

4. LAND TRANSACTIONS

MARCH 2022

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Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

3/18/2022

Agenda item:

4. Land Transactions

Presenter(s):

Karen Edwards – Real Estate Manager

Background summary:

Item 1: Proposed Acquisition of 1,035(+/-) acres in Thurston County – Violet Prairie/Scatter Creek WLA

This phase 1 proposal of the Violet Prairie property is to acquire the first 1,035(+/-) acres of the larger 1,567(+/-)-acre property of intact, prairie-oak woodland and wetland habitat. The property adds significantly to the protected area of the Scatter Creek watershed, a main hub in Thurston County's prairie oak conservation network, and will be managed as part of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. The key benefits include protecting occupied habitat for the federally threatened Mazama pocket gopher, the Puget blue butterfly, Taylors checkerspot butterfly, as well as many other species. The property will complement the current wildlife area management plan and greatly increase compatible public recreational opportunities, including hunting (resident elk herd inhabits the property), hiking and wildlife viewing.

Approved through Lands 20/20 in 2016, the appraised value of phase 1 is \$7,775,707, which will be provided through a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Critical Habitat grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and two Cooperative Endangered Species grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Conservation Fund has been a critical partner on this project.

Item 2: Proposed Acquisition of 1,513(+/-) acre in Douglas County – Central Ferry Canyon/Wells WLA

This proposal of the Barclay Crane property is to acquire 1,513(+/-) acres of wildlife habitat in Douglas County to protect and conserve shrubsteppe obligate species. This project will be added to the Central Ferry Canyon Unit of the Wells Wildlife Area and consists of extensive shrubsteppe habitat for mule deer and Columbian sharptailed grouse, and habitat for the conservation of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit and Washington ground squirrel.

Approved through Lands 20/20 in 2018, the appraised value of this acquisition is \$580,000, which will be provided through a Cooperative Endangered Species grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Item 3: Proposed Acquisition of 94 (+/-) acres in Pacific County – Nemah Tidelands

This proposed acquisition is to acquire 94 (+/-) acres in Pacific County. A unique opportunity to secure and provide recreational access to the Nemah beach and over 300 acres of tidelands. This property would provide direct public access for shellfish harvest by way of adjacent uplands that include nearly a mile of Willapa Bay shoreline. The tidelands in this area are noted as some of the best in the state for hard shell clams and also provide opportunity for oyster harvest.

Approved through Lands 20/20 in 2018, the appraised value of this proposed acquisition is \$564,000, which will be provided through an RCO WWRP Recreational Water Access grant. Operation and Maintenance for this site will be provided by the already existing Region 6 Water Access maintenance team.

Item 4: Proposed Transfer of 3.5 (+/-) acres in Snohomish County – Sportsman’s Park to the City of Sultan

The Department is requesting the transfer of a 3.5 (+/-) acre parcel from WDFW to the City of Sultan. This parcel is located within Sportsman’s Park, Sultan River, near the city of Sultan in Snohomish County.

An agreement has been in place with the City of Sultan since March of 1991 granting the City the right to operate and maintain the Sultan River access area for public fishing, boat launching and other appropriate public uses. In 2019, the City of Sultan contacted WDFW expressing an interest in the transfer of the property to provide seamless service to visitors to the park.

The City of Sultan owns adjacent property and is eager to manage both as a public park. RCO, who was the original funder, has agreed to the transfer of the property provided that the City assume the responsibility as sponsor of the RCO funding grant for this property. The City has agreed to do so.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend approval of these land transactions.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Operations and Maintenance costs.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of land transactions as presented.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to approve the land transactions as presented by staff.

Is there a “second”?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

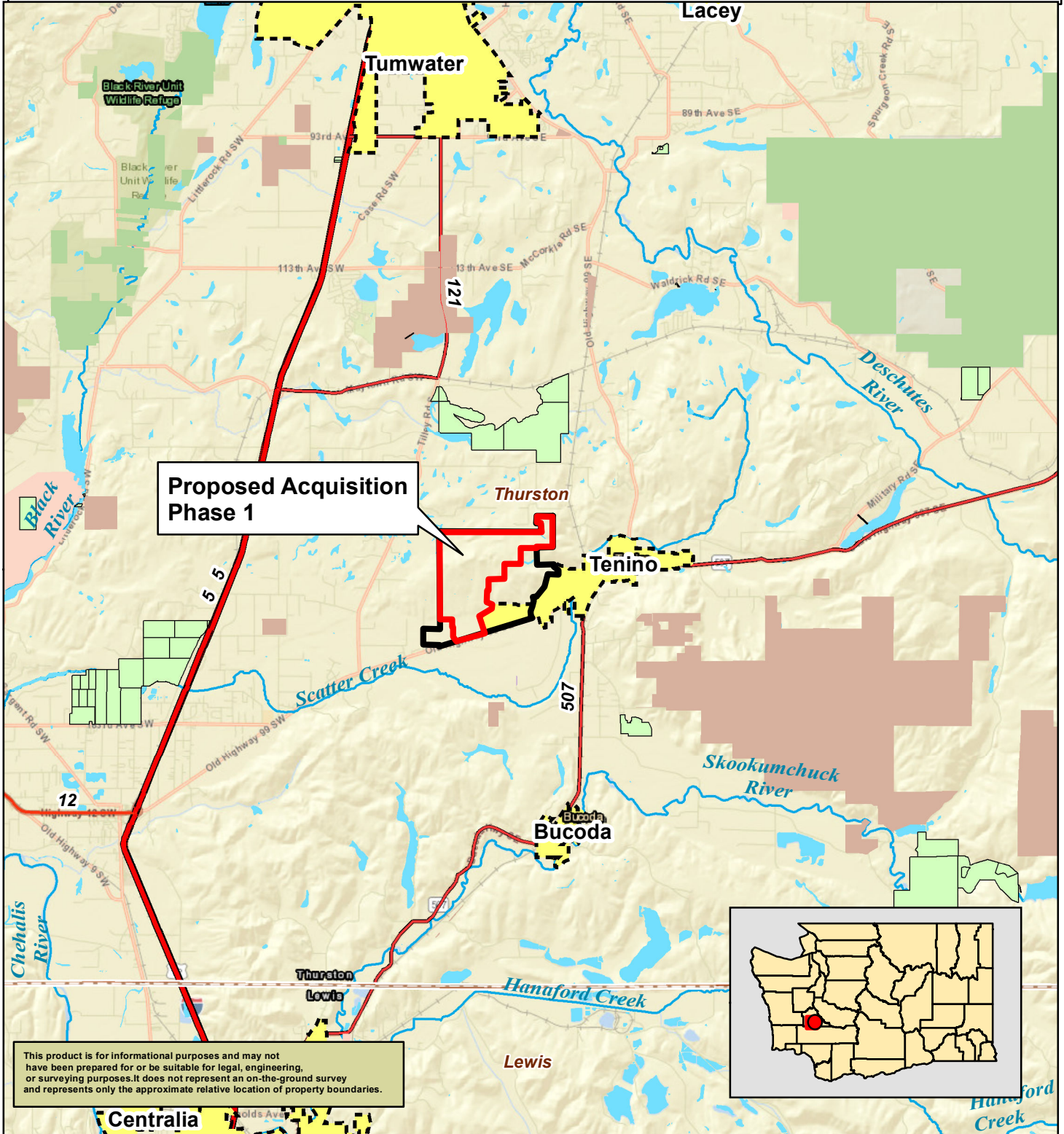
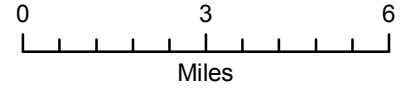
WDFW will distribute a press release informing the public of this action.

ITEM 1: PROPOSED ACQUISITION, VIOLET PRAIRIE

THURSTON COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTIONS 13, 23, 24, & 26 TOWNSHIP 2N, RANGE 24E, W.M.
SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 16N, 2E, W.M.

ACRES: 1,035 (+/-)



Proposed Acquisition Phase 1

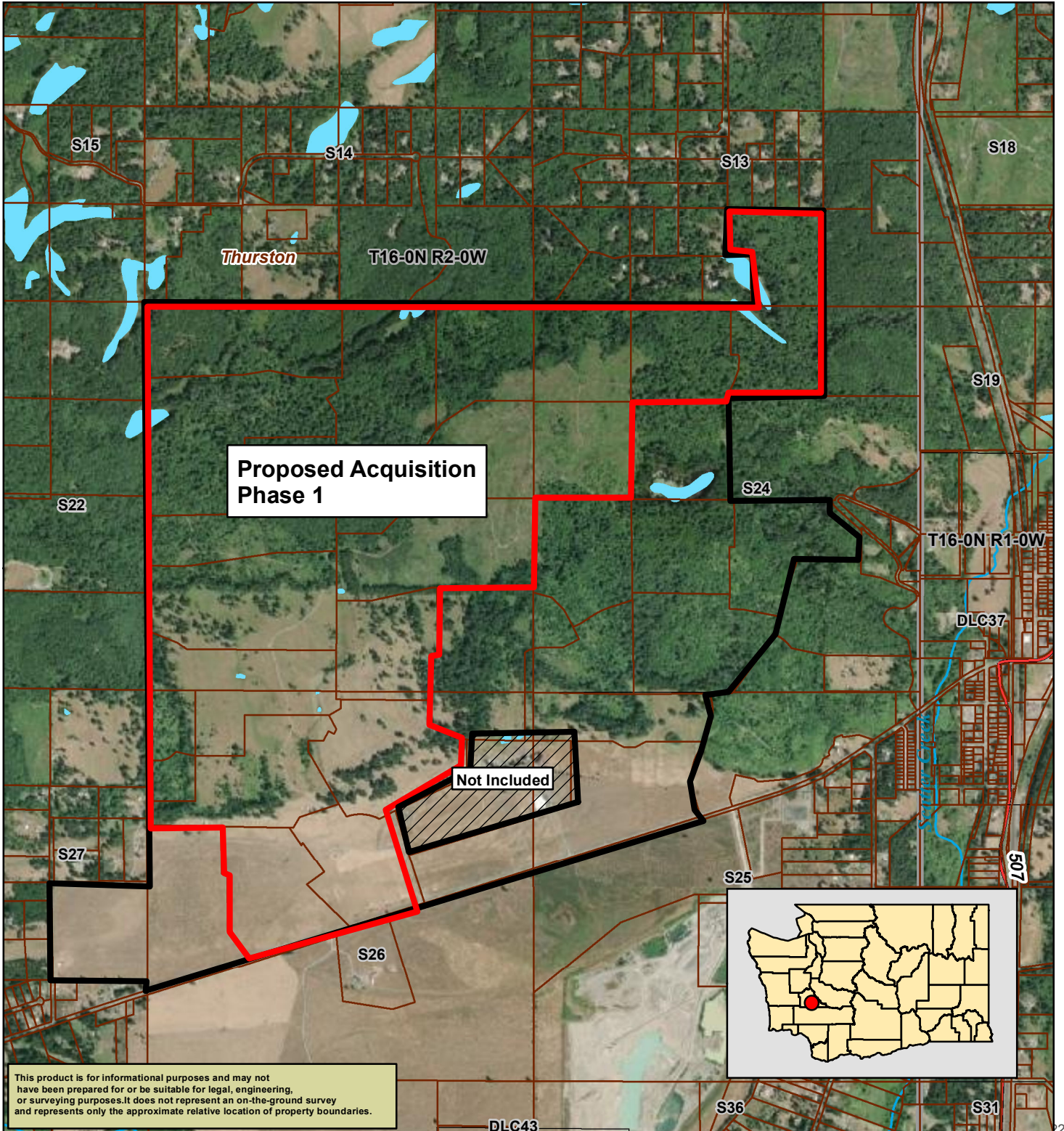
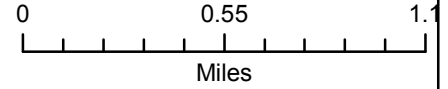
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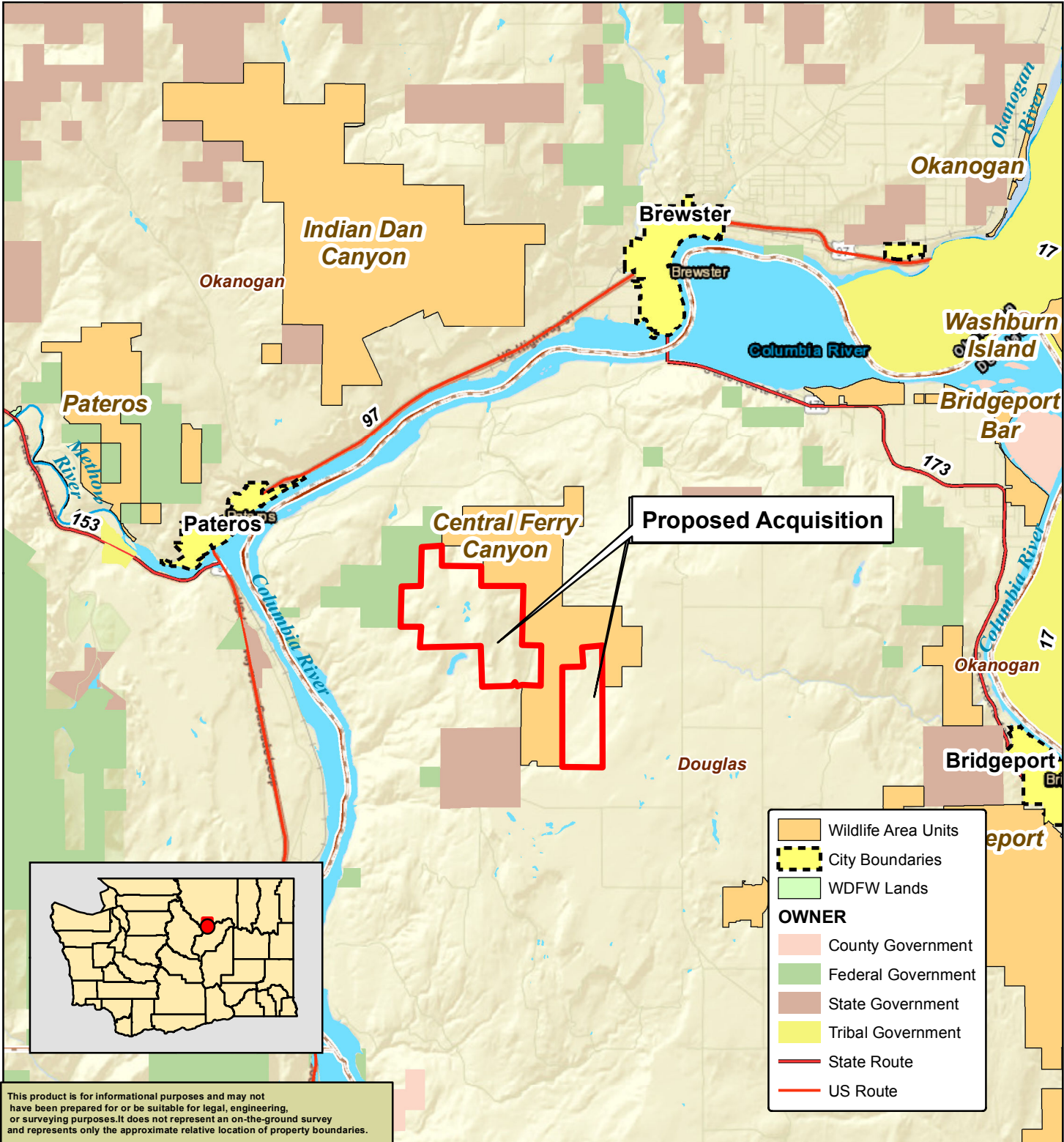
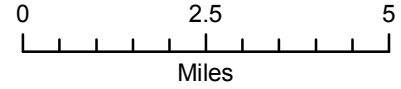
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ITEM 2: PROPOSED ACQUISITION, CENTRAL FERRY CANYON

DOUGLAS COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTIONS 4, 5, 9, 10 & 15 TOWNSHIP 29N, RANGE 24E, W.M.
SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 30N, 24E, W.M.

ACRES: 1513 (+/-)



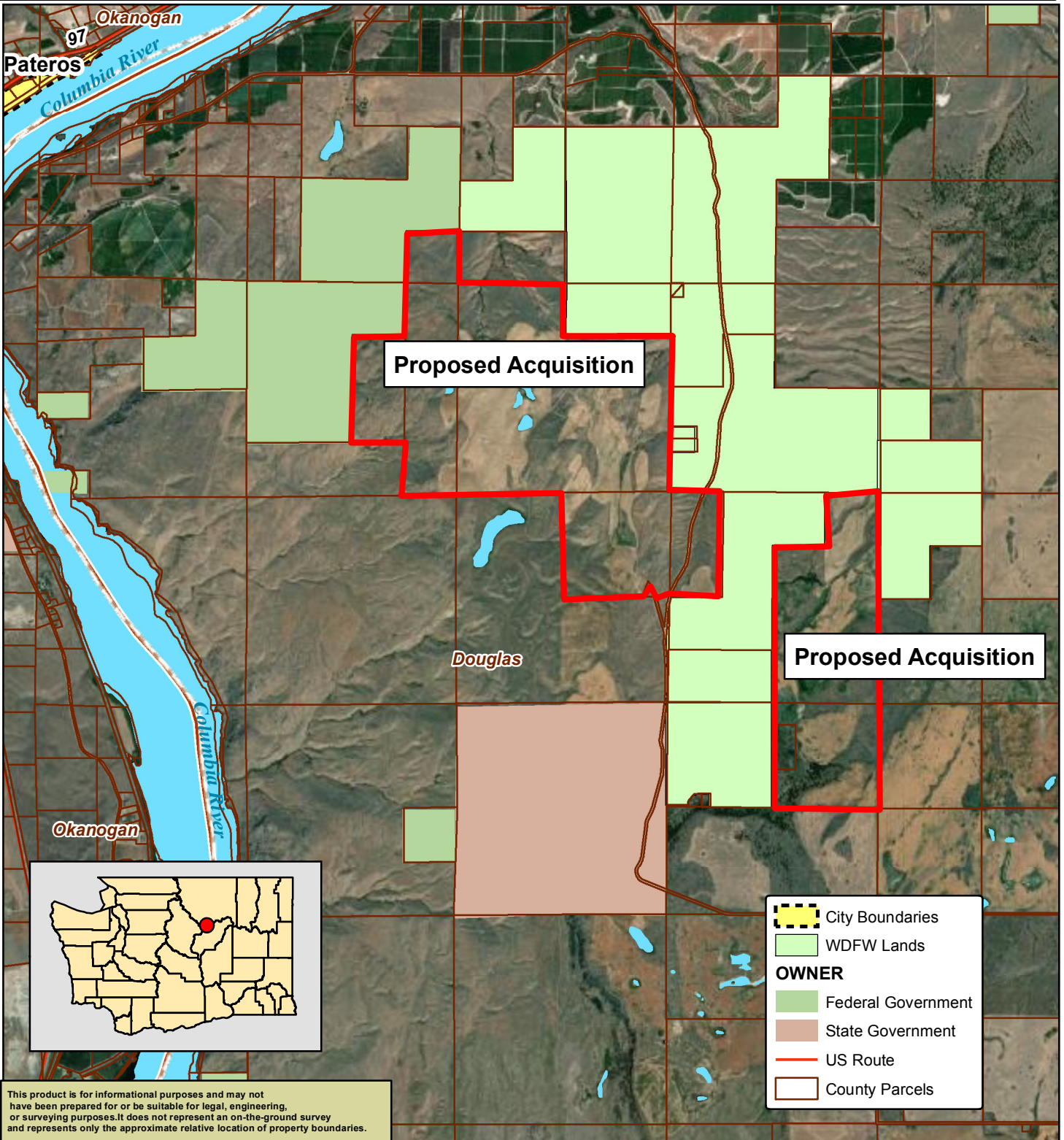
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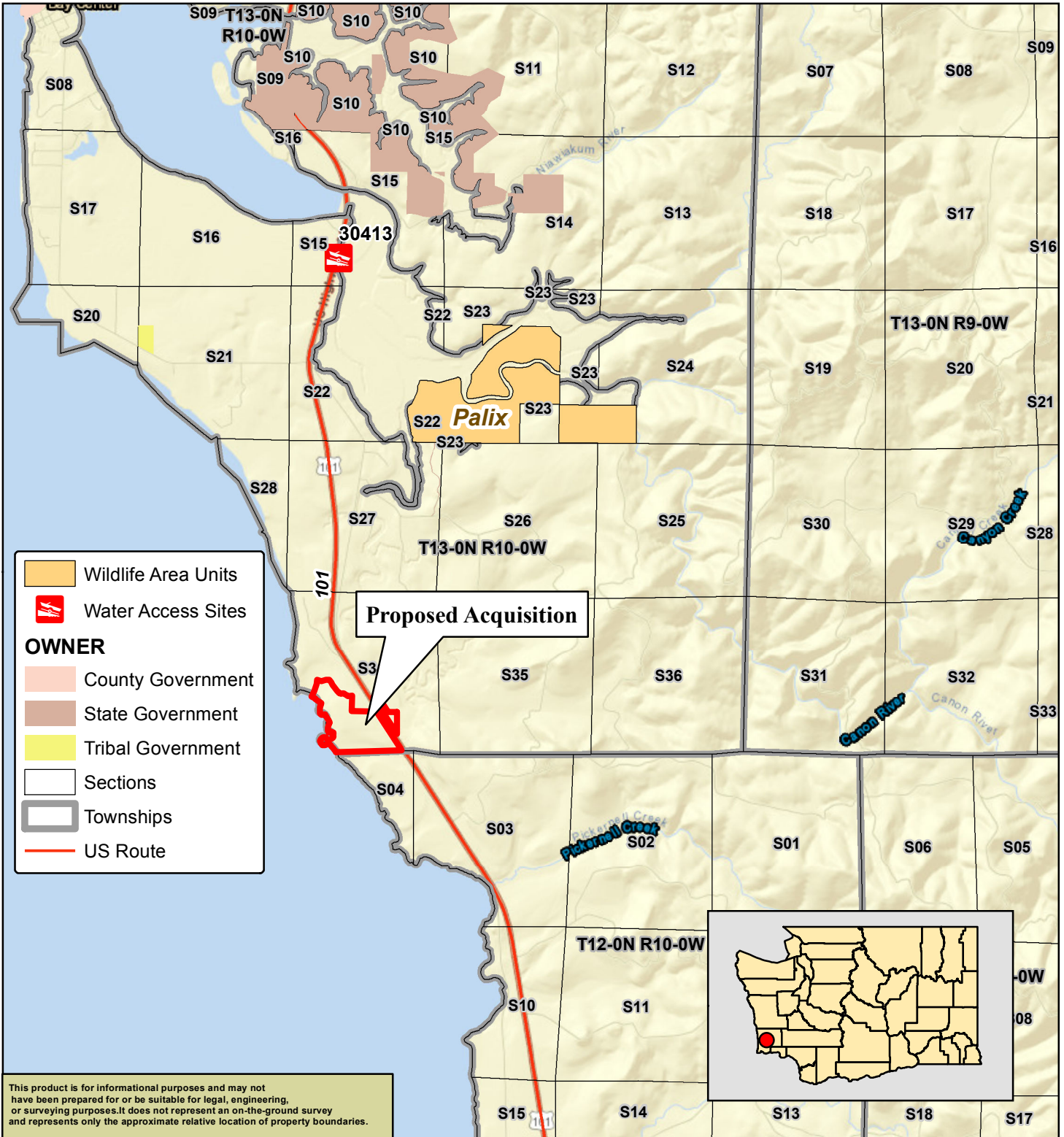
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ITEM 3: PROPOSED ACQUISITION NEMAH TIDELANDS

PACIFIC COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 13N, RANGE 10W, W.M.

ACRES: 94 (+/-)



Wildlife Area Units
 Wildlife Area Units

Water Access Sites
 Water Access Sites

OWNER

- County Government
- State Government
- Tribal Government

Sections

Townships

US Route

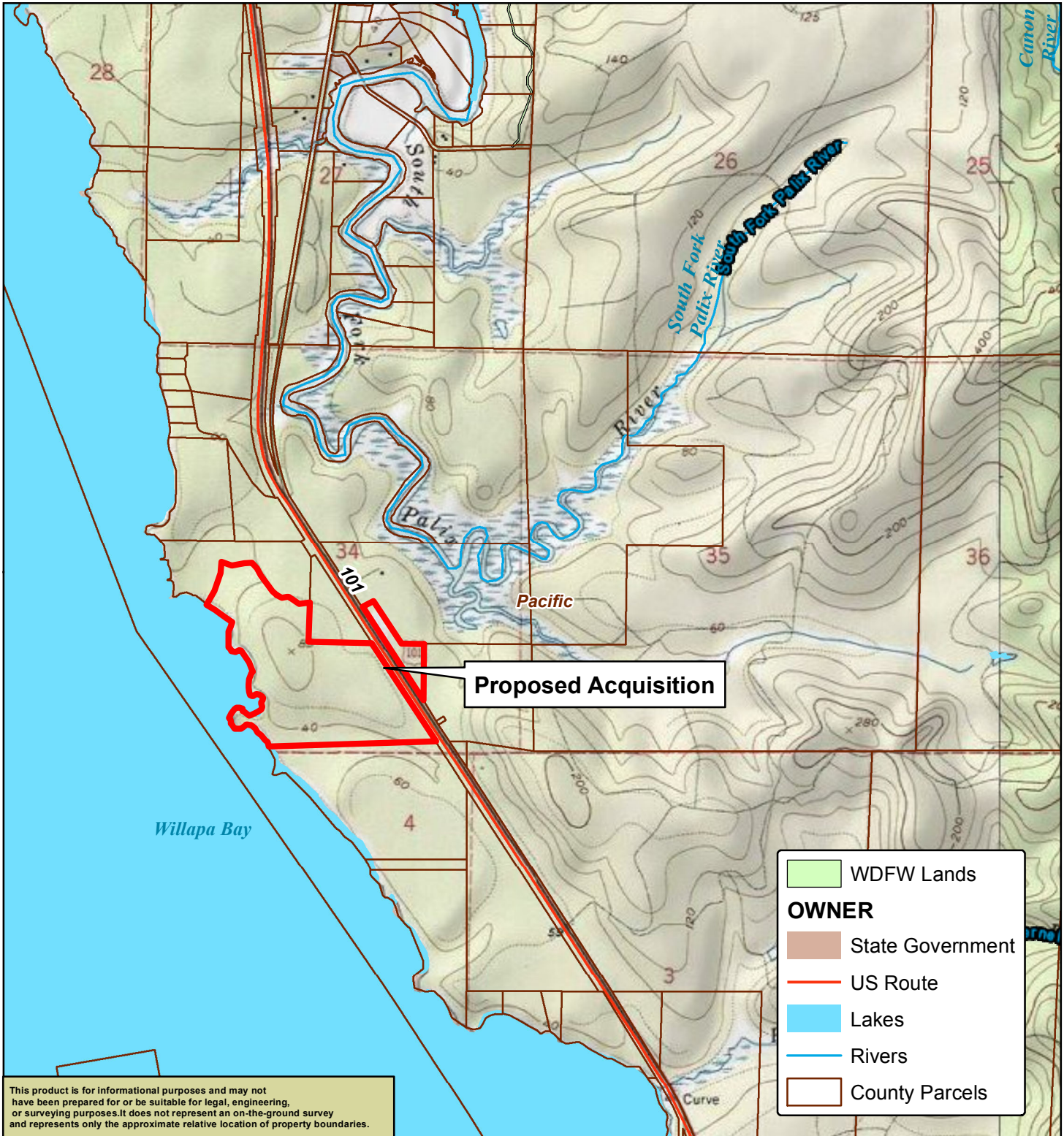
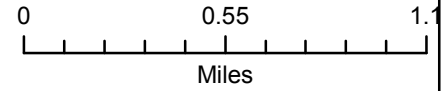
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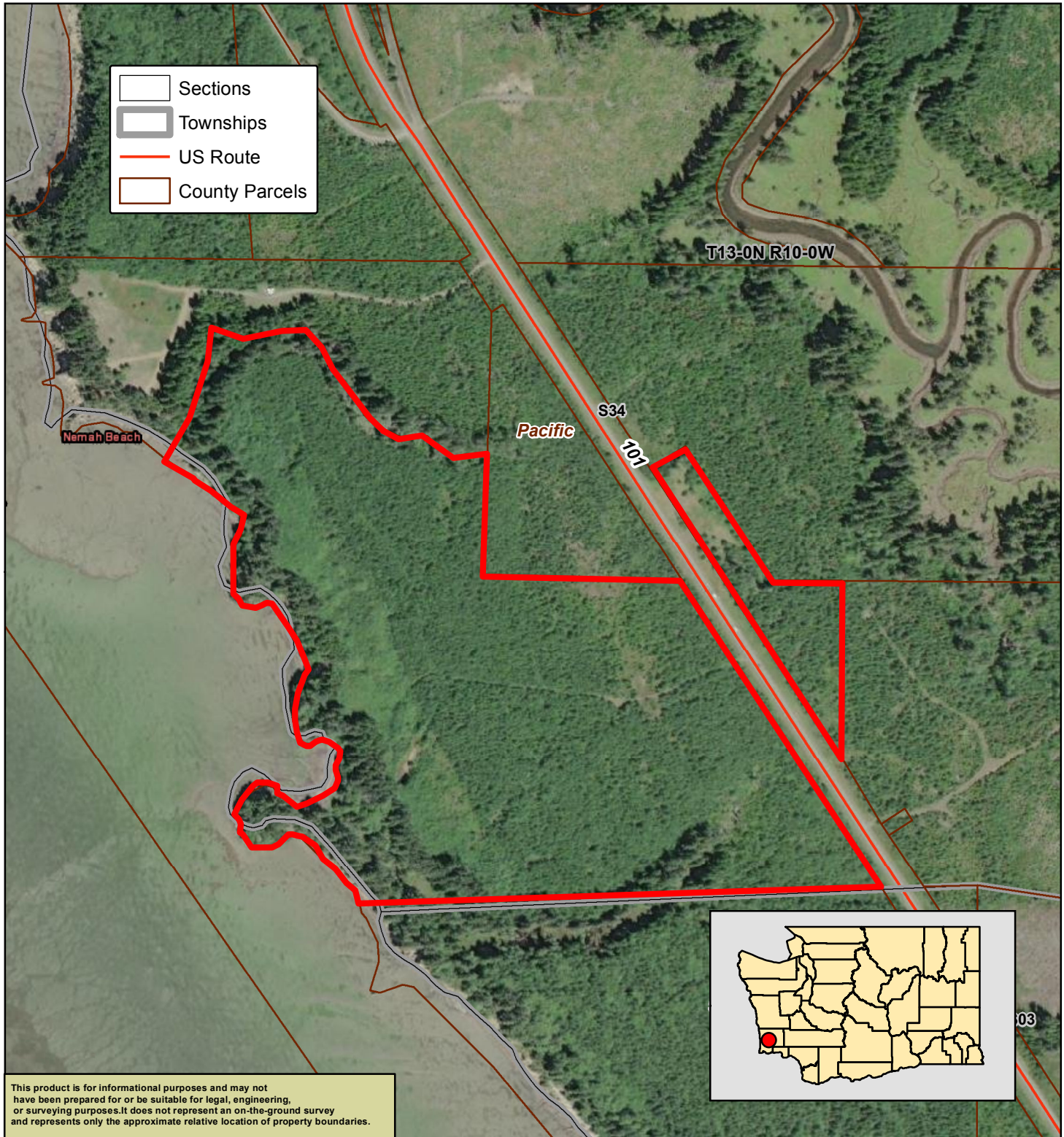
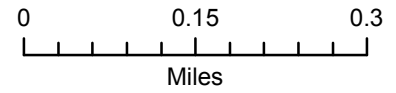
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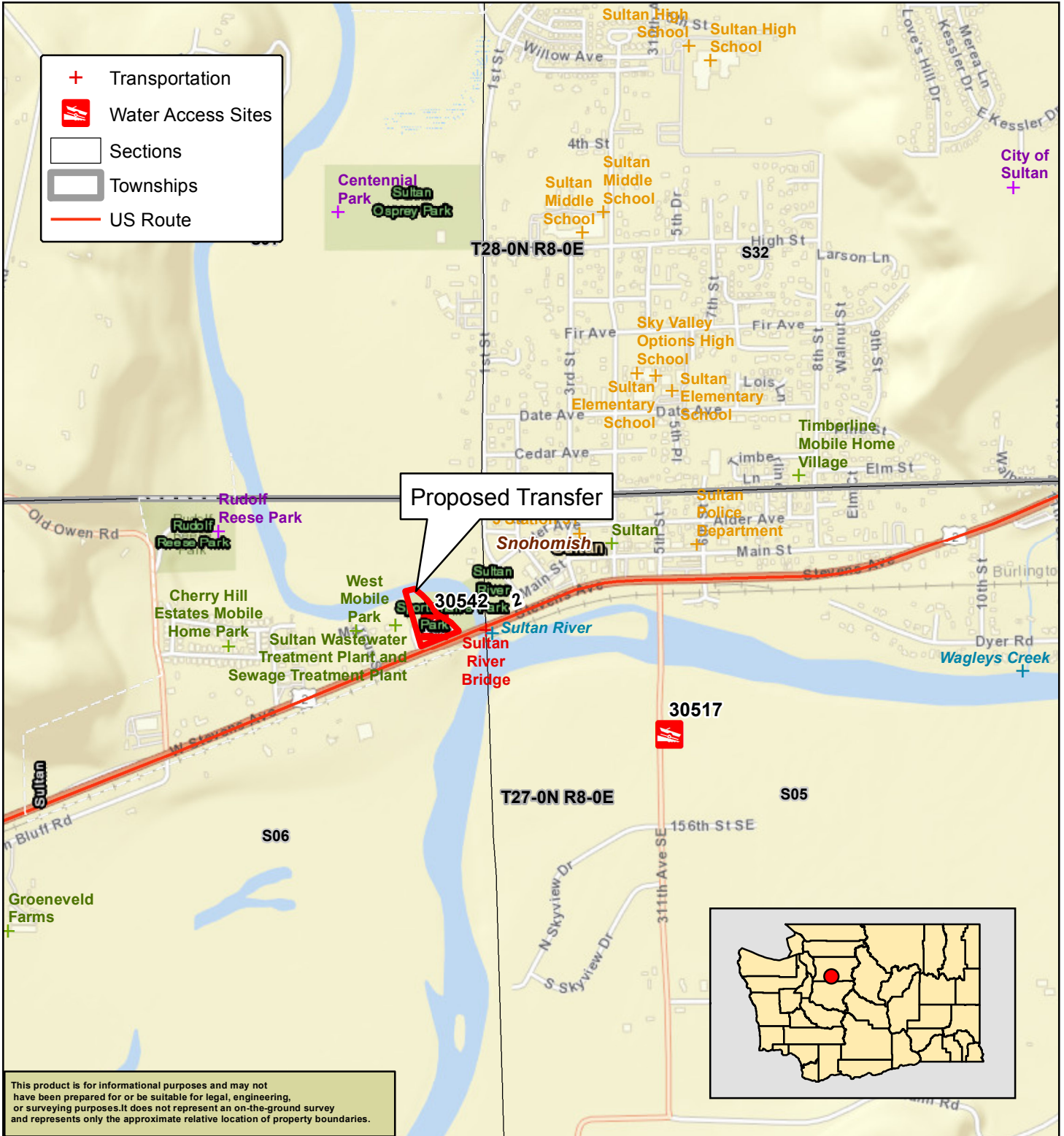
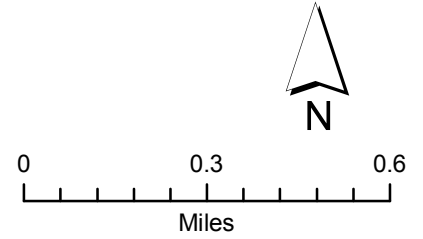
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ITEM 4: PROPOSED TRANSFER, SPORTSMAN'S PARK

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 8E, W.M.

ACRES: 3.5 (+/-)



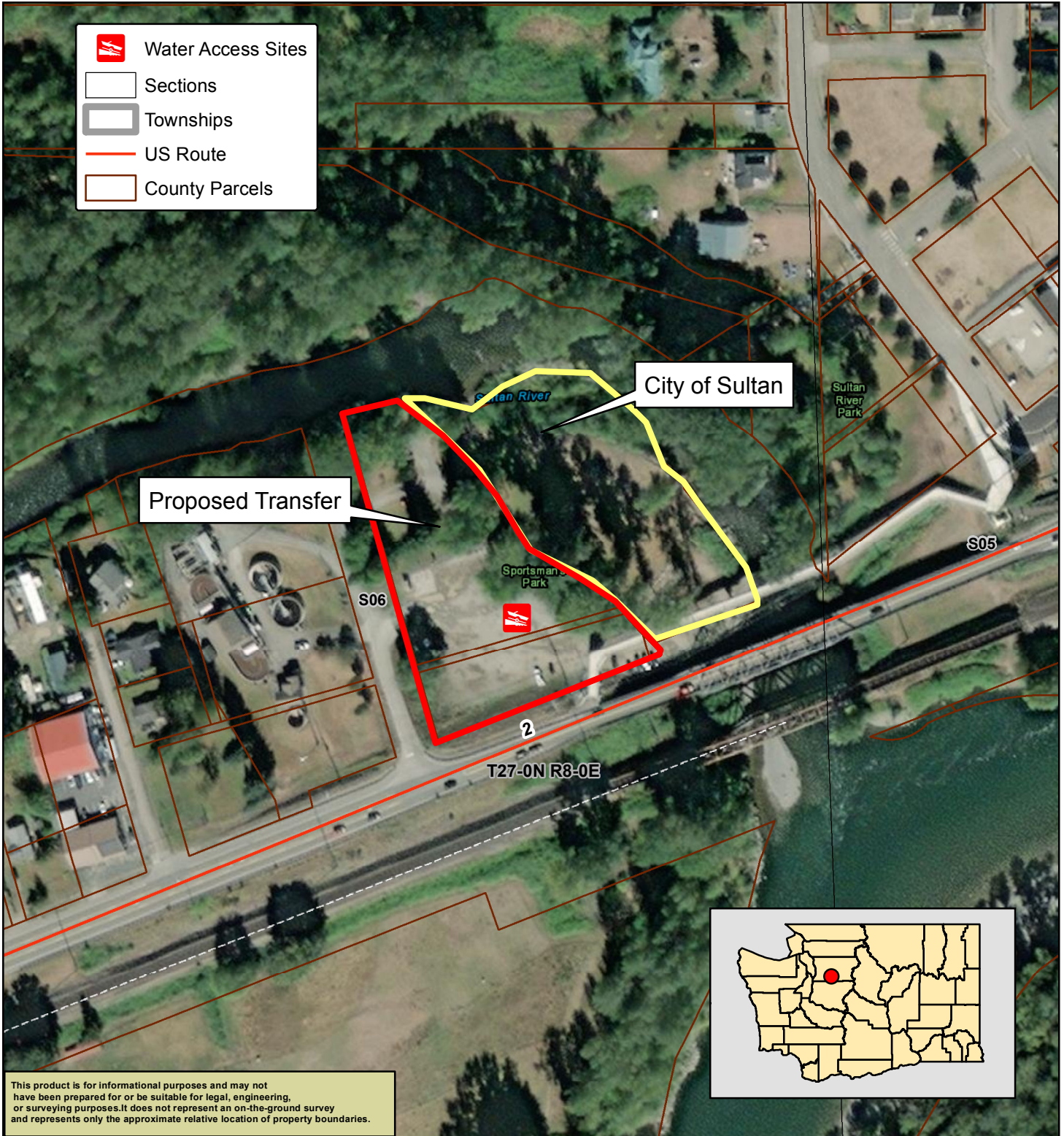
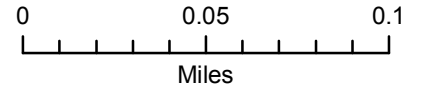
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



ITEM 4: PROPOSED TRANSFER, SPORTSMAN'S PARK

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ACRES: 3.5 (+/-)



-  Water Access Sites
-  Sections
-  Townships
-  US Route
-  County Parcels

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