

Thurston County



HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

CHRISTINA CHAPUT



Thurston County HCP Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxSLsi-clIM>

An HCP is a mitigation plan



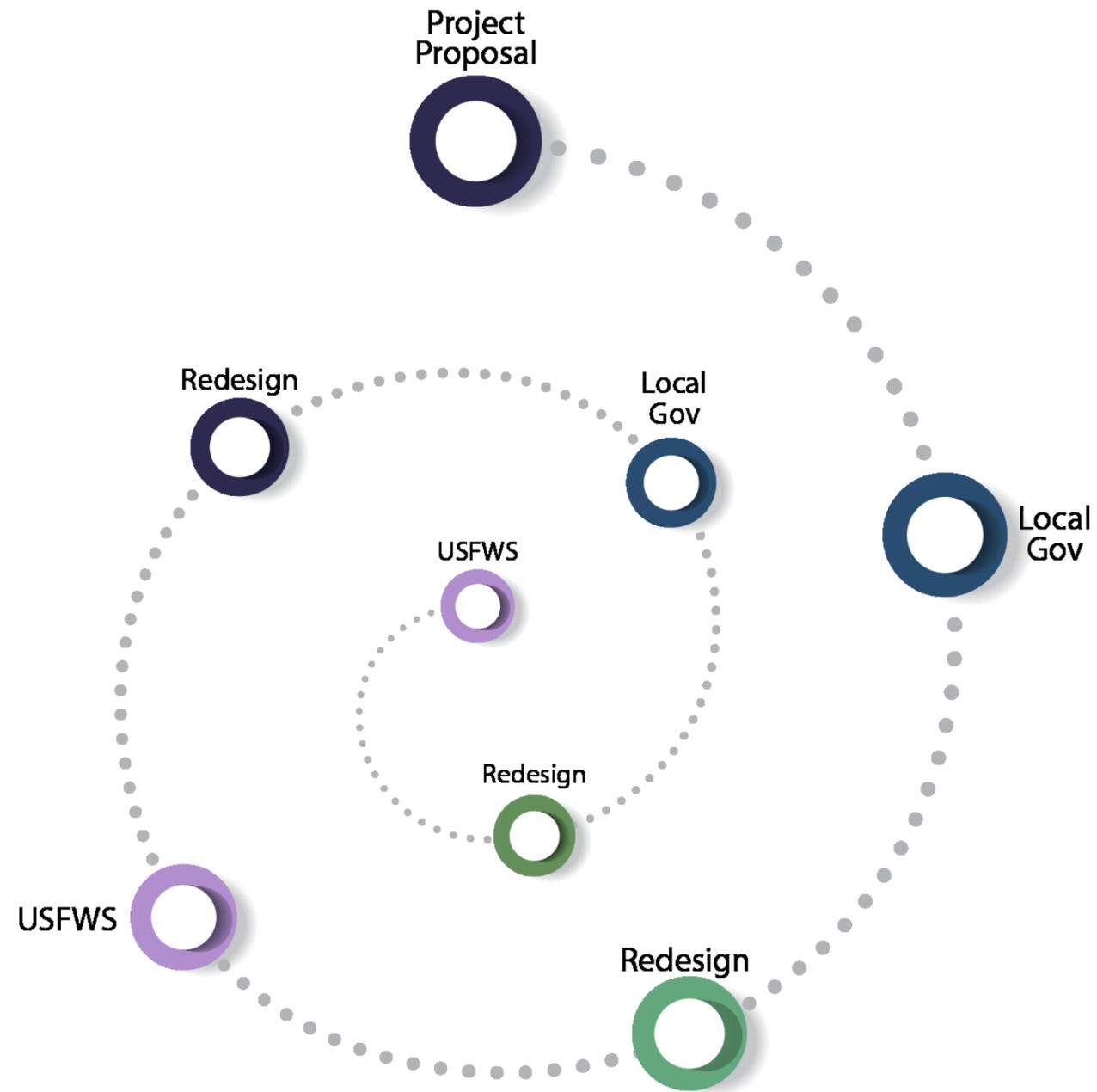
It needs to be reviewed and approved by US Fish and Wildlife Service

Once approved US Fish and Wildlife Service issues an Incidental Take Permit

What is an HCP?

- ✓ Response to federal species listings (ESA)
- ✓ Pathway for project approval
- ✓ Certainty for 30 years
- ✓ Maintains local control

Why an HCP?



Why an HCP?



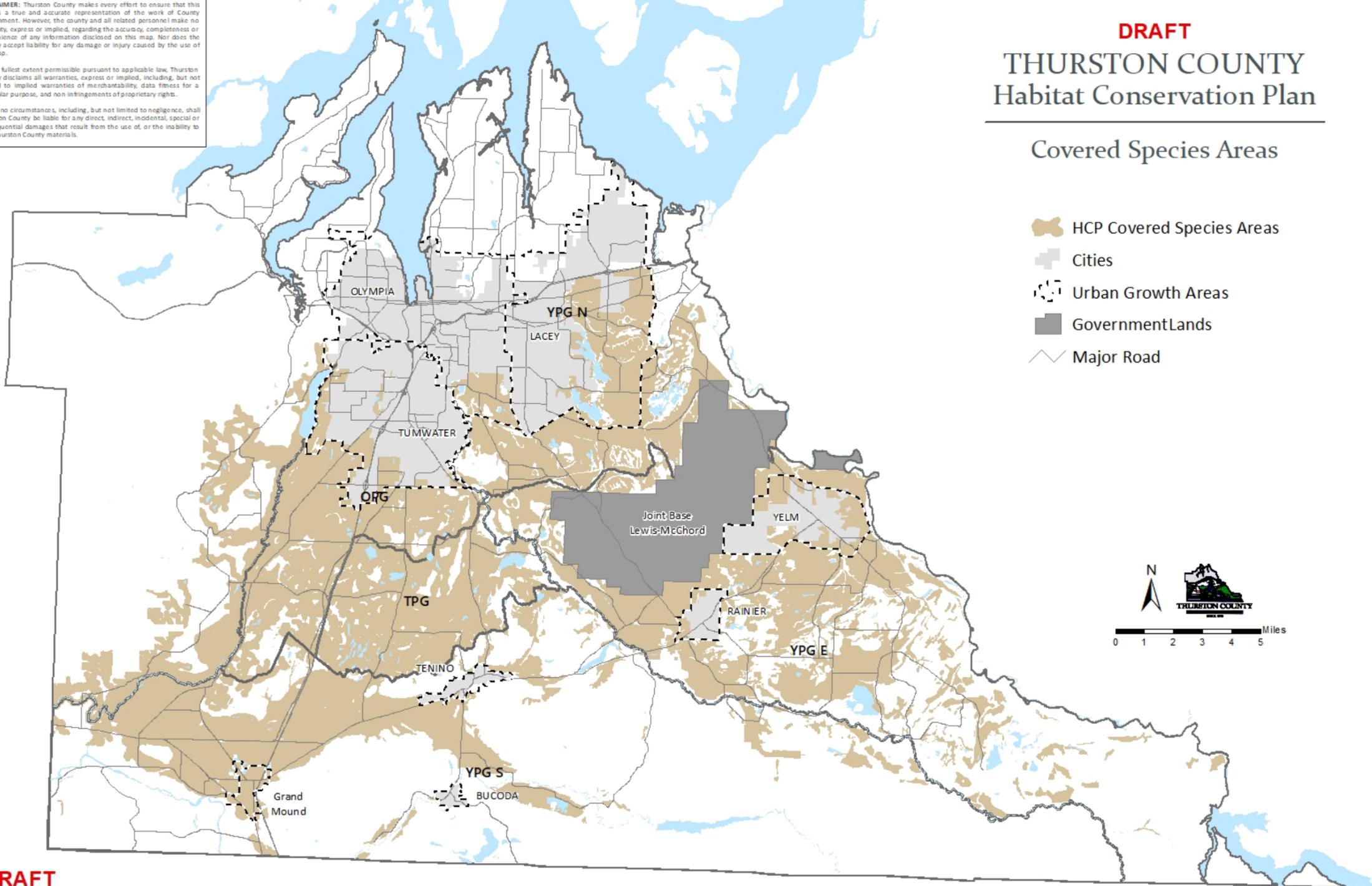
A New Approach

Where will it work?

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- ✓ Unincorporated Thurston County (outside cities), including UGAs
- ✓ Wherever there is covered species habitat
- ✓ Specific service areas for gopher sub-species

DRAFT

Covered Species



Oregon vesper
sparrow



Taylor's
checkerspot
butterfly



Oregon spotted
frog



Mazama pocket
gopher
(Olympia, Yelm, & Tenino)

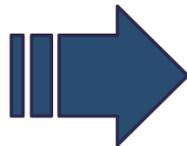
Covers most
development



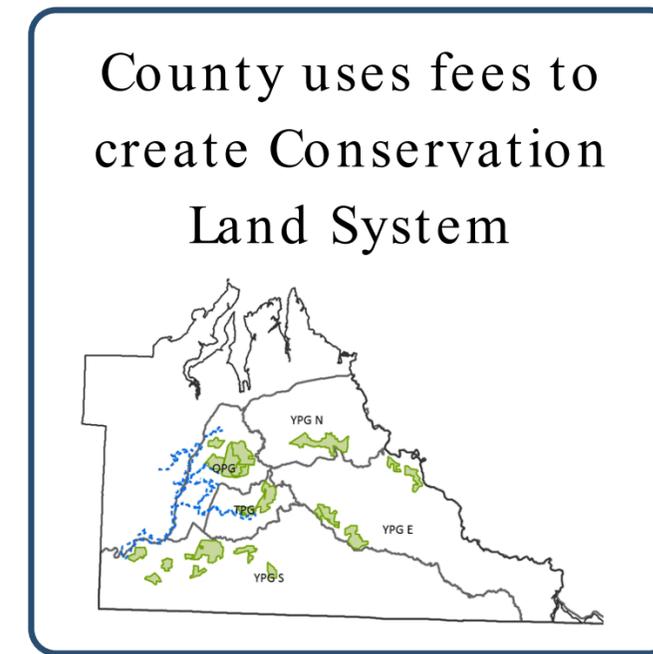
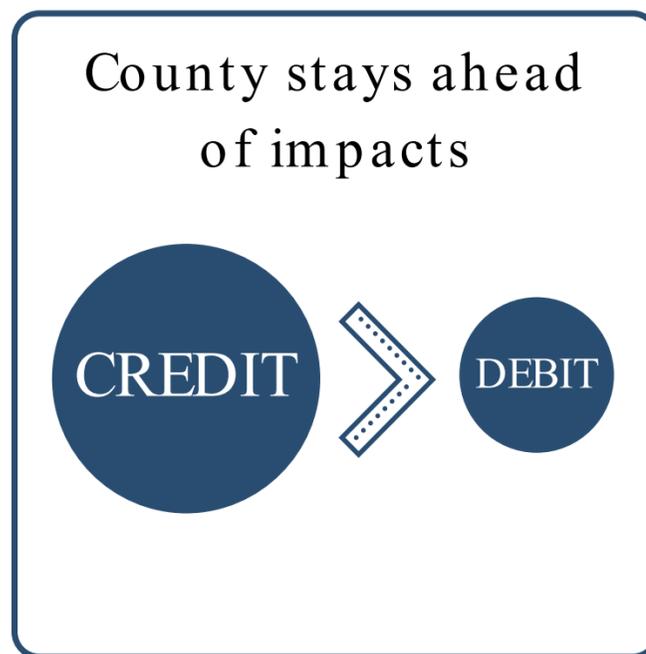


Mining goes through
a different process

Permitting Process



OR



Conservation Program



Conservation Land System



3,469 acres



New Reserves

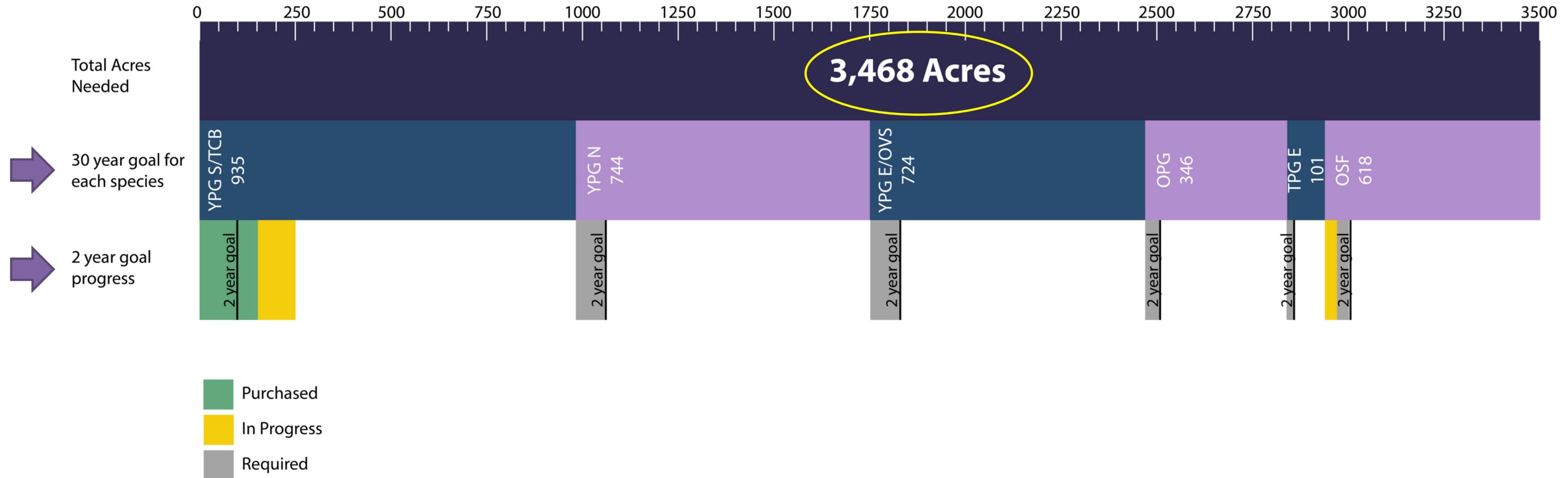


Enhance Existing Preserves

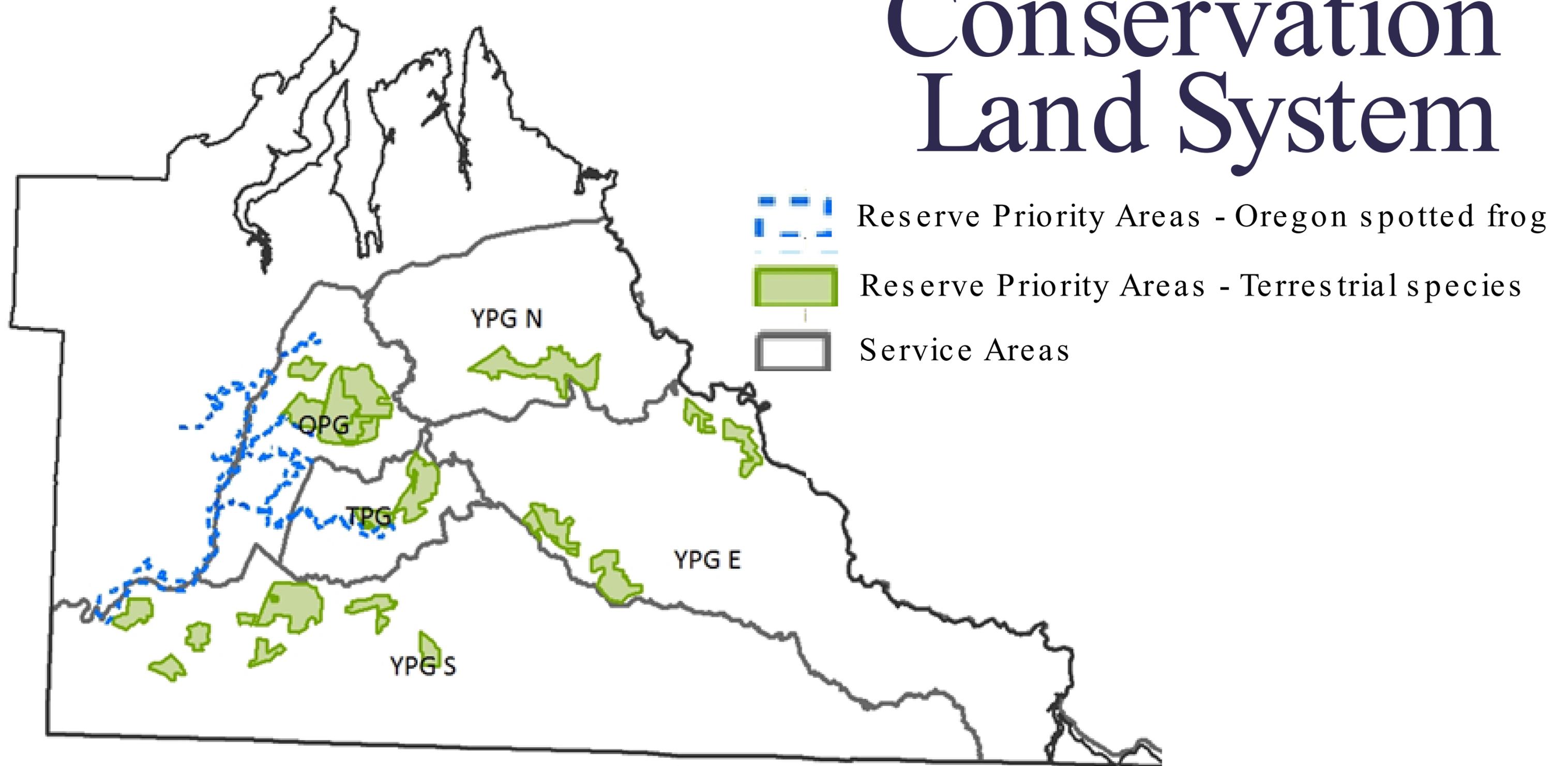


Working Lands Easements

Total Acres Needed



Conservation Land System

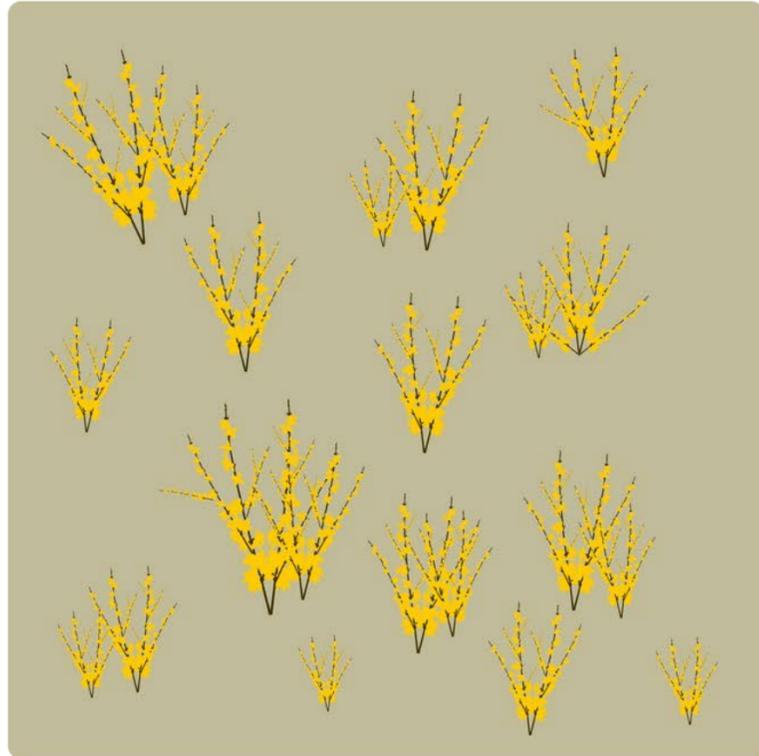




Professionally Managed

Mitigation Credits

No management
Less preferred soil
No gophers



Some management
More preferred soil
Gophers w/in 650'



Full management
More preferred soil
Gophers present



Less credits

More credits

What About Cost



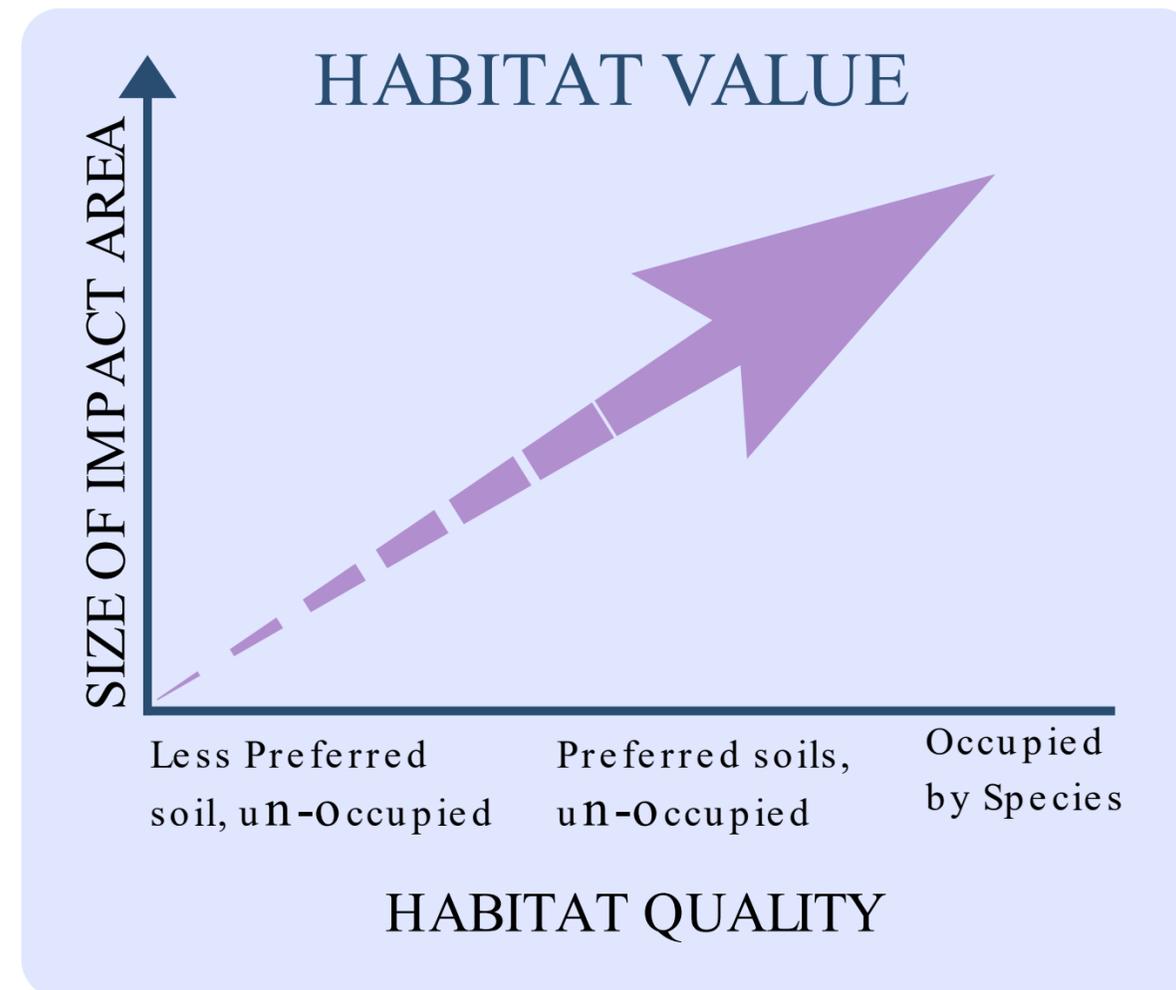
- ✓ County is investing in mitigation to reduce costs for individual property owners
- ✓ HCP will save time and money compared to status quo (EcoNorthwest Economic Study)
- ✓ Self-service calculators for project development (the less you impact, the less you pay)

Customized Determination

To measure habitat quality for a plot of land, the HCT weights features for breeding and foraging that the covered species require throughout their lifecycle and considers The tool looks at that overall habitat and measures it as a percent of optimal condition.



Habitat Calculation Tool



Acres of Impact X Habitat Value = Credits Needed

Credits Needed X Cost per Credit = Mitigation Fee

Ready for Uncertainties



Adaptable



Climate Change

Collaboration



Conservationists



Farmers

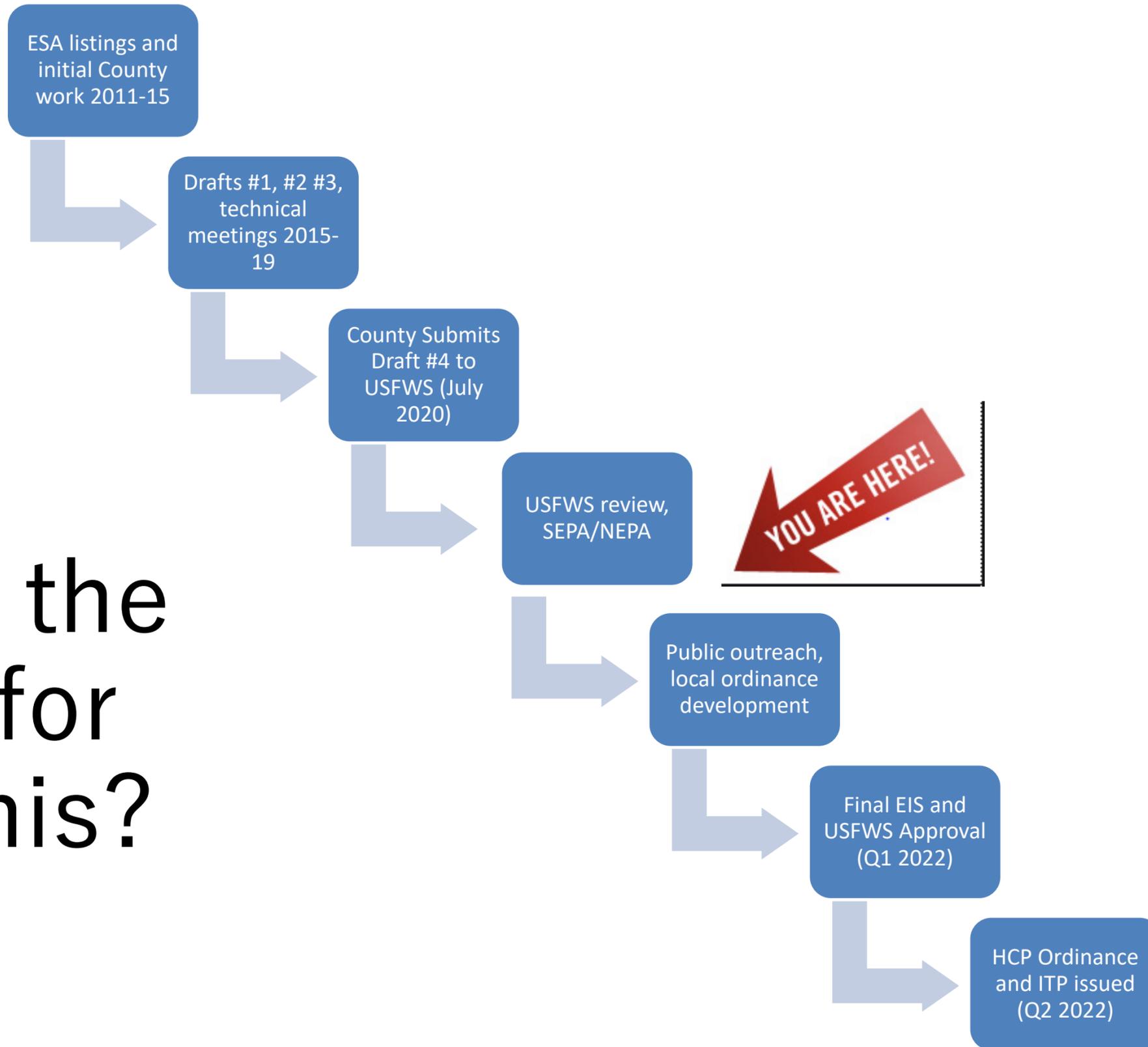


Community



Developers

What's the timing for all of this?



thurstonhcp.org

Thurston County
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A photograph of a field of flowers, primarily yellow and purple, under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing green buds. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the foreground flowers.

Questions?

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