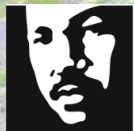




Selecting Mitigation Sites *for the* King County Mitigation Reserves Program

Michael Murphy

**KC Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King County, Washington**



King County



King County's Mitigation Reserves Program


- Operating since 2005
- In 2008, began program revisions to comply with Federal Rules
- Authorized in March 2012





King County, WA

WA ILF Program Service Areas

Legend

 Authorized

 Reservation

 Proposed

1:2,400,000, 1"=38 Miles

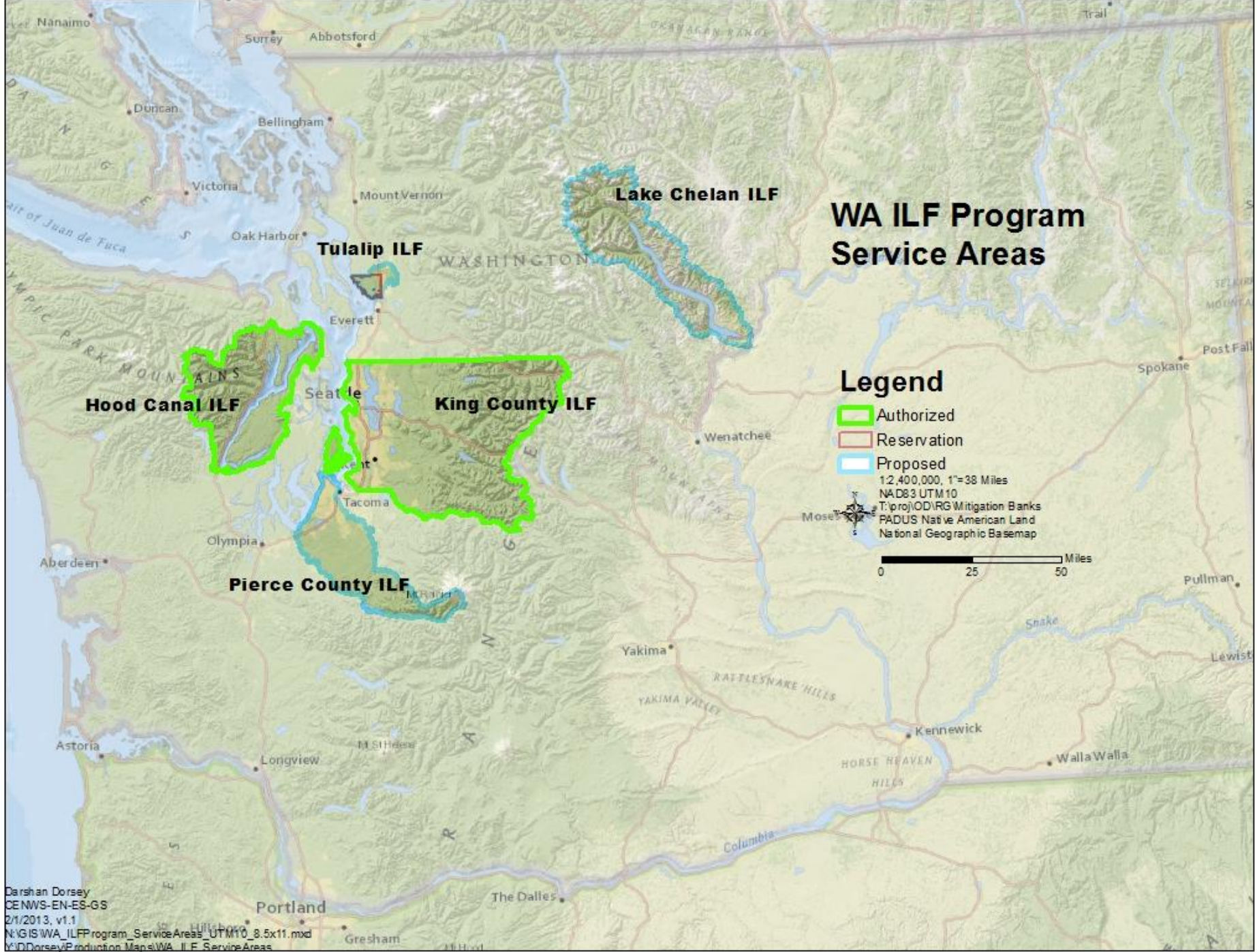
NAD83 UTM10

T:\proj\OD\IRG\Mitigation Banks

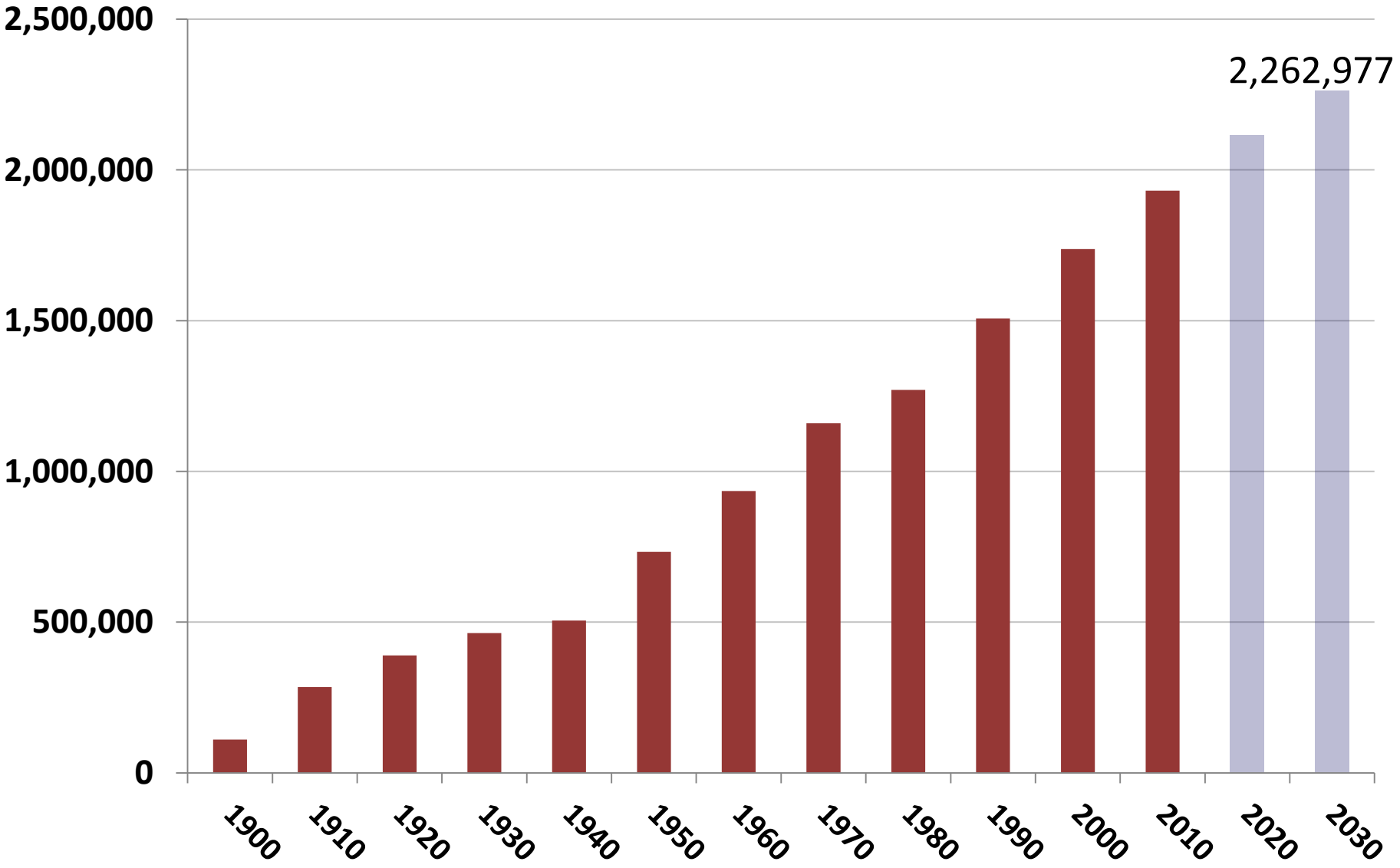
PADUS Native American Land

National Geographic Basemap

0 25 50 Miles

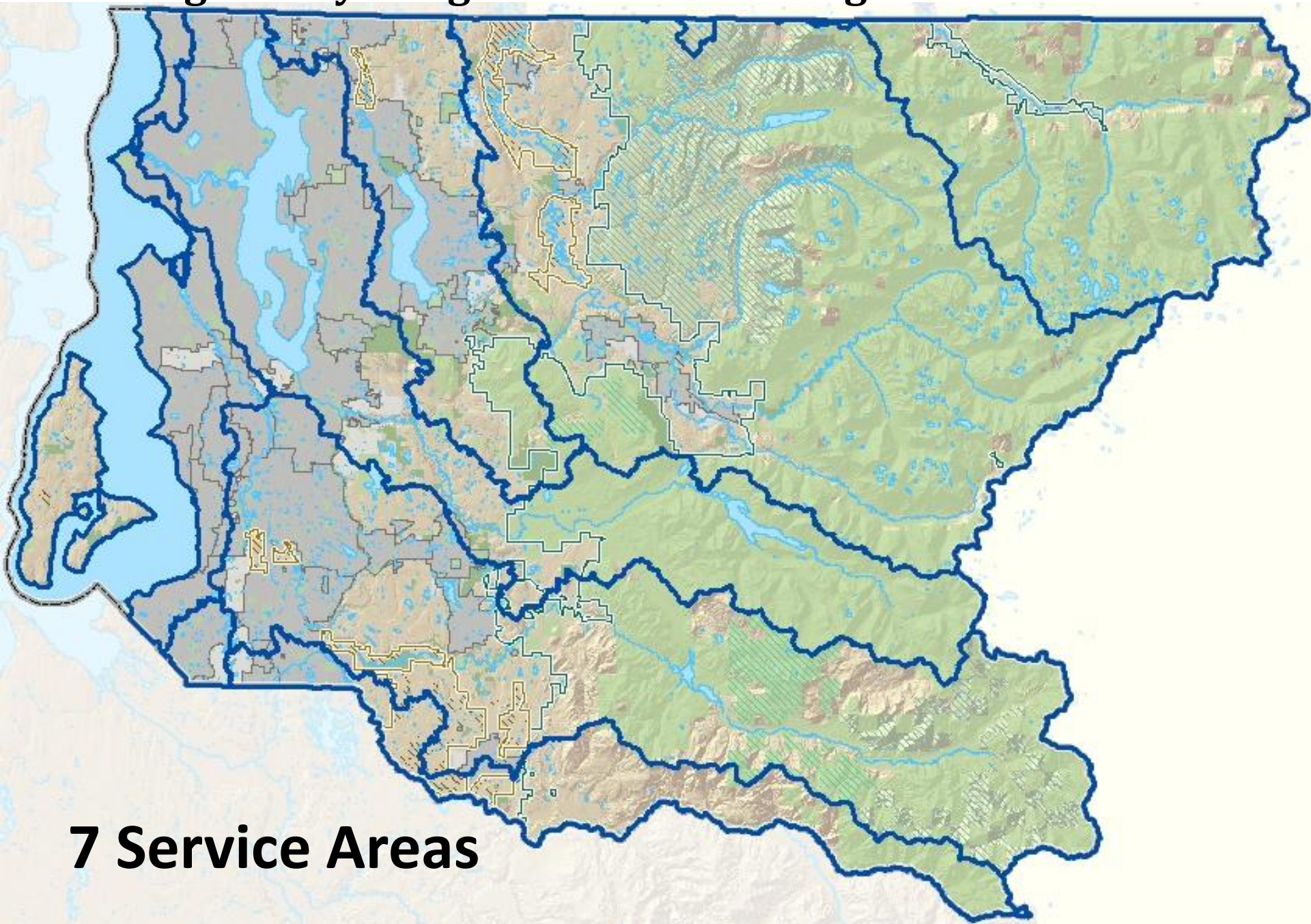


Population Growth in King County, WA



Source: WA Office of Financial Management (Forecast: 2007 medium projection)

King County Mitigation Reserves Program Service Areas



7 Service Areas

Open Space Lands Acquired by King County Since 2001

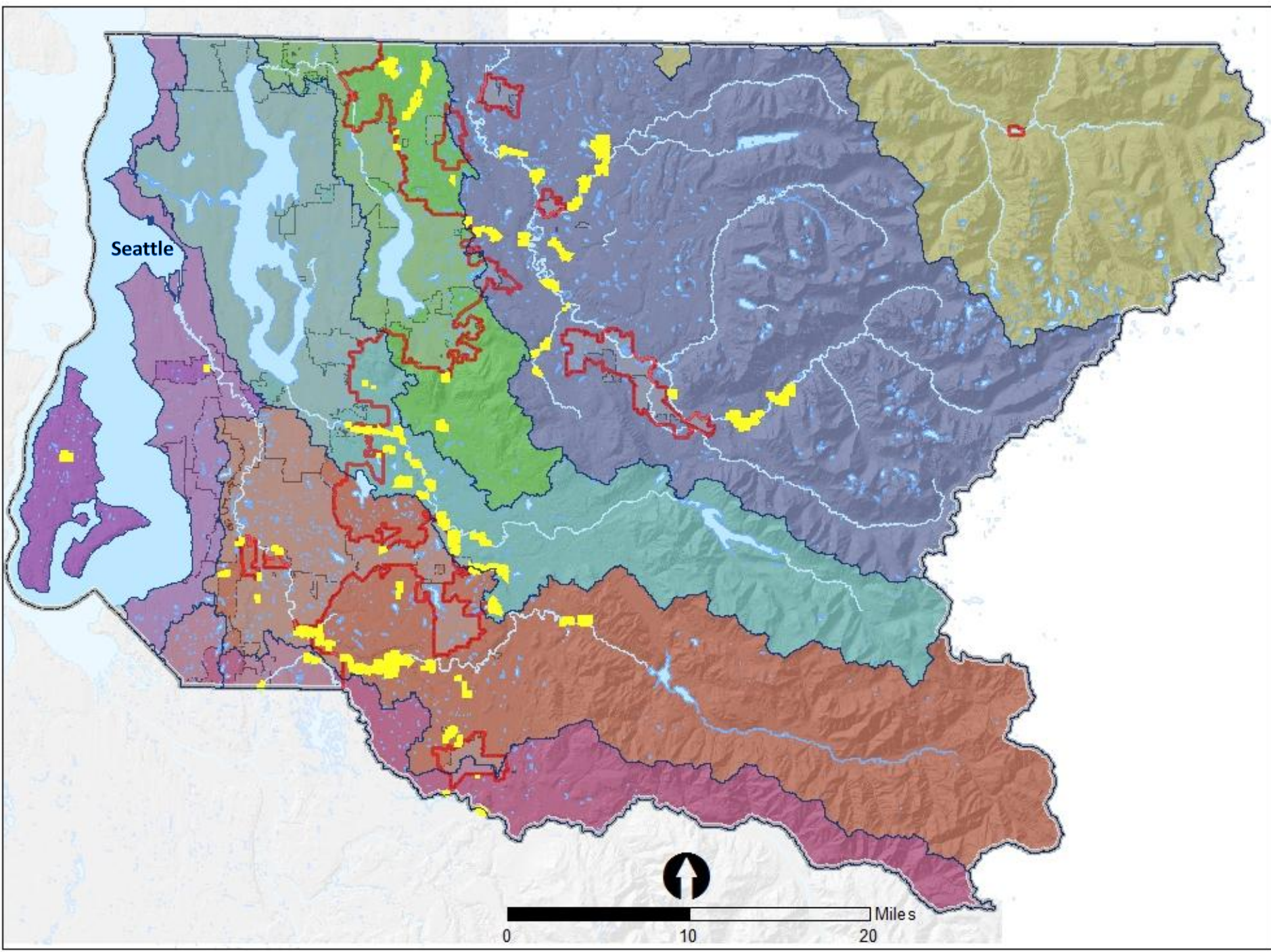
Year	Number of Acquisitions	Cost	Total Acres	Acquired in Fee (acres)	Easements (acres)
2001	35	\$12,295,000	1,410	1,086	324
2002	51	\$15,303,355	2,803	2,260	543
2003	38	\$15,570,500	633	586	47
2004	15	\$33,508,328	89,831	331	89,500
2005	30	\$15,390,031	936	864	72
2006	26	\$8,265,050	1,081	999	82
2007	12	\$6,685,600	521	498	23
2008	24	\$18,895,739	46,021	373	45,648
2009	36	\$16,841,100	4,842	160	4,682
2010	55	\$55,303,124	1,053	934	119
2011	60	\$20,624,092	778	624	154
2012	51	\$20,363,954	566	320	246
	433	\$239,045,873	150,475	9,035	141,440

ILF mitigation program developed, in part, to provide funding for ecological improvements at degraded King County lands

Initial Screening* Criteria used to develop a “Roster” of Mitigation Sites from KC lands

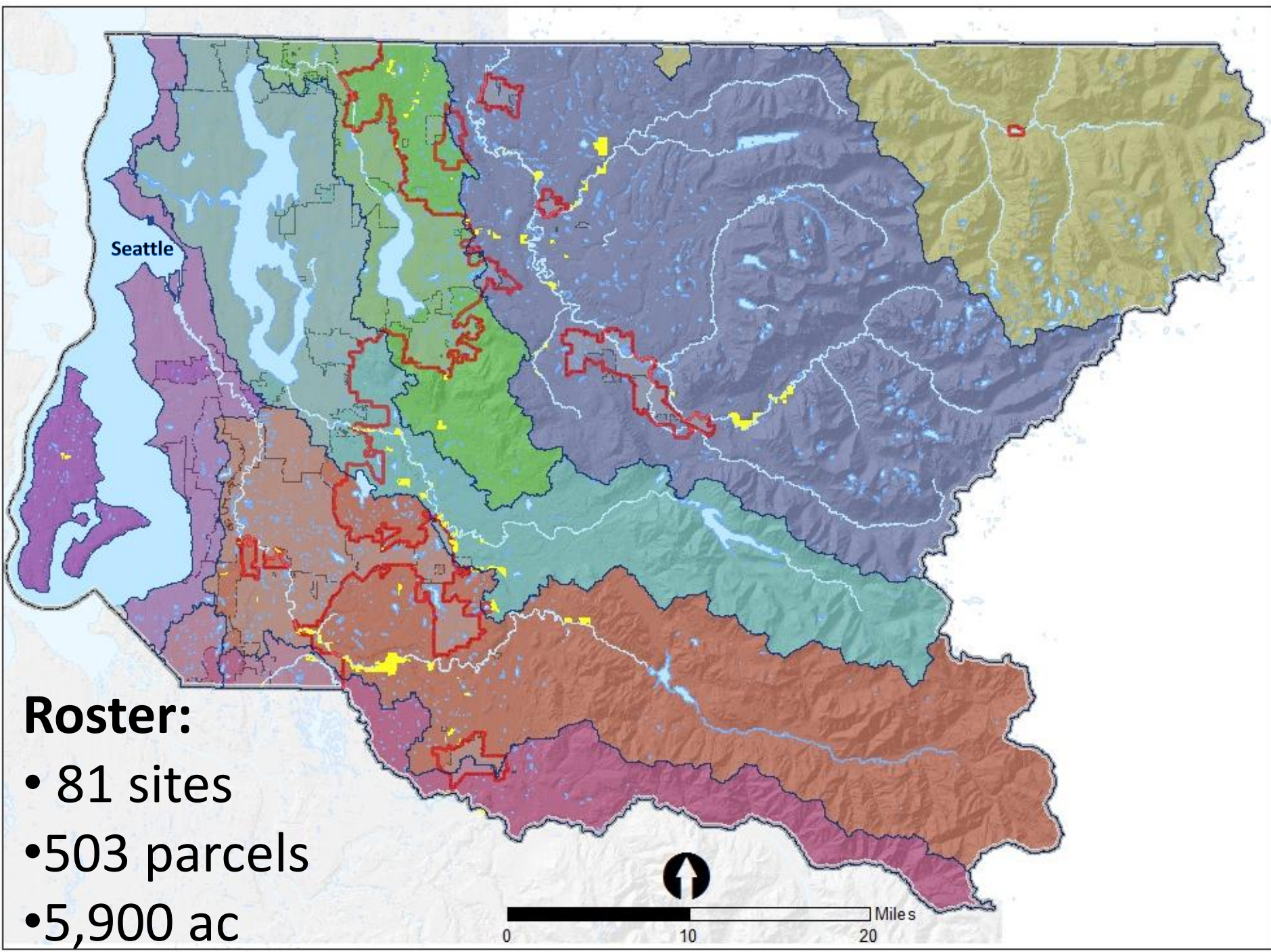
- Funding compatibility
- Potential for ecological “lift”
- Accessibility, and other practical matters
- Geographic coverage within Service Areas

*When developing the Program Instrument, Sponsor clearly stated that *all* sites – even those on the Roster – will require additional screening prior to official selection.



Seattle

0 10 20 Miles



Seattle

Roster:

- 81 sites
- 503 parcels
- 5,900 ac

Site Selection Model

- Many potential mitigation sites were available *prior to program inception*
- Initial screening of potential sites resulted in formation of a “Roster” of potential sites
- Mitigation sites are selected from the Roster as mitigation needs arise
- Site selection follows a process outlined in the Program Instrument

Choosing the Right sites...

- Using watershed plans and analyses (King County, and others)
- Ecology guidance →
- KC Staff expertise (Credit Allocation Team)

Selecting Wetland Mitigation Sites Using a Watershed Approach



Thomas Hruby, Kim Harper, and Stephen Stanley

Ecology Publication #09-06-032
December 2009

Credit Allocation Team Considerations

- **Watershed context and location:** Is the site likely to support a project that will address watershed needs? Is the location appropriate relative to locations of impacts?
- **Ecological functions and values:** Will the site support a project providing similar functions and values to what was lost at impact projects? *(Not always necessary, but often preferred)*
- **Size:** Will site accommodate a large project or multiple projects?
- **Ownership status:** KC or private, fee or easement?

“If functions lost at an impact site are determined to be critically important within a particular basin, then a mitigation site will be selected from the Roster based on:

- Proximity of the receiving site to the impact area (i.e., within the same hydrogeomorphic subbasin).
- Opportunities for lift within the same landscape setting, HGM class, aquatic resource type and/or terrestrial community type, and other relevant factors.
- Readiness of the site to accommodate a project.
- The need to compensate for deficits in a given functional category to ensure that impacts to critical watershed functions are fully compensated by the time the third mitigation project is implemented or within 10 years of when a credit sale occurs, whichever is shorter.

Interagency Review Team Process

1. Sponsor proposes a site to IRT
2. IRT reviews proposal and approves or requests that the sponsor provide other options
3. Corps issues Public Notice to announce proposed ILF mitigation site
4. After Public Notice, Sponsor begins design, etc.

An aerial photograph of a wetland area. A winding river flows through a landscape of marshes and grasslands. The water is dark, and the surrounding vegetation is a mix of green and brown. In the background, there are fields and some buildings.

Thank You!

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How the program works:

**Proposed environmental
impact**



```
graph TD; A[Proposed environmental impact] --> B[Applicant works with regulatory agencies to:]; B --> C[• Avoid and Minimize impacts]; B --> D[• Review and select mitigation options]; D --> E[○ Mitigation Bank]; D --> F[○ Permittee-responsible on-site or off-site]; D --> G[○ ILF program (KC or other)];
```

Applicant works with regulatory agencies to:

- **Avoid** and **Minimize** impacts
- Review and select mitigation options
 - Mitigation Bank
 - Permittee-responsible on-site or off-site
 - ILF program (KC or other)

Applicant confirms functional loss (Debits) with regulatory agencies

 Applicant buys credits

Applicant satisfies mitigation obligations



KC MRP uses credit fees to:

- Select best mitigation site from Roster
- Design, construct, monitor, and maintain projects
- Determine credits derived from projects



MRP coordinates with regulatory agencies throughout credit "fulfillment" process



King County satisfies mitigation obligations