



# Chehalis Basin Strategy

Challenges and Opportunities

# The Chehalis Basin



# A fertile region...



...With extreme flooding







# An abundant river basin



# An abundant river basin



Most diverse basin in Washington for amphibians

# Aquatic species are struggling

- Habitat for salmon has been degraded by over 80 percent
- Spring-run Chinook population could be extinct by end of century

# A strategy is in the works....



# Chehalis Basin Strategy

# What's happening now?

Currently \$23 million  
in state funding for  
local projects,

Just a first set of  
actions,

The aim is to work on  
a basin-wide scale.



# Evaluating options

- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Evaluates potential effects – positive and negative



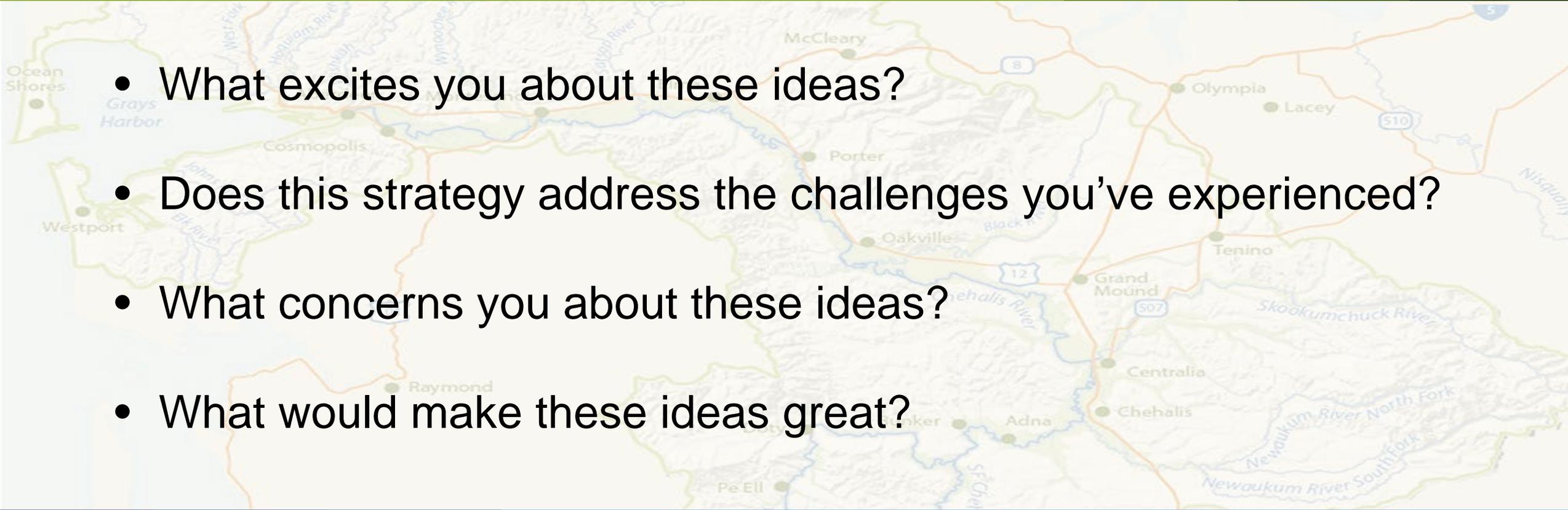
Chehalis Basin Strategy

# It's a big, comprehensive strategy



# Think about...

- What excites you about these ideas?
- Does this strategy address the challenges you've experienced?
- What concerns you about these ideas?
- What would make these ideas great?



## Chehalis Basin Strategy

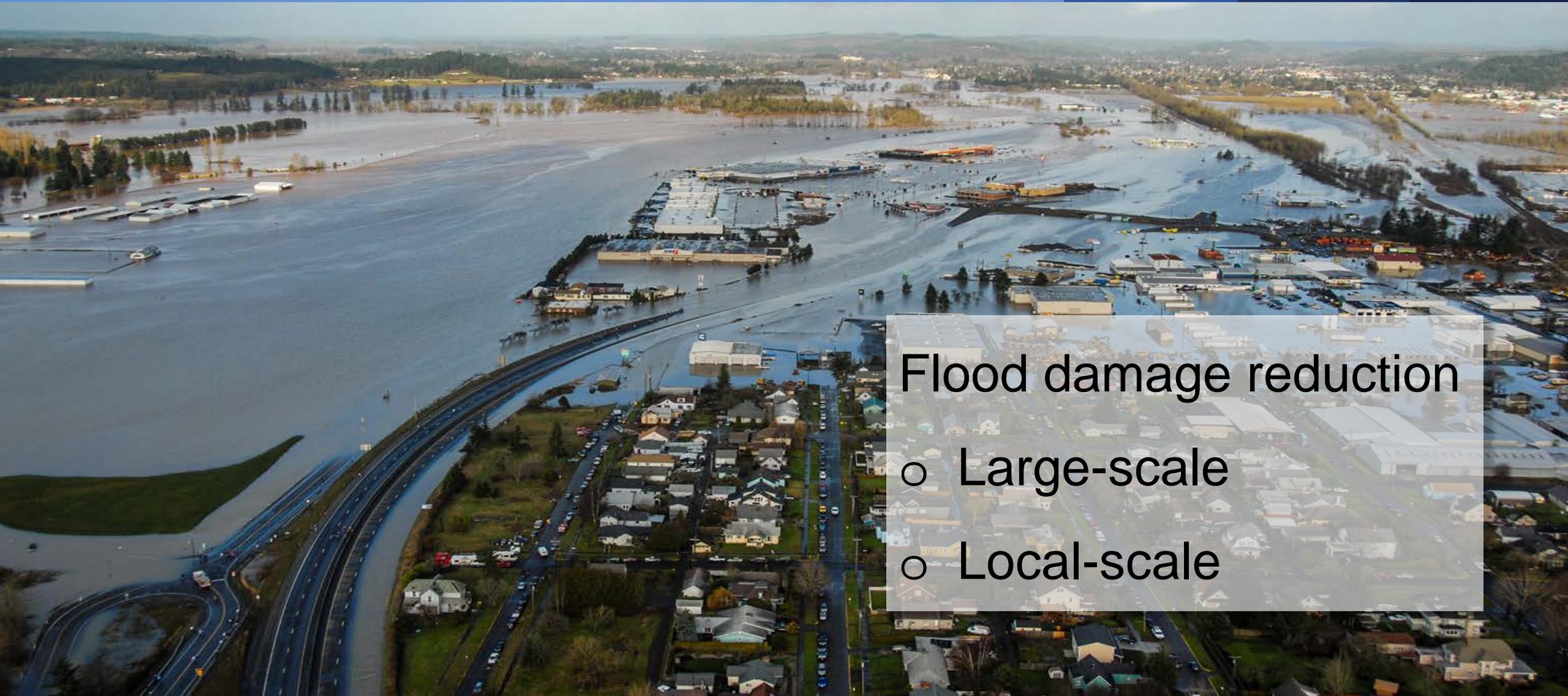
# Actions being considered



Habitat restoration

Flood damage reduction

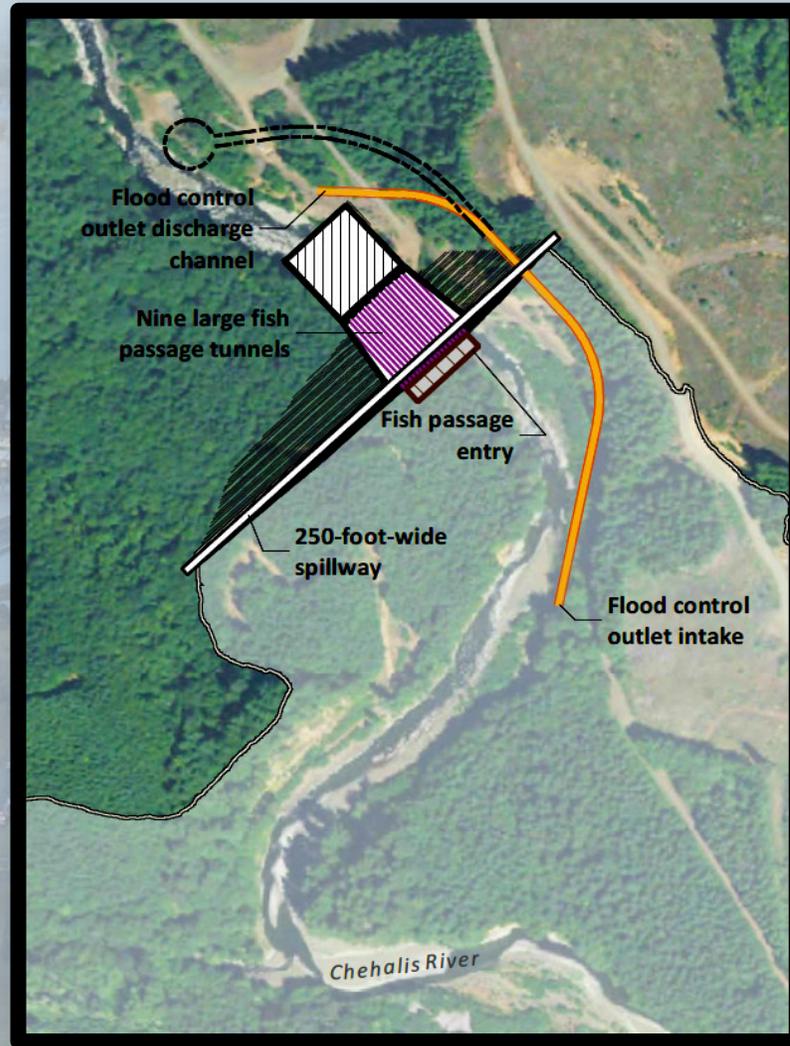
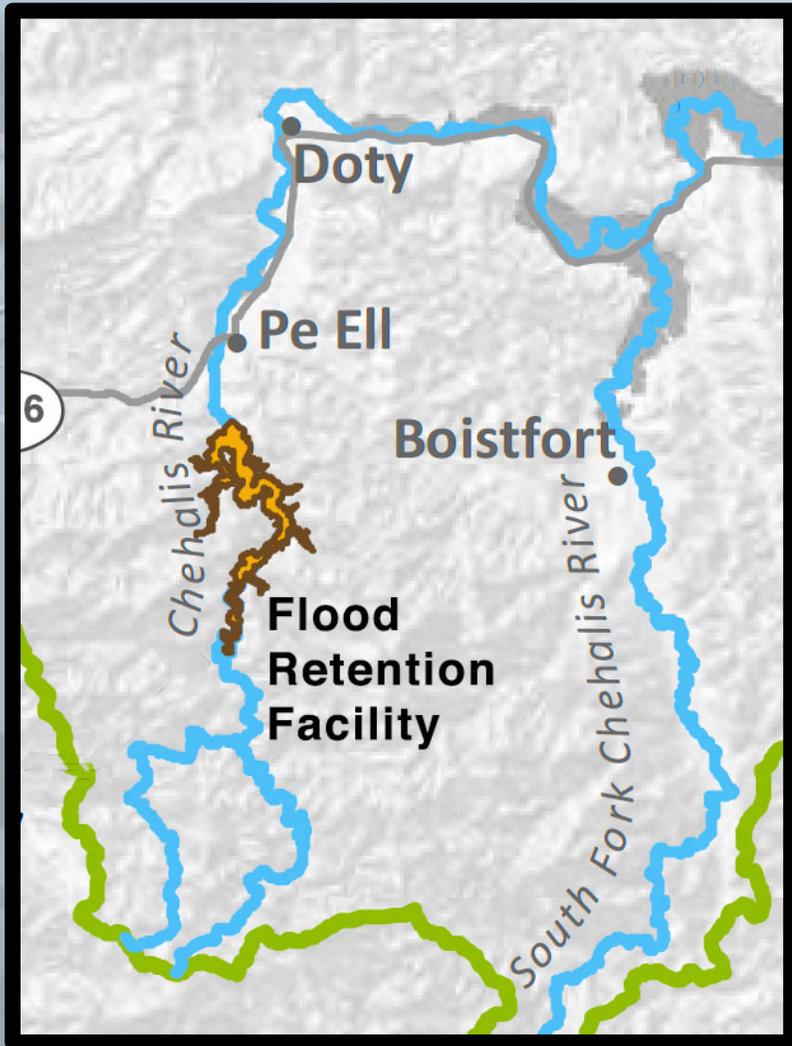
# Flood damage reduction



Flood damage reduction

- Large-scale
- Local-scale

# Large scale actions



Flood  
Retention  
Facility,  
(Dam)

# Large scale actions

- I-5 projects
- Levees



# Large scale actions



Restorative flood protection

# Local actions



Farm Pads



Raising structures,  
building walls

# Local scale actions

- Land use management
- Improved early warning system

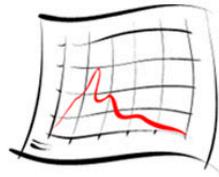
## Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System



Weather Forecast



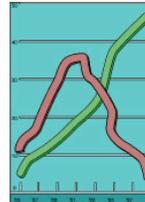
Rainfall Forecast



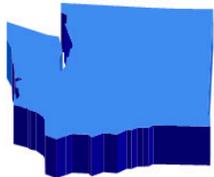
River Forecast



Flood Maps



Gage Data Graphs



Gage Data Maps



Chehalis Flood Authority



Road Conditions



USGS Gages



Question?

# Aquatic Species Restoration



Basin wide scale: Over 100 miles of restoration

# Local restoration actions



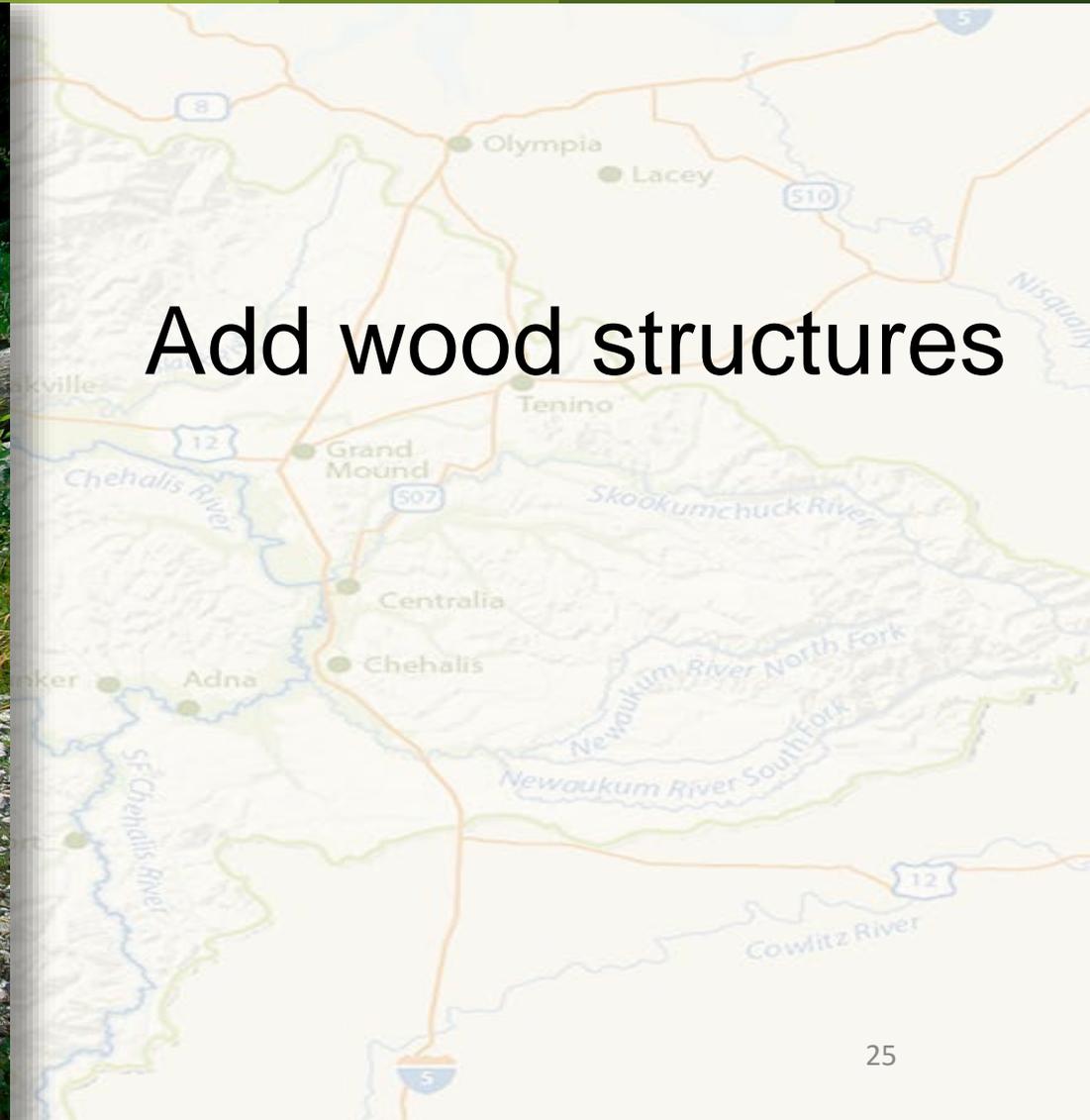
Restore habitat

# Local restoration actions



Bank restoration and reduce bank erosion

# Local restoration actions



# Local restoration actions



Remove and improve fish passage barriers

# Local restoration actions

Reconnect the  
floodplain



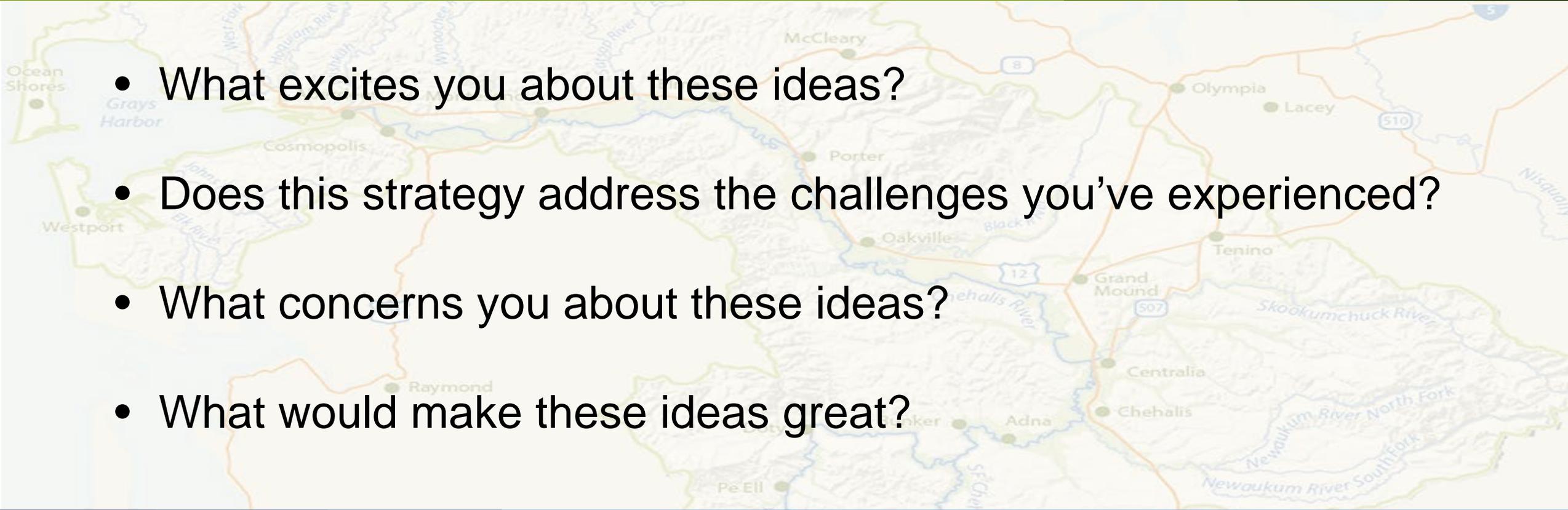
# No action?



# What's coming up?

- Draft EIS released in the fall
- Governor Inslee and legislature will recommend what actions move forward at the end of the year
- Final EIS and decision released in spring 2017
- Outreach and conversations throughout

# What could this mean for you?

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- What excites you about these ideas?
  - Does this strategy address the challenges you've experienced?
  - What concerns you about these ideas?
  - What would make these ideas great?

## Chehalis Basin Strategy

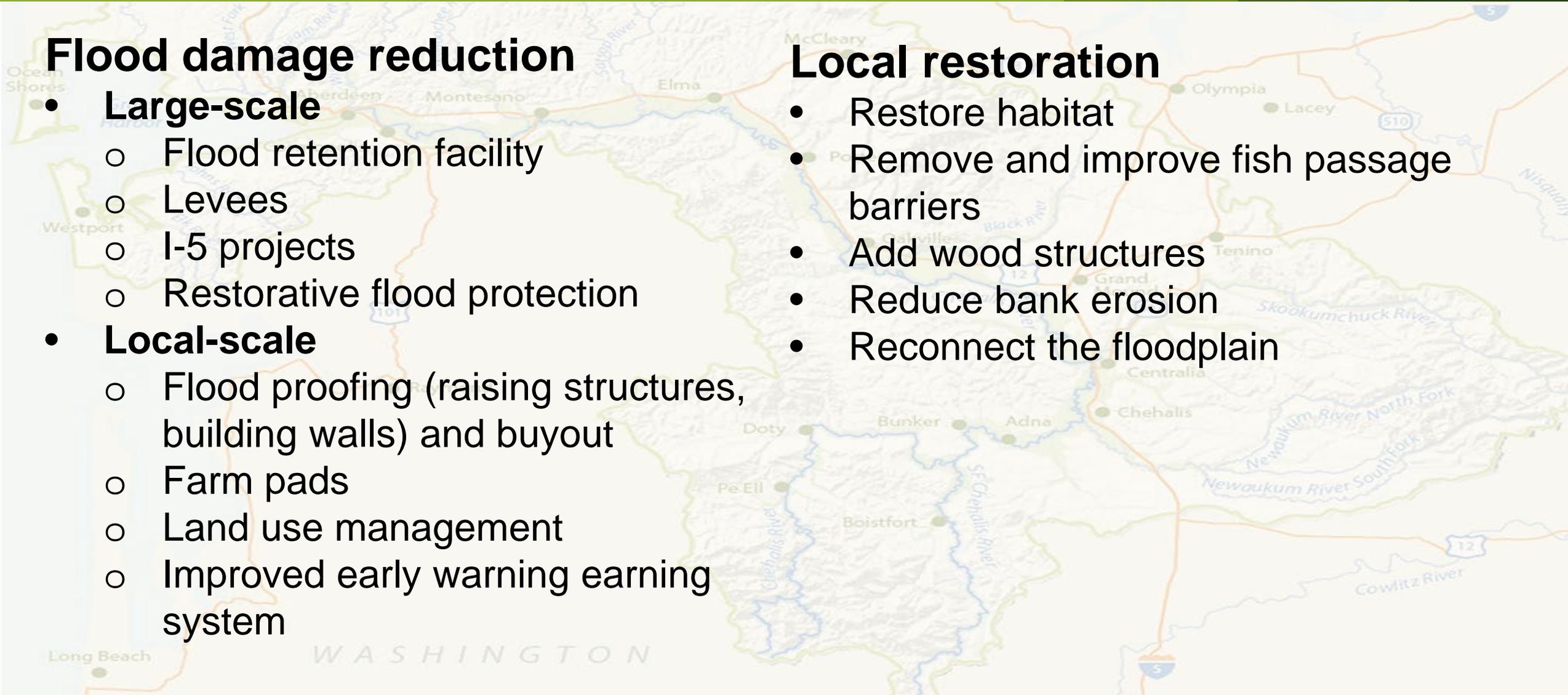
# Actions being considered

## Flood damage reduction

- **Large-scale**
  - Flood retention facility
  - Levees
  - I-5 projects
  - Restorative flood protection
- **Local-scale**
  - Flood proofing (raising structures, building walls) and buyout
  - Farm pads
  - Land use management
  - Improved early warning earning system

## Local restoration

- Restore habitat
- Remove and improve fish passage barriers
- Add wood structures
- Reduce bank erosion
- Reconnect the floodplain



# Thank you!



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