



W.T. WOOTEN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

JUNE 2017

Introduction

- W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area Overview
- Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)
- Recent and Planned Activities
 - Rainbow Lake Dredging – Project 1
 - Rainbow Lake Design – Project 2
 - Other Analyses Completed
- Other FMP Projects
- Public Involvement
- Questions

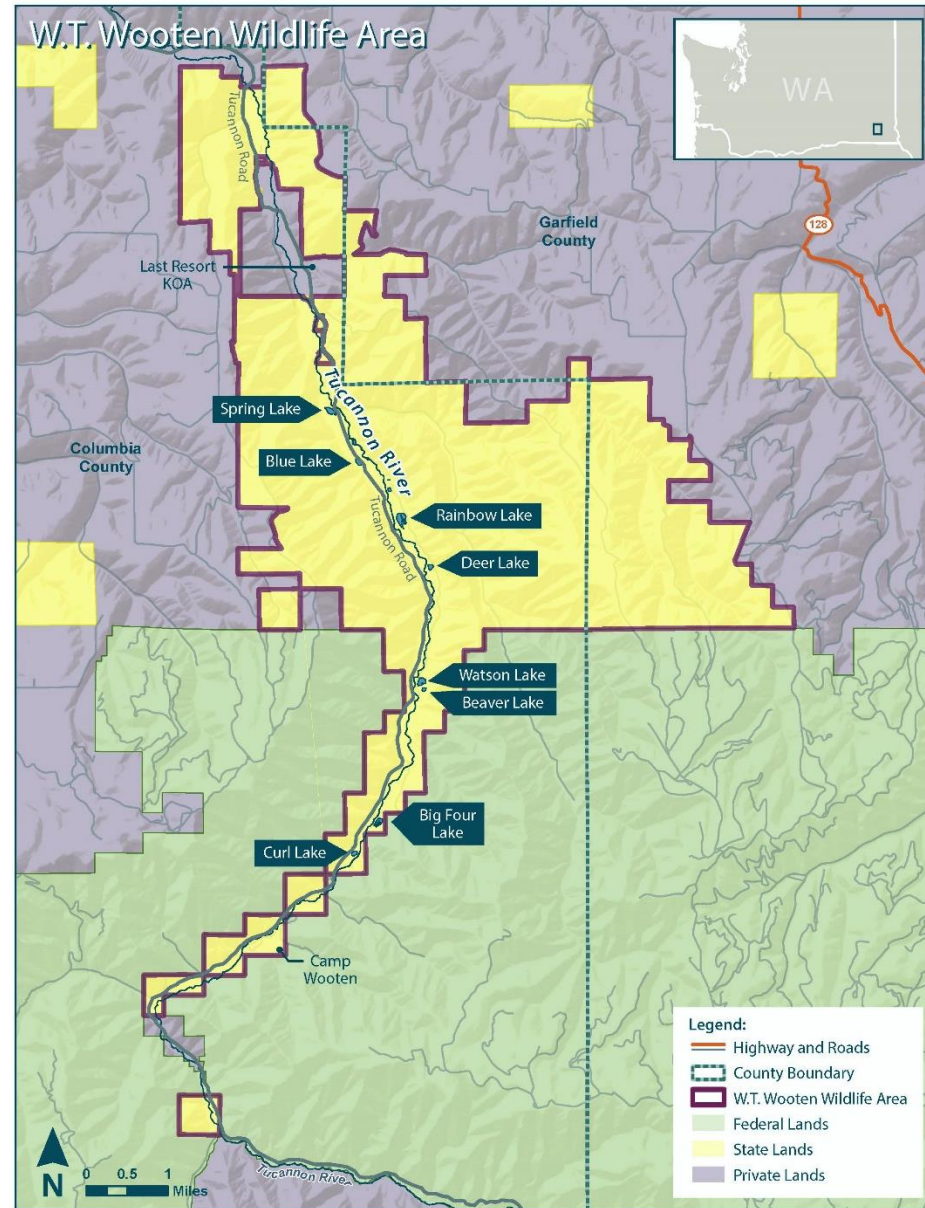


W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area

Overview

W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area

- Eight man-made lakes
- Trout fishing in the Tucannon River
- 11 WDFW campgrounds
- Wildlife viewing/
bird watching
- Hunting
- Hiking



W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area

Floodplain Management Plan

The Goals of the Floodplain Management Plan:

- Protection and restoration of ecosystem functions of the Tucannon River, floodplain, and riparian habitats
- Enhancement of fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife viewing and other recreational activities
- Improvement of habitat conditions for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids (as well as other aquatic species)
- Improvement of wildlife habitats
- Protection and enhancement of critical infrastructure.



Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)

Projects identified in the FMP focus on

- Tucannon Lakes – Enhance and improve the Tucannon Lakes
- Habitat Enhancements – Enhance habitat in the floodplain (including large wood (LW) projects)
- Campgrounds – Relocate campgrounds out of the floodplain
- Outreach – Maintain and build public support for management of the wildlife areas
- Powerline – Relocate the Powerline out of the floodplain



Tucannon Lake Improvements

Tucannon Lakes and Floodplain Reconfiguration

Enhance Tucannon Lakes for improved fishing experience, floodplain function, and public safety

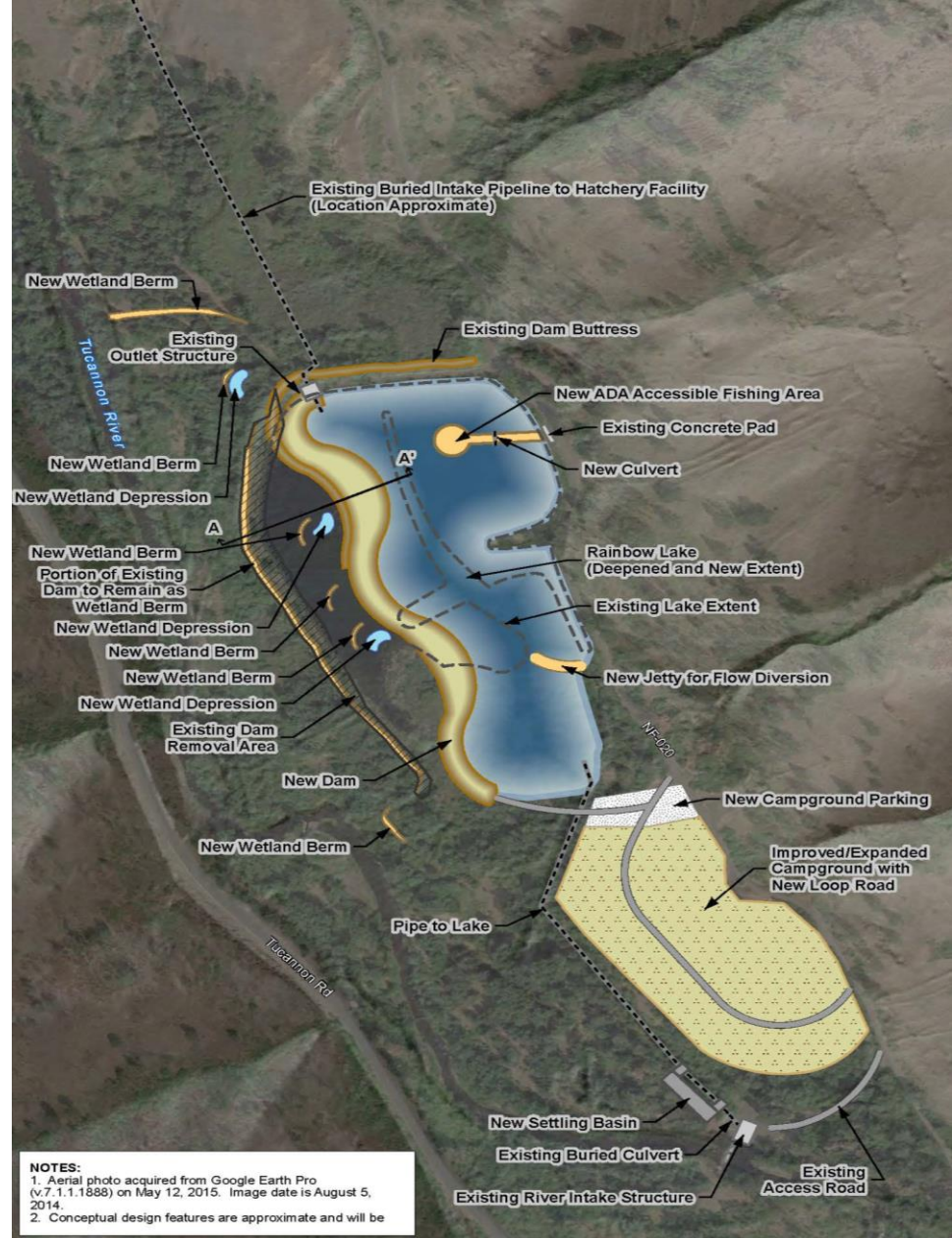
- Constructed between 1953 and 1955
- Popular fishing lakes
- All but two of the lakes constrict floodplain
- Six of the eight lakes are in violation of State Dam Safety Regulations
- Lakes retain sediment and are losing carrying capacity for trout fishery



Rainbow Lake

Conceptual Plan

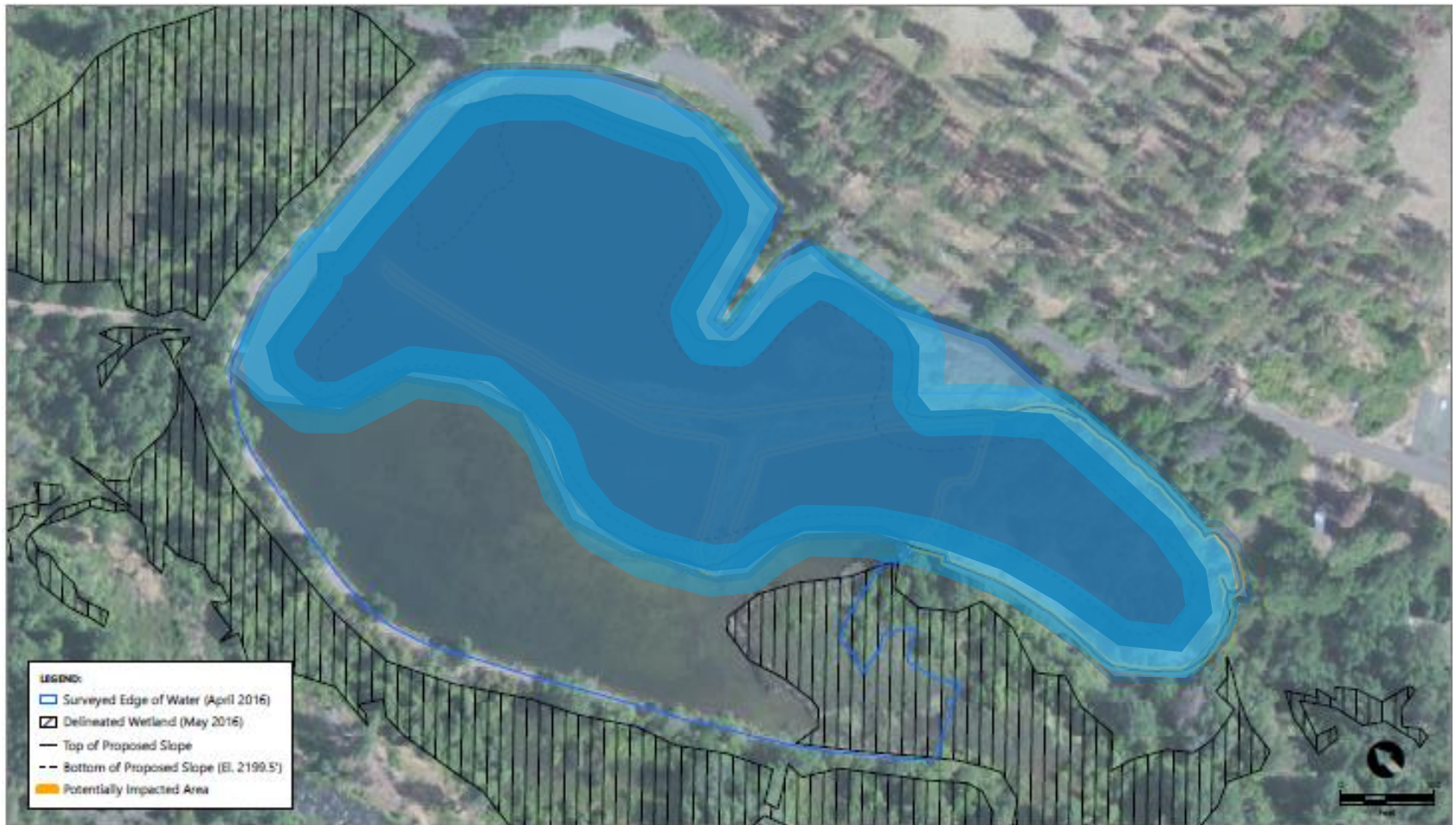
- Dredge and remove sediment
- Increase lake depth and volume
- Reduce water temperatures and improve water quality
- Increase stocking capacity and angler access
- Improve and expand day-use and campsite facilities
- Expand to the south (upstream of inflow)



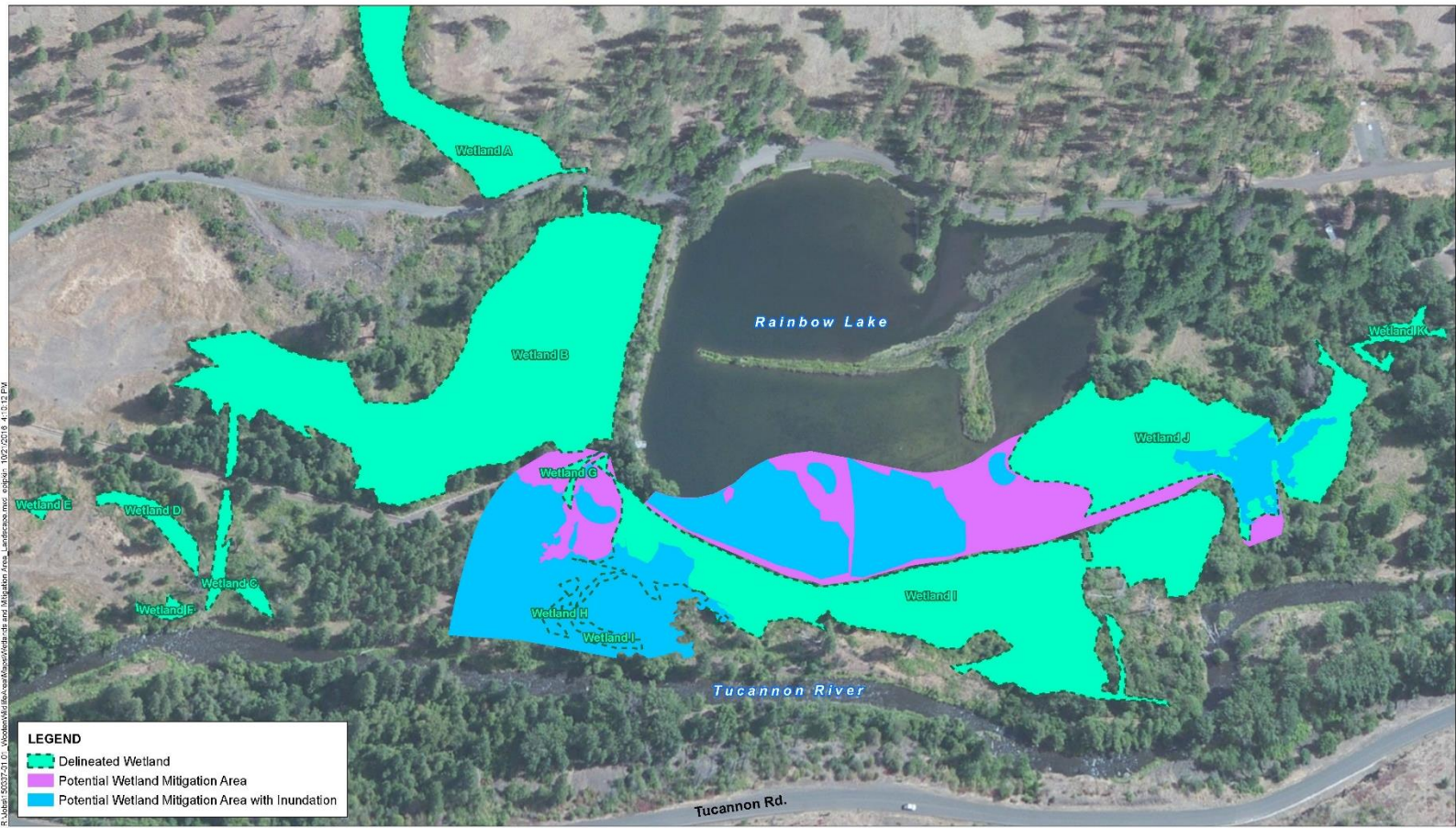
Project 1 - Rainbow Lake Dredging 2017



Project 1 - Rainbow Lake Dredging 2017



Project 2 - Wetland Mitigation Design



NOTES:
 1. Wetland delineation conducted by Anchor QEA, May 2016.
 2. Aerial photo provided by Esri (ArcGIS Online).

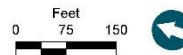


Figure 1
 Wetlands and Potential Mitigation Area
 Rainbow Lake Design
 WDFW



Rainbow Lake – Likely Construction Timeline

2017 Project 1 Dredging

- Mobilization and Construction Preparation (May-June)
- Lake Dredging and Expansion to the South (July-September)

2018 Project 2 Wetland Mitigation, Floodplain Reconnection

- Mobilization and Construction Preparation (May-June)
- Dam Removal and Construction (July-August)
- Wetland Mitigation (August-September)



Temporary Recreation Impacts – Rainbow and Deer Lakes – 2017 - 2018

- Reduced stock plantings
- Fishing season truncated, ends after Memorial Day weekend
- Campground unavailable July through September during construction
- Deer Lake access road closed for Rainbow Lake construction



The Future for W.T Wooten Plan

- Additional Work to Occur in Deer, Beaver/Watson, Big Four, and Spring lakes
- Depending on Funding
 - 2017-2023 at minimum
 - 2023-2025 is more likely



Other Tucannon Lakes Updates

Past, Current and Anticipated Funding

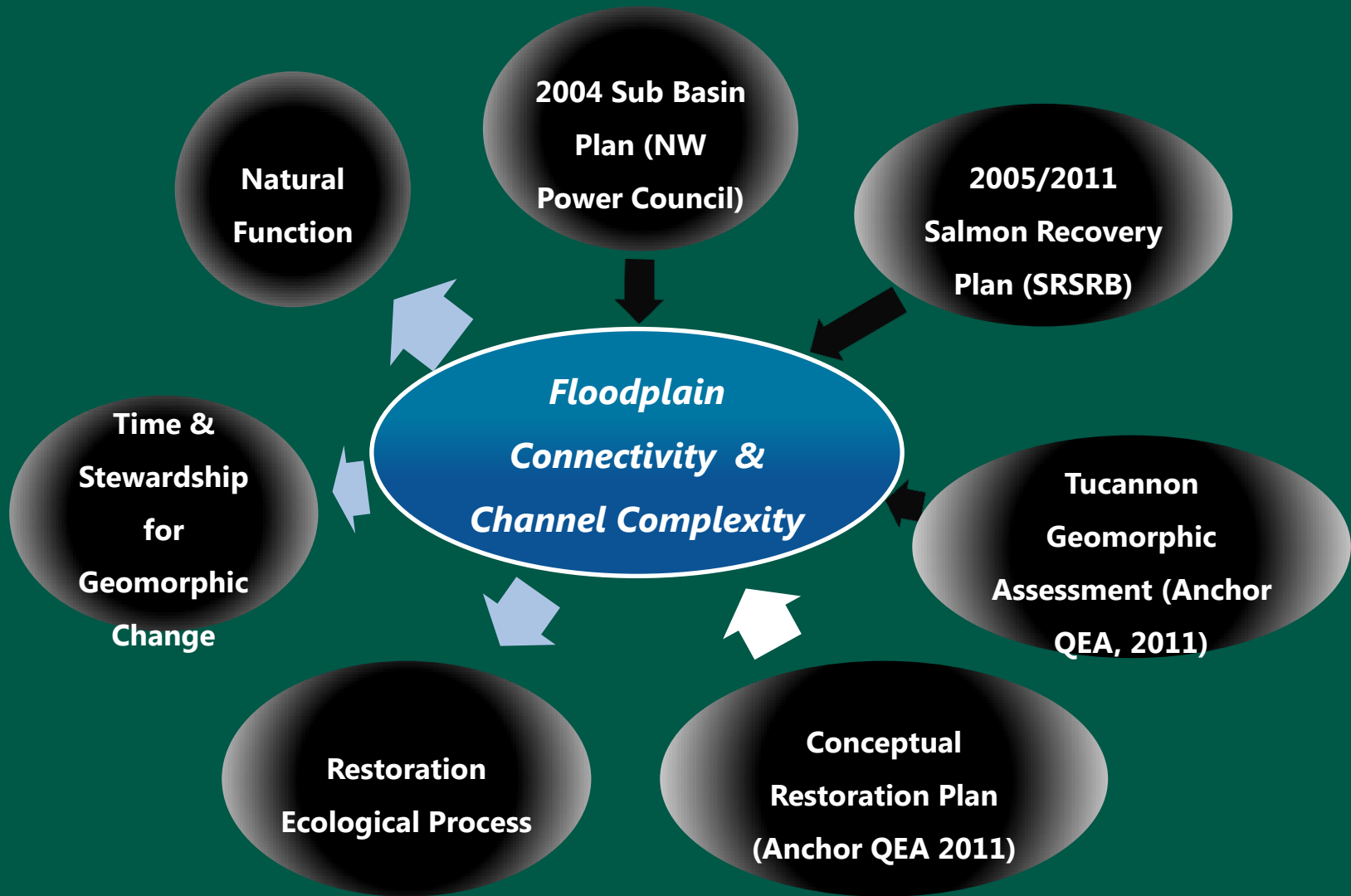
- 2013-2015 \$0.5million State Capital Budget
- 2015 – 2017 Biennium funding
 - \$1.6 Million State Capital Budget
 - \$0.5 Million U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Lower Snake Comp
- 2017 – 2019 Anticipated Biennium funding
 - \$1.0 Million – Currently in the Senate, House, and Governor’s Budgets



Habitat Enhancements

Large Wood Restoration & Floodplain
Reconnection

Limiting Factors – Restoration Objectives



All Restoration Projects funded by BPA Tucannon Programmatic Habitat Project #2010-077-00 and Washington State RCO – Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Increasing Large Wood

- LW Restoration promotes the creation and maintenance of pools, provides cover for fish, and improves stream function by reconnected floodplain and off-channel habitats critical for salmon recovery
- Channel Complexity
- Floodplain Connection
- Restore off-channel habitat (side channels)



Channel Complexity



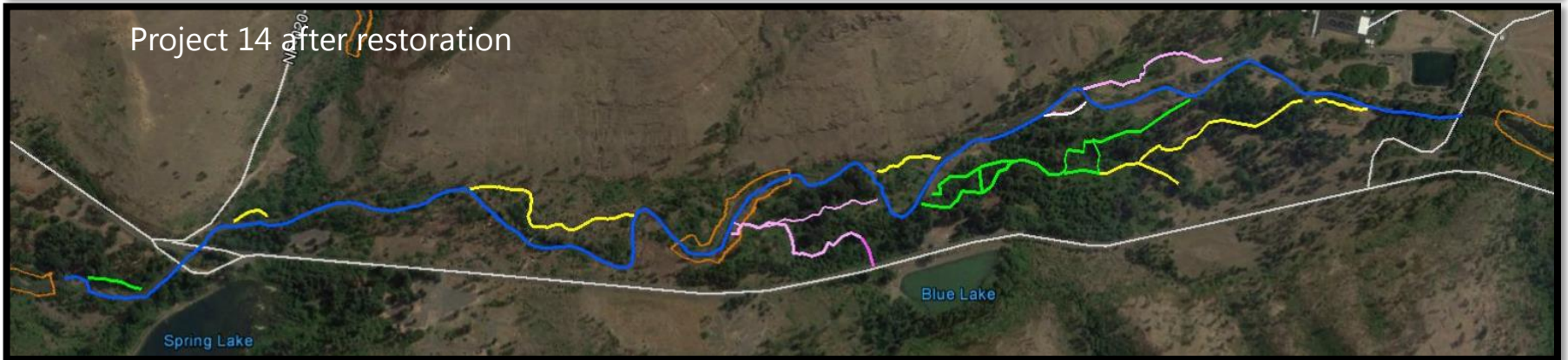
>9 miles treated, with 350 structures and >3,000 key pieces

Floodplain (Connectivity)



> 10 miles built

Side Channels (Connectivity)



> 3 miles
reconnected



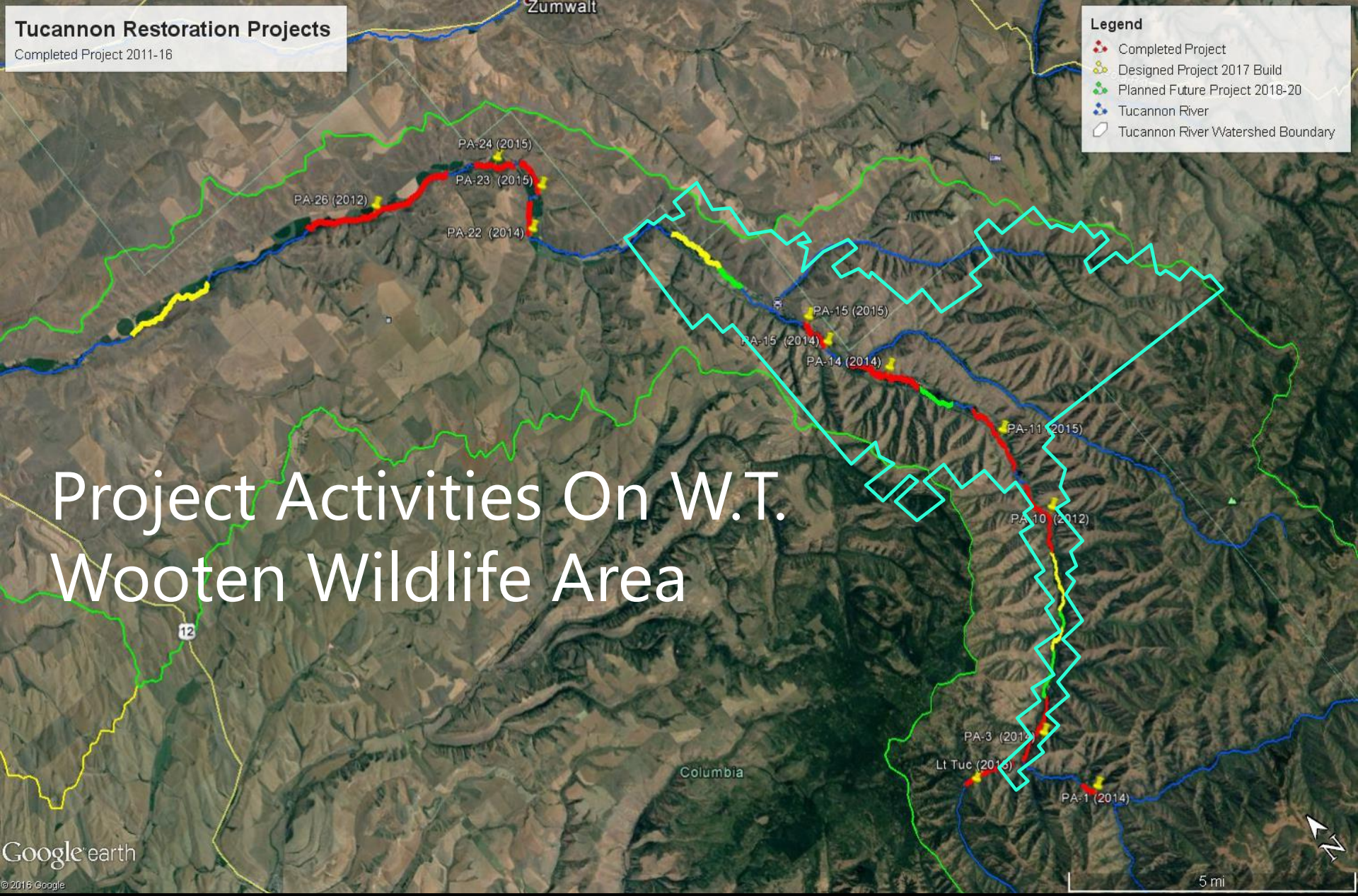
Tucannon Restoration Projects

Completed Project 2011-16

Legend

- Completed Project
- Designed Project 2017 Build
- Planned Future Project 2018-20
- Tucannon River
- Tucannon River Watershed Boundary

Project Activities On W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area



Google earth

© 2016 Google



River Restoration and Habitat Enhancements

(Future Projects)

LW restoration projects planned for 2017

- Tucannon River at Hartsock Unit
 - Helicopter- and ground-based equipment to place LW structures
 - Project Sponsor CTUIR
- Tucannon River from Camp Wooten Bridge to Big 4 Lake
 - Helicopter-based heavy equipment to place LW structures
 - Project Sponsor WDFW

LW restoration projects planned for 2018

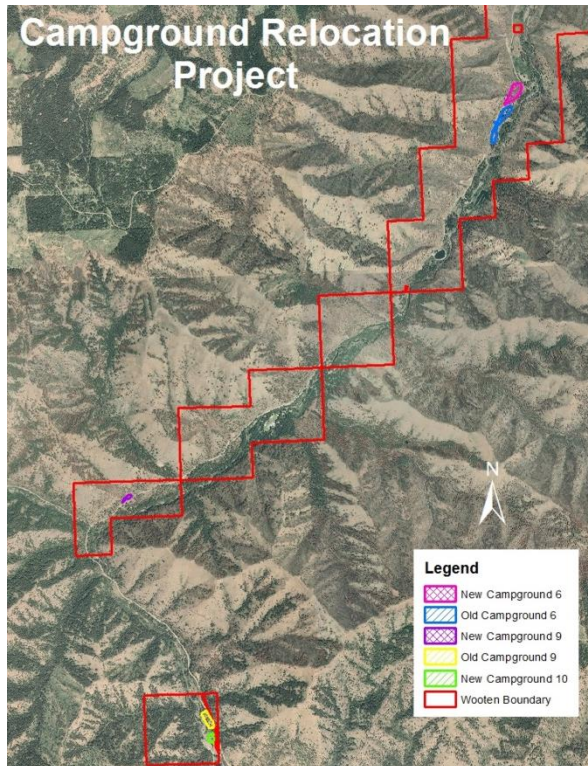
- PA 13 (located adjacent to Rainbow Lake) currently in design
 - Heavy equipment based to place LW structures



Campground Improvements

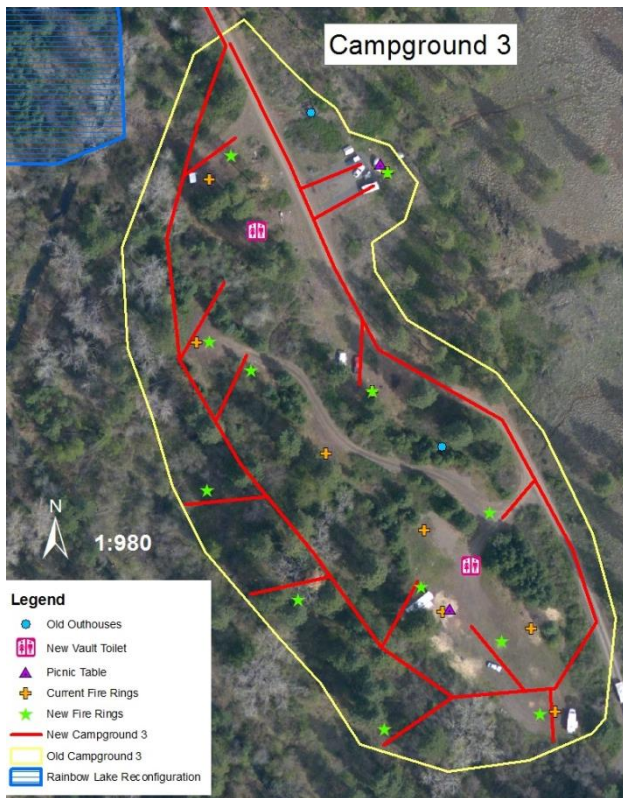
Campground Improvements

- 2014 – closed 2 campgrounds adjacent to river and constructed 3 new campgrounds out of floodplain



Campground Improvements

- Campground 3
 - Construct a loop driveway and replace outdated outhouses
 - Applied for RCO Grant in 2016; did not receive



Current



Proposed

Public Involvement

Public Involvement

- Public Meetings
 - April 7, 2015 (Dayton and Tri-Cities)
 - April 20 & 21, 2016 (Dayton and Tri-Cities)
 - October 24 & 25, 2016 (Dayton and Tri-Cities)
 - April 18 & 19 (Walla Walla and Tri-Cities)
- Interested Parties Email & Mailing List
 - Newsletter, meeting announcements, and meeting summaries
- Flyers on Kiosks and at Last Resort KOA
- Booth at Columbia County Fair in Dayton



Tucannon Implementers Outreach June 30, 2016 USFS Tucannon Guard Station



How to Keep Informed

- Sign up for email updates
 - Email: Kari.dingman@dfw.wa.gov
 - Subject line: "Wooten FMP Updates"
- Receive information update newsletters
- **Attend the next meeting! (dates TBD)**

Fall 2017
Tri-Cities, WA

Fall 2017
Walla Walla, WA



Questions?