



# Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision





# Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision

The Trust for Public Land  
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## Online only appendices

**[HTTPS://WWW.TPL.ORG/LAKE-CHELAN-COMMUNITY-OPEN-SPACE-VISION](https://www.tpl.org/lake-chelan-community-open-space-vision)**

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# Preface

## Acknowledgments

Over 1,000 community members came together to create the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision. Staff from Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance, and the City of Chelan provided leadership and guidance as part of our core team. In addition, local experts who were members of our technical advisory team helped shape the maps that are part of this Open Space Vision. (Please see Section 8 for a full list of participants.) This project was generously funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce, the Icicle Fund, and the City of Chelan. We truly appreciate the time, energy, resources, and passion that partners, community members, and funders contributed to make the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision possible.



## Project Team

This report was prepared by The Trust for Public Land in partnership with the City of Chelan, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and Lake Chelan Trails Alliance.

## Project Partners

**THE LAKE CHELAN TRAILS ALLIANCE** has a passion for trails – to build them and use them! And we have a passion to spread our enthusiasm throughout the valley. Trails clear the mind, strengthen the heart, and forge timeless memories with others along the way. Come join us and help the Lake Chelan valley become known as a “trails valley.”

**THE CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST** works with local organizations, businesses, and individuals to protect what we all hold dear: beautiful natural areas, a strong economy, clean air and water, abundant wildlife, and the freedom to enjoy it all. Our support comes from members – people like you who care about our community and preserving our natural heritage.

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating parks and protecting land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, The Trust for Public Land has helped protect more than three million acres in all 50 states.

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## Note from Mayor Mike Cooney

Our Chelan Community is at a crossroads. Newcomers are discovering it or have already found their slice of paradise here. It is imperative that we “get it right” in terms of growth. At the core of getting this right is working to protect open spaces for future generations.

We must protect open space for recreation—especially opportunities for hiking and biking and enjoying our spectacular views. We also must protect water quality in our beautiful lake and create more ways for the public to access the lake.

As we travel and observe other rural towns, we have seen how others have worked to get it right—or not. We want to pass on a much better community, and now is the time to make sure we can. We owe it to our next generation.

Happy trails,

Mayor Mike Cooney



Winter in Chelan



# Executive summary

## **THE LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE**

vision is about connecting people to the special places that make the area such a wonderful place to live, work, and play. It brings together local priorities, local stories, and local knowledge with the national resources and expertise of The Trust for Public Land. Plan partners collaborated with community members to develop a shared vision, shared goals, and practical implementation steps. Work on the vision began in the fall of 2016 and concluded in early 2018.

An enormous number of people, both residents and visitors, provided input for the Open Space Vision through surveys, interviews, and community meetings. Protecting the lake and expanding access to the lake were clear priorities. Community members were unequivocal in their belief that the lake and local parks are critical assets that are fundamental to local quality of life. Community members also expressed a great deal of concern about increasing growth and affordability – especially the cost of housing. The Mayor has formed a separate study group to follow up on this important issue.

Based on outreach results, the community's top four open space goals are to (1) Protect water quality; (2) Promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake; (3) Protect wildlife habitat; and (4) Preserve agricultural land. The combined map for the Open Space Vision shows where the

greatest number of community goals can be met simultaneously through voluntary land protection and public land management strategies.

*Please note that the Community Open Space vision is primarily focused on identifying opportunities for voluntary conservation of private land. These strategies may include voluntary purchase of private land that could be converted to a public park; voluntary creation of conservation easements on private land that protect working lands or sensitive areas without providing public access; voluntary creation of conservation easements on private land that allow some public access; or voluntary creation of trail easements through private land. Please see below for more information about voluntary land conservation. Please also note that some of the strategies discussed in Section 6 (Implementing the Open Space Vision) may be relevant to public lands. This vision can be used to inform their management plans and conservation priorities.*

The vision, mission, and guiding principles below were developed through input from community meeting participants.

## **Vision**

To thrive in a valley defined by its spectacular lake and foothills, small-town character, agrarian traditions, and access to world-class recreation – a community rich in opportunities for future generations.

## **Mission**

To steward our valley's open spaces in ways that improve access, protect environmental quality, and enhance the vitality of residents and visitors.

## Guiding Principles

- The lake is the centerpiece of our valley's spectacular natural beauty. We must protect the lake and its water.
- The Open Space Vision must reflect local values. It should be based primarily on the priorities of local residents, including seasonal residents, but should also incorporate the perspectives of visitors who love the valley.
- The Open Space Vision should be inclusive. It should encompass perspectives from the entire community.
- We value our agricultural heritage and our small-town character. We encourage conservation efforts that protect family farms and vineyards and preserve our small-town culture.
- We believe it is important to increase opportunities for public access to the lakeshore and to trails in our foothills, particularly Chelan Butte. Increasing opportunities for recreation promotes community health.
- We only support voluntary conservation involving willing landowners. We strongly respect private property rights.
- Protecting our extraordinary scenery and natural environment and expanding our recreational opportunities will increase local quality of life and help ensure that our economy is vibrant and rich in opportunities for current residents and future generations.



ARACELI MERCADO

An open space hiking trail

# 1. Open Space Vision Overview

## **THIS IS NOT JUST AN OPEN SPACE VISION.**

It is a *community* open space vision. This is not just a report or a set of maps. It is a way to tell the stories of local values based on local voices and perspectives. The Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision reflects the community's priorities for protecting its own unique natural and recreational resources and its history and traditions. Developing the vision involved deep engagement with community members to identify these priorities. The process helped community members work together to establish a shared vision. It also brought extensive community input together with the best available scientific data and state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS) mapping and modeling. The combination of deep community engagement and cutting-edge spatial data analysis will allow local governments and other groups to guide future growth to appropriate areas and make the best possible decisions about protecting water quality, expanding access to the lake and foothills, providing habitat for wildlife, and preserving local agricultural traditions.

Developing this vision took approximately 18 months and the involvement of over 1,000 community members. The key steps involved in developing the plan were to:

- 1. GATHER COMMUNITY INPUT**  
Through interviews, surveys, community speak-outs, community meetings
- 2. ANALYZE COMMUNITY INPUT**
- 3. COLLECT DATA** and translate it into GIS models
- 4. WEIGHT CRITERIA AND GOALS** based on technical team and community input
- 5. CREATE MAPS** that reflect community priorities
- 6. DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
- 7. CREATE AN ONLINE STORY MAP**
- 8. PREPARE A REPORT** that includes maps, community priorities, and implementation ideas

Ultimately, this vision will facilitate strategic voluntary land conservation, inform public land management, and help local residents and groups work together to realize the community's goals. The priority areas identified in this plan are the result of community voices coming together with the best available scientific data and technology. Voluntary land conservation and public land management of these priority areas in support of community goals will be a powerful way to preserve and honor the community's connection to its open spaces and traditions far into the future.

## What Is Voluntary Land Conservation?

This Community Open Space Vision is intended to guide voluntary land conservation with willing landowners. The plan identifies opportunities to work with willing landowners to find win-win solutions that benefit landowners, protect land for future generations, and help to meet community goals. This may mean working with willing landowners to purchase land outright (in “full fee”) or acquiring conservation easements for permanent protection. If land is purchased outright for conservation, it is often held and managed by a land conservation nonprofit organization or by a public land management agency.

Conservation easements have many different purposes, including preserving working farms and ranches or forests, protecting wildlife habitat, providing recreational access, or accomplishing some combination of these. Conservation easements can help landowners continue to use working land for farming, ranching, or forestry and are tailored to the unique circumstances of each property and landowner. Through conservation easements, landowners either sell or donate some of the rights associated with a property (for example, the right to subdivide a property), but they still retain ownership of the land and the ability to sell it or pass it on to heirs – subject to the restrictions of the easement.

### What can voluntary land conservation do?



Protect wildlife habitat and water quality



Protect working lands and agricultural traditions



Benefit landowners by providing direct funding or tax benefits



Provide economic benefits and ecosystem services to the community

## Why Protect Open Space?

*“Having access to trails and parks provides enormous physical and mental health benefits, and makes our community a better place to live and raise a family.”*

—CURT SOPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST

Protected open space, including both public parks and private farmland, provides a wide range of public benefits, including:

- Fostering stronger community identity;
- Improving community health through providing close-to-home opportunities for residents to spend time (and exercise) outdoors;
- Filtering drinking water and controlling flooding;
- Preserving living cultural traditions through protecting cultural heritage and historic areas;
- Protecting natural lands and wildlife habitat;
- Supporting sustainable local farming economies and preserving agricultural traditions; and
- Providing opportunities for recreation that attract businesses and tourists who contribute to the economy.

## What can open space do?



## 2. Study Area

**THE STUDY AREA FOR THE LAKE CHELAN OPEN SPACE VISION** includes the southernmost portion of Lake Chelan and the surrounding foothills – including the city of Chelan and the community of Manson seen in [Figure 1](#).

Lake Chelan and its surrounding foothills are rich in scenic, recreational, ecological, and agricultural resources. The area is filled with beautiful woodlands, waterfronts, and orchards and vineyards. The lake is known for spectacular fishing, boating, and swimming – although there is a strong community desire for additional public access to the shore.

Located just a few hours from Seattle and Spokane, the southern portion of Lake Chelan is a popular vacation spot, especially for Washington State residents. The city of Chelan has approximately 4,000 residents, but those numbers can surge to nearly 25,000 during the popular summer months filled with festivals

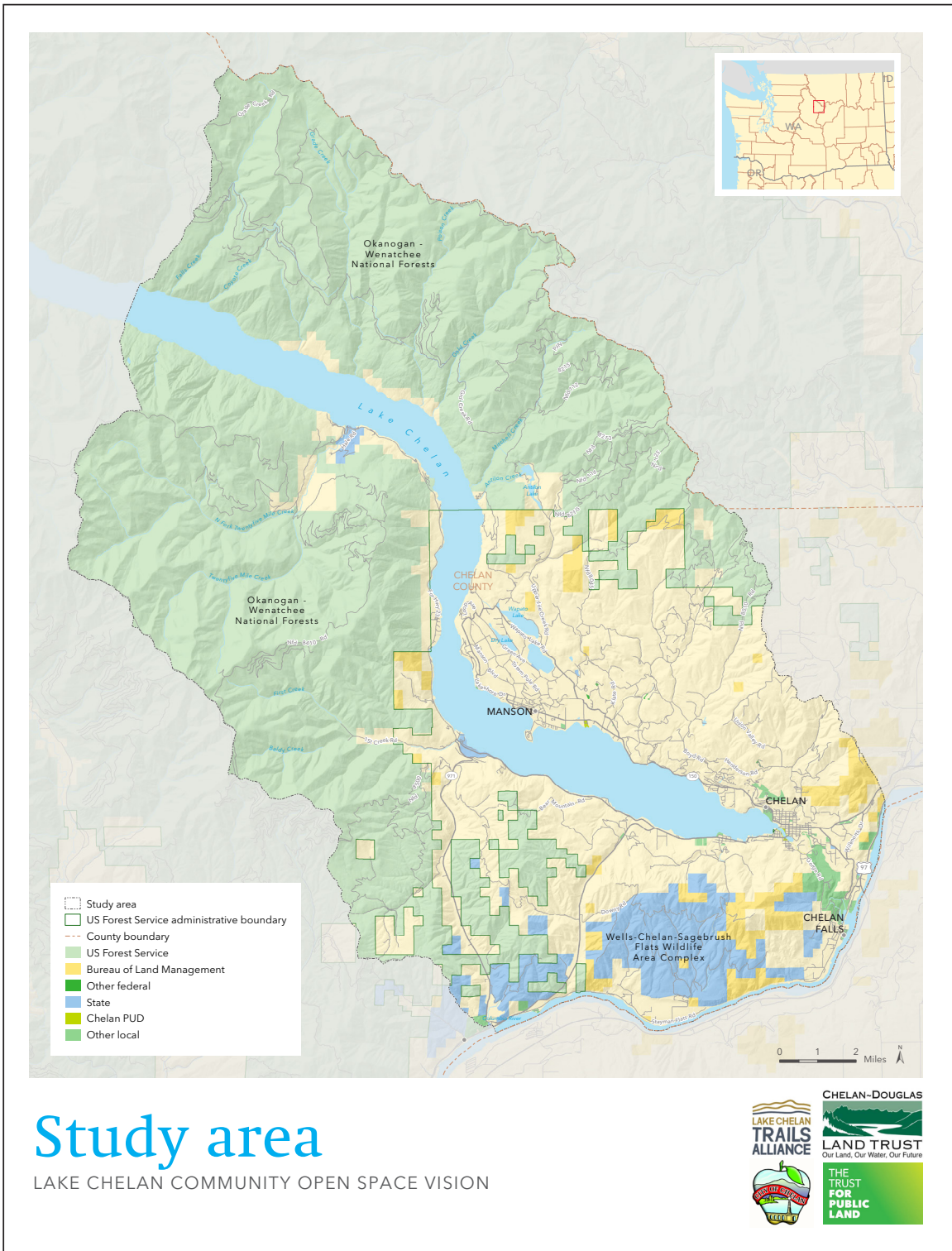
and events. Manson, which is less than 10 miles from Chelan, has over 3,400 residents who are sustained by family businesses, restaurants, vineyards, orchards, wineries, and farms. The topography surrounding the lake creates a “microclimate” along the lake-shore that moderates the temperatures during the colder months of winter and the hotter months of summer.

Despite its beauty and expanding recreation opportunities, Chelan does face challenges. Locals and visitors alike cherish the pristine water quality of Lake Chelan, but pollution and runoff are growing threats. Local agricultural lands are being lost, changing the local economy in addition to the landscape. Tourism and seasonal homeownership have also increased over the years, putting pressure on local resources, squeezing the local housing market, and increasing the local cost of living.



ERIC RODRIGUEZ

Good morning Chelan



➤ **FIGURE 1** Special thanks to the following data provider: Chelan County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

Still, despite conflicts and challenges, most community members agree that in the face of increasing development, important places must be protected. There is also widespread consensus that residents need more areas that will allow them to connect with the outdoors and with each other and enjoy the spectacular recreation that the area has to offer.

### Population and Housing

In the early 1900s, Chelan County's total population was fewer than 4,000, and residents lived primarily along the Columbia River and Lake Chelan waterfronts. The county's population increased to over 15,000 just one decade later, as railroads extended into Chelan County and the area's logging, agriculture, and fishing industries grew. Chelan County now has an estimated 75,000 residents. During this period, the city of Chelan's growth rate has fluctuated with the ups and downs of local natural resource-based industries.

There are approximately 10,000 full-time residents in the study area for this project. As noted earlier, the area's population is now much higher in the summer than in the winter months. According to the latest census, 74 percent of residents identify as white (including many who also identify as Hispanic). Less than 3 percent of residents identify as black/African American, American Indian, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Thirty-six percent of residents identify as Hispanic/

Latino, and 29 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home. There are 766 households in Chelan and 200 households in Manson, and 33 percent of households are low-income. Youth make up nearly one-quarter of the population of Chelan and Manson and seniors make up over one-fifth.

### Economy

Employment by industry has changed dramatically in the past few decades. In the 1970s and 1980s farming and manufacturing were the top employment sectors for nonservice-related jobs, but these jobs declined in the early 2000s, while construction jobs increased. The manufacturing sector is predominantly comprised of jobs at the apple-packing plants in the valley. Service-related employment, finance, insurance and real estate, retail trade, and transportation and public utilities have seen the biggest growth in the past few decades.

### Land Use and Ownership

The study area comprises 200,409 acres. Approximately 65 percent of the study area is publically owned land (58 percent federal, 6 percent state, and 1 percent local). About 52,450 acres (or 26 percent) of the study area is privately owned. Lake Chelan covers 17,735 acres, or nearly nine percent of the study area.



TABLE 1. LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

Ownership	Sum (Acres)	% of Study Area
Private Lands (neither Conserved Lands nor Water)	52,453	26%
Lake	17,735	9%
All Public Lands (sum of the lands below)	137,719	69%
Federal Lands	122,627	61%
State Lands	12,713	6%
Local Lands	2,379	1%
Total study area	200,409	

## Water

Stretching over 50 miles from the city of Chelan to the community of Stehekin, Lake Chelan is the longest and deepest natural lake in the state of Washington. Lake Chelan’s watershed covers 924 square miles. This deepwater habitat provides a natural conduit between the mountain peaks up-lake and the lush, fertile down-lake valley. With a maximum depth of 1,486 feet, Lake Chelan is the third-deepest lake in the nation, extending nearly 400 feet below sea level. Roughly 75 percent of the inflow to Lake Chelan comes from the Stehekin River and Railroad Creek. Smaller tributaries to the lake include Fish, Prince, and Twenty-Five Mile creeks. Lake

Chelan flows out the Chelan River, which connects to the Columbia River four miles to the southeast.

The Lake Chelan Reclamation District draws its domestic (drinking) water from Lake Chelan. The Lake Chelan Reclamation District also irrigates most of the north shore of Lake Chelan. Irrigation is the largest use of water in this watershed, accounting for over 2 percent of the total annual outflow from the lake. Groundwater in the Chelan Watershed flows toward Lake Chelan and the Columbia River; recharge to this groundwater occurs from rainfall and snowmelt – and some irrigation water.

## Extraordinary Lake Chelan

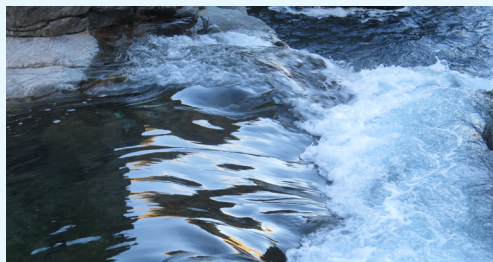
PHIL LONG



This photo of my mom, then Iona Dissmore, and her brother John was taken at Lakeside in 1922. That's Deer Mountain in the background. My mom was 5 and my uncle John age 4. They obviously enjoyed Lake Chelan's clear waters, just as we all do today. Most of our grandchildren are in grade school. When they are our age, will paddleboarding near Lakeside still offer the same views of the lake bottom as it does today? We can answer that question in the affirmative if we monitor the lake, educate each other on what it takes to keep the lake clean, and take action to reduce human impacts to the lake as our region grows.

Lake Chelan is the third-deepest lake in the United States and the largest lake in Washington State by any measure. While we prize its clear waters, data on water quality have been collected infrequently and sporadically compared to other valued lakes such as Lake Tahoe and Flathead Lake. In short, Lake Chelan is understudied. For example, one of the key features of the lake is its internal seiche, the rocking back and forth of the deep, cold water in the summer. Lake Chelan's seiche is the largest ever documented with a 70-meter up-and-down swing in the boundary between cold and warm water, but it has been monitored only once, in 1987. We also know little about how often the lake turns over, how suspended sediments move down the lake, or how nutrients cycle in the lake, all of which impact water clarity.

If we are to ensure that our grandchildren will have the same experience as my mom and uncle did 95 years ago, we need to understand what influences lake water quality much better than we do now. That is why we started the Lake Chelan Research Institute—a local organization to study beautiful Lake Chelan and enhance our understanding of lakes and watersheds globally.



ERIC RODRIGUEZ

WRITTEN BY PHIL LONG, PHD, LAKE CHELAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE



BECCA EDIGER

Go goats

## Wildlife

There is a great deal of critical habitat for wildlife throughout the study area, especially along the Lake Chelan shoreline and the Columbia River. Chelan County is home to many species, including bald eagle, bighorn sheep, dusky grouse, osprey, golden eagle, Lewis's woodpecker, and mule deer. Threatened or endangered species within this study area include the fisher (*Martes pennanti*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*).

There are also threatened plant species in the area, including whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), showy stickseed (*Hackelia venusta*), Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow (*Sidalcea oregana var. calva*), and Ute ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Wildlife habitat, including areas used by threatened and endangered species for foraging, nesting, and migration activities, is protected by

the Washington State Growth Management Act and the federal Endangered Species Act.

## Energy Production

In 2016, the Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) flat residential rate for electricity was just 3.2 cents per kilowatt hour, which is one of the lowest electric rates in the nation. Surplus power makes this rate possible, since the district's dams produce more power than residents use. The Chelan PUD sells the surplus energy on the wholesale power market, earning nearly 80 percent of its annual revenues from surplus energy sales. However, since dams also interfere with fish spawning, the Chelan PUD runs hatchery production projects for chinook and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout, with the goal of having no net impact on salmon and steelhead runs.



BECCA EDIGER

Live, love, lake

## Recreation

In addition to areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state, there are many local parks and recreational amenities within the city of Chelan and the community of Manson that are used by residents and visitors alike. According to a survey for the 2016 Chelan Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, the Riverwalk Park and Trail, Don Morse Memorial Park, and Lakeside Park are the most popular parks and facilities. During the busy summer months, these parks sometimes exceed their capacity, highlighting a need for more waterfront parks, as well as improving existing right-of-way adjacent to the lake. Many open space vision survey respondents expressed a desire for additional waterfront and shoreline access as well as for more open space and scenic areas. Both adults and youth also wanted to see more on-road bicycle lanes and off-road biking trails.

## Fishing

The Lake Chelan Valley is known for its world-class fishing. Each year, stocking programs from Washington Department Fish and Wildlife release 100,000 cutthroat and 500,000 kokanee (landlocked salmon) fingerlings into Lake Chelan. Many species of fish can be found in Lake Chelan, including burbot, chinook salmon, chiselmouth, crawfish, bass, peamouth, pygmy whitefish, cutthroat, small-mouth bass, and more. There have been fish consumption advisories for fish caught in Lake Chelan, specifically regarding the consumption of lake trout (mackinaw), because of DDT contamination in the lake.

## Recreation Facilities and Waterfront Access

Public access to the lakeshore is limited, but several waterfront access points provide fishing, beach, boating, and other waterfront access activities. Many regional and community parks also provide wildlife viewing and

land-based recreation activities for Chelan residents and visitors. An inventory of existing park and open space from the PROS Plan includes:

- **DON MORSE MEMORIAL PARK.** This 20-acre regional park has a 105,840-square-foot swimming area with a sandy beach.
- **LAKESIDE PARK.** This 10-acre community park has shade trees and grassy areas that allows for good swimming and boating access.
- **LAKESHORE MARINA.** This 20-acre regional park has a boat launch ramp and shares facilities with Don Morse Memorial Park.
- **RIVERWALK PARK/RIVERWALK PARK TRAIL.** This 12-acre regional park is located on both sides of the Chelan River. It has a boat launch ramp and a boat trailer parking area.
- **CHELAN FALLS PARK/POWERHOUSE PARK.** This 53-acre park is located on the Chelan River below the dam in Chelan Falls, with a boat launch and a swimming area.
- **MANSON BAY PARK.** This is a waterfront park providing swimming access and a boat dock, adjacent to the Manson Marina.
- **OLD MILL PARK.** This 20-acre recreation facility is located near downtown Manson and provides two boat launch ramps and a floating dock.
- **TWENTY-FIVE MILE CREEK STATE PARK.** This 235-acre regional camping park is located on the forested south shore of Lake Chelan on State Route 971. The park separates the mountains from the lake and is surrounded by spectacular scenery.
- **LAKE CHELAN STATE PARK.** This 127-acre regional camping park is

located on the forested south shore of Lake Chelan on State Route 971. The park is heavily wooded, including the natural areas surrounding the campsites and waterfront.

- **BEEBE BRIDGE PARK/BEEBE SPRINGS NATURAL WILDLIFE AREA.** This park has a swimming area. It is also a nature preserve on the west shore of the Columbia River north of Beebe Bridge. The site has been enhanced with a series of shoreline fish and wildlife habitat improvements, interpretive signage, and nature trails.
- **CHELAN BUTTE STATE WILDLIFE AREA AND CHELAN WILDLIFE AREA ENTIAI.** Chelan Butte is a low-elevation peak that can be accessed from Chelan, a commonly summited peak for both residents and tourists. Hikers and hang gliders frequently visit Chelan Butte. This extensive landholding on Chelan Butte and the lands east of Alternate U.S. Route 97 conserves the unique natural and wildlife habitat on the buttes overlooking Lake Chelan and the Columbia River, including Davis Canyon, Knapp Coulee, and Daybreak Canyon. The lands are accessed by a series of power utility roads and user-designated trail systems.
- **DEER MOUNTAIN.** This extensive landholding on Deer Mountain conserves natural and wildlife habitat on the butte overlooking Chelan and the Columbia River, including Buckner Spring. The lands are accessed by a series of power utility roads and user-designated trail systems.

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## Park access and the 10-minute walk

The Trust for Public Land is leading a national campaign to ensure that every person in American cities and towns lives within a 10-minute walk (equivalent to a half mile) of a high-quality park or open space.

To determine the number of residents within a 10-minute walk for this study area, a GIS mapping analysis was conducted using ParkServe methodology. The analysis creates park access points for each park, and then determines a 10-minute walk in any direction from the access points along a walkable network. Areas outside these service areas are called park gaps. These gaps are prioritized by comparing them based on their total population, low-income population, and youth population.

The parks data come originally from The Nature Conservancy Forest Atlas; then using GIS analysis, the privately owned land, industrial parks, and working lands were removed. Any remaining Chelan parks were added based on Chelan's planning documents, and Manson parks were digitized based on the information from Manson's website. The Chelan Public Utilities District added information about public access and served as a quality control for these data. Other data that were integrated into this analysis included median household income, calculated by averaging the values for all census block groups in the study area, which came to a median household income of \$53,199.

Results showed that approximately 45 percent of study area residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park or open space.

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## Agriculture

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Washington State's economy, and Chelan County alone is responsible for \$206 million in annual production on 890 farms. Chelan County's primary crops are apples, cherries, and pears. Between 9,000 and 10,000 acres of the Chelan Valley are devoted to the cultivation of apples and other fruits. The majority of the nearly 400 farms in the valley are small family farms with a handful of orchards belonging to large fruit-growing corporations. The average orchard in the Chelan Valley is 30 acres or less.

Chelan County apple growers saw a decline in demand in the late 1990s. This decline was related to changes in the national and international markets, concern over pesticide use, and shifts in consumer preferences. In the early 2000s, exports dropped by 40 percent, forcing some farmers to switch to other varieties or crops, or leave farming altogether. The amount of farmland in both the state and the county has decreased dramatically in the last 50 years. In 1950, there were 189,995 acres of farmland in Chelan County. By 1992, this number had decreased by over one-third and agricultural acres dropped to 112,085.

## Wineries and Vineyards

Wine grapes have been growing in the Lake Chelan area since 1891, but in 2009, Lake Chelan and the surrounding area gained American Viticultural Area (AVA) status. Lake Chelan was the 11th American Viticultural Area officially recognized in the state of Washington. The designated AVA encompasses a 24,040-acre area southeast of the lake and

borders the Columbia Valley AVA. Because of warm days and cool nights moderated by Lake Chelan, vineyards can successfully grow Syrah, Merlot, Malbec, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir grape varieties. By 2016, there were over 20 wineries and wine-tasting rooms and over 250 acres of producing vineyards in the Lake Chelan area.



TSILLAN CELLARS

Tsillan Cellars Vineyard

## Vineyard legacy of the Chelan agricultural history

Vineyards are the foundation for wine tourism in a valley that only 20 years ago was a commodity-focused (i.e., apple and cherry) economy. Viticulture can create the vertical integration that adds value at every level of the growing, production, and retail hierarchy. Vineyards use only 20-25 percent as much irrigation water as tree fruit and require almost no chemicals or fertilizers.

In the past 15 years the wine industry has extended the viable Chelan tourism season from June through August to April through October. Wine tourists are typically affluent, outdoor oriented, and interested in cultural experiences. This creates a tremendous opportunity to those who can provide experiences, facilities, and services that appeal to the wine enthusiasts. The Chelan AVA is

already blessed with the most spectacular scenic splendor of any AVA in Washington State. The quilt work of vineyards and wineries in the Chelan Valley provides an opportunity for urban guests to experience the tranquility of vineyard lifestyle.

Tsillan Cellars vineyards and winery is situated on 130 acres of gently sloping property on Highway 97A overlooking Lake Chelan. Tunnel Hill Winery is a 92-acre vineyard and winery property abutting Tsillan Cellars on the west. These two properties already have explored the possibility of connecting trails that create the potential for unrivaled vineyard walking experiences overlooking Lake Chelan. The wine tourism industry is about not just selling wine but creating unique experiences for the wine tourist. A "Wine Walk" trail system overlooking Lake Chelan would offer a unique opportunity to distinguish the Lake Chelan AVA from other Washington AVAs.

WRITTEN BY BOB JANKELSON



TSILLAN CELLARS

Tsillan Cellars Estate with lake



# 3. Community Engagement

*“Trails provide a great way for locals and visitors to gain a greater appreciation of local open space and wildlife habitat, the importance of agricultural lands, and the need to protect water quality in Lake Chelan.”*

—PAUL WILLARD, LAKE CHELAN TRAILS ALLIANCE

## DEVELOPMENT OF THIS OPEN SPACE VISION

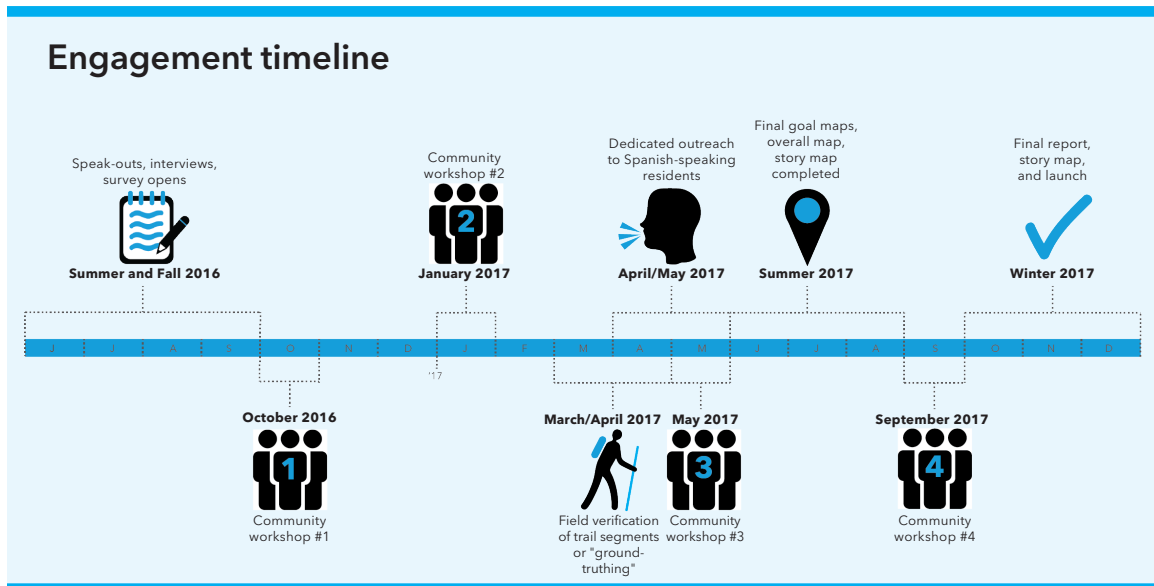
involved extensive community engagement. The elements of this community engagement are described below.

- **SUMMER AND FALL 2016** Speak-outs, interviews, survey opens
- **OCTOBER 2016** Community workshop #1

- **JANUARY 2017** Community workshop #2
- **MARCH/APRIL 2017** Field verification of potential trail segments, or “groundtruthing”
- **APRIL/MAY 2017** Dedicated outreach to Spanish-speaking residents
- **MAY 2017** Community workshop #3
- **SUMMER 2017** Final goal maps, overall map, and story map completed
- **SEPTEMBER 2017** Community workshop #4
- **WINTER 2017** Final report, story map, and launch

## Speak-Outs

Over 400 people participated in speak-out poster activities at local events in the fall and winter of 2016. The poster activities captured community priorities for both conservation and recreation opportunities. Speak-outs were held at the ChelanMan



Triathlon, the Chelan Farmers Market, the Manson Farmers Market, Lake Chelan Rotary, and the Chelan Post Office. People who were unable to participate in poster activities were given postcards with information about the online community survey.

### Community Meetings

Four community meetings were held for the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision, beginning in October 2016. Over 150 people, representing a wide range of organizations and interests, attended at least one of the meetings for the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision. All four meetings were held in the City of Chelan’s Council Chambers. Participants in the community meetings helped identify the goals, vision, and guiding principles for the Community Open Space Vision. Meeting attendees also reviewed the maps created for the plan and advised on the relative weighting for the goals within the overall map (see Section 4). See online [APPENDIX 6](#) for the full summaries from each of the four community workshops.

### Field Verification

During the late spring of 2017, over a dozen volunteers helped field-verify, or “groundtruth,” 18 potential trail segments in the study area. Proposed trails were divided into segments designated by the GIS team from The Trust for Public Land in consultation with the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance. The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance developed a list of “top 20” potential new trails in the Chelan area,

which was the foundation for this analysis. The field verification was intended to help set community-based priorities for expanding in-town and backcountry connectivity in Lake Chelan and the surrounding area – as well as increasing opportunities to use trails for commuting, exercise, recreation, and connecting to the outdoors.

Led by volunteers from the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance, nearly a dozen community members were trained to conduct field verification in April 2017. Volunteers went out into the field to verify the potential segments and determine the “hot spot” challenges or “hot spot” opportunities for that segment. Trail segments were scored on health/equity; viability; user experience; current condition; and overall experience. Volunteers were asked to identify special opportunities and notable impediments for each trail. User experience scores were especially important in assessing trails because it is not possible to determine the sights, sounds, and general feeling of being on a particular trail from available GIS data. A full list of potential trail segments can be found in [APPENDIX 4](#).

### Interview Highlights

Twenty-one community leaders participated in interviews for the Open Space Vision. Input from interviews helped inform other community engagement efforts and provided important context throughout the planning process. Highlights from interviews are summarized below. Many of the interviewees

discussed the importance and value of Lake Chelan and the water quality of the lake, lake access, the desire for more affordable housing for residents, and challenges posed by increasing development and wildfire danger.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT LAKE CHELAN?**

Interviewees mentioned a wide variety of attributes that made them love the area, including the lake, downtown, wineries, agriculture, natural beauty, weather, topography, natural areas and parks, the community, quality of life, the history, an authentic small-town feel, the mountains, the seasons, the proximity to Seattle, the character and diversity of the community, abundance of recreational opportunities, a strong economy, being part of a multigenerational family here, and the people.

**POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE PAST DECADE.**

Interviewees mentioned a wide variety of positive changes in the Chelan area, including wineries, vineyards, live music, blueberry fields, bridging the gap between different cultures, fire management, improvements and stability in the economy, and better accommodations and amenities. Nearly all interviewees mentioned the influence of the wineries as a positive change.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGES AND NEGATIVE CHANGES IN THE PAST DECADE.**

Interviewees expressed concern about growth, losing small farms, affordable housing, the real estate bubble, loss of community feeling, seasonal homes, fences around property that exclude wildlife, aging infrastructure, decreasing water quality,



BECCA EDIGER

I love this lake

infrastructure problems, increasing antidevelopment sentiment from longtime residents.

**QUALITY OF LIFE.** Many interviewees focused on community, family, views, night skies, good schools, clean air and water, well-paying jobs, small-town feel, character and diversity of the community, access to amenities, recreation, a strong primary health care system, a focus on the environment, art, and walkability.

**THREATS TO QUALITY OF LIFE.** Interviewees were concerned about traffic, climate change, wildfires, development, lack of affordable housing, insufficient public access to the

lake, preserving traditions, increasing congestion, pushing out low- and medium-income residents, invasive species in the lake, water pollution, losing farmland, urban sprawl, fast-food chains, resistance to change, pollution from boats, and litter.

**PLACES WITH SPECIAL MEANING.** Interviewees listed the following as places with special meaning: public beaches, the Butte, Don Morse Memorial Park, Lakeside Park, Riverwalk Park, Campbell’s Resort, lake access areas, Echo Ridge, Methow Valley, Stormy Mountain, Rocky Beach, Chelan Falls, Refrigerator Harbor, Forest Service Docks, and Stehekin.



BECCA EDIGER

Exploring

**MOST IMPORTANT TRAIL DESTINATIONS/POTENTIAL DESTINATIONS.** Interviewees considered the following important trail destinations: Riverwalk Trail, trails around Echo Ridge and Echo Valley, connecting Don Morse to Lakeside Park, east side of the lake, access to the Butte, Deer Mountain, Chelan River, the Gorge, connectivity to Manson from/to Chelan, South Shore, Manson Highway (should be a scenic byway with trails), the Cascades, Antilon Lake, three lakes in the Manson area (Roses Lake, Dry Lake, Wapato Lake), Dunmore to Lakeshore Park, a trail along Lakeshore Drive, and a potential public use of Three Fingers.

**TYPES OF TRAILS VALUED BY LOCAL COMMUNITY.** All interviewees said that community members want a variety of trails – including hiking trails throughout the valley, in-town sidewalks for Chelan and Manson, walking trails, in-town walking and biking paths, nonmotorized trails, trails to connect the Butte to town, mountain biking trails, and increased connectivity of trails.

**NATURAL AREAS IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.** Interviewees mentioned the lake, wineries, the Butte, agricultural areas, orchards, the Methow Valley, Stehekin, Lucerne, the farmers market, playgrounds, and Echo Ridge.

## Community Survey

The survey for the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision was available online beginning in October 2016. In 2017, the survey

was translated into Spanish for outreach to Spanish-speaking residents. Outreach for the survey included (1) Posting and promoting the survey link on the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision Facebook page; (2) Emailing the online survey link to the local high school; (3) Promoting the online survey through the Lake Chelan newsletter; (4) Distributing the online survey link via the Chamber of Commerce website; (5) Distributing postcards with the online survey link; (6) Sending the online survey link out to the stakeholder list; (7) Hosting the Spanish-language online survey on the homepage of public library computers in Chelan; (8) Employing bilingual high school students to distribute and collect paper copies of the Spanish-language survey over Memorial Day weekend in 2017; (9) Posting online survey links on community bulletin boards at the Chelan Post Office; and (10) Sharing the online survey link via the KOZI radio station. See online [APPENDIX 5](#) for full survey results.

### Who Participated in the Survey?

In total, 724 people participated in the community survey. Of those, 118 responses were gathered at local high schools (largely, but not exclusively, from students), and 79 responses are from the Spanish-language survey. Between 150 and 200 participants skipped some or all demographic questions.

- Sixty-nine percent of participants have a primary residence in the Lake Chelan area, and 22 percent have a second home in the area.

- Sixty-four percent of participants were female, and 36 percent were male.
- The average age of participants was 51, and 21 percent of participants were 35 years old or younger.
- Approximately one-third of respondents have gross annual household incomes of \$49,999 or less; one-third have household incomes of \$50,000–\$99,000; and one-third have household income of \$100,000 or more.
- Over half of the participants do not have children under 18 in their household.
- Seventy-six percent identified themselves as white/non-Hispanic, followed by 19 percent who identified themselves as Hispanic. The Hispanic population in the study area is 36 percent, so Hispanic survey participants were underrepresented. (Key survey results were weighted to address this issue.)
- Sixty-two people (15 percent of respondents) indicated that at least one family member needs ADA-accessible facilities.

### Key Survey Findings

- The top community priorities for open space are protecting water quality and expanding access to the outdoors – especially access to the lake.
- Only 24 percent of participants agree or strongly agree that there is adequate public access to the shores of Lake Chelan.

## Key survey findings

### Top Priorities

1. Protect water quality

2. Expand access to the outdoors



The lake and local parks are what people love the most about the Lake Chelan area



Only 24% of participants believe there is adequate public access to the shores of Lake Chelan



Hispanic and non-Hispanic residents use trails differently

22% of Hispanics walk or bike to commute

vs.

7% of non-Hispanics walk or bike to commute



Survey participants are very active

Trail users are out on trails seven days per month in the summer and five days per month in the winter

70% swim in Lake Chelan



### Concerns

- Growth
- Development
- Affordability
- Wildfires



- There are differences in how Hispanic residents and non-Hispanic residents use Lake Chelan and local trails. For example, 22 percent of Hispanic residents commute to school or work by walking or hiking versus only 7 percent of white, non-Hispanic residents.
- The lake and local parks are what survey participants love most about the Lake Chelan area. The lake and local parks are also the places that have the most special meaning for respondents.
- There is a great deal of concern about growth, development, affordability (especially affordable housing), and wildfires.
- Survey participants are very active. Those who use trails use them an average of seven days per month in the summer and five days per month in the winter, and 70 percent of the respondents swim in Lake Chelan.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LAKE CHELAN AREA?** Participants were asked to list what they love most about the Lake Chelan area. In both the English and Spanish surveys, the top result was the lake. Other frequently mentioned words were beauty, parks, the climate, and the people.

**WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING CONCERNS IN THE LAKE CHELAN AREA?** Participants were most concerned about improving public access, the cost of living, affordable housing, development and growth, wildfires, and maintaining water quality.

**WHAT ARE THE LOCAL PLACES/AREAS THAT HAVE SPECIAL MEANING TO YOU?** When asked to list places with special meaning, participants frequently mentioned parks and the lake. Other areas of special meaning include Riverwalk Park, Don Morse Memorial Park, Lakeside Park, the Butte, and Echo Ridge.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?** For participants, the most popular lake-based activity was swimming (70 percent). Swimming was followed by boating (46 percent), canoeing/kayaking (32 percent), then waterskiing/jet skiing (22 percent).

When asked what prevented participants from using trails more often, 31 percent said that they were unsure of where trails are. Additional barriers included inconvenient trails (15 percent); lack of interest in trails (12 percent); and physical disabilities that prevent use of trails (7 percent).

**WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE LAKE CHELAN AREA?** In order to establish the community goals to be mapped through the Open Space Vision process, participants were asked to rank their top three priorities among nine options: increasing connectivity of protected lands; increasing recreational access in the foothills; protecting iconic views; protecting forests; promoting community health through accessible parks and trails; preserving agricultural land; protecting wildlife habitat; increasing recreational access to the lake; and protecting water quality.

Results are shown in Table 2 with Hispanic weighting already calculated. That is, the results reflect 36 percent representation for responses from Hispanic participants. Totals are shown for first, second, and third choices separately and totaled together. For “rank weighted total,” first-choice responses were weighted most heavily (given full weight); second-choice responses were given one-half weight; and third-choice responses were given one-third weight.

Because three of the priorities involved access to the outdoors, a “merged” priority was created to promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake. Of these access priorities, access to the lake is, by far, the greatest concern for

community members. In fact, access to the lake on its own would have been the second-highest priority even without merging the access goals. The final list of top open space goals was:

1. Protect water quality
2. Promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake
3. Protect wildlife habitat
4. Preserve agricultural land

Hispanic participants overall ranked access, particularly access to the lake, as their most important goal, above protecting water quality.

**TABLE 2. RANKING OF OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES**

Value	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Rank Weighted Total
Water	395	162	177	734	534
ACCESS TOTAL (combined lake access; access for health; foothill access)	254	247	308	809	479
Lake access	169	93	84	346	243
Agriculture	119	155	106	380	231
Access for health	58	115	156	329	166
Wildlife	56	110	84	250	138
Forests	55	73	90	218	121
Views	52	82	71	205	116
Foothills access	28	39	68	135	69
Connectivity	23	52	36	111	61



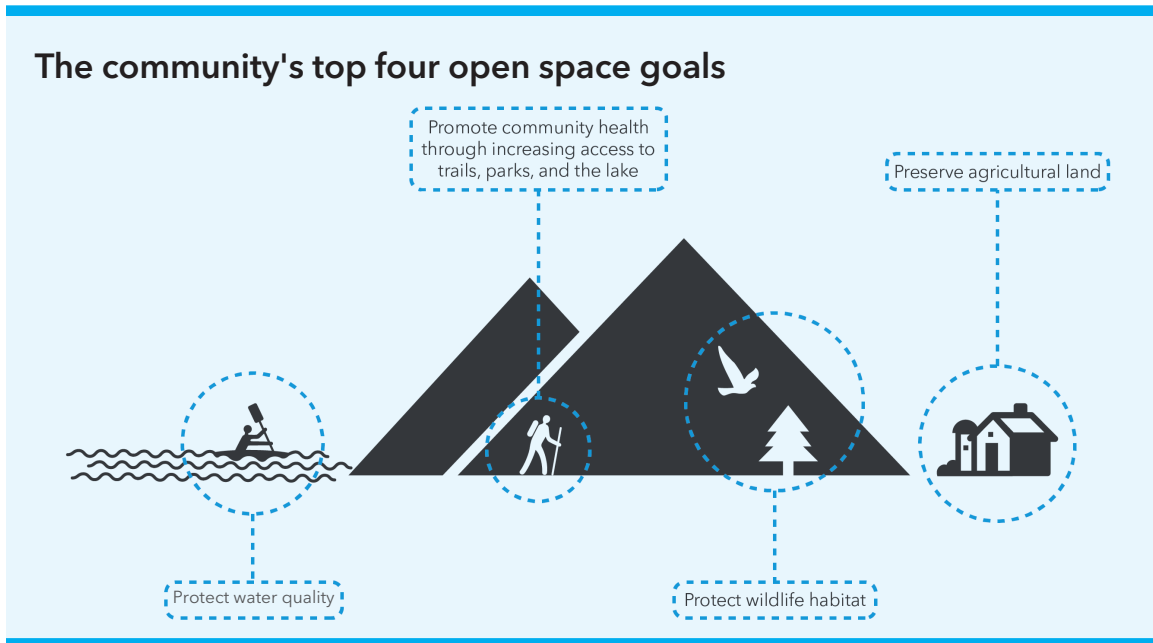
# 4. Mapping Community Values

*“My family has lived in the Lake Chelan valley for almost 80 years. We are Goats and we are Trojans, and we love our very special home. Change is inevitable and growth is already upon us. This entire project is important so that we may preserve and protect all the elements that make our valley so special while finding a way to embrace the coming change. I want this for my children, their children, and the future generations that call Lake Chelan home.”*

—KIM USTANIK, MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE/  
MANSON COMMUNITY

**THE TOP GOALS FOR THE LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION** were determined based on community engagement results as described above. The top open space goals for the Lake Chelan area are (1) **Protect water quality**; (2) **Promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake**; (3) **Protect wildlife habitat**; and (4) **Preserve agricultural land**.

The GIS team from The Trust for Public Land worked with community meeting participants and a technical advisory team to create maps for each of these goals and an overall map combining the goals. Through analyzing and modeling spatial data, these regional priorities were translated into objective metrics and maps highlighting the areas where voluntary land conservation and public land management strategies could best meet community goals.



In moving from community engagement to the GIS mapping and modeling phase, a technical advisory team of local experts provided strategic advice on data collection and modeling. Local experts' advice was used in developing the criteria for each priority; identifying the best available data sources; and ensuring that modeling assumptions were based on defensible science and that input data and model results were accurate.

The maps created through the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision process are included below. The full criteria matrix used in developing the Community Open Space Vision maps is shown in online [APPENDIX 3](#).

## Protect Water Quality

*“El Lago de Chelan es uno de los lagos más limpios del país y sería en nuestro mayor interés proteger la calidad del agua para que todas nuestras familias tengan una oportunidad de disfrutar del lago en el futuro.”*

*“Lake Chelan is one of the cleanest lakes in the region, and it would be in our best interest to protect the quality of the water so that all of our families have an opportunity to enjoy the lake in the future.”*

—ANONYMOUS SURVEY RESPONDENT

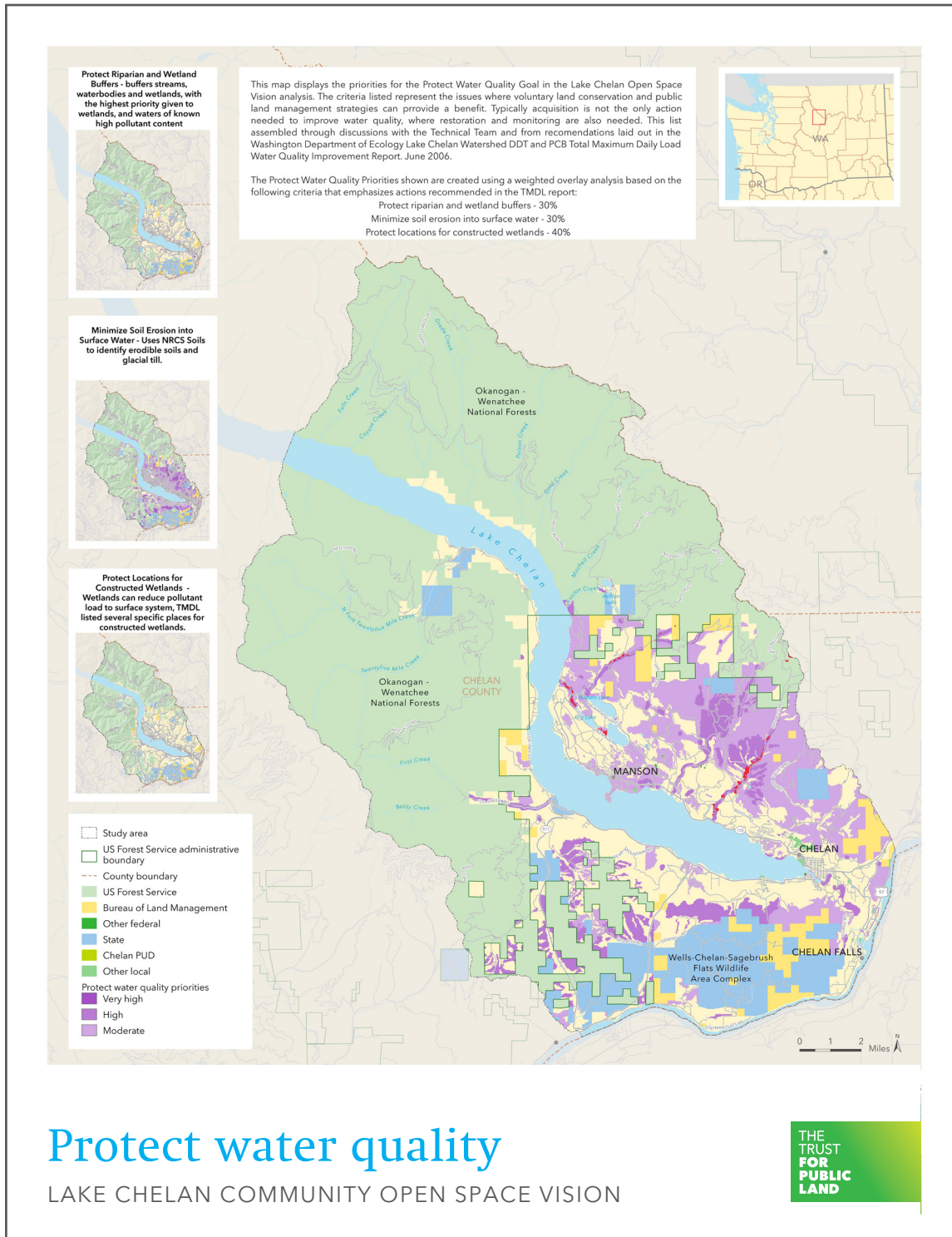
Protecting water quality was the top priority for residents. Lake Chelan is the defining feature of the local landscape, and it provides not just a place for recreation, but the core of

the area's identity. The pristine lake currently has excellent water quality with limited contaminants. Residents and tourists want to protect the lake's water quality for generations to come.

Figure 2 shows the results of the Protect Water Quality goal mapping. Criteria incorporated into the Protect Water map, along with their associated weights, are (1) Protect riparian and wetland buffers (30 percent); (2) Minimize soil erosion into surface water (30 percent); and (3) Protect potential locations for constructed wetlands (40 percent). The criteria represent the issues voluntary conservation and public land management strategies can provide benefit. They also represent factors in which land protection can play a role in protecting water quality. This mapping analysis identified 221 acres as the highest-priority lands for protecting water quality throughout the Lake Chelan area. These lands, listed as “very high” priority in Table 3, include wetlands and riparian areas along rivers and tributaries.

TABLE 3. PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Priority	Acres
Very high	221
High	15,946
Moderate	40,901
Total	57,068



# Protect water quality

LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION



➡ **FIGURE 2** Special thanks to the following data provider: Chelan County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

## Promote Community Health Through Increasing Access to Trails, Parks, and the Lake

*“Lake Chelan is 100 percent owned by the public, yet in the City of Chelan less than 1 percent of the shoreline is publicly owned. According to the Chelan Chamber of Commerce, over 2 million visitors come to Chelan each year. More lake access is a critical need, now, not at some future point.”*

—JOHN OLSON, FRIENDS OF LAKE CHELAN

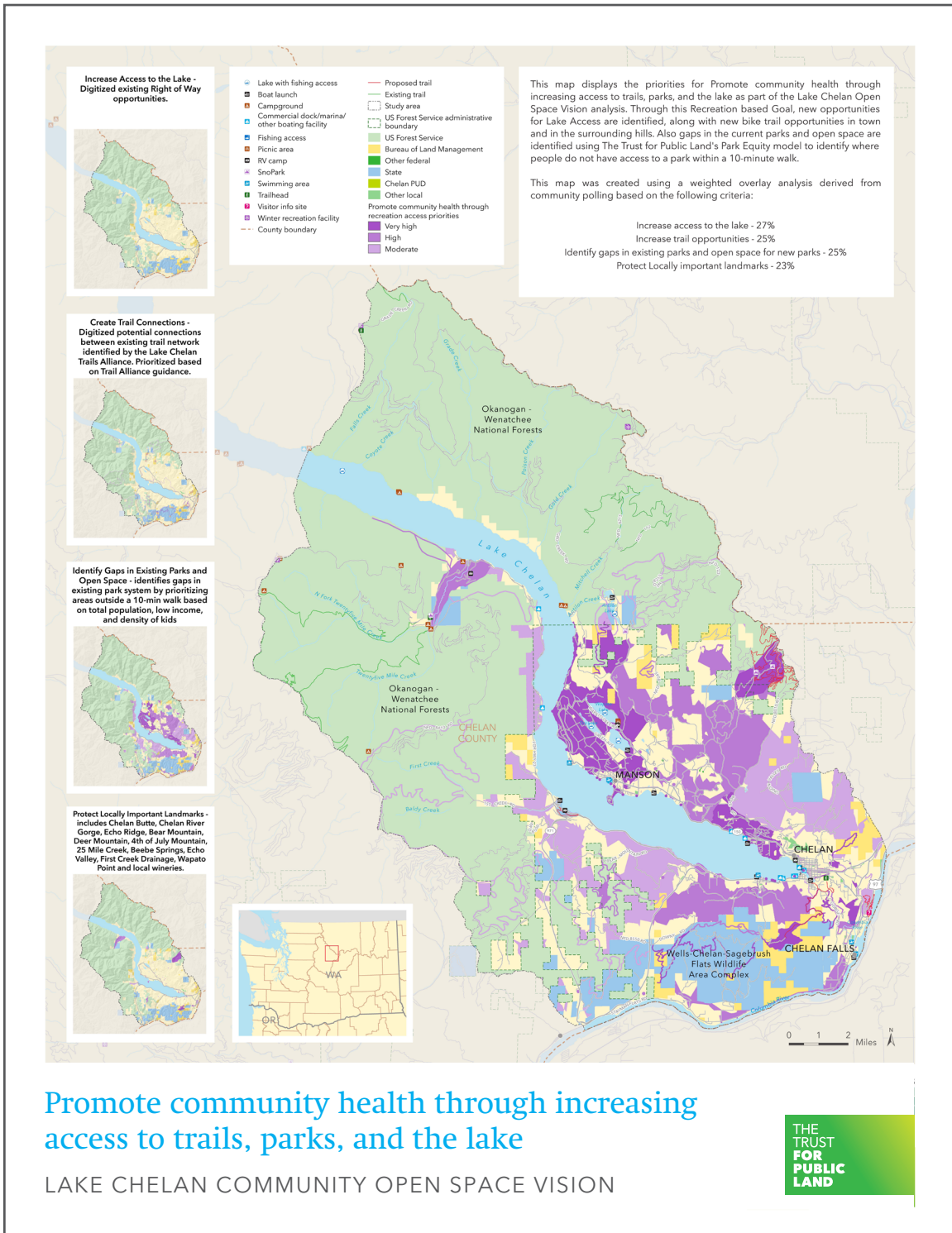
One of the resounding themes of the community’s input was the need to increase opportunities for recreational access – especially to the lake. Through the mapping for this goal, new opportunities for lake access were identified, along with new bike trail opportunities in town and in the surrounding foothills. Equity modeling was used to identify areas where people do not have access to a park within a 10-minute walk. Lake access and trail expansion are also priorities in the City of Chelan’s PROS plan.

Criteria incorporated into this goal map shown in [Figure 3](#), along with their associated weighting, are (1) Increase access to the lake (27 percent); (2) Increase trail opportunities (25 percent); (3) Identify gaps in existing parks and open space for new parks (25 percent); and (4) Protect local important landmarks

(23 percent). The criteria represent the issues where voluntary land conservation and public land management strategies can play a role in promoting community health through increasing access. The mapping analysis identified 8,946 acres as the highest-priority lands for promoting health through increasing access throughout the Lake Chelan area. The highest priority-lands in [Table 4](#) for this goal are along the shorelines of Lake Chelan, in and around priority trails, and in areas of Chelan and Manson that have the most limited existing access to local parks.

**TABLE 4. PROMOTE COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Priority	Acres
Very high	8,946
High	12,950
Moderate	14,328
Total	36,224



## Promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake

### LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION



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## Protect Wildlife Habitat

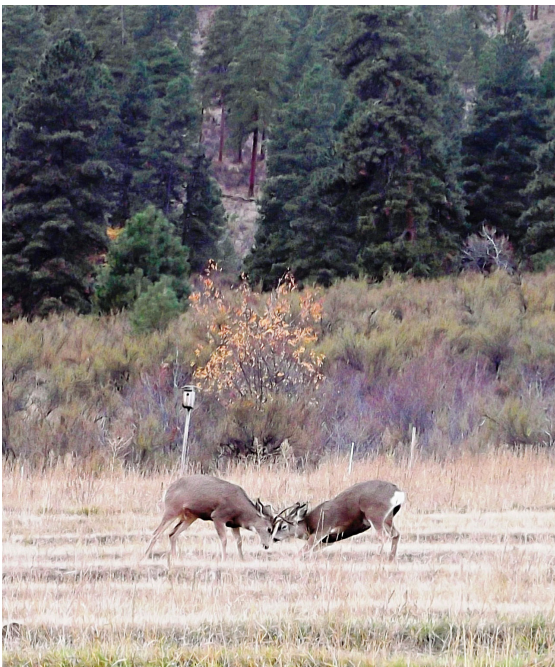
*“The slopes surrounding Lake Chelan represent the last great untouched areas of open space in our valley. Preserving public access to these expansive areas is a critical investment in our valley’s future.”*

—GUY EVANS, LAKE CHELAN TRAILS ALLIANCE

Criteria incorporated into this goal map shown in [Figure 4](#), along with their associated weighting, are (1) Protect diverse ecosystems (25 percent); (2) Protect native plants and animals (25 percent); (3) Protect wildlife priority habitats (25 percent); and

(4) Protect native trout (25 percent). The criteria were assembled based on community comments, technical advisory team review, and one-on-one conversations with local wildlife experts. The criteria represent the issues where voluntary land conservation and public land management strategies can play a role in protecting natural diversity and sensitive habitat. The mapping analyses identified 57,287 acres as the highest-priority lands for protecting wildlife habitat, as shown in [Table 5](#). Most of the highest-priority lands for this goal are located farther away from population centers in areas with critical habitat for threatened native species.

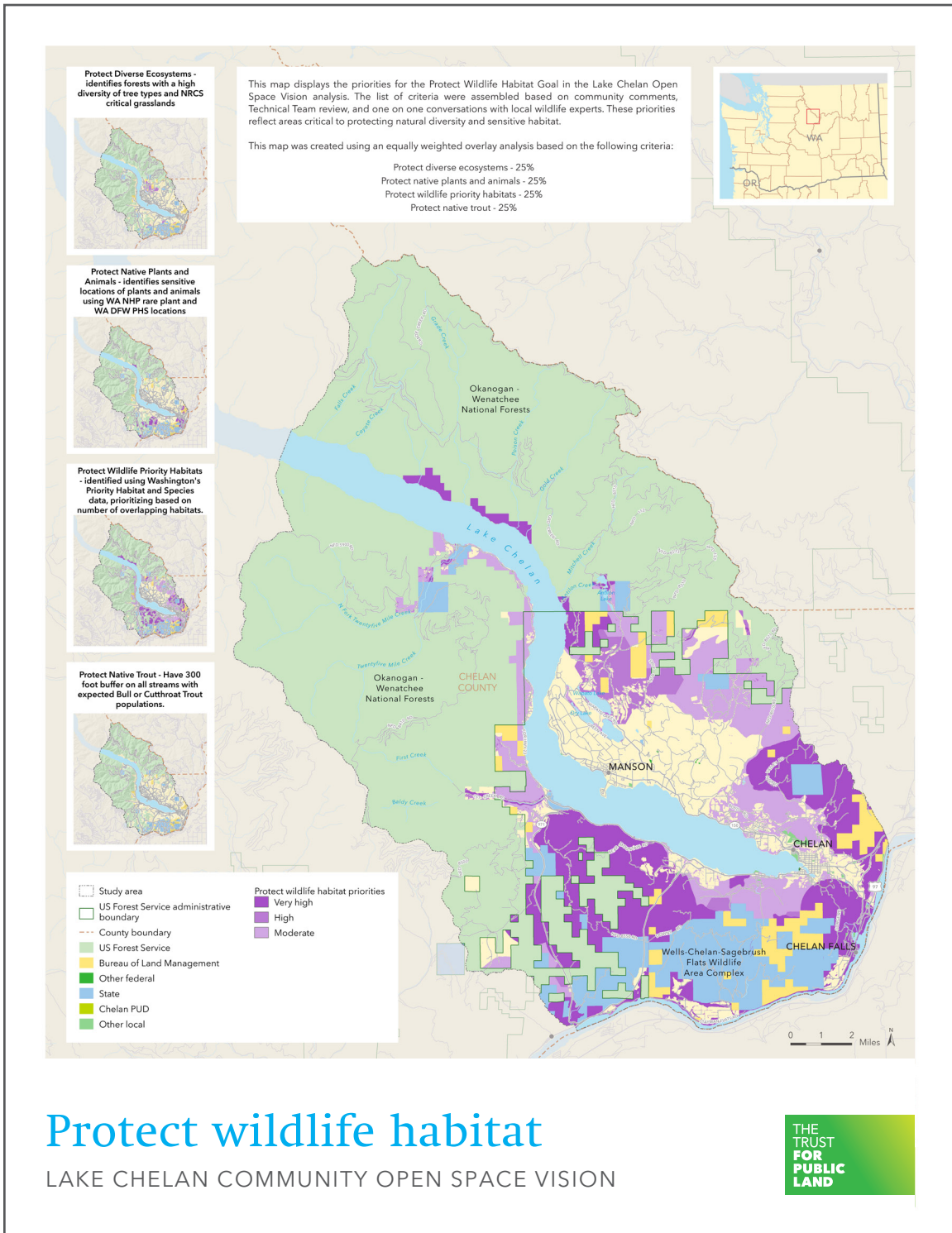
BREWBOOKS



Mule Deer showdown

TABLE 5. PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Priority	Acres
Very high	57,287
High	10,953
Moderate	54,020
Total	122,260



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## Preserve Agricultural Land

Community participants were concerned about protecting agricultural land, including historic orchards and newer vineyards.

Figure 5 shows the results of the Preserve Agricultural Land goal mapping. Results reflect the high-productivity agricultural soils and existing orchards and other agriculture. Additional analysis was done to identify agricultural lands that provide scenic views. Criteria incorporated into this goal map, along with their associated weighting, are (1) Protect

high-quality agricultural soils with low slope (33 percent); (2) Protect working agricultural lands (33 percent); and (3) Protect views of agricultural landscapes (33 percent). The criteria represent issues where voluntary land conservation and public land management strategies can play a role in preserving agricultural land. The mapping analysis identified 1,627 acres as the highest-priority lands for preserving agriculture, as shown in Table 6. Most of the highest-priority lands for this goal are in areas with high-quality agricultural soils in and around Manson.

ERIC RODRIGUEZ

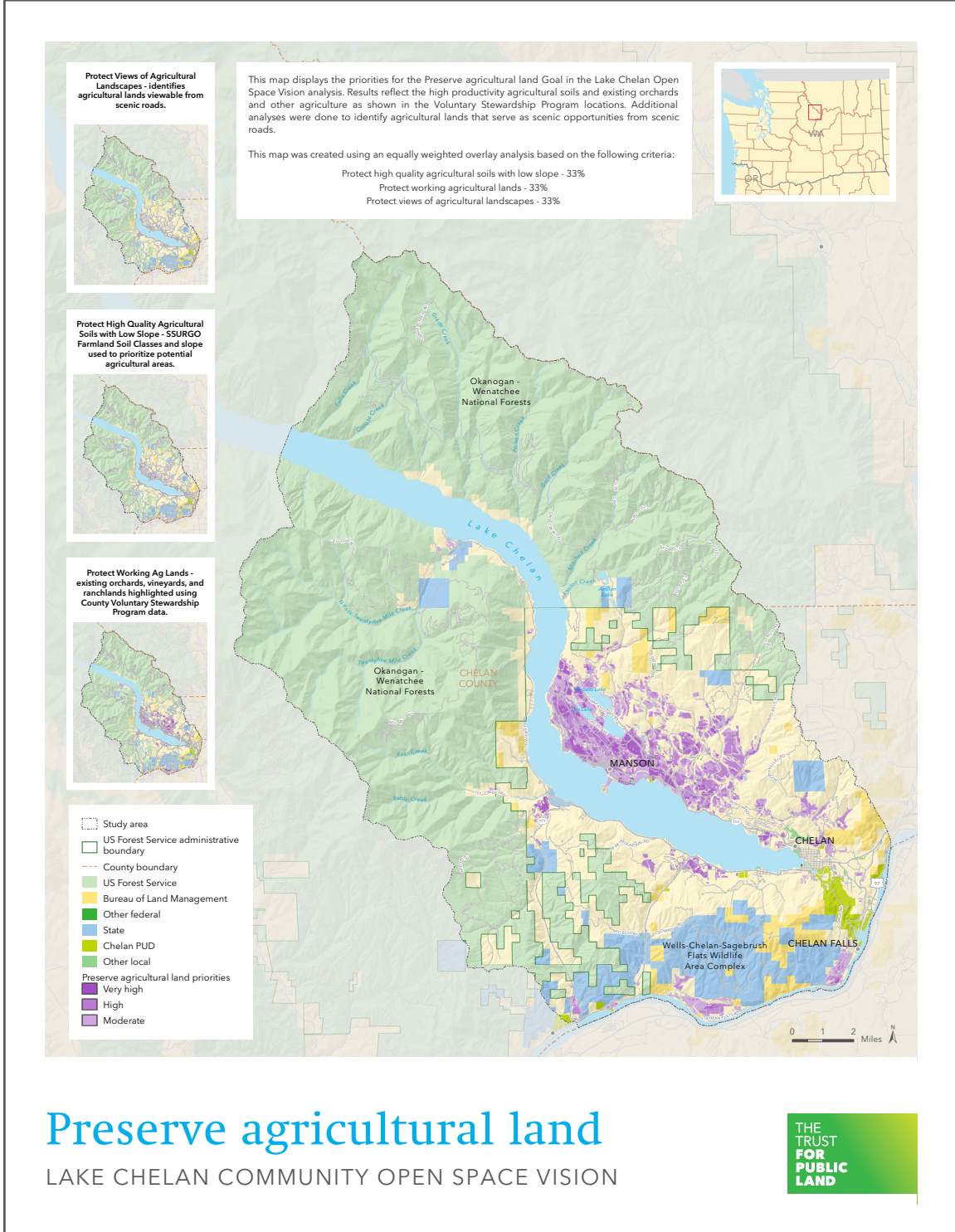


Chilly winter in Chelan

TABLE 6. PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND

Priority	Acres
Very high	1,627
High	3,605
Moderate	4,651
Total	9,883





# Preserve agricultural land

LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION



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## Overall Map

The overall map in [Figure 6](#) combines the results of each of the four goal maps described above; it identifies the areas where the greatest number of community goals can be “stacked” and met simultaneously through protection of priority areas. The weighting of the goal maps within the overall map is based on the community survey results (see Section 3, Community Engagement, for more details).

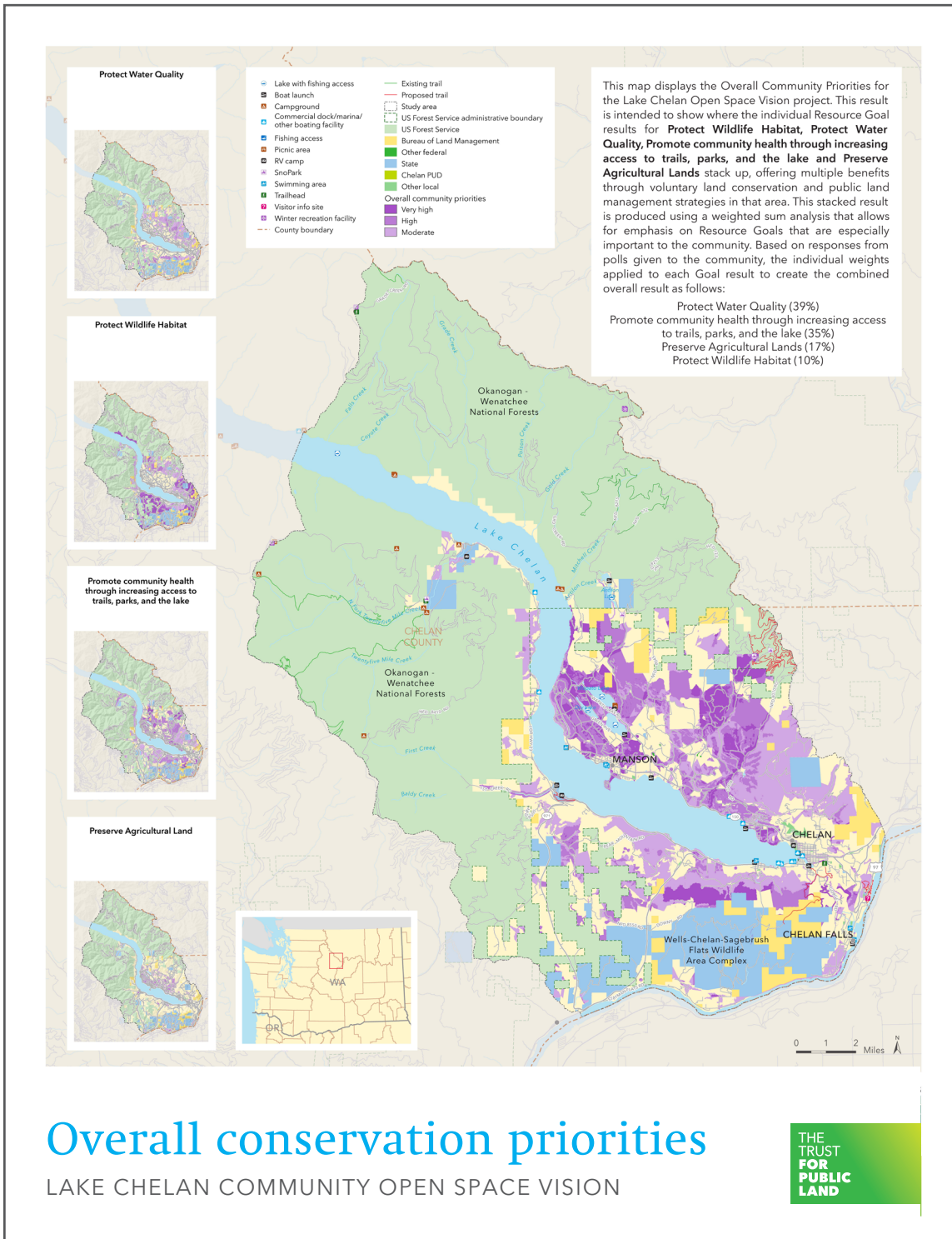
1. Protect water quality;
2. Promote community health through increasing access to trails, parks, and the lake;
3. Protect wildlife habitat; and
4. Preserve agricultural land.

The overall map designates 5,659 acres as “very high” priority. The highest-priority lands for the overall map are distributed throughout the study area – particularly along the shoreline, along rivers and tributaries, and in the foothills above Manson and in the Chelan Butte area shown in [Table 7](#).



The road less traveled

TABLE 7. OVERALL MAP	
Priority	Acres
Very high	5,659
High	10,070
Moderate	16,113
Total	31,842



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# 5. Funding for Open Space Protection

**A LONG-TERM, DEDICATED SOURCE OF LOCAL REVENUE** is at the heart of most successful programs for protecting open space. A variety of funding options are potentially available to the communities in the study area for financing the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of open space for conservation, parks, and trails purposes.

Many potential public funding options can be pieced together into a “funding quilt” to protect land and increase access to public land in the Lake Chelan area. A funding quilt is the combination of funding sources – state, federal, local, and private – that are brought together to help achieve conservation objectives.

The most reliable form of funding to achieve conservation objectives over the long term is local public funding. Owing to the competition for state, federal, and private funding, these sources often serve as supplements or incentives for local funding. Although public funding has been proven to be the most reliable, individual philanthropic donors or nongovernmental organizations should also be recognized as potential sources of revenue to help with land acquisition for conservation. Community members, local land trusts, and conservation alliances will also play a critical role in providing private support for this successful “funding quilt.”

In Washington, local governments have utilized several different public finance options to support parks and conservation. The primary revenue options used are general

obligation bonds and the property tax. Less frequently used mechanisms include the real estate transfer tax, the utility tax, and impact fees. This study focuses on several options that present opportunities for financing in the Lake Chelan area, which are as follows:

## City of Chelan Options

**PROPERTY TAX.** The City of Chelan could ask voters to increase the regular property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters in the city at a general or special election. For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy in the City of Chelan would generate approximately \$85,400 annually at a cost of \$38 per year to the average homeowner in the city.

**BONDING.** The City of Chelan could issue general obligation bonds for parks, trails, and open space and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds. With a relatively small tax base, the city could only issue about \$1 million in bonds payable over 20 years at an average annual cost to the typical homeowner of \$33. For general obligation bonds for the protection of open space, 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of the bonds (which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election). Also, bond proceeds are limited to capital projects and may not be used for operations and maintenance purposes.

Similarly, Chelan County could issue general obligation bonds and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds. A \$15 million general obligation bond, payable over

20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$32 annually.

### Chelan County Options

**CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX.** Chelan County could levy the Conservation Futures property tax levy. Implementing this tax at the maximum levy rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 in Chelan County would generate approximately \$600,000 annually and cost the average homeowner about \$18 per year. The Conservation Futures tax may be imposed administratively by the County Commissioners; a public vote is not required.

**SPECIAL DISTRICT.** The jurisdictions in the study area could seek to create a special

district such as a Metropolitan Park District. For example, a district that follows the combined Manson and Lake Chelan School Districts could impose a \$0.10 per \$1,000 levy that would generate approximately \$256,000 annually at a cost of \$34 for the average homeowner in the area. The new district may be proposed by resolution or citizen petition and requires majority approval of voters in the district at a general or special election.

Next steps could include narrowing funding options to those that match the needs identified in the vision planning process and testing voter attitudes toward a specific set of funding proposals. The Trust for Public Land generally recommends conducting a public opinion



BECCA EDIGER

Good morning Chelan

# 6. Implementing the Open Space Vision

*“Trails connect people with the history, culture, and nature that record the story of our lives. The more diverse the trail, the more fascinating the story told. My vision of a trail here in Chelan circles the lake basin, providing access to North Cascades National Recreation Area, Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Mad River region, and points north and connecting the towns, vineyards, orchards, parks, and wildlands along the way. A trail of this magnitude seems a daunting task; however, many pieces already exist, waiting for a generation to pick up the task of connecting them by land and water. We have the opportunity today to advance that task. Great works begin with a great vision. This is the vision I’d like to leave for future generations along with our contributions toward that end.”*

**—STEVE MILNER, WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

## **Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision: Implementation Ideas**

The following are implementation ideas for consideration and include suggestions from community meetings. Potential steps include (A.) Protect highest-priority local lands and resources; (B.) Create structure and expectations for ongoing implementation of the Open Space Vision; and (C.) Identify and pursue traditional and nontraditional funding sources or actions to implement the Open Space Vision.

The core team for the development of the Lake Chelan Community Open Space Vision was the City of Chelan, Lake Chelan Trails Alliance, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and The Trust for Public Land. This list of implementation ideas were developed based on input from community meetings in May and September of 2017.

**TABLE 8. LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION: IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS**

**What and How**

**A. PROTECT HIGHEST-PRIORITY LOCAL LANDS AND RESOURCES**

**A.1 MAP HIGHEST-PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONSERVATION BASED ON BEST SCIENTIFIC DATA AND COMMUNITY INPUT**

- Develop a web-based story map to communicate the results of the Community Open Space Vision process

**A.2 WORK WITH WILLING LANDOWNERS TO VOLUNTARILY PROTECT KEY PRIORITY AREAS AND CREATE LAKE AND TRAIL ACCESS**

- Identify “low-hanging fruit” to build momentum
- Create materials that highlight the overlap between conservation benefits and landowner benefits; and the benefits of lake access to the community

**A.3 BUILD ON CITY OF CHELAN’S PROS (PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE) PLAN AND THE OPEN SPACE VISION TO PRIORITIZE PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND PARK EXPANSION**

- Improve pedestrian and bike access in local parks and between Chelan and Manson
- Improve facilities in existing parks—including possible year-round recreation center or amphitheater

**A.4 USE THE OPEN SPACE VISION TO INFORM DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TRAILS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE FOOTHILLS**

- Work with local health providers to develop a prescription trails program

**A.5 EXPLORE NONACQUISITION STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE COMMUNITY GOALS**

- Use the Open Space Vision as a starting point to work with landowners and land managers on best management practices
- Promote Low Impact Development (LID) in areas where development is appropriate
- Work to expand green infrastructure

## TABLE 8. LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION: IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS

### What and How

#### A.6 DEVELOP EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP OF LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE

- Develop signage about good stewardship in outdoor areas that people are already visiting
- Develop an outreach program and encourage an open space guardian program for local schools
- Assemble materials and train volunteers to do outreach at local schools with a focus on youth engagement
- Host programs and presentations at local church groups and schools to engage diverse audiences
- Focus on how implementing the plan can improve community health
- Host a “Water Quality Education Night” for how each household and landowner can keep the lake clean
- Provide educational materials at boat launch areas, boat stores, and boating events to promote milfoil control

#### A.8 SUPPORT WATER QUALITY MONITORING FOR THE LAKE

- Ensure regular water quality monitoring
- Make water quality data easily accessible to the public
- Use water quality data to inform local policies that affect potential contaminants
- Encourage developers to monitor water quality impacts
- Work with USDA/NRCS to get funding for monitoring of agricultural drainage and runoff
- Increase monitoring of milfoil and other aquatic invasive species

#### A.9 PROMOTE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE LAKE POLLUTION

- Require use of oil/water separators and bilge socks
- Give away sewage dye tablets at boat launches and pump stations
- Encourage testing of old septic systems

### B. CREATE STRUCTURE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN SPACE VISION

#### B.1 CREATE A CORE TEAM TO LEAD AND TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN SPACE VISION

- Hold quarterly meetings to strategize and track implementation
- Continue to engage local non-profits and agencies in developing strategies to protect highest priority areas
- Involve ag students at local colleges to get involved in the project planning and implementation

#### B.2 UPDATE OPEN SPACE VISION DATA ANNUALLY FOR TWO YEARS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

- Ensure that information about data sources is thorough and easily available to facilitate updates



**TABLE 8. LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE VISION: IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS**

**What and How**

C. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES OR ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE OPEN SPACE VISION

C.1 WORK WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING FOR PRIORITY ACQUISITIONS (AND STEWARDSHIP) AND TO INVESTIGATE LOCAL FINANCING STRATEGIES

C.2 IDENTIFY POTENTIAL INCENTIVES TO ASSIST LANDOWNERS WITH VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION

C.3 CREATE A SUB-COMMITTEE THAT WILL BE DEDICATED TO FINDING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND WRITING GRANTS



BECCA EDIGER

Love this view

# 7. Conclusion

**THE LAKE CHELAN AREA HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER,** from its four-season recreation opportunities and beautiful landscapes to its stunning lake and friendly small-town culture. It's no wonder that the area is attracting more and more new residents and tourists. With population growth and increasing tourism come pressure on local resources – and potential threats to the unique places that make the area so desirable in the first place.

Residents and visitors told us loud and clear that protecting the lake and expanding shoreline access are top priorities. We also heard that the communal gathering spaces provided by existing local parks are central to local

quality of life. Because there is already so much pressure on existing parks, Chelan and Manson need to find creative ways to expand parks and other opportunities for open space access.

This plan serves as a road map for balancing growth and open space protection. By trying to steer new development away from the highest-priority areas, communities will have the opportunity to foster economic development, while protecting the special places that reflect Lake Chelan's history and are critical to its future.



ERIC RODRIGUEZ

Beautiful Fall in Chelan

# Appendix 1: Participants

TABLE 9. INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization
Barry DePaoli	Superintendent of Lake Chelan School District
Clint Campbell	Campbell's Resort
Diane Priebe	BLM recreation planner
Doug England	Chelan County Commissioner
Gary Sterner	
Guy Evans	Lake Chelan Trails Alliance
Karen Sargeant	Chelan Parks and Recreation Department
Larry Hibbard	
Manuel Navarro	Columbia Valley Community Health
Mayor Mike Cooney	City of Chelan
Mike Steele	Chelan Chamber of Commerce
Nicole Campbell	Executive Director, Lake Chelan Wine Valley
Paul Schmidt	former City of Chelan administrator
Peri Gallucci	City of Chelan
Rachel Goldie	City of Chelan Parks Advisory Board
Russ McLellan	designated broker
Steve Milner	Washington State Parks Recreation Commission
Ted Schroth	The Lookout at Lake Chelan
Tim Larson	Chelan Public Utility District
Wai Petersen	Director of Manson Parks
Wendy Isenhardt	Chelan City Council

**TABLE 10. TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM**

Name	Organization
Coron Polley	Lake Chelan Recreation Development Foundation
Dave Volson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gary Sterner	
Graham Simon	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ken Dull	Roll and Flow Trail Design
Paul Heffernan	Chelan County Department of Natural Resources
Paul Willard	U.S. Forest Service
Phil Long	Lake Chelan Research Institute
Richard Finger	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ron Fox	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tim Hollingsworth	Pinnacle Surveying, Chelan City Council
Von Pope	Chelan Public Utility District

**TABLE 11. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Adrienne Truex	All Points GIS	Carson Bowlin	Heartland
Alene Underwood	Chelan Public Utility District	Catherine Bray	
Amy McNamara	The Trust for Public Land	Chelan Basin Conservancy	
Amy Morris	The Trust for Public Land	Cheryl Roenig	
Andrew Fielding		Chris Snapp	Bear Mountain Ranch landowner
Ann Congdon	Chelan Public Utility District Commissioner	Chrissy Pepino	The Trust for Public Land
Ann Welz	The Trust for Public Land	Clint Campbell	Campbell's Resort
Anne Brooks	Earth Day Fair	Connie Coopersmith	
Art Campbell	Campbell's Resort	Coron Polley	Lake Chelan Recreation Development Foundation
Arthur Zul		Craig Gildroy	City of Chelan
Barbara Steurer		Curt Soper	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Barry DePaoli	Lake Chelan School District	Dan Holmes	US Castings
Bill Crego	City of Chelan Parks Advisory Board	David Morgan	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Bob and Sylvia Gervais		Dennis Evans	Dennis Evans Orchards LLC
Bob Jankelson		Dennis Rahm	
Brad Harn	Chelan County	Diane Priebe	Bureau of Land Management
Brian Patnode	Washington State Parks	Don and Jane Lloyd	
Bruce Hurst		Don Barth	Bear Mountain Golf Course
Butch Wiese		Doug England	Chelan County
Carmen Bagdon	Re/Max Real Estate, outdoor recreation	Dr. Charles Waszkewitz	Lake Chelan Community Hospital

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TABLE 11. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Erin McCardle	City of Chelan	Joanie Bankson	
Garth Donald	Chelan Parks Board	John Owens	
Gary and Leslie Myers		John Page Jr.	
Gerry Ustanik	Mountain View Lodge	John R. Olson	
Gary Sterner		Judy Dai	Manson Chamber
Graham Simon	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Julianne Fleischman	
Greg Donald		Julie Pitsinger	ChelanMan, Karma Winery
Guy Evans	Lake Chelan Trails Alliance	Karen Sargeant	City of Chelan
Hank Lewis	Chelan County Community Development	Karen Stermitz	
Hanne Beener	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Kari Grover-Wier	U.S. Forest Service-Chelan Ranger District
Hillary Schwirtlich	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Kathy Peven	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Jan Ellis		Keith Truscott	Chelan Public Utility District
Jane Vaccaro		Kelly Allen	City of Chelan
Jason Doten		Ken Dull	Roll and Flow Trail Design
Jeff Canty		Kermit McClellan	Chelan County
Jessie Simmons	Historic Downtown Chelan Association	Kim Ustanik	Mountain View Lodge/Manson
Jillian Foster	Go Lake Chelan	Kris Pomianek	Chelan Public Utility District
Jillian Reiner	SCJ Alliance	Larry Bradley	City of Chelan Parks Advisory Board
Jim Fankheuser		Larry Day	
Jim Tuttle		Larry Hibbard	Hibbard Architecture

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TABLE 11. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Leslie Myers		Mike Steele	Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce
Linda Fankheuser		Mike Williams	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Linda Parlette	Washington State, 12th Legislative District	Mitchel Hannon	The Trust for Public Land
Luke Evans		Morgan Pieton	
Lynette Grandy		Nicole Pietromonaco, Campbell	Lake Chelan Wine Alliance
Manuel Navarro	Columbia Valley Community Health	Paul Heffernan	Chelan County Natural Resource Department
Marilyn Clements		Paul Willard	US Forest Service
Mary Pat Schofield	Bear Mountain Ranch	Peri Gallucci	City of Chelan
Mary Shevor		Phil Long	Lake Chelan Research Institute
Merick Hill		Phil Moller	Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce
Merrilee Canty		Rachael Goldie	City of Chelan Parks Advisory Board
Michael Williams	Department of Natural Resources	Ray Heit	Chelan Public Utility District
Michelle Smith	Chelan Public Utility District	Reggie Collins	Chelan Fruit
Mickey Fleming	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Rev. Sylvia (and Stanley) Dabney	
Mike Cooney	City of Chelan	Rich Watson	Financial/CVCH Board
Mike Coopersmith		Richard Uhlhorn	Go Lake Chelan
Mike Jackson	City of Chelan	Rick and Wendy Kozuback	
Mike Kaputa	Chelan County Natural Resources	Rick Mauseth	

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TABLE 11. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Rob Campbell	Manson Parks	Sherry Palmiter	
Robert Bordner	Slidewaters	Stacy Luckensmeyer	Wenatchee Valley College
Robert Fifer		Stephen Jiran	
Robin Pittman	Manson Parks	Steve Boudun	
Rod Anderson	Lake Chelan Reclamation District	Steve Clark	
Ron Coulter	Chelan Hills Homeowner Association	Steve Easley	
Ron Fox	Washington Department Fish and Wildlife	Steve Goodfellow	Goodfellow Brothers
Rose Olcott		Steve Kline	
Rosemary Mouer	Morgen Owings Elementary	Steve Milner	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Russ McClellan	Lake Chelan Realtor Association	Steve Vaughn	Chelan Public Utility District
Ruth Ann Mikels		Sue Crinklaw	Manson Community Council
Ryan Layton	State Parks Northwestern Region	Tammy Lee Hauge	Chelan Basin Conservancy
Ryan Robinson	City of Chelan Parks Advisory Board	Ted Schroth	The Lookout at Lake Chelan
Scott McKellar	Sunset Marina	Tim Bankson	
Servando Robledo	City of Chelan	Tim Hellingsart	City of Chelan
Seth Christian		Tim Hollingsworth	City of Chelan
Shannon Nyquist	Earth Day Fair	Tim Larson	Chelan Public Utility District

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TABLE 11. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Todd Welker	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Von Pope	Chelan Public Utility District
Tom Campbell	Campbell's Resort	Wai Tim Peterson	Manson Parks and Recreation District
Trina Bayard	Audubon	Wendy Isenhardt	City of Chelan
Dr. Ty Witt	City of Chelan	Zach Johnson	Mirror
Vivian Mannon	Saddle Club		

# Notes

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THE  
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