



# Drone Classification Public Info

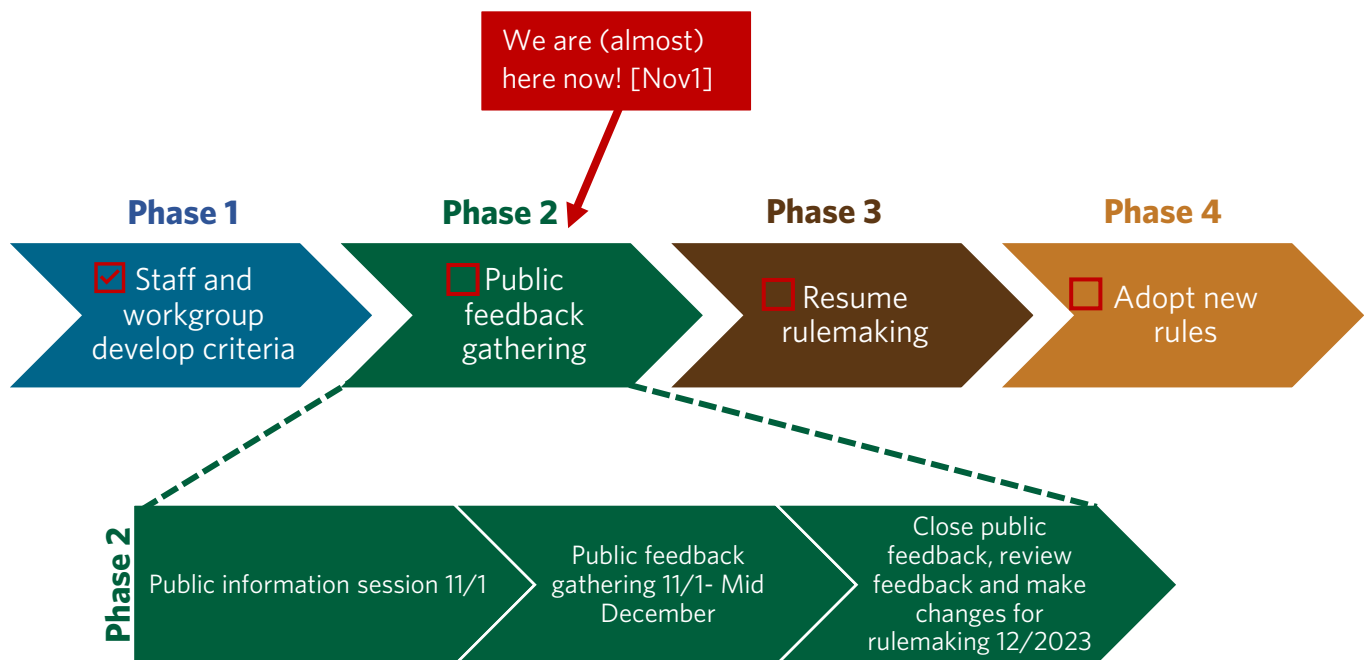
October 10, 2023

Can you help Oregon Parks and Recreation Department develop clear guidelines for where people can fly their recreational drones safely? We are looking to get your thoughts, feedback, and ideas from November 1<sup>st</sup> until mid-December 2023. Send us your comments by emailing us at [oprdrd.publiccomment@oprdrd.oregon.gov](mailto:oprdrd.publiccomment@oprdrd.oregon.gov) or visit our website.

By October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the drone page will be updated with a feedback form available and a press release will be sent out. An open house/info session will be held virtually on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

A workgroup of conservation groups, drone users, state, and federal natural resource agencies, and OPRD staff worked to create criteria where each state park area will create color coded maps to easily identify where drones are allowed take-off and land. The maps will also show areas where drones **cannot** take-off and land.

We are still in the idea gathering phase, so we are sharing **three sample areas** with maps developed following the classification criteria developed by the workgroup and staff.



## Values

The classifications and conditions were developed using 4 values:

- Resource Protection
- Operational & Recreation Management.
- Land Use Designations
- Public Safety

## Definitions

Park areas will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the drone map classification criteria table below and given one of the following classifications:

**Prohibited (RED):** Areas that reflect a high degree of sensitivity relating to the natural, cultural, or scenic resources or pose a risk to public safety will be closed to takeoff or landing. Exceptions for special circumstances such as commercial filming may be made through an authorized special use permit.

**Conditional (YELLOW/ORANGE):** Areas that contain some of the same values as restricted areas but have seasonal variability or when limited drone activity doesn't create a negative impact to resources or public safety.

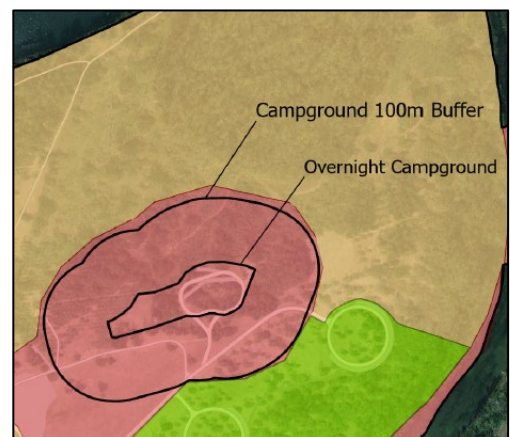
**Open (GREEN):** Areas that pose little to no negative threat to park resources or public safety.



Graphic 2: This is the legend that will be on the maps.

## Classification Criteria Notes

- The map **only applies to the take-off and landing of drones**, flight regulation is under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) jurisdiction.
- Prohibited areas include a 100-meter buffer zone for resource protection. See Graphic 3.
- Small areas under 2-acre thresholds that are surrounded by prohibited areas will also be classified as prohibited.
- Restrictions for seasonal nesting in conditional areas will be consistent statewide for each species.



Graphic 3: Prohibited areas include a 100-meter buffer zone for resource protection.

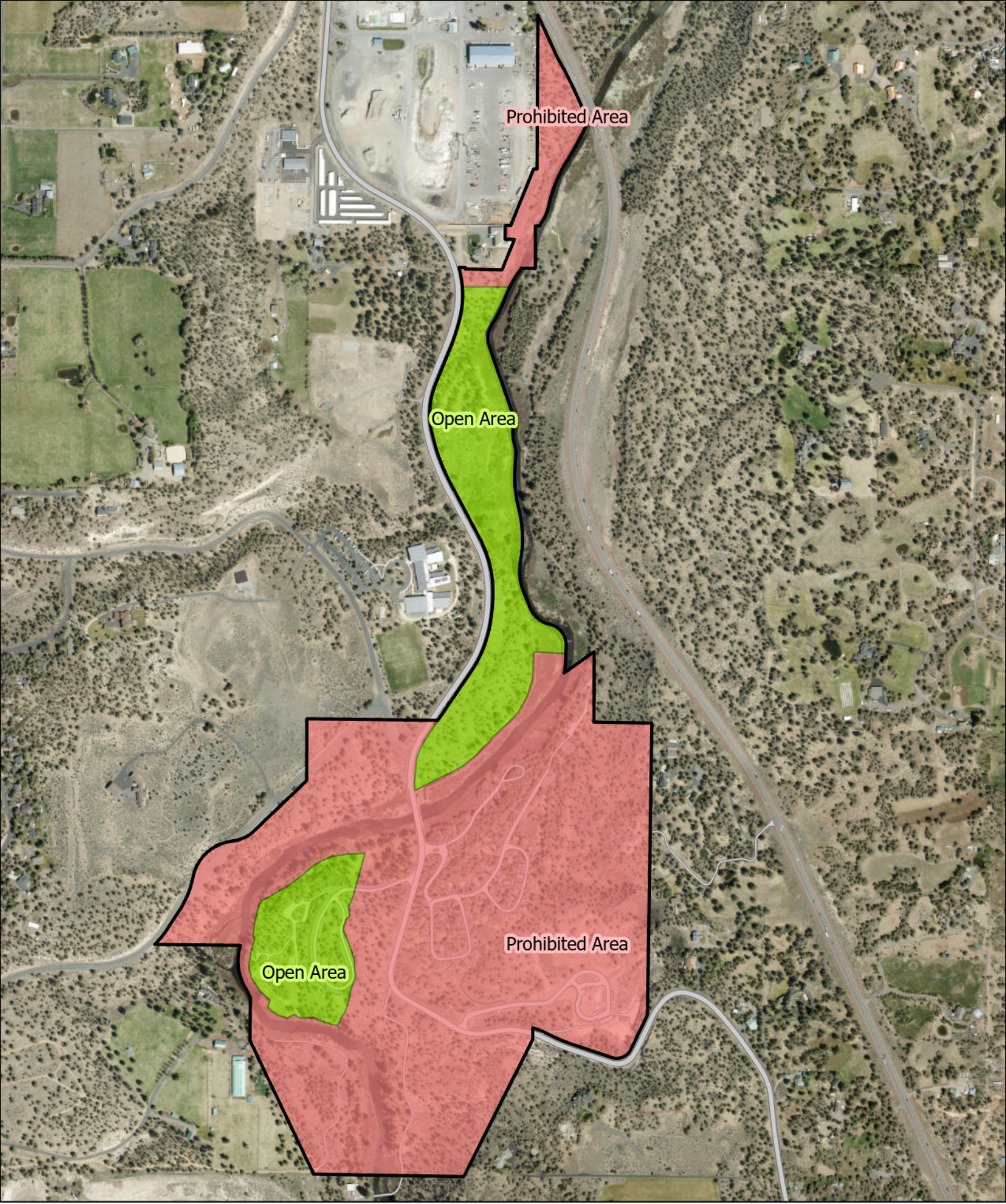


# Drone Map Classification Criteria Table

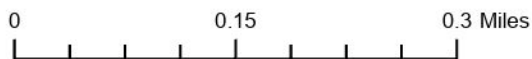
For public info review and feedback - October 2023




<p><b>Prohibited</b> (Exceptions may be requested through Special Use Permit)</p>	<p><b>Conditional</b> (Will require a site-specific daily permit)</p>	<p><b>Open</b> (Permits are not required)</p>
<p>Areas that pose a negative impact to a cultural resource</p>	<p>Areas that contain environmental conditions that increase the risk of the loss of control or recovery</p>	<p>All areas that do not meet the conditions outlined in restricted or conditional</p>
<p>Overnight campgrounds</p>	<p>Areas where wildlife concentrate for migration, breeding, nesting, or wintering. <i>Guidance in the Oregon conservation strategy</i></p>	<p>Conditional areas that would provide a unique opportunity for drone recreation if the negative effects can be mitigated</p>
<p>Areas sharing a boundary to federally or state protected areas explicitly prohibiting drone takeoff and landing</p>	<p>Areas sharing a boundary to federally or state protected sites</p>	
<p>Areas where drone use creates a hazard or poses risk to another use</p>	<p>Areas that contain critical habitat for state or federally protected species that are negatively affected by drones</p>	
<p>Areas that contain state or federally protected species that are negatively affected by drones based on current research</p>	<p>Sites at or exceeding capacity</p>	
<p>Areas that have no recreational access (create trespass concerns, no trails/parking, etc.)</p>		
<p>Areas under lease from OPRD to external entities that do not explicitly allow drones</p>		



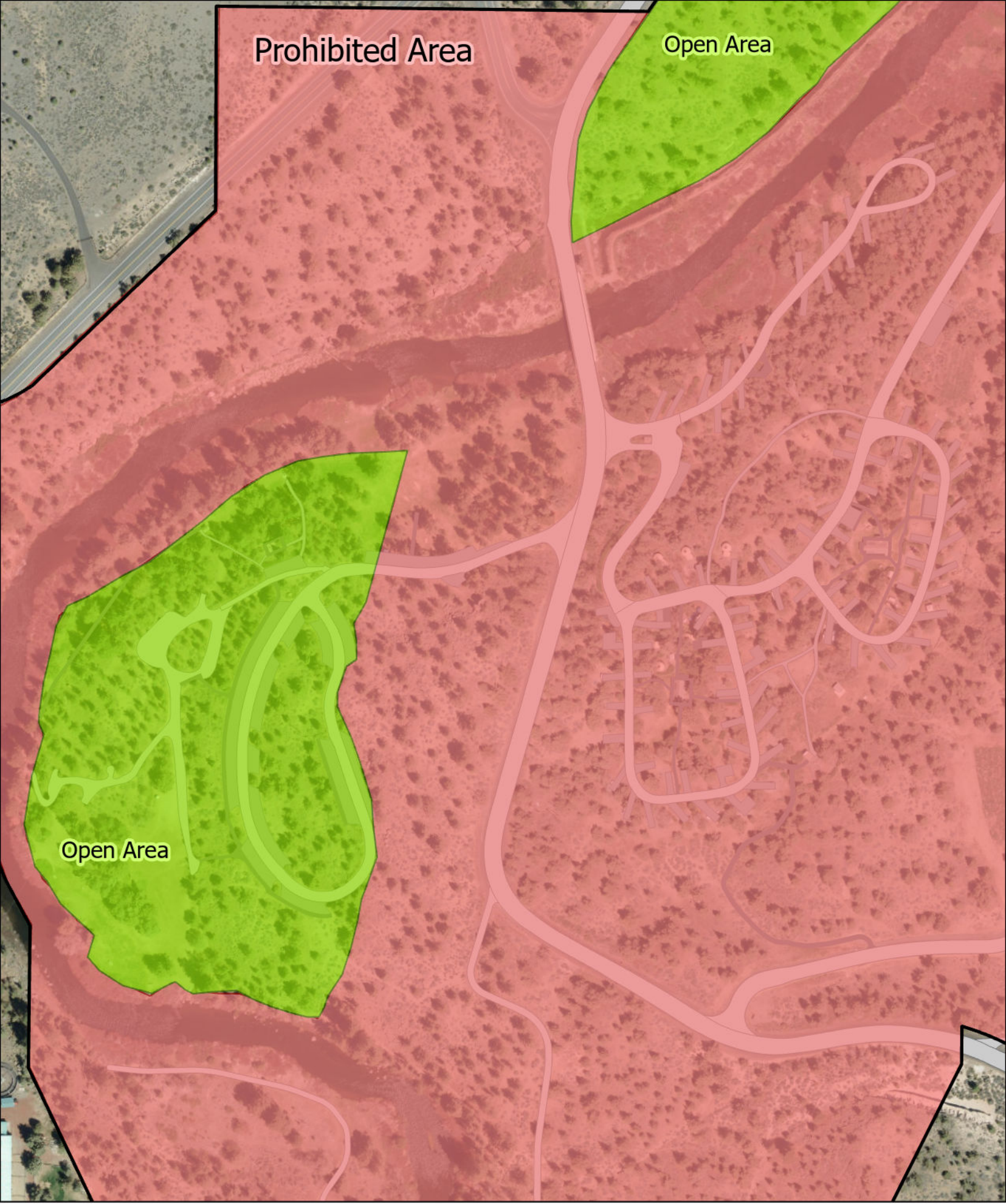


Central Region Sample Map 1



-  Prohibited Area
-  Conditional Area
-  Open Area





Prohibited Area

Open Area

Open Area

### Central Region Sample Map 2

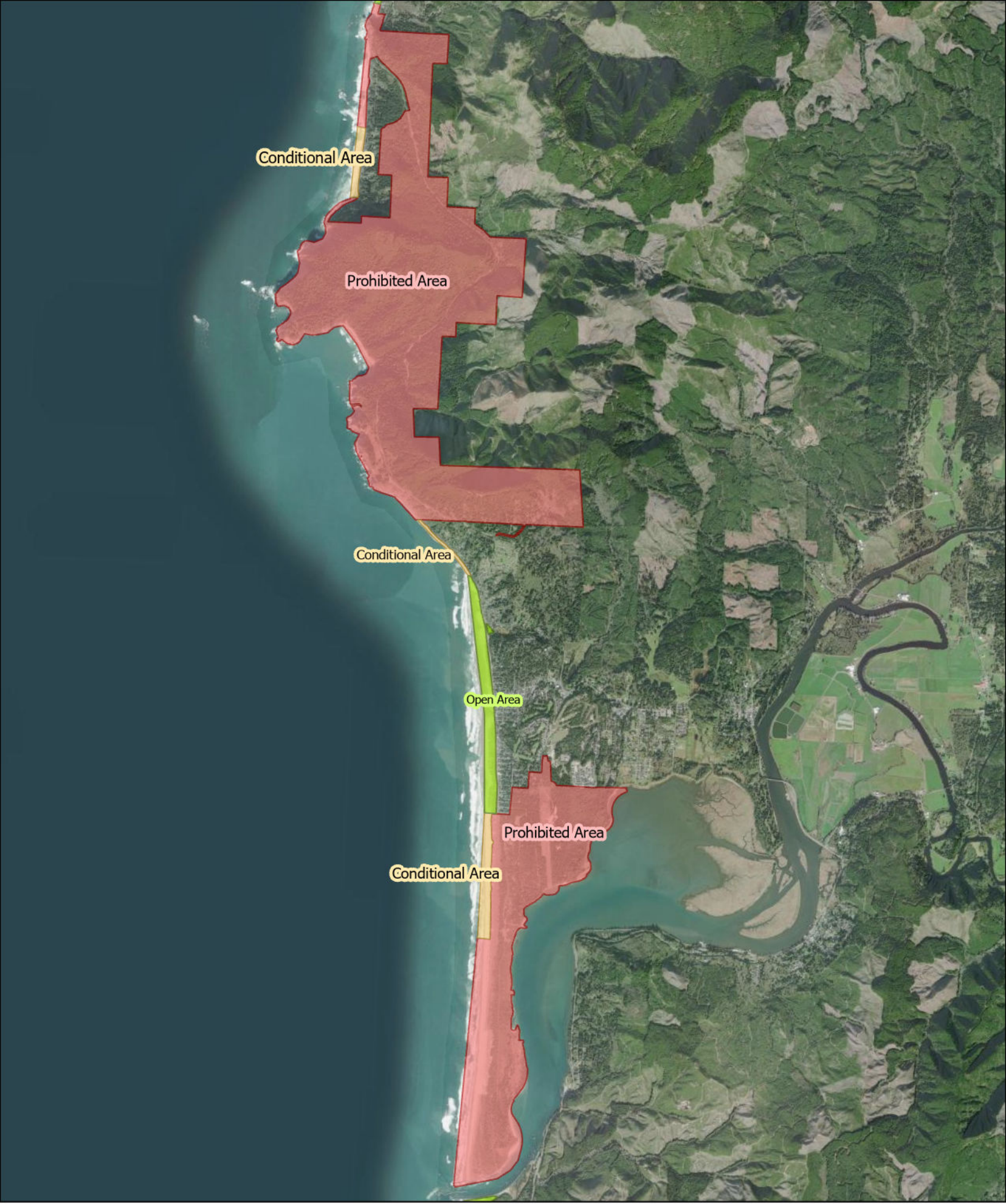
0 0.05 0.1 Miles

- Prohibited Area
- Conditional Area
- Open Area

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Conditional Area

Prohibited Area

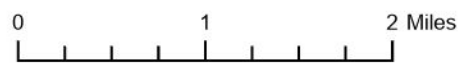
Conditional Area

Open Area

Prohibited Area

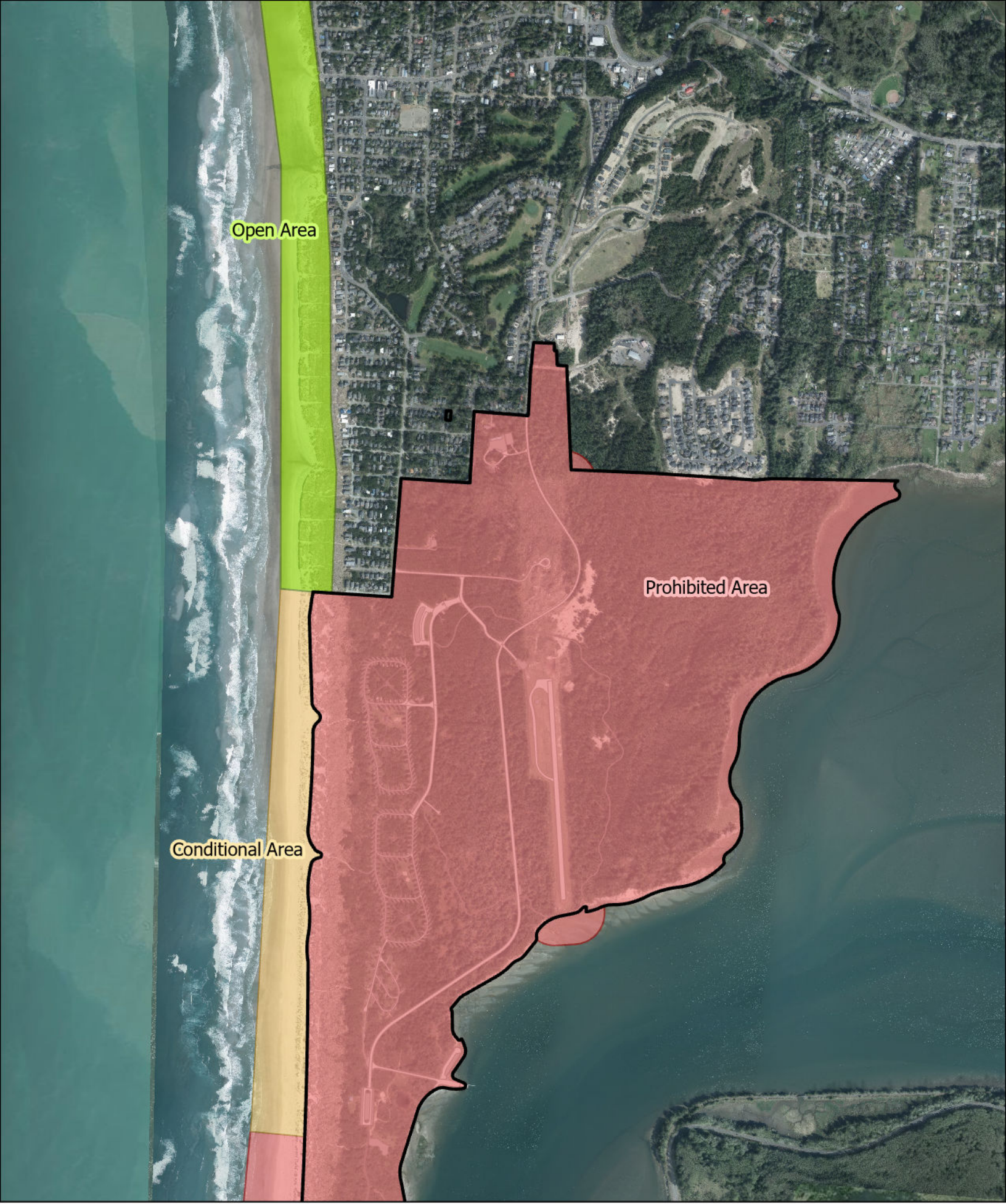
Conditional Area

Coastal Region Sample Map 1



-  Prohibited Area
-  Conditional Area
-  Open Area





Open Area

Prohibited Area

Conditional Area

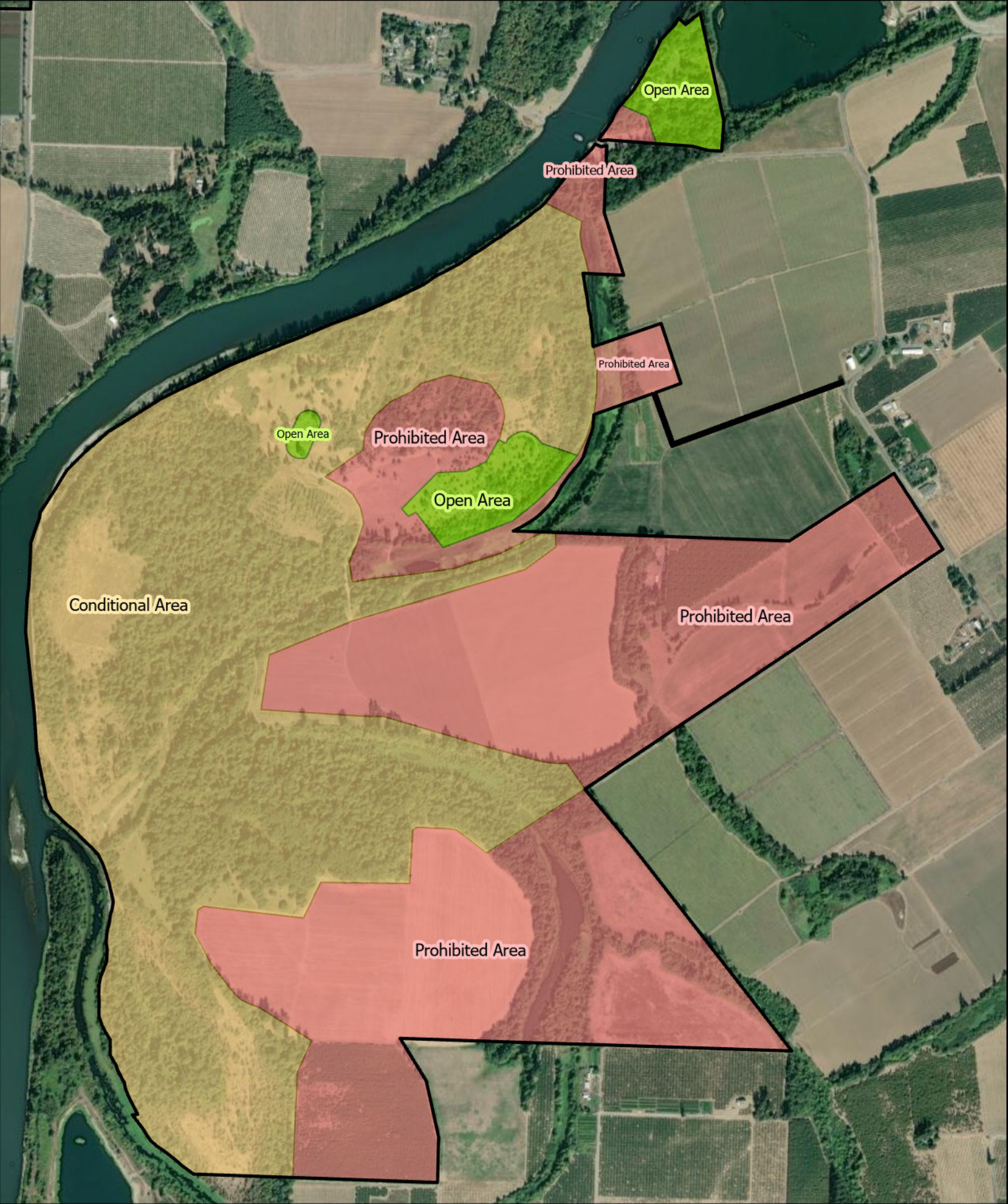
Coastal Region Sample Map 2



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

-  Prohibited Area
-  Conditional Area
-  Open Area





Conditional Area

Open Area

Prohibited Area

Open Area

Prohibited Area

Prohibited Area

Open Area




Prohibited Area

Prohibited Area

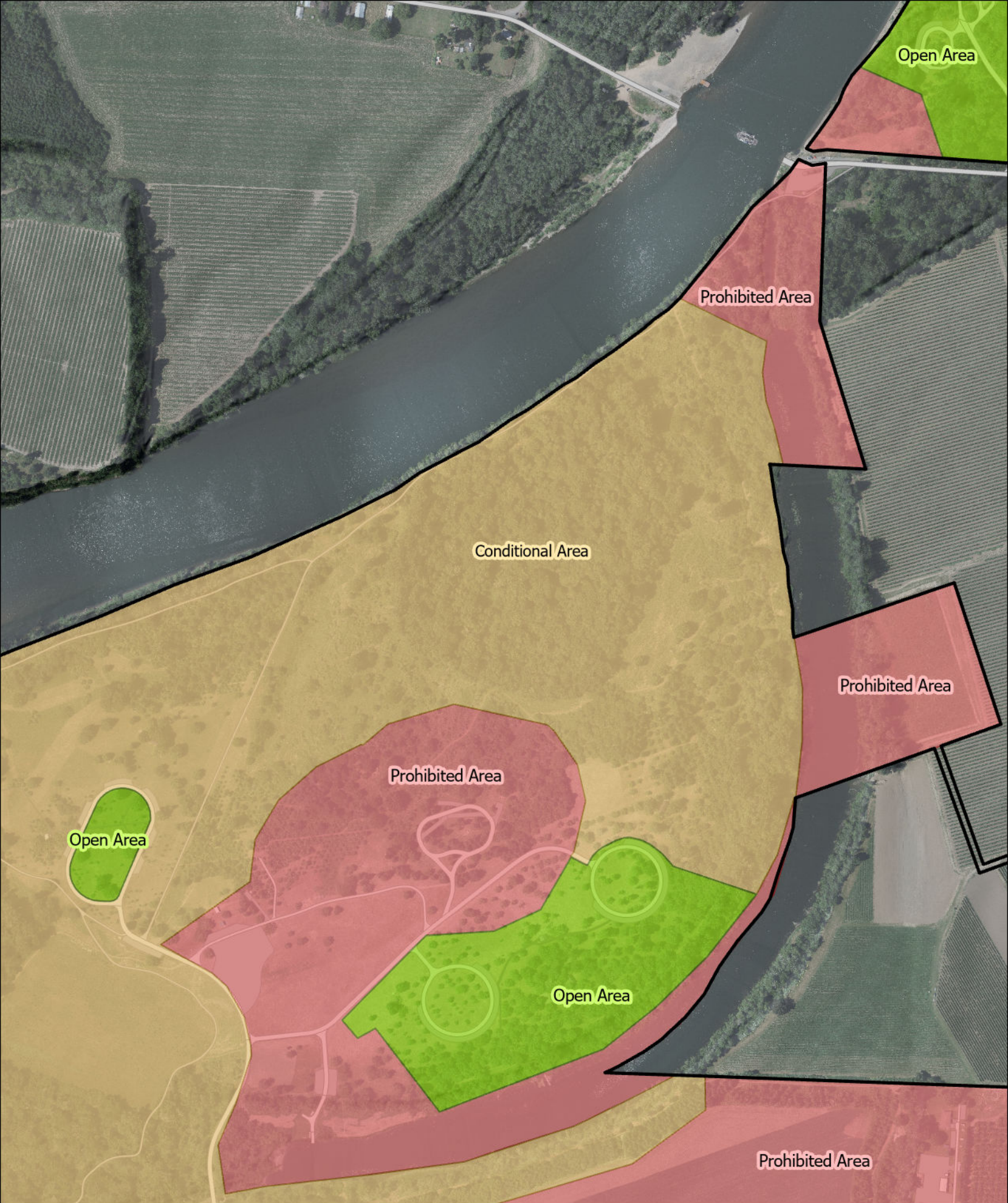


# Willamette Valley Sample Map 1

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

-  Prohibited Area
-  Conditional Area
-  Open Area





Willamette Valley Sample Map 2



0 0.1 0.2 Miles

- Prohibited Area
- Conditional Area
- Open Area





# Recreational Drone Best Practices

Draft 202309

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The following tips & etiquette are for hobby or recreational use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) or “Drones” in Oregon State Parks and the Ocean Shore State Recreation Area.

## Know where to fly

- Check the park’s drone maps for conditions and restrictions for take-off and landing.
  - To further protect natural resources, the agency preference is for users to operate their drones within the areas allowed for take-off and landing.
  - Individuals and organizations may fly drones for recreational purposes in compliance with [FAA Regulations](#) and take-off and land from designated areas.
- Drones must be flown below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
- Drones are both “motorized equipment” and “mechanical transport” and, as such, they cannot take off from, land in, or be operated from congressionally designated wilderness areas or national wildlife refuges.
- Drones are not permitted to fly in areas that have Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) in place, such as wildfires. Search the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Web site for current TFRs at <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>.

## Follow FAA rules and guidelines

- Ensure that you comply with all FAA regulations and guidance for flying your drone. The FAA has authority over all airspace. Information on FAA regulations is available at <http://www.faa.gov/uas/>.
- Utilize available navigation resources at [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/b4ufly](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/b4ufly)

## Protect wildlife & the environment

- Avoid flying over congressionally designated wilderness areas and national wildlife refuges such as the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.
- Do not fly over or near wildlife. This can stress out wildlife and cause significant harm or even death. Disturbance of animals during breeding, nesting, rearing of young, or other critical life history functions is against state and federal law.
- Do not approach wildlife closer than 300 feet (91.44 feet). Do not approach animals or birds vertically with the drone.



- If you observe wildlife reacting to your drone, discontinue use.
- Launch the drone more than 100 meters (328 feet) from wildlife.
- When in doubt about the location and status of wildlife populations (i.e. nesting, breeding), consult park staff for additional information.
- Consider topography, prevailing wind speed and direction, and sound levels emitted by drones to establish safe and suitable locations for takeoff and landing.
- Adhere to seasonal restrictions to protect colonies of birds or other congregated wildlife.
- Consider having a designated observer to monitor wildlife reactions.

## **Fly safely, stay in control**

- Practice and learn to operate your drone safely before visiting a state park or the Ocean Shore.
- Keep your drone within your visual line of sight at all times.
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with traditional aircraft operations.
- Fly your drone in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to traditional aircraft.
- Be mindful and keep your drone far enough away from populated and noise-sensitive areas, such as campgrounds, trail heads, and visitor centers.
- Don't take off in or fly over crowds.
- Be mindful and respectful of the experiences of other park users.
- In the event of a crash, operators should consider if the aircraft can be safely removed without disturbing natural resources and jeopardizing personal safety. Abandonment of the UAS may be required to avoid further disturbance. Consult park staff before attempting to retrieve a drone in a closed or dangerous area.

## **Adaptive Management Statement**

- The agency will process the take off and landing of drone use in state parks through administrative rules and determine the allowable areas through classification criteria determined by adaptive management. Adaptive management is the practice of implementing management actions through learning, experimenting, and comparing effectiveness of different strategies.
- In "Yellow/Conditional Use" areas on the drone maps, seasonality will determine if drones are allowed to take-off and land. The agency's Natural Resource Specialists in coordination with federal and state partners will work to create consistent calendar times to protect resources at sensitive times of the year.
- OPRD's Adaptive Management Policy will address the process of adaptive management review and implementation.