



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

12/9/2022

Agenda item:

LANDS 20/20 PREVIEW

Presenter(s):

Cynthia Wilkerson - Lands Division Manager, Lisa Coffman - Lands 20/20 Coordinator

Background summary:

The annual Lands 20/20 process has identified fifteen potential land acquisition projects under consideration by the WDFW Director for 2022. These projects have been through internal cross-programmatic Technical and Funding Review, Tribal Briefing and Consultation, a three-week public comment process and are being presented to the Commission as a briefing. The next step is for the Director to approve the list of projects to pursue funding through grants or other sources. This early review process provides the Commission with information on these potential land acquisition proposals, including a summary of public comments.

Projects:

Boggan's Access – Asotin County:

This acquisition project will add 1.1 acre to an area of existing, popular recreational easements between highway 129 and the Grand Ronde River in Asotin County. The project will allow for public use recreation such as fishing, boating and wildlife viewing as well as improvements to the existing boat launch and parking areas.

Sol Duc Access – Clallam County:

This project is to acquire 38.12 acres just north of Forks, Washington in Clallam County. The property is a combination of forest and natural vegetation and includes over 2,600 feet of water frontage on the Sol Duc River with nearly 1,500 feet of easily accessible fishing and water recreational opportunities. This replaces a nearby, existing water access site that has been washed away by shifts in the river.

The project is supported by the City of Forks, The Puget Sound Anglers association, and the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers association.

Shillapoo Addition – Clark County:

This project is 90 acres situated along the shoreline of the Columbia River adjacent to the Shillapoo Wildlife Area. The parcels include optimal shoreline and riparian habitats with potential for both salmonid restoration and the continuation of wetland habitat management.

Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Hoffstadt Hills – Cowlitz County:

The Hoffstadt Hills project is to acquire up to 7,300 acres adjacent to the Hoffstadt Unit of the Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area and Mt. St. Helens National Monument in Cowlitz County. The primary focus of this acquisition is to protect and enhance elk winter range habitat as well as steelhead and coho spawning and rearing areas. This is essential for landscape-level conservation of the elk herd in the face of continual habitat inundation due to efforts necessary to hold back sediment from the Mt. St. Helen's eruption.

The property contains 17 miles of stream and riparian habitat that sustains important tributary and habitat functions. Along with streams and riparian, the property also features cliffs, talus slopes and forest.

Recreation would include hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking and horseback riding.

Big Bend Phase 4 – Douglas County:

The Big Bend Project (Phase 4) is the acquisition of up to 3,425 acres in 2 separate worksites at the edge of the Big Bend Wildlife Area and adjacent to the Columbia River in Douglas County. Objectives here include the protection of Sharp-tailed grouse, Washington ground squirrel and golden eagle and the protection and rehabilitation of shrubsteppe and riparian habitats

Recreational opportunities include excellent mule deer and upland bird hunting as well as opportunities for turkey and waterfowl hunting. The site also will provide 1.76 miles of shoreline on the Columbia River with excellent areas for fishing.

Mountain Road - Garfield County:

The Mountain Road project is the acquisition of 285 acres surrounded on three sides by the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area in Garfield County. The property is mostly inside an existing elk fence and will protect a Blue Mountain elk herd critical calving area. Also protected on these parcels are bighorn sheep, western toad and Lewis' woodpecker, among others.

Recreational opportunities here include hunting, hiking and wildlife viewing.

South Montesano Water Access:

This acquisition project is the donation of a 1- acre parcel surrounded by the WDFW South Montesano water access site, approximately 1 mile south of the town of Montesano in Grays Harbor County. This parcel will expand the water access site, allowing for additional parking for fishing and boating recreation and access to the boat launch area.

Quilcene Tidelands – Jefferson County:

The Quilcene tidelands project is for the acquisition of 15 acres of tideland property surrounded almost entirely by existing WDFW parcels in Quilcene Bay, Jefferson County. The project conserves tideland connectivity with recreational opportunities for shellfish harvest, tideland exploration, waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing.

Easton Hill Wildlife Crossing – Kittitas County:

The Easton Wildlife Crossing project is to acquire 22.92 acres near the Yakima River Unit of the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area in Kittitas County.

This property is adjacent to what will be phase 3 of Washington Department of Transportation's wildlife crossing project and will conserve wildlife and habitat connectivity for many species such as mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, gray wolf, and many others. This property will not be open for recreation.

Bowman Creek – Klickitat County:

Bowman Creek project is for the acquisition of up to 260 acres in 2 separate worksites adjacent to the Soda Springs Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife area in Klickitat County.

This project conserves a perennial stream and intact riparian zone. The stream here supports both fish and mussels and is a tributary to the Klickitat River. This area also supports western gray squirrel and peregrine falcon, among others.

Recreation here will provide for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Lynch Cove Estuarine/Tidelands – Mason County:

The Lynch Cove project is for up to 64 Acres across four separate worksites in the Union River unit of the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area in Mason County.

The parcels here are four different landowners and the property will conserve estuarine habitat that contains summer chum, Puget Sound steelhead and a large waterfowl concentration.

Recreational opportunities here exist for waterfowl hunting, bird watching, kayaking and wildlife viewing.

Blue Lake Oroville – Okanogan County:

Blue Lake Oroville project is for the acquisition of 479 acres near Blue Lake, located approximately 2.5 miles from the town of Oroville in Northern Okanogan County. This property lies adjacent to an existing WDFW Water Access Area as well as DNR property and includes lakefront.

The property will conserve shrubsteppe, riparian and ponderosa pine habitat containing many species such as mule deer, shrubsteppe obligates and gray wolf.

Recreation in this area would include hunting, fishing, water sports and wildlife viewing.

Texas Creek Inholding – Okanogan County:

The Texas Creek project is to acquire a 3.4-acre parcel inholding in the Texas Creek Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. This property conserves riparian, woodland and shrubland habitat and includes species such as spring chinook and steelhead. This property improves management efficiency of existing WDFW-managed lands.

Recreation on this property includes fishing and wildlife viewing.

Snohomish County Intertidal – Snohomish County:

The Snohomish County intertidal donation project is for 166.02 acres of several connecting intertidal properties just south of the Skagit Wildlife Area in Snohomish County. These properties will conserve intertidal habitat, chinook salmon, bull trout, waterfowl, and many shorebirds.

Recreational values would include hunting, wildlife viewing, tidal exploration, and kayaking.

Wenas Watershed / Miracle Mile – Yakima County:

The Wenas Watershed/ Miracle Mile project is for the acquisition of 440.17 acres, adjacent to the Wenas Wildlife area in Yakima County. This property will conserve mixed shrubsteppe, riparian and coniferous forest habitat primarily for elk winter range. This property is utilized by a quarter of all bird species found in the lower 48, making it an excellent area for recreational bird watching.

Other recreation here includes hunting, hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Thorough analysis and evaluation of proposed land acquisitions intended to protect and preserve critical habitats and recreational access. Eventual outcome is pursuit of funding and eventual acquisition for either fee title or conservation easement acquisitions.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Public involvement included regional staff coordination with local governments, a virtual tribal review and a web based public review period. We received 50 public comments, 49 (98%) of which were positive. Positive comments were received on individual projects as well as all projects. There was 1 negative comment received. This comment was general to the acquisition of lands by the department, it did not call out a specific project.

A total of 10 letters of support were also received by organizations.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing only.

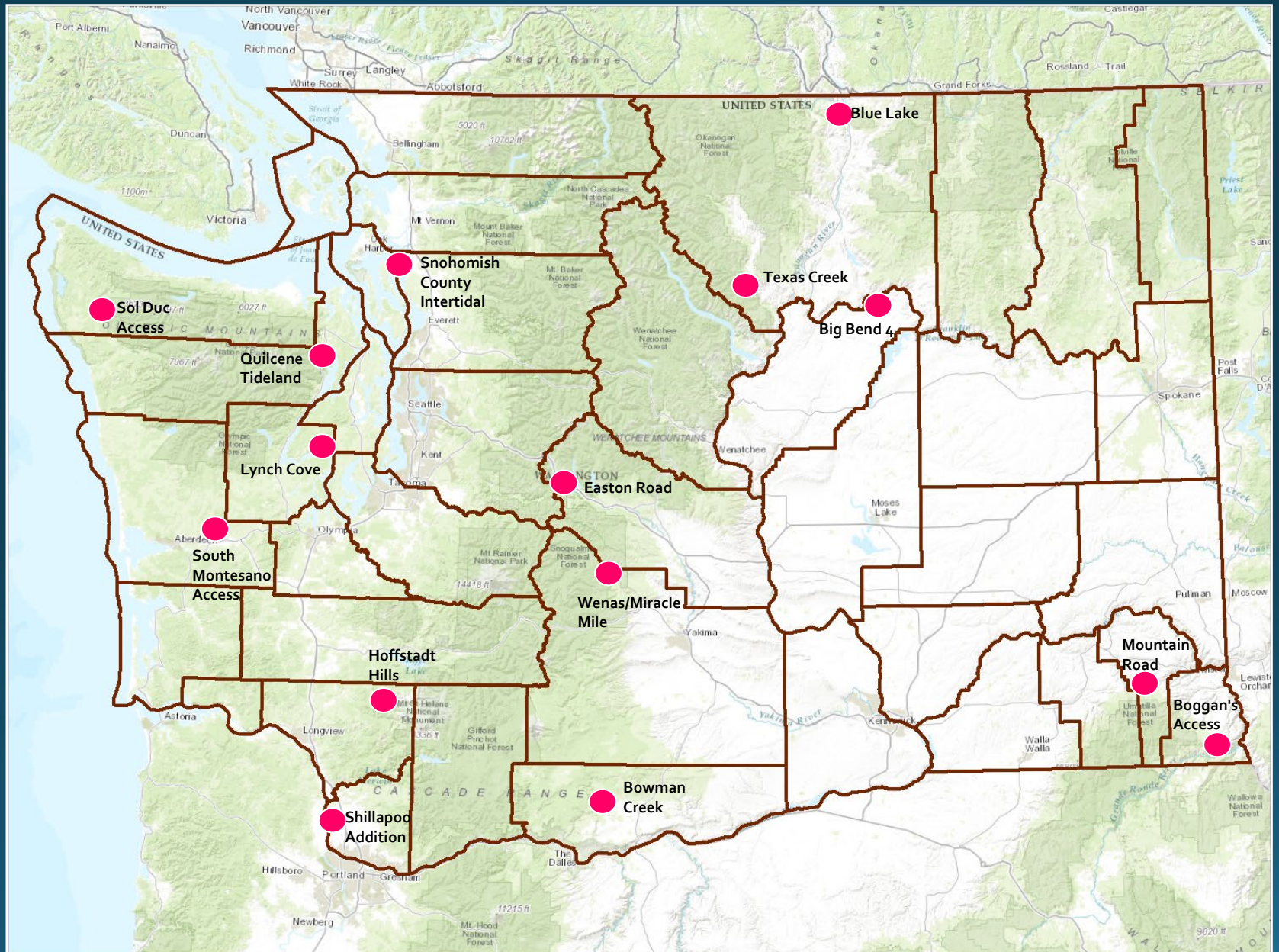
Draft motion language:

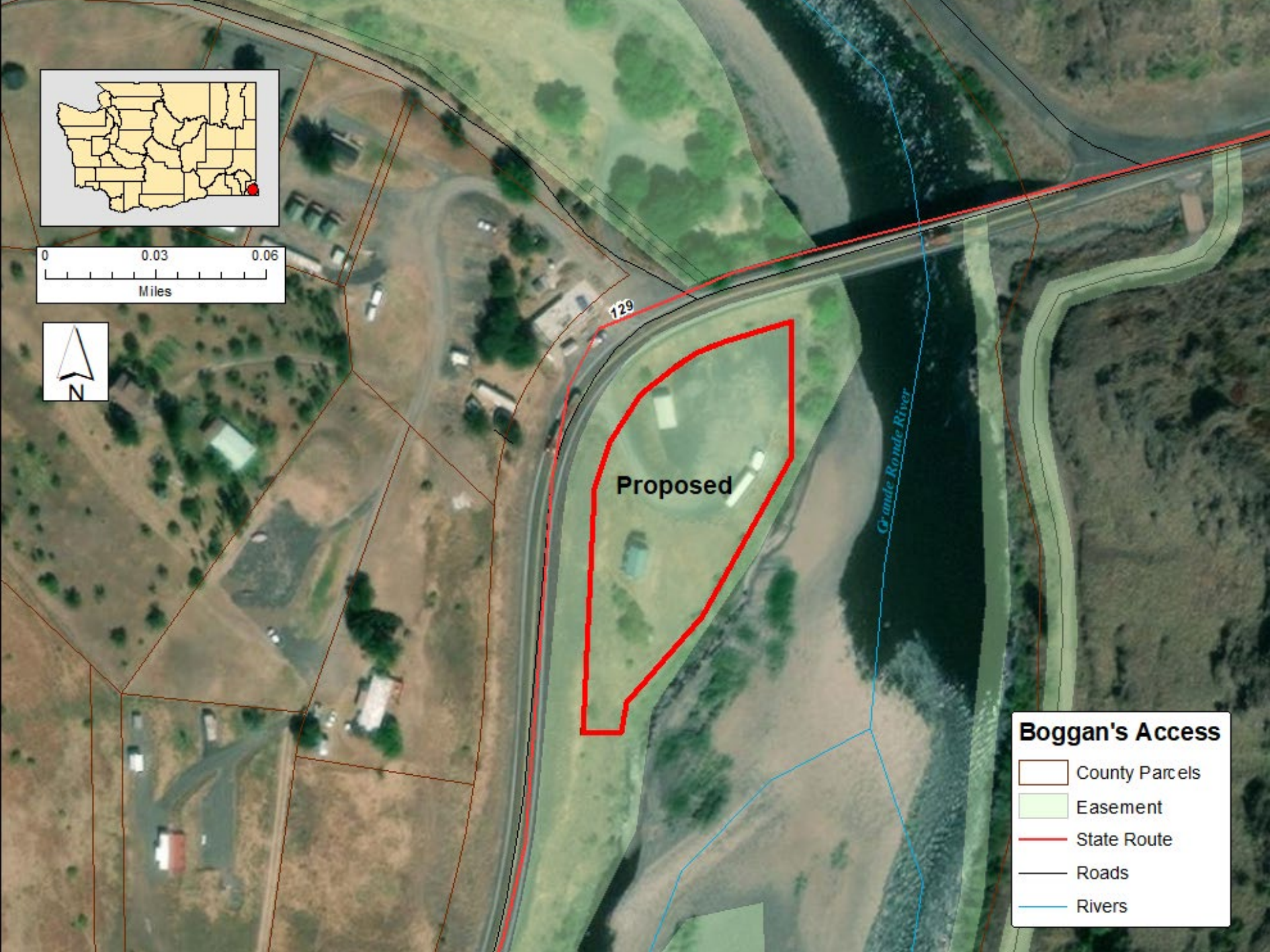
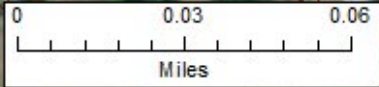
None, briefing only.

Post decision communications plan:

Briefing only.

2022 Lands 20/20 Projects





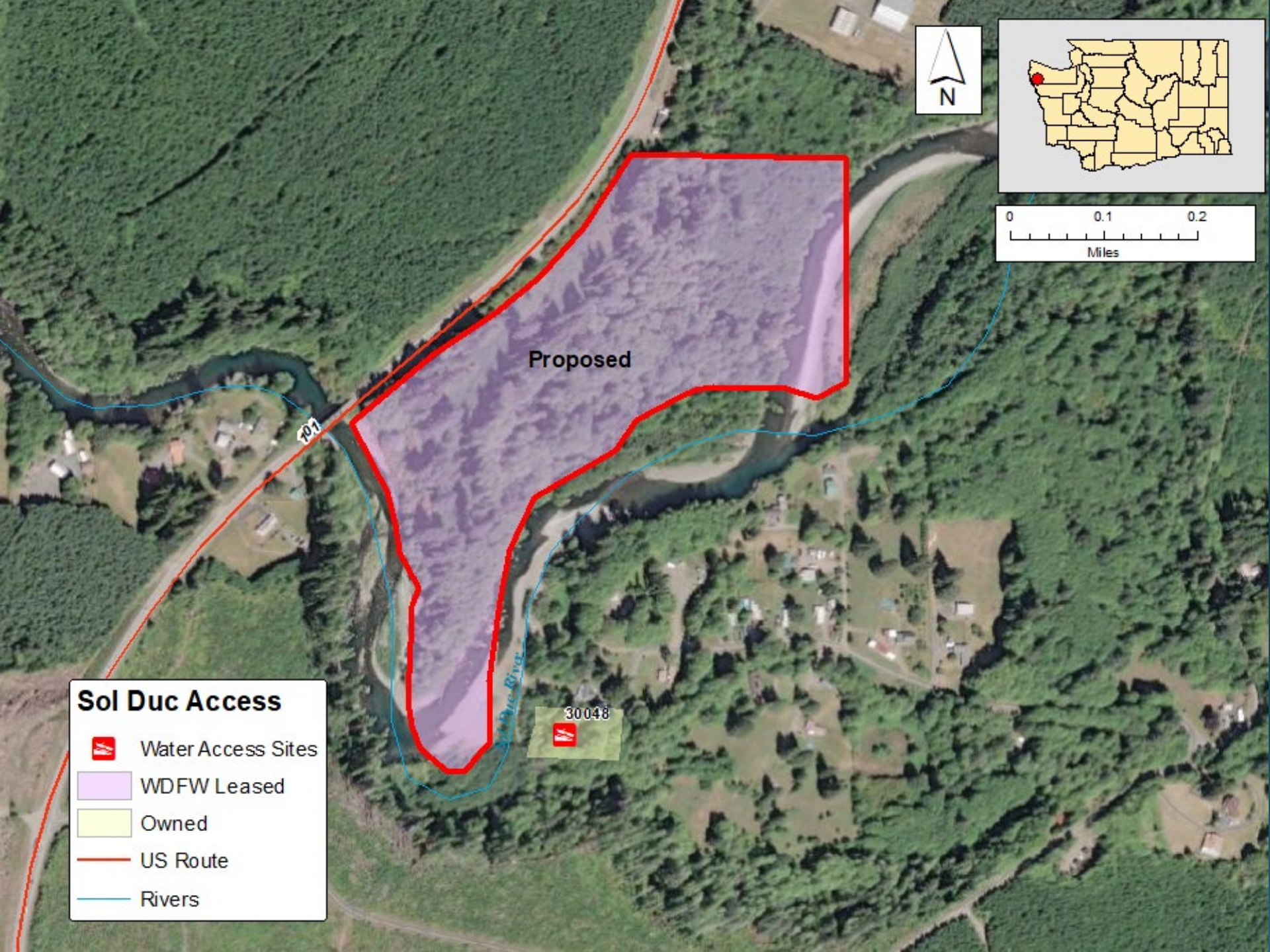
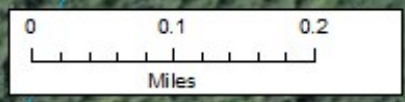
129

Proposed

Grande Ronde River

Boggan's Access

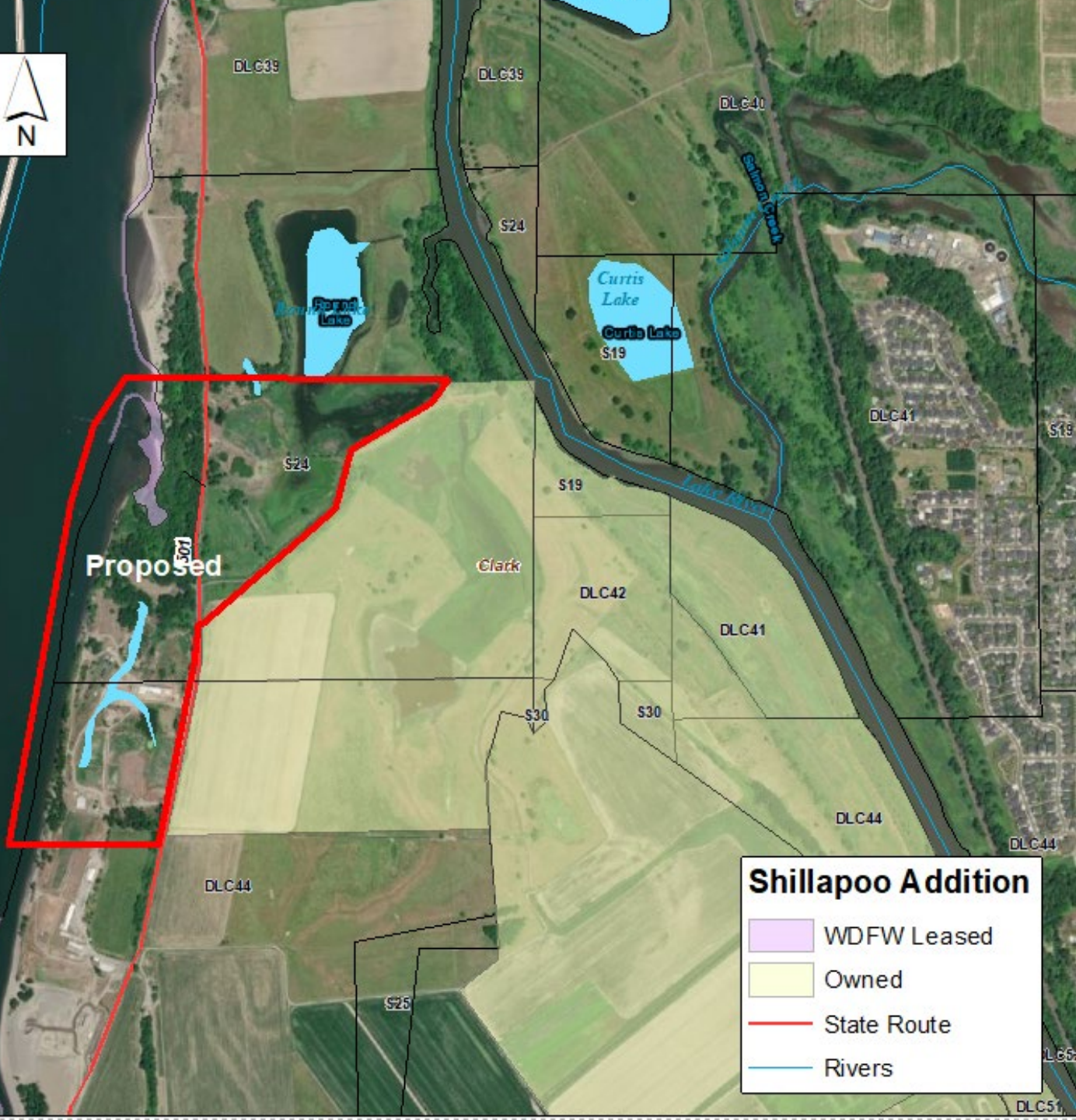
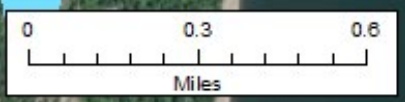
- County Parcels
- Easement
- State Route
- Roads
- Rivers







Sol Duc Access

-  Water Access Sites
-  WDFW Leased
-  Owned
-  US Route
-  Rivers

30048

Shillapoo Addition

-  WDFW Leased
-  Owned
-  State Route
-  Rivers

OREGON
WASHINGTON

Proposed

DLC41

DLC41

DLC41

S24

S24

S19

DLC42

DLC41

S30

S30

DLC44

DLC44

S25

DLC41

S19

DLC44

DLC51

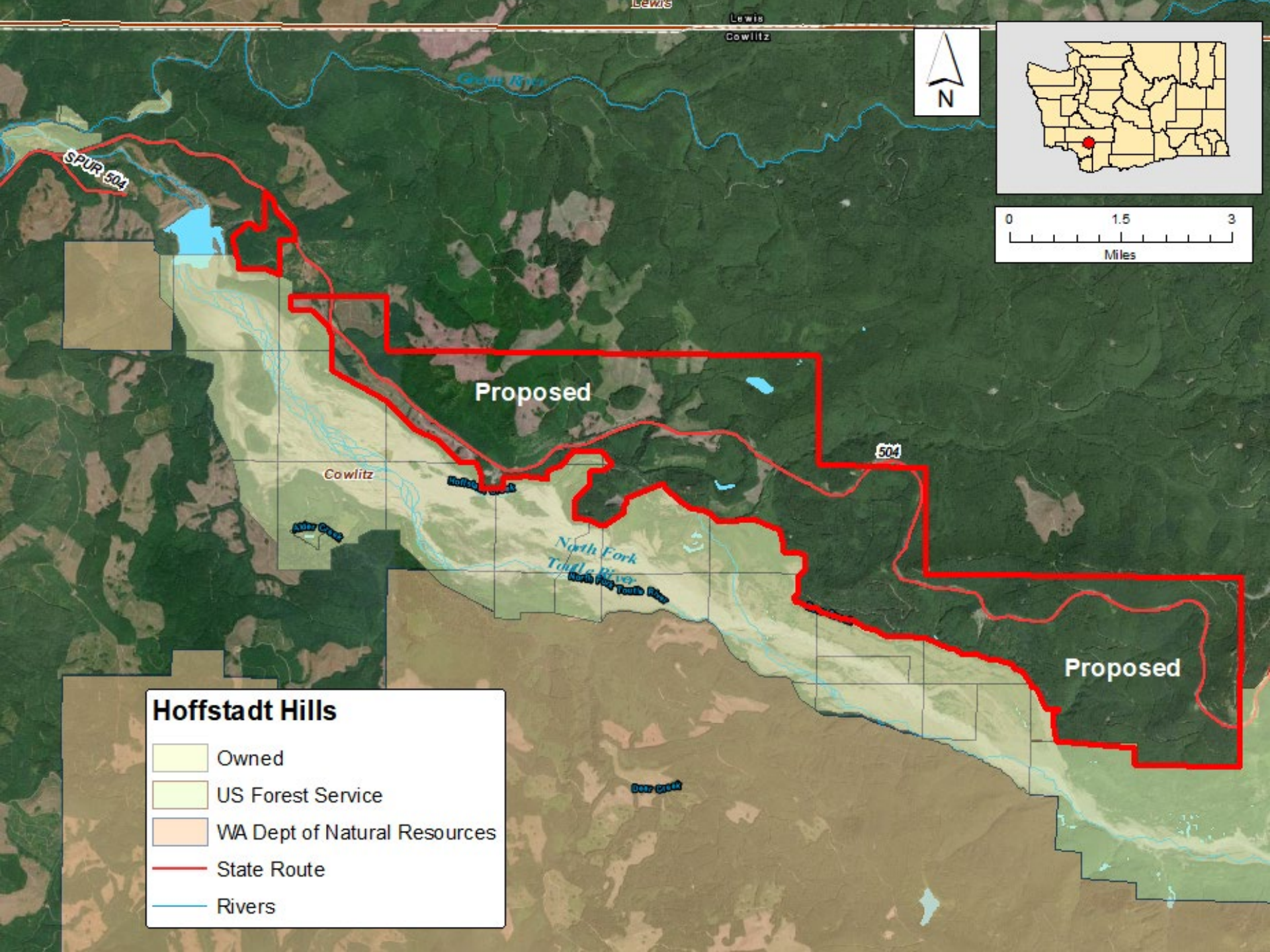
Round Lake

Curtis Lake

Salmon Creek

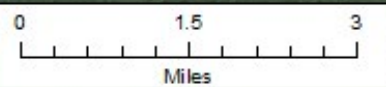
Lake River

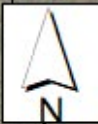
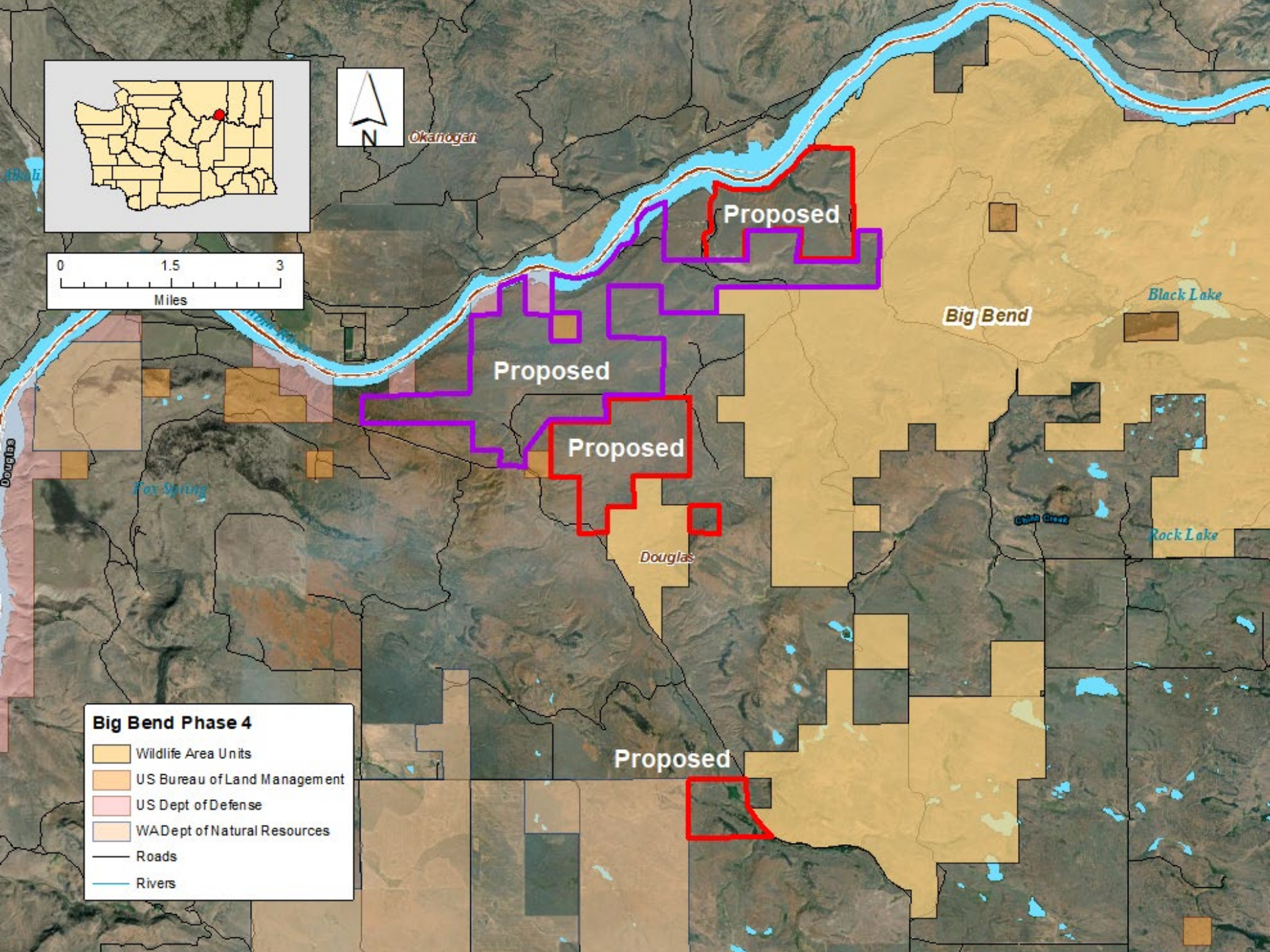
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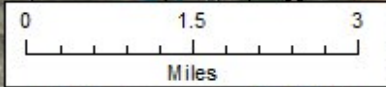
Hoffstadt Hills

- Owned
- US Forest Service
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- State Route
- Rivers





Okanogan



Proposed

Big Bend

Black Lake

Proposed

Proposed

Fox Spring

Douglas

Utah Creek


Rock Lake


Proposed

Big Bend Phase 4


- Wildlife Area Units
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Dept of Defense
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Roads
- Rivers


Mountain Road

 County Parcels

 Owned

OWNER

 State Government

 Roads

W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area

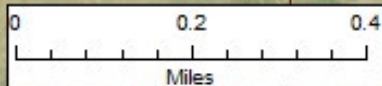
Garfield

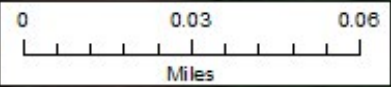
Proposed

WDFW EIK Fence

Yamston Creek

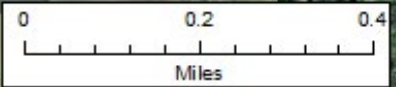
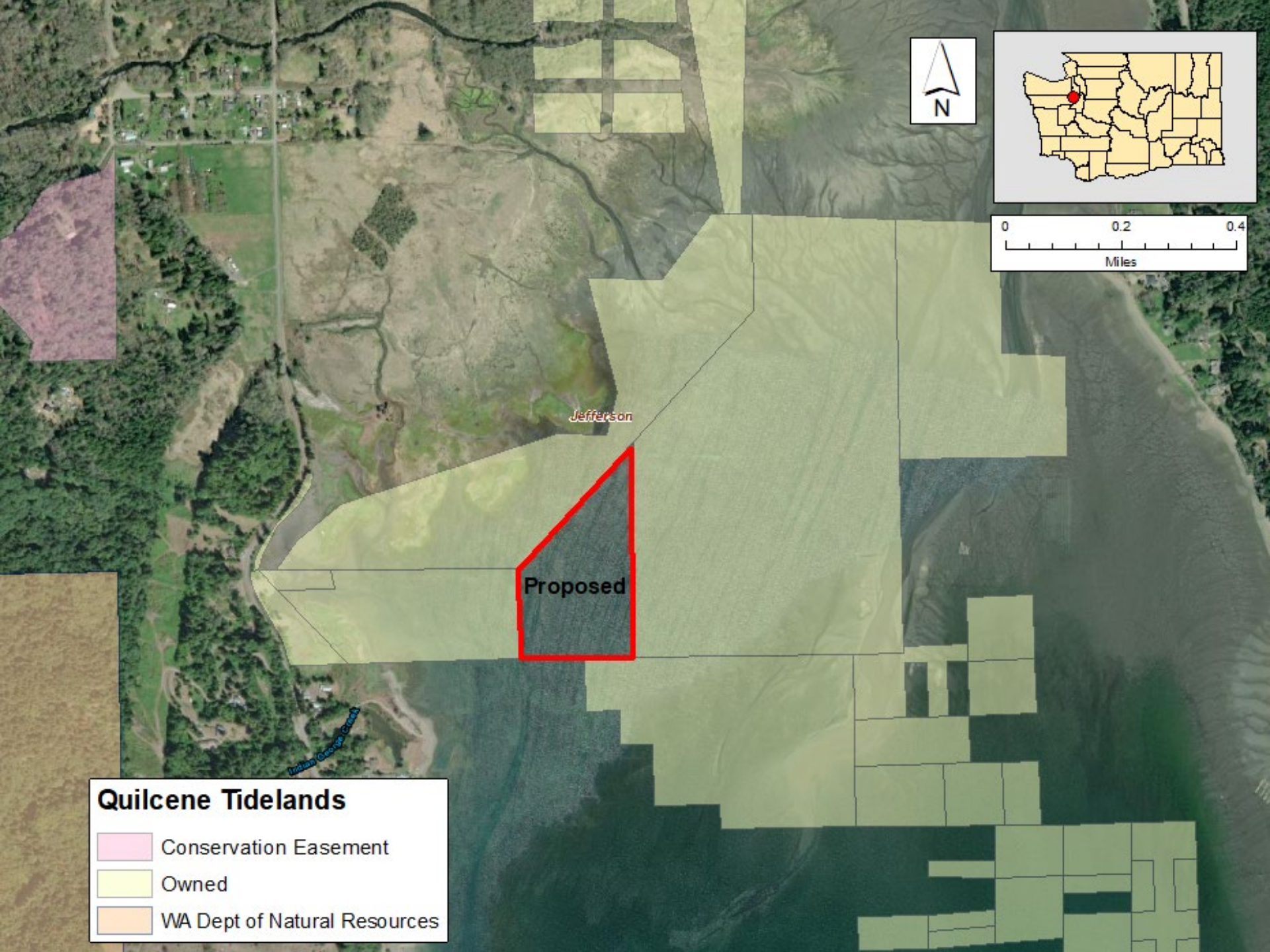
W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area





South Montezano Access

-  Water Access Sites
-  Agreement
-  WDFW Leased
-  Owned
-  State Route
-  Rivers



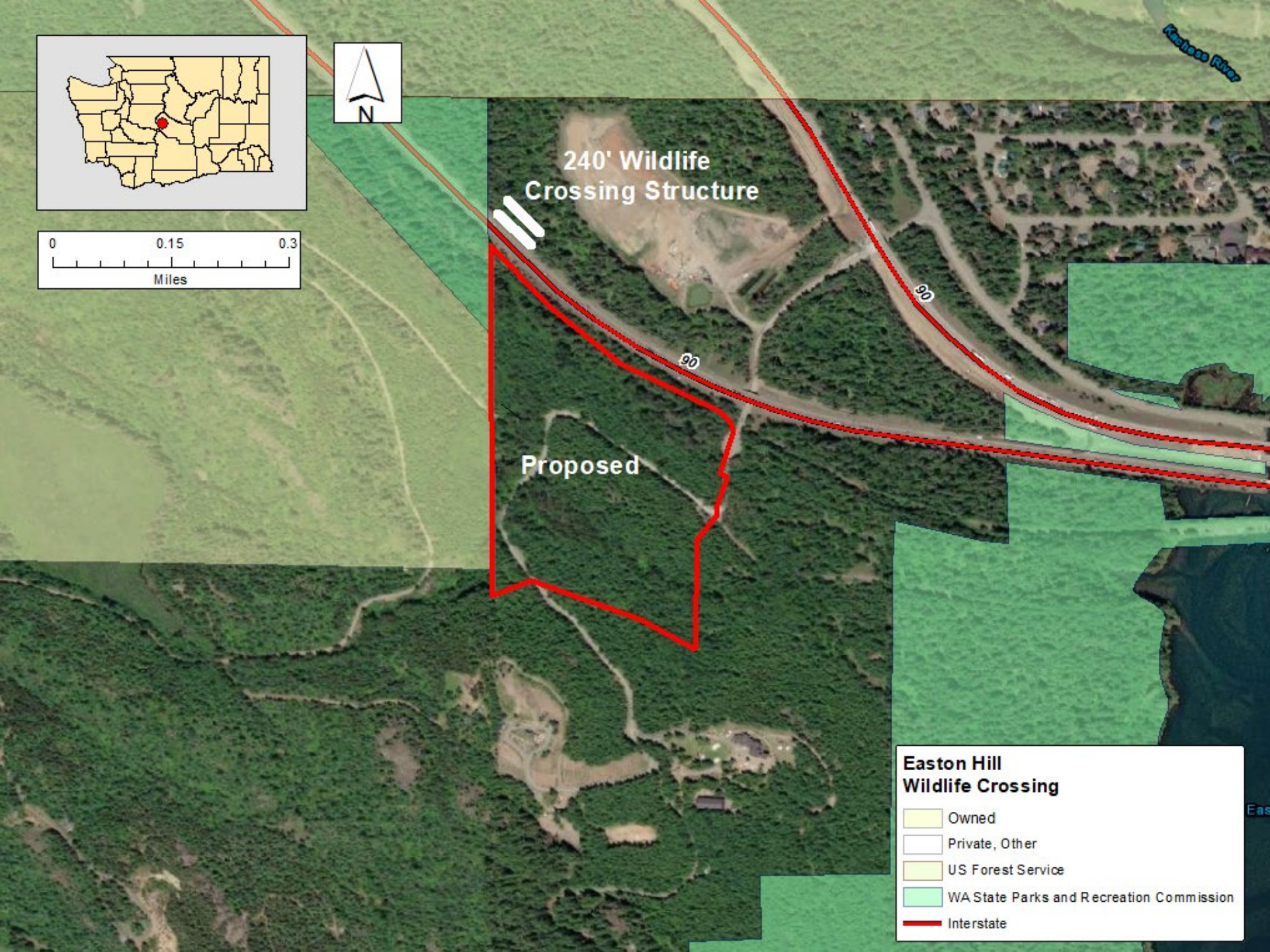
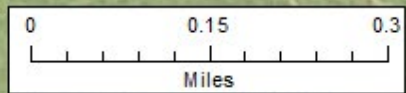
Jefferson

Proposed

Indian George Creek

Quilcene Tidelands

- Conservation Easement
- Owned
- WA Dept of Natural Resources

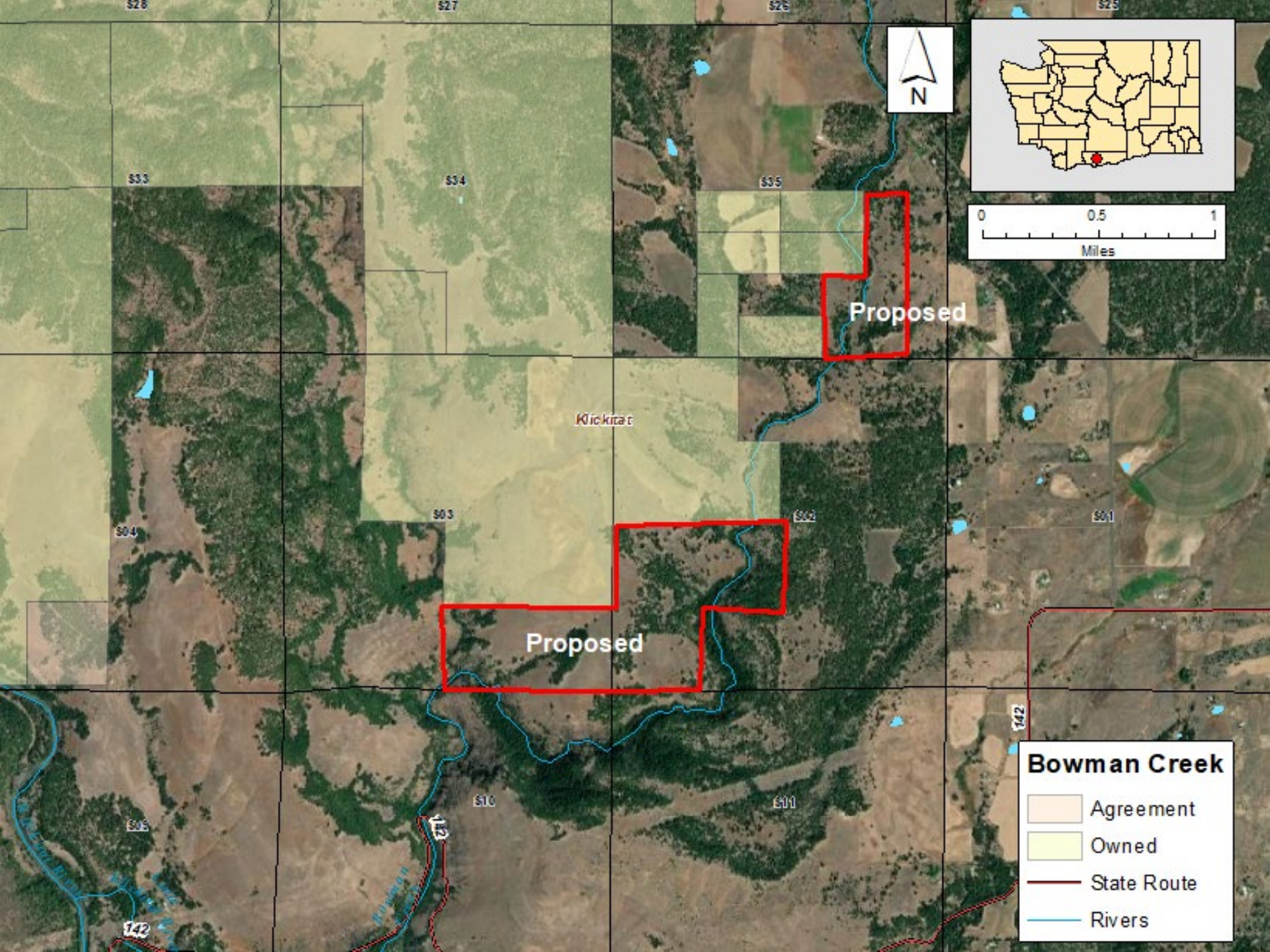


240' Wildlife Crossing Structure

Proposed

Easton Hill Wildlife Crossing

- Owned
- Private, Other
- US Forest Service
- WA State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Interstate



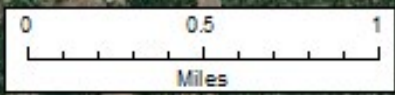
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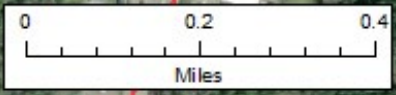
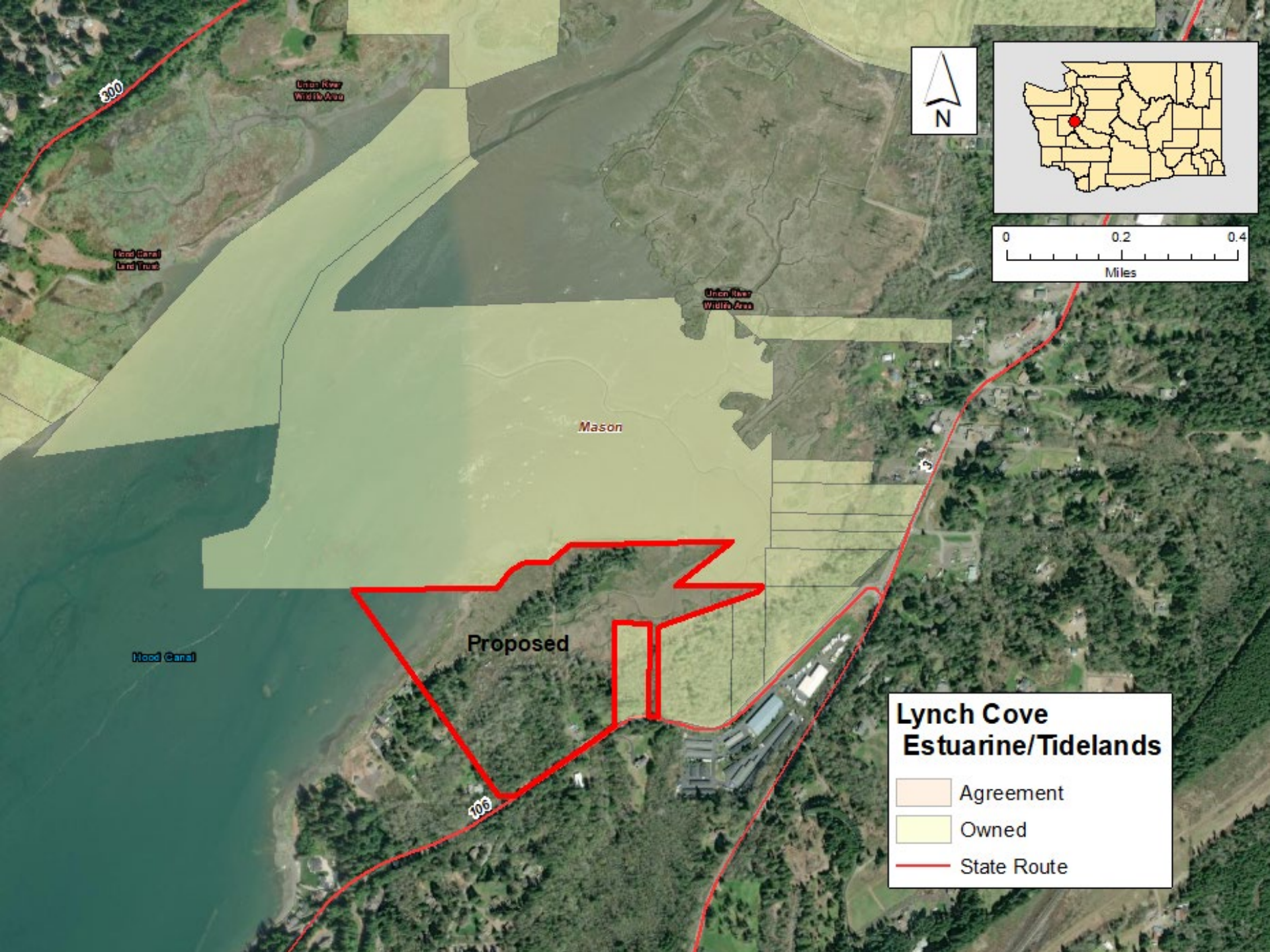
Proposed

Klickitat

Bowman Creek

- Agreement
- Owned
- State Route
- Rivers





Lynch Cove Estuarine/Tidelands

- Agreement
- Owned
- State Route

300

Union River Wildlife Area

Hood Canal Land Trust

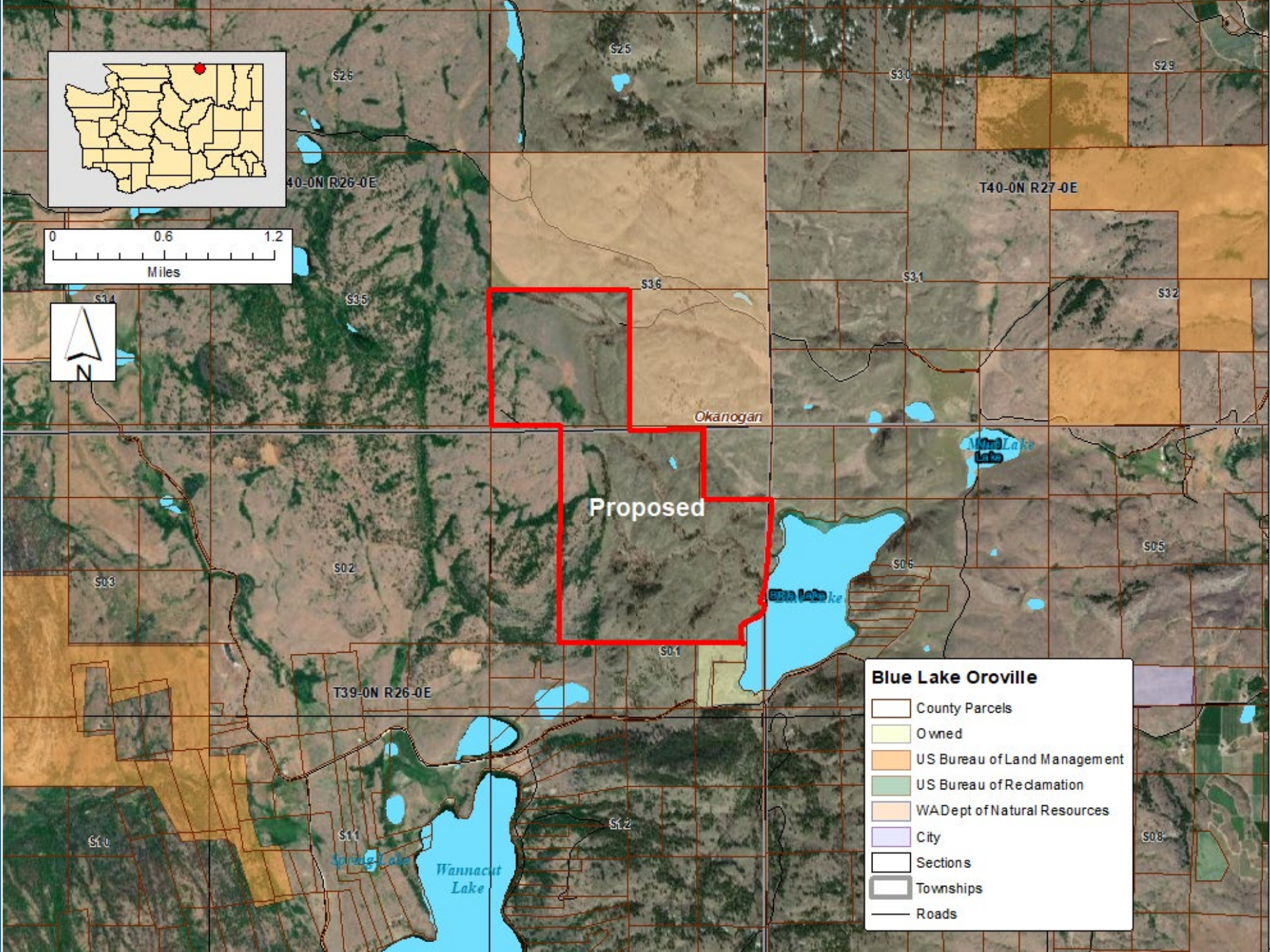
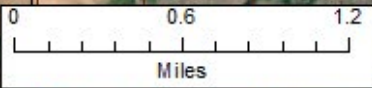
Union River Wildlife Area

Mason

Hood Canal

Proposed

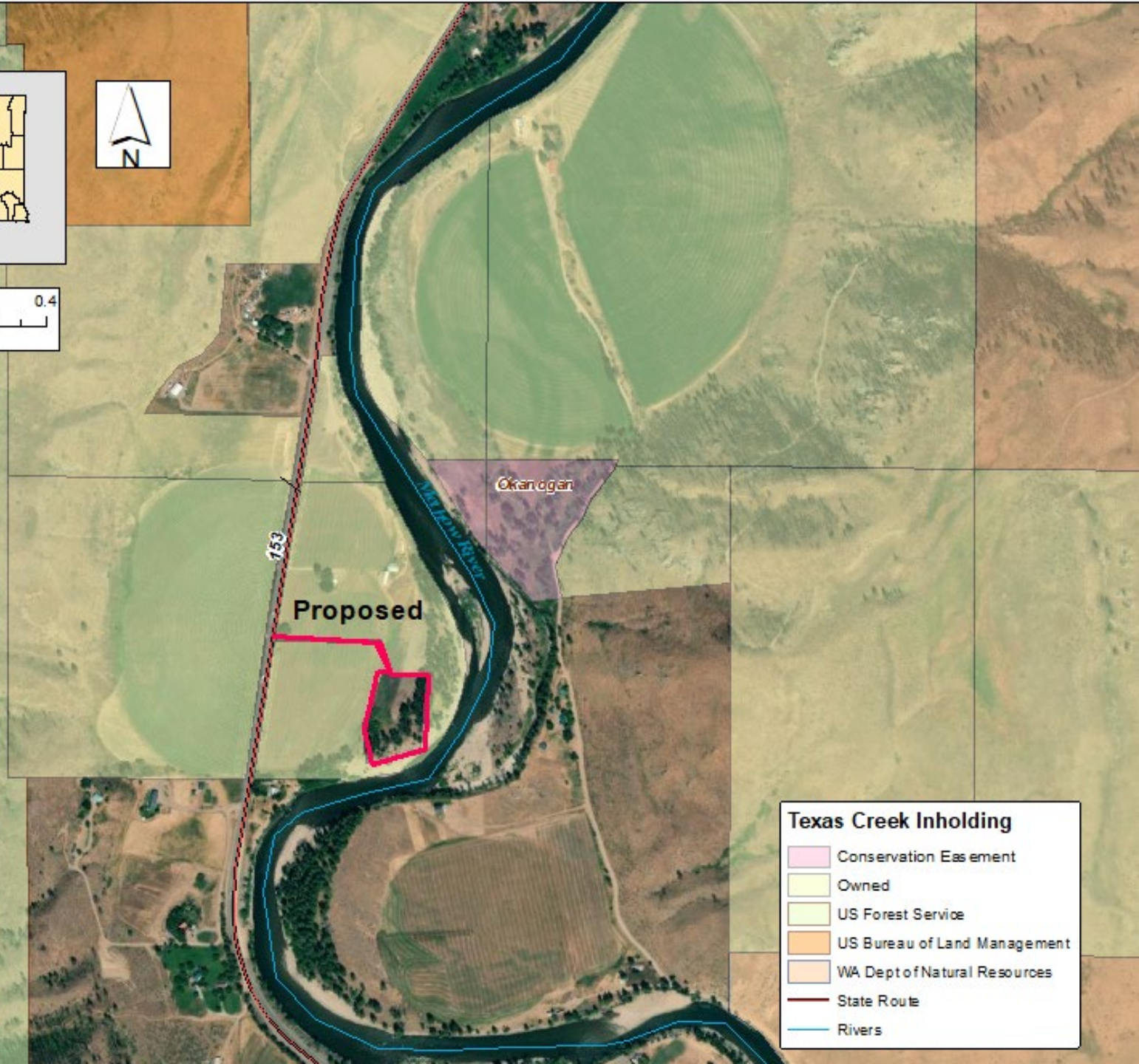
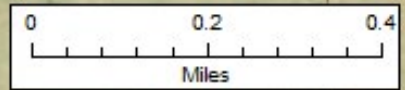
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Proposed

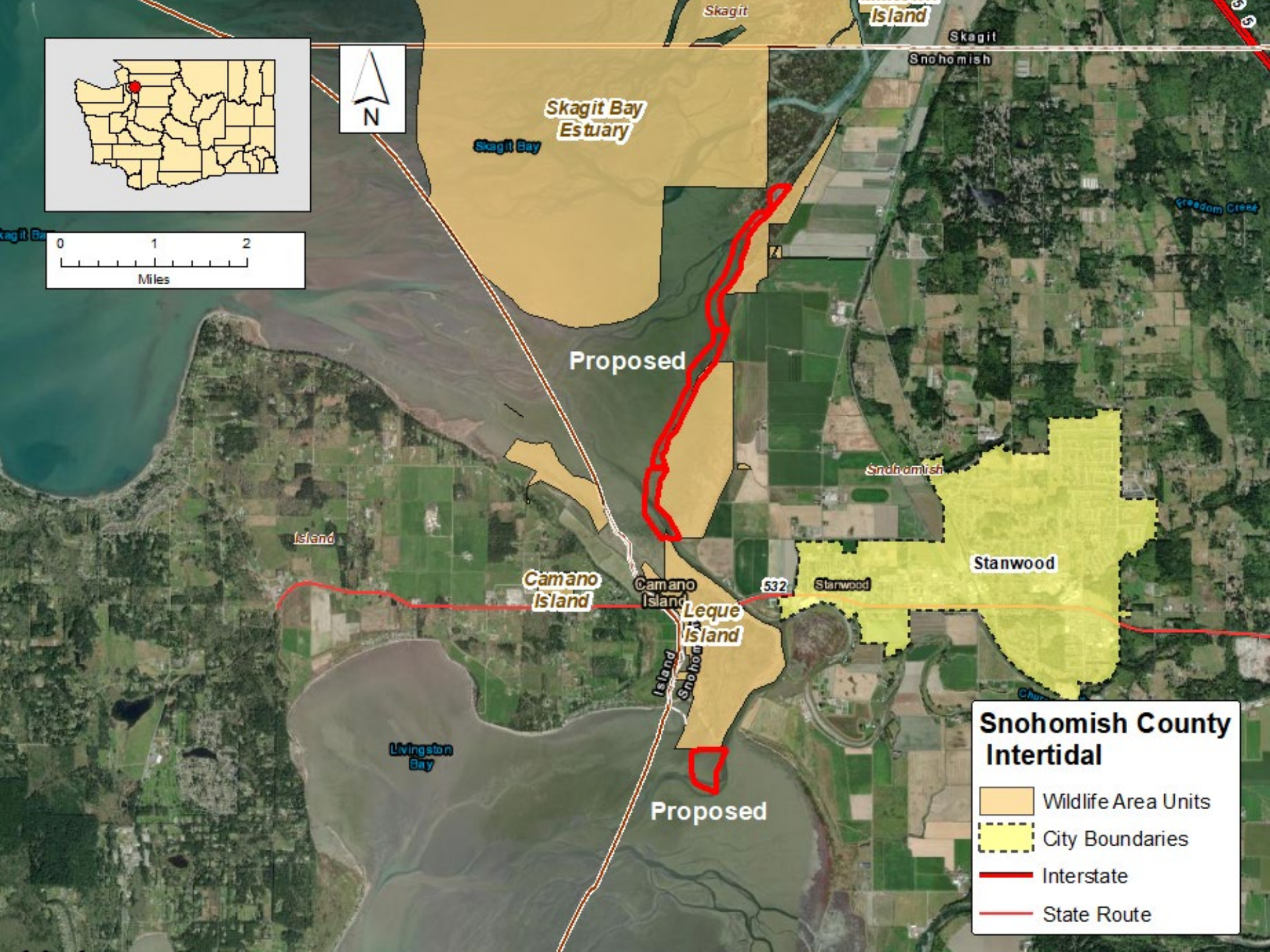
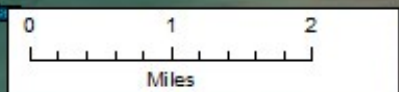
Blue Lake Oroville

- County Parcels
- Owned
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- City
- Sections
- Townships
- Roads







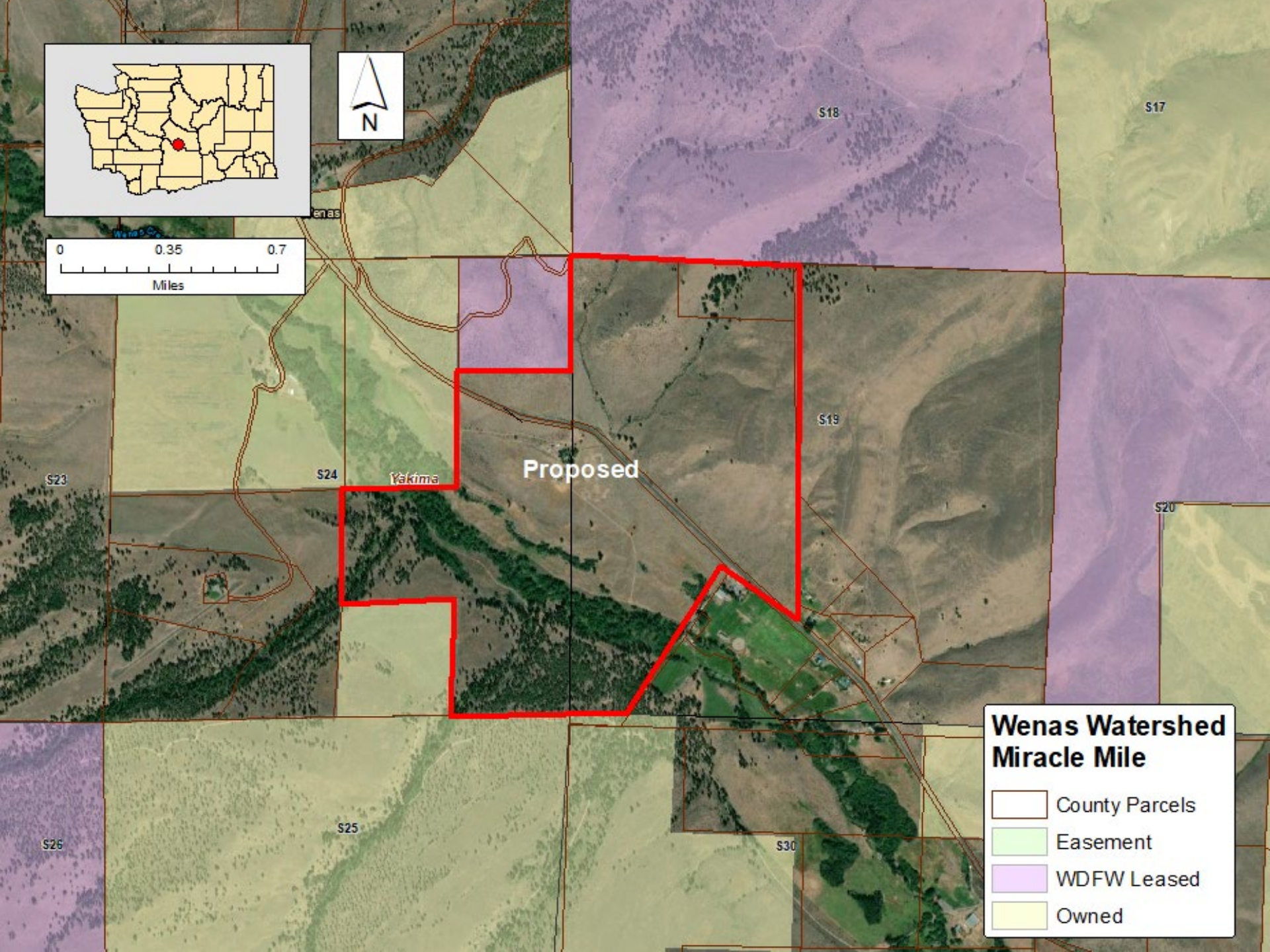
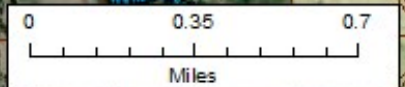
Texas Creek Inholding

- Conservation Easement
- Owned
- US Forest Service
- US Bureau of Land Management
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- State Route
- Rivers



Snohomish County Intertidal

-  Wildlife Area Units
-  City Boundaries
-  Interstate
-  State Route



Proposed

Wenas Watershed Miracle Mile

-  County Parcels
-  Easement
-  WDFW Leased
-  Owned