

MANAGING NATURAL ASSETS IN KITSAP COUNTY

Why a Natural Resource Asset Management Approach in Kitsap County?

Natural resource asset management treats natural resources as essential community assets to be managed in the public trust. KNRAMP is a county-wide effort to inventory, protect, and restore the natural assets that provide important environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits to the community. It provides a framework to track natural asset conditions and make investments in natural assets similar to how municipalities manage roads, buildings, and other built assets. The program provides a consistent and structured way to incorporate thinking about natural resources in program and asset management decision-making across the County.

KNRAMP focuses on forests, streams, and marine shorelines. It provides a structure, tracking, and reporting system to:

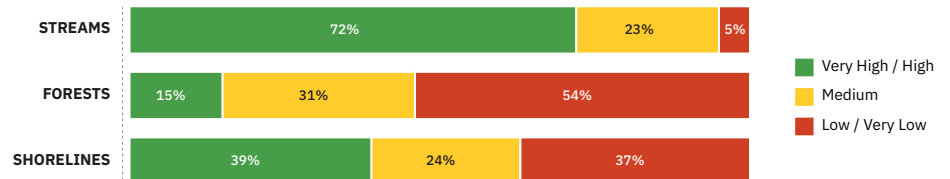
- Inventory natural assets and their condition
- Track condition changes (net gain / net loss) over time
- Prioritize geographic focus areas and actions for protection and improvement
- Support County and partner grant funding applications
- Communicate how natural assets are doing, opportunities for improvement, and results

Kitsap County's 2025 State of Natural Assets

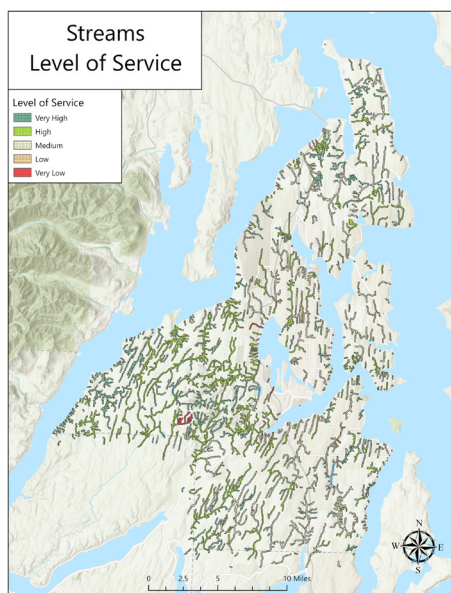
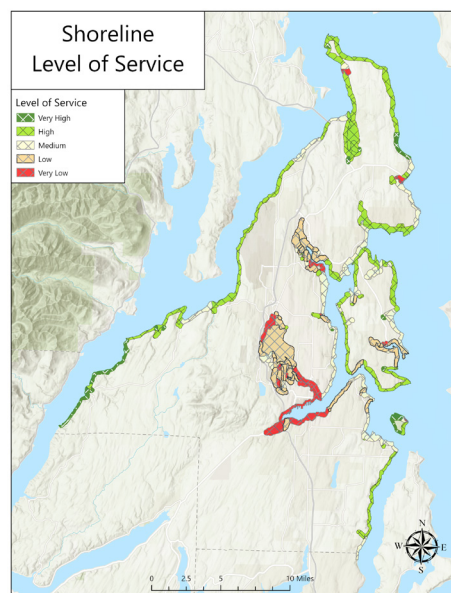
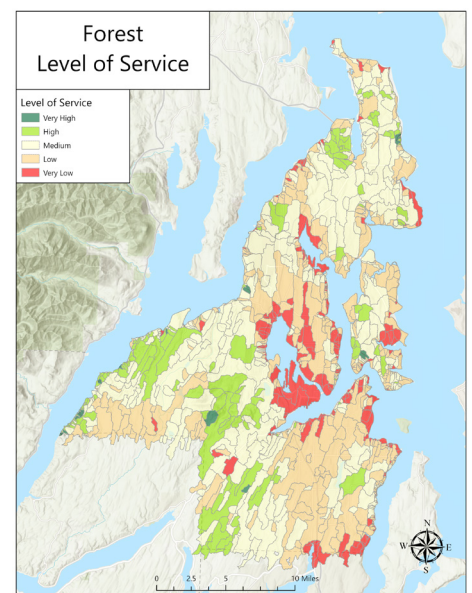
At the center of the KNRAMP program is a map-based, data-driven way to assess and communicate natural asset condition. These so-called natural asset levels of service vary across the county, with land use and urbanization as key drivers of change. The current assessment shows that:

- **Streams** are the County's healthiest asset, with 72% at very high and high level of service, but fish barriers remain widespread.
- **Marine shorelines** show mixed levels of service with 39% at high or very high level of service and 37% at low and very low level of service particularly near urban areas.
- **Forests** show the greatest need for restoration and protection, with only 15% at high or very high level of service and 54% at low or very low level of service.

Condition of Natural Assets at a Glance



Levels of Service: Streams, Marine Shorelines, Forests



A Shared Effort: Natural Resources Are Community Assets!

Natural asset management is a shared responsibility. KNRAMP's goals are included in the County's Comprehensive Plan, supporting departments in taking a more coordinated, integrated approach to managing natural resources. The program also relies on strong partnerships with local tribes, cities, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, ecosystem recovery partners, landowners, and citizens, working together to protect and restore natural assets. Managing natural assets must be adaptive, and data and processes will continue to evolve as the program is implemented. KNRAMP uses

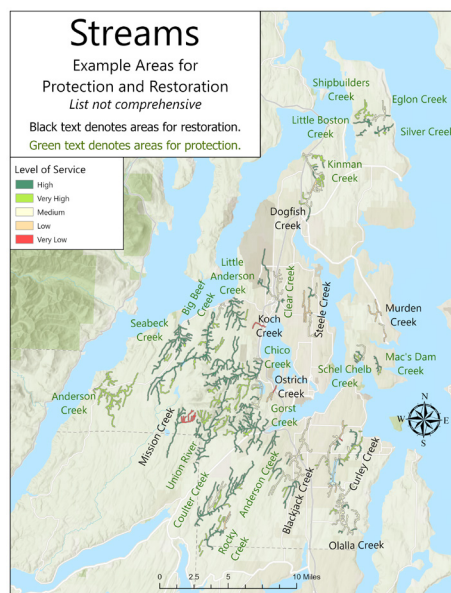
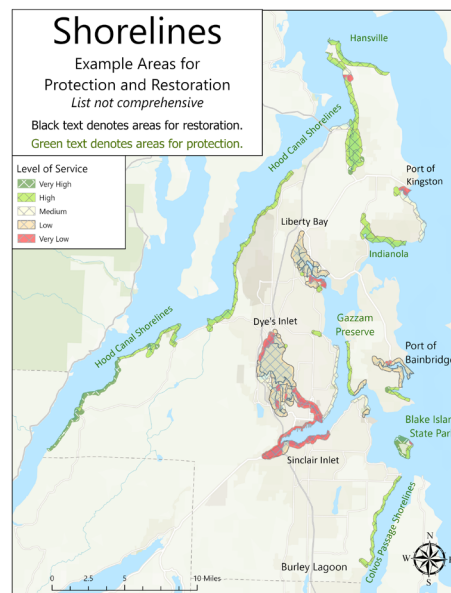
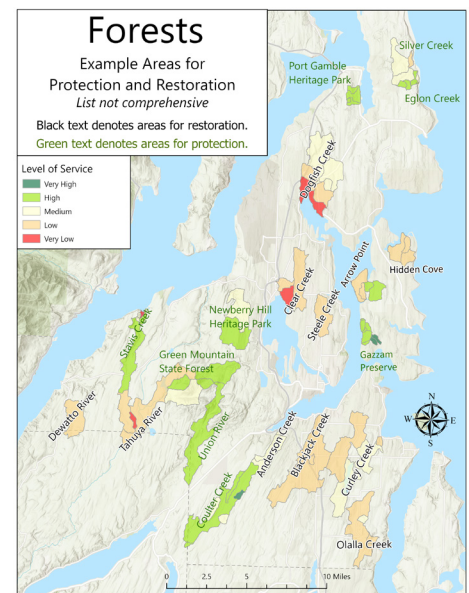
a focus area approach in which specific watersheds are selected for special attention to natural asset protection and restoration needs. Common challenges across priority watersheds include: fish passage barriers, loss of riparian vegetation, loss of forest cover or mature forest, shoreline armoring, and water quality and pollution issues.

Current KNRAMP focus watersheds include:

- Big Beef Creek
- Chico Creek
- Curley Creek
- Kinman Creek

Additional Example Areas for Protection and Restoration

In addition to identifying focus area watersheds, KNRAMP highlights example areas for protection and restoration to help guide partner efforts. The areas shown below are illustrative and not intended to be comprehensive.



KNRAMP Lessons Learned to Date

The KNRAMP program is in its second year of implementation. Lessons learned so far encompass program development and initial implementation experiences. We will continue to learn as the program grows.

- ✓ Clearly defining goals and using cases up front (monitoring, prioritization, planning) will determine the approach for building the program.
- ✓ Developing the program is an iterative process.
- ✓ Partnerships support shared learning and are critical to the program's success.
- ✓ Managing natural assets must be adaptive: Data and processes will continue to evolve.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact Brittany Gordon (BGordon@kitsap.gov).

Scan the QR code to see the [KNRAMP story map](#) and [State of the Natural Assets 2025 Report](#).



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