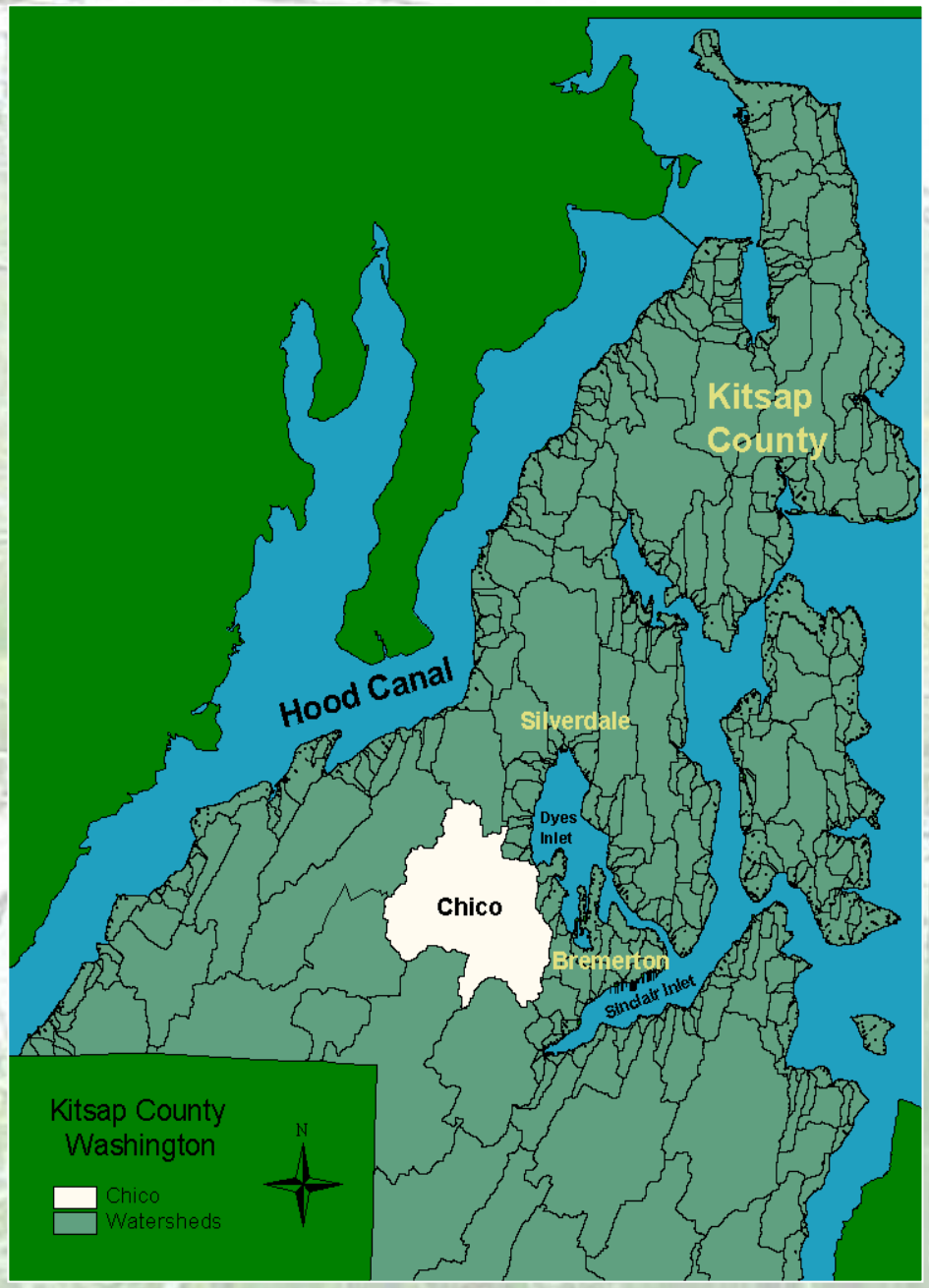
Chico Watershed Alternative Futures: Planning for Biodiversity

Kitsap County, Washington



Chico Watershed Planning Project

- Drains 16.3 square miles of land
- Four tributary streams
- Two lakes
- Drains 68 miles of streams – 17 of which provide critical salmon habitat
- Home to Kitsap's largest salmon run
- 70% is forested

Watershed Planning – The Big Picture

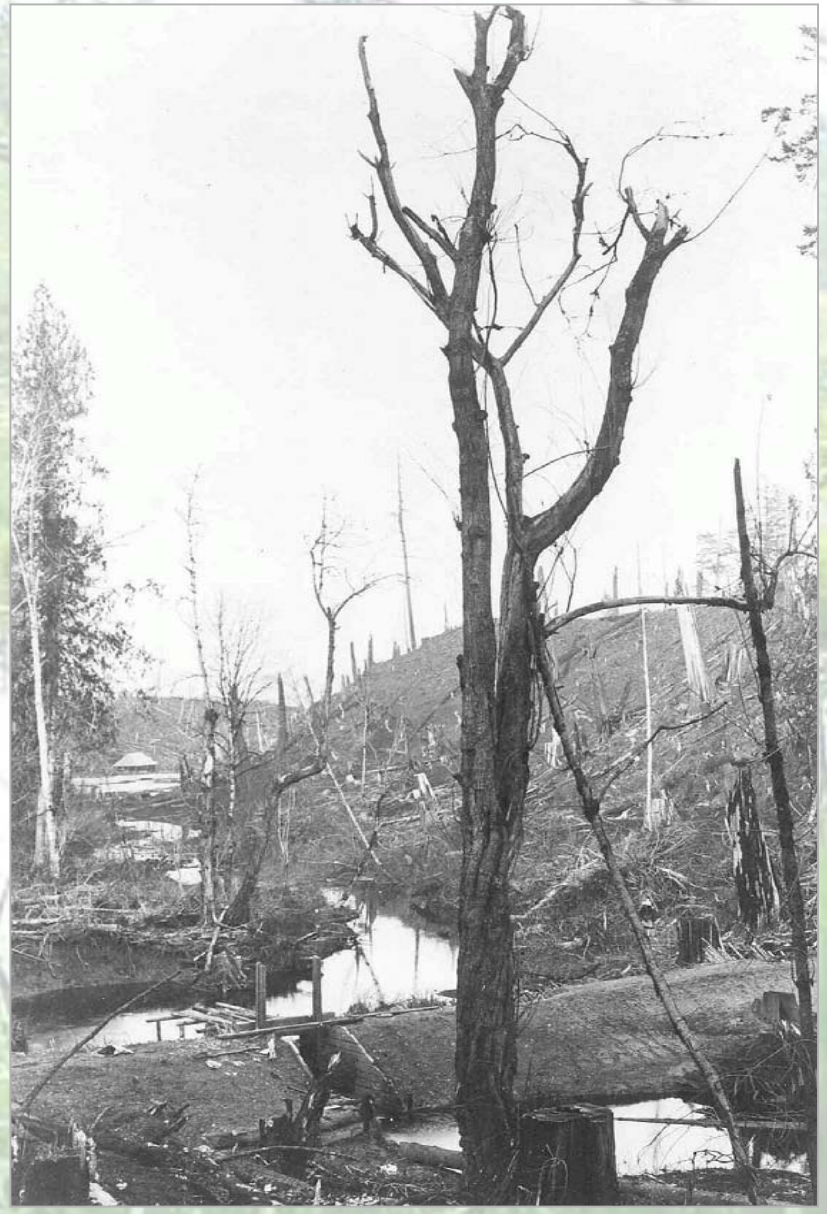
- Alternative Futures: a way to assess relationship between human activities and changes in the natural environment. A future based on *protection*, and designed around a *vision* articulated by citizens of the watershed

- SubArea Planning: comprehensive, collaborative; focused not on political boundary but on natural topography of the land.

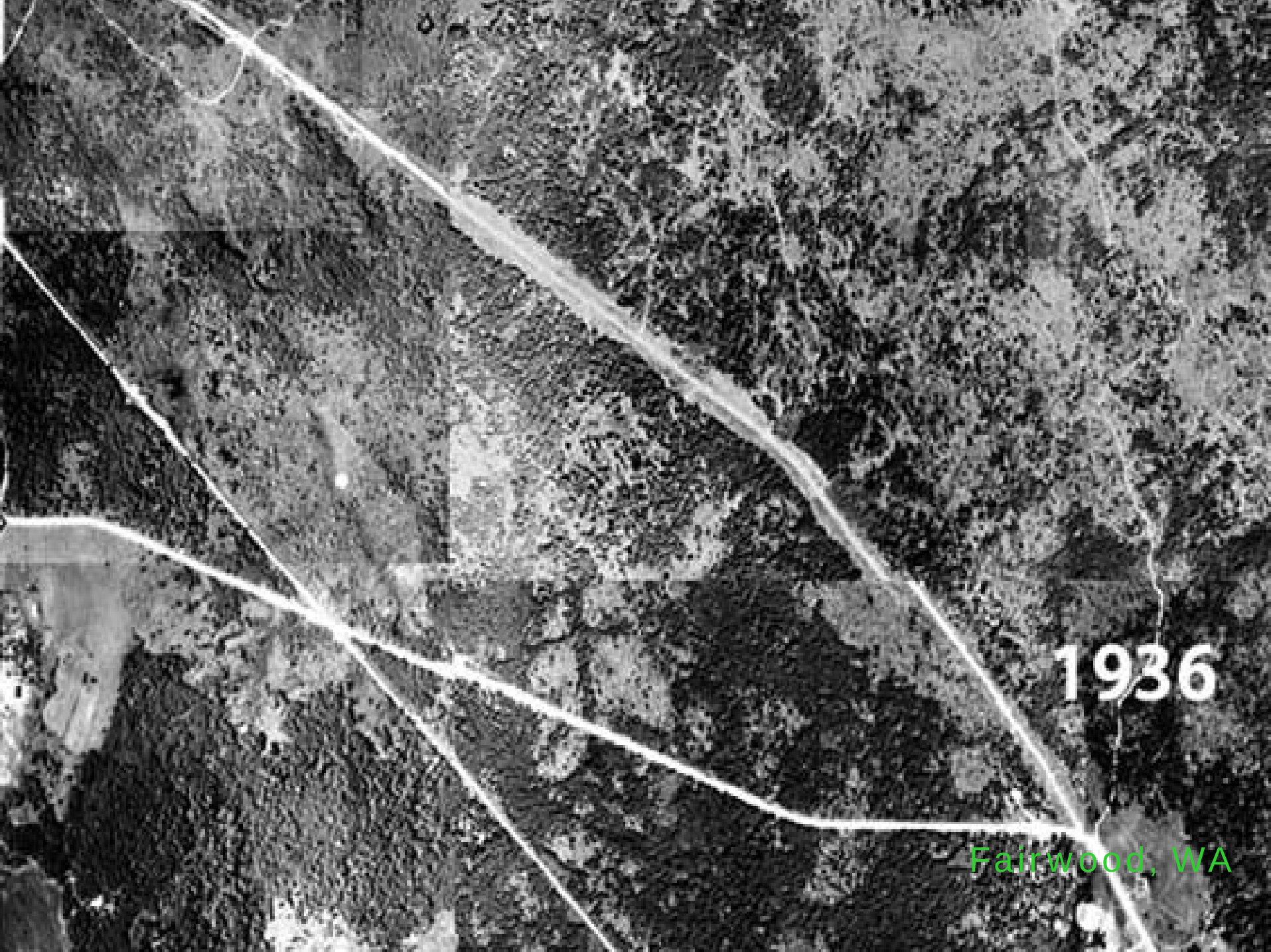
Keys to a Collaborative Effort

- Education & Outreach Program
- Informed Watershed Advisory Group
- Diversity of backgrounds, areas of interest
- Documented Plan
- Clear Vision for Next Steps
- A time for compromise, a time for consensus

Watershed Academy



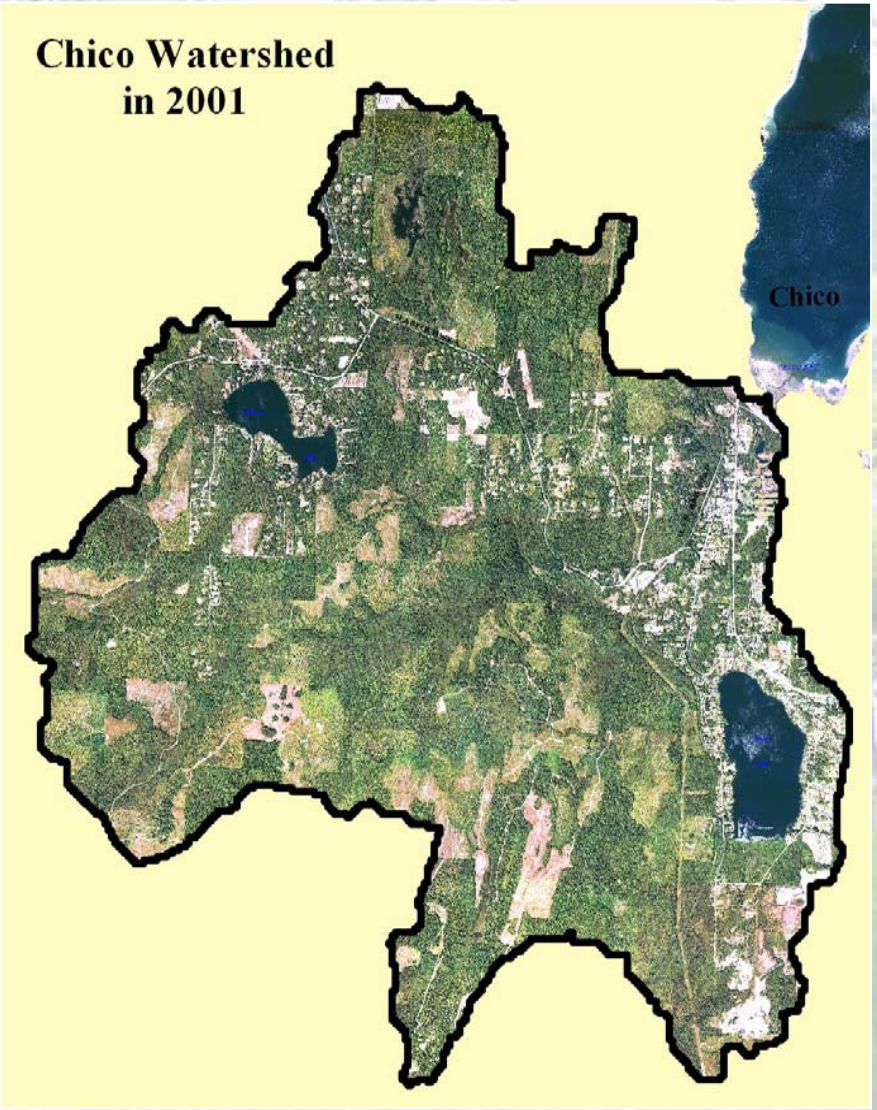
- Hydrology and watershed function
- Soils and vegetation
- Surface water and groundwater
- Water quality and quantity
- Wildlife, Ecosystems and ESA
- Planning 101 Short Course
- Low Impact Development and Smart Growth
- Introduction to Alternative Futures
- Watershed Tour


1936
Fairwood, WA

1970

1996

Watershed Academy



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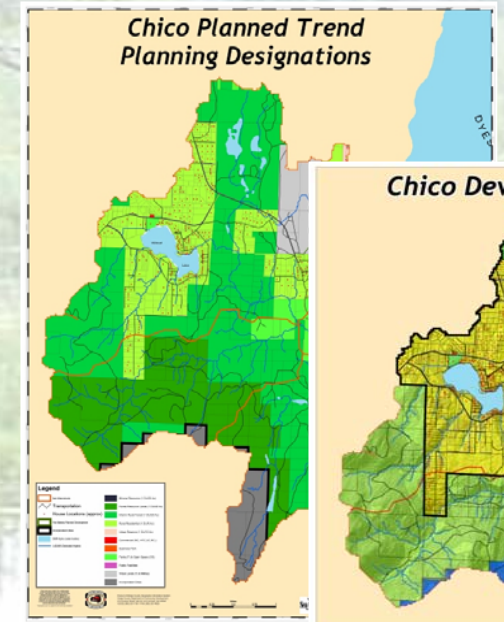
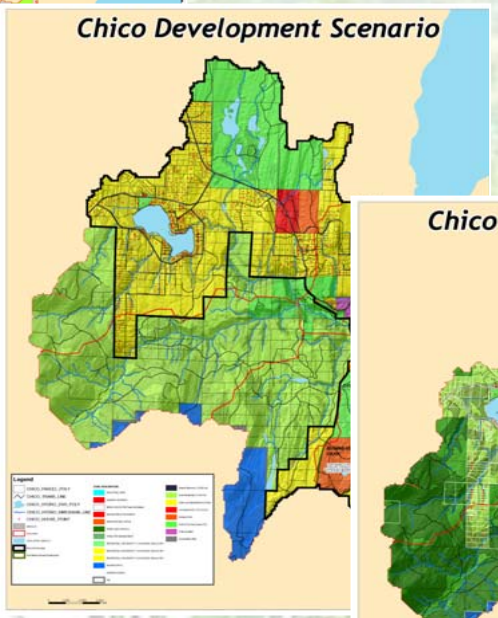
Watershed Advisory Committee

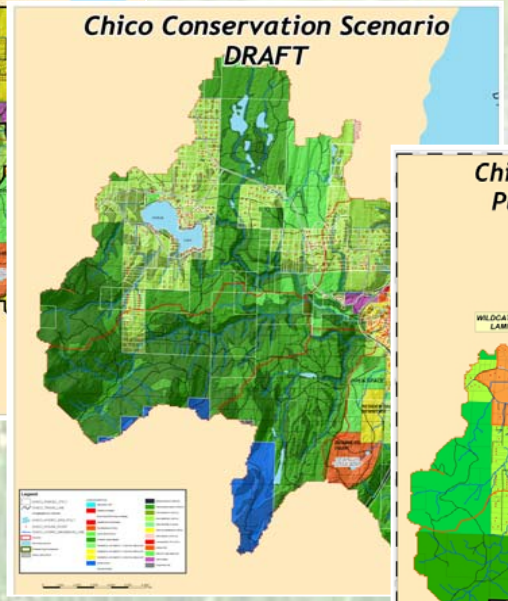
- Membership based on required attendance of watershed academy
- Citizens
- Suquamish Tribe
- Port Blakely Communities
- Great Peninsula Conservancy
- Kitsap Alliance of Property Owners
- Mountaineer Foundation
- City of Bremerton

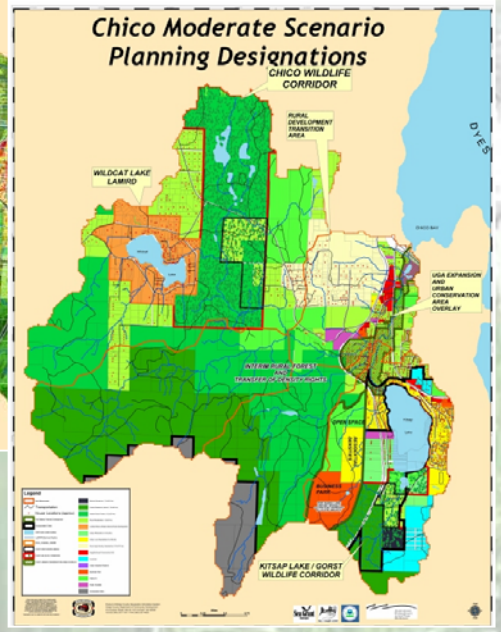
- 11 meetings during Fall and Winter 2002
- Mission: uncover opportunities and implications of various levels of conservation and development

The Four Futures



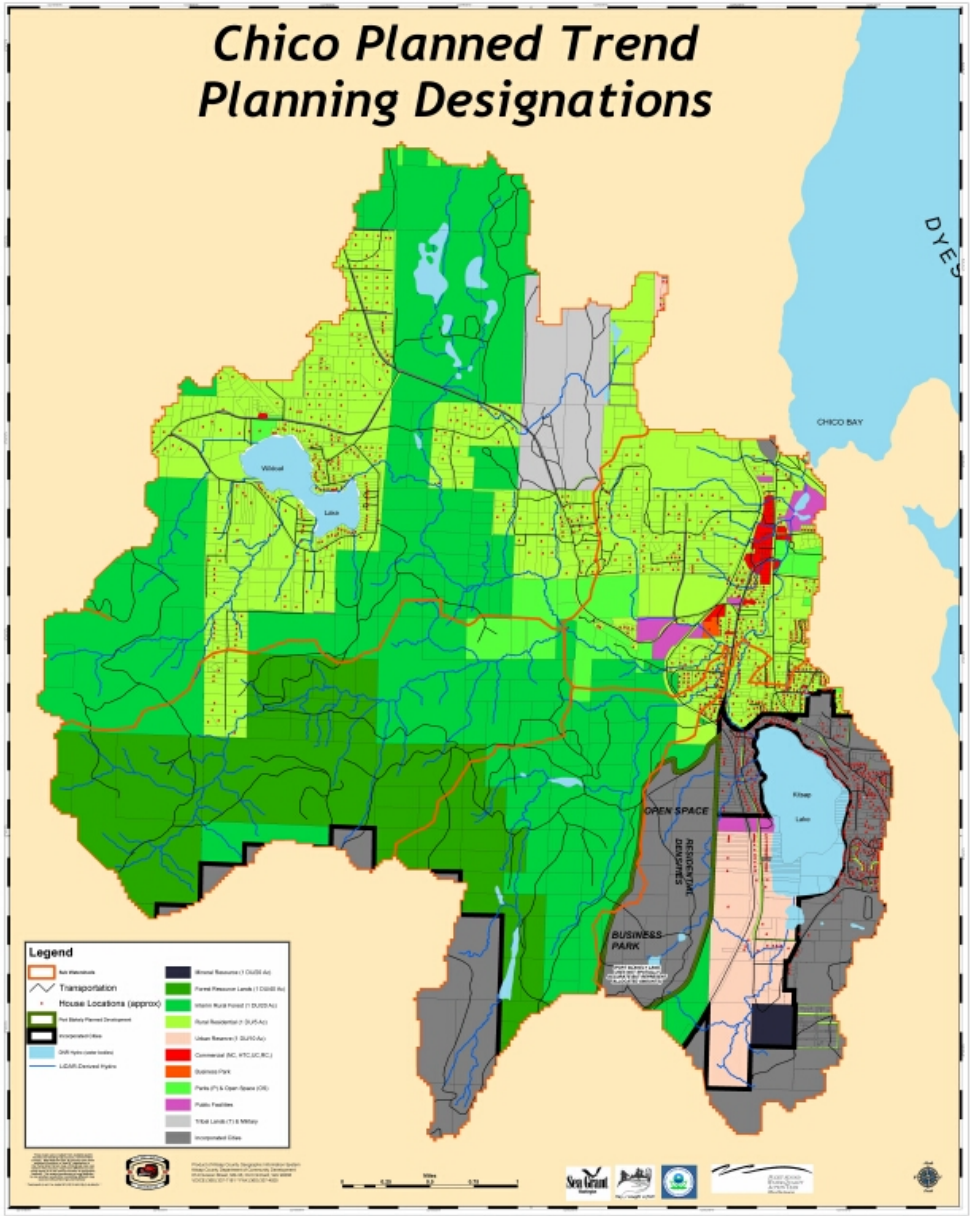






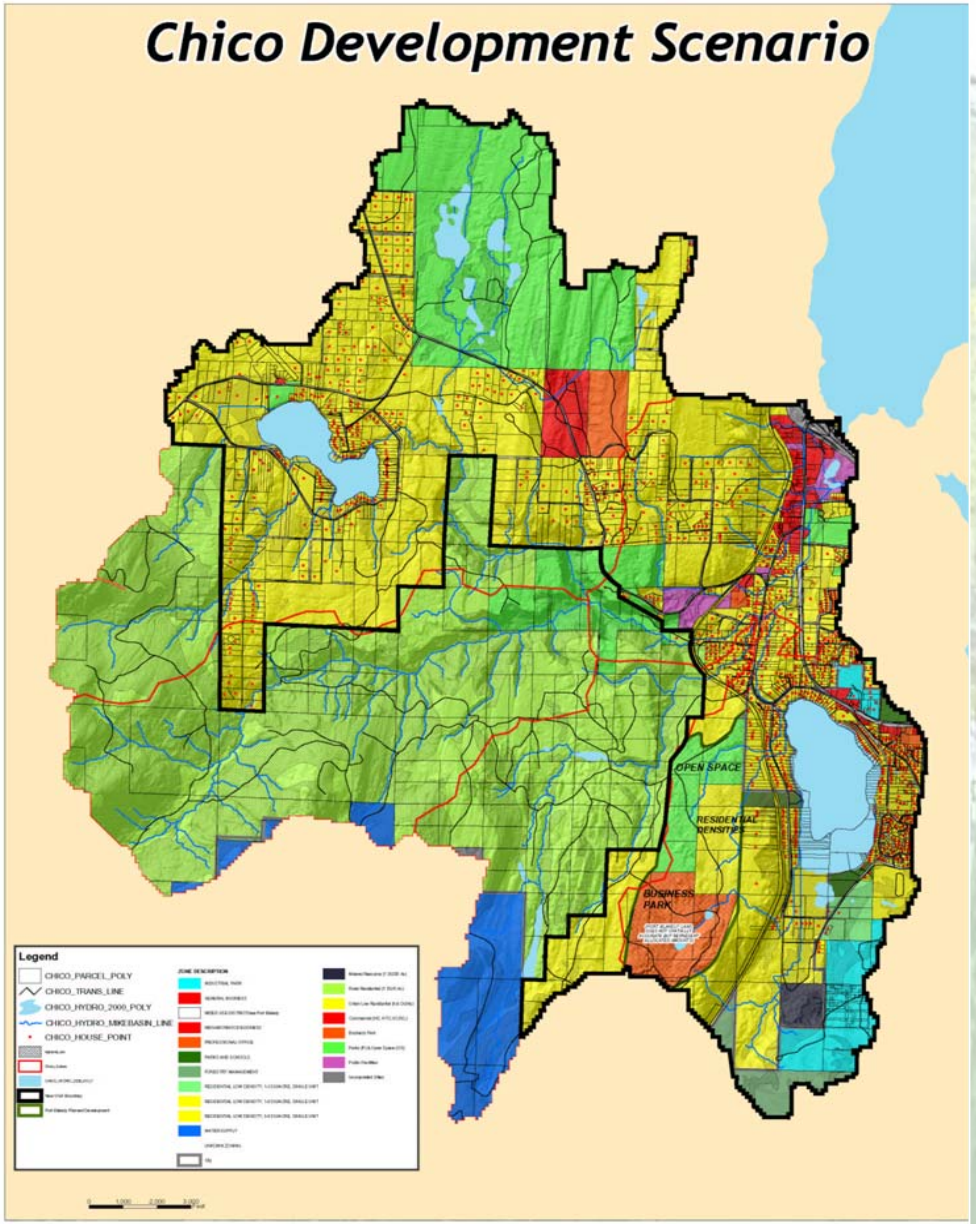
- Consider the possibilities
- Evaluate the impacts
- Identify the Issues
- Make Recommendations for SubArea Planning

Alternative Scenarios



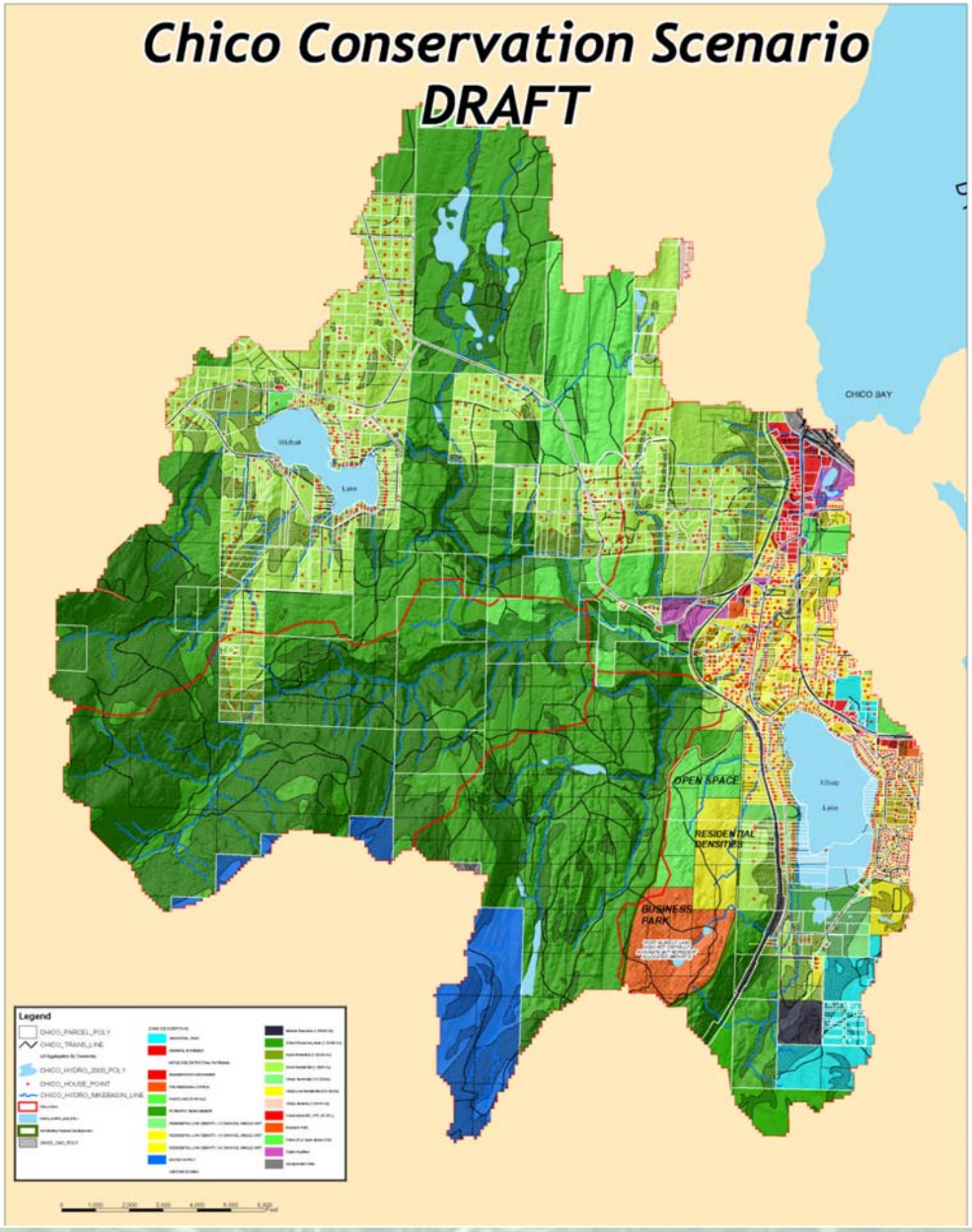
- Assumes full build out of Comp Plan designations
- Illustrates impacts of existing regulations
- “Baseline” Scenario used to generate and modify other alternatives

Alternative Scenarios



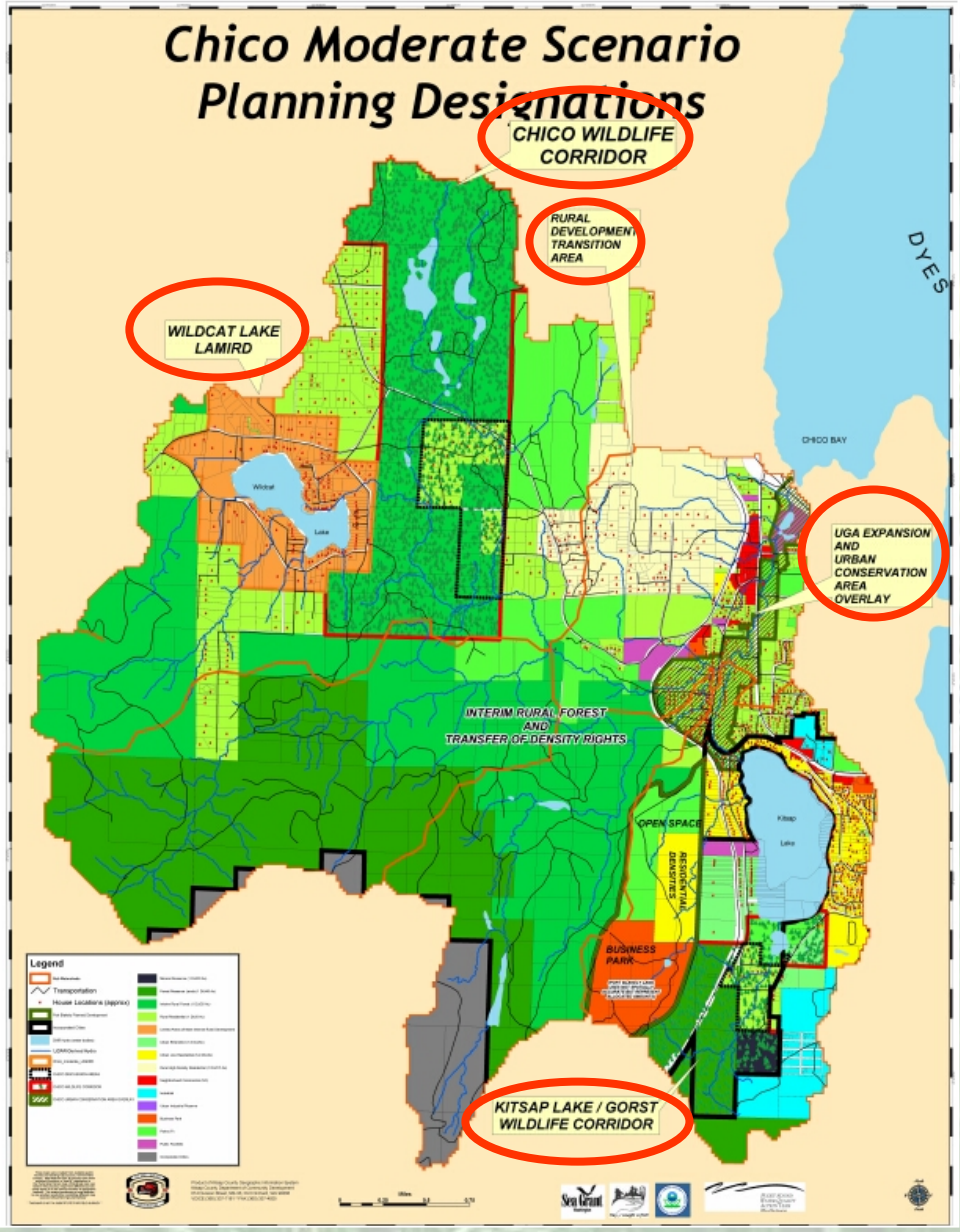
- Most aggressive urban and rural growth
- Expanded UGA
- Rezones forest lands as “rural residential” (1 unit – 5 acres)
- Increased densities
- Expanded commercial area
- Lenient environmental protection (buffer widths)
- Considered extreme and not a reasonable future for the watershed

Alternative Scenarios



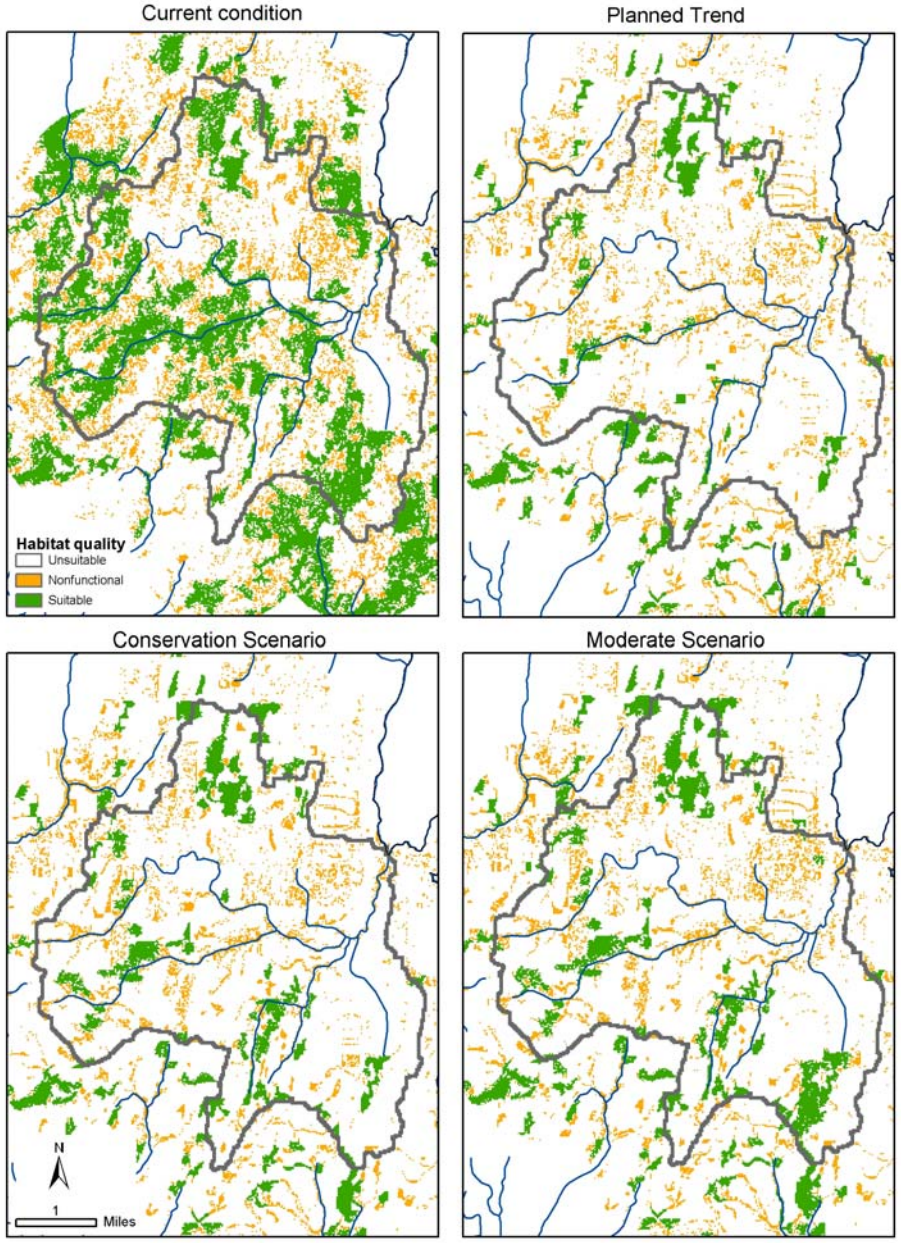
- Minimizes impacts by reducing amount of future development
- Concentrates development in areas least sensitive to land use changes
- Aggregation of contiguous undeveloped lots
- Transfer and Purchase of Development Rights concepts explored
- Provisions and incentives for property owners
- Considered extreme and not a reasonable future for the watershed

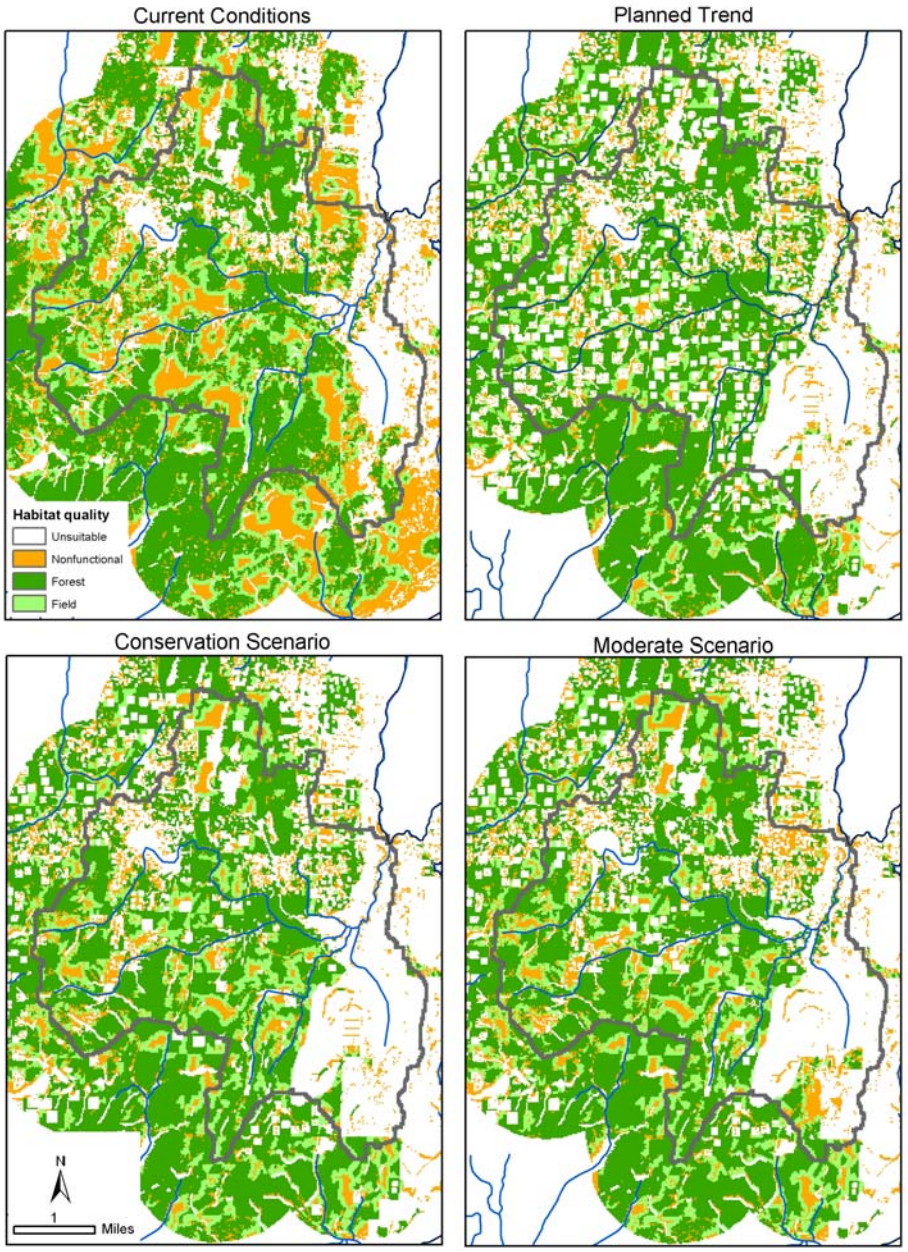
Alternative Scenarios



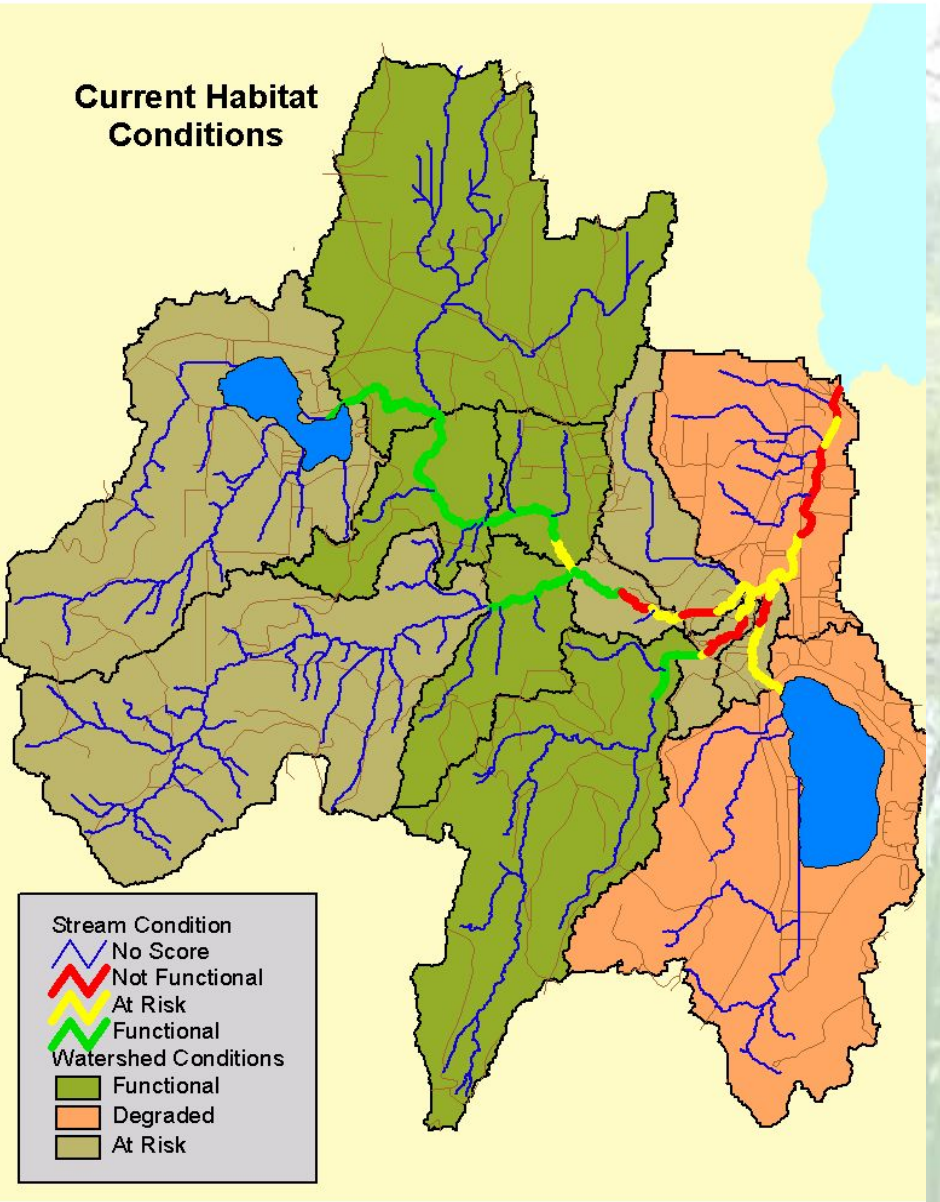
- Balances need for protecting natural environment while recognizing that some level of development will occur over time
- Allows for growth in areas able to best accommodate it
- Low Impact Development standards encouraged
- 5 Major Planning Areas
- Recommended as baseline for SubArea Plan

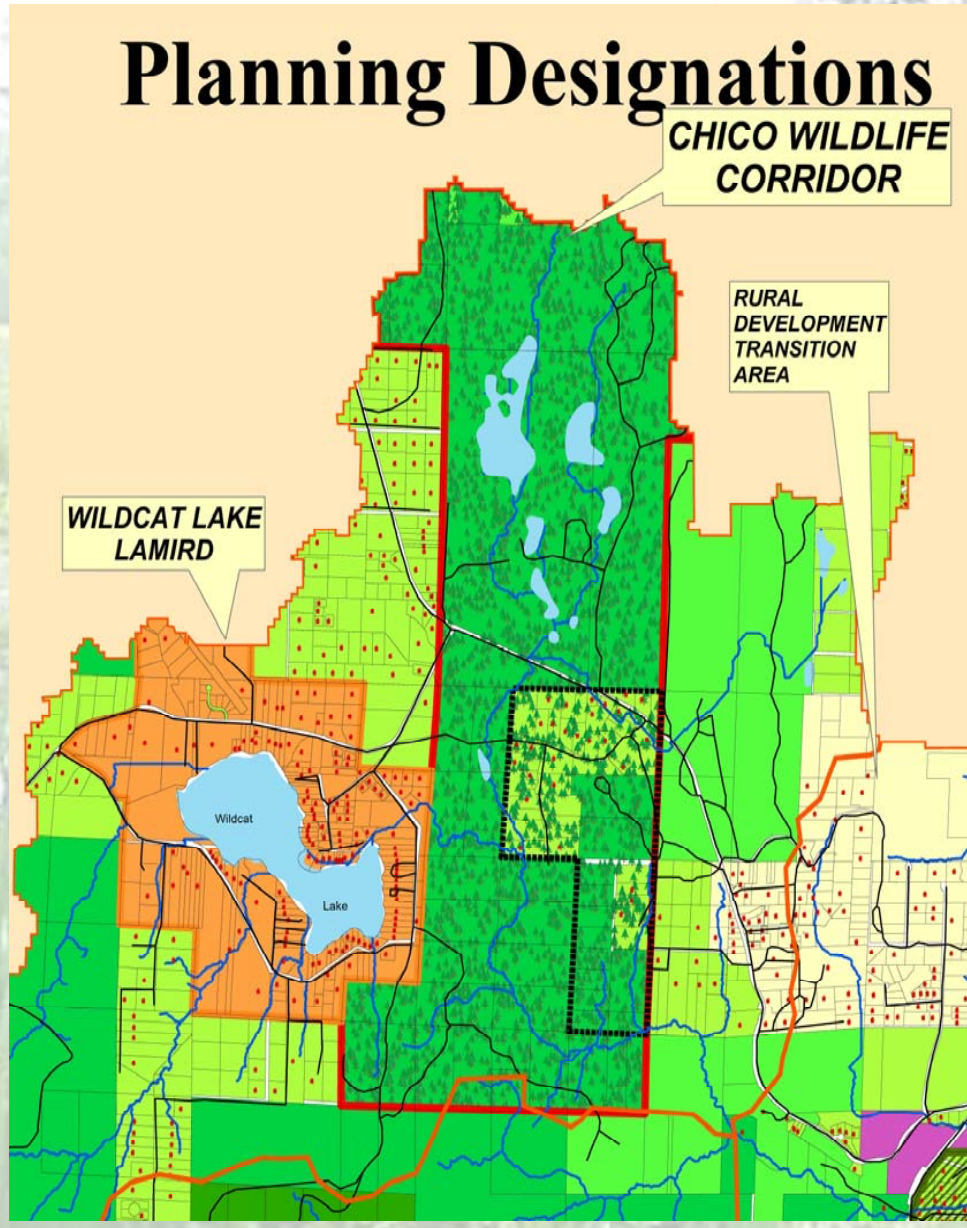
Wildlife Habitat



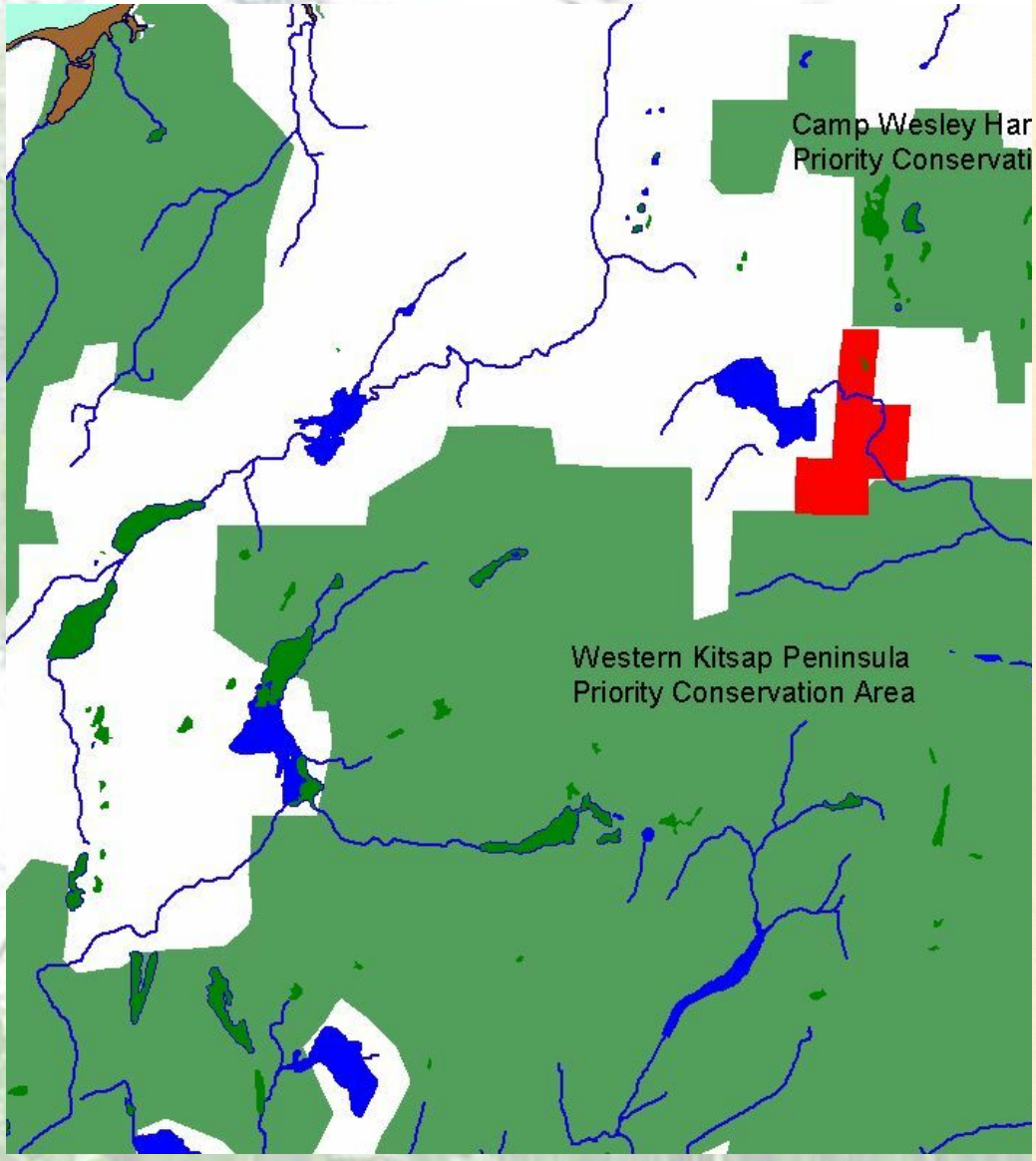


Salmon Habitat





Habitat Acquisition



THE SUN

March 24, 2004

OURVIEWS

Pulling together forestland

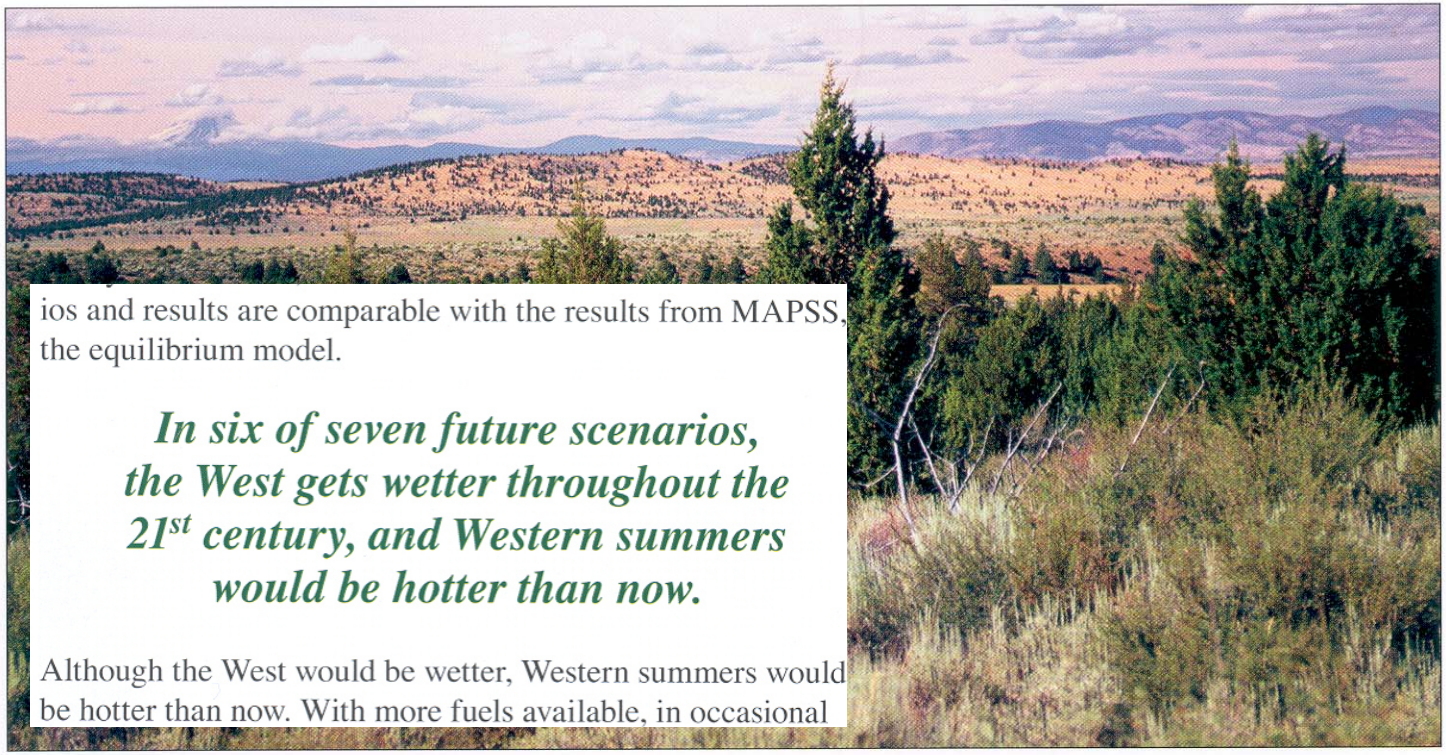
Kitsap County commissioners' 623-acre purchase this week was prime forestland — and a prime example of how government and private entities can effectively work together for the common good.

At their meeting Monday, commissioners unanimously approved the $2.2 million land purchase from Port Blakely Tree Farms. The purchase will help preserve the rural landscape and salmon habitat, protect an important wildlife corridor between forestlands, and provide outdoor recreation for the public.

Pacific Northwest Research Station

Science Update

WESTERN FORESTS, FIRE RISK, AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ios and results are comparable with the results from MAPSS, the equilibrium model.

In six of seven future scenarios, the West gets wetter throughout the 21st century, and Western summers would be hotter than now.

Although the West would be wetter, Western summers would be hotter than now. With more fuels available, in occasional

Thanks for visiting the Chico Watershed

Washington Department of FISH AND WILDLIFE

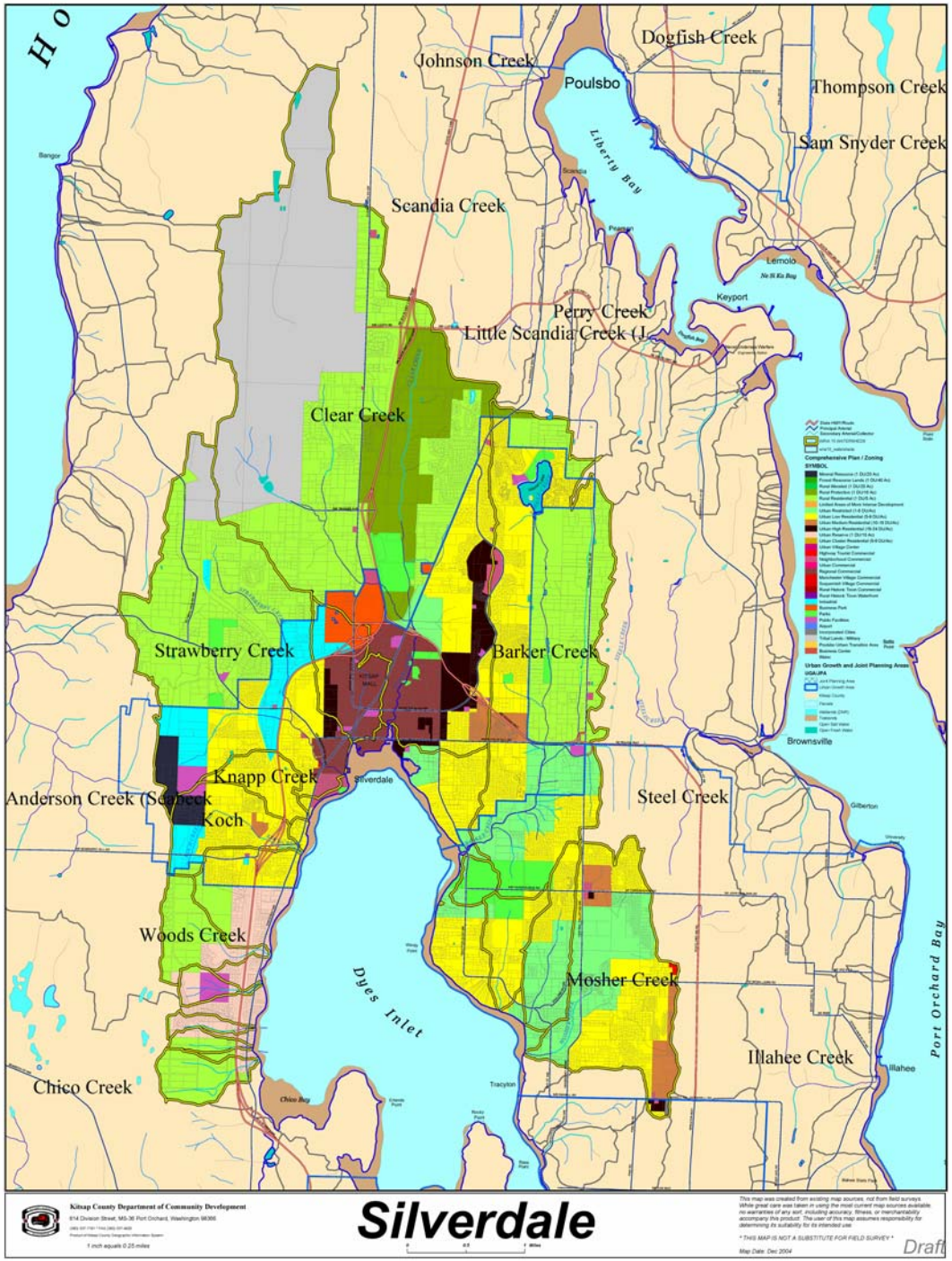
KITSAP COUNTY 18 57 WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sea Grant Washington

PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM
Office of the Governor

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



What's Next?

- Silverdale Community Plan
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Watershed Subcommittee Alternatives
- Community Planning Integration