



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

For
State Trust Lands



Managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources



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Natural Resources

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Tonight's Agenda

Agency Background

Recreation Planning

Community Involvement

Question & Answer

Listening Stations





DNR

Manages & protects
5.6 million acres:

Trust Lands

- ▶ Forests
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Renewable energy

Aquatic Lands

Conservation Lands

- ▶ Natural Area Preserves
- ▶ Natural Resources Conservation Areas



State trust land management

GENERATES REVENUE

\$260 million in FY 2014 for

- ▶ K-12 Public School Construction
- ▶ State Universities
- ▶ Prisons & Reform Schools
- ▶ Capitol Buildings
- ▶ County services and local schools



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DNR Fire Program

Protects 13 million acres of private and state forestlands from wildfire

- ▶ Wildfire prevention
- ▶ State's largest on-call fire department
- ▶ Coordinates fire response with other state agencies, federal partners, local jurisdictions and many tribal governments



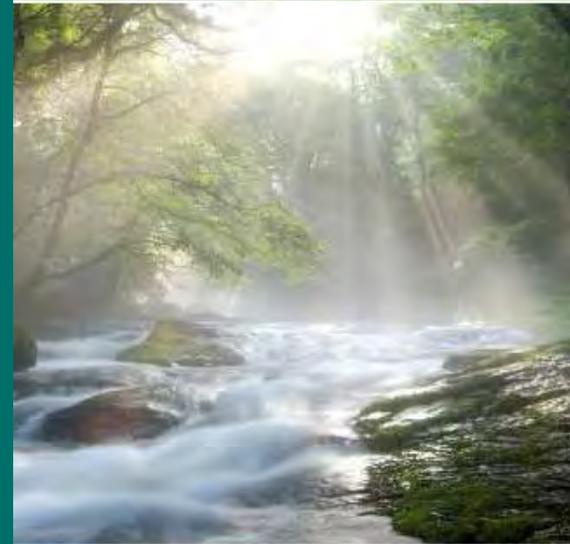
Conservation Lands

156,000 acres protected as:

Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs)

- Conservation
- Low Impact Recreation
- Environmental Education

Natural Area Preserves (NAPs)



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Multiple Use Act (1971)

RCW 79.10.120

Multiple uses additional to those activities necessary to fulfill the financial obligations of trust management may include:

- Recreation areas
- . . .
- . . .

If such additional uses are not compatible with the financial obligations in the management of trust land they may be permitted if there is compensation from such uses satisfying the financial obligations.





DNR's Recreation Vision:

Provide diverse and high quality recreational opportunities on DNR landscapes that foster community engagement, promote a strong sense of environmental stewardship, and enrich the quality of life in Washington.



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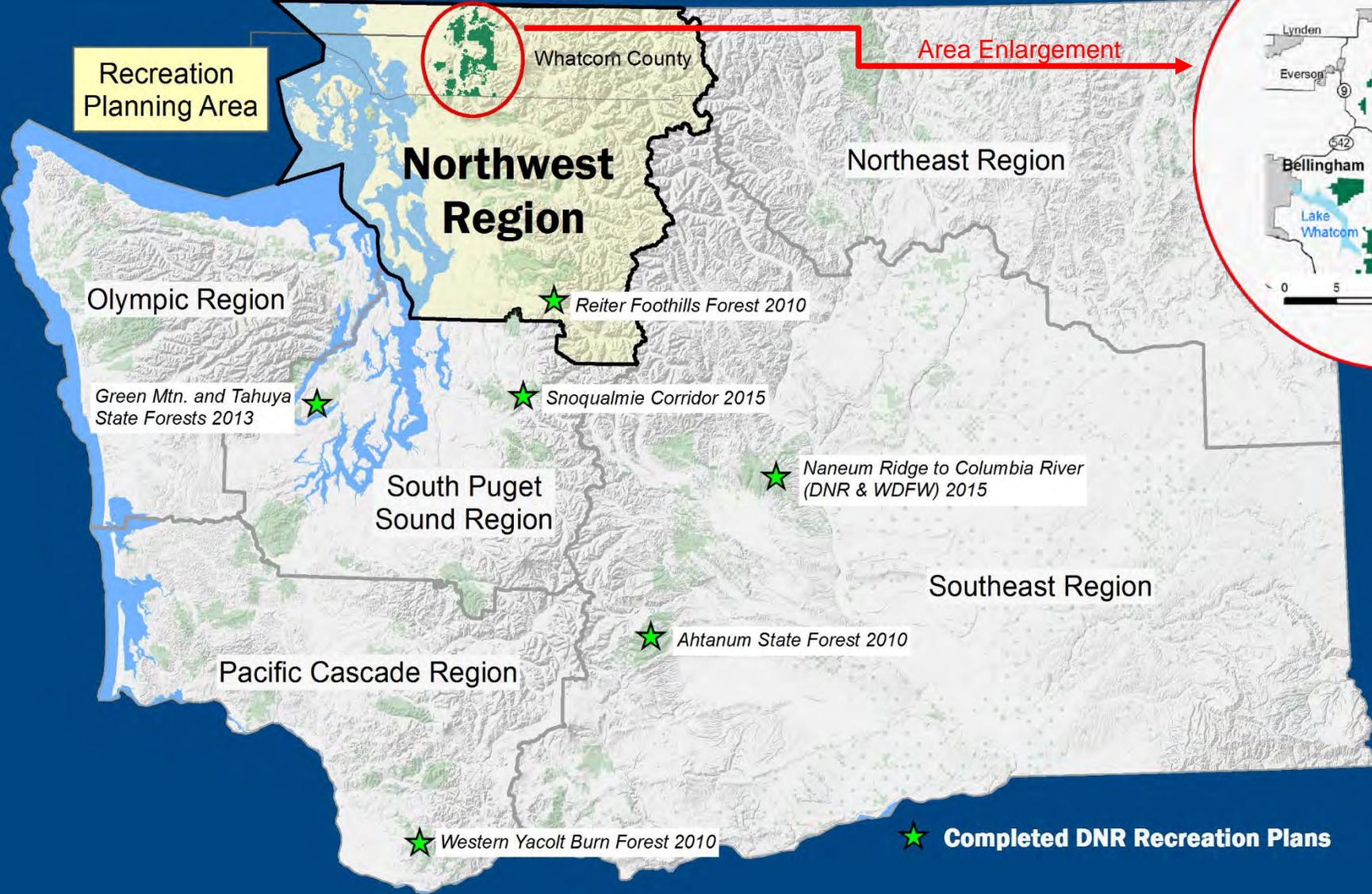
DNR Statewide Recreation

- ▶ 160+ recreation sites
- ▶ 1,100+ miles of trails
- ▶ Boating, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ORVing, hang and paragliding, and winter activities
- ▶ 11 million annual visits

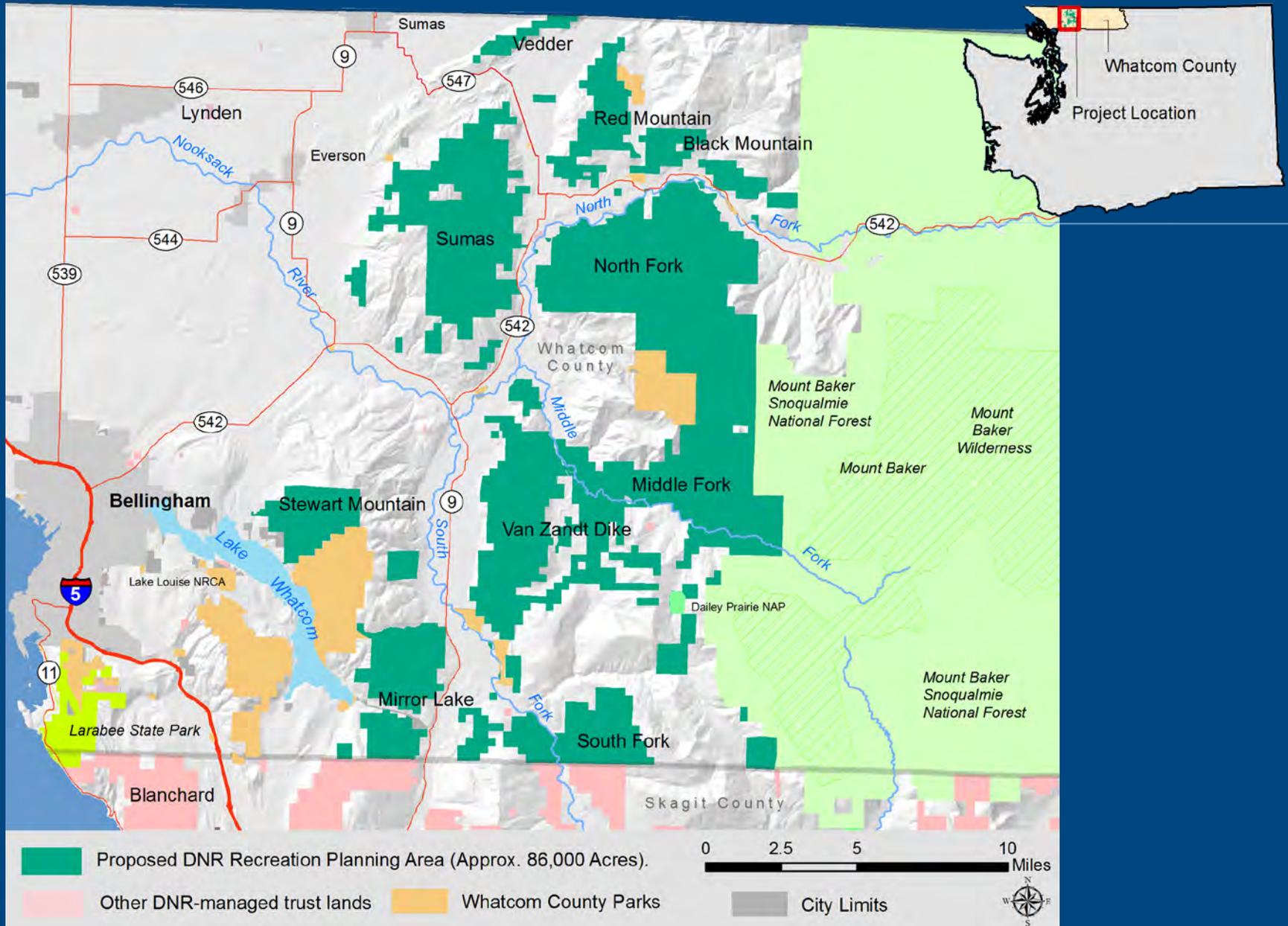


Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Region

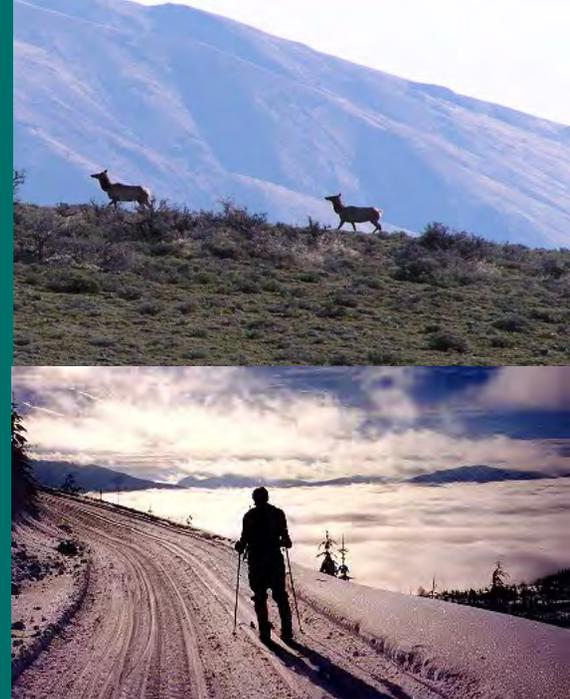


Planning Area Map



Purpose of Planning

- ▶ Develop objectives for managing recreation for next 10-15 years.
- ▶ Determine what types of recreation will be provided in the forests and where.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for connections across the landscape.
- ▶ Identify partnerships and volunteer opportunities.
- ▶ Establish priorities for implementing the plan.



Planning Goals

- ▶ Public safety
- ▶ Compatible with state trust management obligations
- ▶ Resource protection
- ▶ Quality user experience



Planning Process & Timeline

FALL 2015	PHASE 1: PREPLANNING Determine the need and scope, project team, stakeholder involvement plan, and data collection needs
WINTER 2016	 PROJECT KICKOFF Public Meeting, Finalize Recreation Planning Committee Committee to begin meeting in March
SPRING - FALL 2016	PHASE 2: INVENTORY / LAND SUITABILITY Determine the land suitability: gather biological, soil, geological and management data Determine community benefit and planning context for the project
SUMMER - WINTER 2016	PHASE 3: RECREATION INVENTORY / PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Determine public issues and concerns, hold public meetings, collect recreation field data, online survey
WINTER & SPRING 2017	PHASE 4: ASSESSMENT Suitability analysis: opportunities and constraints Determine the 'BIG IDEA', or management concept for the planning area (what are we going to do where?)
SPRING & SUMMER 2017	PHASE 5: ALTERNATIVE(S) Determine and describe the preferred alternative for the project, document preparation and production
FALL 2017	PHASE 6: SEPA PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMUNICATIONS SEPA is conducted, plan is edited and formatted for publication
WINTER 2018	PHASE 7: ADOPTION Plan is adopted by the agency



Recreation Planning Committee

Data Gathering

- ▶ Biological Data
- ▶ Soils/ Geology Data
- ▶ Management Data
- ▶ Field Visits
- ▶ Field Inventory of Current Use
- ▶ Public Input
- ▶ Recreation Trends
- ▶ User Survey
- ▶ Adjacent Land Uses & opportunities
- ▶ Community Input

Assessment

- ▶ Land Suitability Analysis
- ▶ Field Visits
- ▶ Issue Sorting from:
 - Survey Results
 - Public Meeting
 - Committee Input
 - Ongoing Public Input
- ▶ Evaluate Costs of Capital
- ▶ Development & Maintenance

Recommendations

- ▶ Committee Brainstorming
- ▶ Preliminary Recommendations
- ▶ Develop/Review Draft Recreation Concept Plans
- ▶ Prioritize Implementation Timeline
- ▶ Final Concept Plan
- ▶ Committee Recommendation



Land Suitability Assessment

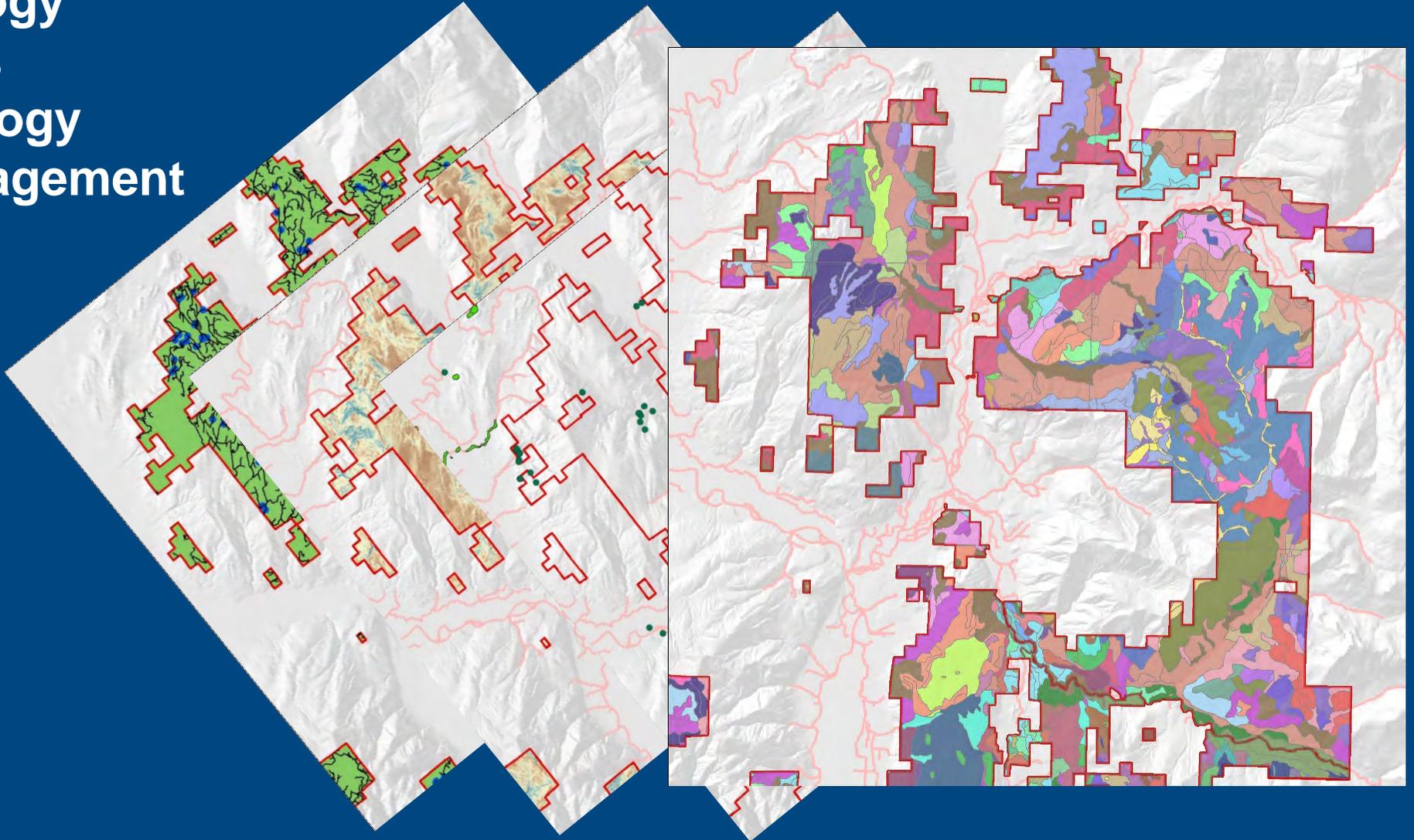
- ▶ Riparian areas, wetlands & other habitats
- ▶ Streams (fish-bearing & non-fish bearing)
- ▶ Soils & slope steepness
- ▶ Geologic features and landslide hazards
- ▶ Communication sites, etc...



Recreation Land Suitability

Maps guide recreation planning efforts

Biology
Soils
Geology
Management



How to Participate ?

- Recreation planning committee
- Community meetings
- Web page:
www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham
- E-mail updates
- Online survey
- Contact us:
BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov
- SEPA public environmental review



Recreation Planning Committee

- Application Deadline: **January 29, 2016**
- 12-15 members representing broad range of backgrounds, recreation interests and knowledge of the area
- First Meeting: **March**
- Commitment: approximately 16-20 months
- Meetings: approximately 12-14



Listening Stations

1. Recreating in the forest
2. Recreation topics for consideration
3. Accessing the forest
4. Partnerships/opportunities
5. Recreation Planning Committee





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