



Welcome!

Future of the lower
White Salmon River
Public Meeting

We will begin at 9:00 a.m.

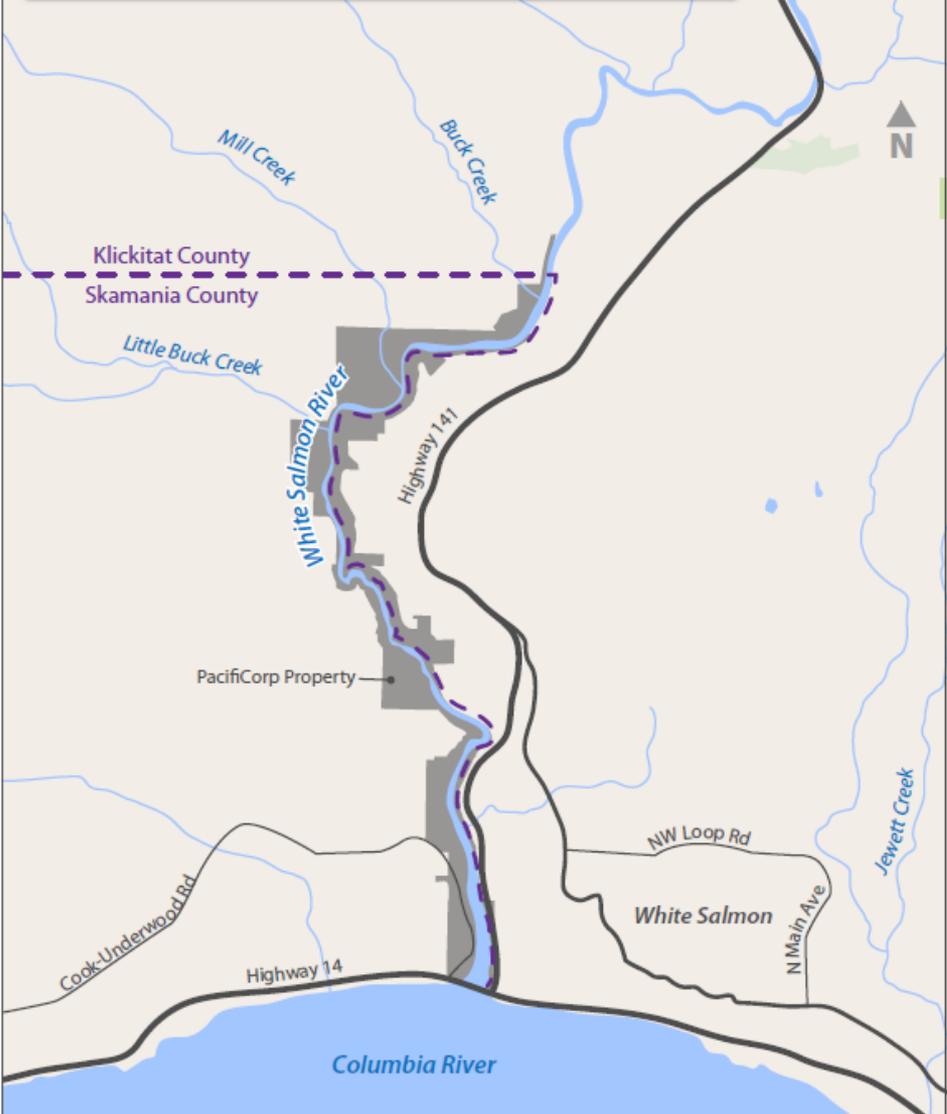
Meeting Objectives

- Provide a brief project overview and update
- Present results of a recent public survey
- Present revised vision and goals for the project area based on survey feedback
- Gain input on geographic focus areas and potential actions to meet lower White Salmon River goals for fish habitat conservation

Margaret Neuman, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Executive Director

Project Overview and Update





Background

- Condit Dam breached October 2011
- PacifiCorp owns 534 acres along the river from the mouth to about Buck Creek
- Disposition of lands not decided
 - PacifiCorp has no current plans to sell the land.



Project Overview

- Fish habitat assessment
- Development suitability analysis
- Gaining public input is a key element of this effort
- Final product: Fish Habitat Conservation Approach document



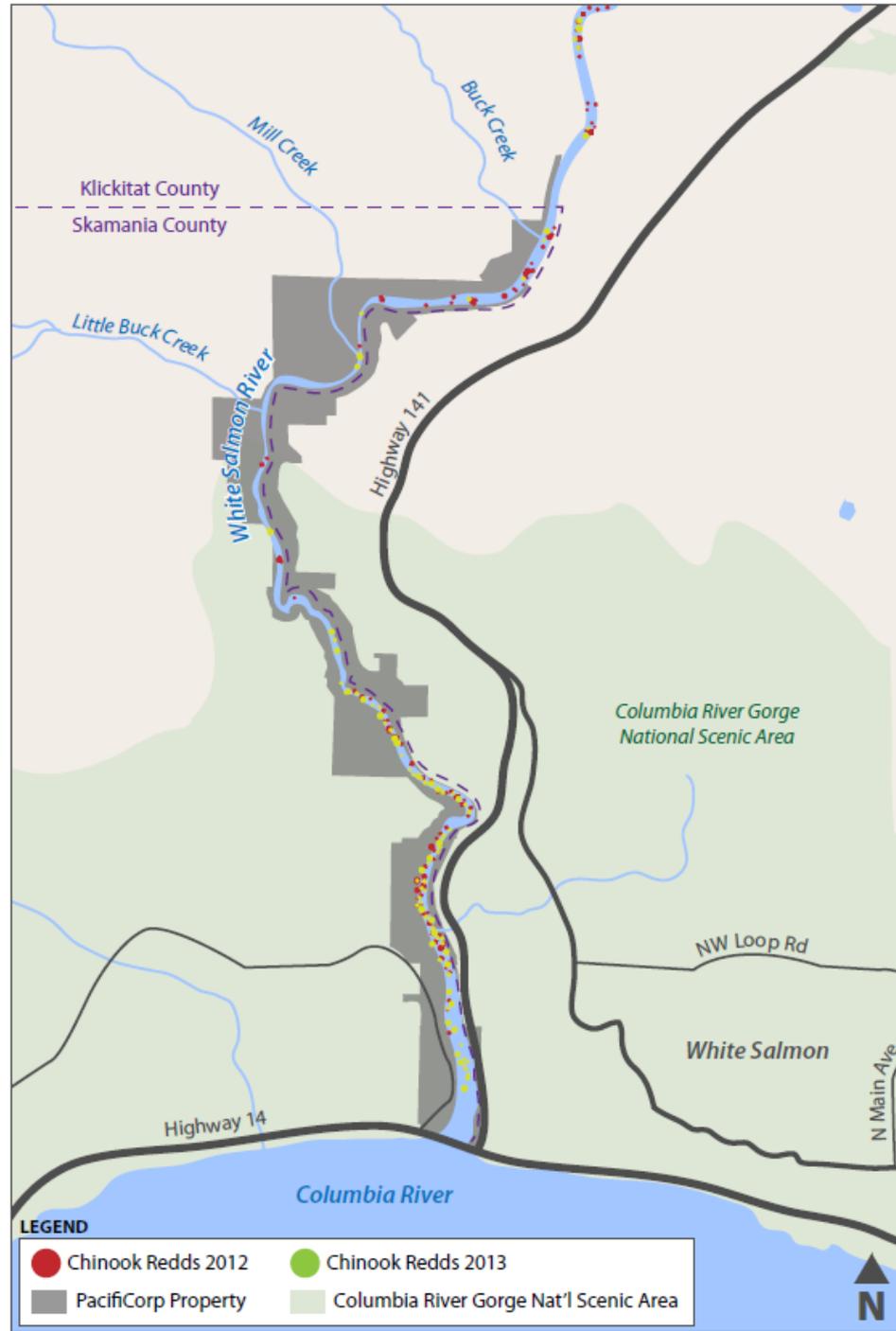
ESA Listed Salmonids

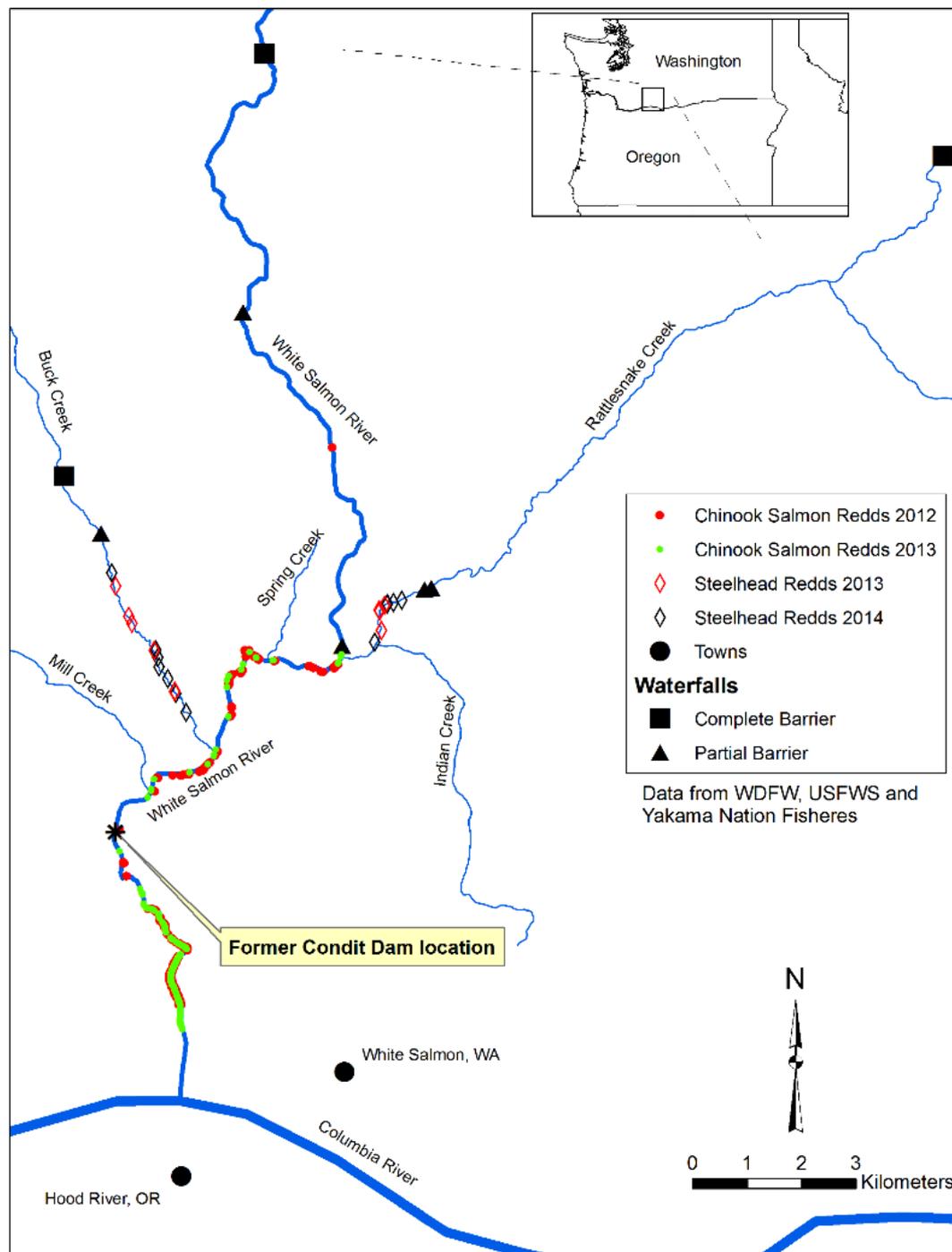
Species	ESU/DPS	Status	Federal Register Notice	
Chinook salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>)	LCR Chinook salmon	Threatened	70 FR 37160	6/28/2005
Coho salmon (<i>O. kisutch</i>)	LCR coho salmon	Threatened	70 FR 37160	6/28/2005
Chum salmon (<i>O. keta</i>)	CR chum salmon	Threatened	70 FR 37160	6/28/2005
Steelhead (<i>O. mykiss</i>)	MCR steelhead	Threatened	71 FR 834	1/5/2006
Bull trout (<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>)	CR bull trout	Threatened	63 FR 31647	6/10/1998
Critical Habitat Designation	LCR Chinook salmon, CR chum salmon, LCR coho salmon, MCR steelhead		70 FR 52630	9/2/2005
Critical Habitat Designation	CR bull trout		75 FR 2269	1/14/2010



Fish Habitat Assessment Summary

- Study area meets suitable habitat criteria for all salmonid life history stages
- Lower reaches have highest observed redd densities (RM 2.2 to mouth)
- Redd densities higher in reaches with lower slopes/gradients
- Re-vegetation projects will likely enhance habitat
 - Sediment stabilization, cover, and insect/leaf litter inputs
- Large woody debris recruitment would enhance pool development and cover

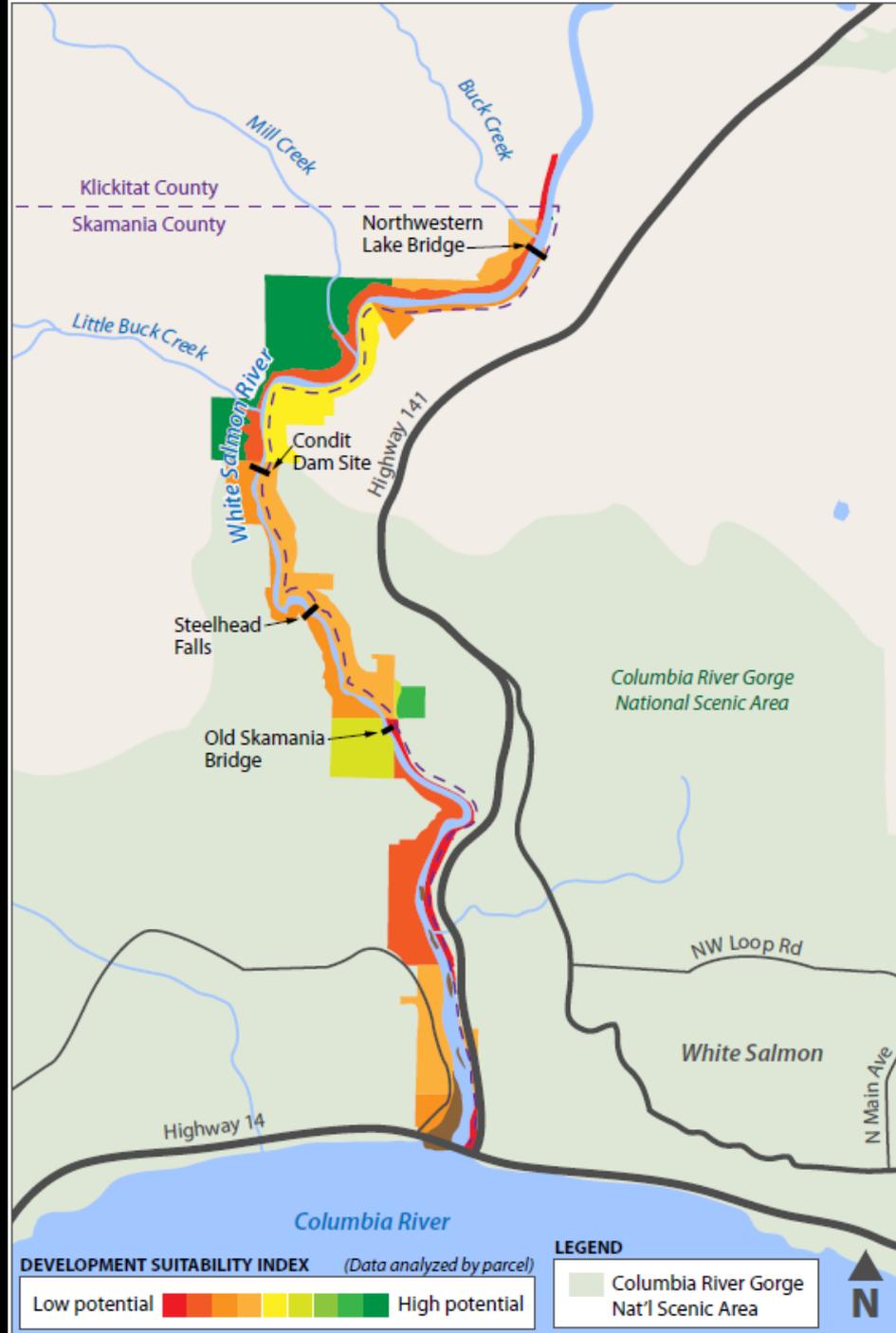




Development Suitability Summary

- Within the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area Open Space zoning is very protective of natural resource values.
- Zoning designations in both Skamania and Klickitat County allow for some residential development.
- Steep topography in many parts of the corridor make development difficult.





Questions?

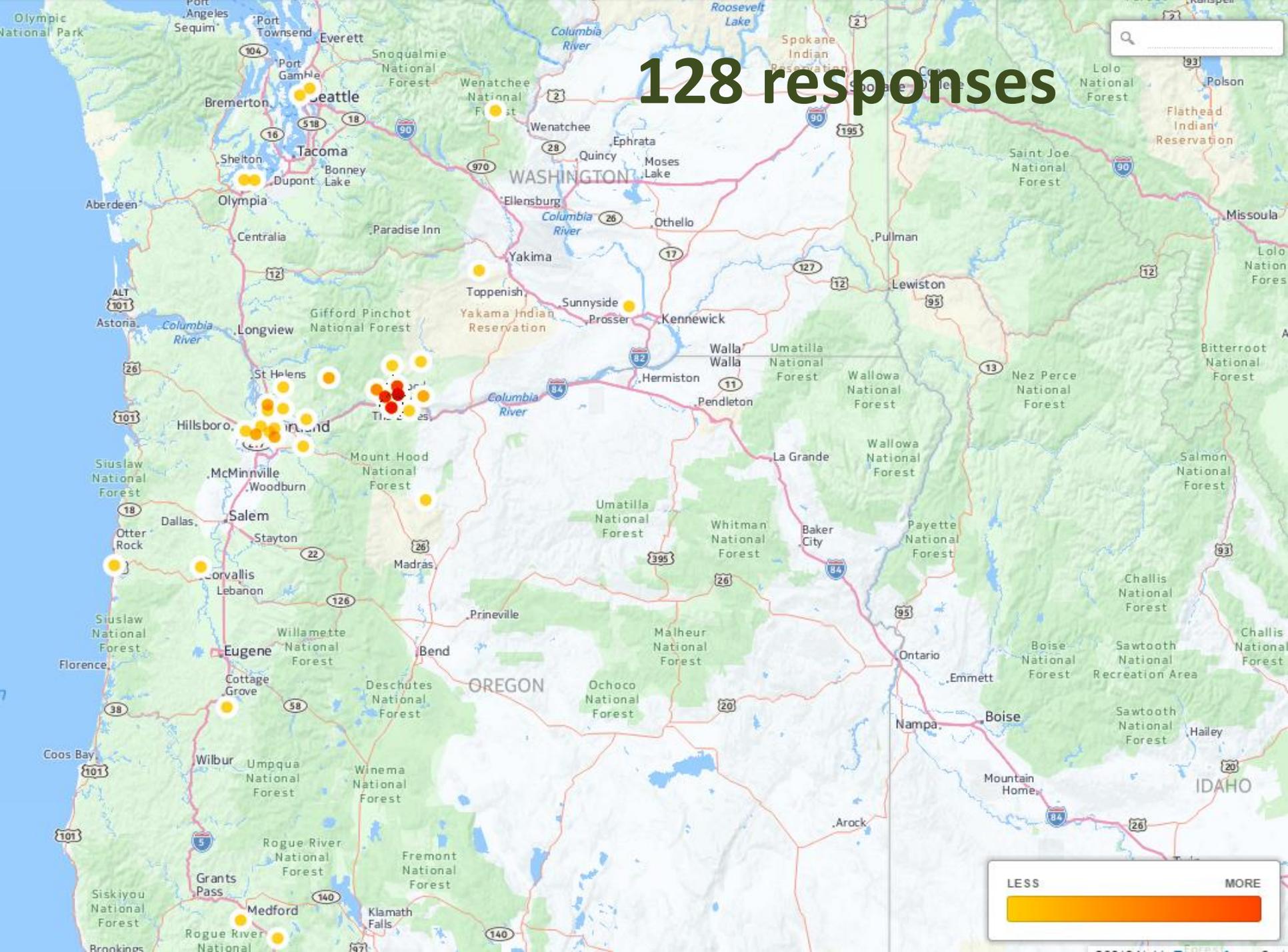


Results of public survey

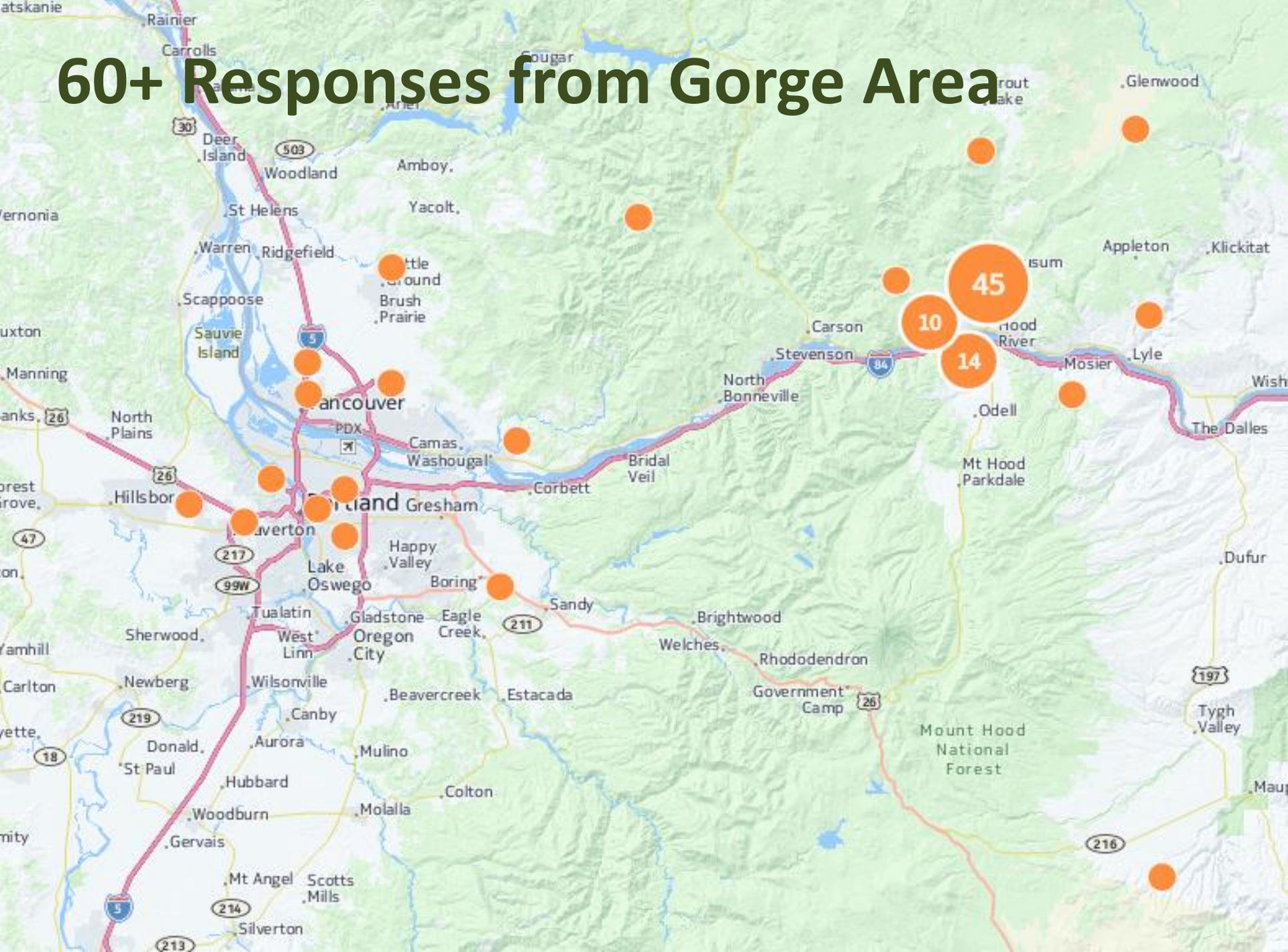
- Goals:
 - Reflect what we heard
 - Gain additional input
- Opportunity for virtual participation in the process
- Not intended to establish statistical significance



128 responses



60+ Responses from Gorge Area



What we heard: Fish habitat

- A healthy river ecosystem that supports all fish life stages is a priority
- Effects to aquatic resources should be considered when development decisions are made
- Support for continued natural river restoration over time
- Large wood in river supported for salmon, but causes a concern for boater safety

Other concepts we've heard



- Condit Dam was removed to improve fish habitat – not to create more recreation opportunities.
- PacifiCorp needs to follow through on commitments to mitigate effects on private property owners and recreationists.
- The uncertainty of future land ownership of PacifiCorp-owned property in the project area concerns many people.
- There are many opportunities and ideas for how to enhance public recreational access within the project area.

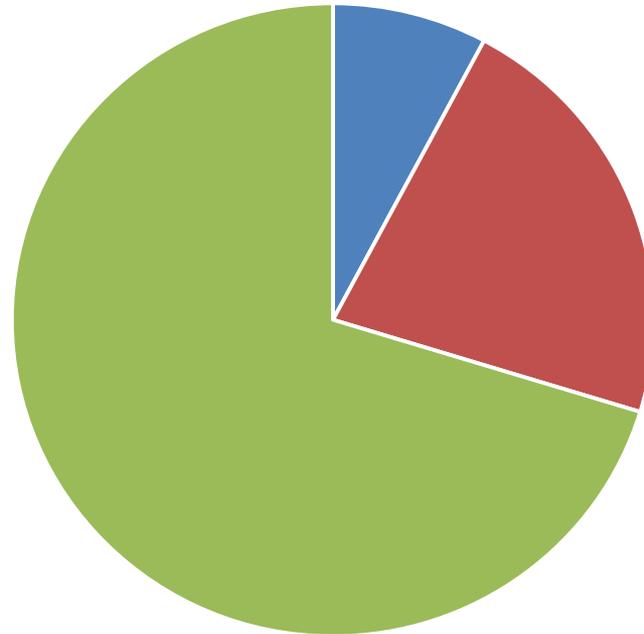
Other concepts (cont'd)



- Northwestern Park should remain a public park.
- Property-owners are concerned about impacts to their property and their solitude due to increased river recreation.
- There is a need to improve and enhance emergency access and response time to the river and shoreline residences.
- Residents are concerned about wildfire risks

We will pass all these concepts along to the appropriate public and private entities.

Future Ownership for Currently Undeveloped Lands



- Private ownership
- Conservation ownership focused on steepest slopes
- Public/trust ownership

Vision: Fish Habitat Conservation

- **Effects on aquatic habitats** a key consideration when development decisions are made (steep slopes)
- **River and banks in a natural state**, including healthy riparian areas and functioning instream habitat.
- **Undeveloped lands held in public or land trust** ownership (or a mix with private) leading to protection of lands ill-suited to development (steep slopes, proximity to river).

Vision - continued

- **Defined public access points** that balance ecosystem function, landowner privacy, safety, recreational opportunities and economic benefits.
- **Continued river restoration.**
- Fish habitat that **supports all salmon life history stages** and produces healthy fish runs for fishing.
- Support for **economically-beneficial uses** such as rafting, fishing, hiking while protecting key fish habitat.

Fish Habitat Conservation Goals:

- **Re-vegetate** riparian and upland areas to promote healthy streambanks, reduce sediment transport to the river, and enhance salmon habitat.
- Protect existing native riparian trees and shrubs from land clearing as required by **existing shoreline regulations**.
- **Educate river users** about spawning gravel identification, large woody debris and its benefits to salmon, value of the prevention of invasive species transport and spread, public access locations, and fish management goals.

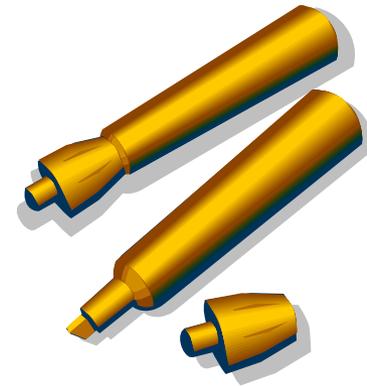


Goals - continued

- **Increase public or trust ownership** of currently undeveloped parcels in the project area to reduce potential impacts to fish habitat from future property development adjacent to the river.
- **Manage public access** so that it doesn't adversely impact in-river fish habitat or adjacent riparian areas.
- Increase retention of naturally-occurring **large woody debris** to enhance development of pools and cover for salmon and re-locate large wood if necessary to reduce hazards to boaters.

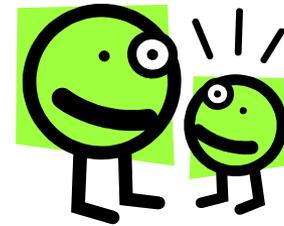
During Break:

- Review Vision and Goals:
- Underline words or statements that need clarification
- Use Sticky Note to add a concept



Geographic Focus Areas

- Additional input needed
- See posters for list
- Use dots to flag areas of importance
 - Orange is most important to you
 - Yellow is second
 - Green is third
- Use pens to add a missing focus area



Next Steps

- January – May: Assessments conducted
- May – August: Public meetings
- October: Survey
- **Nov. 15: Public meeting to refine approach**
- Dec. 8: Draft approach document available for review
- Early 2015: Final document available



Margaret Neuman, Anne Pressentin

Closing Comments

