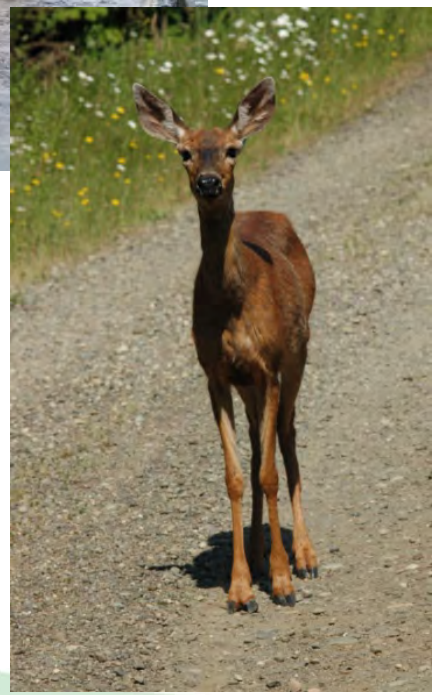
Partnering on Wildlife Planning at WSDOT

Marion Carey
Fish and Wildlife Program Manager

Paula Hammond
Secretary of Transportation

David Dye
Deputy Secretary



Washington State Department of Transportation

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY WORKING GROUP

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY WORKING GROUP

Mission Statement:

"Promoting the long-term viability of wildlife populations in Washington State through a science-based, collaborative approach that identifies opportunities and priorities to conserve and restore habitat connectivity."

Who is the Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group?

- Public-private partnership
- Science-based
- Open membership
- Participation from conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, universities, tribes, and others

Who is the Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group?

- WSDOT
- WDFW
- TNC
- Conservation NW
- DNR
- BLM
- Idaho Fish and Game
- USFS
- USFWS
- Montana State Univ.
- University of Washington
- Yakama Nation
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- And others

Goals

Primary WHCWG Goal:

Identify opportunities and priorities for conserving and restoring habitat connectivity

Facilitate connectivity conservation across organizations

Identify areas most important for wildlife movement using the best available science.

Validate wildlife movement models and the assumptions on which the models are based by supporting field research. Use results in an adaptive management mode.

Develop products that promote effective communication about habitat connectivity and uses of linkage analysis.

Statewide Analysis Goal:

Identify key wildlife habitats and linkages at a regional scale using landscape modeling.

Identify areas where analyses at a local scale may be appropriate.

American black bear demonstrating safe passage under I-90.

Current Focus Areas of Work

- Identify habitat linkages at statewide and ecoregional scales
- Identify climate-change linkages
- Cross-border collaboration
- Build support for connectivity conservation

and…Support research to validate models and scientific assumptions

Credit: Khanh Tran

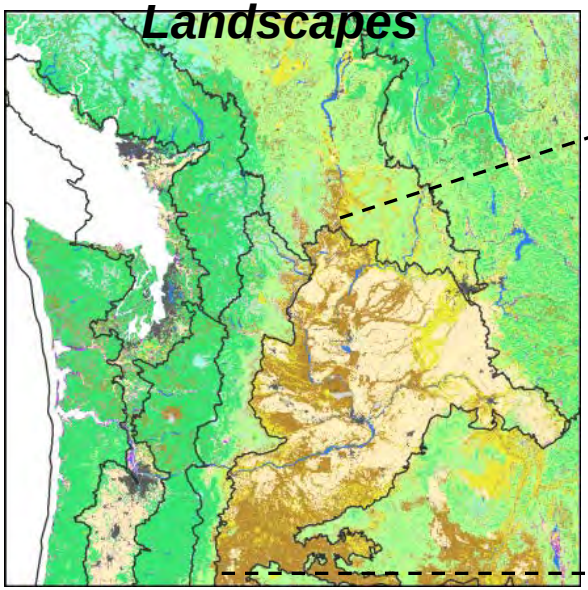
Scales and Analysis Uses

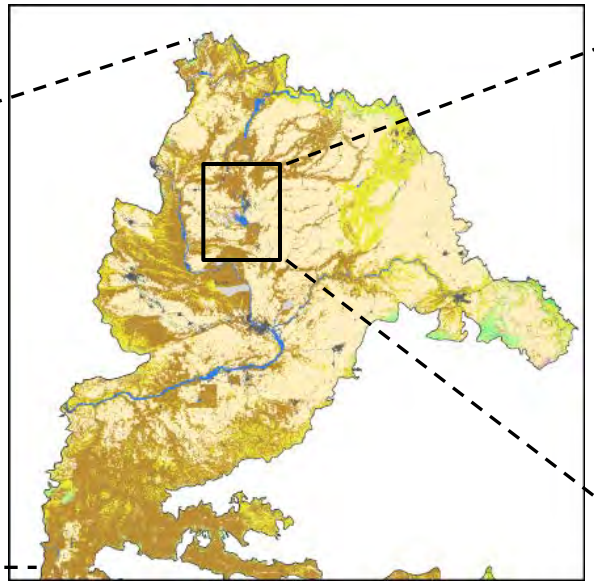
Statewide Analysis: Statewide and Surrounding Landscapes

***Future Analyses*:**

Ecoregions

Local





- Emphasizes major wildlife areas and Identifies areas important for regional connectivity
- Establishes regional context to inform finer-scale analyses
- Building block for climate change, population growth scenarios

- Focuses on particular habitat types
- Includes wildlife species with smaller geographic ranges
- Increases resolution regarding wildlife habitat concentration areas and connection patterns

- Includes species with small ranges or local significance
- Can be accomplished by local entities
- Provides sufficient detail for project-scale action

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Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Statewide Analysis

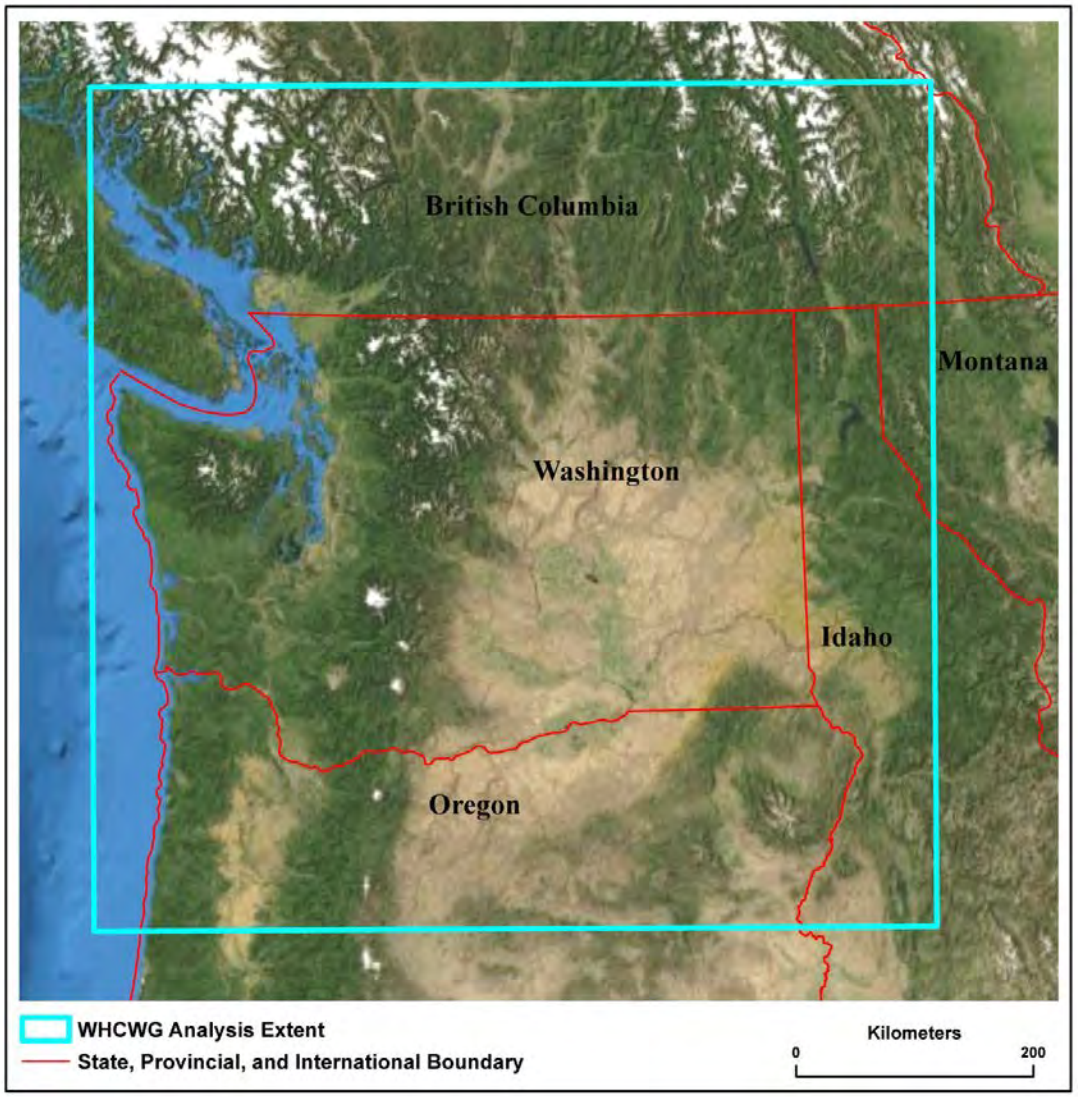
Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group

December 2010

Final statewide habitat connectivity analysis from the Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group

Cover photo, elk in meadow, © Rich Watson

Statewide Connectivity Analysis



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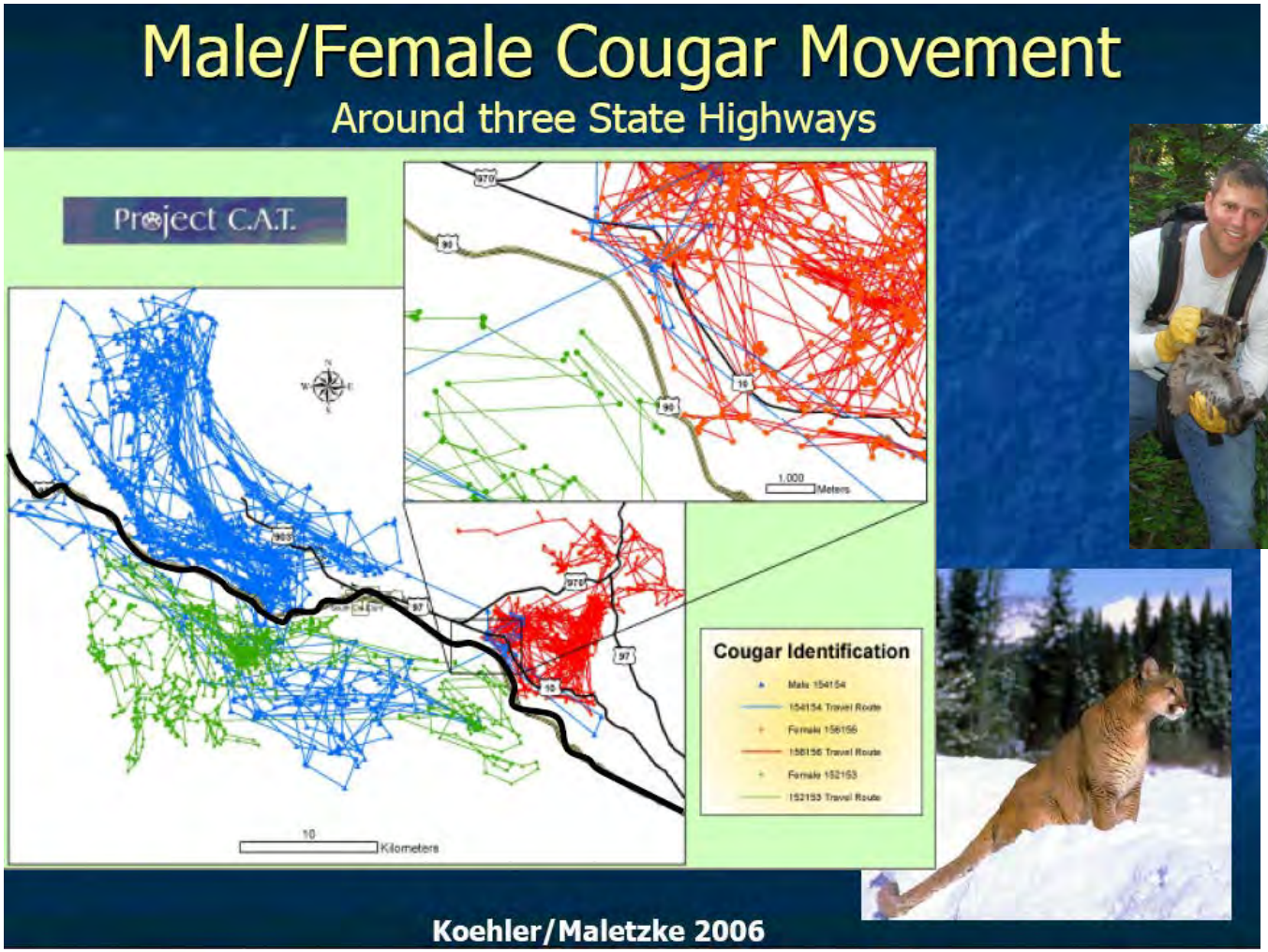
Available at: www.waconnected.org

Other Partnerships

Past and present

WSDOT Partnerships: contributions to wildlife telemetry projects



Other Partnerships are Focusing on the Reduction of Animal Vehicle Collisions

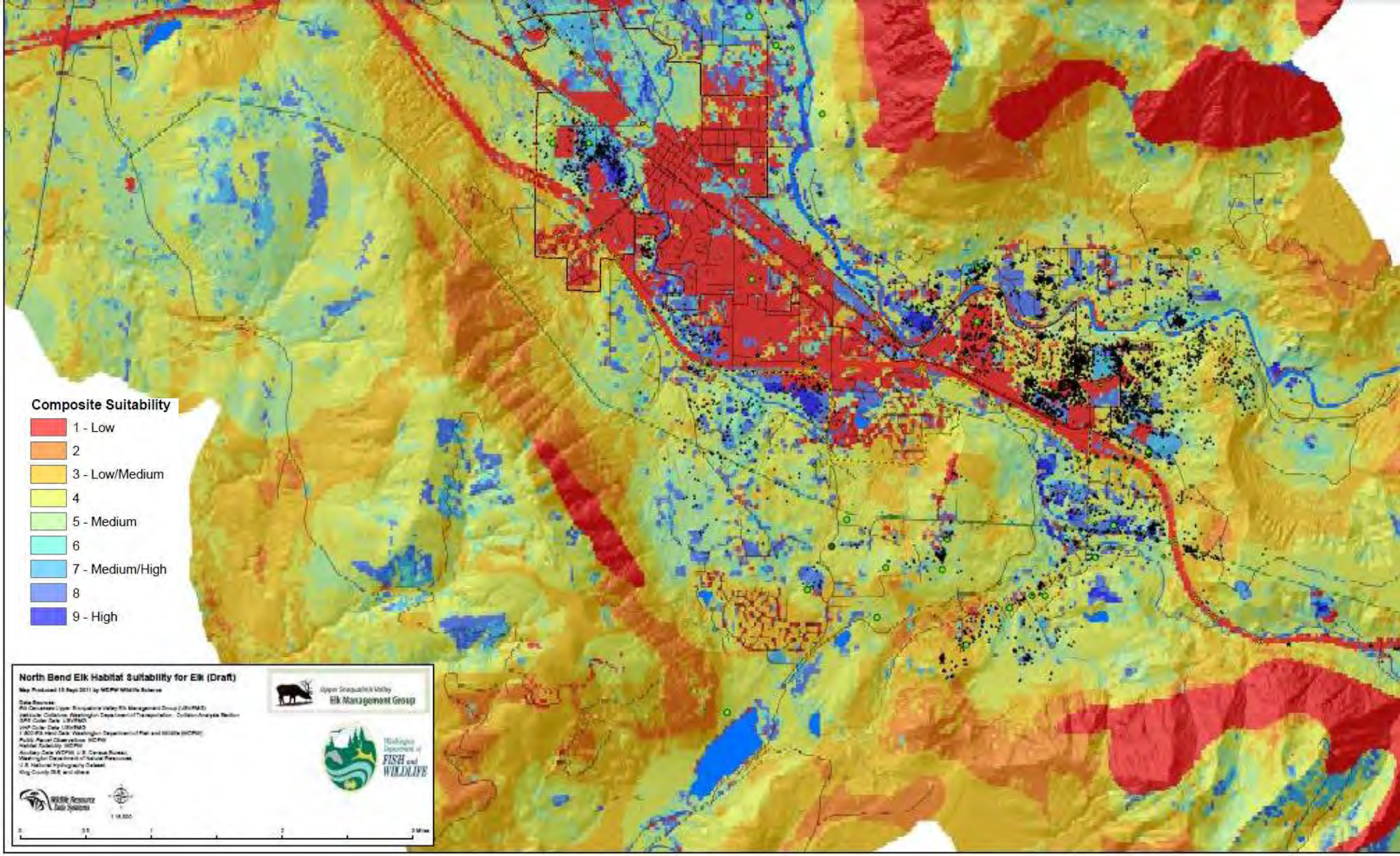
Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Committee

Washington State Department of Transportation

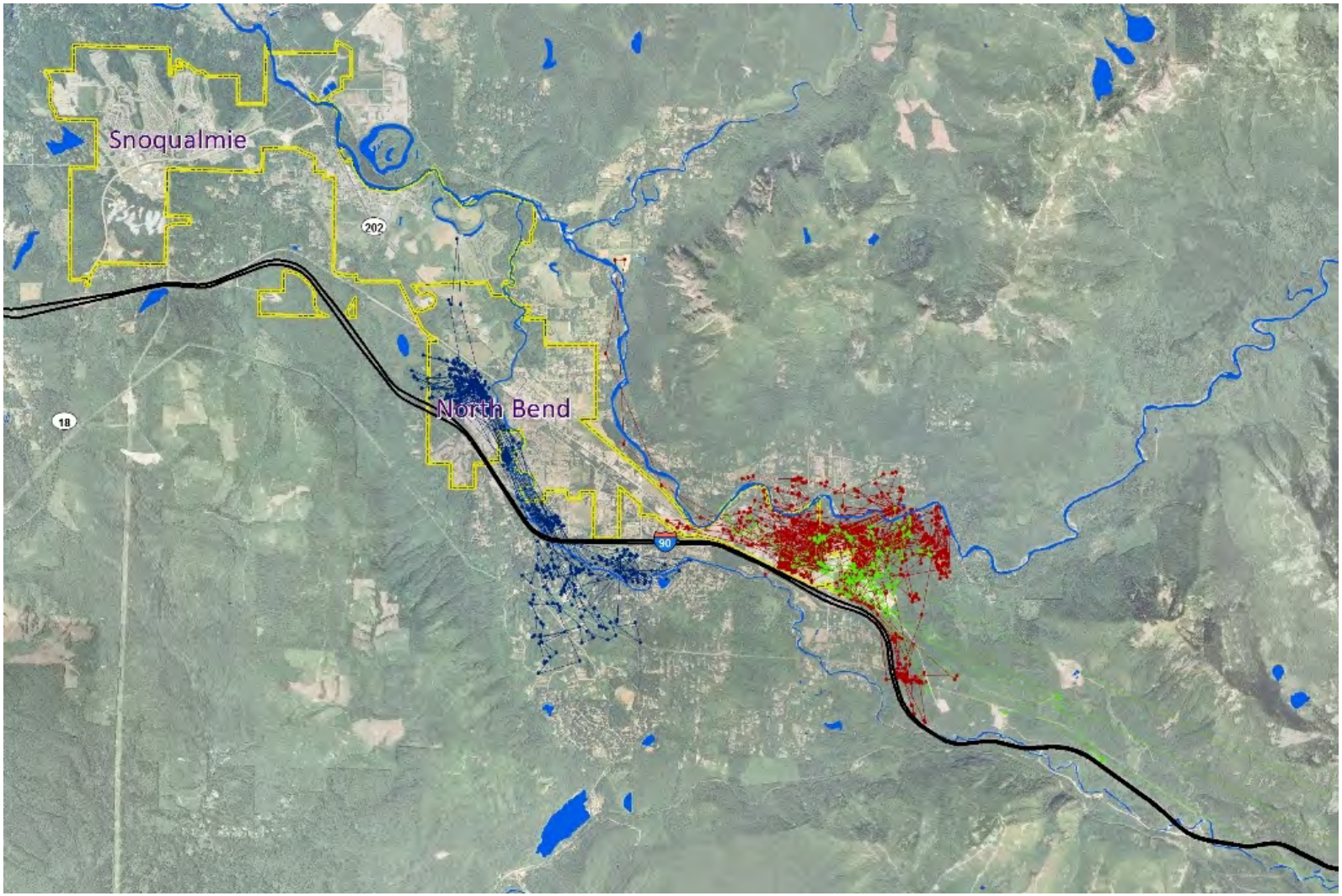
Members

- WDFW
- WSDOT
- Muckleshoot IndianTribe
- City of North Bend
- City of Snoqualmie
- Master Hunters
- Local Schools
- Interested Individuals

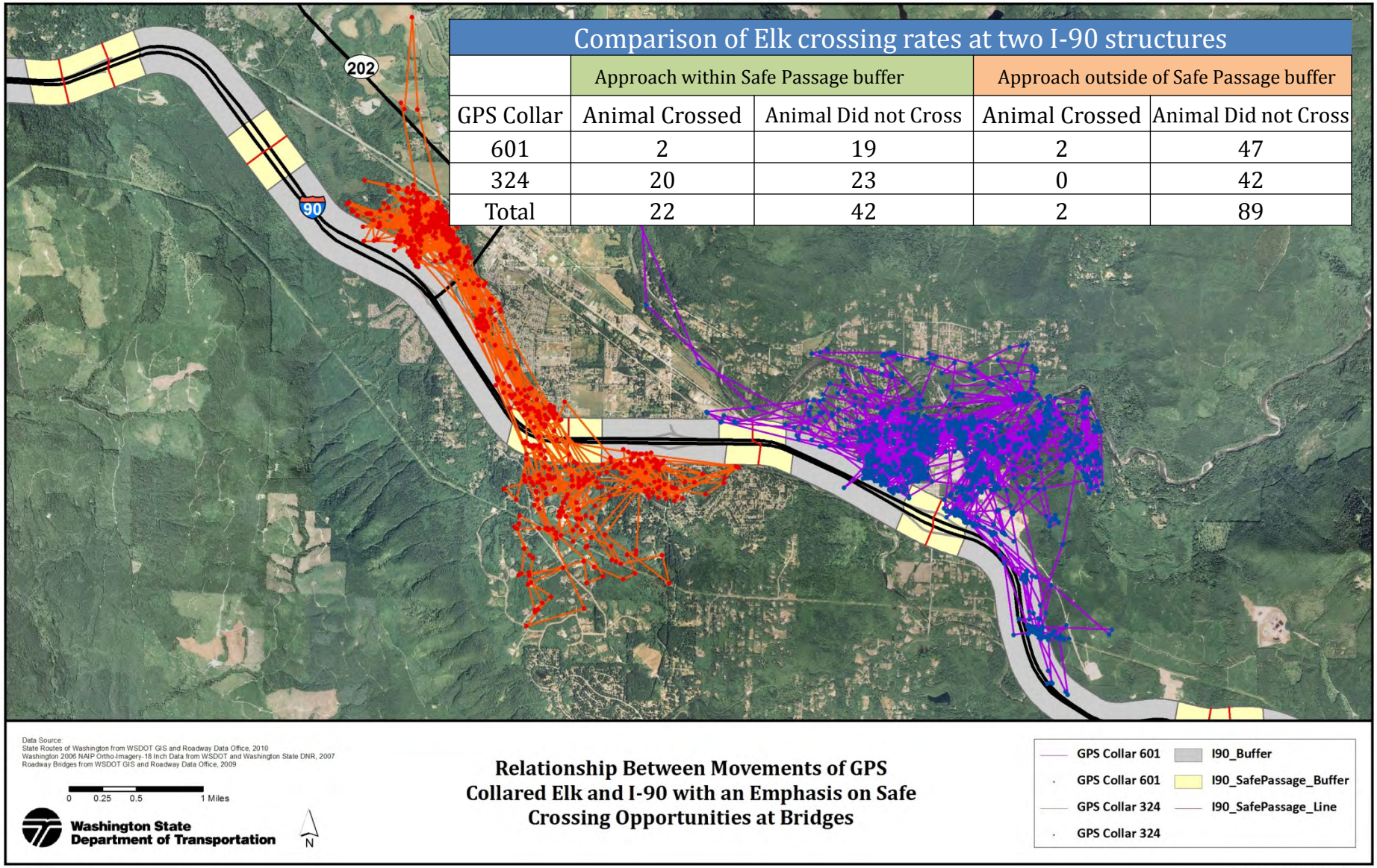
Advanced Hunter Education Volunteers repair fence along I-90



Map of elk habitat suitability and elk telemetry locations (black dots) for the North Bend vicinity



Movements of three GPS-collared elk suggest that most crossings of the interstate occurred at the South Fork Snoqualmie River bridge .



When Elk 324 approached the highway close to a safe passage opportunity, it frequently crossed. Elk 601 seldom crossed, regardless of a safe passage opportunity in its vicinity.

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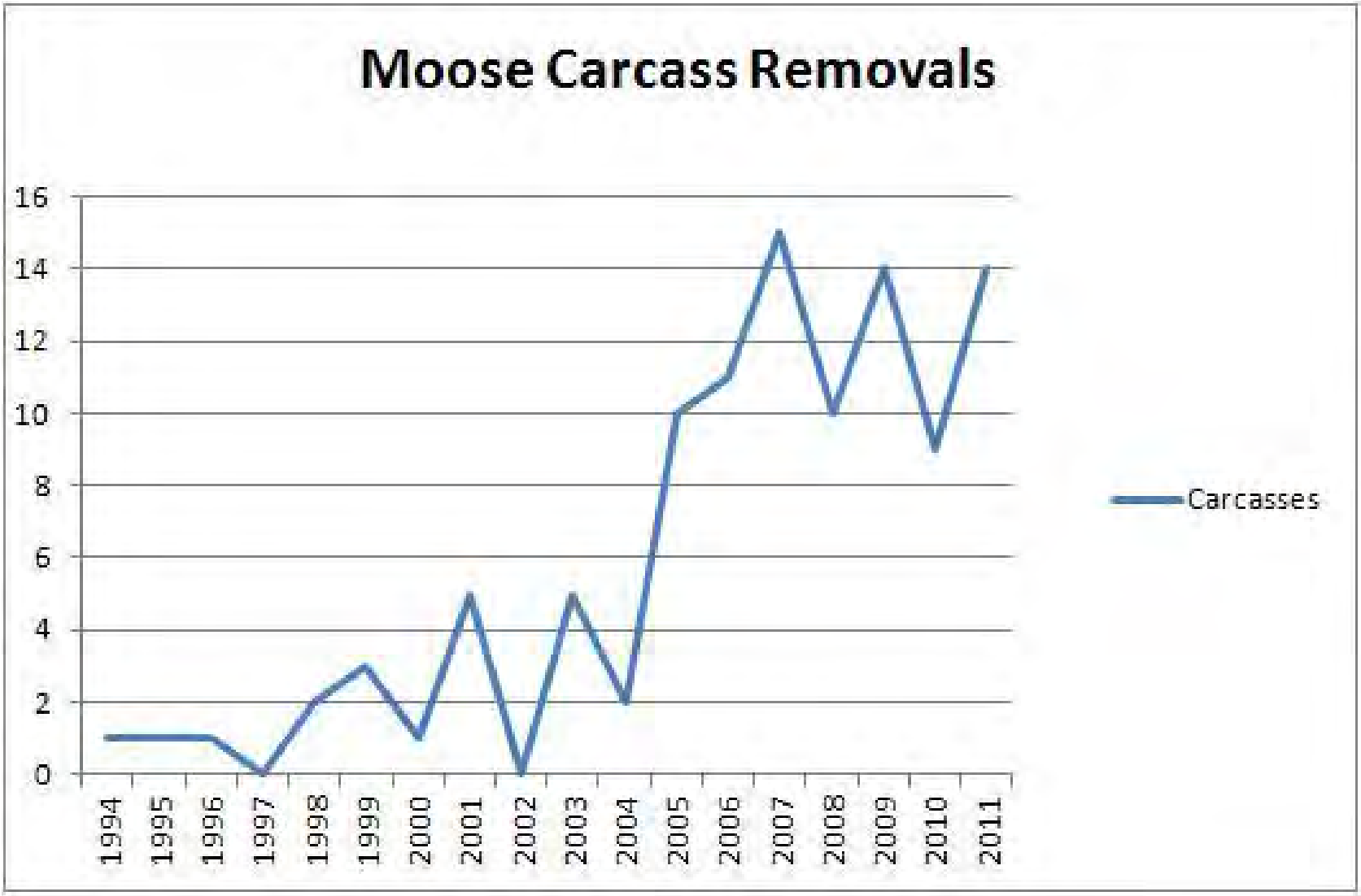
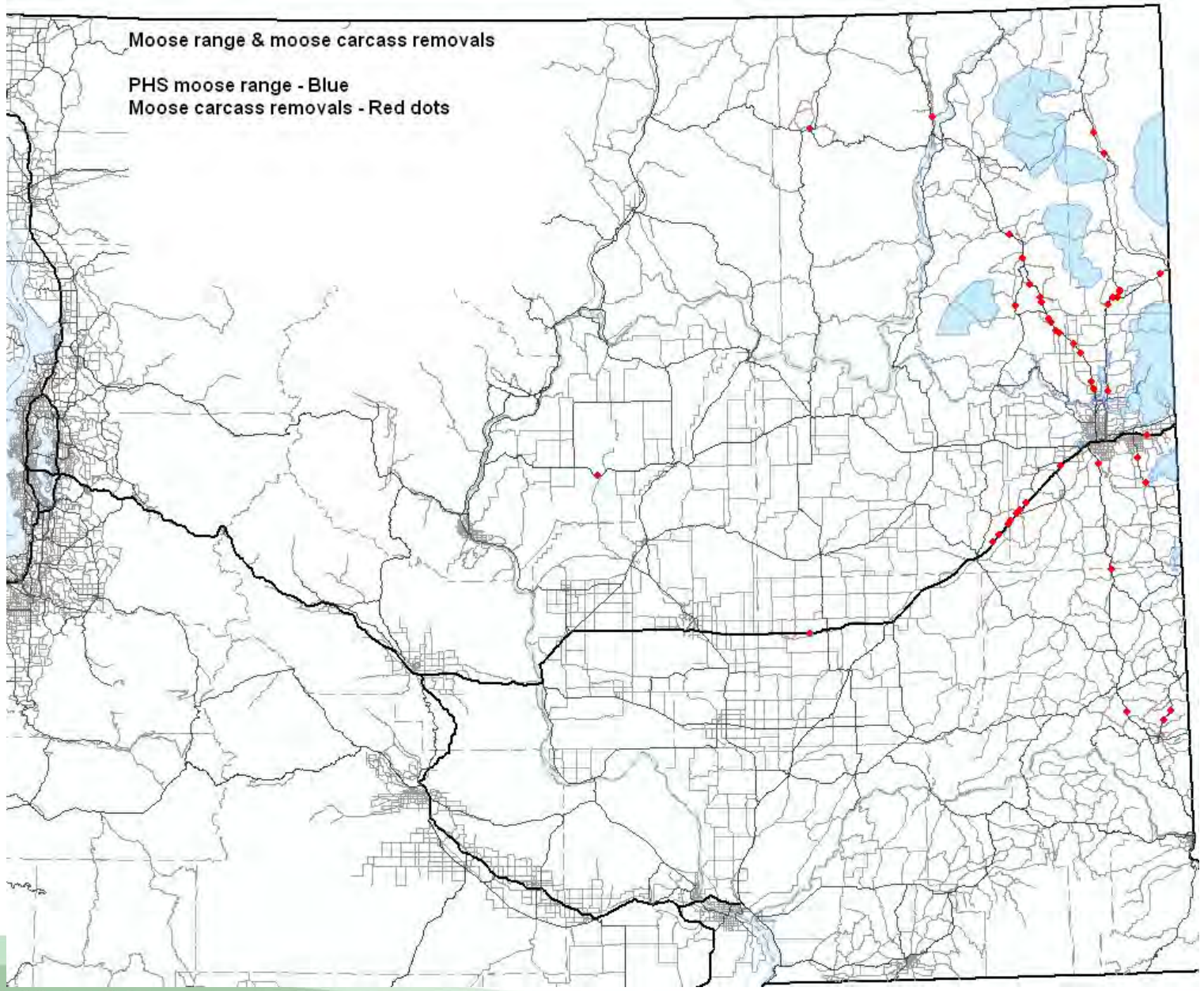
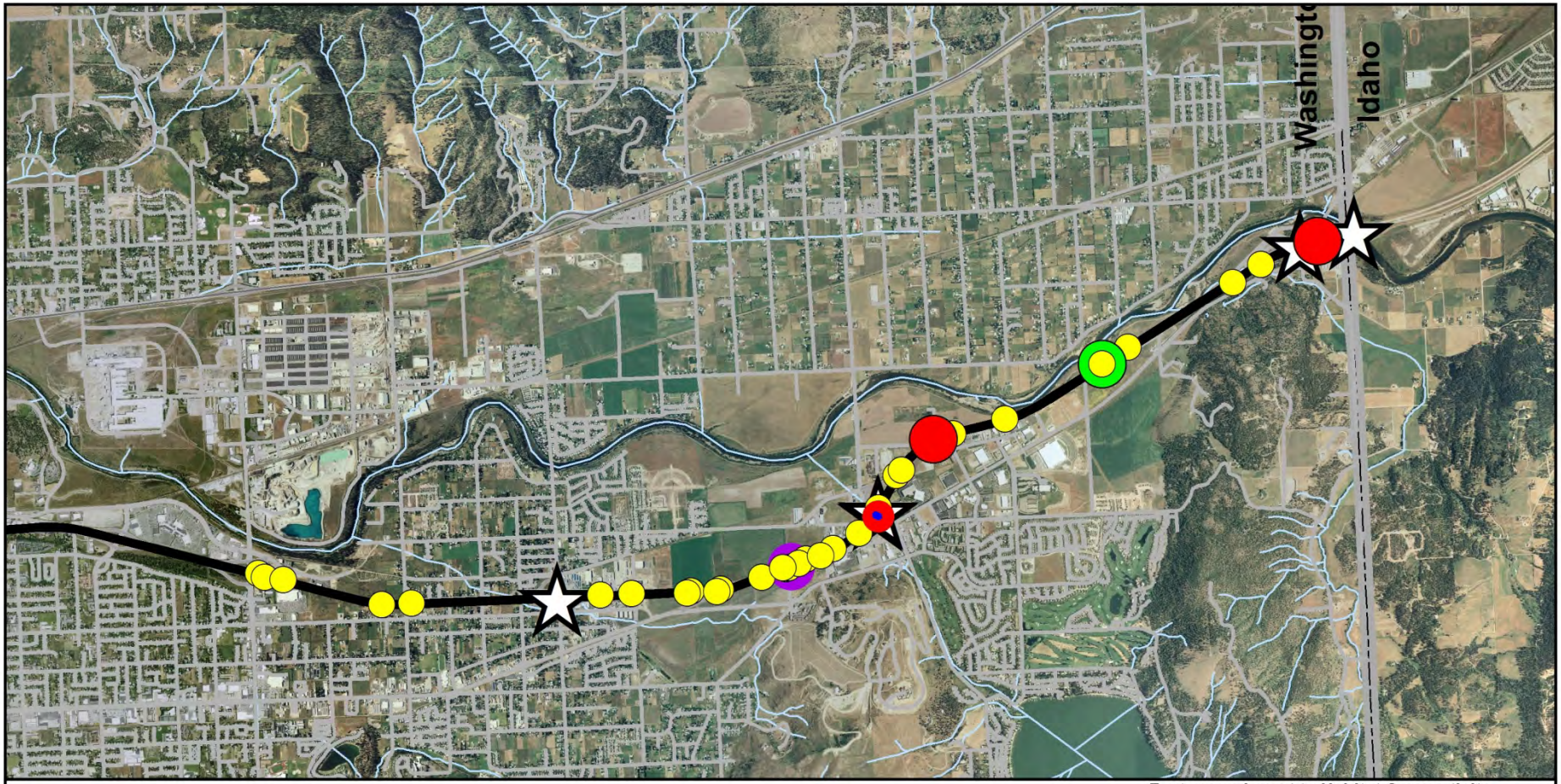
Moose Carcass Removals




Moose range & moose carcass removals
PHS moose range - Blue
Moose carcass removals - Red dots



Data Source:
State Routes of Washington from WSDOT GIS and Roadway Data Office, 2010
Local Roads from Tele Atlas, 2006
DNR Rivers and Streams and Waterbodies from Washington State DNR, 2008
Washington 2006 NAIP Ortho-Imagery-18 Inch Data from WSDOT and Washington State DNR, 2007
State Boundary from Washington State DNR, 2007
Collisions 2001-2010 from WSDOT Statewide Travel and Collision Data Office, Collision Data and Analysis Branch, 2001-2010

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

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N

I-90 Spokane
Collisions With Wildlife

Features relevant to Habitat Connectivity

Collisions With Wildlife

- No Injury
- Evident Injury
- Fatal Injury
- Bridges
- Elk Carcass removed, 2010

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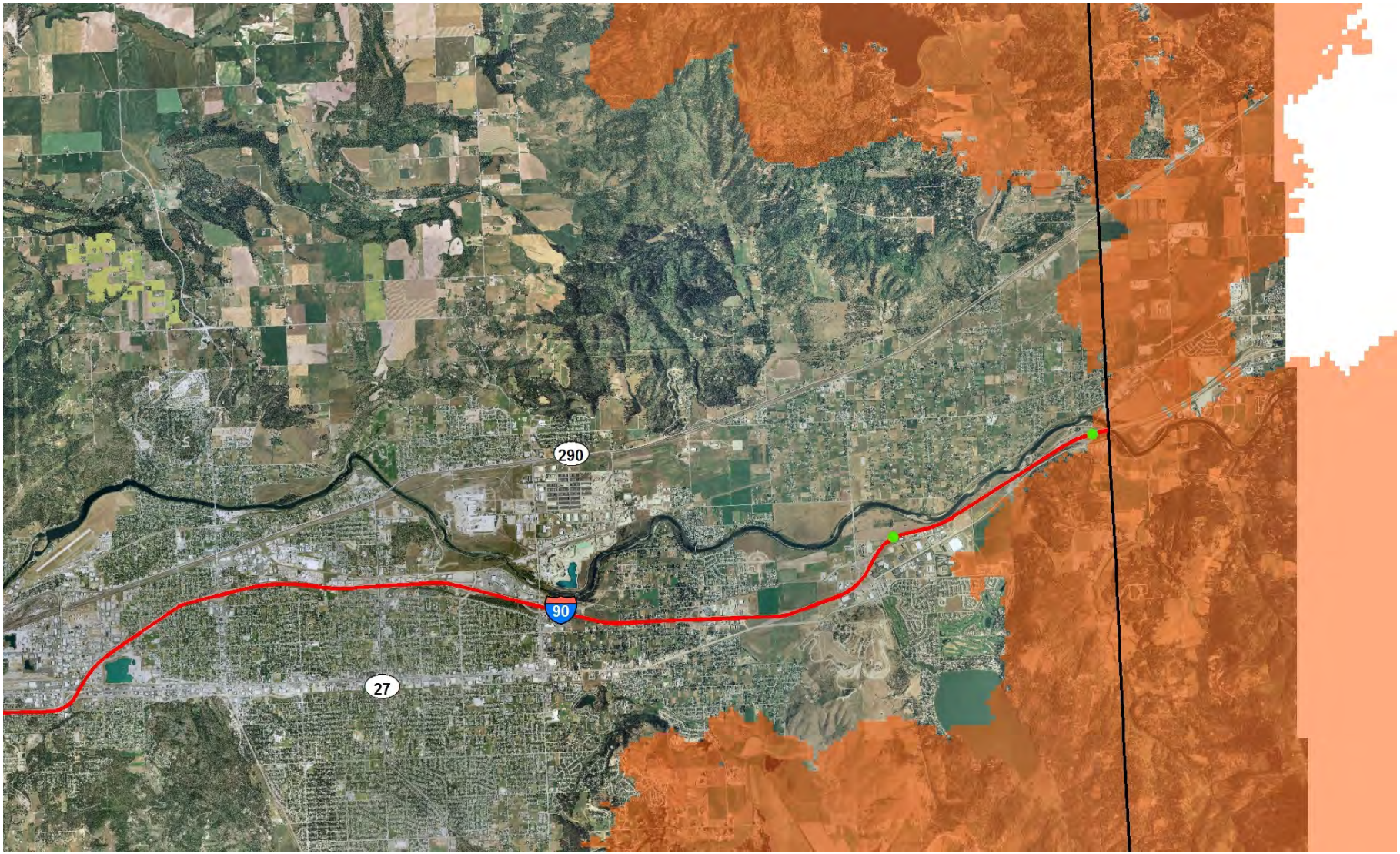

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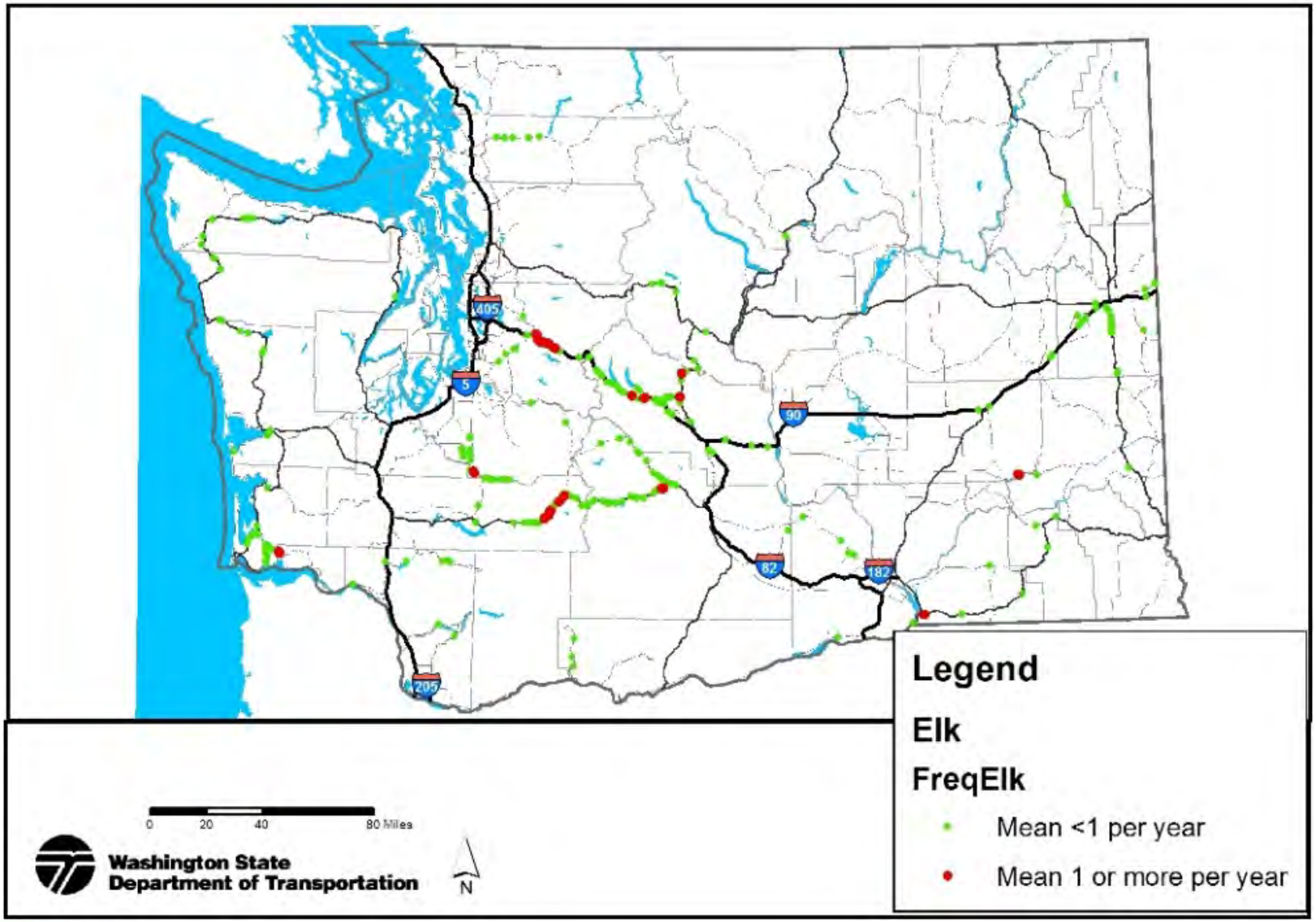
Questions? Comments


405
5
90
82
182
205
Legend
Elk
FreqElk
Mean <1 per year
Mean 1 or more per year
0 20 40 80 Miles
N
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