



Washington State
Department of
Natural Resources

The "Uncharted World" of Conservation Leasing

Presented to the
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By

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Presentation Overview

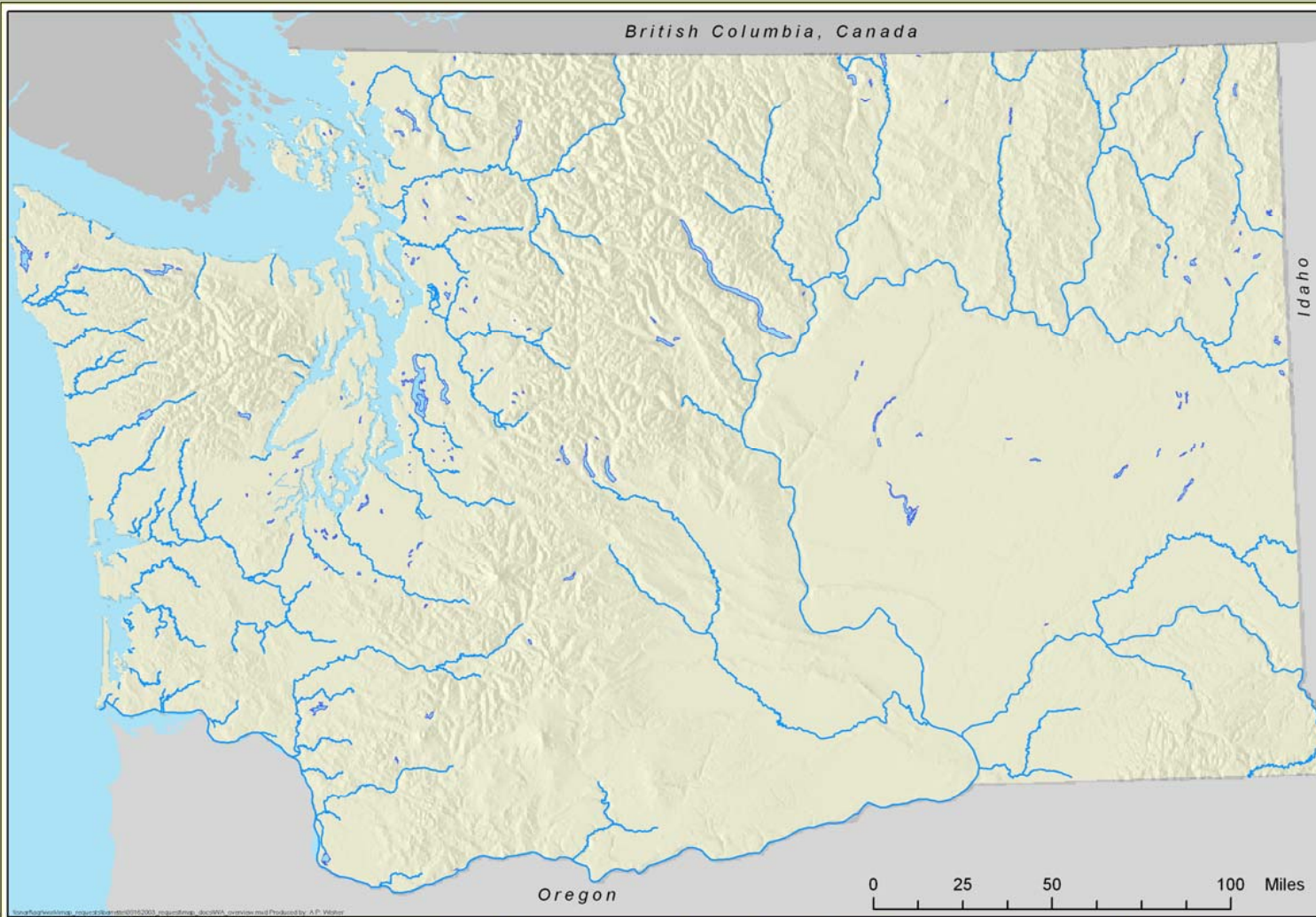
- Current land use trends and leasing activity
- DNR's management authority
- Conservation leasing program details
- Where we go from here...



What is Conservation Leasing?

- Conservation leasing is the use of state land for sole purpose of enhancing, restoring or preserving aquatic resources.
- Similar to traditional conservation easements that transfer rights
- Provides opportunity to balance mandated activities
- Conservation leasing is NOT
 - Compensatory mitigation
 - Park use

Navigable Waters in WA



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

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



Tidal mud flat



Cutts Island



Hanford Reach



Lake Chelan

Pre-development Condition



Current Conditions





- 30% of shorelines modified
- 1,200 boat ramps
- 3,500 piers and docks
- 30,000 recreational boat slips
- 3.4% of DNR managed aquatic lands are encumbered



Aquatic Lands Statutes

(RCW 79.90 – 79.96)

Authorize DNR to manage state-owned aquatic lands in a manner which:

- Fosters water dependent uses;
- Ensures public access;
- Utilizes renewable resources;
- Ensures environmental protection; and
- Generate income in a manner consistent with the above



"...Foster Water Dependent Uses..."



"...Ensure Public Access..."





“...Utilize renewable resources...”



"...Ensure Environmental Protection..."





Conservation Leasing Program

- Within DNR's existing management authority
- Provides repeatable method
 - Tools, Process, Guidance
 - Site specific goals, local support, long term vision
- Complements similar efforts
- Includes staff training and public outreach

Conservation Tool Box

- Standard Practice (policy)
- Conservation lease
- Conservation license
- Plan of operations
- Document preparation guidance





- Application, intended use (restoration plan), and permits
- Determine limits of the use
- Identify support
- Identify performance benchmarks, site-specific goals
- Long-term vision





Related Programs

- Local, state and federal efforts to restore and protect aquatic habitats
- Eco-regional planning
- Habitat conservation planning





Current activities

- Finalizing documents
- Developing staff training
- Outreach strategy
- Pilot conservation lease with The Nature Conservancy



Yellow Island



Consulting the Crystal Ball

- Restore and protect state's aquatic resources
- Provides support for renewable resources
- Generate revenue for conservation activities
- Encourage conservation partnerships



More Information

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Photo Credits:

DNR's Nearshore, Geoduck, and Spartina Programs

Soap Lake Conservancy

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce

King County

The Nature Conservancy

Port of Seattle

