

Rutledge Johnson Floodplain Restoration Project

Salmon Recovery Council Meeting

July 16, 2026

Judy Blanco, WRIA 8 Basin Steward

Sarah Montgomery, Capital Project Manager

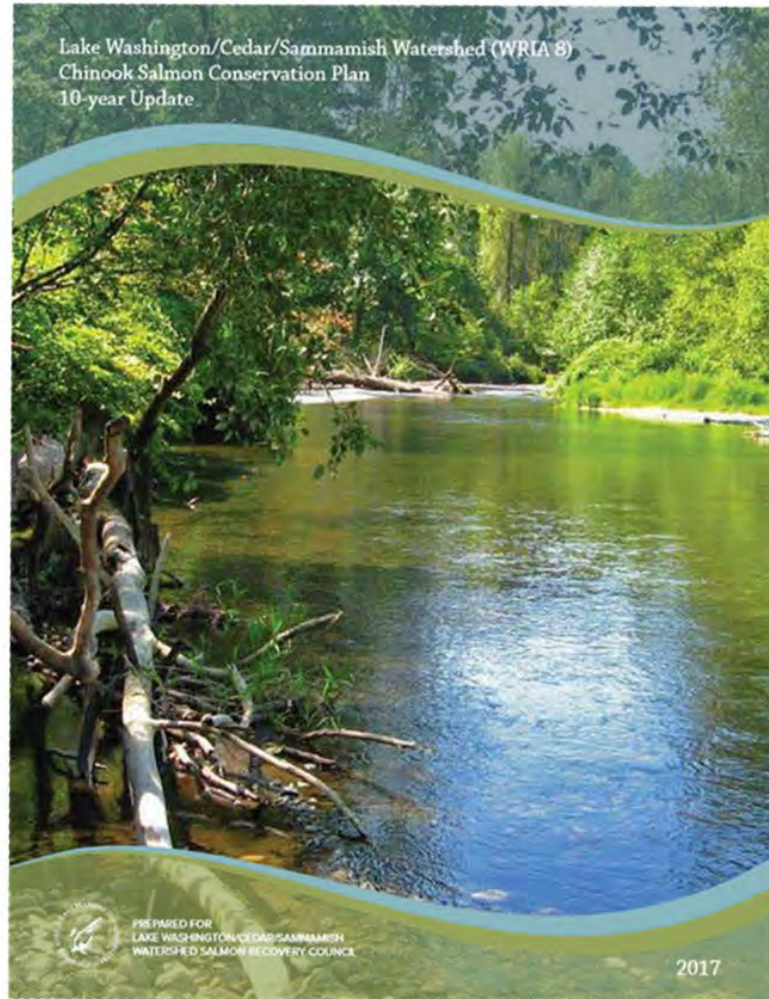
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division



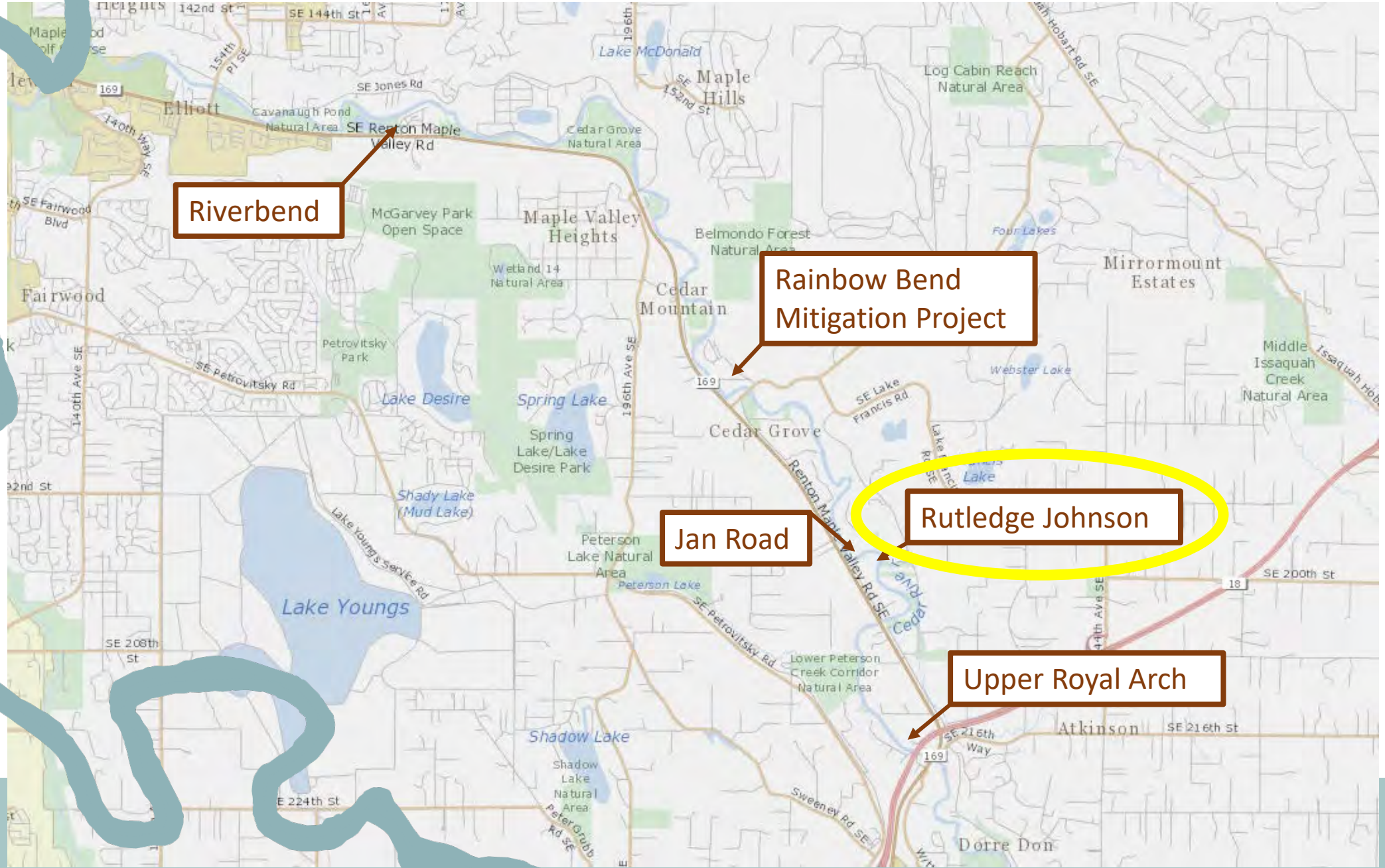


King County

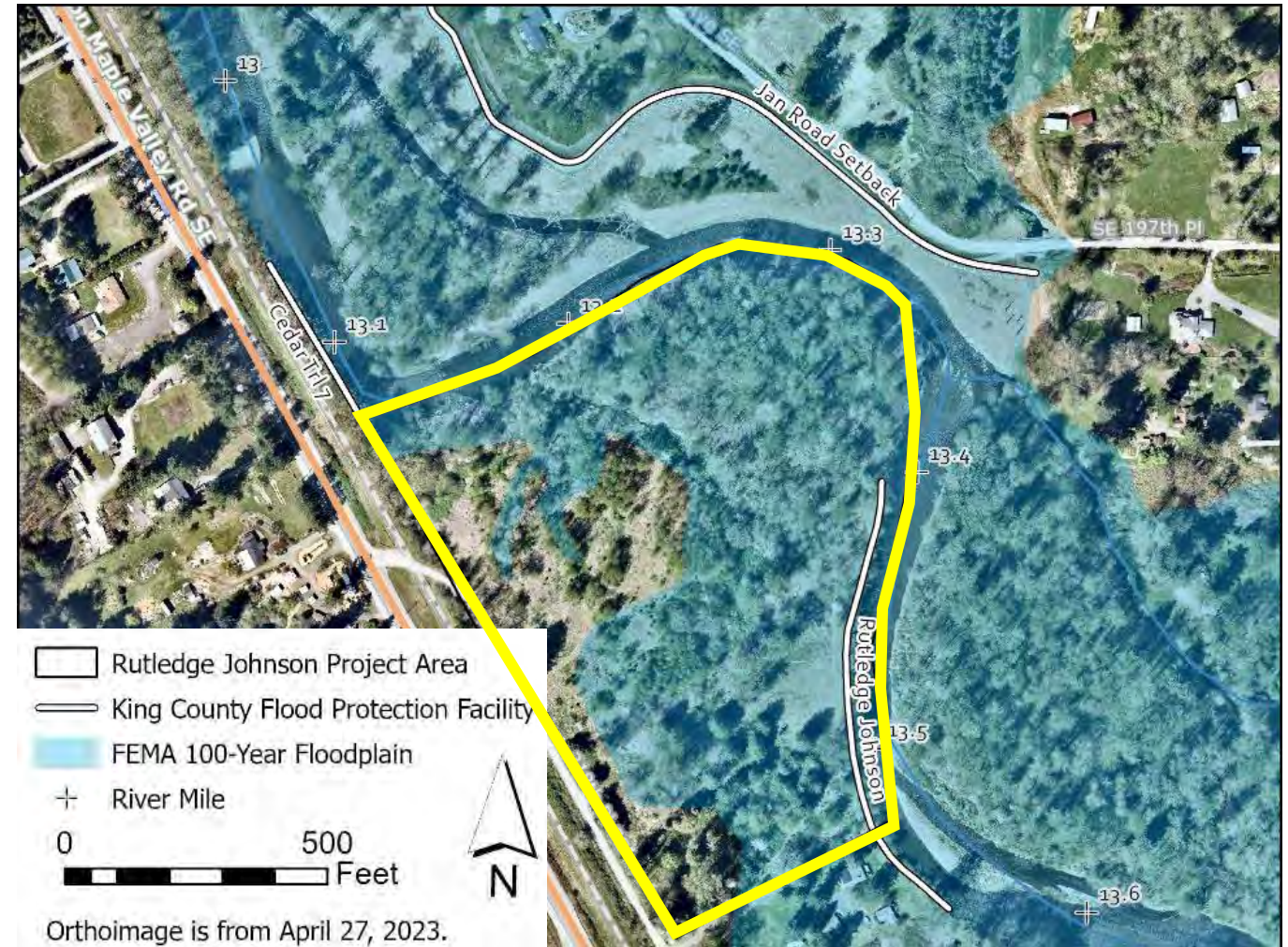
Cedar River Context



Cedar River Context

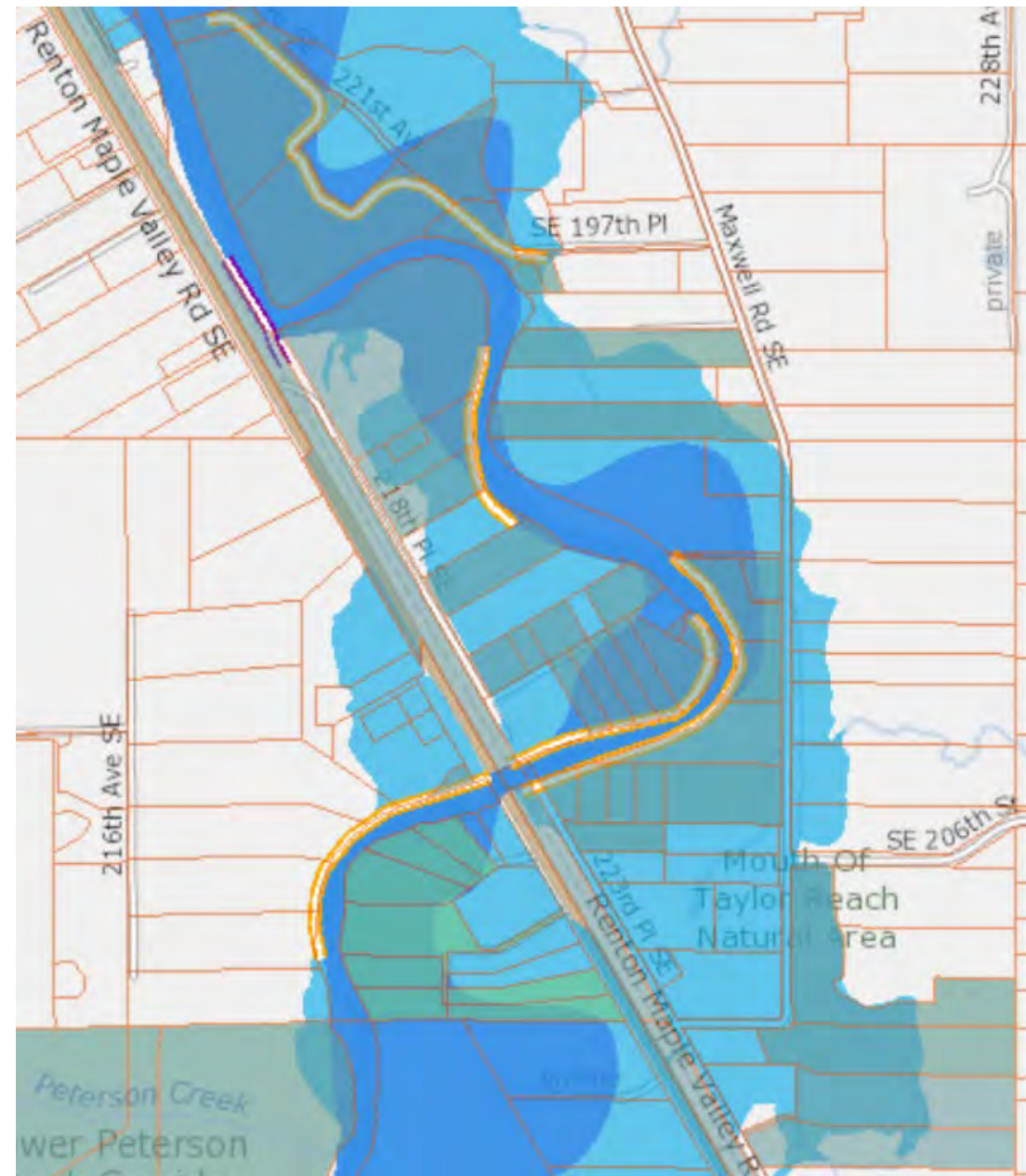


Project Location



Project Site History

- Flood Buyouts
- Rural Residential
- Hobby Farms



Project Goals

- Restore riverine processes and functions in the Cedar River and its floodplain to improve the quality, quantity, and sustainability of salmonid habitat.

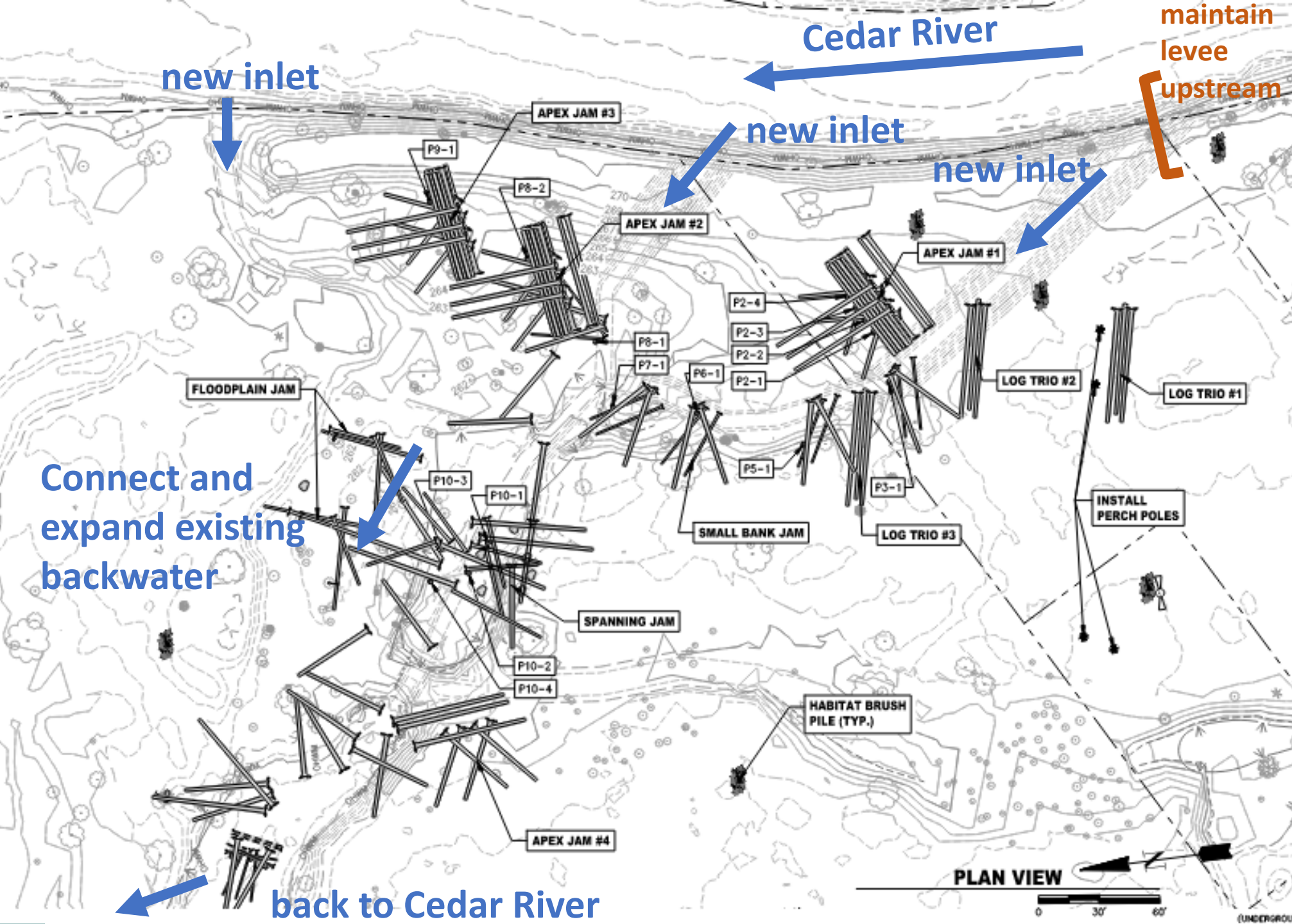


Project Overview



January 2009 Flood

Project Overview



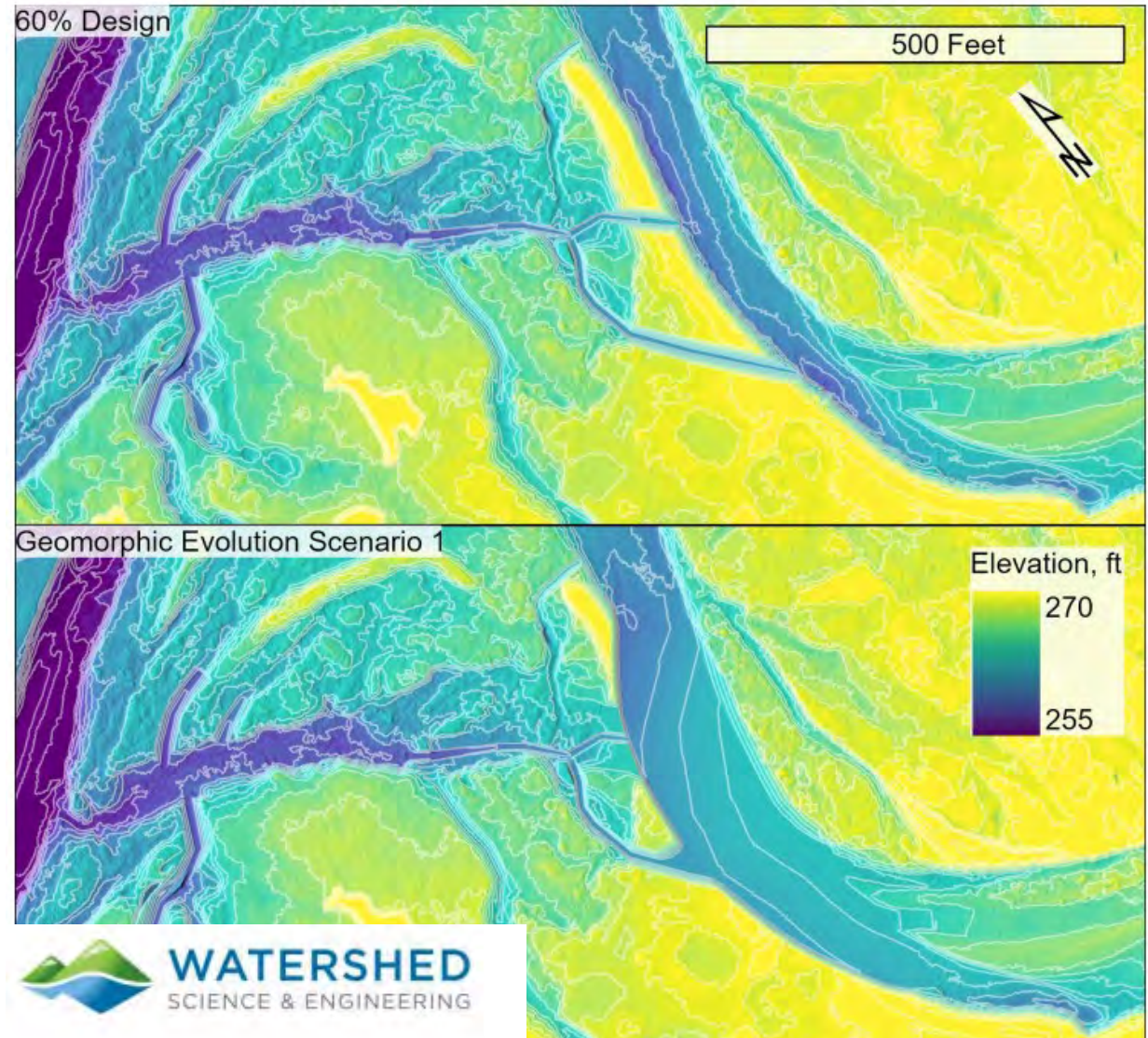
Project Overview



But the as-built condition doesn't tell the whole story...

- Process-based restoration
- Anticipate changes to:
 - Wood
 - Bank erosion
 - Inlet and channel size and shape
 - Sediment transport capacity
 - Water surface elevations
 - Flow volumes and velocities

(All things our expert geomorphologists would be happy to discuss in detail)



Unique challenges and opportunities

- Existing habitat = narrow access for contractor & close coordination when building jams



Recreation considerations

- Low to moderate recreational use
- What about large wood can we control in our design?
 - Amount
 - Location
 - Arrangement
 - How it is secured



Project Schedule

- Construction – Summer 2026
- Planting – Fall 2026
- Monitoring & Maintenance – minimum 5 years following
- Site Stewardship, Adaptive Management – ongoing



Funding & Costs

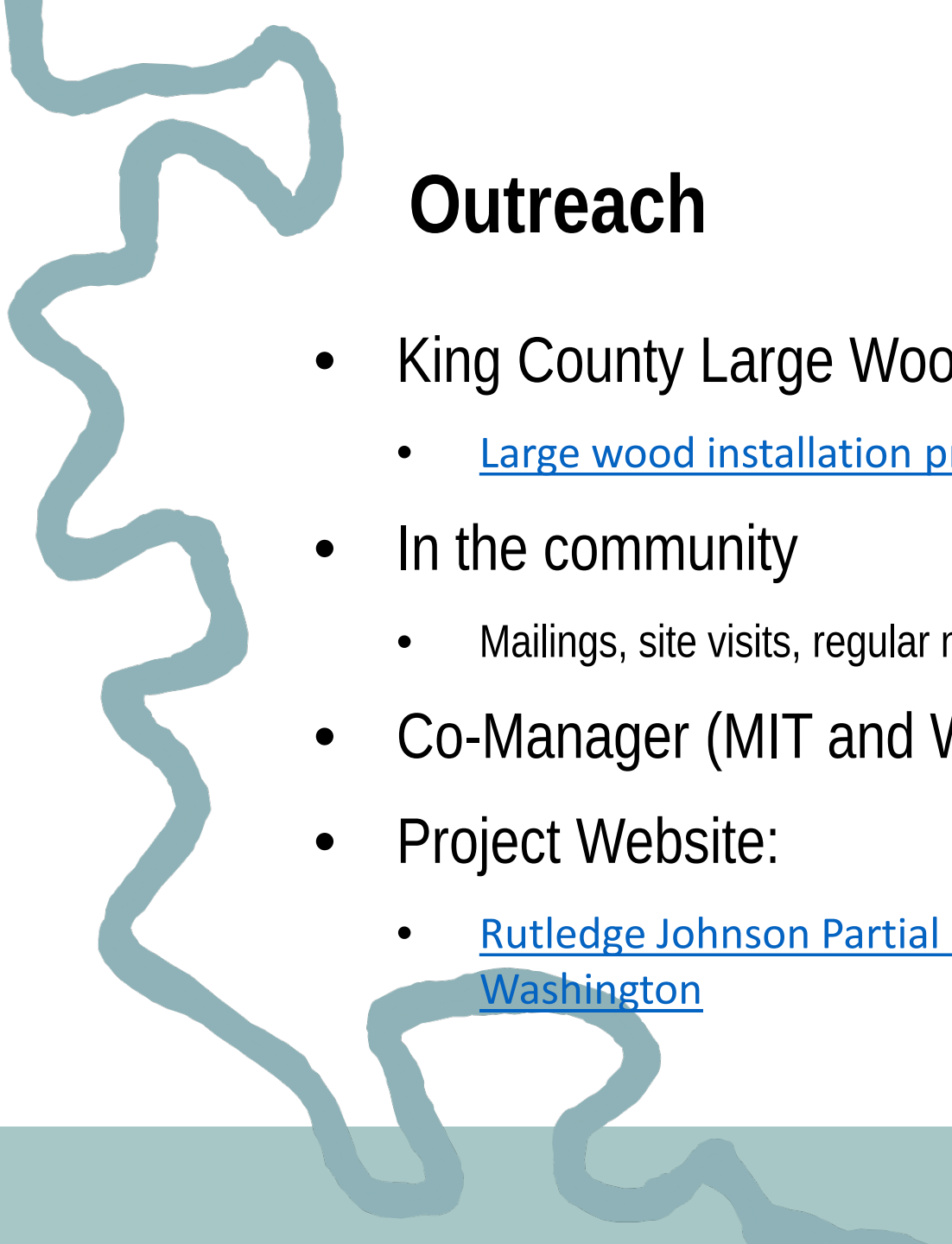
- State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- State Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital
- King County Cooperative Watershed Management
- King County Parks
- King County Surface Water Management

Total Budget: \$3,286,000

Construction Contracts

- Contractor: Active Construction, Inc.
 - \$1.38M low bid
- CM&I: Parametrix
 - \$402k





Outreach

- King County Large Wood Meetings
 - [Large wood installation projects - King County, Washington](#)
- In the community
 - Mailings, site visits, regular neighborhood updates (phone/in person/email), signage
- Co-Manager (MIT and WDFW) meetings at every design phase
- Project Website:
 - [Rutledge Johnson Partial Levee Removal and Floodplain Restoration - King County, Washington](#)

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King County

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Thank you