



# Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan

November 14, 2019

# Agenda

- Why an HCP?
- Overview of Bush Prairie HCP
  - Permit Area
  - Covered Species
  - Covered Activities
- Public engagement Opportunities
- Questions & comments



## What is an HCP?

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- Facilitates compliance with the endangered species act
- Results in permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for select activities over a define period of time
- Includes an analysis of how activities may impact listed species and creates a conservation program to mitigate those impacts

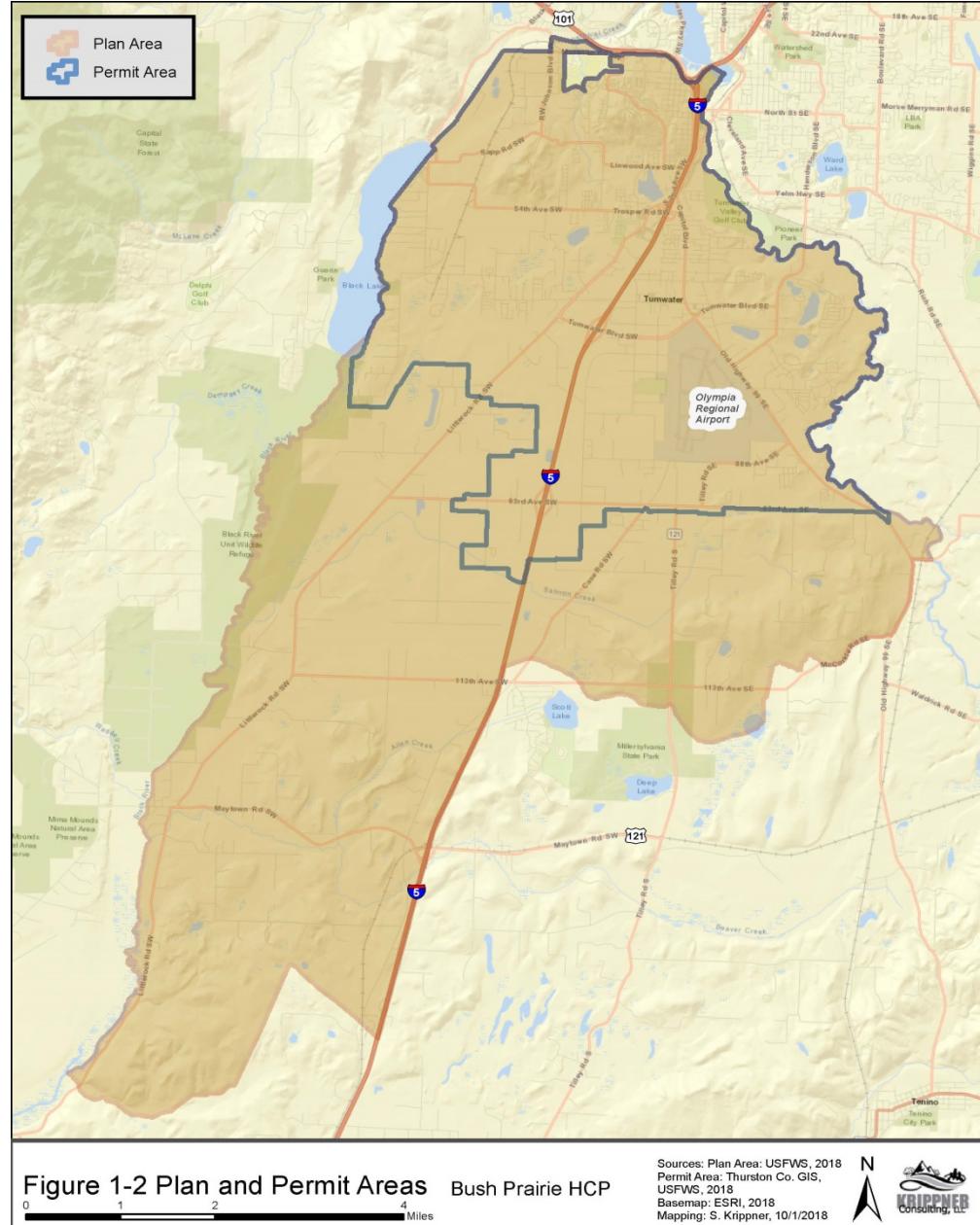
## Why an HCP?

- Mazama pocket gopher was listed as threatened in 2014
- The range of the Olympia pocket gopher (subspecies) overlaps with the City of Tumwater UGA
- Many urban and commercial activities that occur in the City of Tumwater, including those conducted by the Port of Olympia, have the potential to impact gophers
- Permits are needed for those projects

## HCP Funding

- Federal grant monies were received in 2018 to support the completion of an HCP
- Section 6 grant funds are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but are administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Work began under that grant in October 2018
- HCP is being pursued by the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia

# Plan Area & Permit Area



**Permit Area =**  
City of Tumwater  
and its urban  
growth area, west  
of the Deschutes  
River

**Plan Area =**  
Olympia Pocket  
Gopher Range

# Covered Activities Criteria

- Activities must meet all six criteria
  1. Control: City or Port will perform or issue a permit for the activity
  2. Location: Activity is within Permit Area
  3. Timing: Activity is during 30-year permit term
  4. Impact: There is a reasonable risk of take
  5. Definition: Activity is defined well enough to assess its impacts on the species
  6. Practicable: More feasible to include the activity in the HCP than to not do so

# Covered Activities

## City of Tumwater

- Residential and Commercial Development Projects
- Agricultural Development Projects
- Facilities Operations and Maintenance
- Conservation Strategy Implementation



# Covered Activities Port of Olympia

- Aeronautical activities are under the authority of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Include capital improvements as well as operations and maintenance
- Capital improvements identified in *Olympia Regional Airport Master Plan*

# Covered Species

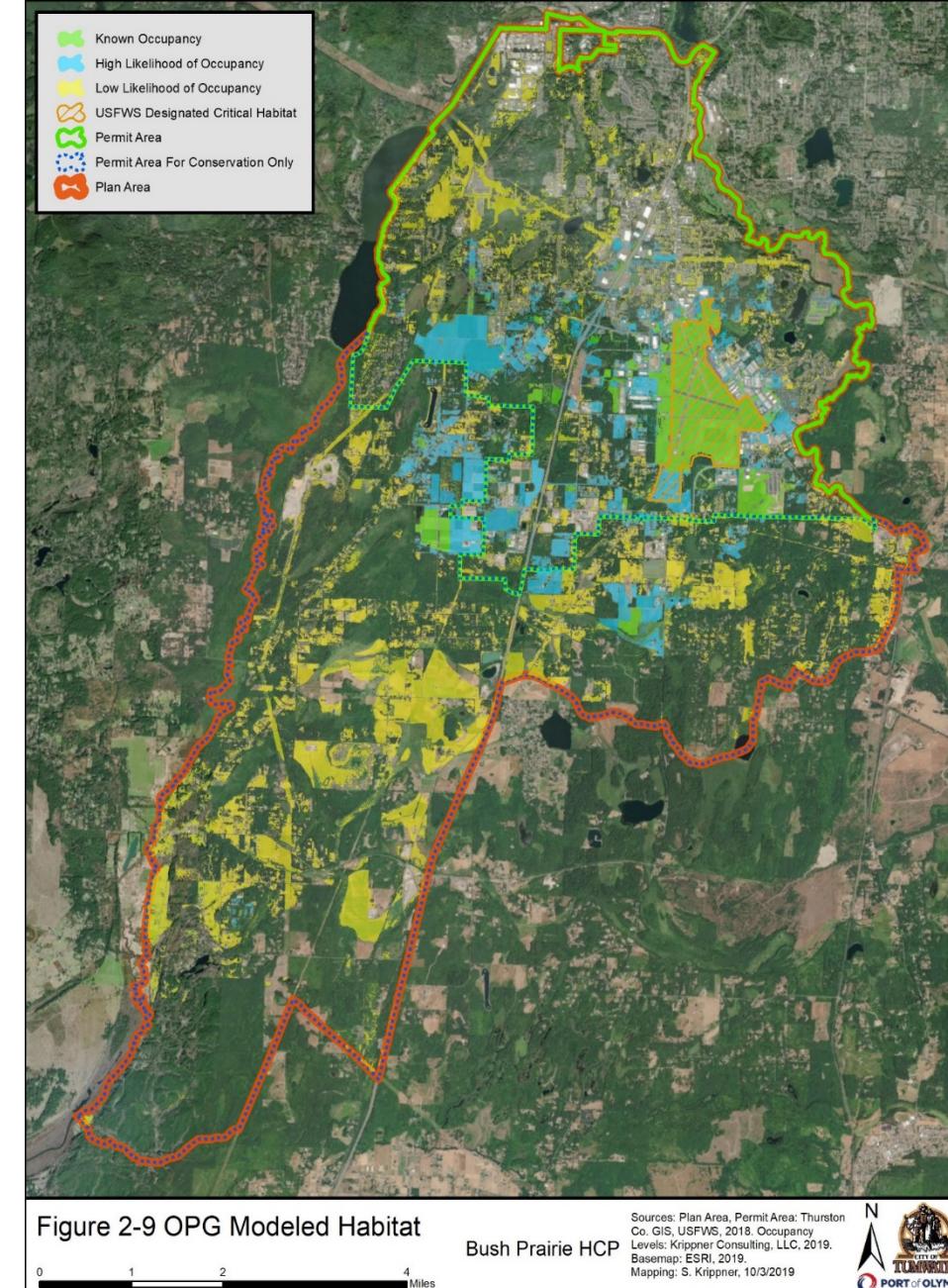
Covered Species	Federal Listing Status	State Listing Status
Olympia pocket gopher	Threatened	Threatened
Oregon spotted frog	Threatened	Endangered
Oregon vesper sparrow	Under Review	Species of Concern
Streaked horned lark	Threatened	Endangered



## Work in Progress

- Developing current understanding of covered species distribution
- Working with USFWS and WDFW to refine that information
- Estimating potential effects on covered species from covered activities
- Starting to develop implementation strategy

# Draft Covered Species Habitat



# Draft Covered Species Habitat

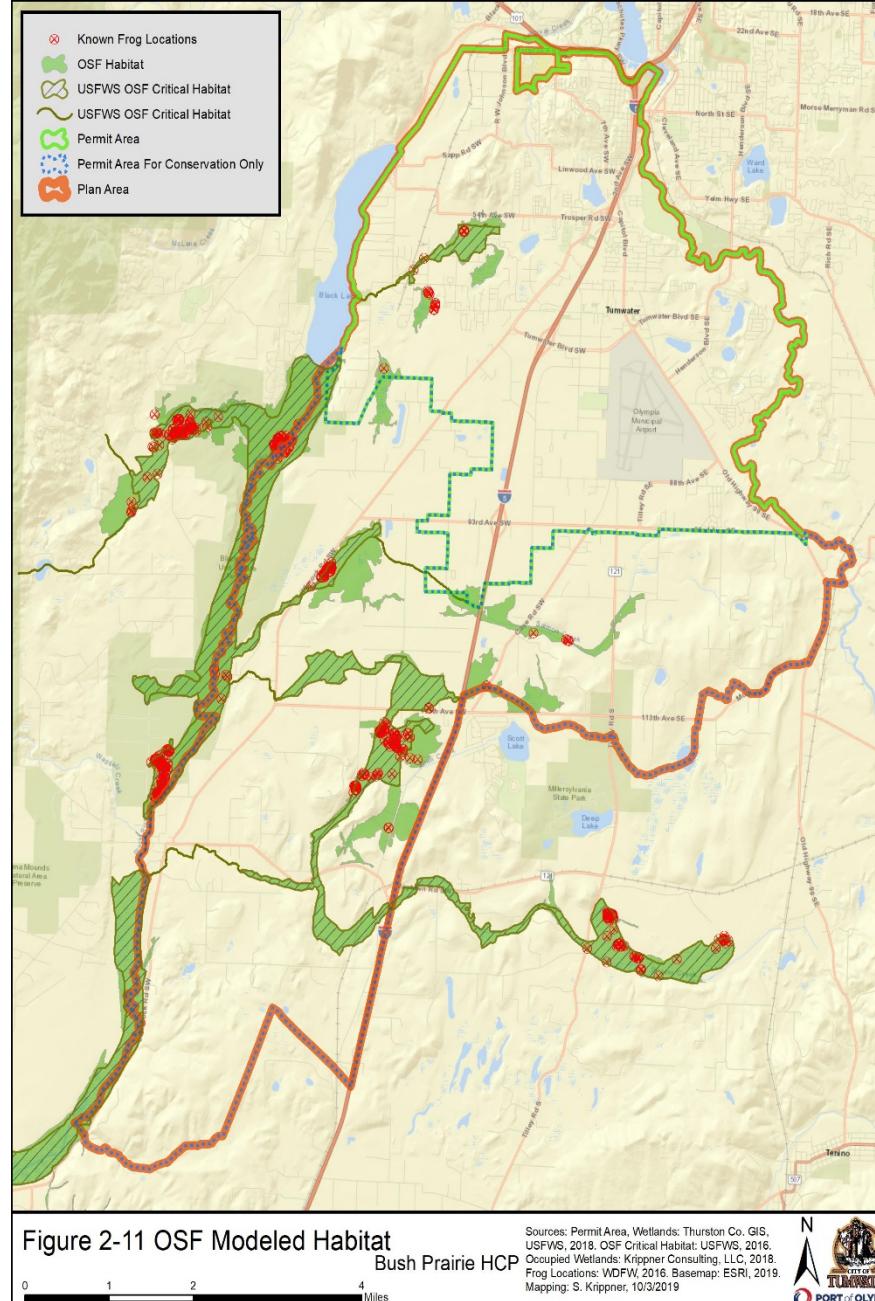


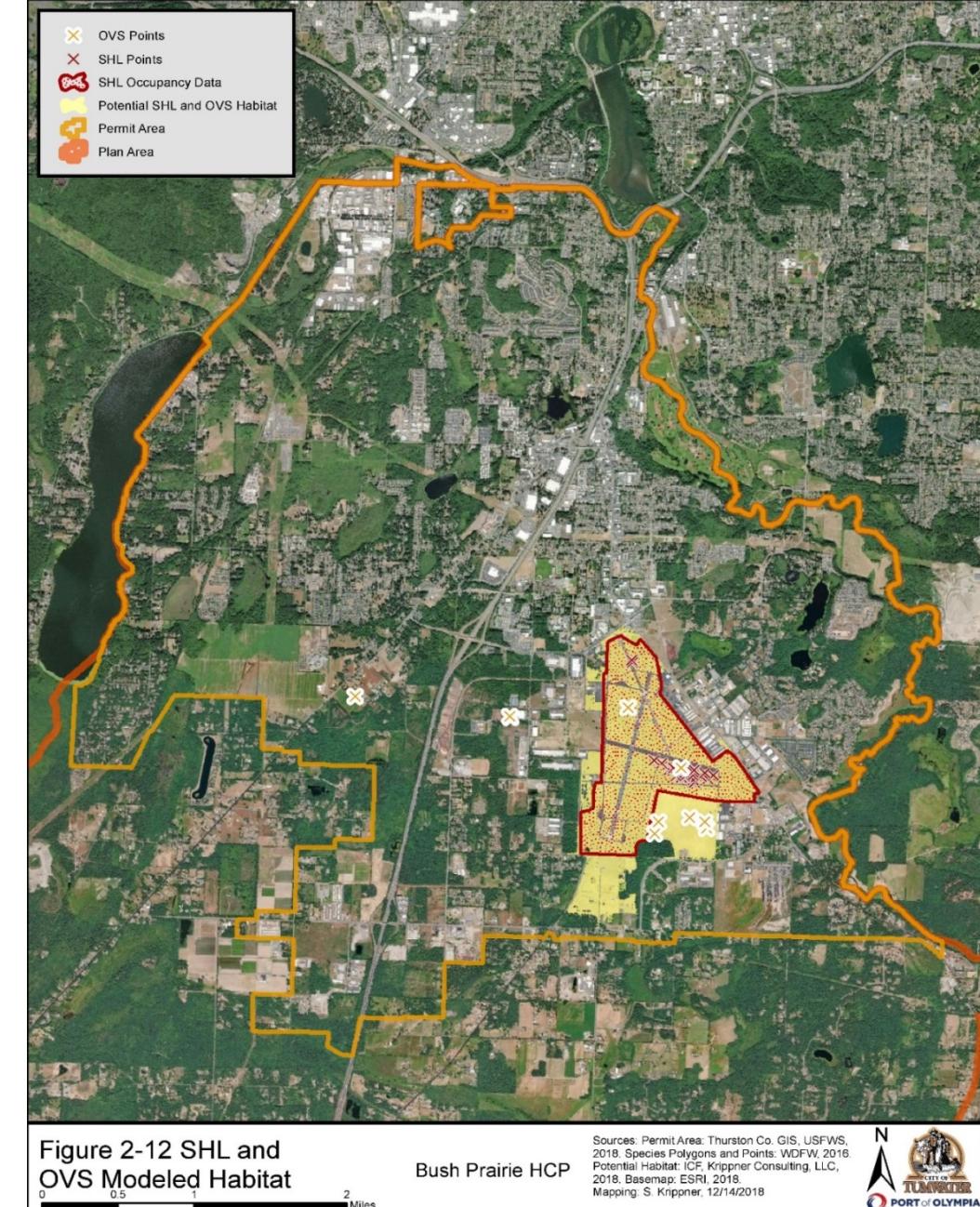
Figure 2-11 OSF Modeled Habitat

Bush Prairie HCP  
Sources: Permit Area, Wetlands: Thurston Co. GIS, USFWS, 2018; OSF Critical Habitat: USFWS, 2016; Occupied Wetlands: Krippen Consulting, LLC, 2018; Frog Locations: WDFW, 2016; Basemap: ESRI, 2019. Mapping: S. Krippen, 10/3/2019.



# Draft Covered Species Habitat

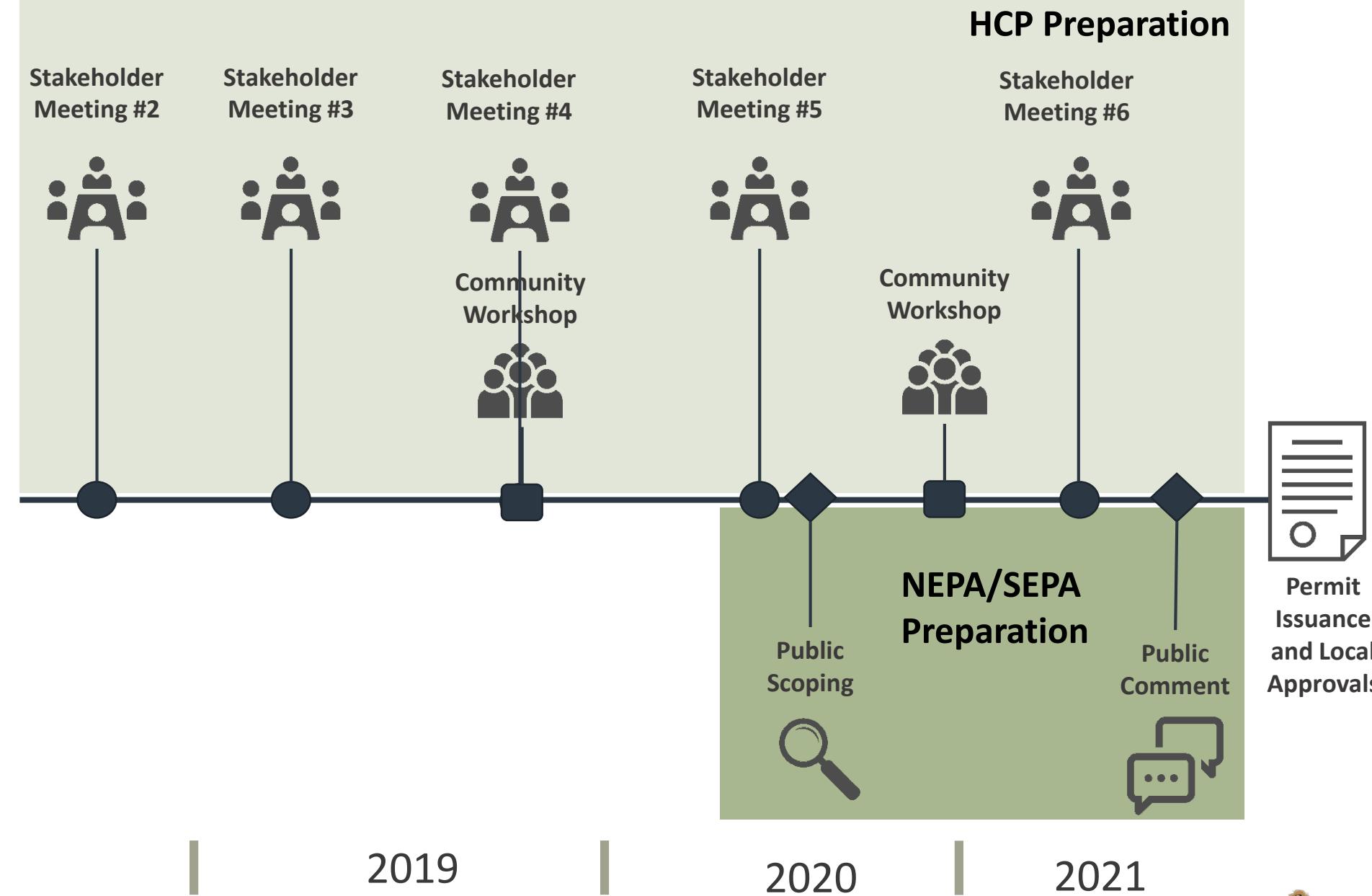
- Used known occurrences
- Included adjacent lands with short grassland vegetation



# Public Engagement

- Hosted four stakeholder meetings to date
- Have several more planned during the HCP preparation process
- Will also have Community Meetings
  - Now
  - Throughout 2020
- Public review process during NEPA and SEPA

# Timeline



2019

2020

2021



Troy Rahmig  
ICF

Bush Prairie HCP Website:  
[www.bushprairiehcp.org](http://www.bushprairiehcp.org)

Questions