



# KITSAP FOREST AND BAY COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

## Acre by acre: persistence pays off

Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park spans 3,500 acres from the ridgeline above Hood Canal down to the shoreline of Port Gamble Bay — a jewel in the heart of the Salish Sea. More than 60 miles of trails wind through it, beloved by hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers of all ages and abilities. The forest is habitat for salmon, a host of birds and wildlife with abundant stands of Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar sheltering an understory that's grown scarcer as logging continues nearby. This forest lies within the traditional territories of the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Suquamish Tribes and provides important living cultural access for nearby tribal members.

Out of financial necessity, protecting this forest has been broken into two parts: the land itself and the right to log it. With the community's engagement, Kitsap County bought the land — the fee title — in stages, the largest piece closing in 2017, when more than 1,200 neighbors gave \$3.5 million, matched by the county and the state, to buy the remaining acreage outright. That purchase didn't include every tree. The seller kept a separate right to log much of the forest as trees mature, through 2042 — the county owns the land, but the timber harvests will continue until the last stands are cut or conserved through acquisition. In 2022, the community raised roughly \$4.4 million to purchase 756 acres of timber rights, about \$5,850 an acre, retiring them from the cutting schedule for good.

Today, we are working to buy as much of the remaining forest as we can — stands that hold some of the richest habitat left in the park and shelter the trail network people use every weekend. Every acre we buy is protected forever; every acre we don't is scheduled to be cut one last time before it is turned over to the community.

A state appropriation and early gifts raised by Our Forest Fund have already brought in **\$1,025,051**. To buy ~300 acres prioritized for this round will cost roughly **\$2 million** — the appraisal now underway will set the basis for our negotiation with the timber company. With your help, we are aiming to raise the remaining **~\$975,000** needed to reach our \$2 million goal and complete this round. Whatever you contribute — each and every dollar — will go directly to keeping trees green and growing.

## WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN MEAN ON THE GROUND

*Figures below are order-of-magnitude estimates — based on \$2 million goal across roughly 300 target acres (estimated at \$6,700/acre on average), a conservative estimate based on \$5,850/acre paid in 2022 timber rights round. Independent appraisal now underway, final negotiated pricing, and which specific stands are available will all affect the actual pricing and acreage secured.*

| Gift      | Approx. acres of forest protected — <i>illustrative only</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$10,000  | ~1.5 acres                                                   |
| \$50,000  | ~7.5 acres                                                   |
| \$100,000 | ~15 acres                                                    |

**Raised: \$1,025,051 (51%)**

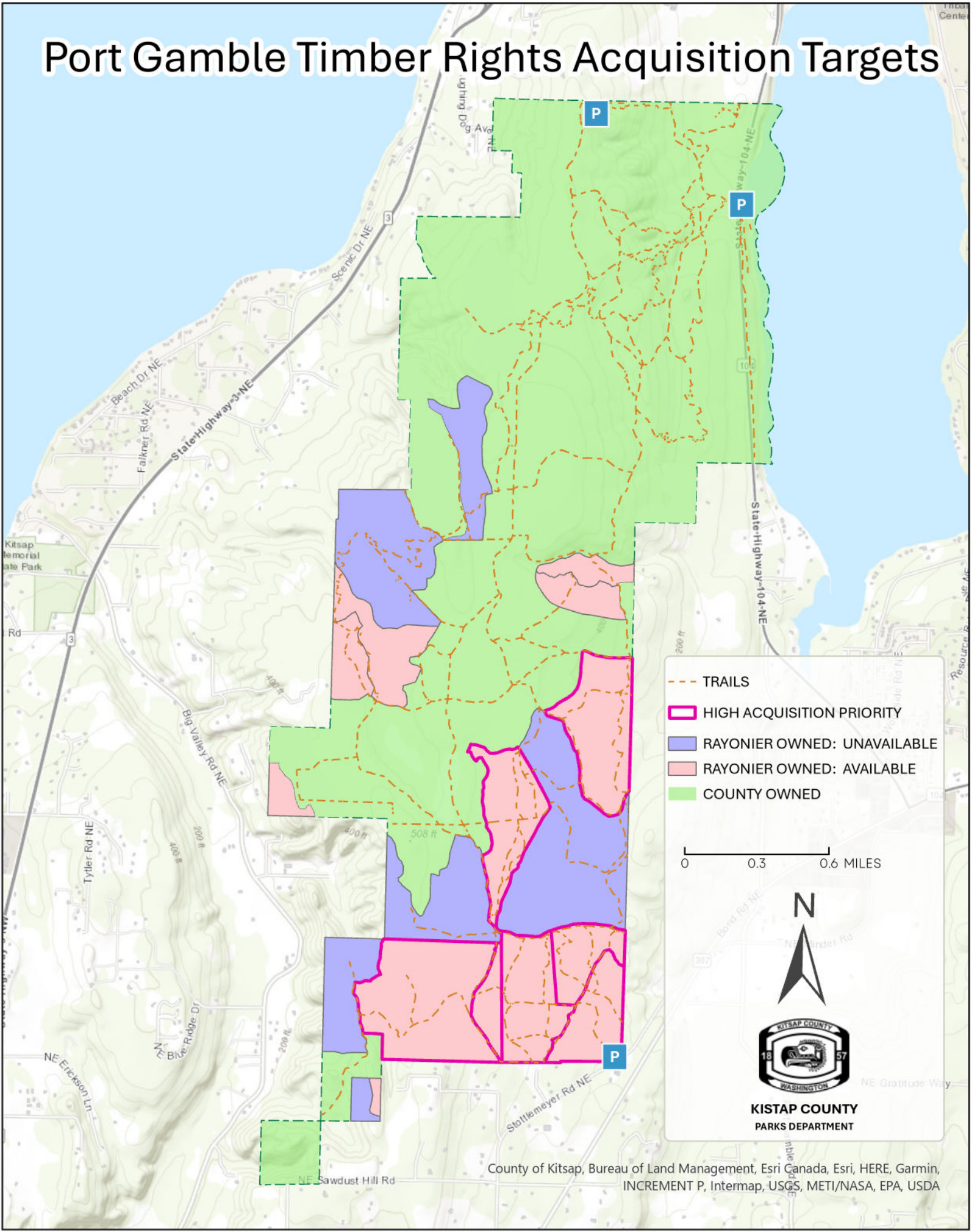
**Remaining: ~\$975K**

**Goal: \$2.0M total**

**Closing Deadline: December 31, 2026**

*To learn more, contact Michelle Connor, Forterra — [mconnor@forterra.org](mailto:mconnor@forterra.org), 206-484-1579.*

# Port Gamble Timber Rights Acquisition Targets



--- TRAILS

**HIGH ACQUISITION PRIORITY**

RAYONIER OWNED: UNAVAILABLE

RAYONIER OWNED: AVAILABLE

COUNTY OWNED

0 0.3 0.6 MILES

N

KITAP COUNTY  
18 57  
WASHINGTON

**KISTAP COUNTY  
PARKS DEPARTMENT**