

Purpose of CAC Work Plan

The purpose of this document is to present a work plan to guide the operation of a Kittitas County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The work of the CAC is related to the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP) prepared by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The IWRMP includes a *Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancement Component* (TWPEC), which would impact the land uses and economy of Kittitas County. This CAC Work Plan provides information on the following topics:

- *CAC Mission*
- *CAC Goals and Objectives*
- *CAC Membership*
- *Roles and Responsibilities of the CAC*
- *General CAC Meeting Ground Rules*
- *General CAC Meeting Procedures*
- *Number, Schedule, and Topics of CAC Meetings*
- *CAC Operational and Recommendation Development Process*

CAC Mission

It is the mission of the CAC to efficiently develop clear and defensible recommendations for the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The CAC's recommendations will address the land use and economic impacts of the TWPEC on Kittitas County, and will be developed in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

CAC Goals and Objectives

The goal of the CAC is to develop thoughtful recommendations for the BOCC related to the land use and economic impacts of the TWPEC. If accepted, these recommendations will form the basis for the development of formal policies by the BOCC, which will be transmitted to the USBR and Ecology for consideration and inclusion in the final preferred IWRMP alternative.

The objectives of the CAC are to work with County staff and a consultant team to:

1. Identify land use changes and economic issues that arise from the TWPEC.
2. Conduct an analysis of land use changes and economic impacts of the TWPEC.
3. Quantify TWPEC related impacts, benefits, and costs to Kittitas County.
4. Identify methods, if necessary, for Kittitas County to be compensated for TWPEC related economic impacts.

IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Project

Continued

5. Develop CAC recommendations for the BOCC to use in developing policies that form the basis for discussions with Ecology and USBR about the impacts of the TWPEC on the County economy and ways to mitigate for those impacts.
6. Complete CAC work in a timely manner so the results will be available for inclusion in the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being developed by Ecology and USBR for the overall IWRMP.

CAC Membership

The CAC will be composed of volunteering residents and individuals from interested parties. Kittitas County and a consultant team will attend, facilitate, and provide expertise at the CAC meetings, but will not be official CAC members. The desired size of the CAC is approximately 15 people, not including Kittitas County staff and consultants. The CAC should only include members who are willing to commit to regular meeting attendance and have an interest in providing guidance and developing recommended methods to compensate for economic impacts associated with the TWPEC. The current composition of the committee is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Citizens Advisory Committee Membership and Other Participants		
Name	Phone	Email
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
Jill Arango	509-962-1654 (Business)	jilla@cascadeland.org
Anthony Aronica	509-607-9401	aronicat@gmail.com
William Boyum	509-925-4611 (Home)	boyum@fairpoint.net
Ron Allen Dalle	509-899-2375 (Business)	rfdalle@msn.com
David Gerth	509-649-2951 (Business)	kct@inlandnet.com
Jim Halstrom	360-791-6644 (Business)	halstrom@fairpoint.net
Anna Lael	509-925-8585, Ext. 4 (Business)	a-lael@conserveva.net
Brian Lenz	509-925-3195 (Business)	brian.lenz@pse.com
Richard Low	509-674-2977 (Home)	richardlow5@gmail.com
Pamela McMullin-Messier	213-595-4163 (Cell)	pamelamcmm@yahoo.com
Jason Ridlon	509-699-9927 (Cell)	jhridlon@fairpoint.net
Tracy Rooney	425-891-4092 (Business)	tracyr@msn.com
Jan Sharar	509-925-7216 (Home)	jkshar2@fairpoint.net
Art Solbakken		artsolbakken@gmail.com
David Whitwill	509-925-4008 (Business)	cwhba@fairpoint.net
Cynthia Wilkerson	206-618-3137 (Cell)	crwilkerson2000@yahoo.com

Table I (cont.) Citizens Advisory Committee Membership and Other Participants		
Name	Phone	Email
KITTITAS COUNTY PARTICIPANTS		
Paul Jewell	509-962-7508 (Business)	paul.jewell@co.kittitas.wa.us
Kirk Holmes	509-962-7523 (Business)	kirk.holmes@co.kittitas.wa.us
CONSULTANT PARTICIPANTS		
John Knutson (URS)	509-469-0163 (Business)	john.knutson@urs.com
Will Guyton (URS)	509-469-1330 (Business)	will.guyton@urs.com
Julie Blakeslee (URS)	206- (Business)	julie.blakeslee@urs.com
Amy Danberg (PRR)	206-962-9635 (Business)	adanberg@prrbiz.com
Amanda Sullivan (PRR)	206-962-9635 (Business)	asullivan@prrbiz.com
Michael Taylor (Cascade Economics)	360-835-7340 (Business)	miketaylor@pacifier.com

Roles & Responsibilities of the CAC

The roles and responsibilities of CAC members can be summarized as follows:

- CAC members are expected to meet approximately monthly or bi-monthly.
- CAC members are expected to review and analyze material in advance of meetings and come prepared to represent their perspective opinions.
- CAC members will proactively identify land use changes and economic issues that arise from the TWPEC, and will help develop economic solutions and mitigation policies to recommend to the Kittitas County BOCC.
- Any member may leave this process at any time. However, he/she will inform the group of the reason for leaving to see if the group can address the issue.
- If a member chooses to leave the CAC, they will be removed from the official members list.
- A member who misses two or more consecutive meetings may be removed from the CAC members list at the discretion of the BOCC.

General CAC Meeting Ground Rules

The basic CAC meeting ground rules are:

- Members shall be “solution oriented,” demonstrating dedication and commitment to this process.
- Members will foster open discussions of issues by listening carefully to each other, recognizing each member’s concerns and feelings about the topic, asking questions for clarification, and making statements that attempt to educate or explain.

IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Project

Continued

- Members recognize the importance of keeping the meeting on track and will respect the role of the facilitator. Members are responsible for ensuring cooperative and productive meetings.
- Members commit to no personal attacks directed at individuals and/or organizations.
- Members will listen to the person speaking and will avoid sidebar discussions.
- All parties recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be respected as well.
- Members agree to focus discussions on the specific mission, goals, and objectives of this CAC and avoid debating issues and concerns beyond the scope thereof.
- Members are committed to developing recommendations in accordance with the evidence presented and that are supported by facts and relevant examples.
- Members will be advocates for the committee process.

General Meeting Procedures

The CAC meeting procedures are:

- The consultant will develop agendas and provide meeting materials in advance of the meeting date; keep meeting notes; notify members of meeting dates, locations, or changes; and will ensure all members are given the opportunity to contribute.
- Members understand that the facilitator will remain neutral while facilitating.
- Consensus will be emphasized in decision making. Consensus is defined as a decision that allows every member to say, “I can live with the decision and accept it, even though it may or may not be exactly what I want.”
- The majority of decisions will be made by consensus of CAC members. The CAC recognizes that if members want to provide input on decisions, they will attend the meeting or provide their input to the consultant team prior to the meeting or by the predetermined time.
- If the CAC is unable to reach consensus on any issue, it will consider other options:
 1. Table the issue temporarily, and revisit it later or during a subsequent meeting.
 2. Take an advisory or “straw” vote to help the committee decide what action to take next.
 3. Develop a voting procedure.
 4. Leave the issue unresolved, note it is as such, and present the issue to the BOCC for direction (*Least Desirable Alternative*).

Date/Time: Thursday, October 6, 2011, 3:00 PM

Location: Swauk Teanaway Grange

Attendees: Kittitas County IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Citizens Advisory Committee:
Jill Arango, Anthony Aronica, William Boyum, David Gerth, Jim Halstrom, Anna Lael, Brian Lenz, Richard Low, Pamela McMullin-Messier, Tracy Rooney, Jan Sharar, David Whitwill, Cynthia Wilkerson

Kittitas County: *Alan Crankovich*

URS: *John Knutson, Will Guyton*

PRR: *Amy Danberg*

Subject: **IWRMP Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Land Use and Economic Analysis Project—Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 1**

Meeting Purpose: CAC Introductions, IWRMP Background Information, and Review of CAC Work Plan

Welcome & Introductions

- John Knutson welcomed the committee members and the committee members provided a roundtable self-introduction.

Why You Are Here

- John gave a brief overview of the purpose of the committee and of the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP).
- Will Guyton reviewed the meeting agenda with the CAC Members.
- Alan Crankovich expressed Kittitas County's appreciation and gratitude to the CAC members for volunteering their time and expertise to this important committee.

IWRMP Background, Current Status, & Future Efforts

- John gave an overview of the IWRMP and its purpose and goals. In sum, the purpose of the Plan is to propose water resource and habitat protection and restorations solutions in the Yakima Basin through a regional effort.
- John presented the seven elements of the IWRMP and showed where many of the proposed projects are located.
- John described what stage the IWRMP is in and presented an approximate schedule for the progression of the Plan. The next phase is to develop a planning report and the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plan. The Draft Planning Report and Programmatic EIS are expected to be completed this winter, and the Finals are scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2012.

IWRMP Targeted Watershed Protections & Enhancement Component

- John provided an overview of the Targeted Watershed Protection & Enhancement Component (TWPEC) of the IWRMP and presented the general areas within Kittitas County that were targeted for acquisition. The CAC will be focused on this component and how it impacts Kittitas County.
- Jill Arango stated that the Lands Committee of the IWRMP is still refining the designations of the targeted lands for acquisition under this component. The CAC should have more definite information prior to our next meeting.

CAC Mission, Operations, & Work Plan

- John stated the CAC's mission is to develop comprehensive and inclusive recommendations for the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) which address land use and economic impacts of the TWPEC on Kittitas County.
- John provided the objectives, membership commitments, roles and responsibilities, and the general meeting ground rules for the CAC.
- John outlined the procedures for CAC meetings, specifically noting that the goal is for the CAC to make consensus decisions.

CAC Meetings

- John presented the current outline for upcoming CAC meetings. There will be at least five CAC meetings as well as one Public Open House and potentially one additional CAC meeting after the Open House. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2011; however, the CAC will not meet until the IWRMP Lands Committee has produced a proposal for the TWPEC.
- Alan recommended a second Public Open House be scheduled to allow an open house in each upper Kittitas County and lower Kittitas County.
- John noted that between the CAC meetings, the consultant will be presenting the findings of the land use and economic analyses and the recommended economic compensation strategies to the BOCC at study sessions. John recommended that some CAC members consider attending and participating in the BOCC study sessions.
- John stated that the consultant will provide much of the information (e.g., research materials, tax information) necessary to help the CAC make their recommendations prior to and during the CAC meetings. However, if the CAC has information that may be useful to review, they should forward that data to the consultant for consideration and distribution.

Wrap-Up Discussion & Review of CAC Member Interests

- Each CAC Member gave a brief introduction to their background and interests for this committee. There was a wide range of personal and professional interests and concerns presented. Interests and concerns expressed were:
 - Recreational impacts
 - Stewardship of the acquired lands and how they will be managed

- Teanaway holdings concerns
 - Desire for good public interest and a transparent process
 - How this project will affect the demand for housing based on surrounding environment
 - Long term impacts to economics, land use, and quality of life
 - Ensuring solutions be in line with needs of overall plan
 - Creating and maintaining economic diversity of working lands
 - Establishing a good conservation outcome
 - Impacts on County revenues and the tax base
 - Social impacts
 - Concerns over forest industry moving out of the area
 - Protection of regional resources
- John expressed the importance of the CAC members translating their interests and concerns into feedback for the potential land use changes and economic benefits or impacts in order to capture the CAC's perspective.
 - John stressed that it is not the CAC's goal to develop recommendations that revise the IWRMP, but to address the proposal that comes out of the process by providing recommendations which mitigate for the land use changes and potential economic impacts of the TWPEC on Kittitas County.
 - Jill stressed that it is important for the CAC to remember that this committee is dealing with more lands than just the Teanaway area or just timber areas; we need to keep a broad perspective on all the areas in Kittitas County that are affected by the proposed TWPEC.

Action Items

- Tracy Rooney requested some example information of large lands that have been converted from private to public and the processes that they went through for the CAC to review.
- The consultant will communicate with the CAC as early as possible to set up the next CAC meeting once information is available from the IWRMP Lands Committee. Meeting materials will be sent out one week prior to any meeting date.
- Jill Arango would like to know how the focus and role of the CAC would change should the CAC conclude that there are no economic impacts on Kittitas County from the TWPEC, and therefore no need for mitigation.
- Jan Sharar asked that the economic consultant consider state laws (commonalities and disparities on land taxation) when presenting the economic compensation strategies.



Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: Friday, November 4, 2011, 3:00 PM

Location: Kittitas County Commissioners Auditorium

Attendees: Kittitas County IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Citizens Advisory Committee:
Jill Arango, Tony Aronica, Bill Boyum, Ron Allen Dalle, David Gerth, Jim Halstrom, Anna Lael, Brian Lenz, Richard Low, Pamela McMullin-Messier, Jason Ridlon, Tracy Rooney, Jan Sharar, Art Solbakken, David Whitwill, Cynthia Wilkerson
Kittitas County: *Paul Jewell, Kirk Holmes*
URS: *John Knutson, Will Guyton*
PRR: *Amy Danberg*

Subject: **IWRMP Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Land Use and Economic Analysis Project—Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 2**

Meeting Purpose: Review TWPEC Proposal and Identify Land Use and Economic Concerns and Benefits

Agenda Item

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3:00 – 3:15 | Welcome & Introductions |
| 3:15 – 3:20 | Meeting Purpose & Agenda |
| 3:20 – 3:40 | Overview of Updated TWPEC Proposal |
| 3:40 – 4:50 | Identify and Discuss Potential Land Use and Economic Considerations |
| 4:50 – 5:00 | Next Meeting Dates & Topics |
| 5:00 | Adjourn |



*IWRMP TARGETED WATERSHED PROTECTIONS & ENHANCEMENT
LAND USE AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROJECT*

**KITTITAS COUNTY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 2**

Kittitas County Commissioners Auditorium
November 4, 2011

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- **Welcome & Thank you!**
- **Citizens Advisory Committee Members** *(Introductions)*
- **Kittitas County Participants**
 - Paul Jewell, County Commissioner, District #1
 - Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director *(Project Manager)*
- **Consultant Participants**
 - John Knutson, PE, URS Corporation *(Meeting Leader)*
 - Amy Danberg, PRR Inc. *(Meeting Facilitator)*
 - Will Guyton, URS Corporation



AGENDA

- ✓ Welcome & Introductions
- TWPEC Proposal Overview
- Identify and Discuss Potential Land Use and Economic Concerns and Benefits
- Next Meeting Dates & Topics



TWPEC PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

- **Developed by** *IWRMP Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee*
- **Proposal Identifies:**
 - Land Conservation Actions (acquisitions and new designations)
 - Principles to guide Land Conservation Actions
 - Recommendations for ownership and management



TWPEC PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Land Conservation Actions in Kittitas County:

- **Land Acquisitions**
 - 46,000 acres in Teanaway River basin
 - 10,000 acres at Little Naches River headwaters and Manastash and Taneum basins
- **Public Land Designations** (*National Recreation Area*)
 - 100,000 acres of USFS land in Teanaway area
 - 41,000 acres of USFS land in Manastash-Taneum watershed
- **River Corridor Designations** (*Wild and Scenic River Designations*)
 - Upper Cle Elum, Waptus, and Cooper Rivers
 - Teanaway River (North, Middle, and West Forks)
- **Shrub Steppe Protection**
 - 15,000 acres at Eaton Ranch



TWPEC PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Recommended Ownership for Land Acquisitions:

- **Teanaway Basin**
consortium/community ownership preferred or State ownership
- **Headwater of Taneum and Manastash Creek**
USFS ownership
- **Eaton Ranch**
State or Federal ownership

LAND USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERNS



LAND USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

Principles for Forest Land Acquisitions:

- Maintain economic uses where lands have historically been used as working lands, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will help to foster local community support and assist with ongoing funding for property management.
- Maintain and, where possible, improve access to lands and enhance opportunities for a variety of recreational uses, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will help to foster local community support.
- Support of restoration and management activities, including long-term funding sources.



LAND USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

Principles for Shrub-Steppe Land Acquisitions:

- Land acquisitions will help to offset impacts of inundating shrub-steppe habitat from lowland reservoir projects such as Wymer Reservoir, and will complement ongoing efforts to protect shrub-steppe lands in Central Washington
- Access and opportunities for recreation will be enhanced.
- A working lands outcome will be considered, where consistent with protection of habitat and sensitive wildlife species.



LAND USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

Principles for New Designations on Existing Public Lands:


- New designations will enhance watershed and fish habitat protection and preserve or improve recreational opportunities.
- New designations will avoid negative effects on existing or reasonably foreseeable economic uses of the affected public lands that are consistent with protection of watershed functions and fish habitat.
- Public land designations will directly complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, including (but not limited to) fish passage and habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

LAND USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

Principles for River Corridor Designations:

- New river corridor designations and associated management plans will be developed cooperatively with public and private landowners and the county having jurisdiction over local land use regulations.
- New river corridor designations will complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, particularly fish passage, habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

CAC MEETINGS

Meeting & Topic	Approximate Meeting Dates
 CAC Meeting 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the IWRMP Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements Component (TWPEC) Proposal• Identify potential direct and indirect benefits and concerns to Kittitas County land uses and economy from the TWPEC Proposal	<i>November 2, 2011</i> Ellensburg
CAC Meeting 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue identifying potential direct and indirect benefits and concerns to Kittitas County land uses and economy from the TWPEC Proposal• Identify key land use and economic issues for detailed analysis by Consultant	<i>November 14, 2011</i> Cle Elum

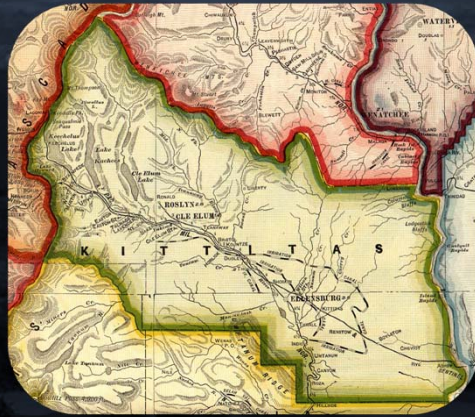
CAC MEETINGS

Meeting & Topic	Approximate Meeting Dates
<p>CAC Meeting 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review consultant team land use and economic impact analyses results Obtain CAC feedback Discuss possible economic compensation strategies 	<p>mid-December (Ellensburg)</p>
<p>CAC Meeting 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and evaluate an array of economic compensation alternatives Obtain CAC recommendations on the preferred compensation approaches (preferred alternative) 	<p>late January 2012 (Cle Elum)</p>

CAC MEETINGS

Meeting & Topic	Approximate Meeting Dates
<p>Public Open House Meetings (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present process and recommendations to public at an informational open house and allow for comments and questions Committee members on hand to field questions in an informal format 	<p>early February 2012 Ellensburg & Cle Elum</p>
<p>CAC Meeting 6 (if needed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust recommendations if any significant or trending comments are received from the public open house 	<p>Late February 2012 (Ellensburg)</p>

ADJOURN





Yakima Basin Study

Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Proposal

DRAFT – October 11, 2011

The proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan represents a comprehensive approach to water management and habitat enhancement in the Yakima River basin. It is intended to restore ecological functions in the Yakima River system and to provide more reliable and sustainable water resources for the health of the riverine environment, agriculture and municipal and domestic needs. The Integrated Plan offers a comprehensive package of projects to meet these needs while anticipating changing water demands and effects of climate change on water resources in the basin.

Section 3.1.5 of the Integrated Plan identifies **Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements** for the Yakima River Basin. Healthy watersheds protect water quality, contribute to instream flows and cooler water temperatures, reduce sedimentation, and maintain aquatic habitat complexity. These benefits are widely recognized by water users and land managers across the West. As climate change places new stresses on water resources and aquatic habitats in the future, the Yakima River Basin's upper watersheds will become even more vital to ecosystem health and water supply.

In addition to watershed protection, headwater lands targeted for protection under the Integrated Plan will protect unique riparian areas, travel corridors, transitional habitats, bull trout, steelhead and salmon spawning habitat, spotted owl habitat, and will expand a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities for the Washington State residents and visitors. Further, it is desirable that some of these lands be maintained as working lands so they will continue to support the regional economy.

The Integrated Plan also calls for protection of shrub-steppe lands within the Yakima Basin. Shrub-steppe is an increasingly threatened and fragmented habitat type found in Central Washington that supports several declining species such as the greater sage grouse and ferruginous hawk that require large blocks of intact land. Protection of a large area of these lands will balance effects of inundation from proposed reservoir projects as well as land development resulting from more reliable water supplies for agriculture and municipal and domestic growth enabled by additional water supplies. The efforts supported by the Integrated Plan will complement ongoing actions by a range of public and private landowners to protect this vital landscape type.

A Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee was established to advise the YRBWEP Workgroup on options for carrying out a Targeted Watershed Protection and Enhancement program.

This report summarizes the options for Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements identified by the Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee.

Land Conservation Actions:

Actions Under this Program Include:

- **Land acquisitions** from willing sellers to protect ecological, recreational and extractive resource uses and to provide structure for improved land management. Conservation groups working in parallel with the YRBWEP Workgroup identified and targeted three key areas in the Yakima and Naches River watersheds for land acquisition actions that would help improve watershed and ecosystem functions.
 - 45,000 acres as a Conservation Target for High Elevation Watershed Enhancement
 - 10,000 as a Conservation Target for Forest Habitat Enhancement.
 - 15,000 acres as a Conservation Target for Shrub-Steppe Habitat Enhancement
- **New designations on existing Forest Service lands** to improve watershed and habitat protection while retaining access for recreational uses. Designations could include national recreation, conservation, or wilderness areas or some combination of these. While these can be recommended, an Act of Congress would be required for this action.
- **New designations of select river corridors** within the Yakima Basin to promote conservation in cooperation with public and private landowners and County governments. Designations could include national recreational, scenic or wild river areas, or some combination of these. While these can be recommended, an Act of Congress would be required for this action.

Program Principles:

The Subcommittee established a set of principles for each of these actions to be used to guide the program. The principles express the expectations of the subcommittee that actions under this program will improve watershed and ecosystem functions while supporting local economic conditions and traditional uses by the local communities.

The agencies involved in carrying out the targeted watershed protections and enhancements must actively consult with local landowners in carrying out the program and developing land management strategies. Additional principles are listed as follows:

Principles for Forest Land Acquisitions:

- Maintain economic uses where lands have historically been used as working lands, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will help to foster support from local communities as the watershed and ecosystem protection objectives are pursued. This will also assist in providing an ongoing funding source for managing the properties.
- Maintain and, where possible, improve access to lands and enhance opportunities for a variety of recreational uses, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will also help to foster support from local communities as the watershed and ecosystem protection objectives are pursued.
- Restoration and management activities are essential and must be supported under the acquisition program, including long-term funding sources for these purposes.

Principles for Shrub-Steppe Land Acquisitions

- Land acquisitions will help to offset impacts of inundating shrub-steppe habitat from lowland reservoir projects such as Wymer Reservoir, and will complement ongoing efforts to protect shrub-steppe lands in Central Washington.
- Access and opportunities for recreation will be enhanced.
- A working lands outcome will be considered, where consistent with protection of habitat and sensitive wildlife species.

Principles for New Designations on Existing Public Lands

- New designations will enhance watershed and fish habitat protection and preserve or improve recreational opportunities.
- New designations will avoid negative effects on existing or reasonably foreseeable economic uses of the affected public lands that are consistent with protection of watershed functions and fish habitat.
- Public land designations will directly complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, including (but not limited to) fish passage and habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

Principles for River Corridor Designations

- New river corridor designations and associated management plans will be developed cooperatively with public and private landowners and the county having jurisdiction over local land use regulations.
- New river corridor designations will complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, particularly fish passage, habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

Options for the Upper Yakima River Basin

Land Acquisitions

The Subcommittee has identified the following options for the Upper Yakima River Basin. These include options listed in the Integrated Plan, as well as alternatives in case those lands prove to be unavailable or too costly for acquisition.

- **Preferred Option:** Acquisition of a 46,000 acre tract in the middle and lower Teanaway River basin comprised of mid to high elevation mixed conifer forest and lower elevation grand fir and Ponderosa pine forest. The Teanaway River flows into the Yakima River and provides fish passage and connectivity to high elevation colder water. Protecting this area would provide significant ecosystem, water quality and quantity, and species benefits that complement the habitats and species protected by the Plum Creek Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Program (HCP), directly adjacent to the western portion of the proposed area. The Ponderosa pine forests are particularly significant due to their limited range and vulnerability to climate change. The Department of Ecology has recognized that:

“[t]he Teanaway River system represents some of the highest quality streams and cold-water fish spawning and rearing areas in the Yakima River Basin.”¹

In addition, conservation of the Teanaway landscape fits well into the overall strategy of acquiring and protecting non-federal lands to ensure successful landscape-scale linkages envisioned by the Integrated Plan.

- **Preferred Option:** Acquisition of lands at the headwaters of Taneum and Manastash Creeks in connection with acquisition of adjacent lands in the Little Naches Basin (see options for Naches Basin, below). Private lands in these watersheds are intermingled with National Forest land, generally in a checkerboard pattern. The land is primarily mid to upper elevation conifer forest. Most of the area has been logged and replanted, but some areas of old-growth forest remain. The upper reaches of Taneum, and Manastash Creeks are important for water quality and maintaining cool temperatures for bull trout protection and restoration. They also protect water supply and provide current or potential salmon and steelhead spawning grounds.

¹ <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/TeanawayTMDL.html>

- **Alternatives:** If the lands in the Upper Yakima Basin identified above are not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, other options are available as well. These include:
 - Acquisition of Plum Creek holdings in Big Creek, Taneum Creek, Cabin Creek and Cle Elum River watersheds. Kittitas County. *Acreage? (overlap with Taneum Creek lands discussed above??).*
 - Acquisition of American Forest Lands Resource holdings, Swauk and First Creek areas. Kittitas Co. *Acreage?.*
 - Acquisition of additional private land holdings. Kittitas County. Forest lands. *Acreage?.*

Public Lands Designations

*"Wilderness or other appropriate designation should ... be sought for roadless areas in the Teanaway, in the area between Kachess and Cle Elum Reservoirs, and in the upper reaches of Manastash and Tanuem Creeks in order to protect headwaters streams, snow pack, and forests. "*²

The subcommittee proposes applying the National Recreation Area designation to lands in the upper Yakima Basin. This designation is flexible enough to provide protection for key habitat functions while preserving the overall theme of recreational use for these lands. National Recreation Area designation also raises the profile of these recreational lands and is, in essence, a powerful marketing feature that will attract more users who contribute to local economic vitality. It is important to note that private lands are not included in National Recreation Areas and will not be not bound by NRA rules.

- **Creation in the Teanaway Area of a National Recreation Area** on approximately 100,000 acres (*need to verify size*) of existing US Forest Service lands in these areas. Within the proposed NRA, approximately 21,000 would be designated as Wilderness, approximately 6,000 acres would be designated for backcountry motorized recreational use, and approximately 1,000 acres would be designated for backcountry non-motorized recreational use. All of these proposed uses are consistent with the uses identified in the current Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) Plan Revision Proposed Action; however the forest plan does not propose NRA designation.
- **Creation in the Manastash-Taneum watershed of a National Recreation Area** on approximately 41,000 acres of existing US Forest Service lands in these areas. Within the proposed NRA, approximately 35,000 acres would be designated for backcountry motorized recreational use. These proposed uses are consistent with the uses identified in the current OWNF Proposed Action and with current uses of this area.

² Integrated Plan Statement on Public Lands Designations

River Corridor Designations

The Subcommittee proposes designations under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for rivers and reaches where designations will benefit directly the fisheries supported in the Yakima Integrated Plan. All of the reaches proposed are designated critical habitat for bull trout, most are also critical habitat for steelhead. With the exception of the Teanaway River, these rivers are primarily or exclusively in the Wenatchee National Forest and have been proposed for Wild and Scenic designation in the 1990 Wenatchee Forest Plan or in the 2011 Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action. Where there are significant private property interests affected, such as for the middle and lower reaches of the Teanaway River, designations will be proposed only with broad support by the affected landowners.

The Subcommittee identified the following as high priority designations:

- **Wild and Scenic River Designations for Upper Cle Elum River, Waptus and Cooper Rivers.** In addition to bull trout habitat, these rivers and reaches above Cle Elum Reservoir will all receive increasing numbers of salmon and steelhead as fish are reintroduced and fish passage provided above Cle Elum Dam.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designations for Teanaway River:** North, Middle and West Forks. The Teanaway River and its tributaries currently provide some of the best quality spawning habitat for salmonids in the basin, with steelhead, bull trout, and spring Chinook present. The protection and management proposed through acquisition of the Teanaway forest lands and Wild and Scenic designation are central to the salmonid restoration efforts under the Yakima Integrated Plan. Designation would be linked to acquisition of the 46,000 acre Teanaway property. The lower limit of Wild and Scenic designation affects private property and will be determined in consultation with those property owners.

Options for the Naches and Middle Yakima River Basins

Land Acquisitions

- **Preferred Option.** Acquisition of land at the headwaters of the Little Naches River in combination with adjacent lands in the Manastash and Taneum basins, totaling up to 10,000 acres. Private lands in these watersheds are intermingled with National Forest land, generally in a checkerboard pattern. The land is primarily mid- to upper-elevation conifer forest. Most of the area has been logged and replanted, but some areas of old-growth forest remain. The upper reaches of the Little Naches River are important for water quality and maintaining cool temperatures for bull trout protection and restoration. They also protect water supply and provide current or potential salmon and steelhead spawning grounds.
- **Alternatives:** If the lands in the Little Naches Basin identified above are not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, other options are available as well. These include:

- Acquisition of Conrad Meadows. Yakima Co. *Acreage?*. Tieton River watershed.
- Acquisition of Yakima County Tree Farms LLC (former Miller Shingle, near Yakama Nation Reservation boundary. Yakima Co. See “Priority Timberlands” handout from DFW. *Acreage?*. Ahtanum Creek and Klickitat River watersheds.
- Acquisition of 7,500 acres of Pine Forest lands in Cowiche Creek watershed. Yakima Co.
- Acquisition of Ahtanum Irrigation District forested lands. Eight to ten sections, or approximately 5,000 to 6,000 acres.

Public Lands and River Corridor Designations

The subcommittee proposes the following:

- **Wilderness Designation** of approximately 1,500 acres adjacent to and near the William O. Douglas Wilderness in the vicinity of Bumping Lake. In addition to the Preliminary Administratively Recommended Wilderness lands in the current OWN Proposed Action, the Subcommittee proposes that the Wilderness boundary be extended to the new high water mark of the enlarged Bumping Lake Reservoir when this project is constructed.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on S. Fork of the Tieton, Indian Creek and Rattlesnake Creek. Bull trout populations in the South Fork of the Tieton and Indian Creek are the strongest remaining in the Yakima basin.³ Rattlesnake Creek is also a bull trout stronghold.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on Deep Creek. The Deep Creek bull trout population is one of the strongest remaining in the basin. While spawning grounds would be partially inundated by expansion of Bumping Reservoir, addition of fish passage at the new dam would allow both upstream and downstream passage, reconnecting the Deep Creek population with other populations and habitat. These twinned positive and negative effects yield a net positive outcome that protects Deep Creek to the greatest extent possible. All of Deep Creek is identified for designation in the 2011 Okanagan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action; however, the Subcommittee proposes designation above the elevation of an expanded Bumping Reservoir, protecting the remaining bull trout habitat in the reach.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on American River and Rainer Fork. These tributaries to the Bumping River provide steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout habitat. The American River spring Chinook are a demographically and genetically distinct stock.⁴

³ From http://sotr.cbfwa.org/DPS_generaldescriptionBull.cfm?CoreID=91&DPSID=3&PopID=490&RUID=18&mnu=ESU

⁴ From http://www.hatcheryreform.us/hrp_downloads/reports/columbia_river/system-wide/4_appendix_e_population_reports/plateau-american_river_spring_chinook_01-31-09.pdf

The forest lands discussed for potential acquisition are shown in Figure 1. Lands proposed for new designations are shown on Figure 2, and rivers proposed for Wild and Scenic designation are shown on Figure 3.

Yakima Basin Forest Conservation Lands

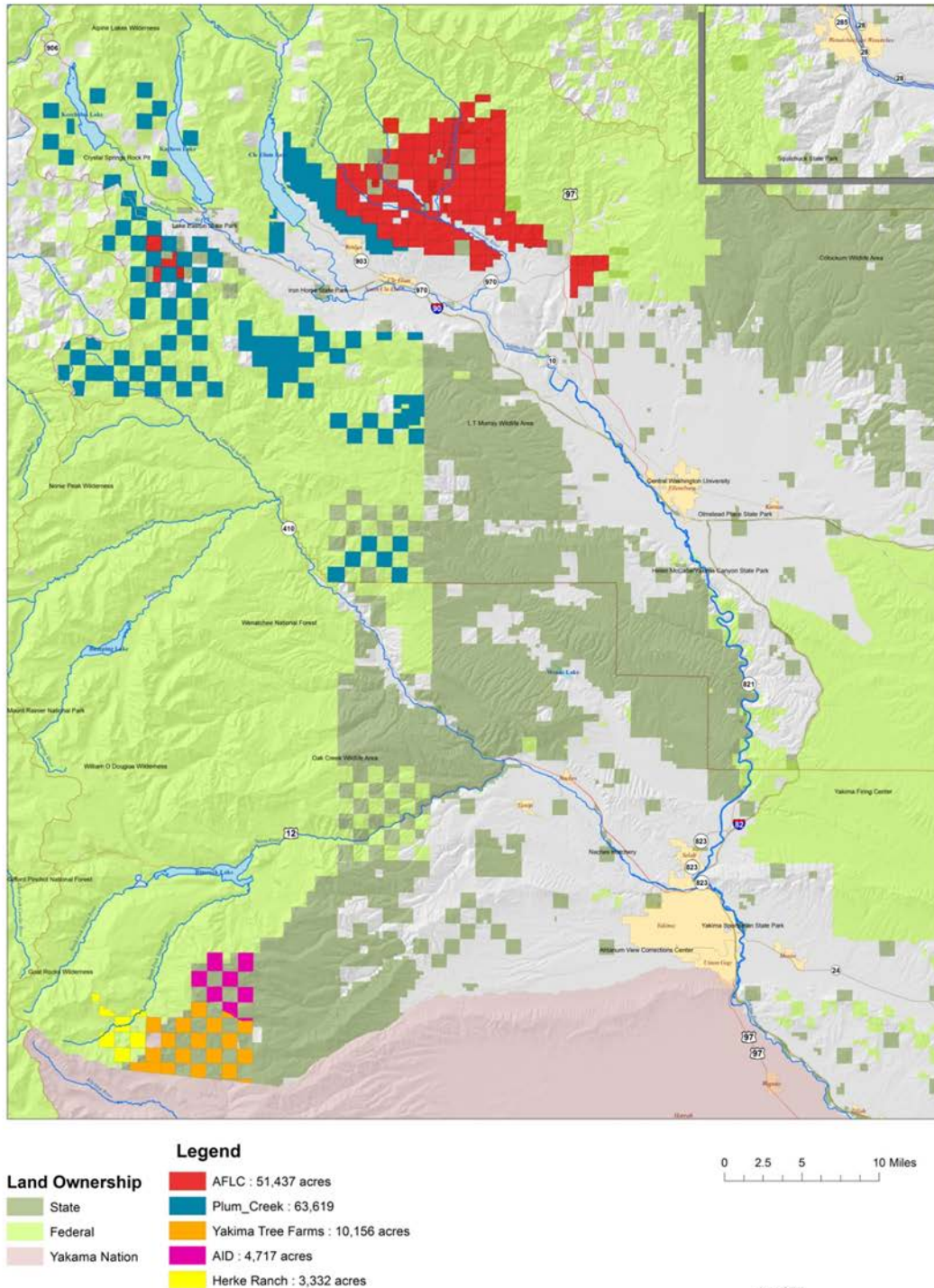


Figure 1. Options for Forest Land Acquisition.

Proposed Yakima Basin Public Lands Designations⁵

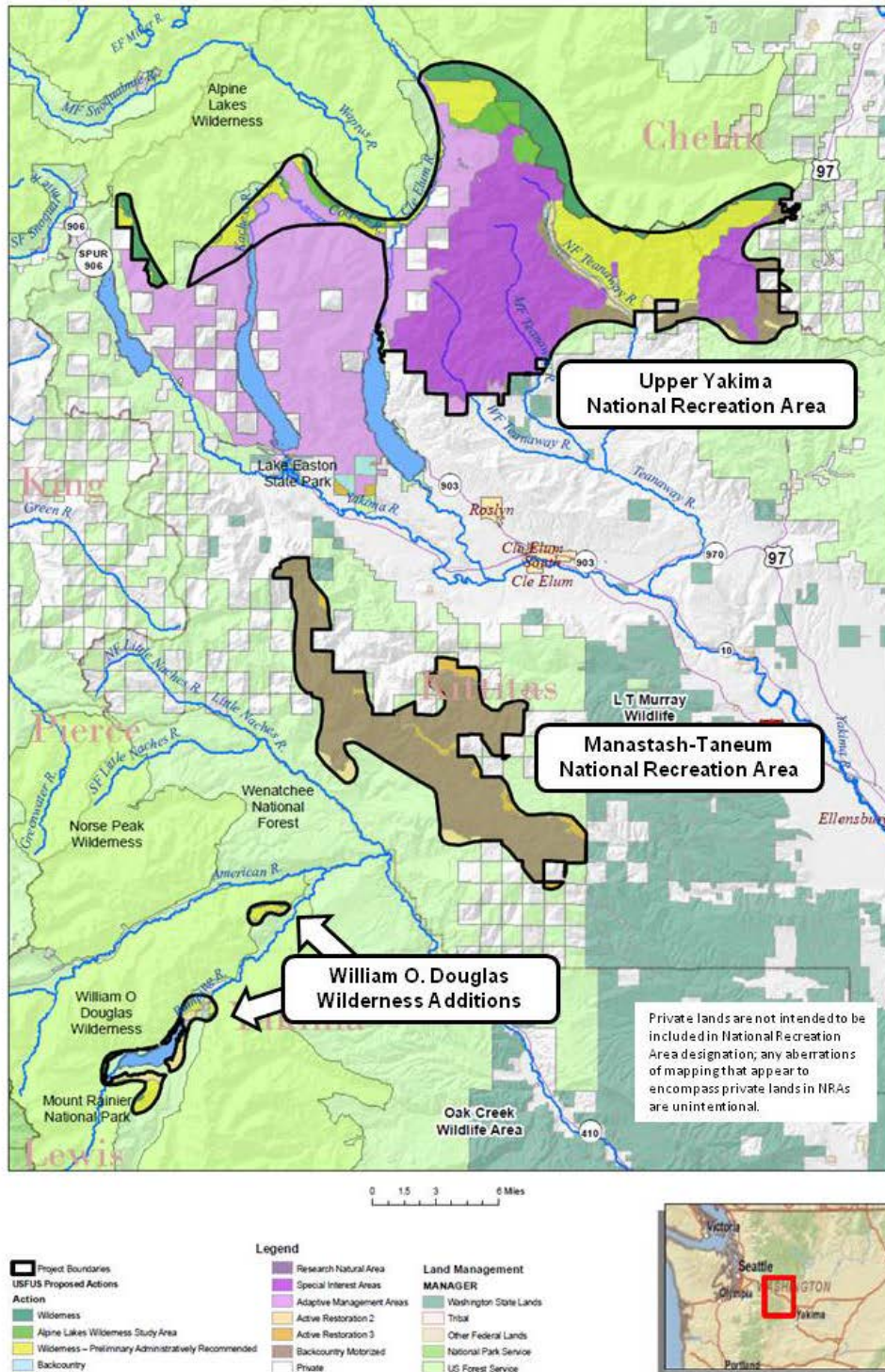


Figure 2 Options for National Recreation Area & Wilderness Designations

⁵ Please note that private lands are not intended to be included in National Recreation Area designation; any aberrations of mapping that appear to encompass private lands in NRAs are unintentional.

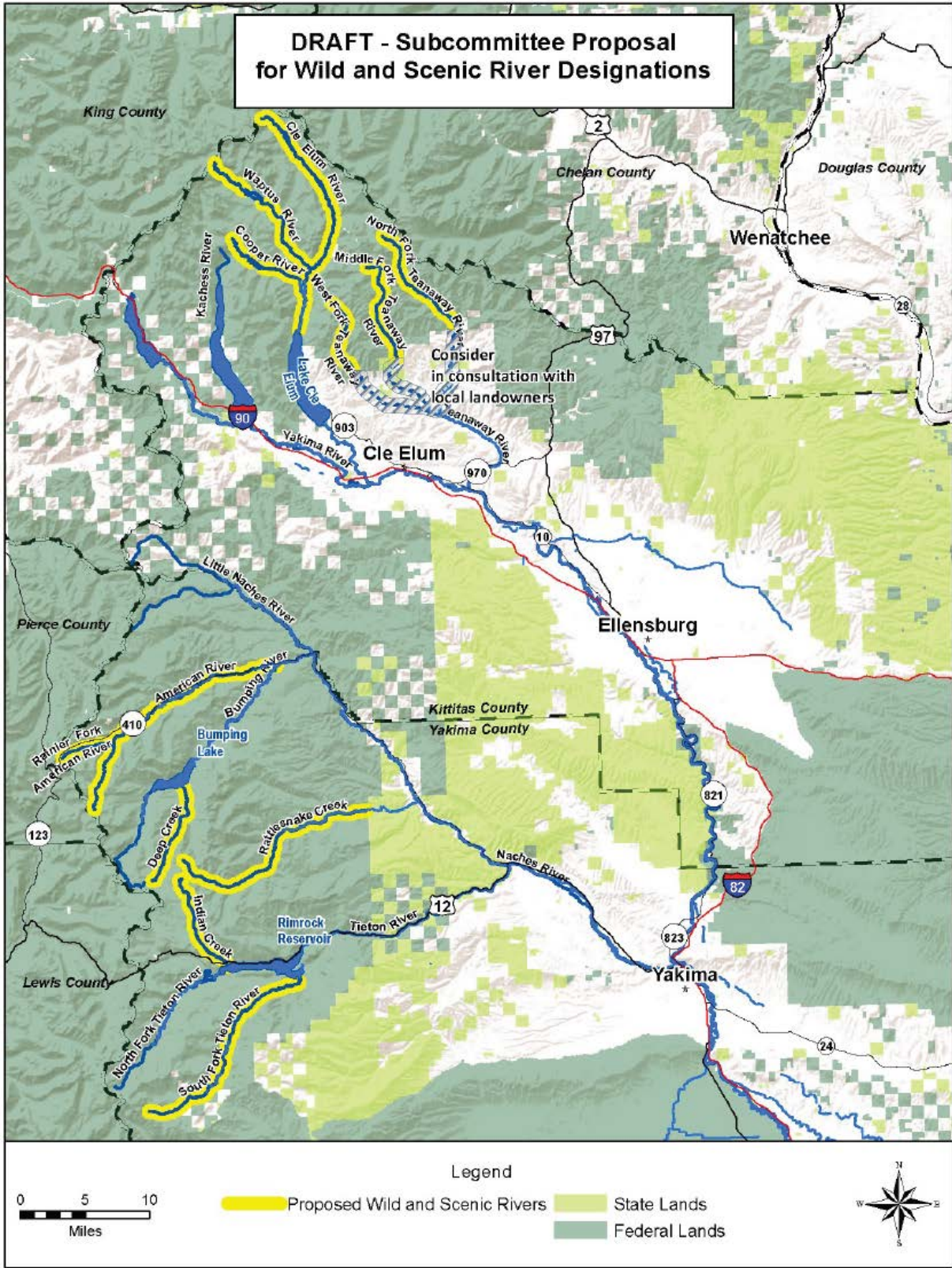


Figure 3 Options for Wild and Scenic River Designations

Options for Shrub-Steppe Protection

The shrub steppe ecosystem is extremely threatened in Washington and is a WDFW priority habitat for conservation⁶. Approximately 60% of this unique, fragile ecosystem has been lost.⁷ Habitat loss is more drastic when comparing potential range of sagebrush to its current range. Miller et al.⁸ estimated only 24% of the potential range of sagebrush currently has sagebrush present in Washington state. Agricultural development was historically the most important cause of habitat loss. Residential development, military training, hazardous waste cleanup activities at Hanford, large scale wildfire, inappropriate grazing by domestic, feral and wild grazers, renewable energy development, new agricultural water delivery projects and proposals for new water storage threaten remaining shrub steppe.

The South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland Conservation Partnership (Partnership) formed under a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. The Partnership is a non-regulatory, volunteer organization developed to facilitate collaboration among public and private entities interested in conserving working rangelands, open space, and wildlife habitat. The Partnership focal area includes shrub steppe in Benton, Yakima, Kittitas, and Grant Counties.

Greater sage grouse are a candidate for federal listing and rely on shrub-steppe habitat. Ferruginous hawks have been listed as a state threatened species since 1983.⁹ Their core nesting range has contracted to southeastern Washington with only 35 active territories documented in 2010.¹⁰ Numerous other shrub steppe obligate species have experienced population declines in response to habitat loss. Black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits, burrowing owls, golden eagles, sage sparrow and thrasher, and sagebrush lizard are all candidates for state listing as threatened or endangered¹¹.



⁶ From WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>

⁷ Dobler 1996 [get citation]

⁸ (2011) [get citation]

⁹ (WDFW 1996) [get citation]

¹⁰ WDFW unpublished data

¹¹ From WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>

- **Preferred option:** The Eaton Ranch, a 15,000 acre tract in the Yakima River canyon has been identified, including the valley bottom and eastern slopes, from the Yakima River to Interstate 82 (I-82). This is the number one priority for protection because of its immediate proximity to the proposed Wymer Reservoir, sage grouse breeding areas and golden eagle nest sites. The tract is composed primarily of basalt cliffs and shrub-steppe vegetation, a critical habitat type. In addition, the Yakima Canyon riparian area provides salmon, steelhead, and resident rainbow trout habitat.
- **Alternatives:** If the Eaton Ranch is not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, or if the Wymer Reservoir project is not developed, other options for shrub-steppe protection are available as well. This remains important because water supply under the Integrated Plan will be used, in part, for additional municipal development and rural residential uses in lowland areas that may affect shrub-steppe habitat. These alternate sites include:
 - Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch). Benton Co. 14,000 acres. High priority for South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland partnership. The McWhorter Ranch acquisition is the top ranked shrub-steppe project partially funded by the 2011 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and has long been sought by WDFW and Benton County.
 - Cowiche Watershed lands. Yakima Co. 12,000 to 14,000 acres. Priority habitats present and in good to excellent condition include: stream, riparian, shrub-steppe, oak woodland, cliffs and talus.

Shrub Steppe Options and Alternatives are shown on Figure 4.

The greater sage-grouse, once common and abundant in eastern Washington, has declined to approximately 1100 birds statewide. Roughly 200 of these birds remain in the focal area and are entirely dependent on the Yakima Training Center for population persistence (WDFW, unpublished data). The imperiled condition of this federal candidate and state threatened species is a primary driving force for numerous shrub steppe conservation actions at the national and state levels.



Who Will Own and Manage the Lands Acquired?

There are a range of alternatives regarding who should own and manage the lands acquired. The following list describes several alternatives for potential land management scenarios.

Private. Private ownerships could allow for long-term protection through the use of conservation easements or from the transfer of development rights.

Local. A consortium made up of several stakeholder groups, including Kittitas County, environmental groups, and community members could serve as land managers for several of the properties being explored for acquisition within Kittitas County. In addition the 2011 State Legislature provided for Community Forest Trusts.

State

- The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has special expertise in managing forest lands and has a long history of managing working forests.
- The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife also has a long history of managing lands and has special expertise in managing lands for wildlife and recreation.

Recently, WDFW and WDNR have expressed a preference for WDNR to own/manage forest lands and for WDFW manage shrub-steppe lands.

Federal

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proven to be a competent manager of shrub-steppe lands in the Yakima Canyon. The BLM balances recreational use with working lands, while continuing to protect shrub-steppe habitats. A federal BLM option is viable for shrub-steppe lands acquired through this program.
- A Forest Service option is viable for high elevation Plum Creek forest lands.

The Subcommittee recommends that ownership options in specific areas be prioritized as follows:

- **Forested lands in the Teanaway Basin:** The preferred ownership option is consortium/ community ownership such as a Community Forest Trust. If this is not feasible, then the next best option is State ownership with strong participation by a stakeholder advisory committee.
- **Forested areas in the headwaters of Taneum and Manastash Creeks.** These are “checkerboard” lands where private lands are intermingled with U.S. Forest Service Lands. The best option if these lands are acquired is Forest Service ownership.
- **Eaton Ranch shrub-steppe lands.** State or federal ownership is recommended.

- **Additional forested and shrub-steppe land options.** The subcommittee has not reviewed ownership options in detail for the alternative land options.

Draft

Appendix

Table 1. Priority habitat and special status wildlife species that exist within the timberlands, central Washington.

Species, Community, or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
<i>PHS: Habitat</i>			
Old Growth/Mature Forest	Primary, spotted owl habitat	PHS	WDFW
Instream	Approximately 4 miles of mainstem Teanaway River, several miles of type 3 streams that support ESA listed steelhead and bull trout.	PHS	WDFW
Aspen stands > 2 acres	Several stands	PHS	WDFW
Freshwater Wetlands	Multiple wetlands	PHS	WDFW
Riparian	Approximately 4 miles of mainstem Teanaway River	PHS	WDFW
Snags and Logs	Abundant in spotted owl habitat	PHS	WDFW
<i>ESA & PHS: Wildlife</i>			
Grizzly Bear	Individual occurrence ⁱ	FT; SE; P1	WDFW
Gray Wolf	Suspected ⁱⁱ Individual occurrence	FT; SE; P1	WDFW

¹² Federal Candidate (FC), Federal Threatened (FT), Federal Species of Concern (FCo), State Candidate (SC), State Endangered (SE), Protected (P) (1, 2, and 3 – priority levels).

Species, Community, or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
Canada Lynx	Suspected Individual occurrence	FC; ST/ P2	WDFW
Bald Eagle	Breeding ⁱⁱⁱ	FCo; ST	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Northern Goshawk ^{iv}	Breeding	FCo; SC; P3	WDFW, USFS
Golden Eagle	Breeding	FCo; SC; P3	WDFW
Peregrine Falcon	Breeding	FCo; SC; P2	USFS
Wolverine	Suspected Individual occurrence	FCo; SC	Historic
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Breeding	FCo; SC; P3	USFS
Western Toad	Breeding	FCo; SC; P3	USFS/ CWU
Columbia Spotted Frog	Breeding	SC	CWU
Larch Mountain Salamander	Suspected – nearby populations	FCo; SC; p3	WDFW
Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	Breeding, rearing, and migrating	SC; P2	WDFW
Sharp Tailed Snake	Breeding	FCo; SC; P3	WDFW
Pacific Fisher	Suspected habitat extirpated	FC; SE	Historic range estimates
Blacked-backed woodpecker	Breeding	SC	USFS

Species, Community, or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
Pileated woodpecker	Breeding	SC; P3	WDFW, USFS
White-headed woodpecker	Suspected breeding	SC; P3	USFS
Flammulated Owl	Breeding	SC; P3	USFS
Vaux's Swift	Breeding	SC	USFS
Mid-Columbia Chinook	Spawning ^v	n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Mid-Columbia Coho	Spawning, rearing, migration	n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Cle Elum Sockeye	Spawning, rearing, migration	n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Mid-Columbia Steelhead ^{vi}	Spawning, rearing, migration	FT; SC	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Bull Trout	Spawning, rearing, migration ^{vii}	FT; SE; P1	WDFW, Yakama Nation, Y. Reiss, USFWS

Table 2. Priority project sites and their relevance to implementing or supporting existing conservation studies or plans in the South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland Partnership focal area.

Study or Plan	Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch)	Wymer Project Area	Cowiche Watershed
Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan (WDFW 1996)	Included w/in central recovery zone. Important foraging area and potential nesting. Several active territories overlap project.	Included w/in central recovery zone. Several historical territories present in project area.	Not in a recovery zone for the hawk
Identifying and Preserving Biodiversity on a Regional Scale (Soll 1999)	Not mentioned in recommendations	Identified as important habitat linkage between YTC & WDFW lands	Identified as important habitat linkage between YTC, WDFW lands & Yakama Reservation
Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Assessment (TNC 1999)	Important buffer to major portfolio site, i.e., Hanford	Included in the portfolio site along with YTC and WDFW lands to the west	
Yakima Subbasin Plan (NWPCC 2004)	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Rattlesnake Hills sage-grouse management unit	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Umtanum Ridge sage-grouse management unit	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Ahtanum Ridge sage-grouse management unit Identified as potential spawning habitat for federally threatened steelhead

Study or Plan	Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch)	Wymer Project Area	Cowiche Watershed
Greater Sage-Grouse Recovery Plan (Stinson et al 2004)	Included in the Rattlesnake Hills Management Unit	Included within the Umtanum Ridge Management Unit	Included within the Ahtanum Ridge Management Unit
Washington Connected Landscape Project: Statewide Analysis (WWHCWG 2010)	Identified as important to 4 of 5 species analyzed for landscape connectivity	Identified as important to 3 of 5 focal species analyzed for connectivity and landscape integrity	Identified as important to 2 of 5 focal species analyzed for connectivity and landscape integrity
Shrub Steppe Evaluation Tool (Livingston et al. 2009)	Meets all requirements related to landscape size, condition and context.	Meets all requirements related to landscape size and context.	Meets all requirements related to landscape condition and context.

- i All grizzly bear sightings in the area have been directly observed or verified by WDFW grizzly bear biologists. Natural Heritage Database, updated 2006.
- ii Gray wolves have been sighted in the vicinity of all sides of the Teanaway project area. All sightings referred to in this proposal have been verified by WDFW biologists.
- iii Bald eagles have been documented using the lower Teanaway River for winter roosting and foraging. Ken Bevis, WDFW Biologist, personal communication.
- iv Reproductive surveys for goshawks were conducted in the project area in 1994 and 1995 by S. Finn, WDFW Biologist. Biologists conducting spotted owl surveys have made incidental sightings of goshawk nests, and biologists working for American Forest Resources have conducted goshawk surveys to located active nests for timber harvest planning.

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- v Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Treaty Tribes, 2002. Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory Database, Olympia, WA. WDFW and the Yakama Nation conduct surveys for Chinook in the Teanaway River system on a yearly basis.
- vi Karp, C., W. Larrick, M. Johnston, and T. Dick. 2005. Steelhead movements in the upper Yakima basin, winter 2003/2004. U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Memorandum 8290-05-01.
- vii Reiss, Karen Yuki. 2003. Genetic Variability within Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) Populations in the Yakima River Basin. A Thesis. Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA.

Draft



Memorandum

TO: Kittitas County IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Citizens Advisory Committee

FROM: John Knutson, Will Guyton—URS Corporation

COPIES: Kirk Holmes, Paul Jewell—Kittitas County
Amy Danberg—PRR, Inc.

DATE: October 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Example Categories of Land Use Changes and Economic Effects

During CAC Meetings #2 and #3, Committee members will be asked to provide their input to URS regarding possible land use or economic related effects of the IWRMP Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancement Component (TWPEC) proposal (revised draft to be provided separately). To stimulate Committee member participation, a list of example categories of land use and economic related considerations has been developed. These categories are provided only to help Committee members consider and articulate their own input related to the TWPEC proposal. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of land use or economic considerations, and some may not be applicable to this project.

At this time, we are mainly interested in generating a list of potential land use and economic changes that could arise if the TWPEC proposal is implemented in Kittitas County. It is expected that these will be fairly general and based mainly on the information provided in the TWPEC documents. Once the list is generated, the CAC will narrow the list down to multiple “key issues” that will be forwarded into a formal and more detailed land use and economic effects analysis; the results of which will be covered during later CAC meetings.

EXAMPLE LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

AGRICULTURAL

- Rangeland/Grazing
- Cultivated Cropland

DEVELOPMENT

- Residential
- Commercial

INDUSTRIAL

- Forest/Timber
- Mining

RECREATIONAL

- Hunting/Fishing/ Camping/Hiking
- Off Road Vehicles
- Snow Sports
- USFS Lease Agreements

WATER SUPPLY

- Municipal
- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Commercial

ECOLOGICAL

- Water Quality/Quantity
- Air Quality
- Habitat
- Ecosystem Services

TRANSPORTATION

- Changes in Access
- Congestion

OTHER

EXAMPLE ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

AGRICULTURE

- Crop Revenues
- Livestock Revenues
- Grazing Permits
- Agricultural Service Businesses

COMMERCE

- Recreation-Support Businesses
- Tourism Businesses
- Industrial Development
- Secondary Impacts on Other Businesses

FORESTRY & MINING

- Timber Revenues
- Mining Revenues
- Support Businesses

LAND OWNERSHIP

- Property Values
- Development Regulations

EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

- Employment Changes by Sector
- Wages and Salaries
- Cost of Living

TAXES & COUNTY REVENUE

- Property Tax Rates
- Sales Tax
- PILT Program
- County Revenues
- Grants & Loans
- Cost of Government Operation

PUBLIC SERVICES

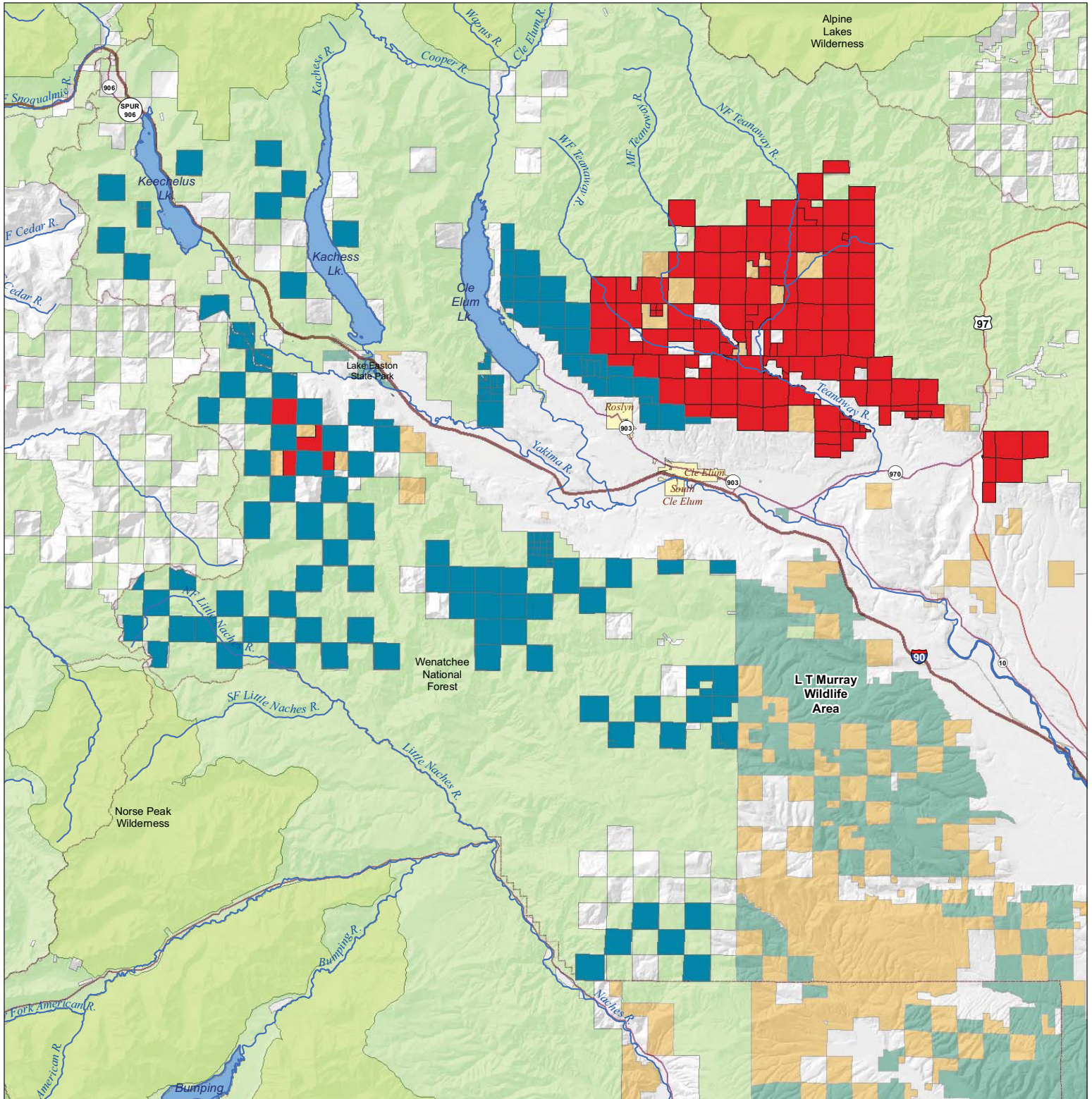
- Emergency Services
- Utilities
- Transportation – Road and Bridge Maintenance

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Fisheries Enhancement
- Habitat Improvement
- Public Spaces and Visitor Recruitment
- Ecosystem Services



Yakima Basin Proposed Forest Conservation Lands



- American Forest Resources: 51,437 acres
- Plum Creek Timber : 63,619 acres
- Yakima Tree Farms : 10,156 acres
- Ahtanum Irrigation District: 4,717 acres
- Herke Ranch : 3,332 acres

Land Management

- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources
- Tribal

- Other Federal Lands
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- USFS Wilderness Areas

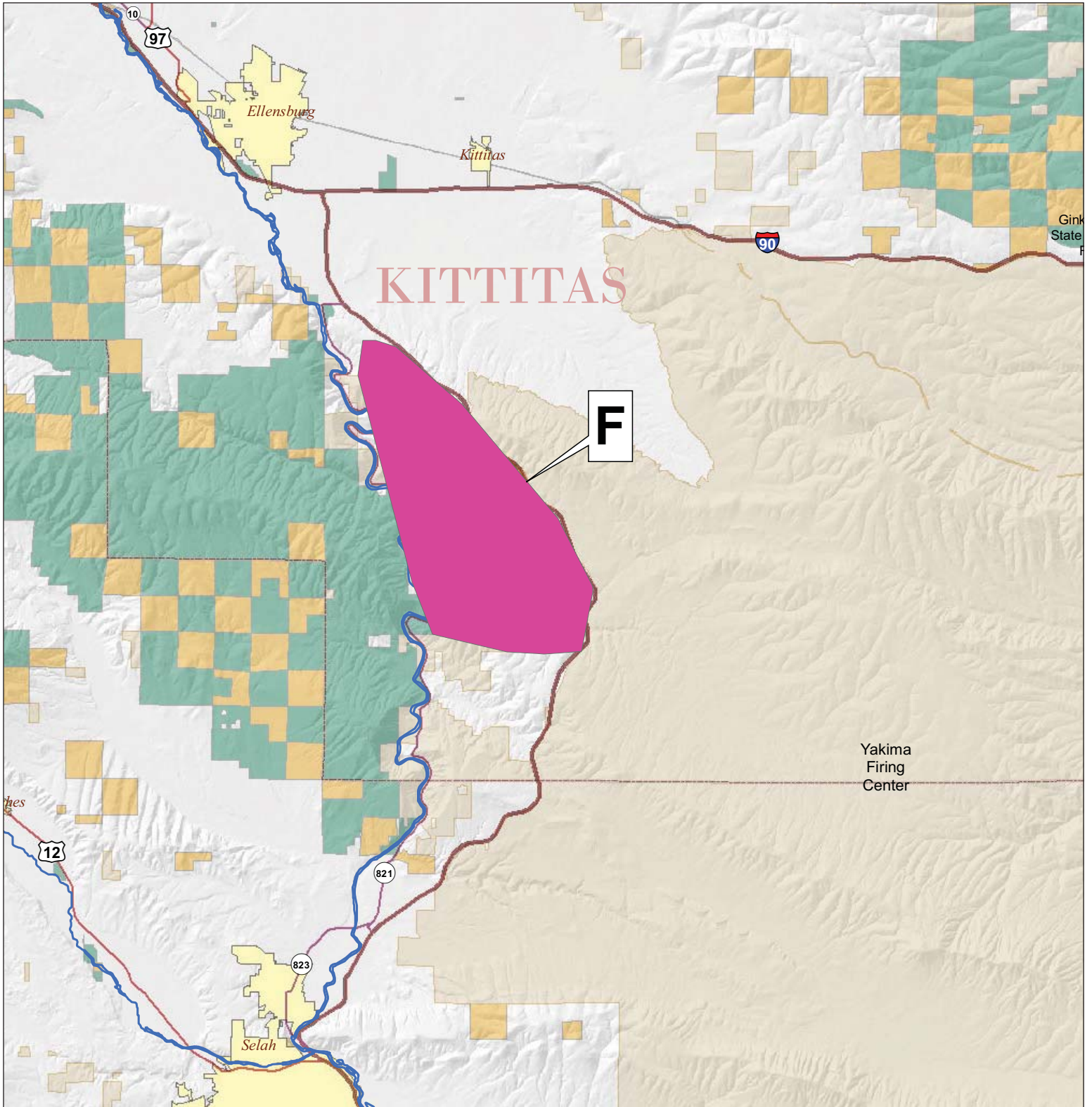
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Yakima Basin Proposed Shrub Steppe Conservation Lands



Parcel_Code

- A
- B
- C

- D
- E
- F
- G

Land Management

- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources
- Tribal

- Other Federal Lands
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- USFS Wilderness Areas

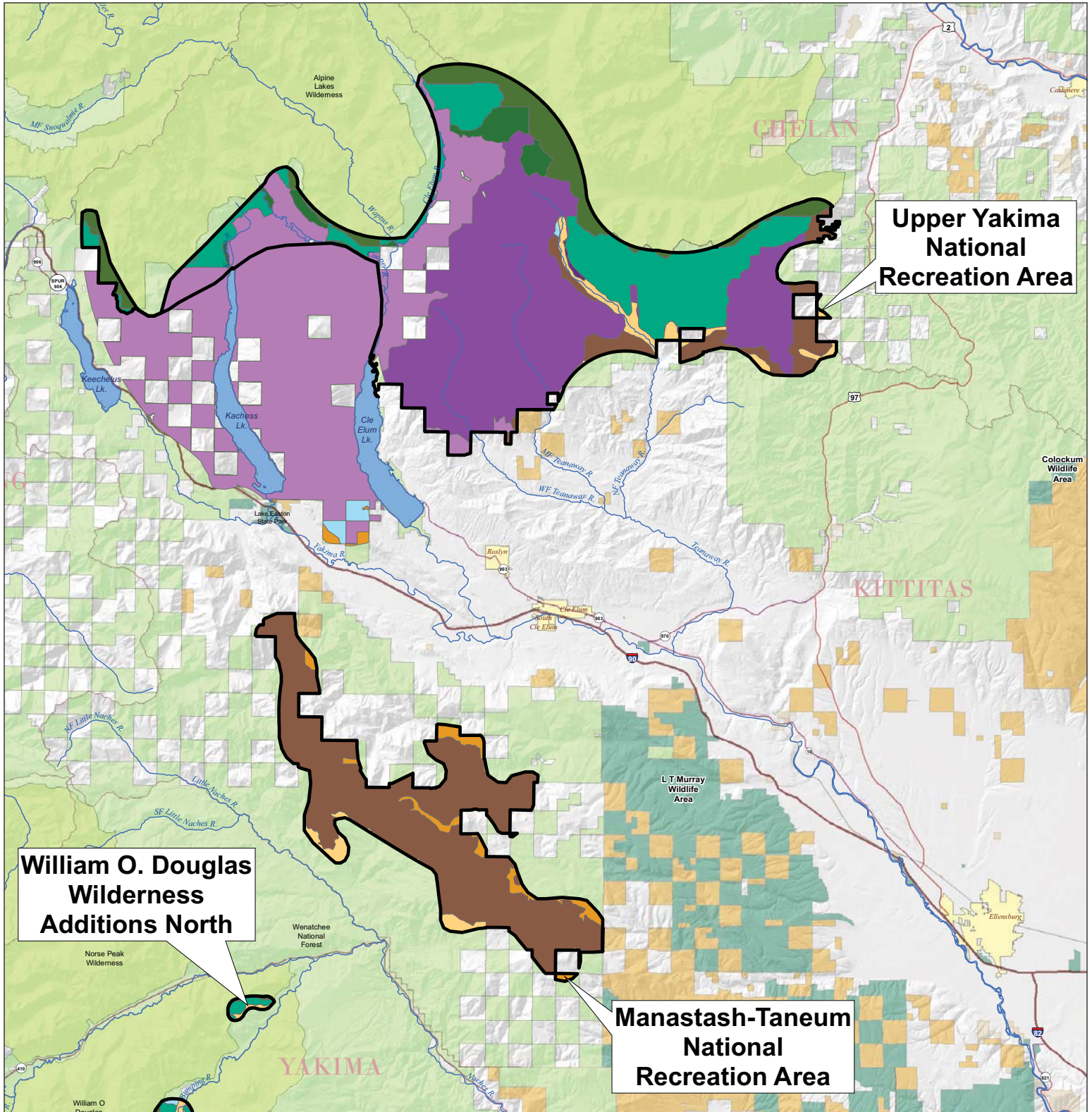
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Yakima Basin Proposed Public Lands Designations



USFS Proposed Actions

- Action**
- Wilderness
 - Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study Area
 - Wilderness – Preliminary Administratively Recommended
 - Backcountry
 - Research Natural Area

- Special Interest Areas
- Adaptive Management Areas
- Active Restoration 2
- Active Restoration 3
- Backcountry Motorized
- Private
- Project Boundaries

- Land Management**
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 - WA Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Tribal
 - Other Federal Lands
 - National Park Service
 - US Forest Service
 - USFS Wilderness Areas

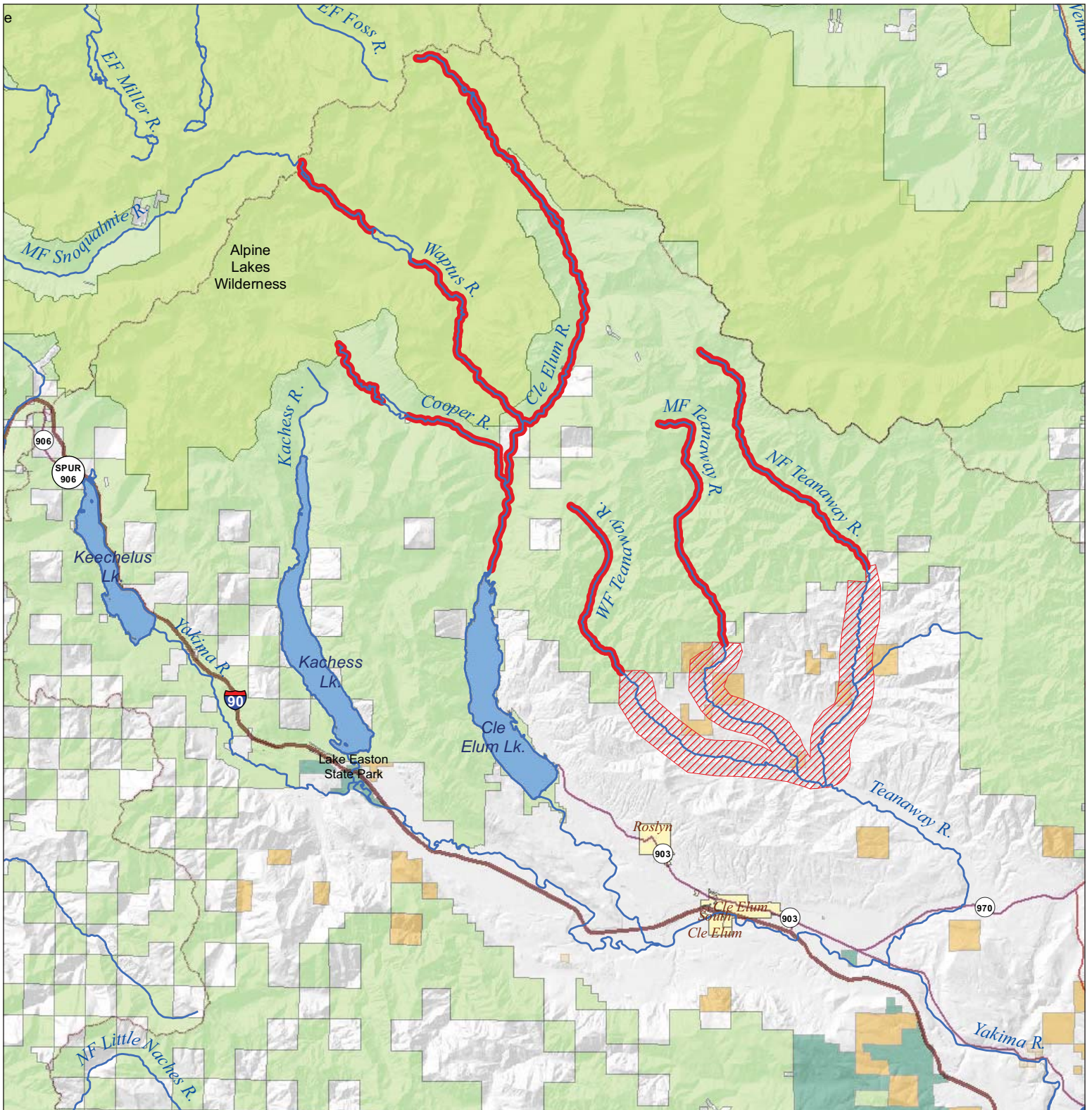
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Yakima Basin Proposed Wild and Scenic River Designations



- Proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wild and Scenic Under Consideration

- Land Management**
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 - WA Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Tribal

- Other Federal Lands
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- USFS Wilderness Areas



DRAFT

Date: November 2nd, 2011
To: John Knutson
From: Tracy Rooney and Richard Low

Re: Comments and questions for meeting #2 of the KC IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Advisory Committee

John, the following comments and questions are from both Tracy Rooney and Richard Low. As we will not be able to attend this meeting we wanted to make sure that this email and its contents were made available to you and the other committee members. (Please forward to all committee members) It is our hope that you will review this memo at your meeting and respond to us with comments.

Please recognize that although our comments are more focused on the Teanaway area, we believe that most of our comments/questions apply to the other areas in the study. Also, please note that many of our comments may tend leave some of you with the impression that we are not in favor of the proposal. Please don't think that. We simply want all impacts (whether economically negative or positive) fully discussed and challenged.

General questions and comments:

We realize that the committee's goal is not to change the recommendations but rather analyze the economic impact they may cause. That said, we find the draft copy to be obtuse and lacking clarity which means we are spending more time trying to figure out intentions than analyzing potential outcomes. Hopefully the group will clarify the document before they pull the "draft" designation from it.

It's unclear to us why "new designations" would be needed on existing forest service lands to improve watershed and habitat protection. *What are the current risks on forest service land that need to be rectified via new designations?*

It's also unclear what a new river corridor designation accomplishes if the lands are acquired and put into public ownership via one of the recommended ownership models. What does this additional step accomplish? (This is basically the same question as above if you assume the land is acquired and removed from development potential. We do see where a wild and scenic designation would make for good tourism marketing and roadside signs...)

What are the "restoration" activities (page 3) that are essential and needing support under the acquisition program and what will be the long-term funding requirements that the document refers to? (Might the recent Jack Creek Road realignment back from the creek project be an example of similar projects needing funding? The project looked expensive and the county certainly needs to understand expected monetary outlays if they gain ownership of this land via a community trust or similar structure. Also, who would designate, prioritize and fund such projects? Side comment: No such effort was done to explain the importance of this project to the public, thus prevailing local opinion is that it's just another waste of taxpayers' dollars. Not a good thing...)

The doc states on page one: "...and will expand a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities for the Washington State residents and visitors".

If this is at all in reference to the Teanaway area acquisition, it's unclear to us how you could expand non-motorized access by acquiring AFLC's Teanaway land without excluding snowmobiles from areas that they now have access to. (AFLC and Boise both gave 100% access to snowmobiles.) The proposal needs to be very clear in what will change in regards to recreation. Many in the "local" community are not in favor of excluding snowmobiles from additional areas as demonstrated by the Forest Service's proposals

feedback session this summer to expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area in the upper Teanaway. This proposal needs “local” support to be successful and closing down current recreation opportunities is probably not a good idea to gain such support. Creating additional wilderness designation is clearly not supported by most recreationists that were at this meeting. Any effort to support or move in this direction will be a non-starter. (Page 9 map..... It appears that there is a rather large area in the Upper Teanaway being recommended for wilderness designation. Both snowmobiles and mountain bikes would be excluded from these areas. Will an economic impact study be completed to determine if use by back country skiers and hikers increase enough to actually outweigh the economic benefits of these other two recreational activities?)

Campgrounds in the Teanaway: Both the 29- Pines and the Teanaway Campground (name ?) near the fire station are no fee, “primitive” campgrounds with approximately 70 spaces provided by AFLC. We know of no stats in regards to their occupancy other than knowing they are quite popular with individuals and groups. Staffing is essentially one person (Gene McDonald, AFLC seasonal employee) who drives through these campgrounds many times per day. Gene handles basic privy cleaning duty and burn ban checks. They are closed once the snow falls.

- Would they be eliminated? Improved? Become fee areas, etc.
- Who would manage and fund them?
- What economic impacts would these changes have on the local economy?
- How would these changes impact the local citizens camping experiences?
- As a side note: I suspect that AFLC’s owner would like to eliminate the campgrounds and their minimal expense but either realizes or was persuaded that it is better to have people camping in a somewhat controlled environment vs. simply ignoring gates, signs and the like and camping wherever they so desire... and their associated negative impacts including garbage, wild fires, sanitation, illegal firewood cutting, etc.

Access - AFLC (and Boise before them) allowed most recreation activities on their Teanaway holdings. The biggest exception to open access is no camping in non-designated areas and no motorized vehicle use other than snowmobiles. Access to their road system includes gates which are opened with assistance from the snowmobile club once there is enough snow on the ground to dissuade wheeled vehicles from access. I’m assuming the rationale to exclude vehicles is to minimize the negative issues mentioned above in regards to camping as well as to keep “mudding” and other erosion issues at bay. Security including making sure proper signage is in place, gates aren’t breeched, etc is accomplished by one person (Gene McDonald) with the assistance from the sheriff if any problems arise. In addition, the local cow handlers and other neighbors report any observed problems to Gene.

- What policies could or would change with ownership?
- Who would this impact, etc. The same basic questions as above.

Related to open access and the camping issues outlined above is the question of management. We are under the belief that camping on National Forest lands is allowed mostly anywhere. What would be the camping policy on any of these various land acquisitions? Our homes are located within 600 feet of one of the proposed areas. Our neighbors and the two of us would be negatively impacted if camping was allowed on adjoining areas. I suspect the same concerns will be shared by the other target land acquisition neighbors.

Rangeland/Grazing comments – Teanaway area specific comments. There are currently 2 parties that contract w/AFLC for rangelands. Fencing is inadequate and the cows freely roam the valley.

Current public impacts include:

- The need for individual landowners to fence the cows out at their own expense.

- Erosion issues and potential stream direction flow issues where individual homeowners find it impractical to place fences in the river and stream riparian areas.
- Road safety hazards -there have been vehicle/cow collisions.
- Road maintenance costs as the cows are driven down the roads and/or the road shoulders on nearly a daily basis. This is mainly done in the fall as they attempt to return the cows to their proper grazing areas.
- The experts should decide whether lack of fencing impacts water quality and habitat. We can say that from personal experience this is an issue as both of us have seen cow manure floating down the river.
- We will also leave it the experts to determine if there is a benefit to fire suppression from cattle grazing. It seems that there are two diverse opinions on this matter especially if the question is looked at over the long term and not just a few seasonal cycles.

Residential Development – Again, this is a Teanaway centric comment. AFLC has 900 acres that is zoned R3. If you look at the specific location of this acreage, you’ll find that it is dispersed over a large area, often on steep hillsides or within the floodplain or other critical areas. Developing the current R3 land would have been incredibly expensive given its specific locations. To us this would clearly limit/reduce the practical number of R3 sites to something less than allowed with 900 R3 acres. So in reality, without a major swap (along the lines of what AFLC had proposed to build their urban village) they really don’t have 900 developable acres if the critical areas are removed from this 900 acre figure. This should be taken into account when determining any potential property tax base loss analysis. (Or what the land is worth...) And if this land was developed as currently zoned, the county would have incurred huge ongoing costs if the roads were anything but private roads and not serviced by county services and the school district buses.

Taxes – Is there a reason or scenario to look at back taxes that would be owed when land is reclassified from open space or down zoned?

Water supply – AFLC found a loophole in the water policies (use it for beneficial use or lose it) and was deemed to have approximately 450 acre feet of seasonal irrigation water which they have put into in stream flow use so they would not have to incur the expense of pulling the water from the streams to dump it on the ground as they had been doing. What will happen to this resource if the land changes ownership? Will it go into a Teanaway area water bank for those landowners who do not have a water right? There are obvious economic impacts to the water rights issue.

Ecological/Air quality – As both of us are either wood fireplace or wood fired hot tub users, we have noticed that the Teanaway Valley has its fair share of inversion days. Minimizing residential development will have a definite positive impact on air quality in the valley. We have no idea how you could place an economic value on this.

Timber – While researching the definition of National Recreation Area, we came across the following web article: <http://wyeastblog.wordpress.com/2010/03/30/the-new-mount-hood-national-recreation-area/> The condensed version is that in this area, logging is being done to, “*improve the health of the forest in a manner that maximizes the retention of large trees, improves the habitats of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or maintains or restores the composition and structure of the ecosystem by reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.*” All good things in our mind but... If this becomes the policy of the Teanaway National Recreation Area, what impact will this have on logging revenues, jobs, taxes, etc? Can we look at annual excise taxes and the like for logging in this area over the last 20 years or so? Even if these areas remain as working forests will new policies diminish their future economic potential?

Access Roads – The same referenced article above also stated “*no new or temporary roads shall be constructed or reconstructed within the Mount Hood NRA except as necessary to protect the health and safety of individuals in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or any other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property; etc.*” Having just spent considerable time making sure that the extensive AFLC road system is clear of debris as part of the annual snowmobile club effort, we can attest to the fact that there are many roads in bad shape. Will these roads be dictated to return to a natural state over time, thus eliminating some recreational use? If not, how would their maintenance be prioritized, managed and funded?

Transportation – As you have probably heard, both the Teanaway Road and the North Fork Roads are being rebuilt in 2013 funded by forest highway dollars. The cattle/maintenance/safety concerns were previously outlined above. A new road will mean better surfaces, wider shoulders and we assume higher speeds. And as a National Recreation Area, we assume that recreational traffic will continue to increase over time. This will negatively affect the current two and four legged residents on these two roads. More wildlife collisions will occur and more attention will need to be paid to areas where there are multiple driveways in condensed areas. (Walking our dogs to the neighbors across the street and down 300 feet is sometimes nerve racking on weekends as Teanaway dogs don’t like leashes!) The county needs to be willing to do more double striping and reduced speed zones regardless of enforcement resources.

Along with this road rebuild is a huge opportunity to enhance recreational pursuits. Better shoulders will encourage more bicycling. Including more turnouts for wildlife and nature viewing will encourage more visits. (Also probably more trash...) And a personal favorite of ours is using this opportunity to better connect snowmobile roads for more efficient use of limited snowmobile grooming dollars. Connecting roads via the shoulder (as is done on the Salmon La Sac road would help). These opportunities should be well thought out and pursued and will have positive economic potential.

CHANGE IN DESIGNATION – We see in a number of instances an interest in utilizing new designations such as “National Recreation Area” and “Wild and Scenic River Designation”. Do these new designations increase or reduce access or do they have other restrictions not currently in force?

Closing – We again thank the committee in advance for taking the time to review our comments and questions. We look forward to your comments and seeing you at the next meeting.

Guyton, Will

From: Bill and Anita Boyum <boyum@fairpoint.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Guyton, Will
Subject: Tomorrows Meeting

I have a conflict with the meeting tomorrow....3 PM meetings on Fridays are tough to make.

My main concern is the Teanaway and the ultimate disposition of what defines working lands. I am a proponent of transferring those lands into Common School Trust for the school children of the State of Washington, but not into a community trust standpoint. My motivation behind this concept is that there is:

- a framework of management practices that will protect all of the natural resources--including a Habitat Conservation Plan
- staff of trained DNR professionals to manage the land
- funding to address the short term and long term investment and management cost of owning the property
- an expectation that the land will be productive and produce revenue for the building of schools

Any proposal that is revenue/cost neutral is not a good option when you are talking about 50,000 acres of some of the best forest land in eastern Washington.