





DNR's Proposed Expansion for Dabob Bay Natural Area

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Jayana Marshall
Presentation to Jefferson County Commissioners

May 28, 2024

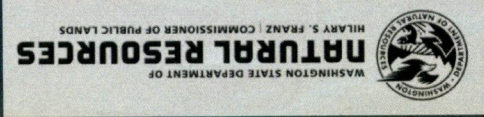


Photo by Keith Lazelle Nature Photography

Agenda

- Background
- DNR's Proposal
- Public Process
- Questions



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Background



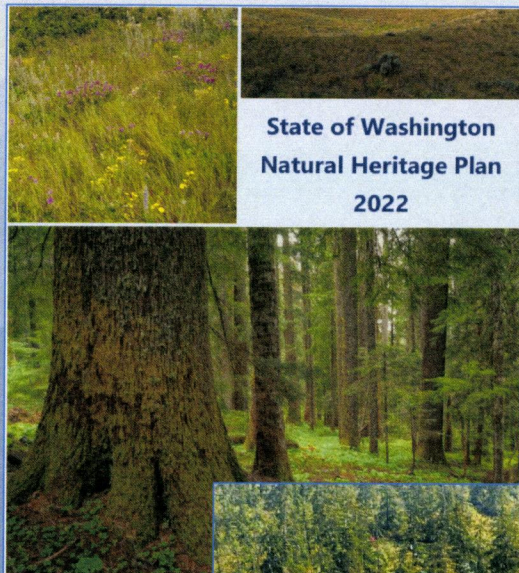
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Natural Areas Preserves

RCW 79.70



State of Washington
Natural Heritage Plan
2022

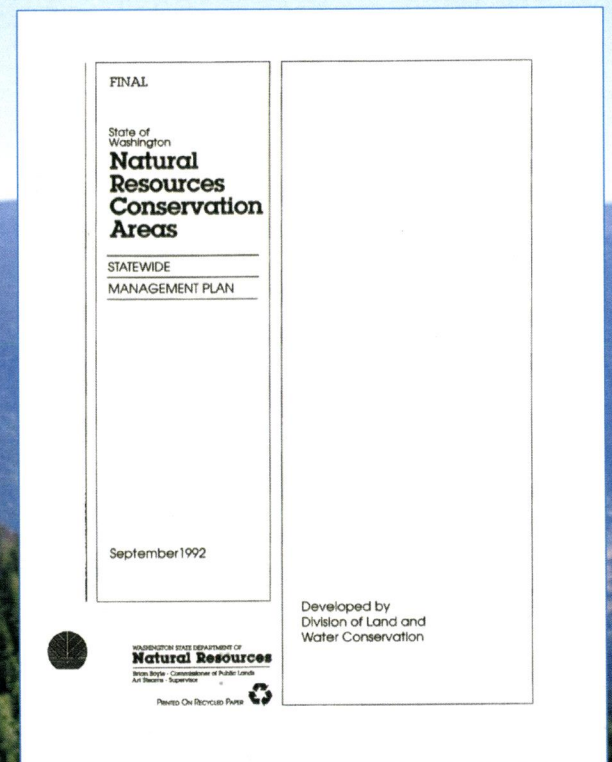
“The purpose is to establish a statewide system of natural area preserves and a means whereby the preservation of these aquatic and land areas can be accomplished.”

RCW 79.70.010

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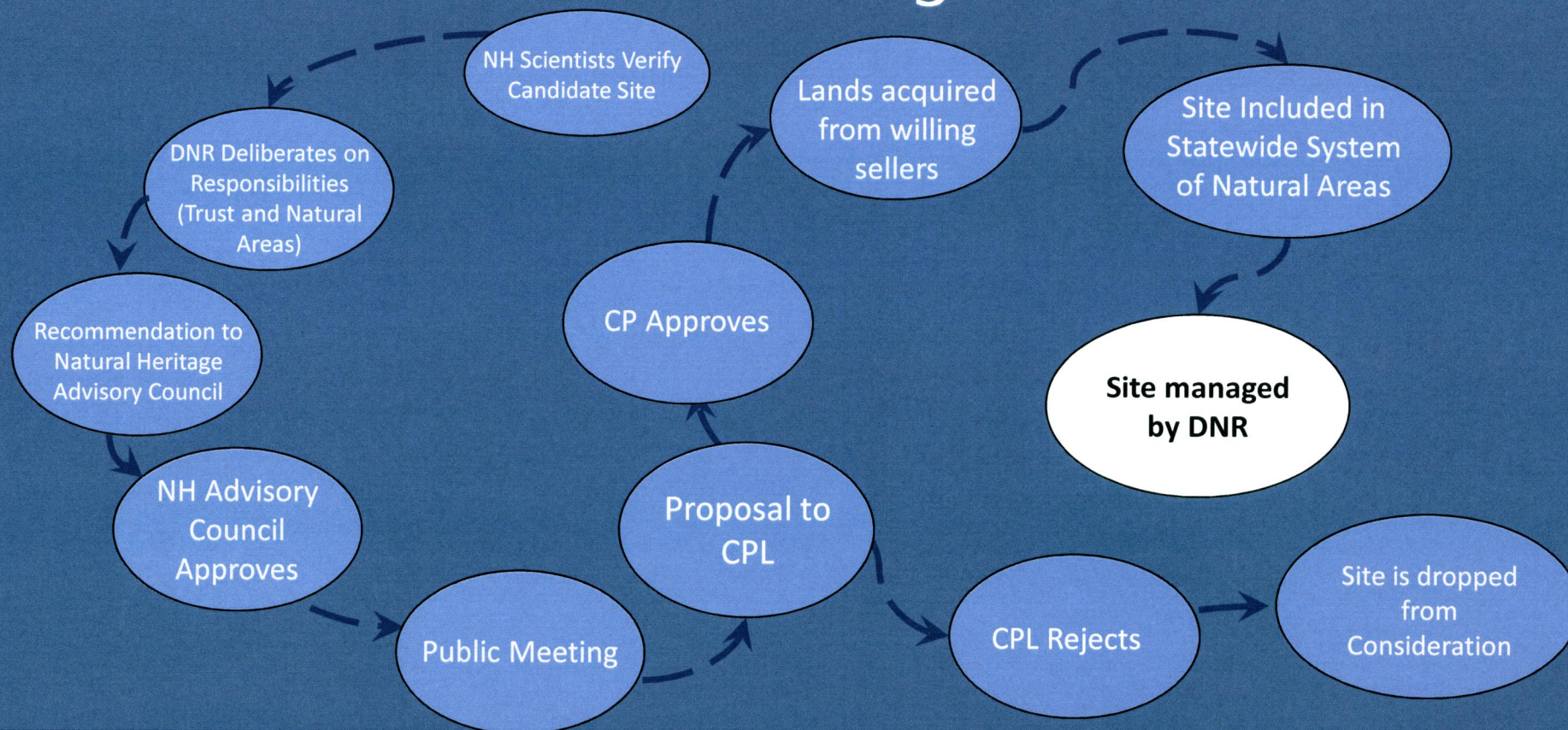
Washington Natural Resource Conservation Areas RCW 79.71

Lands identified as having high priority
for conservation and low-impact public
use value (RCW 79.71.020)

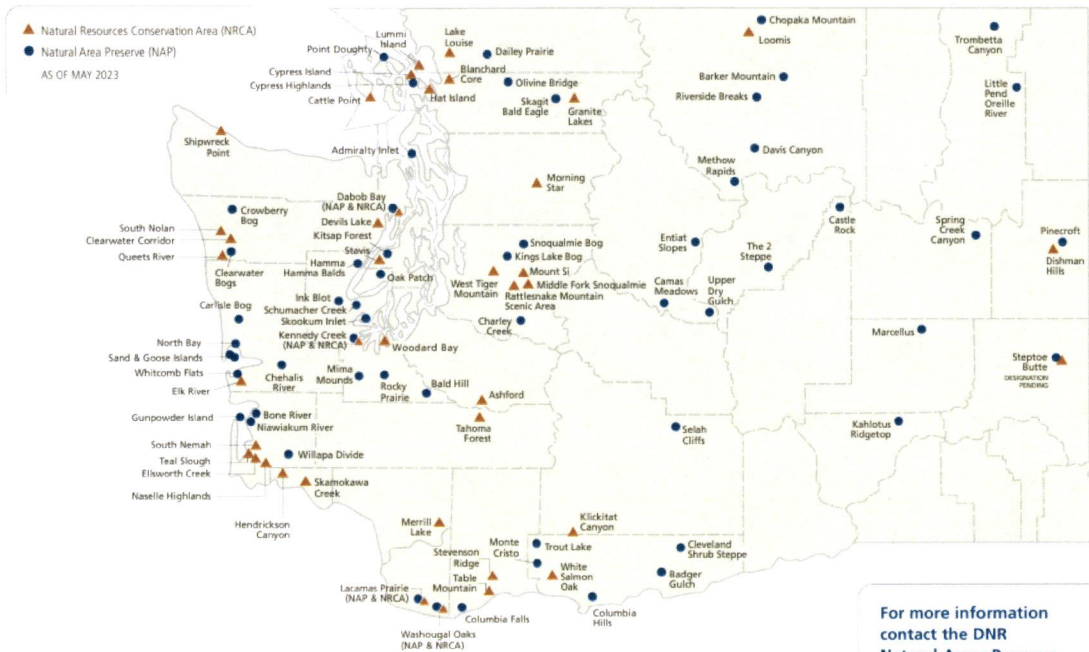


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DNR Process for Establishing a New Natural Area



Washington's Natural Areas Managed by DNR



Exceptional Places

Quality examples of Washington's native grasslands, woodlands, marshes and more are protected in natural areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These special sites offer opportunities for research and education. Some have interpretive or recreation trails. Others require DNR permission to visit because features are sensitive to human disturbance.

For more information
contact the DNR
Natural Areas Program
PO Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014
360-902-1600
TRS: 711
dnr.wa.gov

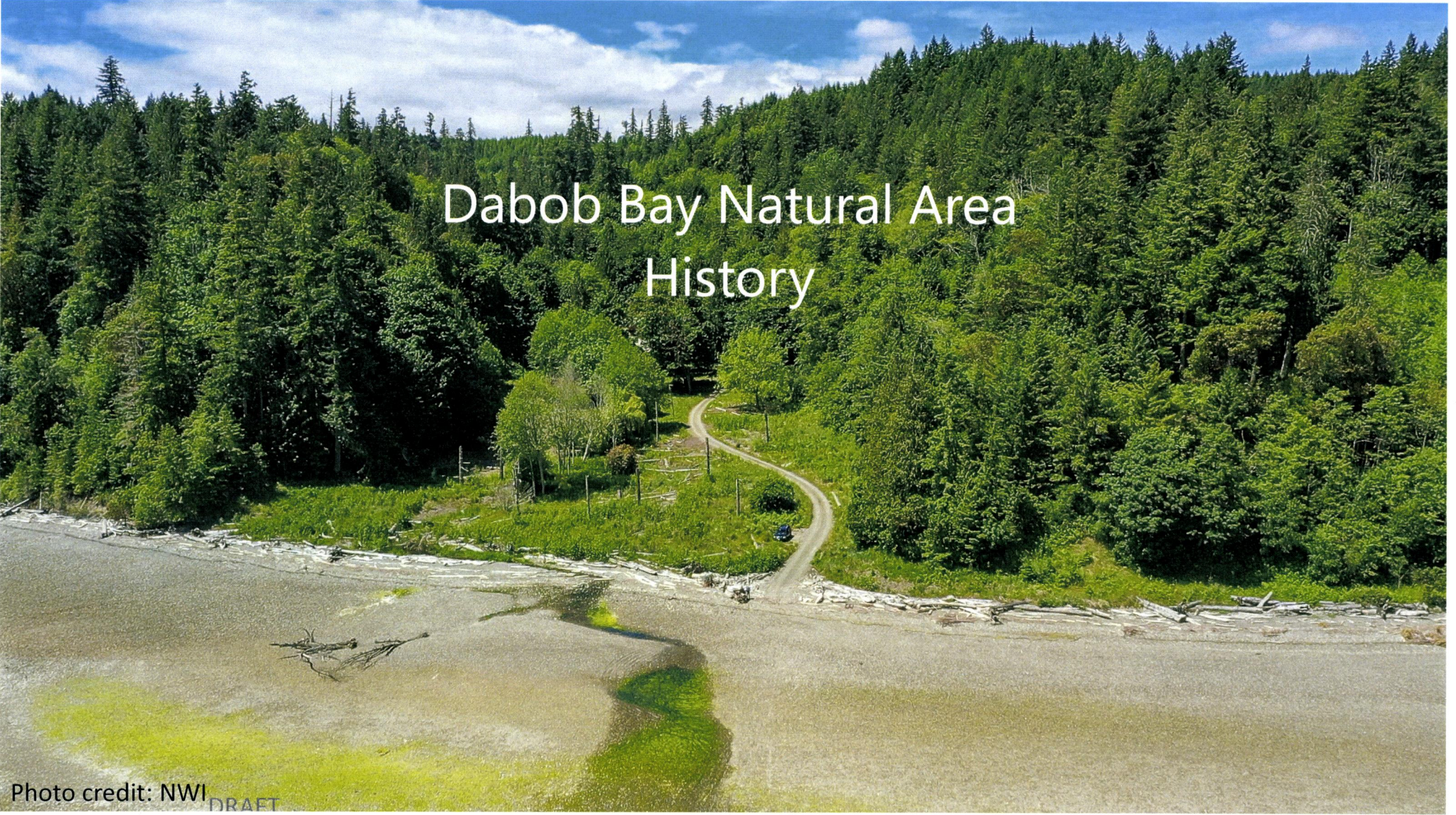
Statewide

39 NRCAs	125, 873 acres
58 NAPs	41,344 acres
97 Natural Areas	167,217 acres



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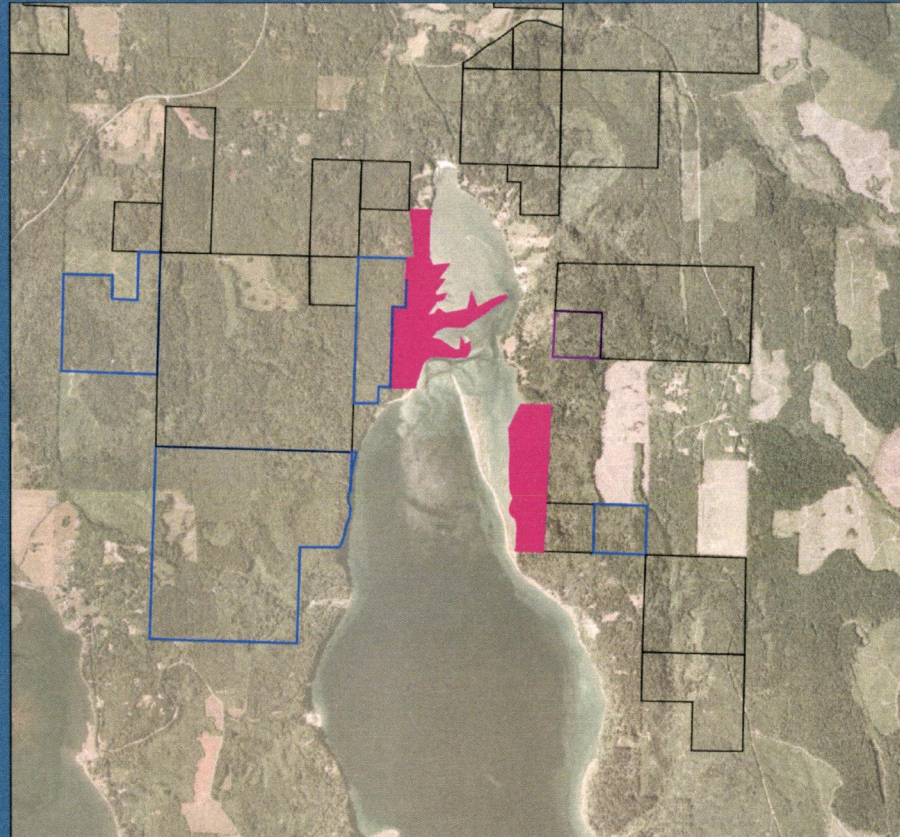
An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a wide, light-colored sandy beach stretches across the frame. A small stream flows from the forest into the beach, creating a small pool. A dirt road curves through a lush green forest that covers a hillside. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Dabob Bay Natural Area History" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Dabob Bay Natural Area History

Photo credit: NWI

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Dabob Natural Area Preserve 1984



Natural Area Preserve Boundary:
335 Acres

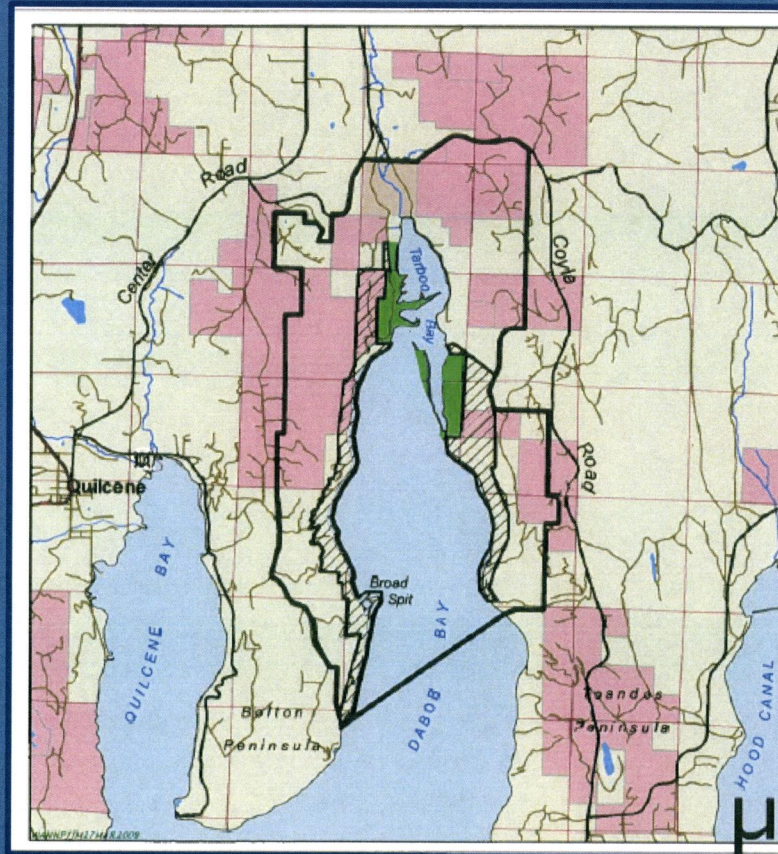


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Dabob Bay Natural Area Expansion 2009



Natural Area Boundary:
~4,000 acres

Current Ownership

- Natural Area Preserve
- DNR Managed Trust Lands
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Other Ownership
- NAP Expansion Area
- NRCA Expansion Area

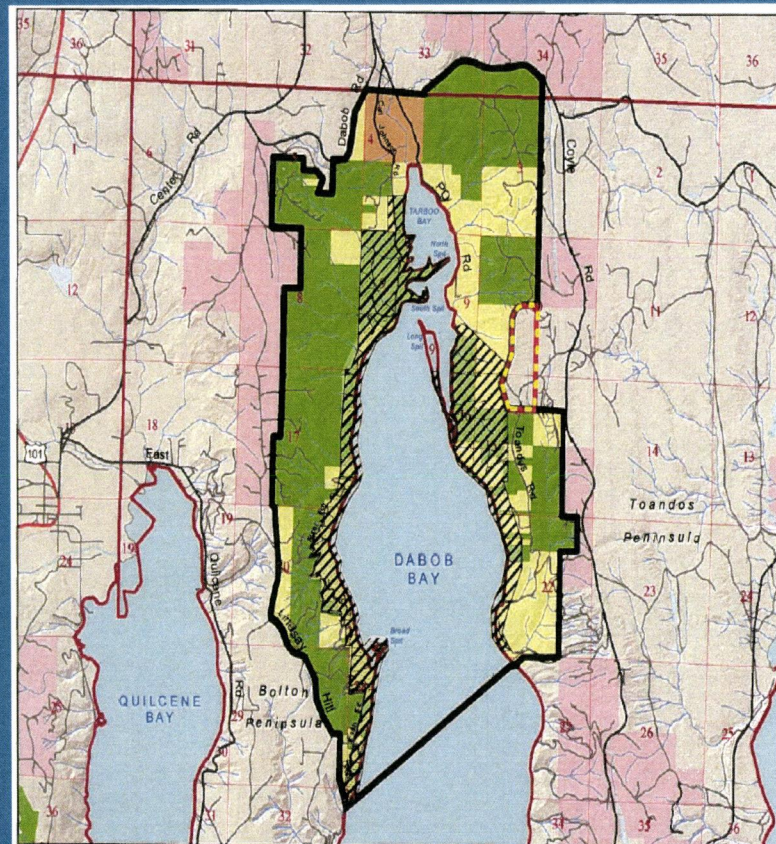


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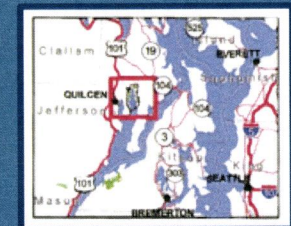
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Dabob Bay Natural Area Expansion 2015



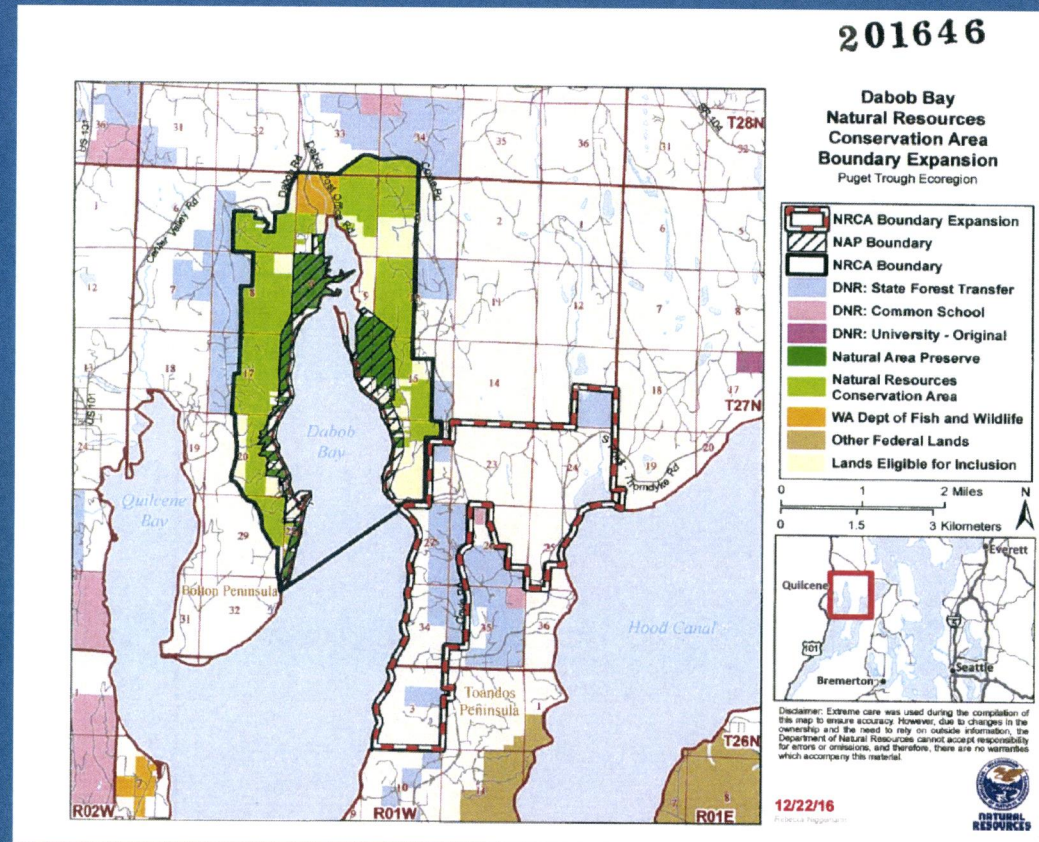
Natural Area Boundary:
4,113 acres



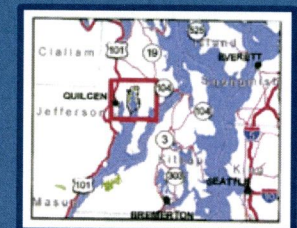
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Dabob Bay Natural Area 2016



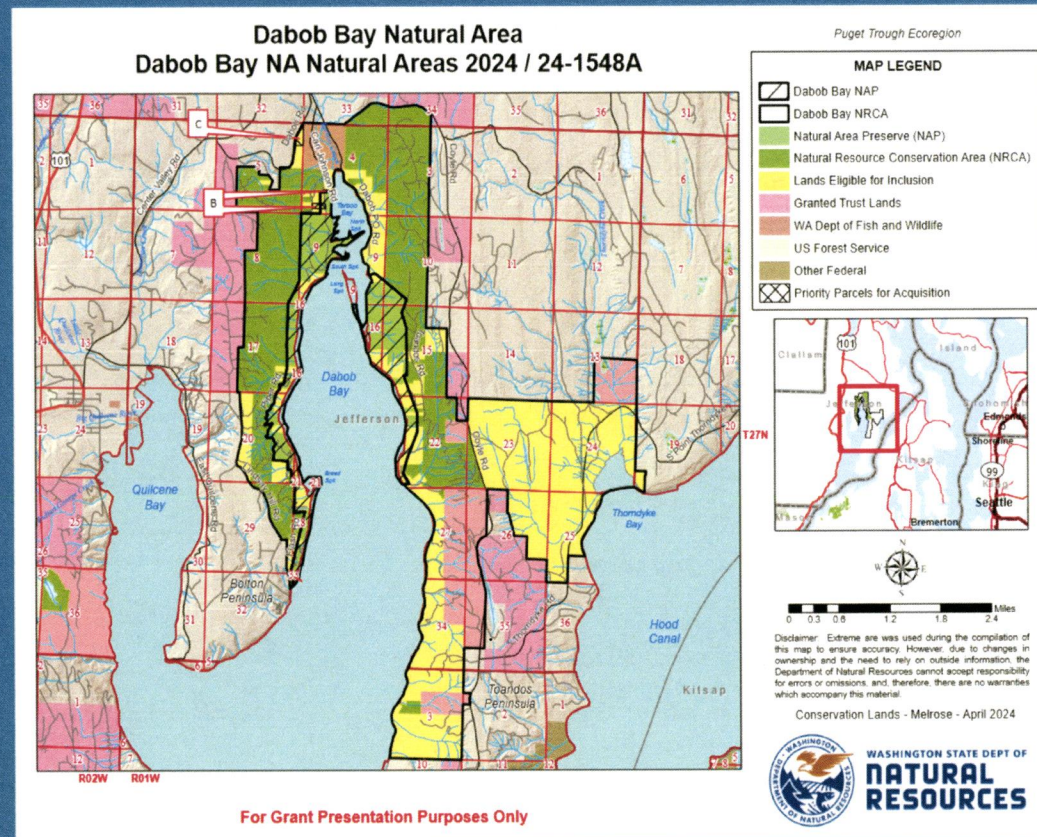
Natural Area Boundary:
7,750 acres



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Current Dabob Bay Natural Area 2024



Natural Area: 7,750 acres



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Trust Land Transfer – Revitalized!

- Established in 1989, Trust Land Transfer (TLT):
 - Transfers economically under-performing state trust lands to a receiving agency,
 - Acquires legislative funding to purchase replacement lands with higher income producing potential; and
 - Conserves lands that have high ecological values and/or other public benefits
- In 2021-2022 DNR worked with beneficiaries, Tribes, stakeholders, and state agencies to revitalize the program
- In 2023, the Legislature passed SHB 1460 to establish the program in statute with improvements developed by DNR and workgroups



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DNR Proposal



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Why Expand Dabob Bay Natural Area?

Process to ID and Designate 2,000 Acres of Carbon Sequestration Forests
on State Trust Lands



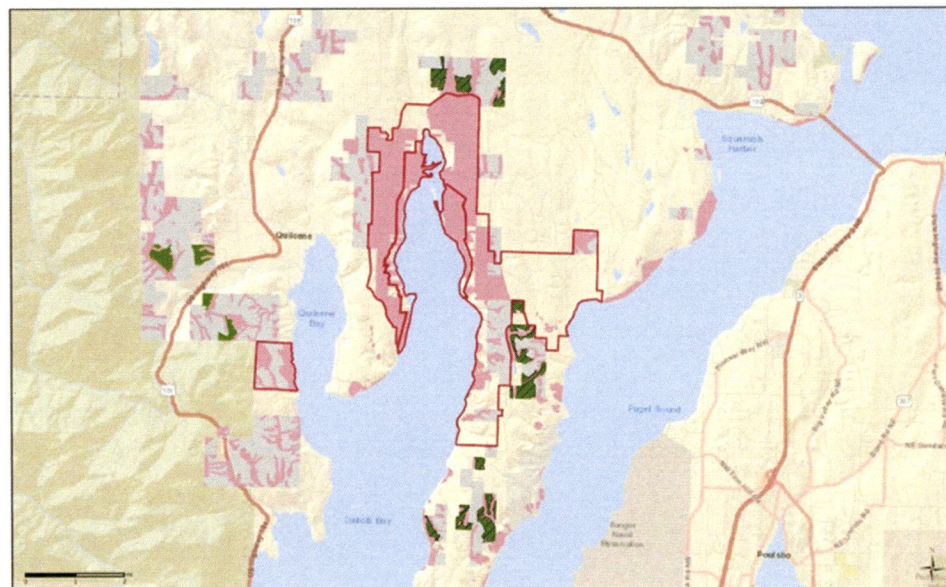
*Natural Area Preserve designations will occur consistent with the Natural Area Preserves Act.

** Timelines for acquisitions and transfers will depend on the ability to find and acquire new forestland.

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Proposed Carbon Sequestration Forest Areas in Jefferson County

(as presented to Board of Natural Resources, January 2024)



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Potential 2000 Acres Sites
Dabob

Proposed Sites

Approved Natural Area Boundaries

Planned VRH/LUC (through FY26)

VRH-deferred

DNR-Managed Lands

All data are draft and subject to change.



Co-benefits

Adjacent to existing Natural Area

Presence of rare plant community in the vicinity

In close proximity to federal ownership



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Jefferson County Commissioners



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

August 7, 2023

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
Department of Natural Resources
MS 47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001

Dear Commissioner Franz:

Thank you again for your offer to develop collaborative solutions for state forestland management with Jefferson County and your on-going support for the revitalized Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program and Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) funding for forest conservation.

In our letter to you of June 27, 2023 regarding state forestlands in East Jefferson County, one of our requests was that DNR expand the Dabob Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area. This letter is intended as a follow up to specifically request that DNR initiate the process to expand the Dabob Bay Natural Area boundaries as shown on the attached map. The boundary expansion is necessary for DNR to use the TLT and NCS tools in combination to protect Globally Imperiled forest types as well as older, naturally regenerated forests with high ecological significance (aka Legacy Forests). The process will also improve the economic benefits of Forest Trust lands to the county and its junior taxing districts and support the long-term viability of the forest land base and forestry in East Jefferson County.

- County Commissioners requested that DNR expand Dabob Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area.
- The letter noted the expansion will:
 - Allow DNR to use revitalized TLT process
 - Protect more globally-imperiled forest types and structurally-complex, carbon-dense forests.
 - Improve economic benefits of Forested Trust lands to the county and its junior tax districts, through purchase of replacement lands.

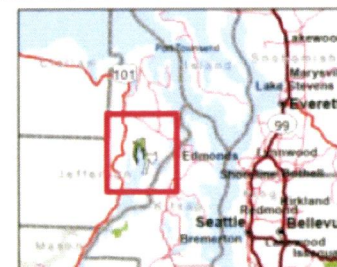


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 NAP Boundary
 NRCA Boundary
 Natural Area Preserve (NAP)
 Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA)
 Lands Eligible for Inclusion
 Granted Trust Lands
 Forest Board Trust Lands
 WA State Parks
 WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
 US Forest Service
 US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Other Federal
 Older Forest
 Proposed NRCA Expansion



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.

Conservation Lands - Melrose - May 2024



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Public Process



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2024 Public Process to Expand Dabob Bay

MAY

- 29th - Publish Notice for Public Hearing
- Opens public comment period

JUNE

- 17th – Public Hearing date
 - Location: Coyle Community Center, 6pm.
- 25th – Public Comment Period Closes

JULY

- Early to mid July – Commissioner's Decision



Additional Resources

Natural Areas Program

- Natural Area Preserves [79.70 RCW](#)
- Natural Resource Conservation Areas [79.71 RCW](#)

Natural Heritage Program

- [Natural Heritage Plan, 2022](#)
- [Natural Heritage Data Products](#)
- [Natural Heritage Advisory Committee](#)

Trust Land Transfer Program

- [SHB 1460](#)
- [Revitalizing the Trust Land Transfer Portfolio Management Tool](#). 2021 report to the Washington State Legislature submitted by the Department of Natural Resources.

Carbon Sequestration Forest Proviso

- [ESSB 5200](#), scroll to Section 3130, "Carbon Sequestration Forests"
- [Carbon Sequestration and Forests: Repositioning State Trust Lands](#). 2023 report to the Washington State Legislature submitted by Department of Natural Resources.
- [Natural Climate Solutions Funding Update](#). January 3, 2024 Chair Report to the Board of Natural Resources.



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QUESTIONS?



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**Additional
slides if time
for discussion**



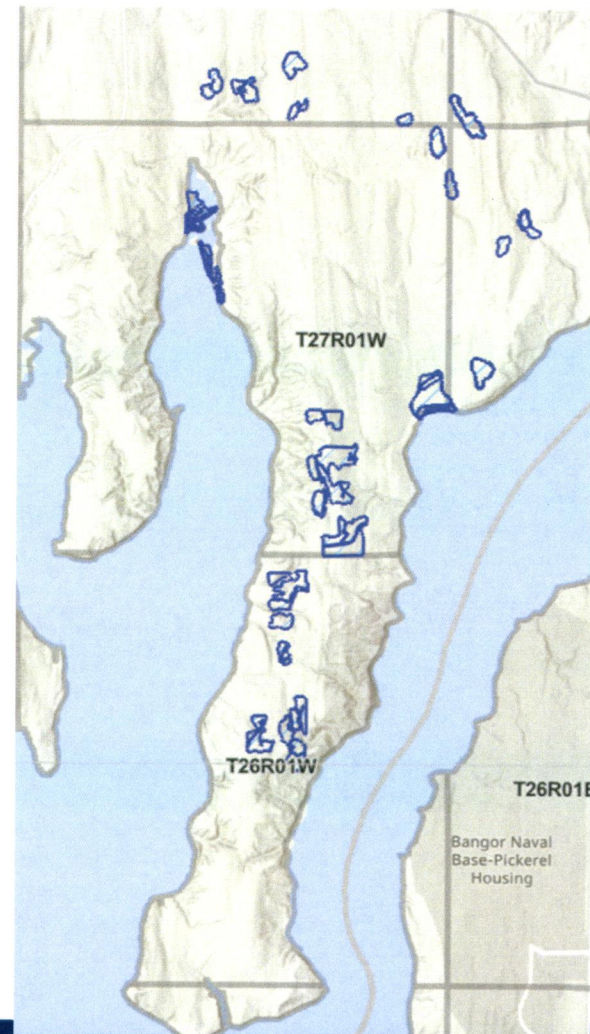
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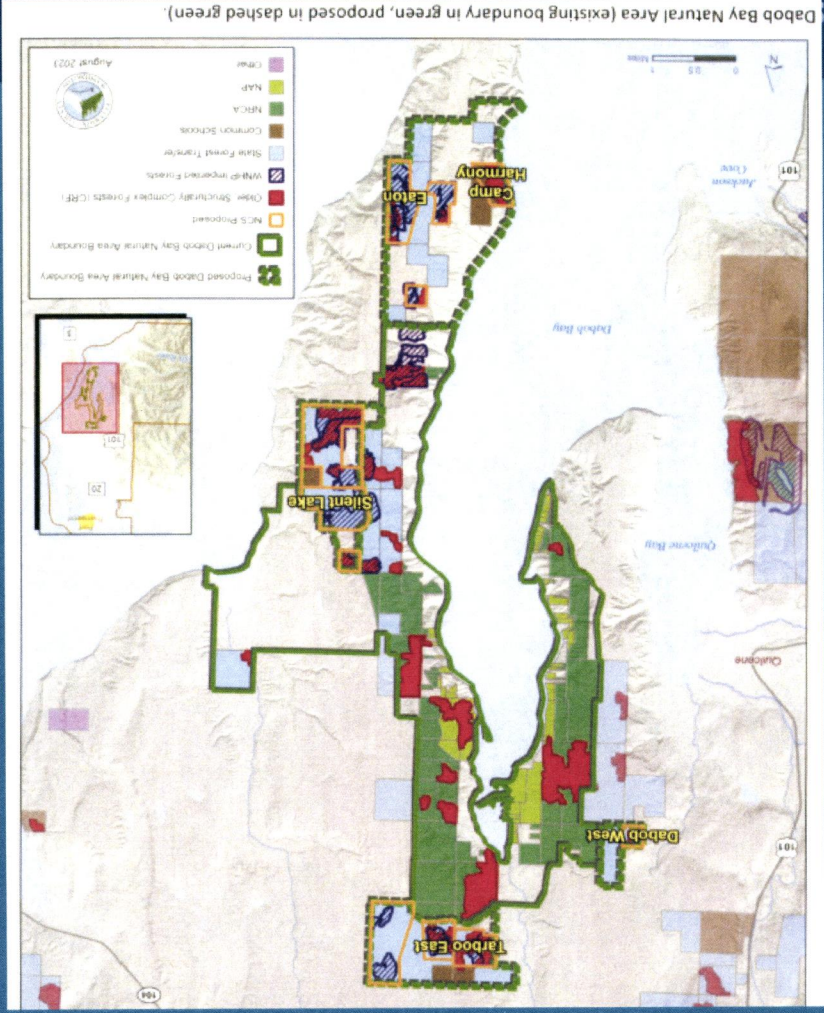
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Element Occurrences:

- Saltgrass – salt marsh
- American Dunegrass
- Dwarf Saltwort
- Low Glasswort
- Evergreen Huckleberry (forests)
- Douglas Fir – Western Hemlock
- Pacific Rhododendron
- Western Crabapple Shrub Swamp

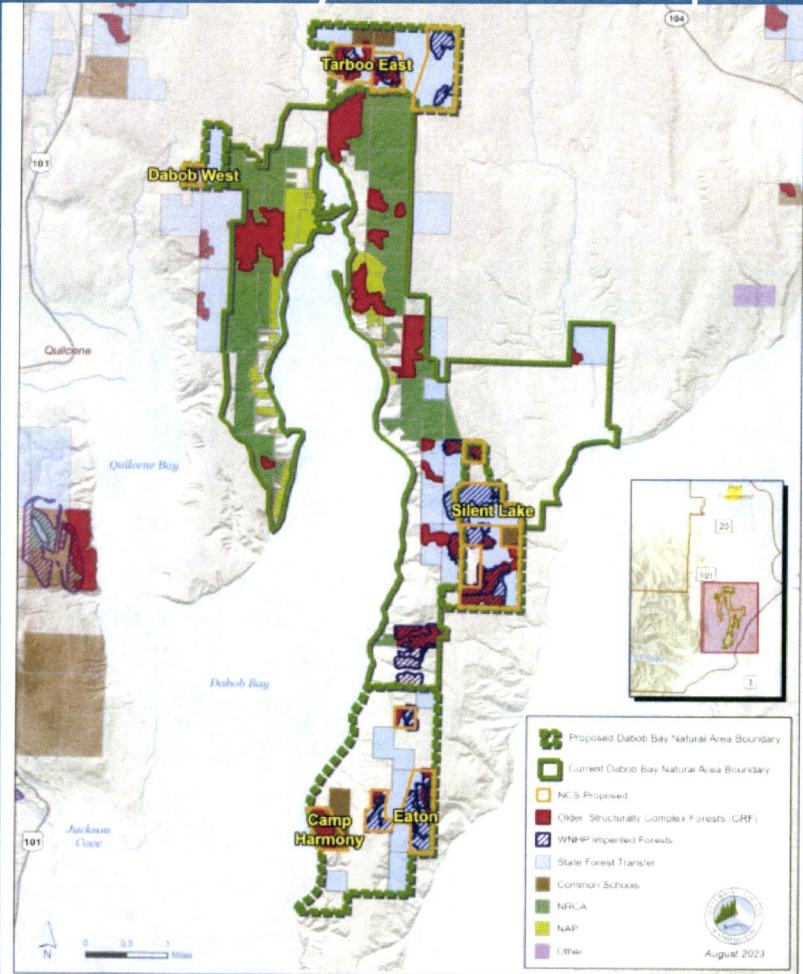


Jefferson County Commissioner's Proposal



Dabob Bay Natural Area (existing boundary in green, proposed in dashed green).

Jefferson County Commissioner's Proposal



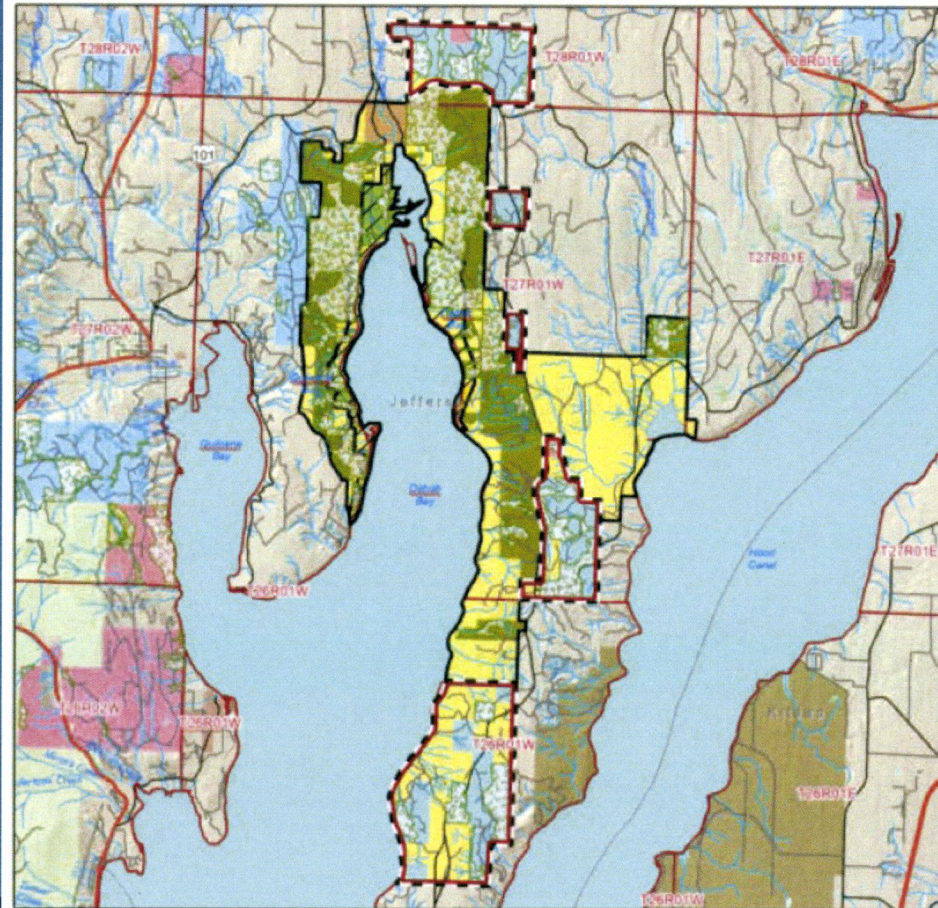
Dabob Bay Natural Area (existing boundary in green, proposed in dashed green).



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DNR Proposal

Dabob Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area



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