Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways Plan

Steering Committee
February 16, 2010

Kathleen Davis
Director, Highways and Local Programs

Paula Reeves
Branch Manager, Community Design

Washington State Department of Transportation

State Scenic and Recreational Highways

Washington State Department of Transportation
Capital Program Development & Management Office

DRAFT

Scenic Byways (Tourism Marketing Routes)
Scenic and Recreational Highways (Per State Law)
City Limits

Scenic Byways
Source: Tourism Marketing Map

Scenic and Recreational Highways
Source: Revised Code of Washington 47.39 and 47.42

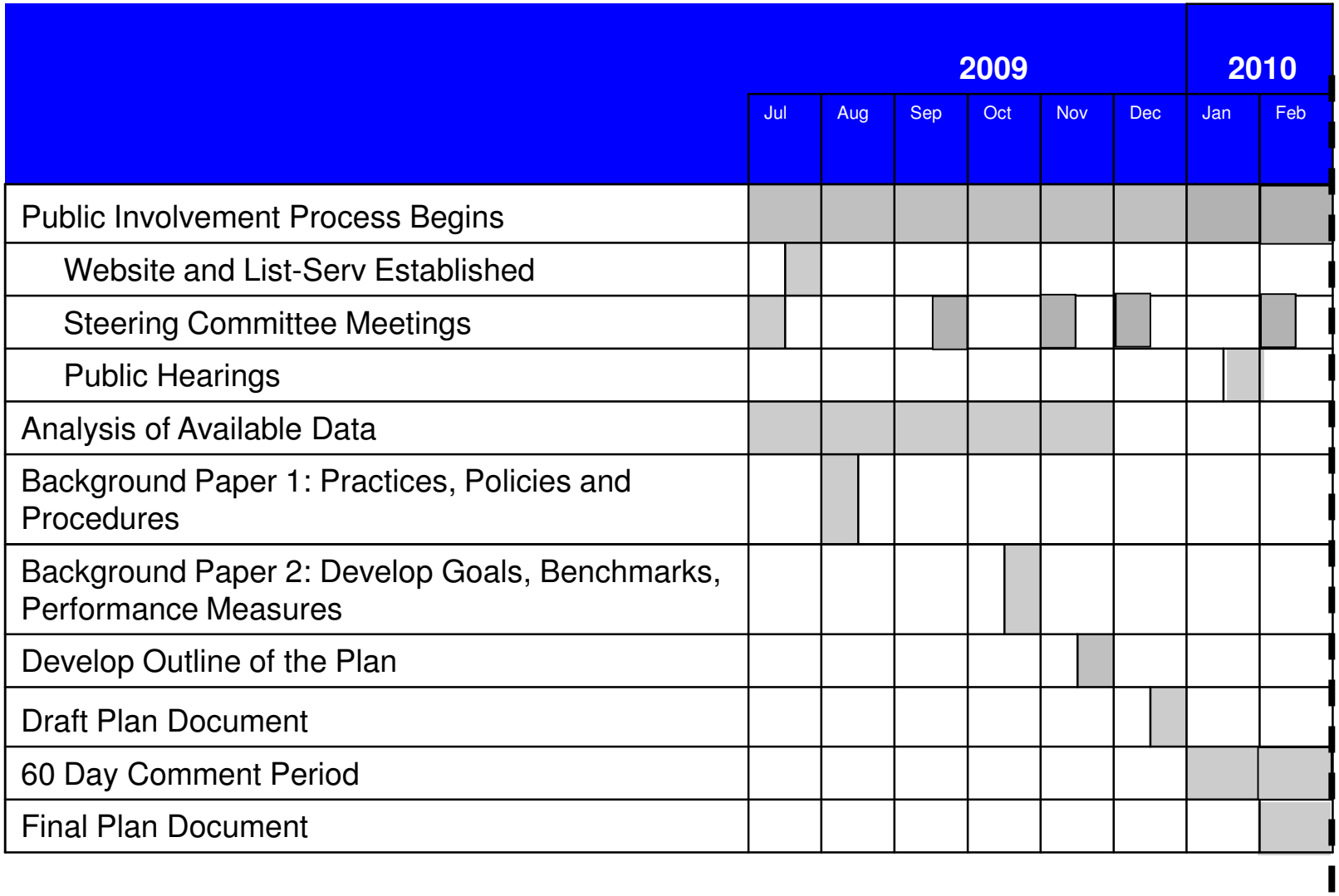
LSH:/ScenicByways/CompareShapefile/ScenicByways_Compare.mxd 07/29/2008

What is the purpose of the plan?

- Provide guidance to WSDOT programs
- Inform other planning efforts like Washington's Transportation Plan
- Provide heightened awareness of the value of the Scenic and Recreational Highways
- Establish goals and performance measures
- Meet planning requirements

State Law: RCW 47.06.050
Statewide Multi-modal Transportation Plan

Timeline for the Plan



Multi-Agency Steering Committee

- Association of Washington Cities
- Association of Washington Counties
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Federal Highway Administration
- Local Byway Groups
- Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
- National Park Service
- National Forest Service
- State Dept. of Archeology and Historic Preservation
- State Dept. of Natural Resources
- State Dept. of Commerce
- State Parks
- State Recreation and Conservation Office
- Tribal Transportation Planning Organization
- Washington State Transportation Commission

Questions to be addressed by the Plan

- What is the goal(s) of the State Scenic and Recreational Highway System?
- What should state level priorities be?
- How do we discuss needs on the system?
- How should performance be measured?

Legislative Finding --1990

“The legislature finds that scenic and recreational highways are designated because of a need to develop management plans that will protect and preserve the scenic and recreational resources from loss through inappropriate development..”

State Law: RCW 47.39.020

Scenic and Recreational Highway Act of 1967

Funding Priorities - Signage

"The department of transportation shall place high priority on obtaining funds from those sources [National Scenic Byways and Transportation Enhancement] for further development of a scenic and recreational highways program, including enhancement projects on the designated scenic and recreational highway system. The department shall consider the use of the designated system by bicyclists and pedestrians in connection with non-motorized routes in the trails plan and the state bicycle plan…"

State Law: RCW 47.39.080
Scenic and Recreational Highway Act of 1967

Washington's Transportation Policy Goals

These policy goals are intended to be the basis for establishing detailed and measurable objectives and related performance measures…

Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services;

Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system;

Mobility: To improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington state;

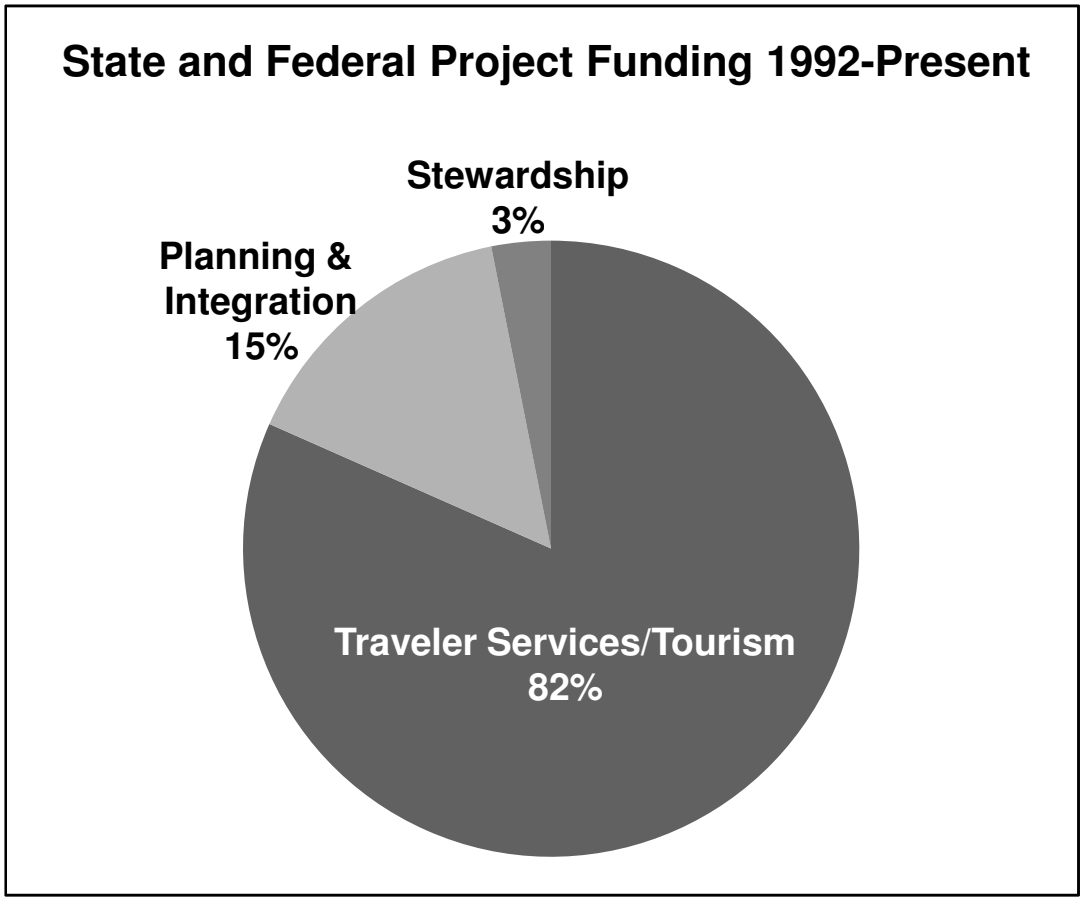
Environment: To enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment; and

Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.

State Law: RCW 47.04.280
Transportation Policy Goals

3 Key Elements

- Planning & Integration
- Traveler Services/Tourism
- Stewardship



How do the 3 elements relate to the Transportation Policy Goals?

***Safety Policy Goal*:**

- Traveler Services/Tourism – ensuring safety of the traveling public

***Environmental Policy Goal*:**

- Stewardship – protecting, preserving, enhancing resources
- Planning/Integration – developing and implementing management plans

Mobility Policy Goal:

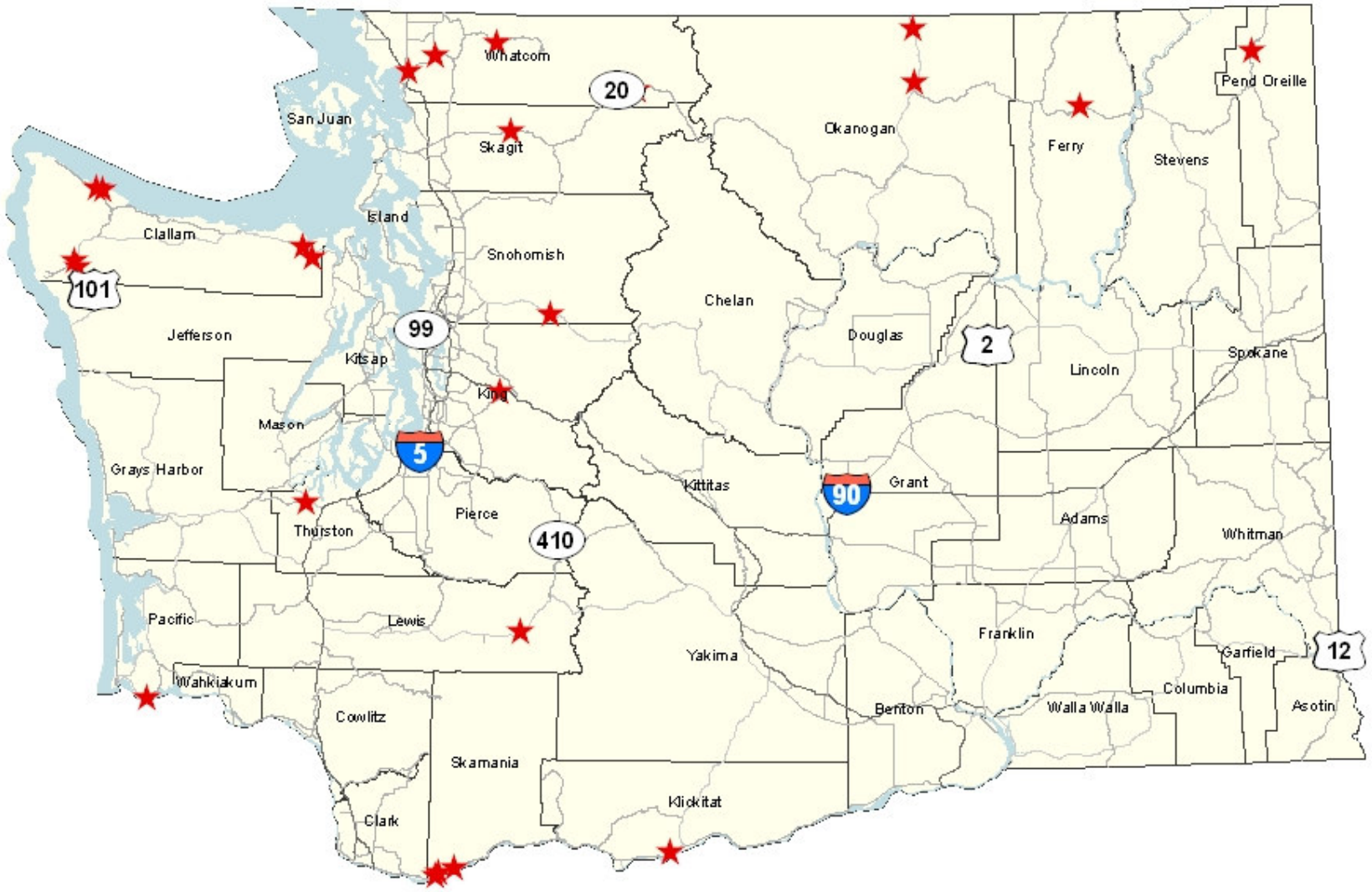
- Traveler Services/Tourism – increasing and enhancing access

Safety Goal

Increase traveler safety and traveler services on Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways.

- *Safety Rest Areas*
- *Traveler Information and Signs*

Safety Related Improvements on Scenic and Recreational Highways
1992-Present



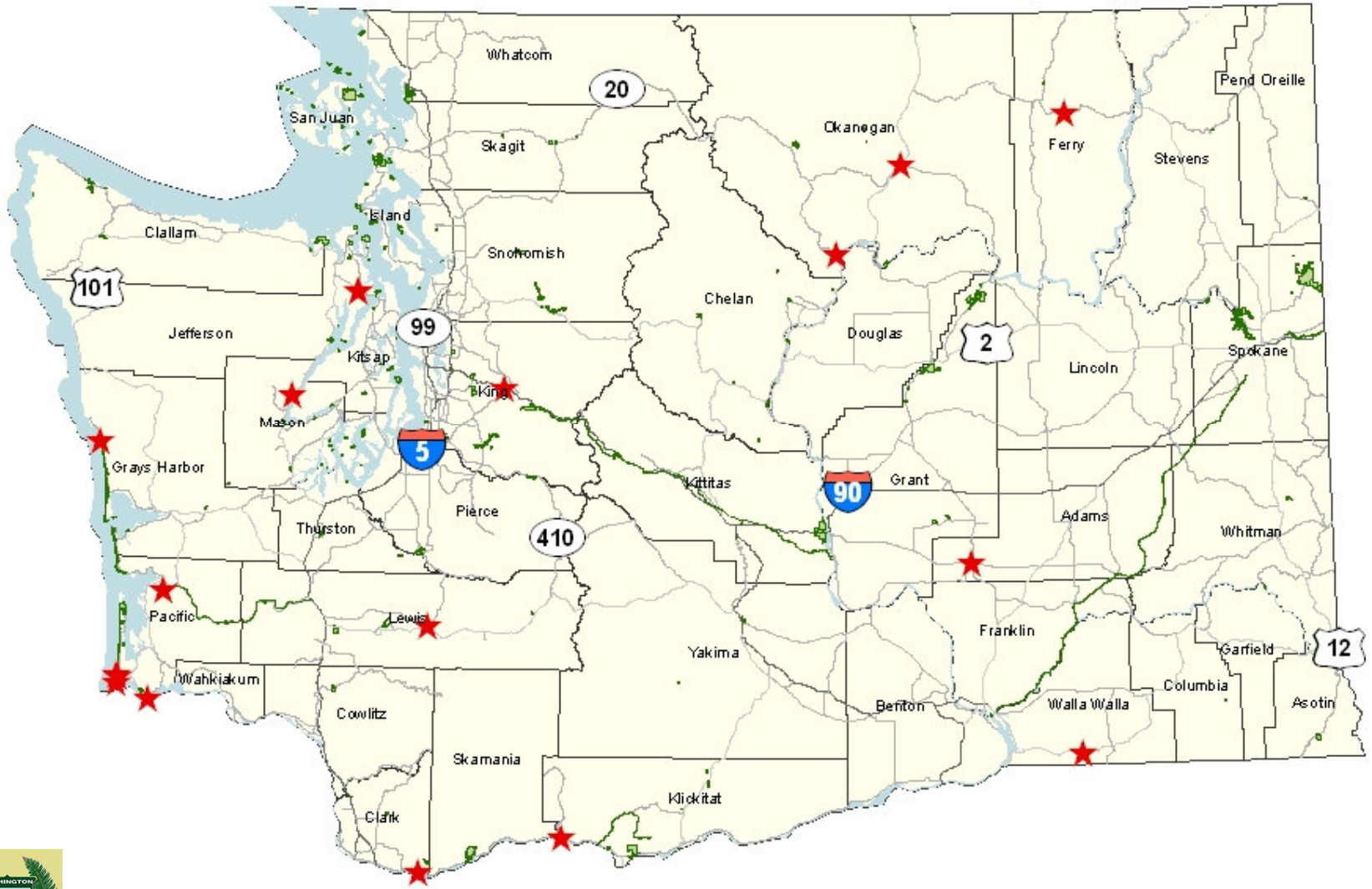
Washington State
Department of Transportation

Mobility Goal

Increase public access to scenic and recreational resources associated with Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways.

– partnerships for enhancing access to recreational areas associated with scenic and recreational highways

Mobility and Traveler Services Projects on Scenic and Recreational Highways 1992-Present



Washington State Department of Transportation

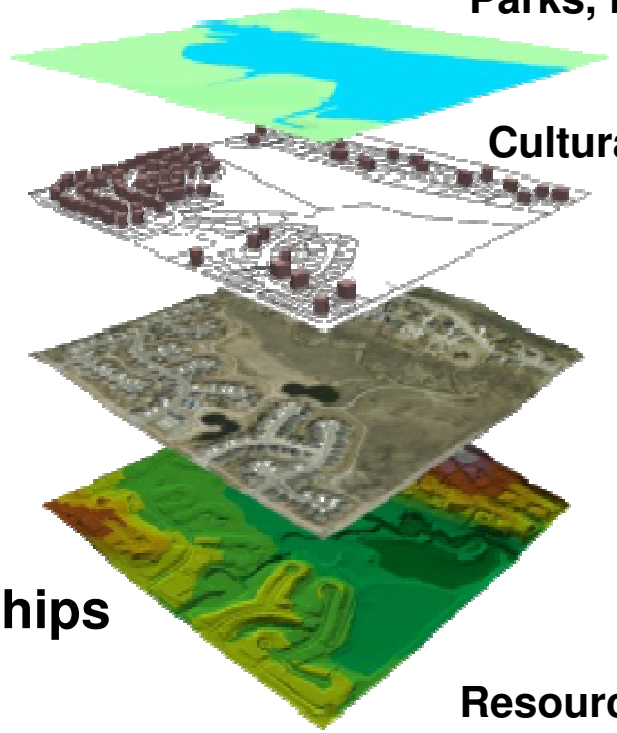
Environmental Goal

Plan for, protect, preserve, and enhance resources associated with the State's Scenic and Recreational Highways.

- *Coordination with other levels of government in planning and protection of resources*
- *Number of agreements in place for protection*

Resource Planning “Index”

- **Make use of existing GIS data**
  - --Natural Area Preserves
  - --Natural Resource Areas
  - --Parks, Reserves, Forests
  - --Historic locations
  - --Cultural locations
  - --Habitat
  - --Water bodies
  - --Natural Heritage Areas
  - --Current and future land use
- **Help identify needs & partnerships**
- **Measure performance**



Parks, Reserves, Forests

+

Cultural & Historic Sites

+

Land Use

+

Habitat

=

Resource Planning Index

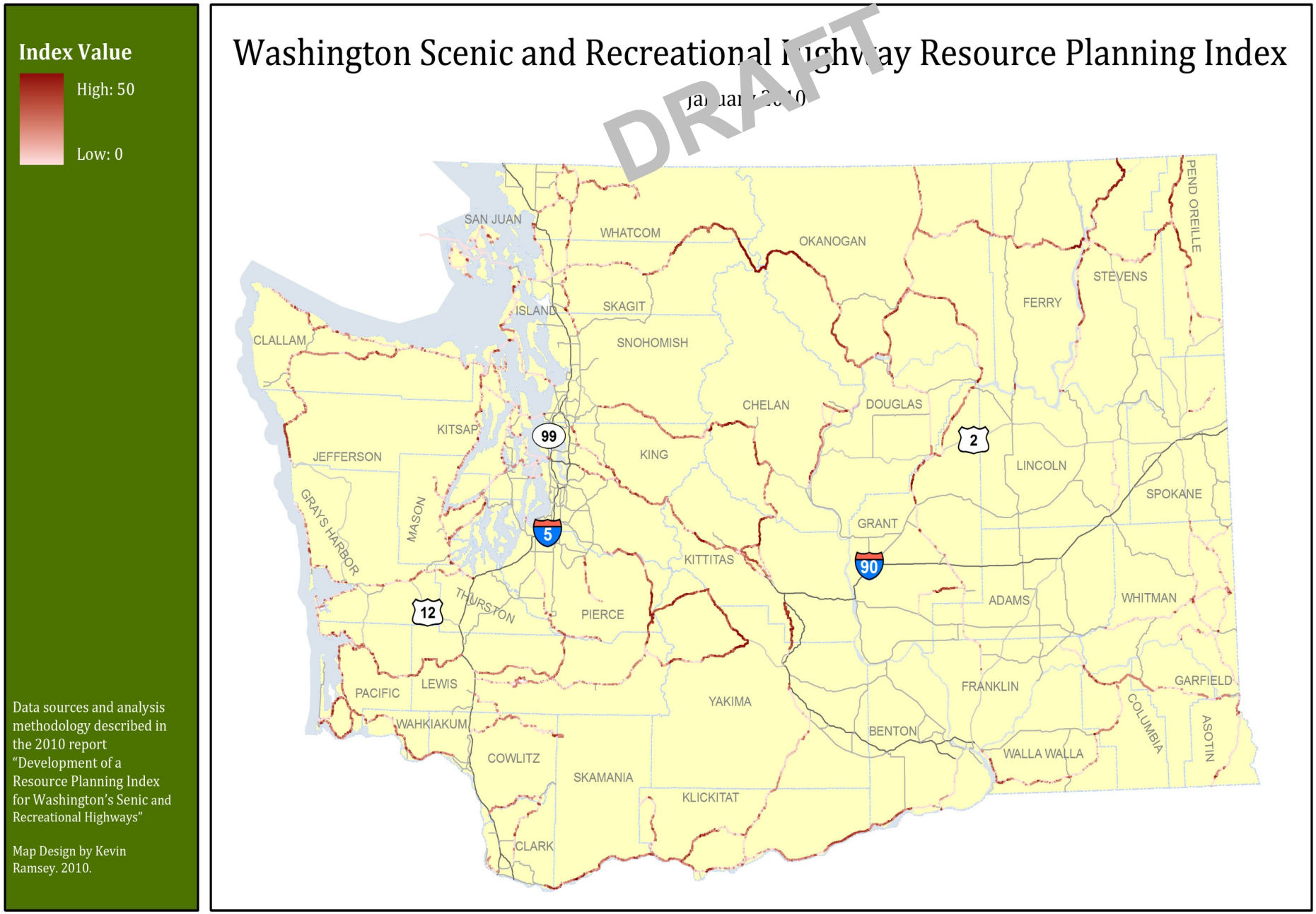


Figure 1: Resource Planning Index Values for Scenic and Recreational Highways

Locations of highest potential

1. US route 101 along the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula
2. U.S. route 101 near Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
3. Highway 14 east of Washougal
4. SR 142 near Klickitat
5. SR 410 in Mt. Rainier National Park and east to SR 12 junction
6. SR 821 along Yakima River
7. I 90 east of Kachess Lake
8. SR 97 near Liberty
9. SR 2 east of Stevens Pass
10. SR 20 from North Cascades National Park to Mazama
11. SR 17 near Lenore Lake
12. SR 25 south of the Canadian border
13. SR 31 south of the Canadian border
14. SR 20 east of Kettle Falls

Data and analysis methodology described in the 2010 report "Development of a Resource Planning Index for Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways" prepared for WSDOT by Kevin Ramsey.

Map design: Kevin Ramsey, 2010.

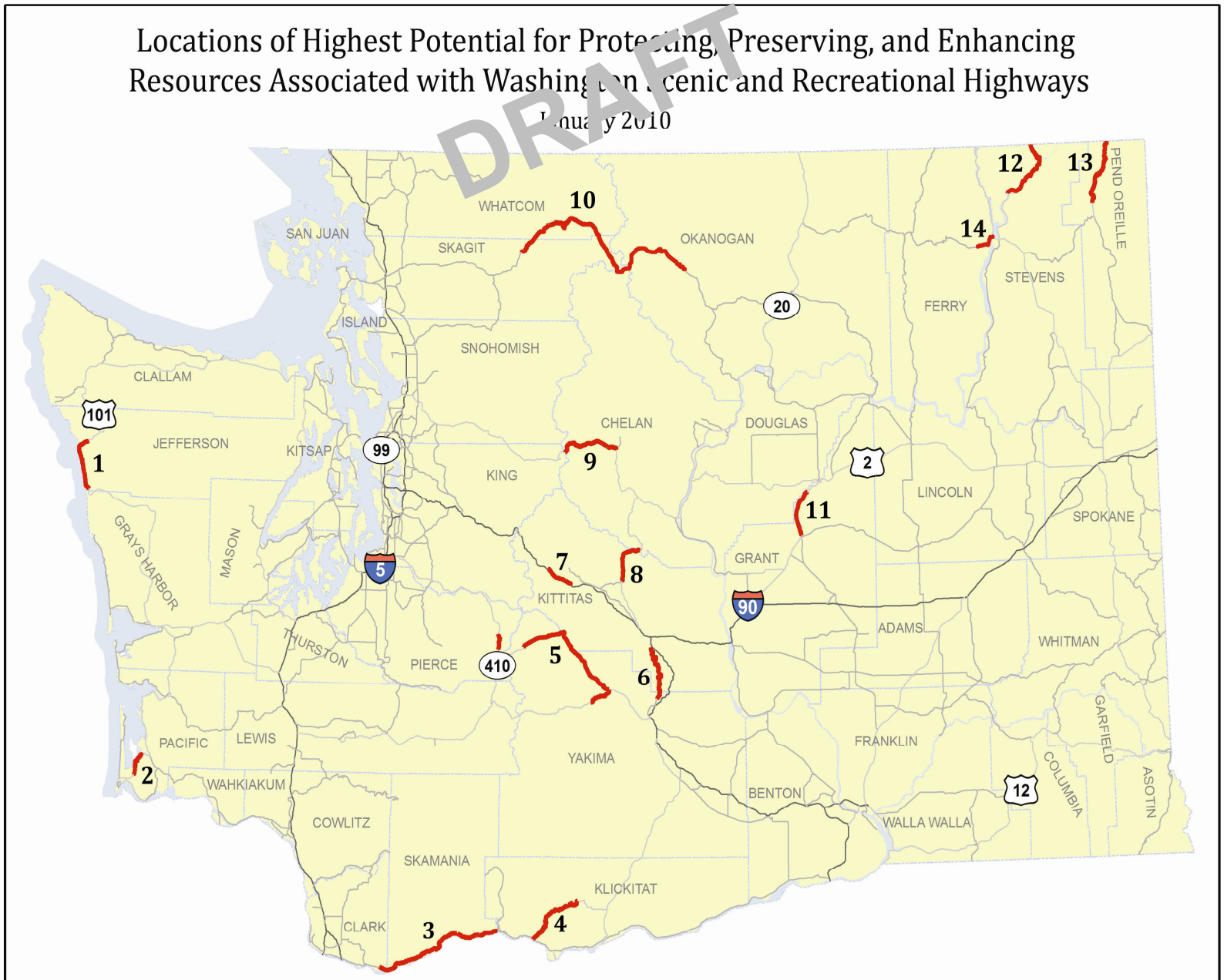


Figure 2: Locations of Highest Potential for Protecting, Preserving, and Enhancing Resources Associated with Washington Scenic and Recreational Highways

Resources and Contacts…

WSDOT's Scenic and Recreational Highways and Byways websites

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways
http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/BywaysPlan.htm
http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/CorridorManagementPlans.htm

FHWA's National Scenic Byway websites

http://www.bywaysonline.org/
http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/

Contact WSDOT Community Design Assistance:

Paula Reeves
Branch Manager
Reevesp@WSDOT.WA.GOV
360-705-7258

Ian Macek
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Maceki@WSDOT.WA.GOV
360-705-7596

Charlotte Claybrooke
Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator
ClaybrC@WSDOT.WA.GOV
360-705-7302

Vacant
Scenic Byways Coordinator
Reevesp@WSDOT.WA.GOV
360-705-7258