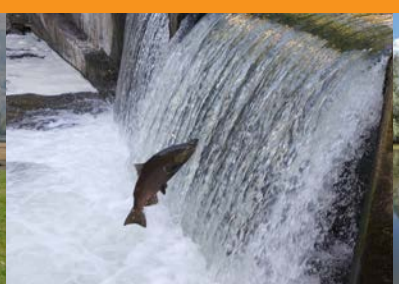
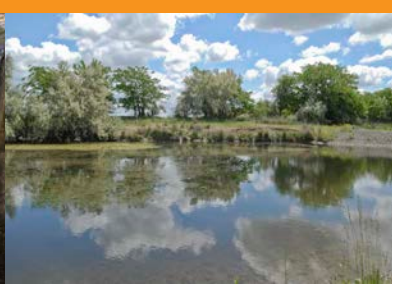
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

WASHINGTON STATE

TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (2012)



USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

WASHINGTON STATE

2012 TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Fig. 1 - Red Alder along a timber road on the Quinault Reservation (NRCS photo).

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Washington State Office, Spokane
March 19, 2013

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Table of Contents

List of Figures

Introduction

The intent of this document is to provide an overview of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2012 Washington State Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA) process, and present the TRA Priority Resource Concerns and Priority Treatment Areas developed in 2012.

A Tribal Strategic Plan was developed in 2012 by the NRCS and the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WATCAC), with goals and objectives for a three year period. The TRA was slated for development in this Strategic Plan, which identified the TRA as an integral goal and prerequisite for a meaningful and technical basis to assist with NRCS program delivery to tribes in the state.

The TRA provides a mechanism for tribes and NRCS to work together to address resource concerns on tribally owned lands. It documents tribal resource concerns and priority areas, and provides a pathway for the NRCS to assist the tribes in addressing these priorities. The TRA will be used as a multi-year assessment for fiscal years 2013 to 2015, and information from this process will assist the NRCS with funding and program allocation requests to National NRCS starting in Fiscal Year 2014.

The findings and conclusions of the TRA will be used for strategic planning use, specifically for resource-based performance planning. The assessment information will be used for future year planning regarding goals setting; funding and budget requests; and tailoring appropriate program delivery and technical assistance relative to what the tribes in the state set as resource-based priorities.

The TRA is intended to be statewide in scope. Tribal natural resource priorities, and associated treatment boundaries and acreages in respective landuse areas, are identified on tribal lands throughout the state.

The TRA is based on resource assessment parameters and guidance established by the NRCS National Office. Within these national parameters, NRCS Washington worked with the WATCAC and individual tribes in 2012 to determine the top tribal resource concerns, and the related priority areas, on tribally owned lands in the state.

NRCS national guidelines require that the location of the identified tribal priority resource concerns be mapped in a digital format. These geospatial locations are termed “priority treatment areas.” Maps displaying these priority treatment areas are found later in this document.

NRCS program planning and delivery includes the priority treatment areas as a part of the NRCS screening and ranking tools. Tribal applications for NRCS programs are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the tribal Priority Resource Concerns in these areas.

The national guidelines designate five landuses to be assessed: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands. The geospatial priority treatment areas locate the resource concerns on these landuses. Definitions for these five landuse categories can be found on page xx.

Also required by the national guidelines is a table identifying the acres of the landuses affected by the identified resource concerns. This table includes three acreage categories: “Potential At-Risk Acres”, “Acres Needing Treatment”, and “Priority Treatment Acres” for all identified resource concerns. The Priority Treatment Acres category is the amount of acreage that the tribes would like to treat through NRCS program delivery in fiscal years 2013 to 2015. Definitions for the three acreage categories can be found on page xx.

NRCS provided each tribe baseline information to help in the determination of their priority treatment areas and acres. This information included maps of concept priority treatment areas on tribal lands, and landuse

acreage estimates. The concept priority areas are based on NRCS geospatial landuse data. Some of the tribes decided to use the NRCS baseline data, while other tribes provided their own information. In 2013, tribes will have an additional opportunity to review and update this information.

This is an ongoing process and the TRA document serves as a first step in working with tribes to identify natural resource concerns that affect tribal resources.

Tribal Lands in Washington State

The tribes in Washington are the first peoples of this state. As such, the lands that they traditionally call home encompass all of Washington, and, in some cases, extend beyond state borders. They strive to maintain their traditional roles as good stewards of the land, water and wildlife, and to encourage others to respect and cherish these natural resources as well.

As time has gone by, the tribes have seen modern pressures throw natural processes out of balance. The tribes have been proactive and realistic in working toward regaining this natural balance. Their voice is heard in many venues and they provide a wise and sensible perspective for those who will hear it.

One such venue is the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission 2012 State of Our Watersheds Report. In that report, they examine key indicators of the basic health of the watersheds they live in as it relates to habitat quality/quantity and salmon recovery. The report discusses natural resources both on and off tribally owned lands and how these are being impacted by human activities.

The NRCS 2012 Tribal Resource Assessment is another such venue for the tribes to positively impact natural resource issues that are important to them. Many of the same resource concerns identified in the State of Our Watersheds Report are addressed in the TRA.

The 2012 TRA includes both on-reservation and off-reservation tribally owned lands. Not all off-reservation tribally owned lands are accounted for in this resource assessment. The NRCS needed tribal input for the identification of these lands, and some tribes declined to identify their off-reservation lands, did not have time to provide the information, or did not take part in the assessment process.

Regardless of participation, the NRCS has included tribal lands for twenty-eight of the twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in Washington, plus off-reservation parcels owned by the Coeur D'Alene tribe. Where it was possible to obtain tribal data from public sources, on-reservation and off-reservation tribally owned lands have been included for twenty-eight tribes. The agency's decision to do this provides these tribes the opportunity to take part in NRCS program planning and delivery should they wish to do so.

Native American Tribes in Washington State

There are twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in Washington State. The following map (see Tribal Lands Map, page 4) displays the location of each of these tribes.

It is important to note that tribal resource concerns on the east side of the state may vary greatly from tribal resource concerns on the west side of the state. This is because of the broad diversity of land use and climate on either side of the Cascade Mountains divide. There are four tribes located on the east side of the state and twenty-five tribes located on the west side of the state.

Tribes located in eastern Washington State (east of the Cascade Mountains):

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Washington
- (*formerly the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation of the Yakama Reservation*)
- Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington
- Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation, Washington

Tribes located in western Washington State (west of the Cascade Mountains):

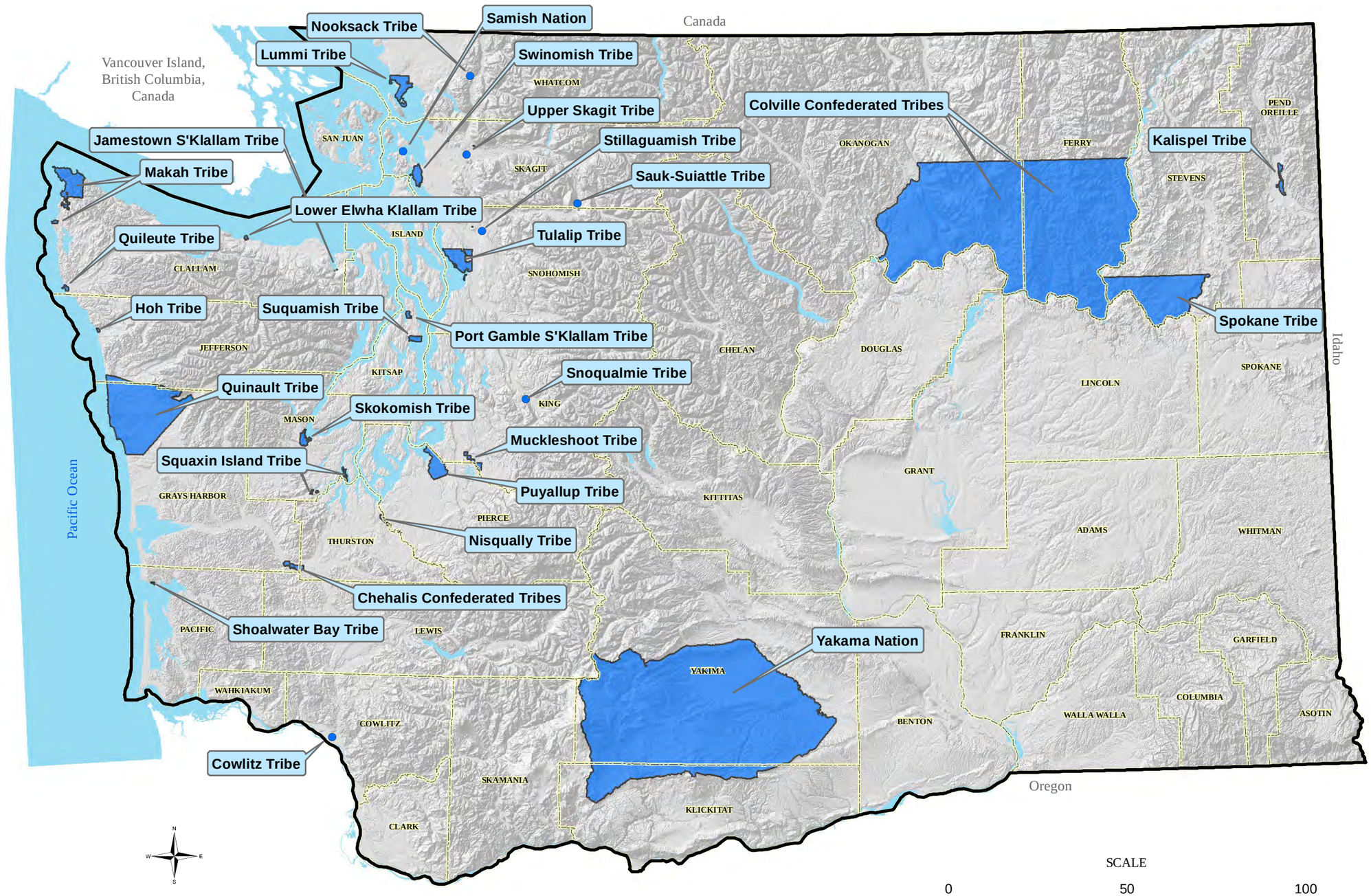
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Washington
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington
- Hoh Indian Tribe of the Hoh Indian Reservation, Washington
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe of Washington
- Lower Elwha Tribal Community of the Lower Elwha Reservation, Washington
- Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, Washington
- Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation, Washington
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation, Washington
- Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation, Washington
- Nooksack Indian Tribe of Washington
- Port Gamble Indian Community of the Port Gamble Reservation, Washington
- Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, Washington
- Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation, Washington
- Quinault Tribe of the Quinault Reservation, Washington
- Samish Indian Tribe, Washington
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe of Washington
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation, Washington
- Skokomish Indian Tribe of the Skokomish Reservation, Washington
- Snoqualmie Tribe, Washington
- Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation, Washington
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Washington
- Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation, Washington
- Swinomish Indians of the Swinomish Reservation, Washington
- Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation, Washington
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of Washington

The federal government recognized tribes as sovereign nations and the rightful owners of all the land in the region. Tribes agreed to give up the land but reserved certain rights on lands outside the boundaries of their 'reservations' to ensure their cultures would survive. On these ceded lands Tribes retained the rights to fish, hunt and gather shellfish, among other activities.

Three other federally recognized tribes have ceded lands in Washington State. They include the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Idaho), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Oregon), and the Nez Perce Tribe (Idaho).

Nineteen tribes in Washington State, plus the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho, have participated in the development of the 2012 TRA.

Washington State



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Units: Feet, Datum: NAD 1983

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington State Office, Spokane
December 26, 2012

WASHINGTON STATE TRIBAL LOCATIONS MAP

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Tribal Locations

SOURCE: The majority of the Tribal lands shown on this map are from the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) Tribal Lands layer (2/24/09). The WDOE makes no warranty for the accuracy of this material and is not libel for its use. This data may or may not reflect the most current tribal reservation areas.

SOURCE: Some of the Tribal Lands shown on this map are from the U.S. Census TIGER/MAF 2012 American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Reservations (only) layer. The U.S. Census Bureau states that the boundaries are for statistical purposes only, not for jurisdictional authority, rights of ownership, entitlement or legal land descriptions.

SOURCE: The Yakama Nation reservation boundary was provided to NRCS in June 2012 by the Yakama Nation.

Most of the Tribal lands shown on this map are on-reservation. Some off-reservation Tribal lands are also displayed. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are shown on this map.

Because of scale considerations, some of the smaller Tribal land bases are represented as a dot.

The Tribal Resource Assessment and the WATCAC

The twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in Washington State, and the tribes in neighboring states that own land or have a stake in their traditional cultural areas in Washington, are invited to participate in the WATCAC. The WATCAC works with the NRCS in a similar capacity to the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), but focuses its advice and guidance on conservation activities on tribal lands and issues.

The WATCAC is comprised of representatives from participating tribes, and members of NRCS Washington State Leadership. The NRCS Washington Leadership includes a State Tribal Liaison whose responsibility is to work with tribes on NRCS Program Delivery.

The TRA is meant to tailor NRCS program delivery for Tribes. The goal of establishing a TRA is a critical part of the NRCS commitment to integrate Tribal resource priorities in NRCS program delivery unique to Tribal communities in the state.

The NRCS and WATCAC have monthly meetings and two face to face meetings each year to discuss tribal resource concerns. The NRCS and WATCAC will address the identified TRA priorities annually with tactical actions affecting program delivery. This includes NRCS program specifics such as targeting resource priorities, funding needs and treatment goals for resource concerns, and appropriate conservation practice standards and systems.

Through the WATCAC, the tribes were asked to provide input for the TRA. This included identifying their priority resource concerns, assisting NRCS with mapping the priority treatment areas and providing information regarding the location of off-reservation tribal lands.

After careful deliberation, the WATCAC members chose to address eleven priority resource concerns from a list of thirty-one potential resource concerns. It is important to note that the WATCAC considers that each of these identified tribal resource concerns have the same high priority, with no resource concern being more important than another.

The WATCAC members have provided reviews, comments and suggestions to the NRCS throughout the development of the TRA. The NRCS wishes to thank all of the tribal members and staff who contributed time and information to this project. Without their guidance, this document could not have been completed.

The following sections of the document contain the findings of the TRA. Each section provides information regarding the tribal resource concerns for each landuse. At the end of the document are the Appendices, which contain definitions and comprehensive discussions about the development of the TRA and other related topics.

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Summary of the Tribal Priority Resource Concerns

Below is a summary of the eleven tribal Priority Resource Concerns identified by the WATCAC, and the associated landuses on which these resource concerns will be addressed.

As stated previously, all of the listed resource concerns have the same high priority, with no resource concern being more important than another. Detailed information for each of these resource concerns, including treatment areas and acreages, is found starting on page 9 and in Appendix II on page 39.

SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels, also from forest roads

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation water

- Crop, Pasture

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION -Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater

- Crop, Range, Pasture

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat Degradation

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

The Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and Treatment Areas

The next five sections of this document address the eleven tribal Priority Resource Concerns. Each section includes the assessment findings for one of the five designated landuses:

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag

The findings in each section include the tribal priority resource concerns, an acreage table, and a priority treatment area map for one of the five landuses.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas

There are five tribal Priority Treatment Areas, one for each of the designated landuses. Each tribal Priority Treatment Area essentially encompasses one of the five designated landuses on tribal lands. Within each of these areas, the tribes will address their eleven identified priority resource concerns.

The five Priority Treatment Areas were developed in coordination with individual tribes, and included on-reservation and off-reservation tribal lands. Not all off-reservation tribal lands are accounted in this resource assessment because the NRCS needed tribal input for the identification and location of these lands. Many tribes provided off-reservation land information to NRCS, however, some tribes preferred to not identify their off-reservation lands, and some did not have time to assemble the information.

Identification of the Priority Treatment Areas is important to NRCS program participation. Tribal applications for NRCS programs that address tribal priority resource concerns will receive additional NRCS screening and ranking points if the application is within an associated priority treatment area.

Tribal Acreages Defined

National NRCS guidelines require acreages to be determined for three categories:

- Lands Potentially At Risk, At Risk Lands Needing Treatment, and Priority Treatment Lands

These are defined as:

- **Potential At Risk Acres** - land that is at risk or vulnerable to the resource concern regardless of whether conservation treatment has been applied and maintained.

- **Acres Needing Treatment** - the extent of the land that has not been treated for the resource concern according to NRCS FOTG criteria.

- **Priority Treatment Acres** - the land use acres identified for treatment for a specific resource concern during the 3 year period from FY 2013 through FY 2015.

The acreage for these three categories was estimated by the NRCS, and subsequently reviewed and approved by participating tribes. The individual tribal acreages, some based on specific data and some on percentages, were aggregated into statewide totals for all tribal lands. The total Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern shown in the tables below are the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on a particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

All of the acreages are estimates using geospatial landuse information from either NRCS or tribal datasets. The acreages have been rounded up or down to the nearest 100 acres.

CROP

Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural and/or energy crops.

Fig. 3 - Hops on the Yakama Reservation (NRCS photo).

Tribal Priority Resource Concerns on the Crop Landuse

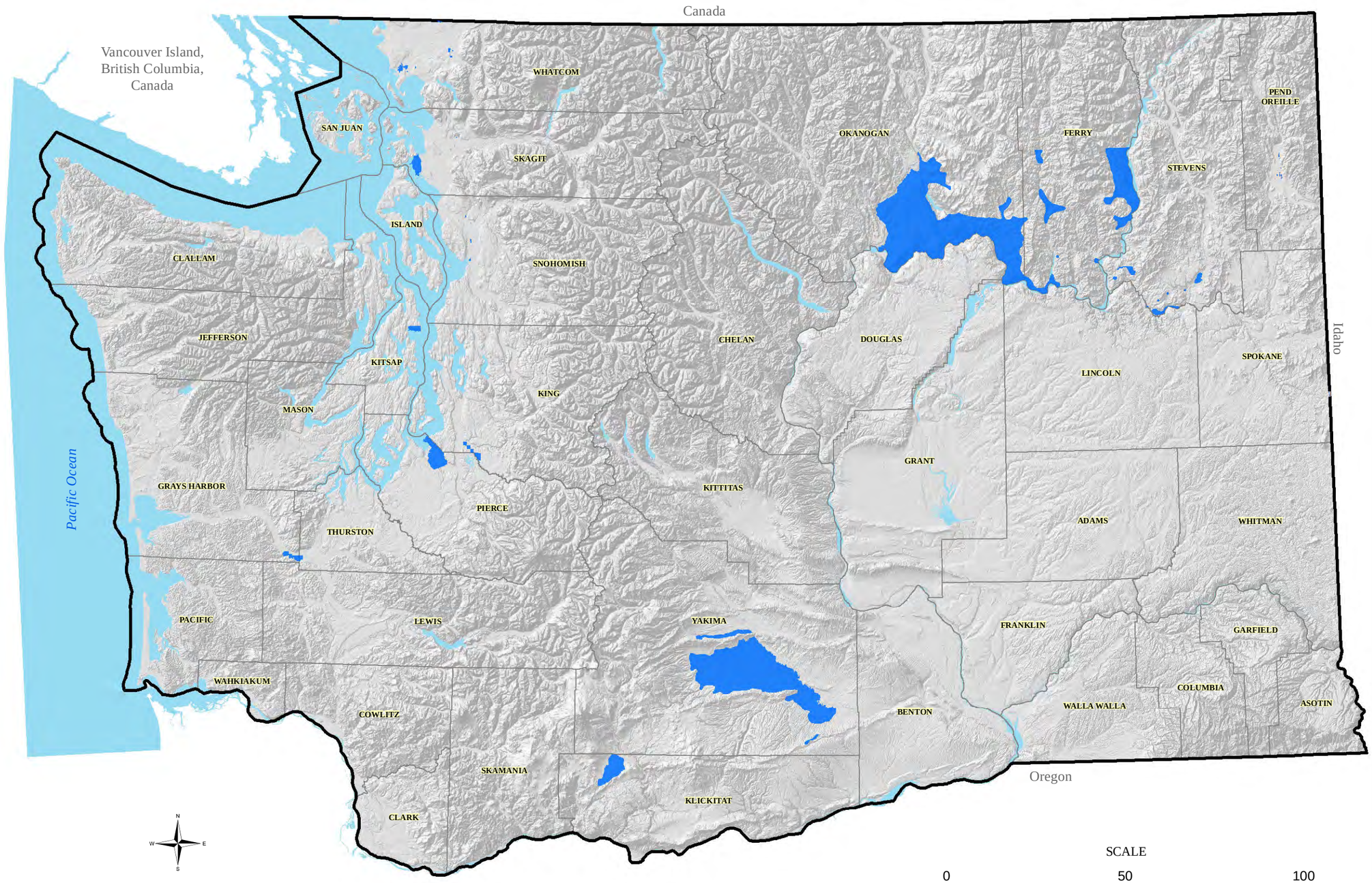
The Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern show the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on this particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

Washington Tribal Priority Resource Concern	CROP		
	Potential At-Risk Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Priority Treatment Acres
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	783,400	229,400	76,700
SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels; also from forest roads	783,400	374,600	91,200
INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation water	783,400	568,200	110,600
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater	783,400	205,200	74,300
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	783,400	185,800	72,300
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	783,400	205,200	74,300
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	783,400	205,200	74,300
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant-pest pressure	783,400	326,200	86,400
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	783,400	568,200	110,600
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	783,400	205,200	74,300
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat Degradation	783,400	568,200	110,600

Fig. 4 - Assessment acreages for the Crop landuse

The map on the following page displays the location of the tribal Crop Priority Treatment Areas.

Washington State



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Washington State Office, Spokane
March 13, 2013

WASHINGTON STATE

TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (TRA)

Tribal Priority Treatment Area Map:

CROP

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Crop - Tribal Priority Treatment Area

NOTE: The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and landuses on tribal lands.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas include both on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are included. This is based on individual Tribal input.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas essentially surround one of the five designated landuses (Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range and Other Associated Ag) on tribal lands.

Because of the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands, it may be difficult to see all of the Tribal Priority Treatment Areas on this scale of map.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs in these areas are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the Tribal Priority Resource application Concerns.

FOREST

Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products and/or non-timber forest products.

Fig. 6 - Forest on the Colville Reservation (NRCS photo).

Tribal Resource Concerns on the Forest Landuse

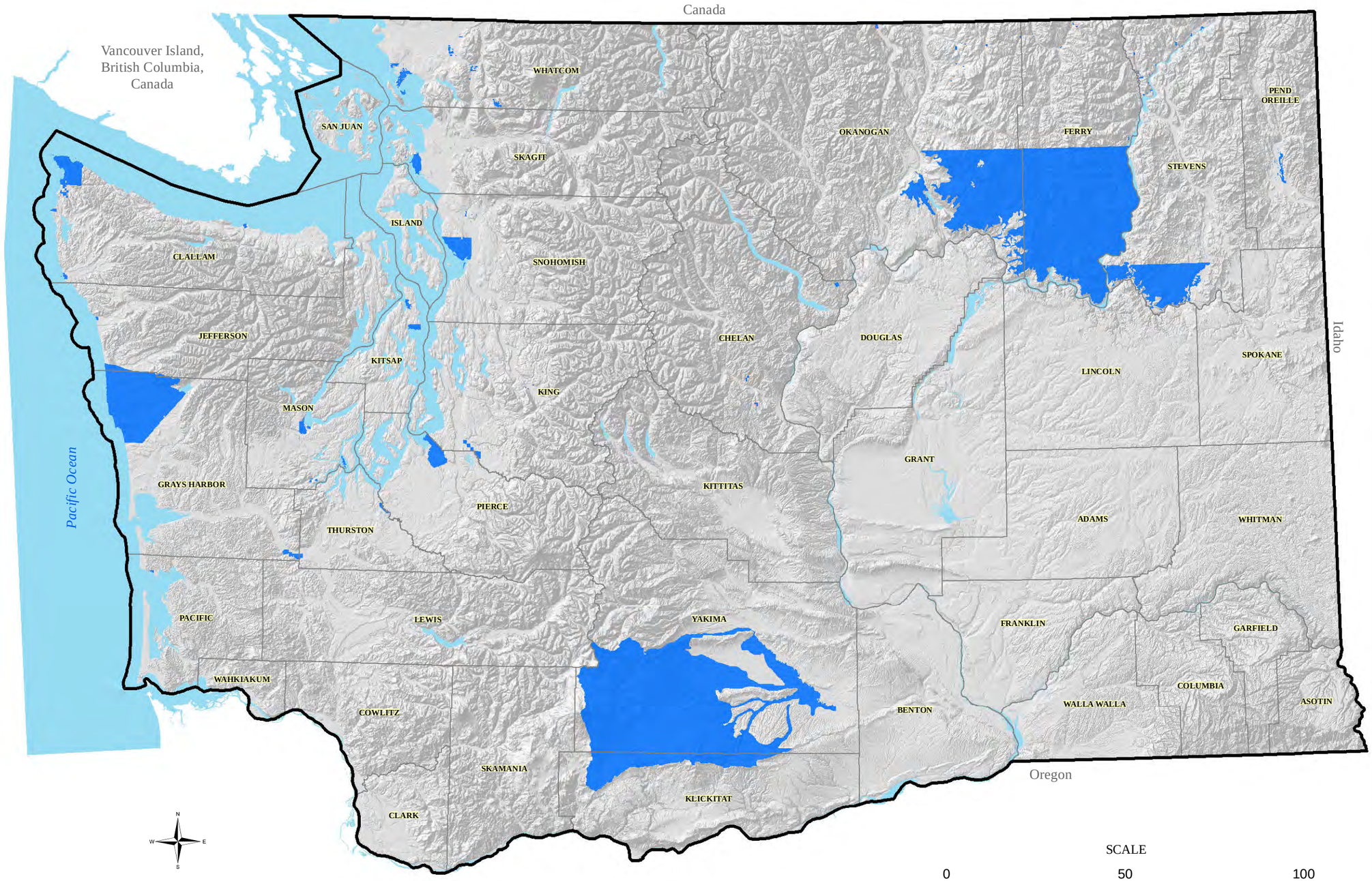
The Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern show the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on this particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

Washington Tribal Priority Resource Concern	FOREST		
	Potential At-Risk Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Priority Treatment Acres
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	2,516,400	1,053,900	351,100
SOIL EROSION -Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels; also from forest roads	2,516,400	1,361,800	366,500
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	2,516,400	951,200	345,900
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	2,516,400	1,002,600	348,600
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	2,516,400	1,002,600	348,600
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant-pest pressure	2,516,400	1,700,700	391,000
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	2,516,400	1,700,700	391,000
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	2,516,400	1,700,700	391,000
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE -Habitat Degradation	2,516,400	1,700,700	391,000

Fig 7 - Assessment acreages for the Forest landuse

The map on the following page displays the location of the tribal Forest Priority Treatment Areas.

Washington State



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Washington State Office, Spokane
March 13, 2013

WASHINGTON STATE

TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (TRA)

Tribal Priority Treatment Area Map:

FOREST

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Forest - Tribal Priority Treatment Area

NOTE: The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and landuses on tribal lands.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas include both on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are included. This is based on individual Tribal input.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas essentially surround one of the five designated landuses (Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range and Other Associated Ag) on tribal lands.

Because of the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands, it may be difficult to see all of the Tribal Priority Treatment Areas on this scale of map.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs in these areas are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the Tribal Priority Resource application Concerns.

RANGE

Land used primarily for the production of grazing animals and wildlife. This includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.

Fig. 9 - Range on the Colville Reservation (NRCS photo)

Tribal Resource Concerns on the Range Landuse

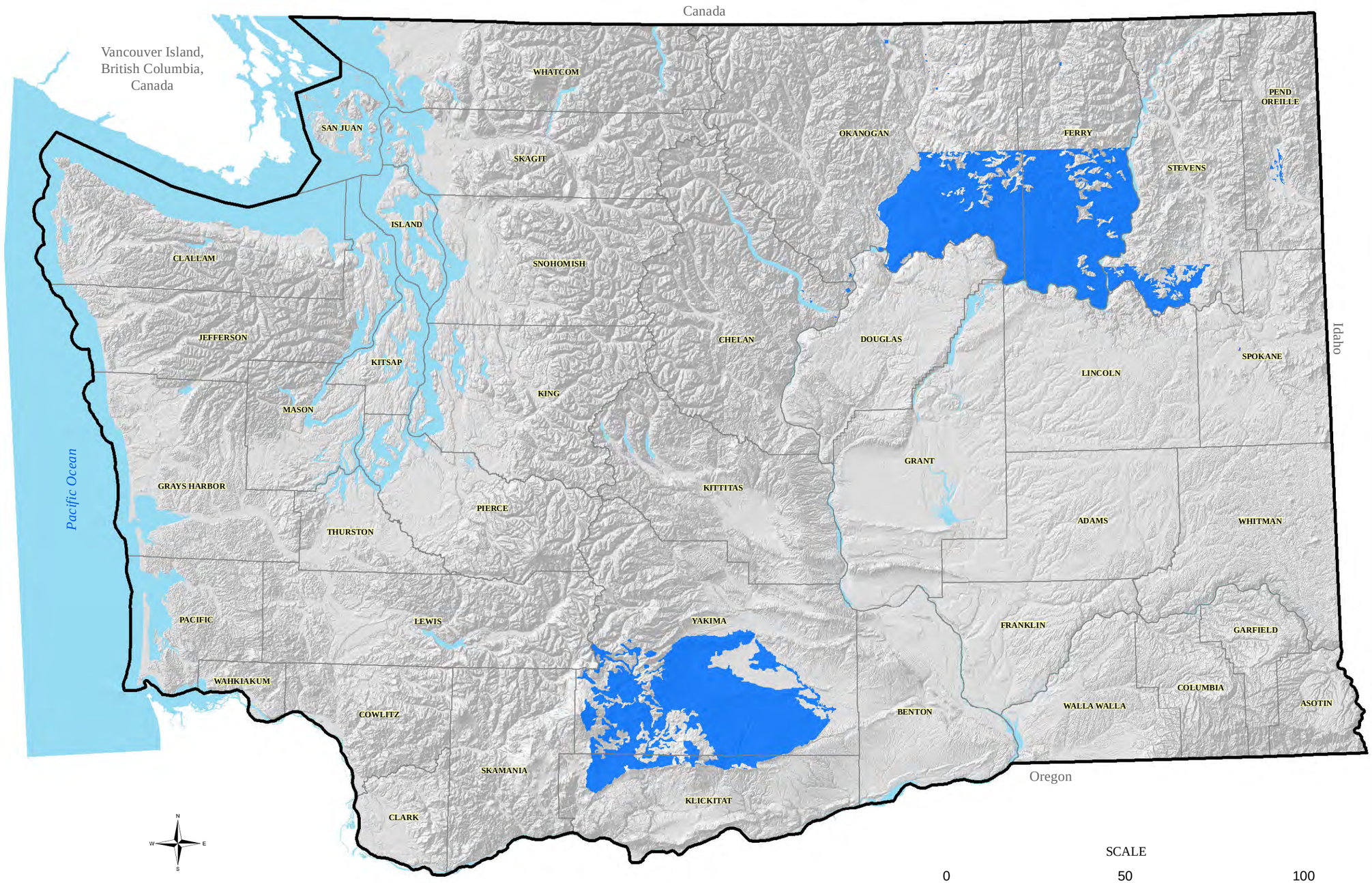
The Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern show the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on this particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

Washington Tribal Priority Resource Concern	RANGE		
	Potential At-Risk Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Priority Treatment Acres
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	2,367,900	863,700	285,000
SOIL EROSION -Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels; also from forest roads	2,367,900	1,167,300	315,400
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater	2,367,900	1,040,900	302,700
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	2,367,900	681,600	266,800
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	2,367,900	724,600	271,100
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	2,367,900	762,600	274,900
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant-pest pressure	2,367,900	1,673,300	365,900
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	2,367,900	1,774,500	426,700
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	2,367,900	1,470,900	345,700
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE -Habitat Degradation	2,367,900	1,673,300	365,900

Fig. 10 - Assessment acreages for the Range landuse

The map on the following page displays the location of the tribal Range Priority Treatment Areas.

Washington State



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March 13, 2013

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TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (TRA)

Tribal Priority Treatment Area Map:

RANGE

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Range - Tribal Priority Treatment Area

NOTE: The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and landuses on tribal lands.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas include both on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are included. This is based on individual Tribal input.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas essentially surround one of the five designated landuses (Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range and Other Associated Ag) on tribal lands.

Because of the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands, it may be difficult to see all of the Tribal Priority Treatment Areas on this scale of map.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs in these areas are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the Tribal Priority Resource application Concerns.

PASTURE

Lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

Fig. 12 - Pasture on the Colville Reservation (NRCS photo).

Tribal Resource Concerns on the Pasture Landuse

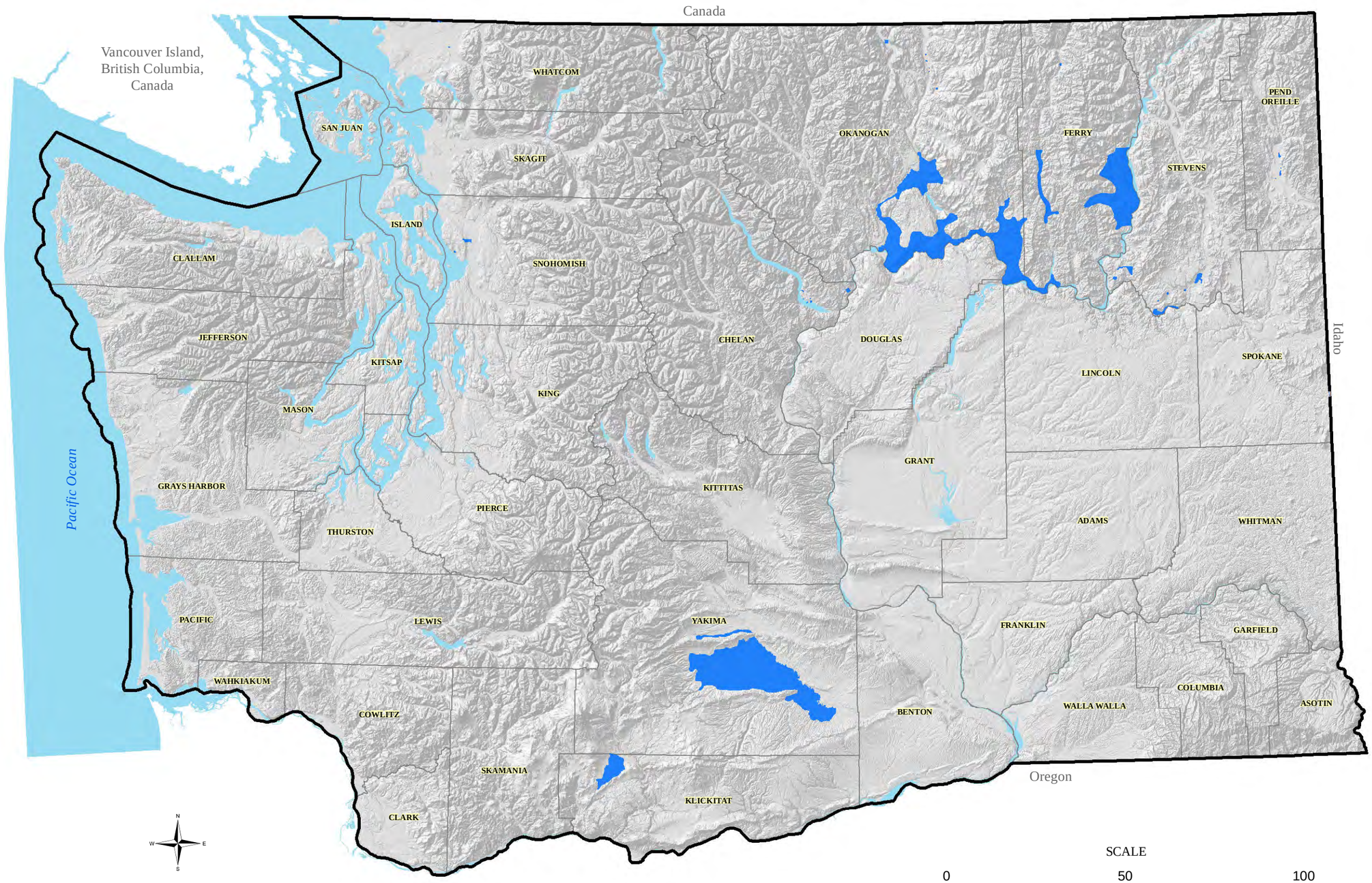
The Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern show the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on this particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

Washington Tribal Priority Resource Concern	PASTURE		
	Potential At-Risk Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Priority Treatment Acres
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	650,400	206,400	71,500
SOIL EROSION -Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels; also from forest roads	650,400	316,800	82,600
INSUFFICIENT WATER -Inefficient use of irrigation water	650,400	537,700	104,700
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater	650,400	188,000	66,700
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	650,400	173,200	68,200
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	650,400	188,000	69,700
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	650,400	188,000	69,700
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant-pest pressure	650,400	279,400	78,700
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	650,400	537,700	104,700
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	650,400	187,400	69,400
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE -Habitat Degradation	650,400	537,100	104,400

Fig. 13 - Assessment acreages for the Pasture landuse

The map on the following page displays the location of the tribal Pasture Priority Treatment Areas.

Washington State



SCALE

0 50 100

Miles

Coordinate System: HARN StatePlane Washington South
Units: Feet, Datum: NAD 1983

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington State Office, Spokane
March 13, 2013

WASHINGTON STATE

TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (TRA)

Tribal Priority Treatment Area Map:

PASTURE

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Pasture - Tribal Priority Treatment Area

NOTE: The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and landuses on tribal lands.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas include both on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are included. This is based on individual Tribal input.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas essentially surround one of the five designated landuses (Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range and Other Associated Ag) on tribal lands.

Because of the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands, it may be difficult to see all of the Tribal Priority Treatment Areas on this scale of map.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs in these areas are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the Tribal Priority Resource application Concerns.

OTHER ASSOCIATED AG

Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production and/or conservation lands. Shellfish production areas in the tidal and intertidal areas are also included in this landuse description.

This could include incidental areas such as: idle center pivot corners, odd areas, draws, hedgerows, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, rocky outcrop, and other similar areas.

It also includes the headquarters area used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry and ranching activities are often initiated. This may include dwellings, equipment storage plus farm input and output storage and handling facilities.

In addition, this includes land dedicated to the facilitation and production of high intensity animal agriculture in a confinement facility (Includes areas such as milking barns, holding lots, heavy use areas, waste treatment and storage facilities, composting facilities, feed mixing facilities, poultry houses, farrowing houses, fish production facilities and other equipment or feed storage facilities essential to the production of confined animals).

This may include land enrolled in USDA easement programs that is not used for the production of food, forage, or fiber.

Fig. 15 - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) project on the Nisqually Reservation (NRCS photo).

Tribal Resource Concerns on the Other Associated Ag Landuse

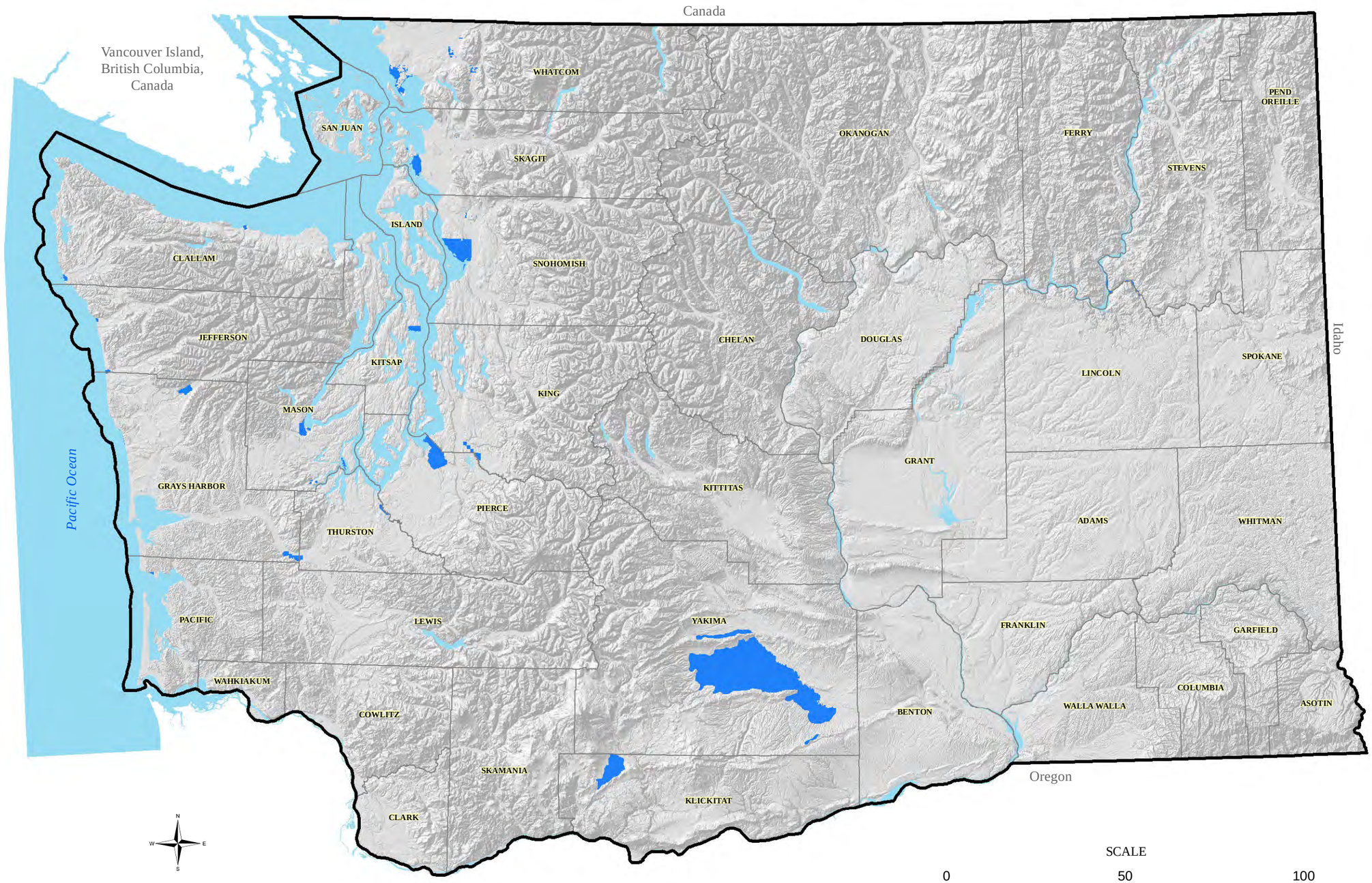
The Priority Treatment Acres for each resource concern show the amount of acreage that all participating tribes will try to address on this particular landuse from 2013 to 2015.

Washington Tribal Priority Resource Concern	OTHER ASSOCIATED AG		
	Potential At-Risk Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Priority Treatment Acres
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	320,700	198,900	75,600
SOIL EROSION -Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels; also from forest roads	320,700	198,900	75,600
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	320,700	198,900	75,600
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	320,700	198,900	75,600
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	320,700	198,900	75,600
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant-pest pressure	320,700	198,900	75,600
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	320,700	198,900	75,600
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	320,700	198,900	75,600
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE -Habitat Degradation	320,700	198,900	75,600

Fig. 16 - Assessment acreages for the Other Associated Ag landuse

The map on the following page displays the location of the tribal Other Associated Ag Priority Treatment Areas.

Washington State



SCALE

0 50 100

Miles

Coordinate System: HARN StatePlane Washington South
Units: Feet, Datum: NAD 1983

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington State Office, Spokane
March 13, 2013

WASHINGTON STATE

TRIBAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (TRA)

Tribal Priority Treatment Area Map:

OTHER ASSOCIATED AG

Legend

- State Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Other Associated Ag - Tribal Priority Treatment Area

NOTE: The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified Tribal Priority Resource Concerns and landuses on tribal lands.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas include both on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands. Not all off-reservation Tribal lands are included. This is based on individual Tribal input.

The Tribal Priority Treatment Areas essentially surround one of the five designated landuses (Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range and Other Associated Ag) on tribal lands.

Because of the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation Tribal lands, it may be difficult to see all of the Tribal Priority Treatment Areas on this scale of map.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs in these areas are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the Tribal Priority Resource application Concerns.

APPENDICES

Fig. 18 - Coastal headlands and beachgrass on the Makah Reservation (NRCS photo).

APPENDIX I – The 2012 TRA Process

The Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA) was first discussed with the WATCAC at the January 2012 face-to-face meeting at Squaxin Island. The process for developing the State Resource Assessment (SRA), which focuses on Local Work Group-defined resource concerns, was described to provide a sense of what was needed in the TRA.

For the first time, Washington NRCS was asked to submit a budget proposal based on treating priority resource concerns in Washington State. The resource concerns and areas identified in the SRA provided guidance for NRCS funding for the next 3-5years, starting with the FY13 Budget process. The SRA and TRA will both be used for the FY14's budget process and future years.

NRCS asked the WATCAC to identify the top five resource concerns for the eastern and western Washington tribes. The group was asked to start with the resource concerns in the SRA and identify any resource concerns that were not in the SRA. Some guidelines and deadlines were provided to aid the process:

Deadlines:

- April – Jan 2012 – Committees work on TRA priorities
- May 2012 – WATCAC completes final TRA
- June 2012 – WATCAC submit top priorities and needed requirements (NRCS programs)
- July 2012 – WA NRCS submits to national a budget

Guidelines:

- Use the SRA as a baseline to start from; develop committees to define eastern and western Washington resource concerns and priorities.
- The June 2012 meeting could be the next face-to-face to refine the TRA.

Ongoing:

- The NRCS Tribal liaison will encourage Tribal participation in the local working group sessions for each NRCS team and facilitate Tribal local working groups and the development of the TRA update each year.

At the February 2012 WATCAC meeting, the group was asked to work with the Tribal Liaison who had been given a strategy to collect the resource concern data. The agency planned to compile eastern and western Washington resource assessments from that data for the WATCAC to review. A revised 2012 timeline was proposed:

- May – Tribal data to Tribal Liaison
- June – WATCAC meeting to finalize TRA
- July – Budget due

Work on the TRA had progressed by the March WATCAC meeting. In eastern Washington, meetings had been held with the Coeur D'Alene, Kalispel, Spokane, Colville, and Yakama tribal representatives. The Yakama held internal meetings to confirm their data. In western Washington, some meetings had been held with tribal representatives. The work toward a TRA to date had established that east and west of the Cascade Mountains, resource concerns varied but were not as different as originally anticipated. The larger land bases and fewer tribes in eastern Washington, combined with those tribes' experience with NRCS programs, contributed to a smoother process than on the West side.

Resource concerns that were not in the SRA needed to be identified so that the agency could show what were priorities for the tribes. WA-NRCS proposed that the WATCAC function as a Tribal Local Work Group to develop the TRA and FY13 funding. These efforts would include a review of the ranking questions, which would need to

be finalized by August. The group was encouraged once more to provide all information by May 2012, so that the WATCAC could go through the Tribal Local Work Group exercise in June 2012.

By the April 2012 WATCAC meeting, more progress had been made. In eastern Washington, the Tribal Liaison and East Area Resource Conservationist met at least once, and in several cases twice, with the eastern Washington tribes. Because of the amount of information the tribal staff needed to provide, they broke it down into two tasks:

- To address immediate needs, the tribes were asked to provide a list of tribal resource concerns prioritized by land use. Include at-risk acres, acres needing treatment, and priority treatment acres.
- To address the overall needs of the WA Tribal Resource Assessment document, the tribes were asked to address ceded lands, and the additional information in the worksheets, i.e. social/economic, etc.

Their initial meetings were introductions to the SRA, how resource concerns would inform the agency's budget proposals for program dollars, and what data was needed. The second meeting involved reviewing the tribes' first drafts of data, and providing guidance and/or suggestions for next steps. By April 2012, data had been received from the Coeur D'Alene, Kalispel, and Yakama tribes. The Colville and Spokane tribes were compiling their data, and Yakama was working on the geospatial priority area delineations.

In western Washington, the numerous, smaller land base tribes had encountered challenges to providing their data, particularly the challenge of individual tribal resource concerns, and the need for consensus in prioritizing the resource concerns statewide. They requested that the TRA process paper be emailed and posted to NRCS's tribal web page.

At the April 2012 meeting, Washington NRCS informed the WATCAC of new instructions to develop funding pools by landuse, i.e. crop, pasture, range, forest, and other associated agricultural lands. The WATCAC asked if they could rank these based on resource concerns and was told yes.

At the May 2012 WATCAC meeting, initial summaries of eastern and western Washington data were presented. Questions arose as the summaries were developed, including how to resolve the rankings of individual tribes' resource concerns. The decision was made to do the ranking as a group at the June meeting, and to decide then whether to have a statewide tribal, or east-west sets of resource concerns.

The June 2012 WATCAC meeting was a day and a half of intensive work by the group. The meeting was facilitated by Ray Ledgerwood, from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), who had extensive experience with the Local Work Groups and the process the WATCAC was being asked to go through. The meeting produced targets/goals for the next three years, criteria for prioritizing resource concerns, eleven statewide tribal resource concerns, percentages for the landuse funding pools, and a plan for defining the priority treatment areas.

Strategic Thinking & Planning Work Session

Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee (WATCAC) Meeting Notes

June 14, 2012 – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Coeur d'Alene Casino, Worley, ID

Below are the meeting notes regarding the TRA resource prioritization process. At this meeting the WATCAC discussed and defined their top eleven priority resource concerns. The information is provided here to offer a sense of the broad range of discussion topics.

Session Objectives:

- Determine and identify WATCAC 3 year strategic goals for 2013-2015 based on State Resource Assessment (SRA) resource-based priorities.

Greatest Accomplishments by 2015

- All tribes in the state participating in NRCS programs
- Having the beginning farmers and ranchers coming back to the land in Indian country
- Redefine the land use categories to reflect tribal resources
- Be alive in 2015
- Programs are readily available on reservations – on the ground
- Funding allocations match land use percentages
- See NRCS strengthen and expand in the area of forest health
- NRCS totally engulfed in the salmon recovery effort in the Puget Sound
- See the efficiency of how funds spread out among multi resource needs
- Recovering salmon will be accomplished throughout the state not just on reservation or trust lands
- Water quality and quantity both on reservation and watershed meet water quality standards and promote healthy, harvestable salmon population for salmon and shellfish
- Make sure the programs are in line with the white paper developed on treaty rights at risk
- See the programs expanded to include alternative resource concerns – eg. feral horse concerns
- More funds available on restoration projects – working with agricultural people especially restoration projects
- All USDA agencies leadership to support local staff decisions made in field with program delivery in Indian country
- See a significant increase in progress numbers (contracts and acres) for EQIP and CSP programs – proactive STC
- More funding available for salmon recovery…beyond NRCS funding…other ag agencies lend assistance for areas with non-listed species
- See strengthened partnership with coastal and Puget Sound tribes – salmon recovery through programs
- Have a strong tribal program in WA State that is nationwide model
- Have a more clear understanding of NRCS programs in Indian Country especially with tribal staff
- Programs expanded to non-traditional programs for agriculture especially those that work with tribes even off reservation with co-management responsibility
- Have two trainings with technical transfer back and forth with Tribal interests
- Resolutions from all 29 tribes in participation in the advisory council

- Simplify the complex requirements in our programs, reduce paperwork as a barrier
- Farm Bill would reflect input from tribes especially from Washington
- Build a program to address closed shellfish beds including targeting funds in those watersheds
- Help tribes have a better working relationship with Local Work Group
- Younger people, new producers that are interested in production
- NRCS relationship built deeper that just programs…including technical assistance, conservation planning, and conversation
- Integrate the tribal nations into the main stream venues…establishment of tribal conservation districts in state…more involvement in technical service providers, conservation activity plans,
- See integration of the long range planning process and annual planning processes into the all planning (long range and annual)
- Have an integrated budget that is integrated with Tribal Resource Assessment
- Achieve the number one priority identified by advisory council with implementation
- Increased participation by all producers
- Have technical capacity of the right kind in the right place to deliver programs
- Tribes working together with departments to identify natural resources and use for resource inventory

Criteria for Selecting a High Priority

- Must abide and respect treaties
- Does it solve the conservation issue/resource concern
- Amount of funding needed and available to fix the resource concern
- Tribal, cultural, regional importance and would protect and/enhance culturally important species
- Consider program activity in relation to acres needing addressed
- Must address tribal (or applicable) water quality standards
- Would address pest management and/or invasive species (plant and/or animal)
- Scope of the resource concern, level of threat, amount of tribes effected
- Number one priority for each tribe is considered
- The natural resources are becoming rare or limited
- Would consider water quantity needs

Overall

- Ability to monitor the effect of the work (should be in everything)
- Afford opportunities for tribal members (should be in all)
- Concern expressed on some NRCS practice standards

Other criteria

- Effect of work would move us closer to state and tribal water quality standards
- At least one resource concern addressed for each tribe
- Consideration of resource scope and scale
- Would significantly reduce erosion
- Should consider traditional ecological knowledge or native science

Do we want to consider the tribal resource assessment separate from the state resource assessment…which is more effective for tribes – STC says stand-alone based on this morning exercise on accomplishment…but draw on both.

Stand-alone…that is why we formed the Advisory Committee

2012 TRA Priority Resource Concerns Development

After the WATCAC meeting in June, discussions were started on the development of the TRA. The first task was for the tribes to determine their priority resource concerns on one or more of the five designated landuses. Once this was done, then the tribal lands, priority treatment areas and acres for the TRA could be determined.

Below are the working definitions for the landuse categories, and discussions on the development of the priority resources concerns, priority treatment areas, and what tribal lands were used in the TRA.

Landuse Categories

The five designated NRCS landuse categories are: Crop, Range, Pasture, Forest and Other Associated Ag Lands. NRCS defines these landuses as:

> **Crop** - Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural and/or energy crops.
>
> **Range** - Land used primarily for the production of grazing animals and wildlife. This includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
>
> **Pasture** - Lands compose of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.
>
> **Forest** - Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products and/or non-timber forest products.
>
> **Other Associated Ag Land** - Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production and/or conservation lands. Shellfish production areas in the tidal and intertidal areas would also be included in this landuse description.
>
> This could include incidental areas such as: idle center pivot corners, odd areas, draws, hedgerows, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, rocky outcrop, and other similar areas.
>
> It also includes the headquarters area used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry and ranching activities are often initiated. This may include dwellings, equipment storage plus farm input and output storage and handling facilities.
>
> In addition, this includes land dedicated to the facilitation and production of high intensity animal agriculture in a confinement facility (Includes areas such as milking barns, holding lots, heavy use areas, waste treatment and storage facilities, composting facilities, feed mixing facilities, poultry houses, farrowing houses, fish production facilities and other equipment or feed storage facilities essential to the production of confined animals).
>
> This may include land enrolled in USDA easement programs that is not used for the production of food, forage, or fiber.

Priority Resource Concerns

There were thirty-one potential NRCS resource concerns available for the tribal resource assessment process. These are determined by NRCS national guidance.

There are nine major resource concerns categories. These are subdivided into thirty-one more specific natural resource concerns. The thirty-one NRCS resource concerns are broad enough to provide the opportunity to address any natural resource concern on one or more of the five landuses.

These are the nine major resource concern categories:

- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Excess / Insufficient Water
- Water Quality Degradation
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Inadequate Habitat For Fish And Wildlife
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Inefficient Energy Use
- Air Quality Impacts

Below is an example of how one of the nine major resource concern categories is subdivided, and which of these resultant resource concern categories the WATCAC chose to address as part of the TRA:

- Water Quality Degradation

Within this major resource concern are seven more specific resource concerns:

- Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters
- Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters
- Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications
- Excessive salts in surface and ground waters
- Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources
- Excessive sediment in surface waters
- Elevated water temperature

Out of these seven potential Water Quality Degradation resource concerns, the WATCAC chose the following four as tribal priorities, and associated them with the listed landuses:

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION -Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater

- Crop, Pasture, Range

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications

- Crop, Forest, Other Associated Ag, Pasture, Range

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION -Excessive sediment in surface waters

- Crop, Forest, Other Associated Ag, Pasture, Range

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature

- Crop, Forest, Other Associated Ag, Pasture, Range

The WATCAC chose to address eleven of the thirty-one specific resource concerns within the TRA as a result of their discussions. These are their priority resource concerns in the TRA. Once those eleven were identified, the WATCAC requested that those be treated equally important, and all hints of ranking or prioritization among the eleven be eliminated.

Tribal Lands and Priority Treatment Area Development

After the WATCAC determined the eleven tribal priority resource concerns, the tribal lands affected by these resource concerns needed to be identified and geospatial priority treatment areas developed. The NRCS provided baseline information to the tribes to assist with this task. This information included maps of concept tribal priority treatment areas based on NRCS geospatial landuse datasets and potential at-risk acreage estimates.

The participating tribes reviewed the NRCS data and maps. Some of the tribes chose to use the information provided by the NRCS. Some tribes requested that the agency use tribally developed data, which they submitted to the NRCS.

Tribal Lands

The 2012 TRA includes both on-reservation and off-reservation tribally owned lands. Not all off-reservation tribal lands are accounted for in this resource assessment. The NRCS needed tribal input for the identification of these lands, and some tribes declined to identify their off-reservation lands, did not have time to provide the information, or did not take part in the assessment process.

Regardless of participation, the NRCS has included tribal lands for twenty-eight of the twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in Washington, plus some off-reservation parcels owned by the Coeur D'Alene tribe. Where it was possible to obtain tribal data from public sources, on-reservation and off-reservation tribal lands have been included for twenty-eight tribes. The agency's decision to do this provides these tribes the opportunity to take part in NRCS program planning and delivery should they wish to do so.

The Cowlitz tribe was the only tribe whose lands could not be identified for inclusion in the 2012 TRA. The NRCS hopes to correct this omission in the coming months. The NRCS will also continue to work with each tribe to identify all on-reservation and off-reservation tribal lands and incorporate these into a future tribal resource assessment.

Tribal Priority Treatment Areas

The tribal Priority Treatment Areas locate the identified resource concerns and landuses on tribally owned lands. The development of these areas was inclusive rather than exclusive to provide the tribes latitude for participation in NRCS program delivery.

NRCS program planning and delivery uses the Priority Treatment Areas as a screening and ranking tool. Tribal applications for NRCS programs are given a higher ranking if the application addresses one or more of the tribal Priority Resource Concerns in these areas.

The Priority Treatment Area boundaries were located and developed through an iterative process that included tribal and NRCS reviews which led to final approval by the tribes. The initial basis for the tribal priority treatment areas was the five landuses on tribal lands.

The NRCS utilized a statewide geospatial landuse dataset customized to display the NRCS landuse categories. The NRCS developed a set of concept priority treatment areas and provided these to the tribes for review. Along with the concept priority areas, the NRCS provided landuse acreage reports derived from the geospatial landuse dataset.

Each participating tribe either decided to use the NRCS concept priority areas, or requested that the agency use their own locally developed data. This local tribal data was submitted to the NRCS and was incorporated into the TRA.

There are five maps that display the five tribal priority treatment areas. Due to the size of many on-reservation and off-reservation tribally owned lands, not all of the tribally owned lands are readily visible at the map scale used in this document. Since the geospatial Priority Treatment Areas will be used by NRCS planners in Geographic Information System (GIS) software, this scale problem will not affect NRCS program delivery.

TRA Landuse Acreages

National NRCS guidelines require a table identifying the acres of the landuses affected by the resource concerns. This table includes three acreage categories: “Potential At-Risk Acres”, “Acres Needing Treatment”, and “Priority Treatment Acres”. The Priority Treatment Acres are the amount of acreage that the tribes would like to treat through NRCS program delivery from 2013 to 2015.

Along with the concept priority areas, the NRCS initially provided the participating tribes landuse acreage reports on tribal lands derived from NRCS geospatial landuse information. The tribes were given the option to use the NRCS acreages or supply acreages from their own information.

The final acreages in the TRA are estimates using landuse information from either NRCS or tribal datasets. The individual tribal acreages, some based on specific data and some on percentages, were aggregated into statewide totals for all tribal lands.

Below are the definitions of the acreages required for the table:

- Potential At Risk Acres - land that is at risk or vulnerable to the resource concern regardless of whether conservation treatment has been applied and maintained.

- Acres Needing Treatment - the extent of the land that has not been treated for the resource concern according to FOTG criteria.

- Priority Treatment Acres - the land use acres identified for treatment for a specific resource concern during the 3 year period from FY 2013 through FY 2015.

The final acreage estimates are displayed in the tables featured earlier in this document and have been rounded up or down to the nearest 100 acres.

APPENDIX II – Resource Concern Definitions and Goals

Below are definitions for the eleven tribal Priority Resource Concerns identified by the WATCAC on their associated landuses.

All of the listed resource concerns have the same high priority, with no resource concern being more important than another.

SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

Sheet, rill and wind erosion is caused by the detachment and transportation of soil particles caused by rainfall runoff or splash, irrigation runoff, or by wind.

Vast areas of non-irrigated cropland in counties east of the Cascade Mountains have soil and slopes vulnerable to sheet, rill and/or wind erosion. Soils not protected by adequate crop cover, crop residues or other conservation practices will have soil detachment and movement by water or wind.

The goal for this resource priority is that meaningful decreases in annual and seasonal levels of erosion caused by sheet, rill and wind erosion are achieved. The starting point needs to be the adoption of conservation systems by producers that alter the entrenched systems of erosive crop management. Instilling awareness and positive association of these systems needs to be accelerated through an educational process describing not only the obvious environmental effects of erosion, but also the benefits in economic terms and long term soil productivity.

SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels, also from forest roads

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

This resource concern is related to sediment from banks or shorelines threatening to degrade water quality and limiting use for intended purposes.

This resource concern has been mentioned as a primary source of soil erosion and sedimentation in drainage ways within tribal lands from roads and untreated conveyance lines, structurally threatening ecological sites and water quality.

This resource concern is primarily related to removal of streamside vegetation which helps to provide structural support for the streambanks; or the alteration of the natural topography caused by harvesting/site preparation activities or road and trail systems. Installation or use of roads/skid trails that run adjacent and/or parallel to and within 200’ of streams, waterways and shorelines can increase this resource concern. Harvesting and site preparation activities within or through the riparian forest buffer area is likely to increase this resource concern. In addition, conversion from forest land to other land uses without appropriate riparian forest buffer is also likely to increase this resource concern.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Soil Erosion – Excessive bank erosion resource concern:

- Reduced temperature, sedimentation and turbidity thereby improving water quality.
- Stabilization of shorelines and some stream restoration.
- Stabilization of unlined conveyance systems.
- Water habitat improvements with installation of log jams or other alternatives.

EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation water

- Crop, Pasture

This is a resource concern when:

- Irrigation water is not stored, delivered, scheduled, or applied efficiently.
- Aquifer or surface water withdrawals threaten sustained availability of ground or surface water.
- Available irrigation water supplies have been reduced due to aquifer depletion, competition, regulation, drought, or some combination of these.

This is a resource priority in our state, specifically related to the irrigated cropland in central Washington within the Columbia Basin. Conversion from surface and/or rill irrigation systems with only 30-40% irrigation efficiency to sprinkler systems at 80% efficiency will produce water savings, reduce irrigation induced erosion rates of 30 tons per acre, and improve water quality degraded by sedimentation and nutrient loading. In addition to irrigation system conversions, addressing this resource concern with agronomic conservation practices will result in conversion of irrigated cropland to dry land cropland.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Excess/Insufficient Water - Inefficient use of irrigation water resource concern:

- Treatment of current irrigated and untreated acres through the installation of irrigation efficient irrigation systems.

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater

- Crop, Range, Pasture

Nutrients (organics and inorganics) are a resource concern when transported to receiving waters through surface runoff, leaching into shallow ground waters, or both in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes.

On cropland, nitrogen can be over applied and degrade plant health and vigor. Over application of nitrogen may lead to excess nutrients in surface and ground water. Pesticides may be over applied or applied near water bodies leading to surface water contamination. In addition, this resource concern is a priority as it relates to the Animal Feeding Operations/Confined Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) industry, and the lack of adequate animal waste management in particular. Animal waste is a point source of nutrients and pathogens into our waterways that degrade and threaten water quality.

Our goals for this resource priority are:

- To focus on western and central Washington dairies and feedlots to address their waste management systems comprehensively with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) and waste management systems.
- To improve agricultural practices in watershed uplands to minimize closures and reopen shellfish beds.
- To implement water quality monitoring improvements related agricultural drainage ways on 303D listed streams.
- Address waste tanks on ranches and farms, and additional related issues on small holding ranches and farms

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Water Quality Degradation – Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater resource concern:

- Improvements to made to water quality standards through the removal of 303d Listing of streams made possible through the treatment of riparian areas.

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

This resource concern relates to the pathogens, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals that are transported to receiving waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes. It also includes the offsite transport of leachate and runoff from silage, compost, or other organic materials.

As with the Water Quality Degradation-Excess Nutrients resource concern, this resource priority is related to the AFO/CAFO industry and the lack of adequate animal waste management in particular. Animal waste is a point source of nutrients and pathogens into our waterways that degrade and threaten water quality.

Our goal for this resource priority is to work with dairies and feedlots to address waste management systems comprehensively with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), and waste management systems.

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag lands

This resource concern is related to the off-site transport of sediment from sheet, rill, gully, and wind erosion into surface water that threatens to degrade surface water quality and limit use for intended purposes.

The vast amount of cropland with erosive soil and exposed streambanks in Washington counties east of the Cascade Mountains are seeing erosion that has effects far beyond where the land is eroded. Unprotected areas have soil detachment and movement by water, primarily from rain. This is especially true from rain on snow events when soils are frozen, with studies documenting tens of tons of soil loss per acre. On Forestland, throughout the state but particularly west of the Cascade divide, water quality degradation due to sediment comes mainly from surface water runoff along the forest road and trail systems.

When sediment enters the water column it increases turbidity and carries pollutants such as nutrients and pesticides. Sediment deposition on growing crops causes economic damage to producers. When deposited on roads or into culverts, the sediment becomes a safety hazard and causes clogged waterways and fish passage barriers requiring costly removal. In irrigation canals and shipping facilities, the sediment requires expensive mechanical removal and transport. Habitat for economically and culturally important fisheries is degraded by sedimentation. There are indications that degraded water quality in the Columbia River and other major rivers has impacts into the ocean and associated coasts.

The goal of this resource priority is to improve the quality of surface waters and maintain these improvements to protect human health and support a healthy environment. On irrigated cropland, cooperators should apply Irrigation Water Management practices resulting in irrigation water applied to meet plant needs. Nutrient and Pest Management practices are applied to all cropland and other associated agriculture lands.

On forestland in western Washington, the goal is to apply conservation practices on forest roads to manage water drainage, and control erosion and sedimentation from reaching waterways, to improve fish passage and aquatic habitat.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Water Quality Degradation – excessive sediment resource concern:

- Improvements are made to water quality through the removal of 303d listing of streams made possible through the treatment of riparian areas.

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

This resource concern is related to surface water temperatures exceeding State/Federal standards and/or limiting use for intended purposes.

Lack of mature riparian forest buffer and other streamside woody vegetation causes an increase in this resource concern. The goal is to install appropriate riparian vegetation for the soils and site so in that in the short term the vegetation can provide some shading and cover and reduce water temperature along the shoreline and in the long term the taller riparian vegetation will provide enough shading and cover to bring down water temperatures to appropriate levels for intended purpose.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as important for the WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature resource concern:

- Reducing elevated water temperature is important for not only fish bearing streams but also tributaries to fish bearing streams

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

This resource concern is related to the excessive pest damage to plants, including that from undesired plants, diseases, animals, soil borne pathogens, and nematodes. As an example, this concern addresses invasive plant, animal, and insect species.

Excessive plant pest pressure is an ongoing and dynamic problem. New species of noxious weeds, insect plant pests and soil pathogens are continually being discovered through agricultural and natural resource science. Additionally, improper grazing and forest management practices, or rodent and wildlife pressure, can damage forest and range plant communities. If unchecked, these pests can significantly impact and degrade plant resources. Invasive plants in western Washington, such as knotweed and reed canary grass, have significantly altered riparian flood plain habitat important to calving elk, and can "choke" a stream channel eliminating fish habitat and even fish passage.

The goal is to address this resource concern on tribal lands to install practices and improve management of resources to reduce pest and invasive species pressure.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive plant pest pressure resource concern:

- Treat Rangeland, Forestland, and Cropland/hayland.

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

Plant productivity, vigor, and/or quality should not negatively impact other resources or yield potential due to improper fertility, management, or plants not adapted to a site. As an example, this concern addresses pollinators, beneficial insects, wind erosion, and excess soil deposition that influence plant condition.

Grazing lands, including those in partial or fully forested areas, cannot produce to their potential based on soil types and climate, because plant productivity, vigor, and quality are degraded, and negatively impact other resources. This includes ranges where native plants have been replaced with undesirable species, as well as native vegetation stressed by heavy and unseasonal grazing, drought, and competition from invasive weeds.

The health of forest trees are significantly degraded due to overstocking. Overstocking puts these trees under significant stress due to excess competition for water, nutrients, light and growing space. In addition overstocking adds to the spread of wildfires both horizontally across the landscape and vertically (ladder fuels) into the crowns.

The goal for these lands should be no net loss in vegetation health and productivity, and, where practical, increases in productivity and health. The short-term goal is an upward trend in plant vigor, however, the long-term goal is an increase in health and productivity which will requires decades of good management. Improving native vegetation is a priority, but adapted introduced species could be used where management for a high level of productivity is desired.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Degraded Plant Condition - Undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern:

- Restore and/or reintroduce traditional plants for cultural uses and traditional food sources.

DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

This resource concern addresses the kinds and amounts of fuel loadings (plant biomass) that create wildfire hazards and thereby pose risks to human safety, structures, plants, animals, and air resources.

Tribal and Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands (NIPF) make up the largest NRCS land use in Northeast and Western Washington. These lands contribute greatly to the local economy and provide millions of acres of wildlife habitat. Past unmanaged forest lands have left many of these forest land acres in a degraded condition with overstocked stands of trees susceptible to forest disease and pest outbreaks and at risk to catastrophic wildfire.

Degraded forest health due to overstocked stands has left many forested areas vulnerable to bark beetle outbreaks and increased incidence of root rot diseases. These poor health stands have an increased risk of catastrophic wildfire due to a buildup of dead woody material and tightly spaced stands subject to crown fires. Extensive, unmanaged logging in the latter half of the 20th century has left many of these lands with an unnatural species composition and stagnated forest stands.

Our goal with this resource concern is to provide technical and financial assistance to the tribal producers in the state for the development of forest management plans designed to adequately manage their forests and ranches to reduce the risk and intensity of wildfires.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation resource concern:

- Restore and/or reintroduce traditional plants for cultural uses and traditional food sources by managing forests for both large trees and desired understory plants, For example: Cedar Trees and huckleberry plants.

INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture and Other Associated Ag Lands

Habitat is degraded when the quantity, quality, or connectivity of food, cover, space, shelter, and/or water is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife, and invertebrate species.

The goal is to increase the connectivity and number of acres of suitable permanent habitat, and to create a positive impact on all priority landuses by reducing erosion and water quality concerns related to fish habitat and other wildlife. Within forested areas, the goal is to encourage heterogeneity of the species component and vegetative structure either vertically within a forested area and/or horizontally across the landscape.

Additionally, in western Washington, we plan to improve habitat in the drainage-ways by eliminating fish passage barriers and estuary fragmentation and creating habitat on the uplands, riparian areas and wetlands through the easement/restoration and financial assistance programs.

Members of the WATCAC identified the following as potential goals for the Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife - Habitat degradation resource concern:

- Restore access and/or develop habitat each year.
- Increase the number of financial assistance program contracts each year.
- Support the Pacific Salmon Habitat Improvement Partnership (PSHIP), through active participation in program applications and implementation of restoration projects.

APPENDIX III – Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation

Tribal consultation may be formal or informal, with individuals or groups, or on a government-to-government basis. In the latter case, tribal consultation is embodied in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, court decisions, federal statutes, and executive orders. Tribal consultation is an active process that considers American Indian interests as a necessary and integral part of the decision making process. Consultation is an interaction that goes beyond notification and reporting information. It is an open and free exchange of information and opinions between parties that can lead to mutual understanding (USDA NRCS, Tribal Consultation, January 2013).

The USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002 implements President Barack Obama's November 5, 2009 Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on Tribal Consultation, which directed the Departments and Agencies to commence and complete and consistent implementation of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments.

The USDA and its agencies are directed by the departmental regulation to provide Federally recognized Tribes the opportunity for government-to-government consultation and coordination in policy development and program activities which have direct and substantial effects on their Tribe, thereby ensuring that tribal perspectives on the social, cultural, economic, and ecological aspects of agriculture, as well as tribal food and natural resource priorities and goals are heard and fully considered in the decision-making processes of the Department and its agencies.

Substantial Direct Effect:

Direct means that there is an uninterrupted causal connection between the action and the group or individual being affected. Effects may be positive, neutral, or negative. These elements should be considered:

(1) If there is definitely potential for an effect that is substantial and direct, consultation is required.

(2) If there is any potential for an effect, consultation may be required, depending on the extent (significance) of the effect. If the agency does not know the significance of the effect, or even whether there will be an effect, the agency should inquire of potentially affected Tribes whether the Tribe thinks there would be an effect, how significant such an effect may be, and whether they would like to consult.

(3) If there is no potential for an effect, consultation is not required (but may still be valuable).

A goal of tribal consultation is to involve tribes and individuals so they can identify issues and acceptable management options. The unique trust relationship between the Federal government and American Indian governments means that federal agencies such as the NRCS must strive to ensure that agency decisions and actions are in the best interest of Indian Tribes. Consultation provides an effective way to determine what is best (USDA NRCS, Tribal Consultation, April 2009).

In 1988, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in recognition of their respective departmental responsibilities with American Indian Tribes. This MOU focused on meeting the needs of American Indians by working in a Federal partnership to improve the delivery of services and programs. Agencies within the two departments signed additional agency level MOU's to plan and deliver USDA programs on Indian lands.

President Clinton issued Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments*, in 2000. President Bush reaffirmed this policy in 2004 with his *Presidential Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments*. President Obama further emphasized federal responsibilities of consultation in 2009 with his *Presidential Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*. This memo charges Executive departments and agencies with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, and are responsible for strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes.

In response to the 2009 memo, the USDA drafted an *Action Plan for Tribal Consultation and Collaboration*. It is important to understand the history of the relationship between the U.S. government and Indian tribes given its potential influence consultation.

NRCS Washington is committed to integrating tribal consultation into its planning and program delivery activities. In support of this commitment, the Washington NRCS worked with the tribes of the state to form the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WATCAC). While comprised of council and technical representatives, this group's consultations with NRCS are in support of but do not replace government-to-government consultation.

The Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

The WATCAC, established in 2011, serves as an advisory council to the NRCS. The WATCAC is comprised of representatives from participating tribes, and members of NRCS Washington State Leadership. The twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in Washington State, and the tribes in neighboring states that own land or have a stake in their traditional cultural areas in Washington, are invited to participate in the WATCAC.

The WATCAC works with the NRCS in a similar capacity to the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), but focuses its advice and guidance on conservation activities on tribal lands and issues.

A Tribal Strategic Plan was developed in 2012 by the NRCS and the WATCAC, with goals and objectives for a three year period. The 2012 Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA) was slated for development in Goal 4, Objective 1, in the Tribal Strategic Plan (2013 -2015).

The TRA is meant to tailor NRCS program delivery for Tribes. The goal of establishing a TRA is a critical part of the NRCS commitment to integrate Tribal resource priorities in program delivery unique to Tribal communities in the state.

Consequently, NRCS program development, rollout and delivery, for tribal resource priorities identified in the TRA, may be used annually as is done for statewide Local Work Groups (non-tribal LWG). This effectuates equitable and appropriate processes necessary for tribal program needs. Furthermore, technical assistance issues relative to the TRA priorities can be adequately identified and addressed with practice standards and conservation planning process and tools used for tribal needs.

APPENDIX IV – Tribal Traditional Use Areas

Tribal Traditional Use Areas

The regions historically occupied by the Northwest Coast and Plateau Indian cultures reflect a vast traditional use area, which reflects a landscape-scale cultural resource. While each culture used specific areas, some places were shared, which furthers the complex nature of these cultural resources. The lands occupied by the Washington State tribes today are reduced significantly from their historic traditional use areas, however, the cultural importance of the traditional use areas remains as significant as in the past. Many Tribes retain use of their "usual and accustomed" areas for hunting, fishing, and gathering plants, animals and fish.

The importance of traditional use areas derives from the role these play in each culture's beliefs, customs, and practices. These areas include locations where tribes practice spiritual and/or healing ceremonies, and where the tribes procure foods, medicines, and items of economy. The places provided, and in some cases continue to provide, the connections and resources necessary for maintaining balance in the world as well as cultural identity.

All Washington tribes, and tribes in surrounding states, are concerned about the condition of the resources within their traditional use areas and ceded lands across Washington State. Because the 2012 TRA is focused on on-reservation and off-reservation tribal lands, the tribes asked how NRCS could insure that a positive impact was also made to the natural resources that are located on their traditional use areas.

To address this concern, the NRCS has adopted ranking criteria that specifically cites the tribal priority resource concerns. The intent of these criteria is to speak to tribal concerns on non-tribal private lands. Therefore, if any application for NRCS programs on non-tribal lands can answer "Yes" to either of the following questions, they will receive additional ranking points in the NRCS application process.

1 - Do the practices treat a tribal resource concern?

2 - Are the practices on land adjacent to tribal lands, or in a shared watershed? If so, are the practices compatible with activities on the tribal lands?

This means that non-tribal applications that address tribal priority resource concerns will receive a higher ranking and are therefore more likely to be implemented.

APPENDIX V – The 2012 State of Our Watersheds Report

The 2012 State of Our Watersheds Report

The 2012 State of Our Watersheds Report is a living document produced by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). Below are some excerpts from the Executive Summary:

> The treaty tribes have always lived throughout the watersheds in western Washington and are leaders in the region's salmon recovery effort. No other people know these watersheds as well as the tribes and none has a greater stake in their future. The tribes believe that if salmon are to survive, we must begin to achieve real gains in habitat protection and restoration.
>
> The treaty Indian tribes believe that salmon recovery must be focused on the watersheds where salmon begin and end their lives, and that the quality and quantity of habitat in those waters are the primary limiting factors to salmon recovery.
>
> The State of Our Watersheds report examines key indicators of habitat quality and quantity across more than 20 watersheds in western Washington that lie within tribal Usual and Accustomed fishing areas as defined by *U.S. vs. Washington* (Boldt decision). The 1974 ruling upheld tribal treaty-reserved rights, including the right to half of the harvestable salmon returning to Washington waters every year, and established the tribes as co-managers of the salmon resource.
>
> The goal of the State of Our Watersheds report is to provide tribes with a basic assessment of the health of their watersheds and to gauge progress toward salmon recovery. This report is part of the Treaty Rights at Risk initiative begun by the tribes in 2011 as a call to action for the federal government to exercise its trust responsibility to the tribes and lead a more coordinated and effective salmon recovery effort. More information is available at www.treatyrightsatrisk.org.
>
> For this report, tribes focused on those portions of their watersheds of greatest concern because of habitat loss and degradation. It is important to note that the State of Our Watersheds is a living document that will be updated as new data become available, providing both a metric for assessing changes in salmon habitat and a method for monitoring those changes. The report also will be used to quantify the 10-year review of the region's salmon recovery plan.

Listed below are the principle findings of the Report:

- Degradation Outpaces Estuary Restoration
- Degraded Nearshore Habitat Unable to Support Forage Fish
- Freshwater Shoreline Armoring Continues Unabated
- Forest Cover Disappearing
- Streams Lack Large Woody Debris
- Riparian Forests Not Recovering
- Alarming Number of Stream Crossings, High Road Densities
- Fish Barriers Cut Off Vast Amounts of Habitat
- Agricultural Lands Remain Degraded
- Sensitive Floodplains Being Overdeveloped
- Rapidly Increasing Permit-Exempt Wells Threaten Water For Fish

The NRCS received this report too late in the development of the TRA to fully incorporate it into the 2012 TRA document. However, many of the concerns cited within the document are coincident with the TRA priority resource concerns identified by the WATCAC. The NRCS is committed to utilizing the report as a benchmark for future conservation planning activities.

It may also be noted that the watershed level resource inventories and assessments contained within the NWIFC State of Our Watersheds Report are complementary to the NRCS Washington TRA resource priorities and goals. As an example, the watershed inventory information provided in the NWIFC report may be used for alignment and targeting goals, as well as for tracking progress when actual monitoring and baseline conditions are provided on specific resource priorities. In summary, these watershed level studies and assessments are complimentary to the NRCS Washington TRA as both are assessments and inclusive in the NRCS planning continuum.

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APPENDIX VII – Acronyms and Abbreviations

Ag – Agriculture

AFO - Animal Feeding Operations

CAFO - Confined Animal Feeding Operation

CNMP - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

GAP – GAP Analysis Program

GIS - Geographic Information System

LWG - Local Work Group

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

NIPF - Non-Industrial Private Forest Land

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

NWIFC - Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

PSHIP - Pacific Salmon Habitat Improvement Partnership

SRA – State Resource Assessment

STAC - State Technical Advisory Committee

STC – State Conservationist

TRA – Tribal Resource Assessment

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USDC - United States Department of Commerce

USDI - United States Department of Interior

USGS - United States Geological Survey

WACD – Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WATCAC - Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

WRP – Wetlands Reserve Program

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Washington State Office, Spokane
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