



# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan



# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan

September 2016

The Trust for Public Land creates parks  
and protects land for people,  
ensuring healthy, livable communities  
for generations to come.

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## Introduction

The Trust for Public Land worked with Chelan County, The Nature Conservancy, and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (“project conveners”), together with local stakeholders, to create a vision and work plan for the Upper Wenatchee River Watershed. The project is known as the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP). The project conveners officially started working on the UWCLP in December of 2014, and this phase of the project concluded as of September 30, 2016.

The Community Lands Plan is a community-driven conservation plan. Members of the community articulated their preferences about protecting important resources; including local waters, open space, working lands, and trails. In this phase of the process, stakeholders identified and began working toward common goals through facilitated discussions about values and related potential action steps. The project conveners used state-of-the-art mapping software to show potential areas of prioritization. As described in the paragraphs that follow, in this phase the project conveners focused on identifying stakeholder values and on developing tools to be ready for market-driven ownership changes.

In the next phase of the process, project conveners will continue to investigate how to support community-benefitting ownership of high priority parcels and further explore how to support the diversity of stakeholder needs related to these properties. This includes, for example, conversations with existing landowners about their future plans related to property ownership and management.

<b>A Community Lands Plan is:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of tools (including interactive maps)</li> <li>• A process to identify opportunities to meet multiple goals</li> <li>• A way to prioritize areas for voluntary, market-based conservation</li> </ul>	<b>A Community Lands Plan is NOT:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A map of land use prohibitions</li> <li>• Determined by one (or a few) perspectives</li> <li>• Related to condemning or taking land/private property</li> </ul>
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## The Study Area

The Upper Wenatchee River Basin – which comprises about 850,000 acres between Cashmere and Stevens Pass – is spectacularly beautiful, ecologically diverse, and economically essential. The basin has a range of physical characteristics and uses, along with a complex ownership pattern. Lower-elevation areas along rivers and lakes are largely in private ownership; some substantially subdivided and built out. Surrounding lands are a checkerboard of large public and private holdings, including the United States Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and Weyerhaeuser Company (which currently owns 38,631 acres or 4.5% of the study area).

In total, 84% of the land in the study area (715,802 acres) is “protected.” The protected land figure includes lands associated with national wilderness area, national forest, Bureau of Land Management, state park, WA DNR State Trust, WA DNR Natural Area Preserve, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, the county, lands owned by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and other parks.

The way that this forested checkerboard is managed impacts many public priorities, including an economy supported by local jobs and businesses; vibrant recreation opportunities; thriving populations of fish and wildlife; and reduced threat of catastrophic wildfire. Roughly 2% (about 15,500 acres) of the study area appears

to have been clear-cut in the last five years or so.<sup>1</sup> For more information on the study area, please see Appendix A.

Local leaders want to take a proactive approach to guiding the future land uses within the watershed. Developing a vision for future ownership and management of these lands is necessary and prudent in light of potential large-scale land sales, and the imminent threat of declining forest health due to climate change.

## Project Objectives

The specific objectives of the UWCLP are as follows: identify the values associated with the Upper Wenatchee watershed landscapes; create community awareness of those values; map lands that exemplify the values; and develop an action plan outlining voluntary actions to help ensure that these lands and the values attached to them serve our communities for generations to come. The vision articulated in the Community Lands Plan can guide future investments by public and private property owners and potentially lead to land management that will benefit local communities.

Throughout the planning process, partners addressed the following questions:

- What are the community values present on the landscape?
- What are the major threats to these values?
- What are the overarching short and long-term goals of the community for the landscape?
- How can private and public partners and community members work together to generate the funding, political will, and community support needed to make the community vision a reality?
- What are the key steps to achieve the community vision?
- Who are the key players?
- What is the appropriate timeline?

This effort focused on key working lands (mostly timber), important water resource lands, recreation lands, and other lands that feature critical community values as identified throughout the process. In summary, this was a process for key stakeholders in the region to develop a shared vision for prioritizing voluntary activities related to conservation, recreation, development, and working lands.

## Process

### Task 1.0: Project Initiation & Current Conditions Analysis (December 2014 and January 2015)

1. Project conveners met by conference call and confirmed their roles and responsibilities.
2. TPL reviewed and summarized existing conditions, which included reviewing relevant plans, policies, and datasets (see Current Conditions Report, Appendix A).
3. The Steering Committee was convened for a kick-off meeting. The Steering Committee represented related interests across the study area, who served as strategic and technical advisors through the duration of the project, including: Chumstick Watershed Coalition, Wenatchee Outdoor Alliance, State Department of Natural Resources, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Washington Department of

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<sup>1</sup> The estimate provided here was derived from GIS data. This figure likely understates recent clear-cutting as some of the GIS data is from a snap shot in time (i.e. satellite imagery) from 1-3 years ago. TPL's GIS staff selected areas of bare earth conditions from GIS-based Normalized Difference Vegetation index (NVDI). The NVDI data is based on satellite data taken between 2013 and 2015.

Fish and Game, United States Forest Service, and other landowner representatives. (Appendix B includes Steering Committee meeting summaries.)

#### **Task 2.0: Community Outreach in Three Sub-Areas (February – May 2015)**

1. In March and April, project conveners hosted three community outreach meetings, one in each of the sub-areas: a) Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee, b) Peshastin/Blewett Pass, and c) Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth (The community meeting summaries are in Appendix B). Community members were invited to comment on and expand the community values discussed at the first Steering Committee meeting.
2. The Trust for Public Land prepared a community survey to track stakeholder input. The survey probed priority opportunities and perceived concerns or constraints related to community conservation values and likely growth scenarios.
3. In June of 2015, Mickey Fleming from CDLT did an on-air interview with KOHO radio station to update the public about the project.

*The goal was to collect at least 50 surveys, and in total, 260 survey responses were gathered.*

#### **Task 3.0: Development of Draft Maps and an Action Plan (April 2015 – June 2016)**

1. Project Conveners hosted three additional Steering Committee meetings with a focus on developing draft maps and an action plan for implementation of the key community land plan goals.
2. The Trust for Public Land developed maps for the study area based on related community values with advice and input provided by a Technical Advisory Team (TAT).
3. Draft action plan ideas were compiled, with the focus being the creation and support of land acquisition/land ownership decision-making tools. The action plan ideas are potential next steps for realizing the plan's goals.
4. CDLT and the County completed additional community outreach from January – May 2016 with approximately 300 people to vet the action plan ideas and to share mapped values (e.g. Recreation, Wildlife and Healthy Forests). This occurred via meetings with specific groups: the Icicle Work Group, the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, the Leavenworth Rotary Club, the Cashmere Rotary Club, the North Central Washington Audubon Society, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, and community meetings in Cashmere, Dryden, Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee. In July of 2016, Mickey Fleming and Mike Kaputa also did an on-air interview with KOHO radio station about this project.

#### **Task 4.0: Technical Report (September 2016)**

The Trust for Public Land, in consultation with partners, compiled the results of all prior tasks and activities into this report that identifies open space priorities, recommendations, and strategies for implementing the plan based on discussion with the Steering Committee and project conveners.

Project conveners have plans for a second phase of work focused on identifying and pursuing long-term protection of parcels of high importance to the local communities (a.k.a. sub-regions) within the Upper Wenatchee Watershed.



*Photo credit: CDLT*



*Photo credit: Northwest Fly Fishing Academy*

## Spatial Analysis

The study area is the Upper Wenatchee Watershed from Cashmere to Stevens Pass. Within this study area of 850,000 acres in central Washington, there are three sub-regions of interest; each is characterized by a checkboard of both private and public land ownership:

- Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee
- Peshastin/Blewett Pass
- Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth

The GIS team from The Trust for Public Land worked with the Steering Committee to create maps based upon:

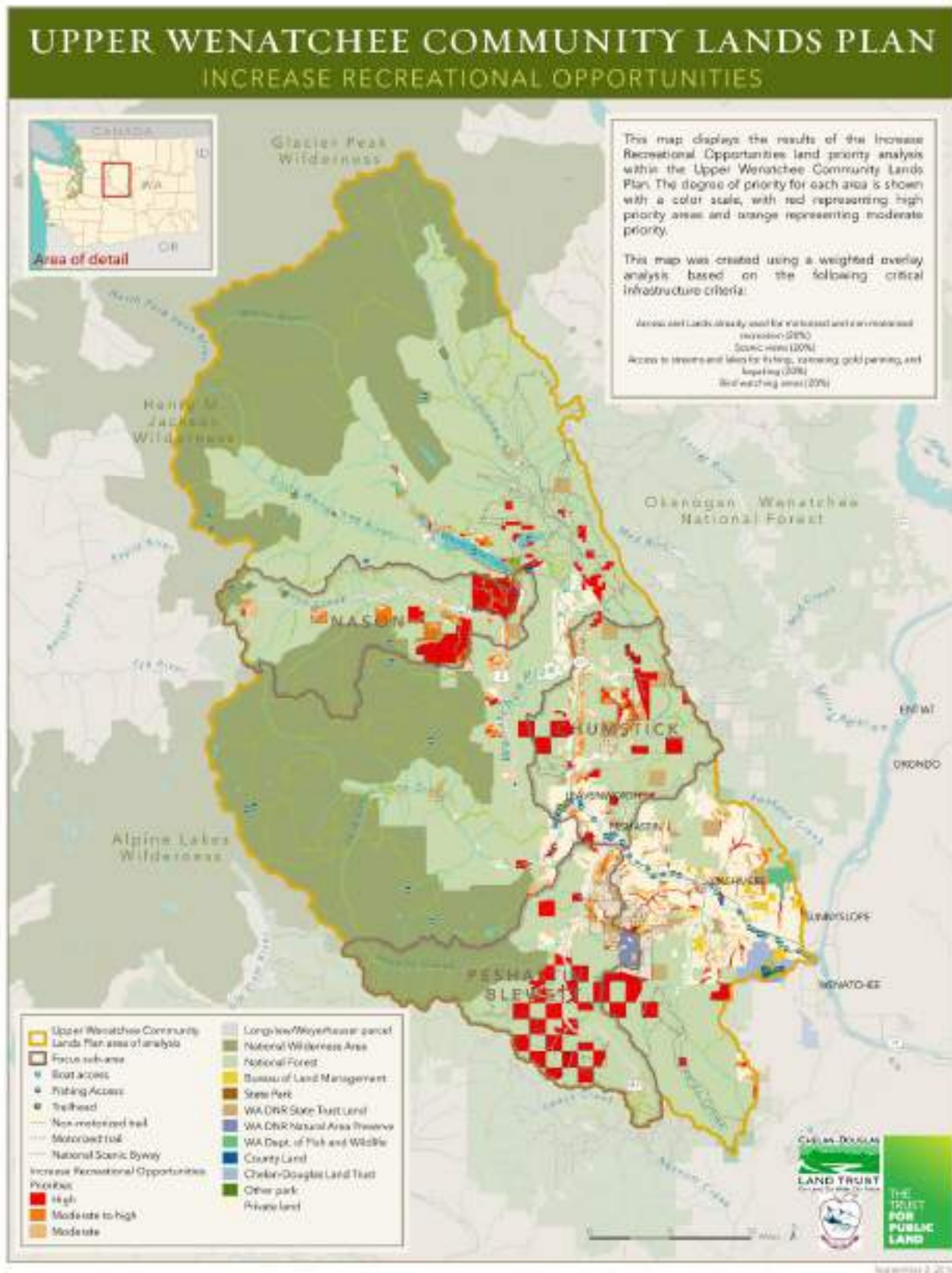
- Input received at the community meetings,
- Recommendations from the Steering Committee,
- Feedback from one-on-one interviews, and
- Results of the survey.

The section below on Implementation Priorities explains that there were six important topics (that can also be framed as goals) that emerged from the initial round of community discussions in 2015. With the help of the Steering Committee, project conveners decided to focus the opportunity identification mapping on the following goals:

- Have sustainable forests and working lands (*this is a combination of goals for forests and goals for working lands*),
- Maintain and increase recreational opportunities, and
- Have lands that support wildlife.

Local experts on the Technical Advisory Team assisted with the mapping by providing data and advising the mapping team on priority locations for high priority areas across the study area irrespective of property boundaries and ownership patterns. These resource maps show where on the landscape, using GIS analysis, the most community values could be accomplished. For example, below is the study area map that shows the best recreational opportunities. This map (Map 1) shows access and lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation; scenic views; access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, gold panning, and bird watching areas. The degree of priority is shown with a color scale, with dark red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority areas. Areas that ranked as low or low-moderate priority are not shown.

Map 1: Increase Recreational Opportunities



The GIS Team looked at where these priorities exist across the entire Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Study Area, and then also created zoom-in maps to show the same results for the three sub-regional focus areas: the Chumstick Valley / Leavenworth area, Nason Ridge and Lake Wenatchee, and Peshastin-Blewett Pass area.

An “overall” map was also created that combines the three conservation priorities (using equal weighting of all three conservation priorities). These results were created by combining the priority scores of three of the individual goals. For the full portfolio of maps, please see Appendix C. Most of the pages in Appendix C display results with a side-by-side map format. The only difference between the maps (when there are two per page) is that the one on the left contains a protected land overlay (see the Study Area section above for definition of “protected”). The map on the right shows where the high priority lands are located beneath the protected land overlay.

The chart below indicates the acreage (and percentage) of High Priority lands (dark red on the map) that appear on each of the maps.<sup>2</sup> This chart – together with corresponding maps in Appendix C – illustrate, that Peshastin and Chumstick have proportionately greater “high priority overall acreage” than Nason Ridge. But all three of these areas show promise, as there are higher proportionate concentrations of opportunity acreage in the sub-regions than in the study area at large. When considering each of the goals individually, Peshastin has the highest proportionate important wildlife habitat and promising lands for recreation, and Chumstick has the highest proportionate acreage for potential working land conservation. *Please note that these maps do not indicate precise “targets,” but rather provide initial ideas for where community priorities around wildlife, recreation, working forests, and other working lands can be conserved or enhanced with the caveat that very little of the data has been ground-truthed and so follow-up work would be needed to determine actual suitability.*

	UWCLP Study Area	Peshastin/ Blewett Pass	Nason Ridge/ Lake Wenatchee	Chumstick Valley/ Leavenworth
Total Acres	850,166	86,740	69,636	68,648
High Priority <b>Overall</b> (acres)	99,657	20,157	12,983	16,481
Percent High Priority Overall (%)	11.7	23.2	18.6	24
High Priority <b>Wildlife</b> (acres)	45,164	10,508	1,772	5,489
High Priority Wildlife (%)	5.3	12.1	2.5	8
High Priority <b>Recreation</b> (acres)	11,7867	27,540	9,192	19,141
High Priority Recreation (%)	13.9	31.8	13.2	27.9
High Priority <b>Working Lands</b> (acres)	20,1603	30,801	22,427	28,709
High Priority Working Lands (%)	23.7	35.5	32.2	41.8

Appendix D details the methodology and data used to create each of the maps, and includes a description of additional overlays available for further analysis.

<sup>2</sup> These percentages reflect the percentages of the study area, irrespective of current ownership, that are showing up in bright red.

## Spotlight on Weyerhaeuser Properties

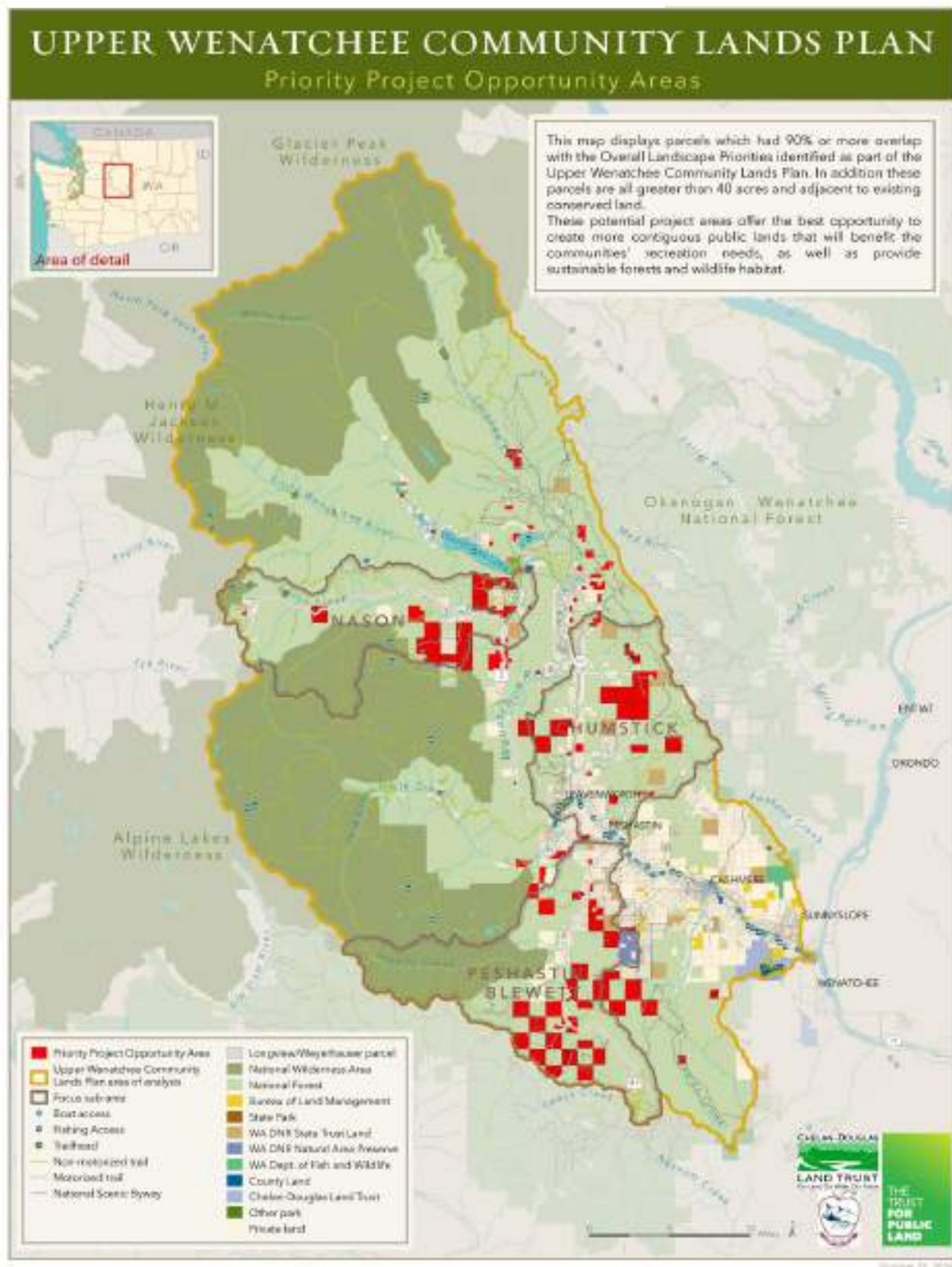
As described above, we completed a spatial analysis of opportunities for a few of the community goals and merged those goals into one map to see the best opportunities for accomplishing multiple overlapping goals. Map 2 below (“Priority Project Opportunity Areas”) showcases properties that are 40 acres or larger across the study area and that have high priority results (dark red on the map). Map 2 also indicates which of these high priority properties are owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company (cross hatched on the map). There are 57 Weyerhaeuser-owned properties in red. 75% of the high opportunity acres are Weyerhaeuser-owned properties (26,662 acres of the 35,222 acres that show up as high priority on Map 2).

At some point in the future, Weyerhaeuser Company may be divesting holdings on the East Slope of the Cascade Mountains. The company currently own approximately 38,000 acres of scattered sections and subsections in the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Study Area. This planning process provides community values and data to support acquisitions that will accomplish the six goals that emerged from the 2015 community meetings.

However, not all of the Weyerhaeuser lands would be treated equally – some lands will serve the community best if privately-owned and managed, while other properties (particularly public inholdings) may be more appropriately owned and managed by the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) or state agencies (Washington DNR, Washington DFW, or State Parks). Some lands may be best held by a local entity (public or private) and managed as a community forest to meet multiple community goals.

A third party may be needed to hold some or all of the properties on an interim basis and temporarily manage the lands until a detailed implementation and financing plan is set for ultimate ownership. This could potentially be done in a phased approach, or undertaken by more than one third party. There is no set time frame for acquisition of the Weyerhaeuser properties—let alone the transference of selected parcels to the appropriate land managers—so stakeholders should consider identifying a means to finance (and carry out) interim land management responsibilities. A Stewardship Finance Work Group could be established to address this issue, which at a minimum would include Chelan County, CDLT, TNC, TPL, DNR, and OWNF.

## Map 2: Project Priority Opportunity Areas



## Implementation Priorities

In community meetings and steering committee meetings in 2015, draft goals were identified for the UWCLP. Residents and plan advisors also brainstormed possible strategies and action steps to achieve community goals. See table in Appendix E. These could apply generally across the watershed or in any of the three sub-areas.

These were the trending land-use and conservation goals from the 2015 community meetings:

1. Sustainable forests that support biodiversity, are maintained to reduce fire intensity, and increase resilience to climate change
2. Working lands for a thriving economy
3. Existing access to public land to be maintained while also increasing year-round recreation opportunities
4. Lands that support wildlife (habitat, including for fish)
5. High quality water resources (and sufficient quantity)
6. Private property availability (for development, business, and other uses)

As mentioned above, stakeholders also identified strategies and action steps related to these topics or goals. For example, consider the goal of creating sustainable forests that support biodiversity and are maintained to reduce fire intensity. There were several potential strategies proposed that could achieve this goal, such as: improve forest management, encourage private lands stewardship, conserve high priority lands, effect change in agencies' policies and capacity, evaluate local planning options, identify and secure new funding, and create and strengthen private/public partnerships. Community members suggested possible action step ideas that potentially support these strategies. For example, action step ideas that relate to the first goal include: support landowner agencies to improve forest management practices, consolidate checkerboard through acquisitions or exchanges to make it easier for private and public owners to manage their land, use firefighting money to pay for improving forest health, increase funding for fire prevention on public lands, and pursue a public/private partnership to support a small diameter mill in Chelan County. The table in Appendix E provides detailed ideas for all six goals.

The Steering Committee provided initial input on the table of brainstormed strategies and action steps. This is summarized in a two page document also included in Appendix E. At that meeting, Steering Committee participants suggested broader outreach to the community to help determine priority action steps. In the winter of 2016 project conveners informally vetted action step ideas at civic meetings (see Task 3 Step 4 above in "Process" Section). From these discussions, the following implementation priorities emerged:

## Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Priority Action Steps

- A. Pursue options to maintain working lands to be managed consistent with community values related to fire resilience, wildlife, and recreation. Establishing a community forest may be one means to accomplish this. (See box below on community forests for more information). Continue dialogue on ways to address the impacts of climate change.
- B. Collaborate with potential purchasers of properties that are important to maintaining access (e.g. shared roads in checkboard areas, recreational access, etc.) to ensure that rights of access are maintained and are secured where not protected by legal easements at present.

- C. Continue investigations, feasibility analysis, and partnership potential for securing a small diameter mill and supply for same within the geographic area of Chelan County.
- D. Continue discussions among public landowners to exchange and consolidate ownerships most aligned towards their stewardship goals and capacities.
- E. Pursue land use policies that integrate wildlife migration corridors, winter range, and other wildlife habitat needs into county zoning and land use decisions.
- F. Support creation of a comprehensive county trails plan that establishes priorities for recreation, transportation, and community connections.
- G. Encourage local businesses tied to wildlife, water, and recreation resources to support conservation and restoration initiatives.
- H. Encourage development within non-sensitive areas close to existing population centers.



*Photo credit: Judy Jacques*

## Spotlight on Community Forestry

Community forests are intended to promote the principles of sustainable development and community based natural resource management. They have the potential to be a valuable component in a mosaic of conservation and economic development strategies while promoting community vitality and economic well-being. There are several different mechanisms in Washington for establishing community forests, including through the USFS Community Forest Program, Forest Legacy Program, as well as Washington DNR.

The Community Forest Trust (RCW 79.155) has been discussed in a number of meetings throughout the planning process, and it may be a strategy to achieve stakeholder goals. In 2011, the Washington State Legislature created this tool for local community partners to participate in protecting working forestlands that benefit their communities—which is consistent with UWCLP goals. In Washington, there are several community forests: including the 50,000 acre Teanaway Community Forest in Kittitas County and Chelan County’s new community forest in the Stemilt Basin.

Working forests can be held and sustainably-managed by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), consistent with the values of the local community. Alternatively, DNR may work with a county in establishing community forest districts or local working forest districts that are compatible with the Community Forest Trust. Cooperative districts would voluntarily synchronize the management of community forest trust lands, other public lands, and private lands located within the Wenatchee Sub basin to further a common set of community goals. The program management principles of a community forest are:

- Working forest lands at significant risk of conversion protected;
- Financial and social viability through management objectives consistent with values of the local community;
- Lands maintained in a working status through diverse commodity and non-commodity values;
- Generate revenue to, at a minimum, pay for management costs;
- Provide ongoing, sustainable public recreation access; and
- Provide educational opportunities for local communities, including showing the benefits of working forests.

To this end, CDLT, TNC, and Chelan County are hosting a Community Forest Workshop in November of 2016 to engage local stakeholders in additional discussions about the potential of utilizing a community forest model for future ownership of one or more high priority properties in the study area. There will be two sessions: an afternoon session for a group of land managers and elected officials and a public meeting in the evening. They will discuss several examples of community forests in the Pacific Northwest, and various models of ownership, finance, and management.

Please see Appendix F for more information on the benefits of community forests in Washington and nationwide.

## Funding

*Photo credit: John Marshall*



The Conservation Finance team at The Trust for Public Land completed a brief research study to present funding options potentially available to priority properties. The study discusses financing for the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of land (or development rights) for conservation and parks purposes. There are a number of potential public funding options that can be knit together into a “funding quilt” to protect land and increase access to public land in the Upper Wenatchee River Basin.

A funding quilt is the combination of funding sources — state, federal, local, and private — that are brought together to help achieve conservation objectives. The most reliable form of funding to achieve conservation objectives over the long-

term is local funding. Due to the competition for state, federal and private funding, these sources often serve as supplements or incentives.

The finance research study (see Appendix G) starts with a summary of relevant state and federal conservation funding programs that may be leveraged by applicants. This information is followed by an examination of the options for generating and dedicating local revenue for conservation including the revenue raising capacity and costs of several financing tools. Together, this information provides a guide for considering public finance options.

## Next Steps

*Photo credit: Andy Dappen*

The Trust for Public Land has produced an on-line password protected geo-spatial tool to assist with land conservation decision-making in the Upper Wenatchee area. The Trust for Public Land created a portal for all of the maps and draft queries for land prioritization, and TPL will provide ongoing support for this tool over the next two years for use by co-conveners and other interested partners. With this searchable, dynamic tool, viewers can explore lands for sale for their combined community values. And project conveners will continue to have conversations with stakeholders and potentially with landowners as well about desired uses on specific properties.



An initial catalyst for this project was Longview Fibre's sale of nearly 50,000 acres to Weyerhaeuser. Some of these lands, or adjacent properties, may be for sale again in the not too distant future. If that happens, the community will be in a better position to have a conversation about ownership changes. For example, we know that among the Weyerhaeuser properties, some may be of interest for public ownership because of recreation value (e.g. in the Nason Creek area there are properties that a critical mass of community members and the State Park value for potential recreational use), but in other areas the highest priority may be to consolidate forested lands to improve management (e.g. some properties in the Peshastin Creek/Blewett area). Some lands may be good candidates for community forests, and there may be a need to re-assemble some properties that were previously split up for that purpose.

In sum, much work remains to realize the goals of community members articulated during this planning process. Nevertheless, this initial planning has helped the community discuss their goals for the future and equip them with better tools to assist in deliberations about land-use and land ownership as opportunities emerge.



*Photo credit: Andy Dappen*

## **Appendices for the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan:**

**Appendix A:** Current Conditions Report

**Appendix B:** Steering Committee and Community Meeting Summaries

**Appendix C:** Maps

**Appendix D:** Summary of Mapping Methodology and Data

**Appendix E:** Action Step Ideas

**Appendix F:** Overview of Community Forests

**Appendix G:** Conservation Finance Report

## **APPENDIX A: CURRENT CONDITIONS REPORT**

## The Upper Wenatchee Watershed from Cashmere to Stevens Pass: Current Conditions Report

### Introduction

The Upper Wenatchee Watershed lies within Chelan County on the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains in Washington. This region is vast in beauty, crowned by the Alpine Lakes National Wilderness Area, Icicle Creek, Trout Lake, and countless mountain peaks. Residents and visitors alike enjoy recreational activities encompassing skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, horseback riding and swimming – provided through great trails and accessible river sites.

Within Chelan County, approximately 80 percent of the watershed is public land (mostly in federal ownership), with the remaining 20 percent of private land.<sup>1</sup> The Upper Wenatchee Watershed encompasses a vast array of natural resources, including ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forest. There is a wide range of species within this region, including the northern spotted owl, lynx, bald eagle and endangered anadromous fish.

Primary threats to this area include: (i) wildfires, flooding, and other events that threaten private property and infrastructure and impair the maintenance of ecosystems and habitats, (ii) population growth; putting more pressure on natural resources and land conservation, (iii) the steep increase in land prices, putting pressure on farmers and foresters to convert large properties to piecemeal commercial and residential areas, (iv) inconsistencies of land management practices in checkerboard ownership, and (v) current and future climate change impacts within the region. All of these threats impede long-term viability of agriculture, forested areas, water quality, and wildlife corridors.<sup>2</sup>

Residents and land owners of Chelan County, in conjunction with The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and The Trust for Public Land are working to create a community supported plan for this region. This desire to develop a plan to understand which lands are most important is motivated in part by the success of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Partnership and the Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy, both of which have been successful community visioning processes that formed the basis for important decision-making and community action. Another motivation is the recent acquisition by Weyerhaeuser of Longview Fibre lands (originally 50,000 acres of land in Chelan County) and an indication that Weyerhaeuser may sell this land in the near future. *The Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan* (UWCLP) will focus on voluntary land conservation while identifying opportunities to conserve water resource lands, recreational lands, and working lands (i.e. timber and orchards), and to enhance the coordination between developed and non-developed areas.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wenatchee Watershed Management Plan, WRIA 45 Planning Unit, April 2006

[http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/data/Files/Planning/Wen\\_Planning/Wen\\_watershed\\_plan/text/final\\_watershed\\_plan.pdf](http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/data/Files/Planning/Wen_Planning/Wen_watershed_plan/text/final_watershed_plan.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Washington Biodiversity Council, Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, December 2007

<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/biodiversity/WABiodiversityConservationStrategy.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/planning/upper\\_wenatchee\\_community\\_lands\\_plan/default.htm](http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/planning/upper_wenatchee_community_lands_plan/default.htm).

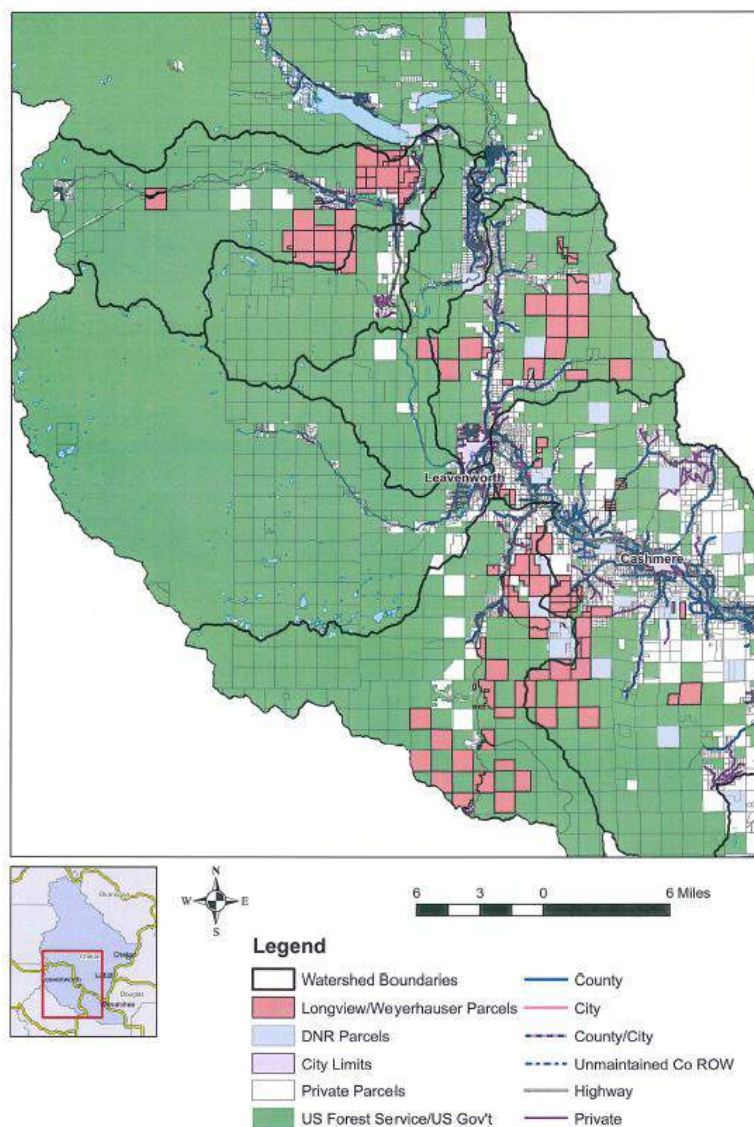
## Study Area

The study area is the Upper Wenatchee Watershed from Cashmere to Stevens Pass - contained within the 1370 square mile Wenatchee Watershed in central Washington.<sup>4</sup> Within this study area there are three sub-regions of interest; incorporating the towns of Dryden, Peshastin, Leavenworth, Plain and Merritt. All sub-regions are characterized by a checkboard of both private and public land ownership.

The three sub-regions are:

- (i) Peshastin Creek / Blewett Pass (northwest of Cashmere)
- (ii) Chumstick Creek / Chumstick valley (northeast of Leavenworth)
- (iii) Nason Creek / Coulter Creek

## Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan



<sup>4</sup> Wenatchee Watershed Management Plan, WRIA 45 Planning Unit, April 2006.

## History

The first settlers known within the area were tribes whose culture revolved around hunting and gathering traditions following the seasons. According to regional labor economist Donald Meseck, The Yakima Treaty of 1855 removed 10.8 million acres from the indigenous people's title to the land, resulting in the movement of tribes to the Colville Reservation.<sup>5</sup> The 12 tribal groups include the Colville, Wenatchi, Entiat, Chelan, Methow, Okanogan, Nespelem, San Poil, Moses Columbia, Palus and Chief Joseph Nex Perce bands.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout history, lumber, railroads, and agriculture have all strengthened Chelan County's economy. As the town of Plain expanded their logging industry, Leavenworth simultaneously became a booming railroad town, exporting the lumber. In 1862, Congress granted lands to the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads, resulting in a checkerboard pattern of private and public land ownership. The Nature Conservancy has been working toward conserving the land with The Great Western Checkerboards Project; in efforts to prevent fragmentation of forested landscapes, ensure public access, and restore vital wildlife habitat.<sup>7</sup>

A growing economy and the demand for resources has increasingly put pressure on water supply and rural land use patterns. Additionally, past activities such as logging, grazing, and fire suppressions have altered fire regime, species composition, and affected forest health.<sup>8</sup> The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has experienced uncharacteristically severe fires, insect infestations, disease epidemics, habitat loss, and massive erosion from flood events.<sup>9</sup> The largest wildfire in state history – known as the Carlton Complex Fire – swept through Okanogan County, Chelan County's northeastern neighbor in 2014, burning an area 4.5 times the size of Seattle. Compared to year 1990, average wildfire seasons are burning three times as many acres and lasting two months longer.<sup>10</sup>

Over time, human activities, population growth, construction of dams, and increasing land use have also impacted the local and regional salmon and trout spawning and rearing habitats.<sup>11</sup> The Upper Wenatchee Watershed is a 'sub basin' of the Upper Columbia River Basin, and is

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<sup>5</sup> Meseck, Donald. Employment Security Department: Washington State, October 2014, <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/county-profiles/chelan-and-douglas-counties-profile>.

<sup>6</sup> Finley, Michael. Colville Indian Reservation, Green Energy Business Development <http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xieed/documents/text/idc013224.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> The Nature Conservancy: Saving Land in the American West <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/checkerboard-project-saving-land-in-the-american-west.xml>.

<sup>8</sup> Lake Wenatchee/Plain Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan, July 2007. p. 18.

<sup>9</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service: Restoration Planning on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: Prescriptions for Resilient Landscapes, June 2014, <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/science/scifi162.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Washington State Department of Natural Resources: Eastern Washington Forest Health: Hazards, Accomplishments, and Restoration Strategy, October 2014. [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3822404.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3822404.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2007) <http://www.ucsr.org/Assets/Documents/Library/Plans/UCSRP/UCSRP%20Final%209-13-2007.pdf>.

home to several at-risk species. In 1997, and the Upper Columbia steelhead was listed *endangered* then reclassified in 2006. In 1999, the Upper Columbia spring Chinook was listed as *endangered* and the bull trout was listed as *threatened*.<sup>12</sup>

### Population and Demographics

Chelan County experienced a 2.1% population growth between April of 2010 and July 2013. The largest city in Chelan County is Wenatchee (not included in this study area). The total population of Chelan County is 73,967, and the total population of Wenatchee is 32,701. The approximate population within the study area is 41,226, with a 9% population growth since 2000.

Table 1. Population Growth between 2000 and 2013

	Population (2000)	Population (2013)	Population Growth	% Growth
Chelan County	66,648	73,967	7,319	11%
Wenatchee	28,740	32,701	3,961	14%
Study Area	37,908	41,226	3,318	9%

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 50% of Chelan County residents are female and 17% of the population are 65 years of age and older.<sup>13</sup> Over 25% of the county residents are Hispanic or Latino.

### Economy

In Chelan County, employment has steadily been on the rise; increasing nearly 9% from 2004 to 2013. Five major industries comprised nearly two thirds of all the county jobs.

Table 2. Top 5 industries in Chelan County (2013)<sup>14</sup>

Agriculture	23.5%
Health Services	12.5%
Local Government	11.8%
Retail trade	10.8%
Accommodation and food services	9.6%

In Chelan County, agriculture is the largest employment sector, bringing in gross revenues upward of \$100 million annually. Working lands, such as timber and traditional agriculture have

<sup>12</sup> Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2007)

<http://www.ucsr.org/Assets/Documents/Library/Plans/UCSRP/UCSRP%20Final%2009-13-2007.pdf>.

<sup>13, 14</sup> Meseck, Donald. Employment Security Department: Washington State, October 2014,

<https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/county-profiles/chelan-and-douglas-counties-profile>.

generally been the economic force for the area. The lowest unemployment rates are between June and October, and the highest unemployment rates are between November and May.<sup>15</sup>

Table 3. Components of Personal Income Change in Chelan County (2000-2012)<sup>16</sup>

	2000	2012	Change	% Change
Labor Earnings	1,404,481	1,628,258	223,777	+ 15.5%
Non-Labor Income	860,507	1,304,255	443,748	+ 51.6%
(a) Dividends, Interest and Rent	489,751	673,470	183,719	+ 37.5%
(b) Transfer Payments	370,757	630,785	260,028	+ 70.1%

Table 3 shows significant growth in transfer payments (70.1%), a sub category of non-labor income (51.6%). Transfer payments include government retirement and disability insurance benefits, medical payments such as Medicare and Medicaid, income maintenance benefits and unemployment insurance benefits. The steep growth in non-labor income can be an indicator that this area is an attractive place to live and retire; shown by the in-migration of people who bring investment and retirement income are associated with a high quality of life (i.e. local recreation activities and enjoying public lands). Highlighting ecosystem services and their role within the economy of Chelan County, the resources afforded by public land can be correlated to Chelan County maintaining such high non-labor sources of income. <sup>17</sup>

### Natural Environment

The Washington Department of Natural Resources has classified the regions in the vicinity of Lake Wenatchee as ranging from moderate fire risk to extreme risk.<sup>18</sup> Decades of fire suppression and incongruent land management practices have put these forests at a higher risk for damage from disease and wildfire.<sup>19</sup>

In 2007, the Chelan County Conservation District, with assistance from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chelan County Fire District #9, the United States Forest Service and the residents of Chelan County created a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) due to the rising concerns about the effects of wildfire on their community. The study concluded that the steep ravines between low elevation plains and mountainsides create

<sup>15</sup> A Profile of Socioeconomic Measures for Chelan County WA (Produced by Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit) January 2014.

<sup>16</sup> A Profile of Socioeconomic Measures: Chelan County (2014).

<sup>17</sup> A Profile of Socioeconomic Measures: Chelan County (2014).

<sup>18</sup> US Forest Service Lake Wenatchee/Plain Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2007)

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp\\_burn\\_cwpp\\_lake\\_wenatchee\\_plain.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_burn_cwpp_lake_wenatchee_plain.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp\\_fh\\_leg\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_fh_leg_report_2014.pdf).

unmanageable conditions for fighting fires. In 2012, Washington State Department of Natural Resources also began a Wenatchee Basin Fuels Reduction Project for Chelan County to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire.<sup>20</sup> When natural fire cycles are altered (primarily through fire exclusion) ponderosa pine becomes denser, inhibiting the growth of both the Douglas fir and grand fir, disrupting the ecosystem and also increasing the fuel profile of that region. If not properly managed, severe fires can result in long term damage to forest cover, damage surrounding watersheds, inhibit wildlife habitat, and harm soil quality, having severe implications on the local economy.<sup>21</sup>

Without resources to address large scale forest restoration in the future, the Nason Creek / Lake Wenatchee area is at high risk of tree loss from forest pests and pathogens. This poses a threat to the sustainability of the logging industry. Healthy forests that are properly and cohesively managed are a renewable and sustainable resource which can be part of the county's future economy. This region is also composed of high density development primarily along Wenatchee and Fish Lakes. This region also plays a role in recreation with nearly 200 campsites all within Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest; in addition to Lake Wenatchee State Park, a 489-acre camping park with 12,623-feet of waterfront.

The Chumstick valley region provides important habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, including the reintroduction area for the endangered Wenatchee Mountain checker-mallow (*Sidalcea oregano var. calva*).<sup>22</sup> This region is also essential for preservation of wildlife corridors that are essential for seasonal movements of wildlife, including the Rocky Mountain mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*) – a species important to Chelan County.<sup>23</sup> As a result of the fragmented private/public land ownership within the region, there is a risk of interrupting or impeding natural corridors used for wildlife migration.<sup>24</sup>

### Threatened and Endangered Species

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board developed a plan for the recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered; including the Upper Columbia spring Chinook, Upper Columbia steelhead, and bull trout.<sup>25</sup> The Wenatchee Watershed is a “sub basin” of this plan, consisting of nine primary watersheds and two mainstream watersheds. The primary watersheds are: Mission, Peshastin, Chumstick, Icicle, Chiwaukum, and Nason creeks, the Chiwawa, White and Little Wenatchee rivers<sup>26</sup>. The mainstream watersheds consist of lower Wenatchee River and

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<sup>20</sup> Wenatchee Basin Fuels Reduction (2012)

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp\\_contract\\_wenatchee\\_basin\\_rfqq.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_contract_wenatchee_basin_rfqq.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> US Forest Service Lake Wenatchee/Plain Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2007)

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp\\_burn\\_cwpp\\_lake\\_wenatchee\\_plain.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_burn_cwpp_lake_wenatchee_plain.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

[http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Rare\\_Plants/conservation/success/checker-mallow\\_recovery.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Rare_Plants/conservation/success/checker-mallow_recovery.shtml).

<sup>23</sup> Observations of Mule Deer Habitat Use, Movements, and Survival in Chelan County, Washington (2003)

[https://www.chelanpud.org/rr\\_relicense/study/reports/4768\\_3.pdf](https://www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense/study/reports/4768_3.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> WHCWG Statewide Analysis, Landscape Integrity Composite and Core Areas (Map 29).

<sup>25</sup> Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2007)

<http://www.ucsrp.org/Assets/Documents/Library/Plans/UCSRP/UCSRP%20Final%2009-13-2007.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2007)

upper Wenatchee River (including Lake Wenatchee). Nason creeks have been identified as historical steelhead habitat, in addition to primary spawning areas for spring Chinook. The Wenatchee spring Chinook population and the Wenatchee steelhead population both have a high risk of extinction [greater than 25% chance of extinction in 100 years] with respect to abundance and productivity.

Five threats that limit the recovery of threatened and endangered species are: a) the present or threatened distraction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range, b) overutilization for commercial, recreation, scientific, or educational purposes, c) disease or predation, d) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, and e) other natural or human-made factors affecting its continued existence.<sup>27</sup>

Additionally, the North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS) spent nine months reviewing the UWCLP and identified bird species during field visits to map their locations with habitat diversity and current habitat conditions that enabled the wildlife to be present on that specific parcel. More information can be obtained on this topic via NCWAS.<sup>28</sup>

### **Contamination**

Tributary streams in the Yakima, Naches, and Wenatchee River basins are hosts to native trout populations; specifically the native Westslope cutthroat and Redband trout that are found in eastern Washington.<sup>29</sup> However, over the last decade, high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), dichloro-diphenyl-dichloroethylene (DDD) and dichloro-diphenyl-dichloroethane (DDE) have been found within tissues of fish residing in both the Lower Wenatchee River / Leavenworth area and Upper Wenatchee tributaries/Nason Creek area; and fish advisories have been issued as a result.<sup>30</sup>

### **Hydrology**

The Wenatchee River Watershed originates in the Cascade Mountain Range as the Little Wenatchee and White Rivers, and flows southeast until it meets the Columbia River. The annual precipitation within this region ranges from 150 inches at the crest of the Cascades to 8.5

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<http://www.ucsr.org/Assets/Documents/Library/Plans/UCSRP/UCSRP%20Final%2009-13-2007.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2007)

<http://www.ucsr.org/Assets/Documents/Library/Plans/UCSRP/UCSRP%20Final%2009-13-2007.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> Fink, A., Gallagher, M., Gallagher, T., Hillestad, D., Johnston, D., Oswood, M., Scranton, R., Steele, B., Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan North Central Washington Audubon Society Recommendations for Parcel Acquisitions. June 2016.

<sup>29</sup> Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest <http://wildfishconservancy.org/projects/heritage-native-trout-program/heritage-native-trout-program>.

<sup>30</sup> Department of Ecology, State of Washington, Quality Assurance Project Plan (2014) <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1403117.pdf>.

inches in the City of Wenatchee.<sup>31</sup> All water bodies within this region demonstrate a seasonal flow regime, with stream temperatures also reflecting seasonal variation.

According to Eastern Washington Forest Atlas – Volume 1 – the Upper Wenatchee Watershed is ranked as highly important for surface drinking water, and has significant consumer demand downstream. There are significant relationships among source water quality, percent land cover, and drinking water treatment cost. Increased percent agriculture and urban cover were significantly related to decreased water quality, while decreased forest land cover was significantly related to decreased water quality.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, there is a correlation between decreased water quality and increased drinking water treatment cost.

The discharge of the Wenatchee River, surrounding tributaries, and primary streams are snow-dominated, and the flow peaks with snowmelt during the early spring and summer months. Many of the creeks and rivers provide the nearby towns and cities with irrigation water and drinking water, and are used for recreation by fisherman, boaters and tubers., but also. Icicle Creek is used by the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, the City of Leavenworth for drinking water, and for irrigation of the Lower Wenatchee Valley. Chumstick Creek also has withdrawals for drinking water and irrigation water for the towns of Cashmere and Peshastin.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, the Wenatchee Watershed has been listed as a critical basin; more water has been allocated to out-of-stream uses than naturally available in drought years.

The Wenatchee River and some of its tributaries (including Nason Creek and Peshastin Creek) are on Washington State's list of water-quality-impaired waters [also known as the Clean Water Act 303(d) list] because of high temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. This can be a result of any/all of these factors: livestock grazing, recreation, agriculture runoff, pesticide use, logging, and in-stream withdrawals as a result of increased water demands.<sup>34</sup>

### Relevant Planning Documents

- *Eastern Washington Forest Health: Hazards, Accomplishments and Restoration Strategy (October 2014)*: This plan is to reduce the threats to forests, focusing on past fire suppression and management practices that have now put forests at higher risk of disease and wildfire with recommendations including increased forest restoration across ownerships and strengthening collaboration among forest landowners.
- *Surface Water Monitoring Program for Pesticides in Salmonid-Bearing Streams, 2012 Data Summary (July 2013)*: For the past decade, the Washington State Departments of

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<sup>31</sup> Wenatchee River Watershed Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Improvement Report <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/0710045.pdf>.

<sup>32</sup> Statistical Analysis of Drinking Water Treatment Plant Costs, Source Water Quality, and Land Cover Characteristics.

<sup>33</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1403117.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> Water Quality Improvement Project Wenatchee River Area: Temperature <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/WenatcheeMulti/temperature.html>.

Ecology and Agriculture have been monitoring and studying pesticide concentrations in selected salmon-bearing streams from March – September.

- *Upper Wenatchee Stream Corridor Assessment and Habitat Restoration Strategy* ([September 2012](#)): The Yakama Nation Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Program has completed an assessment evaluating aquatic habitat, watershed conditions, and habitat restoration strategies.
- *Chelan County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* ([December 2011](#)): This plan and mitigation strategy was completed to promote sound public policy to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property and the environment from natural hazards – findings include a high probability of reoccurrence for drought, among other natural disasters.
- *Wenatchee River Watershed Dissolved Oxygen and pH Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Improvement Report* ([Revised 2009](#)): This study provides an implementation strategy for the Wenatchee River, Icicle Creek, and other tributaries that are on Washington's water-quality-impaired lists for dissolved oxygen and pH – recommendations include ensuring new development of changing of land uses does not contribute to increased nonpoint source loading into waterways.
- *Wenatchee Watershed Planning Phase IV – Detailed Implementation Plan* ([April 2008](#)): This plan was created in accordance with the Watershed Planning Act to identify water resources and corresponding action plans to help meet current and future needs of water demands while maintaining high standards for water quality.
- *Wenatchee River Watershed Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Improvement Report* ([July 2007](#)): This report is to evaluate water temperatures of the Wenatchee River and applicable tributaries including Nason Creek and Peshastin Creek – both within our study area – to create recommendations based upon these water-quality-impaired waters; including regular temperature monitoring of creeks and rivers, implementation of TMDL for privately owned forest lands, and developing programs to increase riparian vegetation.
- *Wenatchee Watershed Management Plan* ([April 2006](#)): A plan formed in response to the 1998 Watershed Management Act to provide locally-based framework to plan and assess water quality and water use for current and future needs of the Wenatchee Watershed.

## **APPENDIX B: MEETING SUMMARIES**

# **Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting Summary**

January 14, 2015

Chelan Technology Center, Wenatchee WA

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“Steering Committee” Attendees: Al Murphy (Evergreen Mtn Bike); Dan Action (Leavenworth Real Estate), David Holland (Wa Dept of Ecology); Pete Cruickshank (Chelan County Natural Resources (CCNRD)); Rollie Schmitten (Nason View Partnership, Lake Wenatchee); Jerry Duffy (Nason View Partnership); Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Scott Lynn (US Forest Service); James Schroeder (The Nature Conservancy); Keith Goehner\* (Chelan County Commission); Amanda Barg (WaDFW); Steve Raymond (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Bill Miller (Kahler Glen); Brian Patnode (Wa State Parks); Larry Leach (Wa Dept. of Natural Resources)

Other invitees: Terry Twitchell\* (Peshastin/Blewett); Bill Towey (colville Tribes); Shaun Seaman (Leavenworth Winter Sports Club); George Wilson (lake Wenatchee Info); Dave Moazad (Trout Unlimited Leavenworth Chapter); Annie Schmidt (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Andrew Holm\* (Tierra Learning Center); Nancy Smith (Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce); Byron Newell (Plain); Dick Smithson\* (Peshastin/Blewett). \*Attended Sounding Board meeting 1/8/15)

Other attendees: Mike Kaputa\* (Chelan County Natural Resources), Mickey Fleming\* (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Bob Bugert (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Pete Hill\* (the Trust for Public Land), Sandra Tassel (Look at the Land, Inc.), Hanne Beener (CDLT) Jennifer Hadersberger (CCNRD).

## Background:

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been discussing the possibility of preparing a vision for the Upper Wenatchee River watershed for several years. Representatives of these entities (collectively referred to here as the conveners) have talked to many stakeholders during this time and gained general support for the concept. It was a testimonial to these prior communications that nearly twenty individuals (not associated with the project conveners) turned out for the kick-off meeting even with only a week’s prior notice about the gathering. The invitations did not indicate that participants would be the core of a Steering Committee for the project.

The attendees were mostly associated with one of the agencies or NGO’s with interests in the Upper Wenatchee basin, in part because the meeting was held during the day.

Many of the participants were familiar with one or both of the two prior planning efforts in Chelan County which involved the same conveners. The Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy and the Stemilt/Squilchuk Community Vision similarly engaged a full spectrum of local stakeholders and produced maps and reports with are fairly comparable to the products anticipated as outcomes of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP) project. The ongoing “Chelan County Lands Dialogue” also is a good foundation for the new planning process. The North Central Washinton Forest Health Collaborative also shares issues in common with this effort.

### Introduction

**County Commissioner Keith Goehner** welcomed by attendees, expressed appreciation for their participation and emphasized the importance of the land to the communities within the planning area. He focused his brief comments on the value of bringing people together to identify their common interests with the goal of creating a cohesive vision for the landscape and an implementable plan.

**Bob Bugert, Executive Director of CDLT** introduced the conveners and their basic objectives for the planning process. He allowed everyone to introduce themselves.

**Mike Kaputa, Director of the Department of Natural Resources** showed a couple of PowerPoint slides depicting maps from the Stemilt/Squilchuk Community Vision to demonstrate that the current project is essentially the third in a series of planning process in Chelan County. In addition, he showed how GIS can identify priority lands that meet community needs. Bob followed up with a short description of the Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy emphasizing how useful it has been to the partners and other entities. He mentioned that over \$8 million was raised privately to implement the recommendations for conservation in the Foothills area.

**Bob** introduced the Project Management Team for the UWCLP: Mickey Fleming, Pete Hill, and Sandra Tassel, a consultant to TPL who will be facilitating the public portions of the project, and also Mike Kaputa and himself.

### Project Scope and Process

**TPL’s consultant, Sandra Tassel**, provided an overview of the project.

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan **description and scope:**
- Public vision development, mapping and implementation (like other 2 plans)
- Cashmere to Stevens Pass
- 3 subareas: Nason/Coulter, Blewett/Peshastin and Chumstick (showed on a map)
- as in other examples, broad citizen engagement and input is key
- Inspired by apporxomately 50,000 acres possibly in play (about 38,000 in these 3 areas), but is a thorough investigation into local goals for whole planning area
- Together, identify priority places and properties

➤ **Process** – - 16 mos. from start to finish

Step 1) Gather insight from stakeholders about local land-related values

- The kick off was portrayed as the start of that work
- The results of the meeting are essential to the success of the project
- Public outreach and meetings in subareas, possibly end of February
- Review list of “values”

Step 2) Translate those values into “goals and criteria”

- Mapable information, used to create GIS model
- Model identifies specific places, public and private, that are key for retaining values
- Committee will review, test model
- Refine

Step 3) Create GIS model

- Committee will review and test
- Refine

Step 4) Create maps and prioritization

- Committee will review and test
- Refine

Step 5) Developing action plan

- Tool box of methods to achieve goals and address threats
- Could include voluntary conservation
- Take advantage of opportunities
- Voluntary land management recommendation
- Committee will lead action plan development

Step 6) Final report and maps

- Tool for community action
- Final review by committee

➤ **Role of Committee**

- Leaders and advisors
- Ideas, insights and information
- Connections: geographic, social and professional
- Help convene 3 subarea meetings
- Meet 3 more times, over course of year
- Be face of effort

Sandy acknowledged that the participants did not realize that they were viewed as the core of a Steering Committee. Expressed hope that they would all accept the leadership role.

**Mickey Fleming, Project Manager from CDLT** described some specific objectives of the project, and gave examples that led into the small group breakout sessions.

#### Small Group discussion

Sandy explained objective and exercise. Divided participants into 3 groups, each with a facilitator/ recorder. There were two questions that participants were asked to answer:

***The landscape that is most important to me and my community is \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.***

***What would success of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan look like? What should its objectives be?***

Each person was given a sheet of paper with these questions. They took 5 minutes to think about and respond in writing before the group discussions.

In the attached summary of responses, the participants' written answers are combined with the input from the small groups and the discussion.

#### Themes from small group discussions

Although there is a variety of subthemes and nuances, some clear values surfaced. They are listed below. (For a more complete understanding of the spectrum of ideas, please refer to the attachment.) It would not be appropriate to conclude that the list below is exhaustive or fully representative of the values of all the stakeholders in the Upper Wenatchee basin. As was noted several times during the meeting, in several different contexts, the attendees did not represent all the important stakeholder groups. It is critical that the project have the benefit of the land-based values of the other interests, including more landowners, business, motorized recreation, development, and city/town government.

#### ➤ **Starting list of values for use in the model**

- **Healthy forests** that are a renewable and sustainable resource which can be part of the county's future economy
- Pattern of land ownership that is conducive to **consistent management of forests**
- **Reduced fuel loads** in areas at high risk of catastrophic wildfire
- **Water quantity** sufficient to serve the needs of residents and businesses; orchards in particular
- **Clean water** for human uses and to serve other species
- **Protected and restored habitat** for fish and wildlife, especially for endangered species including salmonids
- Preservation of **corridors for wildlife's** seasonal movements

- Assured future **access to recreation** resources (understood generally to mean trails) which are used throughout the year by residents and visitors
- Land available for constructing the types of **housing** needed to attract and retain new residents, particularly those who work in service businesses

➤ **Other key issues associated with the project**

- Ensuring broad public participation and input
- Addressing unique needs of the three sub-areas
- Respecting private property rights
- Creating an implementable plan with the backing of citizens and electeds alike
- Obtaining upfront commitments from government agencies that control majority of local land
- Reinvigorating a timber-based element of the economy
- Weyerhaeuser owns most of the land that impacts success of the plan, but we don't know the company's direction or motivations
- Need for funding to implement recommendations, especially if acquisition is involved
- Desire to influence how private lands are managed (particularly forests)
- Want to keep working lands working

After the three small groups' facilitators reported on the key topics raised in their groups, it was clear that some of the attendees would have additional thoughts after having time to contemplate the questions.

Mickey Fleming will circulate these notes and the attachments to everyone and solicit additional input.

Technical Advisory Team and Current Conditions

Sandy asked participants to think about individuals who would be good choices for the Technical Advisory Team (TAT). The TAT will help the Steering Committee gather data that can be used to help map the goals that result from the public goal setting workshops. She asked for suggestions to be sent to Mickey.

Also she described the types of reports, articles, data or other information that would be the basis for the Current Conditions Report. Mike's staff will develop an ftp upload page at the County's website to make it easy for committee members to provide materials.

Outreach and sub-area public workshops

Mickey explained that there would be public meetings in each of the sub-areas to learn what the larger community values in the project area's landscape. She appealed to the participants for their assistance in reaching their friends, family,

colleagues and other local leaders. The workshops are likely to be held in late February.

Mike and Mickey delineated some of the ways for disseminating information about the planning process and encouraged the meeting participants to offer other ideas.

It is important that the survey which is supposed to be available online and in a print version be ready before the subarea meetings.

The conveners anticipate a full schedule of presentations at existing meetings of irrigation districts, service clubs and other community organizations over the coming months.

We distributed the one-page description of the project and promised to provide a pdf of this document to everyone who attended the meeting. We encouraged them to forward the pdf to anyone that might want to get involved.

### Conclusion

Mike wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone and asking them to continue their participation as the project goes forward. He reminded the attendees to think about other individuals who would be good additions to the committee.

### Next Steps

- Sandy to word process notes and create this summary
- Mickey to circulate it to attendees, together with the one-pager and a contact list
- Mike and his staff to set up a project page on the county website and an ftp site
- Conveners will have a conference call with Kelley Hart to review roles and responsibilities. The survey will also be an important topic of that call.
- A conference call to plan the subarea public meetings was scheduled for 10AM on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan

## Community Meeting Summaries

March and April, 2015

### **Background:**

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) launched the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP) in January 2015 with a “Kick off Meeting” of a steering committee comprising leaders of area stakeholder interests. The steering committee provided essential input that was used to initiate work on the plan. Information about UWCLP can be found at:

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning>

Three public meetings are part of the planning process. Each was held in one of the three “sub-areas” within the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The subareas were identified because they are most affected by the checkboard matrix of private and public lands that are a central focus of the UWCLP vision. The meetings were held in the following locations:

- Peshastin/Blewett/Mission Subarea, Dryden Fire Hall, March 31, 2015
- Chumstick Valley, Leavenworth Fire Station, April 2, 2015
- Nason/Coulter, Lake Wenatchee Rec Center, April 11, 2015

In the weeks prior to the meetings, Chelan County sent written invitations to approximately 6700 landowners within the three subareas. It was a testimonial to local interest and to this outreach these prior communications that all three meetings had impressive attendance.

- Dryden, approximately 30 attendees.
  - Leavenworth, approximately 40 attendees.
  - Lake Wenatchee, approximately 80 attendees.
- (Figures do not include project conveners)

Some of the attendees were associated with one of the agencies or NGO's with interests in the Upper Wenatchee basin, but the majority were landowners, business owners, or both. For most attendees this was their first introduction to the planning project's purposes and anticipated activities and outcomes.

### **Overview of the meetings**

Representatives of Project Conveners: The following people participated in one or more of the subarea meetings

Commissioner Keith Goehner, Chelan County

Mike Kaputa, Director Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Mike Kane, Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Pete Cruikshank, Chelan County, Natural Resources Department

James Schroeder, Eastern Washington Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy

Peter Hill, Eastern Washington Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land

Sandra Tassel, Facilitator, Look at the Land Inc, on behalf of The Trust for Public Land  
Bob Bugert, Executive Director, Chelan Douglas Land Trust  
Mickey Fleming, Director of Land Conservation, Chelan Douglas Land Trust  
Hanne Beener, Chelan Douglas Land Trust  
Sharon Lunz, Chelan Douglas Land Trust  
David Morgan, Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Meeting Agenda: All three meetings had roughly the same agenda, presented virtually identical materials, and collected input from participants in facilitated discussions with small groups of attendees. The content can generally be summarized as follows:

#### *Introductions and welcome*

**Sandra Tassel**, thanked participants for coming to learn about the plan and to help guide it. She introduced the conveners and individual representatives in the room.

**County Commissioner Keith Goehner** welcomed attendees, expressed appreciation for their participation and emphasized the importance of land to the communities in the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. His brief comments focused on the value of bringing people together with the goal of creating a cohesive vision for the landscape. He emphasized that the county is not contemplating new regulations. Instead, the project will identify voluntary activities and proactive actions it can take.

**Mike Kaputa** described the land and water management issues and opportunities that inspired the project conveners to initiate the project, in particular the “checkerboard” arrangement of public and private forest lands in the Upper Wenatchee basin. He mentioned the connection between the area’s economy and natural resources, the likelihood that Weyerhaeuser may sell off up to 38,000 acres of the checkerboard in the Wenatchee Watershed, and the conveners’ interest in being ready if that happens. Mike showed a couple of PowerPoint slides depicting maps from the Stemilt/Squilchuk Community Vision to demonstrate that the current project is essentially the third in a series of planning process in Chelan County. In addition, he showed how GIS can identify priority lands that meet community needs, and form the core of action steps. Previous planning processes have yielded documents which were supported by all stakeholders, which have been used to guide government and nonprofit activities, and to raise funds to implement the plans.

#### *Project scope and process*

**Sandra Tassel** provided an overview of the project, using several PowerPoint slides.

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan **description and scope:**
  - Public vision development, mapping and implementation (like other 2 plans)
  - Cashmere to Stevens Pass
  - 3 subareas: Nason/Coulter, Blewett/Peshastin and Chumstick (showed on the map)
  - As in other examples, broad citizen engagement and input is key
  - Investigation into local goals/values for whole planning area

- Together, identify priority places and properties using GIS mapping

➤ **Process** -- 16 mos. from start to finish

Gather insight from stakeholders about local land-related values

- The results of the community meetings are essential to the success of the project

Translate those values into "goals and criteria"

- Mapable information, used to create GIS model
- Model identifies specific places that are key for retaining values
- Steering Committee will review, test model

Create maps and prioritization

- Steering Committee will review

Developing action plan

- Tool box of methods to achieve goals and address threats
- Could include voluntary conservation
- Take advantage of opportunities
- Voluntary land management recommendations

Final report and maps

- Tool for community action
- Review by committee

**Mickey Fleming** described some specific objectives of the project, and clarified the timeline in Chelan County.

*Small group facilitated discussions*

Participants met in groups of up to 10, each with a facilitator/ recorder. They were asked to answer questions aimed at discovering:

***The land and water resources considered most important to the participants, and why. They were encouraged to cite specific places within the Upper Wenatchee watershed to help clarify what they value most in the local landscape.***

***What actions participants recommended in order to achieve their goals for the area's land and water resources in the future. Responses to this question will help shape the implementation of the plan.***

Attendees had the opportunity to respond in writing individually, and to engage in dialogue with other members of their group. This activity was the core of each of the meetings. In Dryden and Leavenworth there was sufficient time for discussion following the small group portion of the agenda. In Lake Wenatchee, the large number of attendees required that all available time was dedicated to answering the questions and recording the answers by the small group facilitators.

The attached is a summary of participants' written responses and the notes taken by the group facilitators. The input from the public meetings mostly fit into one of the themes described below.

### ***Values that emerged from small group discussions***

Although there is a variety of subthemes and nuances, some clear values surfaced. They are listed below

- ***Healthy forests*** that are a renewable and sustainable resource which can be part of the county's future economy. There is widespread interest in keeping/reinvigorating a forest products industry. Others who cited healthy forests as an important value noted they reduce risk of flooding or other damage to valuable local waters. The checkerboard arrangement of private and public tracts of forest is viewed as an obstacle to this goal, as are the current, prevailing timber management practices. This value is closely linked to the next one.
- ***Wildfire stewardship*** through informed and careful management of local forests so that they are more resistant to catastrophic fires. Residents generally want to see active management, functional partnerships, improved forestry practices and resumed timber harvests to reduce fire risk. Due to the challenges of coordinating stewardship practices, the checkerboard was perceived to be problematic for achieving local goals for fire-resilient forests. There is support for actions to create a pattern of land ownership that is conducive to *consistent management of forests*, together with cooperative stewardship among private and public owners.
- ***Clean water in sufficient quantity to serve all local needs*** including agriculture/irrigation, municipal, domestic and the requirements of plants and animals. Meeting participants described their concerns about all aspects of area hydrology from high country snowpack, to intact forests that slow runoff, to improved enforcement of stream buffer requirements, to protection of ground and surface waters. There is fairly widespread worry about failing septic systems and other sources of contamination of private wells. Thorough analysis of the aquifer and recharge zones will be an important aspect of determining which lands may be public priorities.
- ***Protected and/or restored habitat for fish and wildlife*** with a focus on mule deer, sport fish and the endangered fish species. Many participants observed that healthy forests benefit many species. Specific recommendations include preservation of *corridors for wildlife's* seasonal movements, conserving riparian zones and ensuring that remaining high quality habitat is conserved.
- ***Access to a variety of outdoor recreation resources*** which are used throughout the year by residents and visitors for both motorized and non-motorized activities. There is widespread recognition that the local economy currently depends to a large degree on *outdoor, recreation-based tourism*. While much of the recreation utilizes the large amount of *public land, trails and roads*, some significant recreation assets are located on Weyerhaeuser property and other private land. (For example, the Nason Ridge cross-country ski trails are on land leased from Weyerhaeuser.) Development of certain private parcels within the checkerboard could potentially impact access to public land

that is highly valued for recreation. There is substantial interest in creating trails at lower elevations that would connect with existing networks.

- **Land available for private ownership** for future residential development or commercial uses in a county with over 80% of the land in public ownership. At each meeting participants expressed concern about tax base, the amount of public land and lack of properties suitable for business uses not connected to tourism. There seems to be fairly broad support for using land exchanges to consolidate private land and public land in arrangements that make both more useful.

#### ➤ **Other issues frequently raised in the public meetings**

- **Balancing needs of different interests** for example motorized and non-motorized users, second home owners and residents, tourism-related businesses and other industries.
- Importance of having **capacity to steward public lands**, whether existing or created in the future. Although this topic did not conform to the questions asked at the meetings, it was raised often and loudly. Issues range from litter, to trespass, to damage caused by off-road-vehicles, to lack of enforcement of existing rules.
- **Management of public and private land**, in particular logging practices. Every meeting had at least several property owners who were deeply concerned about clear cuts on adjoining private land that they felt endangered their homes and physical safety. Similarly, a high level of angst was voiced about the condition of public land adjoining private property, in particular US Forest Service. These fears were usually regarding hazardous “fuel loads” in fire prone areas.

#### Survey

Participants had an opportunity to complete a one page survey identifying which of the values previously identified are the most important to them. The survey is also available to the public; it is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UpperWenatcheeSurvey>. Everyone was encouraged to access the survey via the county website, and distribute a link to anyone who might want to provide their input.

#### Opportunities for further engagement

At each of the meetings, representatives of the convening organizations offered to field questions in the future and welcomed the involvement of interested individuals on the Steering Committee or Technical Advisory Team for the project.

#### Meeting summaries

In the closing moments of the meetings, attendees were assured that summaries like this one would be posted on the county’s website.

Value	Explanation, additional information	Ranking
Increase recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access to trails a big concern, especially at lower elevations.</li> <li>-Places popular for recreation, including parcels owned by Weyerhaeuser and others that are currently open to (or just used by) the public.</li> <li>- Trail connectivity, versus just up and back travel, a real network</li> <li>- Rivers and streams</li> <li>- Cashmere needs outdoor recreation to draw visitors</li> <li>- Future access on private lands, or adjacent public sections.</li> <li>- Places for passive (quiet) recreation, conservation: Mission Creek, Brender Canyon, Eagle Creek , ponds at end of Anderson Canyon,\</li> <li>Specific places: Derby Canyon, Peshastin: Quiet trails, not much wheeled traffic, Ingalls Camp, Devil's Gulch and Tronson Ridge</li> </ul>	1
Access to public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private lands control access to public sections</li> <li>- Provide wide range of recreation, mentions of hiking, water access, four season use, vehicular use</li> <li>- Access to public lands, including roads (owned by everyone).</li> <li>- Development of private land could block recreational use of land beyond</li> <li>- Enjoyed by everyone. Includes hike, camp, ORV, snow machines. (That's why we live here.)</li> <li>- Cornerstone of tourism economy</li> <li>- USFS have or secure easements that run with the land that could prevent future owners from cutting off access</li> </ul>	1
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to protect land, trees, wildlife, fish and water for our future</li> <li>- Nature's bounty to provide for wildlife (includes forests for non-economic purposes)</li> <li>- Wildlife migration corridors and important habitat</li> <li>- Wildlife habitat. (Requires better oversight/management by public agencies)</li> <li>- Cross private and public land, including Weyerhaeuser tracts.</li> <li>- Wildlife has seasonally changeable needs. Protect lands for winter range, summer forage, breeding areas</li> <li>- Watercourses important for recreation, beauty, ecological health</li> <li>- Development is encroaching on important habitat</li> <li>Specific place: Camas Creek for Elk habitat, important biological area, unique plants, good hiking, geology, birding</li> </ul>	2
Wildfire stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weyerhaeuser lands and other properties likely to be developed in the "interface", make problem worse</li> <li>- Roads bring people further into forests, increase fire danger. But roads can also act as fire breaks.</li> <li>- If developed [checkbox] for houses it will affect ability to control fires and increase firefighting costs.</li> <li>- Rural development "drains county, state and federal resources" bc fires are bigger and more expensive losses</li> <li>Specific places: Mission Creek at risk bc of logging, slash</li> </ul>	3

	Eagle Creek: Protection and improved forest practices important for reducing area fire risk	
Water quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For fish, irrigation, livestock, etc.</li> <li>- Water supply is shrinking, new development could over-tap</li> <li>- New water storage could help flows</li> <li>- opportunities for aquifer recharge</li> <li>- Water quantity and quality for all uses a concern</li> <li>- Need for assessment of current legal uses that affect water</li> <li>- forest cover contributes to water supply, retention</li> <li>- Riparian areas</li> <li>- High Lakes</li> </ul> <p>Specific places: Mission Creek, Peshastin Creek for fishing and contribution to local water quality, Derby Canyon and Peshastin area: North and East slopes' forest cover important for water supplies</p>	3
Restore endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- epicenter of salmon, steelhead and bull trout...iconic species of the PNW.</li> <li>- Drying streams destroys habitat for all fish</li> <li>- Floodplain</li> <li>- Naturally functioning watershed</li> <li>- Fisheries, and species recovery</li> </ul>	4
Reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forested slopes reduce flood risk, clear cuts increase risk</li> <li>- Floodplains are a bad place to build houses. Costs everyone</li> <li>- forests important for flood prevention (slowing runoff)</li> </ul> <p>Mission Creek: Flood control, especially risk for Cashmere with extreme weather, run off, etc.</p>	5
Economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tourism is big business, like it or not.</li> <li>- Commercial mineral resources create community development along with small and large business growth</li> <li>- Allowable cuts/timber sales impact economy. Disappearance of wood products industry in area</li> <li>- Commerce and our work depend on lands</li> </ul>	5
Protect private property (ex Maxfield Canyon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WeyCo lands surround or adjoin private properties, activities put property and lives at risk</li> <li>- Support private landowners doing sustainable forestry (Larsen Canyon)</li> <li>- Roads used by logging trucks go through/by homes. Roads often are not of quality or width to make them safe for trucks and normal use.</li> </ul>	6

### Quotes:

*Land use affects water quality, in rivers, streams, lakes and wells (particularly forestry practices)*

*The qualities we value and have invested in to create and protect are dependent on how neighbors manage their land, including DNR, Weyerhaeuser and USFS*

*As assets become rare elsewhere they make our area more attractive and important for our livelihoods*

*Need to consider how future land uses will impact past public and private expenditures. Don't want to harm return on investments already made by programs to protect values.*

*The land and its uses drive our weekday jobs and our weekend recreation*

*Public health is affected by private land uses.*

*Nothing survives without water. Needed for fish, irrigation, livestock, etc. Supply is diminishing and possibly being over tapped.*

*Need to manage land for sustainability. The way timber harvest is done today can minimize impact on future economy.*

*This is our local landscape. It is important for us to have a say in management. Want it to be sustainable.*

## **“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes**

### Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- Overarching: USFS land management is part of systemic issue, there needs to be much better coordination
- Maintenance of logging roads important for fire control, erosion control, access
- It [public land in the watershed] is gorgeous but over-used in certain areas. Level of use makes it impossible to restore those lands
- Motorized users of public lands are trashing Derby Canyon. Going even where signs say not to, causing erosion.
- USFS has to maintain lands and enforce rules or close roads
- No one group should be controlling land for recreation and closing off to others

### Concerns about restrictions on uses of land and water

- Sport fishing, objection to closed waters. Fish hatcheries should produce adequate fish. Low fish populations harming fishing business, enjoyment

### Issues related to threats to water quality and quantity

- Mission Creek: Water quality concerns from timber harvest and fire
- Water quantity issues and damage to fish habitat are partly a result of irrigation waste

### Angst about private companies' forestry practices

- Excess timber harvest increases flood risk. Cashmere is particularly vulnerable bc Mission Creek drainage is denuded, but other communities are also at risk.
- Danger [to adjoining properties] from logging including slides, water quality damage, fire risks from slash.
- How are logging companies helping pay for their damage to county roads?

### Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Unhealthy forests lead to wildfires, risk of catastrophic fires. Salvage sales inadequate.
- Issues with second homes, upkeep, fire awareness, community engagement in issues like wildfire

### General input for UWCLP

- Need to do “water typing” on all streams, with on-the-ground review, to ensure that timber operations are providing appropriate buffers as required by law (from Sandy) As part of planning process, create an interactive map for online users so that people can put comments related to values in specific areas of the watershed
- Want to have local control over future of critical lands
- What lands are “protected” by zoning or other current regulations so that public doesn't have to buy to conserve?
- Opportunity to create much more logical, manageable land ownership pattern

- Need a strong, clear county land use plan with specific use identified for specific areas to avoid clashing, overlapping, competing uses.
- Have to have a land management budget if more land is made public

### Miscellaneous

Stewardship, responsible use, how to fund land management? Issue about trash

<b>Value</b>	<b>Explanation/because</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
Wildfire stewardship	<p>Manage resources in a way that minimizes the risk of major forest fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cut diseased trees</li> <li>- well managed forests (owned by timber industry) don't burn</li> <li>- "resilient forests"</li> <li>- healthy forests are also fire resistant</li> <li>- changing, drying climate increasing danger</li> <li>- cluster development would reduce risk, keeps new construction out of the woods</li> <li>- need better post-harvest clean up</li> </ul>	1
Timber production/ "Healthy Forests"	<p>Grow sufficient quantities of timber to restore/sustain local forest products economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep forests working, retain roads</li> <li>- Including private timber</li> <li>- Avoid over-logging by private owners, run off danger</li> <li>- Support thriving communities</li> <li>- revived wood products industry</li> <li>- restoration and recovery of forests</li> <li>- improve USFS management, increase timber sales</li> <li>- trades/exchanges needed to make land management more effective and expand commercial opportunities</li> <li>- re-forest logged areas, responsible harvest, don't trash the land</li> <li>- connected to reducing fire hazards</li> </ul>	2
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<p>Steward (and restore) lands to sustain wildlife populations generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wildlife observation/watching</li> <li>- Wetlands, water, forage</li> <li>- Wildlife migration corridors, priority for protection</li> <li>- intact ecosystems (animals, birds, plants) includes humans</li> <li>- concern about abuse of public land</li> <li>- manage forests for fish and wildlife habitat</li> <li>- thinning, burns help wildlife, ex elk herd in the Icicle Creek drainage</li> </ul> <p>Specific places: beaver ponds up Eagle Creek Mule deer migration corridor, Entiat Ridge Tumwater Mountain, Botanical Reserve (created by T. Roosevelt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restore upper ridges of Eagle Creek, Van Creek and Clark Canyon</li> </ul>	2
Access to existing public lands	<p>Maintain (or expand) opportunities for the public to access public lands for spectrum of four seasons of outdoor recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "wilderness" experience</li> <li>- National Forest, the big backyard</li> <li>- Way of life, important for health</li> <li>- hiking, backpacking, wilderness beauty ( motorized use issue)</li> <li>- Mountain biking</li> <li>- important for local economy</li> <li>- trails</li> <li>- forest as place to recreate</li> <li>- checkerboard is an issue</li> <li>- need to develop parking areas</li> <li>- user conflicts, motorized and non-motorized</li> <li>- USFS roads, should be maintained, kept open</li> </ul> <p>Places – Eagle Creek, Fruend Canyon, close to Leavenworth, Sauer Mtn, Tumwater Mtn, Spromberg Canyon, Chiwaukum</p>	2

Improved/new recreation opportunities	<p>Make more land available for recreation (examples include: fishing, hunting, picnicking, bird watching, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- currently can access most WeyCo lands, need to maintain</li> <li>- accessible day trails</li> <li>- xc skiing (and snowshoe) in natural area, without conflicts with snowmobiles</li> <li>- beautiful hiking</li> <li>- ways to travel, all modes, through natural landscapes (vs on the road)</li> <li>- bicycling</li> <li>- lower elevation opportunities, early and late season, close to Leavenworth</li> <li>- Need more campsites, existing ones always full</li> <li>- non-motorized recreation (prevent motorized encroachment on wilderness areas)</li> <li>- Places for ORV's</li> <li>- Wenatchee Foothills example for separate access for various types of recreation, places to take kids</li> <li>- Specific places: Eagle Creek, Derby Canyon, Freund Canyon, Lake Ethel trail/Coulter Area, Mountain Home, Blewett Pass, Ranger Road, Tumwater Mtn, Icicle Canyon and Ridge, Anderson Canyon, all WeyCo land in Chumstick block</li> <li>- Nason Ridge XC ski trails, secure the future, potentially expand, build a hut system, on current WeyCo land, use in other seasons for hiking, mtn biking</li> <li>- Access to water bodies, including streams, rivers and lakes</li> </ul>	2
Water quality and quantity	<p>Ensure sufficient clean water supplies to meet needs of agriculture, communities and individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserve the watershed, hydrology (Chumstick water quality is "tenuous")</li> <li>- dry area, going to run out of water</li> <li>- aquifer recharge zones need to be protected</li> <li>- sources of municipal supplies, protected ?</li> <li>- Increase water storage (reservoirs) for benefit of people and fish and wildlife</li> <li>- Preserve water resources and assure safety of private wells</li> <li>- surface and ground water supplies</li> <li>- streams, especially small tributaries, vulnerable to silting up from runoff from logging, roads</li> <li>- forest/river/snowpack nexus</li> <li>- irrigation (check where intakes are located)</li> <li>- prevent erosion</li> <li>- protect riparian zones, floodplains</li> </ul>	3
Restore endangered species	<p>Focus management on meeting the needs of threatened species, mostly fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ecological diversity</li> <li>- cold, clean water</li> <li>- salmon recovery</li> <li>- prevent erosion by revegetating post-timber and post-fire</li> <li>- water quality and quantity protection benefit fish</li> <li>- use regulations to enforce buffer requirements</li> </ul> <p>Specific places: Chiwawa Creek, Icicle Creek, - restore, improve Eagle Creek</p>	4

Developable acreage/private land	Ensure land availability for local resident and second home construction - Private land ownership, increase acreage available - Need additional residential land - Can't ignore growth, expect development - Rural culture depends on private lands - Combine snowmobile trails and new development - Develop public land to increase job opportunities - use land exchanges to get land out of public ownership - Don't add to amount of public land	4
Viewshed, open space, scenery	Protect area's scenic landscapes, natural beauty - Gateway to the valley - Scenery is economic attractor - Less pavement, more dirt, grass, trees - Clean air	4
Orchards, vineyards and other farms	Recognize the importance of the agricultural sector in the local economy - ag lands	5
Other: - Historic - Stewardship	- Ensure that protected lands are cared for - Restore damaged areas, erosion	

#### Quotes:

*Forest, open space, ag lands, private property are all important because these lands are the core of a rural community and economy. Rural culture generated from the grassroots residents is key to a vibrant community.*

*Our quality of life is tied to area's ecological diversity*

*Fresh water is a major and critically important resource that is much more fragile than we treat it.*

*Without the healthy forest all the rest suffers*

*Without clean water there is no good life*

Action/Implementation	Explanation	Priority (based on mentions)
Protect/maintain public access <u>across</u> private land to public lands	- Avoid closure of trails and roads due to future development - Acquire access easements before land is sold again - Require dedication of trail ROW when land is developed - Activities mentioned include hiking, skiing, mountain biking - WeyCo has allowed users to cross their	1

	lands - Focus on existing trails - Fund maintenance of trails, improvements such as trailheads - Specific places: Coulter area (access to Lake Egler)	
Protect/maintain/expand public access for recreation <u>on</u> private land	- WeyCo leases land adjoining Lake Wenatchee State Park - Within checkerboard, public has generally been able to use private land - Specific parcels are particularly important for recreation Specific: connect mountain bike trail from Tumwater Mtn to Plain through Wey Co sections 15 +23, top of Spromberg Canyon	1
Pursue all possible methods for reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire	- Improve forest management by public agencies and private landowners. Ex: prescribed burns, funding for fuel reduction, thinning, weed control - Expand Chumstick coalition model (needs funding) - Money for private actions - Use firefighting \$ to pay for improving forest health, "resilience" - fire breaks (keep USFS roads open) - Better logging practices (clean up slash)	2
Rebuild local wood products industry	- Retain forests suitable for sustainable harvests - Create sawmill or other outlet for "biomass" - Support active management of USFS lands, including cuts - create a "community forest", long-term vs immediate financial gain, process logs locally - Value-added products	2
Protect water quality and quantity	- Stop logging on slide-prone slopes - Ground truth water-typing to make better use of existing buffer requirements for cuts - Identify and conserve ground water recharge lands - Conserve land to minimize future wells - Repair failing septic systems - Development guidelines to protect water quality - Construct water storage/reservoirs, lobby for and secure state funding	3
Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases)	- Involve USFS, BLM, State Parks, DFW, DNR - Essential for improved land management - Make forestry more efficient/possible - Don't increase % of public land, make sure it is the right land	4

Acquire key private parcels (or secure conservation restrictions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Necessary for habitat, protecting wildlife corridors</li> <li>- Overlap with protecting water quality and quantity, some land should not be developed, recharge zones</li> <li>- Wetlands, riparian areas</li> <li>- Forestlands, reduce logging, create “community forest”</li> <li>- community control, “keep options open”</li> </ul>	4
Retain private land for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need areas for future growth</li> <li>- Housing construction important for locals and second homes</li> <li>- Tax base concerns</li> <li>- Antipathy toward additional public land</li> <li>- Site for mill, or other commercial activities (encourage business besides tourism)</li> <li>- Identify land not appropriate for conservation and make available for development</li> <li>- Encourage infill development, affordable housing in existing developed areas</li> </ul>	5

### **“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes**

#### Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- prevent motorized encroachment on Icicle Ridge
- keep roads open
- close roads not needed for recreation
- respect for multi-use tradition for all user groups, create separate access areas

#### Concerns about restrictions on uses of land and water

- ensure planning does not lead to zoning or regulations, defend private property rights
- consider and mitigate negative impacts of ESA on private lands
- “balanced approach” to land uses in the county, don’t exclude anyone

#### Issues related to threats to water quality, especially in individual, domestic wells

- funding and management of development to protect clean water, including funding to repair failing septic systems
- County leadership on septic, cover costs of testing, educate public about incentives
- help private landowners repair failing septic systems that impact everyone’s water

#### Angst about Weyerhaeuser’s forestry practices

- enforce existing forest protection regulations
- map and make available GIS data on timber sales
- encourage WeyCo to modify practices
- expose the post-cut conditions on WeyCo lands

#### Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Comprehensive assessment of fuel loads in tributary drainages esp. south side of Eagle Creek drainage, Merry Canyon
- Lobby for additional funding for USFS, more staff, active leadership
- fireproof around homes, require private property owners to thin

#### General input for UWCLP

- develop a clear, consistent process for moving forward w goals of the plan, including an “elevator” version of the vision
- create partnerships to involve the right people
- determine who has responsibility for what, create guidelines or regulations

#### Miscellaneous

- educate homeowners to leave riparian habitats intact along their sections of creeks

Value	Explanation/because	Ranking
Improved/secured/ new recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain recreational access on timberlands (Ex Coulter block)</li> <li>- Retain cross country skiing lease/trails</li> <li>- ATV's, hunting access in Nason Creek</li> <li>- Trails Nason Ridge, mountain biking</li> <li>- Above Kahler Glen</li> <li>- Plain Valley</li> <li>- Scottish Highlands Camp (leased land)</li> <li>- Lake Julius trail</li> <li>- Increase biking options on road and trails, make a true network</li> <li>- Snowmobiling is an existing use, needs to be maintained (in Coulter Creek)</li> <li>- Create hut skiing (ala the Rendezvous in the Methow)</li> </ul> <p>Specific places: Nason Ridge, Coulter Creek trail and access (locked), Pole Ridge, protected corridor/trail from Stevens Pass to Leavenworth (Mountains-to-Sound Greenway model, used working forest easements)</p>	1
Water quality and quantity, storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild, natural, clean</li> <li>- Ensure there is sufficient water before additional development</li> <li>- Manage forests to prevent runoff</li> <li>- Source water protection, springs</li> <li>- Steep slopes should not be cut or developed to avoid slides which damage waterways</li> <li>- Healthy forests are good for water (and air and animals)</li> <li>- uplands have to be protected</li> <li>- Nason Creek</li> <li>- Lakes and rivers</li> <li>- for fishery</li> <li>- humans, habitat and economy need clean water</li> </ul> <p>Specific: Coulter Creek wetlands, Kahler Creek needs restoration, Lake Wenatchee (for water, views and recreation), White River, Little Wenatchee River, Nason Creek</p>	1
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investment in fisheries should be protected by limiting upstream road-building and forestry (Nason/Coulter)</li> <li>- checkerboard land ownership is antithetical to good habitat management</li> <li>- black bear populations OK</li> <li>- mule deer populations in decline</li> <li>- healthy forests supply habitat</li> <li>- Wildlife habitat should be preserved</li> <li>- hunting is important to communities</li> <li>- streams</li> <li>- fish and animals</li> <li>- rivers are habitat (separate from endangered species)</li> <li>- landscape is changing (warming, drying) Makes higher elevation lands especially important for conservation</li> </ul> <p>Specific places: Round Mountain, Chiwawa Pines (<i>not sure if these were rec or wildlife</i>)</p>	2
Timber production/ "Healthy Forests"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage forests for continued harvest</li> <li>- Active management = fire resilient (currently a tinderbox)</li> <li>- Distinct from tree farms</li> <li>- All WeyCo land for forestry</li> </ul>	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Also a recreation asset</li> <li>- Restore logged lands</li> <li>- timber products, jobs</li> <li>- human health</li> <li>- replant logged areas to rebuild forest base for future</li> <li>- forest health shouldn't be excuse for heavy logging</li> <li>- Community forest, opportunity for job training, work</li> </ul>	
Access to existing public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and improve current public lands access</li> <li>- Fishing, skiing, hunting, hiking, mtn biking</li> <li>- Improve, expand water access for non-motorized craft in lake Wenatchee</li> <li>- Hiking trails</li> <li>- XC skiing</li> <li>- Mountain Biking</li> <li>- Harvesting wild products</li> <li>- Specific places: Butcher Creek, Dirtyface, Agnes, non motorized access from Coulter Creek area to Scottish Lakes High Camp</li> </ul>	4
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close unneeded roads in the forest</li> <li>- Halt clear cuts</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Manage existing public lands better</li> </ul>	4
Wildfire stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forests have to be managed for fire</li> <li>- Important that strategies are consistent across ownerships</li> <li>- Resilient forests</li> <li>- Public safety, protect properties</li> <li>- Fire as a tool for healthy forests</li> <li>- Climate change, drying, is going to increase risk</li> <li>- Beneficial for water quality and wildlife</li> <li>- Allow woodcutters</li> </ul>	5
Viewshed, open space, scenery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- designated scenic byway, important to protect viewshed</li> <li>- maintain natural views (logging and fire impact, in addition to development)</li> <li>- Nason Ridge and Nason Creek</li> <li>- sightlines</li> <li>- ordinance possible? Larger lot zoning?</li> <li>- Pole Ridge, Dirty Face (<i>not sure if these are view issues</i>)</li> </ul>	5
Access to water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fishing, kayaking, sailing</li> <li>- Maintain fishing opportunities</li> <li>- Lake Wenatchee, kayak and raft</li> <li>- specific places: Little Wenatchee, Chiwawa River, River Road, Hwy 2, Plain Bridge</li> <li>- Chumstick, Nason Creek for flyfishing</li> </ul>	5
Developable acreage/private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important to retain existing private acreage</li> <li>- Landowners/companies depend entirely on their land</li> <li>- mining</li> <li>- loss of tax revenue</li> <li>- large % of public lands</li> <li>- purchase of lands = more expenses, responsibilities for county</li> <li>- rural lands, local industry = family friendly place to live and work</li> <li>- avoid dense development (anti-"Suncadia")</li> <li>- county revisit land classification (?), cluster zoning, open space</li> </ul>	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geologic “block fault” Nason Ridge,</li> <li>- need for affordable housing</li> <li>- options for more commercial along highway near Coulter?</li> </ul>	
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest products, biomass, firewood</li> <li>- Need to have infrastructure for timber industry</li> <li>- Retain mill site for future</li> <li>- public private partnership, conservation and industry, a real model</li> <li>- Gateway quality of road from Stevens Pass is as valuable as additional industrial/commercial development</li> </ul>	6
Restore endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restore fish habitat</li> <li>- Salmon recovery</li> </ul>	7
Orchards, vineyards and other farms	Farming resources	

**Quotes:**

- *We need to better maintain what we have because once it's gone we can never turn back*
- *Forest health is everything because everything else – recreation, business – depends on it*
- *If existing private lands are sold for development it will impact forest, wildlife, water quality and fire protections*
- *Ensure that commercial activities preserve the pristine water and scenic beauty*
- *Let's look at natural features together with the ownership and economic issues so we'll know how to go forward*
- *Clean water is like gold*

Action/Implementation	Explanation	Priority
Acquire and manage key private parcels ,or secure conservation restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on slide prone lands, public safety</li> <li>- Acquire WeyCo land, or secure long term lease</li> <li>- public ownership of Nason Ridge trail system</li> <li>- local control of lands that affect the people who live here</li> <li>- Preserve and restore Chiwawa fish habitat</li> <li>- Specific: Nason Creek land behind Kahler Glen, to the top Nason Ridge trailhead</li> <li>- Kahler Glen ski/bike trailhead</li> <li>- Coulter Creek</li> <li>- Partnership, state parks, wildlife, tribes, land trust</li> <li>- Logging done at a sustainable level</li> <li>- Minimize construction in areas important for water quality and ecosystems</li> <li>- Public private partnership to buy all WeyCo land</li> <li>- Make a Stewardship Forest</li> <li>- Southern WeyCo parcel for water quality reasons</li> <li>- Investigate ways to maintain tax base, even if land is conserved (TNC model)</li> </ul>	1
Identify areas for commercial activity that won't negatively impact other values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logging, extraction other economic activities should take place on lands where long-term forest and water health won't be affected</li> <li>- Identify best uses for private lands in checkerboard</li> <li>- Create a plan for checkboard that brings most value to public</li> <li>- Manage for long term use</li> </ul>	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map landslide risks, use as a guide</li> <li>- Identify important watershed lands</li> <li>- Plan future developments around preservation and dedicated public use</li> <li>- Identify uses and needs for activities including recreation, timber, housing, streams</li> <li>- Map wildlife migration corridors</li> <li>- Determine who all “players” are and their plans for lands</li> <li>- Set real goals</li> </ul>	
Protect/maintain public access <u>across</u> private land to public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain current opportunities for hiking, skiing, back packing, etc</li> <li>- Incorporate USFS “travel plan”</li> <li>- Map Rights of Way and connections to USFS, comprehensive analysis</li> <li>- Secure access to any trails on public land so that future development won’t block</li> <li>- Permanent easements w WeyCo that run with the land</li> </ul>	3
Protect/maintain/expand public access for recreation <u>on</u> private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserve access to existing trails</li> <li>- Prevent development in Nason Creek</li> <li>- County/local management of access</li> <li>- Create a network of public access trails</li> <li>- Secure permanent access to Nason Ridge Trail</li> </ul>	3
Protect fish and wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild and Scenic Rivers</li> <li>- Incorporate habitat needs into future land use (and land acquisition) decisions</li> <li>- Prioritize intact ecosystems</li> <li>- Preserve riparian areas</li> <li>- Deals to eliminate clear cuts</li> </ul>	3
Pursue all possible methods for reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make forests fire-tolerant by thinning</li> <li>- Firewise education</li> <li>- partner with USFS on “fuels treatment”</li> <li>- Work with Firewise Communities</li> <li>- Forest management for fire stewardship</li> <li>- Proactive steps</li> <li>- Commitment to clean up slash</li> </ul>	4
Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining and controlling land for recreation requires minimizing checkerboard</li> <li>- Create large parcels of land in a natural state</li> <li>- Resolve checkerboard ownership on Nason Ridge</li> <li>- 3,700 acres, Nason Ridge, one public entity, prevent sell-off of parcels</li> </ul>	4
Rebuild local wood products industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide saleable timber for wood products and jobs</li> <li>- Use working forest conservation easements vs “preservation”</li> <li>- Create community forest, maintain w local values in mind</li> </ul>	5
Protect water quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watersheds</li> <li>- Manage forest lands to reduce runoff</li> <li>- Plan based on water resource assets</li> <li>- Analyze hydrology, ID critical lands</li> <li>- Introduce beaver to area</li> <li>- Wild and Scenic designation for White River and Little Wenatchee</li> </ul>	5

Retain private land for development		6
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## **“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes**

### Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- Find a balance with motorized and non-motorized use
- ATV's are a tradition
- Recreational access by ORV is economical and has commercial purposes
- Minimum impact activities essential for resource protection
- Allow biking on trails
- XC trail grooming
- Limit motorized/wheeled interference with wildlife
- Close and rehabilitate old logging roads that aren't part of trail system, can't maintain
- Segregate XC skiing and snowmobiling (and other seasonal activities) so both can enjoy
- Target practice, public danger
- Set aside area for “hard core” ATV use, rocks, steep hills, narrow trails

### Concerns about restrictions (pro and con) on uses of land and water

- Don't let county become a dictatorship
- Need planning, local control vs federal and state
- Planning and restoration aimed at maintaining healthy forest

### Angst about Weyerhaeuser's forestry practices

- Logging on Nason Ridge is damaging the property, slides, erosion
- Slash piles increase fire risk, supposed to be cleaned up
- Replanting as required?
- Following plan filed w DNR?
- Public safety should always be first priority, minimize landslide risk
- Nason Creek/Lake Wenatchee cannot sustain heavy duty activities i.e. clear cutting
- Logging has led to road washouts, trail closures, flooding

### Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Educate private property owners, especially second home owners
- “Reduce fire threat”
- Promote Firewise Communities
- Require landowners to participate to make effective
- Create fire breaks
- Conduct controlled burns
- Simplify permits
- Press USFS to create buffers around communities

### General input for UWCLP

- Find ways to improve forest management on private and public lands (multiple mentions)
- Select areas for specific activities (even if uses overlap)
- Develop plan that prioritizes protection of important lands, identified as needed for local priorities

- Action plan to lead to early success during implementation
- Engage the public, as is happening -
- Important to engage all stakeholders
- Work together as a community to preserve recreational access and use for all

#### Miscellaneous

- Improve road shoulders for biking
- Maintenance of trails for skiing, biking, hiking (Better/more maintenance came up a lot)
- Reduce road erosion
- Support wolf and grizzly reintroduction
- Public education, reduce “misuse”
- Cost of housing, locals and employees

# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan

## Steering Committee Meeting Summary

June 24, 2015

Easy Street Fire Hall, Wenatchee WA

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“Steering Committee” Attendees: Mat Lyons (Evergreen Mtn Bike);, David Holland (WA Dept. of Ecology); Rolie Schmitt (Nason View Partnership, Lake Wenatchee); Shaun Seaman (Leavenworth Winter Sports Club); Jerry Duffy (Nason View Partnership); Lee Carlson (Yakama Nation); Keith Goehner\* (Chelan County Commission); Steve Raymond (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Bill Miller (Kahler Glen); Tom Ernsberger (WA State Parks); Rick Halstead (WA State Parks); Larry Leach (WA Dept. of Natural Resources); Wes Worden (Weyerhaeuser); Jordan McDevitt (private developer).

Other invitees: Dan Acton (Leavenworth Real Estate); Amanda Barg (WDFW); Terry Twitchell\* (Peshastin/Blewett); Scott Lynn (US Forest Service); Don Youkey (US Forest Service); Jeff Rivera (US Forest Service); Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Bill Towey (Colville Tribes); James Schroeder (The Nature Conservancy); George Wilson (Lake Wenatchee Info); Ross Frank (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Annie Schmidt (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Andrew Holm\* (Tierra Learning Center); Nancy Smith (Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce); Dick Smithson\* (Peshastin/Blewett).

*\*Attended “Sounding Board” meeting 1/8/15*

Other attendees: Mike Kaputa\* (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Ericka Hegeman (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Mickey Fleming\* (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Bob Bugert (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Pete Hill\* (The Trust for Public Land), Sandra Tassel (Representing The Trust for Public Land.), Jennifer Hadersberger (CCNRD). Mike Kane, Mitch,

### **Background:**

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been leading the creation of a vision for the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The project is known as the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP). The project conveners officially started work on UWCLP in December 2014, but substantial effort over the course of several years was involved in developing the concept and securing funding to execute it.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Identify the values associated with the Upper Wenatchee watershed landscapes;
- Create community awareness of those values;
- Map lands that exemplify the values; and

- Develop an action plan outlining voluntary actions to help ensure that these lands and the values attached to them serve our communities for generations to come.

Representatives of all stakeholder interests have been invited to be members of the Steering Committee that is advising the project conveners. The Steering Committee first met in January 2015 and provided input on the goals of UWCLP.

In March and April, three public input meetings were held; one in each of the three subareas that are the focus of UWCLP. They are:

- Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee
- Peshastin/Blewett Pass
- Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth

Summaries of the initial Steering Committee meeting and the community meetings can be found on the Chelan County website:

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning>

In addition to the three public meetings, citizens were able to weigh in on their priority values via an online survey. The survey was promoted at the public meetings, by the County and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust.

### **Notes of June 24, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting #2**

On June 24, 2015 the second meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Easy Street Fire Hall. Email invitations were sent to everyone who was contacted in advance of the January meeting, plus several people who expressed an interest at one of the community meetings in joining the Steering Committee. Members of the convening organizations called many of the invitees also to ensure good attendance.

### **Goals of the Meeting**

The primary purposes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were to review the list of priority values that was developed from citizen input and the draft maps that show how community priorities align with the geography of the Upper Wenatchee watershed, and the data sets gathered through the Technical Advisory Committee to map criteria for each value

The maps are based on:

- Input received at the public meetings,
- Recommendations from the Steering Committee,
- Feedback from one-on-one interviews and
- Results of the survey

All of the input was compiled in May. That synthesized information about local values became the basis for GIS mapping done by The Trust for Public Land. Local experts on the Technical Advisory Team assisted with the mapping by providing data and advising the mapping team on priority locations.

Feedback from the Steering Committee will inform the creation of the final maps, guide additional outreach and suggest other research that may still be necessary for the final plan to be an accurate reflection of local priorities.

### **Overview of the Meeting**

- Welcome by County Commissioner Keith Goehner
  - Introductions of all attendees
  - Overview of the UWCLP goals and timeline by Sandra Tassel, representing The Trust for Public Land, and Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department.
  - Findings from community meetings and survey by Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
  - Discussion of priority values involving all attendees
  - Explanation of draft maps of community values presented by Mitchel Hannon, The Trust for Public Land
  - Discussion of the draft maps involving all attendees giving feedback recorded by the facilitator for each map
  - Next steps by Mike Kaputa and Mickey Fleming
- PowerPoint presentation is available at the County website link, above.

### **Key Meeting Observations and Outcomes**

#### ***Commitment to ensuring that the final plan reflects broad community values***

- Commissioner Goehner opened the meeting by emphasizing the County's focus on ensuring that the UWCLP is based on the entire "spectrum" of people and opinions in the planning area. He specifically mentioned residents, visitors, business and people who work the land as being part of that spectrum.
- There was clear consensus about everyone's desire to recognize and address all important local values connected to land uses through the planning process. The extensive outreach in advance of the community meetings, the public survey, the one-on-one interviews and future conversations in the subareas are all essential techniques aimed at inviting and obtaining input from all members of the community.
- The Steering Committee membership is one of the methods by which the project conveners are seeking that full range of input.
- Effective implementation of the plan will depend on local support.

### ***Five priority values that are the basis of the GIS mapping***

- Preserve (and Restore) Healthy Forests/Wildfire Stewardship
- Protect (and Restore) Water Resources
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Retain and/or Expand Recreation Opportunities
- Maintain and/or Increase Working Lands
- These five priority values reflect input provided by citizens of the Upper Wenatchee Watershed in the various forums. There is not a perfect alignment between the consolidated results from the public meetings and the data derived from the survey. This seeming discrepancy actually arose because of the words the meeting facilitator used to describe participants' comments were slightly different than the phrases in the survey.
  - Attendees of the Steering Committee meeting specifically discussed the difference in language related to the goal of retaining private property. Variations of this topic were raised in the community meetings. The facilitator combined mentions of commercial forestry, agriculture, commercial uses, development and housing as a community value of retaining private land. When consolidated into one value ("Working Lands") it ranked in the top five. Conversely, in the survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of those values individually among 12 possible choices; so separated, land available for development to ranked low on the scale.
- The Working Lands map addresses most of the local values regarding private land in that it covers acreage for forestry, orchards and other agriculture.
- Mapping land that is important for the high priority community values will benefit developers by showing areas that are not identified as especially sensitive that would present significant barriers to a development proposal.

### ***A number of community concerns and suggestions will be addressed in the action steps element of the plan***

- Although the goals of the UWCLP is to identify specific lands that serve community values, in each of the opportunities for public input, citizens commented on land uses or management issues. Examples include: need for forest thinning; desire for permanent trail dedications; interest in either motorized or non-motorized recreation; and improved oversight of malfunctioning septic systems.
- GIS mapping can only identify natural resources, geographies or properties that are important for meeting local objectives. The highest priority lands will be those that meet multiple priority values.

- There will be opportunities to address the non-mapable input during the creation of the action steps that will guide the implementation of the plan, for example, development opportunities that could complement rather than jeopardize other values such as wildlife and healthy forests.

### **Primary Steering Committee Feedback on Draft Maps**

#### ***Priority sites for increasing or retaining recreation opportunities will be provided by user groups***

- An online tool for “drawing” sites on the digital map is available. Links will be provided to user groups.

#### ***Reviewers need to be able to see how priority values look across the entire landscape, not just on private land***

- Due to internet problems, it was not possible to see all the data layers used to create the maps the Steering Committee was studying
- A link to an online site will be distributed that will allow interested individuals to examine all of the data layers

#### ***Better information is needed about the source and content of the “criteria” used in the mapping***

- At the next meeting printed versions of the list of data layers, their source and a description will be provided to the Steering Committee

#### ***The weighting of each criterion has to be reviewed by the Steering Committee***

- The maps show priority lands that best meet the criteria established by technical experts engaged in the GIS work. They assigned relative levels of importance to each criterion. If one criterion was rated as being very important it eclipsed all other criteria. The Committee needs to assess these ratings and see how changing them will influence the final map.
- Steering Committee Meeting #3 will provide an interactive opportunity for the Steering Committee to modify weights of the criteria for individual goals, and to weigh the goals relative to each other.

#### ***Specific input on each map was recorded and has been provided to the GIS mapping team***

- Individual committee members have invaluable knowledge about specific community values such as forestry, fire stewardship, agriculture and water resources. They studied all of the maps and had very useful feedback that will be incorporated into the next version of the maps.

### **Next Steps**

- The Trust for Public Land's GIS department will do additional work with the local technical advisors, and incorporate the Steering Committee's suggestions, to develop revised maps prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- The County and the Land Trust will be scheduling opportunities to connect and engage area citizens in each subarea, as part of developing the final plan.
- Community associations and other regular group meetings may be a good venue for securing additional input. Also discussed were surveys of Chamber of Commerce members. Steering Committee members are asked to send suggestions to Mike and Mickey.
- The **next Steering Committee meeting will be on September 15, 2015**. The agenda for that meeting will include review of the next version of the map, discussion of weighting of criteria and among the values, and action steps.

# **Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan**

## **Steering Committee Meeting Summary**

September 15, 2015

Confluence Technology Center, Wenatchee WA

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“Steering Committee” Attendees: Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Rick Halstead (WA State Parks); James Schroeder (The Nature Conservancy); Keith Goehner (Chelan County Commission); Steve Raymond (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Bill Miller (Kahler Glen); Brian Patnode (WA State Parks); Larry Leach (WA Dept. of Natural Resources); Wes Worden (Weyerhaeuser).

Other invitees: Terry Twitchell (Peshastin/Blewett); Bill Towey (Colville Tribes); Shaun Seaman (Leavenworth Winter Sports Club); George Wilson (lake Wenatchee Info); Dave Moazad (Trout Unlimited Leavenworth Chapter); Annie Schmidt (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Andrew Holm (Tierra Learning Center); Nancy Smith (Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce); Byron Newell (Plain); Dick Smithson (Peshastin/Blewett).

Other attendees: Mike Kaputa (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Mike Kane (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Mickey Fleming (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust), Bob Bugert (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust), Hanne Beener (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust), Pete Hill (The Trust for Public Land), Sandra Tassel (Representing The Trust for Public Land), Mitch Hannon (GIS, The Trust for Public Land).

### **Background:**

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are leading the creation of a vision for the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The project is known as the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP).

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Identify the values associated with the Upper Wenatchee watershed landscapes;
- Create community awareness of those values;
- Map lands that exemplify the values; and
- Develop an action plan outlining voluntary actions to help ensure that these lands and the values attached to them serve our communities for generations to come.

Representatives of all stakeholder interests have been invited to be members of the Steering Committee that is advising the project conveners. The meeting on September 15, 2015 was the third of four.

In March and April, three public meetings were held to gather input from community members; one in each of the three subareas that are the focus of UWCLP.

The three subareas are:

- Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee
- Peshastin/Blewett Pass
- Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth

Summaries of the previous Steering Committee meetings and the community meetings can be found on the Chelan County website:

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning>

In addition to the three public meetings, citizens were able to weigh in on their priority values via an online survey. The survey was promoted at the public meetings, by the County and by the Chelan Douglas Land Trust.

The most recent meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Confluence Technology Center. Email invitations were sent to everyone who either attended prior Committee meetings or expressed an interest in this leadership role. Members of the convening organizations called many of the invitees to remind them about the meeting and encourage them to attend.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The two purposes of the meeting were:

- Final review of the GIS maps developed based on community “values” expressed at the public meetings, in interviews and via the online survey. In June the Steering Committee studied draft maps, analyzed the criteria used and provided input that informed development of the final maps.
- Begin to develop action steps to implement the plan and realize citizens’ goals for lands in the Upper Wenatchee watershed.

All of the input for the GIS model was compiled in May. A local Technical Advisory Team (TAT) worked with the GIS team at The Trust for Public Land to develop the draft maps and incorporate input from the Steering Committee. TAT members providing key geospatial data and advised the mapping team on priority locations.

Feedback from the Steering Committee on priority action steps will form the basis of the implementation recommendations in the final UWCLP document. The public will have an opportunity to review the draft list of action steps and determine which are most important and achievable.

### **Overview of the Meeting**

- Welcome by County Commissioner Keith Goehner
- Introductions of all attendees

- Summary UWCLP goals and where we are in the project timeline by Sandra Tassel, representing The Trust for Public Land, and Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
  - Presentation of maps of community values and online mapping tool by Mitchel Hannon, the Trust for Public Land
  - Review of compiled list of possible implementation strategies and action steps recommended in public meetings led by Sandra Tassel
  - Prioritization of possible action steps involving all attendees
  - Next steps Sandra Tassel and Mickey Fleming
- PowerPoint presentation is available at the County website link, above.

### **Key Meeting Observations and Outcomes**

#### ***Commitment that the final plan will reflect broad community values***

- Commissioner Goehner emphasized the County's focus on engaging the entire "spectrum" of people and opinions in the planning area.
- The Steering Committee membership is one of the methods by which the project conveners are seeking that full range of input.
- The County and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust are going to host another round of community meetings in the three subareas to solicit feedback on the implementation strategies and actions.

#### ***The final maps reflect the five priority "values" drawn from public input***

- Preserve (and Restore) Healthy Forests/Wildfire Stewardship
- Protect (and Restore) Water Resources
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Retain and/or Expand Recreation Opportunities
- Maintain and/or Increase Working Lands

Mitch Hannon used a PowerPoint and online mapping site to show the modifications to the maps that had been made in response to input from the Steering Committee. Poster-size paper maps for all of the goals were on the walls for participants to examine together with maps of each subarea for each goal. In addition paper versions of the maps showing all 40 criteria were available for review.

#### ***Many of the actions recommended by community members are not related to the maps***

- Influencing and changing the practices of public agency land managers appears to be a high priority
- Local organizing and cooperation will be essential to implementing strategies suggested by local citizens

- Funding availability, or lack of it, appears to be a serious impediment to citizen action

### **Highlights of Mitch Hannon's presentation of the final maps and mapping site**

- The online mapping site makes sophisticated GIS models available to anyone interested in understanding the Upper Wenatchee watershed. It will be a tool for everyone involved in implementation. The site allows users to review the criteria used for each map.
- The Technical Advisory Team determined the relative “weighting” of each criteria used in the GIS models. In part the weightings reflect the quality of available data. This reality can be frustrating when a specific geographic characteristic, for example value for ungulate winter range, does not show up clearly on the maps because the data is low quality.
- Online input from recreation users is the primary data on the recreation map. A drawing tool allowed members of the community to “draw” high priority sites on the maps.
- As is the case with all GIS products, on-the-ground work is needed to validate all of the outcomes of the modeling work that produced the maps.
- Restoration maps identify lands in “high need of management”, in contrast to areas where the natural environment is healthy.
- Goal is to have a “living” map document that can be updated as new information becomes available. Research concerning water quality and salmon recovery, for example, is ongoing and will inform new iterations of the maps.
- Next, and final, step in the mapping is “parcel prioritization” which will be available to the convenors. The version of the online mapping site available to the public will not include parcel data, in order to protect property owners’ privacy.

### **Highlights of the discussion about implementation strategies and action steps**

- Participants reviewed and discussed the attached matrix of possible implementation strategies and action steps which were recommended during earlier stages of the planning work.

- There was some concern about whether the members of the Steering Committee, and general public, have the expertise to determine the most important actions to address community concerns. Participants agreed that there needs to be knowledgeable oversight guiding final decisions.
- Everyone “voted” on which actions they thought were the highest priority, and also feasible. There was an option of adding an action step that was not on the list.
- Steering Committee members who were not at the meeting will have an opportunity to use the same form to vote. Their input will be included in a compiled scoring of the priority actions.

### **Next Steps**

- The Trust for Public Land’s GIS department will be working on the parcel prioritization.
- The County and the Land Trust are going to try to engage stakeholders who have not been involved, despite invitations, for example the Chamber of Commerce.
- Citizens in the three sub-areas will have an opportunity to assist with the development of the final plan and to determine the priority actions. The County and the Land Trust will be conducting public meetings in the coming months to obtain input.
- The next (final) Steering Committee meeting will be in early December, after the subarea meetings are done. A date will be announced very soon. Steering Committee members will consider new community input and advise the project conveners on what actions should be highlighted in the final UWCLP document.

# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan

## Steering Committee Meeting Summary

June 23, 2016

Confluence Technology Center, Wenatchee WA

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“Steering Committee”: Keith Goehner\* (Chelan County Commission); Steve Raymond (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Bill Miller (Kahler Glen); Rick Halsteadt (WA State Parks); Larry Leach (WA Dept. of Natural Resources); Jordan McDevitt (private developer); Al Murphy (Evergreen Mountain Bike); Everett White (Western Rivers Conservancy); Mark Osgood (North Central Washington Audubon); Scott Lynn (United States Forest Service).

Other invitees: Mat Lyons (Evergreen Mtn Bike);, David Holland (WA Dept. of Ecology); Rollie Schmitt (Nason View Partnership, Lake Wenatchee); Shaun Seaman (Leavenworth Winter Sports Club); Jerry Duffy (Nason View Partnership); Dan Acton (Leavenworth Real Estate); Amanda Barg (WDFW); Terry Twitchell\* (Peshastin/Blewett); Don Youkey (US Forest Service); Jeff Rivera (US Forest Service); Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Bill Towey (Colville Tribes); James Schroeder (The Nature Conservancy); George Wilson (Lake Wenatchee Info); Ross Frank (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Hillary Lundgren (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Andrew Holm\* (Tierra Learning Center); Nancy Smith (Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce); Dick Smithson\* (Peshastin/Blewett).

*\*Attended “Sounding Board” meeting 1/8/15*

Other attendees: Mike Kaputa\* (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Mickey Fleming\* (Chelan- Douglas Land Trust), Pete Hill\* (The Trust for Public Land), Hanne Beener (Chelan- Douglas Land Trust), Mitchel Hannon (The Trust for Public Land by phone), Kelley Hart (The Trust for Public Land by phone).

### **Background:**

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been leading the creation of a vision for the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The project is known as the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP). The project conveners officially started work on UWCLP in December 2014, but substantial effort over the course of several years was involved in developing the concept and securing funding to execute it.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Identify the values associated with the Upper Wenatchee watershed landscapes;
- Create community awareness of those values;
- Map lands that exemplify the values; and

- Develop an action plan outlining voluntary actions to help ensure that these lands and the values attached to them serve our communities for generations to come.

Representatives of all stakeholder interests have been invited to be members of the Steering Committee that is advising the project conveners. The Steering Committee met in January, June and September, 2015 and provided input on the goals of UWCLP, gave comments and information on the proposed mapping criteria and data sources, discussed and prioritized possible implementation actions.

In March and April, 2015 three public input meetings were held; one in each of the three subareas that are the focus of UWCLP. They are:

- Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee
- Peshastin/Blewett Pass
- Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth

Summaries of the initial Steering Committee meeting and the community meetings can be found on the Chelan County website:

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning>

In addition to the three public meetings, citizens were able to weigh in on their priority values via an online survey. The survey was promoted at the public meetings, by the County and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust.

A second set of subwatershed community meetings were held by Chelan County in the spring of 2016. The UWCLP was discussed and questions answered at meetings held for the Lake Wenatchee, Nason Creek, and Peshastin areas. All were well attended.

Over the winter of 2016, the County and CDLT did outreach meetings with a number of specific groups: the Icicle Work Group, the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, the Leavenworth Rotary Club, the Cashmere Rotary Club, and the North Central Washington Audubon Society. The Audubon Society undertook a substantial analysis of Weyerhaeuser parcels including personal visits, and submitted an in-depth report on the value of those properties from a bird habitat perspective.

#### **Notes of June 23, 2016 Steering Committee Meeting #4**

On June 23, 2016 the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Confluence Technology Center. Email invitations were sent to everyone who was contacted for the earlier meetings meeting, plus several people who expressed an interest at one of the community meetings in joining the Steering Committee.

## **Goals of the Meeting**

The primary purposes of the June 23<sup>th</sup> meeting were to review progress to date, to have a presentation by Mitchel Hannon of TPL with the web-based GIS tool and get input on same, and to discuss next steps.

## **Overview of the Meeting**

- Welcome by County Commissioner Keith Goehner
  - Introductions of all attendees
  - Overview of the UWCLP goals and timeline by Mickey Fleming, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department.
  - Demonstration of Web-Based GIS Tool by Mitchel Hannon, The Trust for Public Land Findings from community meetings and survey by Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
  - Discussion of Next steps by Mike Kaputa and Mickey Fleming
- PowerPoint presentation is available at the County website link, above.

## **Key Meeting Observations and Outcomes**

### **Bringing the Steering Committee up to Date**

Mickey reviewed the timeline and prior steps of the work to date, including:

- Discussion and collection of community values through the Steering Committee and community meetings,
- Survey results,
- Technical Advisory Team input to develop GIS data sets, criteria, and weighting of criteria,
- Steering Committee discussion and scoring of possible implementation strategies, and
- Development of the GIS parcel prioritization tool.

Mitchel Hannon of TPL then demonstrated the GIS tool and the Steering Committee discussed.

### ***GIS Tool: Combining Community Values and Individual Parcel Information***

Using the identified community values and GIS analysis, the Core Team worked with The Trust for Public Land to develop an adaptable Web-based tool to assist with

future parcel prioritization and funding opportunities. For this purpose, the group selected 11 terms that could be queried alone, in combination with each other, and/or with the previously mapped community values.

First, Mitch demonstrated the website content, including criteria matrix and data sources, user's manual, and data viewer. He showed the different base maps available on the data viewer, and explained the selection of layers available.

Second, Mitch performed queries by selecting one or more of the 11 terms to demonstrate the function. He showed the potential for maps of results, as well as the reports of parcel specific data available on each parcel that meets the query criteria. He also demonstrated how the parcel data can be combined with results from the community values criteria of Sustainable Forests, Wildlife, and Recreation, individually. Members of the Steering Committee asked questions about specific query terms, for example: "Is Developable" query based on distance within 1000 feet of a road and at least 1 acre of flat land? Participants discussed the slope associated with "flat."

Second, Mitch showed a map displaying the results with all 11 criteria queried together. The resulting map of priorities includes all Weyerhaeuser parcels since "Is this a Weyerhaeuser parcel?" is one of the query layers. The group discussed whether all 11 items presented a meaningful map, or whether a smaller set of query fields, perhaps with the 3 community values, would be better representative. The group discussed how the layers could be used for different purposes.

Steering Committee members offered suggestions regarding ways to improve and refine the web-based tool:

- New name (instead of parcel prioritization): "Potential Project Filters"
- Change "developable slope" to a higher % - use the County development code to decide on the % [Note: CCC 14.10.060(D)> defines "Geologically hazardous areas as ones with "steep slopes"  $\geq 30\%$ , or Landslide hazard areas with slope  $> 15\%$  and other characteristics indicative of instability.]
- Consider changing the sub-header "Parcels suitable for development" – that's not really what those two "Project planning attributes" are really showing.
- Comment from Mike and Mickey: This is more of a launch pad for future exercises than a plan – this is more of a report and a tool for future planning conversations because the landscape area is so huge and diverse. Also, we don't know the primary landowners' land intentions. We do know what the

communities value most and we have tools for responding to opportunities and identifying opportunities. The landscape is so big that it's hard to identify a specific property for a specific community goal. Instead, the UWCLP will produce a report and tool and we want to work with individual subgroups about their particular interests.

- Now we know what people out in the community's values are on the landscape.
- Comment: it may be that land is purchased first and then we decide who is going to own and steward it. That is what TNC has done south of here in the Teannaway; it could end up happening here as well, though we don't know.
- IDEA for a good map to create: Create a base map that shows the developable land. Then remove that from the "opportunities" (select it out). Then from what remains show what is left and high priority.
- Is this work urgent? We wanted to do this be ready and we had grants with deadlines. The report and GIS tool will be done by 9/30 when the grants expire. The person who made the comment clarified – is there some urgency for buying the land? We would like to get in front of it so that if land goes on sale, we have a strategic plan of action. Mickey's response: as far as we know, Weyerhaeuser is selling smaller pieces, but we don't know if they have a disposition plan. If we want to lock down places for recreation use, there is urgency. Mickey: E.g. if we had a contingency for the 3700 acres at Nason Ridge, we could look for grants to raise money to buy that property; but also need a willing seller.

How the tool could be used in the future:

- Forest Service – this could help us create a partnership with DNR – Forest Service could work with DNR for large-scale project. It could help have a sophisticated conversation about future ownership.
- Chumstick and Peshastin parcels – they will use the tool differently. We may need different teams.

### **Next Steps:**

A question for this group: what action –steps or action teams are people interested in:

- DNR – this could facilitate discussions among land managers and potential exchanges among them.
- Community forest workshop. Would like to consider community forests for some of these lands – there are a few different models for community forests

and would like to learn more about them. Mickey: we are planning a community forest workshop to do that. (One comment: You need a mill! Another comment: It doesn't pencil out when you consider the price of logs right now. A third comment: you might have to do something different than regular logging, produce specialty custom-cut lumber that sells at a premium – can be competitive in specialty markets).

Mickey said she may call on folks for sub-area projects on specific topics.

## **APPENDIX C: MAPS**

# UPPER WENATCHEE COMMUNITY LANDS PLAN

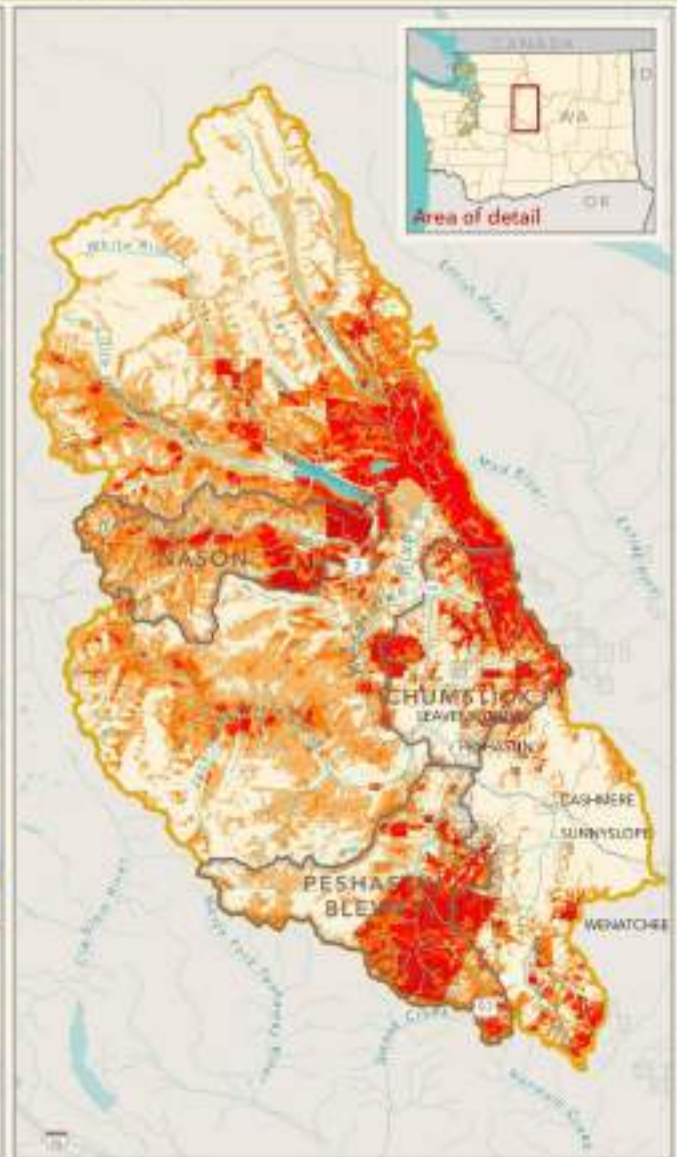
## COMBINED LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES - EQUAL WEIGHTING

This map displays the Combined Landscape Priorities for the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. These results were created by combining the priority scores of the three individual goals identified by the community as critical to maintaining the ecological health and character of the Upper Wenatchee Basin. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority. Areas that ranked as Low or Low-Moderate Priority are not shown.

This map was created using an equally weighted sum analysis combining the results of the following community goals:

- 1) To Have Lands That Support Wildlife
- 2) To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands
- 3) To Increase Recreational Opportunities

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
- Focus sub-area
- Longview/Weyerhaeuser parcel
- Private land
- National Wilderness Area
- National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Park
- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Combined Landscape Priorities**
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# UPPER WENATCHEE COMMUNITY LANDS PLAN

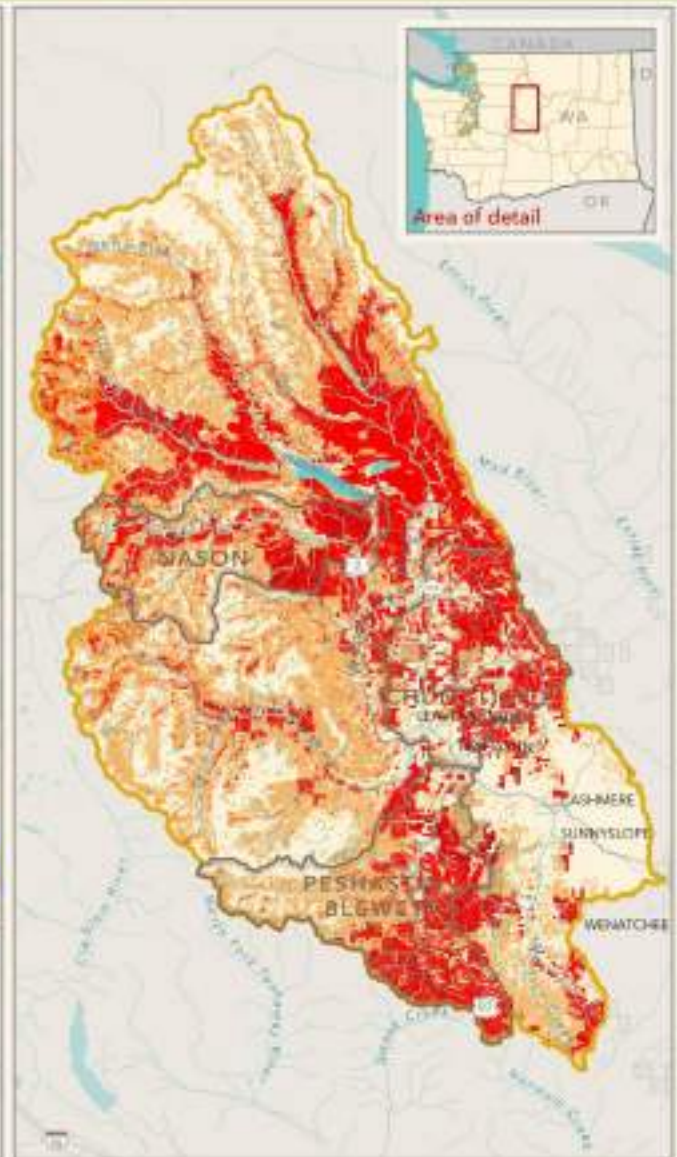
TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS AND WORKING LANDS

This map displays the results of the Sustainable Forests and Working Lands land priority analysis within the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Mixed forest composition (20%)
- Areas least susceptible to insect outbreaks (20%)
- Areas of forest resiliency and stronghold areas (10%)
- Land most suitable for sustainably harvested timber (30%)
- New Opportunities for Agriculture (5%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
- Focus sub-area
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- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands Priorities
  - High
  - Moderate to high
  - Moderate



August 25, 2018

# UPPER WENATCHEE COMMUNITY LANDS PLAN

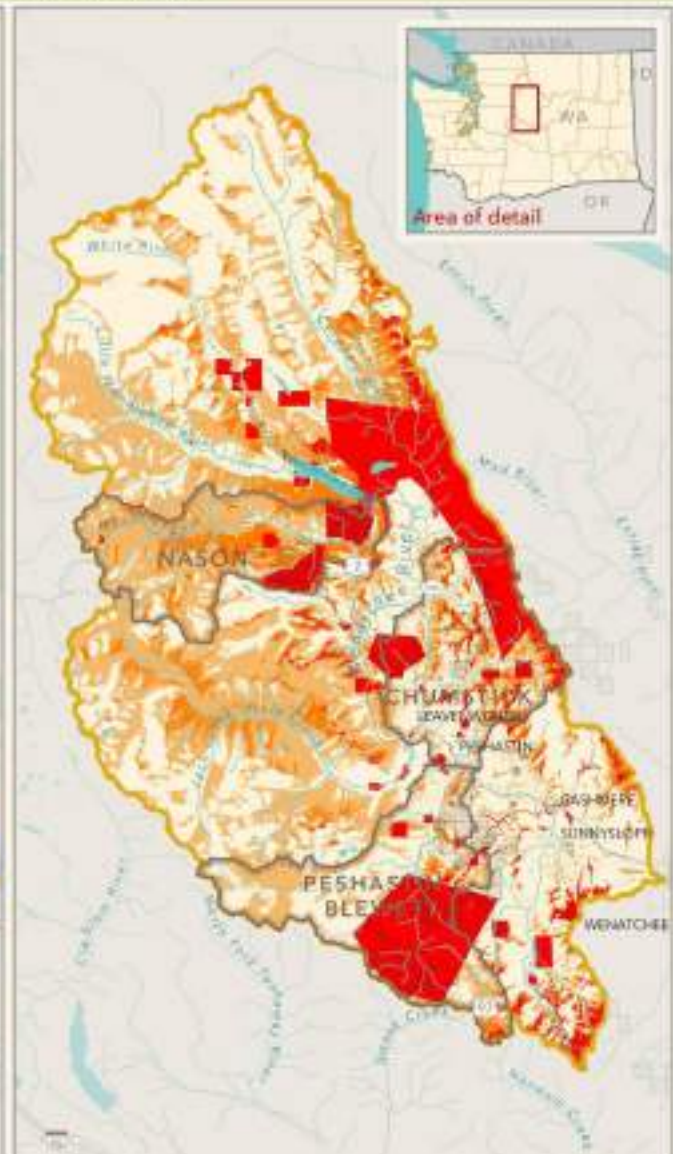
## INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This map displays the results of the increase in Recreational Opportunities land priority analysis within the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

Access and lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation (20%)  
 Scenic views (20%)  
 Access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, gold panning, and kayaking (20%)  
 Bird watching areas (20%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Increase Recreational Opportunities Priorities**
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



Copyright © 2018

# UPPER WENATCHEE COMMUNITY LANDS PLAN

## TO HAVE LANDS THAT SUPPORT WILDLIFE

This map displays the results of the Lands that Support Wildlife land priority analysis within the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Important wildlife habitat (10%)
- Healthy riparian vegetation and wetlands (20%)
- Lands that provide corridors for wildlife movement (10%)
- Lands with native terrestrial species (25%)
- Lands along cold water streams for fish species (20%)
- Wintering areas for game species (5%)
- Wetlands (20%)
- Large contiguous blocks of natural landscape (15%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Lands that Support Wildlife Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# CHUMSTICK SUB-AREA

## COMBINED LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES - EQUAL WEIGHTING

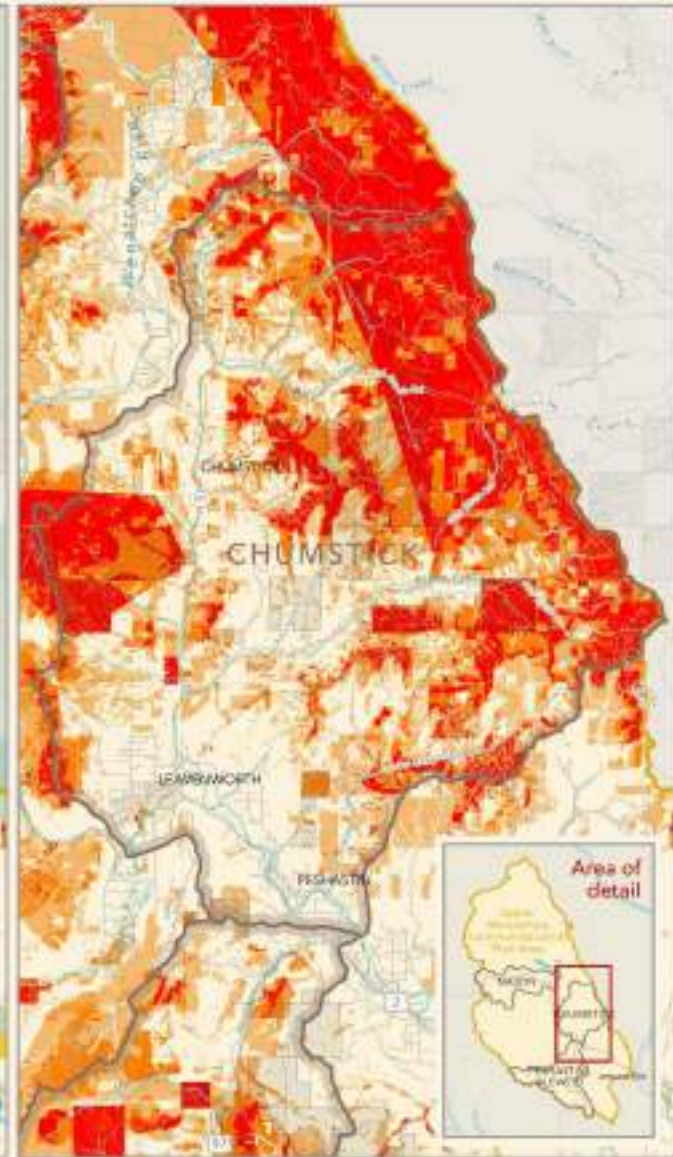
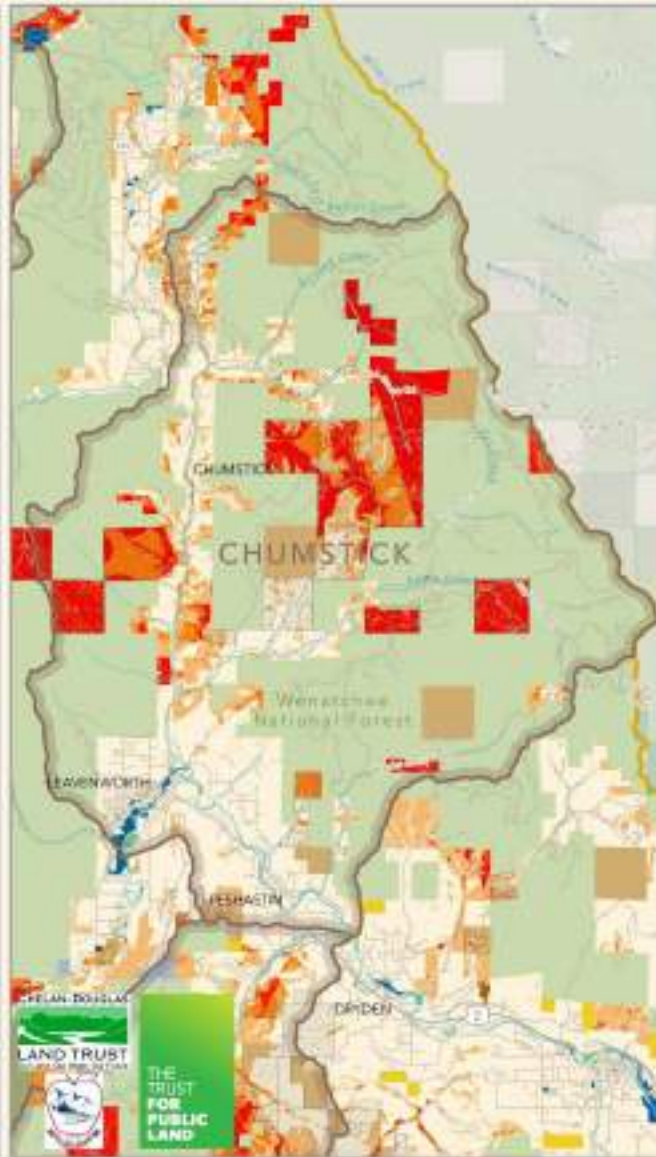
This map displays the Combined Landscape Priorities for the Chumstick sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. These results were created by combining the priority scores of the three individual goals identified by the community as critical to maintaining the ecological health and character of the Upper Wenatchee Basin. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority. Areas that ranked as Low or Low-Moderate Priority are not shown.

This map was created using an equally weighted sum analysis combining the results of the following community goals:

- 1) To Have Lands That Support Wildlife
- 2) To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands
- 3) To Increase Recreational Opportunities

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Combined Landscape Priorities**
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate

0 1 2 Miles



August 25, 2018

# CHUMSTICK SUB-AREA

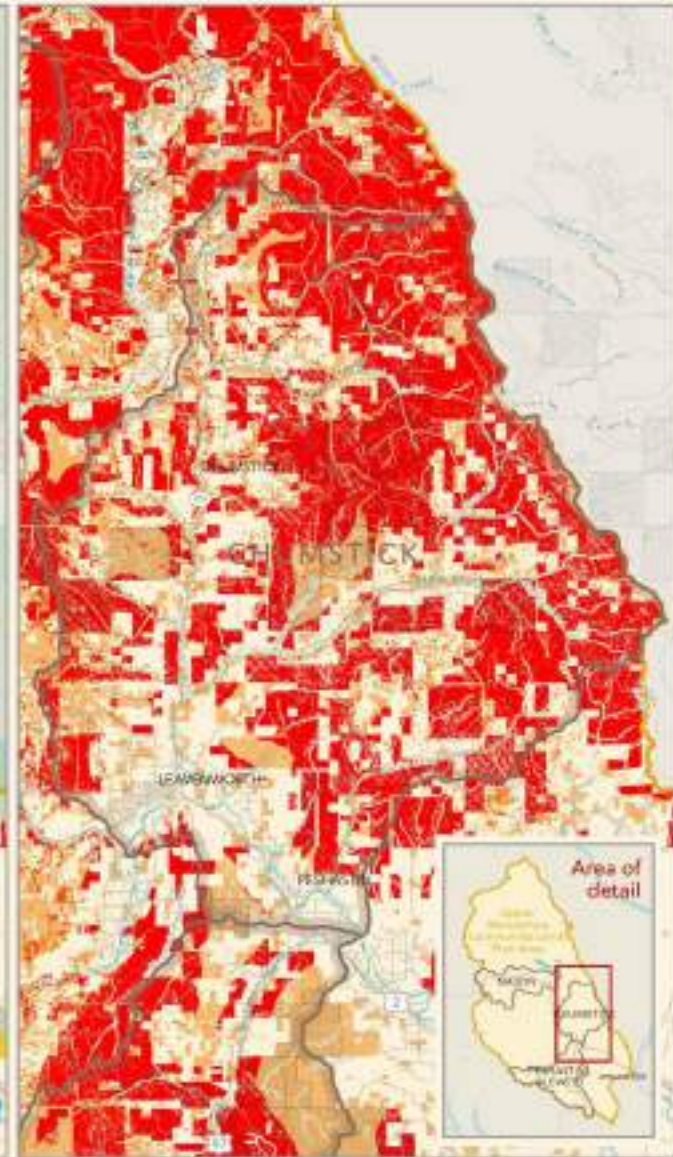
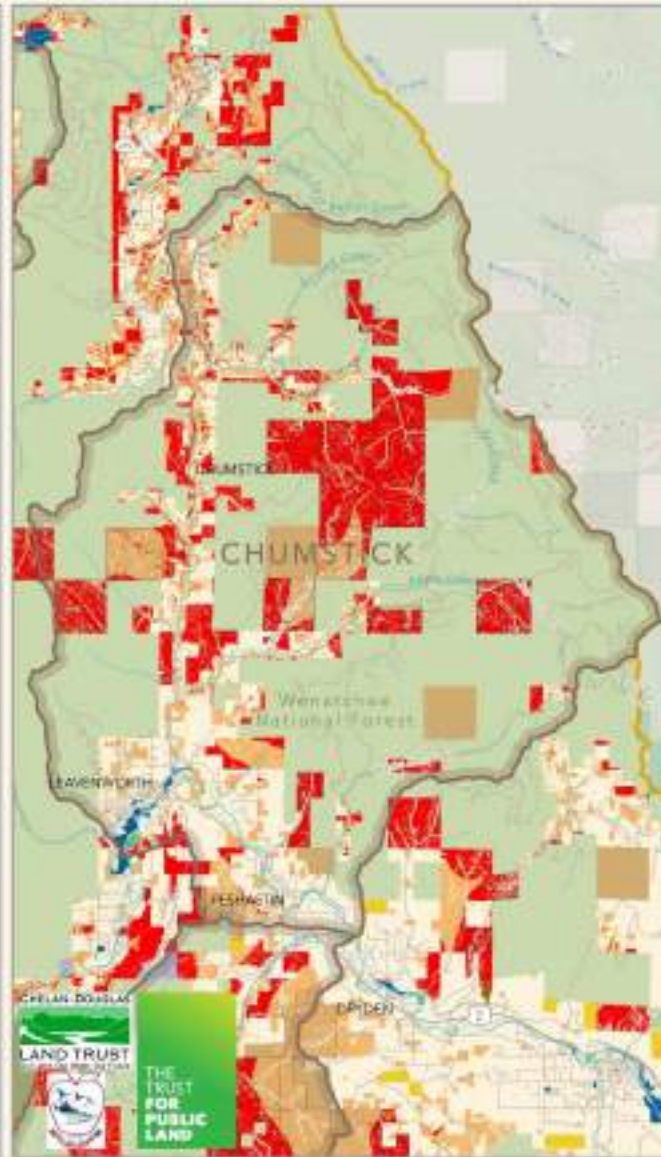
## TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS AND WORKING LANDS

This map displays the results of the Sustainable Forests and Working Lands land priority analysis within the Chumstick sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Mixed forest composition (35%)
- Areas least susceptible to insect outbreaks (20%)
- Areas of forest resiliency and stronghold areas (10%)
- Lands most suitable for sustainably harvested timber (30%)
- New Opportunities for Agriculture (15%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- County Land
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- Other park
- To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# CHUMSTICK SUB-AREA

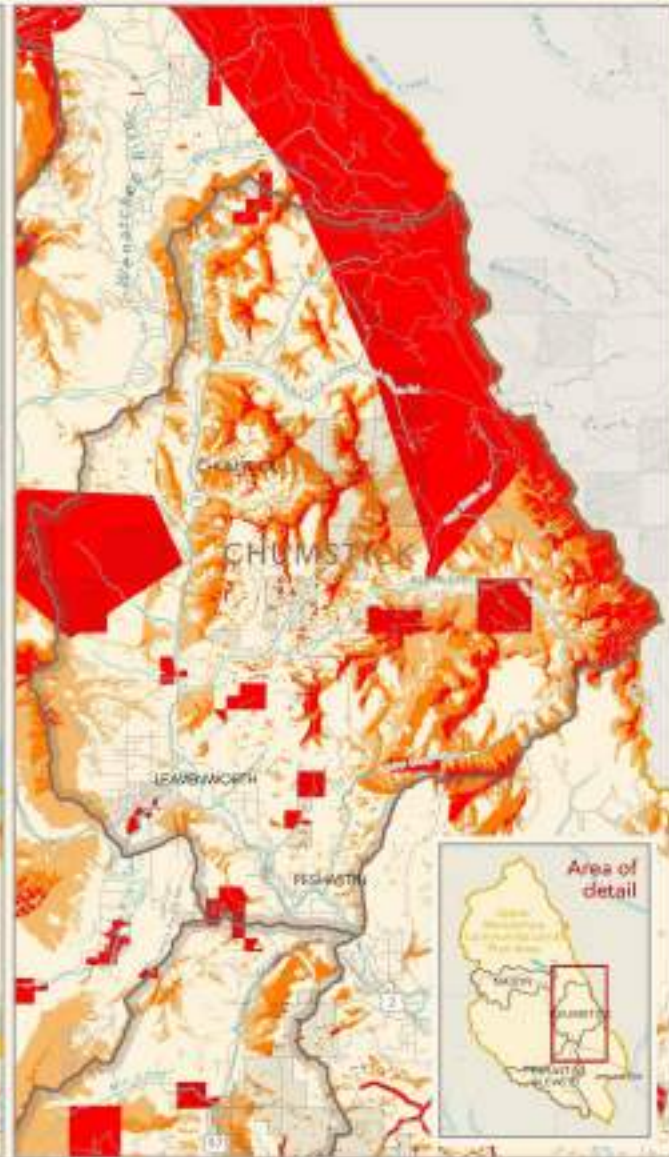
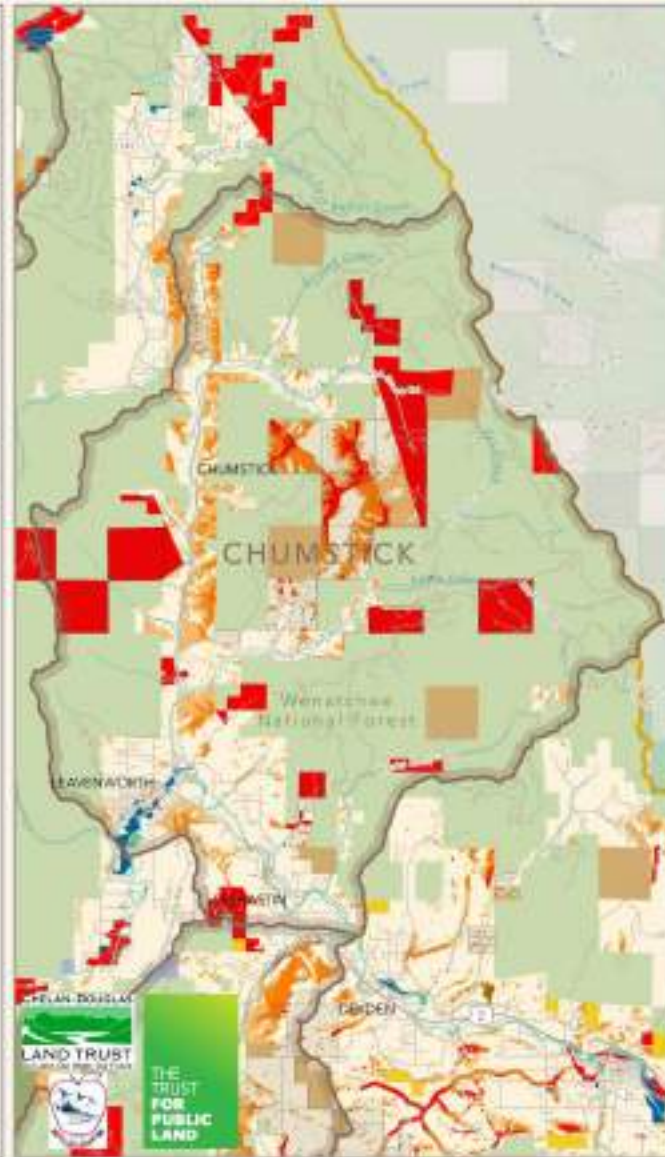
## INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This map displays the results of the increase in recreational opportunities land priority analysis within the Chumstick sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Access and lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation (20%)
- Scenic views (20%)
- Access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, gold panning, and kayaking (20%)
- Bed watching areas (20%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Increase Recreational Opportunities Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

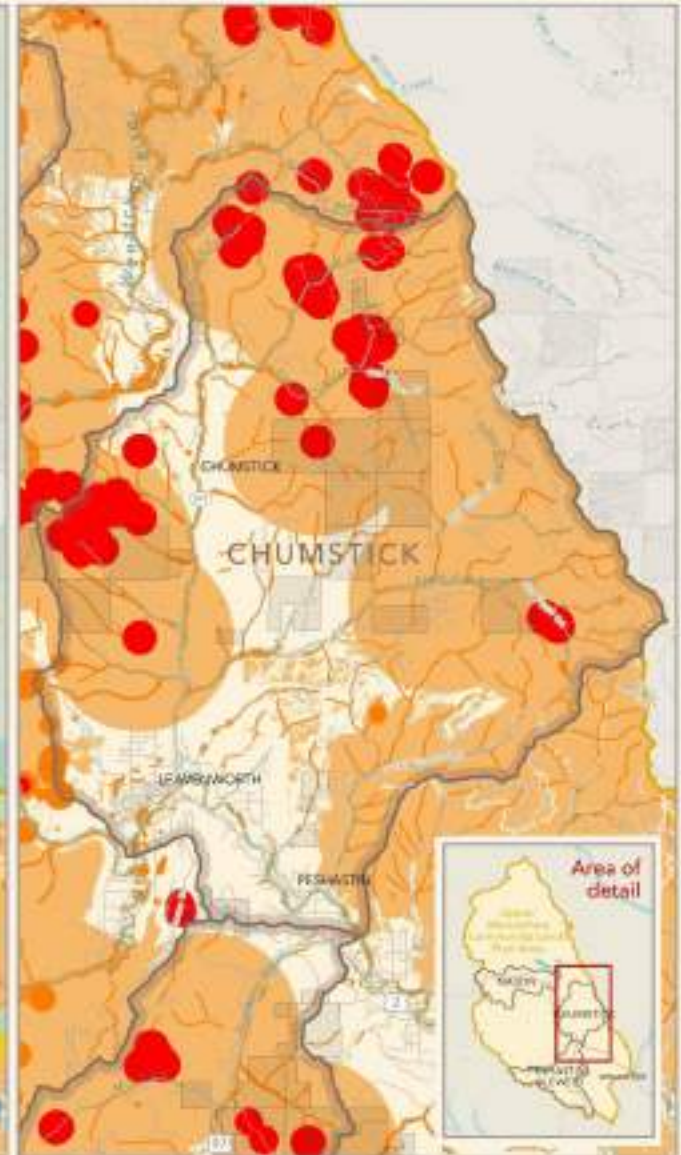
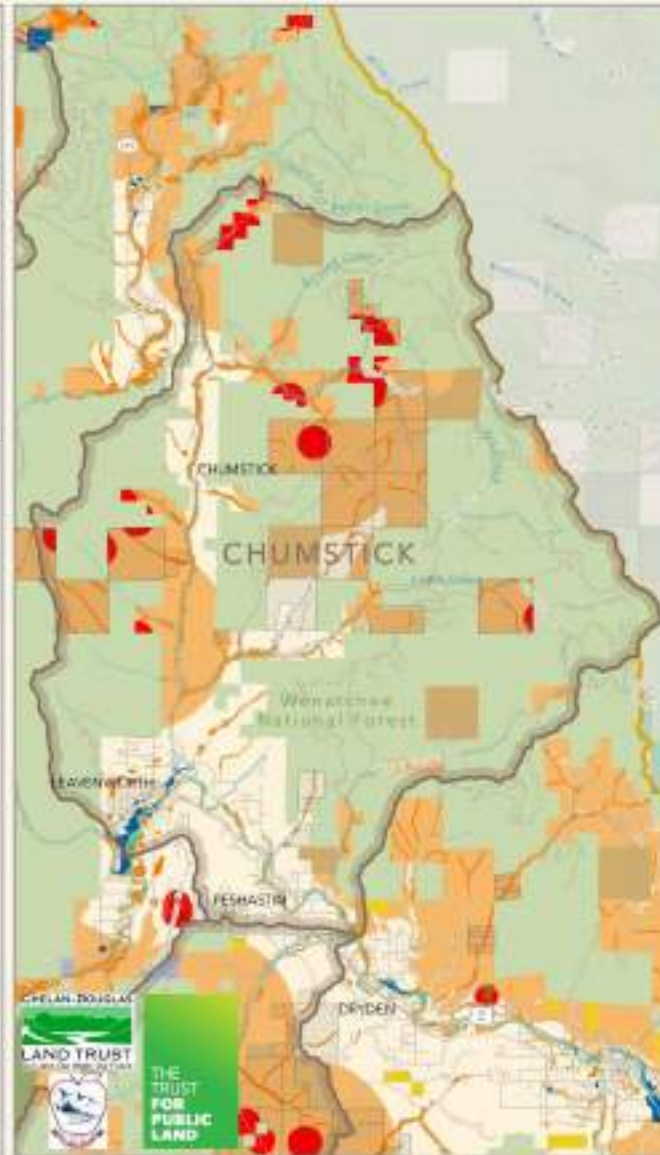
# CHUMSTICK SUB-AREA TO HAVE LANDS THAT SUPPORT WILDLIFE

This map displays the results of the Lands That Support Wildlife priority analysis within the Chumstick sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Important wildlife habitat (15%)
- Healthy riparian vegetation and wetlands (20%)
- Lands that provide corridors for wildlife movement (10%)
- Lands with native terrestrial species (25%)
- Lands along cold water streams for fish species (20%)
- Wintering areas for game species (5%)
- Wetlands (20%)
- Large contiguous blocks of natural landcover (15%)

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- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Lands That Support Wildlife Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



September 2, 2018

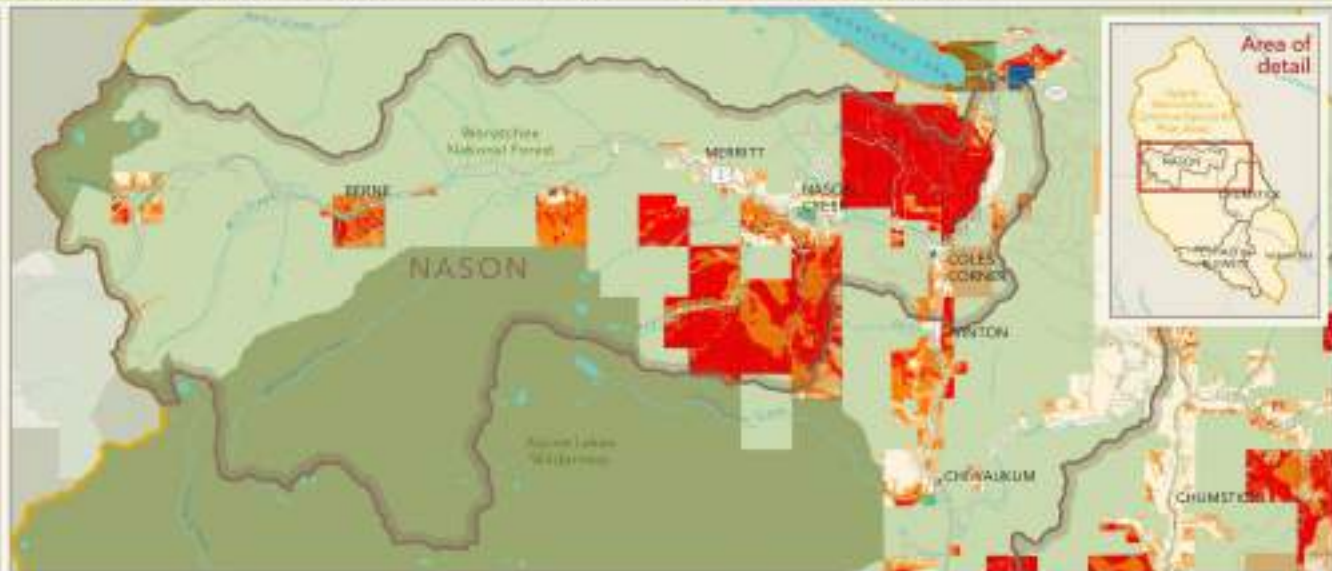
# NASON SUB-AREA

## COMBINED LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES - EQUAL WEIGHTING

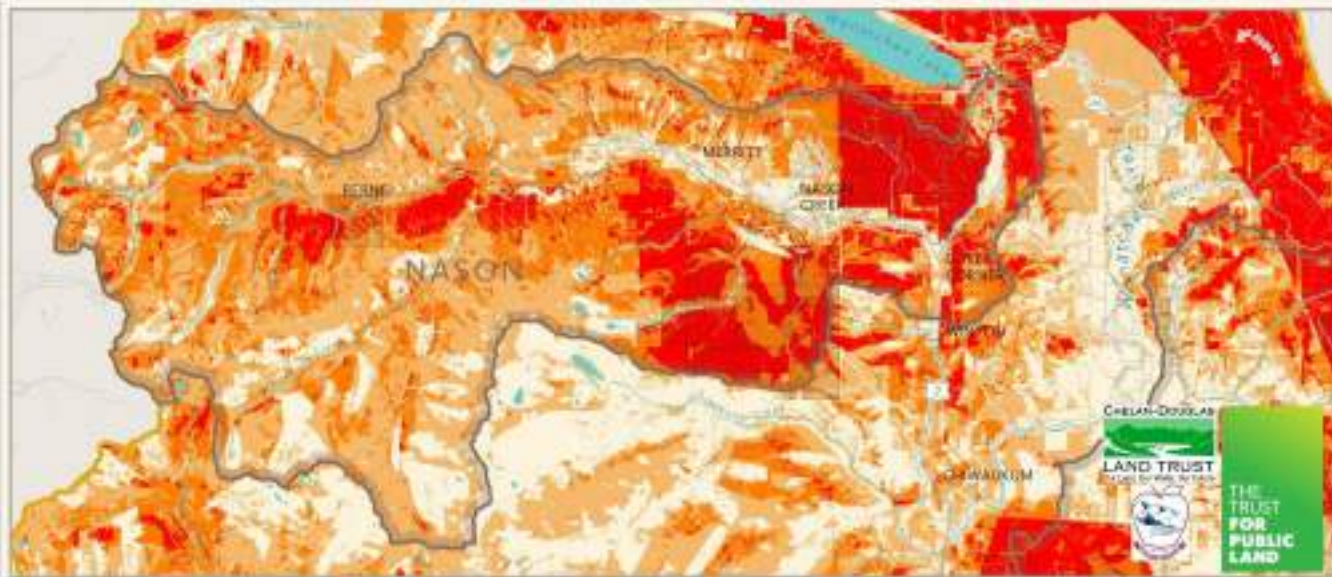
This map displays the Combined Landscape Priorities within the Nason sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. These results were created by combining the priority scores of the three individual goals identified by the community as critical to maintaining the ecological health and character of the Upper Wenatchee Basin. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority. Areas that ranked as Low or Low-Moderate Priority are not shown.

This map was created using an equally weighted sum analysis combining the results of the following community goals:

- 1) To Have Lands That Support Wildlife
- 2) To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands
- 3) To Increase Recreational Opportunities



- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Combined Landscape Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# NASON SUB-AREA

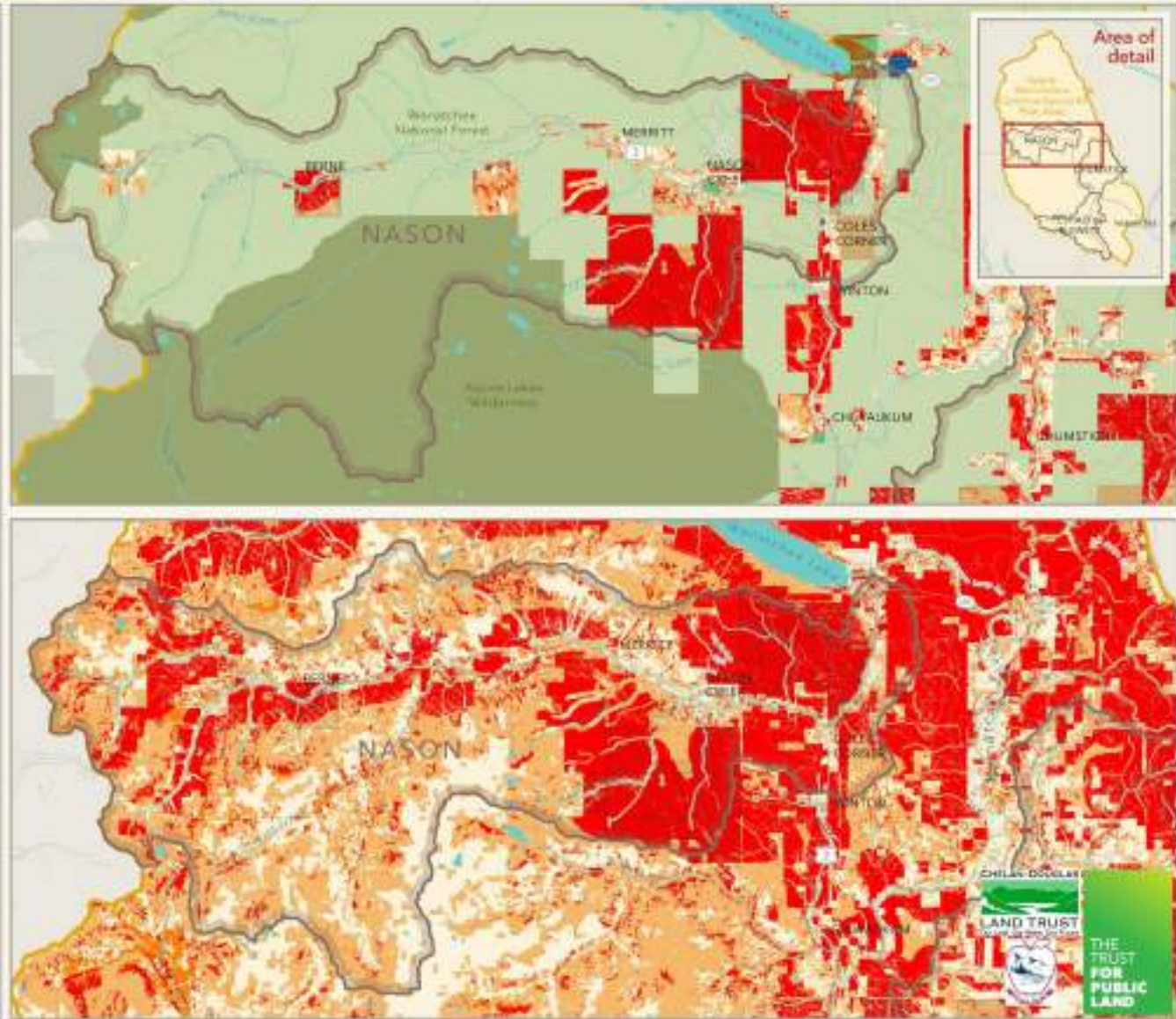
## TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS AND WORKING LANDS

This map displays the results of the Sustainable Forests and Working Lands land priority analysis within the Nason sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Mixed Forest composition (25%)
- Areas least susceptible to insect outbreaks (20%)
- Areas of forest resiliency and stronghold areas (10%)
- Lands most suitable for sustainably harvested timber (30%)
- New Opportunities for Agriculture (5%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# NASON SUB-AREA

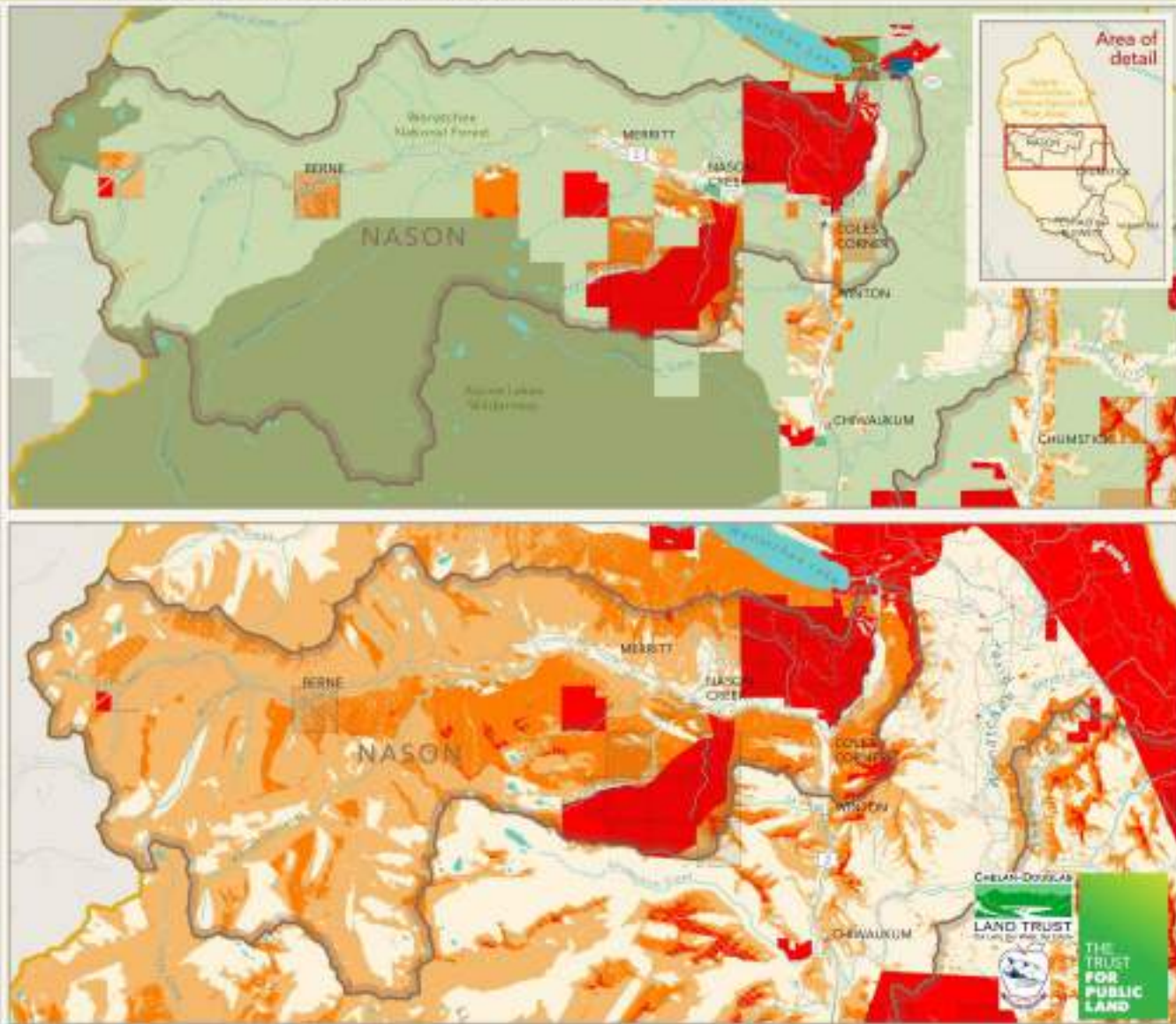
## INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This map displays the results of the increase Recreational Opportunities land priority analysis within the Nason sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Access and Lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation (20%)
- Scenic views (20%)
- Access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, gold panning, and kayaking (20%)
- Bed watching areas (20%)

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- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Increase Recreational Opportunities Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018



# PESHASTIN-BLEWETT SUB-AREA

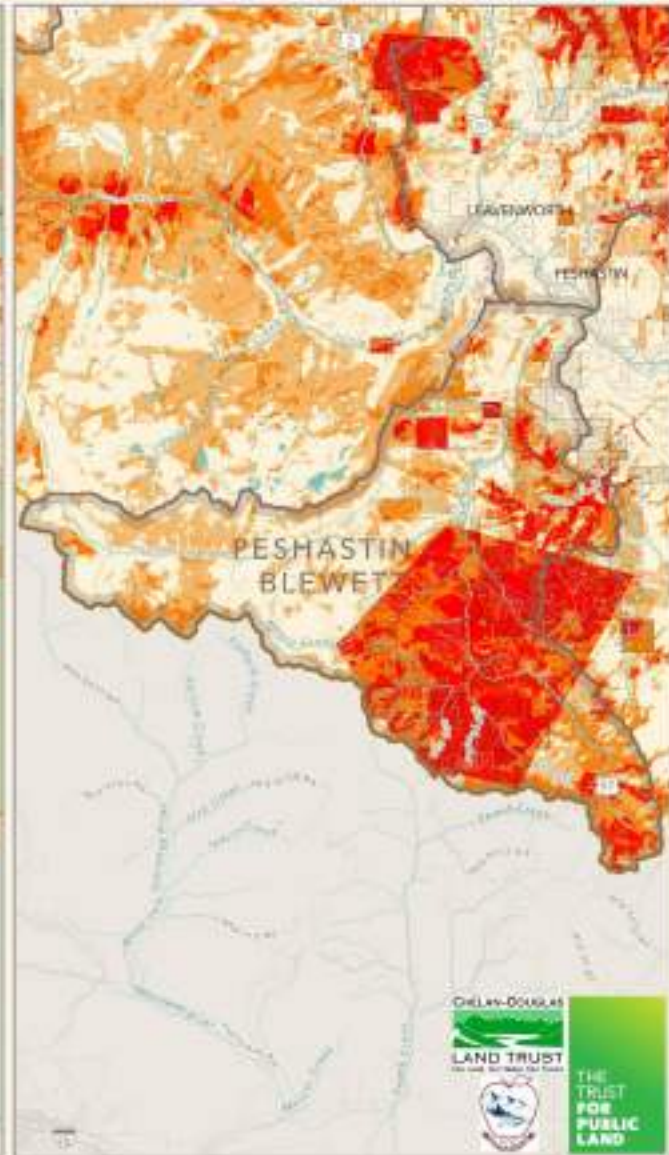
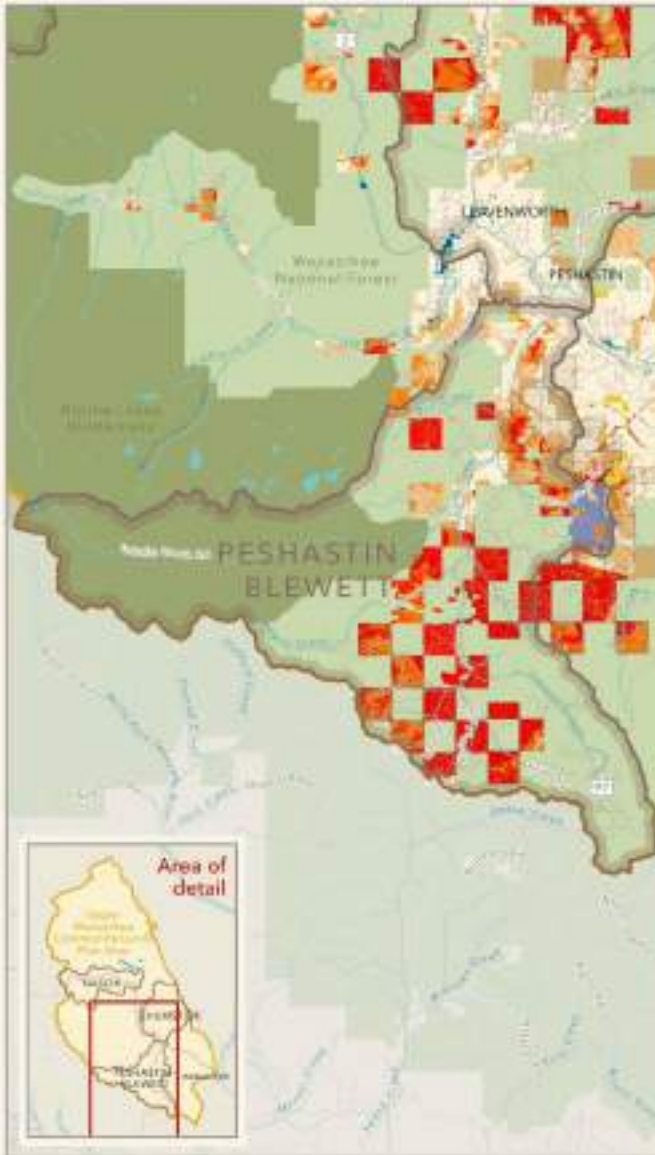
## COMBINED LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES - EQUAL WEIGHTING

This map displays the Combined Landscape Priorities within the Peshastin-Blewett sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. These results were created by combining the priority scores of the three individual goals identified by the community as critical to maintaining the ecological health and character of the Upper Wenatchee Basin. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority. Areas that ranked as Low or Low-Moderate Priority are not shown.

This map was created using an equally weighted sum analysis combining the results of the following community goals:

- 1) To Have Lands That Support Wildlife
- 2) To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands
- 3) To Increase Recreational Opportunities

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
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- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Combined Landscape Priorities**
  - High
  - Moderate to high
  - Moderate



August 25, 2018

# PESHASTIN-BLEWETT SUB-AREA

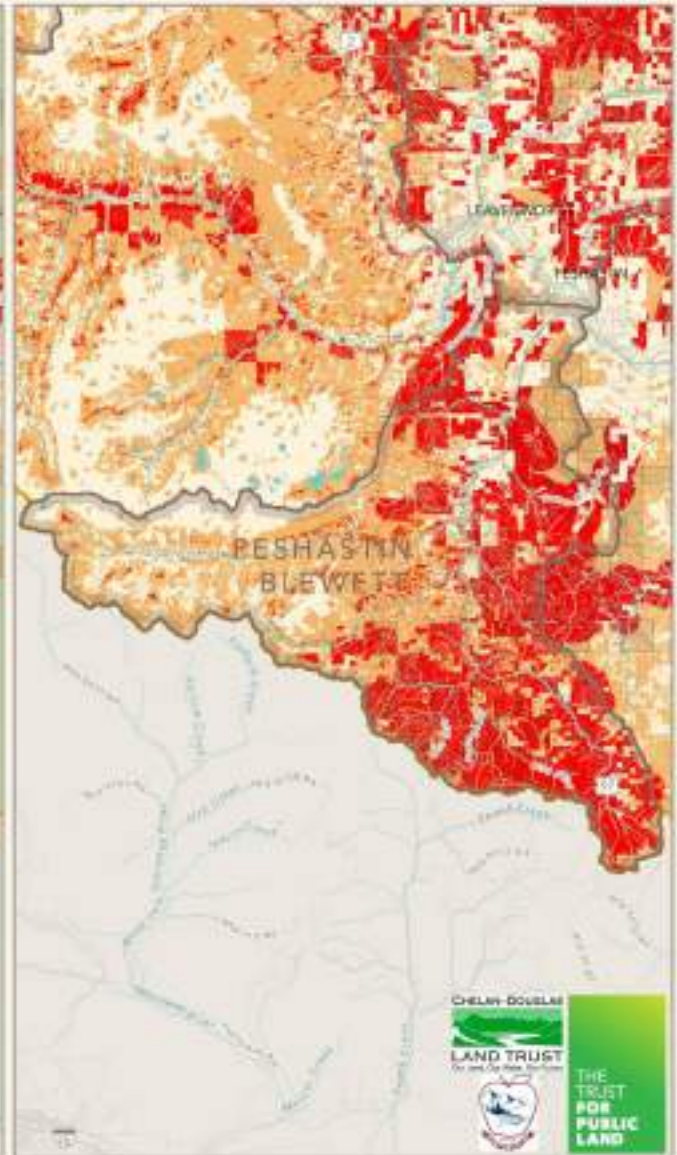
## TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS AND WORKING LANDS

This map displays the results of the Sustainable Forests and Working Lands land priority analysis within the Peshastin-Blewett sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Mixed forest composition (35%)
- Areas least susceptible to insect outbreaks (20%)
- Areas of forest resiliency and stronghold areas (10%)
- Land most suitable for sustainable harvested timber (30%)
- New Opportunities for Agriculture (5%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
- Focus sub-area
- Longview/Weyerhaeuser parcel
- Private land
- National Wilderness Area
- National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Park
- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# PESHASTIN-BLEWETT SUB-AREA

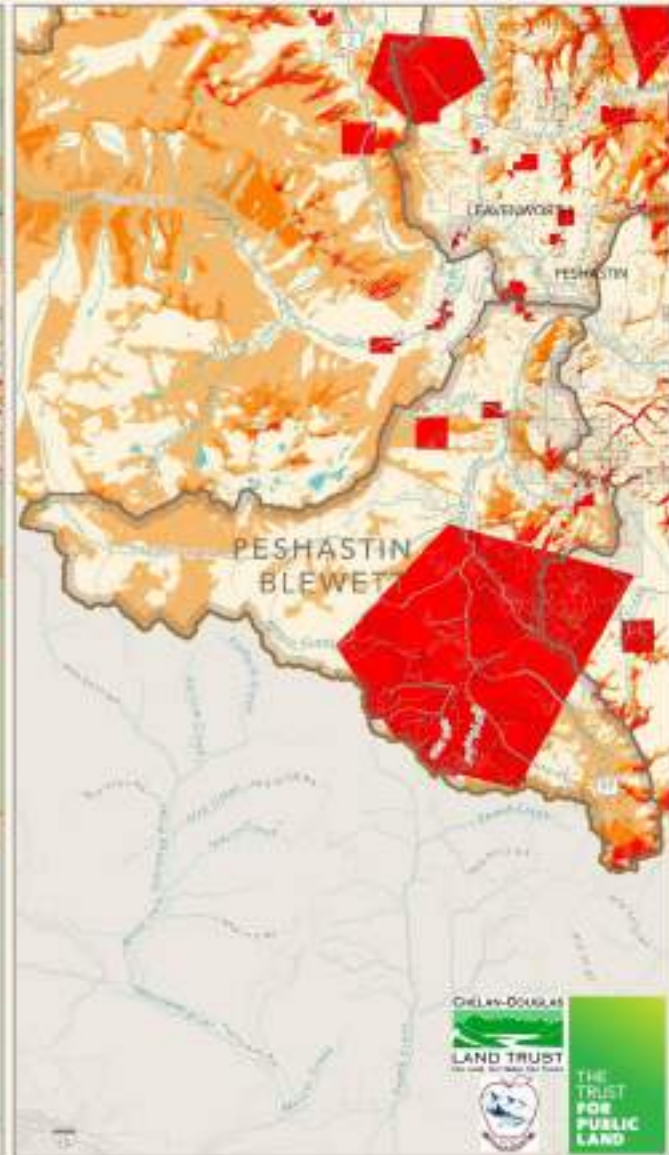
## INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This map displays the results of the increase in Recreational Opportunities land priority analysis within the Peshastin-Blewett sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Access and lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation (20%)
- Scenic views (20%)
- Access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, gold panning, and kayaking (20%)
- Bird watching areas (20%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
- Focus sub-area
- Longview/Weyerhaeuser parcel
- Private land
- National Wilderness Area
- National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Park
- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- Increase Recreational Opportunities Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

# PESHASTIN-BLEWETT SUB-AREA

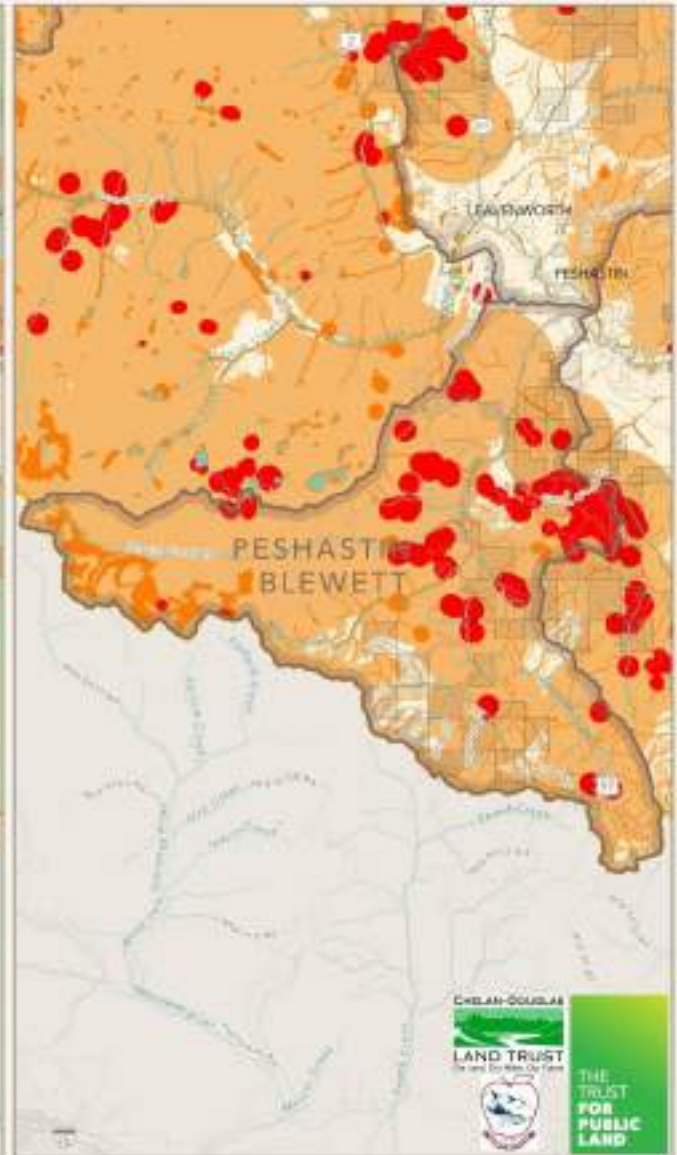
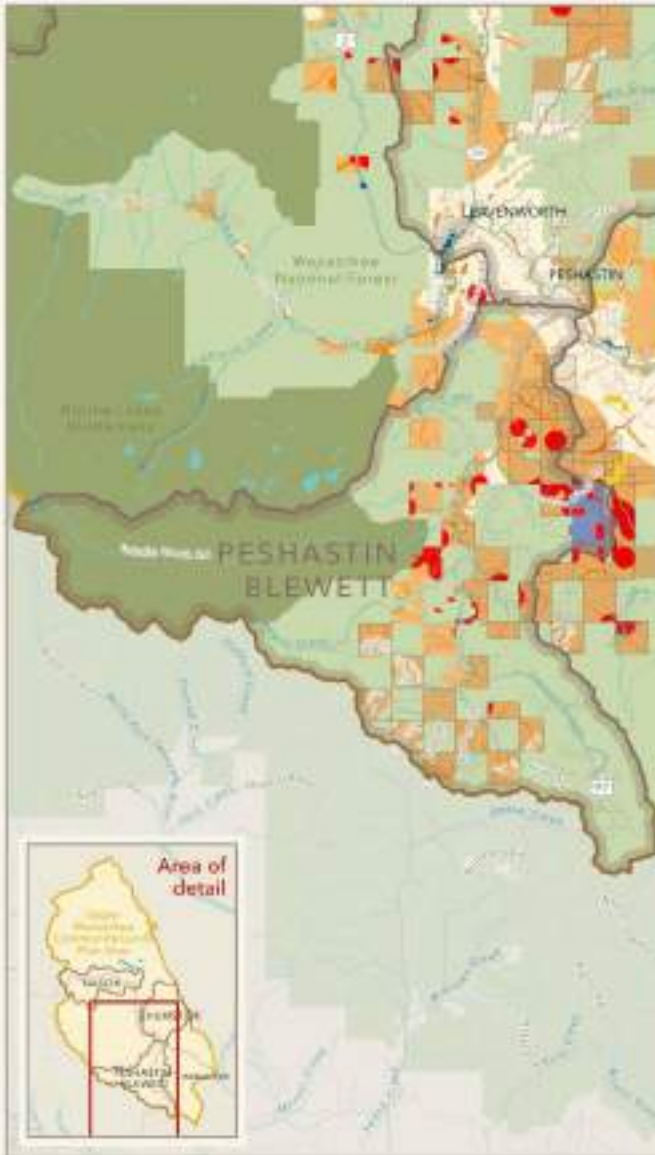
## TO HAVE LANDS THAT SUPPORT WILDLIFE

This map displays the results of the Lands that Support Wildlife priority analysis within the Peshastin-Blewett sub-area of the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. The degree of priority for each area is shown with a color scale, with red representing high priority areas and orange representing moderate priority.

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following critical infrastructure criteria:

- Important wildlife habitat (15%)
- Healthy riparian vegetation and wetlands (20%)
- Lands that provide corridors for wildlife movement (10%)
- Lands with native terrestrial species (25%)
- Lands along cold water streams for fish species (20%)
- Wintering areas for game species (15%)
- Wetlands (20%)

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan area of analysis
- Focus sub-area
- Longview/Weyerhaeuser parcel
- Private land
- National Wilderness Area
- National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Park
- WA DNR State Trust Land
- WA DNR Natural Area Preserve
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County Land
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Other park
- To Have Lands that Support Wildlife Priorities
- High
- Moderate to high
- Moderate



August 25, 2018

## **APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF MAPPING METHODOLOGY AND DATA**

Criteria	Criteria Weights	Methodology	Data (Description, Date)	Data Source
<b>To Have Sustainable Forests and Working Lands</b>				
PF01: Mixed forest composition	35%	This model identifies forested areas with composition most similar to historical reference conditions. Those areas least departed have a mixed composition. Criteria Result: A forest woodland mask was used to clip the vegetation departure data from TNC, and priority values were assigned using a natural breaks classification on a scale of 0 to 5 with 5 indicating the <i>least</i> departed areas. The GNN structural data was overlaid with the departure data to identify areas with older trees (SIZECLASS = 5 or 6). Areas least departed with older trees assigned highest priority (5) for conservation.	TNC Strata Departure GNN Structural Vegetation layer	The Nature Conservancy in Washington. Data provided by Ryan Huago Oregon State University
PF02: Areas least susceptible to Insect outbreaks	20%	The dry and mesic forests types of the Wenatchee Basin are susceptible to widespread insect and disease outbreaks as well as large, severe fires.  The USFS Forest and Health Technology Enterprise Team developed a number of risk maps depicting where risk from disease and pest outbreak is greatest, published in the 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) report. This model assigns value to areas least susceptible to insect and other pest outbreaks using the NIDRM total basal area loss composite layer using the following priority classification based on the risk classes defined by the USFS in the NIDRM report: 0 = No Data 1 = >35% projected loss rate of total basal area from all pests 2 = 26-35% projected loss rate of total basal area from all pests 3 = 16-25% projected loss rate of total basal area from all pests 4 = 6-15% projected loss rate of total basal area from all pests 5 = 1-5% projected loss rate of total basal area from all pests	Predicted Total Basal Area Loss	Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team of the USFS ( <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/foresth/health/technology/nidrm.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/foresth/health/technology/nidrm.shtml</a> )
PF03: Forest resiliency and stronghold areas	10%	This model prioritizes areas of forest most resilient (have ability to respond to disturbances and recover quickly) to a changing climate.  Based on the concept of "conserving the stage" to support biodiversity as species and habitats shift with climate change, The Nature Conservancy evaluated key geophysical features ("land facets") for landscape characteristics expected to provide a buffer against climate effects. - See more at: <a href="http://iwjv.org/news/conserving-stage-identifying-resilient-network-conservation-lands-northwest#sthash.me8TRY15.dpuf">http://iwjv.org/news/conserving-stage-identifying-resilient-network-conservation-lands-northwest#sthash.me8TRY15.dpuf</a>  This model reclassified TNC density resiliency values into 5 priority classes from 1 to 5 based on the quantile resiliency analysis completed by TNC. A forest mask was used to clip out resilient areas of forests. Areas with No Data were assigned a value of 0.	Resiliency Density	The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Data can be found at <a href="http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/oregon/science/Pages/Resilient-Landscapes.aspx">http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/oregon/science/Pages/Resilient-Landscapes.aspx</a>
PF06: Lands most suitable for sustainably harvested timber	30%	This model classifies areas of suitable timber that can be sustainably harvested for the Wenatchee Basin.  Areas suitable for timber harvest were first identified by merging USFS layer that identifies suitable wet and dry suitable timber with areas classified in the parcel layer by Chelan County as having zoning approval for timber harvest and areas owned by the State with commercial zoning. The suitable timber areas were then filtered to include: 1) areas on slopes <50%, 2) within 3500 ft. of existing roads, 3) areas below 6500 ft. elevation, and 4) not within a Riparian Reserve identified by USFS. The resulting classification for lands most suitable for sustainably harvested timber based on these criteria was as follows:  Areas not within Riparian Reserve buffer, below 6500 ft., on slopes <50% AND suitable timber = 3 Areas not within Riparian Reserve buffer, below 6500 ft., on slopes <50%, with suitable timber, AND within 3500ft of an existing road = 5	USFS Suitable Timber Chelan County parcels USFS Riparian Reserves Slope Chelan County Roads	USFS Wenatchee District GIS : suitable timber and riparian reserves Chelan County: parcels and roads Slope: Elevation data downloaded from ESRI. <a href="http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=58a541efc59545e6b7137f961d7de883">http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=58a541efc59545e6b7137f961d7de883</a>

PF07: New opportunities for agriculture	5%	<p>This model assign value to areas that currently do not have agriculture but have the potential for agriculture.</p> <p>SSURGO soil data and the farmland classification was used to define areas with potential for agriculture. Area of prime farmland assigned a value of 5; farmland of statewide importance and farmland of unique importance were assigned a value of 4; and prime farmland if irrigated were assigned a value of 3. These areas were combined with a proximity to irrigation canals layer. Irrigation canal layer buffered in 1/2 mile increments and scored from 5 indicating within 1/2 mile of a canal to 1 indicated 2 miles or greater from a canal). Farmland layer and the proximity layer combined and scored from 0 to 5 using equal breaks classification.</p>	<p>SSURGO</p> <p>Existing agriculture and orchards</p> <p>Floodplains- FEMA flood hazard zones</p> <p>NHD</p> <p>NLCD 2011</p>	<p>Prime Farmland - SSURGO beta application from ESRI <a href="http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=a23eb436f6ec4ad6982000dbaddea5ea">http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=a23eb436f6ec4ad6982000dbaddea5ea</a></p> <p>Existing Agriculture and Orchards - <a href="http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/voluntary-stewardship-program?parent=Planning">http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/voluntary-stewardship-program?parent=Planning</a></p> <p>FEMA flood hazards</p> <p>NHD - Washington Department of Ecology</p> <p>USGS</p>
<b>To Have Lands That Support Wildlife</b>				
PW01: Important wildlife habitat	15%	<p>Include habitat modeling efforts:</p> <p>Wetlands and riparian areas are High Priority (5).</p> <p>Northern Spotted Owl potential habitat (USFS) = High Priority (5).</p> <p>USFS Wenatchee Land Management Plan dedicated old growth = High Priority (5)</p> <p>WA DFW PHS priority sensitive habitats = "High Priority (5)</p> <p>USFS Wenatchee Land Management Plan Late Successional Reserves and Managed Late Successional Areas boundary polygons = moderate priority (4).</p> <p>WA DFW PHS priority non - sensitive habitats = Moderate-High Priority (3).</p> <p>Landscape Integrity from TNC Forest Atlas, which compiled WWCHWG core areas. Modeled data, not focal species results. These are large contiguous patches of at least 10,000 acres, made up of native land cover types and do not include highways.=Moderate priority (3).</p> <p>Have HCA's from WA Connectivity data for a number of species listed by stakeholders. The species included are American Marten, Elk, Black Bear, Northern Flying Squirrel, Wolverine, Mule Deer, Mountain Goat, and Gray Squirrel. Advised that Bighorn Sheep and Lynx do not use this area even though their HCA's have a small amount of overlap with the study area so not included. All areas are low-moderate (2).</p> <p>Any Developed land cover or road buffers of 50 meters were removed.</p> <p><b>Restoration</b> result. Potentially disturbed wetlands are High Priority (5). Developed and disturbed land cover areas inside any of the habitat areas listed above are moderate to High priority (3, 4, 5). Priority ranking dePendant on the habitat dataset, as described above.</p>	<p>Late Successional, Old Growth areas</p> <p>Managed for Late Successional</p> <p>Late Successional</p> <p>Landscape Integrity Core Areas</p> <p>Riparian Reserve buffer</p> <p>Northern Spotted Owl Habitat</p> <p>WA DFW PHS Nonsensitive and Sensitive Species Habitats</p> <p>Wetlands</p> <p>National Land cover 2011</p> <p>Habitat Core Areas</p>	<p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>TNC Forest Atlas</p> <p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p> <p>Oregon State University</p> <p>USGS</p> <p>WA Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group</p> <p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p> <p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p> <p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p> <p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p>
PW02: Healthy riparian vegetation and wetlands	20%	<p>Have USFS dynamic buffer, varies 50 ft. - 300 ft. by stream order, all streams not included in USFS layer of stream order 4 or greater, buffered by 300 ft. and identified natural land cover types within.</p> <p>WA Department of Ecology wetlands are high priority (5).</p> <p>NRCS Hydric soils group A are High priority (5).</p> <p>Goal result identifies natural land cover within the buffer = High Priority (5).</p>	<p>Riparian Reserve buffer</p> <p>National Hydrography Database - Flowlines</p> <p>Wenatchee Study Area</p> <p>National Land cover 2011</p> <p>Hydric Soils</p>	<p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>WA Dept of Ecology</p> <p>TPL</p> <p>USGS</p>
PW03: Lands that provide corridors for wildlife movement	10%	<p>Criteria Result: used WA Wildlife Connectivity Working Group focal species results with linkages. Used linkages of species that had a habitat core areas that overlap this study area which included western toad, elk, northern flying squirrel, wolverine, lynx, marten, mule deer, mountain goat, big horn sheep, gray squirrel, and black bear. Using the linkage zone scores, categorized with a score of 1, 3 or 5 depending on the linkage zone scores. Lower linkage zone scores received a score of 5. Stacked all the species linkage zones and found areas of greatest overlap of high scores. Areas of natural land cover with the greatest overlap of high linkage zone scores = High priority (5). Lower scores = Low priority (1). Results scaled 1-5.</p>	<p>Elk Migration</p> <p>National Land cover 2011</p> <p>Focal Species Linkage Zones</p>	<p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest</p> <p>USGS</p> <p>WA Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group</p>

PW04: Lands with native terrestrial species	25%	<p>Treat criteria as way to prioritize based on known locations</p> <p>Criteria Result: T and E plant and animal species locations - using <b>NHP</b> data, removed records that were more than 10 years old, and scaled by State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled) and S2 (imperiled) = High Priority (5), S3 (vulnerable) = moderate-high priority (4); S4 and S5 (secure) = moderate priority (3).</p> <p><b>WA DFW PHS</b> data, Prioritized as follows:  Bald eagle nesting (330 ft.) and roosting sites (660 ft.) buffers = Moderate to High Priority (4)  Non sensitive species points 100 m buffers = Moderate priority (3)  Sensitive species points 100 m buffers = High Priority (5)  Owl site 4000 m buffers = Moderate priority (3). 800 m buffers = High Priority (5).</p> <p><b>USFS</b> Golden Eagle (400 m) and Northern Spotted Owl (800 m) buffers = High Priority (5)  Bald Eagle (100 m) and Peregrine nesting sites (200 m) buffers = Moderate - High Priority (4)  Buffers based on USFWS recommendations, Bald Eagle and Pergerine populations increasing so less priority than more sensitive owl and Golden Eagle.</p>	<p>NHP Threatened and Endangered Species locations (plant and animal)  Bald Eagle Nest Buffers  Golden Eagle Nest Buffer  Northern Spotted Owl Nest buffers  Peregrine Eyries Buffers  Bald Eagle buffers  Sensitive and Non sensitive species occurrence points</p>	<p>Washington Natural Heritage Program  Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program  WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p>
PW05: Lands along cold water streams for fish species	20%	<p>Used Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan to identify rivers and streams used by Chinook, Steelhead and Bull Trout. Also included USFWS critical streams for Bull Trout, and modeled rivers and Streams by NorWest Stream Temperature project where Bull Trout are expected to be able to survive given climate change in the year 2040  WA DFG Stream assessments for fisheries. From these selected rivers and streams, found river buffer areas and looked at what kind of land cover was inside that buffer.</p> <p>Developed land cover types identified for restoration results. Natural land cover types selected for Conservation result.</p> <p>Degree of priority of the land cover within each buffer set by the watershed rating provided by the Integrated Recovery Technical Advisory Group for the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. The Technical group has a watershed rating for where protection and restoration work would have the greatest effect on cold water species.</p> <p>Criteria result prioritizes by ranking forested land cover within buffers of selected streams by the score provided by the Recovery Technical Advisory Group. Forested vegetation in buffers of streams in high ranking watersheds = High priority (5). Watersheds with medium rankings = moderate-high priority (4) and watersheds with a low ranking = Moderate priority (3). Vegetative buffers in watersheds with no ranking are low priority (1).  NorWest stream temperature results buffered and given low priority, determined by TAT to be problematic due to barriers to reaching these higher elevation streams. Focus on existing locations.</p>	<p>Riparian Reserve buffer  National Hydrography Database - Flowlines  Wenatchee Study Area  National Land cover 2011  Priorities for salmonid habitat protection and restoration  Steelhead stream presence  Chinook stream presence  Bull Trout stream presence  USFWS Bull Trout priority streams  NorWEST predicted river use by Bull Trout 2040  WA DFG Stream Assessments for cold water species</p>	<p>Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  WA Dept of Ecology  TPL  USGS  Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team  UC Salmon Recovery Board  UC Salmon Recovery Board  UC Salmon Recovery Board  USFWS  NorWEST  WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program  WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program</p>
PW06: Wintering areas for ungulate game species	5%	<p>Criteria results: Wenatchee Ranger Districts designations on winter and elk range, all areas = High Priority (5)  DFW Mule deer winter range designations = High Priority (5)</p>	<p>Deer Winter Range  Deer Winter Range  Elk Winter Range</p>	<p>WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife  Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  Okanogan-Wenatchee</p>
PW07: Wetlands	20%	<p>Criteria Result: used WA Department of Ecology wetlands, all existing wetlands of all types are high priority (5).</p>	<p>Wetlands</p>	<p>Oregon State University</p>
PW08: Large contiguous blocks of natural land cover	15%	<p>Criteria Result: used OSU land cover data to identify all areas with natural land cover. All developed types as well as agriculture were not included as natural. Calculated the size of remaining contiguous blocks. Prioritized based on size, with all blocks smaller than 50 acres removed. Remaining blocks scored as follows to produce the conservation priority result:  50 - 10000 acres = low priority (1)  10000 - 25000 acres = low-moderate priority (2)  25000 - 50000 acres = moderate priority (3)  50000 - 100000 acres = moderate-High priority (4)  100000 - 261053 acres = High Priority (5)</p>	<p>2012 Land cover</p>	<p>Oregon State University</p>
<b>To Increase Recreation</b>				
IR01: Access and Lands already used for motorized and non-motorized recreation	20%	<p>Based on local knowledge, had representatives of different recreation groups draw in where recreation is taking place. This included:  Ace Bollinger, Shaun Seaman for snowmobiling, Mat and Ben from Evergreen for biking, Scottish Hi Camp - Christine, David Morgan - CDLT and Mike Kane - Chelan County</p> <p>Private lands with trails selected. Have trails from USFS, State Parks, WA DFW, The Shoreline Management Plan via the Watershed Group, and CDLT and Evergreen Mtn Biking Alliance from Ben. These areas = High priority (5).</p> <p>Bjork Canyon and community digitized Recreation areas. = High priority (5).</p>	<p>Potential Recreation  Community Digitization  Trails  Conserved Lands</p>	<p>TPL website to allow community to draw in areas used  USFS  WA State Parks  Evergreen Bicycle association,  TNC  CDLT  The Watershed Company via the Shoreline Management Plan</p>
IR03: Scenic views	20%	<p>Parcels that overlap SMP View corridors are High Priority (5)  Identified all high slope areas, greater than 65 percent slope, and removed from analysis as not at risk.  Elevations greater than 800 m, and large forests within 1 mile of road were used as scenic opportunities and used in the view shed analysis. Of these viewable surfaces, ran a view shed analysis from vantage points placed every 500 m on all scenic highways, and primary DOT routes, and named trails. Scaled priority from 3-5 based on viewability of scenic areas from the selected viewpoints.</p>	<p>Shoreline Management Plan  View corridors  NLCD 2011  Elevation  Scenic Highways  WA DOT Roadside Conditions  CC Road Centerlines</p>	<p>Chelan County - The Watershed Group  USGS  USGS  WA DOT  WA DOT  Chelan County</p>

IR04: Access to streams and lakes for fishing, canoeing, gold panning, and kayaking	20%	<p>Identified gaps between existing access points on streams of order 3 or greater.</p> <p>Within Urban Growth Area, set minimum distance between existing access points to 1/4 mile. Outside Urban areas, minimum distance is 1/2 mile. Highest priority are the largest distances between existing access points. Sensitive areas were removed from availability as an access area. These included wetlands, closed easements, TNC lands private reserves and wilderness reserves and study areas.</p> <p>Potential ROW's derived from SMP are High Priority (5).</p> <p>Distances between access points inside the UGA:</p> <p>0 - 122 m = 1;  122 - 402 m = 2;  402 - 743 = 3;  743 - 1101 m = 4;  1101 - 1728 = 5.</p> <p>Outside the UGA they are:</p> <p>0 - 233 = 1;  266 - 804 = 2;  804 - 1275 = 3;  1974 - 3214 = 4;  222 - 3575 = 5.</p>	Shoreline Management Plan: Recreation sites, Lakes with Fishing access, potential ROW Urban Growth Boundary NHD Parks and Other Protected Lands	Chelan County - The Watershed Group  Chelan County USGS Chelan County, TNC Forest Atlas
IR07: Bird watching areas	20%	<p>Audubon IBA's Bird nesting areas - No IBA's in Chelan County.</p> <p>Digitized ebird hot spots and Upper basin birder survey sites. All sites = high priority (5).</p>	e bird hot spots Upper Basin Birders Survey Stations	e bird website Upper Birder Basin group - Susan Ballinger
<b>Project Planning Attributes</b>				
Adjacent to Existing Conserved Land	Yes	Used TNC Forest Atlas database on managed lands and the Chelan Douglas LT shapefile of holdings to compile all existing conserved lands. All parcels within 30 m were tagged.	adj_prot - text yes/no	
Property is a USFS Administrative Boundary private inholdings	Yes	Select private parcels inside Okanogan-Wenatchee Administrative Area.	inholding - text yes/no	
Parcels where observable clear cuts have occurred	Yes	Digitized potential clear cut areas using imagery in order to keep out natural bare lands, farms, roads etc. Used NDVI index to select out bare lands inside these potential cut areas. Shows bare lands inside cut areas, parcels categorized with a Yes when they overlap these bare land areas.	clear_cut - text yes/no	
Parcels Suitable for Development	Yes	Created a 500 foot buffer on paved roads shapefile and a representation of flat areas that have slope of 2 percent or less and are greater than 5 acres. Populated the sub attributes of "road_500ft" and "flat" with a yes if the parcel overlapped the 500 foot road buffer and a "Yes" for "flat" if the parcel had 5 acres or more of flat land on it. Areas suitable for development are parcels that meet both conditions.	<p>developable - yes/no</p> <p>sub attribute:  road_500ft = yes/no  flat = yes/no</p>	
Weyerhaeuser Owned Parcels	Yes	From Chelan County assessor parcel data, selected all parcels with owner name = Longview Timber or Weyerhaeuser.	Weyerhaeuser - text yes/no	
Contiguous Owner with Parcels Over 160 Acres	Yes	Used Chelan County parcel data layer to identify property owners with adjoining properties that add up to over 16 acres, as well as single property owners with parcels greater than 160 acre.	ContOwn_160 - text yes/no	
Parcel with Perennial Stream Frontage	yes	Used National Hydrography dataset on all perennial streams of order 4 and greater to identify parcels that surround or adjoin the perennially flowing streams.	strm_front - text yes/no	
Parcel Along UCSRB Salmon Bearing Stream	Yes	Parcels within 200 ft. of UCSRB designated streams for presence of Chinook Salmon and Steelhead identified.	SalmonStrm - text yes/no	
Parcel Overlaps WA DFG Priority Habitat and Species Location	Yes	Combined all WA PHS Sensitive and non sensitive data, including owl nesting sites and buffers, and identified all parcels that overlap.	PHS_Species - text yes/no	
Parcel has a high risk of catastrophic fire	Yes	Areas at high risk of catastrophic fires were created by combining the USFS Wild land fire potential data with Fire Severity (FIRESEV) data. The combined ranking was reclassified into the 0 to 5 priority scale and all areas with a priority level of 4 or 5 were used to find overlapping parcels with areas of high fire risk. Areas of non-forest and areas of recent (2010 - 2014) fires were masked out.	Fire_risk - text yes/no	
Parcel provides resilience to climate change	Yes	Used the Ecofacet terrestrial resiliency score provided in the TNC, selected all areas that rated as above average or far above average to find parcels that overlaid these high resilience areas.	res_indform - text yes/no	
Moderate to High priority in Sustainable Forests and Working Lands, Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Combined Overall Result	Percent Overlap with each parcel	Calculated the percent overlap of Moderate (3) through High (5) priority areas on each parcel for each individual criteria listed in the top section of this table, as well as the 3 Resource Goal Overall priority maps, and the combined Overall Conservation Priority map.	Model Investigator	

## **APPENDIX E: ACTION PLAN IDEAS**

## **Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan**

### **Top Ranking Action Steps from Steering Committee 9.15.15**

#### **Sustainable forests**

- Focus public and private forest management on reducing wildfire danger. Ex: prescribed burns, fuel reduction, thinning, weed control
- Create a “community forest” for local control of timber harvest and management for long-term, multiple public benefits
- Consolidate “checkerboard” through acquisition or exchanges to make it easier for both private and public landowners to manage their land
- Discourage development in areas of wildland/urban interface where inappropriate due to hazard/response risk
- Pursue public/private partnership to support a small diameter mill in Chelan

#### **Wildlife**

- Create a “community forest” and include wildlife conservation among its purposes
- Evaluate possible public land acquisition or land exchanges in planning area to address the needs of wildlife
- Work with public agencies and conservation orgs to secure funding to acquire priority lands, in particular intact ecosystems and riparian areas

#### **Water Resources**

- Manage forests with attention to runoff, slopes, and slide risk in order to keep sediment out of waterways. Don’t log in sensitive zones.
- Protect lands critical for local water quality and quantity
- Create “community forest” with focus on sustainable logging that respects watershed issues
- Identify and acquire sites for water storage/reservoirs, secure funding for purchase and construction

### **Maintain and Enhance Recreation**

- Create a “community forest” that has recreation among its goals
- Consolidate “checkerboard” of public/private ownership through donation, acquisition and land exchanges in a way that protects access
- Create a comprehensive county trails plan that establishes priorities for recreation, transportation, community connections
- Fund maintenance of trails, improvements such as trailheads

### **Working Lands**

- Pursue concept of “community forest” to retain and restore forests for sustainable harvest, long-term vs immediate financial gain, process logs locally
- Develop infrastructure such as local mill in order to support wood products revival
- Promote active management of USFS lands, including cuts of marketable timber
- Create a plan to consolidate the “checkerboard” that brings most value to public

### **Private Property Availability**

- Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases) to make developable lands available for private use, and make ownerships more practical
- Encourage infill development, affordable housing in existing developed areas
- Assess potential for funding of conservation easements to make private land more affordable for continued use as working lands

These ideas emerged from the community meetings in March and April of 2015.

GOALS Our community wants:	POSSIBLE STRATEGIES To Achieve our Community Goals	SOME POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS Suggested by Residents and Plan Advisors
<b>Sustainable Forests that Support Biodiversity and are Maintained to Reduce Fire Intensity</b>	<p><b>1. <u>Improve Forest Management</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce wildfire risk</li> <li>- Improve overall forest health</li> <li>- Retain fish and wildlife habitats</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use better forestry practices that reduce fuel loads</li> <li>- Increase sustainability of harvest</li> </ul> <p><b>3. <u>Conserve High Priority Lands</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retain or restore intact forests</li> <li>- Pursue a different model for forest ownership and management</li> </ul> <p><b>4. <u>Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enable better forest management</li> <li>- Spend public money more efficiently</li> <li>- Better accomplish agencies' forestry and public safety missions</li> </ul> <p><b>5. <u>Evaluate Local Planning Options</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the safety of people and property</li> <li>- Achieve outcomes not possible through individual actions</li> </ul> <p><b>6. <u>Identify and Secure New Funding</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement local proposals for forest mgmt.</li> <li>- Control the future of key resources</li> <li>- Provide incentives for private land stewardship</li> </ul> <p><b>7. <u>Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accomplish objectives that require participation from both spheres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pressure/support landowner agencies to improve forest management practices</li> <li>- Review and monitor DNR forest harvest permits to ensure cuts are done properly</li> <li>- Use firefighting \$ to pay for improving forest health, "resilience" _____</li> <li>- Increase funding for: fire prevention on public lands, agency staff, local leadership) _____</li> <li>- Focus public and private forest management on reducing wildfire danger. Ex: prescribed burns, fuel reduction, thinning, weed control _____</li> <li>- Create a "community forest" for local control of timber harvest and management for long-term, multiple public benefits _____</li> <li>- Consolidate "checkerboard" through acquisition or exchanges to make it easier for both private and public landowners to manage their land _____</li> <li>- Incentivize faster replanting regime on private lands _____</li> <li>- Expand education of property owners through programs such as Firewise) _____</li> <li>- Expand Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition model into other drainages</li> <li>- Financially support volunteer work on public lands stewardship _____</li> <li>- Discourage development in areas of wildland/urban interface where inappropriate due to hazard/response risk _____</li> <li>- Require/Incentivize private property owners to thin forest on their land _____</li> <li>- Pursue public/private partnership to support a small diameter mill in Chelan County</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>
GOALS Our community wants:	POSSIBLE STRATEGIES To Achieve our Community Goals	SOME POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS Suggested by Residents and Plan Advisors
<b>Lands That Support Wildlife (habitat, including for fish)</b>	<p><b>1. <u>Improve Forest Management</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benefit fish and wildlife</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retain or restore habitat</li> <li>- Allow wildlife movement</li> <li>- Reduce erosion and runoff into waterways</li> </ul> <p><b>3. <u>Conserve High Priority Lands</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secure wildlife migration corridors</li> <li>- Protect key winter range</li> <li>- Reduce wildlife/human conflicts</li> <li>- Connect existing protected lands/continuity</li> </ul> <p><b>4. <u>Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve ability to protect area fish and wildlife</li> <li>- Collaborate with each other and private partners</li> </ul> <p><b>5. <u>Evaluate Local Planning Options</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steer development to land that is not critical habitat</li> <li>- Implement comprehensive actions</li> <li>- Conserve specific migration routes</li> </ul> <p><b>6. <u>Identify and Secure New Funding</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incentivize private activities that benefit wildlife habitat</li> <li>- Implement local proposals e.g. community forest</li> <li>- Conserve priority lands</li> </ul> <p><b>7. <u>Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accomplish objectives that require participation from both spheres</li> <li>- Help species that move between public and private lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiate agreements to eliminate clear cuts in areas important for fish and wildlife</li> <li>- Pressure /support federal agencies, WDFW , DNR and legislature to improve management of land important for healthy wildlife populations _____</li> <li>- Educate private property owners about their role in protecting fish and wildlife e.g. location of migration corridors _____</li> <li>- Incentivize homeowners to leave riparian habitats intact along creeks and not to block wildlife migration _____</li> <li>- Create a "community forest" and include wildlife conservation among its purposes</li> <li>- Obtain updated and complete water typing to ensure that DNR's forest harvest permits provide adequate buffers for headwaters _____</li> <li>- Integrate wildlife migration corridors, winter range and other wildlife habitat needs into county zoning and land use decisions _____</li> <li>- Limit impermeable surfaces to avoid polluting creeks and streams _____</li> <li>- Evaluate possible public land acquisition or land exchanges in planning area to address the needs of wildlife _____</li> <li>- Work with public agencies and conservation orgs to secure funding to acquire priority lands, in particular intact ecosystems and riparian areas _____</li> <li>- Pursue methods of protection other than acquisition, for example Wild and Scenic Rivers designations _____</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>
GOALS Our community wants:	POSSIBLE STRATEGIES To Achieve our Community Goals	SOME POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS Suggested by Residents and Plan Advisors
<b>High Quality Water Resources (and sufficient quantity)</b>	<p><b>1. <u>Improve Forest Management</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect water quality</li> <li>- Reduce danger of landslides</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit/reduce water pollution</li> <li>- Maintain/repair septic systems</li> <li>- Create buffers</li> </ul> <p><b>3. <u>Conserve High Priority Lands</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect safe drinking water supply</li> <li>- Secure availability for irrigation</li> <li>- Direct development to most appropriate locales</li> <li>- Increase potential for water storage</li> </ul> <p><b>4. <u>Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enforce existing regulations</li> <li>- Accurately assess water supply and demand</li> </ul> <p><b>5. <u>Evaluate Local Planning Options</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid development in sensitive watershed lands</li> <li>- Prevent water shortages</li> <li>- Act at a broad enough scale to be effective</li> </ul> <p><b>6. <u>Identify and Secure New Funding</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incentivize private water protection actions</li> <li>- Implement local proposals e.g. community forest</li> <li>- Conserve priority lands</li> <li>- Improve water-typing</li> </ul> <p><b>7. <u>Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</u></b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accomplish objectives that require participation from both spheres</li> <li>- Improve management of key lands that impact water quality and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage forests with attention to runoff, slopes, and slide risk in order to keep sediment out of waterways. Don't log in sensitive zones. _____</li> <li>- Replant quickly after cuts or fire _____</li> <li>- Ground truth water-typing to improve DNR's waterway buffers _____</li> <li>- Protect lands critical for local water quality and quantity _____</li> <li>- Create "community forest" with focus on sustainable logging that respects watershed issues _____</li> <li>- Obtain funding to implement a water protection initiative that conserves key acreage</li> <li>- Educate the public and property owners about protecting waterways, pollutants (yard, animal waste, etc) and connection to drinking water _____</li> <li>- Revise development regulations to strengthen protection of floodplain and increase public safety _____</li> <li>- Enforce existing water protection regulations, at all levels _____</li> <li>- Institute a process for routine analysis of septic systems, with procedures to follow if leakage or failure is uncovered _____</li> <li>- Develop and fund incentives to assist property owners with septic issues, cover costs of testing and repair _____</li> <li>- Include water/aquifer analysis as part of development/planning _____</li> <li>- Create and implement development guidelines to protect water quality by directing growth away from sensitive lands _____</li> <li>- Identify and acquire sites for water storage/reservoirs, secure funding for purchase and construction _____</li> <li>- Pursue methods of protection other than acquisition, for example Wild and Scenic Rivers designations _____</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>

GOALS Our community wants:	POSSIBLE STRATEGIES To Achieve our Community Goals	SOME POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS Suggested by Residents and Plan Advisors
Existing Access to Public Land to be Maintained While also Increasing Year- round Recreation Opportunities	<p><b>1. Improve Forest Management</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid closure of existing access points</li> <li>- Protect popular, economically important recreation areas</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborate to retain valued recreation opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Conserve High Priority Lands</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure future availability of key trails</li> <li>- Secure existing access points to public lands</li> <li>- Secure permanent or long term access for trails on private land</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and restore roads and trails</li> <li>- Offer opportunities for all public land users</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Evaluate Local Planning Options</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid loss of economically important recreation</li> <li>- Prevent loss of existing access</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Identify and Secure New Funding</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acquire most important recreation lands</li> <li>- Compensate property owners who allow trails</li> <li>- Improve trail network</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accomplish objectives that require participation from both spheres</li> <li>- Connect lands owned by each</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain long-term leases, licenses or rights-of-way for trails that cross their lands</li> <li>- Organize a multi-use trail coalition to lead efforts to secure the future of local trails</li> <li>- Map and comprehensively assess existing public rights-of-way and connections to USFS, and how to ensure they remain public _____</li> <li>- Create a "community forest" that has recreation among its goals _____</li> <li>- Consolidate "checkerboard" of public/private ownership through donation, acquisition and land exchanges in a way that protects access. _____</li> <li>- Negotiate trail licenses with private property owners to create a system that will add to area's desirability as a destination _____</li> <li>- Articulate connection between trails, economic development, transportation and health</li> <li>- Create a comprehensive county trails plan that establishes priorities for recreation, transportation, community connections _____</li> <li>- Convene trail user groups to prioritize areas appropriate for multiple use or single use _____</li> <li>- Avoid closure of trails and roads due to future development by requiring dedication of rights-of-way for existing and planned trails _____</li> <li>- Acquire access easements to retain existing trails before land is sold _____</li> <li>- Fund maintenance of trails, improvements such as trailheads _____</li> <li>- Partnerships among state parks, wildlife, tribes, land trust to secure future of recreation assets _____</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>
Working Lands for a Thriving Economy	<p><b>1. Improve Forest Management</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide supply of timber for local industry</li> <li>- Increase value of wood products</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserve soil and water</li> <li>- Increase economic productivity of working lands</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Conserve High Priority Lands</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure availability of working lands in the future</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create timber supply</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Evaluate Local Planning Options</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase viability</li> <li>- Use local products</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Identify and Secure New Funding</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acquire conservation easements or development rights</li> <li>- Create incentives</li> <li>- Invest in working lands</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accomplish objectives that require participation from both spheres</li> <li>- Identify and plan working lands defined primarily by suitable use rather than historic boundaries</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Encourage Continuation of Working Landscapes</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain agriculture as an important local business</li> <li>- Conserve habitat and iconic scenic views</li> <li>- Produce local food for local consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restore, replant lands that have been cut over or burned _____</li> <li>- Target best existing forest for conservation, using conservation easements to maintain private ownership _____</li> <li>- Pursue concept of "community forest" to retain and restore forests for sustainable harvest, long-term vs immediate financial gain, process logs locally _____</li> <li>- Develop infrastructure such as local mill in order to support wood products revival _____</li> <li>- Promote active management of USFS lands, including cuts of marketable timber _____</li> <li>- Create a plan to consolidate the "checkerboard" that brings most value to public _____</li> <li>- Participate in finding solutions through the North Central Washington Forest Collaborative _____</li> <li>- Create a county farmland conservation plan _____</li> <li>- Include prime farmland in conservation priorities _____</li> <li>- Design a young farmers land access program to pair with conservation _____</li> <li>- Organize an initiative to buy local food for schools and other institutions to encourage additional agriculture _____</li> <li>- Protect water needed for agriculture _____</li> <li>- Partner with leaders in agriculture, public agencies and conservation orgs to secure funding to conserve working lands, e.g. WWRP, Farm Bill _____</li> <li>- Investigate "value-added" products that can be produced locally from area natural resources _____</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>
Private property availability (for development, business and other uses)	<p><b>1. Improve Forest Management</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make timber a viable local business</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Encourage Private Lands Stewardship</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserve soil and water without increasing public lands</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Conserve High Priority Lands</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define areas best suited for development and other uses</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Effect Changes in Agencies' Policies and Capacity</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advance proposed land exchanges</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Evaluate Local Planning Options</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase number of lots/units possible on a development property</li> <li>- Establish Transfer of Development Right program</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Identify and Secure New Funding</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acquire conservation easements or development rights to make land more affordable for private purchase</li> <li>- Provide housing that local residents can afford</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Create and/or Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish new business opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Encourage Continuation of Working Landscapes</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retain economic uses of private land besides development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases) to make developable lands available for private use, and make ownerships more practical</li> <li>- Assess checkerboard lands for suitability for private ownership/development _____</li> <li>- Make forestry more efficient/possible so that private timberlands make financial sense _____</li> <li>- Prioritize conservation lands to make sure that public agencies own the right land for their purposes _____</li> <li>- Identify land not appropriate for conservation as an outcome of determining where public goals require some form of conservation _____</li> <li>- Encourage infill development, affordable housing in existing developed areas</li> <li>- Partner with Chambers of Commerce, area financial institutions and economic development entities to evaluate new business opportunities _____</li> <li>- Assess potential for funding of conservation easements to make private land more affordable for continued use as working lands _____</li> </ul> <p>Other: _____</p>

## **APPENDIX F: OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY FORESTS**

## Community Forests

### Community Forest Overview

Community forests are intended to promote the principles of sustainable development and community based natural resource management. They have the potential to be a valuable component in a mosaic of conservation, and economic development strategies while promoting community vitality and economic well-being.

Case studies show that community forests can:<sup>1</sup>

- Buffer ecologically sensitive lands by connecting and expanding existing conservation lands.
- Offer a tenure option at both the local and regional levels to conserve productive forestland, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and open space as they offer an alternative to state and federal ownership, expand the constituency for conservation, and leverage partnerships.
- Be a valuable component of economic development strategies by creating revenue and jobs, protecting ecological services, and providing a resource base for economic activity.
- Reinforce community development objectives by building social capital and community capacity.
- Provide support for other community priorities such as education and recreation.

For more background information on community forests, please see The Trust for Public Land's *Land & People* Fall/Winter 2015 issue (article excerpted and attached).

### Washington State Community Forest Trust Program

Since the 1980's, more than one sixth of forests in Western Washington have been converted to other land uses; impacting the economic and cultural value of working forests.<sup>2</sup> To address this issue, new legislation was enacted in 2011. Under Substitute House Bill 1421, a program was established called the Community Forest Trust (CFT) managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).<sup>3</sup> The program provides policy and management tools for the DNR, and has an emphasis on sustainable, active forest management and a community working forest management plan. Land can be acquired through a variety of means (purchase, gift, donation, grant, transfer, etc.). Financing options include fee interest or partial fee interest, including conservation easements, a local financial commitment to acquisition — at least 50% of land's development value — with the remaining funding provided by state capital appropriation. After the initial costs, the CFT lands are intended to fund their own management.

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<sup>1</sup> A Community Investment Strategy, Published by the Community Forest Collaborative, August 2007, [https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits\\_community\\_forests\\_rpt.pdf](https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits_community_forests_rpt.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> DNR Community Forest Trust Program, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/news/north-kitsap-community-forest-proposal-advances-board-natural-resources-looks-purchase>.

<sup>3</sup> Washington State Legislature, last update April 30, 2015, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=79.155>.

The program management principles include: working forest lands at significant risk of conversion protected; financial and social viability through management objectives consistent with values of the local community; lands maintained in a working status through diverse commodity and non-commodity values; generating revenue to, at a minimum, pay for management costs; providing sustainable public recreation access; and providing educational opportunities for local communities.<sup>4</sup>

### **United States Forest Service Community Forest Program**

Since 2012, the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program has awarded grants to support establishment of 35 community forests in 18 states and Puerto Rico. Encompassing a total of more than 15,500 acres, these forests will provide perpetual ecological, economic, educational, and recreational benefits to their communities. Under the program, USFS grants totaling \$10,750,000 have been matched by nearly \$35 million of nonfederal investments.<sup>5</sup> Within the Pacific Northwest, as of 2016, eight community forest acquisitions have received support under the USFS Community Forest Program, placing ownership of 3,614 acres of valuable forestland under local control.<sup>6</sup> Federal investment in these projects had totaled \$2,576,000 with a nonfederal match of nearly \$6,500,000.<sup>7</sup>

### **Several Highlighted Case Studies in Washington**

#### **Stemilt-Squilchuck Community Forest (established)**

The Stemilt Community Forest is 3,370 acres of forestland overlooking Wenatchee Valley.<sup>8</sup> Acquired in 2014, the lands are now permanently protected and transferred to public management as a result of cooperation and partnership between The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Chelan County, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This community forest has a focus on forest health, elk habitat, and public recreation.<sup>9</sup>

This timberland was purchased from Weyerhaeuser Company, advised by the Stemilt Partnership and negotiated by The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Stemilt Partnership is a citizen formed committee who advises the county on both land ownership and best management practices, with a mission of protecting water, wildlife, and recreation. Funding to purchase this forestland was supported by Chelan County, The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), and local contributors (including local irrigation districts).

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<sup>4</sup> Goldmark, P., Community Forestry in Washington State, May 2014, [http://sustainablenorthwest.org/uploads/resources/Policies\\_and\\_Programs\\_1-Andy\\_Hayes\\_WA\\_DNR.pdf](http://sustainablenorthwest.org/uploads/resources/Policies_and_Programs_1-Andy_Hayes_WA_DNR.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/blog/posts/community-forests-to-receive-grant-funding>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/blog/posts/community-forests-to-receive-grant-funding>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/blog/posts/community-forests-to-receive-grant-funding>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.rmef.org/NewsandMedia/PressRoom/NewsReleases/StemiltAcquisition.aspx>.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.rmef.org/NewsandMedia/PressRoom/NewsReleases/StemiltAcquisition.aspx>.

The Stemilt-Squilchuck Community Forest is truly a gateway to surrounding public lands, and it provides entry points for many recreational enthusiasts while protecting the water quality and forest health in the uplands.

### **The Teanaway Community Forest (established)**

Washington's first community forest, approved by state lawmakers in 2011 and purchased in 2013, is The Teanaway Community Forest. This 50,241-acre landscape lies at the headwaters of the Yakima Basin watershed and contains nearly 400 miles of free-flowing streams and prime habitat for fish and wildlife. The forestland has a history of grazing and timber harvests.<sup>10</sup> The Department of Natural Resources is collaboratively managing the Teanaway Community Forest with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with significant public input from a community-based advisory committee. Through a Habitat Restoration and Working Lands Easement and inclusive interagency agreement, the DNR and DFW have agreed that the best way to manage funds is through a Community Forest Trust Account; separating community forest funds from state trust funds.<sup>11</sup> The Teanaway property was identified in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan as an area of importance to safeguard the Yakima Basin water supply and associated habitat, and to support the economy by preserving working lands.<sup>12</sup>

The law establishing the forest set up clear goals for the landscape:<sup>13</sup>

- To protect and enhance the water supply as well as to protect the watershed,
- To maintain working lands for forestry and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitats,
- To maintain and where possible expand recreation opportunities consistent with watershed protection for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding, and snowmobiling,
- To conserve and restore vital habitat for fish (including steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout) and wildlife (including deer, elk large predators and spotted owls), and
- To support strong community partnerships, in which the Yakama Nation, residents, business owners, local governments, conservation groups, and others provide advice about ongoing land management.

### **Mt. Adams Community Forest (established)**

The Mt. Adams Community Forest is a 100 acre property, established in 2011.<sup>14</sup> This community forest is managed by Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, a group who now monitors and manages its productive forests, restoration opportunities, water, and recreation resources. In 2014, the forest expanded by 285

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<sup>10</sup> Conserving the Teanaway, Washington State DNR,

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Teanaway>.

<sup>11</sup> Community Forest Trust Account, DNR, accessed 11/10/15,

[http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_leg2014\\_comm\\_forest.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_leg2014_comm_forest.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Teanaway Community Forest, accessed 10/10/16,

[http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp\\_teanaway\\_map.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_teanaway_map.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Conserving the Teanaway, Washington State DNR,

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Teanaway>.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.mtadamsstewards.org/programs/mt-adams-community-forest/>.

acres to encompass Pine Flats Forest.<sup>15</sup> The Mt. Adams Community Forest strives to permanently protect high community and conservation value forests critical to the quality of life of our region. Management goals for community forest properties are centered around principles of land stewardship, community benefit, and healthy, functioning ecosystems.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Anacortes Community Forest (established)**

The Anacortes Community Forest is 2,800 acres of forestland, wetlands, lakes, and meadows within Skagit County.<sup>17</sup> Within this community forest are opportunities for recreation including 50 miles of trails that can be used by hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. The Anacortes Community Forest is now owned by the City of Anacortes and is managed by its Parks and Recreation Department. It is managed for its recreational and conservation value according to the Anacortes Management Plan adopted in 1991.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Canyon Lake Community Forest (established)**

Canyon Lake Community Forest is a 2,220 acre nature reserve and old growth forest providing world-class recreation opportunities including wildlife viewing and fishing.<sup>19</sup> The Canyon Lake Community Forest is managed as a nature reserve, and it is located in Whatcom County. The park is an excellent place to view owls, bears, cougars, pica, and more. The community forest now is owned by Whatcom County and Western Washington University. Whatcom Land Trust holds the conservation easement as an added safeguard to ensure the long term protection of the land's ecological systems.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Cowlitz Community Forest (anticipated)**

This hopeful community forest would be a 3,000-4,000 acre area on Weyerhaeuser Co. land to protect the area from further development. This area is located between the landfill and the south shore of Silver Lake, in the Sucker Creek watershed between Blue Bird Mountain and Moore roads.<sup>21</sup> The state Department of Natural Resources turned down the proposal in 2014, but asked the county to resubmit this year (2016).<sup>22</sup>

#### **North Kitsap Community Forest (nominated but not approved)**

In 2014, a coalition of 30 organizations brought forward a CFT nomination to the state legislature. The proposed community forest was 484 acres of forestland, previously owned by Pope Resources, a timber company that decided to sell its historic local holdings.<sup>23</sup> Adjacent areas contain high value wetlands and

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.mtadamsstewards.org/programs/mt-adams-community-forest/>.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.mtadamsstewards.org/programs/mt-adams-community-forest/>.

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.cityofanacortes.org/community\\_forest\\_land\\_acfl.php#.V\\_1brfkrKUJ](http://www.cityofanacortes.org/community_forest_land_acfl.php#.V_1brfkrKUJ).

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org/content.cfm?contentid=15>.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1967/Canyon-Lake-Community-Forest>.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.whatcomlandtrust.org/?p=230>.

<sup>21</sup> [http://tdn.com/news/local/cowlitz-county-exploring-creating-community-forest-near-silver-lake/article\\_1feacd88-4999-11e3-a177-001a4bcf887a.html](http://tdn.com/news/local/cowlitz-county-exploring-creating-community-forest-near-silver-lake/article_1feacd88-4999-11e3-a177-001a4bcf887a.html).

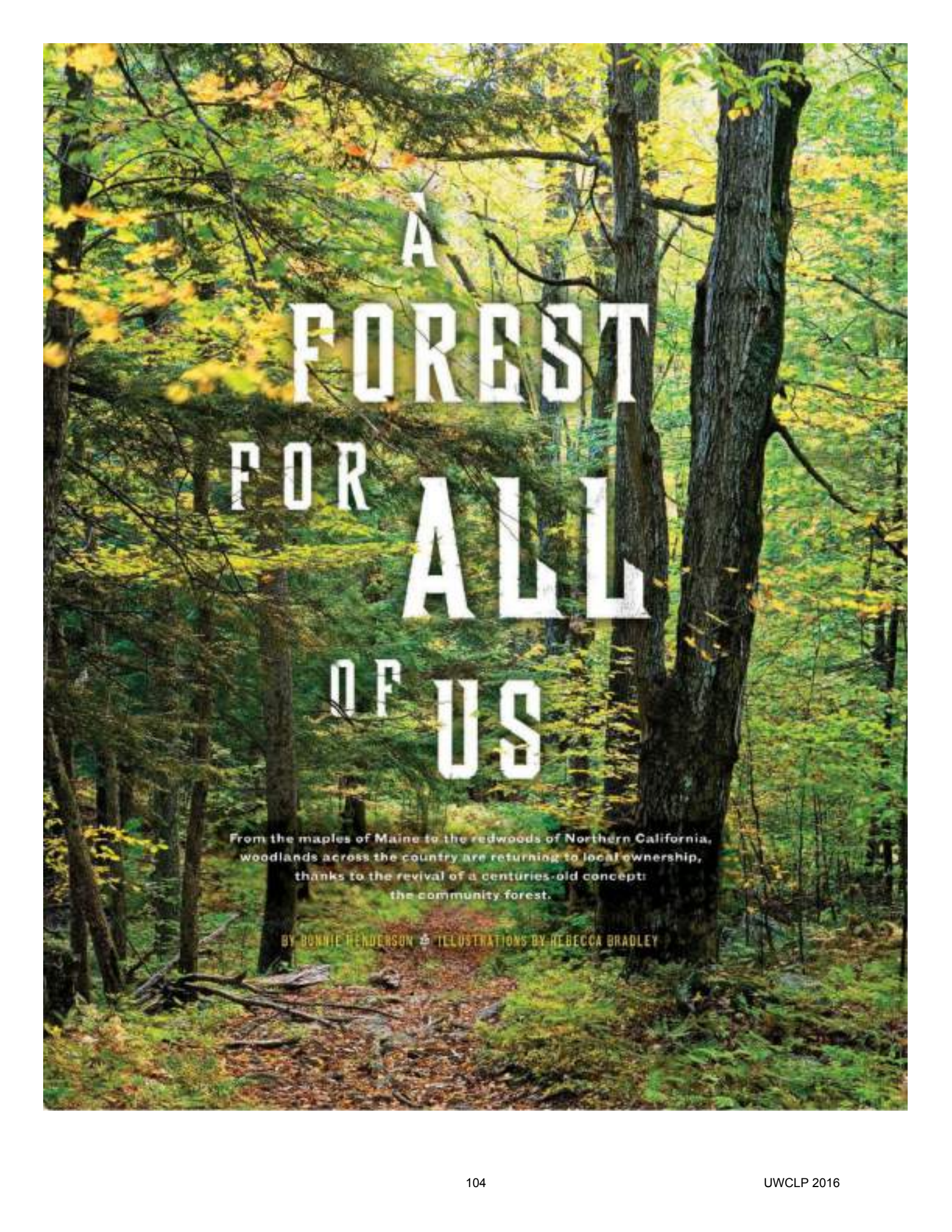
<sup>22</sup> <http://www.columbian.com/news/2016/jun/13/proposed-wildlife-land-transactions-mulled-for-toutle-river-valley/>.

a salmon stream that was soon-to-be owned by the Great Peninsula Conservancy, which would complement the proposed CFT and enhance the forest corridor. Project partners were committed to this forestland for several reasons: the timber stands were close to harvest age, the land was at high risk for conversion, and the area also had recreational benefits and significant habitat values. The request for nomination was one part of a larger effort, led by the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project, to help conserve 6,700 acres of forestland on the Kitsap Peninsula. The proposed state contribution was \$3,442,000, with a local match of \$480,000.<sup>24</sup> However, the legislature did not to fund the CFT program at any level in 2014.

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<sup>23</sup> North Kitsap Community Forest Request for Nomination, July 3, 2014, [ftp://ww4.dnr.wa.gov/public\\_disclosure/Nilson,%20Ron/Sent%204.28.15%20FTP/Wisch/Tab%203.pdf](ftp://ww4.dnr.wa.gov/public_disclosure/Nilson,%20Ron/Sent%204.28.15%20FTP/Wisch/Tab%203.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Community Forest Trust Program 2015-2017 – Washington State Department of Natural Resources [http://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Forest%20Trust%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature%2020141031\\_639d6c3a-ddd3-48e5-9dff-03293bdd4bcc.pdf](http://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Forest%20Trust%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature%2020141031_639d6c3a-ddd3-48e5-9dff-03293bdd4bcc.pdf).



# A FOREST FOR ALL OF US

From the maples of Maine to the redwoods of Northern California, woodlands across the country are returning to local ownership, thanks to the revival of a centuries-old concept: the community forest.

BY BONNIE HENDERSON ✦ ILLUSTRATIONS BY REBECCA BRADLEY



hen we get past this tunnel of blackberries, we'll get a better view," my guide assures me. It's an Oregon summer day, and I'm tromping up a gravel road after Owen Wozniak, a project manager for The Trust for Public Land. Ahead of us along the ridgeline, a mosaic of deep green Douglas firs nearly obscures the summit's basalt cliffs. But as we round the bend, the view indeed opens up, and the forest thins to reveal an oak savannah and rolling pastures.

This is Thurston Hills, nearly 700 acres of sprawling meadows and woodland on the outskirts of Springfield. It's the future site of the region's first community forest. Three years ago, The Trust for Public Land helped conserve the property; today the local parks and recreation department is working on a plan to improve public access.

"That housing development is new," says Wozniak, pointing to a small cluster of homes on the valley floor. "Come back in ten years, and that whole area will be built out. But no matter how big Springfield gets, Thurston Hills will remain open to the community to connect to nature."

While still a novelty here in the west, in New England states the community-owned forest is a venerable institution. This year, Vermont celebrates the 100-year anniversary of its Municipal Forest Act, the legislation that established the "town forest" model as a regional tradition. Modern community forests take many forms, but most towns that have one would recognize the definition Wozniak offers: "A community forest is a woodland that's owned and managed locally, with all benefits – from timber, to tourism, to watershed protection – returned to the community, not Wall Street."

For fast-growing cities like Springfield, it's a compelling proposition: acquire open space to safeguard residents' quality of life, and benefit from the services that the ecosystem provides. "At its most successful, a community forest essentially pays for itself," says Rodger Krussman, Vermont and New Hampshire state director for The Trust for Public Land. "It's an elegant approach. You conserve undeveloped land close to town and use the revenue generated by that land for its upkeep."

Communities from Portland, Maine to Honolulu, Hawaii are getting organized to claim their forests. Here's what they gain when they do.

## A place to play



century ago, Barre, Vermont was a major granite quarrying town. But as mining operations have slowed, the woodlands have recovered, surrounding the abandoned quarries with sugar maple and birch – and setting the stage for some world-class mountain biking. In 2013, The Trust for Public Land helped create Barre Town Forest, now a popular destination for adventurers of all stripes – from the local high school cross-country running team, to skiers, snowmobilers, disc golf enthusiasts, and mountain bikers ready to tackle rocky trails with names like “Screaming Demon.”

“Community forests are where New Englanders go to exercise and play,” says Krussman. “They’re our version of a neighborhood park.”

In Eureka, California, generations of residents used the forest at the edge of Humboldt Bay as their de facto park – a place to hike, fish, or walk the dog along Ryan Creek, all within easy reach of downtown. Little did they know, the land was privately owned and they were technically trespassing. Upon discovering that the beloved old-growth redwood groves could be subdivided and sold off, local officials worked with The Trust for Public Land to buy the property and establish Humboldt Community Forest. Plans are in place to build interpretive trails that educate visitors about sustainable timber and ecology.



Common  
Nighthawk

### BIRDING CARD

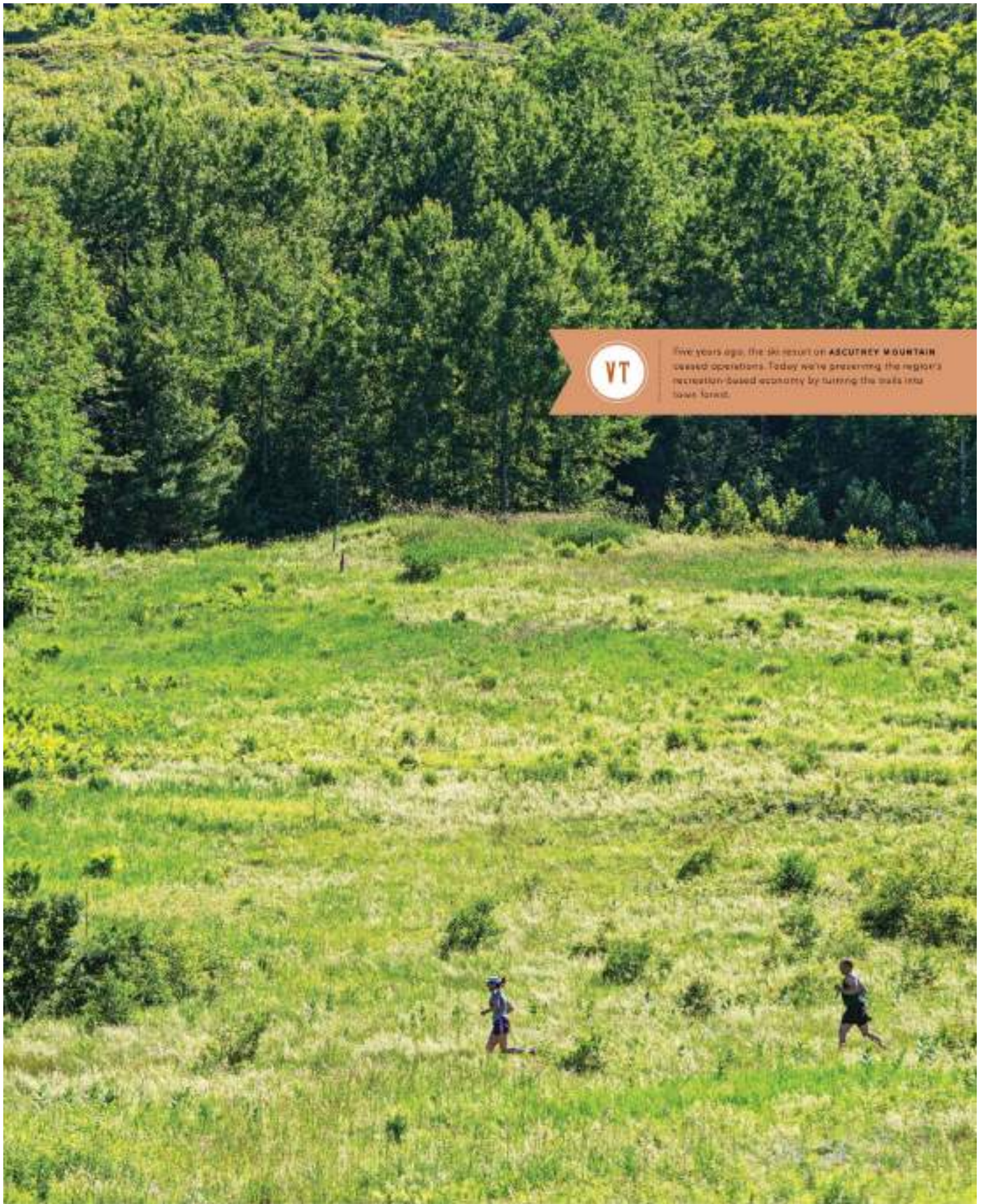
*Chordeiles vitor*

### MIGRATION

During migration, common nighthawks may travel 2,500 km to 6,800 km

### WEIGHT

51 cm to 61 cm



Five years ago, the ski resort on **ASCUTREY MOUNTAIN** ceased operations. Today we're preserving the region's recreation-based economy by turning the trails into **hike forest**.

## An outdoor classroom



Almost every town forest I know gets used by schools and summer camps," says Krussman. Case in point: Rustic Moose Kids Camp in Barre Town Forest. Here, kids practice outdoor survival skills ranging from building shelters to identifying edible plants. "It's a phenomenal opportunity to learn directly from the source."

Students at Humboldt State University use the adjacent Arcata Community Forest—the oldest city-owned forest west of the Rockies—as a laboratory for hands-on study of forestry methods, environmental science, and wildlife management. In Bath, Maine, schoolchildren head into the forest to tap maple trees, learning a practical skill and celebrating regional heritage. And back in Springfield, Oregon, the Thurston Hills property is also destined to serve as an outdoor classroom: a new elementary school is slated for construction right across the road.

WINGSPAN  
Plebejus acron

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HABITAT  
Desert, fields, prairie hills,  
weedy areas, road edges

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WINGSPAN  
2 cm to 2.9 cm



*Acron Blue*



Each summer, kids at **ARCATA COMMUNITY FOREST** Adventure Camp learn practical outdoor skills like tracking, fire safety, and orienteering.

## A moneymaker

**L**ike many forested communities, the city of Arcata, California has endured longstanding tensions between environmentalists and the timber industry. But community forests can be a win-win solution that unites both interests, says Trust for Public Land project manager John Bernstein. In Arcata Community Forest, second-growth trees are selectively harvested on a long rotation that both generates revenue and helps to maintain – even improve – forest health.

"It's helped demonstrate to a diverse group of stakeholders that logging can be compatible with restoration of old-growth conditions, with watershed management, with species protection, and with recreation," says Bernstein. Arcata is also experimenting with an alternative revenue source: selling carbon offsets, which preserves trees while helping reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Elsewhere, funds generated from sustainable timber harvesting and other forest products can help towns pay off loans used to buy the land – and to fund other city services. For example, 13 Mile Woods Community Forest in Errol, New Hampshire supports the local economy by attracting tourists who visit to hike and fly-fish on the Androscoggin River. Says Krussman, "The forest has basically paid for itself through tourism and timber, and will soon be at the point of generating revenue that the town can use for whatever it wants – improving water treatment, say, or renovating the town hall."



Chinook  
Salmon

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

**HABITAT**  
Western North America,  
ranging from California  
to Alaska

**WEIGHT**  
Up to 130 lb



**13 MILE WOODS COMMUNITY FOREST** is a regional success story: the forest will soon pay for itself with revenue generated from timber and tourism.

## A natural resource



abitat protection—for both people and animals—is a goal of every well-managed community forest. New Hampshire's Freedom Town Forest lies atop one of the largest aquifers in the state. "If that property had been turned into subdivisions or used for industry, it could have compromised the potable water for the entire region," Krussman explains. Instead, today it helps keep drinking water clean—while also preserving the Ossipee Pine Barrens, one of New Hampshire's most threatened landscapes. Similarly, LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest in Vermont protects the home of the endangered Indiana bat, as well as water quality in Lake Champlain, the main source of drinking water for more than 60,000 Vermonters.

Community forests also help link critical wildlife habitat across a larger landscape. New Hampshire's Randolph Town Forest connects two sections of White Mountain National Forest, creating a protected corridor of maple and birch, beaver ponds, vernal pools—and miles of trails for people to explore. 🌿

# SO YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FOREST...

Investigate the local “park” where you hike or walk the dog, says community forest advocate Patricia Ayres Crawford. If you find that it’s actually private timberland, that means you could lose access if the property changes hands. But with some help, you may be able to protect it. “The first step is to get out there,” says Crawford. “Talk up the idea around town. Do some digging to determine what’s been tried in the past.” More tips:

**Gather local support.** Get friendly with your local land trust and forestry officials. “They’ll help you formulate a strategy,” says The Trust for Public Land’s Shelby Semmes – including a plan for funding. Solicit feedback – from friends, neighbors, local city and county officials, and on up the line to state legislators. Ultimately, says Semmes, you’ll need a local political supporter to be successful.

**Let the land speak.** While meetings and presentations are essential, nothing is more inspiring than a personal connection to the forest. “Let the land speak, too,” says Crawford. She recommends bringing potential supporters out to the site to experience the place firsthand.

**Get out the vote.** Formalize community support for your project in a resolution approved by your town or city council. “These community forests are an opportunity to participate in local politics and observe democracy at its very best,” Semmes says.

**Have fun.** Don’t forget to celebrate, Crawford adds – not just at the end of the process but at every step along the path. “It’s integral to keeping up momentum and building community.”

## Douglas Fir Pine Cone

WIDE IN THE FOREST  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii*  
(also known as Oregon pine)



## **APPENDIX G: CONSERVATION FINANCE REPORT**



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# Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Conservation Finance Feasibility Study

Land Conservation Funding Options  
December 2015

## Introduction

This brief study presents funding options potentially available to Chelan County for financing the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of land (or development rights) for conservation and parks purposes. There are a number of potential public funding options that can be knit together into a “funding quilt” to protect land and increase access to public land in the Upper Wenatchee River Basin.

A funding quilt is the combination of funding sources —state, federal, local, and private— that are brought together to help achieve conservation objectives. The most reliable form of funding to achieve conservation objectives over the long-term is local funding. Due to the competition for state, federal and private funding, these sources often serve as supplements or incentives.

This report starts with a summary of relevant state and federal conservation funding programs that may be leveraged by the county. This information is followed by an examination of the options for generating and dedicating local revenue for conservation including the revenue raising capacity and costs of several financing tools. Together, the information on following pages will provide a guide for considering public finance options to fund the provision of additional parks and the protection of open spaces in the county.

# Funding Sources for Land Conservation

## State Programs

In many respects, the State of Washington is a model of consistency and commitment towards conservation land acquisition among the 50 states. Year in and year out, through difficult economic times and ever-changing priorities, state legislators have, since 1990, continued to approve between \$45 million and \$60 million towards land conservation programs each year. In the most recent biennium, the legislature approved \$55 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects.

Most of the land acquisition programs that administer these funds encourage the use of matching funds, if possible, to stretch each program's funding base and maximize the goals of the program. Local government programs throughout the state aggressively seek state and federal matching funds available through a variety of conservation and recreation programs. State programs such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Salmon Recovery Board, the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program (in funded years), and the Division of Historical Resources Special Category Grants; and federal programs like the Endangered Species (Section 6), federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Forest Legacy program, to name a few, offer match-funding opportunities, though the dollar amounts available through these programs are usually quite limited. Because there are a number of these smaller programs, many will not be discussed in detail here.

State of Washington grant programs are primarily managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a small state agency that manages grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near extinction.<sup>1</sup> The Recreation and Conservation Office supports the work of the following organizations: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington Invasive Species Council, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, and Parks and Outdoor Recreation Task Force.<sup>2</sup>

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), LWCF stateside, Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) and Farmland Preservation. For the 2015-2017 biennium, \$6.7 million is available for operations and \$141.2 million is available for capital expenditures.<sup>3</sup>

Since the Recreation and Conservation Office was established in 1964, it has awarded more than \$1.9 billion in grants to fund more than 6,400 projects. Leveraging this significant state investment, grant recipients have contributed more than \$1 billion in matching funds to complete these projects. Since 1990, the agency averages 264 grant awards for \$69 million each fiscal year.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rco.wa.gov/about/index.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/about\\_boards.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/about_boards.shtml)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/rcfb.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> The Trust for Public Land, *Conservation Almanac*, 2015. [www.conservationalmanac.org](http://www.conservationalmanac.org)



While RCO is not a funding program, it is the agency that oversees the primary land acquisition funding programs in Washington. Detailed information on grant awards is available through the RCO website.

### **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is a state grant program that creates and conserves local and state parks, wildlife habitat and working farms. RCO administers WWRP grants and the legislature funds the program.<sup>5</sup>

WWRP is funded by appropriations in Washington State's capital construction budget, primarily from the sale of general obligation bonds. The legislature establishes funding levels for WWRP on a biennial basis at approximately \$55 million. Local agencies, special purpose districts (such as park and recreation districts), state agencies, Native American tribes, salmon recovery lead entities, and nonprofits can apply for WWRP funding. Local agencies, special purpose districts, salmon recovery lead entities, and nonprofits must provide 50 percent match and at least 10 percent of the total project cost must be from a non-state, non-federal contribution. State agencies do not have to provide match. Native American tribes must provide 50 percent match.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities. Typical projects include protecting wildlife habitat, building athletic complexes, building or renovating community parks, protecting farmland, and developing regional trails.<sup>6</sup> Grants are accepted in even years as part of an 18 month grant evaluation process. For the most recent round of grants, WWRP applications were due May 2, 2016. Grants will be awarded in June 2017.

In 2016, the Washington Legislature revised the WWRP program to create a Farm and Forest Account and dedicated 10 percent of the funding in the account for working forests. Forestland preservation grants may be used to protect forestland for the growth and harvest of timber. Funding also may be used to restore wildlife habitat in these areas. The new program will begin accepting applications in 2017.<sup>7</sup>

Please see <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/wwrp.shtml> for details on grant caps. Project categories such as critical habitat, farmland preservation, natural areas, state parks and trails do not have a cap. For most local governments seeking substantial acquisition funding and/or partnerships necessary to purchase property in today's real estate market, the programs that receive funds from the state's Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) are at the top of the list.

State and local agencies are eligible for funding through WWRP, although a fifty percent match is required from local agencies. According to state statute, WWRP funds must be distributed equally between Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Conservation. WWRP grants are offered on a two year

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.wildliferecreation.org/our-campaigns/wwrp-projects/counties/Chelan\\_county](http://www.wildliferecreation.org/our-campaigns/wwrp-projects/counties/Chelan_county)

<sup>6</sup> These paragraphs largely excerpted from the Conservation Almanac

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/fact\\_sheets/ForestlandFactSheet.pdf](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/fact_sheets/ForestlandFactSheet.pdf)



## Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Conservation Finance Report

cycle. Contact the Recreation and Conservation Office at (360) 902-3000 or visit [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov) for more information on upcoming applications.

In 2007, then-Governor Christine Gregoire signed a two-year capital construction budget that increased funding for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grants to \$100 million, the highest level of funding in the history of the program. In 2015, \$55 million in grants were awarded, down from \$65 million in the previous round. Figure 1 shows award breakdowns for 2015.

In Chelan County, WWRP has funded 34 total projects at a total value of \$17,793,087 since 1990.<sup>8</sup>

In 2015, three projects in separate categories (Urban Wildlife Habitat acquisition, local Park acquisition, and local park development) in Chelan County were awarded funding.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 1: 2015 WWRP Funding Awards	
Category	Total Funding
Trail Projects (Acquisition and Development)	\$3,799,250
Farmland Preservation (Acquisition)	\$3,990,928
Natural Areas (Acquisition)	\$6,547,500
Water Access (Acquisition)	\$2,367,426
Water Access (Development)	\$906,324
Riparian Protection (Acquisition)	\$5,335,000
Critical Habitat (Acquisition)	\$9,281,000
State Parks (Acquisition)	\$3,273,750
State Parks (Development)	\$3,273,750
Urban Wildlife Habitat (Acquisition)	\$3,855,000
State Lands Development and Renovation (Development)	\$1,091,250
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement (Restoration)	\$1,091,250
Local Parks (Acquisition)	\$3,223,750
Local Parks (Development)	\$2,879,552

### Trust Land Transfer Program

Launched in 1989, the Trust Land Transfer Program (TLT) is a unique program that funds school construction while protecting Washington's natural resources. The program transfers school trust lands suitable for natural or wildlife areas, parks, outdoor recreation, or open space to appropriate ownership while providing funding to schools equal to the timber or lease value of the transferred land. The program has successfully transferred ecologically valuable land out of trust lands and into appropriate conservation status with legislative appropriations. The program uses some funds to acquire properties that can be managed for greater returns for trust beneficiaries.<sup>10</sup>

Some trust lands have low potential for income production due to factors such as steep, unstable slopes, critical fish and wildlife habitat, public use demands, environmental and social concerns, and other issues that complicate income production from certain trust lands. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) identifies a list of such properties each biennium for consideration by the Board of Natural Resources and the legislature as candidates for the TLT program. One key criterion is that candidate properties, in aggregate, have a high timber to land value to ensure the greater part of the appropriations is deposited directly to fund school construction in the current biennium.

DNR coordinates the review and prioritization of the proposed list of transfer properties with

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.wildliferecreation.org/our-campaigns/wwrp-projects/counties/Chelan\\_county](http://www.wildliferecreation.org/our-campaigns/wwrp-projects/counties/Chelan_county)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.wildliferecreation.org/2015-17-wwrp-funded-projects>

<sup>10</sup> *The Trust for Public Land, Conservation Almanac, 2015. www.conservationmanac.org*



## Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan Conservation Finance Report

other state agencies and programs. The list, along with maps and property descriptions, are assembled into an informational package that is presented to the Board of Natural Resources and then to the Governor's Office for submission to the Legislature. The Legislature reviews the proposal, determines the makeup of the final package, and sets an appropriation funding level. If approved, the transfer package is authorized and funded as a section in the Capital Budget Bill. Legislation generally provides for the direct funding of properties through the appropriation.

Between 1989 and 2013, \$798.57 million has been appropriated to fund the transfer of over 111,000 fee acres and the transfer of 5,237 lease acres. Over 79,000 acres of special Common School Trust property has been transferred to other public agencies or programs for protection and management. Agencies receiving land through the program include the DNR Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resource Conservation Area Programs, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, county and city governments, and local public park districts. In the 2011-2013 biennium, the biennial appropriation was \$60.49 million. Biennial appropriations have fluctuated between approximately \$50 million and \$171 million, although the \$50-\$65 million range is most common.<sup>11</sup> In the 2013-15 biennium, there were no properties entered into the program in Chelan County.<sup>12</sup>

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) was created in 1999 by the state legislature to grant funds to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities and receives funding from the state and federal governments. The SRFB administers two grant programs, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). For Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants cities, counties, non-profits, private landowners working on their own land, conservation districts, tribes, special purpose districts and regional fisheries enhancement groups are eligible applicants and a minimum of 15 percent matching funds are required. State agencies may apply but must have a local partner. The FFFPP is directed at small forest land owners who harvest from their own land and meet eligibility as described in Section 11 of SSHB 1095 and match is determined by cost estimate (see RCO requirements). Applicants apply for projects to restore damaged habitat, fix barriers to fish migration and to conserve pristine habitat. In 2015 to 2017, \$4 million is available for operations and \$222.1 million is available for capital purposes. Funding is provided through state general obligation bonds and the Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund.<sup>13 14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> [http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp\\_tlt\\_proposal\\_13\\_15.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_tlt_proposal_13_15.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> For more information Contact:

ATTN: Trust Land Transfer Program

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

1111 Washington St SE

PO Box 47014

Olympia, WA 98504-7014

Phone: 360.902.1600

Email: [Trust\\_Land\\_Transfer@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Trust_Land_Transfer@dnr.wa.gov)

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/fact\\_sheets/SRFB\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/fact_sheets/SRFB_fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> For more information: Contact Contact: Marc Dubois at [marcd@rco.wa.gov](mailto:marcd@rco.wa.gov) or (360) 902-3137



## Washington Community Forest Program

In 2011, WDNR and the state legislature created the Community Forest Trust, a new tool for local community partners to participate in protecting working forestlands that benefit their communities. It is designed to prevent the conversion of working forests into housing or other types of development and is a new tool for communities large or small to buffer working forestlands from development.<sup>15</sup> Community forest lands need only to generate enough revenue to reimburse WNDE for the cost of management.<sup>16</sup>

The first community forest was established in 2013 in the Teanaway River Valley, just north of Cle Elum in Eastern Washington. This new category of working forestland is held by the state and sustainably managed by DNR.<sup>17</sup> The program is funded by appropriations from the state legislature, outside of RCO, and is not guaranteed funding.

In November 2014, in advance of the 2015-2017 cycle, the Department of Natural Resources nominated a 484 acre parcel of working forestland in Kitsap County. DNR submitted a capital budget request for the state's portion of the proposal.

A local match is required. The county, city or other local entity must provide a financial contribution of at least fifty percent of the difference between the parcel's appraised fair market value and the parcel's timber and forest land value.<sup>18</sup>

DNR may solicit project nominations from local communities prior to each odd numbered year. The nomination period for funding in the 2017-2019 biennium has closed.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.wfpa.org/workspace/resource/document/community-forest-trust-bill-signed-into-law.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/news/dnr-now-accepting-community-forest-trust-nominations-interested-communities-must-submit>

<sup>18</sup> "Washington State Department of Natural Resources. "Community Forest Trust Program: 2015-2017 Community Forest Trust Nominated Parcel List." November 1, 2014. Accessed October 3, 2016.

[http://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Forest%20Trust%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature%2020141031\\_639d6c3a-ddd3-48e5-9dff-03293bdd4bcc.pdf](http://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Forest%20Trust%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature%2020141031_639d6c3a-ddd3-48e5-9dff-03293bdd4bcc.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/managed-lands/washington-community-forest-trust-program>

## Federal Programs

All the programs discussed under this section are administered by federal agencies but vary in how funds are delivered for on-the-ground conservation projects. For example, some of these program funds are directed to the states, which in turn decide what projects to fund, while other program funds are granted by a federal agency through a competitive process. The descriptions provided below are meant to provide a broad overview of funding sources. TPL can provide additional information on program rules and accessibility.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** **U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service**

Passed by Congress in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. Specifically, LWCF provides funding to assist in acquiring, preserving, developing, and ensuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources, including but not limited to open space, parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation. The program's funding comes from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure limit of \$900 million each year. Under this program, a portion of the money is intended to go to federal land purchases and a portion to the states as matching grants for land protection projects.

### **LWCF – Stateside** **National Park Service through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office<sup>20</sup>**

The stateside LWCF program provides a 50-percent match to states for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas for natural resource protection and recreation enhancement. Funds are distributed to states based on a formula that takes into account population and need. Once the funds are distributed to the states, it is up to each state to choose the projects, though the National Park Service has final approval. Eligible grant recipients include municipal subdivisions, state agencies and tribal governments, each of whom must provide at least 50 percent matching funds from nonfederal sources in either cash or in-kind contributions and a detailed plan for the proposed project. In each of FY 2014 and FY 2015, \$48 million was provided for stateside grants.

In Washington, the program is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office, which received approximately \$900,000 in each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015. An applicant must submit a plan including goals and objectives, inventory, and a description of the public involvement process used. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) must accept the plan at least three months before the meeting in which the applicant's project is first considered for funding.

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<sup>20</sup> For more information: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/lwcf.shtml>



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Applications are usually due in the spring and are evaluated in a competitive process by an advisory committee. Applications are evaluated based on the technical merits of the project, the public/private partnerships, and how the project addresses the identified needs and priorities of Washington's statewide comprehensive plan (also called the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP). The advisory committee submits a ranked list to the RCFB for approval.

In 2016, plans are due March 1, 2016 and applications are due May 2, 2016.

### **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Act) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<sup>21</sup>**

Implemented in 1938, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, or more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funding from the Department of the Interior for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Funds are derived from excise taxes on certain sporting and recreational equipment. Funds are apportioned to appropriate state agencies on a formula based on the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state. Each state wildlife agency determines the best use of their apportioned funds and grants awards to projects based on these priorities. Grants can be awarded for wildlife management, to conduct habitat research, population studies and surveys, or hunter education programs, as well as to acquire lands for both wildlife and public access.

The program is a cost-reimbursement program in which the state applies for repayment of up to 75 percent of approved project expenses. The state must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from nonfederal sources. Washington received \$10.891 million in FY 2015 and \$10.268 million in FY 2014.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation<sup>22</sup>**

In 1984, Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to benefit the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend by attracting diverse investments to conservation and encouraging locally supported stewardship on private and public lands. Through their conservation programs, the Foundation awards matching grants to projects that address priority actions laid out in each program's strategic plan. The most successful applications will display the long-term environmental benefits of a project that yield high-quality conservation returns, engage community interests, leverage funding, serve multiple objectives, involve strong partnerships, and fit into a larger ecosystem approach to conservation.

Unlike the other federal agencies described in this section, NFWF is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is a quasi-governmental organization. Its 30 member Board of Directors is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and the organization manages a number of grant accounts arising from legal and regulatory actions.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> For more information: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/home.html>

<sup>22</sup> For more information: <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/programs/Pages/home.aspx>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/Pages/home.aspx#.VIO3ZnarRpg>



Eligible grantees include federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit conservation organizations.

### **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: US Fish and Wildlife Service<sup>24</sup>**

Grants offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) support participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species. Historically Washington is the second largest recipient of CESCOF funds after California. Funds are appropriated annually by Congress. Afterwards states submit applications for review by FWS.

### **HCP Land Acquisition Grants**

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants provide funding to states and territories explicitly for land acquisitions that complement approved HCPs. These grants are available only for land purchases that go above and beyond the conservation responsibilities that nonfederal partners already bear under the terms of the HCP.

Specifically, the grants fund land acquisitions that complement but do not replace private mitigation responsibilities contained in HCPs; have important benefits for listed, proposed, and candidate species; and that have important benefits for the ecosystems that support those species.

### **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants**

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants provide funds to states and territories for the acquisition of habitat, through both fee and easement, in support of federally listed threatened and endangered species recovery. These funds must contribute to the implementation of a finalized and approved recovery plan for at least one species under the Endangered Species Act.

### **Forest Legacy Program (FLP) US Forest Service (USFS)<sup>25</sup>**

The federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in 1990 to provide matching grants to states to assist in securing conservation easements on forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Fee transactions are also used under the program, either for the whole transaction or combined with easements to achieve a state's highest conservation goals. A state voluntarily enters the program by submitting an Assessment of Need (AON) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approval. These plans establish the lead state agency, the state's criteria for Forest Legacy projects, and Forest Legacy areas within which proposed Legacy projects must be located. Once the AON is approved, the state lead agency can submit up to three grants each year for projects within the FLAs. The federal government may fund up to 75 percent of project costs, with at least 25 percent coming from private, state, or local sources.

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<sup>24</sup> For more information: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

<sup>25</sup> For more information: [www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml),  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/forest\\_legacy/final102504/](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/forest_legacy/final102504/), [www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml).

The process begins with the state's Forest Stewardship Committee, which ranks the projects submitted (usually by late spring) to the state lead agency for submittal to the US Forest Service regional Forest Legacy Program staff coordinator. Each state may submit up to three projects, totaling no more than \$10 million, and the deadline for submissions is usually late October or November. In early January, a national ranking committee composed of USFS and state representatives ranks all projects, with the project's resource importance, strategic contribution and threatened status given most consideration. Once a level of funding has been proposed in the annual President's Budget request to Congress, the USFS publishes a list of ranked FLP projects up to that level of funding. Congress uses the FLP list to determine the level of annual funding for FLP.

In FY 2015, the Forest Legacy Program was funded at \$53 million. Washington received \$4 million through FLP for the South Puget Sound Coastal Forest project located in Mason County. Washington was one of the first states to enroll in the Forest Legacy Program in 1990 and since then has received almost \$35 million in FLP funds to support forest protection.

### **State Wildlife Grants** **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<sup>26</sup>**

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants program is a matching grant program available to every state in support of cost-effective, on-the-ground conservation efforts aimed at restoring or maintaining populations of native species before listing under the Endangered Species Act is required. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this program, Congress required each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the conservation of the state's full array of wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. These plans identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps necessary to keep them from becoming endangered. The State Wildlife Grants program provides matching funds that are to be used to implement the conservation recommendations outlined in these state wildlife action plans.

Funds appropriated under the SWG program are allocated to every state according to a formula based on a state's size and population. Each state then determines the best use of their grant funds with the understanding that the money must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan/Strategy. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Strategy. Each state has its own process for the prioritization and distribution of these funds. In FY 2015, Washington was apportioned \$972,360 from this program.

### **Bonneville Power Administration** **US Department of Energy**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is a power-marketing agency of the United States Department of Energy and supplies roughly half of the electricity used in the Pacific Northwest. Pursuant to various laws and agreements, BPA bears responsibility for fish and wildlife preservation,

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<sup>26</sup> For more information: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>,

mitigation, recovery, and protection. Since 1980, BPA has incurred over \$6 billion in costs for its fish and wildlife obligations. As part of the implementation of the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program, which spans across a four-state region and is the largest environmental program of its kind in the world, BPA has protected by purchase or lease more than 787,000 acres during the period of 2005-2015.<sup>27 28</sup> In Washington, BPA also contributed \$725,000 from its internal mitigation fund for the purchase of 350 acres for the Mountains to Sound Greenway in 2002.

### **Transportation Alternative Program U.S. Department of Transportation<sup>29</sup>**

In 2012 Congress passed MAP-21, a two-year surface transportation reauthorization bill covering FY 2013 and FY 2014 – since that time, Congress has extended funding through the appropriations process. The bill consolidated several previous trail and recreation related programs into one pot: the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP includes many of the activities of the former transportation enhancements program (TE), the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Previously these programs received guaranteed sums as determined by Congress. However, now they receive a lump sum that is distributed via formula to the states within the umbrella of eligible activities. TAP will receive about \$815 million nationally for each of the two years.

The Transportation Alternatives Program continues enhancements funding for trail and bike projects and rail-to-trail conversions, but no longer funds land acquisition.

### **NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Department of Agriculture<sup>30</sup>**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides matching funds to assist in the purchase of development rights from willing sellers of easements on farms and ranches, grasslands, and wetlands. Grants are awarded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to states, local governments, and nongovernmental entities on a competitive basis, according to national and state criteria. NRCS funding of easements on farms and ranches typically will not exceed 50 percent of the fair market value and will require an equivalent non-NRCS match. For certain grasslands, NRCS may provide up to 75 percent of the fair market value. No match is required for the sale of an easement on a qualified wetland.

In FY 2014, Washington received \$1,995,339 in ACEP funding for conservation easements.

### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) U.S. Forest Service<sup>31</sup>**

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<sup>27</sup> BPA is in the process of developing a comprehensive database. Data from 2005-2015 is currently available for public use.

<sup>28</sup> Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program, <https://www.cbfish.org/>

<sup>29</sup> For more information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>,  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ProgramMgmt/TAP.htm>

<sup>30</sup> For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>



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The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program is a grant program that authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to provide financial assistance to local governments, Tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits.

Since 2012, the program has supported more than 20 community forest projects across the nation. Many of these projects offer opportunities for public recreation as well as sustainable forestry, wildlife and water quality protection, and environmental education.

Grants are awarded to eligible applicants for the fee acquisition of private forests from willing sellers to establish community forests. To be eligible for grant funding, a property must be threatened with conversion to nonforest uses, and it may be no less than five acres and 75 percent forested. Moreover, CFP projects must have a community forest plan that outlines the property's management.

A CFP grant may fund up to 50 percent of a project's total cost, including a property's acquisition and due diligence expenditures (e.g. appraisal, title exam, survey). The nonfederal share – which may include cash match, donation in value, or in-kind contributions – must be no less than the federal share.

Local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations must submit CFP applications to the State Forester of the state where the property is located. All Tribal applications must be submitted to the equivalent tribal official.<sup>32</sup>

Washington State has received at least four CFP grant awards since the debut grant round in FY 2012. Indeed, Nisqually Community Forest was one of just six projects across the nation to receive a grant in the most recent grant round (FY 2015).

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<sup>32</sup> Application forms and contact information for State Foresters may be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>.

## Local Revenue Options

Nationwide, a range of public financing options have been utilized by local jurisdictions to fund parks/open space preservation. These include general obligation bonds, local sales taxes, and the property tax. Less frequently used mechanisms have included special assessment districts, real estate transfer taxes, impact fees, and income taxes. In Washington, local government funding options for land conservation have primarily taken the form of budget appropriations, property taxes, general obligation bonds backed by property taxes, sales taxes, and less frequently, impact fees and the real estate transfer tax. Many communities also have had success in leveraging local sources with funds from Washington’s state conservation programs and some federal programs.

### Choosing a Funding Strategy

While most local governments can create funding for land conservation through their budgetary process, this either happens infrequently or does not yield adequate funding. In so-called “emergency room conservation” a city or county may rally to make an emergency appropriation to purchase a piece of land to avoid imminent loss to development or other use that impacts its natural or agricultural resource value. However, this is a high-risk strategy and one that often requires the local government to pay a high price to conserve land that is usually fully permitted.

In TPL’s experience, local governments that create funding via the legislative process provide substantially less funding than those that create funding through ballot measures. As elected officials go through the process of making critical budgetary decisions, funding for land conservation lags behind other public purposes, and well behind what voters would support. It is understandably often quite difficult to raise taxes without an indisputable public mandate for the intended purpose.

The power of conservation finance ballot measures is that they provide a tangible means to implement a local government’s vision. With money in hand, local governments can proactively approach landowners to negotiate with them to protect land now, before bulldozers are ready to plow it under, and before land prices rise sky high. With their own funding, local governments are much better positioned to secure scarce funding from state or federal governments or private philanthropic partners. Rather than being “stuck with the rest,” local governments can go out and “protect the best.” Having a predictable funding source typically empowers the city or county to establish conservation priorities that protect the most valuable resources, are geographically distributed, and otherwise meet important community goals and values.

Overall, voter support of local conservation finance measures in Washington has been mixed. Fifty percent of measures (35 of 70) on the ballot between 1996 and 2015 were approved, though the record has improved in recent years: Sixty-seven percent of measures (21 of 31) passed since 2004 and 75 percent of measures (9 of 12) passed since 2010. Success at the ballot is hampered somewhat in the state by the high approval threshold (60 percent of the vote) required for local bond measures. TPL and its affiliate The Conservation Campaign<sup>33</sup> have supported 19 local conservation finance measures in Washington, 14 of which were approved (a 73 percent success rate). See the subsequent section “Local Conservation Finance in Washington” for a full list of successful measures.

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<sup>33</sup> The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with TPL. TCC mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources.



However, conservation finance measures are not right for every local government or they might not be the right approach at the moment. Budget appropriations and other revenue sources that can be implemented through the legislative process may well serve as short-term funding options while parks and conservation proponents develop a strategy and cultivate broad support for longer-term finance options.

### **Dedicated Local Funding Sources**

Significant, dedicated funding generally comes from broad-based taxes and/or the issuance of bonded indebtedness. The following options present opportunities for financing land conservation in Chelan County:

- 1) Property Tax – Levy Lid Lift
- 2) Conservation Futures Property Tax
- 3) General Obligation Bond
- 4) Sales Tax
- 5) Real Estate Excise Tax
- 6) Special Purpose District

Each is described in detail below.

### **Property Tax in Washington**

As many of the proposed local revenue options involve the use of property tax, a brief introduction is provided below.

The property tax is one of the largest tax revenue sources for many local jurisdictions. Proceeds from this tax may be expended for parks and open space.<sup>34</sup> The property tax accounts for about 30 percent of total state and local taxes. The state property tax primarily supports “common” or K-12 public schools.<sup>35</sup> In Chelan County, property taxes support general activities and functions like government services, public safety health and human services and culture and recreation.

The taxable value of a property is 100 percent of its fair market value, less any exemptions that may be permitted.<sup>36</sup> All property is subject to reevaluation each year based on estimated market value. The individual taxing districts determine the amount of money needed and the county assessor calculates the tax rate necessary to raise that money.

The amount of property tax due on an individual property is based on the combination of tax rates and the state constitution, statutory levy limits set by the legislature and excess levies approved by the voters, and the assessed value of the property. However, there are several restrictions that affect how

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<sup>34</sup> “Property Tax,” Washington Dep’t of Revenue, at <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/property/default.aspx>.

<sup>35</sup> §84.52.043.

<sup>36</sup> Properties voluntarily enrolled in the Current Use Property Tax Assessment program are not assessed at fair market value. Instead, the program enables property owners to be taxed based on current use rather than market value for the following property categories: Open Space, Agriculture, Timber or Designated Forest Land.

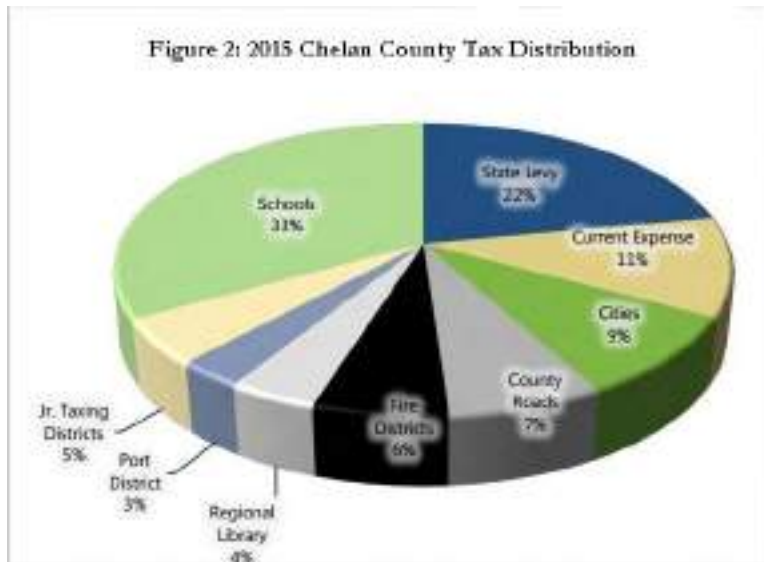
much property taxes may be increased—the constitutional limit, the aggregate levy limit, and the 101 percent revenue limit. Each is described below.

**Constitutional Limitation:** Pursuant to Article 7, Section 2 of the Washington Constitution and Section 84.52.050 of the state statutes, the total regular property tax levy may not exceed \$10 per \$1,000 of the assessed value of property. Should this limitation be exceeded, levies requested by junior taxing districts are proportionally reduced or eliminated according to a prioritized list contained in Section 84.52.010. Taxing entities in Washington rarely approach this constitutional limit.<sup>37</sup>

**Aggregate Levy Limit:** Within the \$10 per \$1,000 limitation, the aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior taxing districts may not exceed \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value (this limitation excludes the Conservation Futures levy).<sup>38</sup> Should this limitation be exceeded, levies requested by junior taxing districts are proportionally reduced or eliminated according to a prioritized list contained in Section 84.52.010.

**Revenue Limit (101 percent limit):** Each year regular property taxes are limited to the lesser of 101 percent of the highest levy in the three previous years, plus an additional amount to allow for new construction within the taxing district or inflation.<sup>39</sup> The limit may not be exceeded without majority voter approval through a levy lid lift.<sup>40</sup>

Figure 2 shows the distribution of Chelan County's property taxes in 2015.



<sup>37</sup> Tax Reference Manual, "Property Taxes," Washington Dep't of Revenue, at 134-35 (2002), at [http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2002/Tax\\_Reference\\_2002/Property.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2002/Tax_Reference_2002/Property.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> §84.52.043.

<sup>39</sup> §§84.55.005 to .125.

<sup>40</sup> §84.55.050. The ballot for the levy lid lift must specify the dollar rate proposed, any applicable conditions, and use of the funds.

## Property Tax – Levy Lid Lift

To increase county regular property taxes beyond the restrictions of the constitutional limit and the 101 percent revenue limit, counties may utilize a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of the electorate. This requires that the county's current expense property tax levy fall below the statutory maximum, which is \$1.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Chelan County's current regular levy of \$1.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value is currently below the limit.<sup>41</sup> **Chelan County potentially has capacity for a lift of up to \$0.53 per \$1,000 of assessed value.**<sup>42</sup>

Figure 3 shows estimated revenue and costs to households at varying tax rate increases.

A levy lid lift must be approved by a majority of voters at an August primary or November general election. The ballot for the lift proposition must state the dollar rate proposed (the levy rate is determined by the assessed value of the county) and must clearly state all conditions that are applicable. The proposition may limit the period of time for which the levy is applicable, but a limit is not necessary unless the proceeds are used for redemption purposes on bonds, in which case it may not exceed nine years. The proposition may also specify the use of the funds.

Figure 3: Estimated Revenue & Costs of Property Tax Increase				
Chelan County				
Tax Rate Increase	Taxable Assessed Value	Annual Revenue	Cost to 100K House	Cost / Avg. House
0.10	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$912,236	\$10	\$24
0.15	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$1,368,354	\$15	\$35
0.20	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$1,824,472	\$20	\$47
0.25	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$2,280,591	\$25	\$59
0.30	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$2,736,709	\$30	\$71
Sources: Taxable assessed value, Chelan County Levy Book 2015;				
median home price \$236,100, Q1 2014, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU.				

Chelan County may ask voters to increase the regular county property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters in the county at a general or special election. **For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy would generate approximately \$912,000 annually at a cost of \$24 per year to the average homeowner in the county.**

## Conservation Futures Tax

Counties are also authorized to levy a Conservation Futures Tax (CFT), a specific property tax, in an amount not to exceed \$0.0625 per \$1,000 of assessed value (or \$6.25 per \$100,000 value).<sup>43</sup> A CFT is levied outside of the aggregate levy limit – it does not affect the amount available to other taxing districts.

<sup>41</sup> Chelan County 2015 Levy Book, Accessed November 30, 2015, <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/assessor/archives-levy-books/2015.pdf>.

<sup>42</sup> The County Assessor would need to determine if there is capacity to increase taxes within the aggregate \$5.90 limit.

<sup>43</sup> §§84.34.220 to .250.



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Proceeds of the CFT may be utilized to acquire the development rights (or “conservation futures”) and other real property rights and interests of any open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land located within the county. Up to 15 percent of revenue generated by the Conservation Futures Tax may be utilized for maintenance and operations of any property acquired with the funds, but such revenue may not supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.

As of 2013, 13 Washington counties levy the CFT which was created by the Washington legislature in 1971. Many counties create a Conservation Futures Fund and administer a nominating program for the expenditure of the CFT revenue. Figure 4 contains a list of Washington counties that impose a Conservation Futures levy.

<b>Figure 4: Counties with Conservation Futures Levies</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Levy (2012)</b>
Clark	0.0625	2334692
Ferry	0.0625	39075
Island	0.05261	670543
Jefferson	0.04237	208562
King (Ltd)	0.02576	8182829
King (CIP)	0.02907	9233462
Kitsap	0.04564	1238191
Pierce	0.05134	3886205
San Juan	0.03511	281142
Skagit	0.05266	763313
Snohomish	0.04398	3370815
Spokane	0.04562	1708571
Thurston	0.04618	1186187
Whatcom	0.04205	989432

**A public vote is not required to impose the CFT and it is levied outside the aggregate levy limit.** The county could impose this tax via an ordinance or resolution of the Board of County Commissioners. The tax is subject to the constitutional 1 percent limit and capped by I-747 after the first year.<sup>44</sup>

**Implementing this tax at the maximum levy of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 would generate roughly \$570,000 annually and cost the average homeowner \$15 per year.**

<b>Figure 5: Estimated Revenue &amp; Costs of Conservation Futures Tax</b>				
<b>Chelan County</b>				
<b>Tax Rate Increase</b>	<b>Taxable Assessed Value</b>	<b>Annual Revenue</b>	<b>Cost to 100K home</b>	<b>Cost / Avg. House</b>
0.0625	\$ 9,122,362,233	\$570,148	\$6	\$15
<i>Sources: Taxable assessed value, Chelan County Levy Book 2015;</i>				
<i>median home price \$236,100, Q1 2014, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU.</i>				

<sup>44</sup> Personal conversation with Harold Smith, Washington Dep’t of Revenue, 360/570-5864, Sept. 18, 2007.

## General Obligation Bond

Chelan County could issue general obligation bonds for parks and open space and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds. For unlimited tax general obligation bonds, 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of general obligation bonds, which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election. **A \$5 million general obligation bond, payable over 20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$10 annually.** The county also has legal capacity to issue non-voted bonds payable from existing tax revenue. Bond proceeds are limited to capital projects and may not be used for operations and maintenance purposes.

As of FY2014, Chelan County has approximately \$215 million in debt capacity available, of which \$129 million may be issued without a public vote.<sup>45</sup>

Figure 6 illustrates the debt service and tax increase for a range of bond amounts that could potentially be issued in Chelan County.

Figure 6: Bond Financing Costs for Chelan County 20 year bond issued at 5.0% interest rate				
Bond Issue Size	Annual Debt Service	Tax Rate Increase	Cost/ Year / 100K. House	Cost / Year Avg. House
\$ 5,000,000	\$ 401,213	0.0440	\$4.40	\$10.38
\$ 10,000,000	\$ 802,426	0.0880	\$8.80	\$20.77
\$ 15,000,000	\$ 1,203,639	0.1319	\$13.19	\$31.15
\$ 20,000,000	\$ 1,604,852	0.1759	\$17.59	\$41.54
\$ 30,000,000	\$ 2,407,278	0.2639	\$26.39	\$62.30
Sources: Taxable assessed value: \$9,122,362,233, Chelan County Levy Book 2015; median home price \$236,100, Q1 2014, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU.				

## Sales and Use Tax

Chelan County does not have any capacity to impose additional sales and use tax for parks and open space, though it may dedicate a portion of existing sales tax revenue for parks and open space purposes.<sup>46</sup>

A public facilities district with boundaries coterminous with the county could levy a 0.2 percent sale and use tax for financing acquisition, operation and maintenance of public facilities including parks and recreation facilities.<sup>47</sup> It is unlikely that this method could be for land conservation purposes and it is not explored further in this report.

## Real Estate Excise Tax

In its unincorporated areas, Chelan County may levy a Conservation Areas Real Estate Excise Tax upon purchasers of real property of up to one percent to fund conservation areas. A majority of county voters must approve the tax at a specified rate and for a specified period of time.

Washington state, its counties, and its cities may impose a real estate excise tax (REET) when real property is convey within their jurisdiction. The state imposes a REET of 1.28 percent that funds K-

<sup>45</sup> 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

<sup>46</sup> Because the Board of County Commissioners may impose a sales and use tax via ordinance or resolution, it is inferred that the County Commissioners may dedicate a portion of existing sales and use tax revenue to land conservation via a resolution or ordinance. [See](#) §82.14.030.

<sup>47</sup> §82.14.048.

12 education and public works assistance.<sup>48</sup> Counties may impose three types of REET to fund capital projects, conservation areas, and affordable housing. The conservation areas REET may not exceed one percent of the selling price.

**Chelan County has authority under state statute to levy the additional conservation area REET upon purchasers of real property in its unincorporated areas, upon approval of a majority of voters.**

The money generated by an additional conservation REET could be used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas, defined as “land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations, and includes, but is not limited to, open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna.”<sup>49</sup> Only San Juan County has exercised its authority to levy this conservation area REET.<sup>50</sup>

**In 2014, imposition of the tax at a rate of ¼ of 1 (0.25) percent of the selling price would have added approximately \$590 to the purchase price to the sale of the average value home in the county (\$236,100) and would generate approximately \$500,000 in revenue.<sup>51</sup>**

### Special Purpose Districts

In Washington, special purpose districts are limited purpose local governments separate from a city, town, or county government. Generally they perform a single function, though some perform a limited number of functions. They provide an array of services and facilities including electricity, fire protection, flood control, health, housing, irrigation, parks and recreation, library, and water-sewer service. Most special purpose districts in Washington derive revenues from real property assessments and are called taxing districts.

Special purpose districts, such as park and recreation districts, park and recreation service areas, public facilities districts, metropolitan park districts, public utility districts, and water-sewer districts, may levy property taxes and/or assessments, or issue general obligation bonds for parks and recreational facilities. A public facilities district may also levy sales taxes. In general, approval of 60 percent of 40 percent of voters who participated in the last preceding general election is necessary to implement these financing mechanisms. In some cases formation of a district requires a petition signed by registered voters in the proposed district and subsequent approval by a majority of voters, though park and recreation service areas and public facilities districts may be initiated by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners

While there are some 80 different special purpose districts, the legislature has narrowly defined the purposes of these districts and their revenue authority. As such, it does not appear that authorization exists for creation of a special district that is specifically permitted to acquire land for open space

<sup>48</sup> §82.45.060.

<sup>49</sup> §36.32.570.

<sup>50</sup> [http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2010/Tax\\_Reference\\_2010/50reet.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2010/Tax_Reference_2010/50reet.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> Chelan County 2015 Budget, Accessed November 30, 2015.

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/auditor/documents/budget/years/2015/2015%20Budget.pdf>



purposes. However, there are two types of districts that may offer potential as a vehicle for conserving land in the watershed – they are a Parks and Recreation Service Area and a metropolitan park district.

A special district with boundaries coterminous of the county would result in the same revenue estimates and cost per household in options 1) Property Tax Levy Lid Lift and 3) General Obligation Bond.

### Supplemental Funds

Additional local revenue sources could be sought to supplement a county open space program, such as impact fees associated with development projects and recreation user fees. Impact fees, or monetary exactions other than a tax or special assessment, are levied by counties, cities and towns in connection with the approval of a development project to defray all or part of the cost of public facilities related to the development project. Public facilities include publicly owned parks, open space and recreational facilities; public streets and roads; school facilities; and fire protection facilities.<sup>52</sup>

In general, impact fees may not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service or facility and shall not be levied to make up for deficiencies in public facilities serving existing developments. Impact fees also may not be used for maintenance and operation. The local ordinance by which impact fees are levied must include a schedule of impact fees, which shall be adopted for each type of development activity based on a formula, or other such calculation that considers the cost, availability of other funding, amongst other items.<sup>53</sup> Proceeds from impact fees must be earmarked specifically and retained in special interest-bearing accounts, and must be expended or encumbered within 6 years of receipt.<sup>54</sup>

Drawbacks to impact fees include potential opposition from developers and affordable housing advocates, as the fees are generally passed on to buyers in the form of higher prices. Also, fees are often used in very specific locations, although they have in some instances been utilized to provide city and countywide services.

Other smaller local revenue sources exist to support a county parks and conservation program, such as donations, bequests, and philanthropic support, but have not been examined in this report. Within Washington, even the most successful land trusts and conservation organizations have very limited financial resources in comparison to formal, funded local government programs.

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<sup>52</sup> §82.02.090(7).

<sup>53</sup> §82.02.060.

<sup>54</sup> §82.02.070.



## Local Conservation Finance in Washington

Figure 7: Local Washington Conservation Finance Measures					
Approved by voters 1998-2015					
Jurisdiction Name	Date	Finance Mechanism	Total Funds Approved	Conservation Funds Approved	% Yes
Olympia	Nov-15	Property tax	\$60,000,000	\$20,000,000	56%
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Feb-15	Bond	\$5,900,000	\$5,670,000	70%
Seattle Park District	Aug-14	Property tax	\$958,000,000	\$40,000,000	53%
Metro Parks Tacoma	Apr-14	Bond	\$198,000,000	\$3,000,000	65%
Issaquah	Nov-13	Bond	\$10,000,000	\$2,000,000	77%
King County	Aug-13	Property tax	\$364,200,000	\$36,000,000	70%
Kirkland	Nov-12	Property tax	\$46,900,000	\$7,691,600	58%
San Juan County	Nov-11	Real estate transfer tax	\$16,320,000	\$16,320,000	53%
Northwest Park and Recreation District 2	Nov-10	Property tax	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	58%
Seattle	Nov-08	Property tax	\$145,500,000	\$50,697,000	59%
Bellevue	Nov-08	Property tax	\$40,500,000	\$12,000,000	67%
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Rec	Nov-08	Property tax	\$24,000,000	\$18,000,000	54%
Spokane County	Nov-07	Property tax	\$27,200,000	\$27,200,000	62%
King County	Aug-07	Property tax	\$105,000,000	\$84,000,000	59%
Issaquah	Nov-06	Bond	\$6,250,000	\$3,500,000	74%
Bellingham	May-06	Property tax	\$44,000,000	\$44,000,000	59%
Shoreline	May-06	Bond	\$18,795,000	\$10,000,000	70%
Metro Parks Tacoma	Nov-05	Bond	\$84,300,000	\$5,000,000	62%
Greater Clark Parks District	Feb-05	Property tax	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	50%
Gig Harbor	Nov-04	Bond	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	62%
Olympia	Sep-04	Other	\$45,000,000	\$30,000,000	57%
King County	May-03	Property tax	\$4,000,000		57%
Kirkland	Nov-02	Bond	\$8,400,000	\$1,000,000	64%
Spokane County	Nov-02	Property tax	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	60%
Bainbridge Island	Nov-01	Bond	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	68%
Seattle	Nov-00	Property tax	\$59,024,000	\$31,000,000	55%
San Juan County	Nov-99	Real estate transfer tax	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000	73%

## Funding Quilt Case Studies

Below are two examples of how communities in the West are leveraging multiple funding sources to acquire land for the protection of agricultural lands, water resources, and the provision of open space, and recreation.

### **Gallatin County, Montana** **Open Land Bonds**

Over the past 35 years Gallatin County, in the Northern Rockies, saw its population increase by nearly 140 percent. To respond to growth and the community's desire to protect working ranches, Gallatin County pursued the development of an Open Land Conservation System implemented through various county plans, task force reports and regulatory changes. The Gallatin County Open Lands Board, a 15-member citizens' advisory panel, in conjunction with the Gallatin County Commission, the Planning Department, federal conservation agencies, local land trusts, conservation organizations, including The Trust for Public Land, and other stakeholders provided input and information throughout the strategic planning process.<sup>55</sup>

To support the Open Land Conservation System, citizens were asked in 2000 and 2004 to authorize the county to sell up to \$10 million dollars in General Obligation Bonds, for conservation of agricultural and natural resource lands and water quality and quantity and to provide recreational opportunities. The voters overwhelmingly approved the two requests for a total of \$20 million. In FY 04 the county also began receiving revenues generated by the sale of Open Land license plates.

The county's Open Lands Board reviews and approves all open space expenditures. The county has been extremely successful in leveraging its local bonds with state and federal money, including matching funds from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), and from private donations, especially from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. To date the Open Lands Board has completed 22 conservation easements and three park projects. The value of completed easements is more than \$60 million. The county leveraged its investment of \$12 million in local bond funds for easements by nearly \$5 to \$1 through funding from state and federal agencies and private donations of money and land value.<sup>56</sup>

For example, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), together with Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLTL), Gallatin County Open Lands Board and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), completed a major conservation easement purchase, which protected 1,572 acres of farm and ranchland in the heart of the Gallatin Valley. The project was the largest conservation easement purchase ever funded in Montana through the FRPP. The easement, which has been appraised at \$2,170,000, was purchased for a bargain price of \$1,075,000. Funding for the purchase includes \$437,500 from the Gallatin County Open Space Program, \$537,500 from the FRPP, and \$100,000 from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation as part of its Greater Yellowstone Land Protection Initiative. The conservation easement, which significantly limits the future development potential of the property,

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<sup>55</sup> Gallatin County Open Land Board History and Strategic Plan, January 1, 2008.  
[http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/Public\\_Documents/gallatincomt\\_openlands/chapter1rebuild.pdf](http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/Public_Documents/gallatincomt_openlands/chapter1rebuild.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.



allows traditional farming and ranching activities to continue and will be held by the Gallatin Valley Land Trust for long-term monitoring and stewardship.

## **Boise, Idaho**

### **Foothills Conservation Levy**

For more than 30 years, Boise City officials, staff and citizens have thoughtfully considered plants, wildlife, rivers, slopes, recreation and public open spaces integral to the quality of life in their community. Numerous planning efforts have guided the city's growth and protected its natural resources, setting the table for an important community decision: How does the community protect public open space in the Boise foothills in the face of increasing development pressure? With leadership of the Mayor, City Council and a grass-roots community coalition, the citizens of Boise passed a \$10 million serial levy on May 22, 2001. The levy provides the city with an important tool to work with private property owners in conserving important open space corridors and creating a valuable public resource for future generations.<sup>57</sup>

The Foothills Conservation Advisory Committee, a 12-member body, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, makes recommendations for the permanent protection of natural open space in the Boise Foothills and ensures that levy funds are spent wisely. As of the end of 2007, the City of Boise has protected a total of 3,198 acres with a market value of more than \$27 million. The city leveraged its investment of \$6 million in local levy funds by nearly \$4 to \$1 through funding from state and federal agencies and private donations of money and land value.

In November 2015, 64 percent of voters approved a two-year property tax to protect habitat, water quality and natural areas. The measure is expected to generate \$10 million.

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<sup>57</sup> Excerpted from City of Boise.org. <http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Parks/Foothills/Conservation/History/page12101.aspx>

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