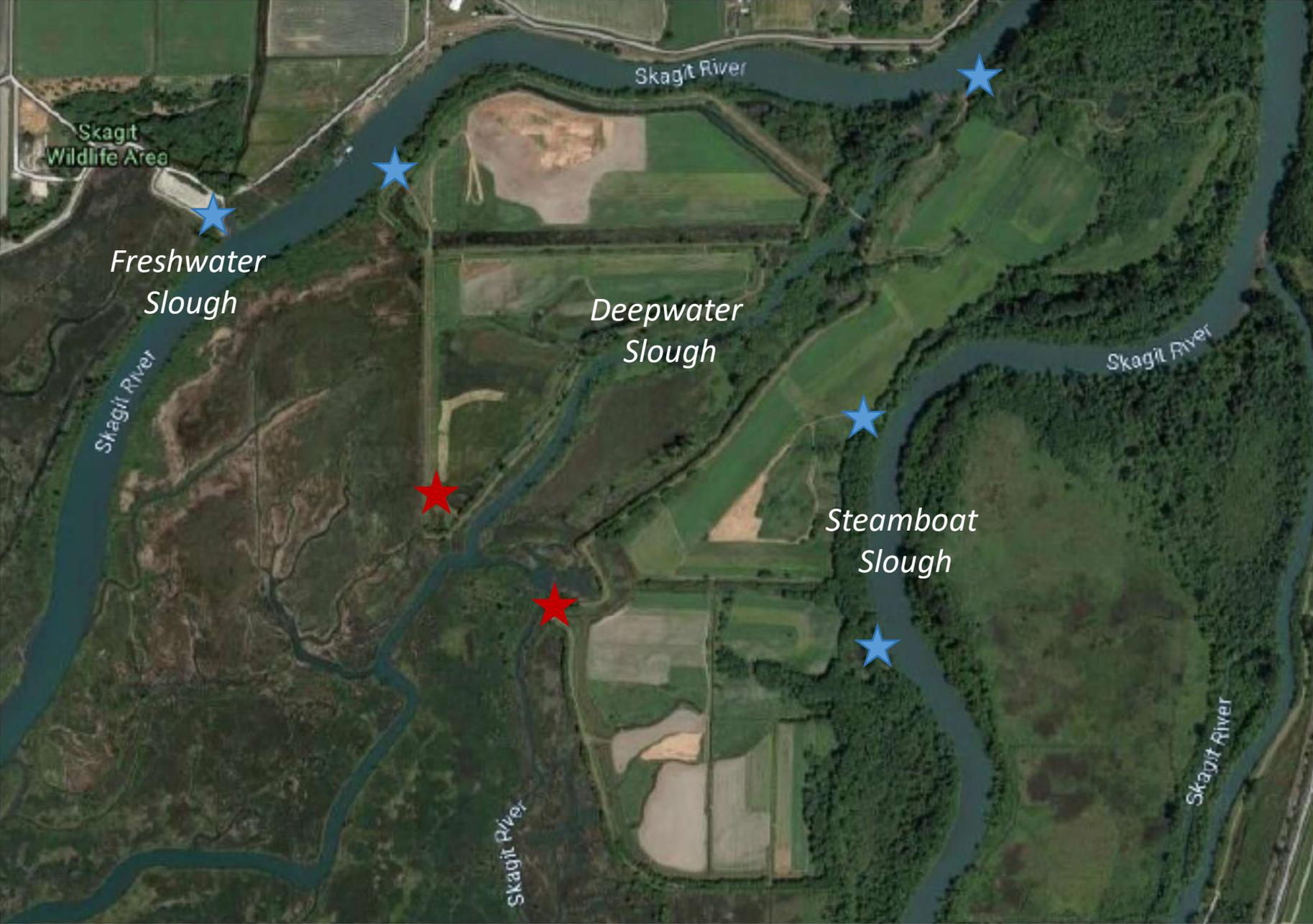
- Project overview and background
- Scope of the effort
- Why a stakeholder committee?
- Project goal and objectives
- Draft alternative concepts
- Considerations for comparing alts
 - topic areas
- Roundtable discussion and input from the group





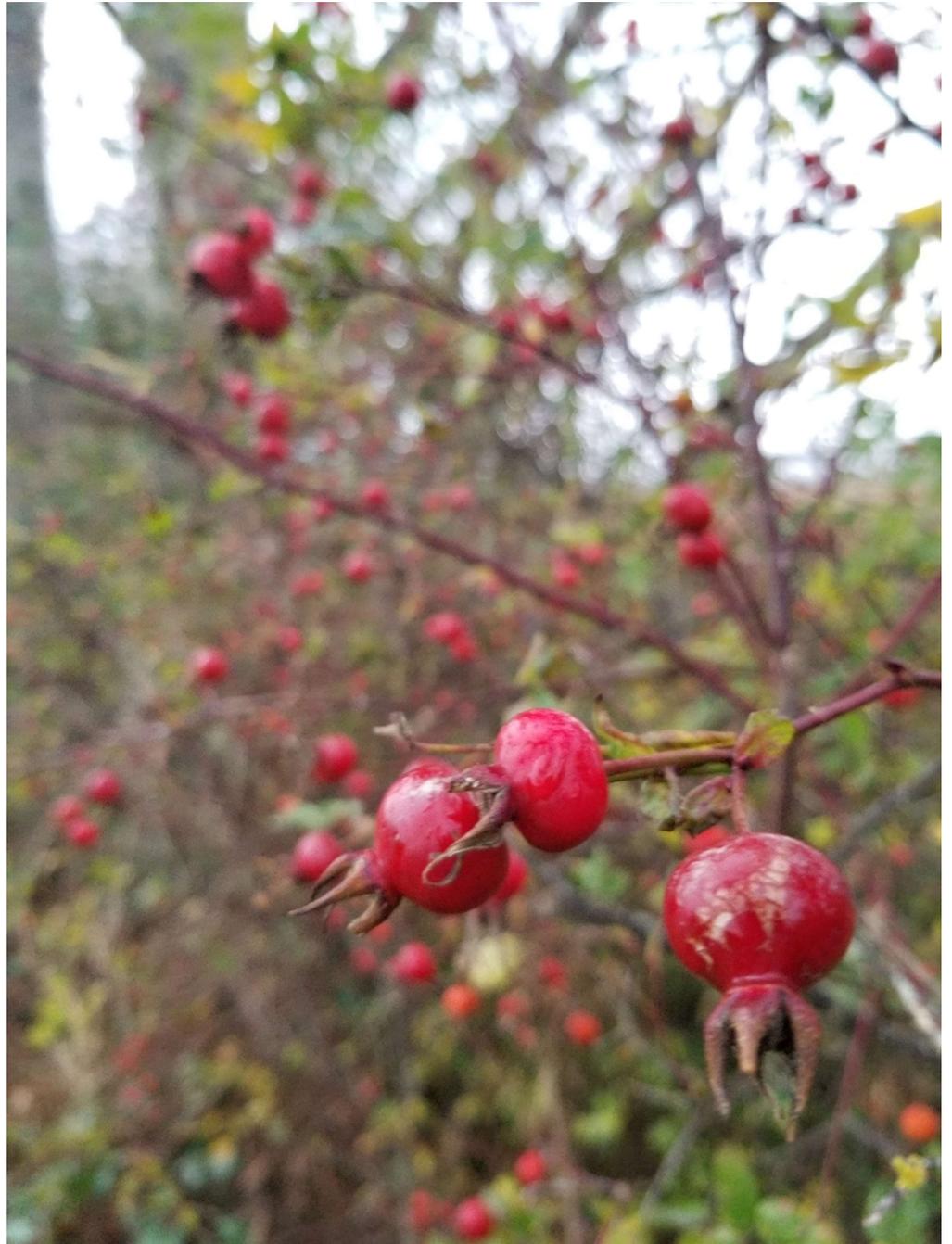
Island Unit within the Skagit Wildlife Area





WDFW Mission

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.



Purpose of department lands – WAC 220-500-010



The primary purpose of department lands is the preservation, protection, perpetuation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Public use of department lands may include fishing, hunting, fish and wildlife appreciation, and other outdoor recreational opportunities when compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations.



Skagit land management considerations

Landscape scale:

- Waterfowl conservation
- ESA-listed Chinook salmon/Orca recovery
- What are the needs of the species and desires of recreationists?
- Local values/ag

How and where do we put all the pieces together on the landscape while honoring local values?



Image: Marlin Greene, One Earth Images

Skagit land management considerations

Site scale:

- Funding obligations
- Aging/failing infrastructure (w/sea level rise)



What do we do about this, with landscape-scale needs in mind?



Scope of the effort

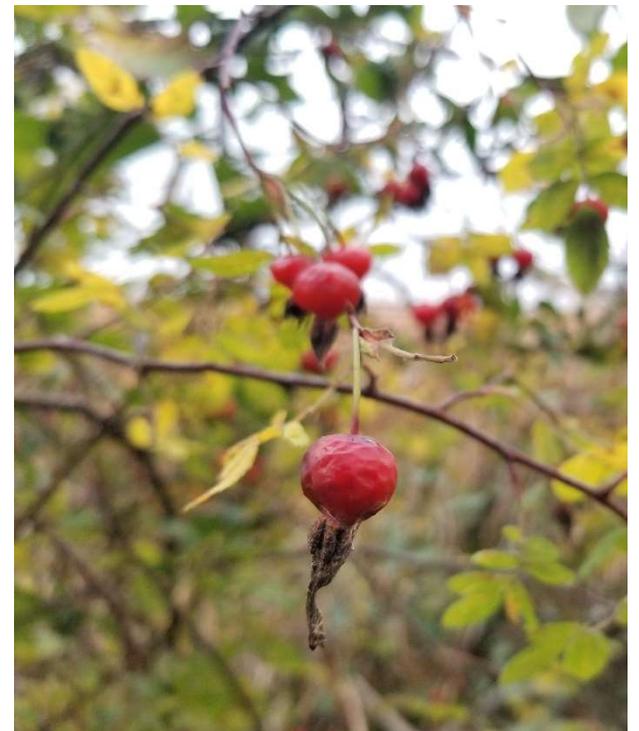
- Compile existing information
- Engage interested and affected parties
- Better understand implications of alternative choices
- Consider methods and opportunities to meet multiple objectives when possible
- WDFW decision



Scope of the effort (cont'd)

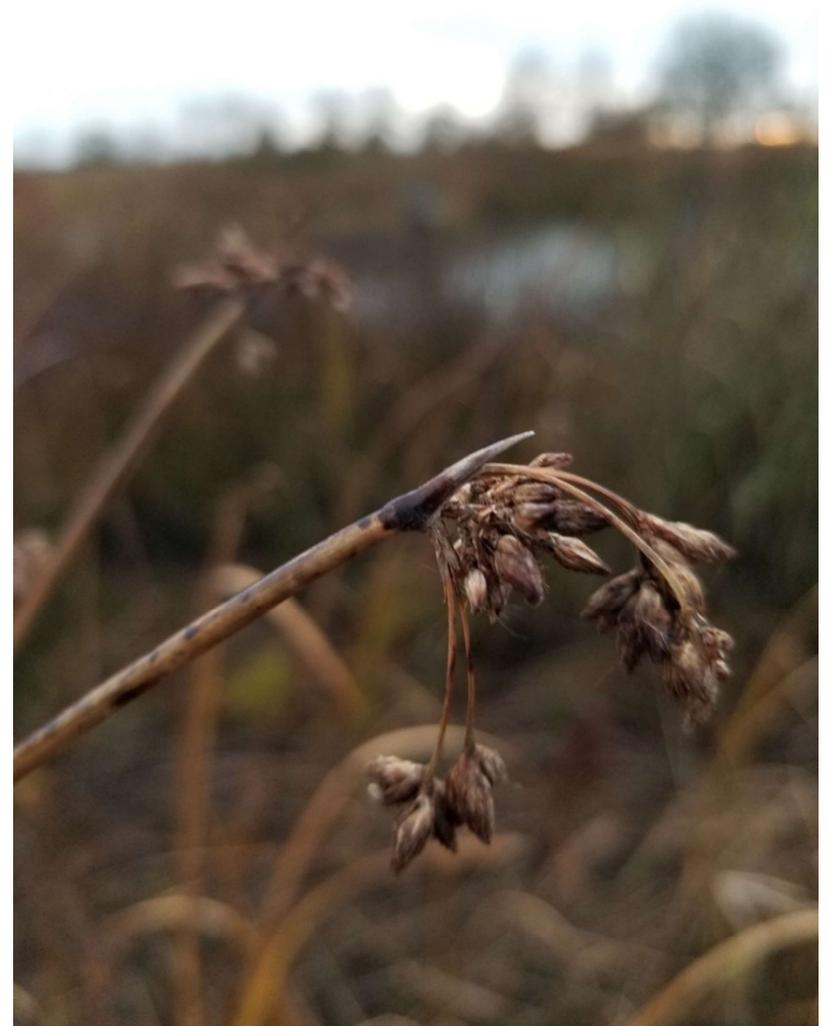
Engage interested & affected parties

- Hired third party facilitator (Ross Strategic)
- Convened advisory group
 - Stakeholder members
 - Ex officio members - tribes and governments
- Tribal outreach and coordination
- Opportunity for public comment



Why is WDFW convening an advisory group and asking for input?

- As a public agency, we communicate with stakeholders and others to:
 - better understand issues
 - identify solutions
 - create a more open and transparent process



What are we asking for from this advisory group?



- Time to do cross-interest learning; understand the whole picture
- Input on draft alternatives
- Input on draft criteria that will be used to compare alternatives
- Input on application of the criteria
- Ideas for maximizing multiple stakeholder values within each alternative.

WDFW Project Goal:

- Complete an alternatives analysis and select a preferred alternative.



Advisory Group-Related Objectives:

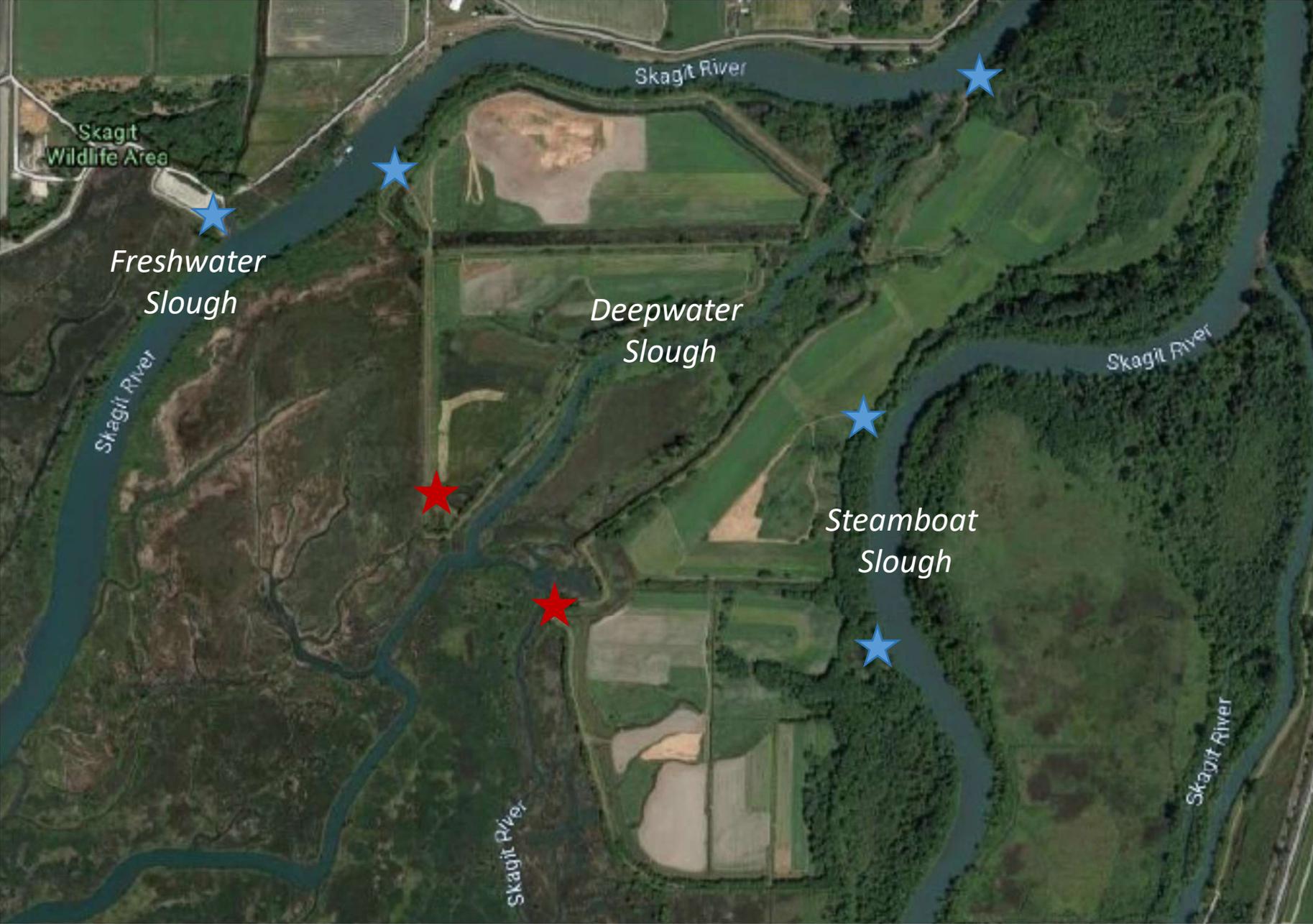
- Engage stakeholders, tribes, governments and the public in a meaningful review process.
- Work closely with the agricultural, hunting/outdoor recreation, and restoration communities to understand issues and identify solutions related to:
 - Salmon habitat needs
 - Waterfowl conservation
 - Hunting access and other recreational uses
 - Implication of actions on agriculture



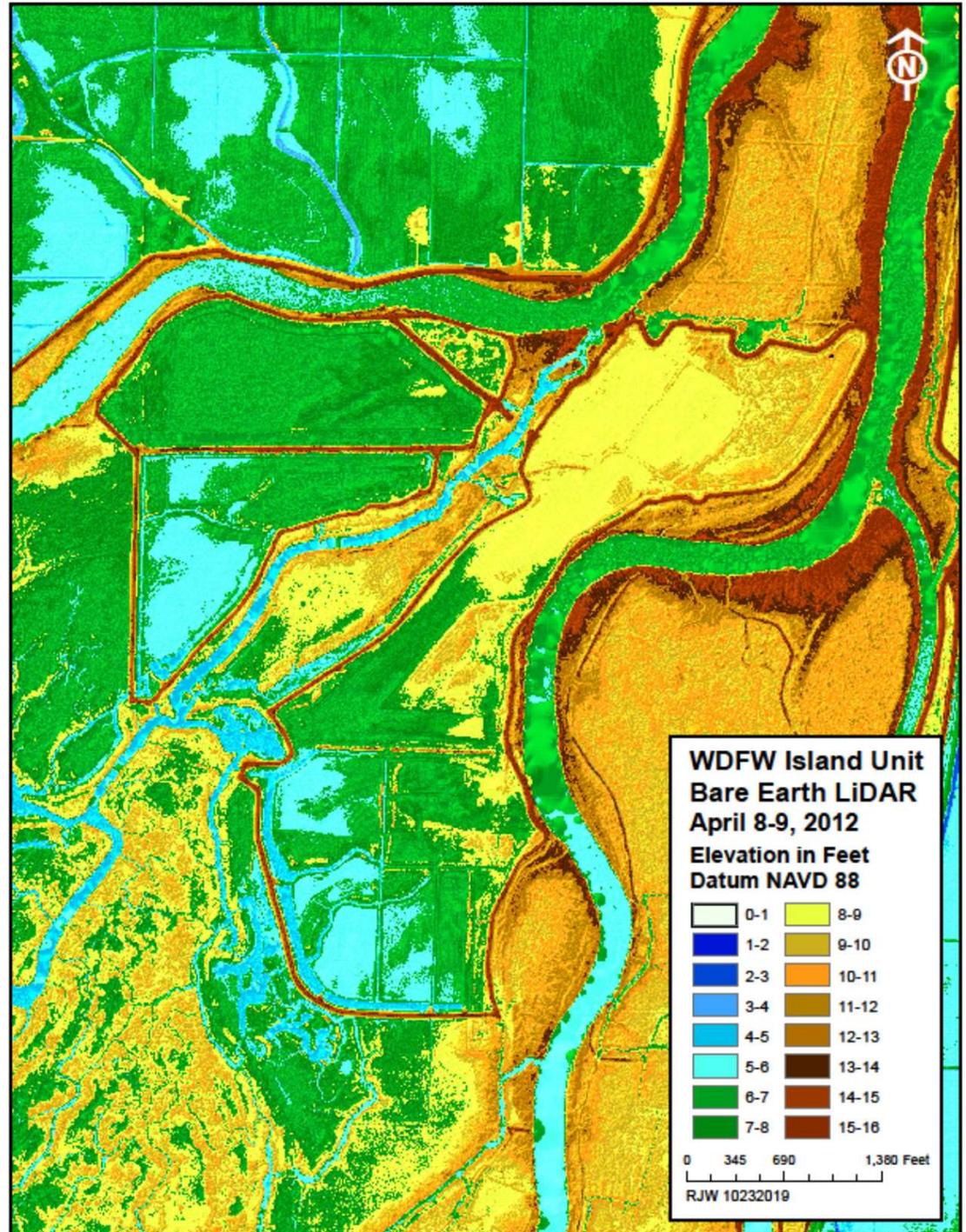
Development of draft alternatives

- No restoration and full restoration, plus 2 partial restoration concepts
- High level analysis; no detailed engineering



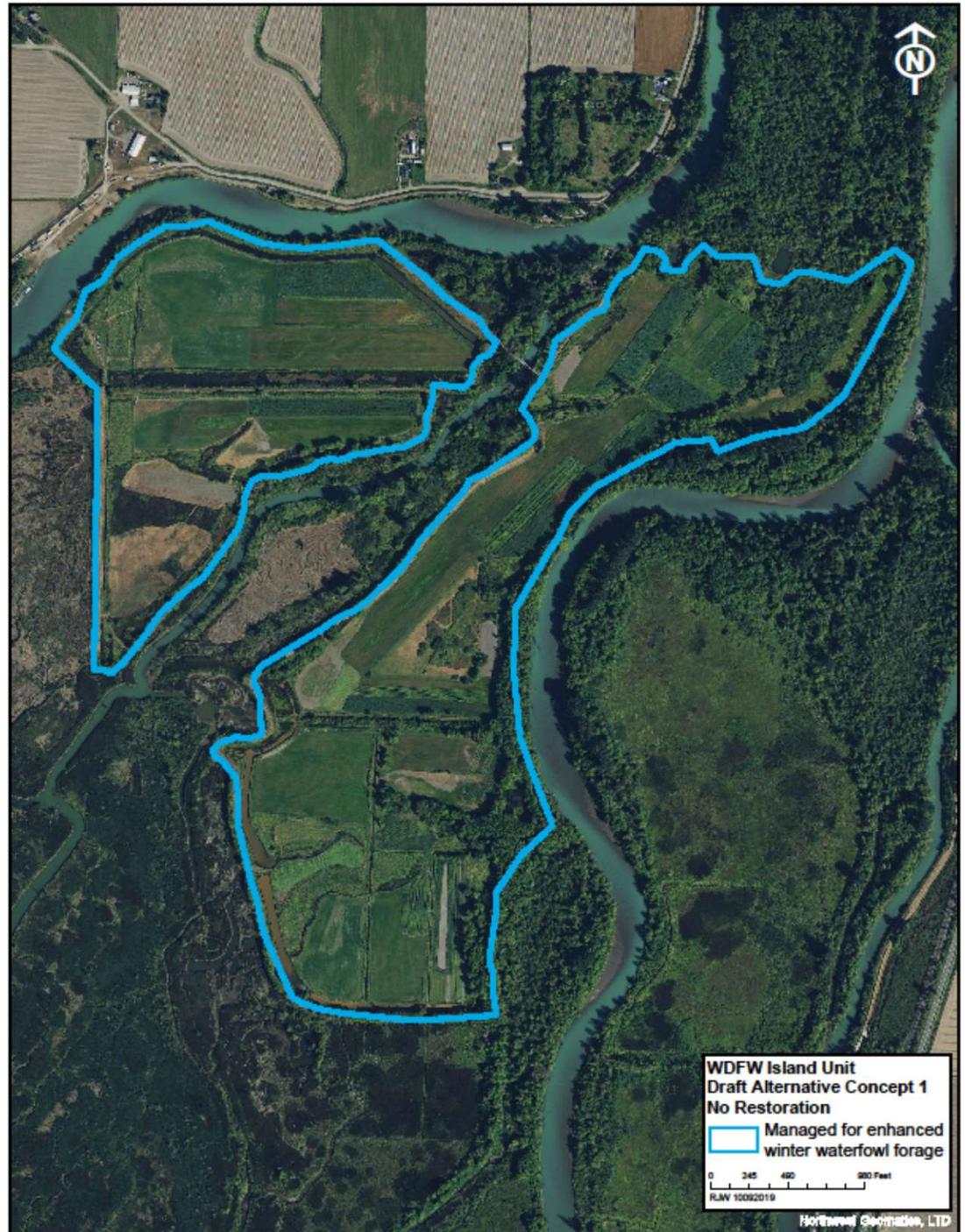


Elevation data



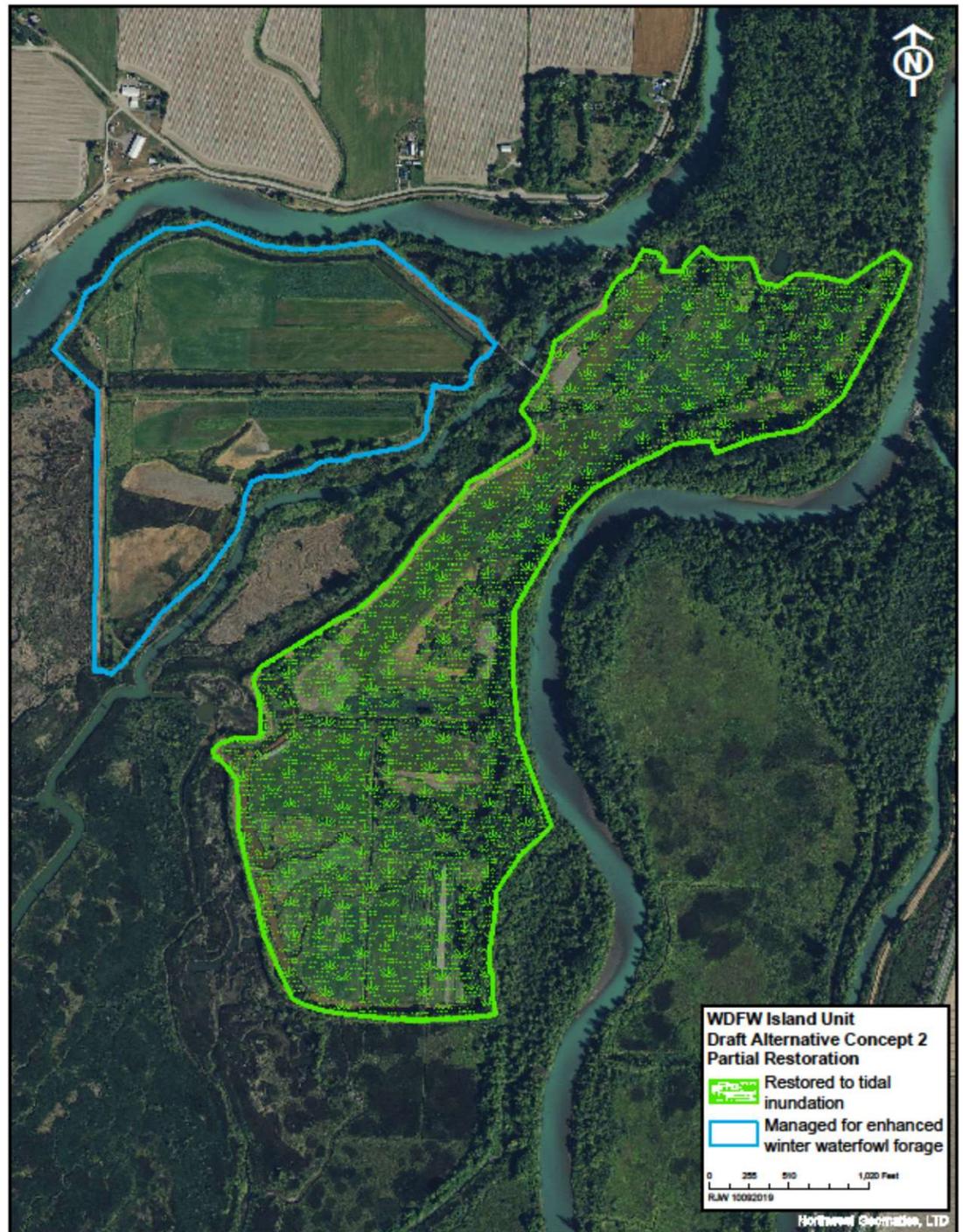
Draft Concept 1: no restoration

- 0 acres restored to estuary
- 270 acres maintained as enhanced winter waterfowl forage production



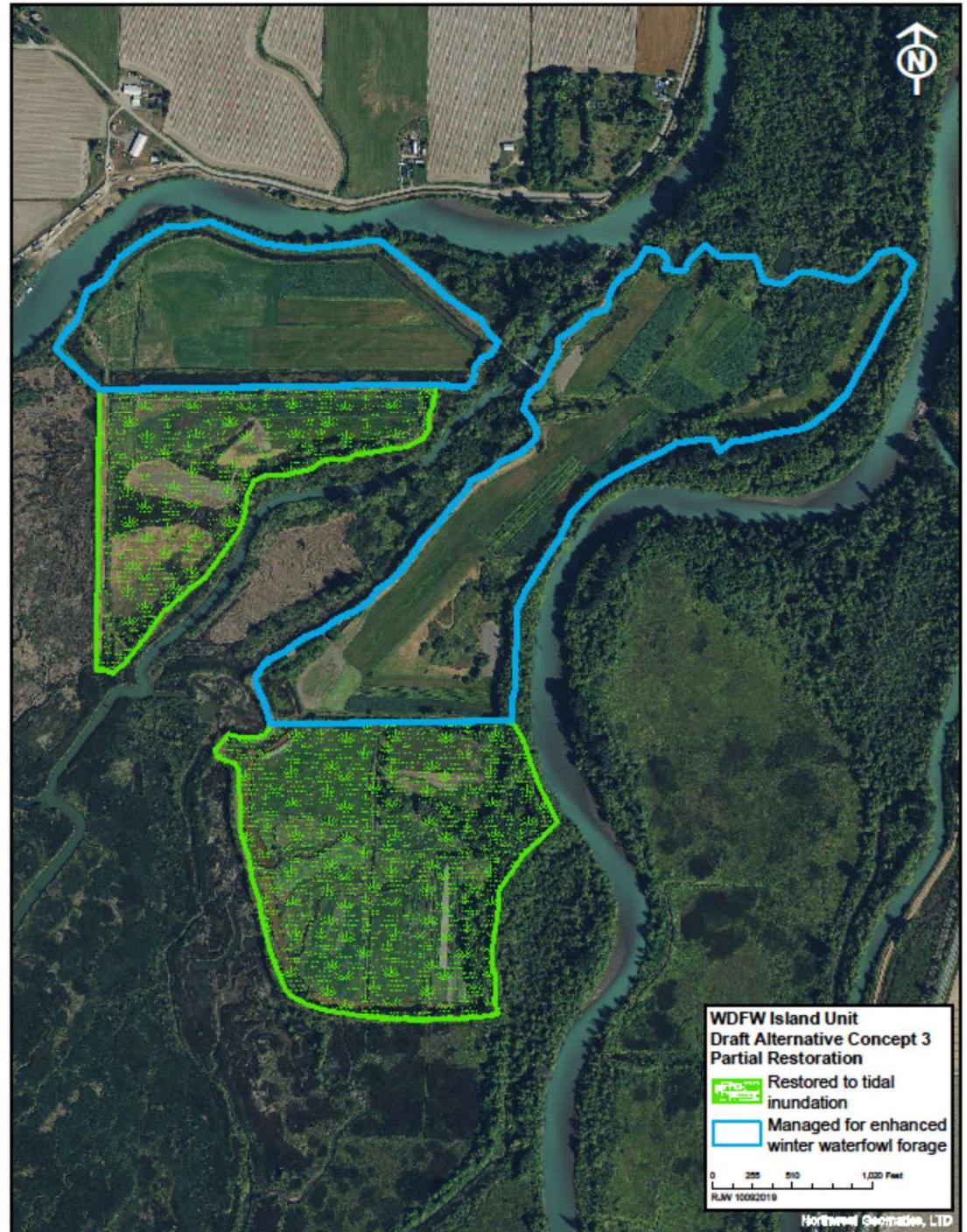
Draft Concept 2: Part. restoration

- 170 acres restored to estuary
- 100 acres maintained as enhanced winter waterfowl forage production



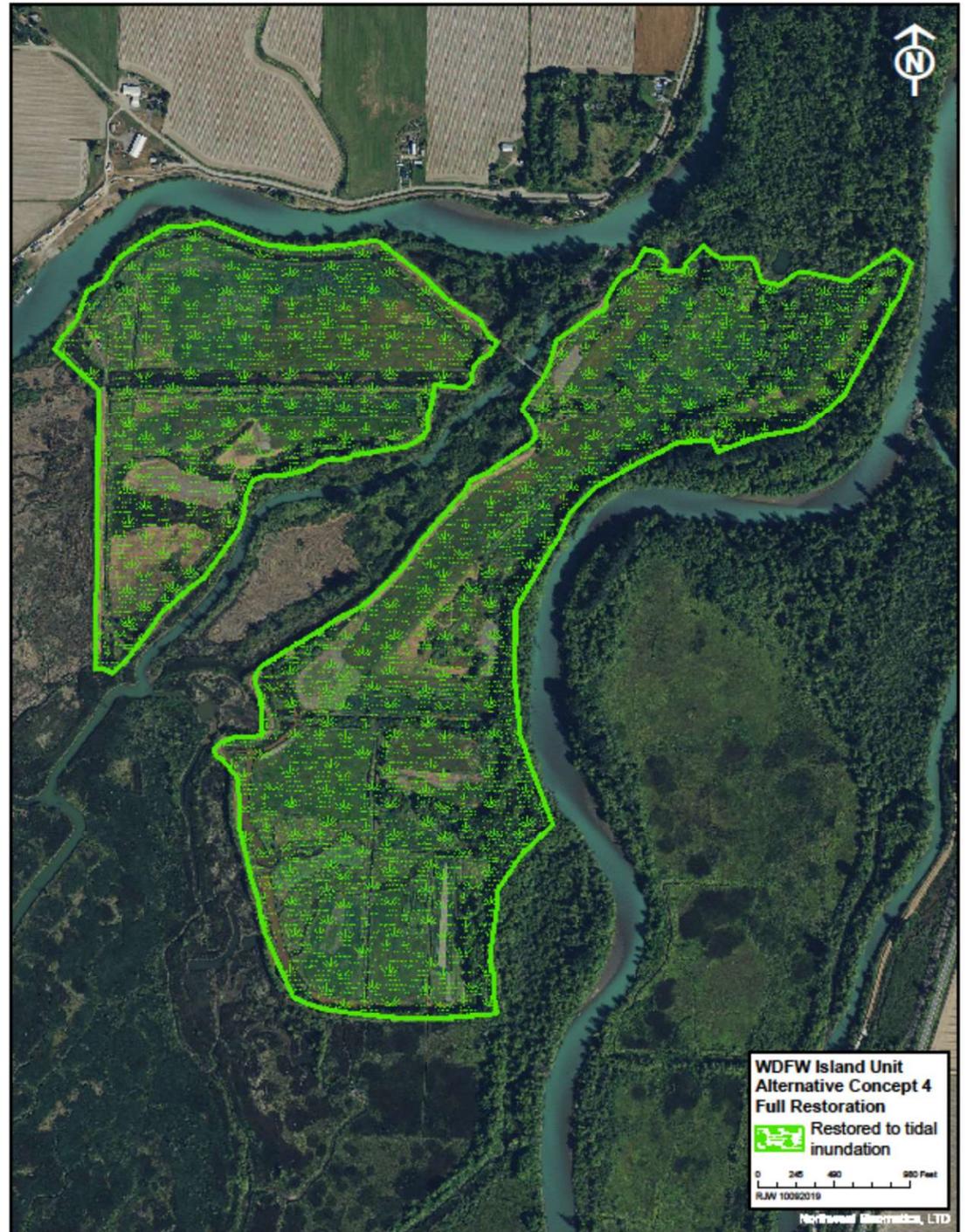
Draft Concept 3: Part. restoration

- 110 acres restored to estuary
- 160 acres maintained as enhanced winter waterfowl forage production



Draft Concept 4: full restoration

- 270 acres restored to estuary
- 0 acres maintained as enhanced winter waterfowl forage production



Comparing alternatives – topic areas

Management, regulatory and policy considerations:

- WDFW policies, agreements and obligations
- Likelihood of obtaining permits
- Future cost and funding



Comparing alternatives – topic areas

Fish and wildlife needs

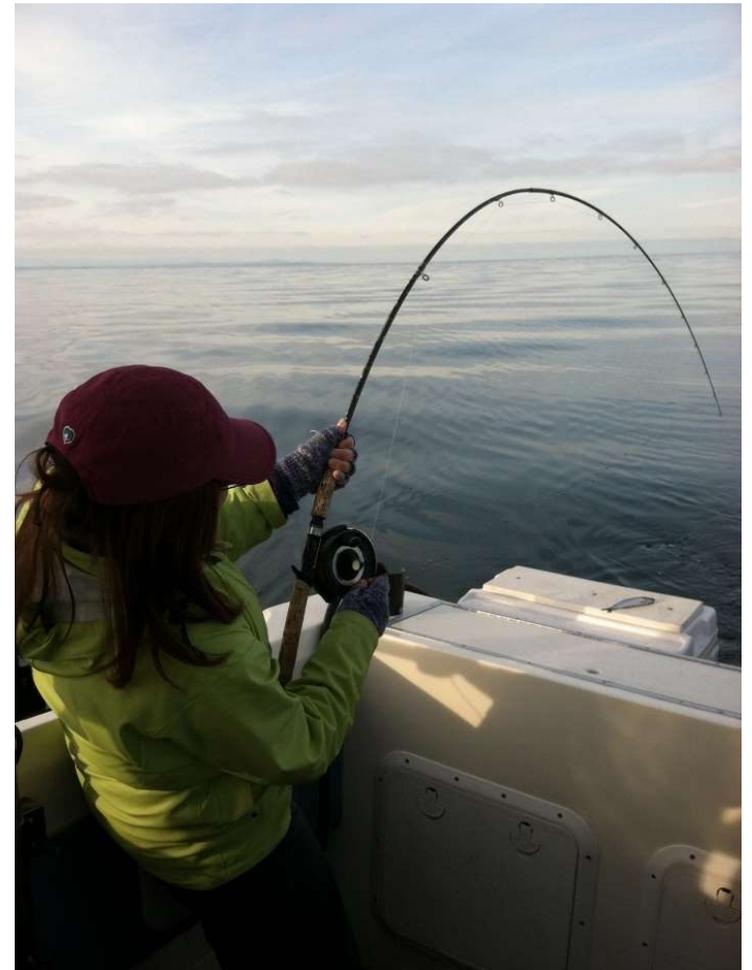
- ESA listed salmon/orca recovery
- Waterfowl conservation



Comparing alternatives – topic areas

Community interests:

- Hunt quality
- Recreational access
- Agriculture
- Recreational fishing



Discussion

- Do you have questions about the project background or context?
- Input or questions about the 4 concepts that were presented?
- Is there anything missing from the topic areas that were presented?
- Is there anything else you want to provide at this point?



