

OREGON SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROJECT BRIEF

Fire Adapted Communities Inventory/Map and Electric Vehicle Charging Station Map at the Columbia River Gorge Commission

Project Dates: June/2024 – August/2024
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PROJECT GOAL

The Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Inventory is an ongoing compilation of wildfire response and mitigation related efforts in and around the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA). The map compliments the inventory to get a spatial depiction of where these efforts are happening. The inventory and map are a step in the process of fulfilling the Gorge Commission's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) priorities for mitigating wildfire risk.

The electric vehicle charging station mapping project consists of a mapping effort to map out current and potential EV charging locations around the NSA. This work was done with the purpose of making progress towards the Gorge Commission's CCAP priorities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging more EV infrastructure.

TAKE-AWAYS

- By using the FAC Inventory map, we can see that most wildfire mitigation efforts in the Gorge are outside of the NSA.
- While efforts are numerous and multifaceted, the wildfire mitigation work in the Gorge is quite fragmented and without standardized tools or regulations.
- There is a need for cross-boundary fuel reduction efforts because wildfires have no boundaries.
- There is a need for more EV chargers in the NSA, but first the Gorge Commission must

adopt codes relating to the charging stations fitting into their scenic standards.

CHALLENGES

There are a couple of obstacles when it comes to creating an inventory of current wildfire mitigations actions and the following maps. The first issue being that actions relating to the reduction of wildfire risk around the Gorge are difficult to locate, as most of the work done by partners is not posted publicly. This challenge was eased by directly meeting with key stakeholders so that they can explain their work in more detail.

A second hurdle is that the work done by the organizations is fragmented, yet overlapping, meaning that many of the stakeholders are doing the same work, but are not always working together or sharing resources. While meeting with key stakeholders directly does help with this issue, this problem is alleviated by the main organizations having learning sessions and other meetings to encourage groups doing similar work to share knowledge.

STRATEGY

- Researched the various wildfire mitigation efforts by using internal information, attending webinars, community gatherings, and meetings with various organizations, and doing an internet search.

- Met with each of the Gorge Commission staff individually to learn more about their work and perspectives.
- Reviewed and developed recommendations for how the Gorge Commission can adapt their Management Plan more towards the FAC framework.
- Contacted staff members in various organizations to retrieve information and data, so the Gorge Commission can have a more cohesive record.
- Researched EV charging station mapping platforms across the Pacific Northwest.
- Created recommended next steps for how both projects can be furthered.
- Met regularly with staff for a check-in to make sure that everything is going smoothly, and we are on the same page about the work being done.

RESULTS

- Created Fire Adapted Communities Inventory spreadsheet.
- Built ArcGIS map of the FAC Inventory.
- Composed a final report on the FAC Inventory and map.
- Built ArcGIS map of the current and potential EV charging station locations.
- Composed a final report on the EV charging stations map.

Map Images:

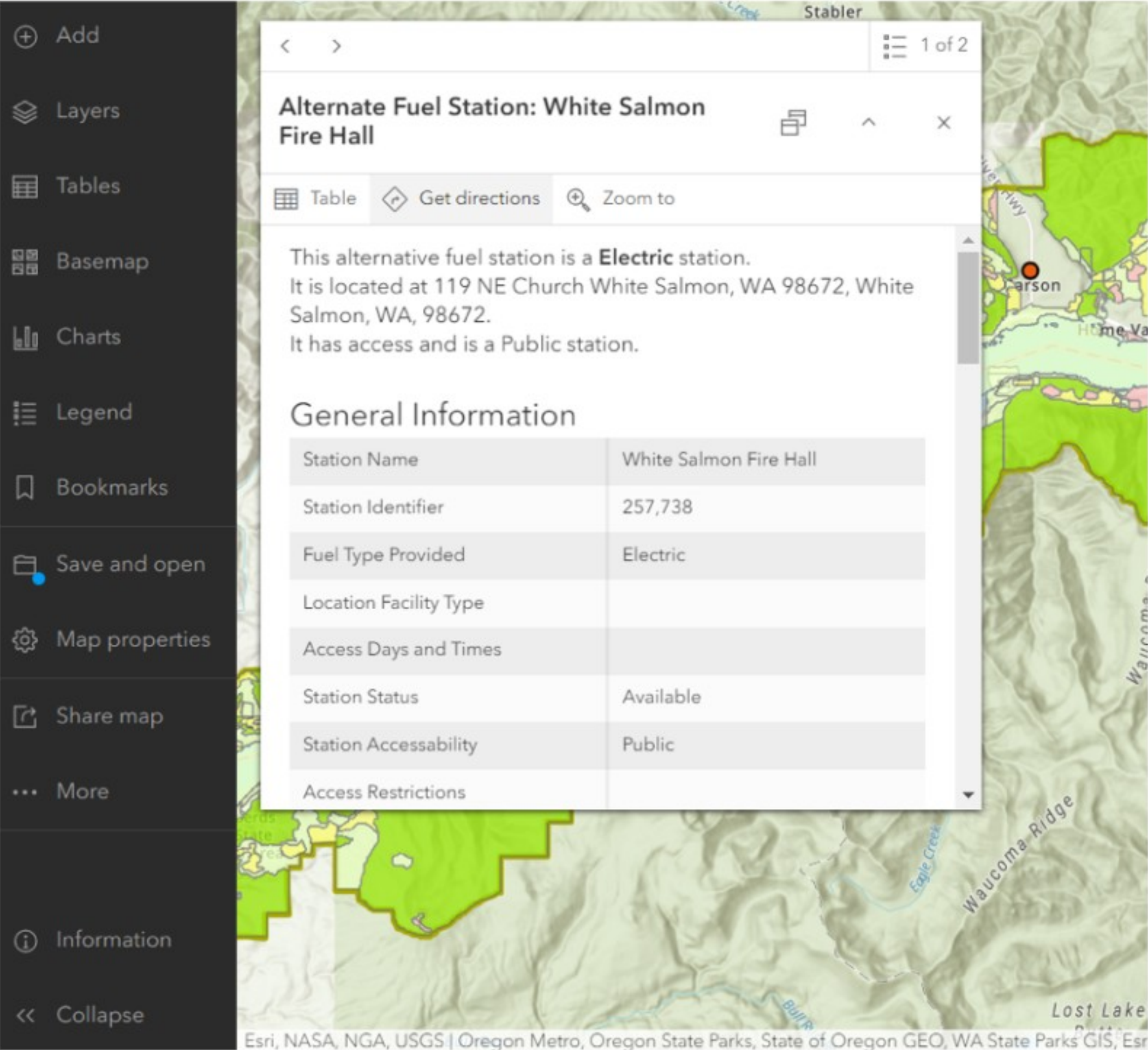


Figure 1: EV Map with selected EV charging station in White Salmon, WA.

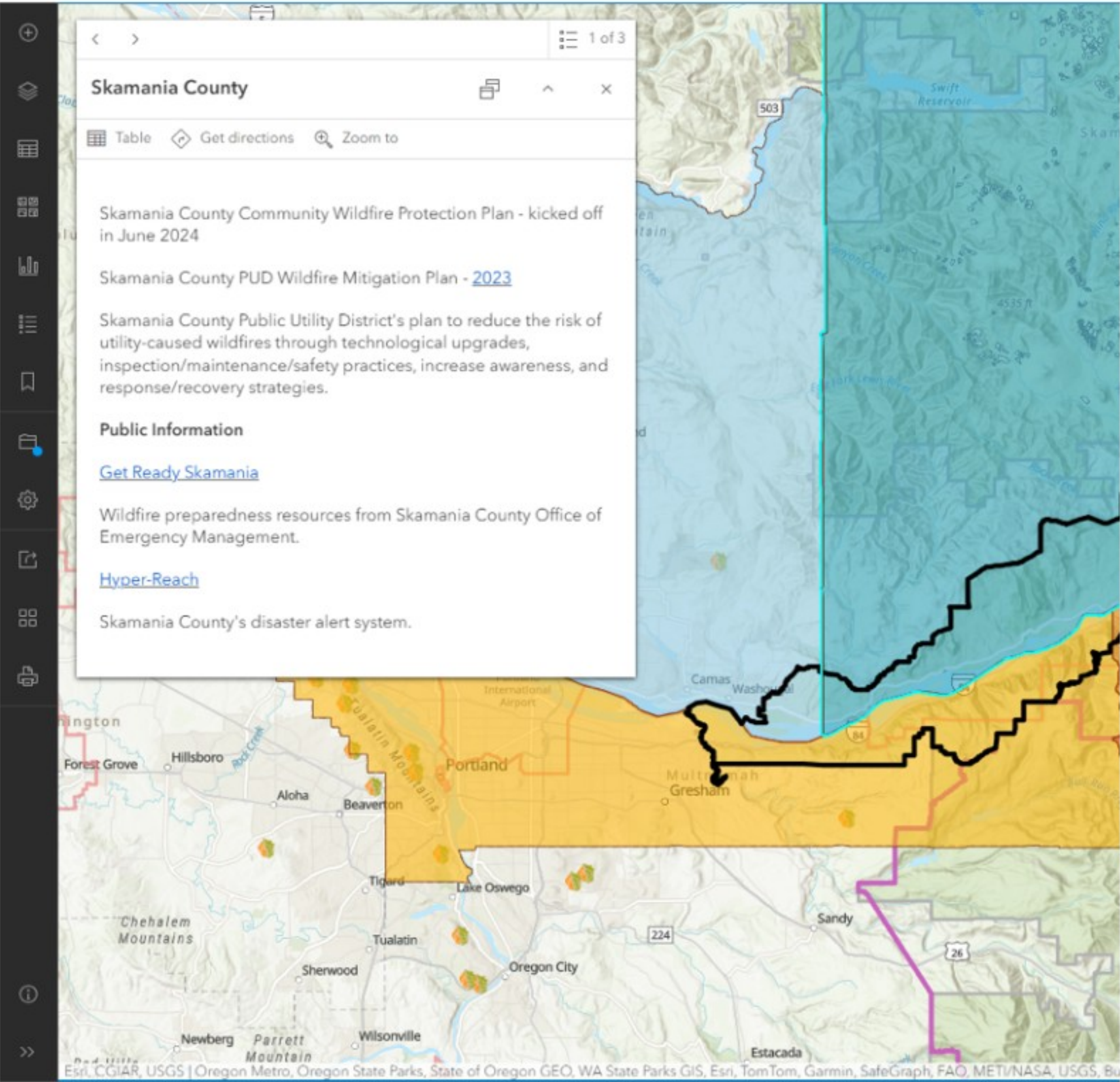


Figure 2: FAC Inventory Map with Skamania County regional efforts highlighted.