

# LOPEZ ISLAND

## Preserves and Conservation Easements

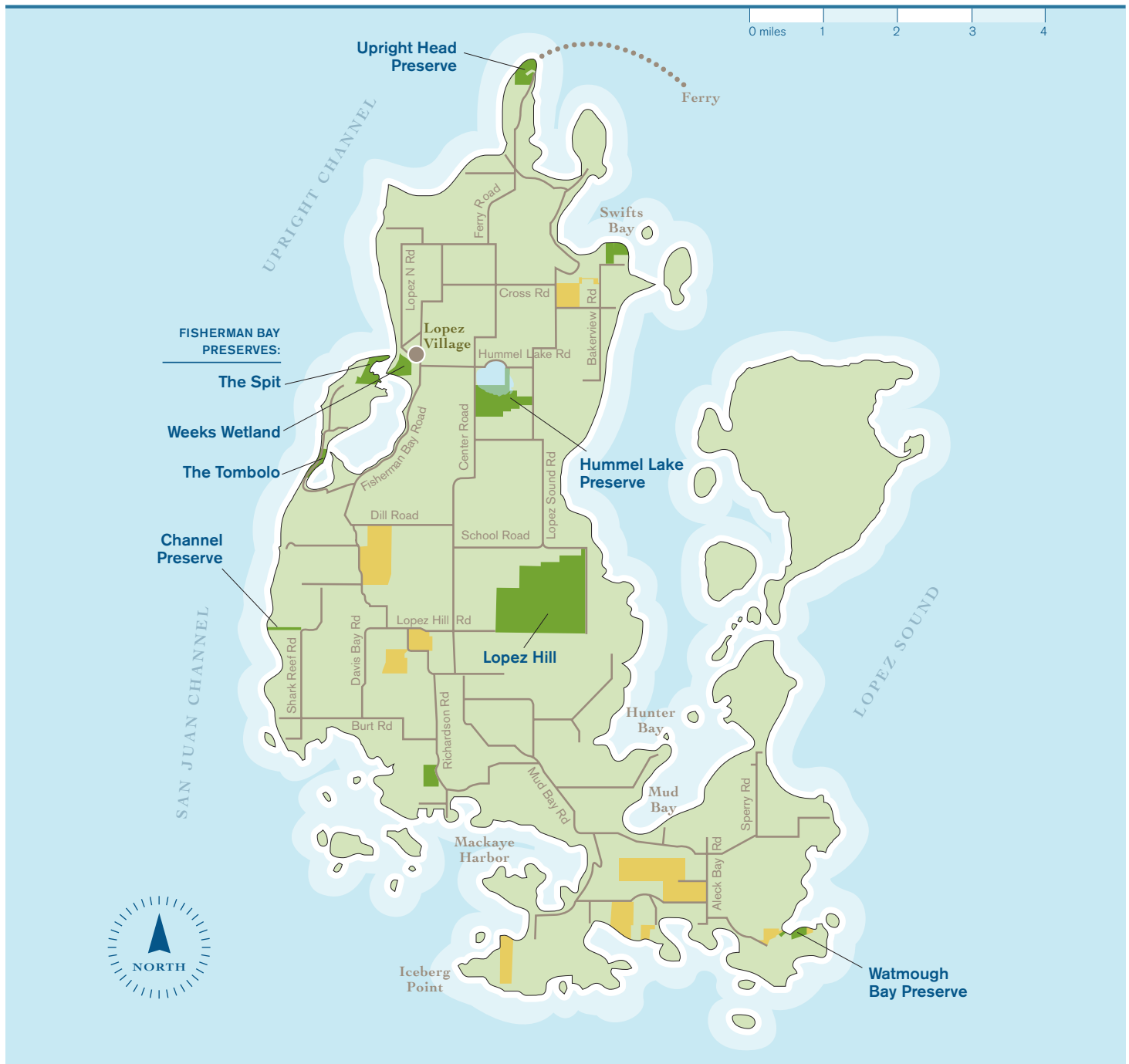
**Labeled properties** provide daytime public access for low impact recreation.

**When you visit:** • Stay on designated trails • Daytime and pedestrian use only,  
unless otherwise marked • Leash your dog • Take nothing • Leave nothing.

360-378-4402

[www.sjclandbank.org](http://www.sjclandbank.org)

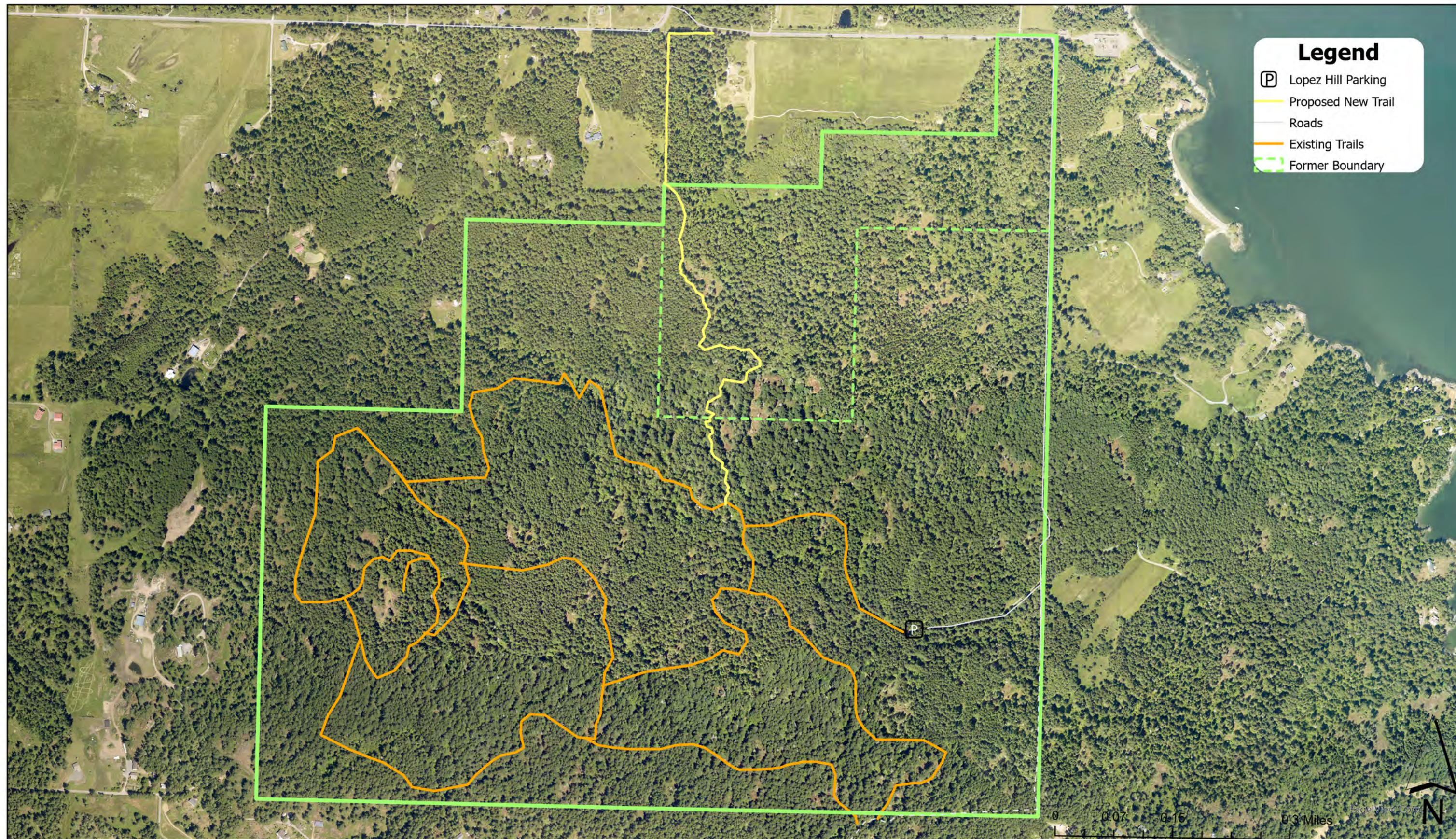
[sjclandbank@sjclandbank.org](mailto:sjclandbank@sjclandbank.org)



**Preserves** are properties that the Land Bank owns outright.

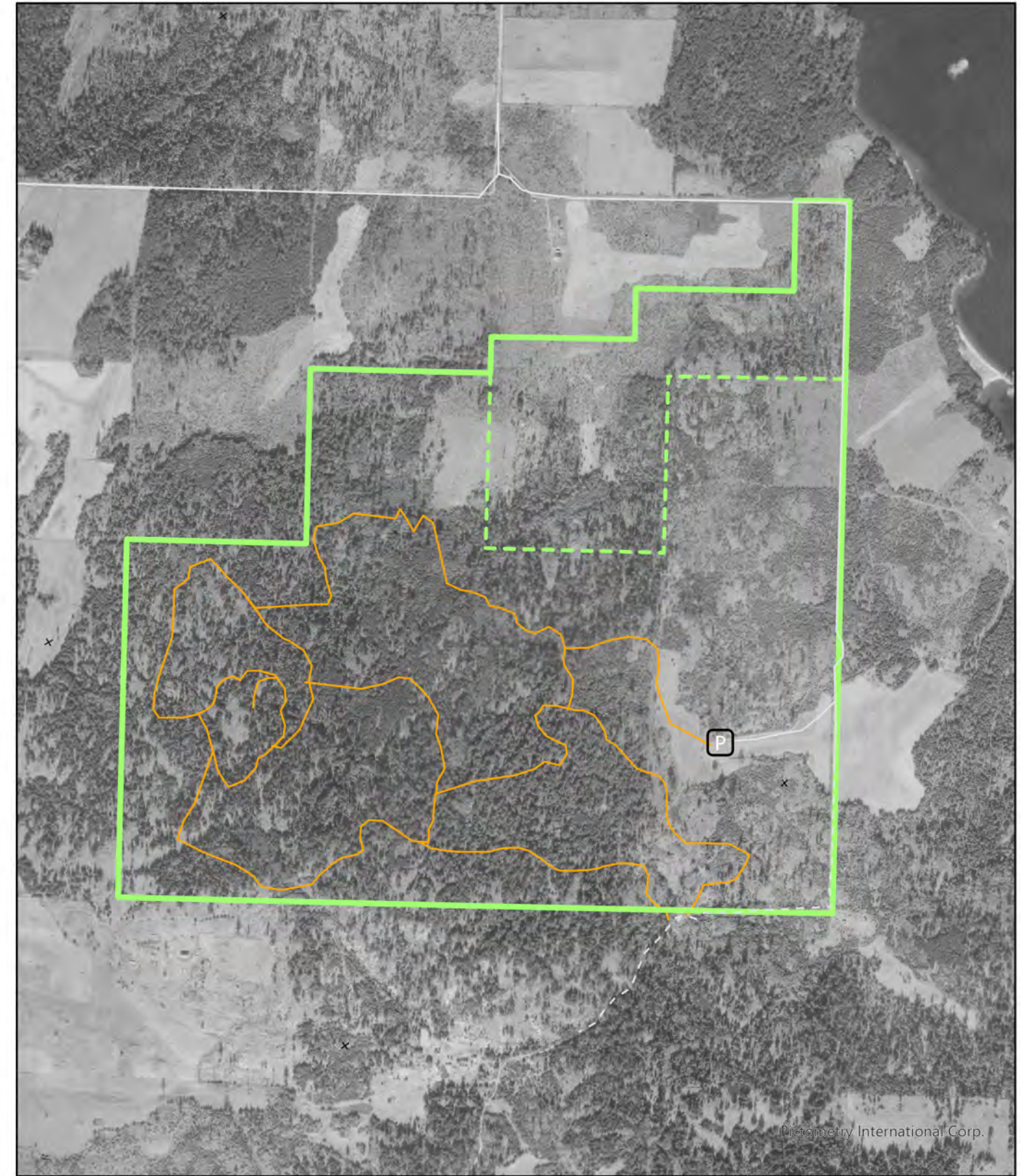
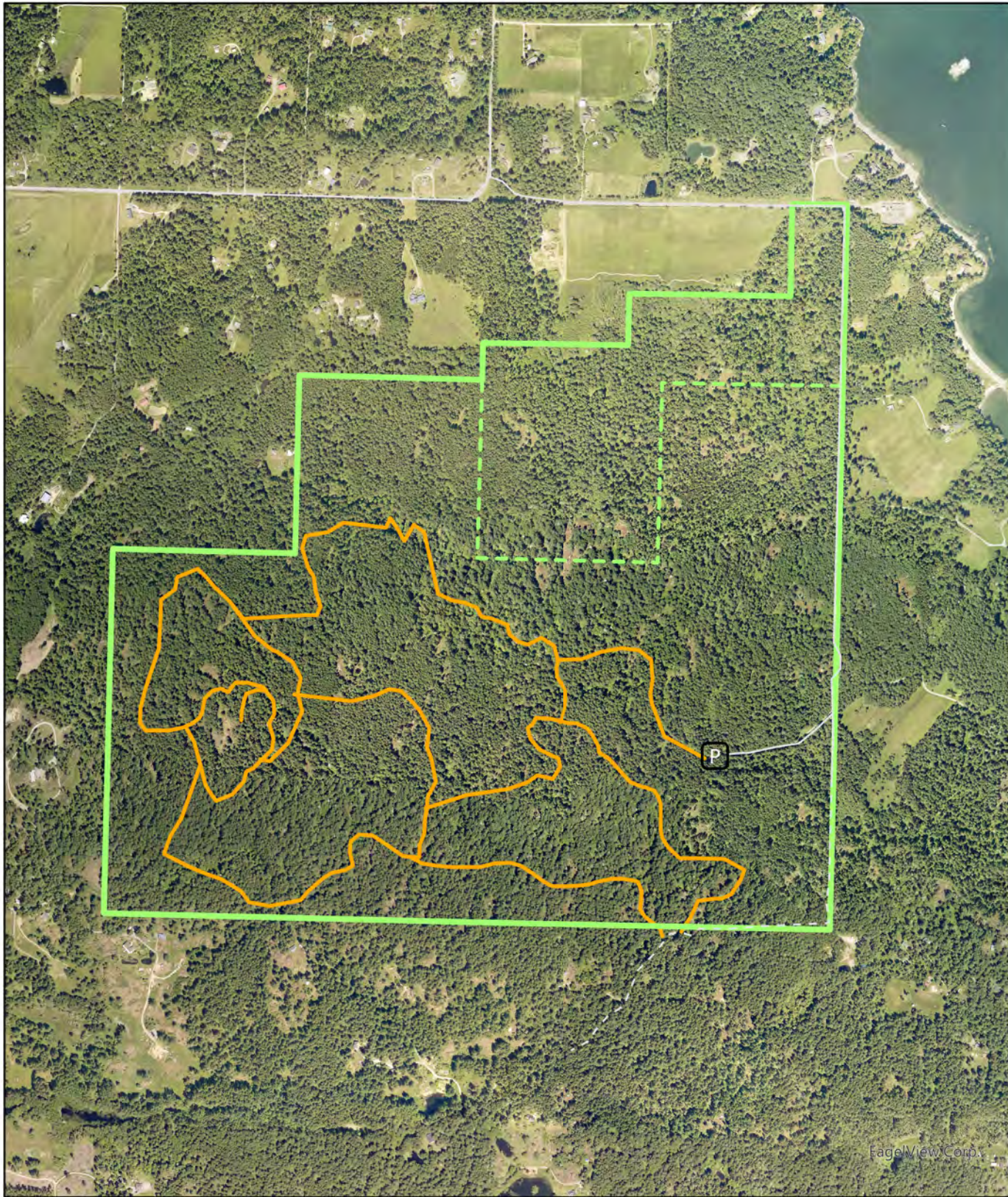
**Conservation / Historic Preservation Easements** are privately owned and legally bound to preserve conservation values such as farmland, natural areas, or open space. Easements do not provide public access, unless otherwise noted.





# Lopez Hill Preserve





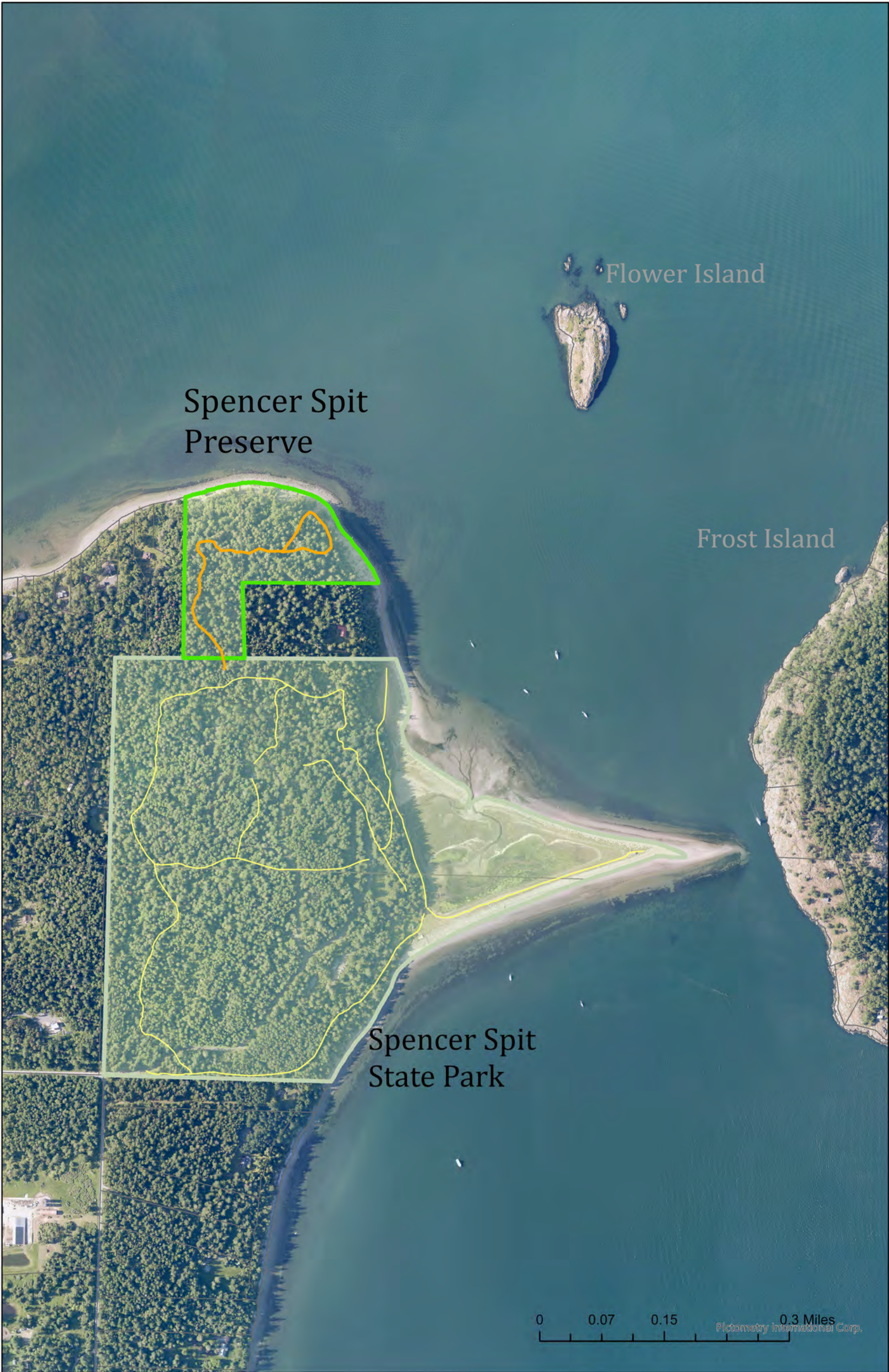
Lopez Hill Aerial Imagery 2022 (left) 1932 (right)



# Richardson Marsh Preserve Proposed Land Use







**Legend**

- Proposed Trail
- Existing Trails

# Spencer Spit Preserve Site Context





**Legend**

- Proposed Trail
- Existing Trails

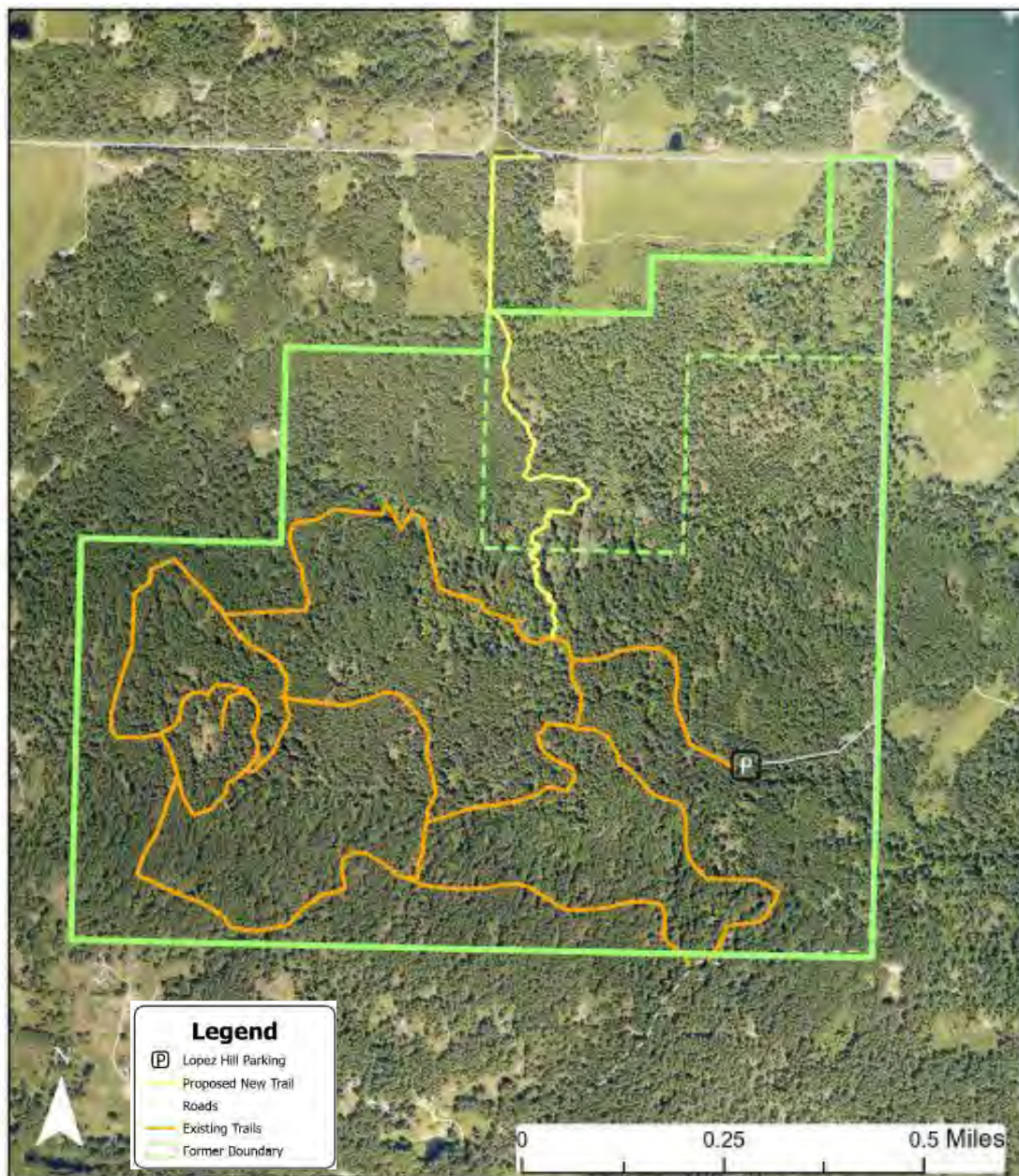
# Spencer Spit Preserve Proposed Trail



## Lopez Hill Preserve Scoping Input for Revised Stewardship and Management Plan

Over a decade of conservation efforts have led to the protection and expansion of the 475-acre Lopez Hill Preserve. The Preserve's forests, wetlands, and rocky bald habitats support a diversity of plant and wildlife species. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians share the Preserve's five miles of trails.

The current Stewardship and Management Plan, originally written in 2010, will be updated to include the lease purchase in 2018, additional 75 acres purchased in 2021 with a conservation easement with the San Juan Preservation Trust, and proposes building a new one-mile trail.



## **Lopez Hill Preserve Scoping Input for Revised Stewardship and Management Plan**

These questions are a starting point for giving feedback and we welcome further input.

1. The Lopez Hill Stewardship and Management Plan was written in 2010. Some elements identified in the plan include protection of environmental resources through rerouting trails from wetlands and rocky balds, continuing recreational access for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, limited duration deer hunting, and installation of directional signage.

What changes, if any, do you think are important?

2. Are there habitat enhancement or restoration goals you would like to see the Land Bank focus efforts on?
3. What improvements, if any, should be made to public access: trails, parking, restrooms, signage?
4. A new trail is proposed through the addition that would connect to Lopez Sound Rd through a trail easement. This trailhead would not have parking and instead be considered a “neighborhood access” trailhead. How much interest is there in creating this access?
5. Additional Comments:



## Richardson Marsh Preserve Scoping Input for New Stewardship and Management Plan

The 25-acre Richardson Marsh Preserve features a large rocky outcrop which provides a scenic viewpoint to the marsh. The property is part of a larger 70-acre wetland known as Richardson Marsh. The land was acquired in 2021 as a partnership with the San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) where the Land Bank holds fee interest, and the San Juan Preservation Trust holds a conservation easement.

Formerly a salt water influenced wetland, the marsh was diked for agriculture in the late 1800's and now functions as a freshwater system. The marsh provides habitat for numerous wintering waterfowl such as trumpeter swans, northern pintails, and mallards. The freshwater basin is also now a source for drinking water wells in the area. One Group B water system is located on the southeast corner of the parcel.

Agricultural uses have continued with seasonal grazing. Currently, a fenced cattle grazing area extends around the marsh and over four parcels of different ownership, with the primary forage being reed canarygrass. New fencing will be necessary to delineate the grazing area.

There is potential for providing public access at this site with a short hiking trail through the upland forest to an overlook. A wildlife viewing blind could also be constructed.





## **Richardson Marsh Preserve** Scoping Input for New Stewardship and Management Plan

These questions are a starting point for giving feedback and we welcome further input.

1. The Stewardship and Management Plan will review and discuss Ecological, Agricultural, and Recreational resources and objectives. What are the primary objectives and activities the Land Bank should consider for this site?
2. How important is continued agricultural use at this Preserve now or in the future?
3. Are there habitat enhancement or restoration goals you would like to see the Land Bank focus efforts on?
4. What type(s) and level of public access would be appropriate for the site? For example, trails, parking, wildlife viewing blind, overlook
5. Additional comments:



## **Spencer Spit Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Now Open for Public Comment**

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank is seeking public input on its Draft Stewardship and Management Plan (SMP) for the Spencer Spit Preserve on Lopez Island.

You can download a copy of the Draft Plan from the Land Bank's website by following this link: [Spencer Spit Preserve Draft SMP PDF](#).

If you would like a printed copy of the SMP mailed to you, please contact Tanja Williamson at 360-378-4402 or [tanjaw@sjclandbank.org](mailto:tanjaw@sjclandbank.org).

The Spencer Spit Preserve is 18 forested acres on the north side of Spencer Spit State Park. This high bank shoreline property is visible from the ferry. The draft plan proposes constructing a 0.5 mile trail to an overlook and partnering with State Parks for routine management.

**Please submit your comments by February 28, 2023.**

After the comment period closes, Land Bank staff and commissioners will review comments and consider revision to the draft plan. An overview of comments will be provided at the March 17, 2023, commission meeting. A final revised plan will be considered for approval by the Land Bank Commission later this year.

How to Submit Comments:

Email Tanja Williamson at [tanjaw@sjclandbank.org](mailto:tanjaw@sjclandbank.org) or Mail: 350 Court Street, No. 6, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.

Comments can also be submitted in person at an open house meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 4-6PM at the Lopez Community Center.