



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Western States Land Commissioners Association

Recreational Use

Issues and Opportunities

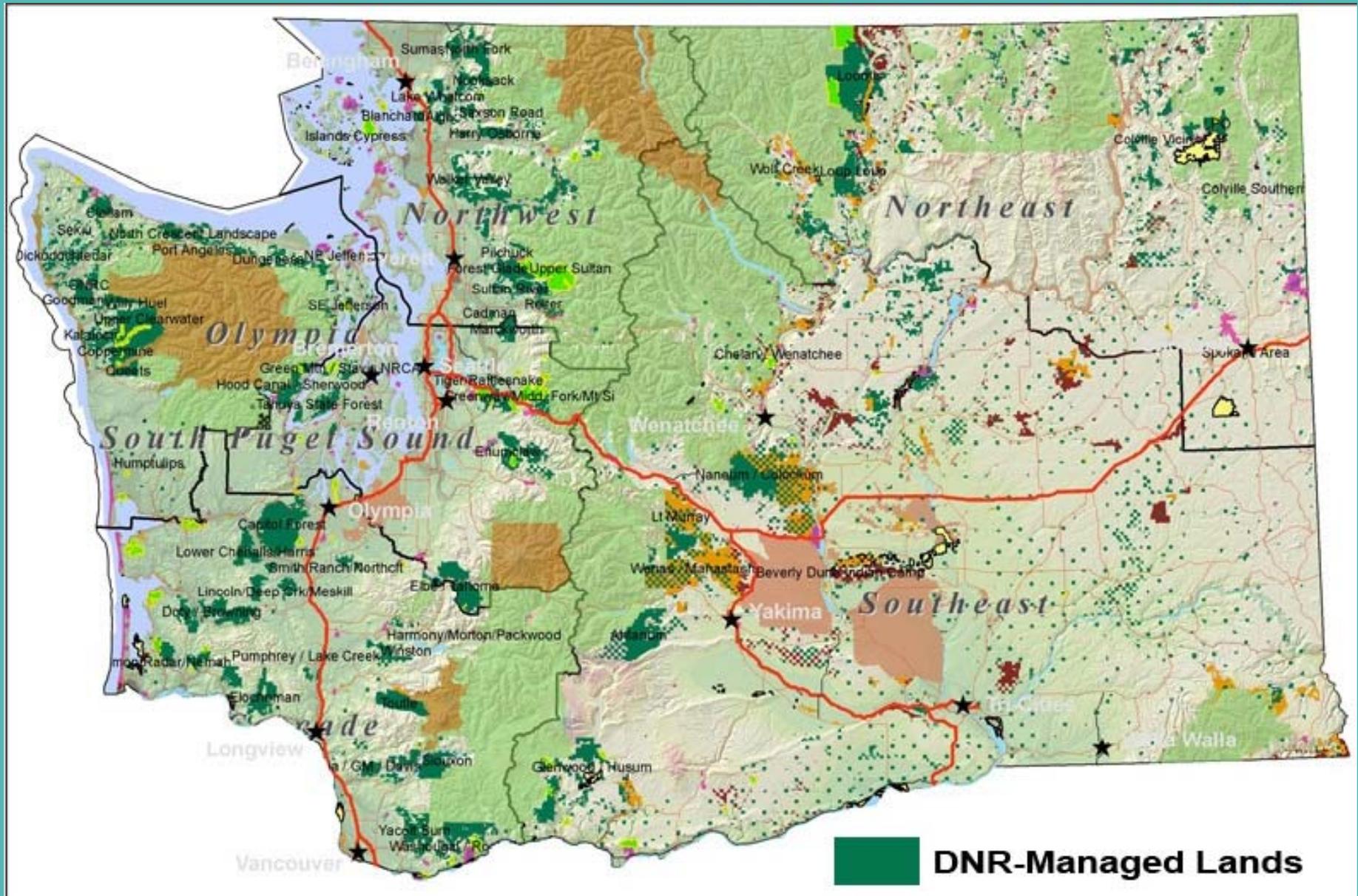


Washington State DNR

DNR manages 5.6 million acres

- **3 million acres of state trust lands**
- **2.6 million acres of aquatic lands**

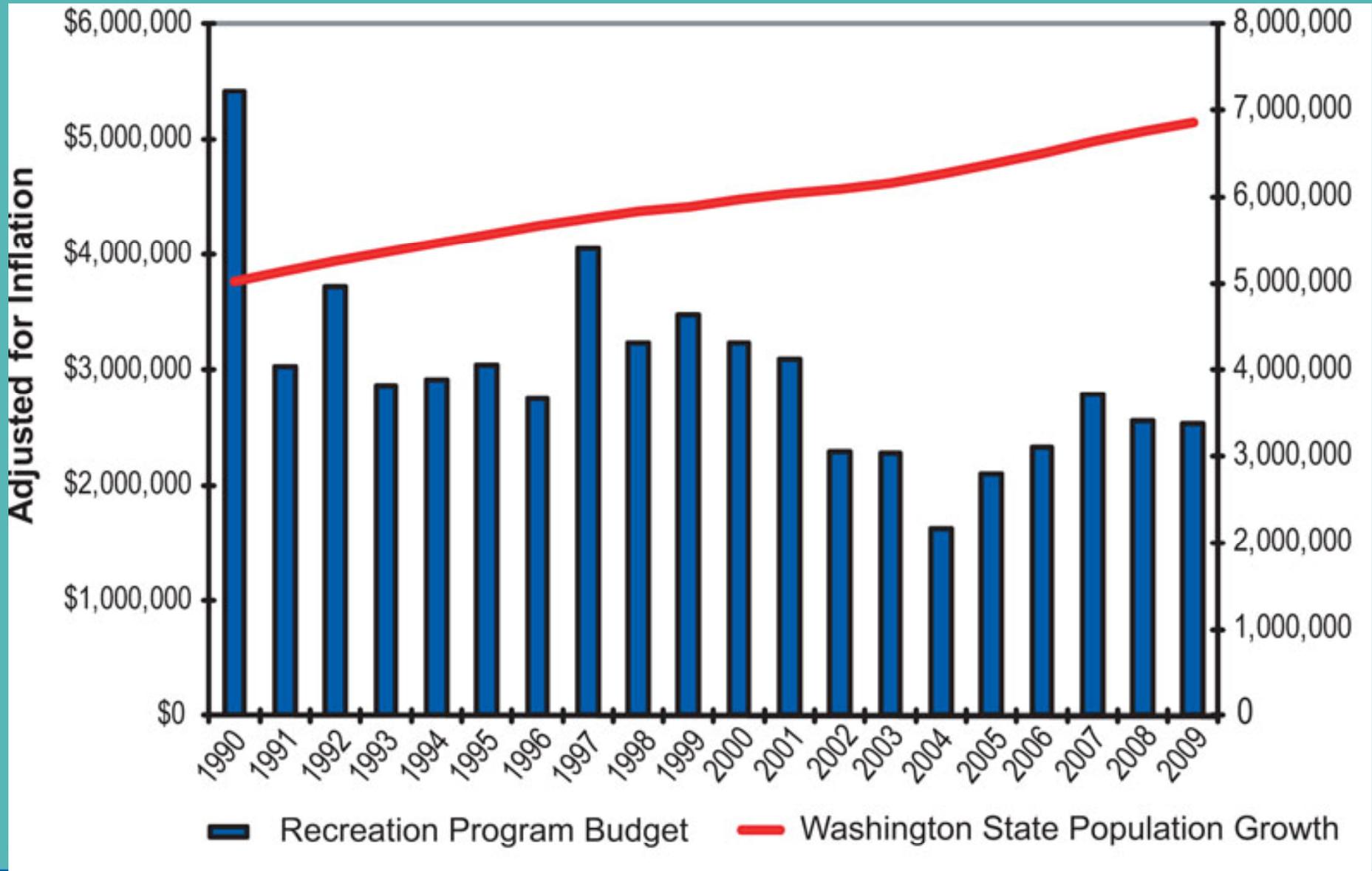
74 recreation landscapes



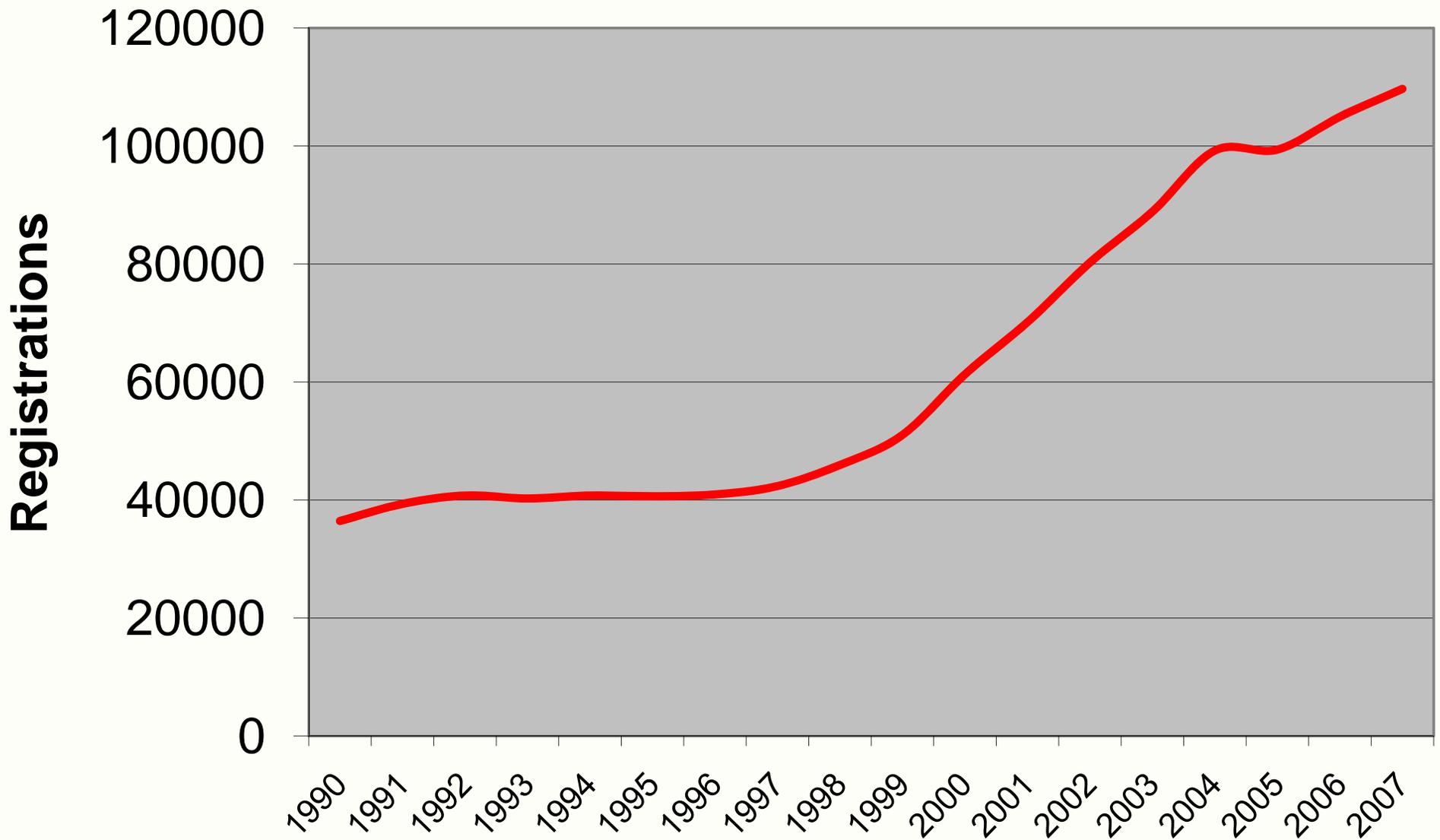
Major Challenges

- ▶ Increased population.
- ▶ Dramatically increased use of state lands for recreation.
- ▶ Decreased budget.

WA State population growth / DNR's recreation budget



Washington ORV Registrations 1990 - 2007

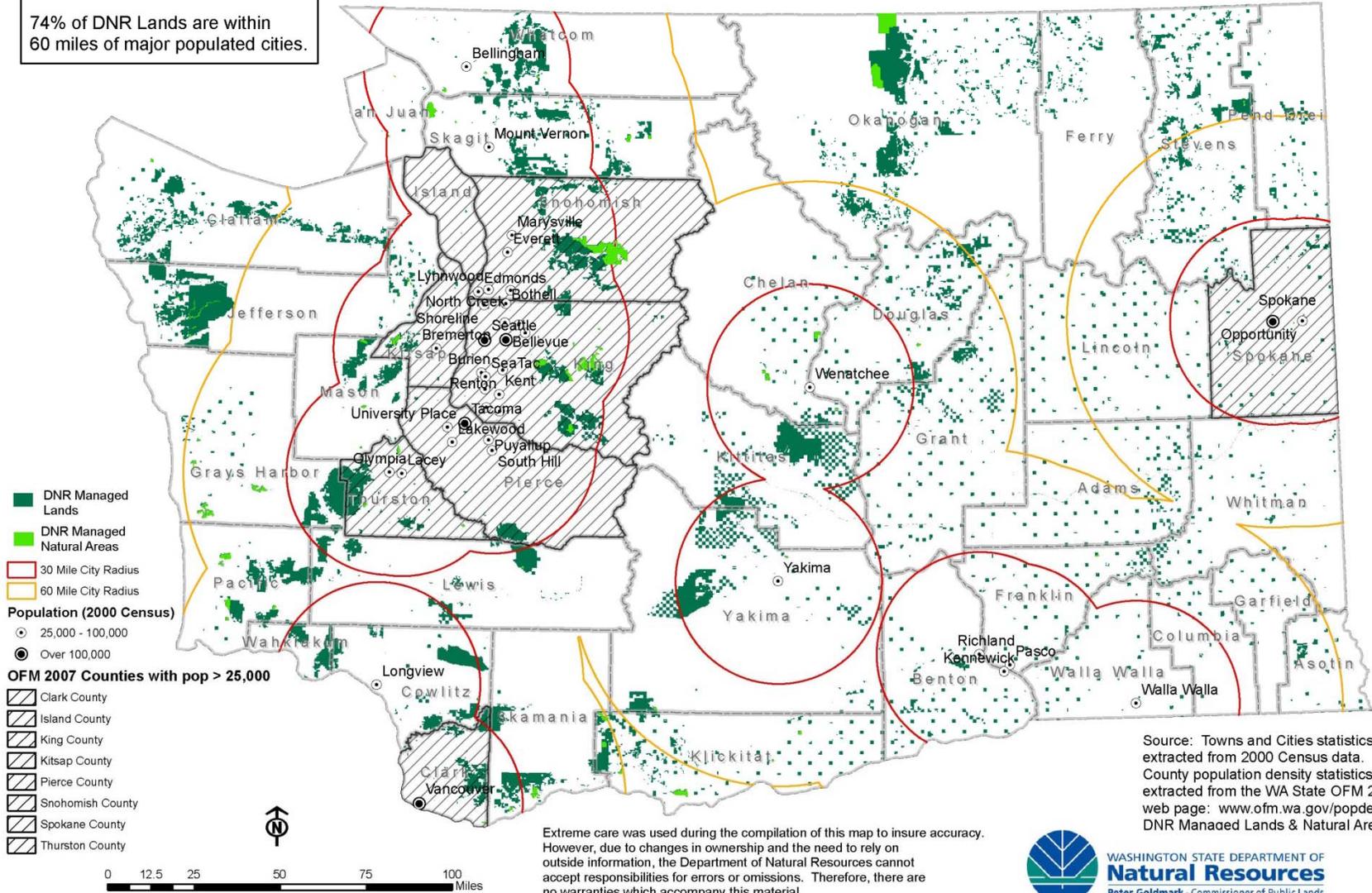


DNR LANDS & POPULATION DENSITY

45% of DNR Lands are within 30 miles of major populated cities.

74% of DNR Lands are within 60 miles of major populated cities.

* 30 & 60 MILE RADIUS OF WA CITIES WITH POPULATION GREATER THAN 25,000
 * COUNTIES WITH POPULATION DENSITY GREATER THAN 250 PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE



Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to insure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibilities for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

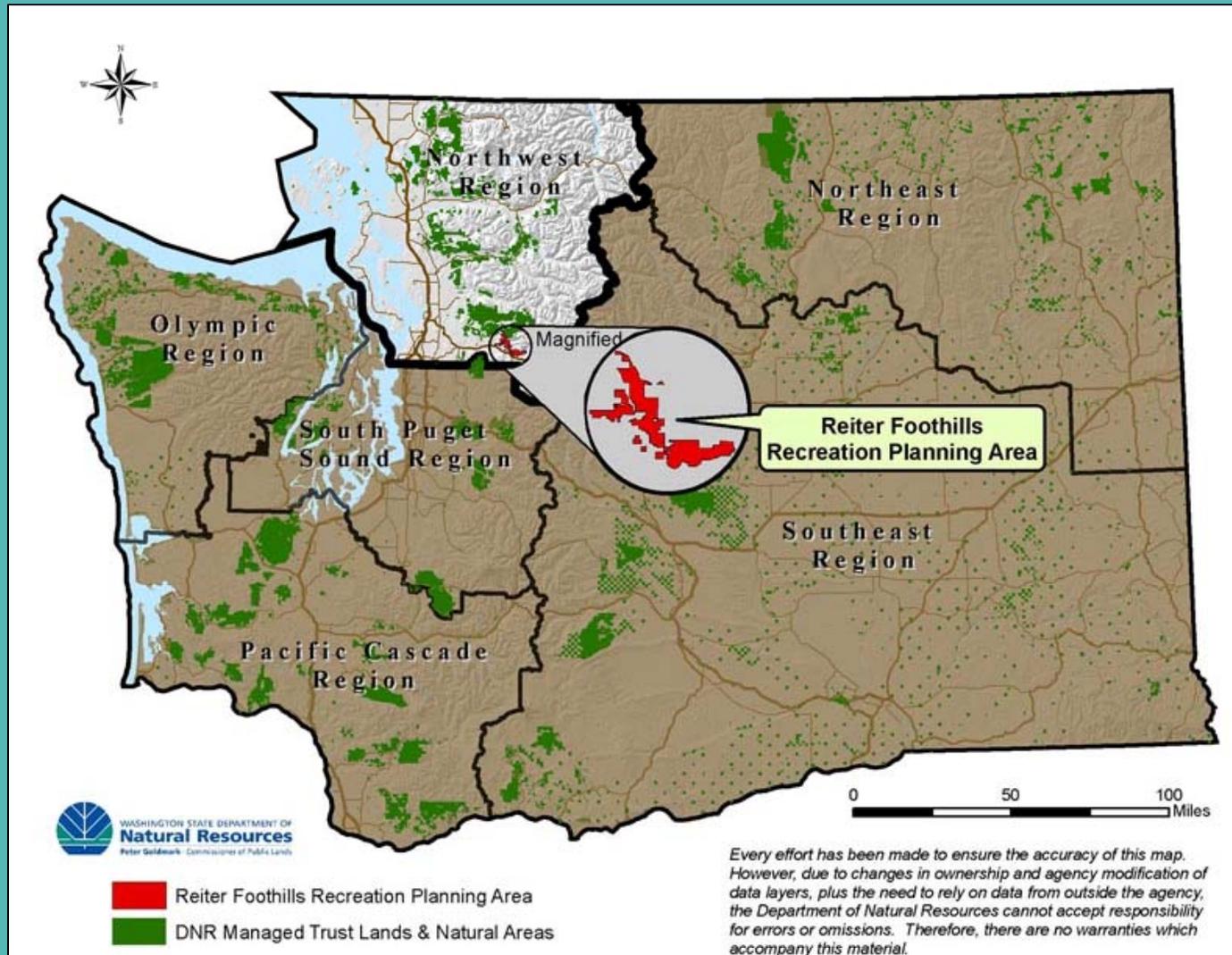
Source: Towns and Cities statistics extracted from 2000 Census data. County population density statistics extracted from the WA State OFM 2007 web page: www.ofm.wa.gov/popden/ DNR Managed Lands & Natural Areas 2010.



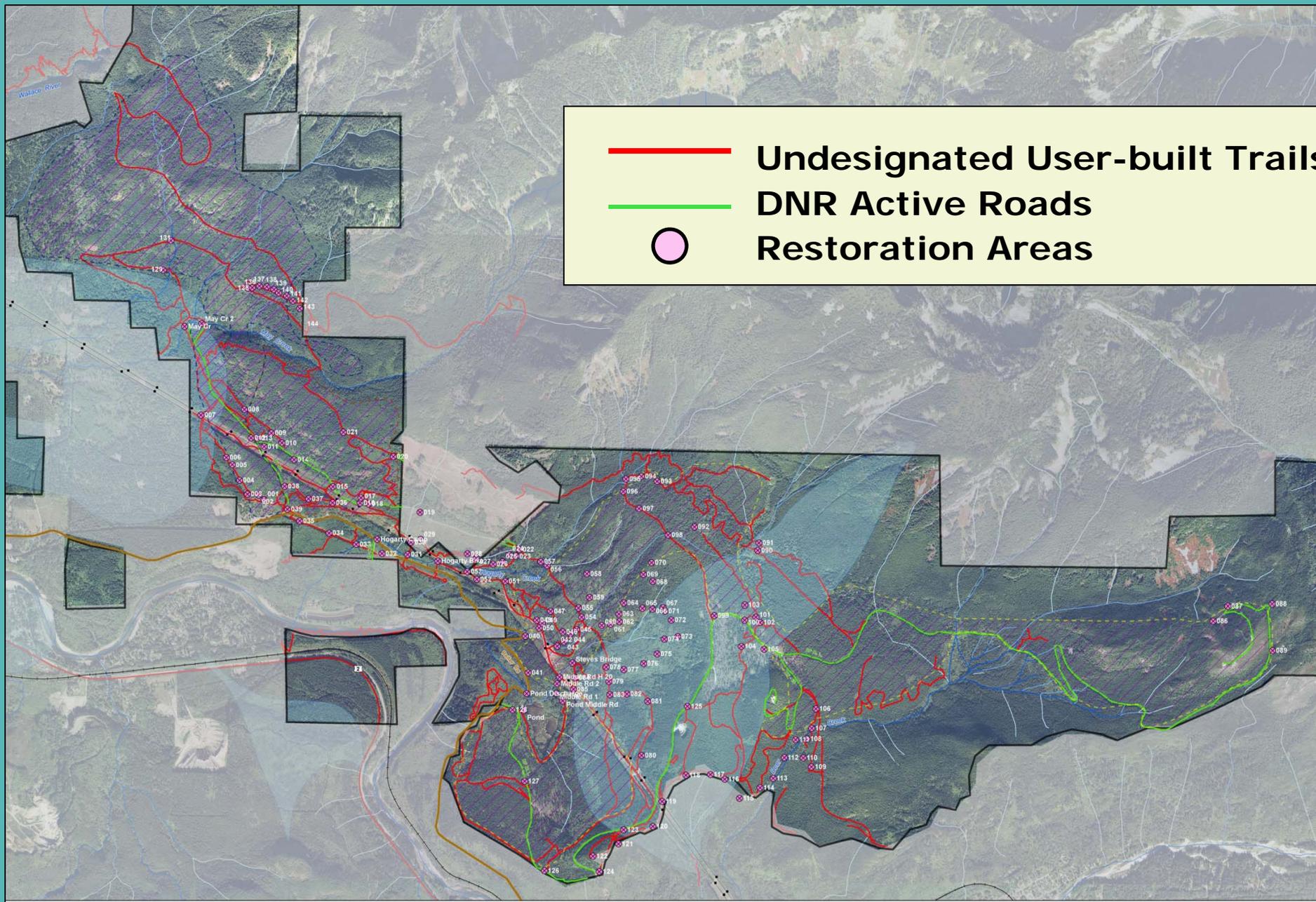
Additional Challenges:

- ▶ No authority to charge fees.
- ▶ No recreational immunity if we do charge fees.
- ▶ Facilities / trails developed 30-50 years ago.
- ▶ Limited access to private lands.
- ▶ Recreation occurs on working lands.

Our biggest recreation challenge: Reiter Foothills Forest



Reiter Foothills Forest



Reiter Foothills Forest

Examples of unauthorized use
& the impacts on the landscape



















Taking an unpopular step: Temporarily closing Reiter Foothills Forest



An opportunity:

The Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan

- ▶ Sustainably managed.
- ▶ Based on best available science.
- ▶ Driven by public involvement.

NATURAL RESOURCES



**Reiter Foothills Forest
Recreation Plan**

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April 2010



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General Information:

* All locations for facilities and areas shown for trail development are intended to be general in nature and are subject to field verification.

* All "trail areas" shown will include site-specific locations within them where conditions will preclude trail development.

* All potential linkages to surrounding lands are subject to approval by the adjacent land owner. These linkages are not decisions that can be made by the Department of Natural Resources in this planning effort.

* This map shows a development concept for the recreation plan only. It does not illustrate enforcement, maintenance or restoration strategies.

**Equestrian use could occur north and west of Wallace River should future trail options change in the State Park, or if new access is developed.

***This phase of development will occur after access issues and resource concerns are resolved, and the SE trails are built, managed and enforced.

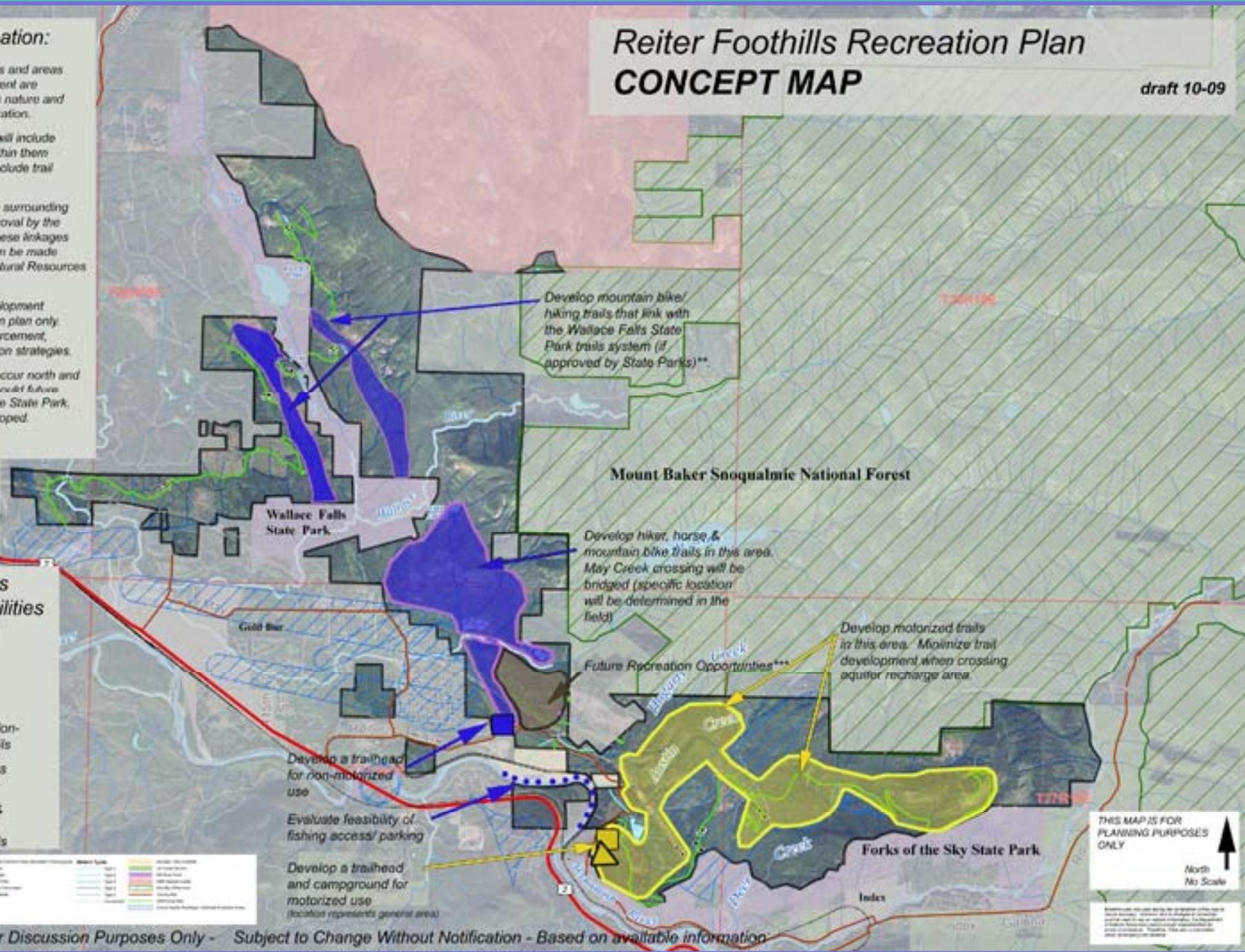
Proposed Areas for Trails & Facilities

-  Non-Motorized Areas
-  Motorized Areas
-  Trailhead for Non-Motorized Trails
-  Fishing Access Feasibility
-  Campground & Trailhead for Motorized Trails



Reiter Foothills Recreation Plan CONCEPT MAP

draft 10-09



THIS MAP IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

North
No Scale

10-2009 Draft: For Discussion Purposes Only - Subject to Change Without Notification - Based on available information

Volunteers help to reopen Reiter Foothills Forest

- ▶ Stabilizing stream banks.
- ▶ Restoring environmental damage.
- ▶ Decommissioning unauthorized trails.
- ▶ Helping design new trail systems.
- ▶ Flagging locations for new trails.



Before



During



After

Addressing the challenges
with sustainable planning

Capitol State Forest



Middle Waddle Campground Capitol State Forest



Middle Waddle Creek



BEFORE:

Rock Candy parking area (Capitol Forest)



AFTER: Rock Candy parking area



Challenges Create Opportunities

- ▶ Brought together leaders, volunteers from diverse groups.
- ▶ Improved relations with recreation users.
- ▶ Developed a stronger volunteer program.



The public is passionate about recreation



Mt. Si, east of Seattle



Yakima Ski Benders snowmobile group present donation check to DNR.



Cypress Island, San Juans



Lake Spokane



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