



South Puget Sound Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan

Thurston County, WA

Location

Thurston County is located 50 miles south of Seattle in the south Puget Sound

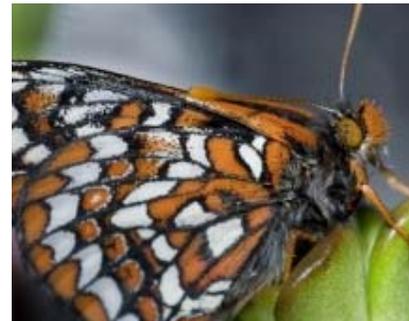


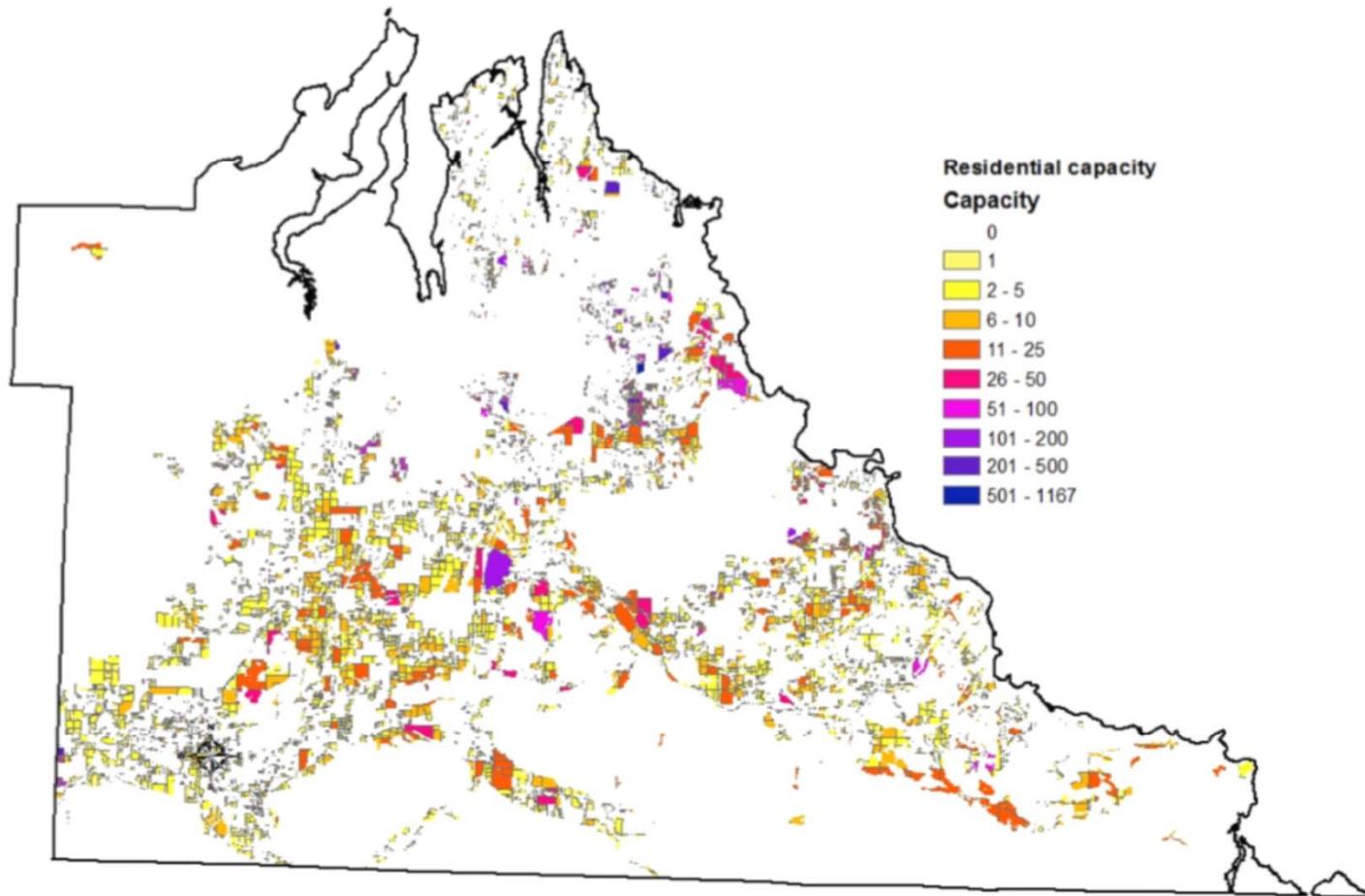
HCP Development Timeline

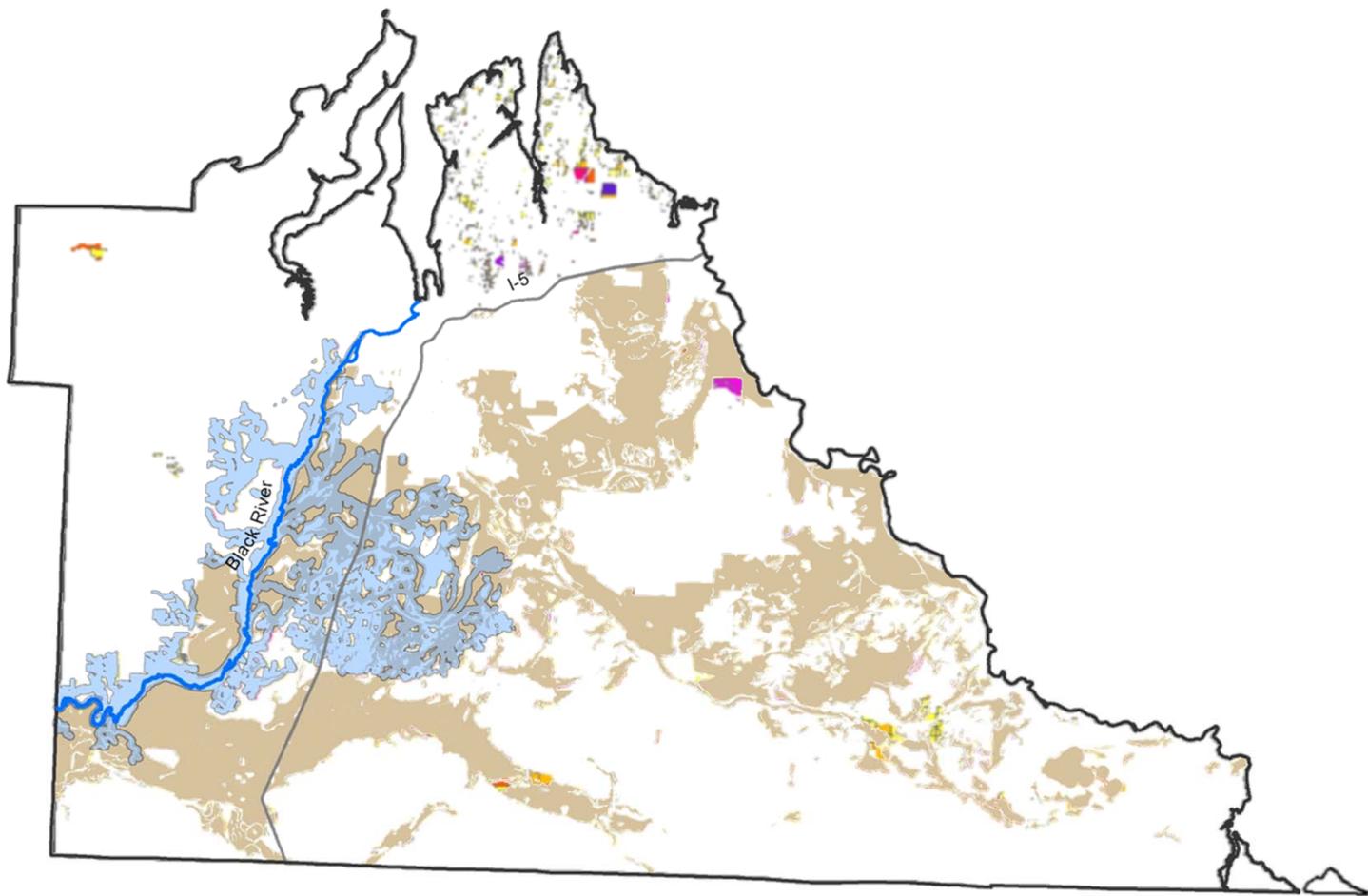


Listed Species

- Streaked horned lark
- Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
- Oregon spotted frog
- Mazama pocket gopher
 - Yelm
 - Tenino
 - Olympia









Challenges

Jumped into
fast



Communications

Clear roles

Clear communication plan

- Early and continuous public involvement
- How the HCP benefits the public



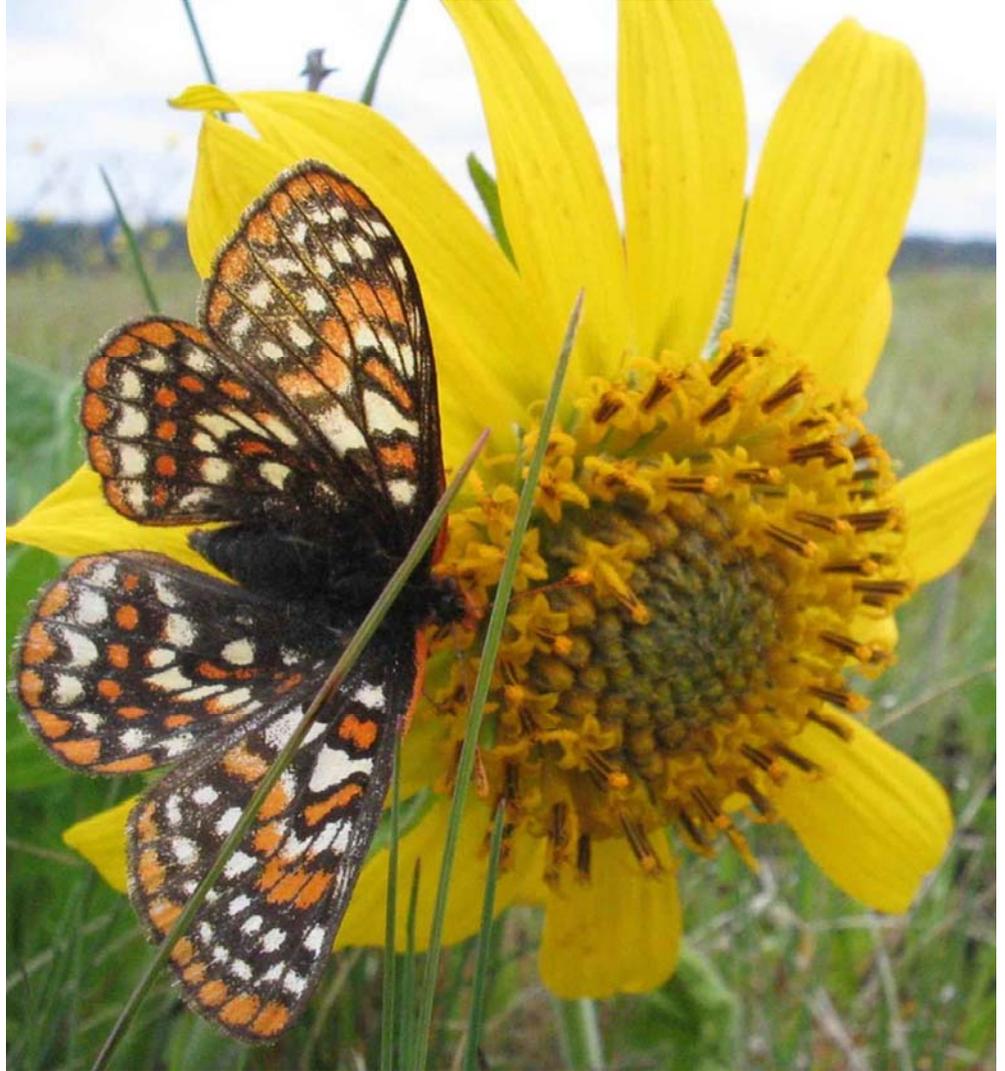


An Umbrella HCP Provides:

Mitigation options for applicants who need them.

A predictable, year-round environmental-review procedure.

A streamlined permitting process.





Successes

- Land Purchase
- Working Lands
- Sentinel Landscape



Mazama Meadows Conservation Park

- Quickly leveraged funds to purchase lands
- Partner with Land-Trust



Get to know your Thurston County Park

Glacial Heritage Park

known formally as Thurston County-Black River-Mima Prairie-Glacial Heritage Preserve

ECOSYSTEMS



- Grassland Prairie
- Pine Conifer Forest
- Oak Woodland
- Streamside (a/k/a riparian)

SPECIES



- Insects - like Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
- Trees - Fir, Oak and others
- Birds - Oregon meadow sparrow and others
- Plants - Castles and colorful wildflowers

GEOLOGY

- Glacial Heritage was formed during the last ice age by a melting glacier that left behind a layer of cobble, gravel and silt.
- The glacier melted about 12-15 million years ago. That's relatively recent if you consider dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago.
- A soil survey of this area from the 1980s reports that the soils in the preserve are a mix of sand and gravel.
- The Black River is the eastern boundary of Glacial Heritage.

FAST FACTS

- This prairie includes soils, plants and animals that are not found on any other prairie in the world. It is truly unique.
- Glacial Heritage Preserve is approximately 1,000 acres.
- It has been owned by Thurston County since 1988.
- The park is designated as a preserve because of its unique variety of soils, plants and animals.
- Restoration work is ongoing, and is funded by grants and not by County budgets.
- Glacial Heritage is open to the public one day each year on Prairie Appreciation Day.



Glacial Heritage is located in Thurston County, Washington near the town of Little Rock. It's a 20-minute drive south of Washington's capital city, Olympia.



Leveraging Owned Lands



Working Lands for Conservation

Thurston County -WSU Extension

- Researching grazed prairies and value to rare species conservation.
- Evaluating effects of conservation grazing practices on prairie habitat
- Providing financial information on costs to implement conservation practices on grazed and un-grazed lands

<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/agriculture/on-farm-conservation/prairie/>

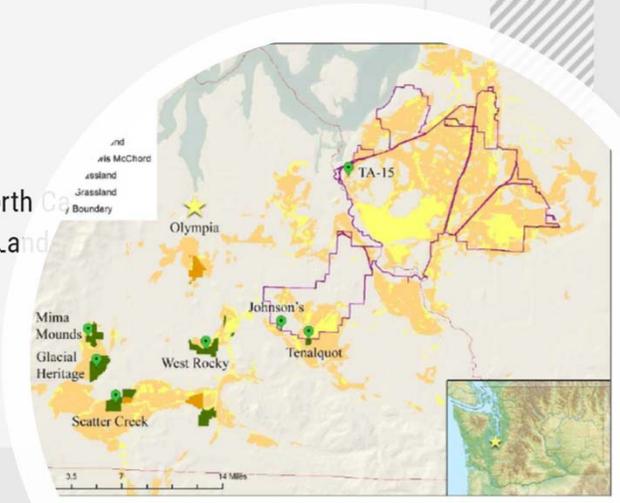
SENTINEL LANDSCAPES



Sentinel Landscape Partnership



- 2013 - Sentinel Landscapes Partnership announced and Joint Base Lewis-McChord designated as pilot Sentinel Landscape
- Working collaboratively to accomplish individual goals and regional conservation efforts
- To date of 1,000 acres of ranch land enrolled in NRCS – ACEP and 14,000 acres in other restoration and conservation technical assistance programs.





Christina Chaput

Sr. Planner

Christina.Chaput@co.Thurston.wa.us

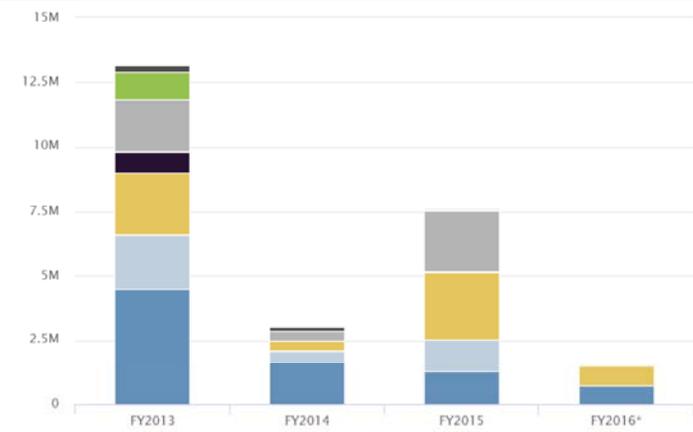
Thurstonplanning.org

Joint Base Goals and Outcomes

Goal	Status
<p>Goal #1 Protect annual use of 63,000 acres of training area, including 7,119 acres of impact area, 86 ranges and mortar points, 13 drop zones, and 2 airfields.</p>	<p>Current draft Biological Opinion for JBLM for federal listings of three species allows the training mission to continue with restrictions.</p>
<p>Goal #2 Work with landowners to develop and implement pastureland conservation plans.</p>	<p>1,053 acres are protected with agricultural conservation easements.</p>
<p>Goal #3 Protect the diminishing South Puget Sound prairie habitat and promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, specifically the Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly, streaked horned lark, and Mazama pocket gopher.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To date (2006-2016), 1,035 acres newly conserved (in fee & easement), added to 3,615 acres already in conservation status. - Two checkerspot reintroductions are underway. - An agreement to provide formal ESA credits for continuing ACUB actions is being negotiated.
<p>Goal #4 Initiate demonstration projects that exemplify dual benefit actions (ex. Agriculture and both the Mazama pocket gopher and the Spotted Frog).</p>	<p>Project and grant proposals underway.</p>

Landscape Funding by Fiscal Year (FY)

JBLM Fort Huachuca Middle Chesapeake



Other Private	\$58,611	\$12,903	\$67,953	\$-
CNLM	\$267,358	\$187,744	\$38,149	\$-
Local Government	\$1,075,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$-
State	\$2,002,958	\$358,456	\$2,350,983	\$-
Other Federal	\$2,700	\$-	\$-	\$-
NRCS	\$797,400	\$24,019	\$42,500	\$-
USFWS	\$2,416,779	\$378,163	\$2,603,651	\$738,886
U.S. Army	\$2,096,000	\$490,200	\$1,236,338	\$-
DoD REPI Program	\$4,500,000	\$1,613,000	\$1,288,800	\$750,000
Total	\$13,216,806	\$3,074,485	\$7,638,374	\$1,488,886

*FY16 funding includes commitments through August 29, 2016.