

# 4. LAND TRANSACTION

JUNE 24, 2022

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## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

6/24/2022

**Agenda item:**

4. Land Transaction

**Presenter(s):**

Karen Edwards – Real Estate Manager

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**Background summary:**

**Item 1: Proposed Acquisition of 350(+/-) acres in Thurston County  
Violet Prairie/Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Region 6**

This proposal is to acquire Phase 2 of the Violet Prairie property, being 350(+/-) acres of the larger 1,567(+/-)-acre property of intact, prairie-oak woodland and wetland habitat. Phase 1 acquired the first 1,035 acres, which was approved by the Commission in March and successfully purchased in May. 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 2 is \$2,630,845, which will be provided through a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Critical Habitat grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and a Cooperative Endangered Species grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Conservation Fund has been a critical partner on this project.

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommend approval of this land transaction.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

Protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

Operations and Maintenance costs.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Approval of land transaction as presented.

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**Draft motion language:**

Motion: I move to approve the land transaction 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.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

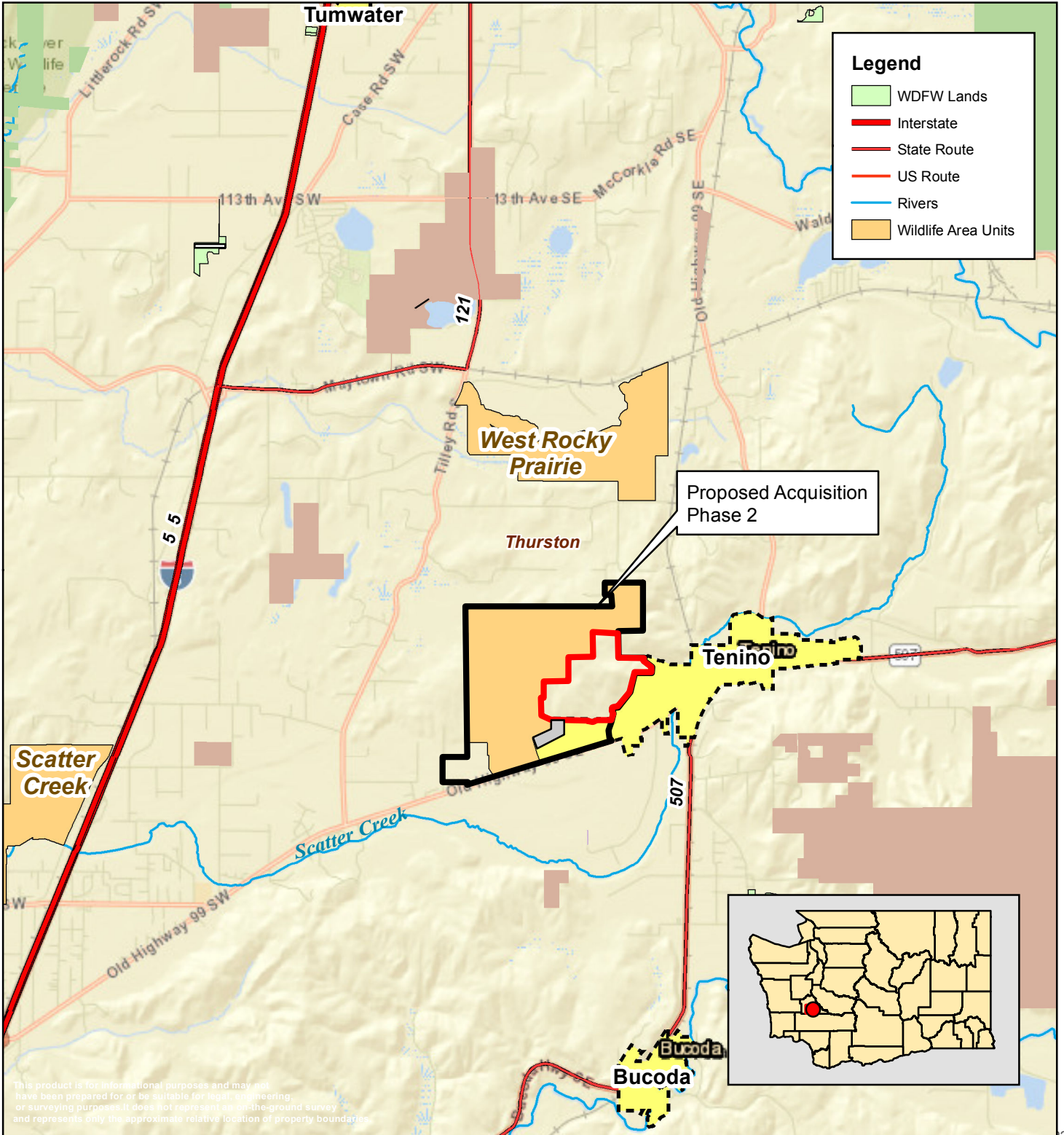
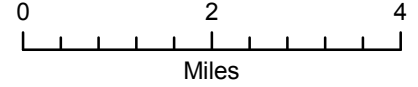
WDFW will distribute a press release informing the public of this action.

# ITEM 1: PROPOSED ACQUISITION, VIOLET PRAIRIE/SCATTER CREEK WLA

THURSTON COUNTY

LEGAL: SECTIONS 23, 24, 25, & 26 TOWNSHIP 16N, RANGE 2 W, W.M.

ACRES: 350 (+/-)





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