An introduction:

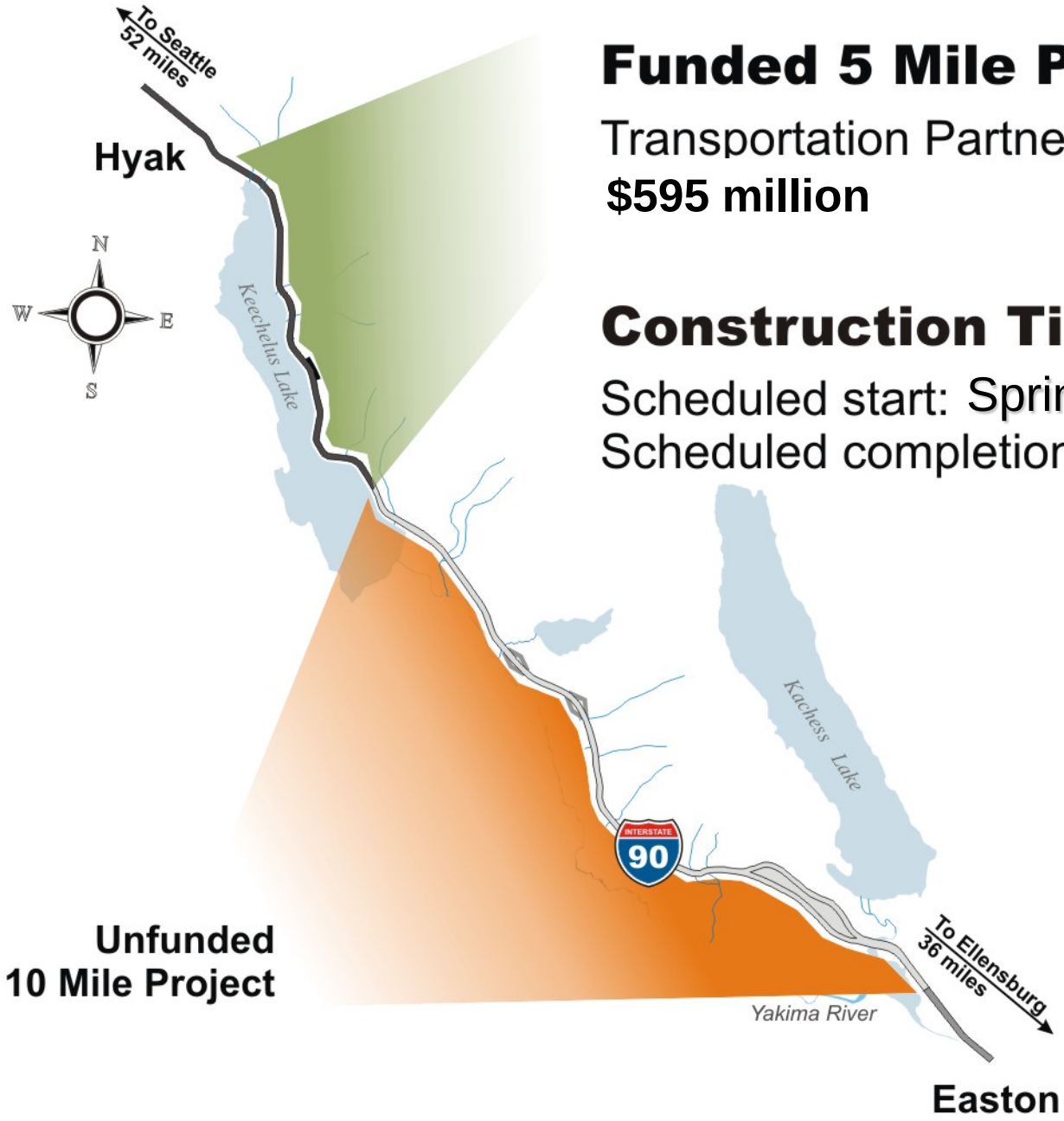
I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project

Jason Smith
WSDOT South Central Region
Environmental Manager

Yakima Basin Science Management Conference
June 17-18, 2009

Paula Hammond
Secretary of Transportation

Steve Reinmuth
Chief of Staff



Funded 5 Mile Project

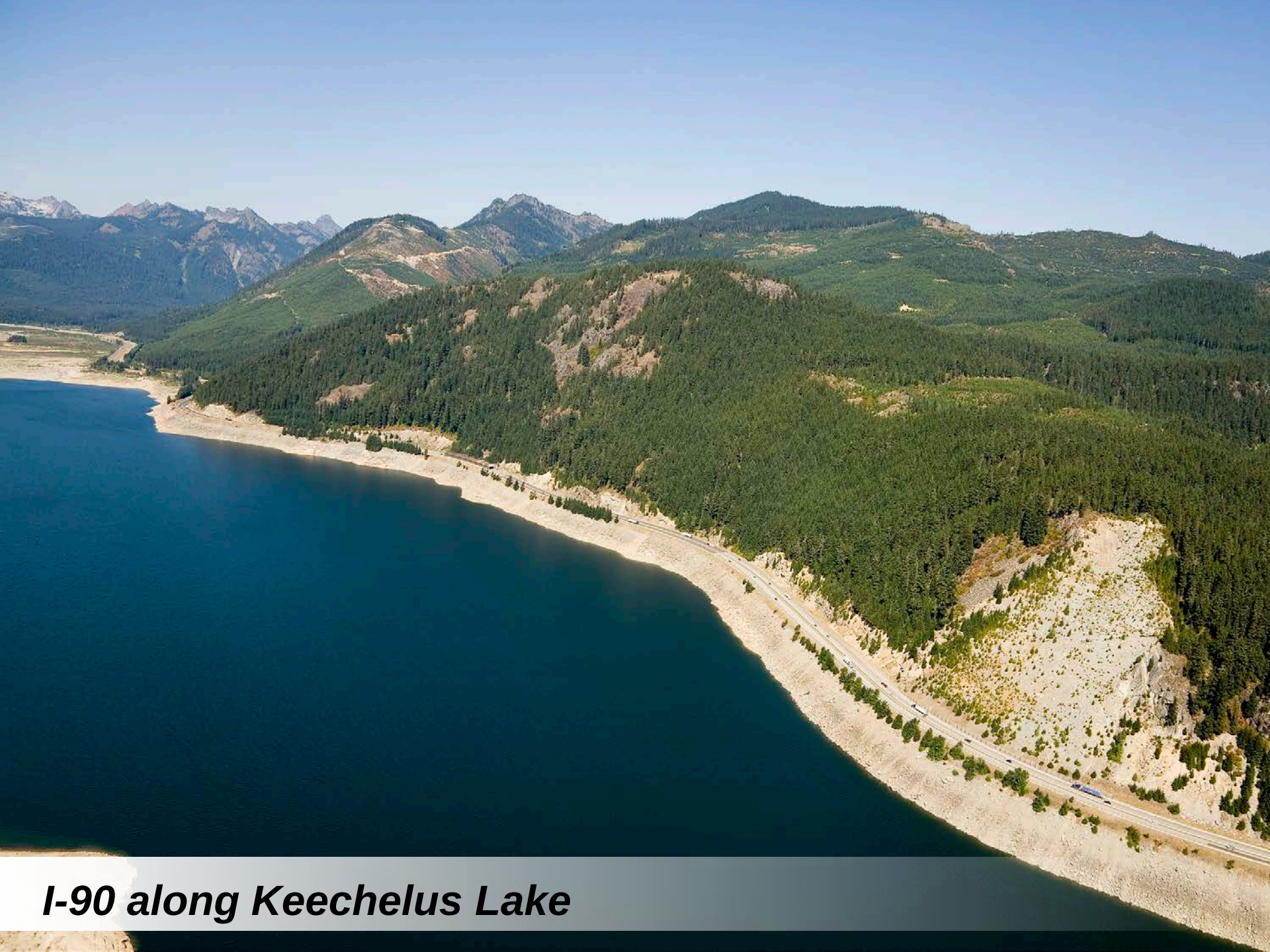
Transportation Partnership Budget:
$595 million

Construction Timeline

Scheduled start: Spring 2009
Scheduled completion: Summer 2015

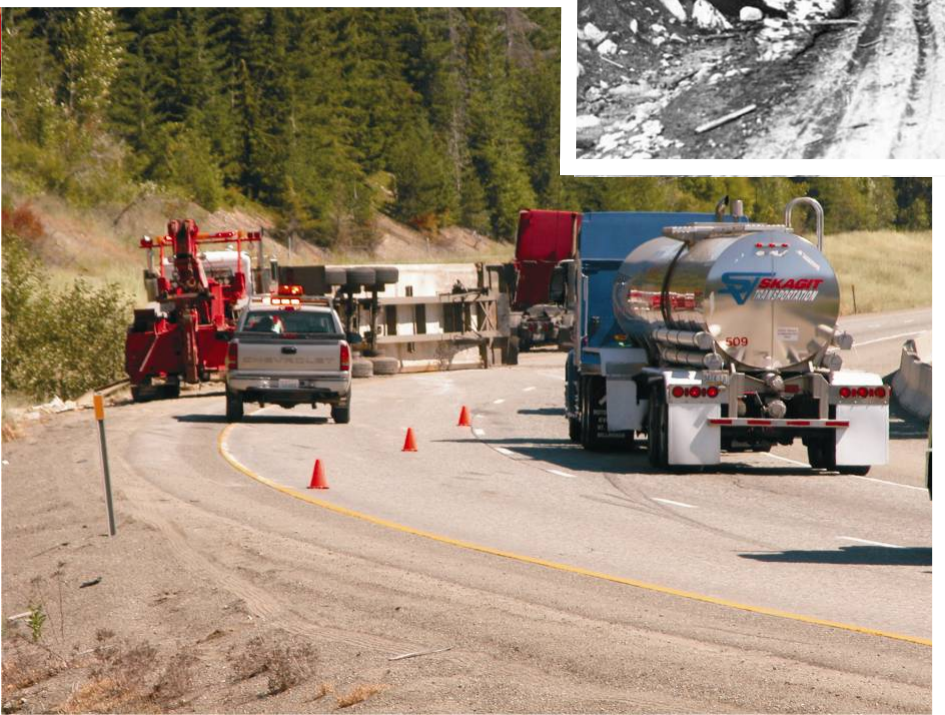
Unfunded
10 Mile Project

MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT.



I-90 along Keechelus Lake


SPEED LIMIT 45
USP CABIN ENFORCEMENT AT MP 47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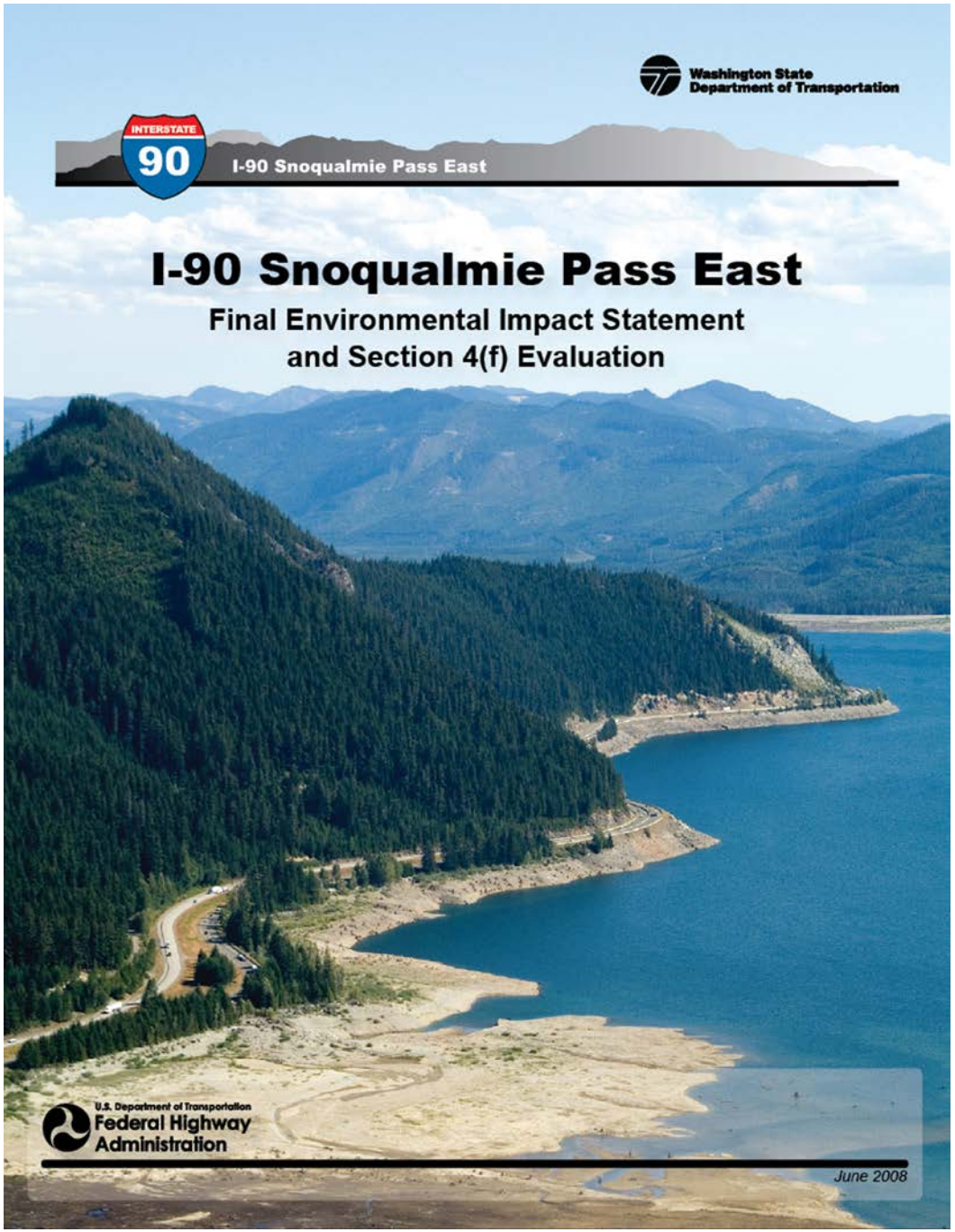
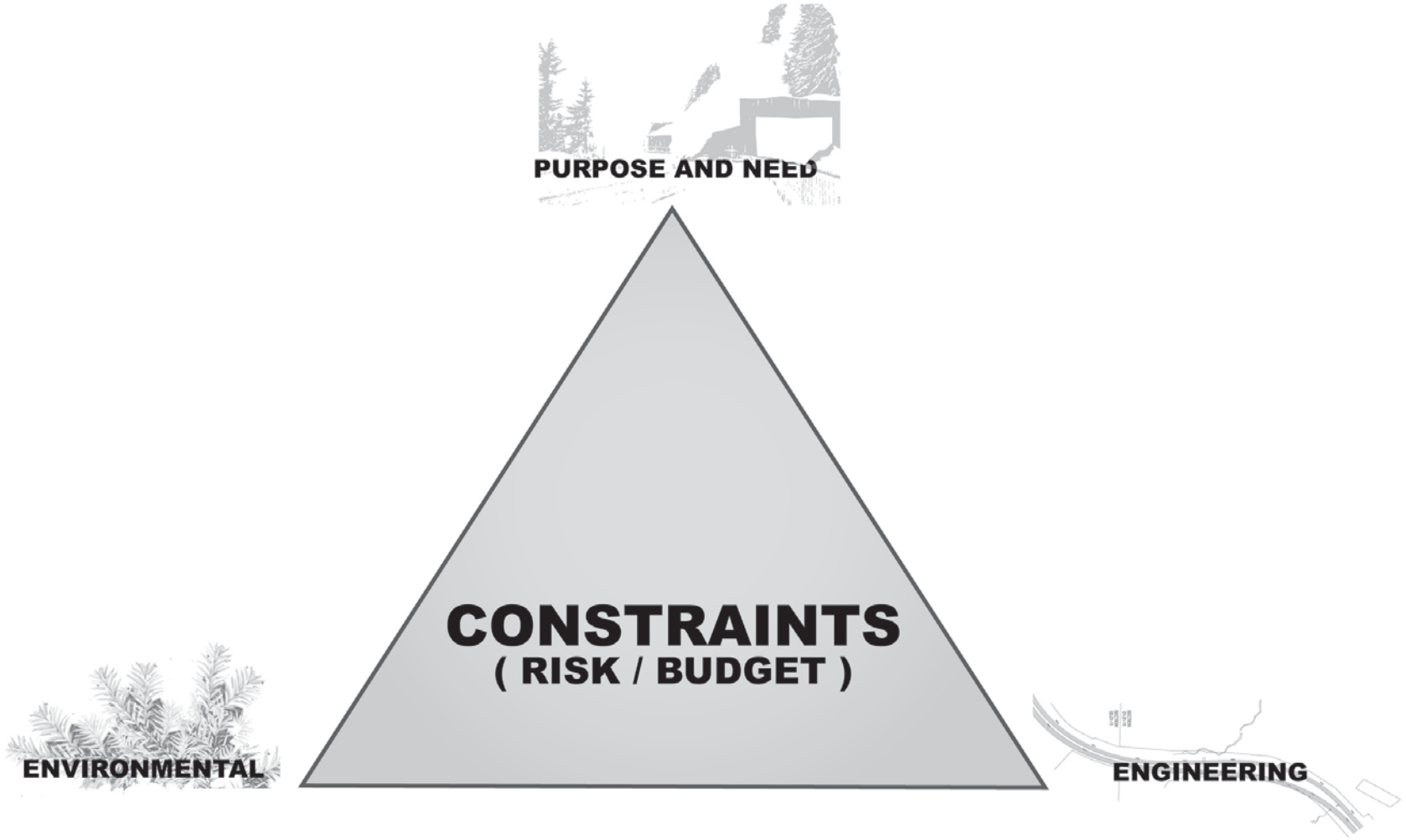
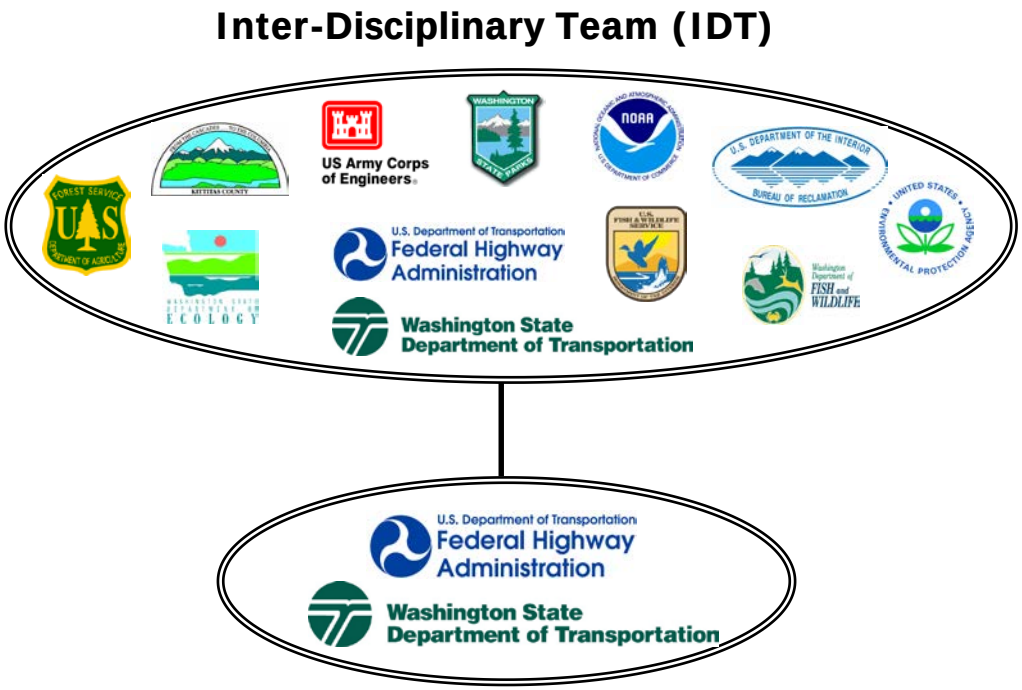

Washington State
Department of Transportation
INTERSTATE
90
I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East
I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East
Final Environmental Impact Statement
and Section 4(f) Evaluation
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration
June 2008

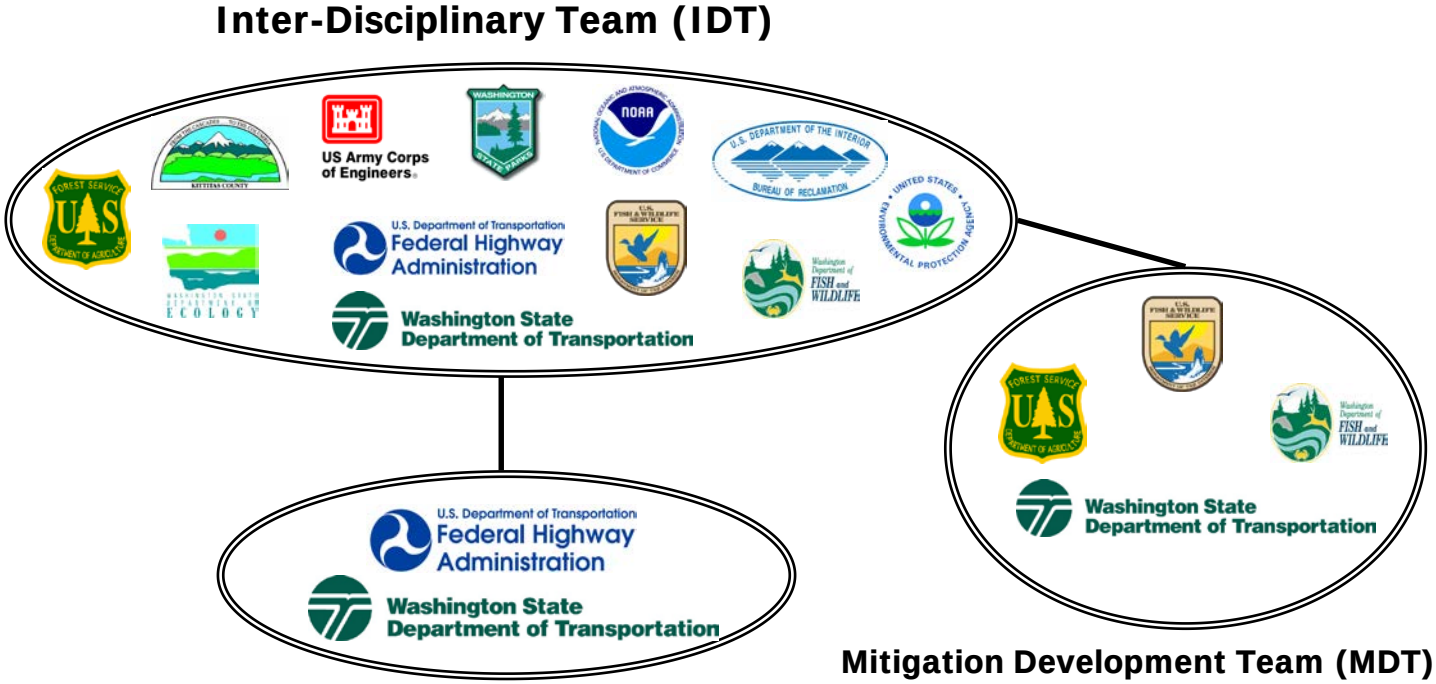
NEPA: an exercise in balancing project objectives



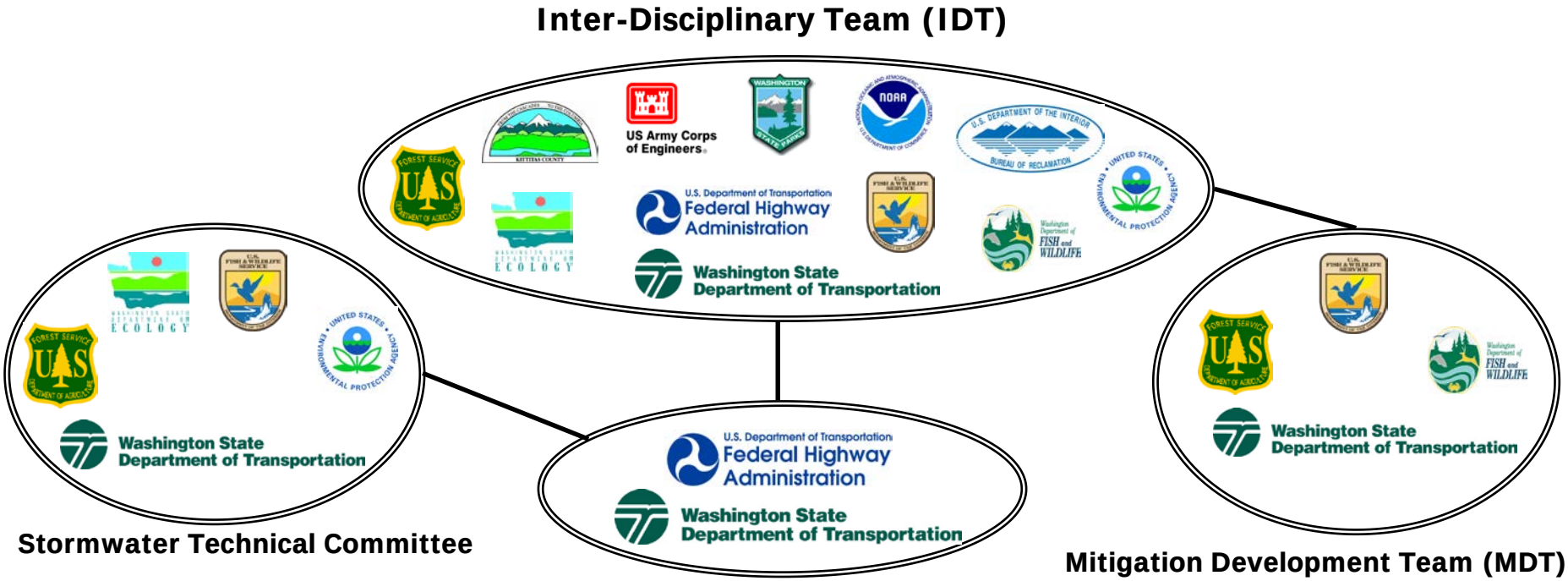
NEPA EIS Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT)



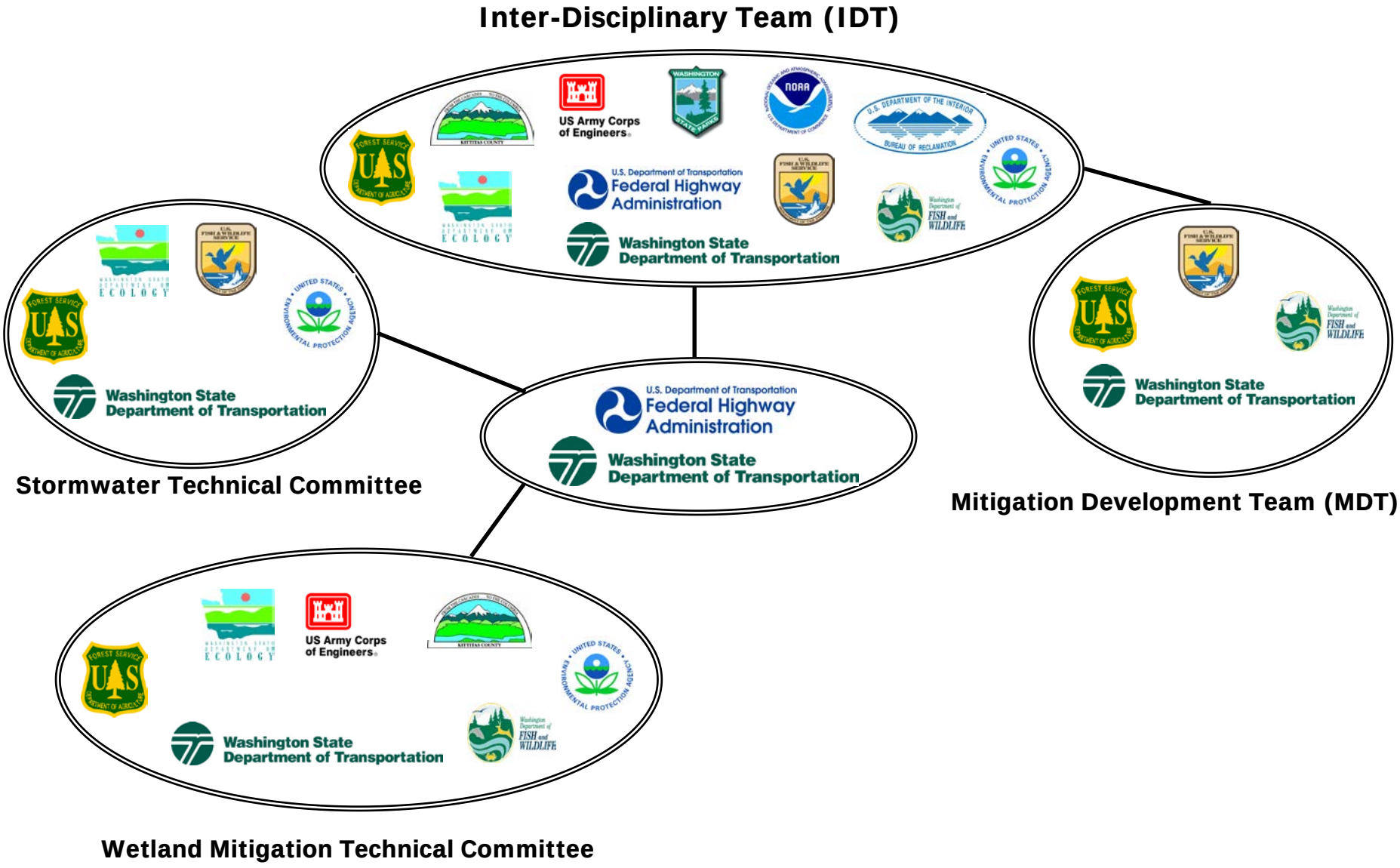
Mitigation Development Team (MDT) Agencies



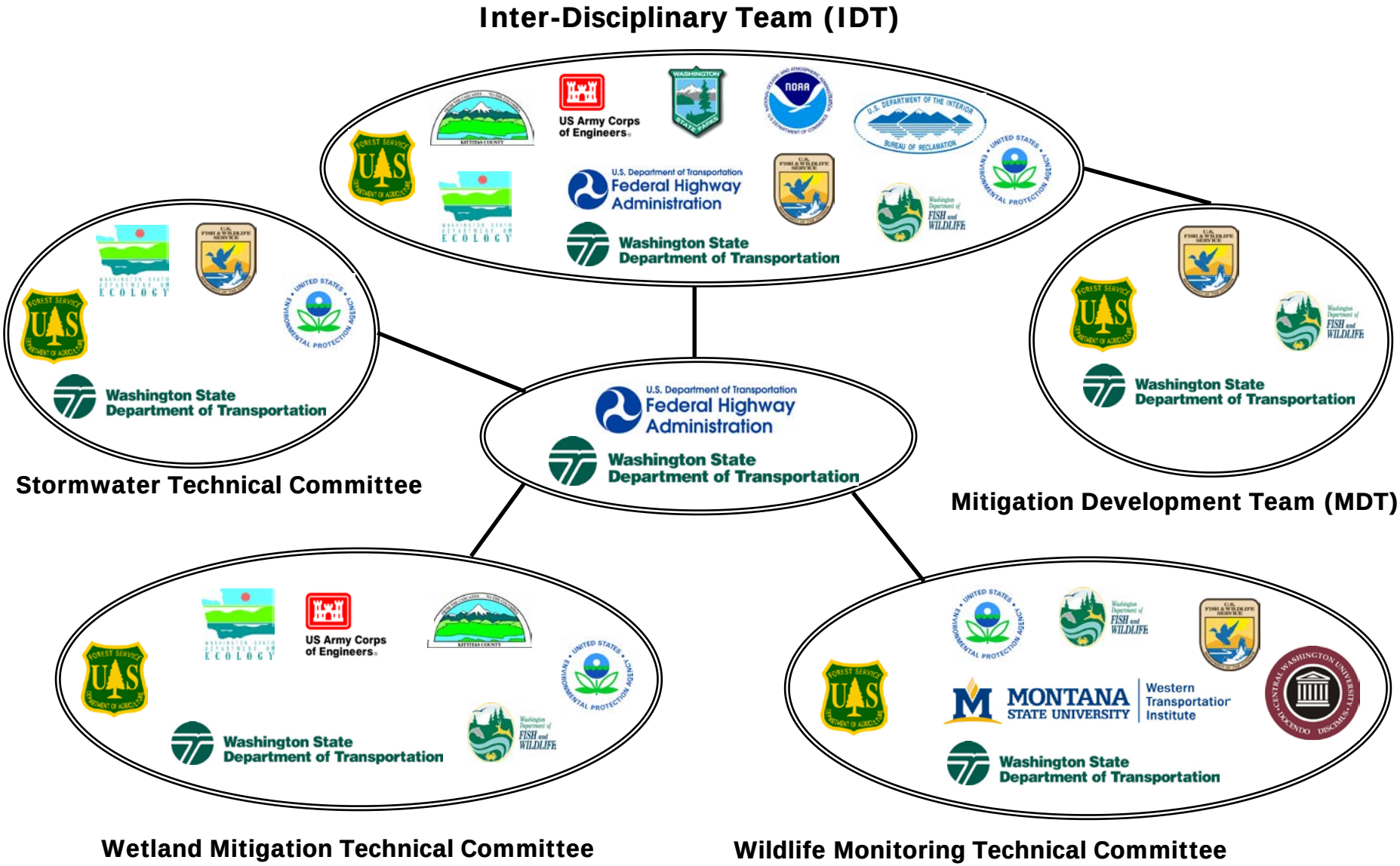
Technical Committees



Technical Committees



Please help us!!!!!!!!



Non Governmental Organizations

I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East
Hyak to Easton Project

ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

What is the purpose of wildlife crossing structures?

The I-90 Project is designing structures to accommodate streams and wildlife passage at 14 specific locations. These locations are called Connectivity Emphasis Areas (CEAs). The crossing structures will increase safety to the traveling public by reducing collisions between wildlife and vehicles, and will connect habitat that is currently separated by the highway.

How will wildlife passage be improved?

WSDOT will:

- Replace the existing narrow bridges and fish-blocking culverts to accommodate fish and wildlife movements, with longer, wider bridges and culverts
- Add wildlife exclusion fencing to keep wildlife off the highway
- Add wildlife overcrossings at strategic locations

A bobcat struggles up a snowbank created by WSDOT plowing

A deer wanders next to the Hyak interchange at milepost 55

Will the I-90 Project affect water resources?

WSDOT has designed the I-90 Project to have substantial benefits to wetlands, stream channels, and riparian areas. WSDOT will restore habitat, connect wetlands, improve channel migration, enhance groundwater flow, and improve water quality.

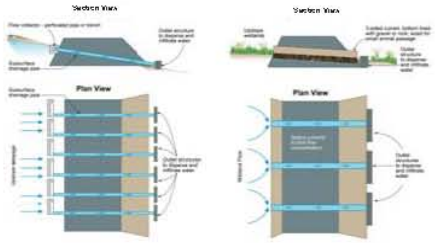
WSDOT plans to build bigger bridges over the creek channel at Rocky Run Creek

Bull trout reside in Keechelus Lake in the project area and are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act

What is a hydrologic connectivity zone?

- Hydrologic connectivity zones (HCZs) are locations where moving water through the highway is important for habitat functions on both sides of the highway.
- HCZs link wetlands, shallow aquifers or other hydrologic features, and are important to stream and upland habitats.

Hydrologic connectivity zone (HCZs)

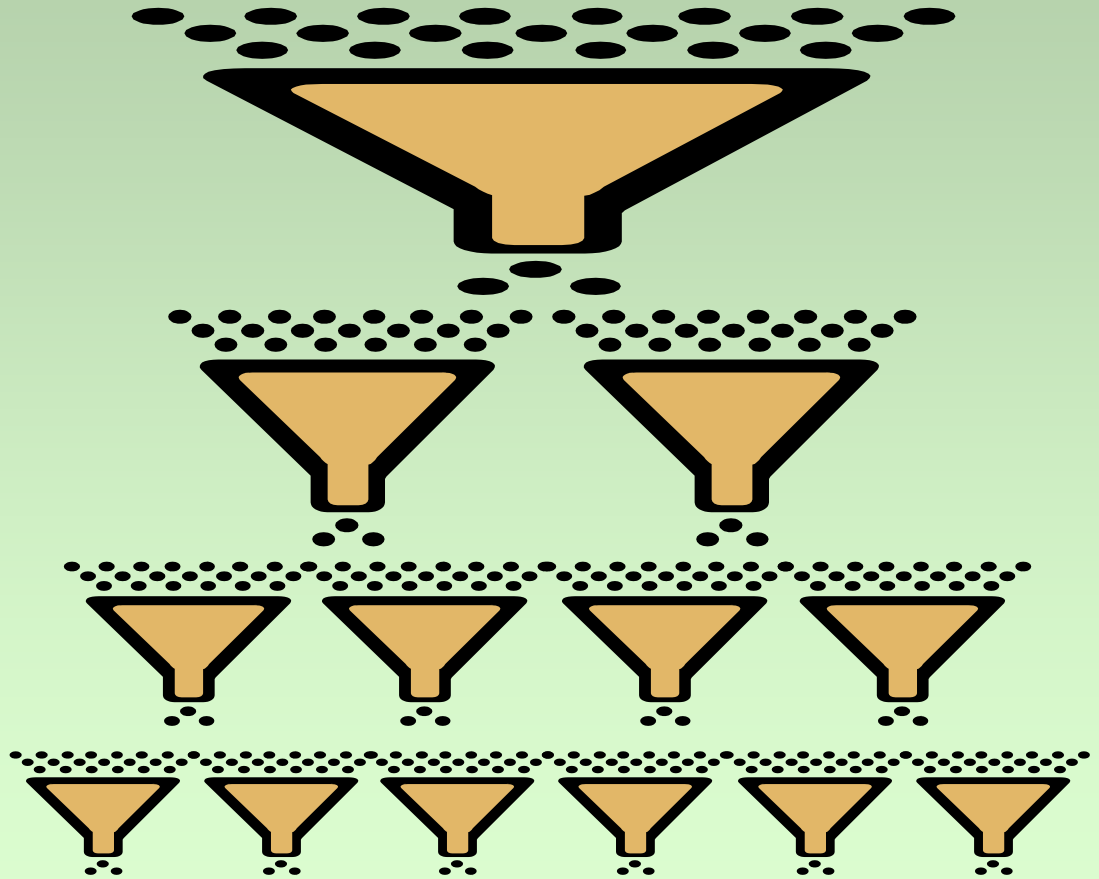


U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
Washington State Department of Transportation

High Mobility Species

Low Mobility Species

Landscape Scale Watershed-Based Design and Mitigation Strategy

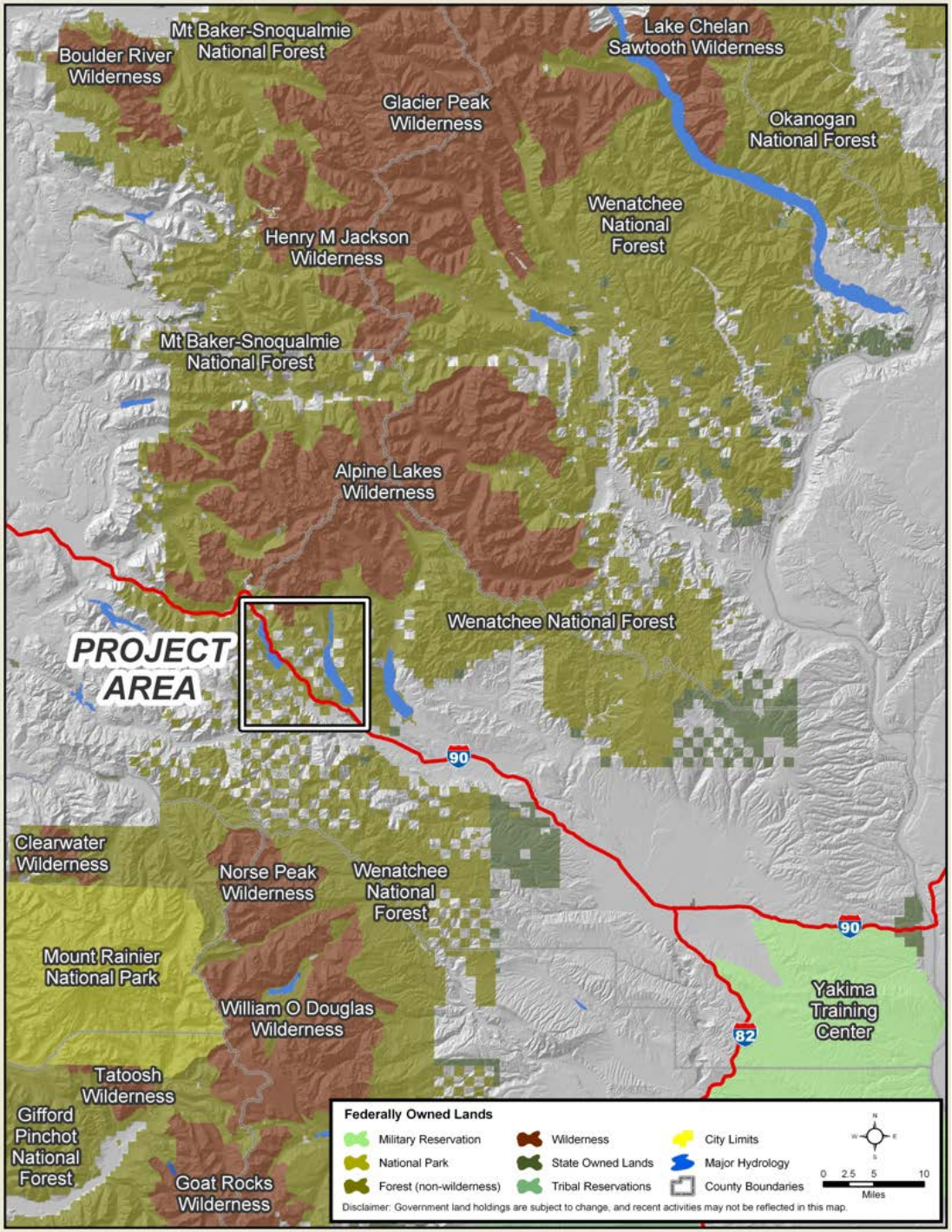


Landscape Scale Design Strategy

Watershed Based Design/Mitigation

Sub-basin Level Design/Mitigation

Site/Habitat Specific Design/Mitigation



Landscape Scale

Habitat Fragmentation

Topography & Climate
Habitat Types
Land Ownership
Land Use
Local Road Density
Interstate 90

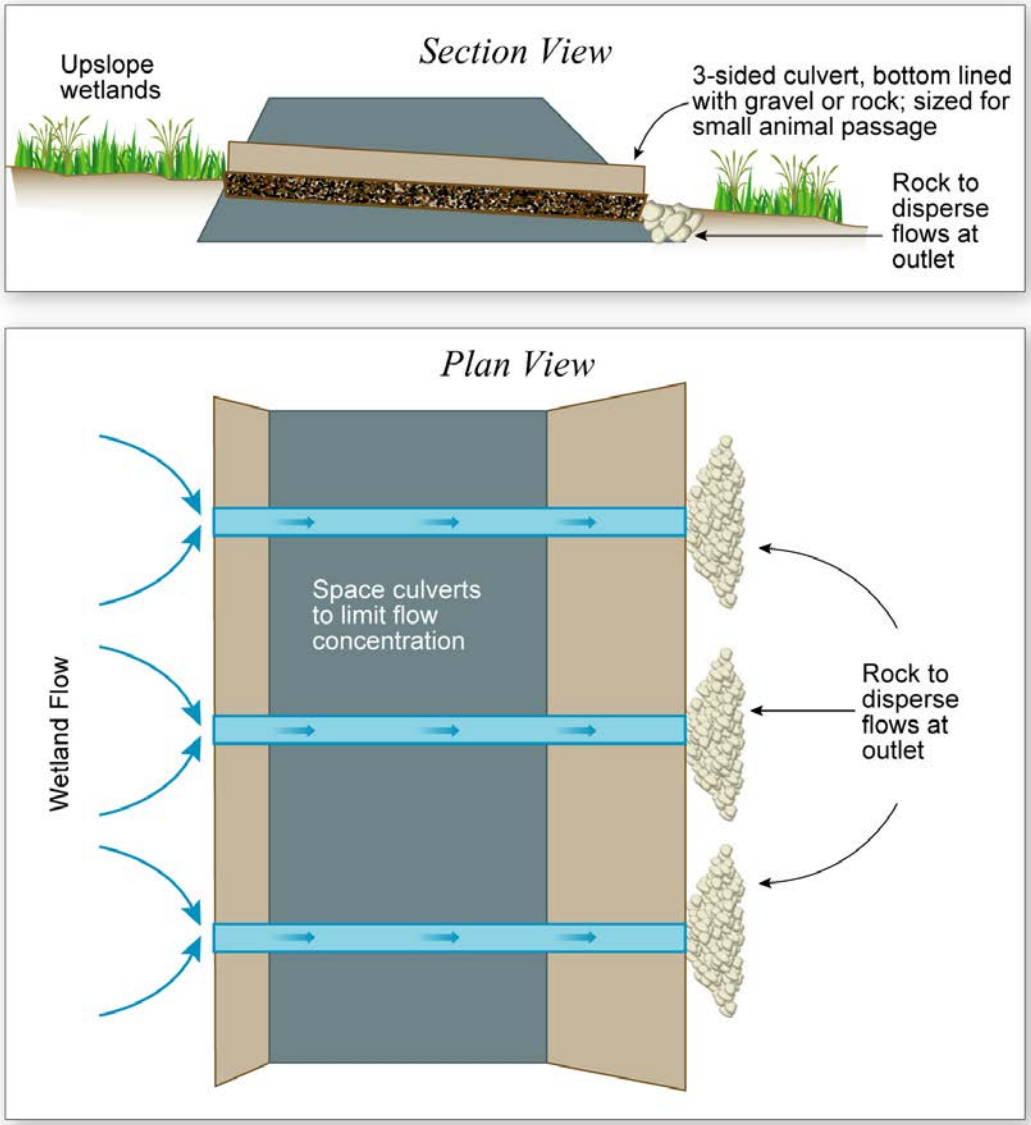

To Seattle
Begin Project
Milepost 55.1
Gold Creek CEA
120' Bridge
900' Bridge
Chain on/off
120' Bridges
1100' Bridge
Hyak
Rocky Run Creek CEA
Wolfe Creek CEA
1100' Snowshed
Resort Creek CEA
180' Bridges
Chain on
Townsend Creek CEA
Wildlife Crossing
Price/Noble Creeks CEA
Bonnie Creek CEA
Swamp Creek CEA
Toll Creek CEA
Bridge Crossing Over I-90
125' Bridges
Bridge Crossing Over I-90
Cedar Creek CEA
120' Bridge
Easton Hill CEA
Hudson Creek CEA
Kachess River CEA
Widen Existing Bridges
Kachess River
End Project
Milepost 70.3
Kachess Lake
Keechelus Lake
Keechelus Dam
120' Bridges
600' Bridges
120' Bridges
120' Bridges
Oversized Culverts
Telephone Creek CEA
90
230' Bridges
120' Bridges
150' Wildlife Bridges
Lake Easton
To Ellensburg
Easton
Yakima River
N
LEGEND
Avalanche Zone
Connectivity Emphasis Area
Bridges and Culverts
Unstable Slopes
Avalanche Fencing
Funded
Unfunded
Chain on - off Areas

Context Sensitive Solutions – Habitat Connectivity


Context Sensitive Solutions - Habitat Connectivity

Hydrologic Connectivity Zones

- Small Culverts-
  - Used for connecting hydrologic flows
  - Connectivity spaced every 600 feet for small animals



Hydrologic Connectivity Structures Linking Low-Gradient Wetlands
Exhibit 2-2


Comments and Questions?