

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park and Wanapum Recreation Area CAMP Comments
January 2020 – Ongoing

This comment is in regard to the Ginkgo Petrified Forest and Wanapum recreational area. If feasible, explore purchasing the land next to the public access in Vantage and develop it into an additional camping area. Possibly work in conjunction with the Ice Age Institute to develop a more comprehensive interpretive site that encompasses the Geology that created the area. ¹

This is a great RV park and we stay there every year but it seems like they could make it larger so it isn't so hard to get a spot every year. We do like everything about it. We love to Kayak the river. ²

Regarding the Wanapum campground...what is the plan to replace the trees lost while the dam was being repaired and why were they not taken care of during the emergency? ³

This is a hidden gem almost in plain sight, being right off of I-90. We appreciated the well kept campsites with grass watered to stay green even in summer heat. The availability of a lot of sites with electricity was a plus. The token-only showers were a little of a hassle. Given the afternoon and evening winds, maybe more wind break plantings would help tent campers. The petrified forest trail was good exercise, but maybe more display boards between the scattered specimens would help keep interest up and tie things together. ⁴

I had a very nice visit to the RV campground in the Wanapum area last summer mid-week. Two areas for RVs and both bath houses were open. I urge you not to make any changes to the campground as it is plenty fine the way it is.

I also visited the swimming area. I assume there was no lifeguard on duty because it was mid-week.

I visited the Ginkgo Petrified Forest at the Visitor Center, which also appeared to be a private residence. That was a major disappointment for me as I was expecting more information about the forest and area.

I visited the wind turbine farm at white horse or white stallion or a similar name. I was very impressed with the facility and the work they do there. It was very worthwhile.

All in all, I had a very nice stay in my RV at the RV campground at Wanapum.
I will be back. ⁵

The signage for Ginkgo Petrified Forest is very confusing. We could not find it August 2019 when we took the marked exit off Westbound I-90. We did find a "ranger's residence" which looked unoccupied, and I think a sign w/ trail maps through the brush (with snake warnings - no thank you!) But we were looking for the visitor center we went to I the 1990's with a small patio-type outdoor area with a railing and lots of samples of petrified wood. Is that gone now? We have been to Wanapum campground in the last 2 years and found it to be a beautiful (albeit windy) place. ⁶

Please maintain current programs at current levels. ⁷

My family and I very much enjoy this absolutely fantastic state park. Looking forward to our next visit. Please continue to keep this park as well maintained as you have been. It is a delight visiting this location. ⁸

This park is awesome. It's gorgeous, the sites are big and well kept, the facilities are awesome, the riverside areas are awesome for staying cool, the staff are great. The only problem with this place is the wind. That's it. I don't know if you can fix that or if it's always been that way. For people who aren't in campers for 100% of their visit there, this probably isn't the place for them. The environment is just too unforgiving. ⁹

Our first stay at Wanapum State Park was in 2019. We have reservations already for 2020. We found the camping facilities wonderfully maintained and encourage funding to continue at current levels.

My only recommendation is that through State websites you generally have to be searching for Ginko in order to find Wanapum. This can be confusing and possibly lower interest in the Wanapum area because of lack of knowledge.

Thanks for taking input. ¹⁰

We think that Wanapum State Park is a hidden gem. It is especially nice that we have an easily accessible, high quality state park just a relative short distance from our central Washington communities, in our case Wenatchee.

We would not like to see much change. Right now it is a relatively small, very quiet park. Making it larger would be a mistake.

There is one problem that you might consider addressing: wind and tents! You might partially solve this situation by developing a dedicated tent area with some kind of permanent wind screens to protect tent folks. In two of our most recent visits to the park, we have endured 40 mph winds. In one case we were fortunate to be traveling in our small Tab trailer, so we withstood the winds. Not so for the two young men in their Subaru and tent. They had to lash the tent to their car just to survive the night and were gone by 7:00 am the next morning.

The last time we visited Wanapum, we had a problem with our trailer and decided to pack up our tent and go anyway. It was a disaster. The same 40 mph winds, all night long. We had to unzip all of our flaps to keep from being blown into the river. We were gone by 7:00 am and forfeited our 2nd night (and \$40 or so nightly fee). Not happy about this.

We recognize that we now live in an RV type world, but there should be some support for the simpler, more affordable tent camp lifestyle. Not everyone can afford a 40 foot RV!

So we would suggest that you address this issue and leave most of the rest of the campground alone.

Thank you! ¹¹

I am thankful for the opportunity to provide comments. We had a HORRIBLE experience at this campsite and it was because there was ZERO protection for tents against the wind. Our tent was DESTROYED by the wind last year and because wind is so normal there you would think that there would be wind guards for tents like there are at other state parks, either by walls put in at the tent sites or tree barriers to block the wind some. My husband and I had to stay up that entire night just holding the tent up so that our kids could get sleep. That is NOT okay. Otherwise, it was a very beautiful state park. ¹²

we have camped here several times. It is a beautiful park: well maintained with friendly professional park rangers.

I would suggest perhaps an interpretive trail, small fenced dog park? better handicapped campsites / facilities.

It would also be nice to see what the Gingko interpretive center could do with a little more cash for update.

I realize we are out of state but we LOVE this park & the interpretive center north of Vantage. ¹³

Provide pavers on main paths;

Create paths that follow n/s along the water front. ¹⁴

I love this park, the views are incredible. The only issue I ever have is the wind. It really needs more wind break trees. But don't make it to great or I'll never be able to get a site 😊 ¹⁵

Capital improvement comments:

-Provide automatic campsite irrigation like other campgrounds have in the desert climate (Lincoln Rock, etc). It is not uncommon to arrive in the summer to a brown campsite. I spend the week watering so it is better than I found it. Volunteer staff watering due to budget cuts is problematic to say the least. In years past, park staff watering was excellent.

-A concession operator should be offered in the day use area during peak months. The space is there, it has just been ignored for years and continues to run down.

-The onsite sewage system (septic) needs upgraded or replaced. There have been notices to not use toilet chemical or the system will completely fail.

Operating comments:

-Having 1 dumpster for the campground is ridiculous. It is such a long walk to dump trash, especially in summer heat. The campground used to have trash and can recycling placed conveniently throughout the campground. This cut in service was most likely again due to budget cuts. All in all, we love this park, and spend 3 separate week long reservations there

every summer. and have done so for the past 30+ years. Long enough to unfortunately know how the budget cuts have impacted it. ¹⁶

Hi Melinda,

Looking at your questions, I feel like most of them are beyond my scope so I'll only address a few of them.

What natural, historical, cultural, geological, and/or archaeological resources should be protected and how?

I think the park currently does a pretty good job of protecting important resources. I like that you keep visitor pressure limited to certain areas of the park and keep the remainder of the park wild and undeveloped. I think this is appropriate, and the park permitting system seems to function adequately to allow scientific research when appropriate.

What facility changes should be considered for the area?

I haven't been to the trailside museum since it was recently updated and reopened, so I won't comment on that aspect until I've had a chance to see it in person. I do believe the interpretive center displays are in serious need of updating – the wood on display is nice, but I think there are misidentifications that need to be corrected and the display as a whole needs to be updated to reflect the latest research. I would be glad to participate in any effort to do this.

What are ideas for balancing recreation, conservation and protection of the park land, much of which has significant geological and cultural significance?

I think the park does a pretty good job of this already. I think it's appropriate to limit most of visitor activities to developed areas of the park and keep the rest of the park accessible, but with limited access.

Who else is interested in the park and for what reasons?

National and international paleobotanists are interested in the park as a scientific resource. Ginkgo State Park is famous for the quality and diversity of the fossil woods found there and those fossils provide an important resource for understanding the Miocene forests and climate of the Pacific Northwest. We have taken a number of scientists to the park over the years, and we have also taken groups to see the park for university and conference field trips.

One question I would like to see added is, "How can park personnel better respond to the needs of visitors?" I have been going to the park off and on for over 30 years, and in the last 15 years or so, I've noted that park personnel seem to be much more involved in the recreational aspects of the park and less interested/knowledgeable about the natural resources contained in the park than they were in the past. Ginkgo State Park contains a world class assemblage of fossil wood and I would appreciate it if park personnel were more aware of the scientific significance of the resource they're managing. That's it for now. Thanks for giving

me the opportunity to provide input and I'll look forward to seeing improvements as a result of this effort. ¹⁷
<p>I'm not sure what the discussions will be about, I'd just like to ad my thoughts about this campground...</p> <p>When I lived in Seattle we would stop here for our 1st night out on our travels East or South, always enjoyed this park.</p> <p>This last summer I visited 2x and the new showers are quite the plus!.At least on the upper loop where I always stay..</p> <p>I am really happy with the new young rangers...I took time to visit with them and they have been very friendly and inviting.</p> <p>I am retired now.....:+).....</p> <p>I hope to hear what some of the concerns or ideas for improvements coming up are. ¹⁸</p>
We enjoyed both of these parks. ¹⁹
The Wanapum/Vantage area is one of our favorites in the state. The state park is well laid out, well maintained, and easy to maneuver in. We are not particularly interested in programs at the park but just enjoy the grounds and the atmosphere of the park. ²⁰
I stay at the Wanapum campground occasionally when I go climbing at Frenchman Coulee. The campground is lovely and well run. The main issue I have is that the occasional high winds can make it very difficult for people who are tent camping (as opposed to using an RV). It's almost impossible to cook outside in those conditions. Would it be possible to construct a cooking shelter somewhere in the campground that would provide shelter from the wind so that people who were tent camping could cook and socialize? ²¹
Wanapum State Park is one of our favorite places to come in the spring/summer/fall with our small trailer. We prefer the upper loop, away from the bigger rigs in the lower loop and people who want to be close to the water to launch their various craft. We do not boat but we do swim/float in the water when it's hot. We have noticed with horror that the upper loop has lost so many trees over the years and with the recent fires last year. I would hope there is money in the budget to replace them as they are a vital screen from wind/sun and provide privacy between sites. We would love to see some walking trails installed as they are very few of them there currently at Wanapum. We remember when there was an active concession stand, which would be nice again, even on a limited basis/select days. We have seen a lot of the informational signage disappear. There used to be graphics showing how trees bent in the wind which were helpful in letting campers estimate how hard it was blowing there. How about a windsock with a real-time mph reading? No longer any wildlife/nature/indiginous flora and fauna anymore. ²²
We enjoy Wanapum at least 3 times a year. We would enjoy it more if there were trails from the camp ground that takes you into the hills. ²³

mornin' melinda,

was great to talk with you. and knowing the forms don't go blind eyes. someone does collect the data and keeps track.

as i mentioned i have used that entire area for almost ten years. from whiskey dick area over to saddle mountain. going thru the north gate to the opening in the fence line further north to the lone camp area on the Columbia. have even gone further north to make a loop back out at whiskey dick. the stone house is cool. i've been studying the geologic impact and terrain changes the lake missoula and upper columbia floods might have caused. it's amazing to sit on the hills and look east and imagine the massive volumes of water flowing towards you. i cannot think of anything that could improve it. it is rough natural terrain, minus the road. the nice thing i have noticed, per human intervention, is very little impact caused by our disturbance. i have packed out some old beer and soda bottles and cans. but these have been there quite a while. as well as some shot gun shells and clay pidgeon shards. i abide by the rules of staying on the well marked trails. i do pull onto the " shoulder" while hiking as not to block the road. i have not seen any other abuse of the policy. the majority of people i have encountered are bikers, quads and hikers. even some runners?, must be training for iron person type races. the facilities at the museum and hiking trail interpretive center are always clean and available. i hope DNR and the Parks dept will continue full use of the area as it is now. i love when the hedgehog cacti are blooming. would be glad to show you where i have found the small field. i won't make it public, due to people and their well " intentions" of over viewing them. the prof. i contacted a few years ago, re: the cactus is Eric Graham at CWU. biology dept. 509 963 1511. not sure if he is still there or ever found the area i informed him of. if you a geologist well voiced in that area, i would like to discuss some of my ideas on the floods and their impact. ²⁴

Would love to see Ginkgo and all the state parks develop more camping sites, with and without utilities. It is so hard to reserve a site now, and unless you reserve months in advance, it won't happen at all. ²⁵

We enjoyed Ginkgo Petrified Forest/Wanapum Centers and our grandchildren really liked seeing the Dinosaur and hearing about them and seeing the Petrified Forest. I think they should be preserved for future generations. A lot of the State Parks are a blessing and the young people and future generations need to learn how and why they came about. I remember when we moved from Nebraska to Washington and we stopped in Yellowstone. I had never seen anything like the animals and beauty like Yellowstone. I still can see Old Faithful shooting into the air. I will tell you I had never seen a bear and knew of their existence until visiting Yellowstone. Really liked Ginkgo enjoyed the discovery shops, etc. Great job to all of you. ²⁶

I enjoy both hiking in Ginkgo State Park and driving through on the primitive road that starts at Recreation Drive and continues through the park to DFW & DNR lands. I enjoy the shrub steppe with all its flora and fauna. Annually we purchase 2 Discover Passes to support/enjoy

State Park lands as well as DNR & DFW lands. We have used the primitive road for over 20 years and have never witnessed people driving off-road or taking or destroying petrified wood. The primitive road through the park was designated as part of the “perimeter road” in the Naneum to Columbia multi-year planning process that was completed January 2015. As the “perimeter road” it is the only access from February 1 to May 1 when the adjoining DFW & DNR lands are in the Winter Closure. Prior to that, it was often the only access to these lands during winter months when snow drifts prevented access from higher and more Northern roads. Some winters snow drifts in the Park’s high areas prevented access.

I do not want to lose motorized access through Ginkgo Petrified Forest, please keep the primitive road that starts at Recreation Drive and connects to DNR/DFW lands open so that law-abiding citizens can have access to our public lands. ²⁷

Hello,

As a 40+ year user of Ginkgo, I feel compelled to offer a comment for consideration in the CAMP process.

While I have greatly enjoyed day-visits to various features of the Park, my predominant use has been for through-transit to the Quilomene / W. D. Wildlife Areas to access hiking and upland bird hunting opportunities. The access gate from Recreation Drive allows critical vehicular access to the eastern, lower-elevation portions of these units, access which otherwise becomes difficult to impossible if entering from the higher-elevation egress points to the west.

I believe the recently implemented changes to this access point, with onsite self-registration and a call-in for the gate padlock code, are tremendous improvements and are much-appreciated by the regular users. My observations are that this access is relatively lightly used, and almost without fail it is by respectful folks who carefully observe the park rules.

As I was unable to attend the public meeting, I am unsure if any changes to this access point are on the table, but if they are I strongly urge consideration of maintaining the current self-registration system and access opportunities. It would be a shame to lose this access alternative to a very special and unique part of the state. ²⁸

We want to go on record with the CAMP program for Ginkgo forest. We want motorized access available per at least status quo. Lack of "resource protection" should not be blamed on motorized access. While motorized users are the only citizens required to sign in, back packs, duffle bags and paniers can haul a lot of petrified wood . Except for having everyone sign in, leave it alone..As a final note,State Parks is the only State agency honestly vested into recreation. Unless something changes State Parks deserves 100% of the Discover Pass funds. Please consider us a party of record. ²⁹

Ms. Posner,

I attended the public meeting in Ellensburg on Feb. 13 concerning the CAMP process for Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park. I did offer comments at that time in the form of sticky notes at the various stations around the room and also spoke to several State Parks staff. However, I thought I would off the following written comments as well:

- There is significant hiker use of what is known as the Ginkgo Petrified Forest Backcountry as indicated by the 71 Trip Reports filed for this hike on the Washington Trails Association website. (Because only a small fraction of hikers file trip reports, the useage is obviously much higher.) The Backcountry hike takes off from the bottom of Recreation Driver (where the new campground is located) and climbs north up the old road to the bluff above the Columbia. Unfortunately, this route crosses private property, a parcel owned by Stockdale, Inc. of Vantage. I believe it should be a priority for State Parks to obtain this parcel either through purchase or trade. (I'm sure the Stockdales would be interested in some currently underutilized State Parks parcel located on the river between the Wanapum Campground and the Town of Vantage as an adjunct to their proposed Vantage Bay development.) This would solve the current trespassing issue as well as preclude the future development of this inholding in the State Park.
- Something should be done to ensure the future protection of the standing petrified log located in the north end of the State Park. It is apparent that people have been chipping away at the based of the log, which will cause it to collapse at some point. This log is a unique feature of the state park and I would hope it is still standing for the amazement of our children's children and beyond. Because this log can only be practically accessed through WDFW land, perhaps it would be a good idea to obtain the adjacent WDFW property to ensure that dirt bikers and others cannot easily access the site.
- I do not have a problem with people driving through the state park on the two track road north of Rocky Coulee in order to access WDFW land that might not be accessible in winter. I have hiked this road several times and the few vehicles I've encountered don't seem to be abusing the privilege. However, I think there is a problem with dirt bikes and ATVs potentially accessing the state park from the WDFW property to the north because of the lack of a coded gate on that end of the park. I understand there is a project in the works to install a coded gate to control access. The sooner the better. In addition, because the problem for Vantage residents is seasonal (winter snows blocking access from the roads coming off the Colockum, perhaps the Park would consider keeping the road closed in the summer and fall months. This would help protect the rare plants as well as help control access to the standing petrified log.
- The two track traversing Hell's Kitchen and connecting with Pumphouse Road to the west should be fenced at the property boundary to prevent motorized access to lower Rocky Coulee. That area is among the most severely burned in the park and should be given plenty of time to recover before any thought of motorized access is contemplated.
- The park property south of I-90 is (or was, before the fire) a great area for hiking. Could Parks provide a small parking area at the two track that leaves Huntzinger Road about a mile south of Vantage?
- Could the Park provide bike racks at the Trailside Museum and Trees of Stone Interpretive Trail area? I can see road biking/mountain biking from Ellensburg and/or the Palouse to Cascades Trail to this site and, perhaps, others within the park.
- With regard to inventorying wildlife within the Park, I observed cougar tracks on Dec. 19, 2015 in Hell's Kitchen and as far west as the State Park property line. I took

photographs and had the track identification verified with Rich Beausoleil, Bear & Cougar Specialist with WDFW.

- I think it's great that the Beverly Bridge is being opened. I have biked the entire Palouse to Cascades Trail from Rattlesnake Lake to just short of Smyrna, with the exceptions of the Beverly Bridge and the Renslow Trestle, of course. One thing that might be considered is providing for some sort of jitney service to ferry workers to and from the orchard on the east side of the bridge. It is my observation that most of the workers on that orchard (several hundred people) live in Grant County in Mattawa, Beverly and other nearby communities. If there could be a provision for shortening their commute, it would be good for the environment and good for the workers. Making an exception for motorized use (confined to some sort of public transport) might be difficult but should be considered, at least.
- Is the State Park working with WSDOT to try to prevent future wildfires originating from within the I-90 right-of-way? While many wildfires originate through lightening strikes, there also seem to be a significant number of fires that originate along public highways due to spark generation, cigarettes, accidents, etc. I understand that WDFW and WSDOT are working together on this problem to try to "fireproof" rights-of-way near Hanford with less flammable roadside vegetation.

I hope these comments are useful. I am a long time regular visitor to the State Park, having grown up in Moses Lake and first visiting Ginkgo in the late 1950s with my parents and brothers. We were fascinated by the thought of an ancient "forest" in the desert. Needless to say, this area is special to me. I visit often on my hiking forays (four times this winter, for instance).³⁰

The Ginkgo planning process is something I feel compelled to comment about regarding continuing public access and recreation unrelated to the actual operation of the park infrastructure (campground, museum, interpretive center, etc.). My concern is the ability of the recreating public to continue to use the primitive road which begins on Recreation Drive and runs northerly to the north line of the park boundary. This road affords wildlife and seasonal wild flower viewing opportunities to members of the public that drive capable vehicles to travel the road. During certain seasons this access road is the only option to reach thousands of acres of public lands lying north of the park property, west of the Columbia River. These lands also provide wildlife to enjoy as well as wild scenery to admire. WDFW has enacted seasonal road closures which make access to the public lands mentioned difficult or impossible. Some winters, the access road through the park drifts shut with snow. The public is required to buy the Discover Pass to access these properties and I find it interesting that the parks would consider policies which would minimize opportunities for the motoring public. I have used this road seasonally for the last 20-30 years to enjoy the area I've described. In all that time I have seldom seen others in the park and I haven't noticed any evidence of public vandalism or misuse that would warrant closing the area for protection. I believe that considering the public benefits, it is critical that the park road remain open for public vehicular travel and access.³¹

February 26, 2020

Melinda Posner, Parks Planner
Washington State Parks
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

RE: WDFW Comments on Long-term planning for Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park

Dear Ms. Posner,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on fish and wildlife habitat for the long-term planning for the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park ("Park"). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) values the park lands as important areas of habitat for managing the fish and wildlife of the area. WDFW remains a partner committed to helping State Parks achieve the goal of successful habitat management within the park. To that end, WDFW submits the following comments to assist park staff in their long-term planning efforts for the park. The comments are broken down by the following categories: 1) fish and wildlife resources, 2) recreation zoning, 3) long-term park boundary considerations, and 4) outreach opportunities.

1) Fish and Wildlife Resources: The following resources are valuable habitats to fish and wildlife species within the park boundary. Efforts to protect and preferably enhance or restore habitat are encouraged by WDFW.

Shrubsteppe. The existing shrubsteppe and natural areas are home to many priority wildlife species, including sagebrush obligate songbirds, jackrabbits, striped whipsnake, bighorn sheep, deer, and elk. The shrubsteppe provides critical connectivity corridors between other intact shrubsteppe lands to the north, south and west. We encourage you to take measures to protect existing habitats, promote healthy wildlife populations and manage recreation activities that could damage the shrubsteppe. The park can implement these measures by 1) enhancing/restoring native plant communities that have greater habitat value and fire resiliency (including robust weed control to help native restoration efforts), 2) developing and employing a robust fire control plan to reduce the loss of shrubsteppe from fires, 3) removing relic barbed wire that can impact wildlife movement, 4) providing additional infrastructure and/or enforcement to reduce unauthorized recreation.

Riparian areas and Columbia River shoreline. To protect and preserve the riparian habitats and nearshore environments along this reach of the Columbia River, it becomes critical that State Parks ensures that the park has a healthy riparian area and nearshore environment. The Riparian habitat provides important resting and foraging habitat for many bird species as they migrate along the Columbia River. The Columbia River provides critical habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The Columbia River adjacent to the park is listed in the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) as a waterfowl concentration area for migrating and wintering waterfowl as thousands of waterfowl use this area. The Columbia River, especially the nearshore habitat, provides critical habitat for anadromous fish species, as well as

freshwater mussels and lamprey. Protecting these existing habitats from deleterious recreation impacts, including limiting high impact recreation activities within these sensitive areas and looking for opportunities to enhance and restore habitat will benefit this ecosystem.

2) Recreation area zoning: These comments provide recommendations to keep natural areas best suited to low-intensity recreation areas for the protection of wildlife and protecting/creating wildlife habitat within the high intensity recreation area. WDFW is aware of the demand for recreation in the park and as visitation increases, we encourage the park to maintain a balance between high intensity recreation, natural areas and protecting and preserving fish and wildlife habitat.

Natural Areas and Low-Intensity Recreation Areas. There are areas currently managed as natural areas compatible with low-intensity recreation, i.e. the shrubsteppe corridors present in the park boundary outside of the high-intensity recreation areas. These should continue to be managed as natural areas with only low-impact recreation areas to protect sensitive shrubsteppe resources. Where possible, State Parks should explore possibilities to further reduce winter recreation within some of these areas to protect disturbance of wintering wildlife and look for opportunities to reduce unauthorized recreation and resource damage in these areas.

High Intensity Recreation Areas. Within the campgrounds and day use areas there are existing areas of natural vegetation (i.e. “shrub clumps” interspersed between high intensity recreation areas). These areas are extremely valuable to migratory wildlife (primarily birds, as well as insects and other wildlife) as they use this corridor during their spring and fall migration routes. Along the shoreline environments, the riparian and nearshore areas are also critical, as mentioned above. When planning high-intensity recreation activities in the campgrounds, day-use areas, and trails, it is recommended that State Parks seek a balance between recreation and protection of natural habitats so that wildlife can utilize these areas as well. A recommended approach would be to leave clumps of natural shrub vegetation interspersed throughout the high intensity areas. A recommended minimum would be the current size and locations of clumps. A preferred approach would be to expand, where possible, both the number and size of these clumps.

3) Long-term boundary considerations:

As the park is currently situated between existing public lands, opportunities for expansion are likely limited. However, keeping the current footprint under a management regime that protects/enhances fish and wildlife habitat is highly desired. Where possible, we support expanding the footprint of the protected natural areas within the park.

4) Outreach opportunities:

With unique facilities such as the Ginkgo Interpretive Trails exhibit and the Ginkgo Interpretive Center located within the park boundary, the park has the unique opportunity to help educate visitors on the importance of shrubsteppe habitats and fish and wildlife that utilize the park’s variety of ecosystems. WDFW believes that outreach is vital to ensuring that visitors know of the species and habitats in the area and ways that they can be appreciated

while protecting them. If possible, WDFW welcomes the ability to partner with the park on outreach efforts regarding fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to engage and provide comments on this planning effort. WDFW remains a willing partner to ensure that Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park remains quality habitat for fish and wildlife species. Please contact me at (509) 457-9307 or Scott.downes@dfw.wa.gov, if you have any questions or to further elaborate on any subjects mentioned in this letter. Please add us to lists for additional contact and correspondence as you work through the planning process.³²

Sincerely,



Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc: Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW

Great idea in action to unlock the gate access, using your cell phone, on recreation drive.

Suggestion to expand and make legal parking off Huntzinger Road just past the Horse Ranch.

Provide parking and vault toilet at red area

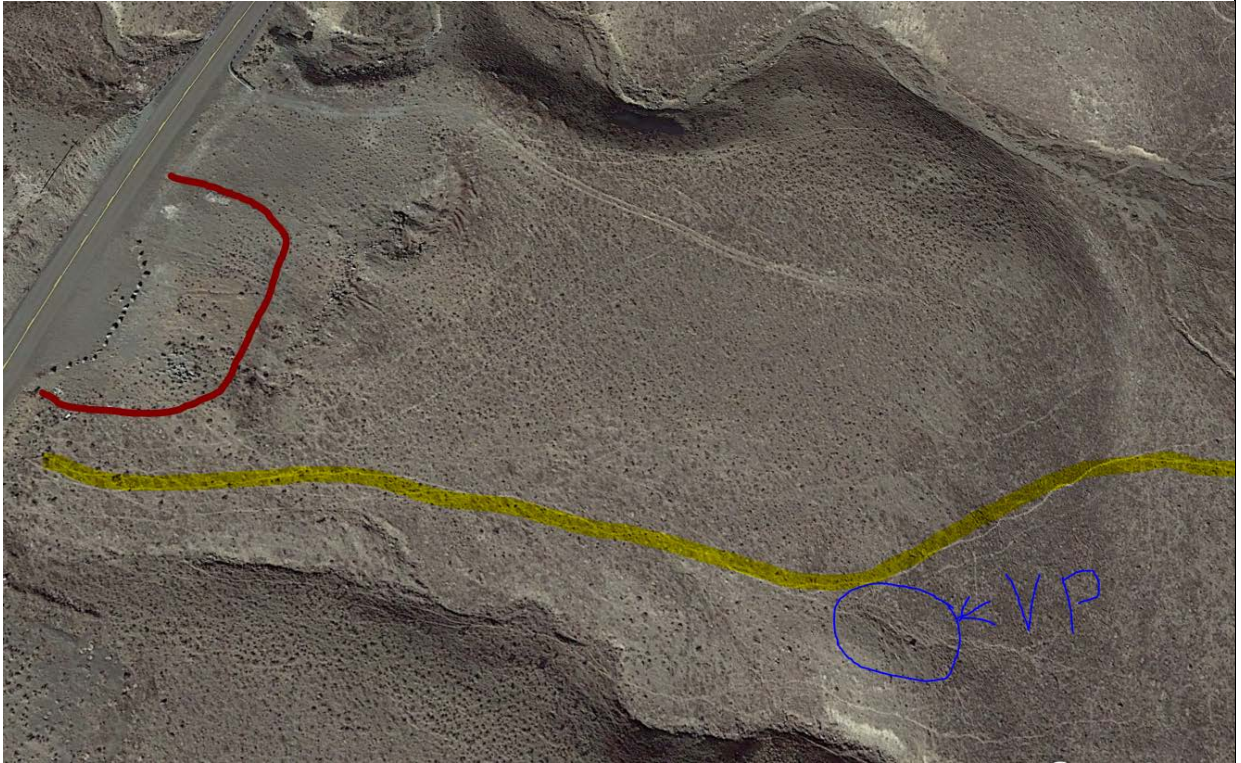
Improve existing yellow game trail down the hill and to the river, for both hiking and biking

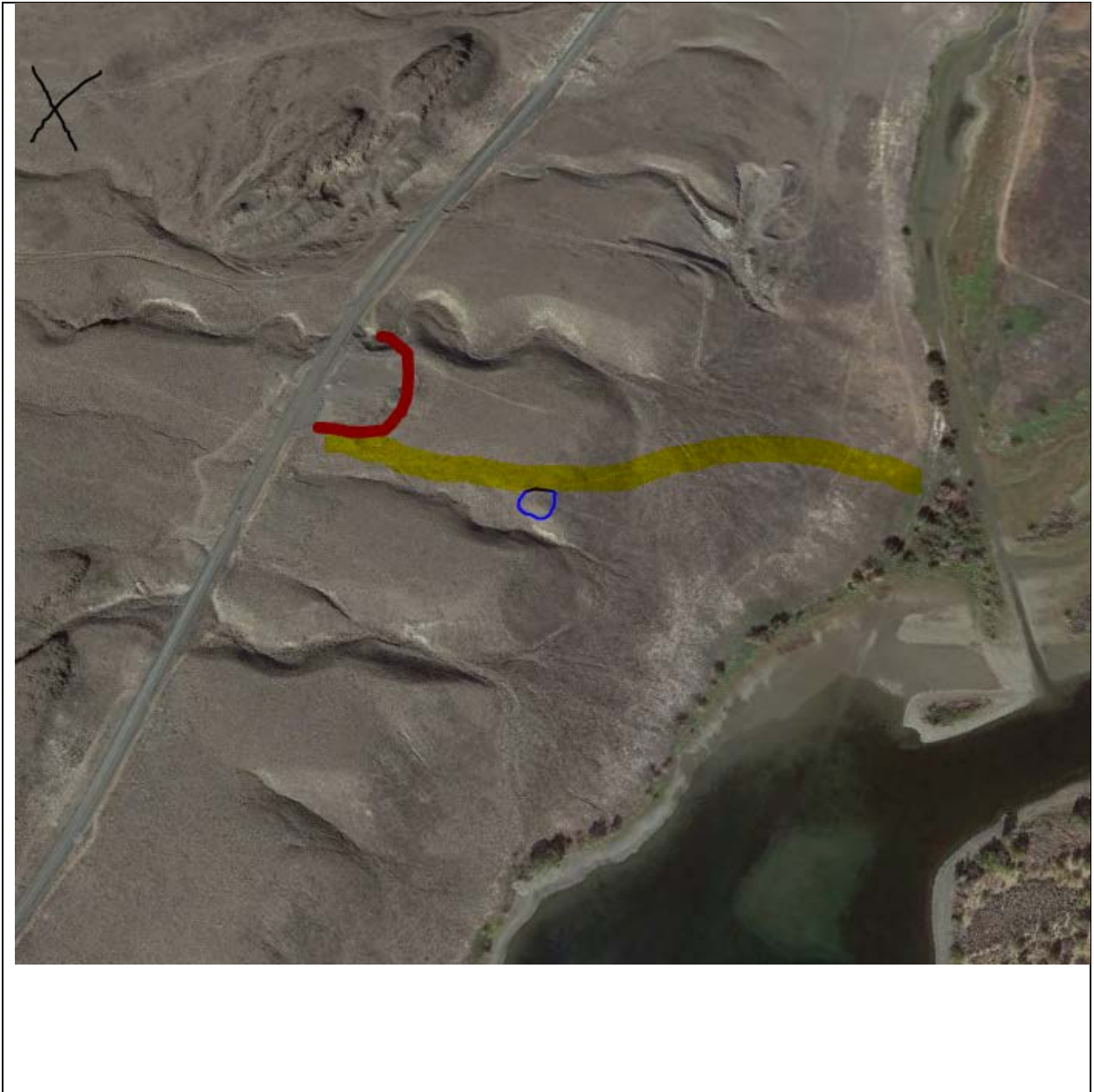
At blue area build a “view point” to interpret the area and ice age floods. The area is a sweet spot during high winds, you can look behind you to see “an erratic” pole mounted on the hillside (x spot on photo) at 1200 msl? , an erratic is moved to the view point with ice age panes. You can see up and down the river.” So man was able to dam the river to flood the Town of Vantage, look how high the water was when mother nature had her way. “

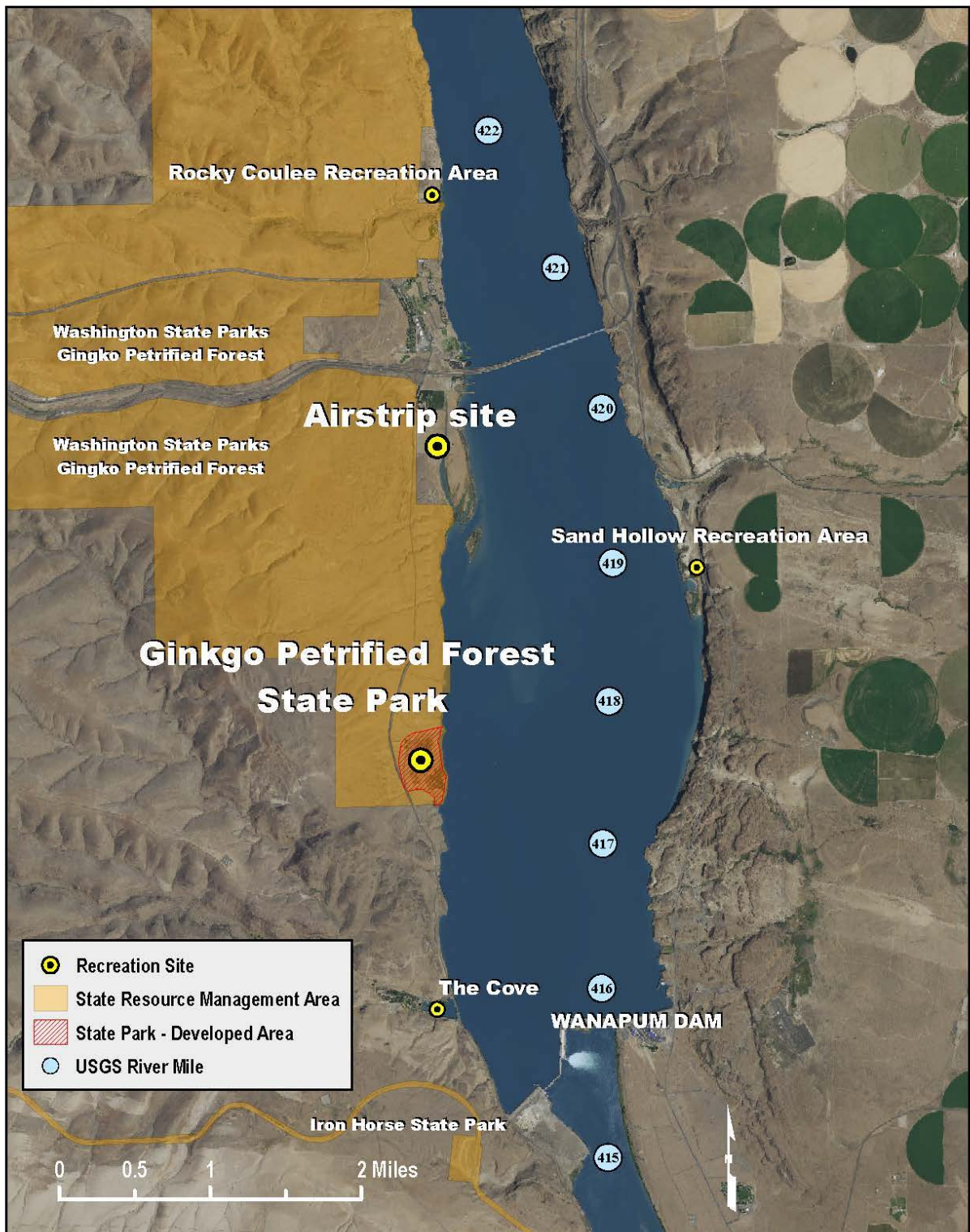
The trail provides access to the river for hiking, biking and bird watching. The trail could also provide foot access to the airstrip site for bird watching and a possible shoreline trail to WSP for hiking and mountain bikes would be nice.

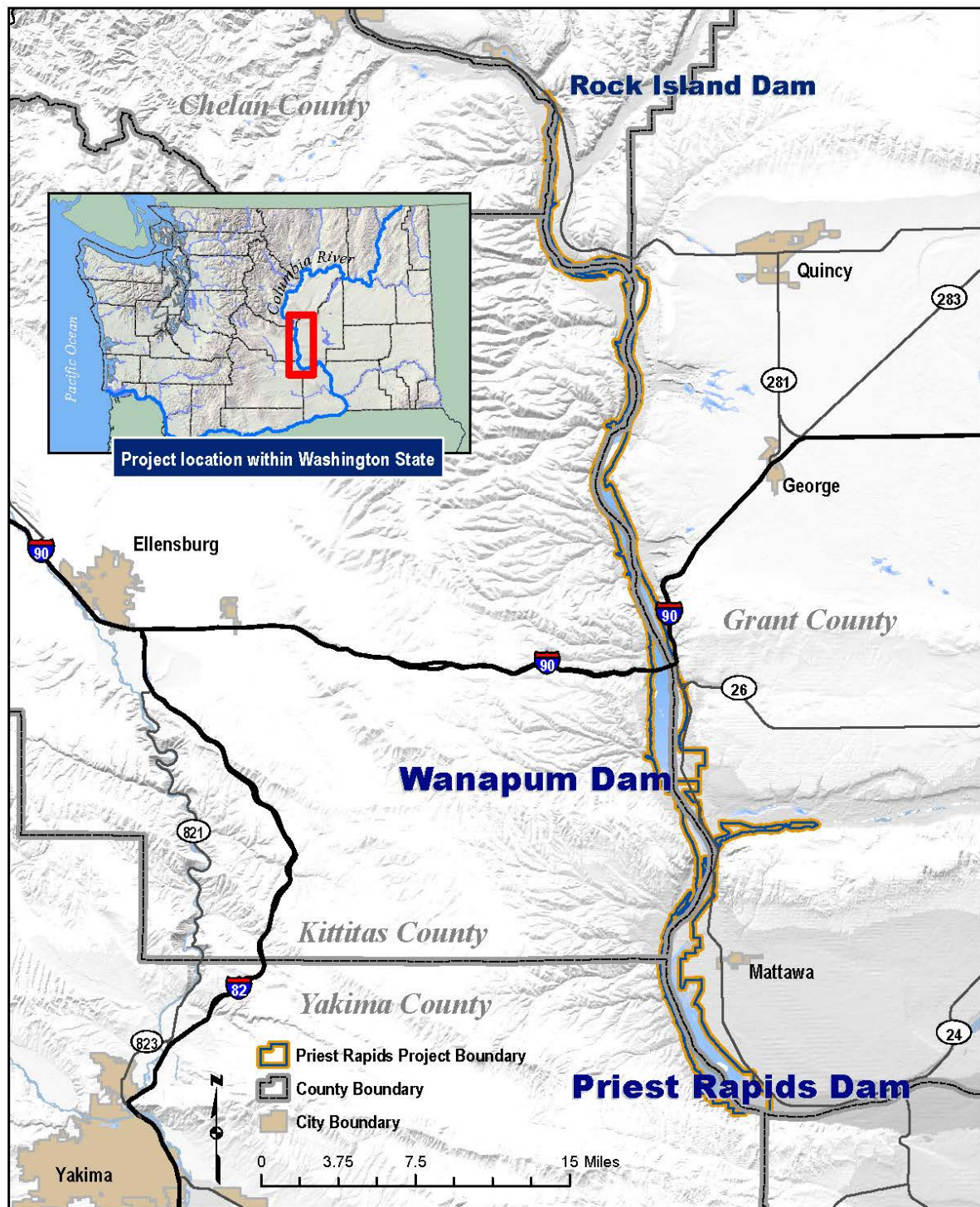
Would like to see trail access to south of the Wanapum swim beach.

Nice to see the Beverly Bridge funded. You will see lots of foot traffic to Auvil. Is there a plan for parking, vault toilet and possible green space for the town of Beverly?³³









Priest Rapids Project FERC Project #2114





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"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

Vantage Bay Shoreline Substantial Development Permit File Number SD-18-00002

FINDINGS OF FACT, DECISION AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Requested Action: The original Vantage Bay Rezone and Preliminary Plat were approved on December 5th, 2006 through authorizing ordinance number 2006-60. The rezone changed the project location from Forest and Range to PUD. The original project proposed two phases of development with phase one including a total of 315 lots on approximately 58.2 acres, and phase two including 17.4 acres reserved for future development.

The current revised proposal reduces the number of residential lots to 144, and adds a clubhouse to be developed as phase 1; and adds a 40 unit hotel, restaurant, winery, and vineyard as phase 2. Pursuant to Ordinance 2006-60, shoreline permitting is required if this project proposal includes any area within shoreline jurisdiction. This proposal is to allow a portion of a community garden and recreation area, which includes a small barn structure and pool, in the shoreline jurisdiction.

Location: PTN E1/2 (PTN parcels 1 & 2, B31/P154-155); SEC 30, TWP 17, RGE 23, WM in Kittitas County; Parcel numbers 622933 & 272933.

II. SITE INFORMATION

Total Property Size:	57.21 Acres
Number of Lots:	2
Domestic Water:	Private
Sewage Disposal:	Private
Power/Electricity:	N/A
Fire Protection:	Fire District 4
Irrigation District:	N/A

Site Characteristics:

North: State owned land, DOT

South: State owned land, Parks and Rec

East: Public owned land, Grant Co PUD

West: State owned land, Parks and Rec

Access: The site is accessed via Huntzinger Road.

Zoning and Development Standards: The subject properties are located on lands with a zoning designation of PUD Overlay and an underlying designation of Forest and Range. As stated above, these properties were rezoned as part of the project's preliminary approval. This permit is a requirement of the PUD preliminary approval, and needed to complete the PUD Final Development Plan for final approval.

Shoreline Master Program

KCC 17B.07.060 provides the criteria for approving a Shorelines Substantial Development permit:

Recreation Use Assessment

Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project

Prepared for:

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County
Ephrata, Washington

2016



Prepared by:

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Jessica Fefer, Sarah Wilcer, Emma Pappas

CLEMSON
PARKS, RECREATION AND
TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Recreation Areas

Priest Rapids Project

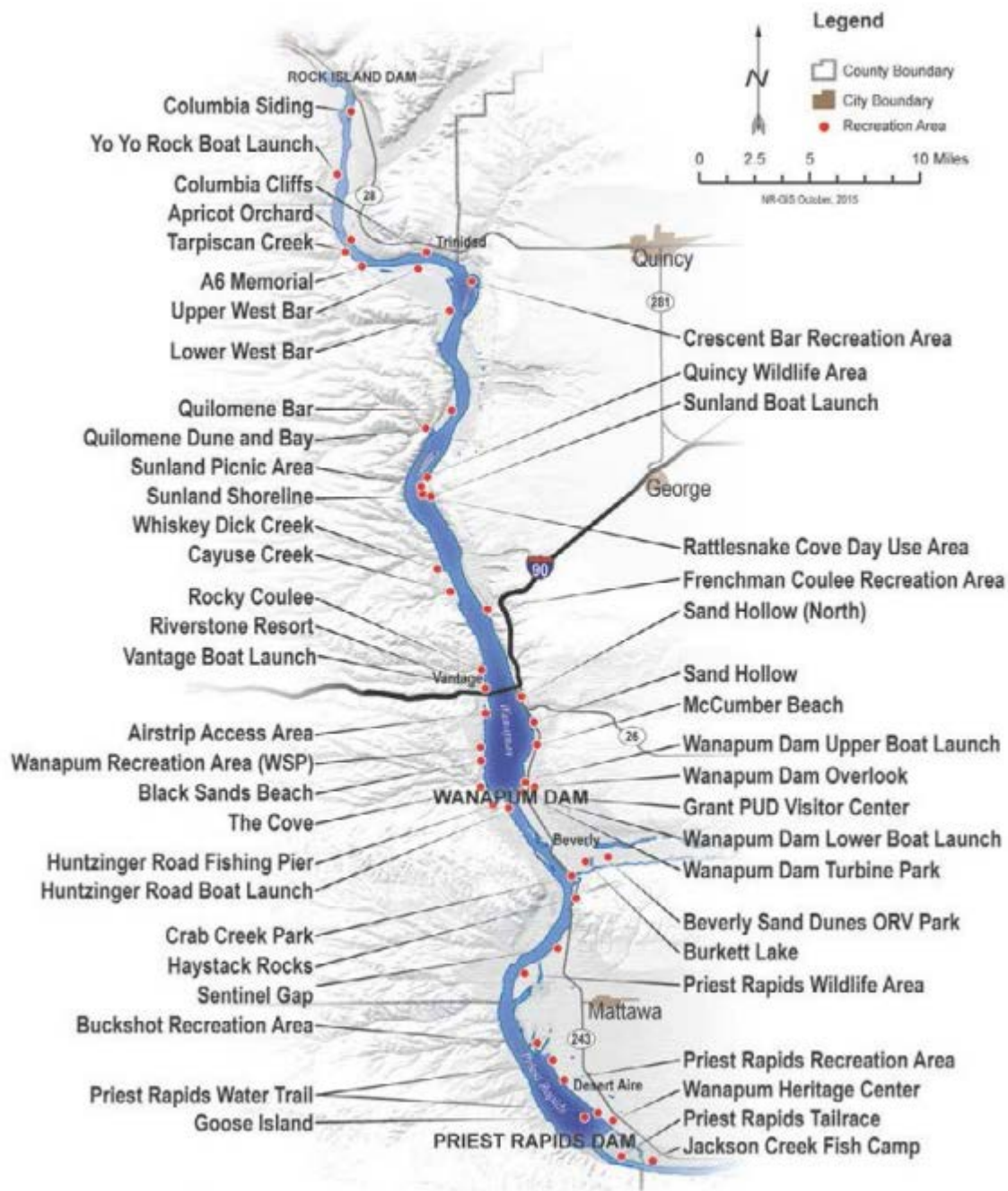


Figure 3 Recreation Site Location Map

Site Name: **Wanapum Recreation Area (WSP)**

Amenities: **Boat Launch**



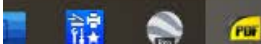
Recreation Site and Facility Inventory

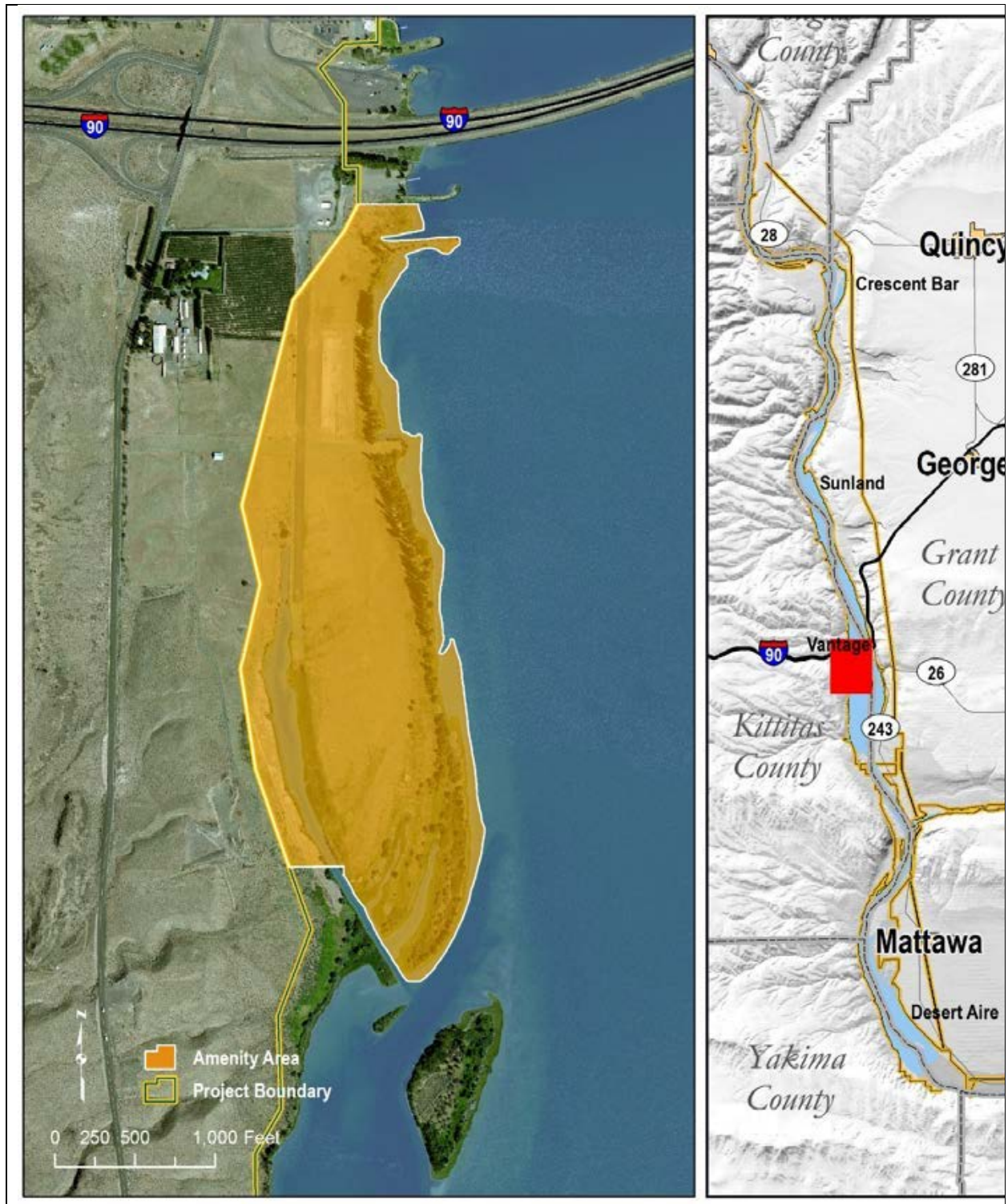
Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (P-2114)

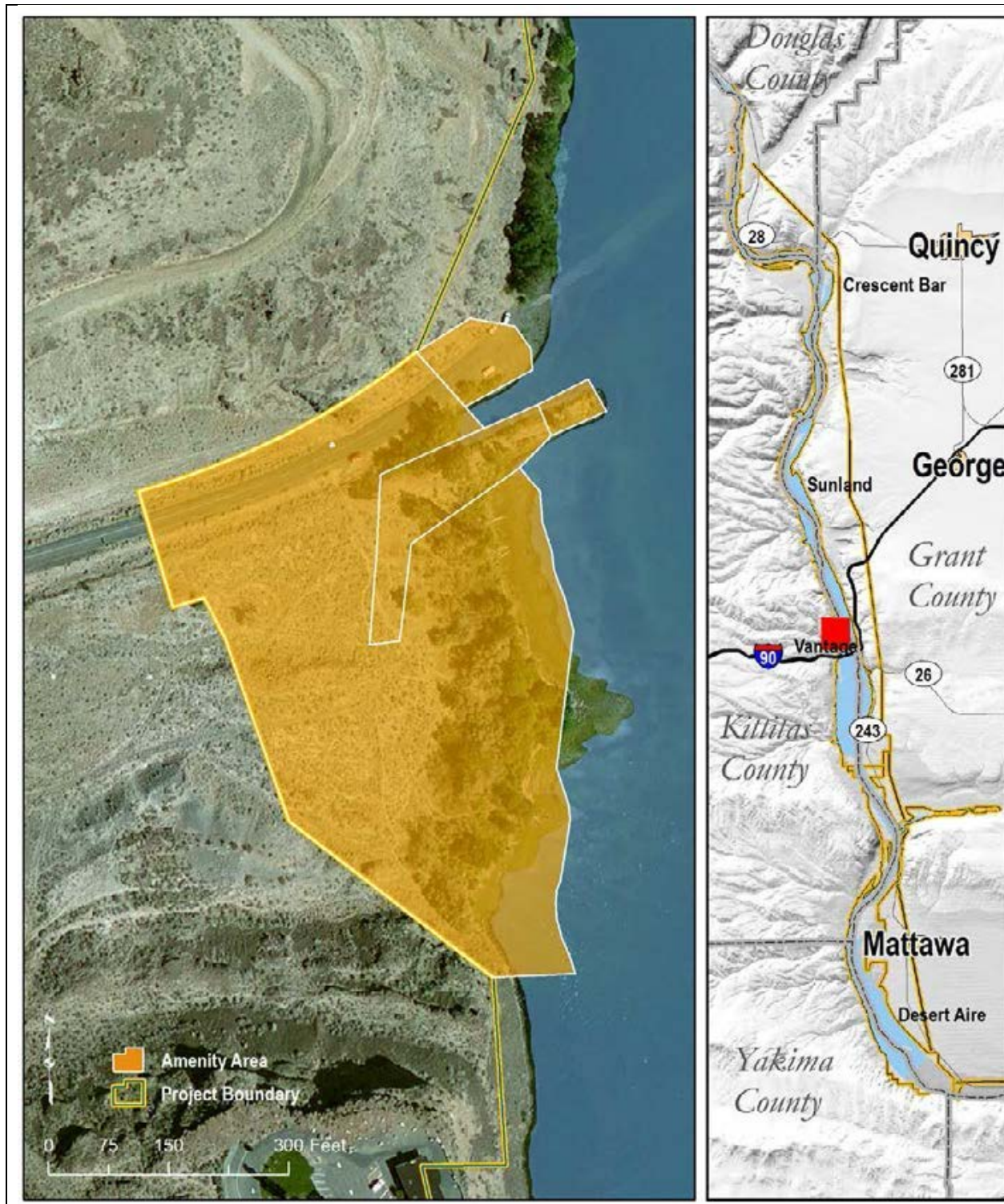
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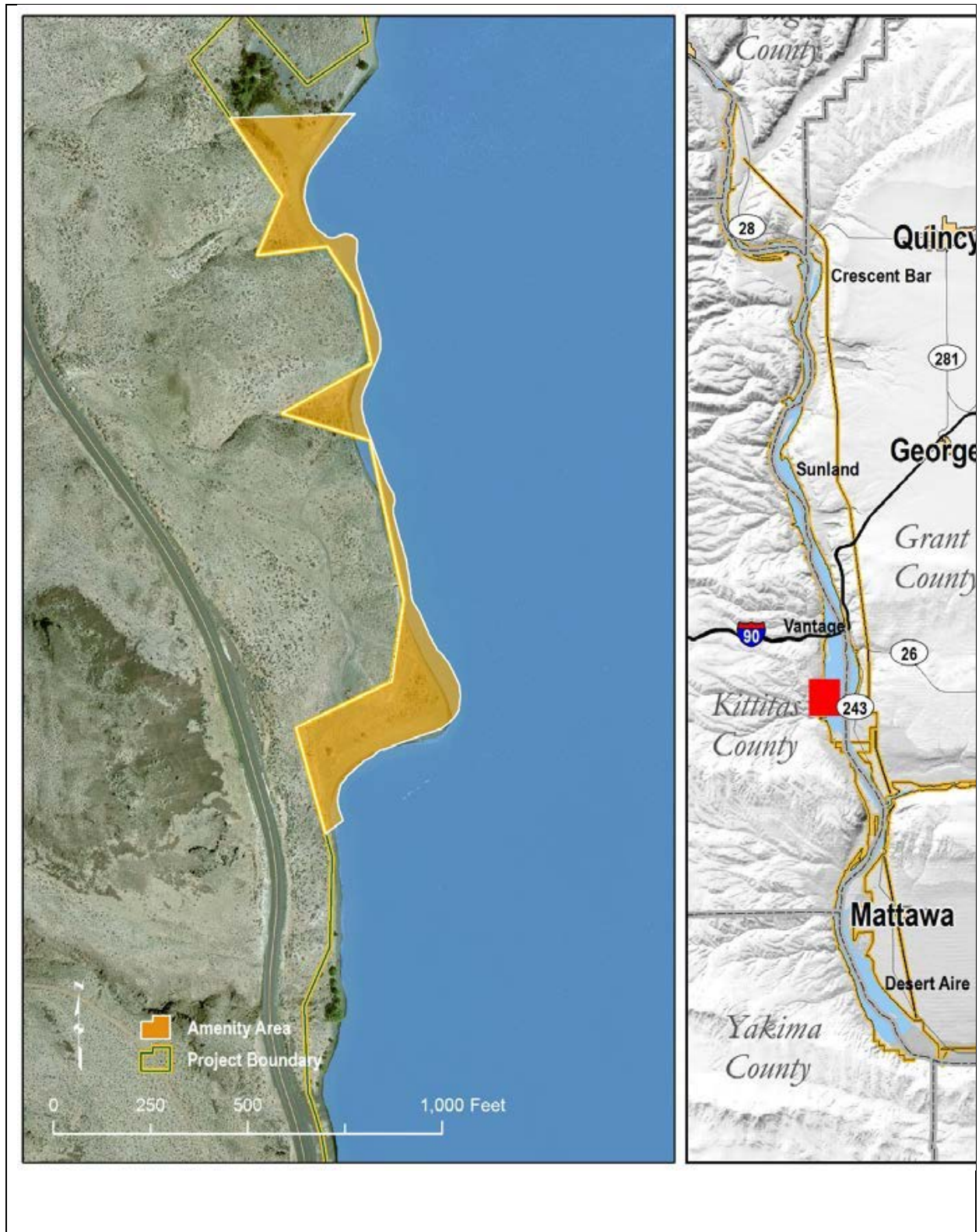


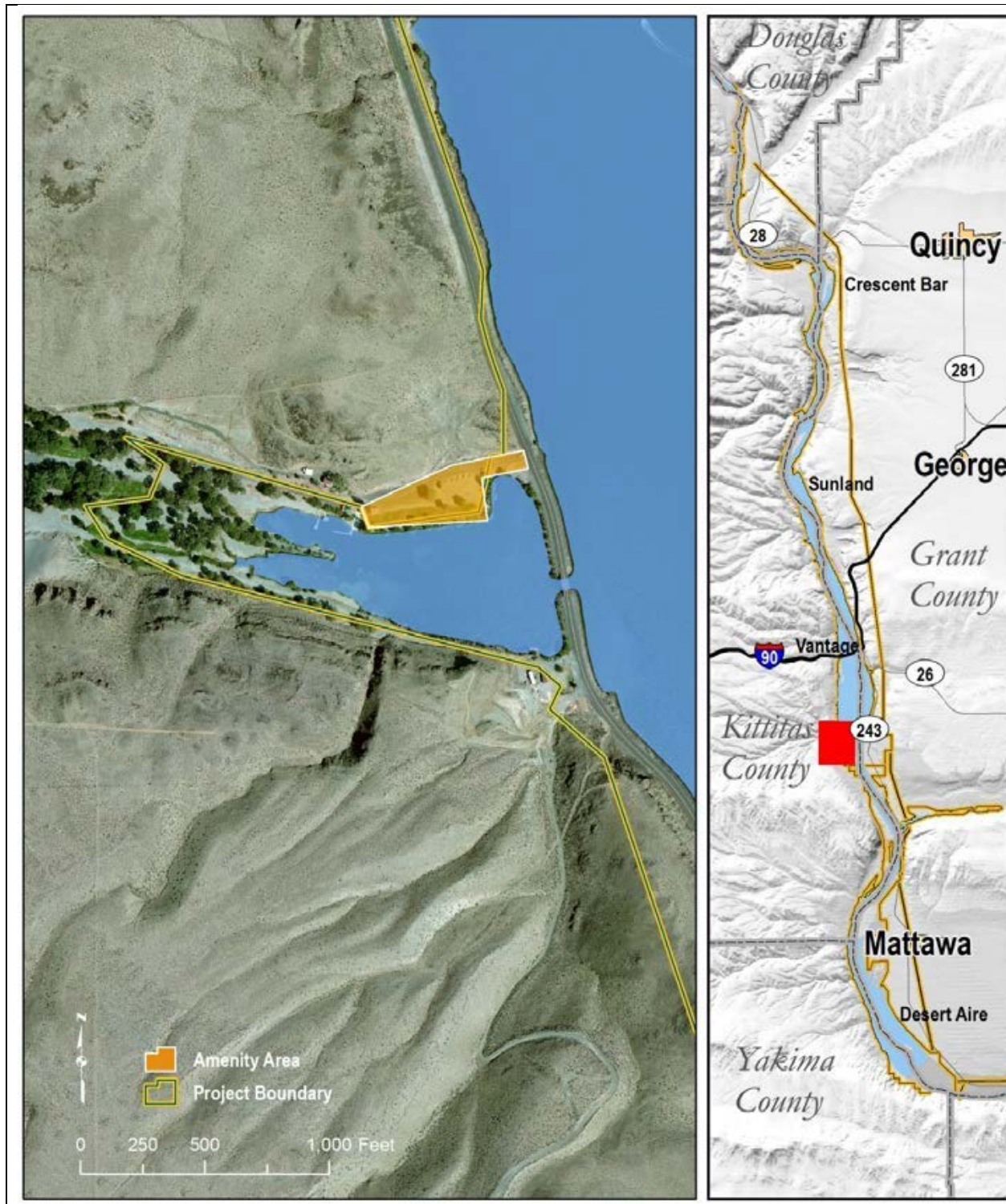
Public Utility District No. 2 Grant County, Washington



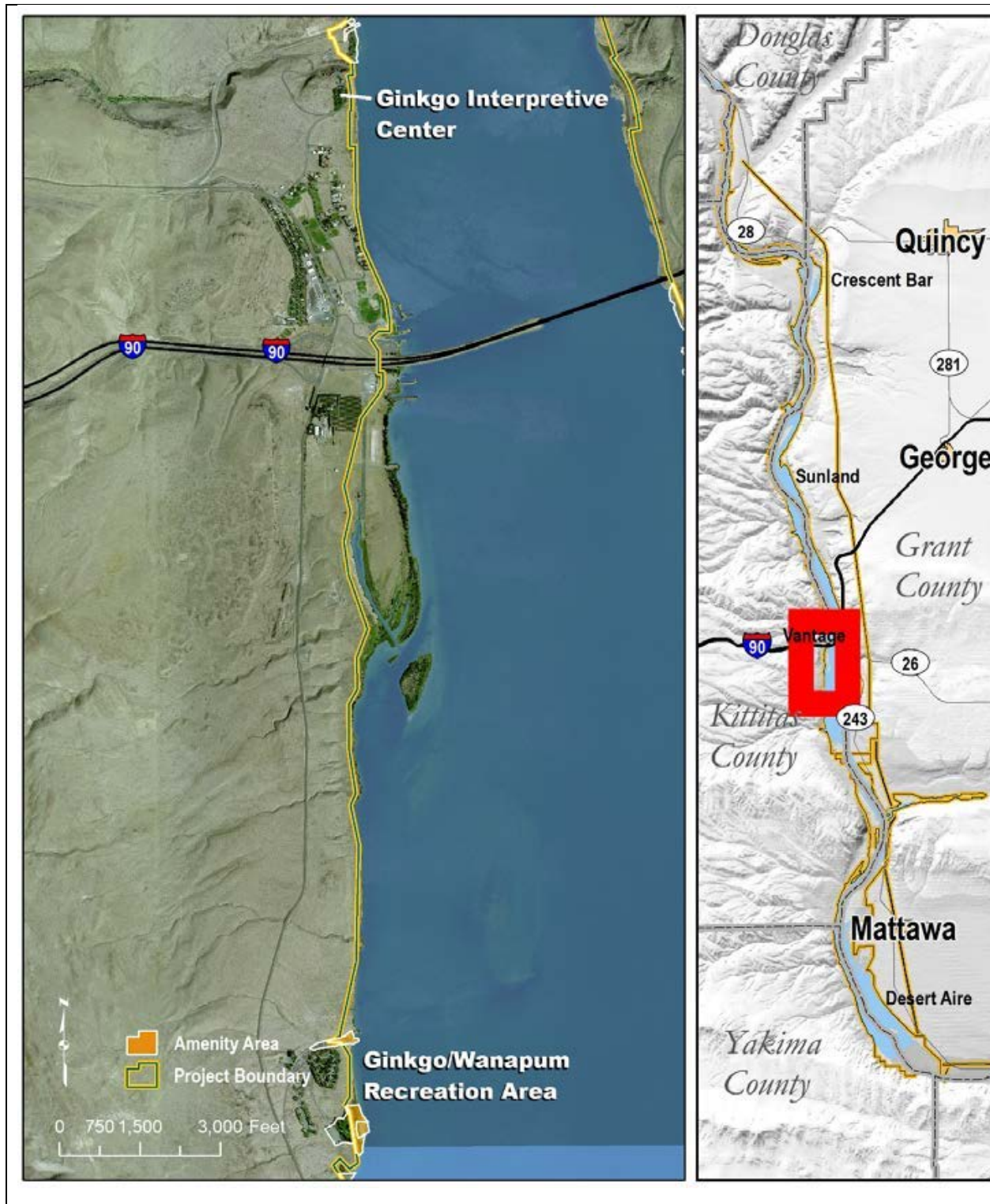














Hi, Melinda,

You may already be aware of this site that I've attached as a WORD screen shot, but here's the info if you aren't.

The road up from the locked gate at Rocky Coulee is used by off-road drivers to access a place where 2 petrified wood trunks were excavated out some time ago. The road has been driven on more recently and is becoming more obvious again, which encourages others to drive on it. From a distance, it looks like there is new digging around the previous excavation sites.

The 2 pics I'm sending are at different scales so the lat./long. are slightly different. But, if you go out there in the vicinity, you will see it. There are other places along the road on the left and past the new dirt berm where people are driving off the road (around the berm on dirt bikes in the latter case). I said to Andrew in your Olympia office that this whole stretch of road on state park lands should be closed and locked and not have a flimsy barbed wire fence that can be breached as people drive on the roads of the L.T. Murray lands. He appeared to agree, but our state senator Warnick is in the influence of Field and Stream and the Essmans and prevented State Parks from making a unilateral decision about how to protect and control the lands under State Parks authority. I think that is wrong.³³

We visited both the Wanapum campground and the Ginko forest in late April 2019. We stayed with our rv in one of the hookup sites at Wanapum. The campground was very nice and well maintained. The park area and waterfront were well maintained also. The big issue we had were snakes. There were multiple rattlesnake sightings on multiple days of our stay. At the time we had a four and two year old as well as a three month old. This was a huge concern for us and we were afraid to let our children play anywhere except for right next to us. I'm not sure what could be done about this problem as it is us invading their natural habitat. We will possibly try this campground again for a short stay later in the year to see if there is any change, but if not we will not stay here again until our children are much older and can better grasp the danger. If this was not a concern for us we would have very much enjoyed our stay as the scenery is beautiful and the park is peaceful, especially early in the season. ³⁴

Melinda,

Good to see you at the Ellensburg public meeting for the Ginkgo P.F. State Park CAMP process. I was surprised to see you in your new role with State Parks. I know your expertise is public involvement and every agency needs help with that.

I see the timeline shows Summer 2020 is development of alternatives to address issues, and Fall 2020 is preliminary recommendation (another chance for public input), and Early 2021 is recommendations to the State Parks Commission. Not sure how the coronavirus situation is affecting the proposed timeline. Are you coordinating the process all the way to the final recommendation to the Commission?

At the meeting they mentioned people have been coming into the park from DFW lands and misusing the park and it's resources, they also mentioned the gate between DFW and the Park is not locked and no permit process is in place at that gate. We are aware of this because.....although we usually start at Recreation Drive and use the park permit and entry system, sometimes we enter from DFW lands and only come one way through the park needing the lock code only to exit. If there are problems of people coming into the Park from DFW and misusing the park and it's resources, then using the locked gate, entry system, and park permit should be at both gates.

If State Parks is so concerned about public misuse of the park and it's resources.....why do they only register users if they are driving through in a vehicle? Besides licensed motor vehicles with Discover Passes, the park is accessed on foot, horseback, bicycle, and by water. People that have walked, rode horses, bicycled, or came by water could be misusing the park and it's resources, but the current system does not record who they were, when they were in the park, etc.

I hope you are coordinating the process all the way to the final recommendations to the Commission, and I wish you well. ³⁵