State Trust Lands AND OTHER MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS IN WASHINGTON STATE

How do public lands contribute to Washington's quality of life?

When people hear 'public lands,' they think of parks and recreation, and may not realize all the benefits that public lands provide.

Most public lands in Washington State are above 3,000 feet. High elevation public lands offer wild, unique animal habitat, dramatic vistas, recreation, and some commercial opportunities. Most lower elevation public lands are highways and roads, schools, city halls and other public buildings. However, state trust lands are some of the largest natural resources landscapes in the lower elevations—managed to provide revenue, protect wildlife habitat and water, and offer countless options for recreation and education.

DNR-Managed Lands

5.6 MILLION ACRES

Most state-owned lands in Washington are managed by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR manages a variety of lands for a variety of purposes. See pie chart on other side.

TRUST LANDS

2.9 MILLION ACRES

Lands held in trust to support specific public beneficiaries. See other side for more information.

GRANTED TRUST LANDS
Benefit the state's public schools, universities and other institutions.

- Common School, Indemnity & Escheat
- Agricultural School
- Scientific School
- Normal School
- University Transferred
- University Original
- Charitable, Educational, Penal & Reformatory Institutions
- Capitol Grant

STATE FOREST TRUST LANDS
Formerly Forest Board Trust lands. Benefit schools, counties and local services.

- State Forest Transfer Trust
- State Forest Purchased Trust

OTHER
Benefit Community Colleges and others.

- Community College Reserve and other DNR-managed Lands

NATURAL AREAS

131,000 ACRES

Lands dedicated to protecting rare and native species and ecosystems. Access on NAPs is restricted to approved scientific research and educational uses.

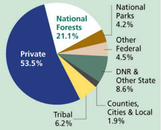
- Natural Area Preserve (NAP)
- Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)

AQUATIC LANDS

2.6 MILLION ACRES

Public tidelands, shorelands and beds of navigable waters are managed to benefit the general public. Tidelands extend from mean high tide to extreme low tide. About 40 percent are state-owned. Beds of navigable waters below extreme low tide are usually state-owned.

Land Base Ownerships



THIS CHART IS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE 2000 PUBLIC LANDS INVENTORY. PUBLISHED BY THE RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE. ALTHOUGH MANY LANDS HAVE CHANGED HANDS, THE GENERAL PERCENTAGES REMAIN THE SAME.

Other Public Lands

Generally, parcels shown on this map are 160 acres or larger, and only major administrative areas are labeled.

OTHER STATE LANDS

- State Parks & Recreation Commission
- Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Other State

OTHER LANDS

- Tribal Center
- Indian Reservation
- Upland Boundary
- Municipal Watershed
- Other County or Municipal

FEDERAL LANDS

- Forest Service: National Forest
- Forest Service: Wilderness
- Bureau of Land Management
- Army Corps of Engineers
- National Park, Recreation Area, or Monument
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Other Federal

▸ Many public or tribal lands portrayed on this map are closed or have restricted entry and travel rules

▸ Please observe all municipal, state, federal and tribal regulations.

State trust and other DNR-managed lands data portrayed on the map are effective 12/2009.
State Parks and Recreation Commission and State Department of Fish and Wildlife data are effective 12/2009.
Data for other state, federal, tribal and local ownerships are effective 06/2005-12/2009.

Cultural Features

Pacific Cascade Region — DNR Region Office (with Region Name)

Communities
Over 250,000 people
70,000 – 250,000 / 15,000 – 69,999
Under 15,000
County Seat (underlined) / State Capital

SEATTLE · SPOKANE · Anacortes · Clarkston · Wenatchee · Olympia

Roads
Interstate Highway: Washington / Out of State
U.S. Highway: Washington / Out of State; Trans-Canada
Washington State Highway / OR, ID or BC Provincial Highway
U.S. Forest Service Route; Other Road / Other Out of State
AMTRAK Railroad

STATE TRUST LANDS
and Other Major Public Lands in Washington State

Scale 1:750,000

1 inch on the map represents approximately 12 miles on the ground
1 centimeter on the map represents 7.5 kilometers on the ground
Elevations are in feet

Kilometers 0 15 30 — Miles 0 10 20 40 70

Projection is Lambert Conformal Conic based on standard parallels at 33 and 45 degrees.
Washington Coordinate System, NAD83 (1991)

DEGREES, HATCH MARKS & TICKS

48° LATITUDE
120° LONGITUDE

Hatch marks with degree values around the map show latitude and longitude. Latitude is the location north or south of the equator. Longitude is the location east or west of the Prime Meridian (north-south running line through the Greenwich Observatory in England). | Tics (plus signs) in the map body show where longitude and latitude intersect. Washington's northeast corner is almost at 49° N 117° W.

WHAT IS THE GRID ACROSS THE MAP?

The map grid represents part of the U.S. Public Land Survey System. The grid origin for Oregon and Washington is near Portland, Oregon where the **Willamette Meridian** and the **Base Line** intersect, monumented with the Willamette Stone on June 4, 1851. The Meridian is intersected by **township** lines extending east-west, the Base Line is intersected by **range** lines running north-south at about six-mile intervals with adjustments for the earth's curvature. The resulting "thirty-six mile squares" are **townships** | Each township is divided into 36 roughly one-mile squares called **sections** | Townships are referenced by their distance north or south of the Base Line and east or west of the Willamette Meridian. For example, Vancouver, WA is in T2N R1E — the second township (T) north of the Base Line, and the first range (R) east of the Willamette Meridian. Small, black numbers and letters identify township and range.

DISTRIBUTION & PATTERNS OF OWNERSHIP

Washington's patterns of public land ownerships have changed in the 120+ years since statehood, but current patterns still give clues to past land management. Most public land is federal and in large blocks above 3,000 feet elevation | At statehood, the federal government granted sections 16 and 36 of each township to the state to support the public or 'common' schools. If sections were already patented (private land) or otherwise unavailable, an equivalent amount of property, known as "in lieu" land, was granted to the state elsewhere.

◂ In Eastern Washington, Common School trust land is scattered in 1-mile square parcels across the landscape — a remnant of the original federal grant lands.

◂ Some areas look like checkerboards. In many places this pattern of land ownership is left from when every other section was deeded by the federal government to railroad companies.

◂ DNR manages some blocks of land for multiple state trusts. DNR uses 'land exchanges' with public and private entities to consolidate trust land ownership into larger blocks that can be managed more effectively — mostly to 'block up' forested trust lands.

NOTE TO MAP USERS

Sources: Public land survey, county, Washington (WA) state boundaries and Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-managed lands are from DNR's geographic information system (DNRGIS). Other public lands are also from DNRGIS and are derived from US Bureau of Land Management ownership records or from digital, graphic or tabular data from other participating public agencies or Tribes. WA Interstate, US, and state highways are from WA Department of Transportation data or maps. All other roads are from DNRGIS. WA hydrography is from Environmental Protection River Reach data.

Out-of-state roads and hydrography are from 1:250,000 US Geological Survey (USGS) or Natural Resources Canada quads. Feature names and elevations are from USGS Geographic Names Information System and other public agencies or Tribes.

Disclaimer: Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Credits: Produced by WA Department of Natural Resources. | Cartographic research, design & production: Engineering Division: Donald W. Hiller, Forest Roads Section; Elizabeth Eberle and Mark Macleod, Resource Mapping Section; DNR cadastral database management: Survey Section. | Geographic information system support: Information Technology Division | Product graphic design and layout: Luis Prado. Text: Communications & Outreach. Project direction, writing and editing: Jane Chavey, Director of Communications & Outreach; Aaron Toso.

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