

Summary of Projects Recommended for Access & Habitat Funding

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Program is funded by three primary sources. The majority of the revenue, approximately \$1.7 million per biennium, comes from a \$4 surcharge on hunting licenses. Biennial proceeds from deer and elk auction and raffle tags contribute ~\$920,000. An allocation of ~\$40,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs combined make up the remainder of the A&H Program revenue; a total of over \$2.6 million per biennium.

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met July 24, 2018 at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) HQ in Salem, Oregon to review projects recommended for funding by the Regional Councils (Council). To be recommended for funding a project must receive at least four supporting votes from the Council or Board. All projects received letters of support from the local District Wildlife Biologist. A brief description of the funding requested, access and habitat benefits provided, as well as Council and Board votes follows.

The A&H Board recommends funding the following three projects:

#2018-14 Territorial Youth Deer Hunt

- A&H Funds: \$5,394 (\$1,798 per year)
- Cooperator Funds: \$6,624 (\$2,208 per year)
- Total Project Cost: \$12,018 (\$4,006 per year)
- Applicant: Giustina Resources
- Location: Siuslaw WMU (40% public land)
- Access Acres: 4,477
- Access Duration: 3 years: Nov. 2019 – Dec. 2021
- Cooperators: Giustina Resources, Seneca Jones Timber company, OHA, ODFW Umpqua Watershed
- Council Vote: Yes: 4; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

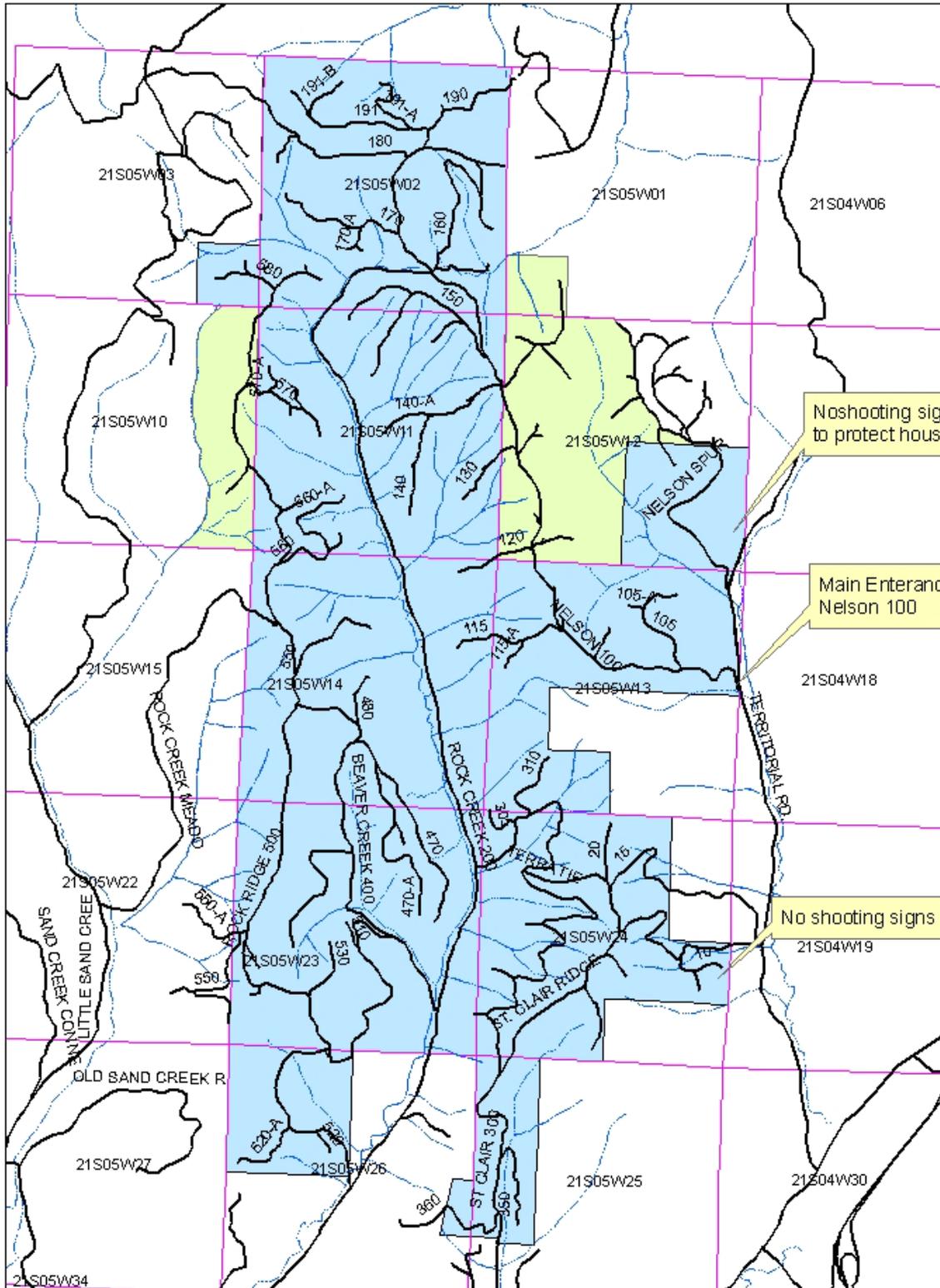
The proposed project is a continuation of an A&H project first approved in 2008. This project would allow access for 10-13 youth deer hunters per year (depending on adjustments in tag numbers) through the controlled hunt process to hunt black-tailed deer during weekends in November. Youth hunters and accompanying adults are granted access to 4,477 acres of very productive industrial timberland. The hunt provides a quality buck hunting experience with few other hunters in the area.

A&H funds would be used to cost-share security, supply permits, and compensate for hunting access; cooperator funds (including donations from OHA) would be used for security and administration.

Territorial Youth Hunt Boundaries

Ownership

- Giustina Resources
- Seneca



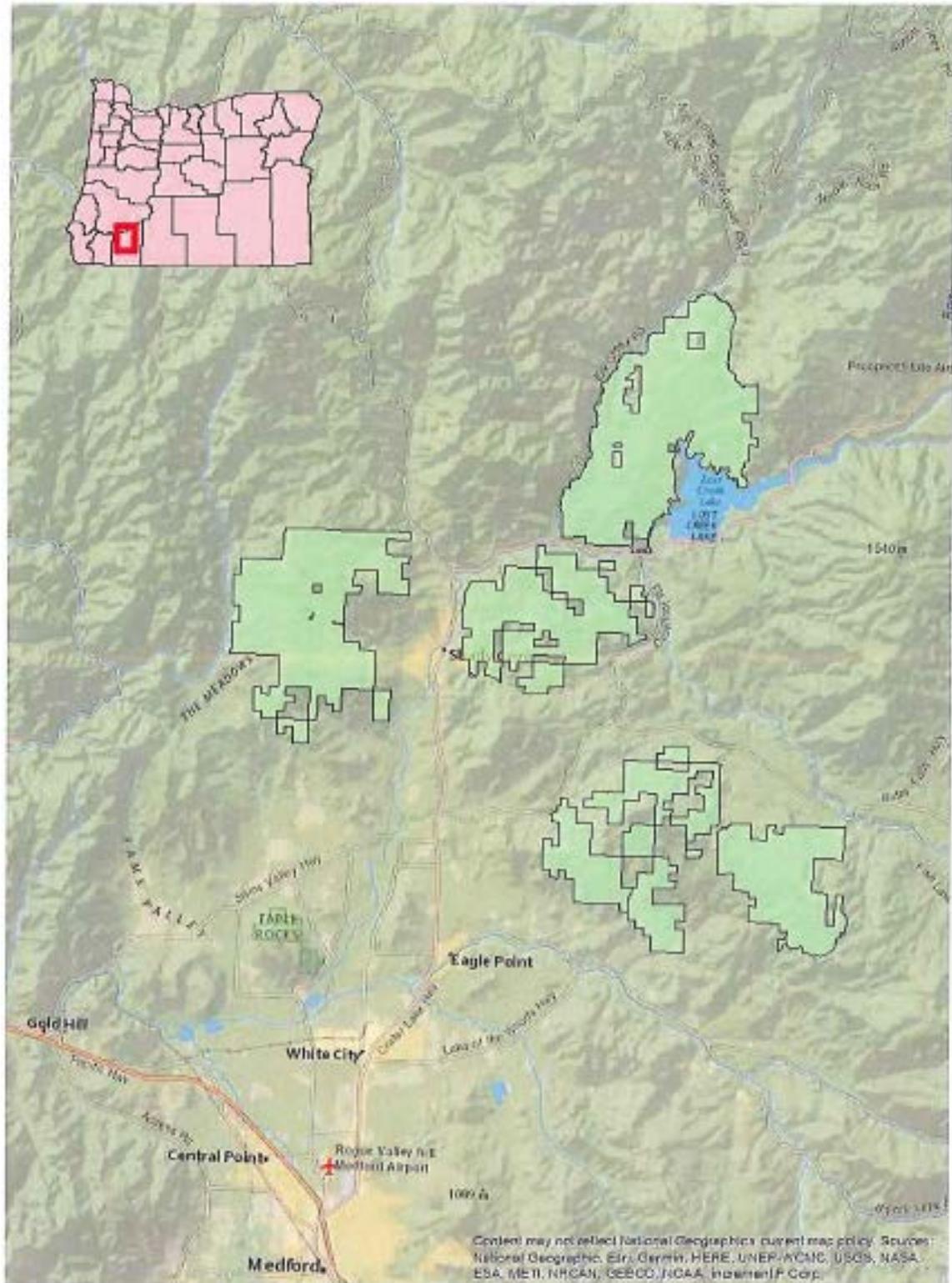
#2018-13 Jackson Travel Management Area

- A&H Funds: \$84,579 (\$28,193 per year)
- Cooperator Funds: \$85,250 (\$28,750 per year)
- Total Project Cost: \$170,829 (\$56,943 per year)
- Applicant: Hancock Forest Management and ODFW Central Point, and OSP Medford, Central Point, and Salem
- Location: Rogue WMU (57% public)
Dixon WMU (77% public)
Evans Creek WMU (43% public)
- Access Acres: 55,586 (16,558 private; 39,028 public)
- Access Duration: 3 years: August 2018 – June 2021
- Cooperators: Hancock Forest Management, Murphy Timber Investments, Lone Rock Timber, ODFW Central Point, Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon State Police,
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The Jackson Access Cooperative TMA would provide funding for one retired OSP officer to patrol over 55,000 acres of private and public timberlands from October through April, 2018-2021. In return for this dedicated enforcement, private timberland owners would allow continued public access to their property, and through their property to land-locked public land except during fire closures, or in posted temporary closure areas. Public access is allowed to most of these properties during other times of the year but it is not required as part of this project. Program cooperators would also conduct habitat improvement projects such as forest thinning, weed removal, and seeding.

This project has been enrolled in the A&H Program since 1995. The travel management regulations restrict motor vehicle use on specific roads from mid-October through April 30. These closures protect the landowner's roads from excessive vehicle use and reduce disturbance to deer and elk on critical winter range. Prior to the establishment of this program, the participating landowners had considered closing their lands to public hunters because of damage to roads. Walk-in access is provided to the entire project area from mainline roads that remain open through the closure period.

Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area



#2018-12 Larch Creek Habitat Conservation

- A&H Funds: \$200,000
- Cooperator Contribution: \$3,300,000
- Total Project Cost: \$3,500,000
- Applicant: Columbia Land Trust
- Location: White River WMU
- Access Acres: 1,945
- Access Period: April 1- November 30, consistent with White River WA winter closure
- Project Duration: Permanent
- Project Participants: Columbia Land Trust, ODFW, OWEB, Conservation Alliance, American Bird Conservancy
- Council Vote: Yes: 4; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

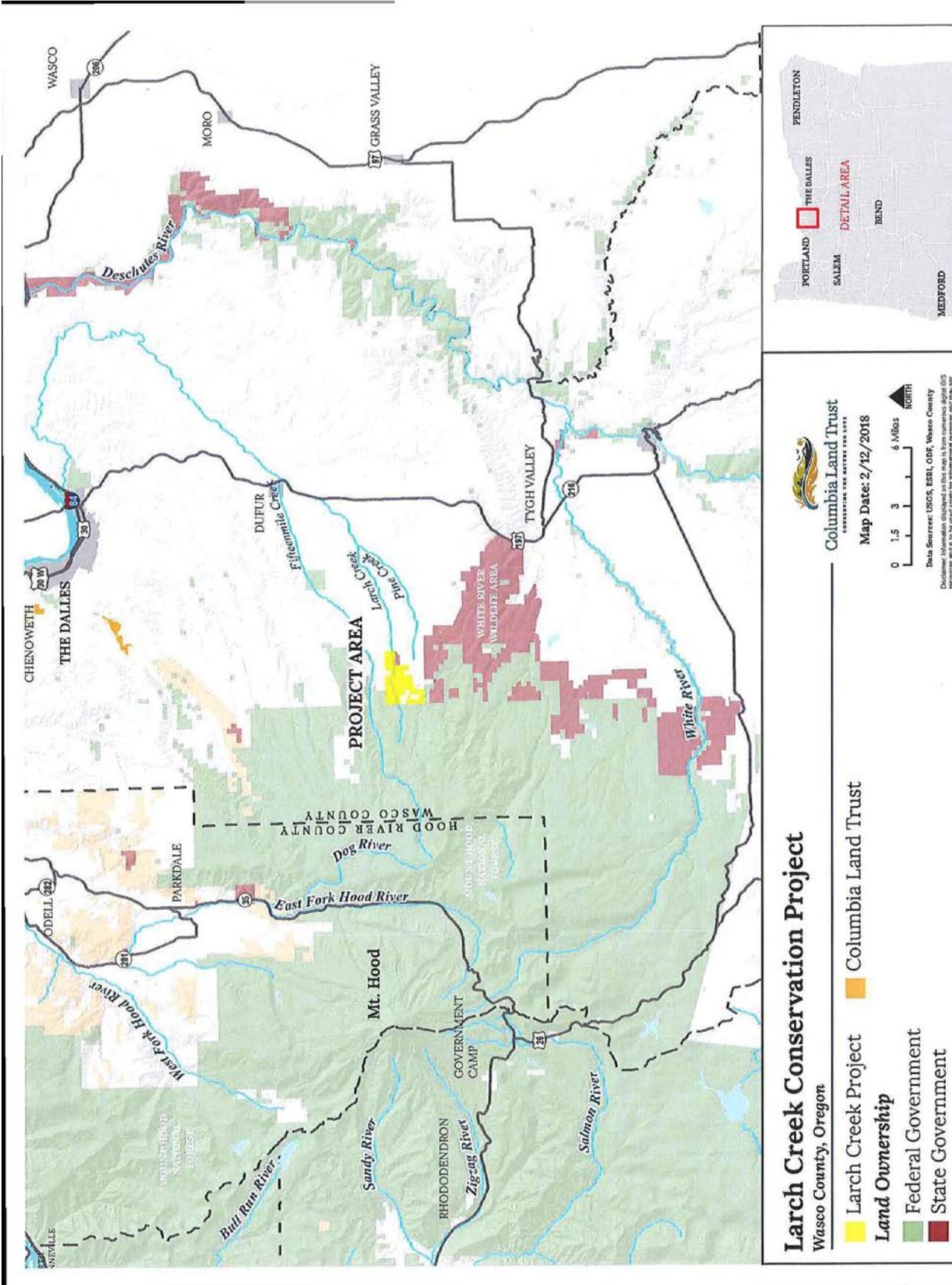
The Columbia Land Trust is seeking \$200,000 of matching funds from the A&H Program prior to filing an application for funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB); commitment of match in advance will strengthen the application. The current project schedule has the purchase being completed late 2019. The Management Plan will be completed and implemented April 2020, which is consistent with the end of the winter closure period of the White River Wildlife Area (WA).

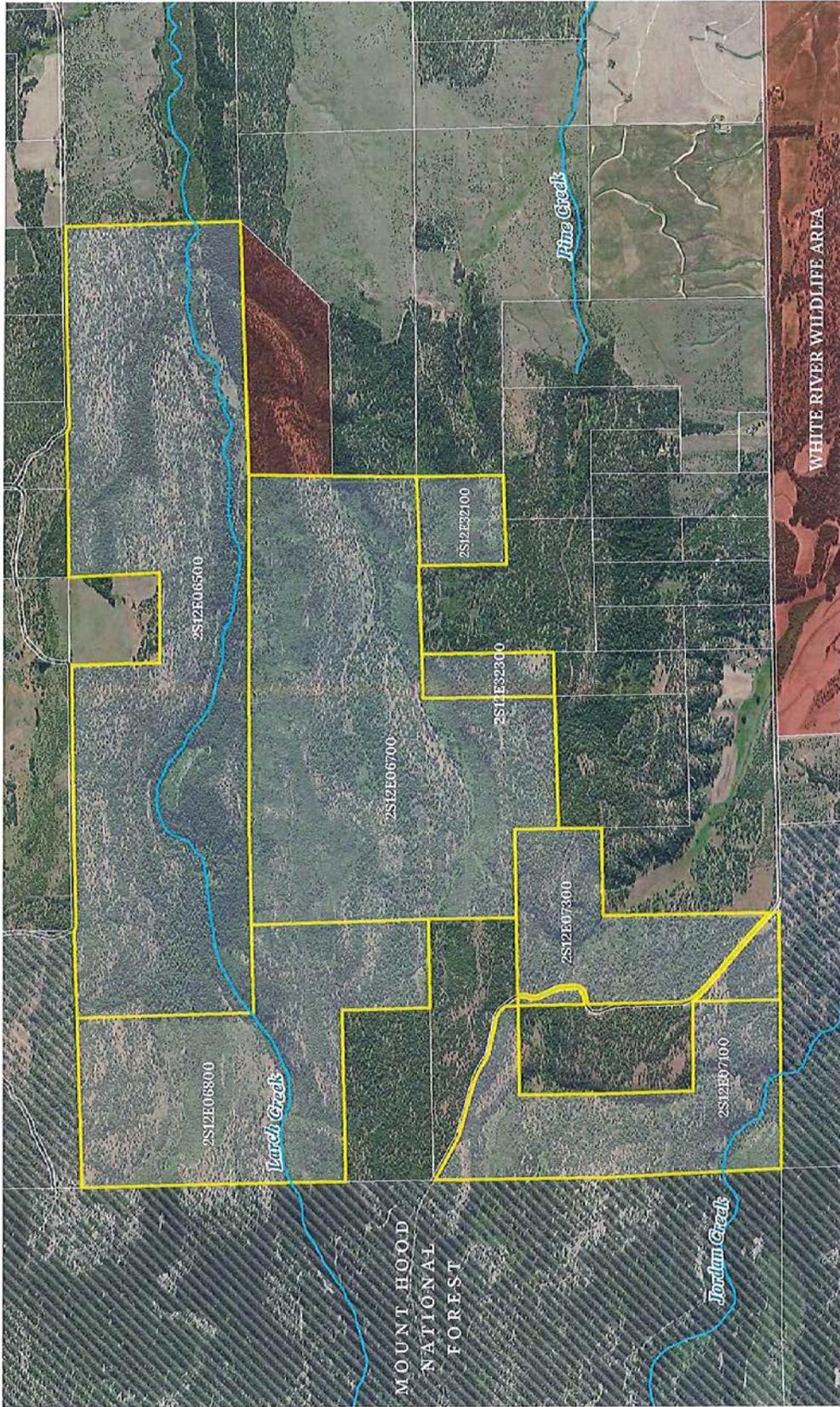
The Columbia Land Trust will have responsibility for all long-term maintenance obligations. The property will have a dedicated stewardship staff member with responsibility for its management. As part of its Land Trust Alliance national accreditation, the Land Trust maintains a \$15,000,000 and growing stewardship fund to ensure its land ownership obligations and stewardship commitments in perpetuity. The Mt. Hood National Forest and Department White River WA have also offered stewardship/management support for habitat restoration projects.

The property is located on the east slopes of the Cascades Mountains between Department's White River WA and the Mt. Hood National Forest. The 1,945 acres include three main habitat types. The two largest are mixed-pine/oak-woodland and mixed-conifer-forest, while the smallest is riparian. Approximately three miles of perennial and seasonal streams flow through the site. The riparian plant communities, which border these streams, include aspen, willow, red alder, and elderberry. Years of fire suppression have altered the landscape by allowing conifers to encroach into Oregon white oak habitat. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) identifies this landscape as the Wasco Oaks Conservation Opportunity Area. The OCS recommends conservation actions such as controlling conifer encroachment, limiting impacts to oak woodland habitat, and limiting degradation and impacts to wintering ungulates from recreational development. This project fulfills or enables each of these conservation actions.

Hunting will be allowed during regulated game seasons. Species available include deer, elk, mountain quail, valley quail, forest grouse, turkey, and western gray squirrel. Property is accessible from a public road along the northern edge of White River WA and adjacent Forest Service roads.

Larch Creek Conservation Project





Columbia Land Trust
 CONSERVING THE NATURAL WORLD

Map Date: 2/12/2018

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

▲ NORTH

Data Sources: NAIP, ODI, USGS, Wasco County

Disclaimer: Information displayed on this map is from numerous digital GIS resources and is to be used solely for informational purposes and may not be used for legal or other purposes. The producer assumes no responsibility for the risks, damages, and liability that may result from the direct or indirect use of this map.

Larch Creek Conservation Project
 Wasco County, Oregon

Land Ownership

- Larch Creek Project Parcels
- Wasco Parcels (2013)
- Federal Government
- State Government