Proposed boundary expansion for Klickitat Canyon Conservation Area

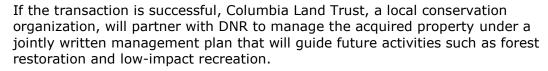
The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to expand the boundary of Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Klickitat Canyon Conservation Area is located northeast of Glenwood and includes lands within Yakima County and Klickitat County. This conservation area was established in 1990, primarily to protect the Klickitat River Canyon. Subsequent additions also protect several rare plant species and nesting habitat for the endangered sandhill crane. Currently, the conservation area comprises 2,335 acres of river canyon and mixed coniferous forest.



The proposed addition is approximately 2,400 acres in one adjacent property. DNR has an opportunity to acquire this property with funding from the federal Forest Legacy program, which is intended to permanently protect forest land. If the Commissioner of Public Lands approves the conservation area boundary proposal, and if the property is acquired, DNR intends to include the property in the conservation area and the primary management objective will be to improve and maintain its overall ecological condition.

The acquisition will protect an additional three miles of the Klickitat River Canyon, as well as habitat for the endangered western gray squirrel, northern spotted owl and a rare plant known as Barrett's beardtongue that grows only in the Klickitat Canyon. Potential recreation activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, rafting and kayaking.





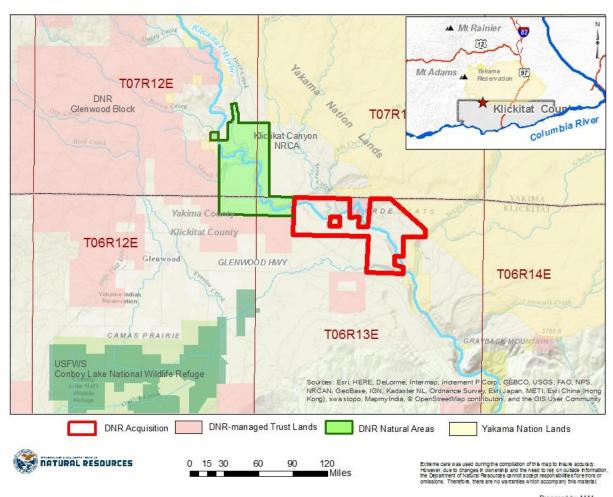
Public Hearing

A hearing on the proposed expansion is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Room at the White Salmon Fire Station, 119 NE Church Street, in White Salmon. Public comment will be received at the hearing and, through close of business on November 23, by mail or email to: Washington Department of Natural Resources, ATTN: Proposed Klickitat Boundary, PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014; or AMPD@dnr.wa.gov with the subject line, "Proposed Klickitat Boundary."



DNR's Natural Areas Program

DNR manages 56 natural area preserves and 36 natural resources conservation areas on nearly 158,000 acres statewide. Preserves offer protection for high-quality examples of native ecosystems and rare plant and animal species. They serve as genetic reserves for Washington's native species and as reference sites for comparing natural and altered environments. Conservation areas protect lands having high conservation values for ecological systems, scenic qualities, wildlife habitat, and low-impact recreational opportunities. In addition to resource conservation, both preserves and conservation areas are host to research and environmental education. Details about each conservation designation and the DNR Natural Areas Program can be found at www.dnr.wa.gov/managed-lands/natural-areas.



DNR CRT Division October 24, 2016