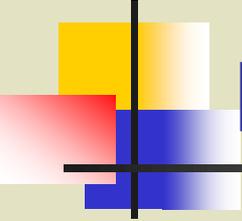


Natural Area Selection and Boundary Establishment Process

Pene Speaks, Assistant Division Manager

Land Management Division

April 2009



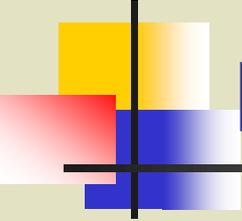
Natural Areas RCWs

- **Natural Area Preserves Act (RCW 79.70)**

- Established NAP system
- Established the Natural Heritage Program, placed within the DNR

- **Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act (RCW 79.71)**

- High conservation values, plus opportunities for low-impact public use
- Both NAPs and NRCAs are managed by **DNR's Natural Areas Program**



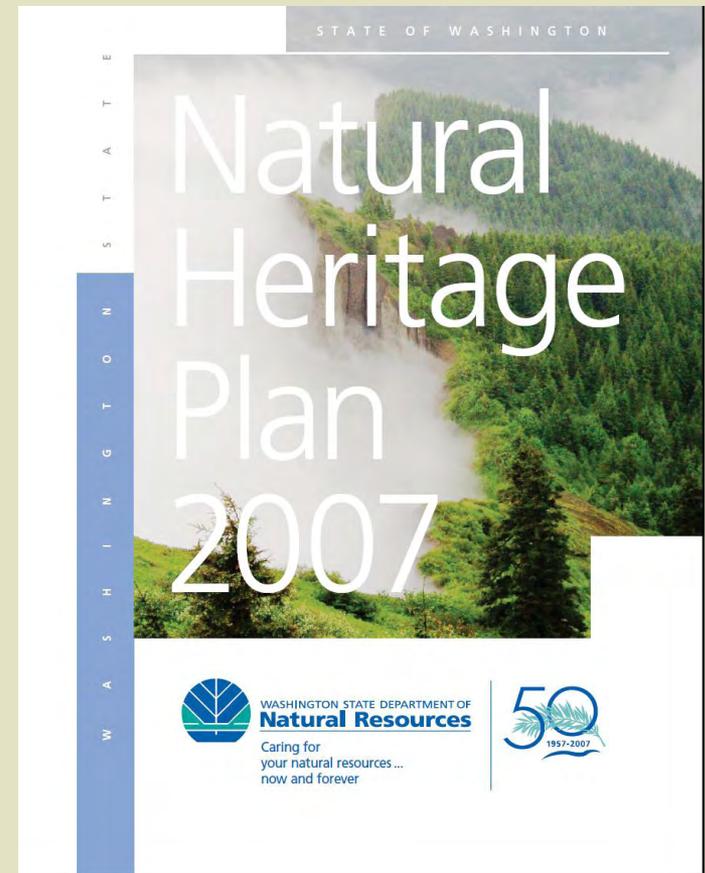
Natural Areas

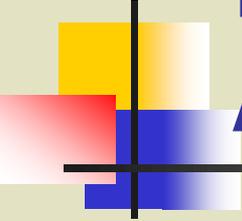
- Scientific research
- Educational access
- Baseline / reference areas
- Habitats for vanishing species
- Opportunities for low-impact public use, where appropriate



Natural Area Preserve Selection Criteria

- Established in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*
- Coarse filter / fine filter approach
 - Ecosystems
 - Rare plant and animal species
- Priorities assigned to each ecosystem type and rare species (Priority 1, 2, 3)





Natural Resources Conservation Areas

- Serve to protect native plant and animal species or ecological communities, geological, archaeological, and scenic values
- Areas that have retained or re-established their natural character
- Offer opportunities for environmental education and low-impact use, such as hiking or viewing of wildlife and scenery

Designation Process

Candidate sites identified/analyzed

DNR Staff and Natural Heritage
Advisory Council recommend sites

Public meetings/hearings

Commissioner of Public Lands
makes final determination

Funding sought

Lands acquired

