Natural Area Selection and Boundary Establishment Process

Pene Speaks, Assistant Division Manager
Land Management Division
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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