

State Trust Lands and Other Major Public and Tribal Lands in Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

dnr.wa.gov

How do public lands contribute to Washington's quality of life?

When people hear "public lands," they think of parks and recreation, and may not realize all the benefits that public lands provide. Most public lands in Washington State are above 3,000 feet. High elevation public lands offer wild, unique animal habitat, dramatic vistas, recreation, and some commercial opportunities. Most lower elevation public lands are highways and roads, schools, city halls, and other public buildings. However, state trust lands are some of the largest natural resources landscapes in the lower elevations—managed to provide revenue, protect wildlife habitat and water, and offer countless options for recreation and education.

DNR-Managed Lands

5.6 MILLION ACRES
Most state-owned lands in Washington are managed by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR manages a variety of lands for a variety of purposes. See pie chart on other side.

TRUST LANDS

2.9 MILLION ACRES
Lands held in trust to support specific public beneficiaries. See other side for more information.

GRANTED TRUST LANDS

Benefit the state's public schools, universities, and other institutions.

- Common School and Escheat
- Agricultural School
- Scientific School
- Normal School
- University Transferred
- University Original
- Charitable, Educational, Penal and Reformatory Institutions
- Capitol Grant

STATE FOREST TRUST LANDS

Formerly Forest Board Trust lands. Benefit schools, counties, and local services.

- State Forest Transfer
- State Forest Purchased

OTHER

Benefit a variety of trusts and interests including Community Colleges, Community Forests, and others.

NATURAL AREAS

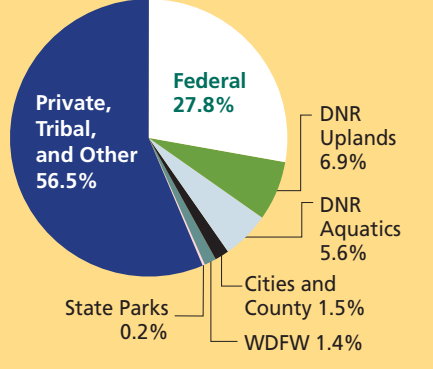
157,000 ACRES
Lands dedicated to protecting rare and native species and ecosystems. Access on NAPIs is restricted to approved scientific research and educational uses.

- Natural Area Preserve (NAP)
- Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)

AQUATIC LANDS

2.6 MILLION ACRES
Public tidelands, shorelands, and beds of navigable waters are managed to benefit the general public. Tidelands extend from mean high tide to extreme low tide. About 40 percent are state-owned. Beds of navigable waters below extreme low tide are usually state-owned.

Land Base Ownerships



Other Public Lands

Generally, parcels shown on this map are 160 acres or larger, and only major administrative areas are labeled.

OTHER STATE LANDS

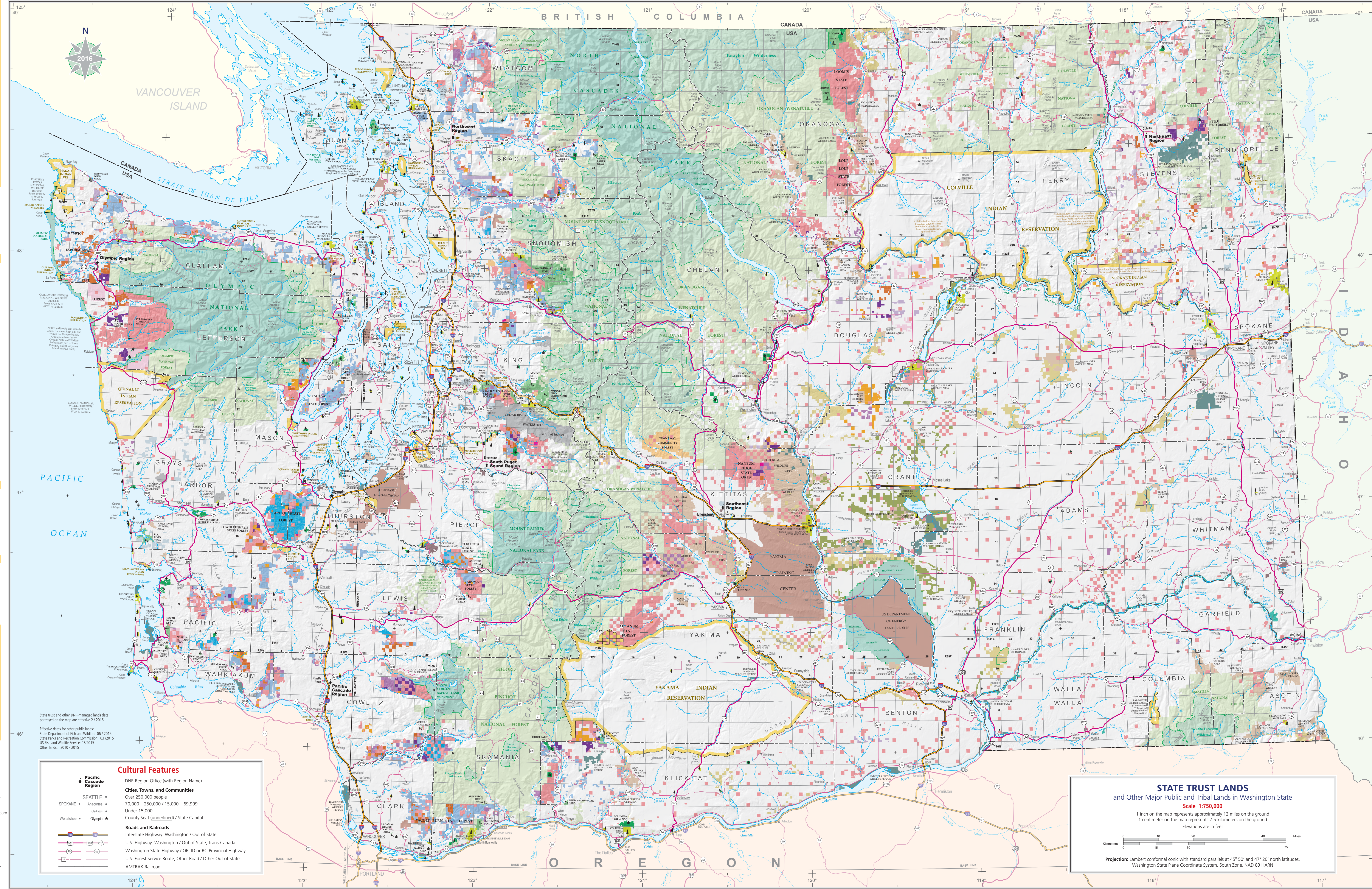
- State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Other State

OTHER LANDS

- Tribal Center
- Tribal Lands or Indian Reservation
- Municipal Watershed
- Other County or Municipal

FEDERAL LANDS

- Forest Service: National Forest
- Forest Service: Wilderness
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park, Recreation Area, or Monument
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Other Federal



Cultural Features

DNR Region Office (with Region Name)

Cities, Towns, and Communities
Over 250,000 people
70,000 – 250,000 / 15,000 – 69,999
Under 15,000
County Seat (underlined) / State Capital

Roads and Railroads
Interstate Highway: Washington / Out of State
U.S. Highway: Washington / Out of State; Trans-Canada
Washington State Highway / OR, ID or BC Provincial Highway
U.S. Forest Service Route; Other Road / Other Out of State
AMTRAK Railroad

SEATTLE
SPokane • Anacortes • Denton • Wenatchee • Olympia

STATE TRUST LANDS and Other Major Public and Tribal Lands in Washington State

Scale 1:750,000

1 inch on the map represents approximately 12 miles on the ground
1 centimeter on the map represents 7.5 kilometers on the ground
Elevations are in feet

Projection: Lambert conformal conic with standard parallels at 45° 50' and 47° 20' north latitudes.
Washington State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone, NAD 83 HARN

DEGREES, HATCH MARKS & TICKS

Hatch marks with degree values around the map show latitude and longitude. Latitude is the location north or south of the equator. Longitude is the location east or west of the Prime Meridian (north-south running line through the Greenwich Observatory in England). Tics (plus signs) in the map body show where longitude and latitude intersect. Washington's northeast corner is almost at 49° N 117° W.

WHAT IS THE GRID ACROSS THE MAP?

The map grid represents part of the U.S. Public Land Survey System. The grid begins for Oregon and Washington is near Portland, Oregon where the **Willamette Meridian** and the **Base Line** intersect, monumented with the Willamette Stone on June 4, 1851. The Meridian is intersected by township lines extending east-west; the Base Line is intersected by range lines running north-south at about six-mile intervals with adjustments for the earth's curvature. The resulting "thirty-six mile squares" are **townships**. Each township is divided into 36 roughly one-mile squares called **sections**. Townships are referenced by their distance north or south of the Base Line and east or west of the Willamette Meridian. For example, Vancouver, WA is in T2N R1E – the second township (T) north of the Base Line, and the first range (R) east of the Willamette Meridian. Small, black numbers, and letters identify township and range.

DISTRIBUTION AND PATTERNS OF OWNERSHIP

Washington's patterns of public land ownerships have changed in the 100+ years since statehood, but current patterns still give clues to past land management. Most public land is federal and in large blocks above 3,000 feet elevation. At statehood, the federal government granted sections 16 and 36 of each township to the state to support the public or "common" schools. If sections were already patented (private land) or otherwise unavailable, an equivalent amount of property, known as "in lieu" land, was granted to the state elsewhere.

In Eastern Washington, Common School trust land is scattered in 1-mile square parcels across the landscape — a remnant of the original federal grant lands.

Some areas look like checkerboards. In many places this pattern of land ownership is left from when every other section was deeded by the federal government to railroad companies.

DNR manages some blocks of land for multiple state trusts. DNR uses "land exchanges" with public and private entities to consolidate trust land ownership into larger blocks that can be managed more effectively — mostly to block up forested trust lands.

NOTE TO MAP USERS

Sources: Public land survey, county, Washington (WA) state boundaries and Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-managed lands are from DNR's Geographic Information System (DNGIS). Other public lands are also from DNGIS and are derived from US Bureau of Land Management ownership records or from digital, graphic, or tabular data from other participating public agencies or Tribes. WA Interstate, US, and state highways are from WA Department of Transportation data or maps. All other roads are from DNGIS. WA hydrography is from Environmental Protection River Reach data.

Out-of-state roads and hydrography are from 1:250,000 US Geological Survey (USGS) or Natural Resources Canada maps. Feature names and elevations are from USGS Geographic Names Information System and other public agencies or Tribes.

Disclaimer: Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Credits: Produced by WA Department of Natural Resources. | Cartographic research, design & production: Engineering Division; Elizabeth Eberle and Mark Madock; Resource Mapping Section; Donald W. Miller, Forest Roads Section; DNR cadastral database management; Survey Section. | Geographic information system support: Information Technology Division. | Product graphic design and layout: Communications & Outreach; Luis Prado. | Project director, text, writing and editing: Communications & Outreach; Sandra Kaiser, Director.