

Skagit Update
WRAC
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Massive, Diverse, and Contentious

The Skagit Watershed covers HUGE parts of Washington and British Columbia

- 160 miles long and the third largest river on the West Coast of the Contiguous United States
- 2,900 tributaries drain into the Skagit River
- Drains 2730 mi² of watershed...Just in Washington!
- Provides 20% of the fresh water flowing into Puget Sound

- The waters of the Skagit are essential to wildlife, human life, and industry

- Only river system in Washington with all 5 species of salmon
- Home to the Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, and Swinomish Tribes
- Agriculture dominates the landscape and local industry
- Two Major Hydroelectric Projects: Baker River and Ross Dams



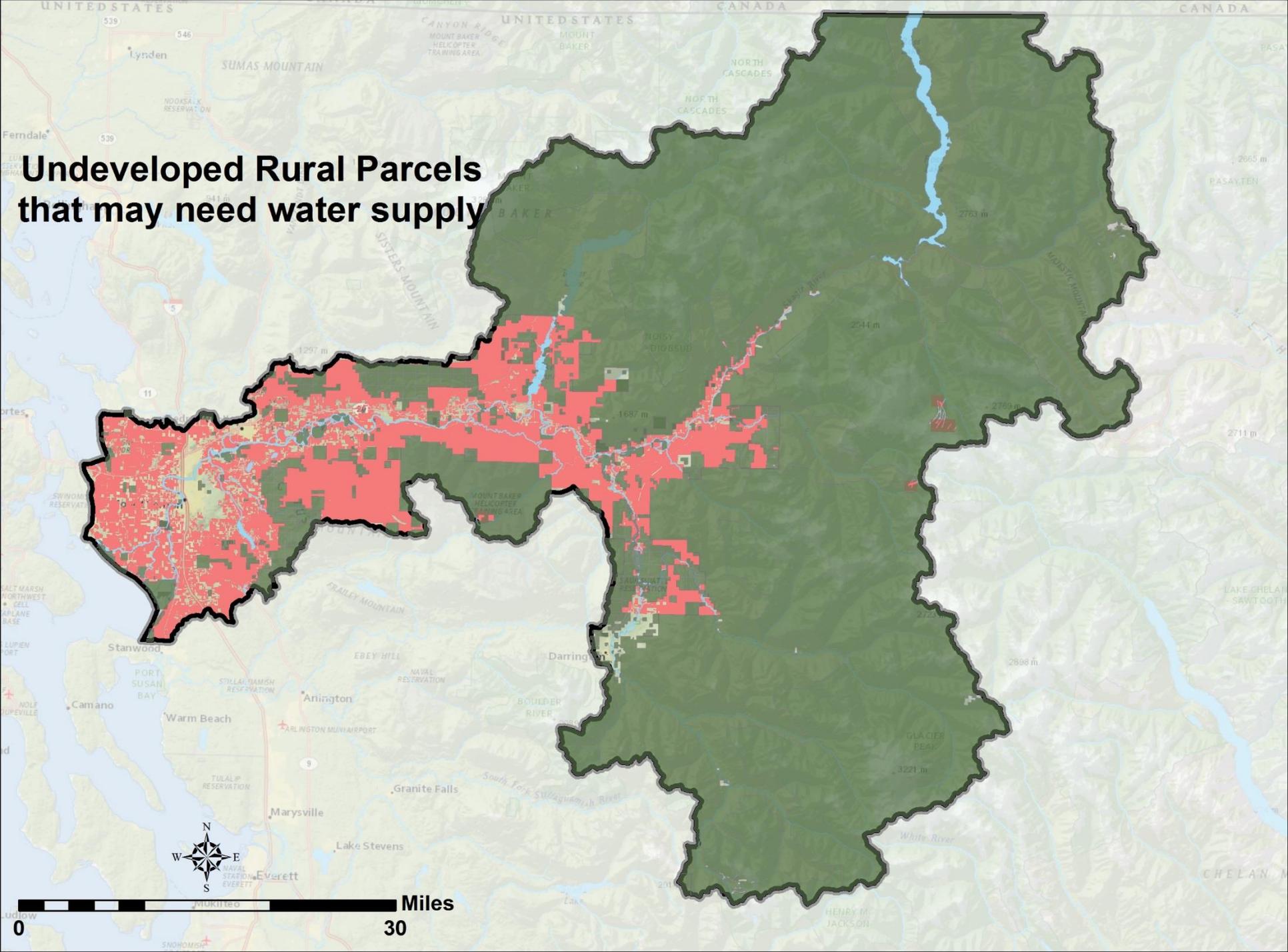
Skagit Instream Flow Rule

History

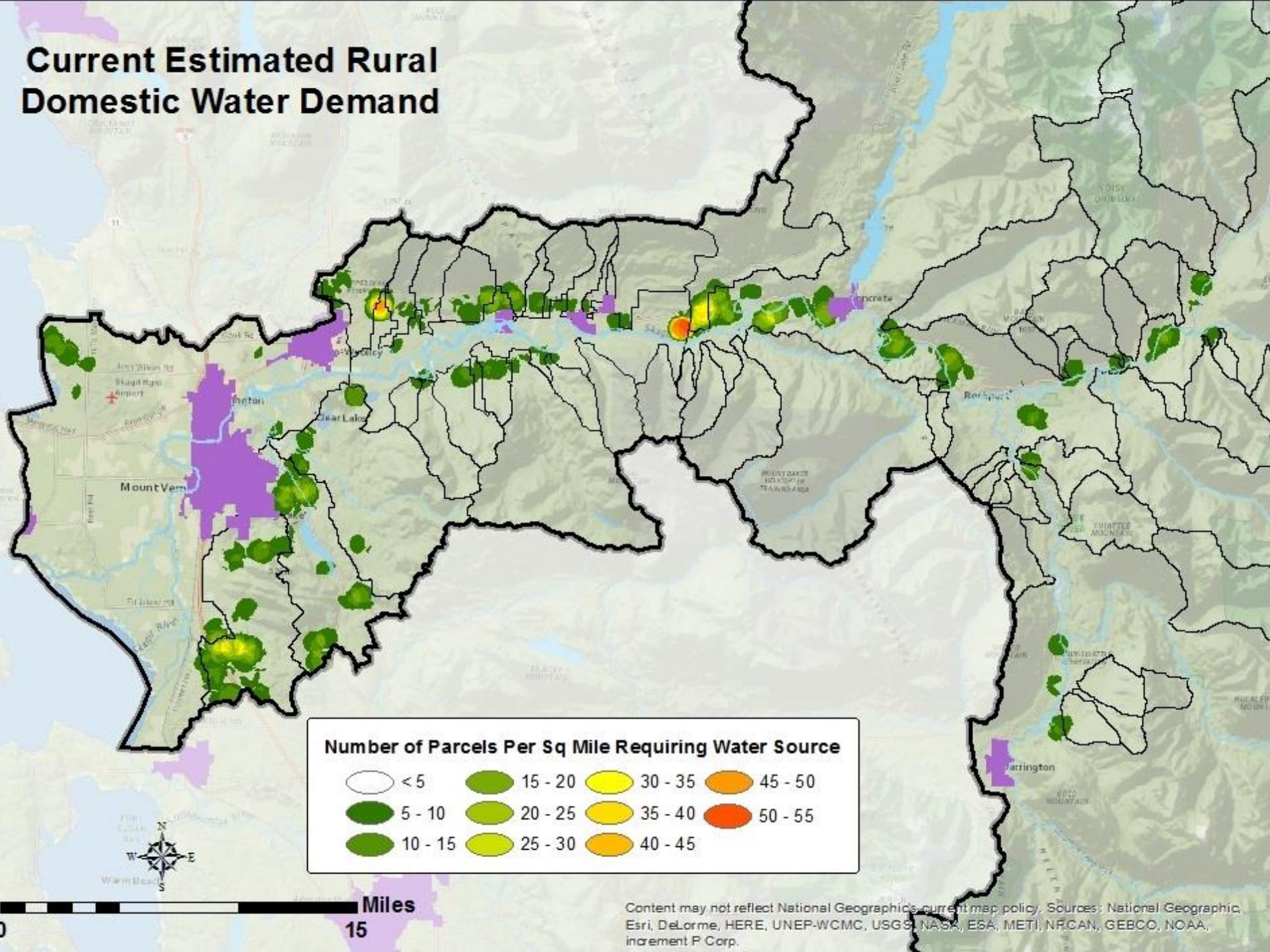
- December 1996: Stakeholders sign MOU committing to establish Skagit River instream flows.
- **April 2001: Skagit Instream Flow Rule adopted**
- April 2003: Skagit County challenged the Rule and requests Ecology to provide water for rural wells.
- May 2006: Amendments to Skagit Instream Flow Rule adopted; reservations of uninterruptible water
- June 2008: Swinomish Tribe challenged the validity of the 2006 rule amendment.
- October 3, 2013: Washington Supreme Court overturned the 2006 Skagit Instream Flow amendment.



Undeveloped Rural Parcels that may need water supply



Current Estimated Rural Domestic Water Demand



The Skagit River Basin

MITIGATION PROJECTS

Current Mitigation Strategies

Bay View - Lower Skagit Area
May not need mitigation
Exact area to be determined

Tan Shaded area Indicates Potential
Area of Main Stem Mitigation

Big Lake Water Right Exchange
Lower drainage Nookachamps Creek
Exact mitigation area to be determined

POTENTIAL
Flow Augmentation Project
Fisher Creek Sub Basin

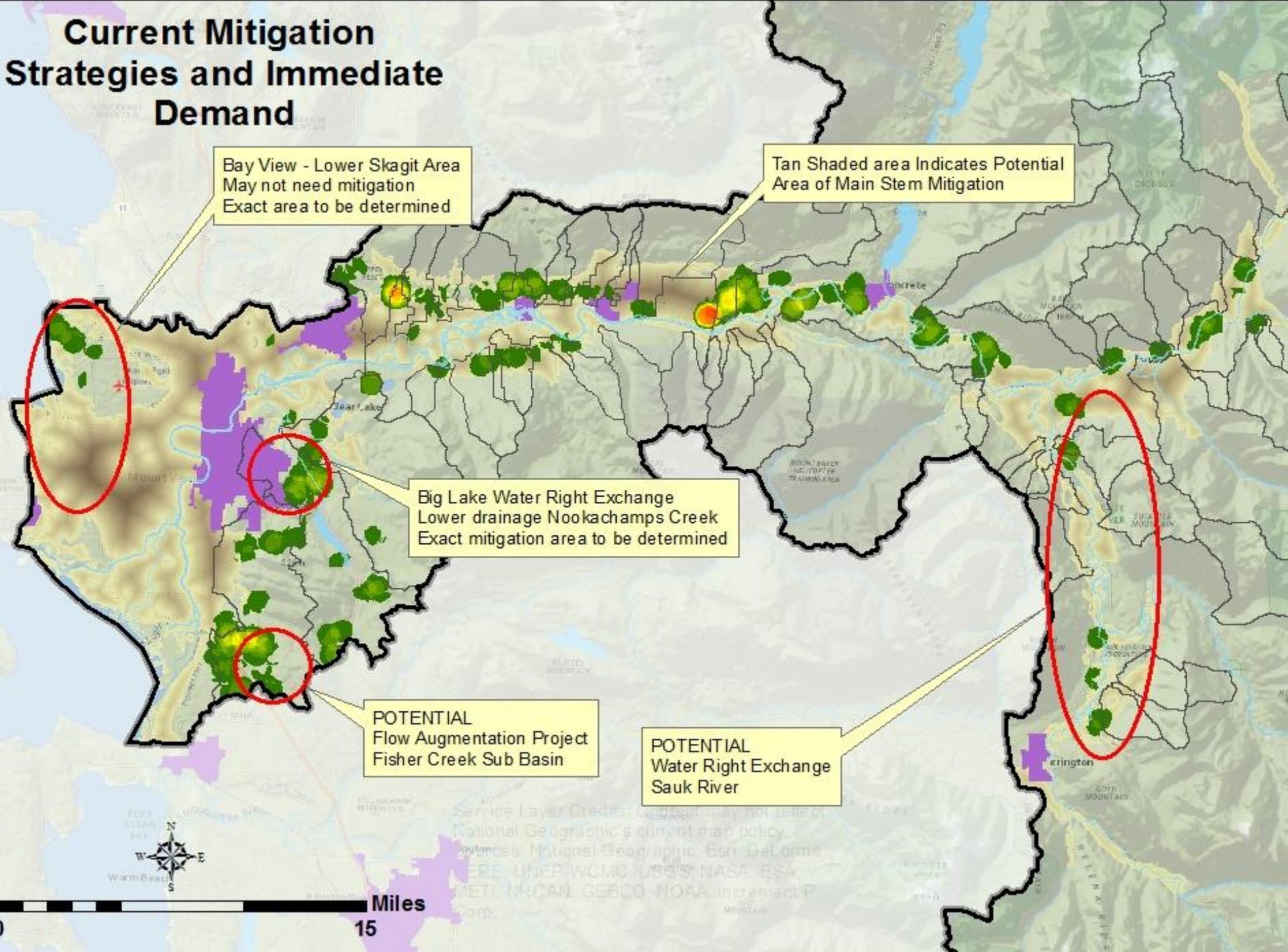
POTENTIAL
Water Right Exchange
Sauk River



Miles
15

Service Layer Credits: Content may not follow National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.

Current Mitigation Strategies and Immediate Demand



The Skagit River Basin

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS

Rainwater Collection

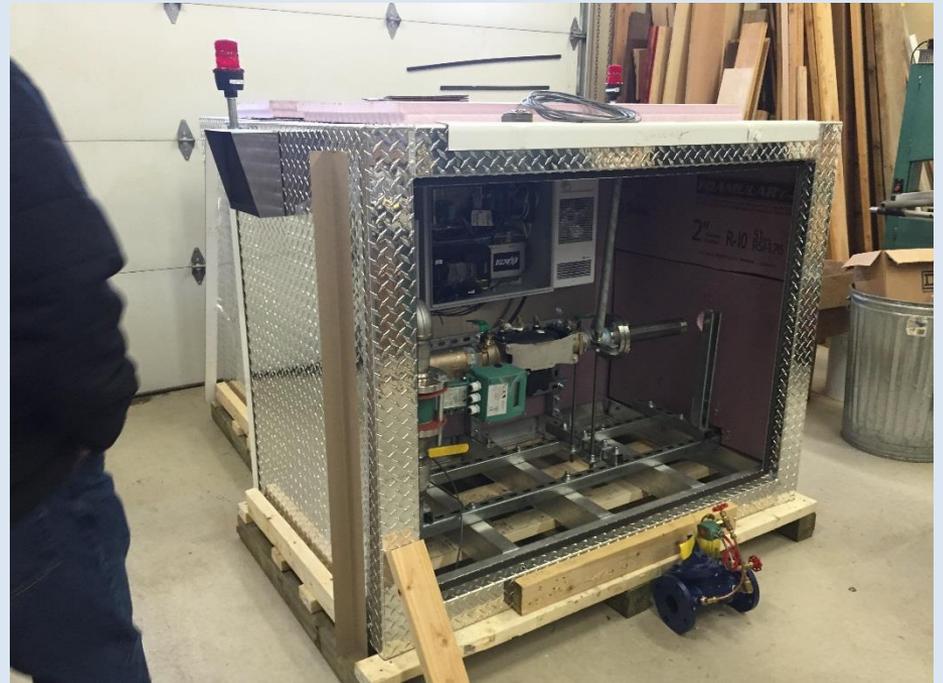
- **Per Ecology's Policy 1017, a water right isn't required for on-site storage and use of rooftop or guzzler collected rainwater**
- **Some landowners have obtained county-issued building permits for homes using rainwater collection**
- **Water treatment systems are typically required as a condition of the building permit**
- **Ecology continues to encourage the use of rainwater collection and treatment systems for landowners seeking to build new homes.**



Skagit PUD Fill Stations



Fill Stations may be used as a backup supply for rainwater catchment systems





Questions?

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