

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. The canopy is thick and textured. In the center of the image, a person wearing a yellow shirt and dark pants is visible, standing on a path or clearing. The text "Jetty Creek Watershed" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally.

Jetty Creek Watershed

10/17/2025

Forest Advisory Committee

AGENDA

- Review ownership terminology
- Review Draft Purpose and Goals
- Review Proposed Policy Categories
- Review Management Zone Approach
- Next Steps



How to refer to the property:

*“The City of Rockaway Beach’s
fee simple ownership in the
Jetty Creek Watershed”*

Draft Purposes and Goals



**PROVIDE RELIABLE
QUANTITIES OF HIGH-
QUALITY DRINKING WATER.**



**BUILD LONG-TERM FOREST
RESILIENCE THROUGH
STEWARDSHIP THAT
PROMOTES SPECIES
DIVERSITY AND
STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY
WHILE MITIGATING RISKS
FROM FIRE AND OTHER
DISTURBANCES.**



**FOSTER COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND
STEWARDSHIP THROUGH
RECREATION AND
EDUCATION.**



**SUPPORT AND ENHANCE
HABITAT FOR NATIVE
WILDLIFE, CONSISTENT
WITH DRINKING WATER
OBJECTIVES.**



**ENSURE LONG-TERM
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
BY MANAGING THE FOREST
TO MINIMIZE WATER
TREATMENT COSTS AND
OPTIMIZE OPERATIONAL
EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE
CITY'S BUDGET.**

1. Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water

The City of Rockaway Beach fee simple ownership in the Jetty Creek watershed includes roughly 52% of the drinking water source area. A combination of steep slopes, erodible soils, roads, and past management practices has resulted in concerns around high turbidity throughout the watershed, which could drive up water treatment costs. All management practices will prioritize protecting and improving both the quality and quantity of source water, now and in the future. This includes mitigating impacts from sediment, nutrients, temperature fluctuations, large-scale disturbances such as pest outbreaks, and human activities. Additionally, forest structure and stand composition significantly affect low-flow and peak-flow conditions—factors that are becoming increasingly critical as weather patterns grow more unpredictable due to climate change.

2. Build long-term forest resilience through stewardship that promotes species diversity and structural complexity while mitigating risks from fire and other disturbances.

Diverse and complex forests have a higher capacity to store and filter water, as well as greater ecological resilience in the face of disturbance and climate change. Forest stewardship will align with natural ecological processes to accelerate the forest's ability to provide essential ecosystem services. Policies relating to harvest, stream protection, and invasive species management all aim to support natural forest processes while preparing for a future with greater variability and severity of disturbances.

3. Foster community engagement and stewardship through recreation and education.

The city-owned property provides valuable aesthetic, recreational, and cultural value to the Rockaway Beach community, supporting activities from hiking and wildlife viewing to education. Management actions will balance encouraging public access and a sense of place with minimizing human impacts on water quality.

4. Support and enhance habitat for native wildlife, consistent with drinking water objectives.

The Jetty Creek watershed provides important habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. The mosaic of forest stand characteristics on the city-owned property currently supports adequate habitat with significant potential for future improvement. Steep slopes and large riparian buffers have created natural barriers to harvest, resulting in de facto reserve areas across the property. Over time, managing for historical forest succession patterns will restore habitat conditions that have become increasingly rare on the Northern Oregon Coast.

5. Ensure long-term financial sustainability by managing the forest to minimize water treatment costs and optimize operational efficiency within the City's budget.

Active management of the city-owned property plays a dual role in maintaining forest health and funding ongoing stewardship costs, with direct impacts on water affordability for the community. Timber sale revenue supports property maintenance activities that simultaneously protect source water quality and provide living wages to local contractors. By integrating active management with source water protection and climate resilience, the property serves as a public model for sustainable forestry that delivers both ecological and economic benefits.

Policy Categories



**FOREST
STEWARDSHIP**



STREAM BUFFERS



**ROAD
MAINTENANCE**

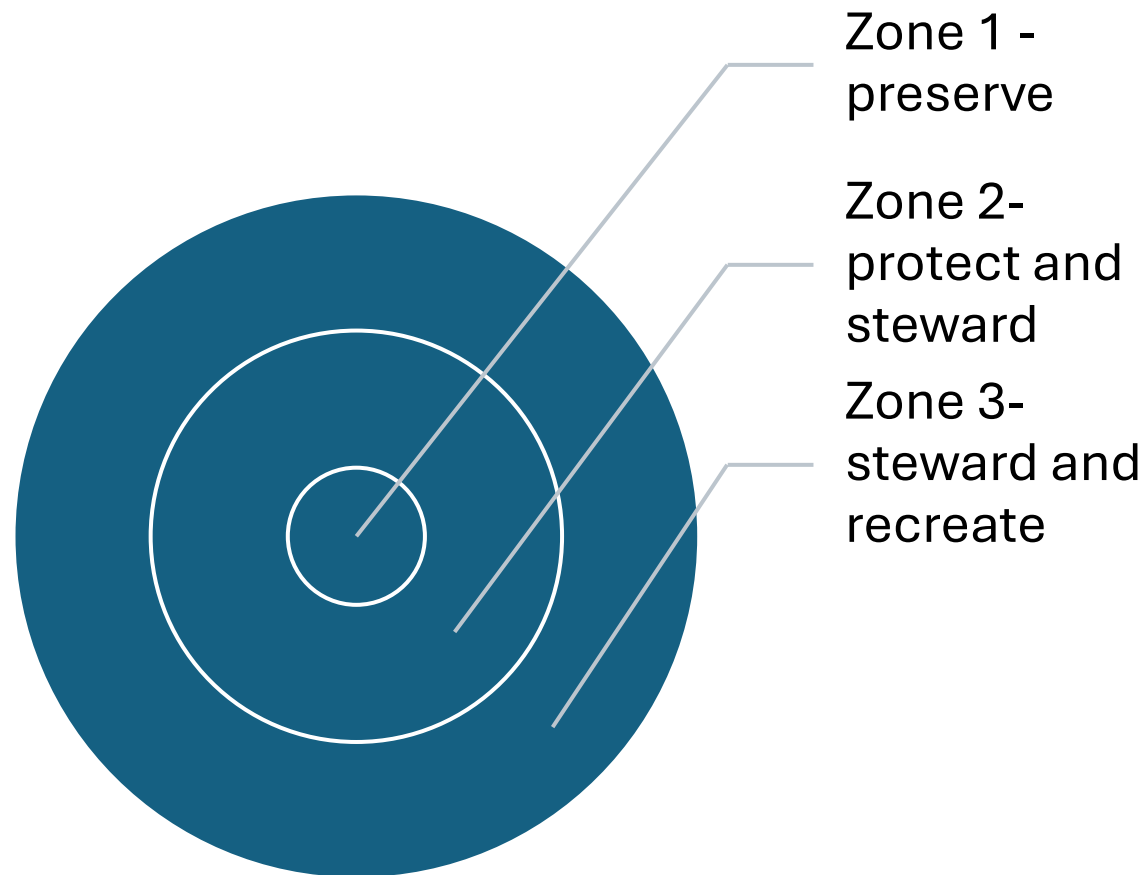


**INVASIVE
SPECIES AND
CHEMICAL USE**

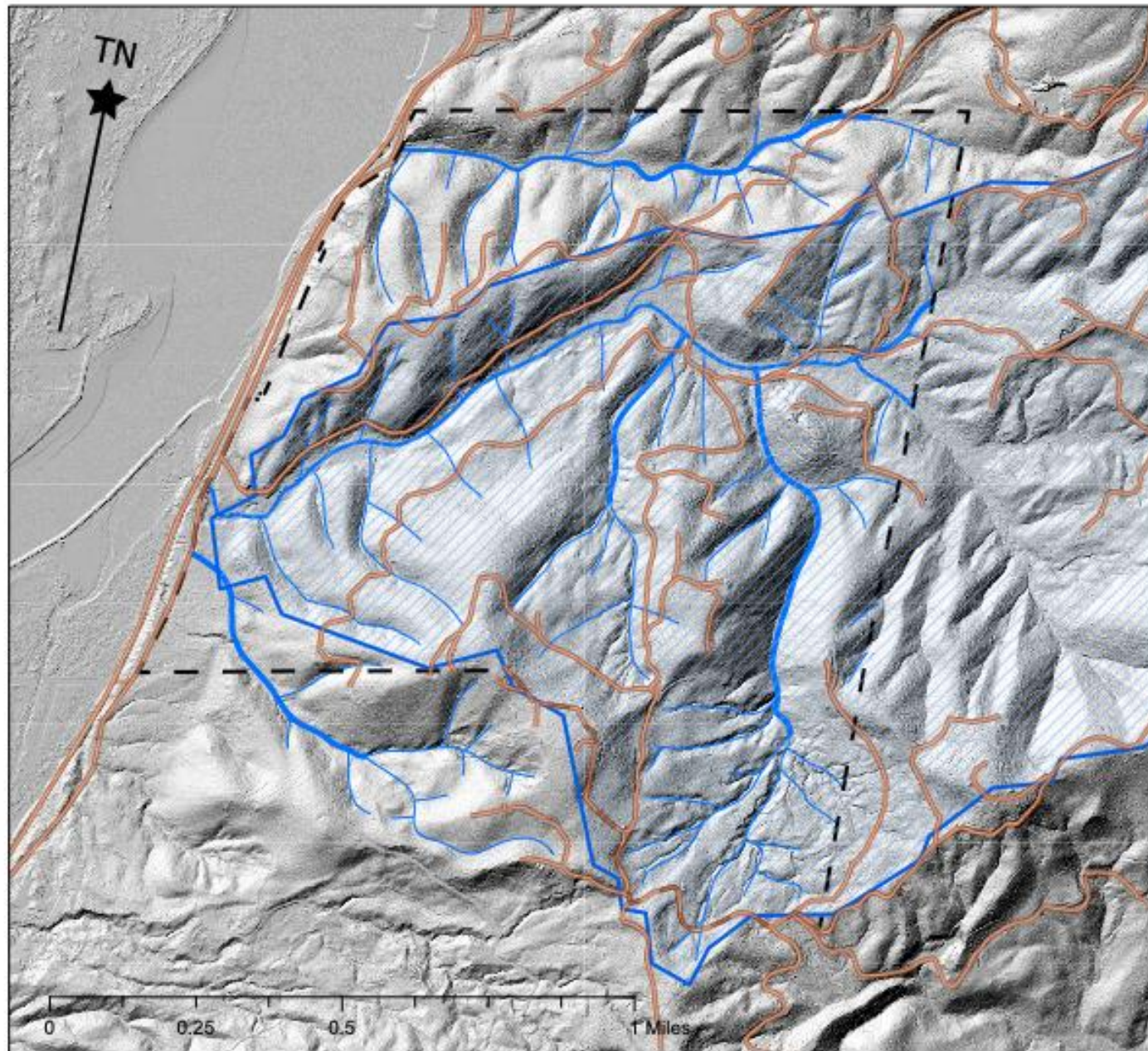


**RECREATION AND
PUBLIC ACCESS**

Management Zones



Jetty Creek Watershed - DWSA



Legend

- Roads
- Watershed Boundary
- CORB Proposed Purchase

Stream Class

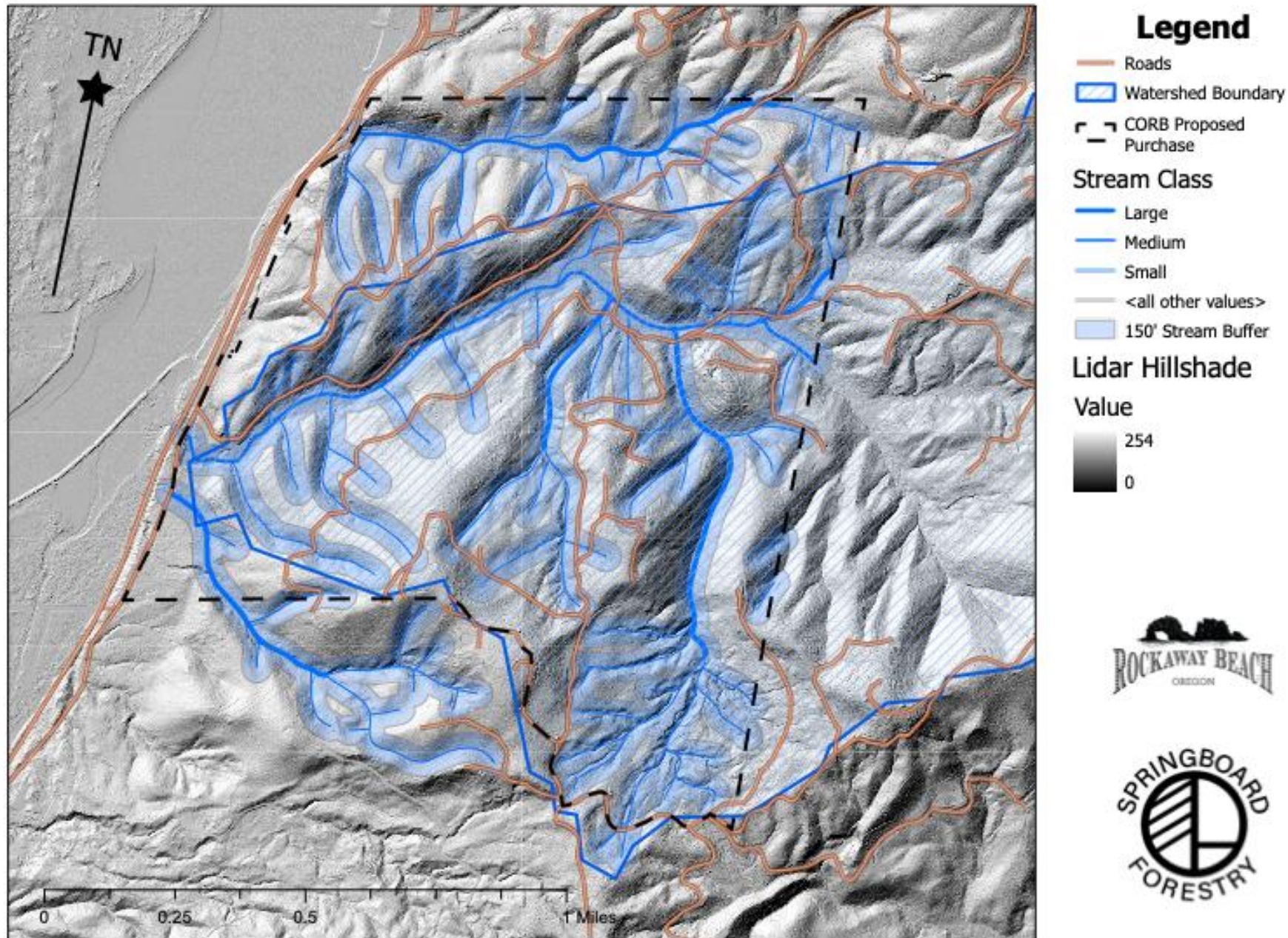
- Large
- Medium
- Small
- <all other values>

Lidar Hillshade

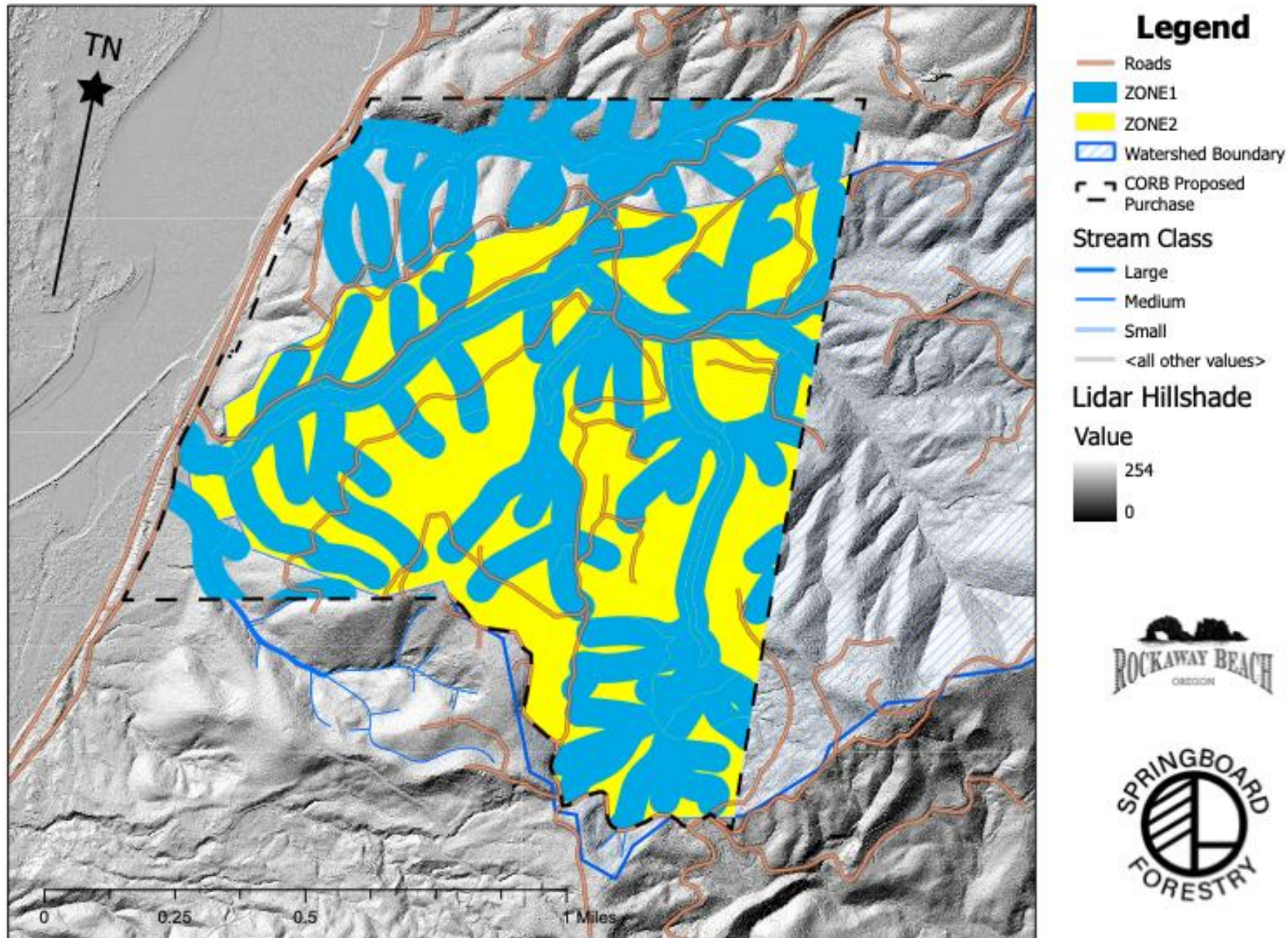
Value



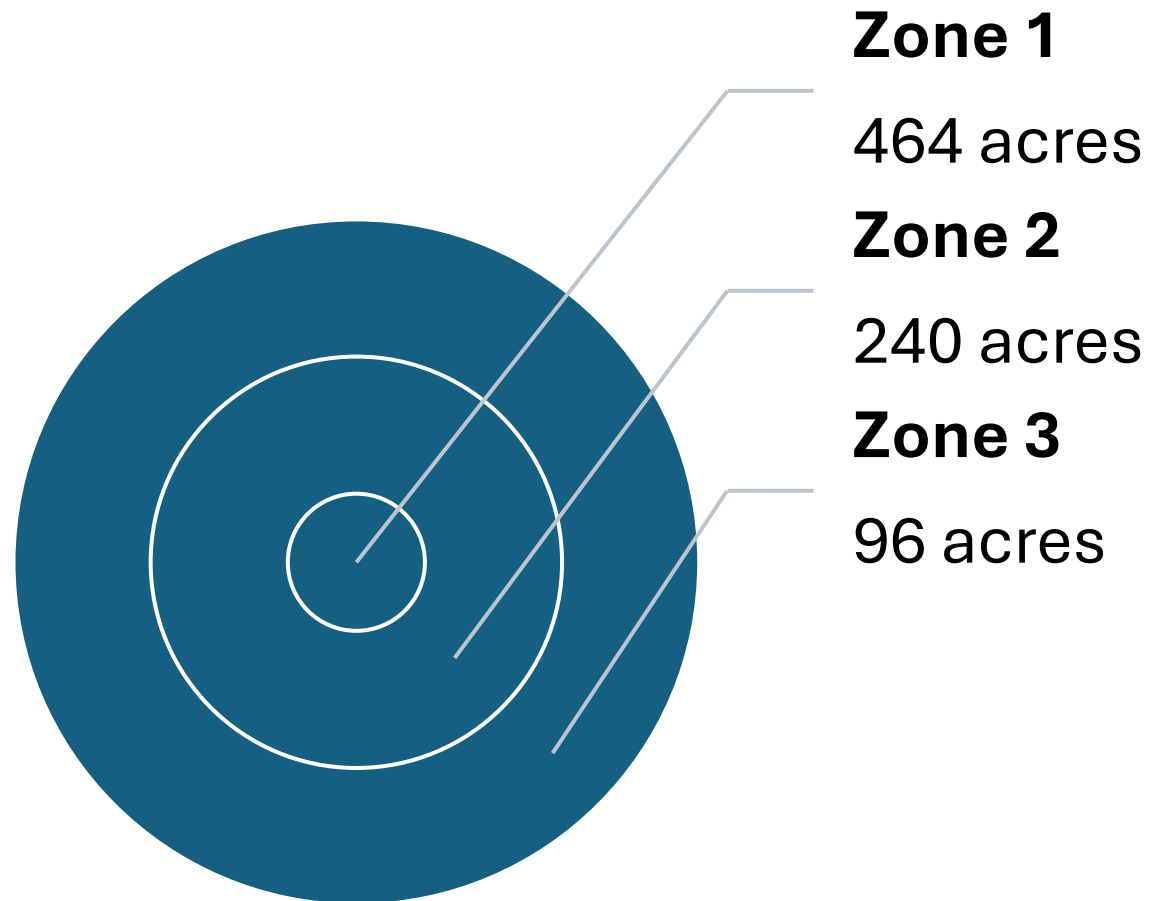
Jetty Creek Watershed - 150' Stream Buffers



Jetty Creek Watershed - Management Zones



Management Zones



DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

BEN HAYES
ben@springboardforestry.com