



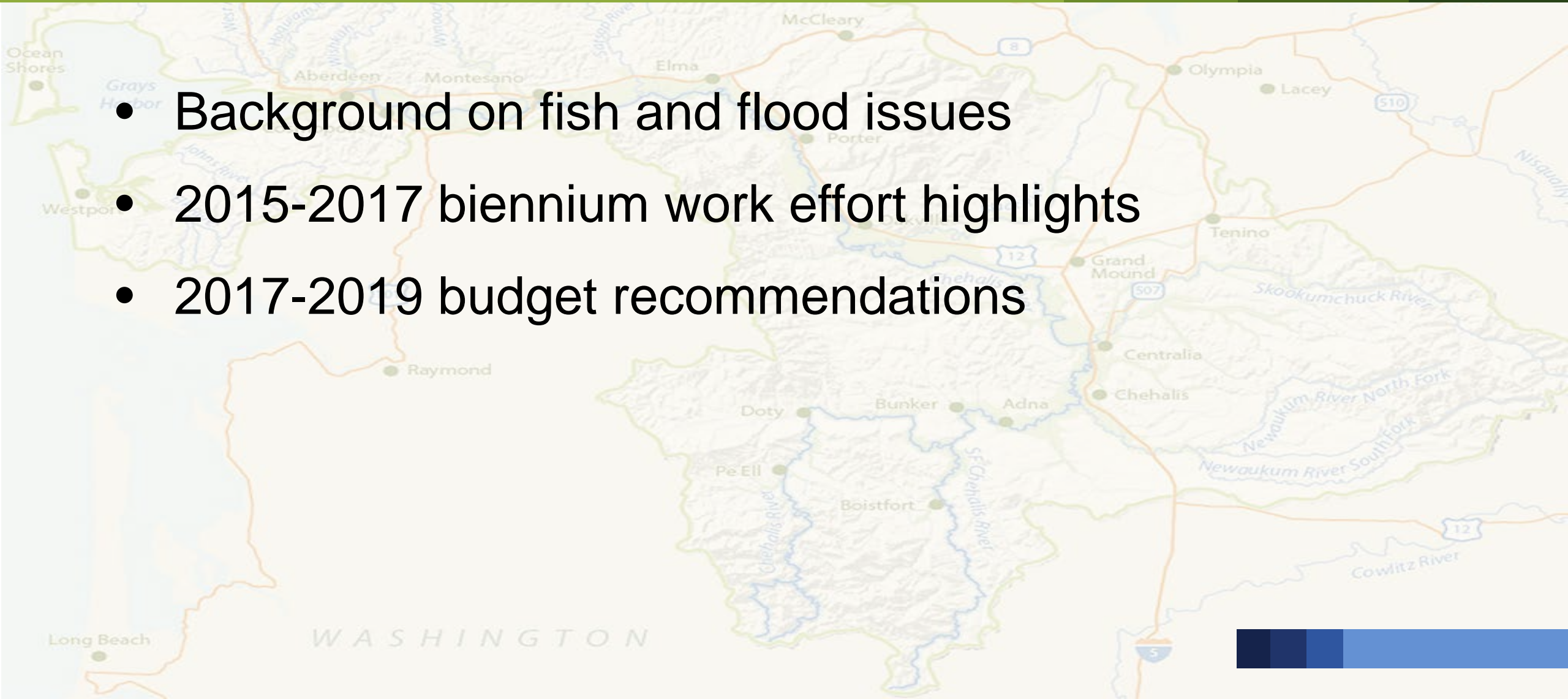
Chehalis Basin Strategy

March 15, 2017

Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Work Session

Presentation Overview

- Background on fish and flood issues
- 2015-2017 biennium work effort highlights
- 2017-2019 budget recommendations



The Chehalis Basin



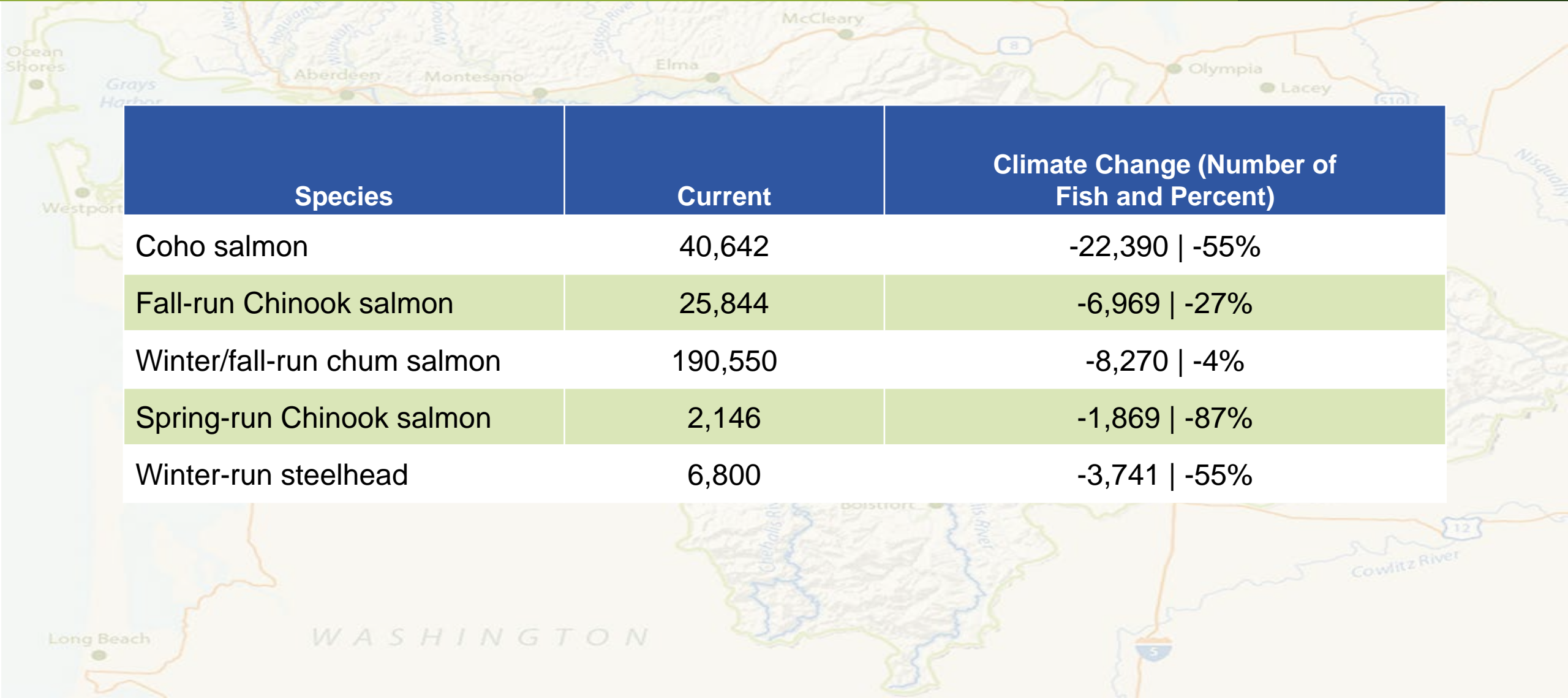
An Abundant River Basin



Aquatic Species Are Struggling

- Harvest has been limited by poor runs over the last 30 years
- Habitat productivity has been degraded by up to 80 percent

Climate Change



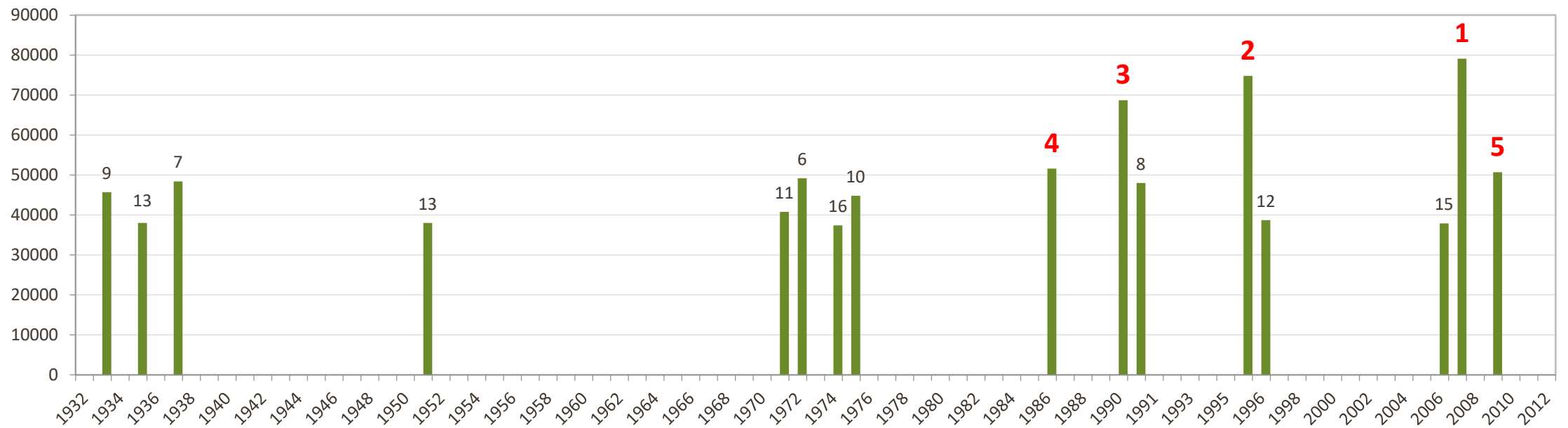
Species	Current	Climate Change (Number of Fish and Percent)
Coho salmon	40,642	-22,390 -55%
Fall-run Chinook salmon	25,844	-6,969 -27%
Winter/fall-run chum salmon	190,550	-8,270 -4%
Spring-run Chinook salmon	2,146	-1,869 -87%
Winter-run steelhead	6,800	-3,741 -55%

Extreme Flooding



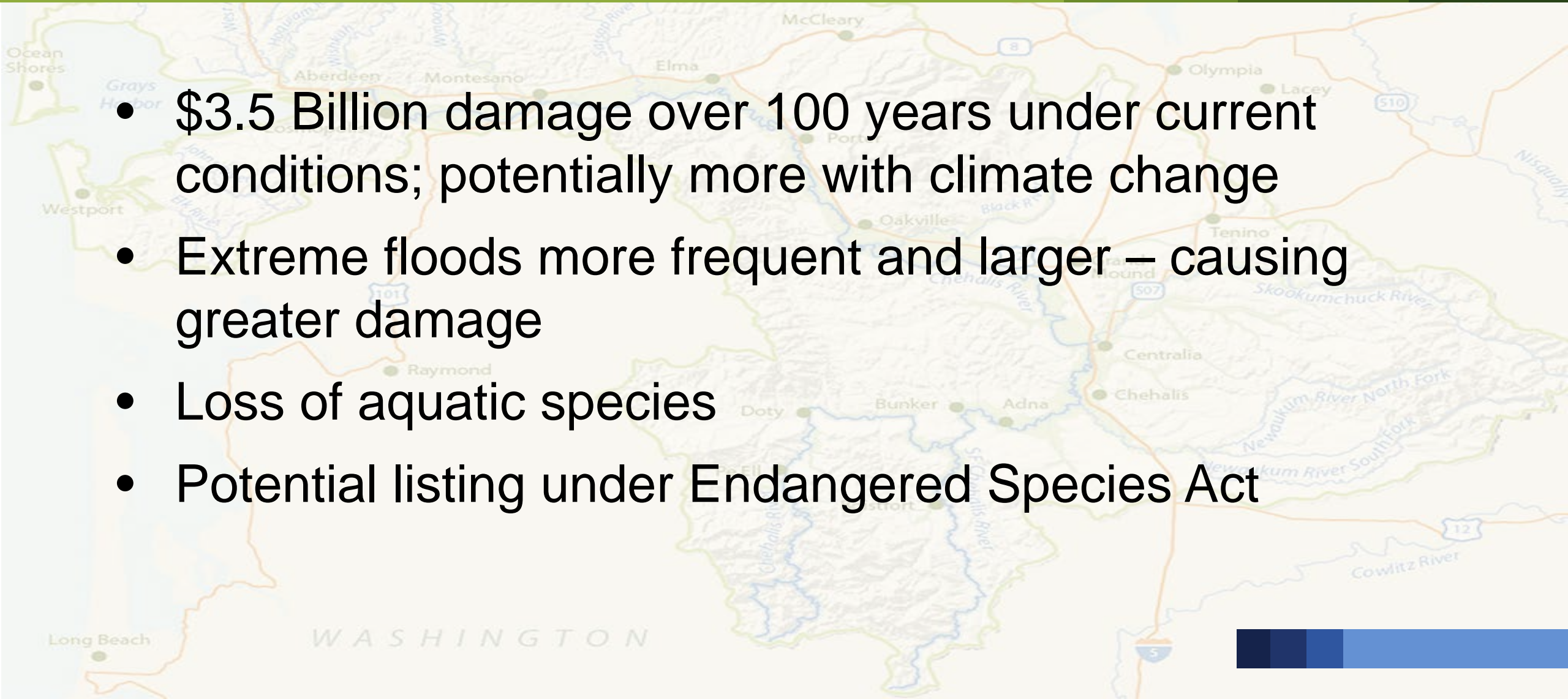
The Floods Are Getting Worse

- I-5 closed in 1990, 1996, 2007, 2009
- Five largest flood events have occurred since 1986



No Action Consequences

- \$3.5 Billion damage over 100 years under current conditions; potentially more with climate change
- Extreme floods more frequent and larger – causing greater damage
- Loss of aquatic species
- Potential listing under Endangered Species Act



A Strategy Is in the Works...



...Chehalis Basin Strategy

Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group

Tasked by Governor to recommend long-term strategy and budget for 2017-2019 biennium:

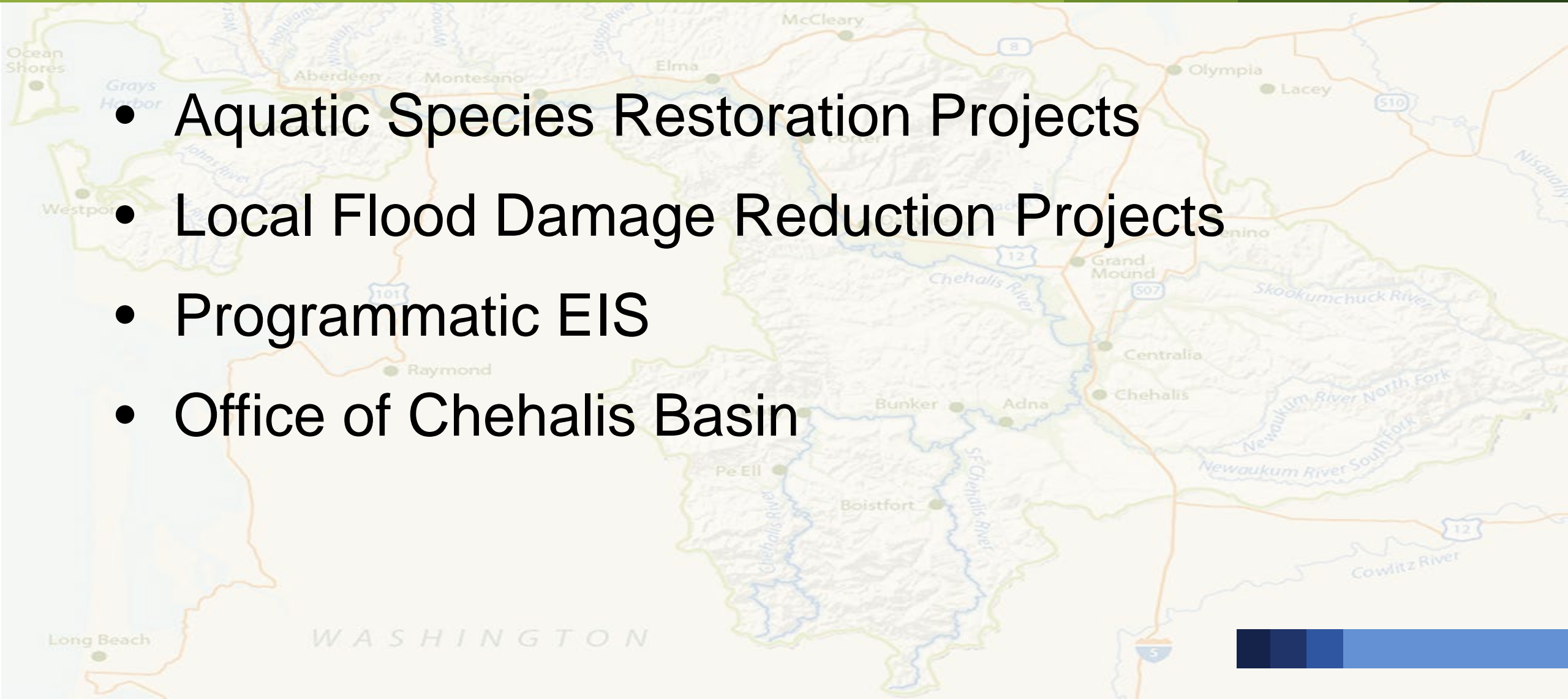
- Rob Duff (Governor's Natural Resource Advisor)
- Jay Gordon (Washington Dairy Federation and Chehalis Farmer)
- Steve Malloch (Western Water Futures)
- Dr. Gary Morishima (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Vickie Raines (Grays Harbor County Commissioner, Chair Flood Authority)
- Don Secena, (Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation)
- Karen Valenzuela (former Thurston County Commissioner)
- J. Vander Stoep (Private Attorney, Pe Ell Alternate Flood Authority)

Process managed and facilitated by William D. Ruckelshaus Center.

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Action Is Happening Now

- Aquatic Species Restoration Projects
- Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects
- Programmatic EIS
- Office of Chehalis Basin



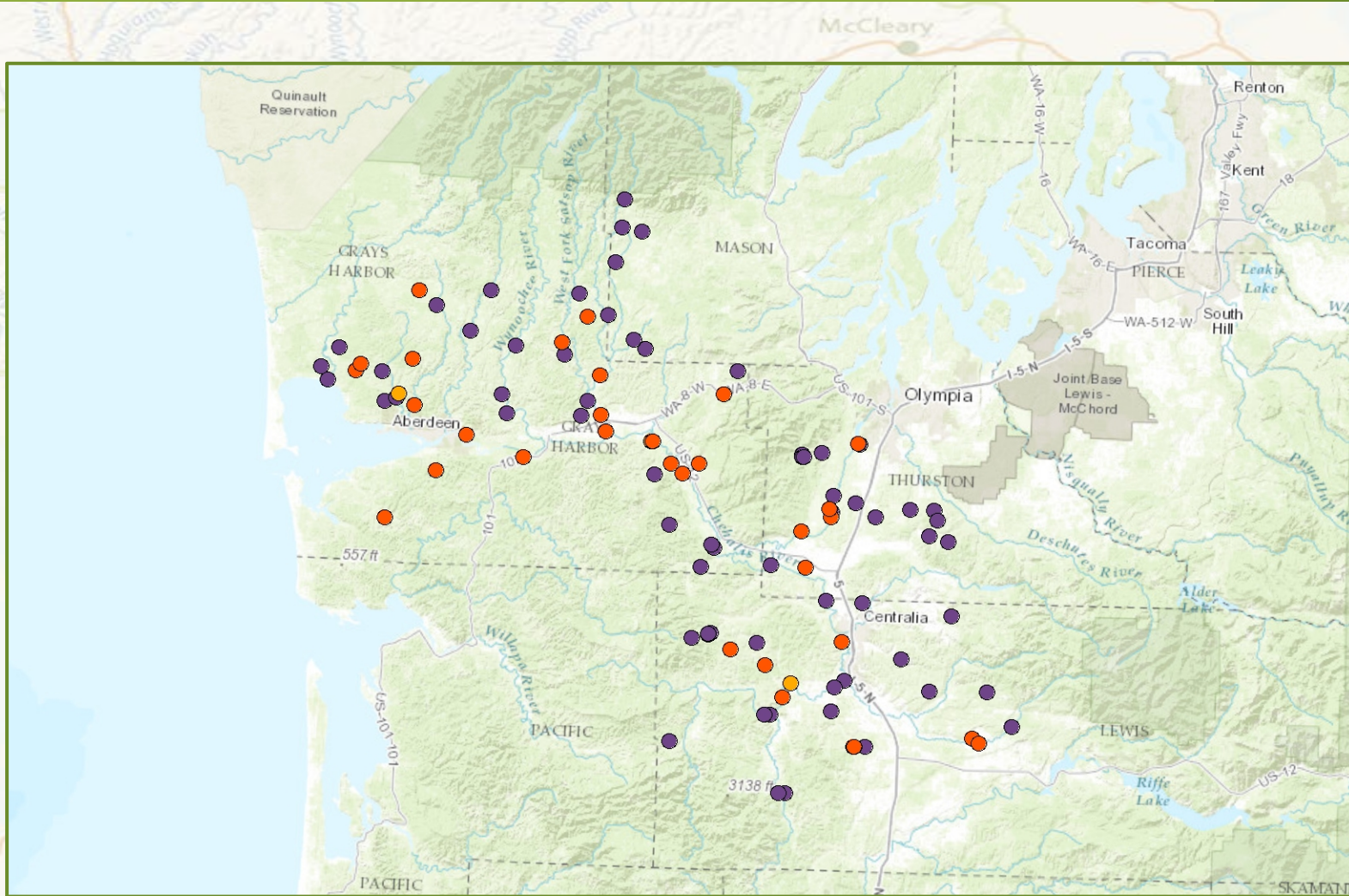
Aquatic Species Restoration Projects

\$6.9M investment in 2015-2017 resulted in:

- 27 fish passage barriers corrected or removed
- 135 miles of stream habitat opened
- 13 barrier correction/removal designs
- 30 miles of stream surveyed
- 50 local construction jobs
- 33 acres of wetlands restored



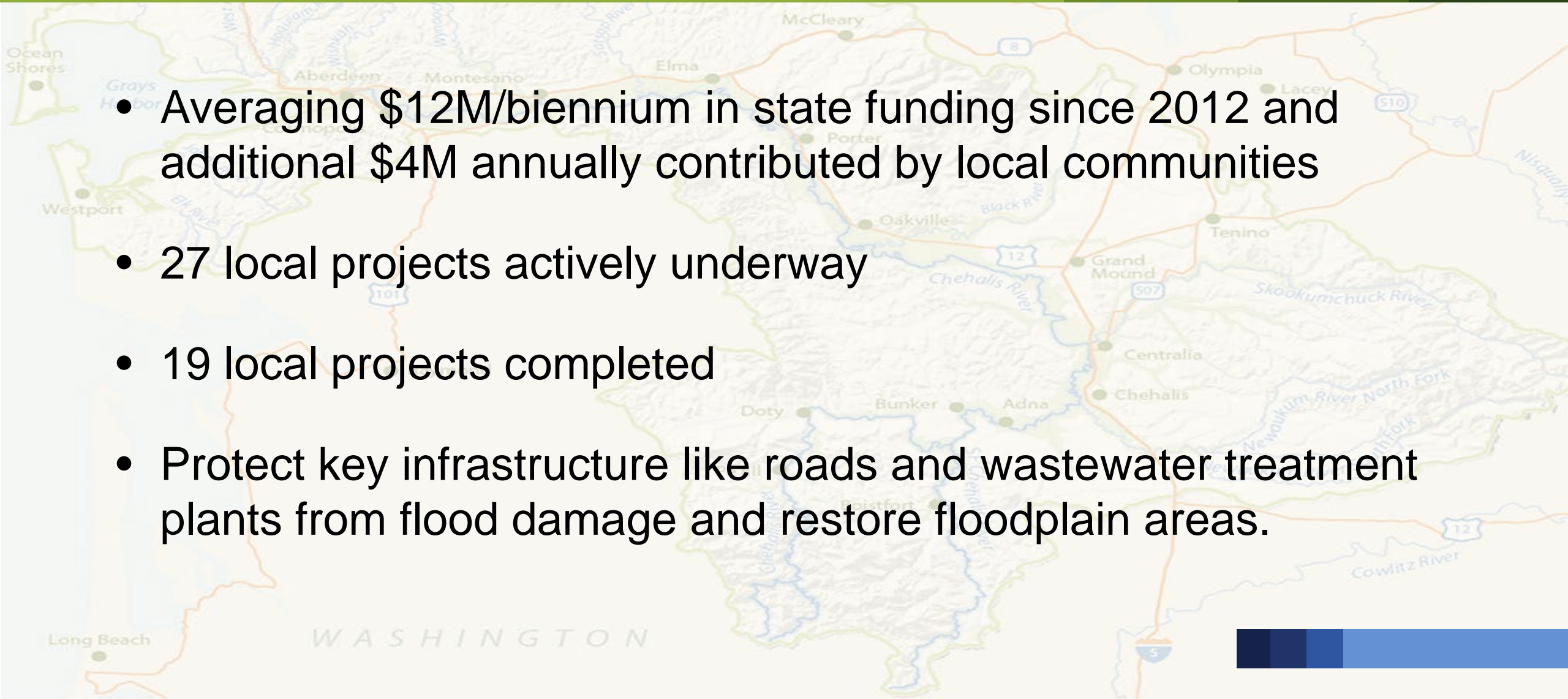
Habitat Restoration Projects



- Active Projects
- Proposed Projects
- Completed Projects

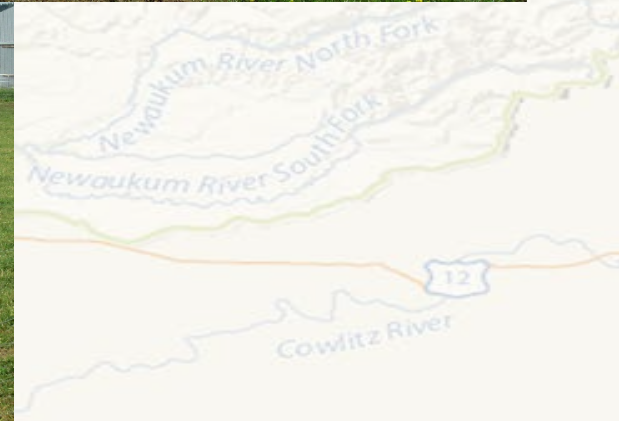
Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects

- Averaging \$12M/biennium in state funding since 2012 and additional \$4M annually contributed by local communities
- 27 local projects actively underway
- 19 local projects completed
- Protect key infrastructure like roads and wastewater treatment plants from flood damage and restore floodplain areas.



Farm Pads & Evacuation Routes

- 26 pads/evacuation routes constructed or under construction throughout the Basin
- Risk to livestock and farm equipment significantly reduced
- 14:1 benefit to cost



Programmatic EIS

- Draft PEIS was released in September 2016
- Evaluated effects of different combinations of actions for reducing flood damage and restoring aquatic species habitat
- Final PEIS will be released in mid 2017



Office of Chehalis Basin

- Office created by 2016 Legislature, will be initiated by funding in 2017-19 biennium.
- “aggressively pursue ... long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration...”
- Established a Board to provide oversight for implementation of the Chehalis Basin Strategy
- “...provide a more unified, efficient, and consistent structure for policies and projects, especially for larger projects as they advance”.

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2017-2019 Budget Recommendations

\$60M budget in Governor's proposed budget for 2017-2019 biennium:

- \$30.4 million to advance long-term strategy and determine preferred option for flood projects and habitat restoration
- \$20 million for construction of habitat restoration projects (\$10 million State, \$10 million federal)
- \$9.6 million for construction of local flood damage reduction projects

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Advancing the Long-Term Strategy

- Completion of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan
- Project level environmental review and initial permit applications for potential dam
- Detailed modeling and pre-permit design for one priority sub-basin for restorative flood protection
- Design and initial permit applications the Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee project
- Continued public involvement and outreach to stakeholders
- Assessment of land use management and recommended improvements

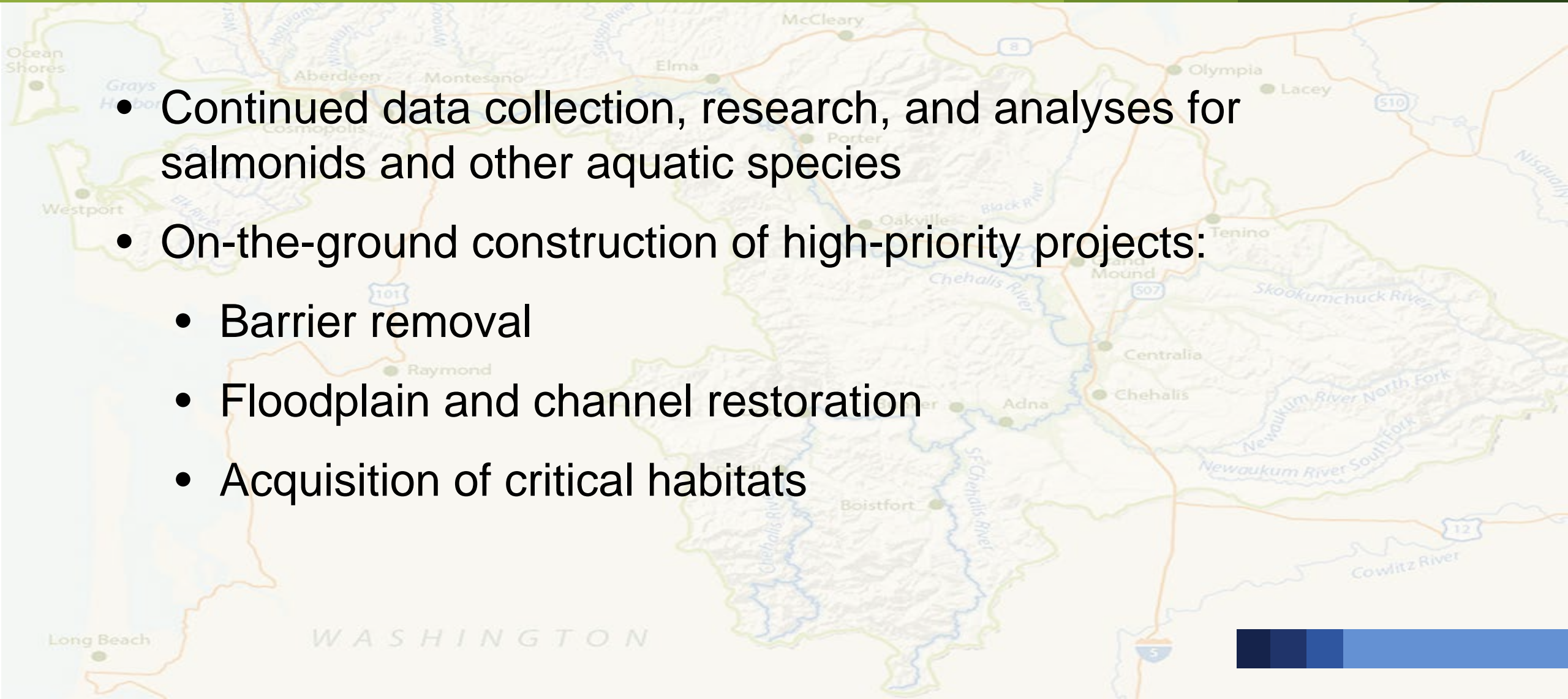


Local Flood Reduction Projects

- Construct first tier of local flood damage reduction projects developed by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority.
- Continue working with local governments to ensure that new floodplain development does not impact floodplain ecological function or cause additional harm for residents and structures in the floodplain.
- Initiate a basin-wide floodproofing program with an early focus likely in Centralia and Thurston County, for elevation, acquisition, and other structure retrofit projects.

Aquatic Species Restoration

- Continued data collection, research, and analyses for salmonids and other aquatic species
- On-the-ground construction of high-priority projects:
 - Barrier removal
 - Floodplain and channel restoration
 - Acquisition of critical habitats



Questions/Discussion

