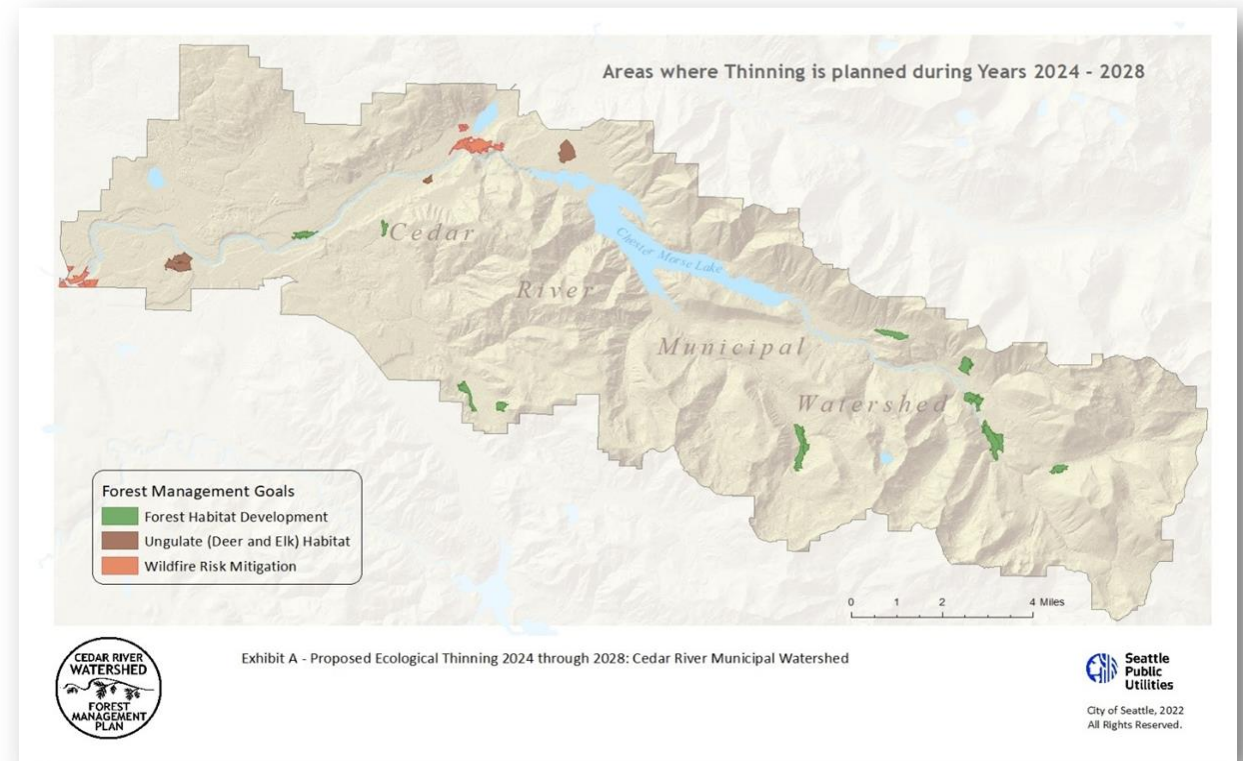


Ordinance Authority for Cedar River Watershed Ecological Thinning

February 14, 2024
Council Bill 120725

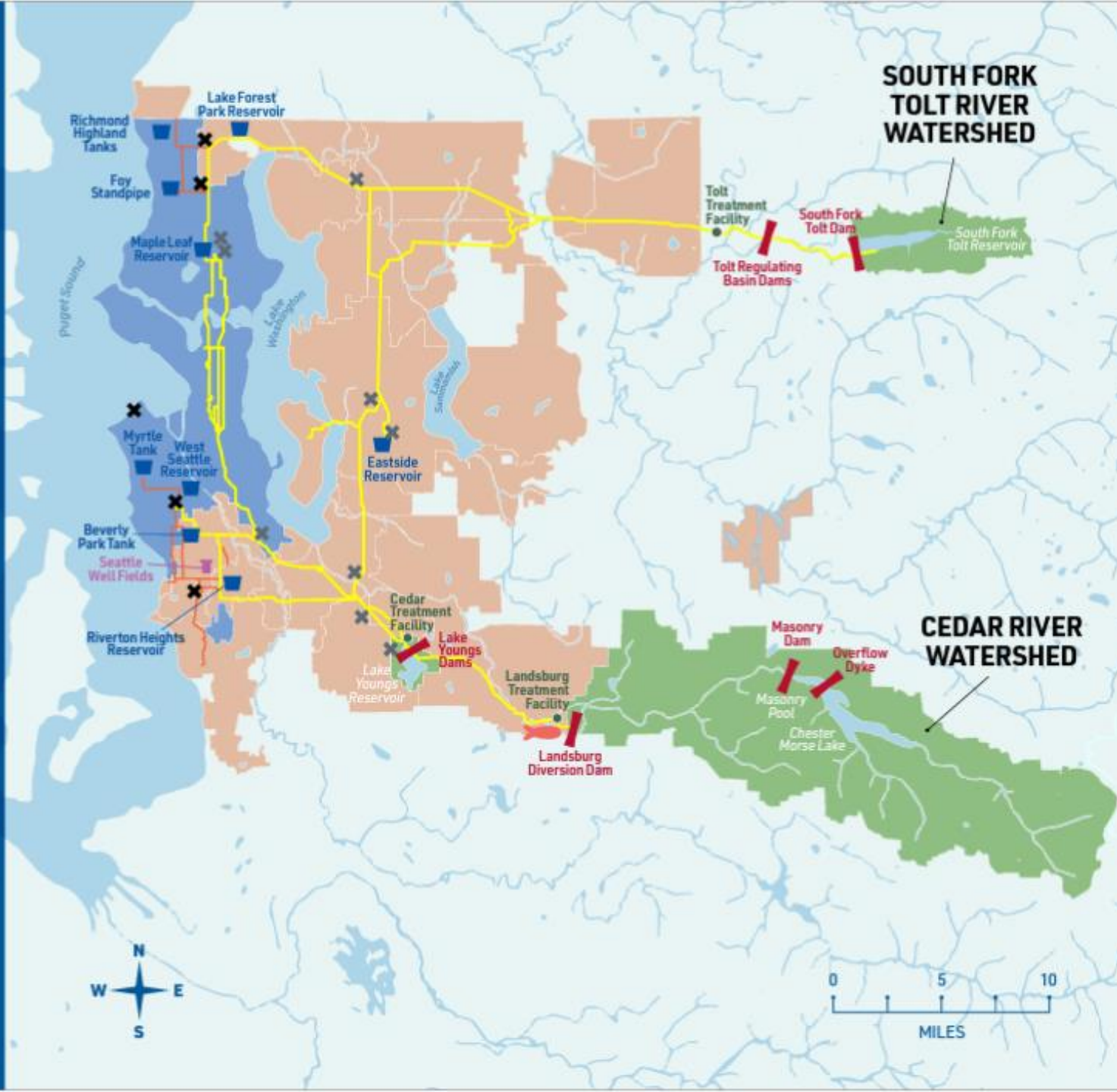
SPU requests Ordinance Authority to:

- Provide ordinance authority to sell timber as surplus property from ecological thinning
- Conduct ecological thinning on 600 acres over 5 years in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed
- Deposit net revenue into the Water Fund



Water Service Area

-  Regional Pipeline
-  Local Pipeline
-  Dam
-  Water Treatment Plant
-  Regional Pump Station
-  Sub-Regional Pump Station
-  Reservoir
-  Well Field
-  Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery
-  Seattle Retail Service Area
-  Wholesale Customer
-  Municipal Watershed



Water Service Area

- 100,000 acres of protected watersheds (Cedar and Tolt)
- 1.5 Million People Served



Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan

- Allows SPU to manage Cedar River water supply system
- Permits Incidental Take under Endangered Species Act
- Declares watershed as ecological reserve, prohibiting commercial timber harvesting



Watershed Forest Landscape

- City purchased land following timber harvest
- Forests are young and dense
 - has poor wildlife habitat
 - creates high wildfire hazard
 - has low resilience to climate impacts and disturbance



Forest Thinning with Ecological Objectives

- Reduce number of trees in dense second-growth forests
- Diversify forest canopy
- Select and plant rare tree and understory species



Benefits of Ecological Thinning Program

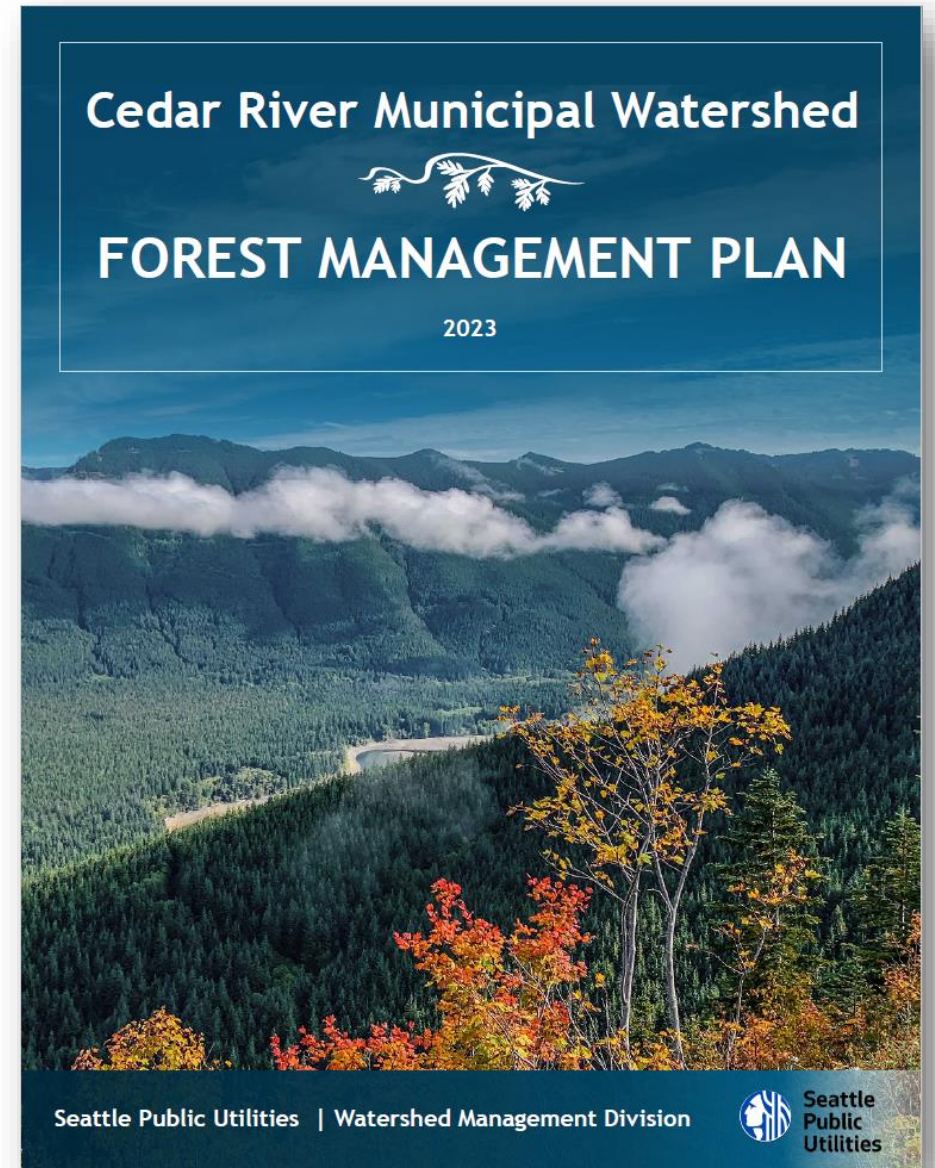
- Greater biodiversity
- Improved forest health and resilience
- Restored wildlife habitat
- Better water cycle regulation



Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan

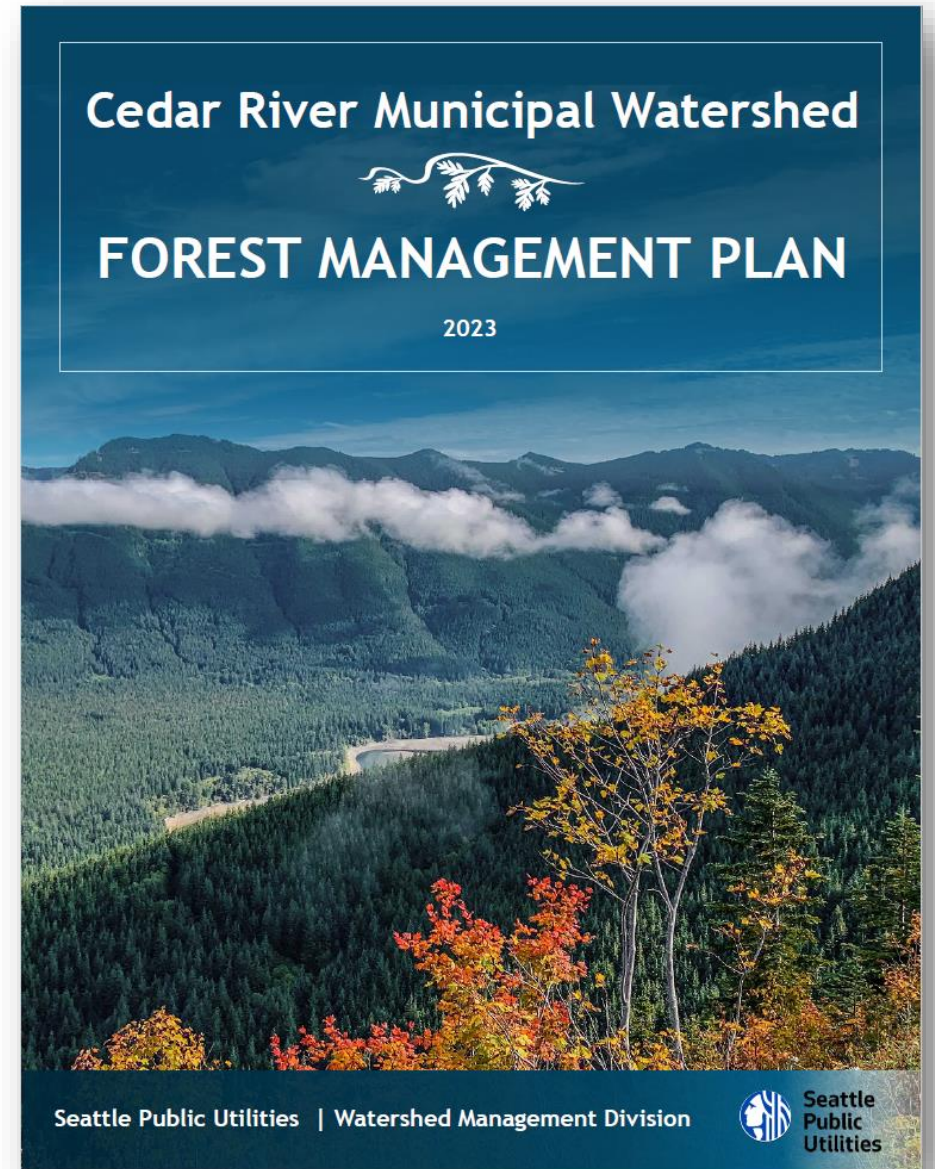
Addresses key watershed goals:

- Hydrology
- Forest restoration
- Climate adaptation
- Wildlife habitat
- Wildfire risk mitigation



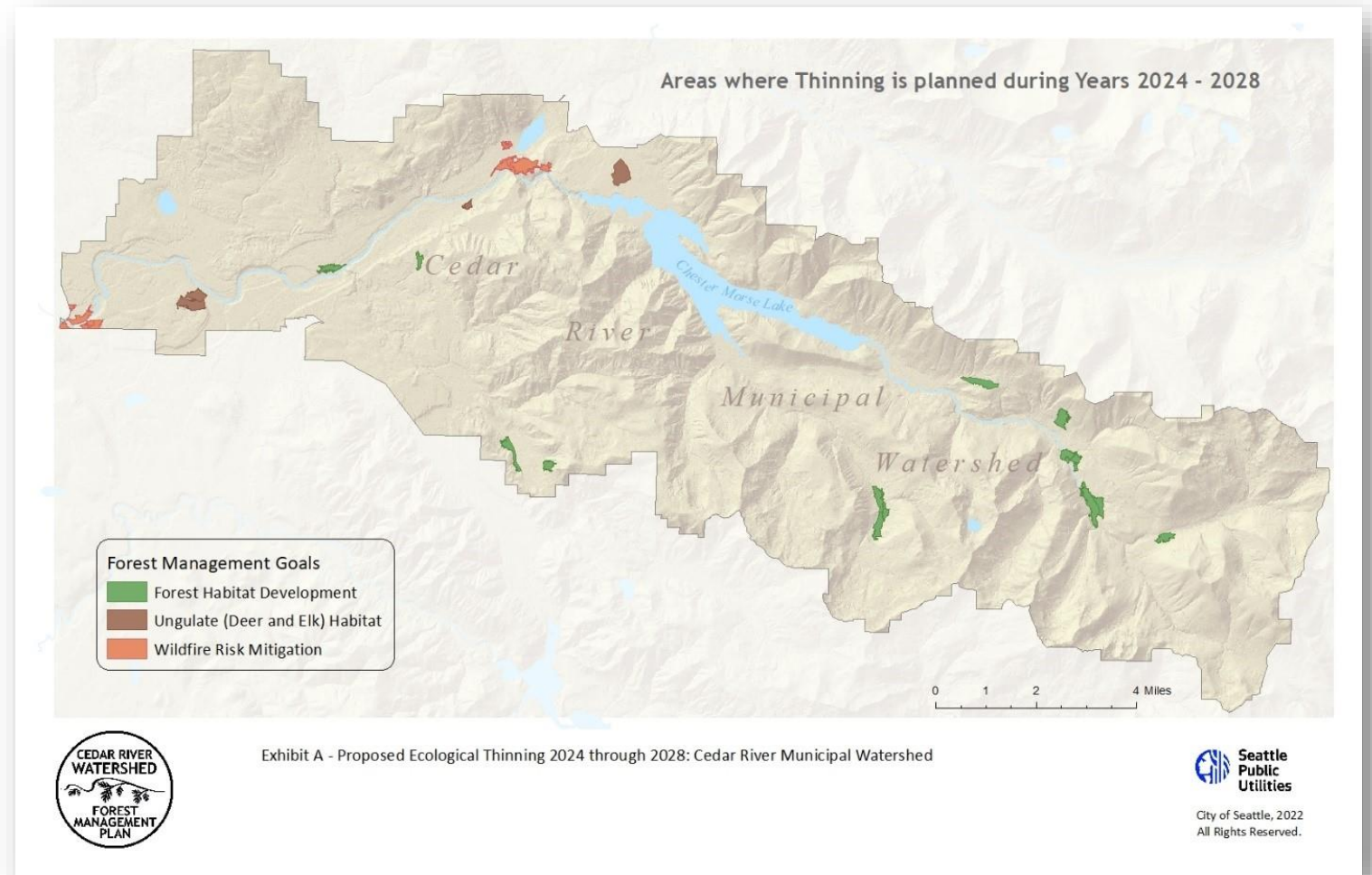
Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan

- Integrates new objectives
- Involves diverse stakeholders and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in plan development
- Prioritizes management actions



Ecological Thinning Program

- Annual Program Cost: \$ 80,000 (Water Fund)
- Variable annual revenue from sale of timber as surplus property
- Thinning 600 acres in the 92,000-acre Cedar River Municipal Watershed



SPU requests Ordinance Authority to:

- Sell timber as surplus property from ecological thinning
- Sell up to 6 million board feet of timber from thinning over 5 years
- Deposit net revenue into the Water Fund to offset costs of implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan

