

Regional Open Space Plan Update

Advisory Committee

October 13, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Engagement



Community survey early findings

- 100% said conservation is important or very important
- 80% rated their access to parks and open space a 4 or 5
- Connecting/extending trails, adding parks to neighborhoods, and providing transit to trailheads considered most important strategies to improve access to parks and open space
- 48% get to their closest open space by walking and 40% by driving

I ❤️ Open Spaces Photo Challenge

- 22 photos submitted



Engagement



Summer Community Events:

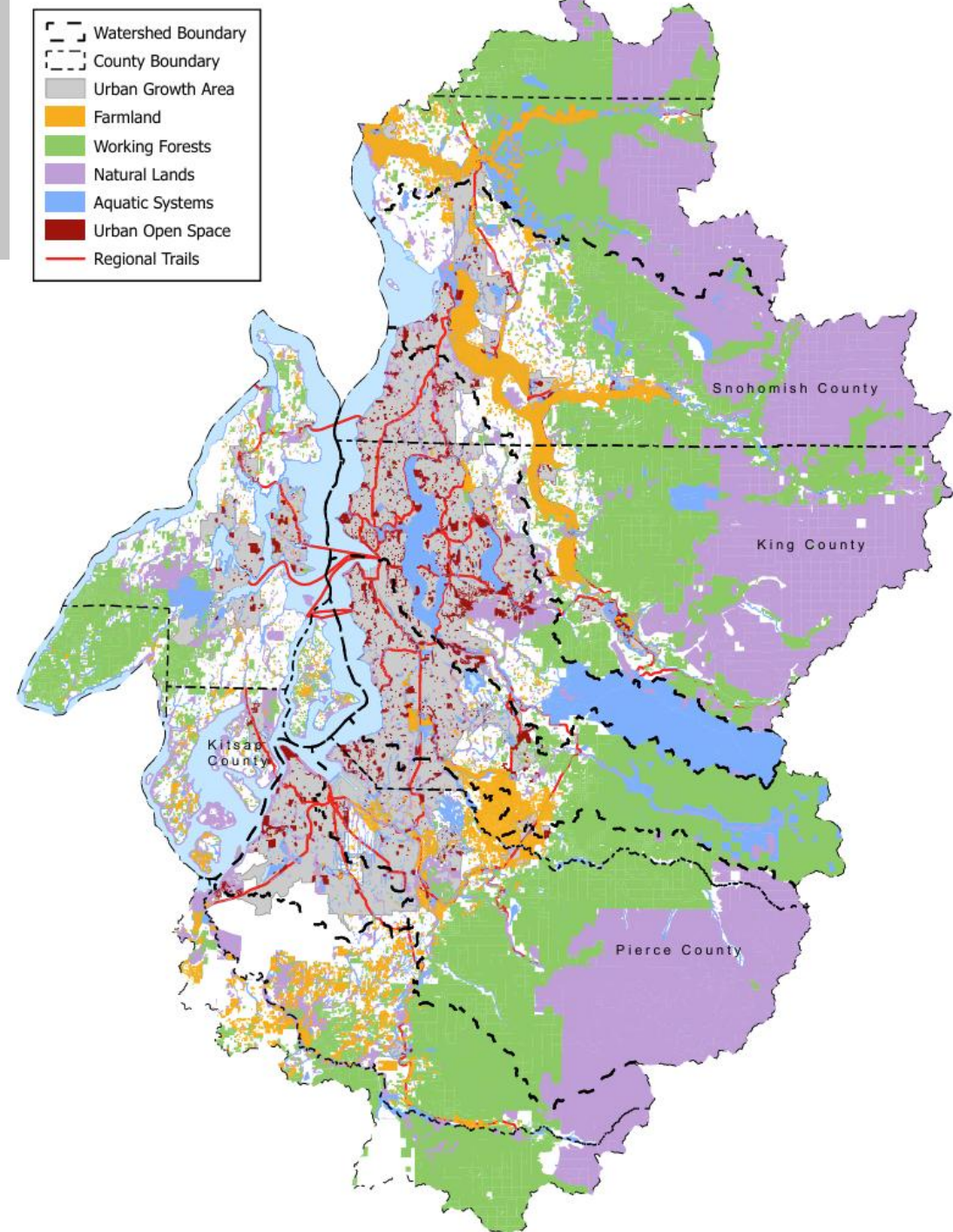
- July 9: Tacoma Farmers Market
- July 10: Aquafest, Lake Stevens
- July 14: National Parks & Rec. Month Celebration, Puyallup
- July 16: Music in the Meadows, Kent
- July 22: Marysville Farmers Market
- August 7: Bremerton First Friday
- August 11: Silverdale Farmers Market
- September 2: Columbia City Farmers Market



Regional Open Space Network

6 categories of open space:

- Farmland
- Working forests
- Aquatic systems
- Natural lands
- Urban parks and open space
- Regional trails



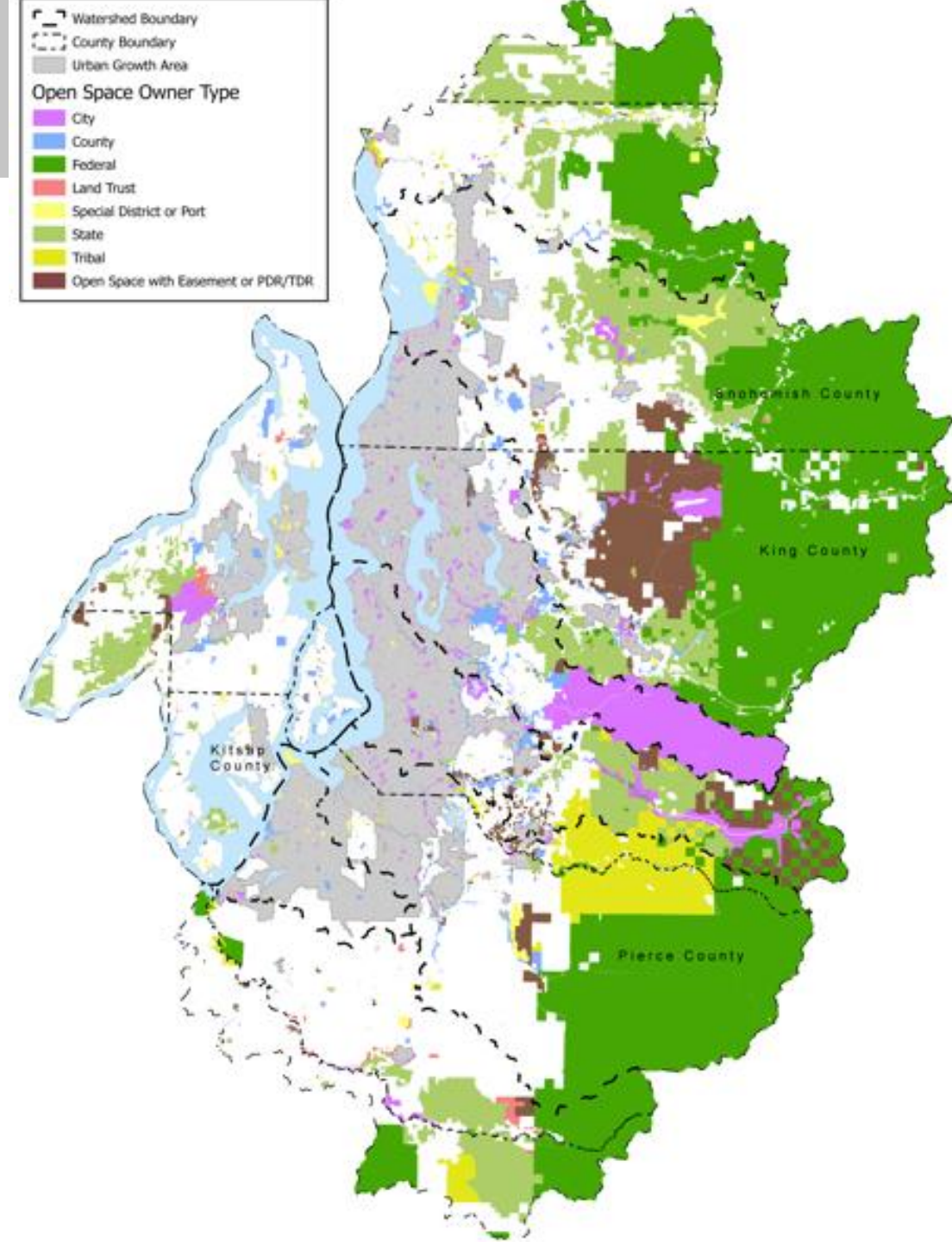
Protected Lands

Short term conservation goal
in the plan (2018–2025):
80,000 acres

Increase in acres mapped as
conserved since 2018: 52,000

Increase in acres mapped as
conserved since 2018 in the
Regional Open Space Network:
33,000

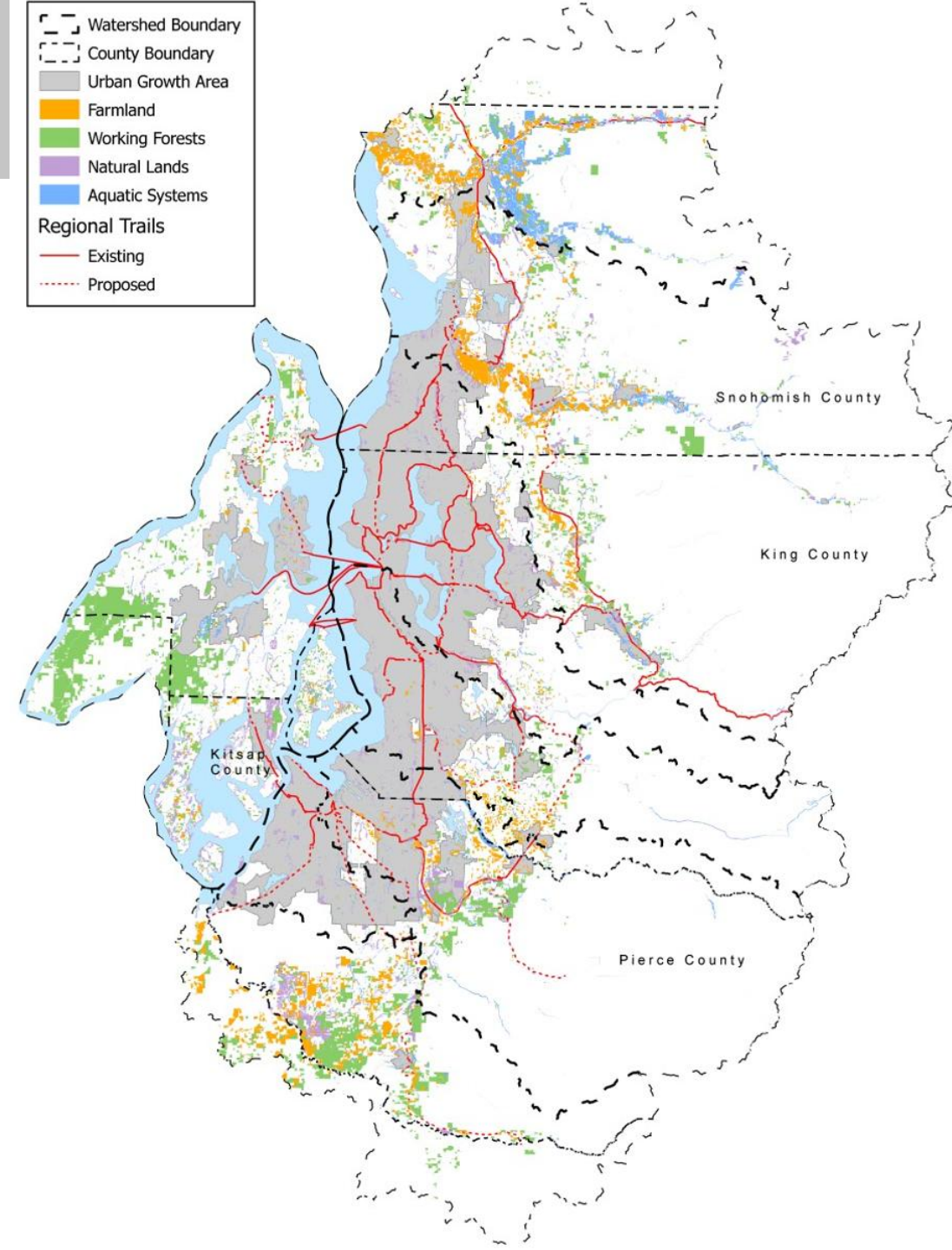
90% of additional easements
occurred in ROSN



Conservation Needs

Conservation needs in the regional open space network:

- Farmland: 96,650 acres
 - Working Forests: 177,650 acres
 - Aquatic Systems: 83,040 acres
 - Natural Lands: 71,520 acres
- Total (overlap removed): 402,660

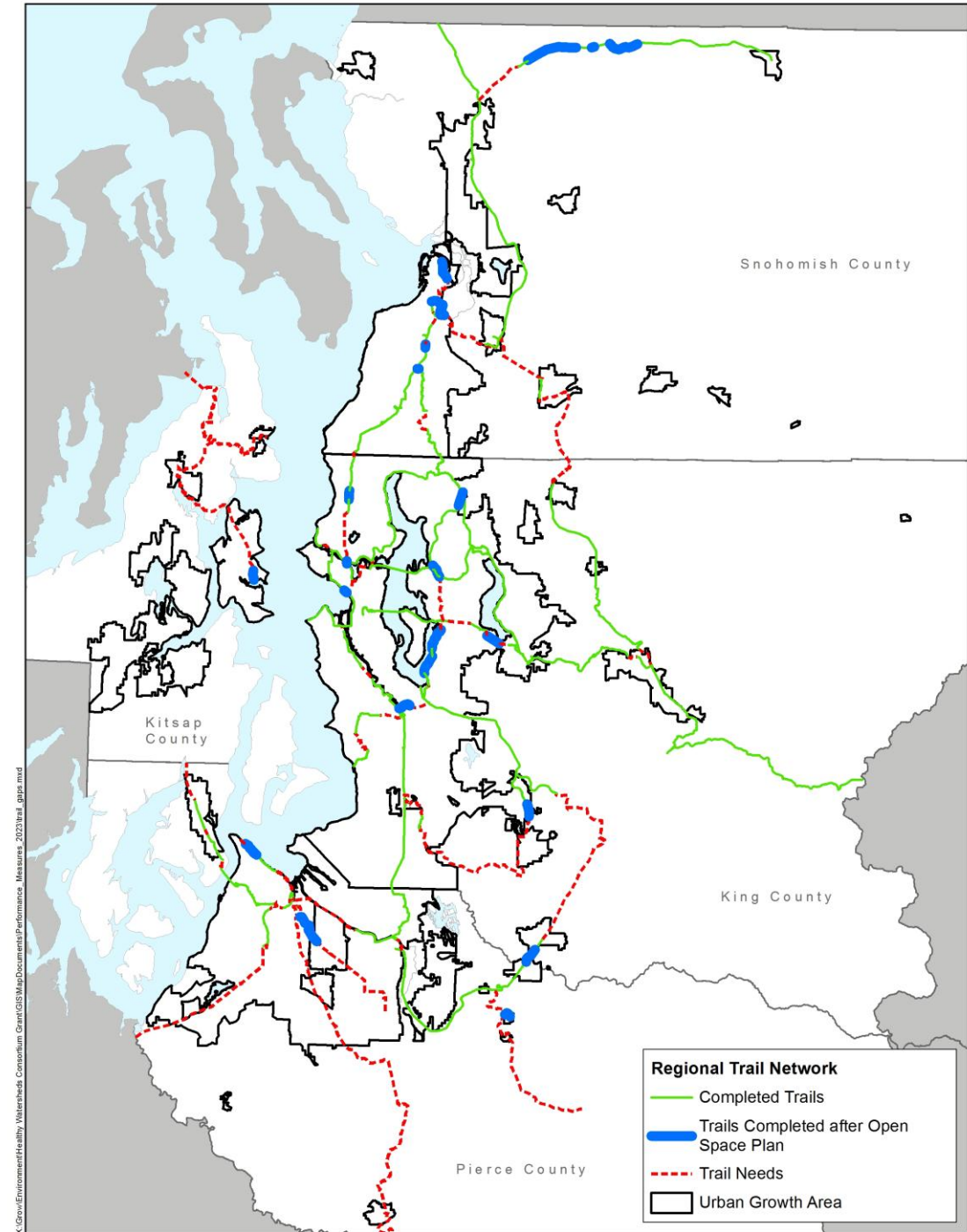


Regional Trails

Goal: By 2050, add 300 miles to the regional trail network

Since 2018, 62 miles added to the regional trail network. Examples:

- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail in King County
- Sound to Olympics Trail in Kitsap County
- Pipeline Trail in Pierce County
- White Horse Trail in Snohomish County

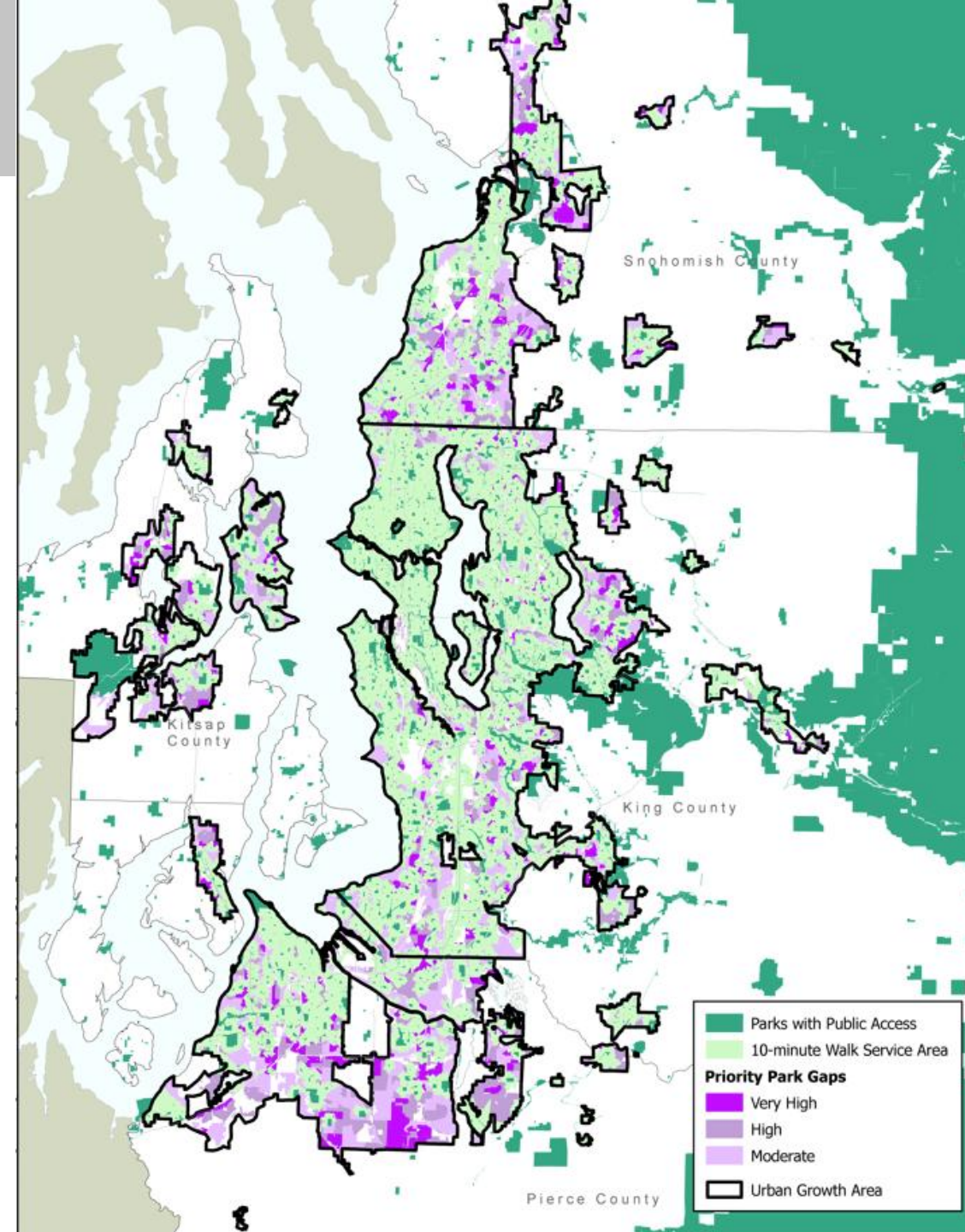


Urban Parks and Open Space

Goal: By 2050, all urban residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

ParkServe: urban population within a 10-minute walk of a park: 72% (2026)

- 63% of regional growth centers have a park gap
- 50% of high-capacity transit station areas have a park gap

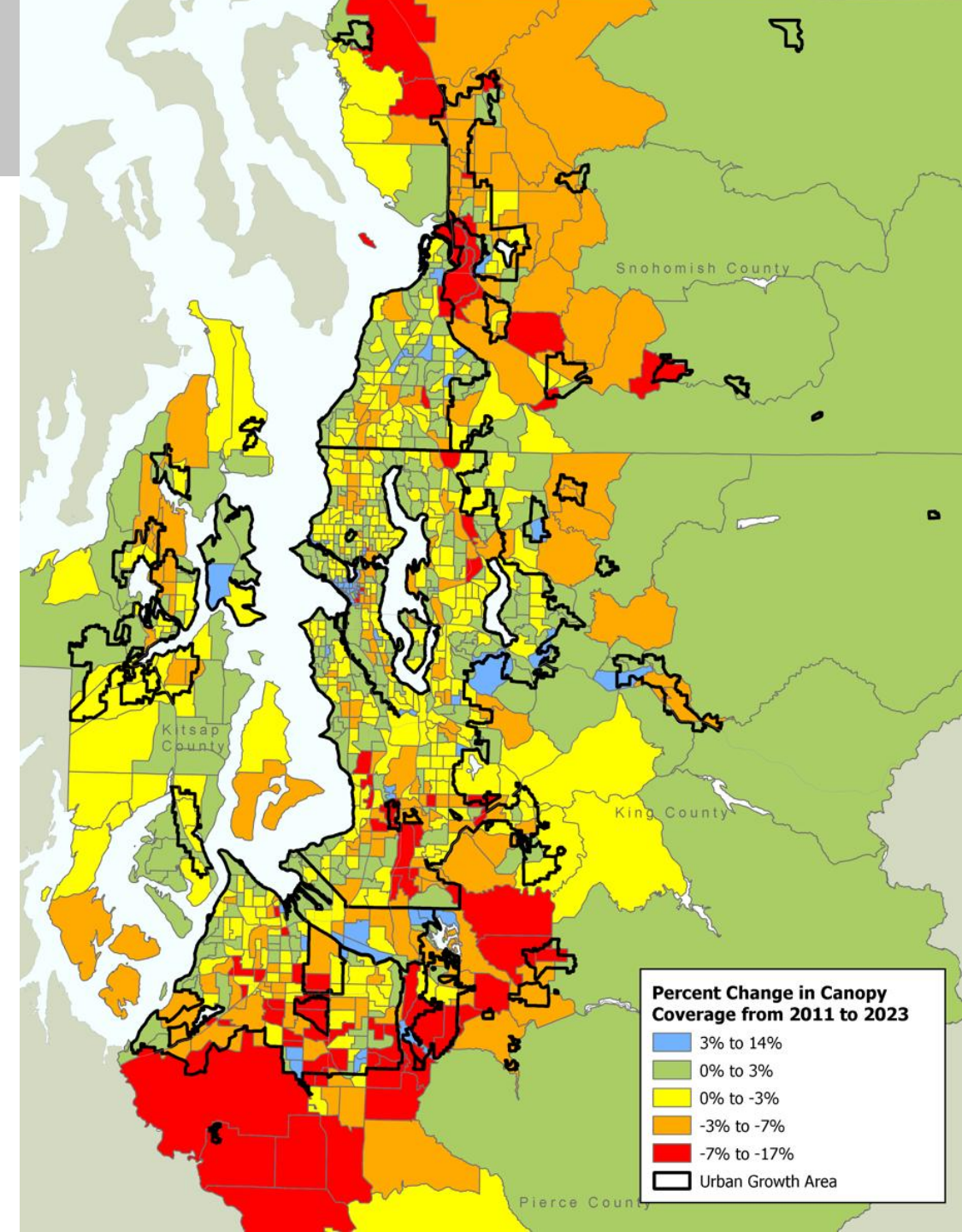


Tree Canopy Cover

Goal: By 2050, tree canopy cover in region remains at 2018 levels. By 2050, it will increase in the regional open space network.

Tree canopy cover change 2011–2023:

- Region: decrease of 1%
- Urban: decrease of 2%
- Regional open space network: decrease of 1%



Implementation Strategies

Key strategies:

1. Incorporate open space conservation and enhancement into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working
4. Support parks and open space and increase access to open space for urban residents
5. Build a regional trail network



Implementation Strategies

Key strategies (continued):

6. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
7. Protect remaining key habitat areas
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies, jurisdictions, Tribes, and organizations
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
11. Enhance tree canopy cover



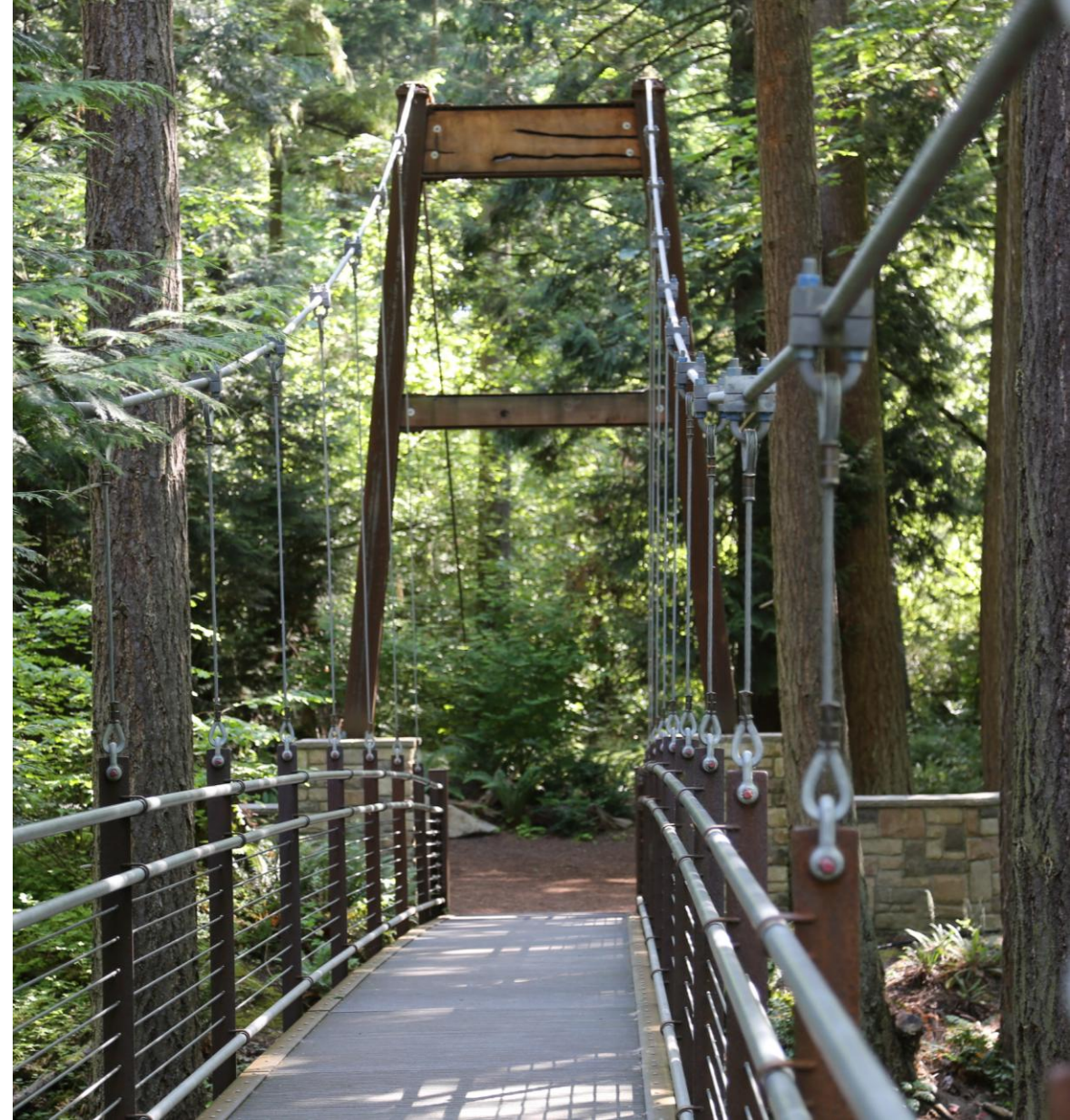
Potential New VISION 2060 Policies and Actions

- Treating water as a resource.
- Planning for parks and other urban open spaces to support mixed-use centers and compact growth.
- Integrating planning across departments and organizations to work towards multiple benefits and minimize conflicts.
- Working towards equitable distribution of tree canopy cover.
- Coordinating with Tribes on open space conservation and enhancement.

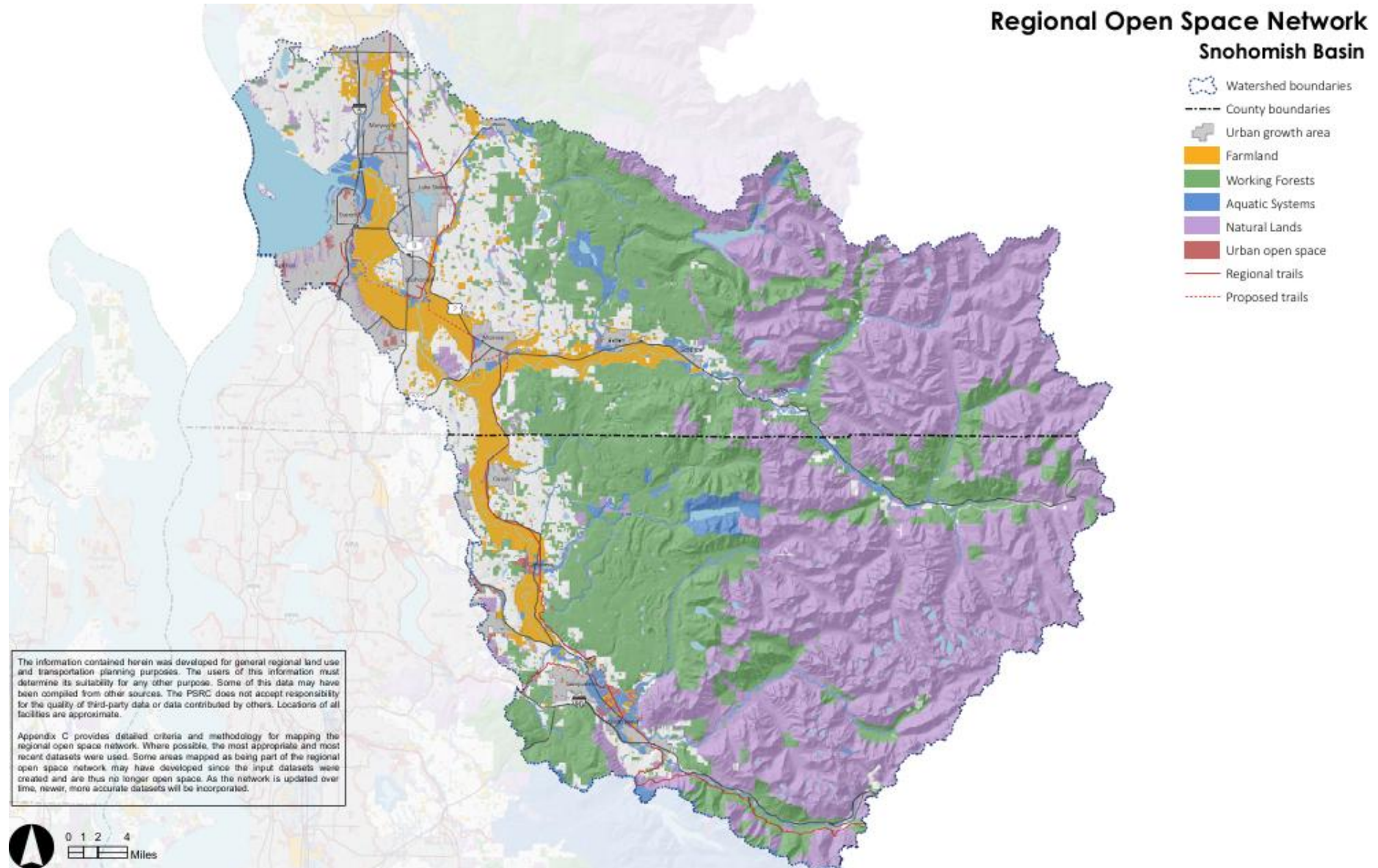


Discussion Questions

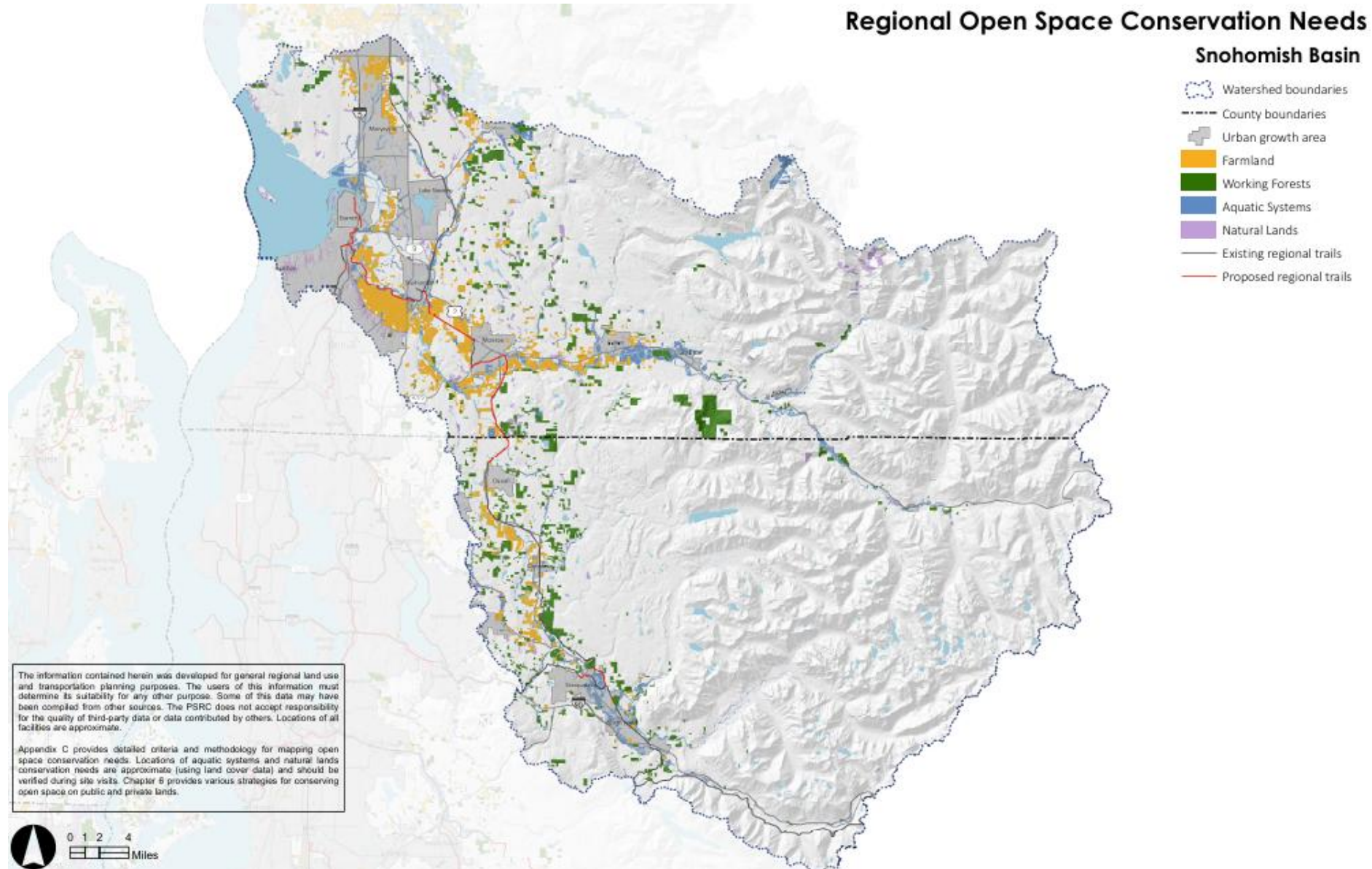
1. Do you have any case studies to highlight or photos you could share?
2. Are we using the right performance measures? Do the 2018–2026 findings make sense?
3. Are there other topics we should consider adding to VISON policies?
4. Is it helpful to include watershed-scale maps in the appendix or is a web map sufficient?
5. What other feedback do you have?



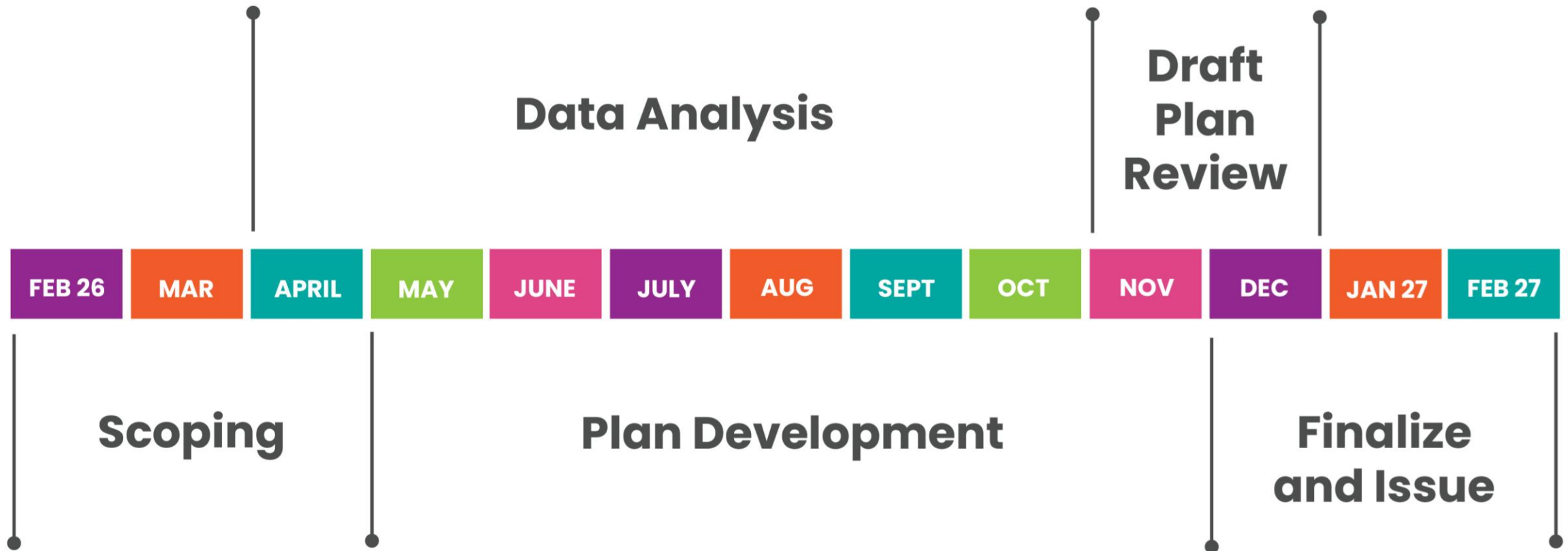
Example of Watershed Map



Example of Watershed Map



Open Space Plan Update Schedule



Draft Plan Release

Draft plan to be released in early November

PSRC blog post and website

Presentations and distribution:

- Advisory committee
- PSRC boards and Regional Staff Committee
- Tribes
- Environmental Agency Coordination Group
- Countywide planning directors' groups
- Countywide parks directors' groups
- WRIA Lead Entities
- Interested parties



Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any suggestions for sharing the plan and getting feedback?
2. Are there any additional groups we should contact?



Thank You!

Erika Harris, AICP

eharris@psrc.org

Drew Hanson

dhanson@psrc.org

Katie Enders, AICP

kenders@psrc.org

Evelyn Shelton

eshelton@psrc.org

Regional Open Space Plan