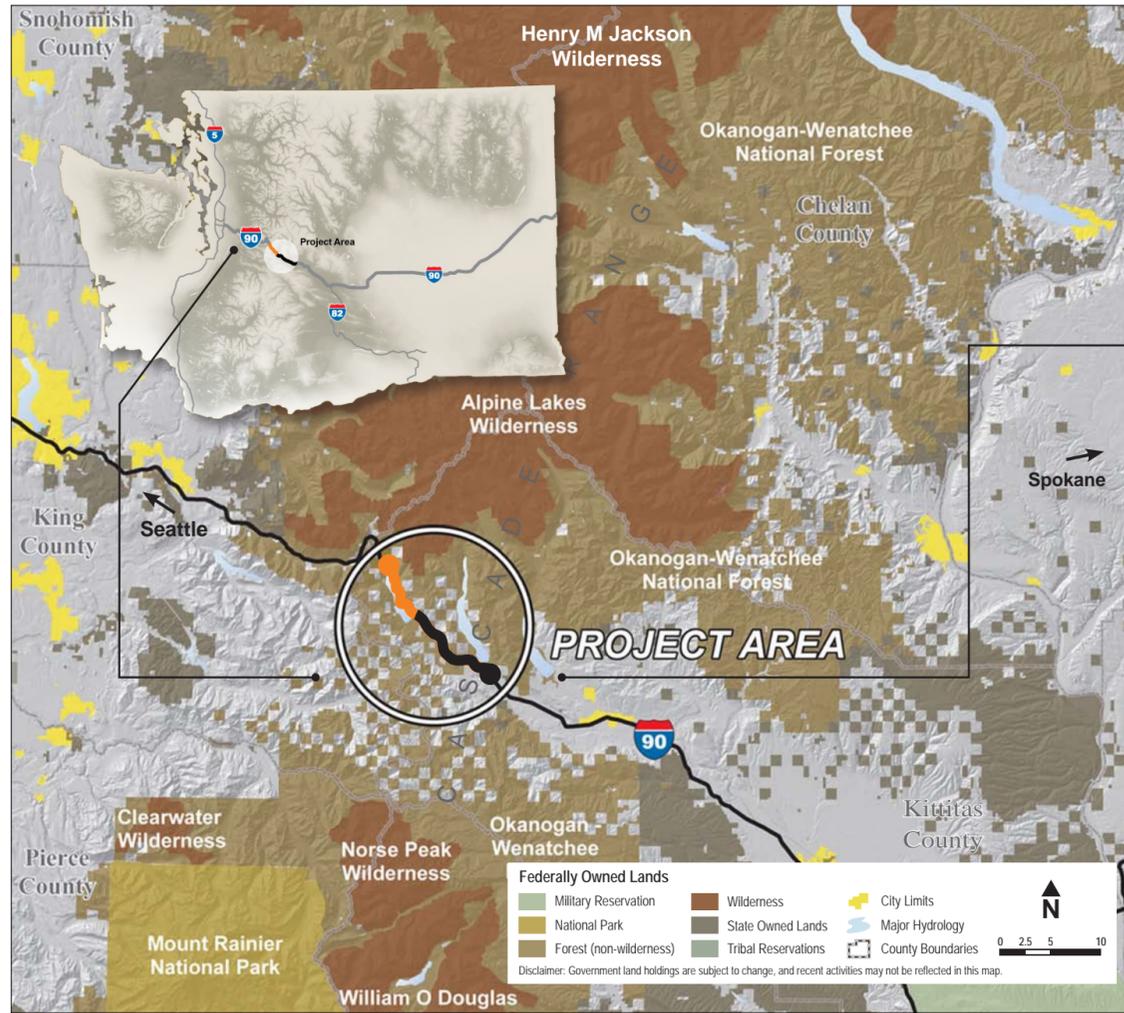


I-90: Integrating Stewardship into the Highway Design

The design shown below has been identified as the Preferred Alternative for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project

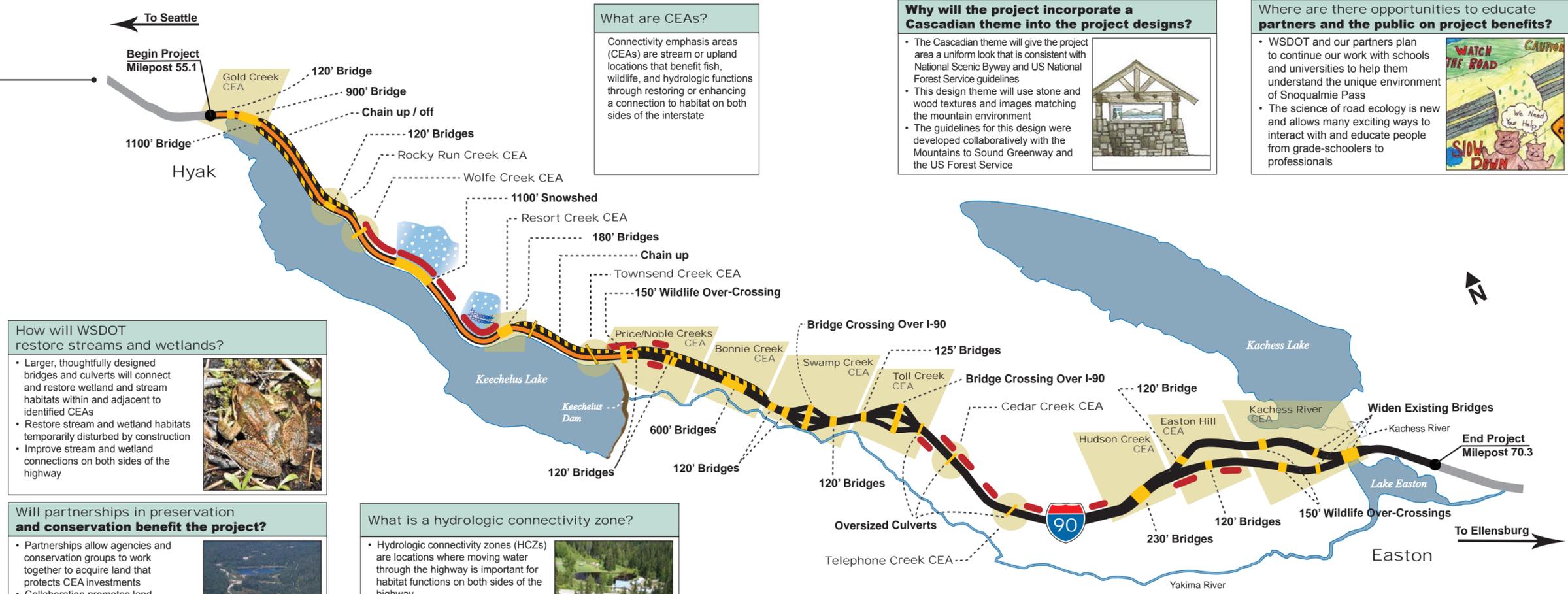
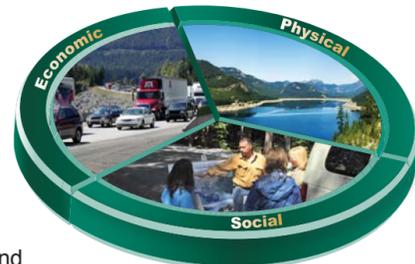


What are Context-Sensitive Solutions?

In order to address the specific and unique landscape and watershed needs embedded within the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project (I-90 project), WSDOT has identified and incorporated context-sensitive solutions in its roadway design.

Over the past few decades, the forests of the Central Cascades have become increasingly fragmented with railroads, timber harvest, power line corridors, dams, highways, and access roads creating smaller pieces of habitat. In the 1990s, concerned citizens observed this trend and began working with habitat and land management agencies to reverse the effects of fragmentation.

WSDOT recognizes the concerted efforts of government agencies and conservation groups to repair past fragmentation and re-connect the landscape. WSDOT understands the importance of continuing this trend, and the I-90 project focuses, in part, on ecological linkages to connect animals with their habitat, making the roadway safer for both the traveling public and the animals attempting to cross the Interstate.



What are CEAs?

Connectivity emphasis areas (CEAs) are stream or upland locations that benefit fish, wildlife, and hydrologic functions through restoring or enhancing a connection to habitat on both sides of the interstate

Why will the project incorporate a Cascadian theme into the project designs?

- The Cascadian theme will give the project area a uniform look that is consistent with National Scenic Byway and US National Forest Service guidelines
- This design theme will use stone and wood textures and images matching the mountain environment
- The guidelines for this design were developed collaboratively with the Mountains to Sound Greenway and the US Forest Service

Where are there opportunities to educate partners and the public on project benefits?

- WSDOT and our partners plan to continue our work with schools and universities to help them understand the unique environment of Snoqualmie Pass
- The science of road ecology is new and allows many exciting ways to interact with and educate people from grade-schoolers to professionals

How will WSDOT restore streams and wetlands?

- Larger, thoughtfully designed bridges and culverts will connect and restore wetland and stream habitats within and adjacent to identified CEAs
- Restore stream and wetland habitats temporarily disturbed by construction
- Improve stream and wetland connections on both sides of the highway



Will partnerships in preservation and conservation benefit the project?

- Partnerships allow agencies and conservation groups to work together to acquire land that protects CEA investments
- Collaboration promotes land management and land use decisions that are consistent with CEA objectives
- These investments bolster regional efforts to conserve lands in the Central Cascades



What is a hydrologic connectivity zone?

- Hydrologic connectivity zones (HCZs) are locations where moving water through the highway is important for habitat functions on both sides of the highway
- HCZs link wetlands, shallow aquifers or other hydrologic features, and are important to stream and upland habitats



Why will WSDOT re-vegetate and manage the roadside?

- A focus on restoration of soil and plant communities within areas create a healthy roadside with lower maintenance and weed control
- A healthy roadside provides a buffer for wildlife and water quality



How will the WSDOT get wildlife over or under I-90?

- Wildlife exclusion fencing or other physical obstructions will channel wildlife to a variety of small, medium, and large crossing structures designed to provide safe and effective passage
- Reduce wildlife access to the roadway to benefit the traveling public by minimizing wildlife / vehicle collisions



Will wildlife and restoration efforts be monitored?

- Measuring the performance of CEA investments will occur at the connectivity structures and at a landscape scale
- This monitoring effort will aid in adaptive management of project designs and land management decisions for monitoring partners
- Techniques include motion-activated cameras, snowtracking, and many other methods



LEGEND

- Avalanche Zone
- Connectivity Emphasis Area
- Bridges and Culverts
- Unstable Slopes
- Avalanche Fencing
- Funded
- Unfunded
- Chain on - off Areas