



A New Vision For Green Mountain State Forest

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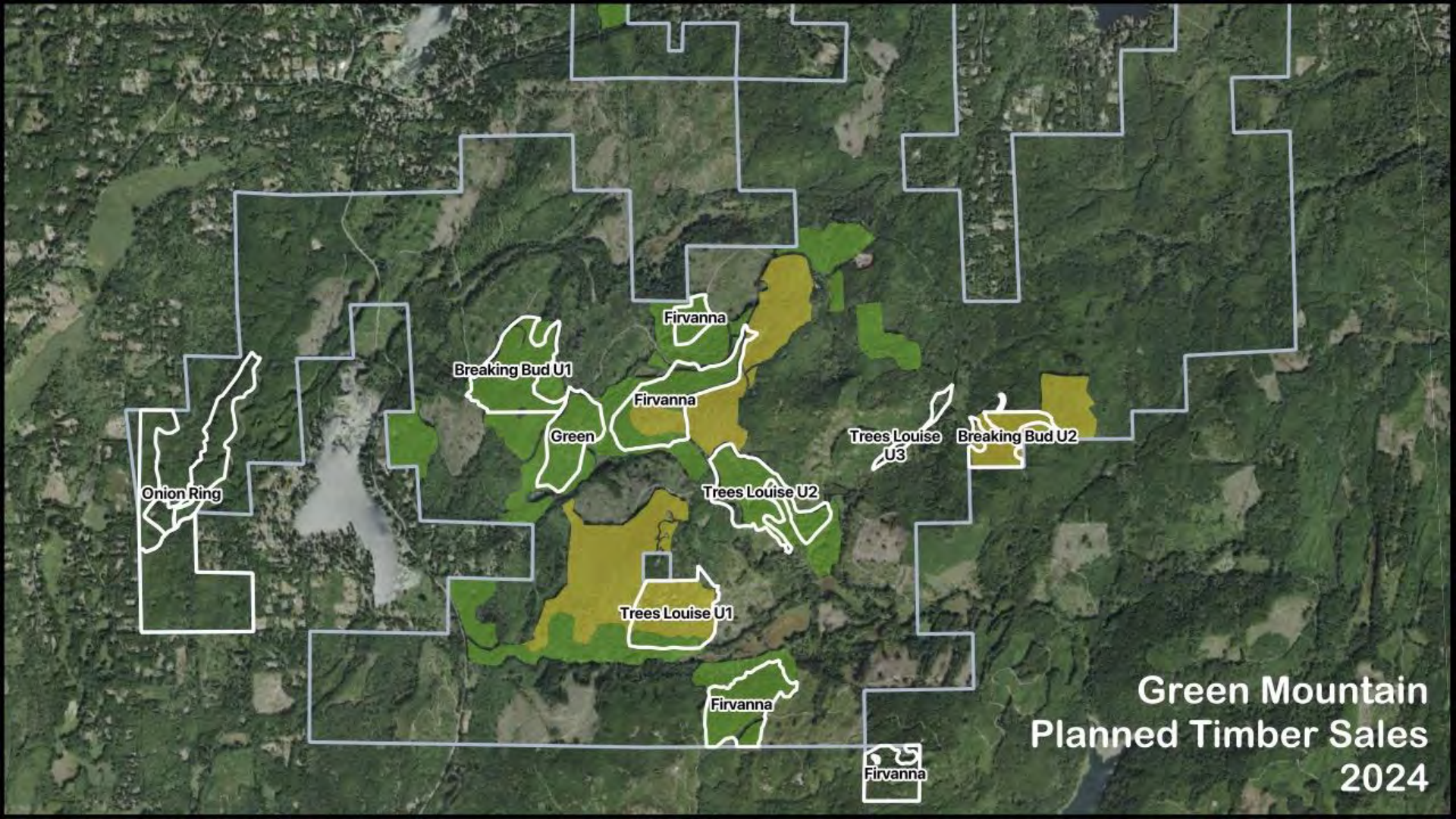


What are Legacy Forests?

- Naturally regenerated and genetically distinct
- Hand logged before 1946 (before commercial tree planting)
- Structurally complex (home to old forest dependent species)
- Carbon dense
- The best available future old growth

**Around 0.1% of the
Kitsap Peninsula is old growth**





Onion Ring

Breaking Bud U1

Firvanna

Firvanna

Green

Trees Louise U1

Trees Louise U2

Trees Louise U3

Breaking Bud U2

Firvanna



Green Mountain
Planned Timber Sales
2024



KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Efficient, accessible and effective county services

October 7, 2024

Christine Rolles
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido
DISTRICT 2

Katherine T. Walters
DISTRICT 3

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Duane Emmons
Assistant Deputy Supervisor – State Uplands

Dear Mr. Emmons,

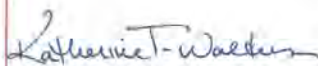
The Kitsap Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is interested in DNR's opportunity to protect structurally complex and carbon dense forest land with funding allocated through the Natural Climate Solutions Program in the 2024 legislative session.

With this letter the BOCC would like to:

1. Formally request that the DNR withdraw the approved Forest Practices Application for the timber sale, in light of the discovery of globally imperiled plant communities within the boundaries of the Breaking Bud Timber Sale.
2. Formally nominate the parcel known as Breaking Bud Unit 1 to be protected as a Natural Resource Conservation Area using Natural Climate Solutions Funds allocated during the 2024 legislative session. Please see the attached map.

Furthermore, the BOCC would like to reiterate its request that DNR not move forward with the development of the Firvana, Blinki, and Trees Louise Timber Sales and instead work with the county to find alternative options for these parcels.

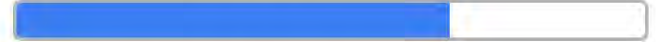
With gratitude,


Katherine T. Walters, Chair


Charlotte Garrido


Christine Rolles




4,435 Letters Sent



Only 1,965 more until our goal of 6,400



Kitsap County NCS Funding Nomination
Breaking Bud Parcel

 Nomination Area (85.6 Gross Acres)
 Mature Forest (58.1 Acres)
 Riparian Management Zones



Association

Pseudotsuga menziesii - *Tsuga heterophylla* / *Rhododendron macrophyllum* - *Vaccinium ovatum*

Forest

Translated Name: Douglas-fir - Western Hemlock / Pacific Rhododendron - California Huckleberry Forest



NatureServe Element Code: CEG002615

Summary:

This association occurs below 460 m (1500 feet) elevation in west-central portions of the Puget Lowland of Washington, Kitsap Peninsula, Whidbey Island, and the northeastern Olympic Peninsula (Mason, Kitsap, Island, Jefferson, Clallam counties). It is an evergreen needle-leaved forest dominated by *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and *Tsuga heterophylla*, the former usually taller and



Legacy Forest Defense Coalition

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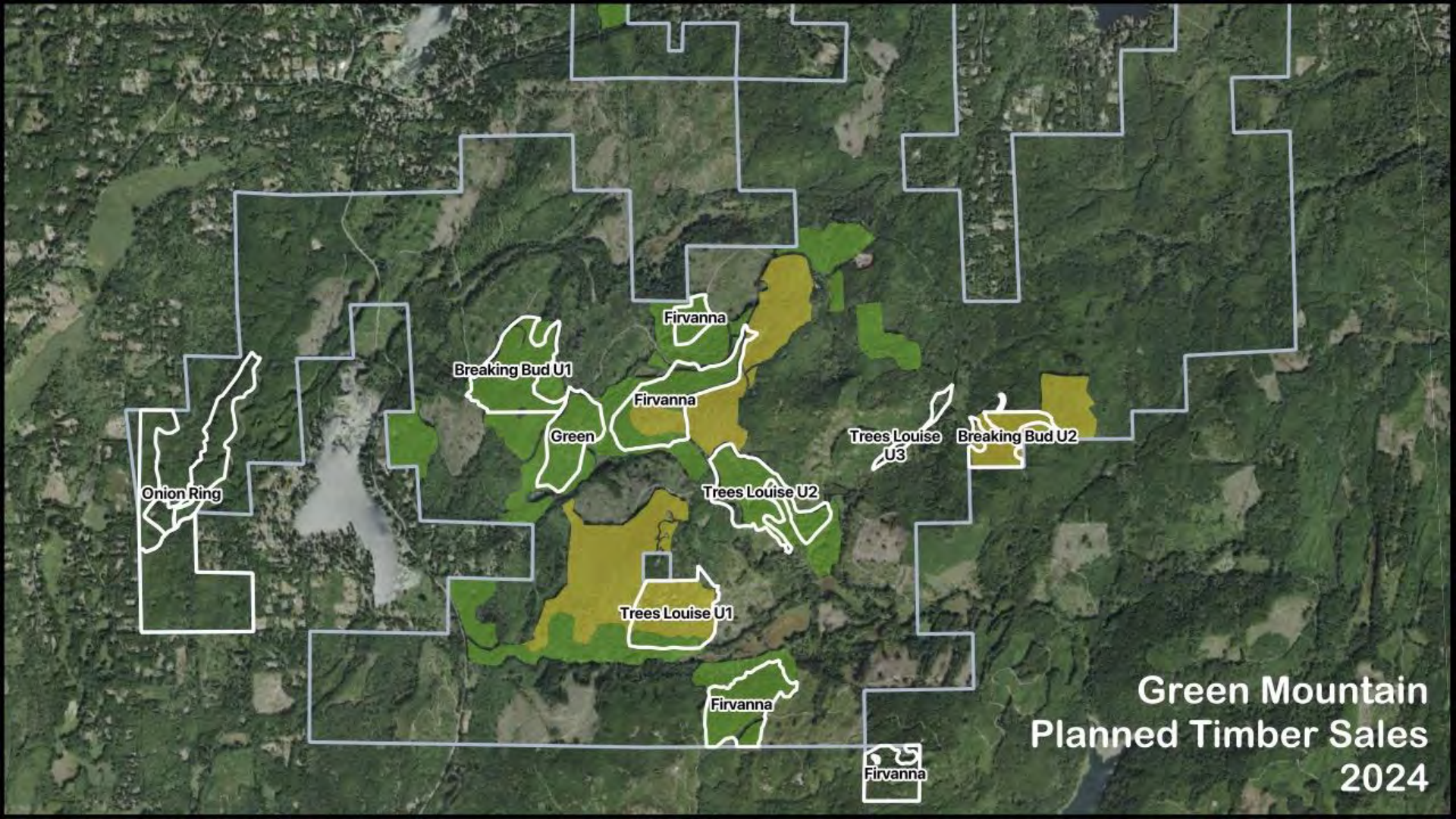
Phone: (360) 989-8067

Email: joshua@wlfdc.org

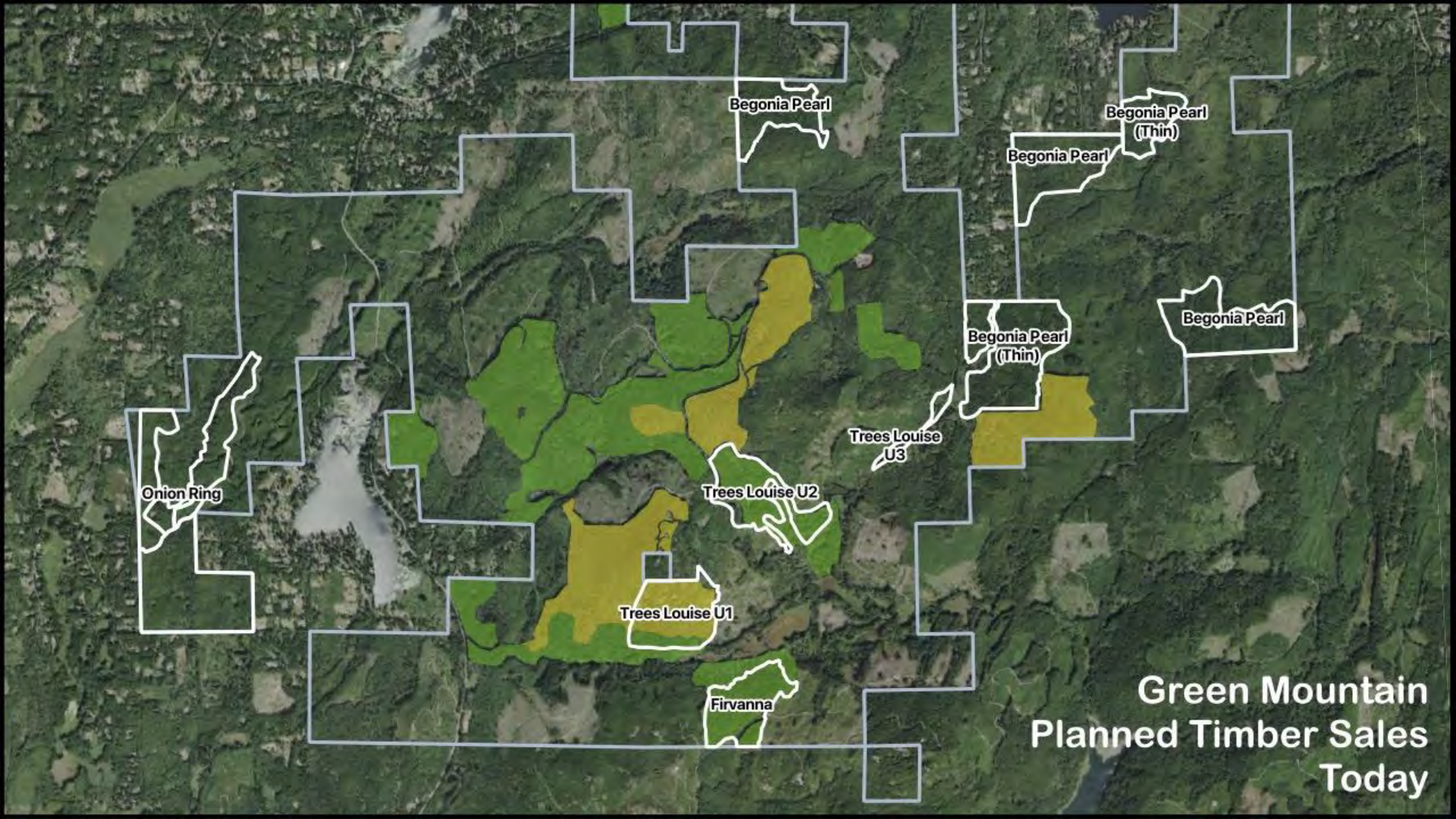
Dear DNR officials of the South Sound Region,

On October 24 2023, I visited unit two of the "Firvana" timber sale scheduled for auction in November 2024. My goal was to survey the forest association in the area to determine if it represented a G2 imperiled forest type based on the International Vegetation Classification System (CEG002615). This association *Pseudotsuga menziesii* - *Tsuga heterophylla* / *Rhododendron macrophyllum* - *Vaccinium ovatum* Forest is an association that primarily occurs under 1500 feet elevation in west-central portions of the Puget Lowlands. Below is the Floristics Summary of this association provided on the NatureServe website.

This is an evergreen needle-leaved forest dominated by Pseudotsuga menziesii and Tsuga heterophylla, the former usually taller and more abundant, the latter usually dominating tree regeneration. Thuja plicata is usually present and sometimes codominant, and Pinus monticola is present in about half the plots. The understory is dominated by the evergreen broad-leaved shrubs Rhododendron macrophyllum (2-4 m tall), Vaccinium ovatum, and Gaultheria shallon, and may be sparse or dense depending on tree density. Other frequent species are Pteridium aquilinum, Mahonia nervosa, and Vaccinium parvifolium. Herbaceous species are typically found in very small amounts. This association typically occurs on moderately dry, very nutrient-poor sites including soil parent materials of gravelly glacial till or outwash, or basalt bedrock. This association is distinguished from similar ones by >10% cover of Tsuga heterophylla or Thuja plicata, >5% cover of Rhododendron macrophyllum, and the presence of Vaccinium ovatum, combined with <3% cover of Polystichum munitum.



**Green Mountain
Planned Timber Sales
2024**



Onion Ring

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

Trees Louise
U3

Trees Louise U2

Trees Louise U1

Firvanna

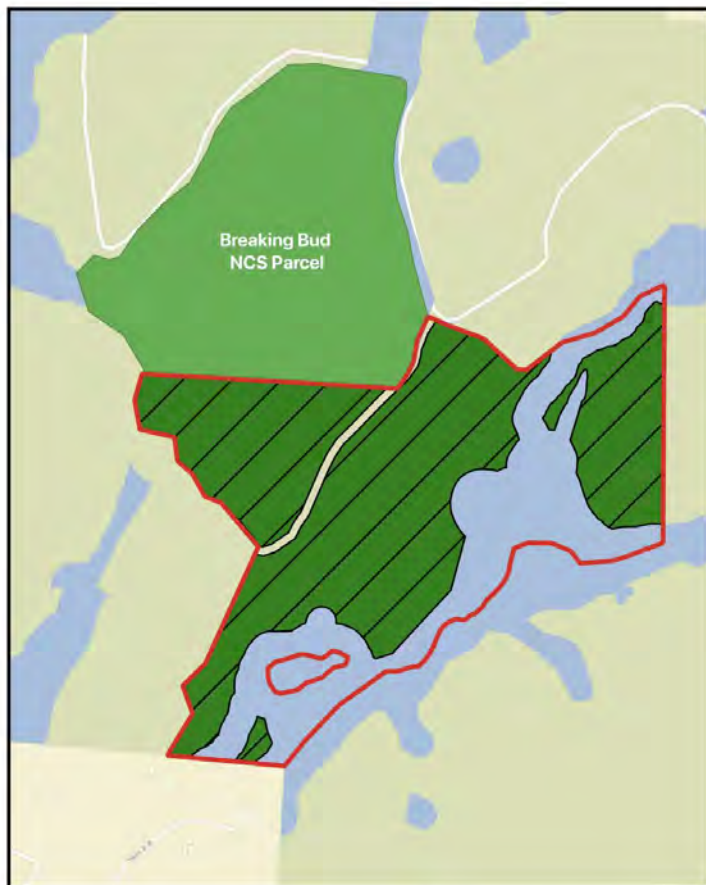
Green Mountain
Planned Timber Sales
Today





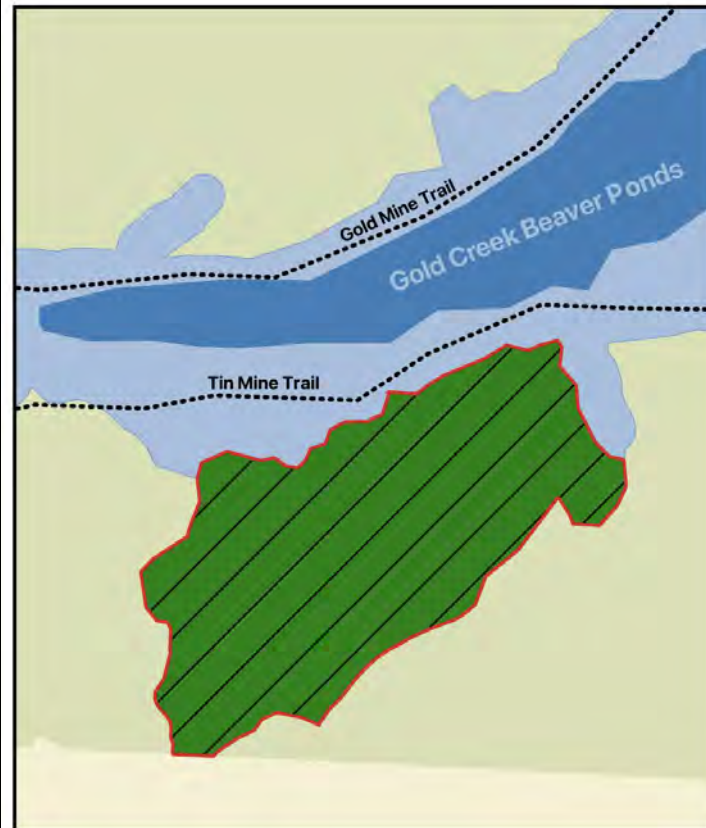






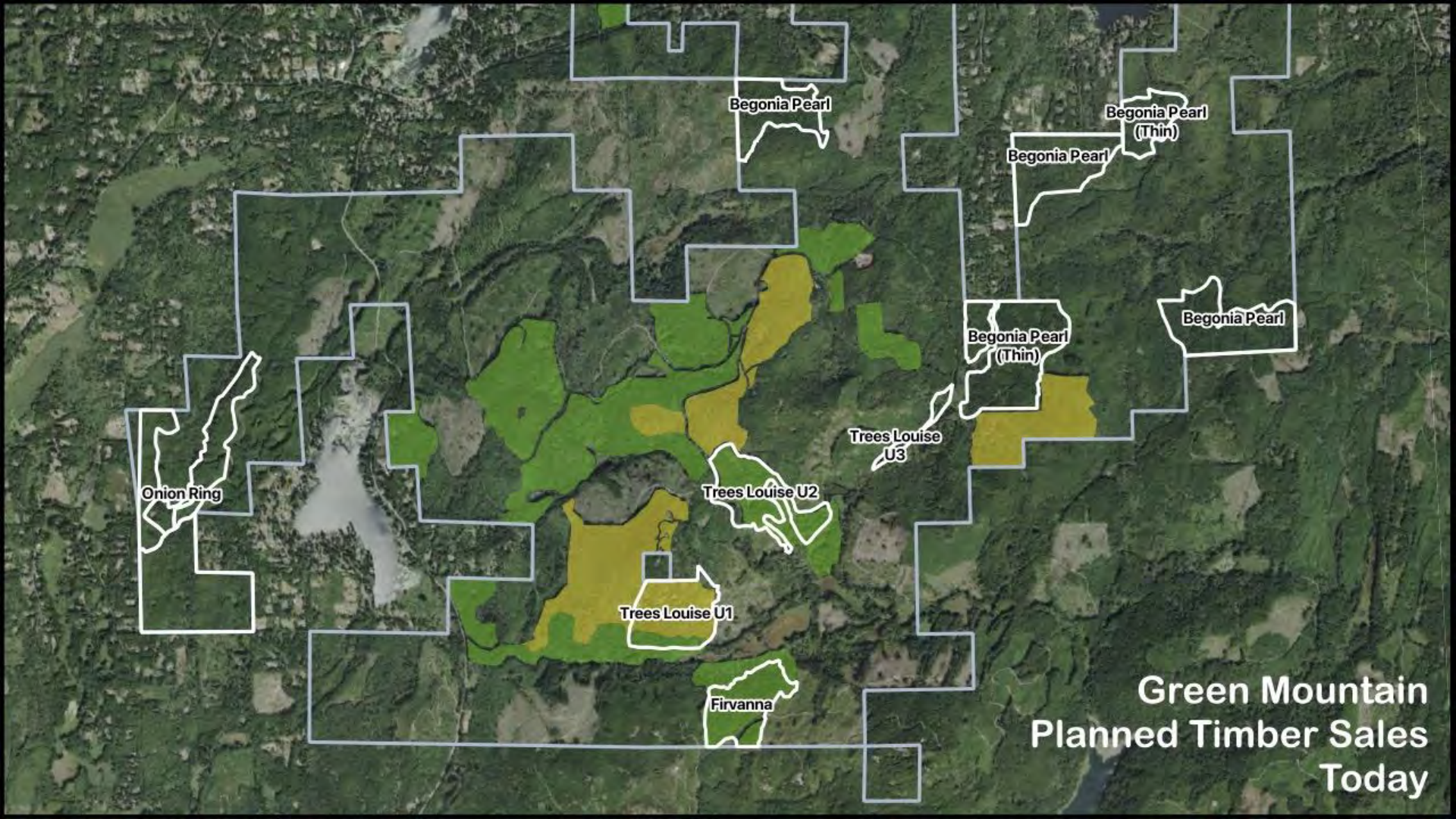
2025 Kitsap NCS Nomination
Beaver Trail Parcel

- 2025 Nomination Areas (147.7 Acres)
- Mature Forests (102.1 Acres)
- Riparian Management Zones
- 2024 NCS Nomination (85.6 Acres)



2025 Kitsap NCS Nomination
Gold Creek (Firvana) Parcel

- Gold Creek NCS Nomination (53.1 Acres)
- Mature Forests (53.1 Acres)
- Riparian Management Zones
- Hiking Trails



Onion Ring

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

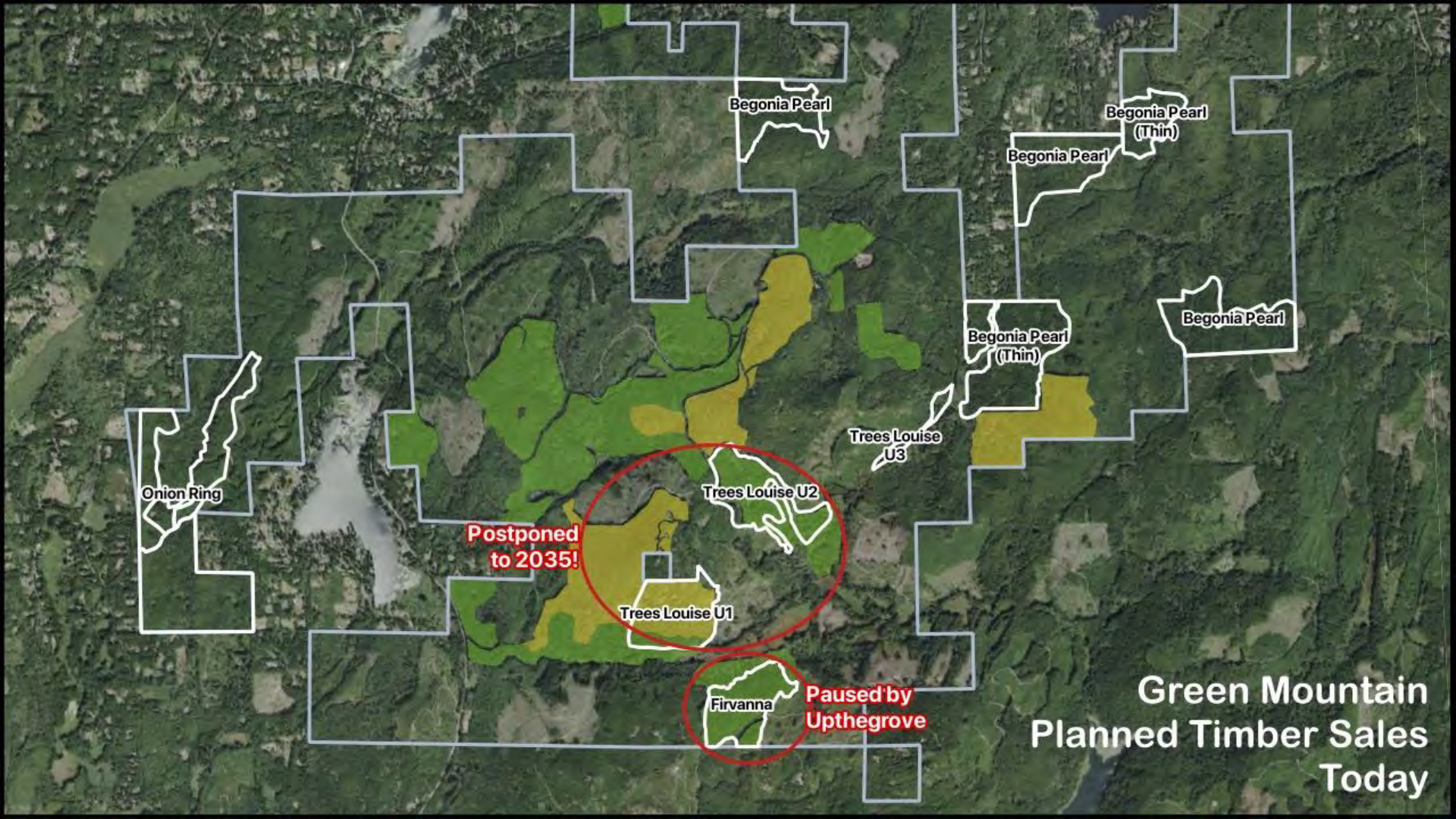
Trees Louise
U3

Trees Louise U2

Trees Louise U1

Firvanna

Green Mountain
Planned Timber Sales
Today



Onion Ring

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

Begonia Pearl
(Thin)

Begonia Pearl

Trees Louise
U3

Trees Louise U2

Postponed
to 2035!

Trees Louise U1

Firvanna

Paused by
Upthegrove

Green Mountain
Planned Timber Sales
Today

Why protect Green Mountain?



More than 150,000 recreationists visit Green Mountain State Forest every year.

Hiking, mountain biking, dirt biking and forest bathing are the most popular activities on the mountain with more specialized users visiting the mountain for rock climbing and horseback riding.



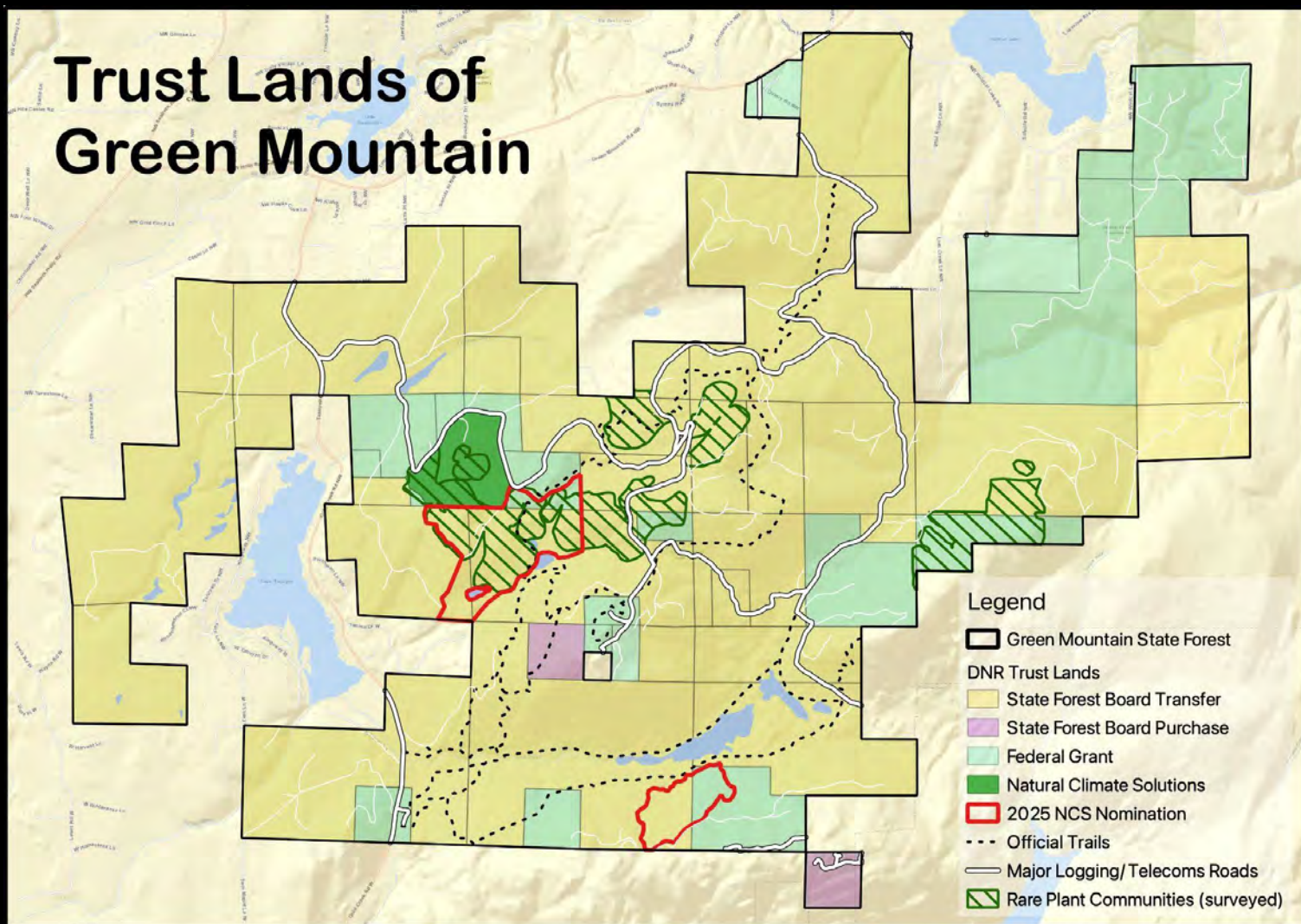


Green Mountain and the surrounding hills are a unique and geologically distinct habitat in the puget lowlands containing:

- Some of the last genetically distinct naturally regenerated mature forests in the county
- 250+ acres of a globally imperiled ecosystems
- A large roadless area on the south slope of Green Mountain
- The only cliff system in the county
- Rare higher-elevation lowland ecosystems
- Tahuya River headwaters, beaver ponds and the lowest summer stream temperatures in the county.
- Some of the most carbon-dense forests in the county
- Vulnerable, rare and old forest dependent species.

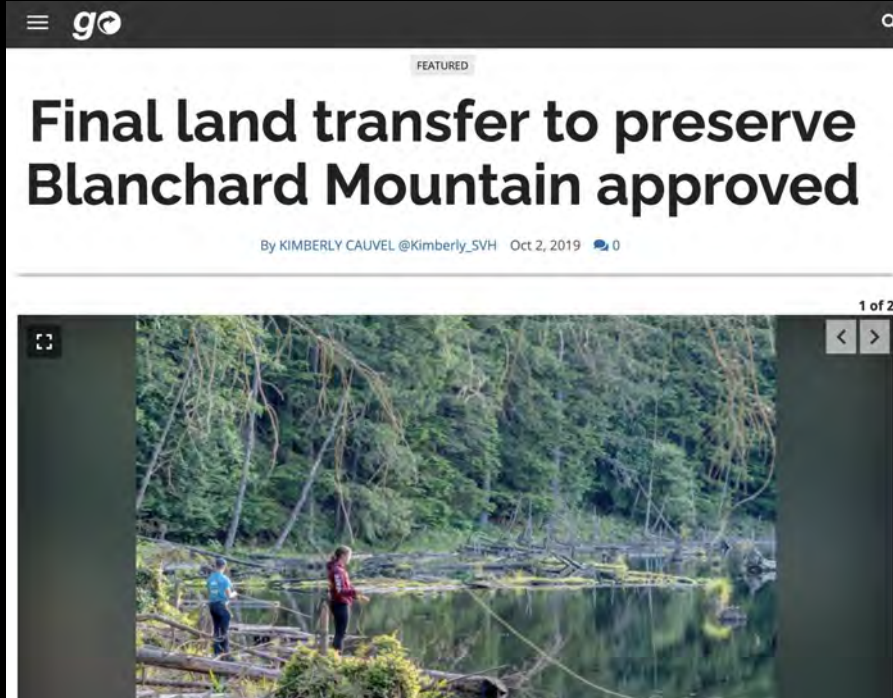


Trust Lands of Green Mountain



Green Mountains' Sister Forests

- Tiger Mountain State Forest
- Blanchard Mountain State Forest



West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area



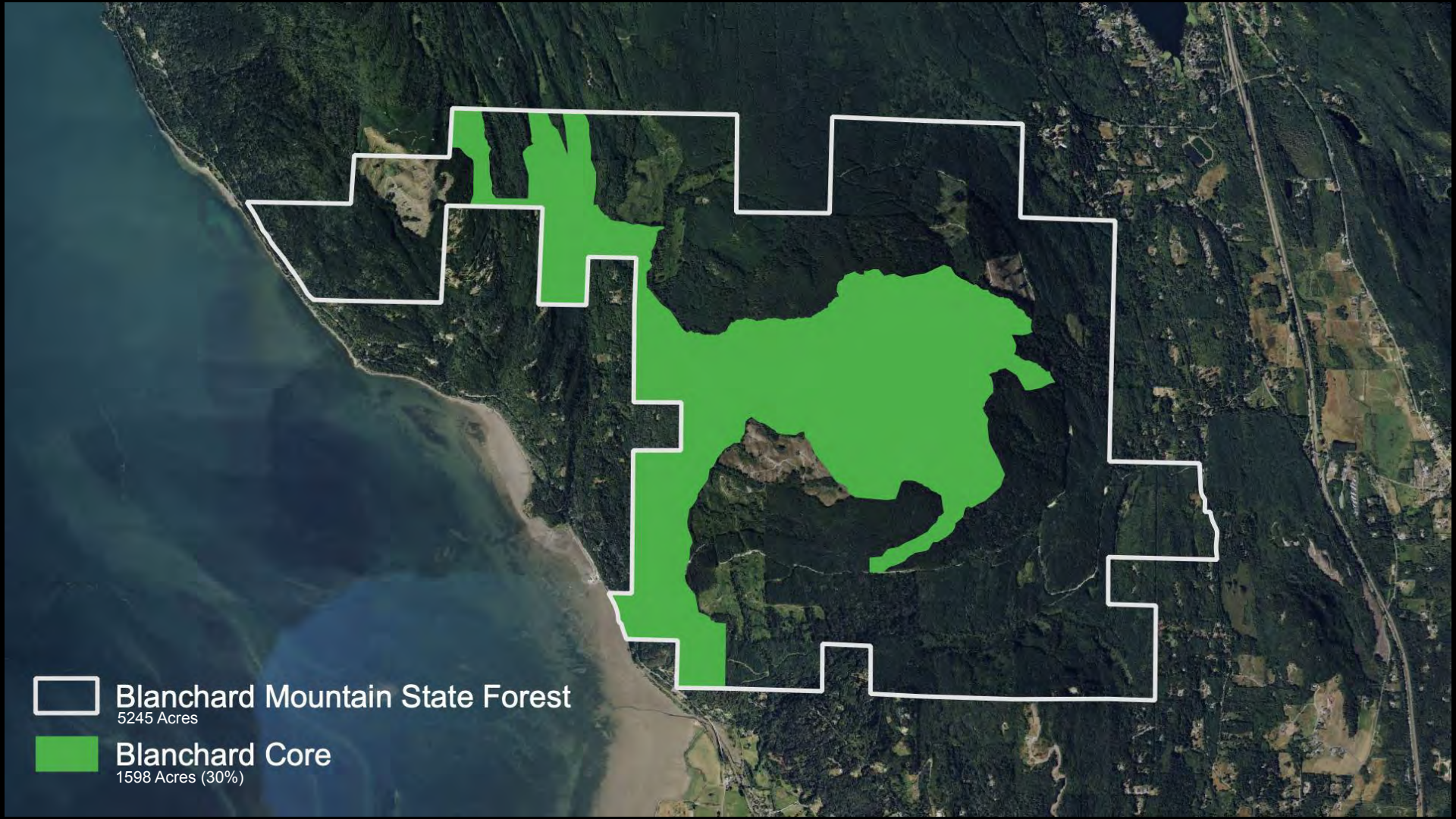
Located in western Washington state, West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCAs) is about 35 miles east of the city of Seattle. The area is part of a chain of Cascade Mountain Range foothills known locally as the "Issaquah Alps," which includes Tiger, Squak, and Cougar Mountains.

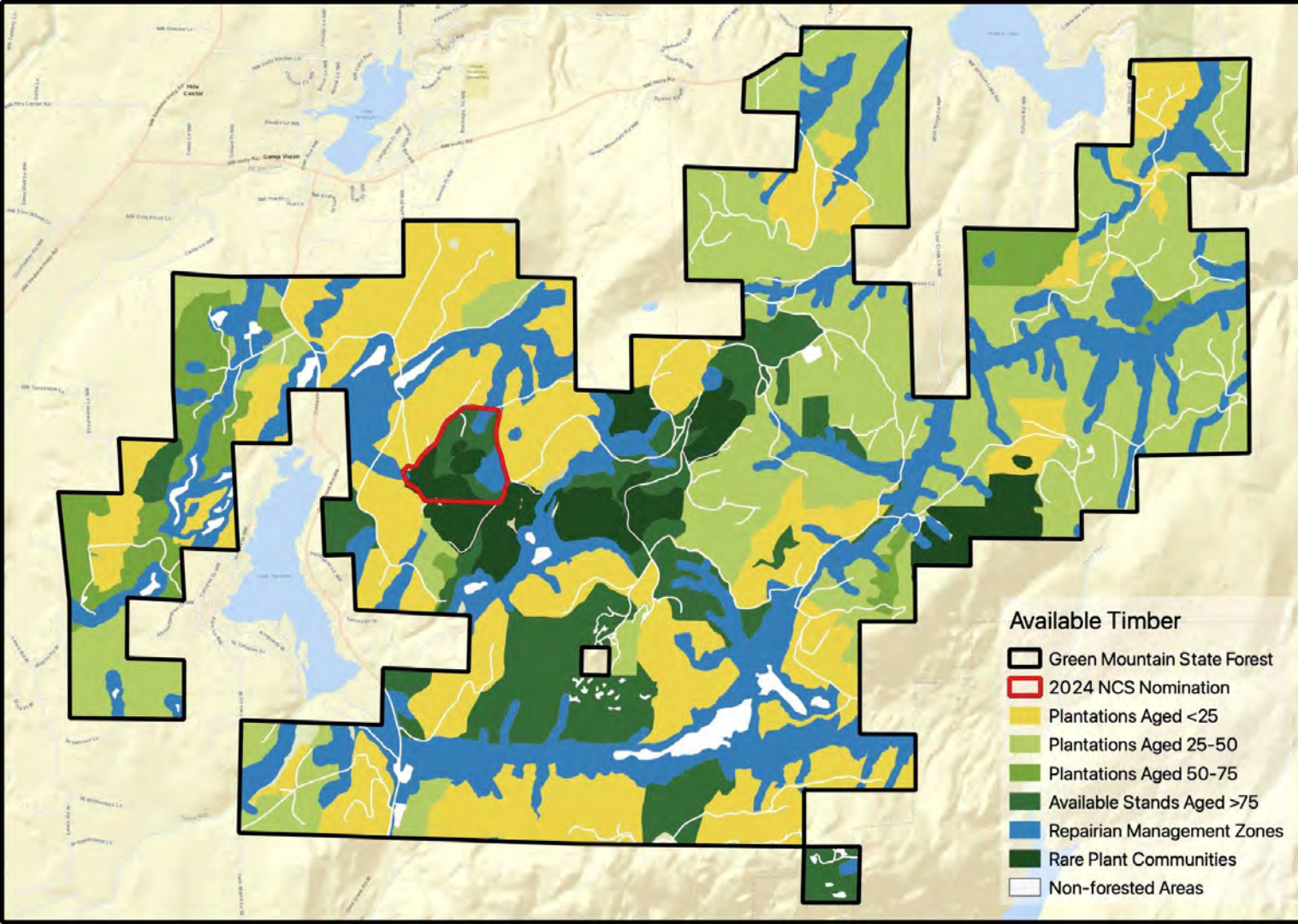


Blanchard Mountain State Forest
5245 Acres

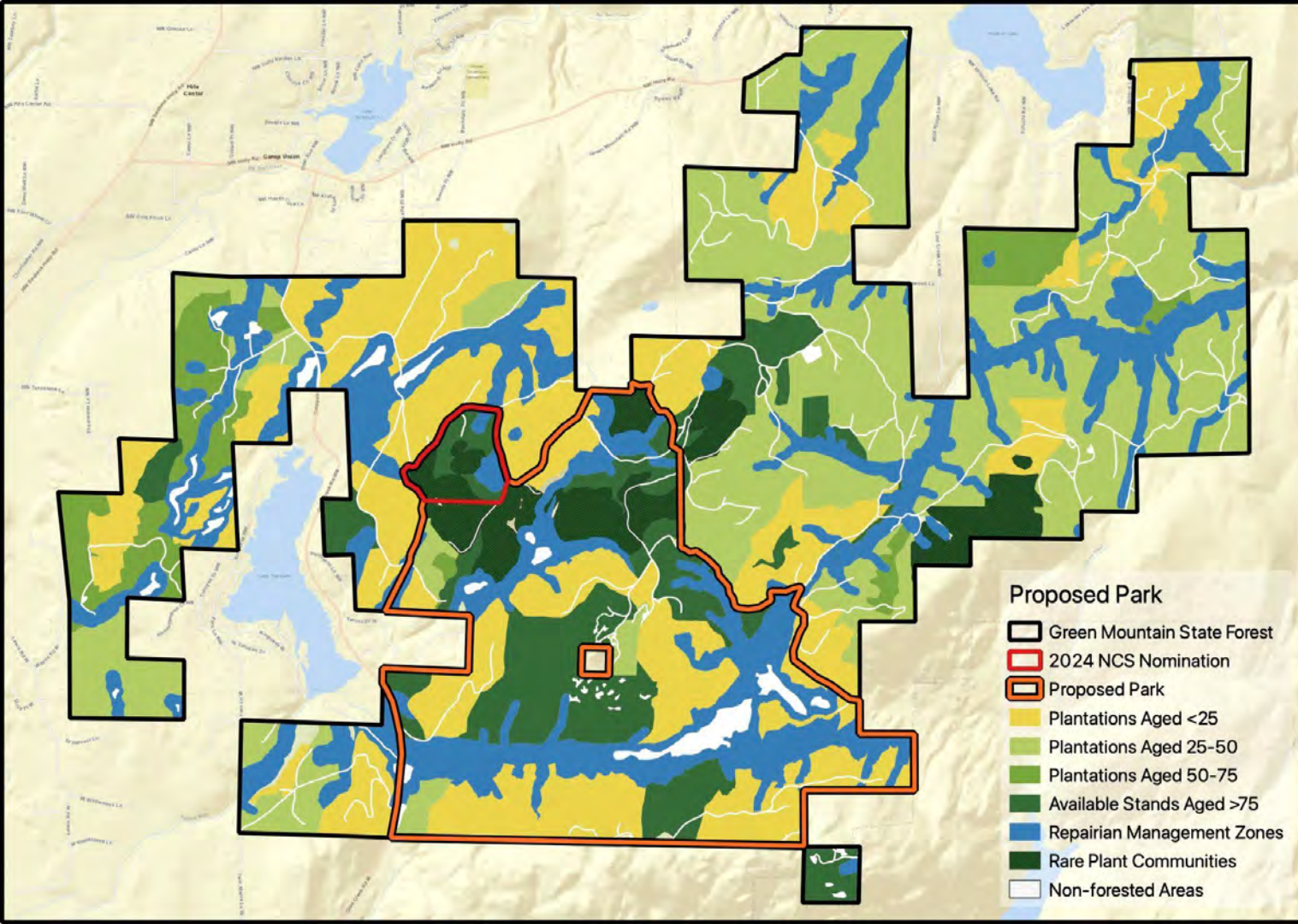


Blanchard Core
1598 Acres (30%)

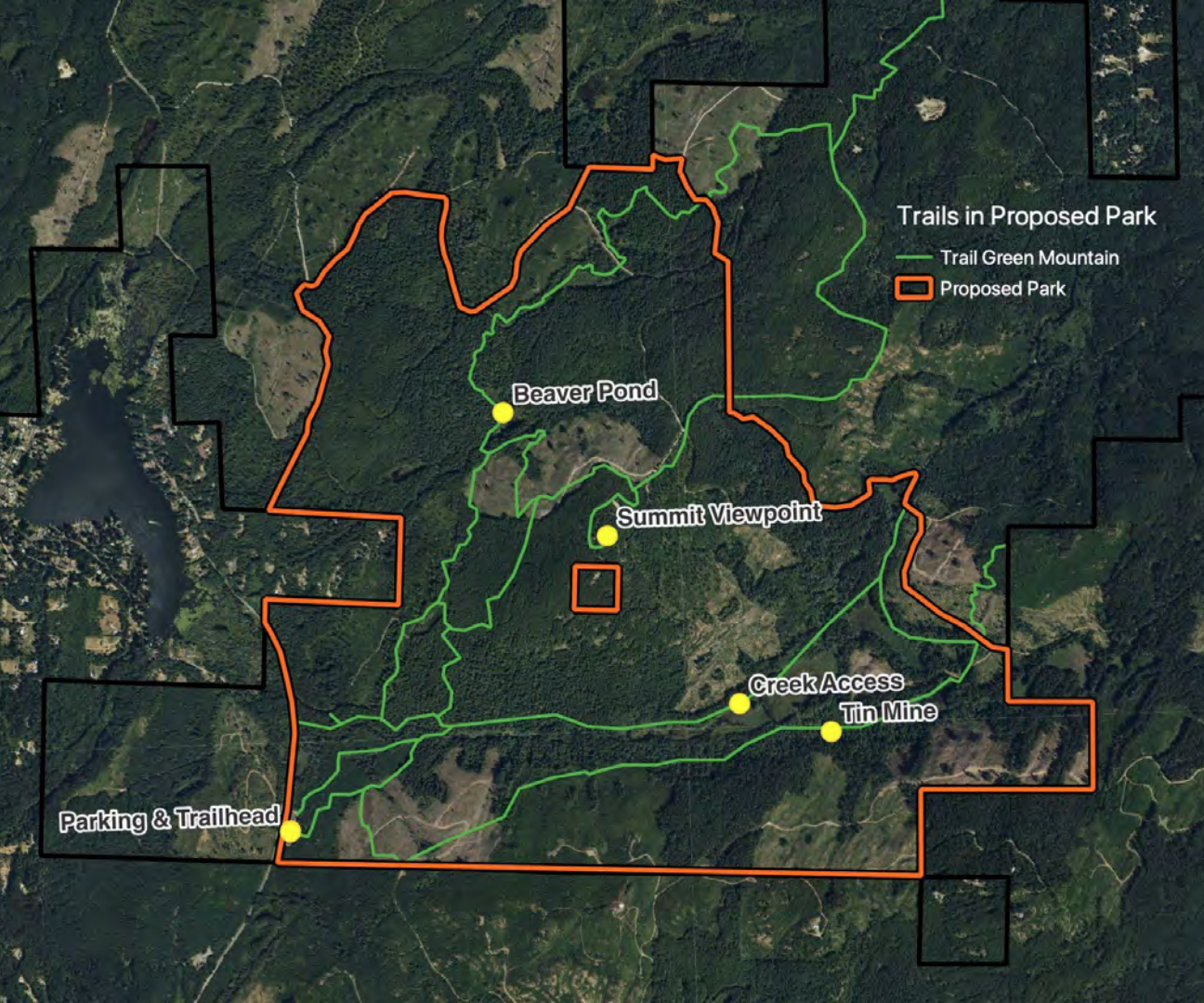




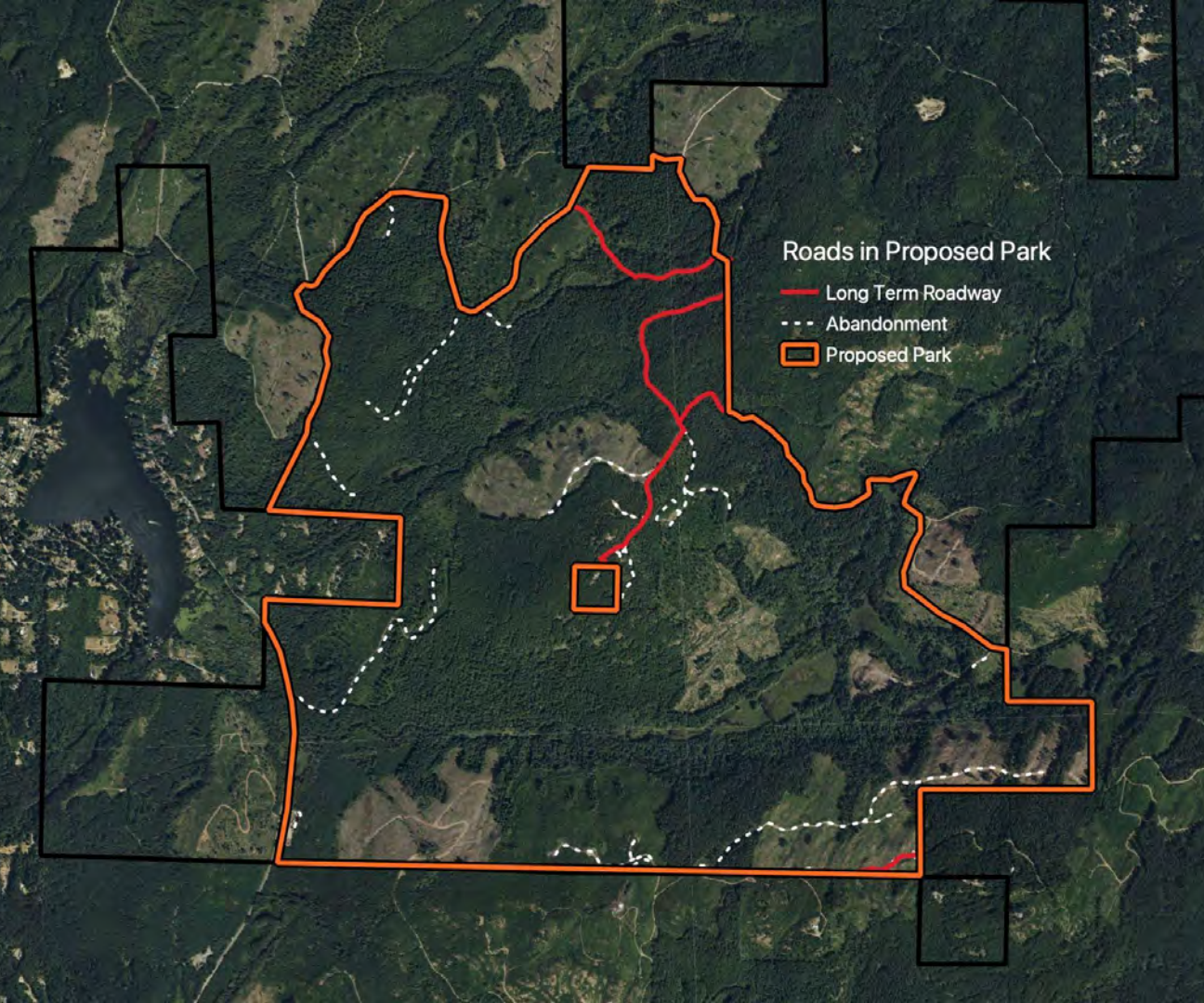
Most naturally regenerated mature forests in Green Mountain State Forest are concentrated in the Gold Creek and Grada Creek drainages with most of the plantation forest occurring in the Chico Creek drainage (right) and the western parts of the state forest (left).



This 1895 acre core area would protect the best remaining mature forests on Green Mountain, as well as high-quality wetlands and imperiled plant communities. It includes recently logged areas that, once restored would serve as connective habitat.



Green Mountain is a recreational hub. The proposal area encompasses the majority of the most popular trails and landmarks in the state forest.



Roads in Proposed Park

- Long Term Roadway
- - - Abandonment
- ▭ Proposed Park

Just 2.1 miles of roadways would intersect the northern part of the proposal area, these roads are needed to access other parts of the state forest and telecommunications infrastructure.

Even with these roads present, this protected area would eventually become one of the county's largest roadless areas.

Mechanisms

- **Trust Land Transfer (TLT):** The existing TLT process requires land to be "economically underperforming" to be removed from the trust, and also require significant investment from the legislature for DNR to purchase replacement lands.
- **Natural Climate Solutions (NCS):** A parcel on Green Mountain is in the process of being protected under the NCS funding mechanism of the CCA. This tool, while valuable for counties with small tax bases that are reliant on timber revenue, is not ideal for creating a larger conservation area on Green Mountain because:
 - This program is reliant on funding from the legislature to purchase replacement lands. At a statewide level this funding is best applied to protecting forests in counties that are dependent on timber revenue.
 - This program is meant specifically for mature forests and does not fund protection of connective areas.
- **Reconveyance:** Kitsap County, as trust beneficiary has the ability to reconvey the majority of Green Mountain State Forest to manage as a county park. Reconveyance requires an ownership transfer from DNR to the county, which is impractical in the case of Green Mountain given that it is situated in a larger landscape of DNR managed forests.
- **A new mechanism?** With permission from the legislature Kitsap County could reconvey trust lands into the NCS program as part of the counties climate action strategy and 30 by 30 commitment. These lands would remain in DNR ownership as a protected core area while allowing for continued timber management of the surrounding state forest.

An aerial photograph of a large, forested mountain. The mountain is covered in dense green coniferous trees. At the very peak, a tall, thin radio tower is visible against the sky. The mountain slopes down on both sides, with some areas showing signs of logging or clearing. In the background, a valley with a winding river or road and distant hills can be seen under a partly cloudy sky.

Thank you!