

Shared Strategy Mitigation Site Analysis

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Why Mitigation?

- Evaluating ways to raise money for salmon recovery
- Investigated how we spend money on the environment in Washington
- Found major amount of funding spent on mitigation

Findings on Mitigation

- Averages 10-15% of total capital spending (>\$250M/yr in PS)
- Indications that it could be better spent (less than fully successful >50% of the time)
- Restoration sites from the salmon plans could play a role

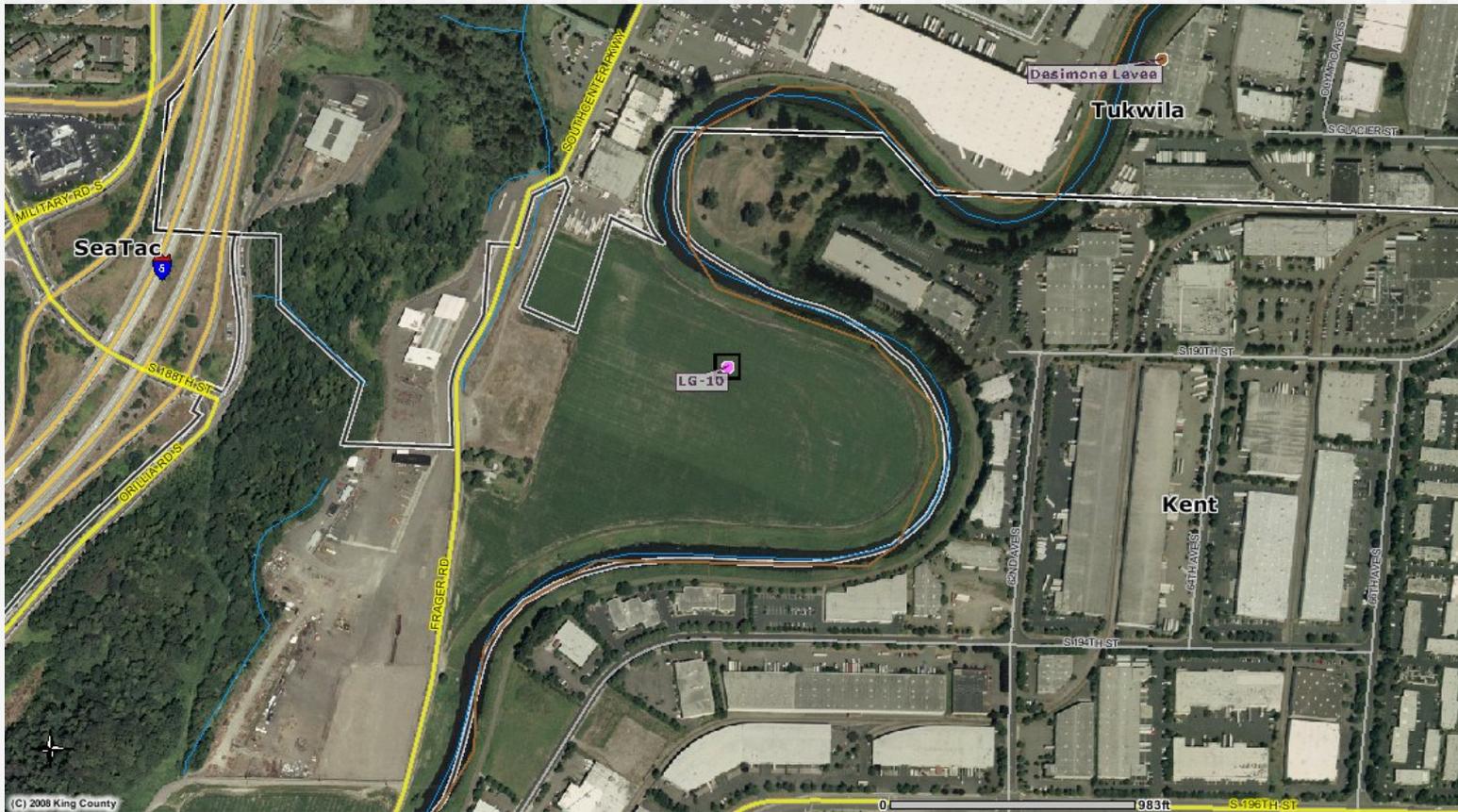
The Site Analysis Project

- Could use of restoration sites improve the effectiveness of mitigation spending?
- Could mitigation spending help finance restoration at priority sites?
- Could this produce better mitigation, produce it faster and/or cheaper, and help advance high-priority restoration needs?

The Hypothesis

- Many salmon recovery sites have widespread environmental benefits ***BUT***
- Non-salmon benefits are rarely described ***AND***
- When they are described, it's not in terms that mean much for mitigation

An Example



The Project

- Identifying and quantifying the mitigation-ready resources available on restoration sites from the salmon plan
- Conducted in late 2007 by Evergreen with Parametrix
- Methods have been beta tested and appear promising
- On hold due to funding

The Site Analysis Tool

- Describes a broad group of restorable resources that may have mitigation value
- Evaluates quality and quantity at the current time and after restoration
- Identifies choices in how to restore the site
- Can be applied to any restoration project

Using the Tool

- Watershed leads identify the full range of resources on the site
- Ranking criteria are used to identify resource quality pre- and post-restoration
- The surrounding landscape is evaluated using other criteria
- A scoresheet is prepared
- Ideally, rating sheets are added to a regional database and mapping utility

Resources Evaluated

- Wetlands
- Salmonid Habitat
- Riparian Zones
- Stormwater/Floodwater Storage
- Water Quality (esp Temp, Nutrients)
- Marine Shoreline

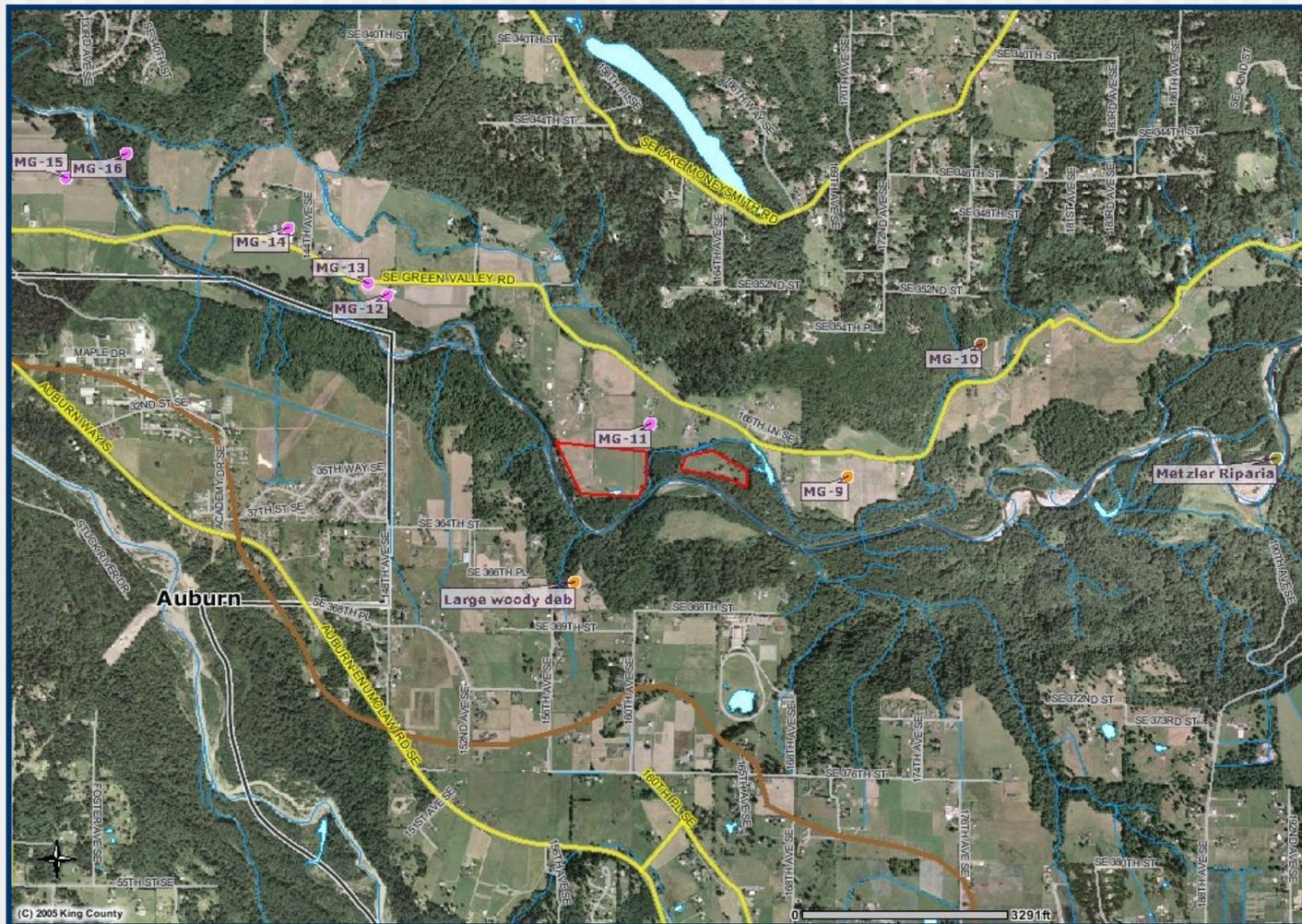
Evaluation of Each Resource

- Criteria customized to each resource
- Wetlands criteria includes hydro connectivity, quality of wetland and buffer vegetation, buffer width and extent, soils
- Each ranked on a zero to three scale
- Ranked in current and post-restoration conditions

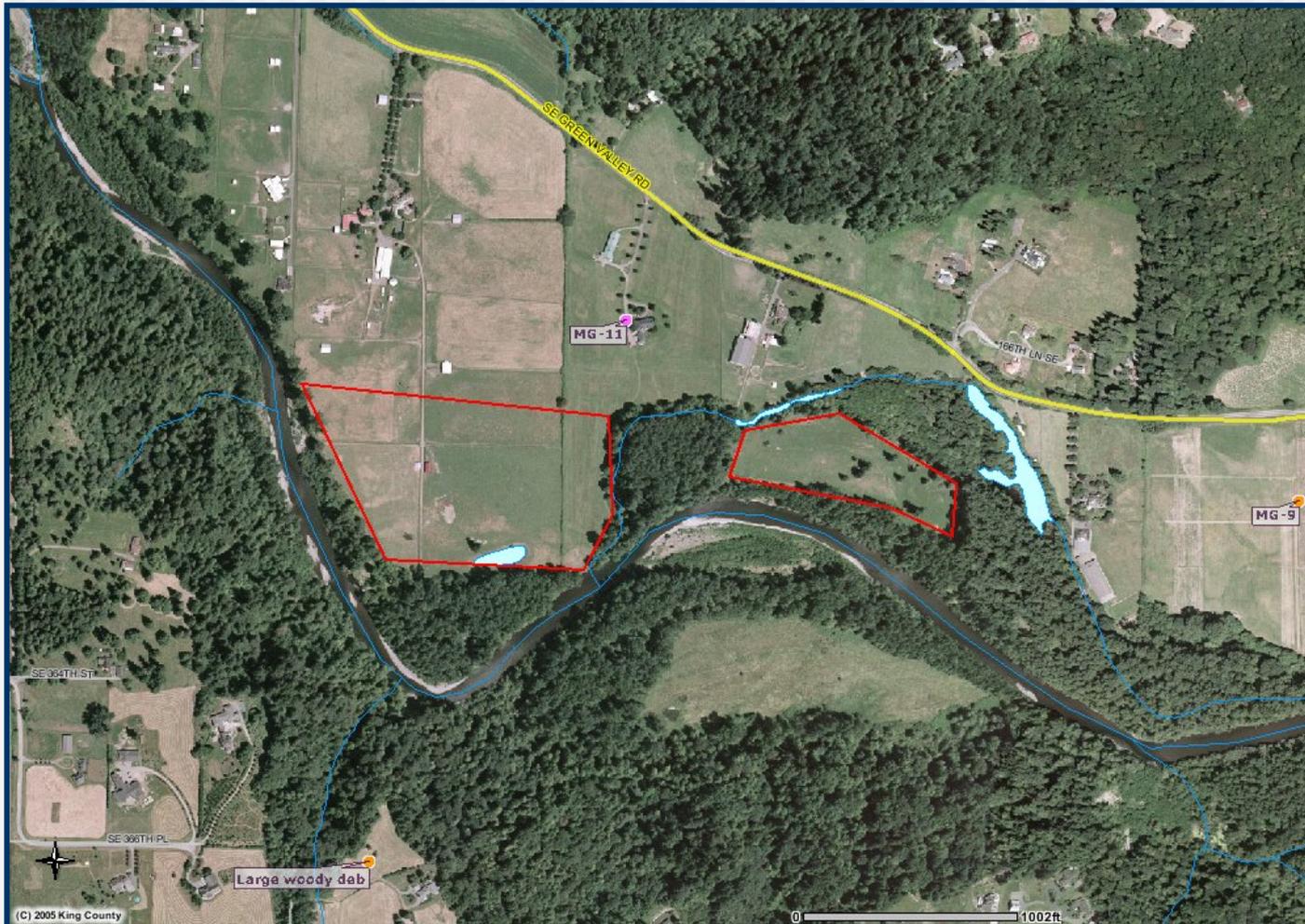
Landscape Suitability

- Compatibility of the surrounding landscape is as important as the site
- Rated by connectivity, patch size of intact habitat, compatibility of adjoining and subbasin land use
- May be better to use watershed characterization where it's available

An Example



A Little Closer...



Application of the Tool

- For applicants: screening tool to identify sites with resources needed for mitigation
- For watershed planners: advertises high-quality restoration sites
- “Turns a wish list into a shopping list”

Field-Testing So Far

- Applied to 75 restoration sites in two watersheds
- Taking about one hour per site
- Produces a suitably wide range of ratings
- Seems useful in identifying and evaluating resources

Overall Findings

- While sites may be selected for salmon recovery benefits, many offer other restoration potential
- This tool is a useful way to quickly screen restoration sites for mitigation potential
- Could open up additional supply of high-quality mitigation sites

Further Information

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