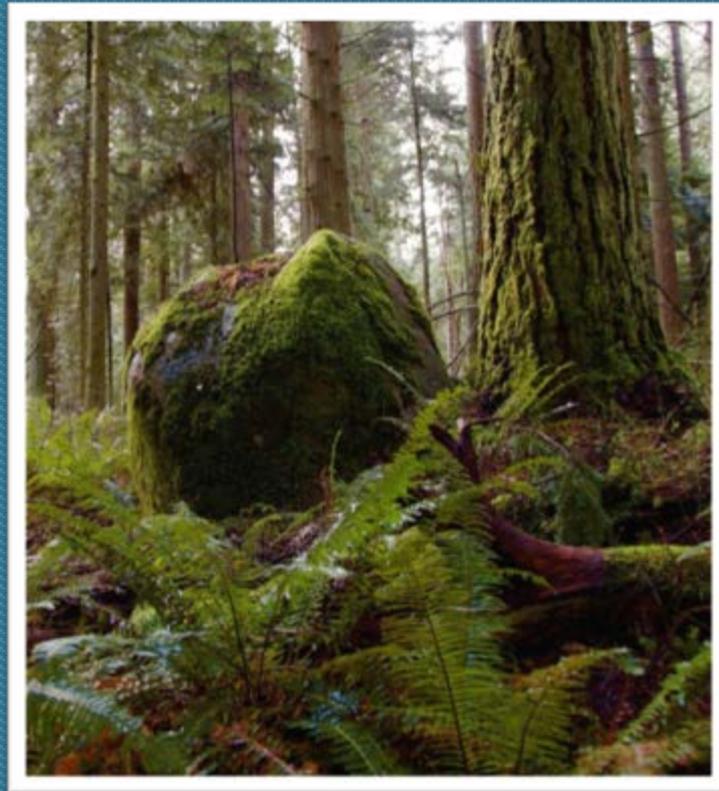


Mitchell Hill Connector Forest Planning



Purpose of Meeting

- Review/update about the preliminary trailhead proposal for Grand Ridge Park/Mitchell Hill Forest
- Summary of the Preston Gateway Vision for lands in this corridor
- Description of the county and state lands in the Issaquah to Preston corridor
- Overview of the county's forest stewardship and backcountry trail programs

Purpose of Meeting (cont.)

- Overview of the proposed Mitchell Hill Forest trail and forest stewardship planning process
- Discuss opportunities for public involvement
- Answer questions from meeting attendees
- Provide opportunity for feedback

Grand Ridge Trailhead Meeting

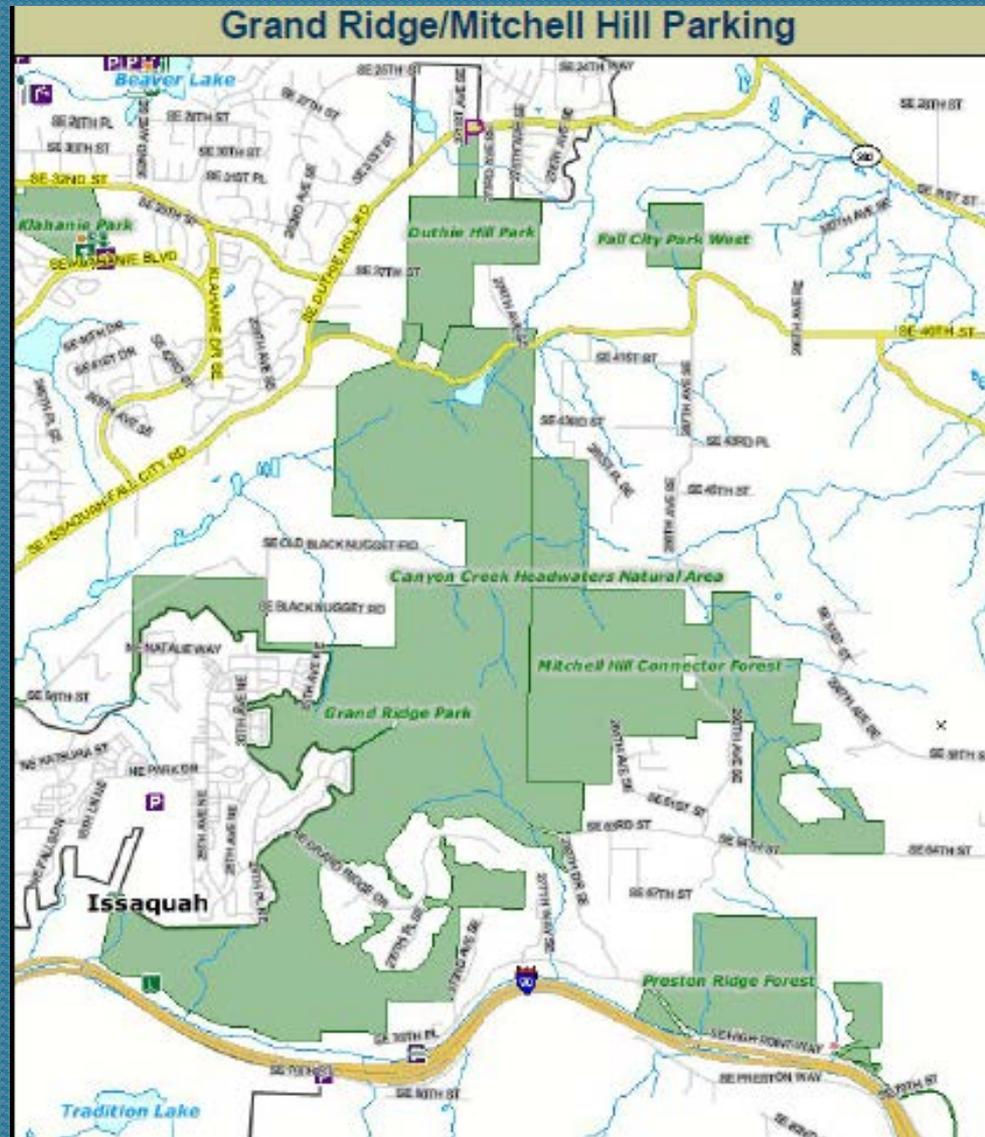
- Community Meeting held in September 2012
- About 50 attended, around 30 provided oral comments, about 35 other written comment rec'd
- Grand Ridge community presented a petition signed by about 85 people opposing the preliminary proposal
- Opposition focused on concerns about:
 - Condition/capacity/safety of public road
 - Safety issues with trailhead facility
 - Increased public use of road/trailhead
 - Incompatibility with rural residential neighborhood
 - Costs of providing small trailhead compared to benefits

Grand Ridge Trailhead Meeting

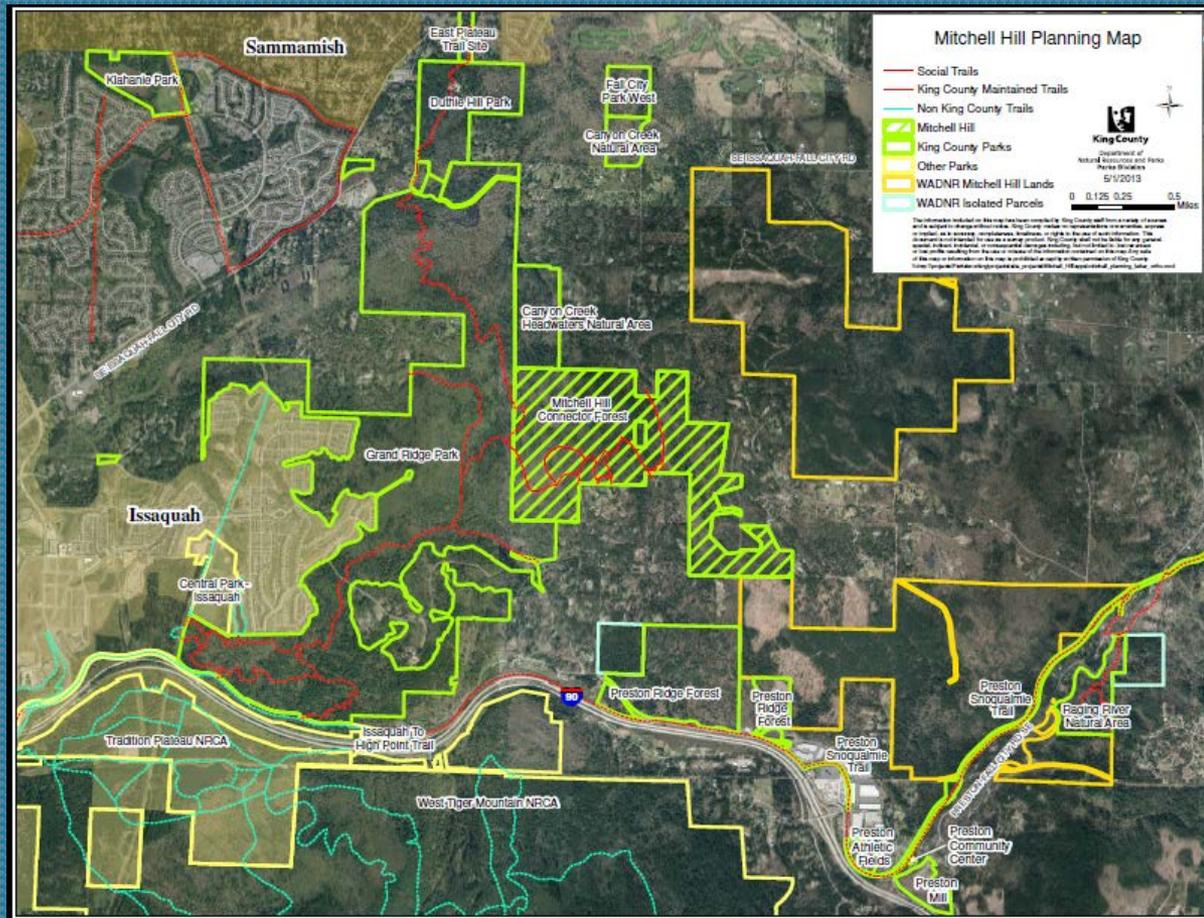
General feedback:

- support for a larger “landscape” level trail/trailhead planning effort
- agreement that process should be guided through strong community involvement
- any further consideration of the preliminary proposed trailhead would require additional studies and additional public process

Grand Ridge Park Trailheads

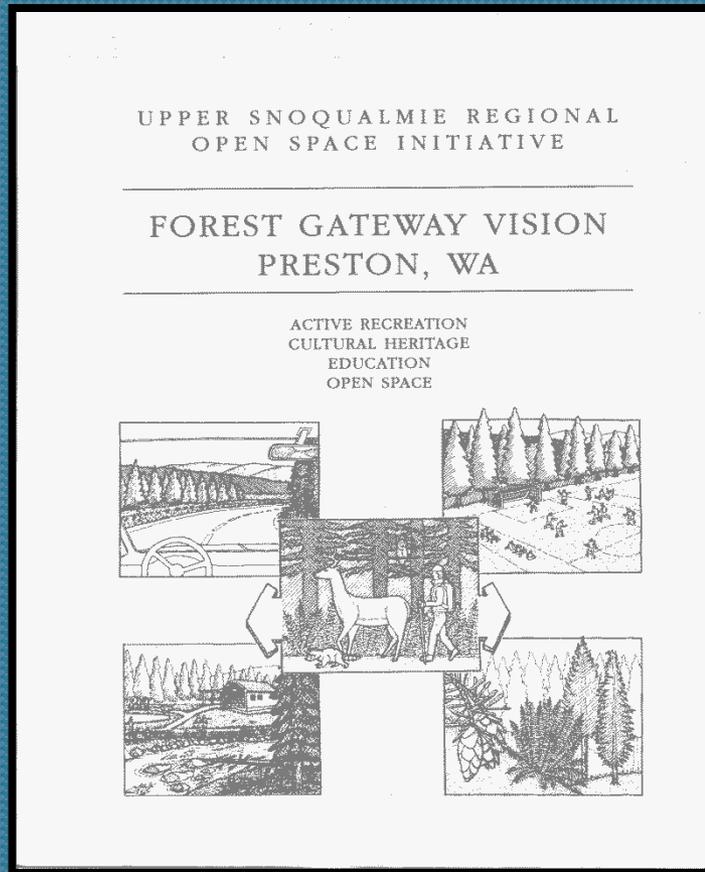


Mitchell Hill Forest Planning



Upper Snoqualmie Regional Open Space System

Forest Gateway Vision



- Active Recreation
- Cultural Heritage
- Education
- Open Space
- Forest Conservation

Active Recreation



- Preston Athletic Fields
 - Soccer Fields
 - Baseball Field
 - Children's Play Area
 - Restroom Facilities



Cultural Heritage

- Preston Mill Site
- Historic Preston Community Center



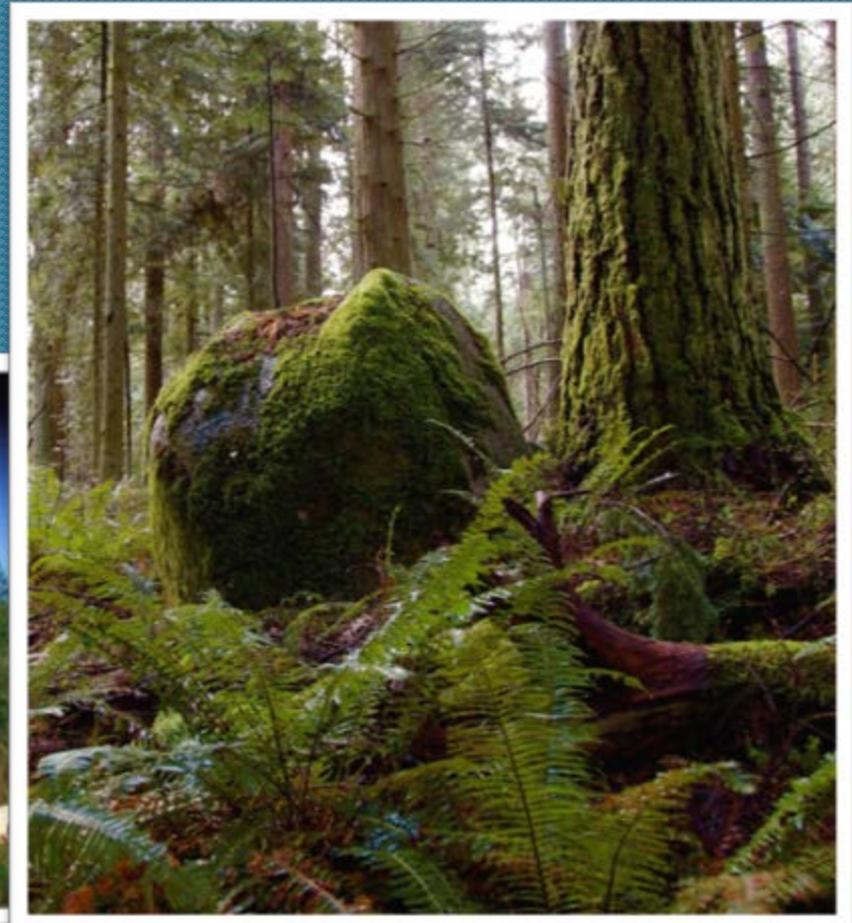
Education

These sites provide opportunities for learning about natural resource values and cultural heritage

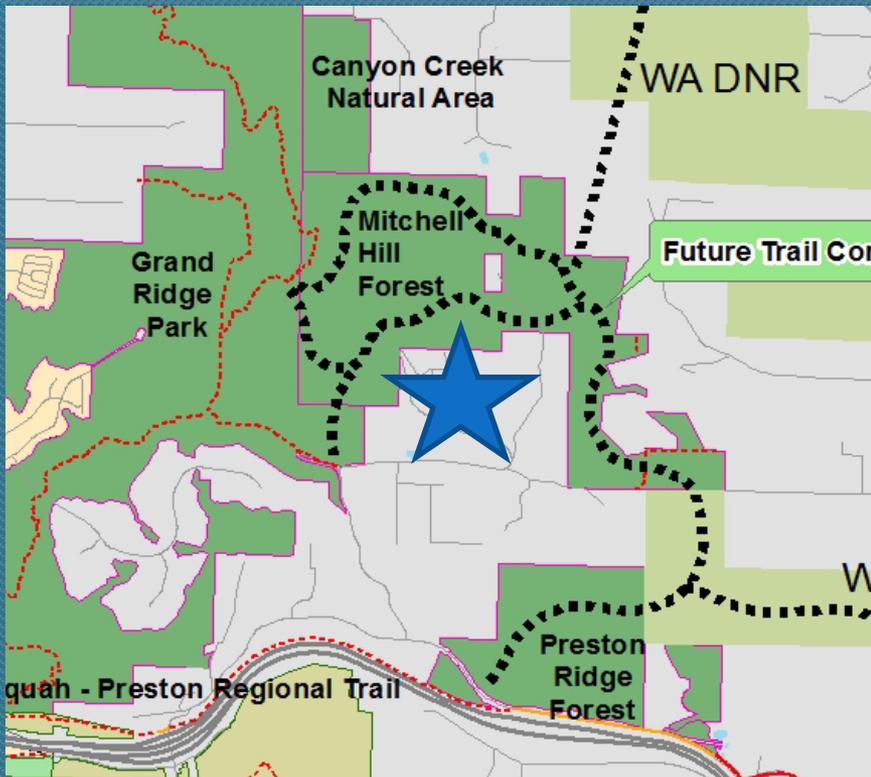


Open Space

- Mitchell Hill Forest
- Preston Ridge Forest



Acquisition Funding Sources

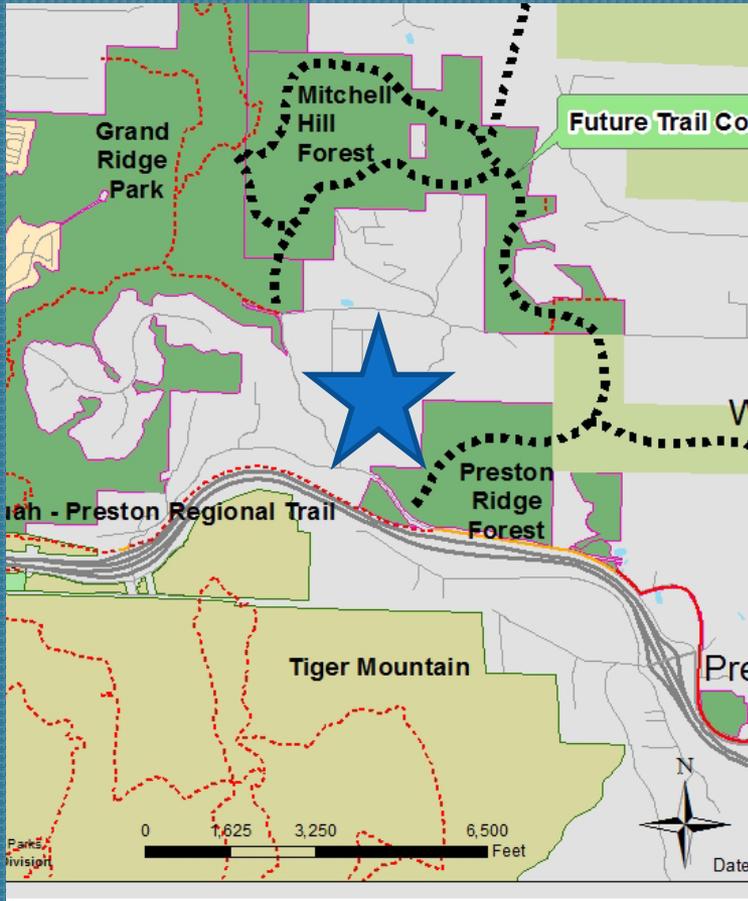


Mitchell Hill Forest 439 acres

- CFT
- Forest Legacy
- ANRI
(King County Arts and Natural Resources Initiative)
- TDR
(Transfer of Development Rights)

Site Managed as Working Forest

Acquisition Funding Sources

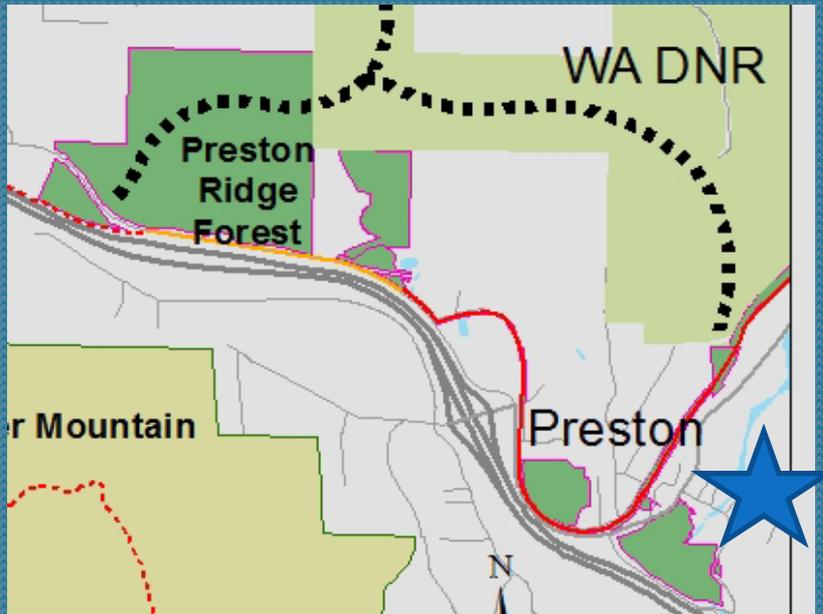


Preston Ridge Forest 189 acres

- STP
- Forest Legacy
- Donation
-

Site Managed as Working Forest

Acquisition Funding Sources



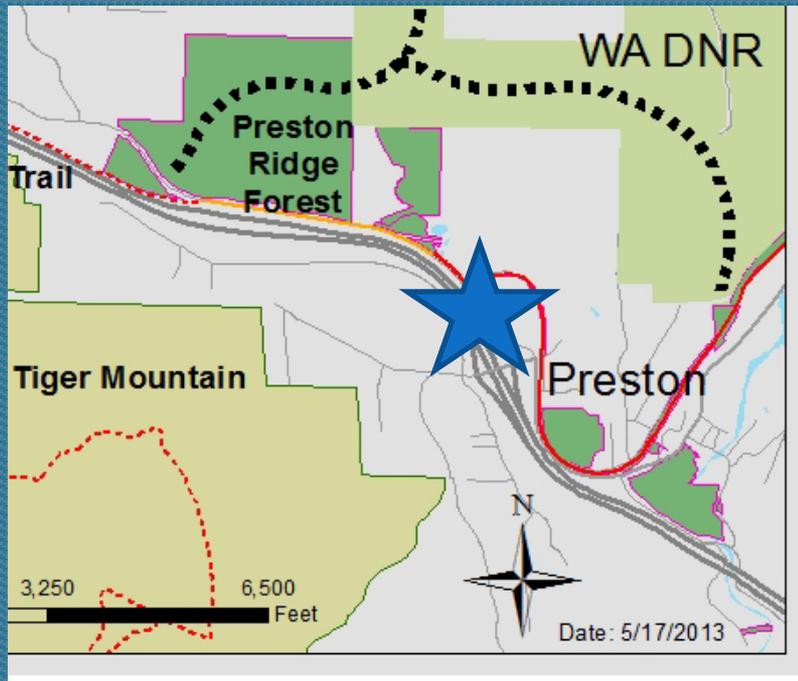
Preston Mill Site 23 acres

- Conservation Futures
- REET #1
- STP Grant



Site Managed for Multiple Purposes

Acquisition Funding Sources



Preston Athletic Fields 13 acres

- Forward Thrust
- 1989 Open Space Bond
- T-21 Grants
- Park Levy Funds
- Developed through Community Partnership Program

Site Managed for Active Recreation

Acquisition Funding Sources

Preston Community Center

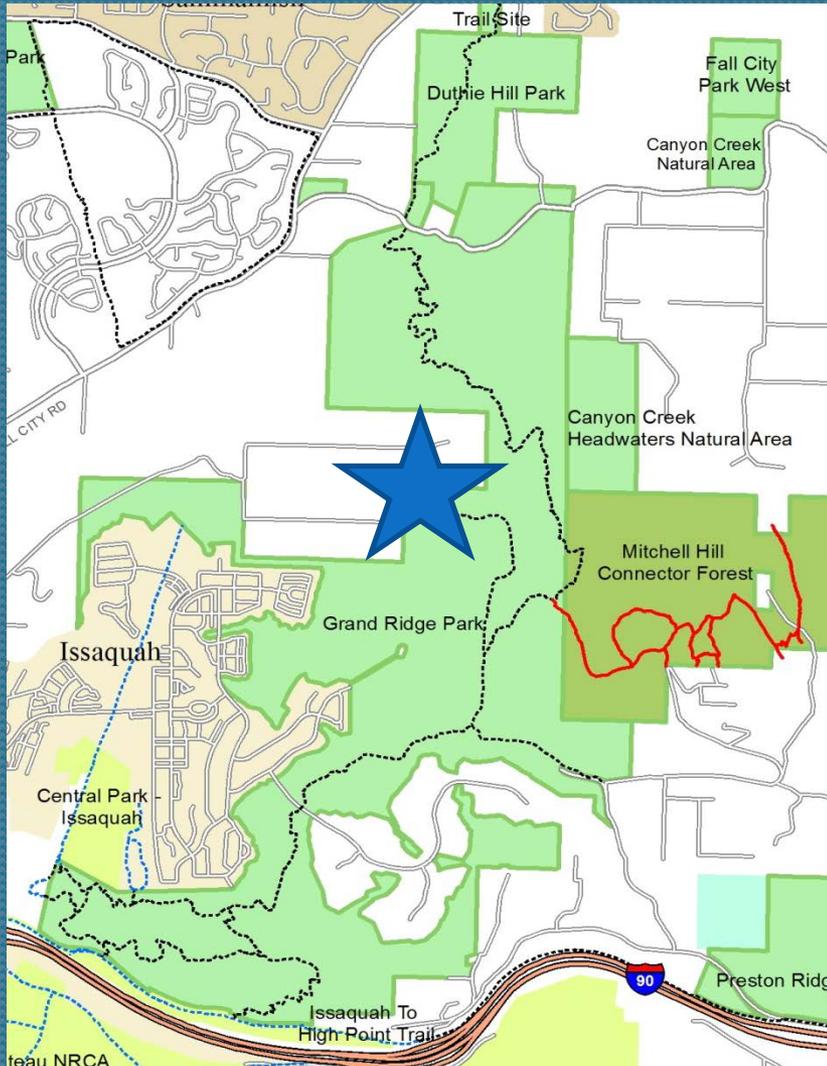
.6 acres



- Donation
- Partnership with WPA

Site Managed for Recreation

Acquisition Funding Sources



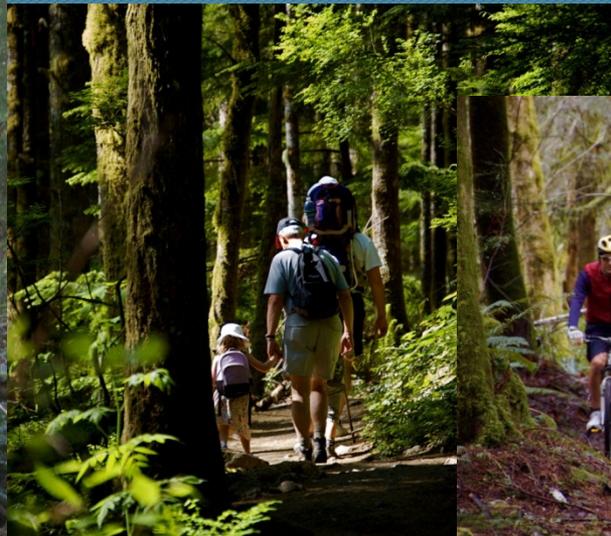
Grand Ridge Park
1288 acres

- 4:1 Concept Dedication
- (Issaquah Highlands)
-

Site Managed for Multiple Uses

King County Parks' Backcountry Trails Program

- ❖ 180 miles of shared use soft surface trails at 25 sites
- ❖ King County Parks staff collaborate and partner on trail improvement projects with many trail groups
 - ❖ WTA, EMBA, BCH, MTSG, ISS ALPS
- ❖ All trails are constructed and maintained to US Forest Service standards under the guidance of a programmatic permit from the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review



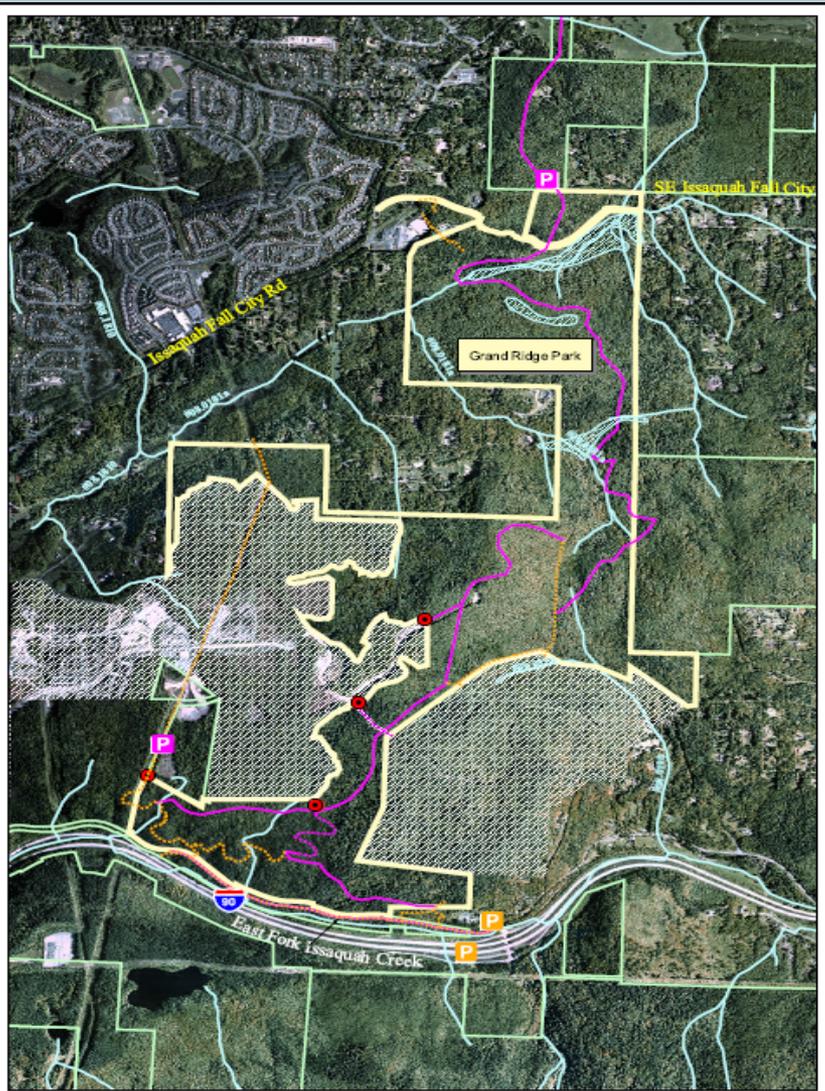


Figure 5
 Grand Ridge Park
 Site Management Plan
 Proposed Trail Plan

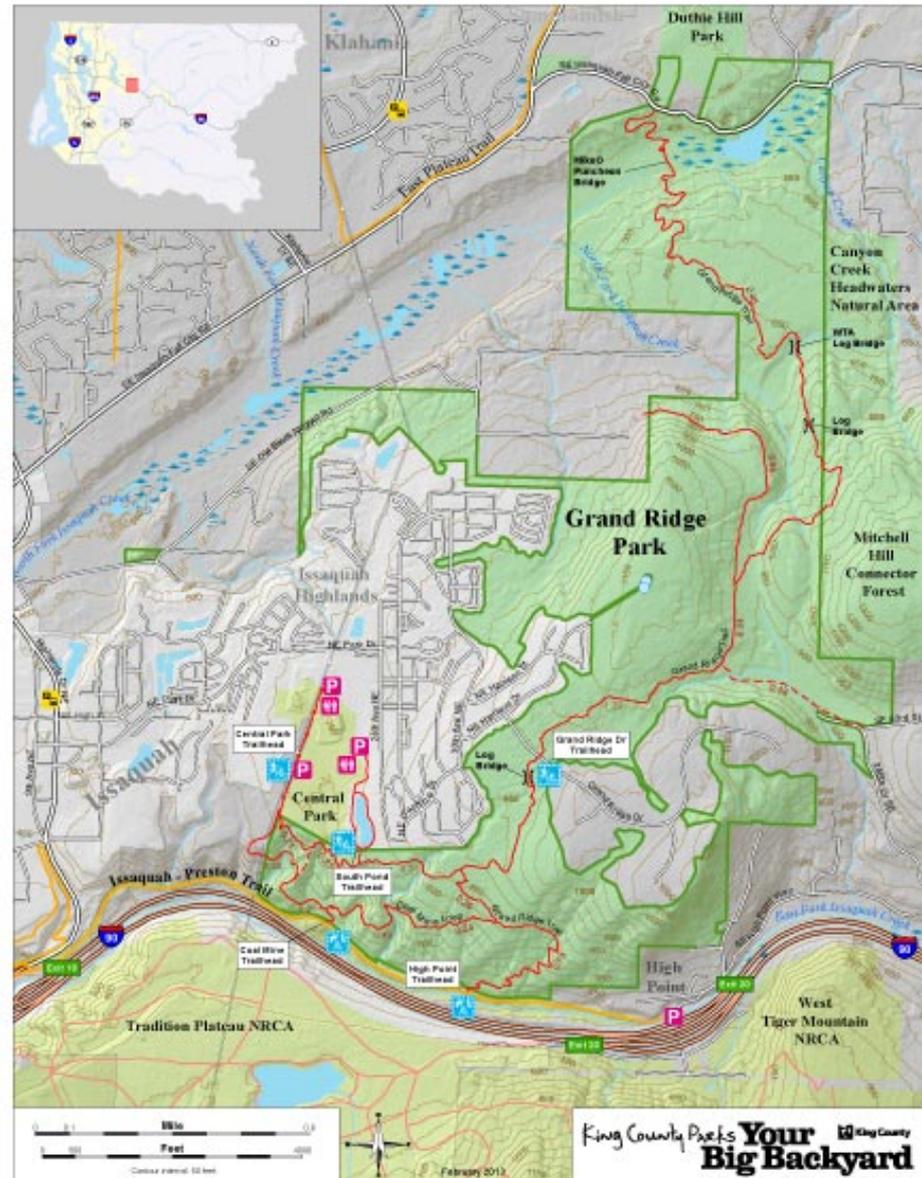
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2001 Grand Ridge Site Management Plan Recommendations call for:

- All forms of non-motorized trail use:
 - pedestrian, equestrian, mtn. biking
- Trail Connections between Grand Ridge and:
 - Mitchell Hill Forest
 - Duthie Hill Park (full north/south trail)
 - Issaquah Highlands Central Park
- Improvements, rerouting or decommissioning of:
 - inappropriate social trails
 - logging roads
 - trails within critical areas
- Parking Access at:
 - Issaquah Highlands
 - Duthie Hill Park
 - WSDOT lot along I-90
 - East Sunset Way

Grand Ridge Backcountry Trails



Grand Ridge Backcountry Trails

Old Road Bed and Reroute



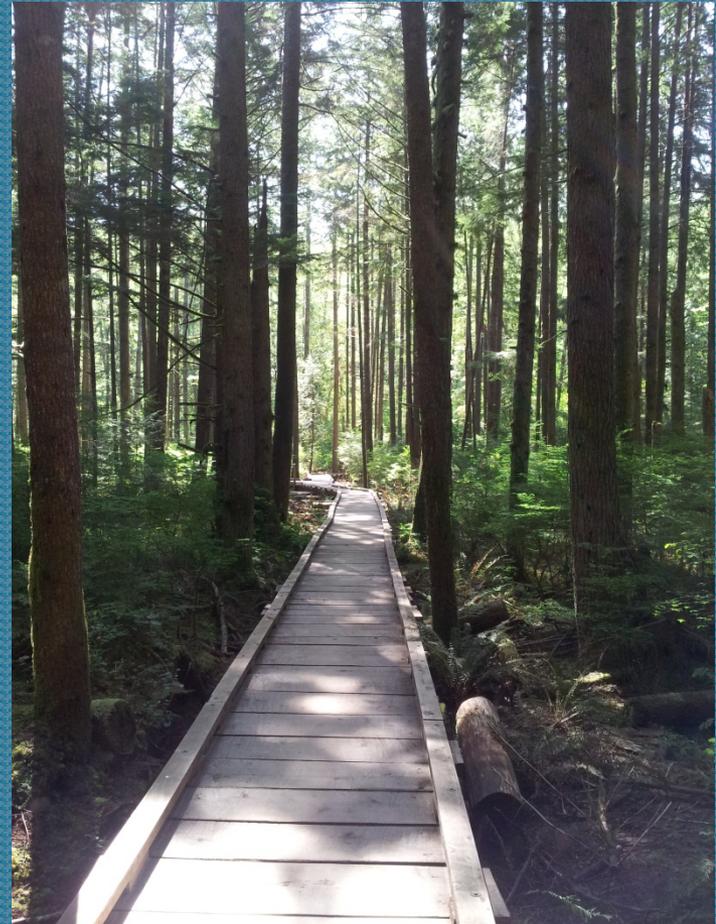
Grand Ridge Backcountry Trails

Wet Area and Turnpike



Grand Ridge Backcountry Trails

Bog Crossing and Boardwalk



Grand Ridge Backcountry Trails

Tributaries and Bridge

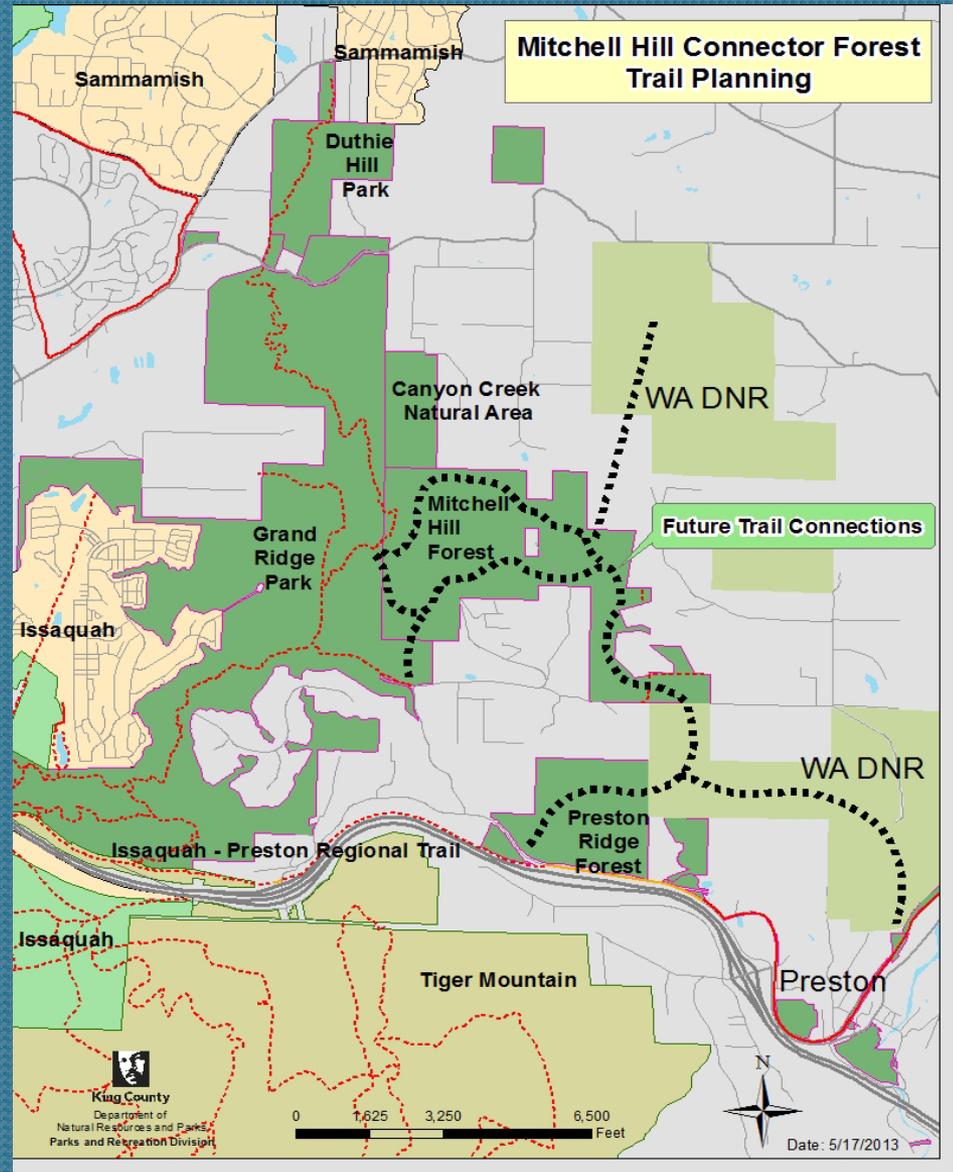


Mitchell Hill Forest Future Trail Connections

Shared use trails connecting to other King County Parks sites

Trail connections from King County lands to Washington DNR lands

Meet growing demand for recreational trail use in the greater Seattle area



Forest Stewardship Program King County Parks

Current forest stewardship actions

- Active forest management of 3,400 acres working resource lands by KC foresters
 - Active noxious weed control program
 - Public stewardship -- Volunteers have planted 78,404 native plants
 - since 2007 at 32 different sites
- Public health -- Active recreation management of 180 miles of 'backcountry' trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding
 - **Forest Landscape Assessment Tool**
 - Forest Ecosystem Values Assessment
 - Forest Stewardship Assessment
- Funding and Program Strategic Assessment – UW grad student
 - McGarvey Park Open Space – Forest Stewardship Plan (2011)
- Forest stewardship planning at Danville-Georgetown Open Space (2012)

Forest Stewardship Program King County Parks

26,066 acres of public open space at 190 sites

Funded by a voter approved parks levy

3,455 acres of working forest resource lands
Taylor Mt, Island Center Forest, Ring Hill

12,812 acres of multi-use open space
Cougar Mt, Grand Ridge, McGarvey Park

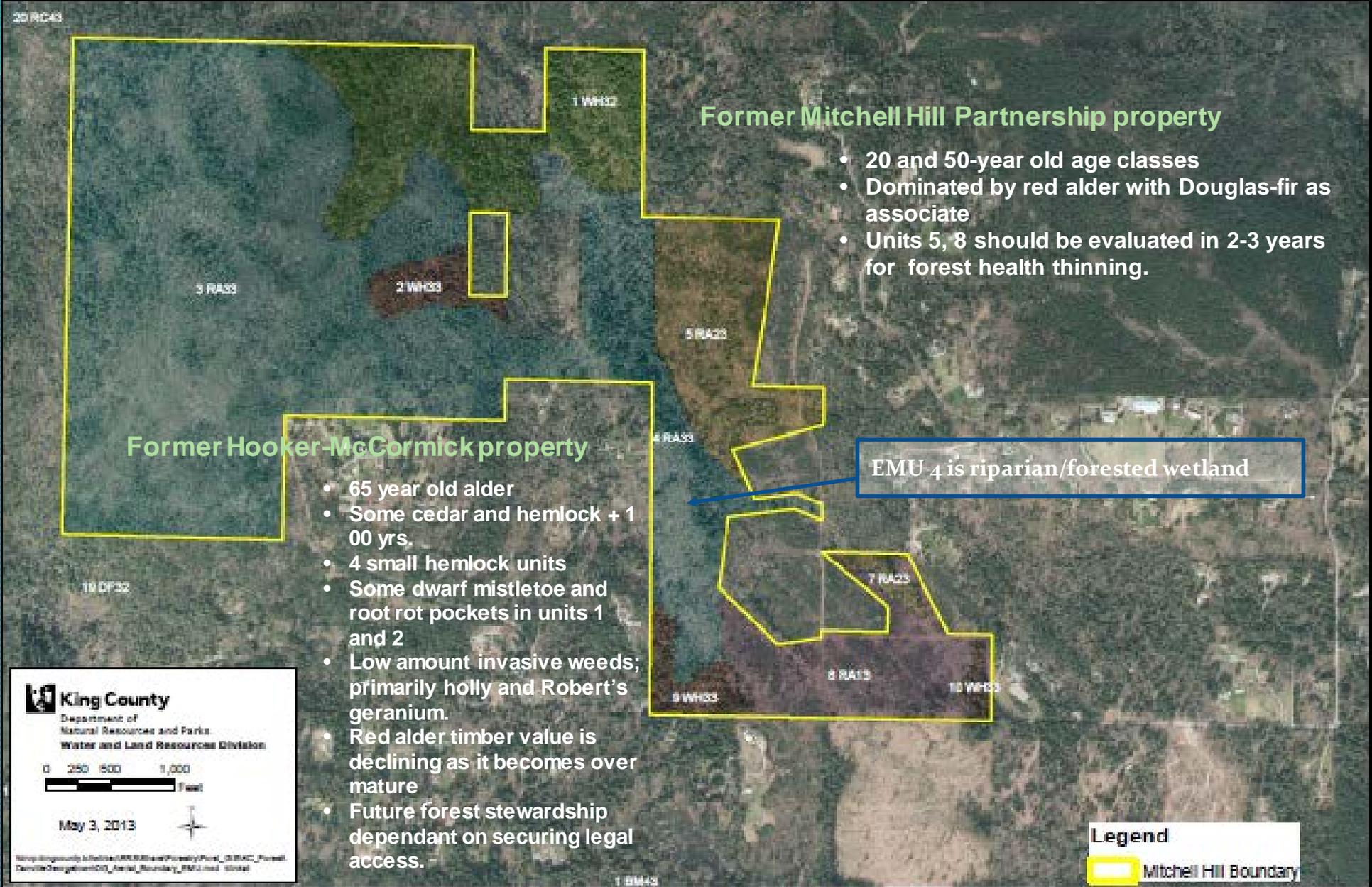
7,321 acres of designated natural areas
Snoqualmie, Cedar & Green River Watersheds and Vashon-Maury Island

2,472 acres of active recreation parks
Marymoor Park, Petrovitsky Park, Steve Cox Park

175 miles or 1,300 acres of regional trail corridors
Burke Gilman, Cedar River, Snoqualmie Valley

185 miles of soft surface hiking, mtn biking and equestrian trails

Mitchell Hill Connector Forest Landscape Assessment Current Conditions



Former Mitchell Hill Partnership property

- 20 and 50-year old age classes
- Dominated by red alder with Douglas-fir as associate
- Units 5, 8 should be evaluated in 2-3 years for forest health thinning.

Former Hooker-McCormick property

- 65 year old alder
- Some cedar and hemlock + 100 yrs.
- 4 small hemlock units
- Some dwarf mistletoe and root rot pockets in units 1 and 2
- Low amount invasive weeds; primarily holly and Robert's geranium.
- Red alder timber value is declining as it becomes over mature
- Future forest stewardship dependant on securing legal access.

EMU 4 is riparian/forested wetland

King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

May 3, 2013

King County Inland NW Forest Property Parcel, BLMC Forest, CurrentOwnership03_Aerial_Boundary_EMU.mxd (final)

Legend

Mitchell Hill Boundary

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Site Management Plan Contents

- Acquisition Information
(purpose, funding, deed restrictions)
- General Property Description
- Land and Resource Analysis
- Vision and Goals
- Policy Guidance
- Management Objectives/Recommendations

Planning Advisory Group

- Advise County staff with the drafting of the management plan
- Participate in monthly meetings (September 2013– @ Spring 2014)
- Share insight/expertise but represent all interests
- Help present draft plan to the public

Planning Advisory Group

- Trail Users
- Neighboring property owners
- Other government agencies
- Regional Interests
- Members at Large
- Special expertise



Planning Advisory Group

Areas of Special Interest/Expertise:

- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Land Use
- Cultural/Historical Resources
- Interpretation/Education
- Landscape Architecture

Planning Advisory Group

Recreation User Groups:

Hikers

Equestrians

Trail Runners

Others

Mountain Bikers

Dog Walkers

Nature Observers



Planning Advisory Group

Areas of Special Interest/Expertise:

- Local Knowledge (trails, land, etc.)
- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Land Use
- Cultural/Historical Resources
- Interpretation/Education
- Landscape Architecture

Mitchell Hill Forest Planning

Anticipated Next Steps:

- Initial Data collection (Summer 2013)
- Community Meeting (Late September 2013)
- Advisory Group Selected (Mid October 2013)
- Advisory Group Meets (October 2013 – Spr. 2014)
- Draft Management Plan Completed (April 2014)
- Community Meeting to Present Plan (May 2014)
- Public Comment Period for Plan (May 2014)
- Final Management Plan Approved (June 2014)

Questions/Comments

Thank you for your
interest and
participation in
planning for the
future of
Mitchell Hill Forest

