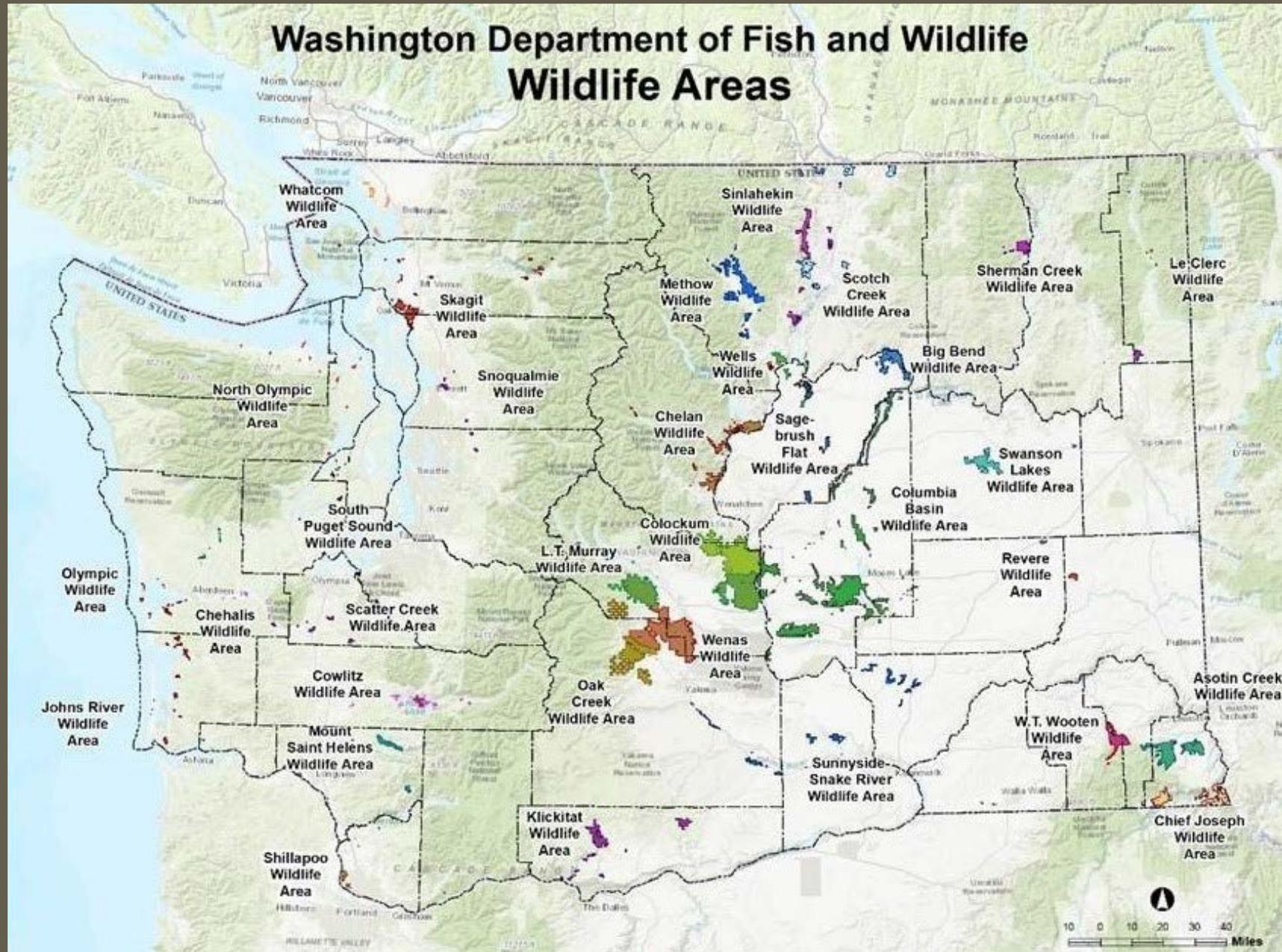


Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Areas



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
February 26, 2021 WDFW Commission Meeting Presentation

WILDLIFE AREA PLANNING OVERVIEW

By Lauri Vigue, Wildlife Area Planner



*Washington
Department of*
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

**NEW WILDLIFE
AREA PLANS
COMPETED**

- Swanson Lakes and Revere
- Scotch Creek & Sinlahekin
- Klickitat
- Oak Creek
- Snoqualmie
- Chelan
- Mount St Helens
- Blue Mountains
- Sunnyside/Snake River
- Scatter Creek

PURPOSE

- Sets vision (10 years)
- Considers public and stakeholder input
- Ensures lands are managed consistent with mission and funding obligations
- Identifies priority actions and plans for implementation
- Integrates fish, habitat and wildlife programs

WHAT'S NEW?

- Landscape approach
- Forest Management
- Ecological integrity
- Climate change
- Expanded public outreach
- Cross-program/division collaboration

EXPANDED PUBLIC PROCESS

New Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

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graph TD; A[New Wildlife Area Advisory Committee] --> B[Two public meetings/workshops]; B --> C[Three Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings]; C --> D[SEPA 30-day public review];
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Two public meetings/workshops

Three Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings

SEPA 30-day public review

SCATTER
CREEK
WILDLIFE
AREA
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Name	Representing
Bill Brookreson	Washington Native Plant Society
Sharron Coontz	Friends of West Rocky Prairie
Vacant	Center for Natural Lands Management
Joan Fleming	Back Country Horseman
Diane Holbrook	Neighbor
Jim Knowles	Pheasants Forever
Jackie Lovette	Neighbor/dog trainer
Mara Healey	Thurston Conservation District
Cal Palmer	Northwest Field Trial Council
Elizabeth Rodrick	Black Hills Audubon
Robert Scott	West Thurston County Regional Fire Authority
Diane Snyder	Scatter Creek Stables
Kurt Snyder	Washington Waterfowl Association
Bill Wamsley	Local citizen
Tim Wilson	Thurston County Weed Board
Thom Woodruff	Capitol Land Trust



Scatter Creek Wildlife Area

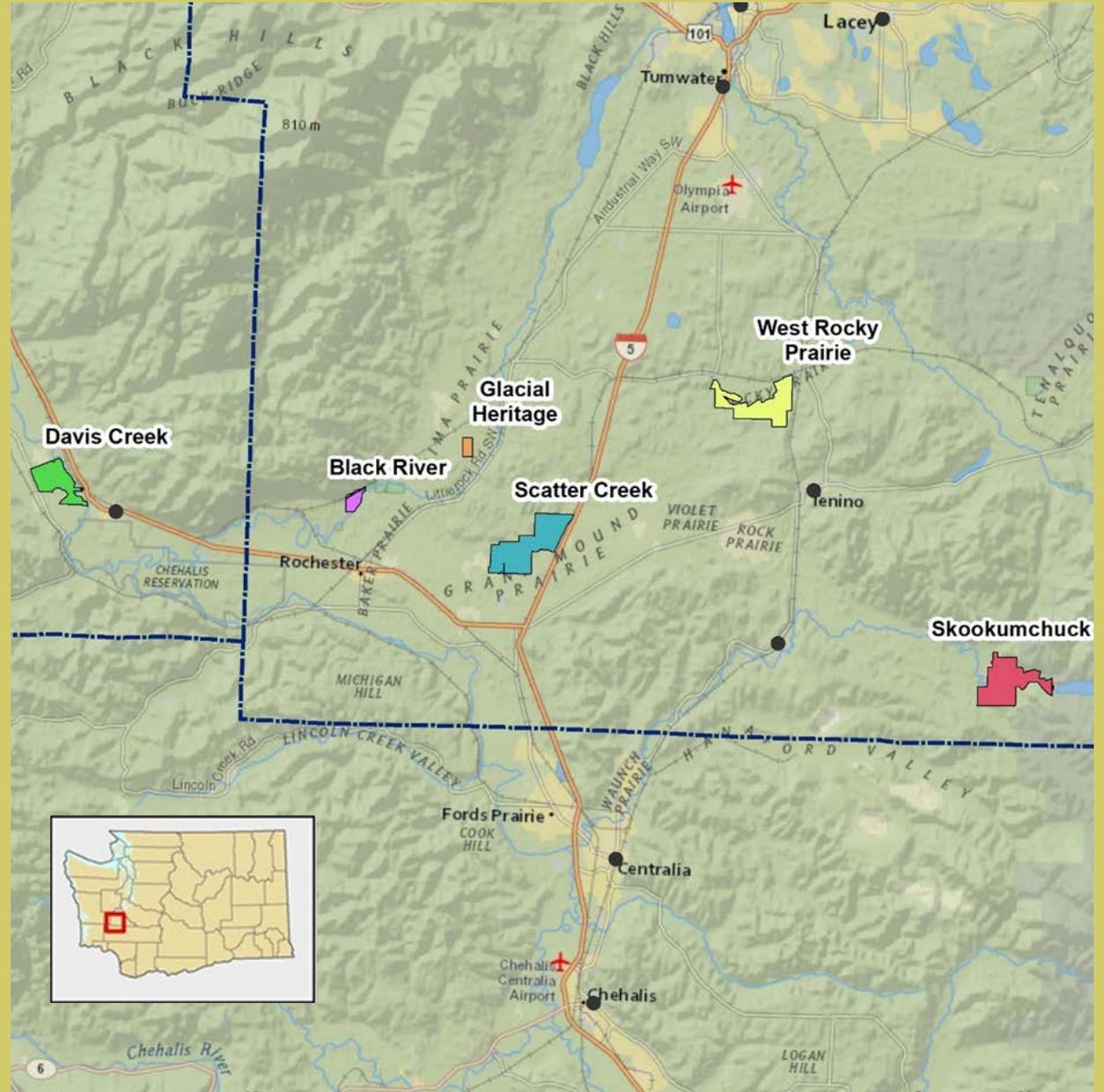


WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

Darric Lowery, Wildlife Area Manager



The Scatter Creek Wildlife Area consists of 3,596 acres on six units in Thurston and Grays Harbor counties.





VISION

We envision resilient prairie, oak woodlands, and wetland habitats that support diverse native flora and fauna unique to the Chehalis Basin and South Puget Sound, while providing quality recreation, education, and research opportunities.

OVERVIEW OF THE WILDLIFE AREA

The primary focus on these units is prairie conservation and restoration, elk habitat enhancement, floodplain conservation, and recovery of federal and state listed species.

Units are managed for outdoor recreation and protection of specific species and their habitats. The wildlife area supports recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, walking, photography, horseback riding, dog training and trials, hunting, and fishing.

Unit	Grant source	Purpose
Black River	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service— Pittman Robertson	Fishing & hunting access
Davis Creek	USFWS – NAWCA, Duck Stamp	Fishing & hunting access
Glacial Heritage	Recreation Conservation Office – WWRP	Threatened and endangered species and protection of South Puget Sound prairies
Scatter Creek	Land and Water Conservation Fund/Wildlife Funds	Small game hunting
Skookumchuck	Agreement with TransAlta	Mitigation lands, fishing & hunting
West Rocky Prairie	USFWS – Section 6, NAWCA; RCO WWRP	Threatened and endangered species



SUCCESS STORIES

Prairie Oak Restoration

Oregon spotted frog recovery
and partnerships

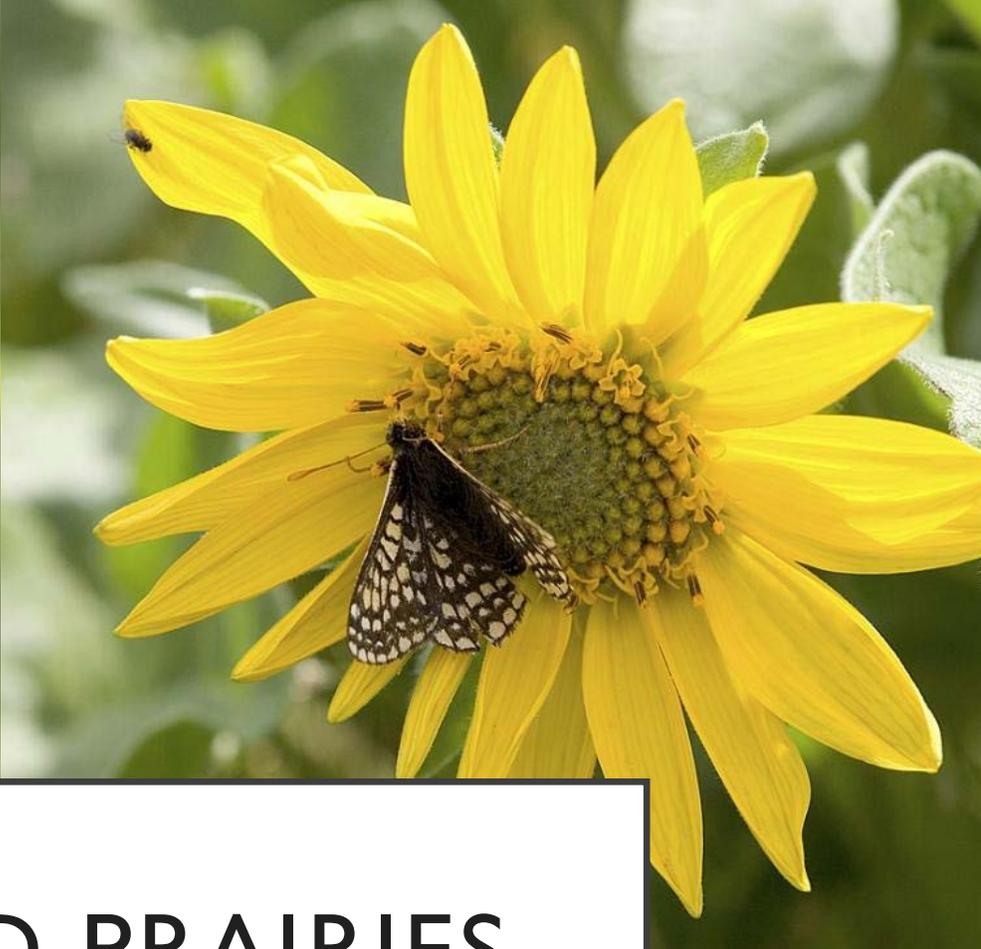
Hunt dog field trials

Fire recovery



FOCAL SPECIES

- Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
- Pollinators
- Mazama pocket gopher
- Oregon spotted frog
- Olympic mudminnow
- Black-tailed deer/Roosevelt elk
- Waterfowl



SOUTH PUGET SOUND PRAIRIES



PLAN GOALS

- *Improve ecological integrity*
- *Achieve species diversity at levels consistent with healthy ecosystems.*
- *Protect and restore Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) butterfly habitat and species populations.*



IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- *Monitor habitat condition*
- *Restore prairie and oak woodlands*
- *Increase weed management*
- *Improve riparian and forest health*
- *Reduce fuels and wildfire risk*
- *Secure additional funding*

ACHIEVE SPECIES DIVERSITY

Mazama pocket gopher

Oregon spotted frog

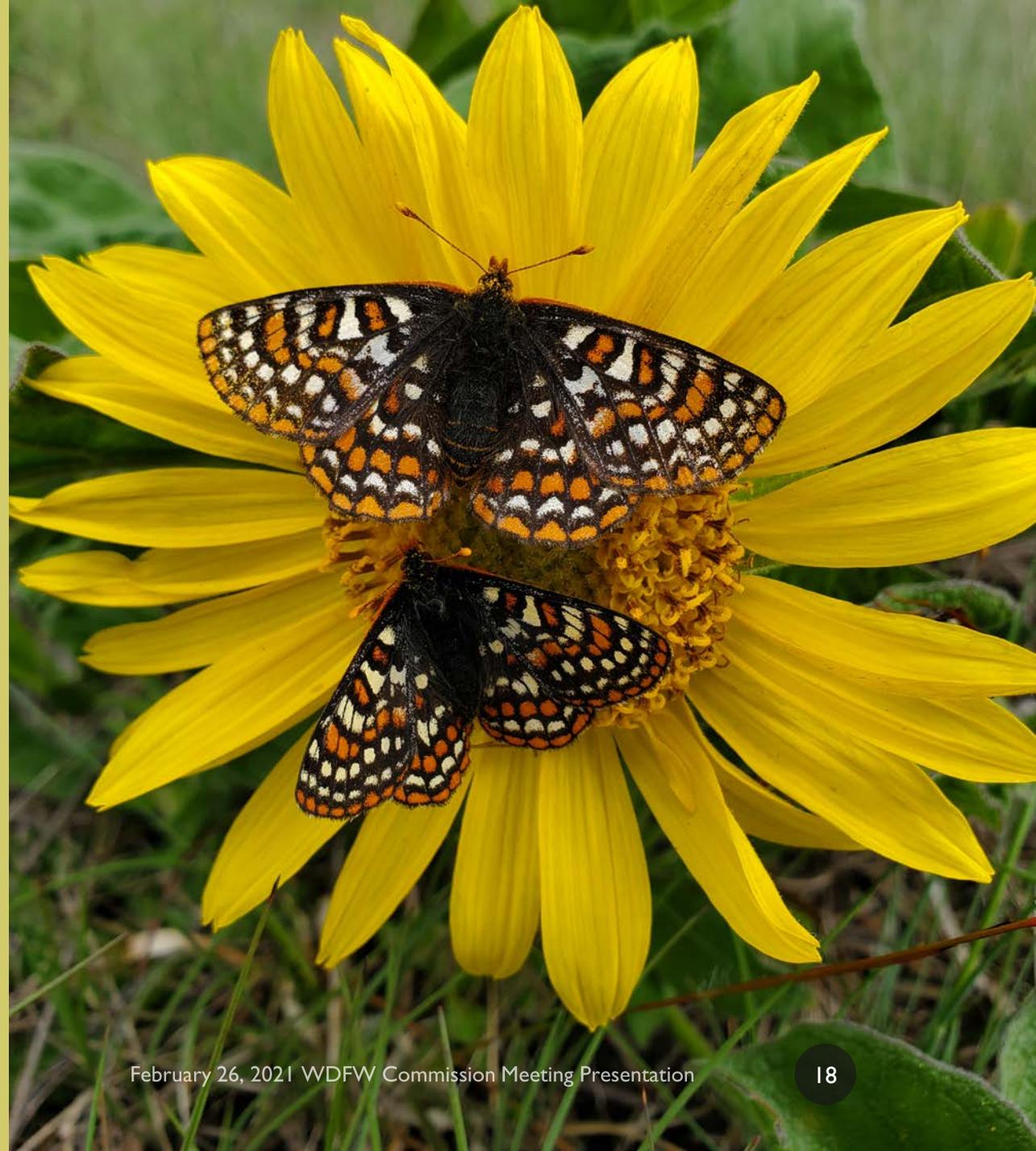
Oregon vesper sparrow

Olympic mudminnow

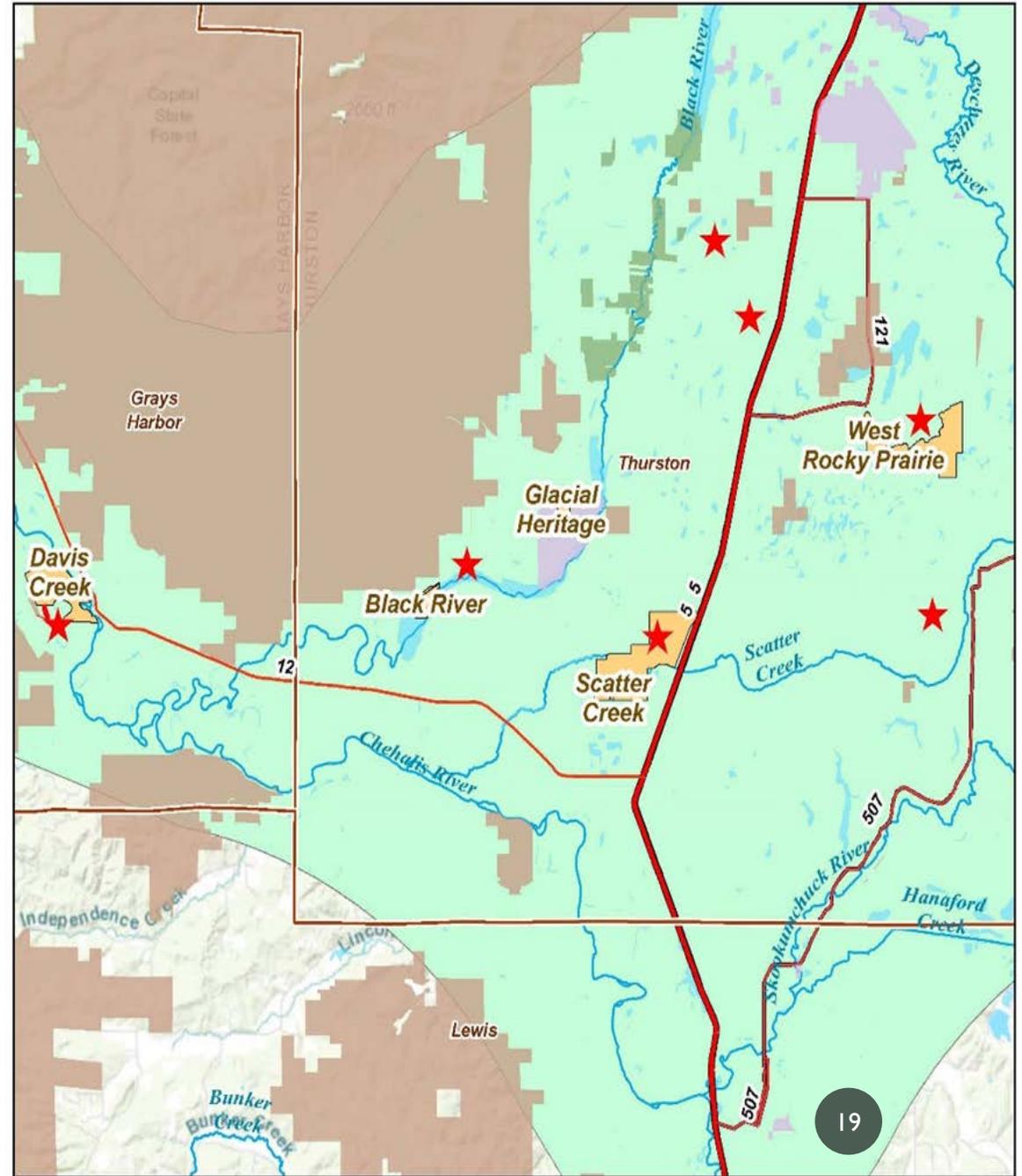
Western gray squirrel

Water howellia

9 butterfly species



ACQUISITION OF HIGH-QUALITY OAK- PRAIRIE AND RIPARIAN HABITAT





PLAN GOALS

- *Maintain and enhance waterfowl and game bird habitat.*
- *Maintain and enhance elk habitat and provide recreation opportunities.*
- *Maintain and restore riparian and wetland habitat.*



MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE GAME HABITAT

Elk

Waterfowl

Pheasants

Band-tailed pigeons

Morning doves



MAINTAIN AND RESTORE RIPARIAN HABITAT

- *Correct Fish passage barriers*
- *Stream restoration*
- *Improve instream habitat complexity*
- *Install and enhance Oregon spotted frog breeding ponds*
- *Encourage beaver dam creation*



PLAN GOALS

- *Support and maintain appropriate recreation opportunities*
- *Offer multiple and varied opportunities for stakeholder participation and engagement.*
- *Maintain productive and positive working relationships with neighbors, partners, and permittees.*

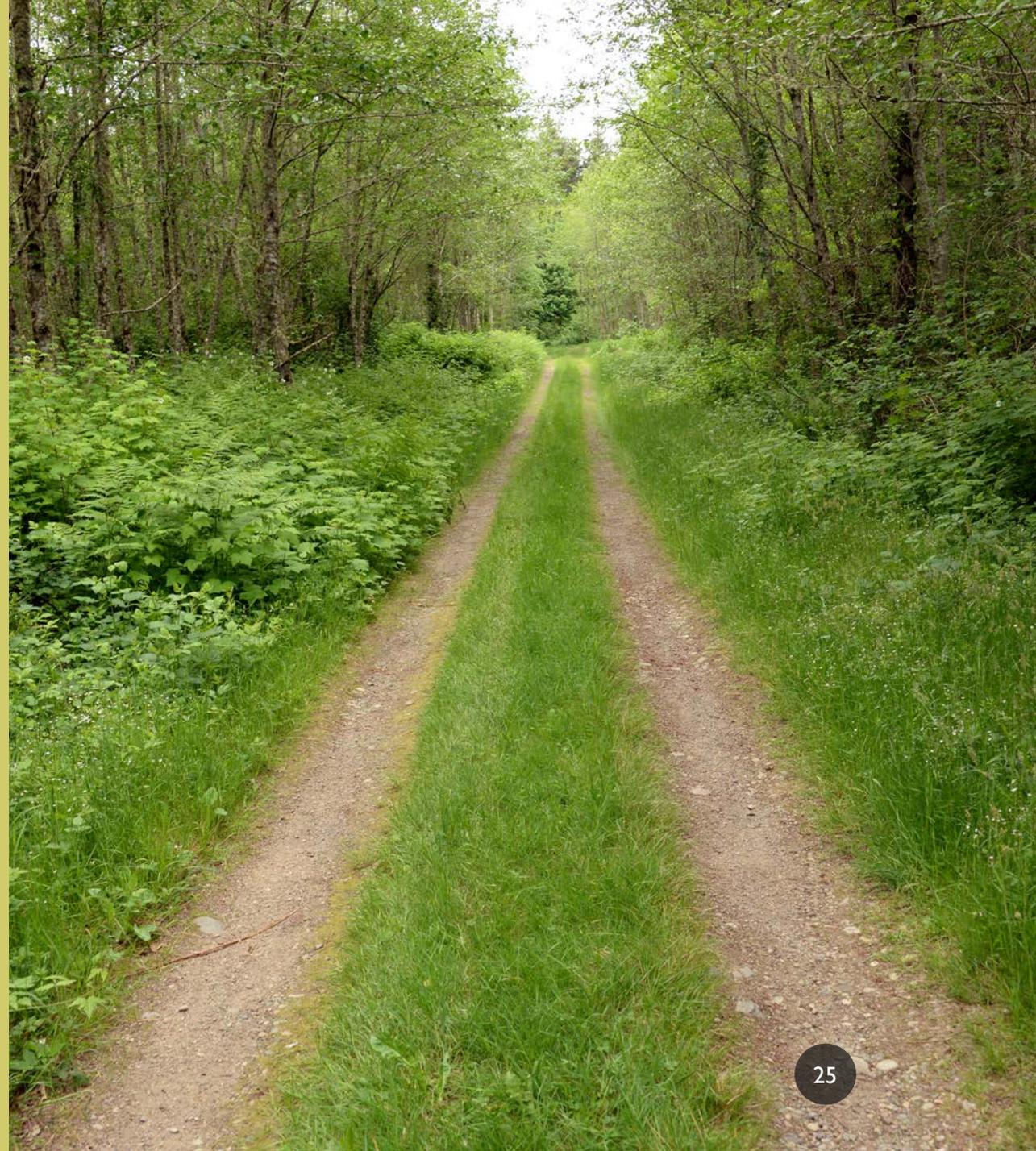
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- *Develop and distribute information for hunters*
- *Improve recreational infrastructure*
- *Resolve user group conflicts*
- *Improve field trial opportunities*
- *Construct duck blinds and improve ADA accessibility*



TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

- *Inventory, assess, and maintain existing trails*
- *Develop new recreational trails*
- *Enhance horseback riding resources*
- *Improve fishing access*
- *Develop wildlife viewing guide and story map*





HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

- *Continue the pheasant release program*
- *Conduct turkey surveys and promote turkey hunting opportunities accordingly*
- *Provide, maintain, and improve upon existing hunting opportunities*



OFFER MULTIPLE AND VARIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- *Coordinate and maintain the WAAC*
- *Coordinate communication with community members, groups, and neighbors about wildlife area management activities*
- *Develop a volunteer program*
- *Work with local community business and tourism associations*



MAINTAIN POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORS, PARTNERS AND PERMITEES

- *Develop a Wildfire Management Plan*
- *Maintain agricultural lease on Davis Creek*
- *Collaborate with partners on future management of Glacial Heritage Unit*
- *Work with TransAlta on future management for the Skookumchuck Unit*



PLAN GOALS

- *Properly train, equip, and license WLA staff to meet operational and management needs of the WLA.*
- *Maintain safe, highly functional, and cost-effective administrative facilities and equipment.*
- *Investigate and improve the cultural ecosystems represented by prairies and oak woodlands and savannahs.*



PROPERLY TRAIN, EQUIP, AND LICENSE STAFF TO MEET OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF THE WILDLIFE AREA

- *Increase staff capacity – to meet current and future needs.*
- *Identify resources for additional O&M funding – investigate sources of funding.*



MAINTAIN SAFE, HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL, AND COST-EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- *Reduce illegal dumping, trespass, theft, and vandalism*
- *Provide education and outreach material to the public to reduce pets off leash conflicts*
- *Develop a strategy and implement the removal and/or preservation of buildings*



INVESTIGATE AND IMPROVE THE CULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS REPRESENTED BY PRAIRIES AND OAK WOODLANDS AND SAVANNAHS

- *Develop an awareness of cultural ecosystems*
- *Monitor traditional management technique test plots*
- *Implement traditional tending and harvest activities*
- *Facilitate tribal access for cultural practices*



QUESTIONS?