



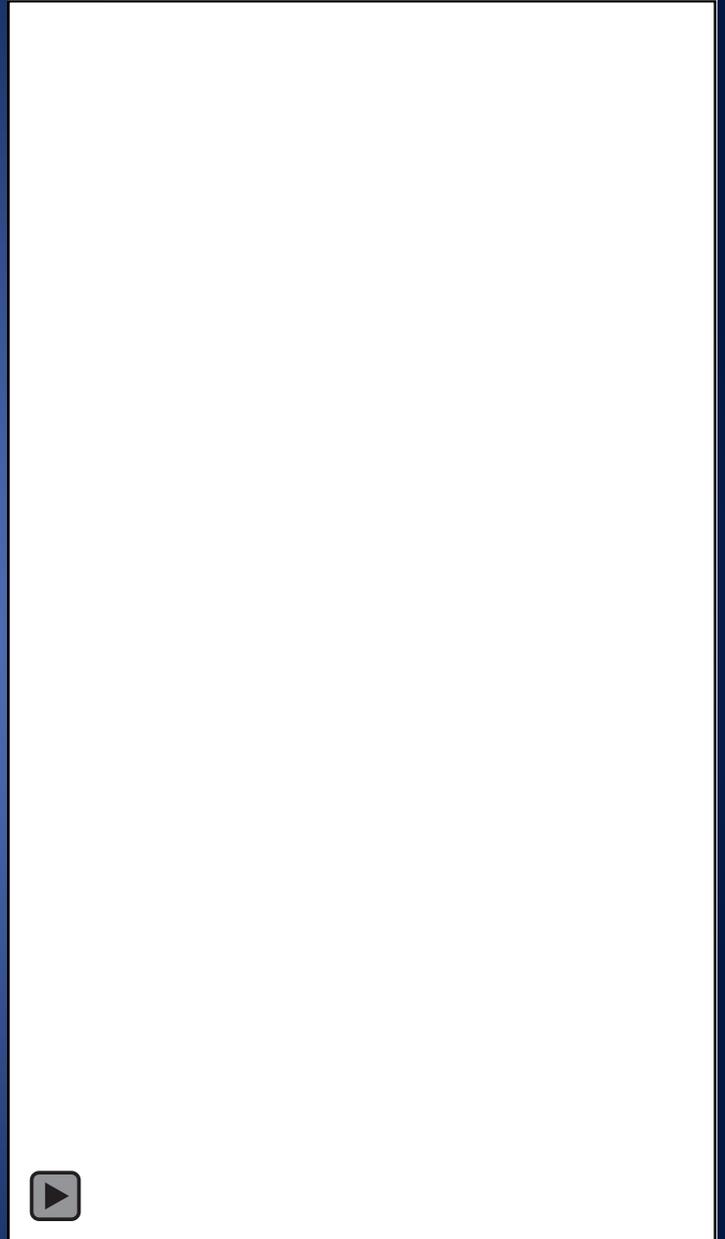
Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review

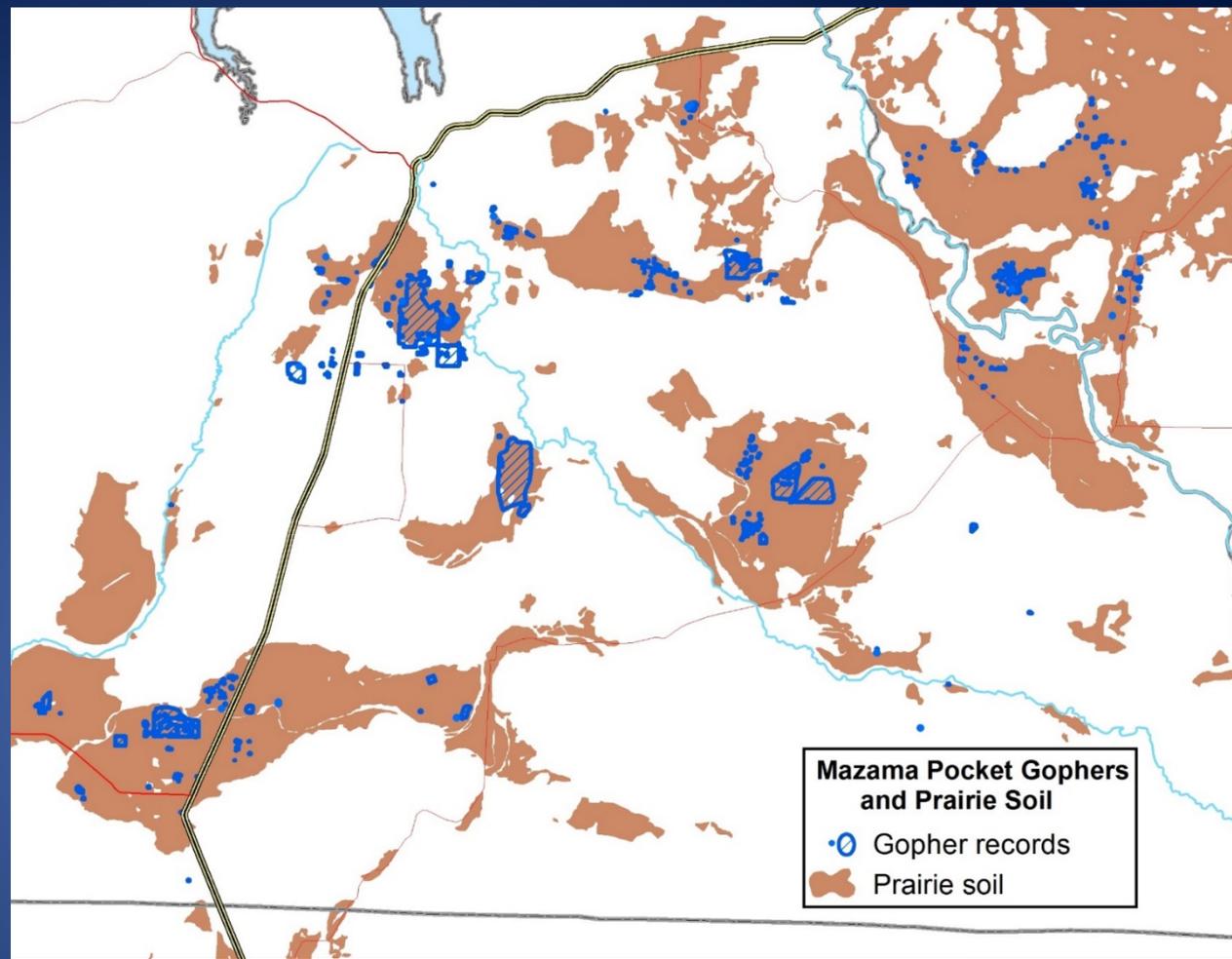


Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE



Keystone species

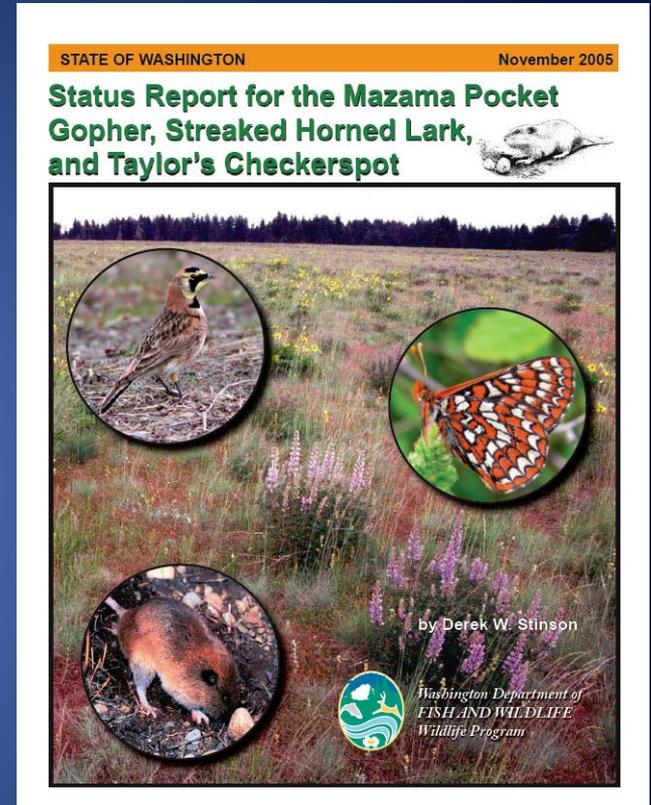




Historic – 8 subspecies in Washington

Current – 5 subspecies occurring on prairie soils in south Puget Sound and 1 in ONP

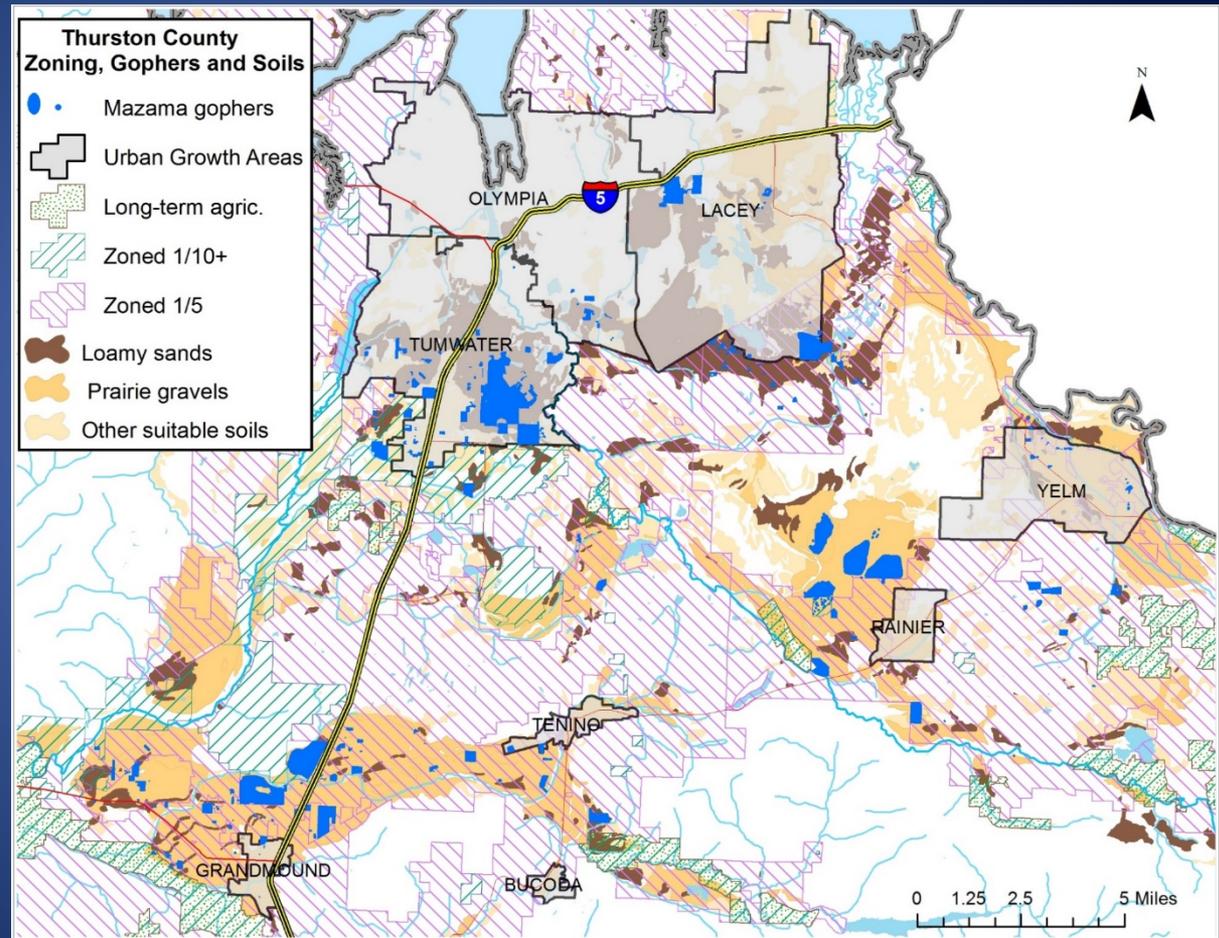
State and Federal Status



2006 – state-listed threatened at the species level
2014 – four subspecies listed as threatened under the federal ESA in Thurston and Pierce counties

Factors Affecting Populations

- Habitat loss, fragmentation, continued development
- Mortalities from roads, domestic pets traps, poisons
- Invasive vegetation, Scotch broom



Conservation & Management Actions

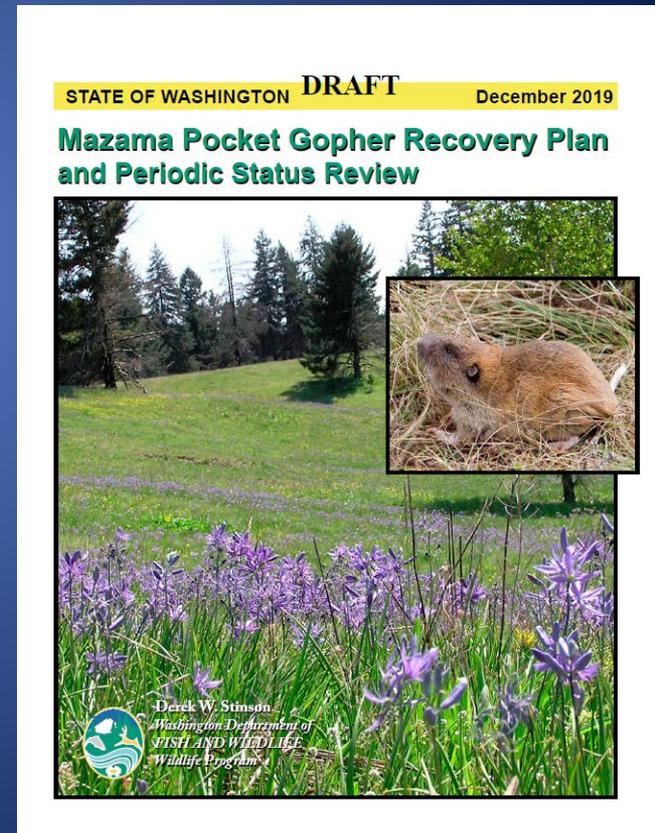
- Habitat protection and restoration
- Surveys & research
- Strong and longstanding collaboration



Recovery Plan

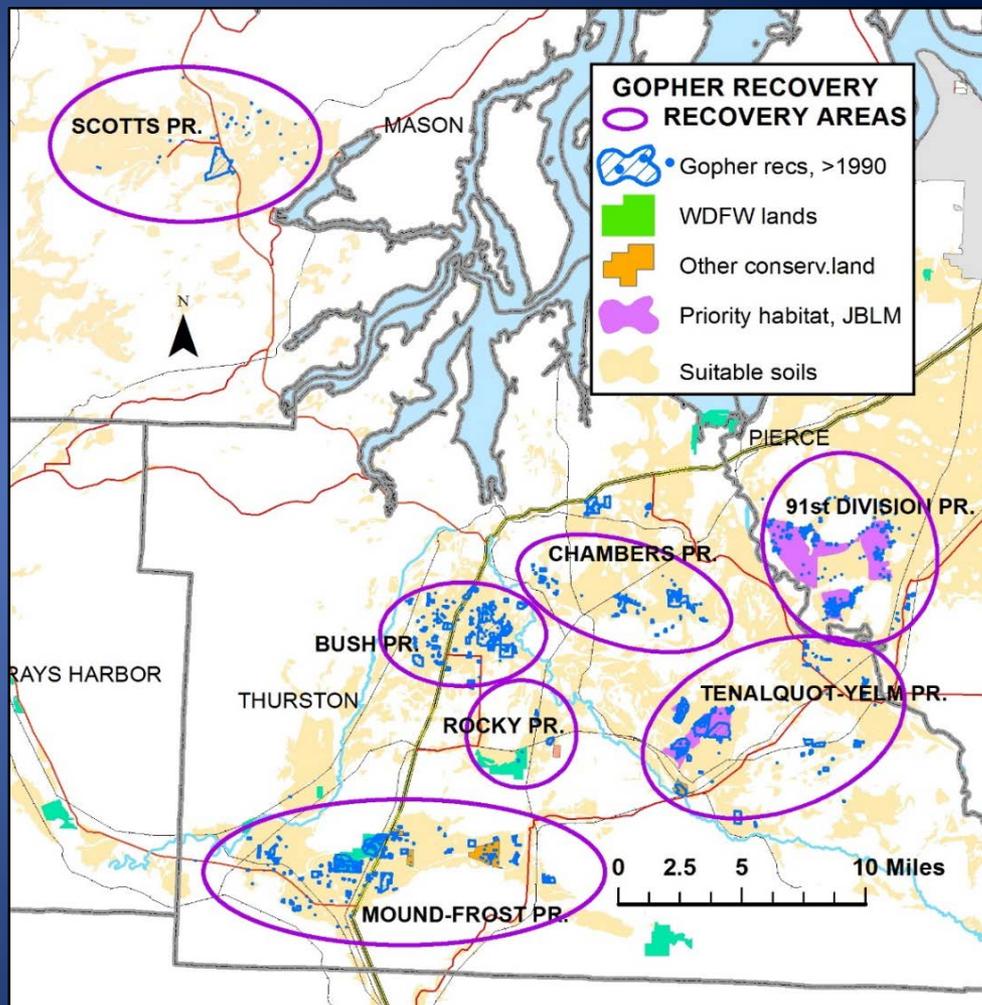
Goal: “to secure and maintain self-sustaining representative populations of all the distinct genetic groups ...”

Representation
Redundancy
Resilience



Recovery Objectives

Mazama pocket gopher populations persist on reserves in the 7 geographic areas encompassing the major genetic groups in South Sound.



Recovery Plan: Population Objective

Population Size: Populations of >1000 gophers were modeled to have a ~98% probability of persistence for ~50 years.

Population Density: limited data suggest 5-10/ac

Area needs: typically species occupy a portion of habitat at any time; assuming ~40%, then >1,000 MPG would need 250-500 ac.

Number of Populations: >1 population per area where possible

'Reserves' needed for recovery: reserve types

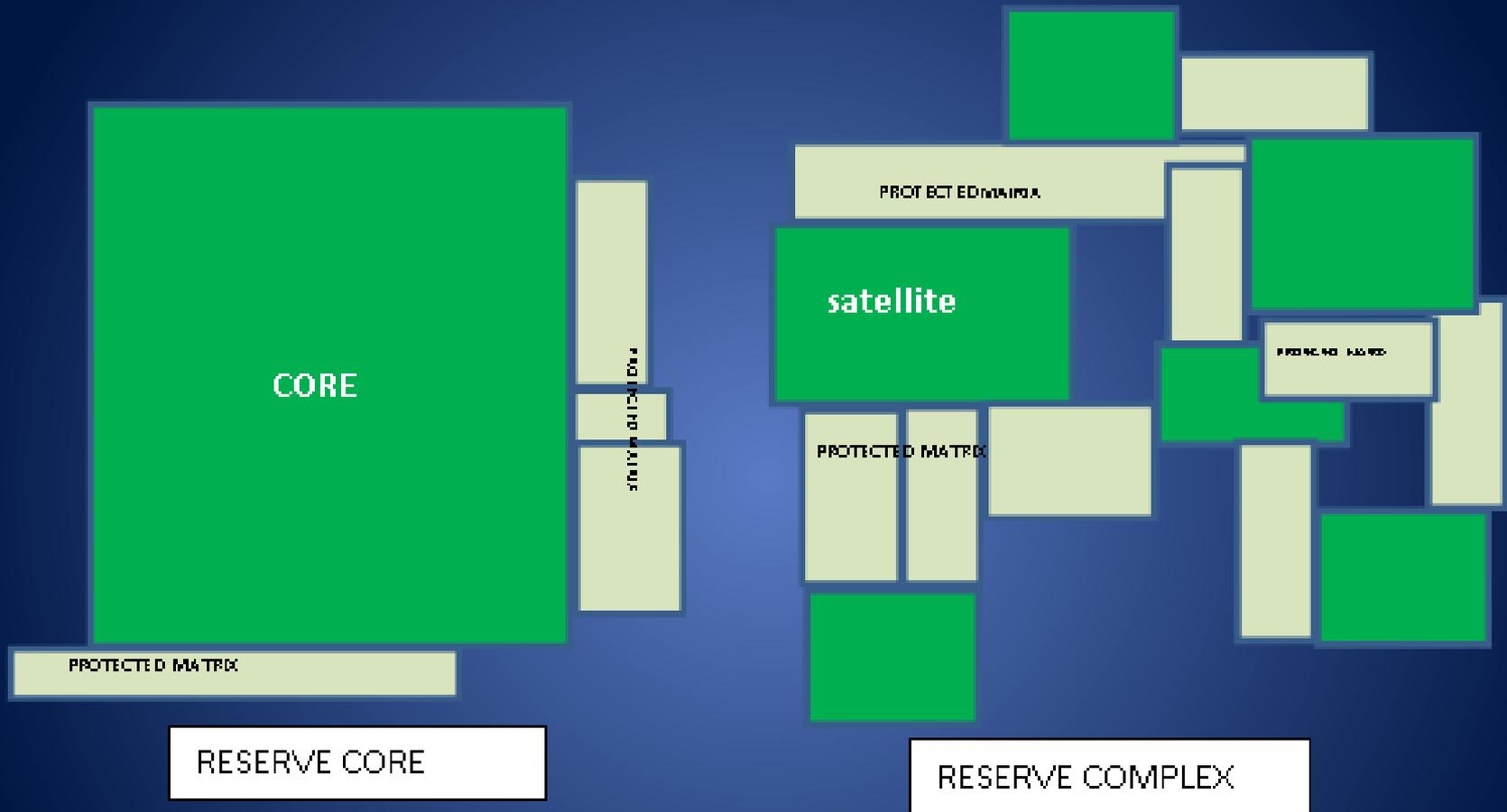
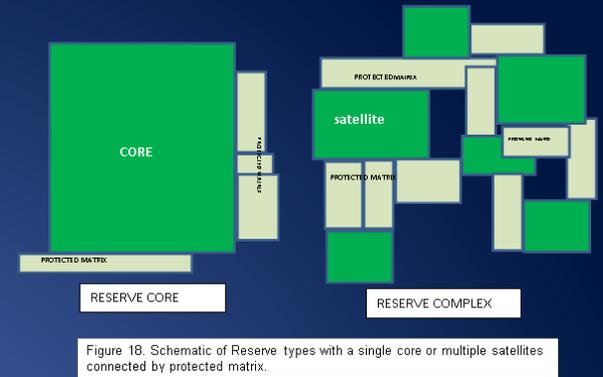


Figure 18. Schematic of Reserve types with a single core or multiple satellites connected by protected matrix.

Definitions



Reserves and Reserve Complexes:



Committed to perpetual management for MPG.
Development rights retired by easement or deed.

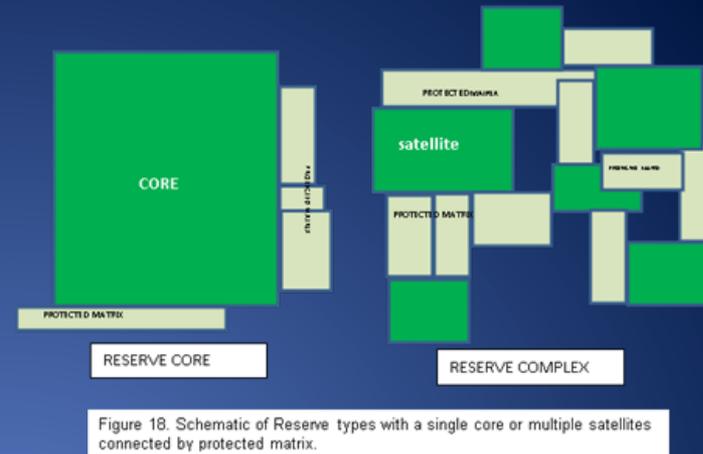
- **Reserve Cores and Reserve Complexes** contain enough suitable habitat with ‘preferred soil’ to support $\geq 1,000$ MPG
- **Satellites:** patch of protected habitat (≥ 10 acres) not large enough to support gopher persistence; connected by Protected Matrix

Definitions (cont'd)



Protected matrix: multi-use public lands (e.g. airports, parks) or private rural or low intensity ag. lands protected by easements or agreements; management compatible with gopher dispersal/occupancy.

Recovery Objectives



Down-list when: Each reserve /complex in ≥ 5 of 7 Recovery Areas supports $\geq 1,000$ gophers.

De-list when: Each reserve/complex in the 7 Recovery Areas supports a population of $\geq 1,000$ gophers for a 20 year period.

Recovery Plan: # of reserves

Genetic group / Recovery Area	# Reserves for down-list	# Reserves for de-list
1. T. m. pugetensis	2	3
2. T.m. tumuli	1	2
T.m. yelmensis group		
3. Mound-Frost Prairies	2	3
4. Tenalquot-YelmPr	1	2
5. Chambers Pr	1	1
6. T.m. glacialis (Pierce Co.)	2	3
7. T.m. couchi (Mason Co.)	1	2

Recovery Plan: # of reserves

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7. T.m. couchi (Mason Co.)	1	2

Status Recommendation:

Retain threatened status

Public Comments:

5 ½ supported
listing/recovery action

11 ½ did not support



Questions?

