

*Improving watershed conditions in the headwaters of
the White and Green Rivers*



Puyallup Watershed
Symposium

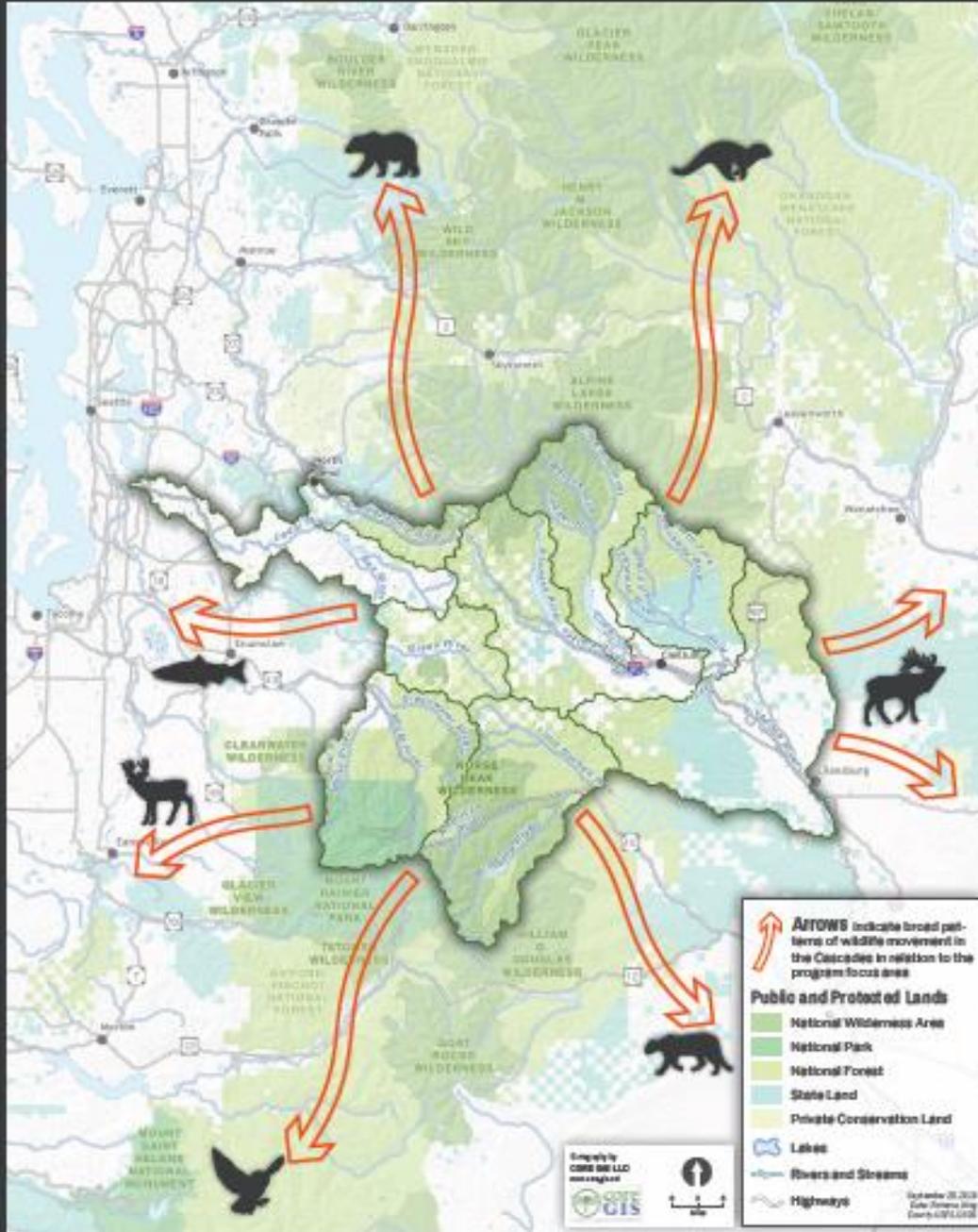
Dec 11th, 2019

Laurel Baum

Conservation Associate

Greenwater Lakes Trail

Central Cascades Watersheds Restoration Program



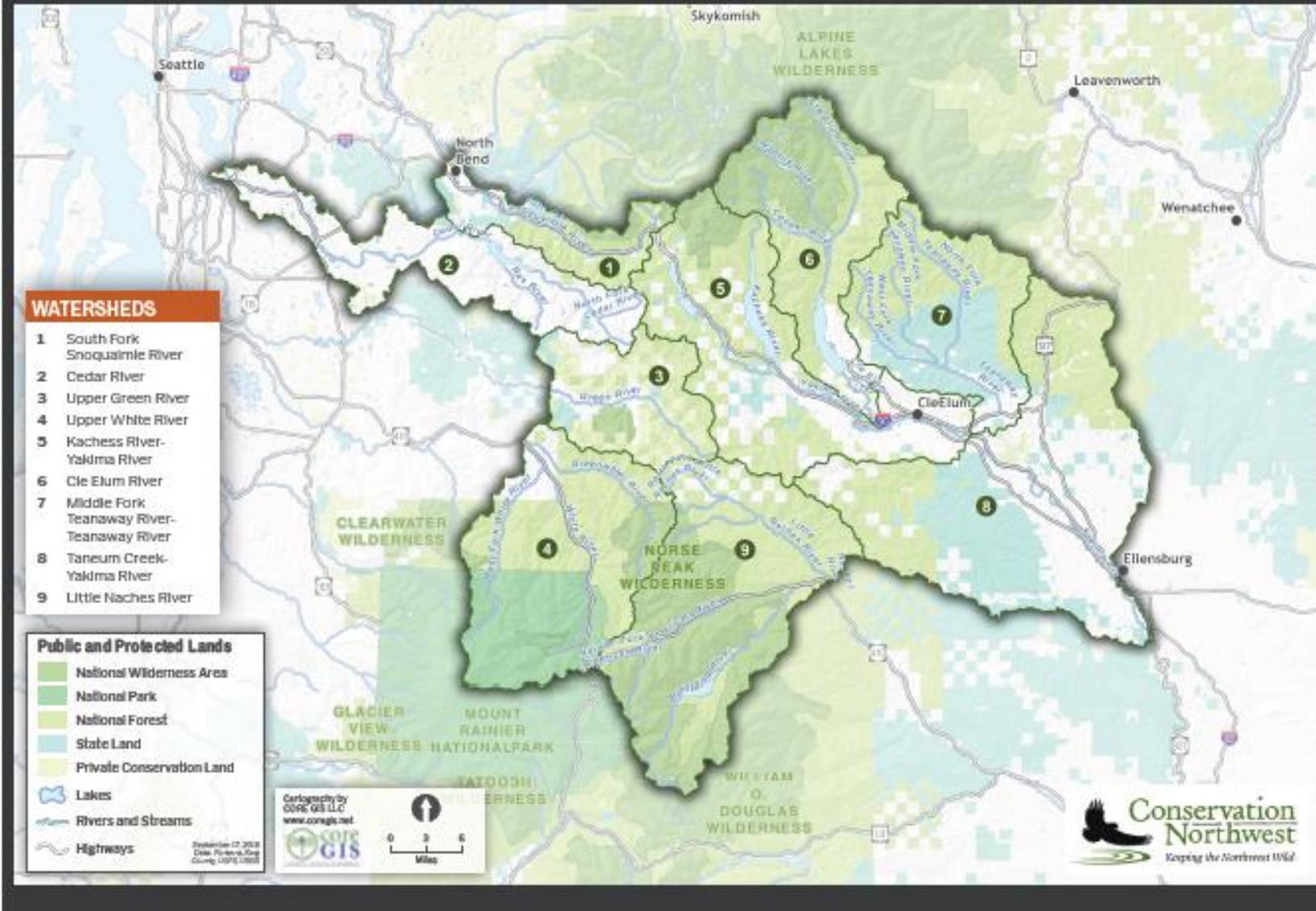
Our Mission:
Protect, Connect, Restore

Protecting wildlands
and core habitat

Connecting habitat to
facilitate wildlife
movement across the
landscape

Restoring wildlife and
habitat

Central Cascades Watershed Restoration Program



Program goals:

- Improve watershed function and wildlife habitat

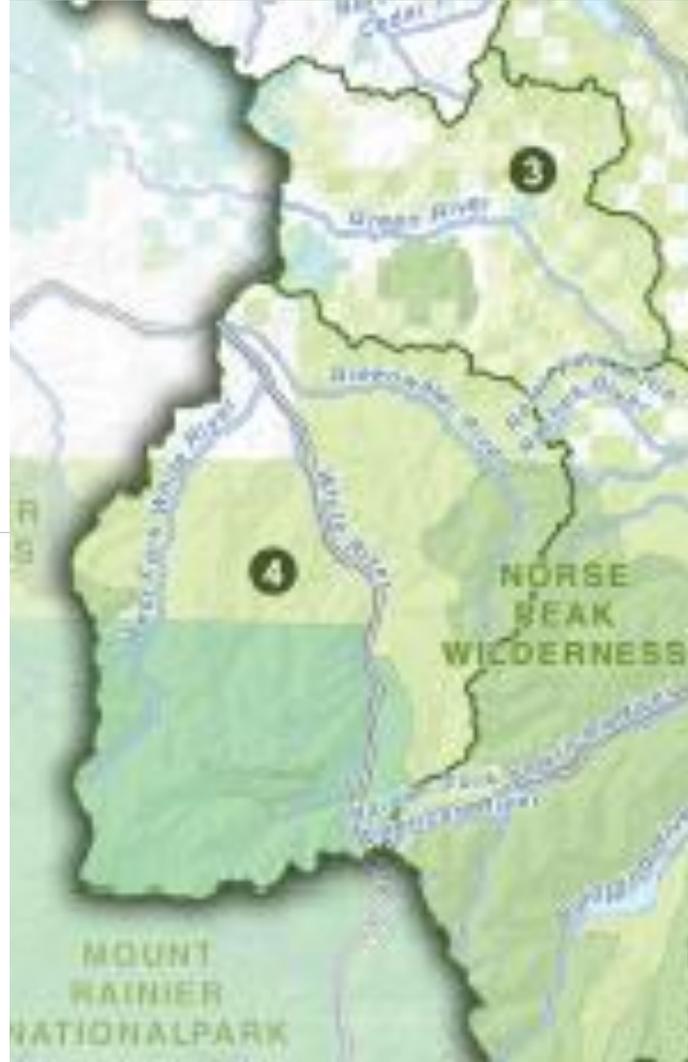
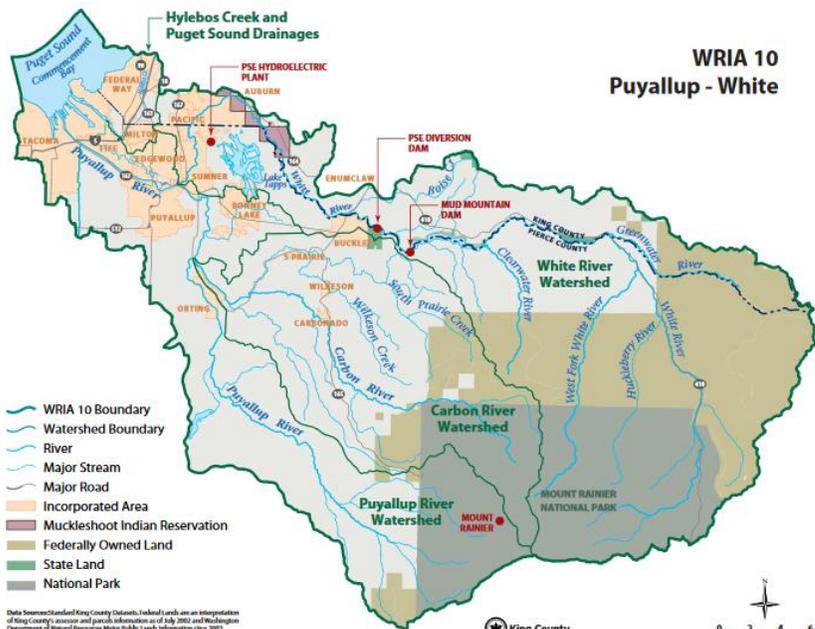
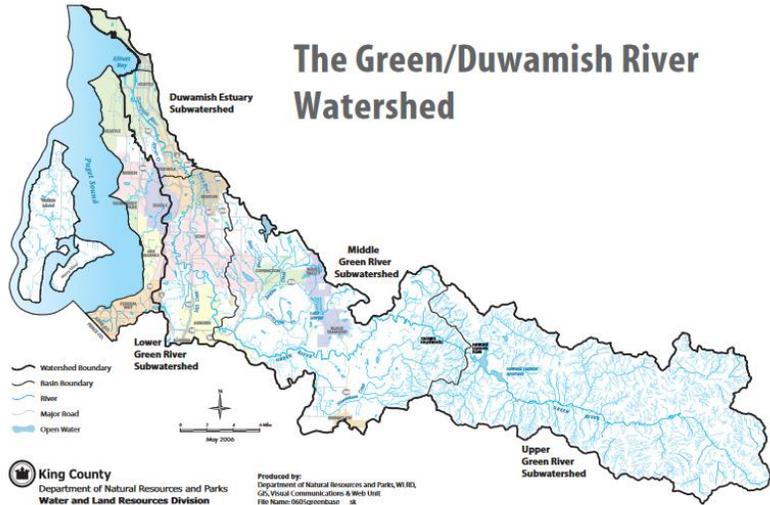
Where we work:

- public lands north and south of Interstate 90
- between Mount Rainier National Park and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness

Our approach:

- build partnerships with land managers
- engage in the policy
- on the ground restoration efforts
- community outreach

Upper Green and White River Watersheds



Land Management Policy

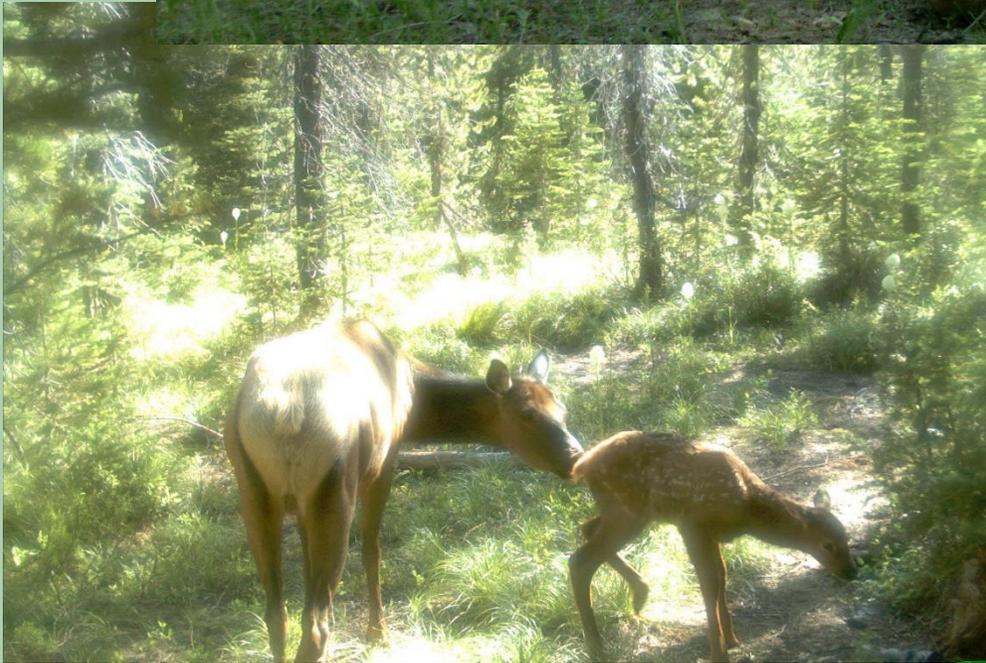
- Federal NEPA process
- Environmental Assessment

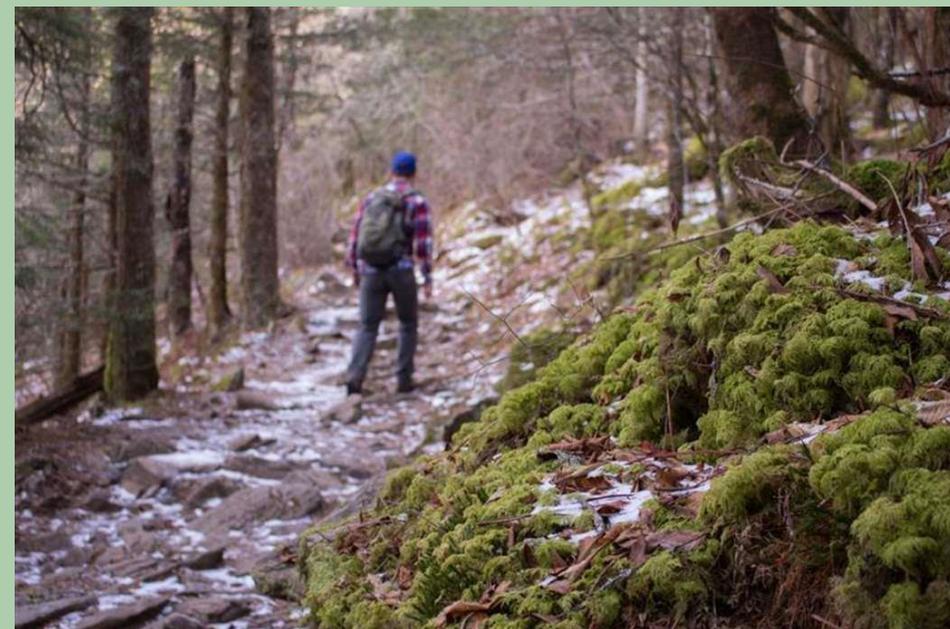
Public Engagement

- Community engagement
- User behavior and impacts
- Creating meaningful partnerships

Habitat Restoration

- Repair of badly degraded areas





Challenges in the headwaters:

- checkerboard landscape
- history of over logging, poor stand health
- Recreational challenges
 - shooting
 - 4 wheeling
 - dispersed camping
 - user created trails
- Impaired watershed functions
- High road density
- Culverts
 - Barriers to aquatic organisms



Forest Service and Partners
Seek Improvements

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Greenwater Access and Travel Management Plan

2017 NEPA Decision
67,667 acre project

Snoquera Landscape Analysis

May, 2019 Draft Decision
project area boundary 191,215 acres,
115,597 acres on National Forest
System lands

Next steps are implementation



Snoquera Landscape Analysis Draft Environmental Assessment

Snoqualmie Ranger District, Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, King and Pierce Counties, WA
December 2018



Greenwater Access and Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment

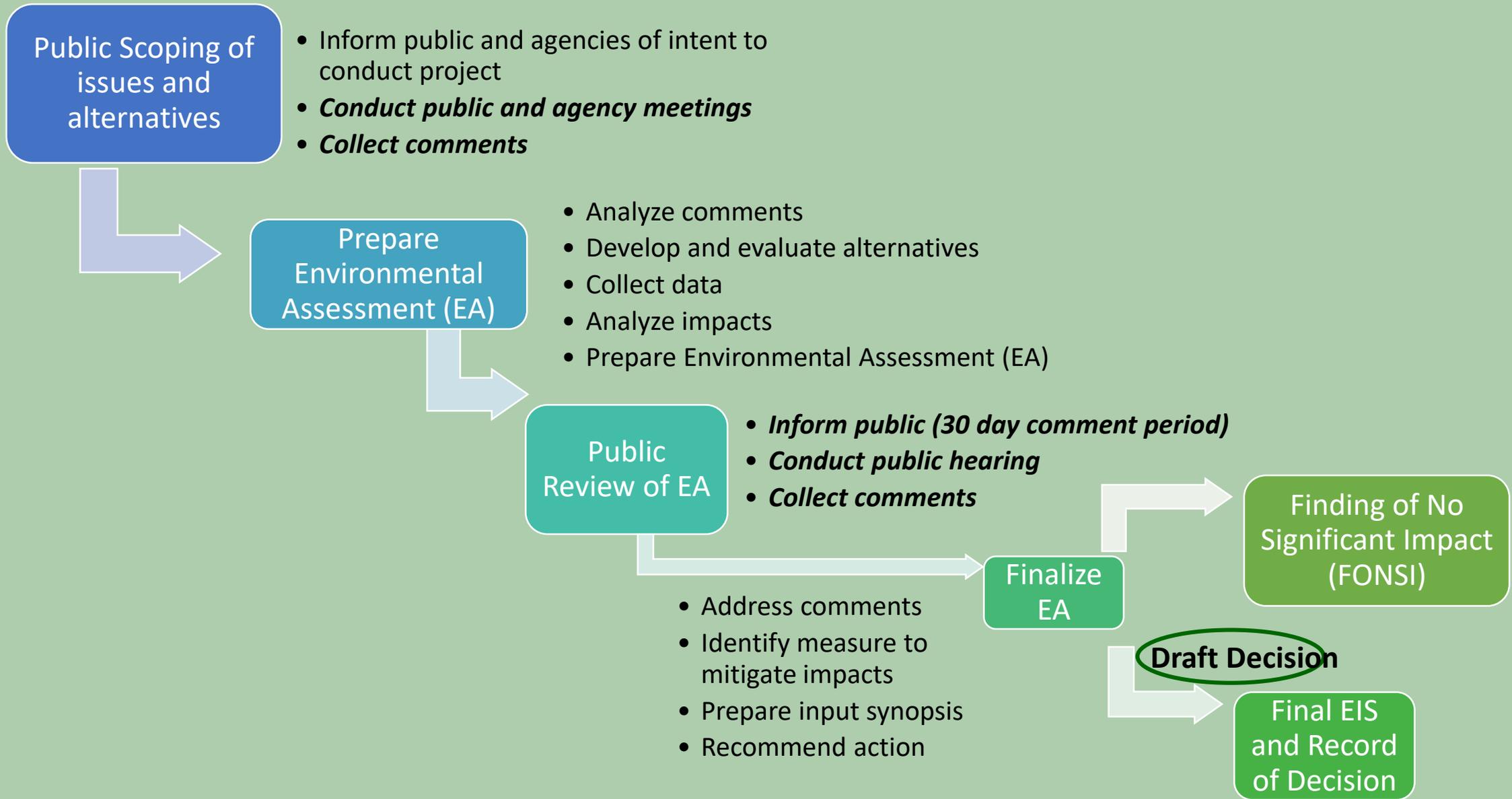


Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest

Snoqualmie
Ranger District

November
2018

NEPA process



Snoquera Draft Decision

- increase treatments to improve watershed function and wildlife security habitat
 - in stream wood
 - Improved Aquatic Organism passageways
- a clear authority to address the unauthorized roads in the project area
- a commitment to subsequent all-land owner effort to address roads in the Upper Green



Impacts to wildlife

High road densities are often associated with a reduction of wildlife use or other negative effects on wildlife.



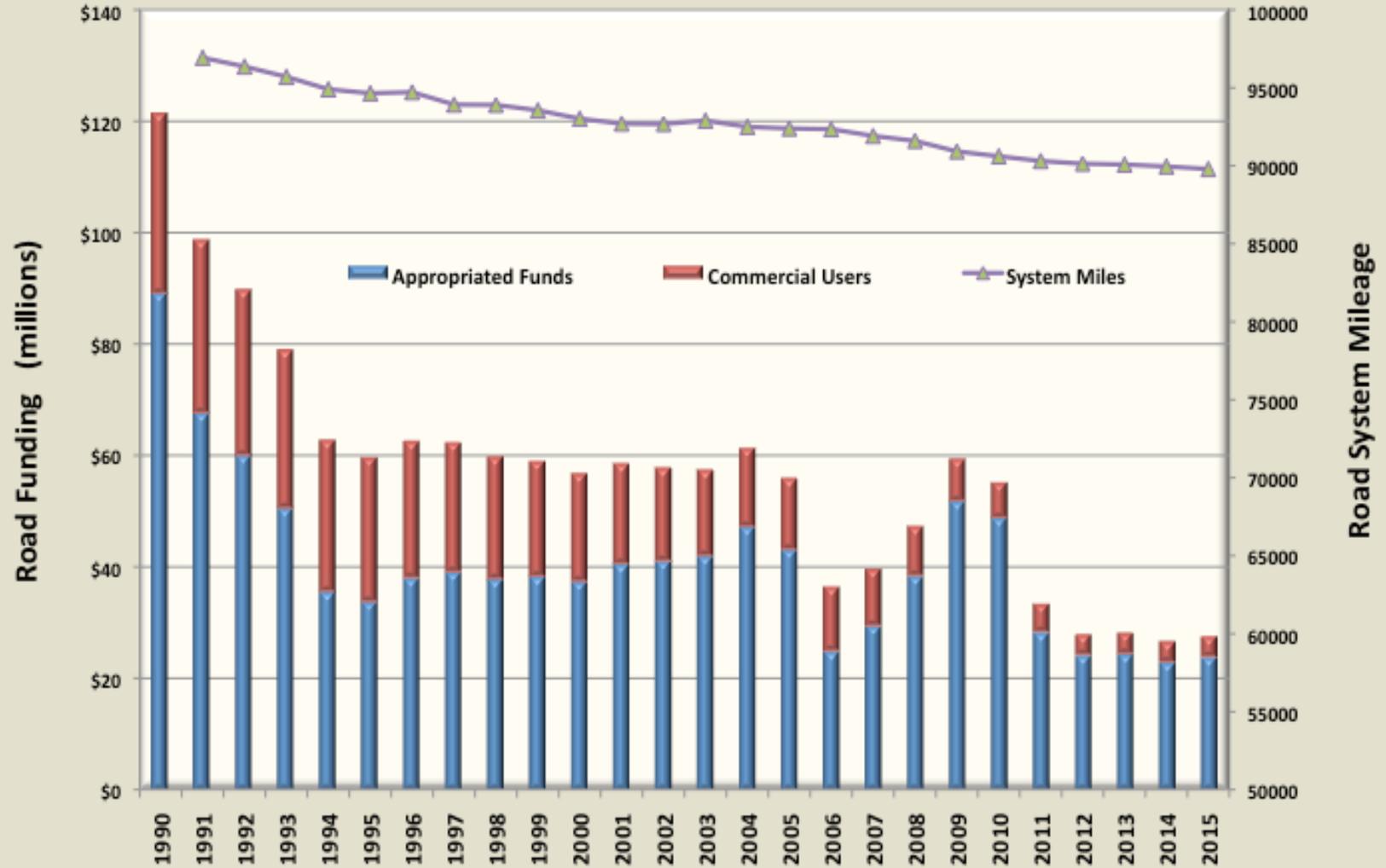
Challenges to our National Forest Lands

Lack of Resources

Lack of Funding

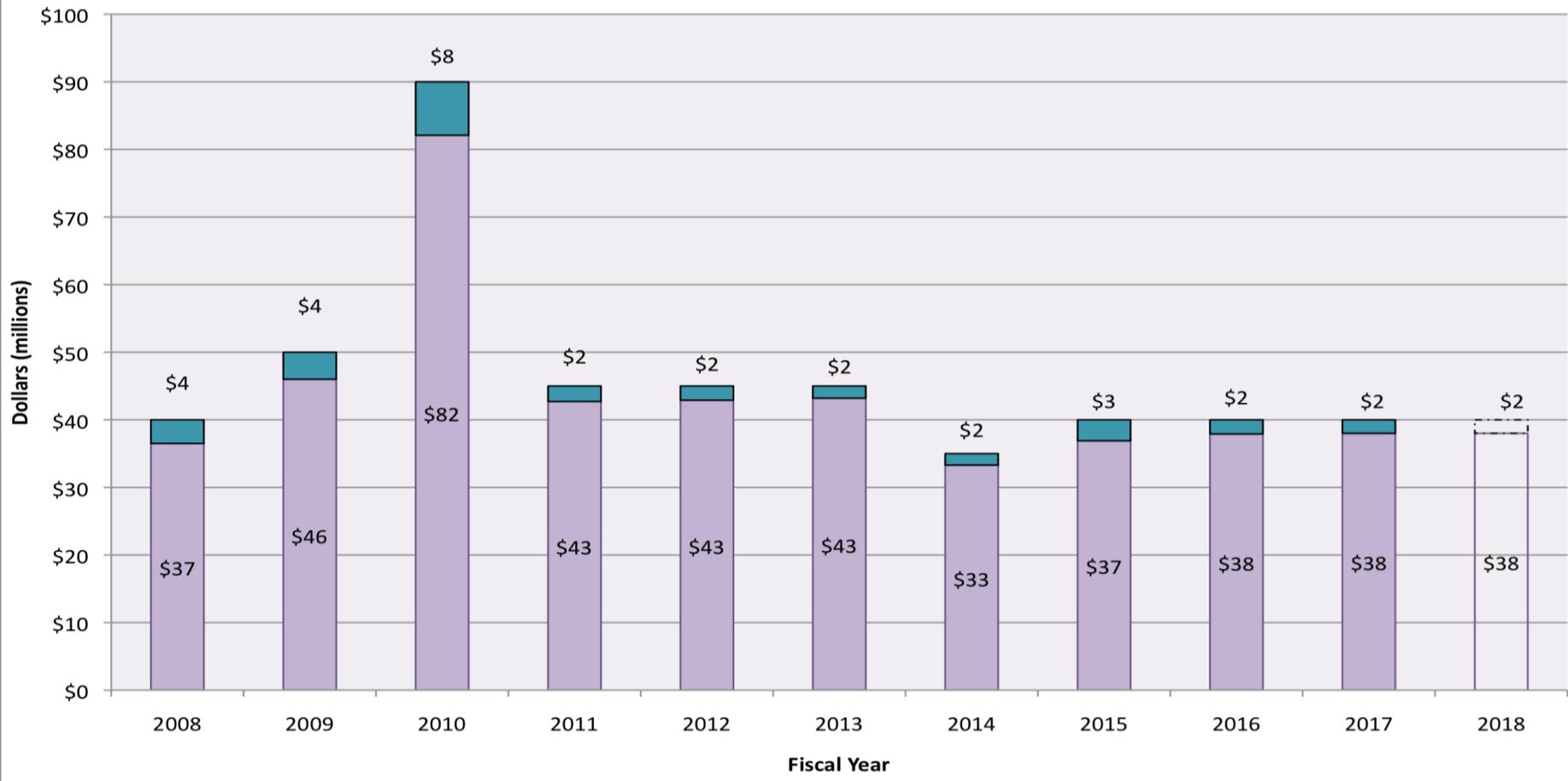
- *Road Budgets*
- *Legacy Roads and Trails*
- *Other Funding?*

R6, Road Funding and Mileage Trends



Legacy Roads and Trails Funding (FY 2008-2018)

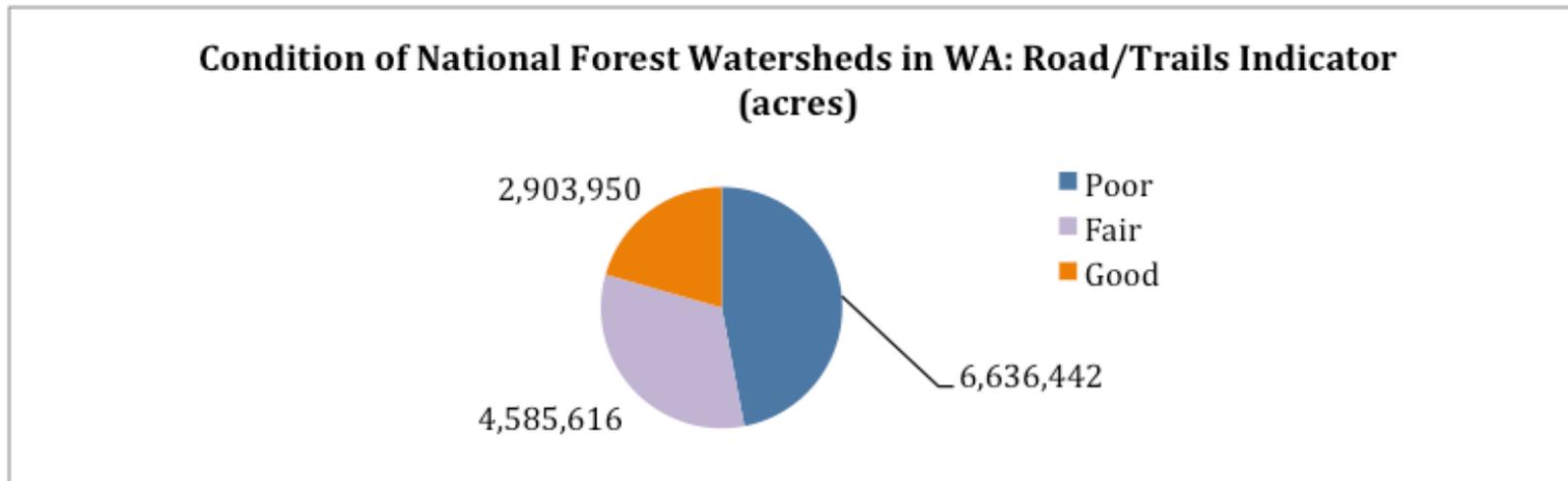
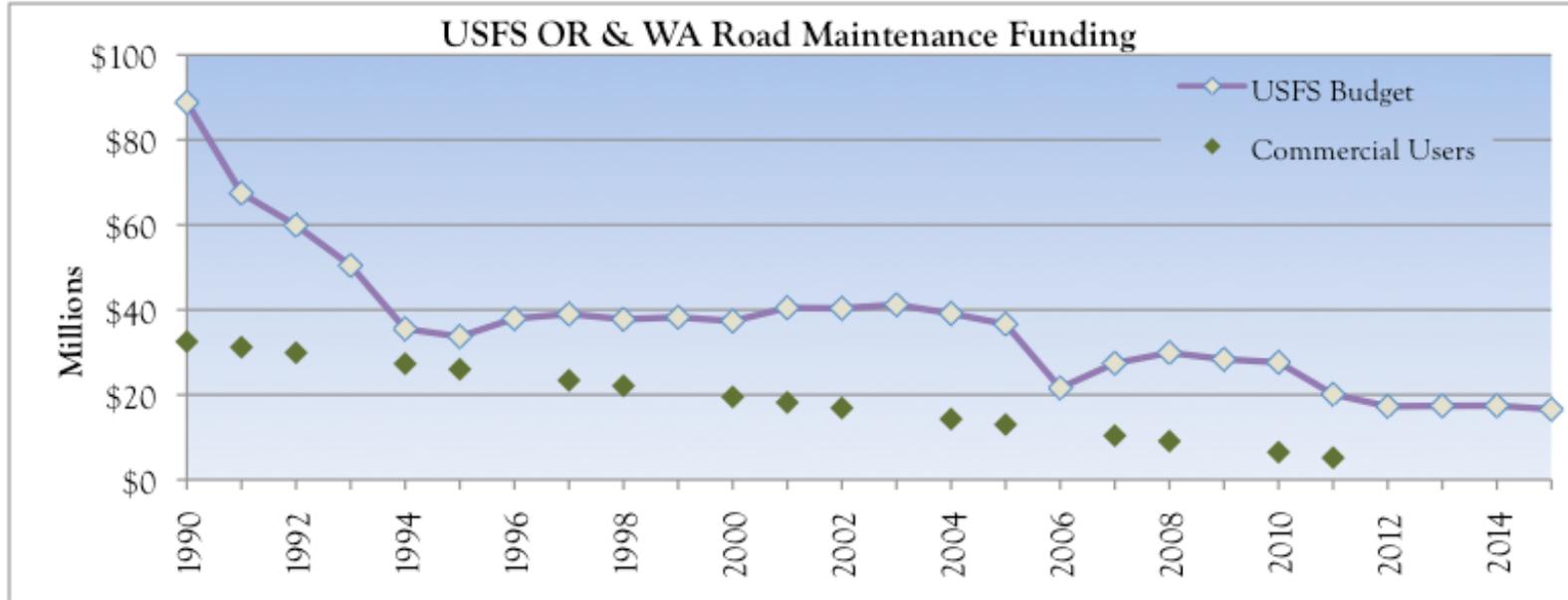
Nationally (\$510M) and Washington State (\$33M)*

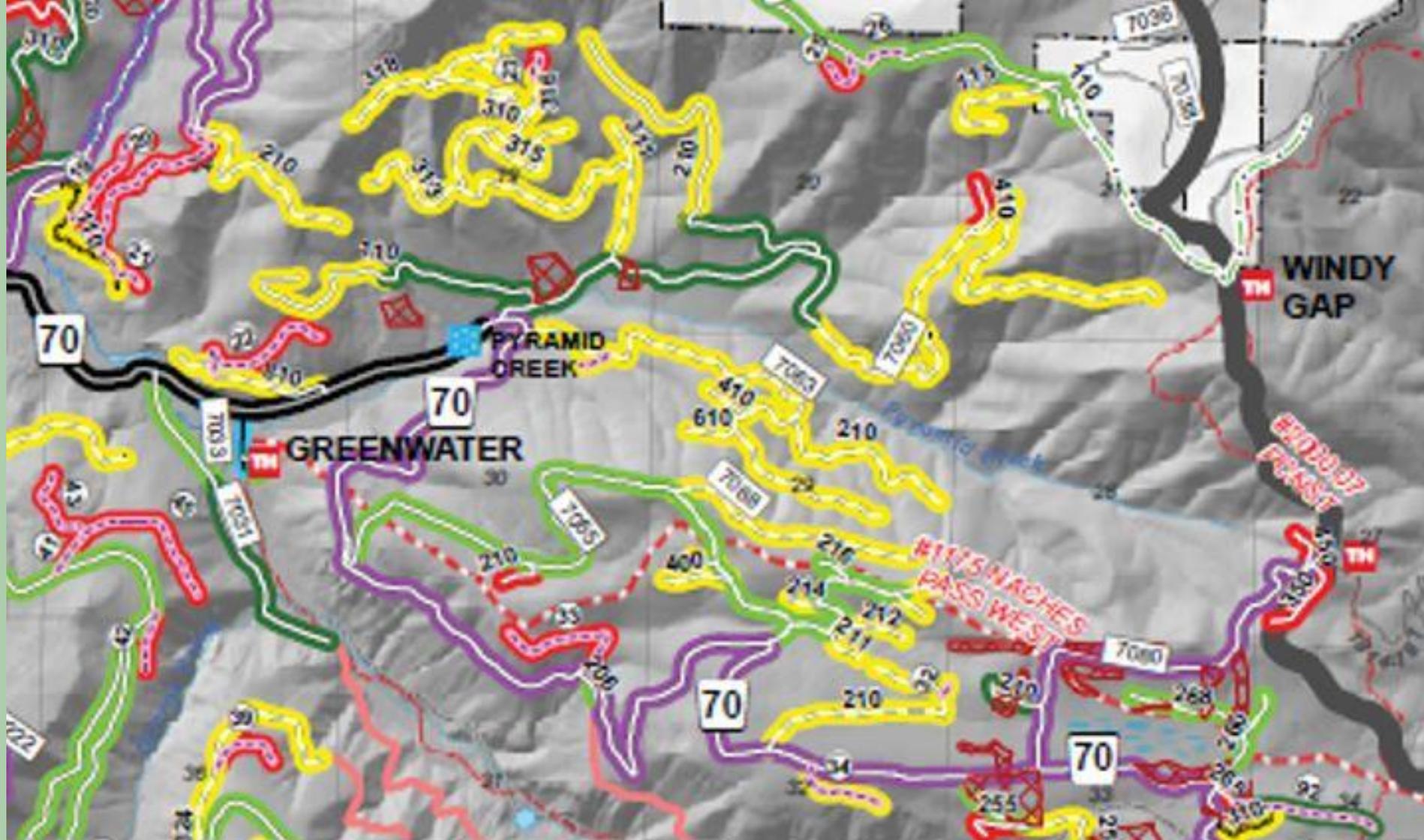


* In FY18, LRT funding was merged with the agency's general road maintenance budget but with report language directing \$40M to LRT projects.

The road problem trifecta

- **No money:** road maintenance budget dropped 82% since 1990
- **Water quality impacts:** 78% of watersheds in WA are harmed by roads and trails
- **Fish barriers:** 994 barriers to fish passage in WA's national forests





**GREENWATER
ACCESS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE LEVEL
SELECTED ALTERNATIVE**

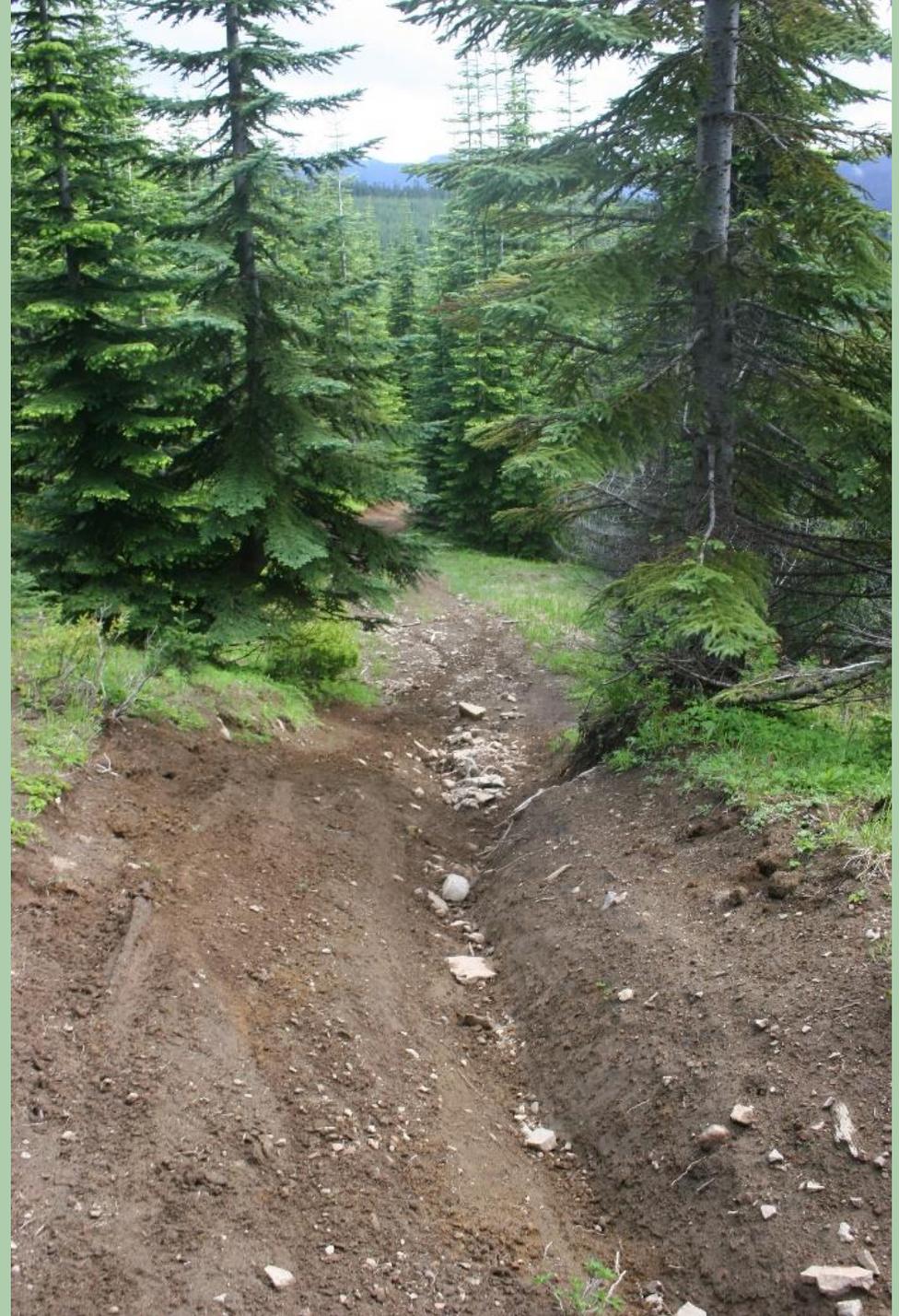


22 March 2017

- Proposed Maintenance Level**
- Decommissioned
 - 1 - Basic Custodial Care (CLOSED)
 - 2 - High Clearance Vehicles
 - 2A - Level 2 (Administrative Use Only)
 - 3 - Suitable For Passenger Cars
 - 4 - Moderate Degree Of User Comfort
 - 5 - High Degree Of User Comfort
- Current Road Operational Maintenance Level**
- 5 - High Degree Of User Comfort
 - 4 - Moderate Degree Of User Comfort
 - 3 - Suitable For Passenger Cars
 - 2 - High Clearance Vehicles
 - 1 - Basic Custodial Care (CLOSED)
 - Decommissioned

Impaired Watershed Function – unauthorized routes

- *approximately 37.5 miles of unclassified non-system routes were mapped using LiDAR*



Conservation Northwest - 2019 Restoration Overview

*Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest – Greenwater Area
Restoration efforts - user created trails and resource damage*







7080 damaged meadow 2018



– post restoration



- 2019





















Partners are stepping up

Washington Trails Association

Backcountry Horsemen – Tahoma Chapter

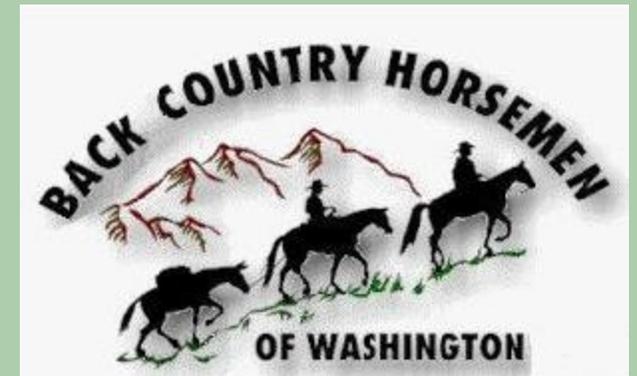
Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association

Pacific Crest Trail Association



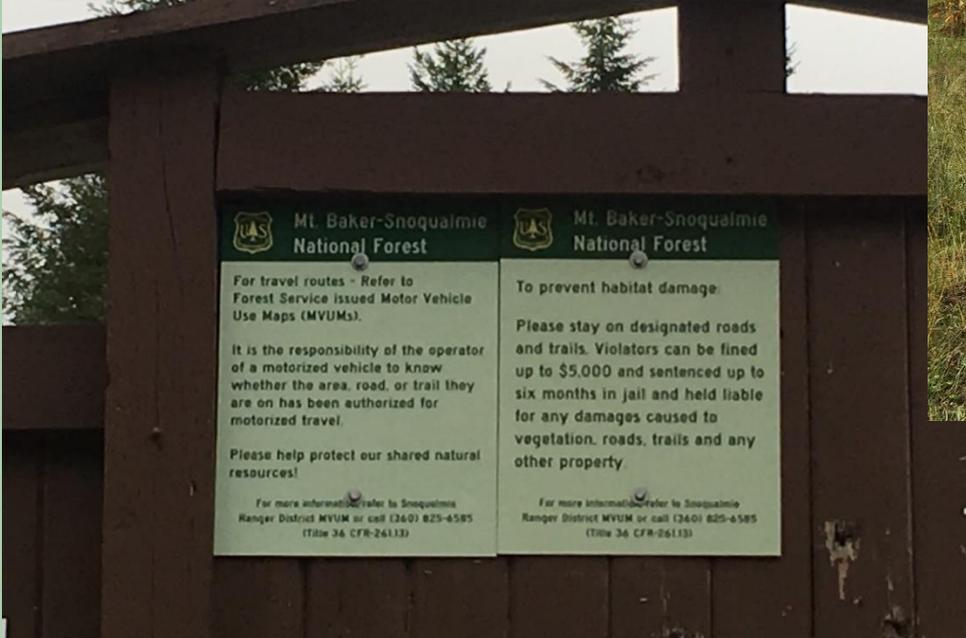
Community Engagement

- Signage and buy in from the 4 wheel community
- Collaboration with other groups



Pacific NW 4 Wheel Drive Association – Government Meadows area

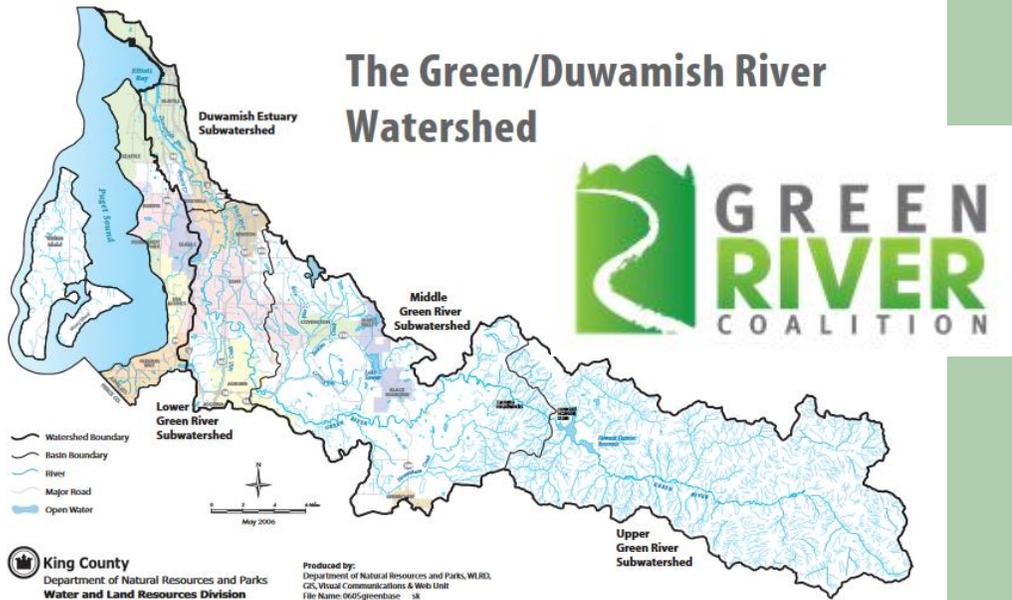
Motorized Vehicle Signage efforts



Field Tours, building partnerships

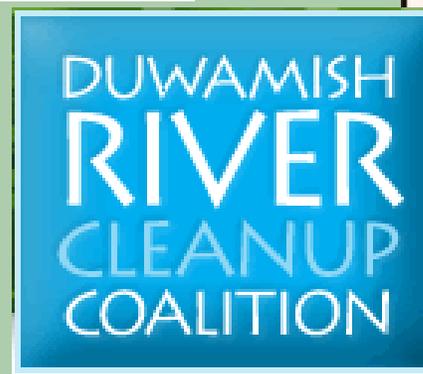
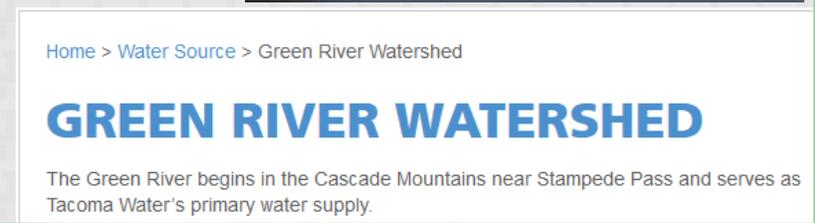
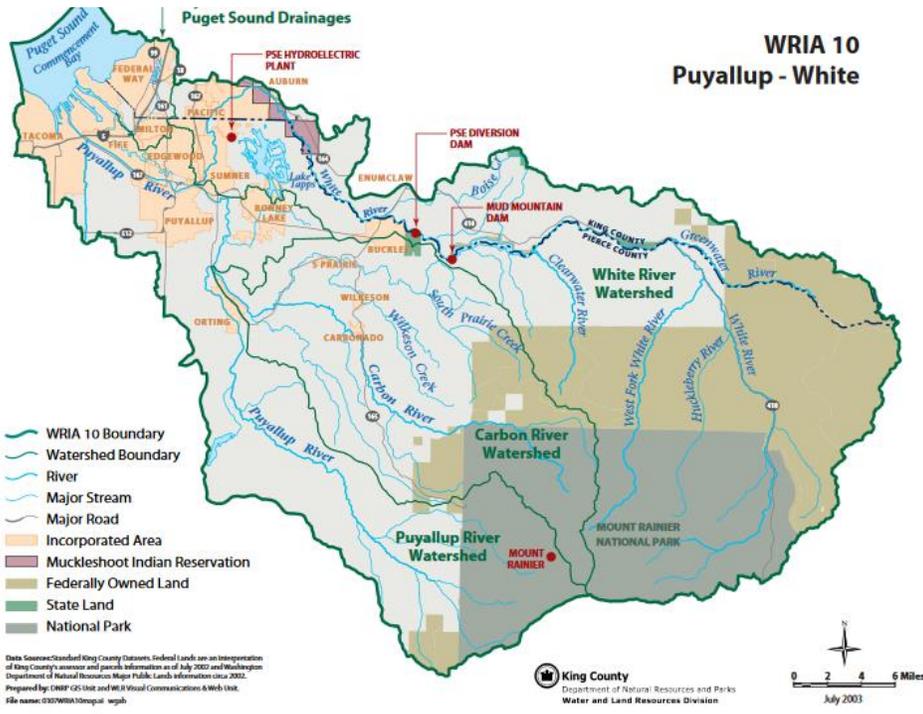
- Invite funders and legislative representatives
- Collaboration with other stakeholders





Potential for Diverse Community Engagement

- Urban communities in Seattle, Puyallup, Tacoma, Enumclaw
- Outreach to user groups
- Create 'All Lands' Planning Table for the upper Green Watershed





Thank you!!

Questions?

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