

# WASHINGTON STATE Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Proposed Name: Hunter Creek

County: Mason County

Township: 21 N Range: 4 W Section(s): 16, 17, 18

Lat. 47.310056 N, Long. -123.240922 W (Begin)

Lat. 47.315294 N, Long. -123.239792 W (End)

New Name

Controversial Name

Name Change

Location Clarification

Spelling Clarification

## Description

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): Stream

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): Hunter Creek is a tributary of the Skokomish River, the headwaters of which sustain Eells Springs Hatchery. This perennial stream runs 410.6 feet in length, feeding Weaver Creek Pond before joining the Skokomish.

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: Stream is perennial.

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: No other known names.

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? The name Hunter Creek is publicized in both County and state documents.

## History

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name: Hunter Creek sits on the southern side of the Skokomish Valley flood plain where it flows through various forested and agricultural areas. The stream feeds Weaver Creek Pond, which is known alternatively as Hunter Creek and designated by the WDFW as a Waterfowl Quality Hunt Site, before entering the Skokomish River.

Cited:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/wqhp/WeaverCreekPondMason.pdf>

[https://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/public\\_works/Skok-River-Hazards-September1997.pdf](https://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/public_works/Skok-River-Hazards-September1997.pdf)

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: NA

# Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? Hunter Creek is used by Eells Spring Hatchery, hunters, and residents of the Skokomish Valley.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: Hunter Creek is considered a fairly major stream and the name is already recognized by local knowledge and County records. Additionally, it is used throughout WDFW documents.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? The name Hunter Creek has been used by Mason County since at least 1997.

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) As cited above:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/wqhp/WeaverCreekPondMason.pdf>

[https://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/public\\_works/Skok-River-Hazards-September1997.pdf](https://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/public_works/Skok-River-Hazards-September1997.pdf)

<http://www.co.mason.wa.us/resolutions/2010/12-10.pdf>

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

Nicole Burgess with Mason County via emails dated to 2014:

Email: [NicoleB@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:NicoleB@co.mason.wa.us)

Phone: 360-427-9670 ext. 526

## Application submitted by:

Name: Meaghan Mounger

Address: 300 Desmond Dr. SE City: Lacey State: WA

Zip: 98503 Phone #: 206-669-6647 Email: memo461@ecy.wa.gov

Date of Application: 9/13/2016

**I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.**

Printed Name: Meaghan Mounger

Signature: *Meaghan Mounger* Date: 9/13/2016

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

**WA State Board on Geographic Names**

**PO Box 47030**

**Olympia, WA 98504-7030**

(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov))

Mason County

## Weaver Creek Pond

Also known as Hunter Creek, this site is just under 2 miles from Hwy 101 and has varying amounts of water throughout the season. Park at the gate at the SW corner of the old milking barn. Walk east along the barn and then north to the cattail pond or flooded fields. Leave all gates as you found them and hunt only in the area outlined in the aerial photo. Depending on the water level of the Skokomish River, this site can be very good for mallards, pintails, wigeon and green-winged teal. Provide your own blind and dig no pits. Like all Waterfowl Quality Hunt sites, the first vehicle parked at the sign reserves the entire site. **The opportunity to hunt is on a first come/first served basis.** Only 3 hunters allowed in the party and no more than 15 shells per hunter. Pick up all empty shells and dead birds.

GPS - 0484504 5239920



# DRAFT

## DISCUSSION OF SKOKOMISH RIVER VALLEY FLOOD AND AVULSION HAZARDS

Skillings~Connolly, Inc.  
Simons and Associates  
September 8, 1997  
(Revised September 15, 1997)

### **Background**

A discussion of the general features and trends of the Skokomish River Valley with respect to flood and avulsion hazards is presented based on a review of available mapping, cross-sections, and observations. This discussion proceeds in the downstream direction from the South Fork at the mouth of the canyon to the lower mainstem Skokomish as it flows into Annas Bay on the Hood Canal. The discussion is based on available survey data compiled by KCM and as mapped on Figure 6.1 of the Skokomish River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan, observations made in July, 1997, a comparison of cross-sections from 1992 to 1997, a discussion with Skokomish Valley residents at the meeting at the Mason County Fairgrounds on September 8, 1997, and previous experience on the Skokomish River and other river systems.

As the South Fork flows out of the relatively steep mountain watershed through the canyon it reaches the upper end of the alluvial valley over which the South Fork and Skokomish River flow. This alluvial valley is formed by the transport and deposition of sediment carried by the river. The general down-valley slope gradually transitions from the steeper slope at the canyon to the flat slope at the bay.

### **Location of River Within Floodplain**

At the upstream end of the valley, the flood plain is relatively flat with the channel bed several feet lower than the flood plain (see cross-sections 68-66). As the South Fork continues downstream, the first of several tributaries from the southern side of the valley flow downstream and toward the South Fork. These tributaries tend to flow in a direction primarily down valley before joining with the South Fork. The first tributary, Kirkland Creek, follows this pattern in the area between cross-sections 66 to 64. In this area there are several low portions primarily on the southern flood plain that are not much higher than the bed of the South Fork. At cross-sections 64 and 63 the flood plain is again very low. The flood plain is a little higher with respect to the bed of the South Fork from cross-sections 62 to 58. Vance Creek parallels and then join with the South Fork from cross-sections 64 to 60.

The North Fork joins the South Fork near cross-sections 55 and 54 forming the Skokomish River. Swift Creek parallels the South Fork and the Skokomish River from cross-sections 60 to 53. In the vicinity of cross-sections 57 to 55, the flood plain is quite low on both sides of the river. Hunter Creek flows parallel to and then joins the

Skokomish River in the reach of river from cross-sections 55 to 37. At cross-sections 54 and 53, the valley floor slopes to the south and Hunter Creek (which is on the southern side of the valley floor) is lower than the Skokomish River. From cross-sections 52 to 46, the flood plain has numerous points which are almost as low, and some cases lower than the main channel on both sides of the river. In the reach from cross-section 45 to 37, the flood plain remains relatively low, with areas nearly as low as the river bed.

From cross-section 39 to 25, Weaver Creek flows parallel to the Skokomish on the southern flood plain. From cross-section 39 to 27 (just upstream of the Highway 101 bridge), the flood plain has numerous points which are nearly as low as the bed of the river. In some places, the bed of Weaver Creek is lower than the bed of the Skokomish River. The southern flood plain is generally a little lower than the northern flood plain. The embankments approaching the Highway 101 bridge block the flow on the low flood plains on both sides of the river. Most of the overbank flood flow then flows over the southern flood plain crossing through bridges for Weaver and Purdy Creeks (which have beds lower than the Skokomish), as well as overtopping the low sections in Highway 101. The lowest portion of the highway is in the vicinity of Purdy Creek.

Purdy Creek flows in the Skokomish Valley starting a short distance upstream of the Highway 101 bridge. Weaver Creek joins Purdy Creek just downstream of the Highway 101 bridge between cross-sections 26 and 25. Purdy Creek parallels the river and joins the Skokomish River in the vicinity of cross-section 19. From cross-section 26 (just downstream of Highway 101) to cross-section 20, the flood plain on both sides of the river is quite low. At a number of these cross-sections, the lowest portion of the flood plain is lower than the river bed. This portion of the flood plain on the USGS map is designated as a wet area. An old remnant channel of the Skokomish River is located on the north flood plain and Purdy Creek is located on the south flood plain. From cross-section 19 to 16 the Skokomish River swings to the south and flows adjacent to the Purdy Cutoff Road and the south valley wall. The north flood plain is still quite low but not as low as it had been further upstream and not as low or lower than the channel bed. Actually at cross-sections 18 to 16, the north flood plain is mostly higher than the river bank and drains toward the river. From cross-section 15 to 11 (the Highway 106 bridge), the river swings away from the road and the flood plain is mostly higher than the river except for a small, un-named channel which flows across the south flood plain from the valley wall to the river. The roadway embankments leading up to the Highway 106 bridge tend to block any flood plain flow and force water to flow through the bridge opening for most flow conditions.

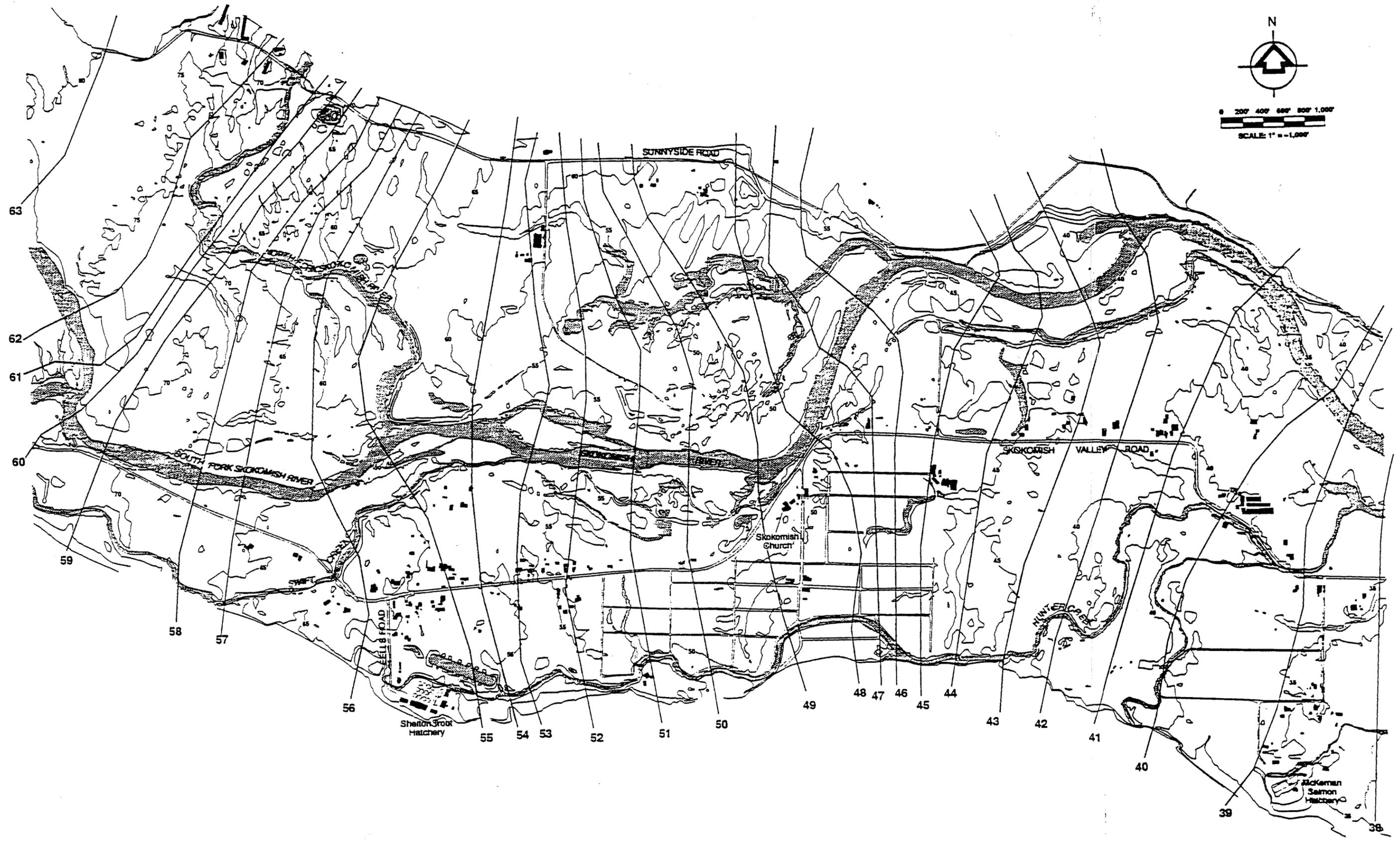
From the Highway 106 bridge (cross-section 11) down to cross-section 6, the Skokomish River continues to flow in a single channel. Downstream of cross-section 6, the river splits into two branches. There is a channel which flows diagonally across the north flood plain and drains into the north branch of the Skokomish River after the split. From cross-section 10 to 6, the flood plain is generally higher than the channel but sometimes lower than the top of the river bank. The USGS map shows a wet area on the north flood plain from cross-section 9 to the split near cross-section 6.

Downstream of the split below cross-section 6, the river is influenced significantly by the tides. The flood plain is relatively flat farmland and tidal marsh land.

### **Avulsion Possibilities**

The Skokomish River has flowed in its present channel for quite some time without major shifts or avulsions. As aggradation of sediment on the river bed has occurred at an accelerated rate over the past few decades, its capacity to convey floods has decreased. For example, from a comparison of South Fork cross-sections surveyed in 1992 and 1997, there was evidence of about 2 feet of aggradation and corresponding reduction in conveyance capacity. This situation, coupled with the availability of existing parallel tributary channels which are often lower in elevation than the bed of the main river system, has set up the strong possibility of a major avulsion. An avulsion can be defined as a significant and rapid change in channel alignment, typically resulting in the adoption of a new path for the river to follow. The most likely location for an avulsion to occur is in the vicinity of cross-sections 54 and 53, or 49 and 48. These are the areas with the strongest cross valley gradient to the south towards the Hunter Creek channel, which is lower than the Skokomish River bed. The reach of the river from cross-section 54 to 53 has experienced erosion of riparian vegetation and the river bank last winter, and the reach in the vicinity of cross-section 49 and 48 is near a sharp bend in the River and experienced erosion of the river bank dikes during last winter's storms. Although not as likely as the locations discussed above, there is a possibility of an avulsion in the reach near cross-sections 44 and 43 at or near the end of the existing dike and in the low area in the vicinity of cross-sections 39 to 35. If an avulsion occurs in the vicinity of cross-sections 54 and 53, 49 and 48, or 44 and 43, the water would likely flow toward and into Hunter Creek. The flow could re-enter the Skokomish as Hunter Creek currently does, however since the main stem Skokomish would also be at high flood levels, it could jump into the Weaver Creek channel. If an avulsion occurred in the low area near sections 39 to 35 the flow would likely go directly to the Weaver Creek channel. If the avulsion fully develops and follows the Hunter Creek and Weaver Creek channels, this would tend to cause increased flow across Highway 101 in the Weaver and Purdy Creek channels and over the road in these areas. This would cause increased flow and flooding on the southern flood plain downstream of Highway 101.

It is also possible that an avulsion could take place farther upstream on the South Fork in the vicinity of cross-section 64 or 59. These are locations where the South Fork is directed at the south river bank and where overflows occurred during last winter's floods. In the event of an avulsion in either of these locations, either all or more likely a part of the flow would leave the South Fork or Skokomish River and follow the path of least resistance and strongest gradient. This path is generally toward and down existing tributary channels such as Vance Creek, Swift Creek, or Hunter Creek. If an avulsion occurred from the South Fork to Vance or Swift Creeks, it is possible that the water could rejoin the South Fork or the Skokomish River as these creeks currently do. They could, however, be overwhelmed by the magnitude and momentum of flow, adopting a path into Hunter Creek.



Mason County  
 SKOKOMISH RIVER COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD  
 HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Figure 6-1c.  
 TOPOGRAPHY AND HEC-2 CROSS-SECTIONS OF THE  
 SKOKOMISH VALLEY—HUNTER CREEK VICINITY

RESOLUTION NO. 12-10

**A RESOLUTION REMOVING BRIDGE LIMITS FROM TAHUYA RIVER BRIDGE,  
HUNTER CREEK BRIDGE AND WEAVER CREEK BRIDGE**

**WHEREAS**, Bridge Limit Resolution 100-09 was adopted November 17, 2009 restricting load limits for a period of one (1) year, unless the Board, by appropriate action, modifies or removes such restrictions.

**WHEREAS**, the temporary Tahuya River Bridge has been removed with the completion and opening of the new Tahuya River Bridge.

**WHEREAS**, an Engineering Consultant has inspected and determined that Hunter Creek Bridge and Weaver Creek Bridge would be safe for one lane legal highway loads,

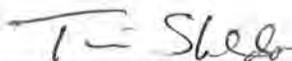
**WHEREAS**, Hunter Creek Bridge has been reduced to a one (1) lane bridge and stop signs installed at each end of the bridge for traffic control and

**WHEREAS**, Weaver Creek Bridge has been reduced to a one (1) lane bridge and traffic lights installed to control traffic.

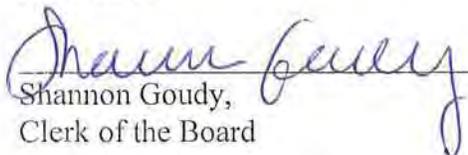
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the load limits be removed from all three (3) bridges.

**DATED** this 16th day of March 2010.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

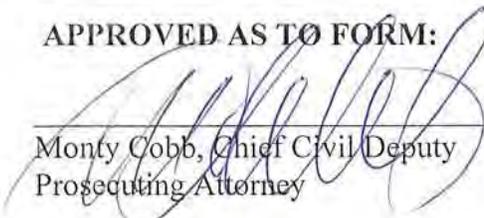
  
TIM SHELDON, Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
Shannon Goudy,  
Clerk of the Board

  
LYNDA RING ERICKSON, Commissioner

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Monty Cobb, Chief Civil Deputy  
Prosecuting Attorney

  
ROSS GALLAGHER, Commissioner

cc: Public Works  
Sheriff  
Prosecutor

**From:** [Mounger, Meaghan \(ECY\)](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Cc:** [Stohr, Anita \(ECY\)](#); [Saul, Dan \(ECY\)](#)  
**Subject:** Hunter Creek Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, October 10, 2016 10:52:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [MasonCoStreams.PNG](#)

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Hi Caleb,

Sorry I missed your call last week, hopefully this email will answer your questions. We are hoping to add the name Hunter Creek, using the points that I included in the proposal. Weaver Creek is currently mislabeled and does not connect to Hunter Creek as previous maps indicate; we would like to update the source and mouth points for Weaver as follows:

Source: -123.214659, 47.303795  
Mouth: -123.172242, 47.303392

We would also like to make a change to Purdy Creek. The mouth of the creek is correct, but the upper extent is currently in a hatchery pond. The upper extent of Purdy Creek should be marked as: -123.157078, 47.279040

Please see the attached map, which shows the correct locations for Purdy, Weaver, and Hunter Creeks, as described above.

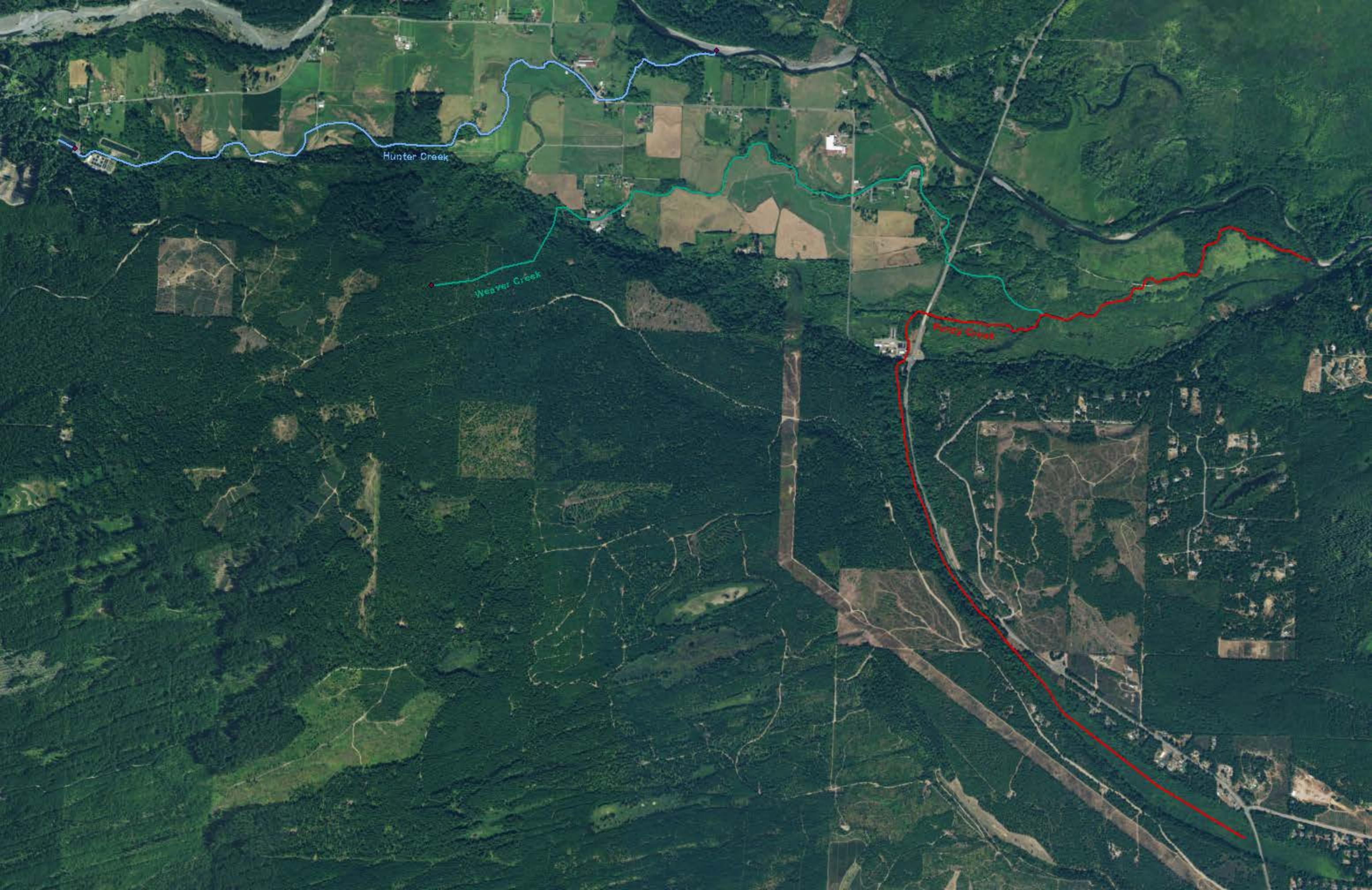
Additional information which may be helpful:

- There are 3 State Hatcheries, one on each Creek.
- For each creek, the WDFW hatchery personnel, the Ecology water right documents, and Mason County all agree to the above names and locations.
- Hunter Creek is signed at both the headwaters at Eells Springs Hatchery and at the mouth (we have pictures and GPS points at these locations if you would like to see them).
- Weaver Creek has no signs
- Purdy Creek has a sign at the 101 crossing

Please let me know if there is any additional information that I can provide or if I need to submit separate applications for the changes regarding Weaver and Purdy Creeks.

Thank You,

Meaghan Mounger  
(206)669-6647

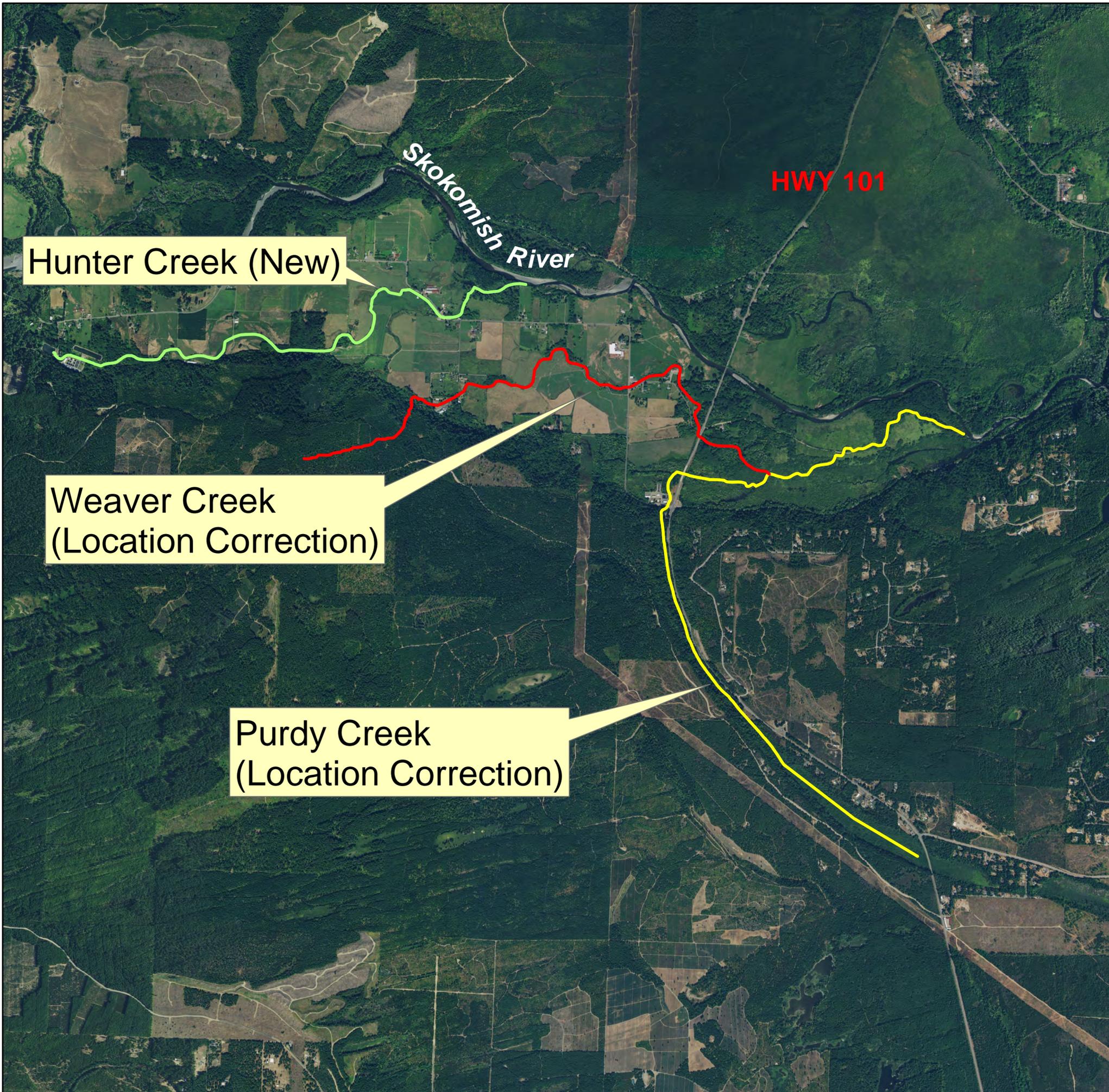


Hunter Creek

Weaver Creek

Paddy Creek

# HUNTER CREEK, WEAVER CREEK, PURDY CREEK - MASON COUNTY



Three proposals submitted in response to discrepancies in the National Hydrography Database.

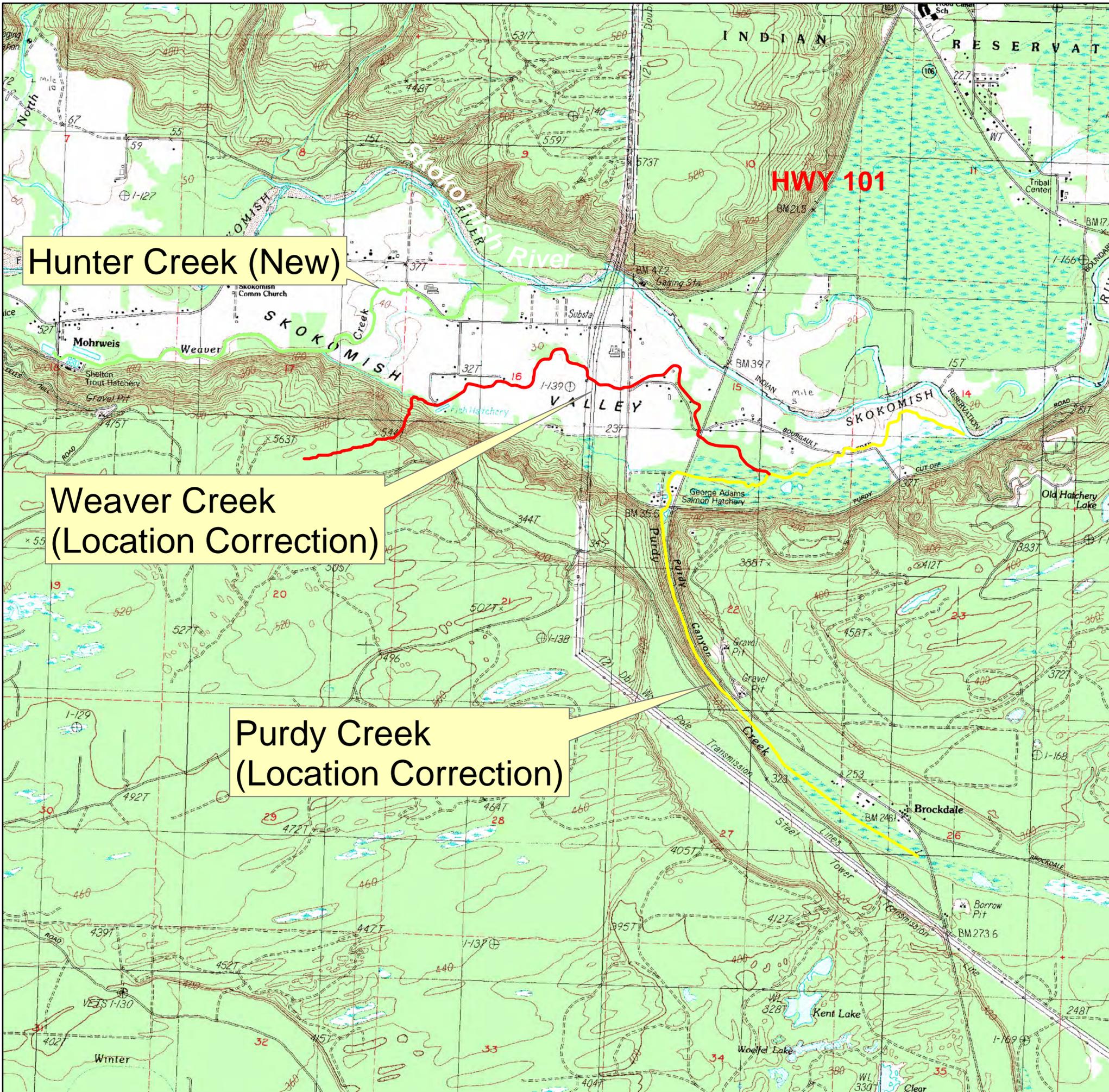
Hunter Creek - New Name. Proponent claims that name is in use today, would like to make the name official.

Weaver Creek - Location correction.

Purdy Creek - Location correction.



# HUNTER CREEK, WEAVER CREEK, PURDY CREEK - MASON COUNTY



Hunter Creek (New)

Weaver Creek (Location Correction)

Purdy Creek (Location Correction)

Three proposals submitted in response to discrepancies in the National Hydrography Database.

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