

King County Rural Forest Commission

Strategic Priorities

Recommendations and Actions
for Conservation of Forestland
in King County

2022 Report



King County

Rural Forest Commission
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Recommendations and Actions for Conservation
of Forestland in King County

Rural Forest Commission Presentation

Topics

- King County Rural Forest Commission
- Forest Land in King County
- 2022 Rural Forest Commission Report
- Request to King County Council

Presenters:

- Amy LaBarge (Forest Ecologist)
- Wendy Davis (Forest Landowner)
- Monica Priebe (Academic Forester)

King County Rural Forest Commission

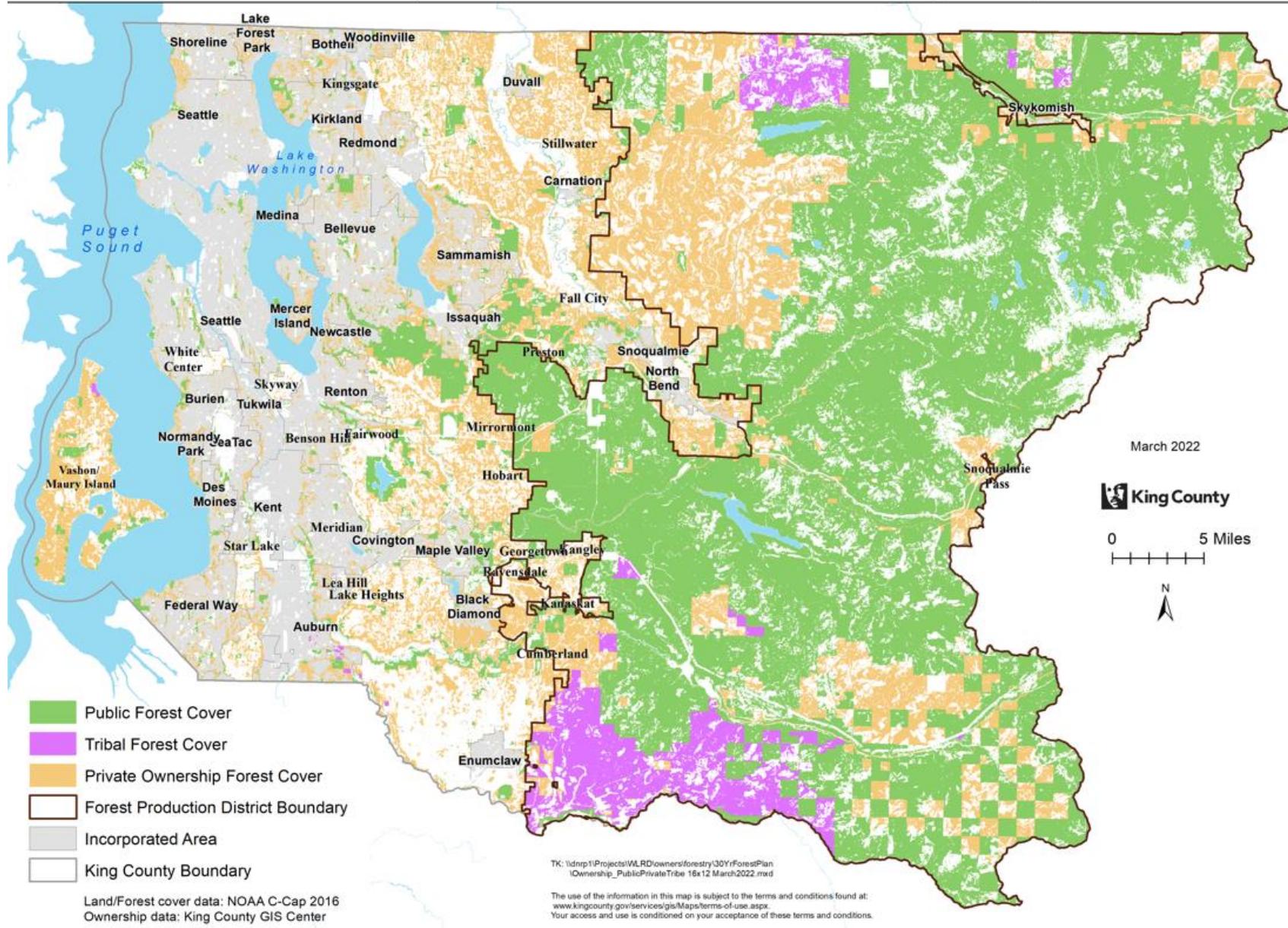
- Established by Ordinance 12901 in 1997 (KC Code 2.41)
- Purpose:
 - Advise the executive and council in their efforts to encourage forestry in the rural area and make forestry viable in King County's rural area.
- Membership:
 - 13 Commissioners
- Responsibilities:
 - Monitor progress of and provide direction on implementation plans for forest preservation;
 - Advise the county on policies, programs, actions and legislation affecting rural forests;
 - Identify strategies to conserve rural forest lands and promote forestry in the rural area.
- KC DNRP provides staff support for the Commission

Forest Land in King County

	Rural Land		Cities		Urban Unincorporated		Total	
Land Cover	1992	2016	1992	2016	1992	2016	1992	2016
Forested	70% (748,437)	71% (752,806)	23% (61,631)	18% (49,441)	37% (9,533)	29% (7,408)	61% (819,601)	60% (810,655)
Deciduous	3% (33,229)	3% (36,183)	6% (14,903)	5% (13,372)	7% (1,855)	6% (1,620)	4% (49,987)	4% (51,175)
Conifer	55% (586,766)	55% (584,921)	7% (19,536)	5% (14,549)	12% (2,961)	8% (2,122)	45% (609,263)	44% (601,592)
Mixed	12% (128,442)	12% (132,702)	10% (27,192)	8% (21,520)	18% (4,717)	14% (3,666)	12% (160,351)	12% (157,888)

Table 1. Forest cover as a percent of land cover (and acres) for rural areas, cities, and urban-unincorporated areas of King County. Calculated using NOAA C-CAP FTP data, 1992 and 2016. Percentages exclude water area.

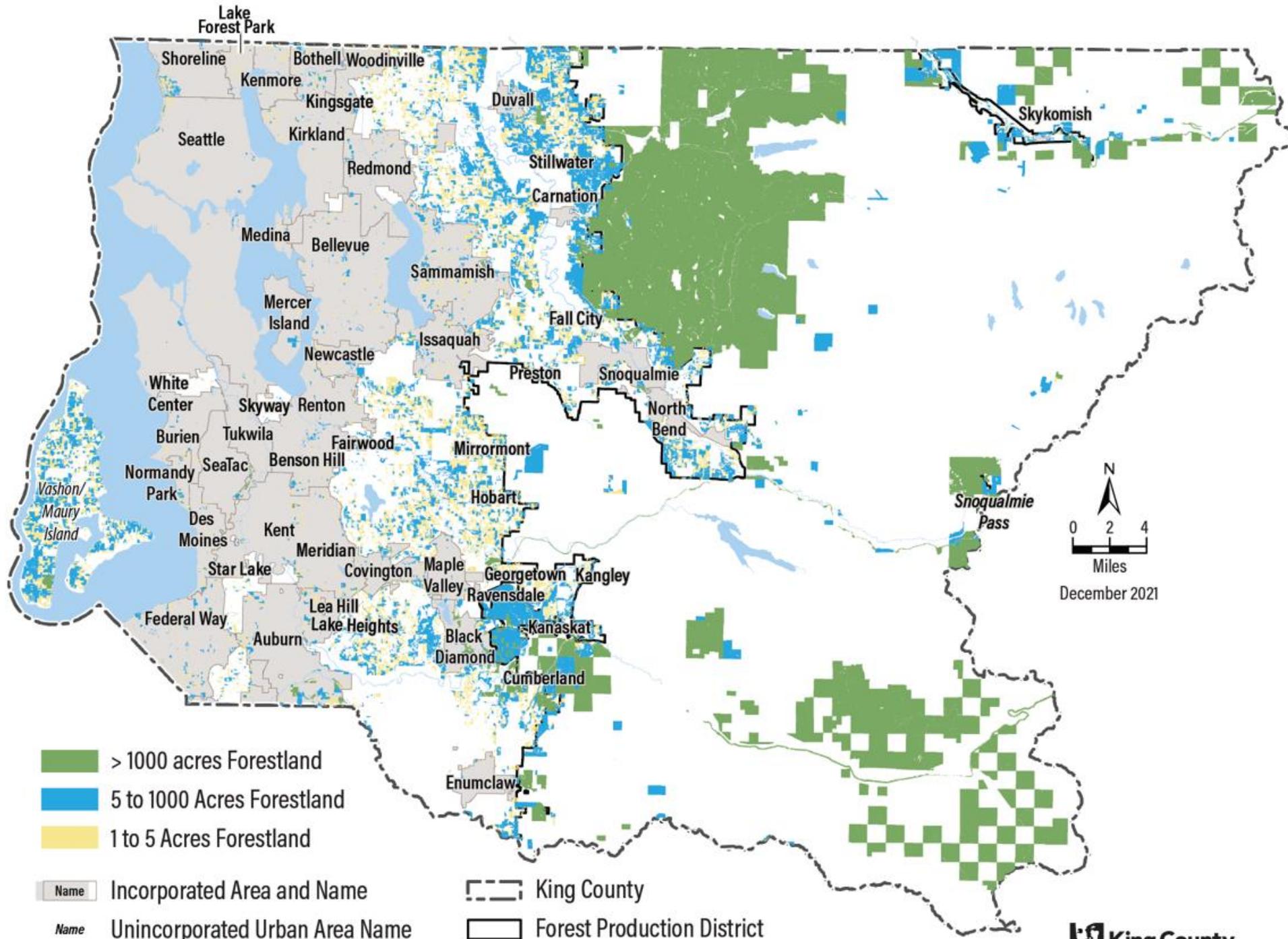
Public, Private and Tribal Forest Cover in King County



- Public Forest Cover
- Tribal Forest Cover
- Private Ownership Forest Cover
- Forest Production District Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- King County Boundary

Land/Forest cover data: NOAA C-Cap 2016
 Ownership data: King County GIS Center

TK: \\dnr\1\Projects\WLRD\owners\forestry\30Yr\ForestPlan\Ownership_PublicPrivateTribe 16x12 March2022.mxd
 The use of the information in this map is subject to the terms and conditions found at: www.kingcounty.gov/services/gis/Maps/terms-of-use.aspx.
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2022 Rural Forest Commission Report

Written for:

- King County Council & Executive
- King County staff
- Forest landowners
- Current & future Rural Forest Commission members

Overarching Goals:

- No net loss of rural forestland in King County
- Management of rural forestland to improve forest resilience relative to climate change
- Maintenance of working forest land base and viable forest-based industries



Recommendations and Actions for
Conservation of Forestland in King County

February 2022

Focus Areas

- Protection, Restoration, and Stewardship of Private Forestland
- Acquisition, Restoration, and Stewardship of County-owned Forestland
- Wildfire Hazard Reduction
- Tribal Sovereignty and Cultural Resources

NEW RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ARE GROUPED BY RELATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY



NOW = initiate immediately (10 actions)



SOON = initiate in the next 3 to 5 years (15 actions)



LATER = initiate within 6 to 10 years (4 actions)



CONTINUE (36 actions)

Protection, Restoration, and Stewardship of Private Forestland

1. Protect remaining priority privately-owned forest tracts
2. Improve access to needed technical assistance
3. Encourage forest stewardship
4. Increase the availability and access to financial incentive programs
5. Promote understanding of the benefits of commercial timber production
6. Reduce operating and permitting costs for forest management
7. Explore opportunities to expand programs



Acquisition, Restoration, and Stewardship of County- owned Forestland

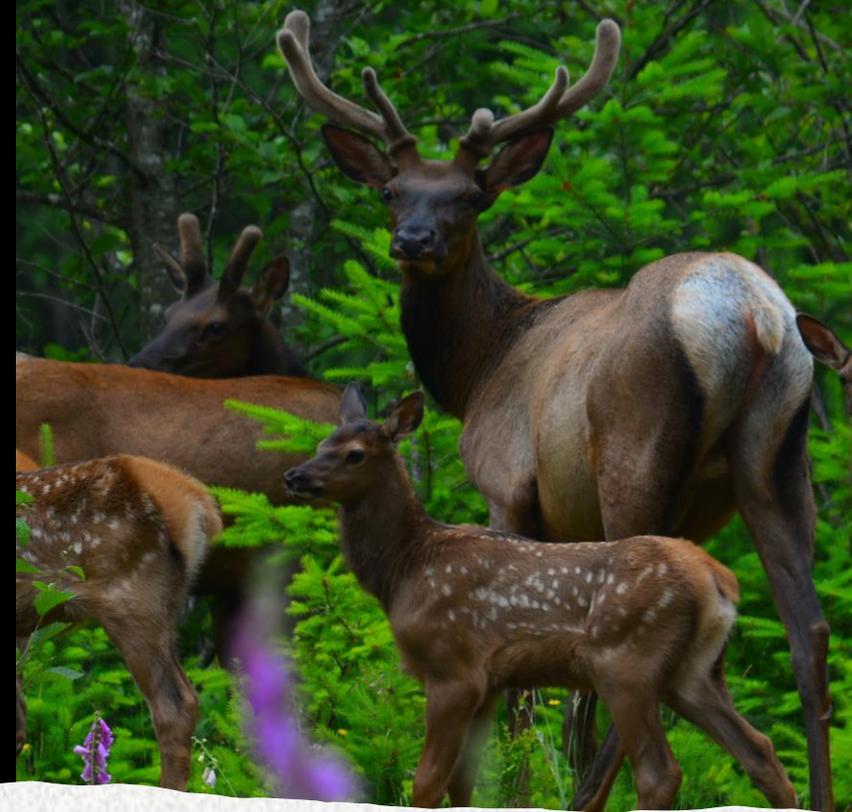
1. Strengthen stewardship planning protocols for King County forestland.
2. Implement and monitor stewardship plans for all Parks Division forest units of 200 acres or more.
3. Identify opportunities to monetize ecosystem services to fund forestland acquisition and management.



Wildfire Hazard Reduction

1. Expand delivery of community and landowner wildfire risk management and safety planning services.
2. Develop a comprehensive approach to rural wildfire planning.
3. Reduce risk to public forestland from park visitors.
4. Improve King County capacity for wildfire response and training.





Tribal Sovereignty and Cultural Resources

1. Consult with Tribal Governments about forest management and protection
2. Engage with Tribal Governments early in any forest planning process

Benefits of King County Forests

- King County government collects \$5 to \$7 million annually from:
 - WA State Department of Natural Resources managed trust lands
 - Excise taxes on private timber harvests
 - Payment in lieu of taxes from federal land
- Value added revenue: approximately \$630 million in gross business income is generated annually on forest products derived from timber harvested in King County
- Ecosystem Services related to rural forests: improved water quality and quantity (including drinking water), stormwater retention, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, recreation





Request to Reinvest Timber Revenue into Forest Protection

- King County receives \$5 to \$7 Million per year in revenue from the management of forest land in the County.
- Reinvest into maintaining forestlands in King County
 - Securing a share of this forest generated revenue and reinvesting in forest protection = forests paying for forest work
- Provide technical assistance for forest landowners who are stewarding many of these lands



Thank you!
Questions?



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