

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: April 5- 6, 2019

Agenda item: Proposed Land Transactions

Presenter(s): Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Services Manager

Background summary:

Item 1: Heart of the Cascades NJK property - This acquisition adds 1603 (+/-) acres to the Wenas Wildlife Area in Kittitas County. The property is part of the Heart of the Cascades project securing protection of the remaining public-private checkerboard ownerships in the central Cascade Range. This forested habitat in the transitional zone of the east Cascades is rich in plant and animal species diversity. South Fork Manastash Creek provides critical rearing and spawning habitat for federally listed steelhead and other native fish. This property will be utilized as a migration corridor for elk.

The appraised value of this property is \$1,530,000 and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Kittitas County is estimated at \$5,482 per year. Initial operations and maintenance (O/M) costs for necessary survey, fencing and weed control will be covered by the grants. Agency budget requests include O/M for longer term costs which are anticipated to be \$52/acre. The acquisition is funded by grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Section 6 program and Washington's Recreation & Conservation Office, Washington Wildlife & Recreation program.

Item 2: Cowiche Watershed Van Wyk – This acquisition proposal is to secure the first 3,555 (+/-) acres of a larger property located in the east Cascades of central Washington in Yakima County. The goal of the Cowiche project is to achieve a significant and lasting conservation impact by protecting this large, diverse landscape where the forested foothills of the Cascades converge with shubsteppe of the lower elevations. The property is bisected by South Fork Cowiche Creek which is designated as critical habitat for bull trout and is an important spawning area for steelhead. Year-round habitat is provided for elk, mule deer, western gray squirrel and golden eagles. This property will provide new hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities and will become part of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area.

The appraised value of this property is \$2,600,190 and the PILT payment for Yakima County is estimated at \$16,815 per year. Initial operations and maintenance (O/M) costs for necessary survey, fencing and weed control will be covered by the grant. Agency budget requests include O/M for longer term costs which are anticipated to be \$52/acre. The acquisition is funded by a US Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grant and a grant of \$1,000,000 from Pacific Power.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat and providing public recreational opportunities.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

See Operations and Maintenance costs above.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Items 1 and 2 were approved through the agency's Lands 20/20 Process.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of the Land Transactions as presented

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to approve the transactions as presented by staff.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed

Post decision communication plans:

WDFW will distribute a press release informing the public of this action and proceed to closing.

PROPOSED LAND TRANSACTIONS

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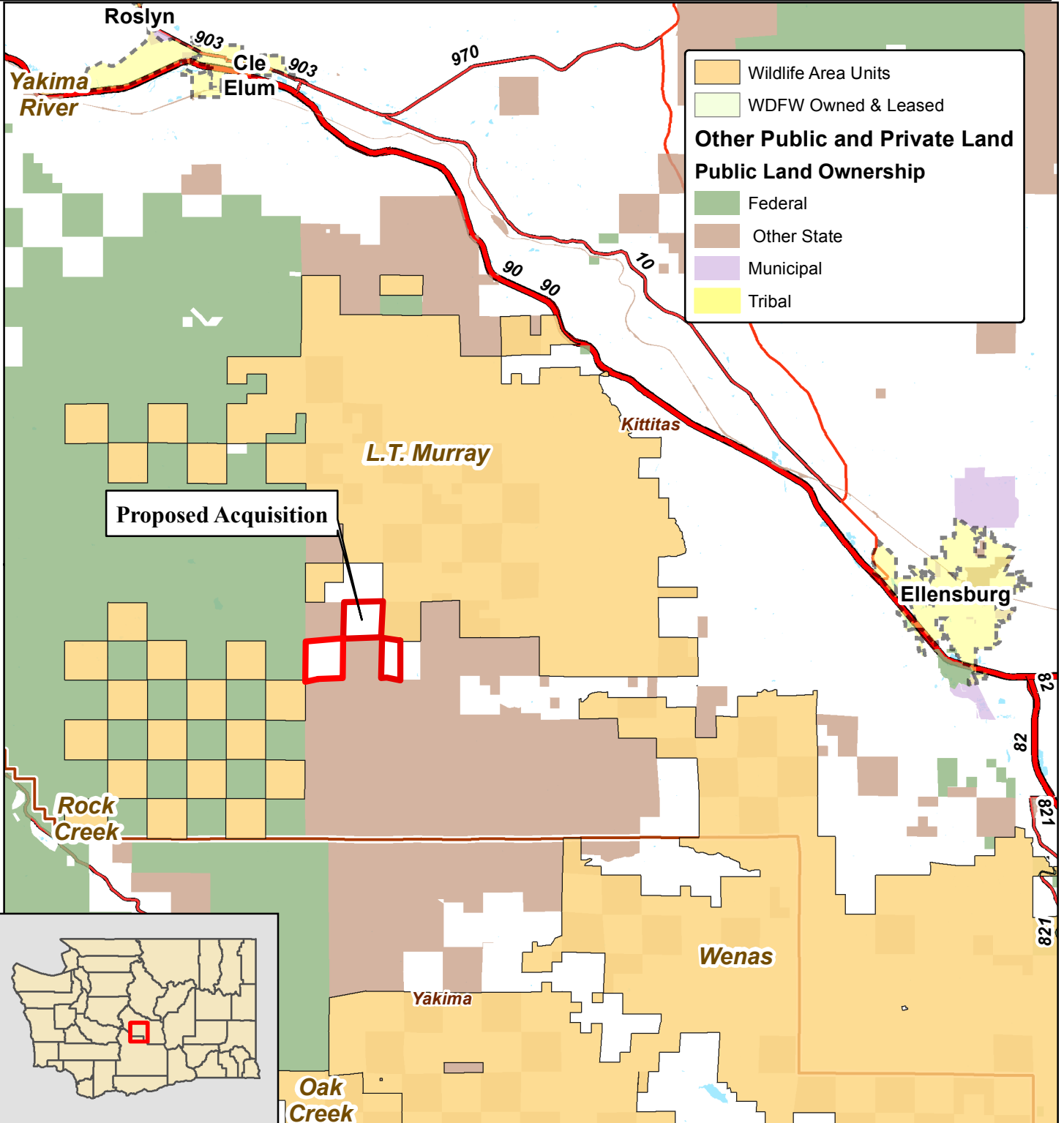
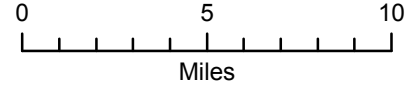
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ITEM 3: Proposed Heart of the Cascades NJK Property

COUNTY: Kittitas

LEGAL: Township 17 N, Range 16 E., W.M. Sections 5, 7 & 9

ACRES: 1603 +/- Acres

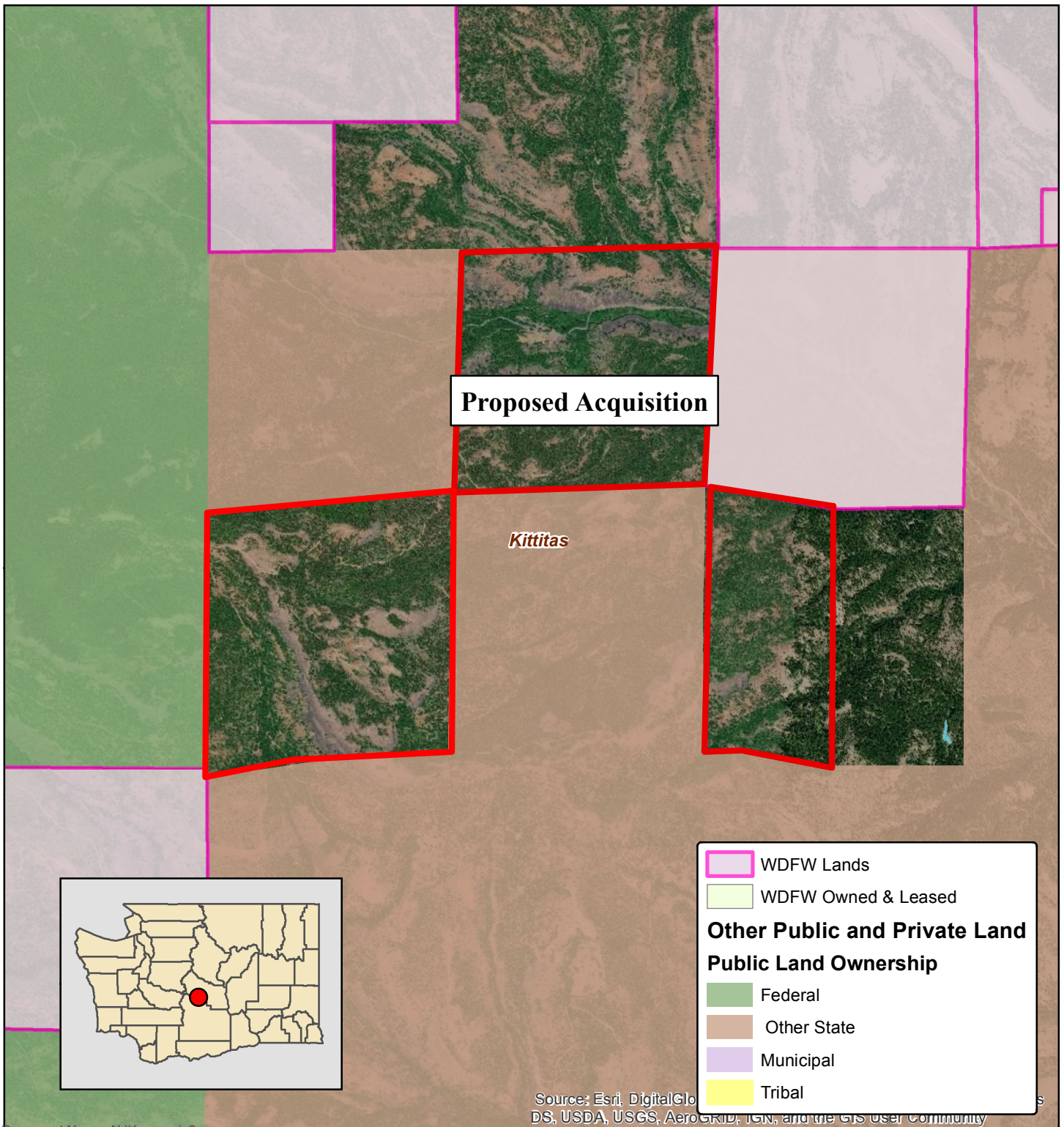
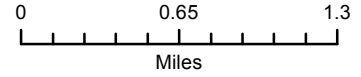


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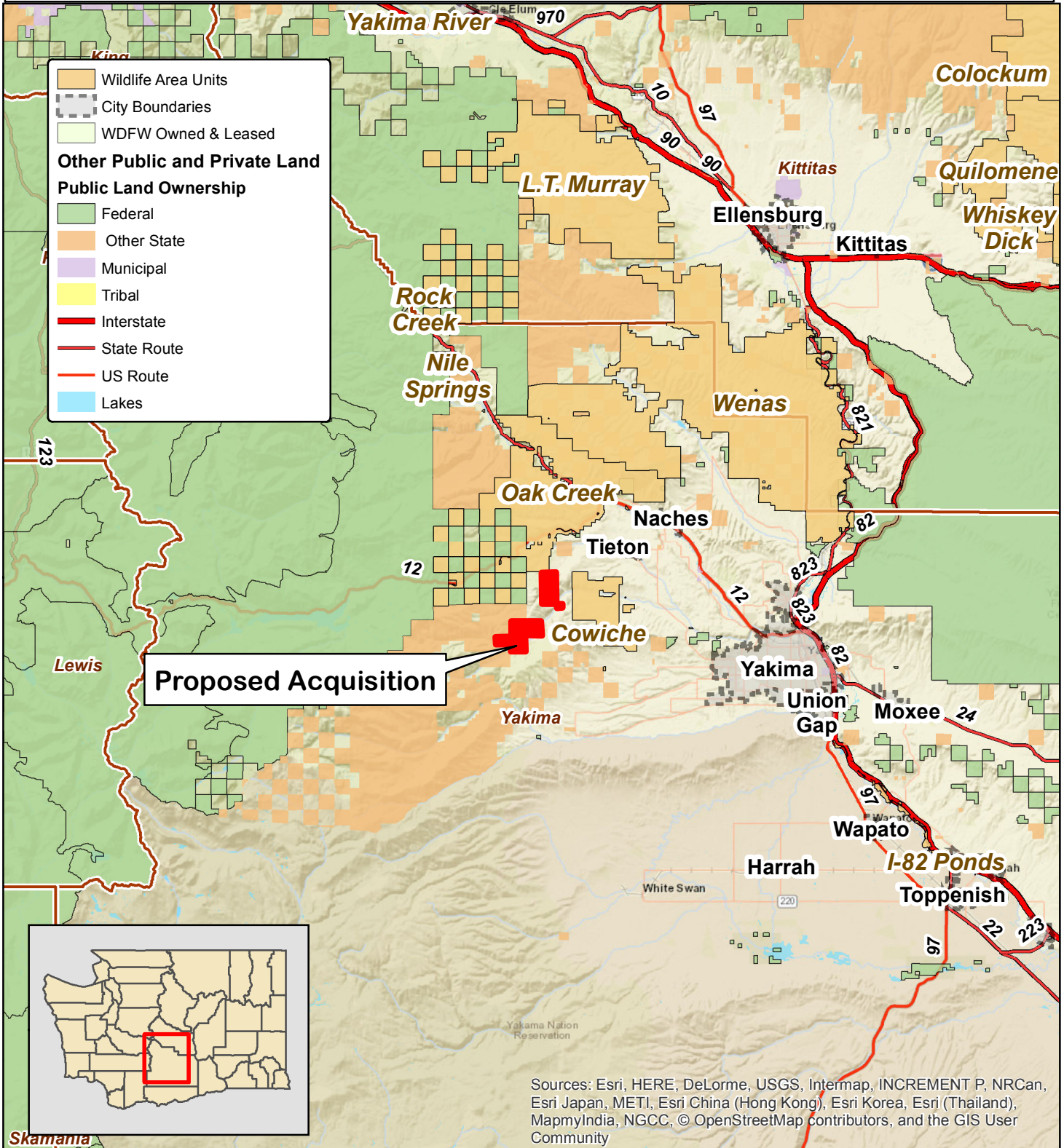
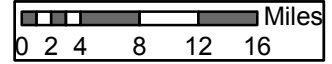


ITEM 2: Proposed Cowiche Watershed - Van Wyk Property

COUNTY: Yakima

LEGAL: Townships 13 & 14 N, Range 15 & 16 E., W.M., Several Sections

ACRES: 3, 555 +/- Acres



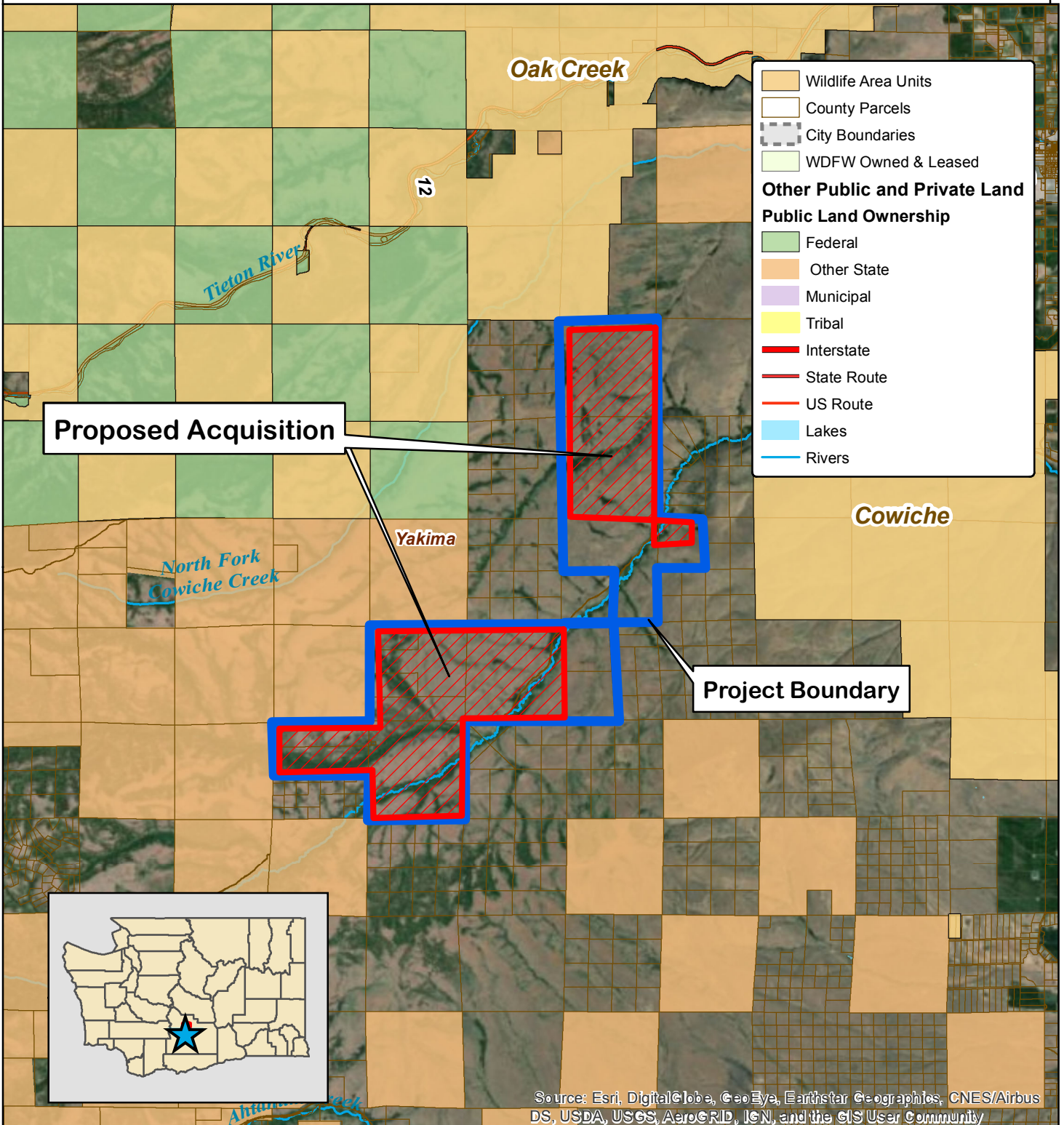
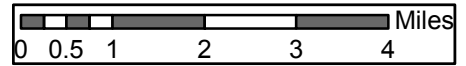
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- Wildlife Area Units
- County Parcels
- City Boundaries
- WDFW Owned & Leased
- Other Public and Private Land**
- Public Land Ownership**
- Federal
- Other State
- Municipal
- Tribal
- Interstate
- State Route
- US Route
- Lakes
- Rivers

Proposed Acquisition

Project Boundary

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

User Name: coimirc Date: 3/27/2019