

## **What are the conditions in the West Eld Sub-watershed?**

### **Current conditions**

Approximately four percent of the West Eld Sub-watershed is covered by urban land uses (see Figure 36 and 36a. Classification Percent Totals for West Eld Sub-watershed). West Eld has a drainage area of 9.2 square miles.

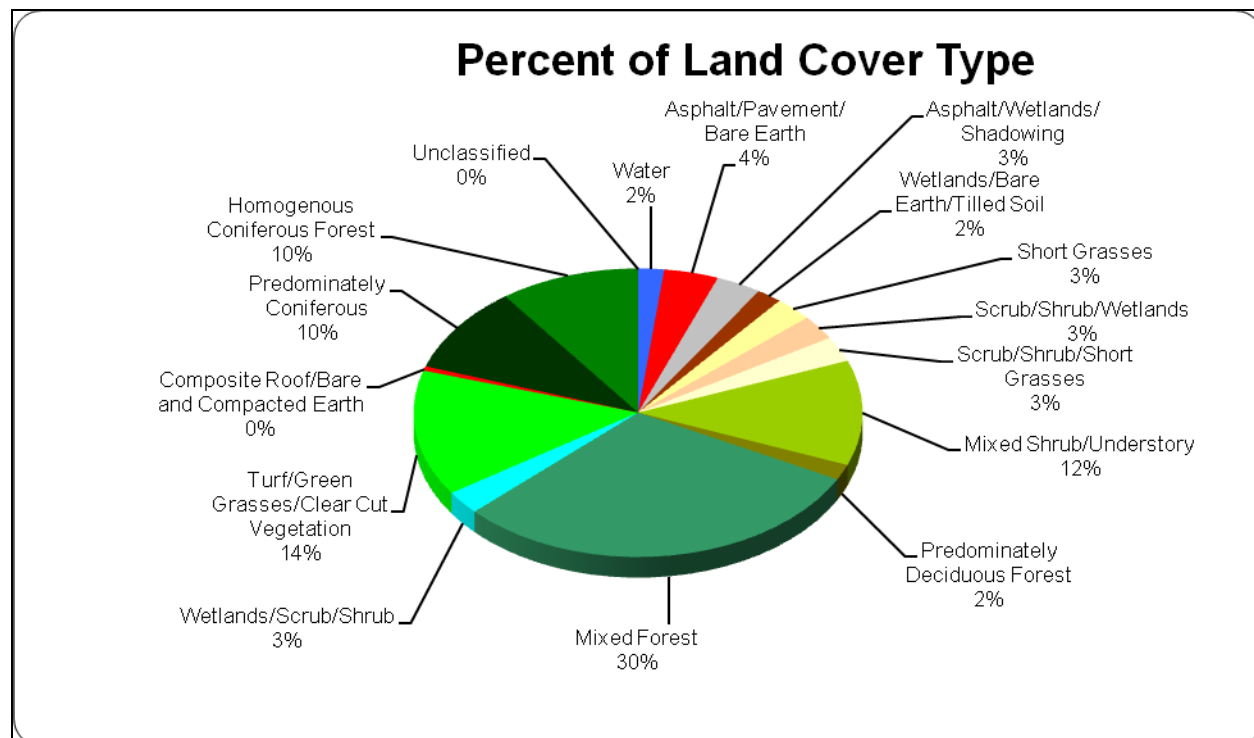


Figure 36a. Classification Percent Totals for West Eld Sub-watershed

Land cover data from 2005 SPOT imagery.

### **Human alteration to the movement of water**

The effects of human land use on the natural delivery of water to the West Eld and its tributaries in the West Eld Sub-watershed were characterized using the following landscape attributes: percent TIA, percent forest land, and percent wetland cover at the DAU scale. Results indicate that the West Eld Sub-watershed is in an “at risk” condition for the delivery of water.

### **Human alteration to the natural movement of sediment**

The effects of human land use on the natural delivery of sediment to the West Eld and its tributaries in the Kennedy Creek Sub-watershed were characterized using the following

landscape attributes: percent bare soils, road density, and percent unstable slopes at the DAU scale. The result was a “properly functioning” condition, with only four “at risk” DAUs.

### **Human alteration to the natural movement of large wood**

The effects of human land use on the natural delivery and routing of large wood in the West Eld and its tributaries were characterized using the following landscape attributes: percent forested riparian and average number of stream crossings per kilometer of stream at the DAU scale. Results indicate that the West Eld Sub-watershed is primarily in an “at risk” and “not properly functioning” condition for the delivery and routing of large wood.

### **Human alteration to the natural movement of pollutants**

The effects of human land use on the natural delivery and routing of pollutants in the West Eld and its tributaries were characterized using the following landscape attributes: Extent of 303(d) listed water bodies for nutrients, toxicants, and bacteria and condition and extent of wetlands at the DAU scale. There is no data to rank the pollutants.

### **Human alteration to the natural movement of heat**

The effects of human land use on the natural delivery and routing of heat in the West Eld tributaries were characterized using the following landscape attributes: Extent of 303(d) listed water bodies for nutrients, toxicants, and bacteria, percent 67 meter riparian zone with mature canopy, road density, and percent TIA at the DAU scale. Results indicate that the West Eld Sub-watershed is primarily in an “at risk” condition for the delivery and routing of large wood. The exception is one “properly functioning” DAU.

### **Aquatic integrity**

The effects of human land use on aquatic integrity in the West Eld and its tributaries in the West Eld Sub-watershed were characterized using the following landscape attributes: percent riparian forest, percent TIA, and available B-IBI scores at the DAU scale. There is no data to rank aquatic integrity.

### **Habitat Connectivity**

Forest covers ten percent of the West Eld Sub-watershed. Most of the forest is in rural residential areas. The West Eld Sub-watershed is considered “at risk” with 10 DAUs “properly functioning” for habitat connectivity.

### **Ecological Benefit**

All DAUs within the study area having ecological and biological processes that are considered “at risk” under current land use conditions were identified for further consideration. DAUs in the “at risk” category for multiple key ecological and biological processes are assumed to provide the greatest potential to maximize environmental benefits when restored. The process scores are

then ranked according to the weight criteria, and converted to a high, medium, or low process rank. West Eld has primarily high and moderate ecological benefit, with only eight DAUs ranked as low (Figure 37. West Eld Sub-watershed Weighted Processes).

## Environmental Benefit

Once all the DAUs were ranked for their ecological benefit, all natural resource sites were ranked for their environmental benefit. Only the high and medium scoring sites were used in further evaluation to develop natural resource, fish habitat, and stormwater preservation and restoration sites.

**Table 12. West Eld Environmental Benefit Ranking of Natural Resource Sites**

West Eld Potential Restoration Sites				
Rank	Wetland	Riparian	Floodplain	Total
High	1	1	NA	2
Medium	20	20	NA	40
Low	59	39	NA	98

The following wetlands, riparian and floodplain sections describe the environmental benefit ranking of the natural resource sites.

## Wetlands

Prior to human alteration, wetlands in the West Eld Sub-watershed totaled approximately 805 acres. We estimate that approximately 249 acres are currently wetlands or degraded/destroyed wetlands with some restoration potential. (Figure 38. West Eld Sub-Watershed Resource Sites).

## Riparian condition

Development has encroached on approximately 215 acres of the 67-meter wide riparian corridors in the West Eld basin. Of the 642 acres, approximately 215 acres have some restoration potential (Figure 38. West Eld Sub-Watershed Resource Sites).

## Floodplain Condition

There is no regulated floodplain in West Eld.

## Natural Resource Sites

All potential natural resource sites were evaluated for their environmental benefit and ranked high, medium, or low. Following evaluation, a total of 42 sites were of high or medium environmental benefit (Figure 39. West Eld Ecological Processes and Resource Site Scoring).

## **Fish Habitat**

There were 60 riparian sites evaluated for habitat value to salmonid fish species. These sites were then used to evaluate potential natural resource sites that have the potential to be stormwater retrofits sites. While the goal is to use natural resource sites as stormwater retrofit sites, we don't want to compromise high quality fish habitat sites.

## **Stormwater Retrofit**

All the natural resource sites were evaluated for stormwater retrofit sites (Figure 40. West Eld Potential Stormwater Restoration Sites).



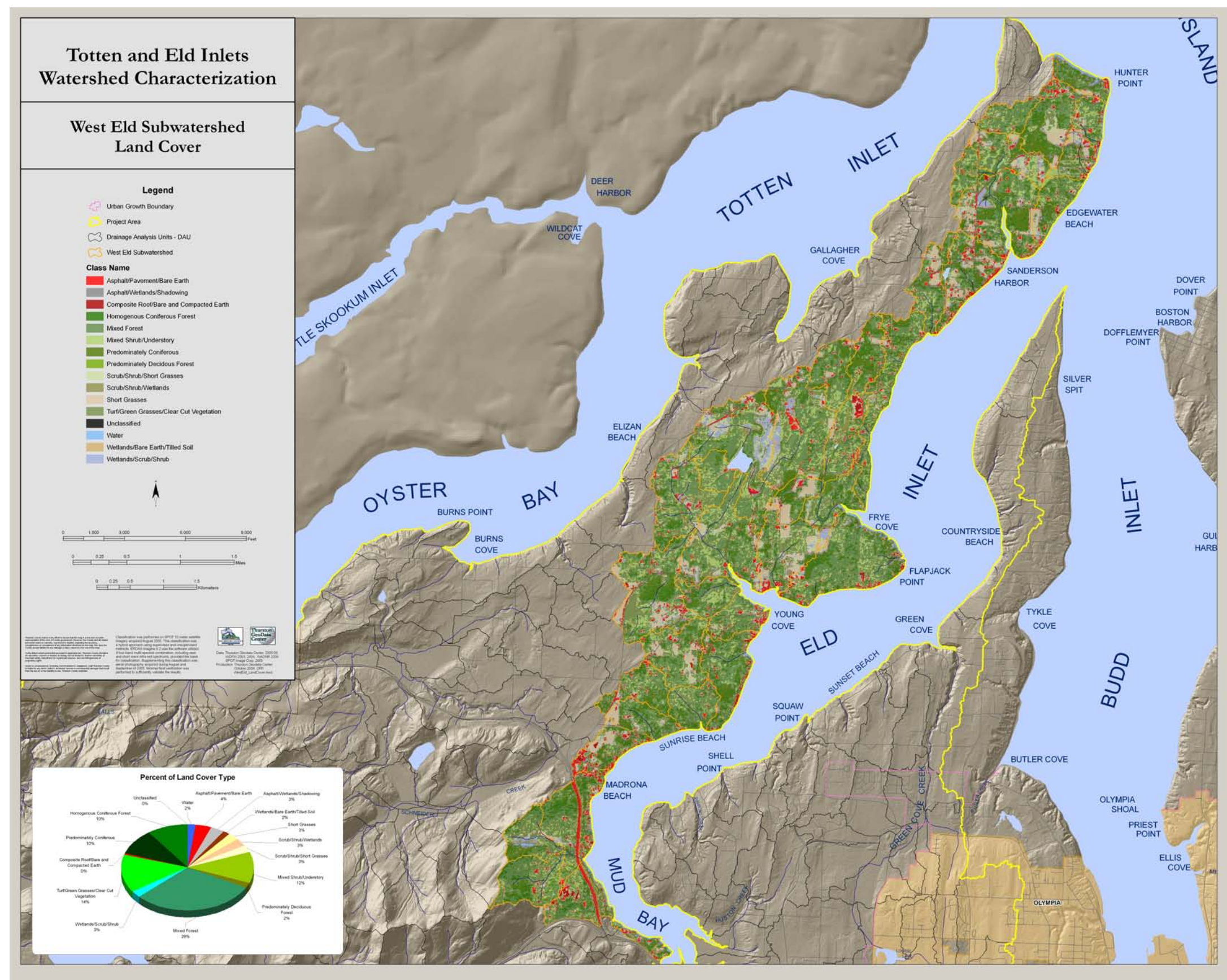


Figure 36 West Eld Sub-watershed Land Cover



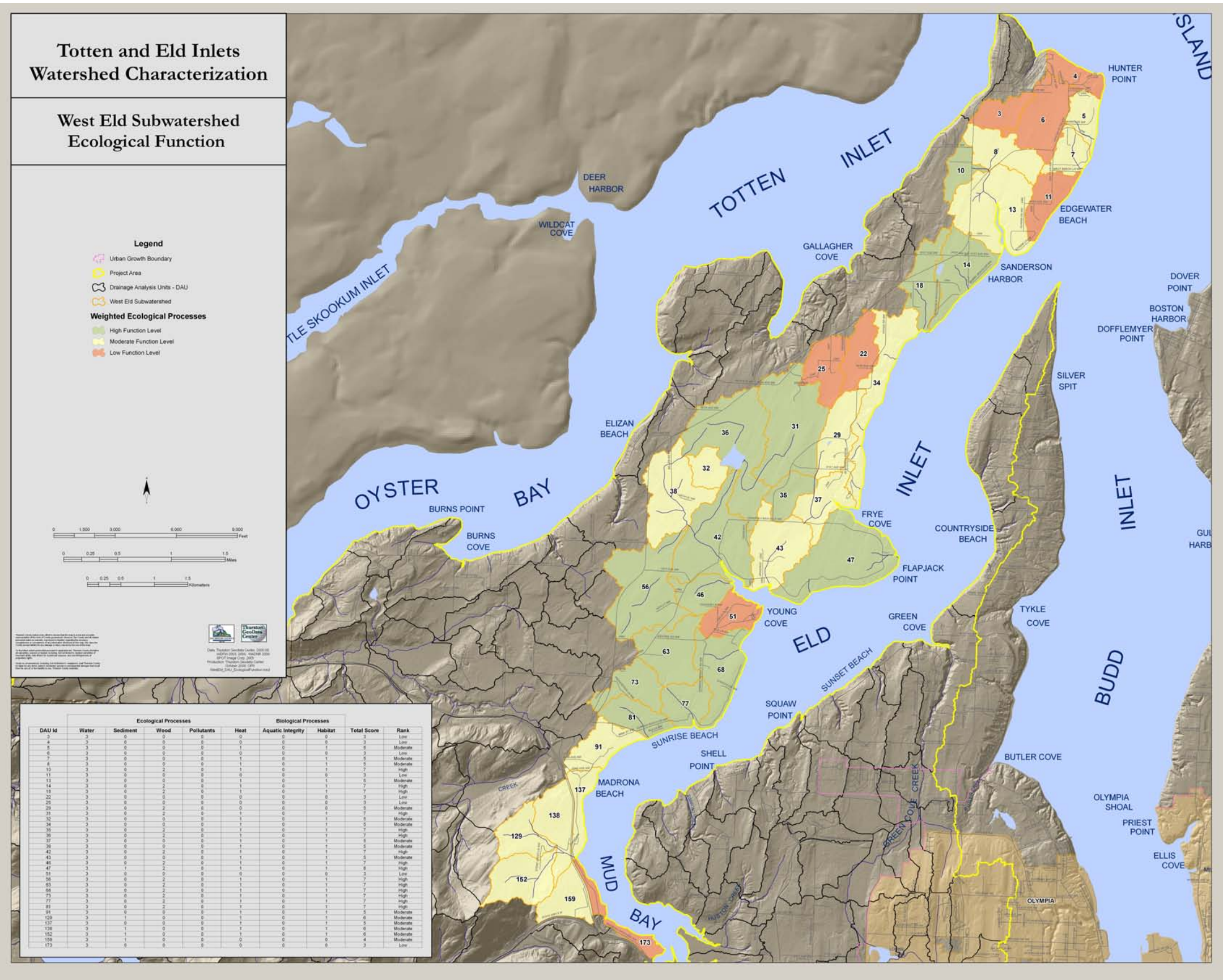


Figure 37 West Eld Sub-watershed Weighted Processes



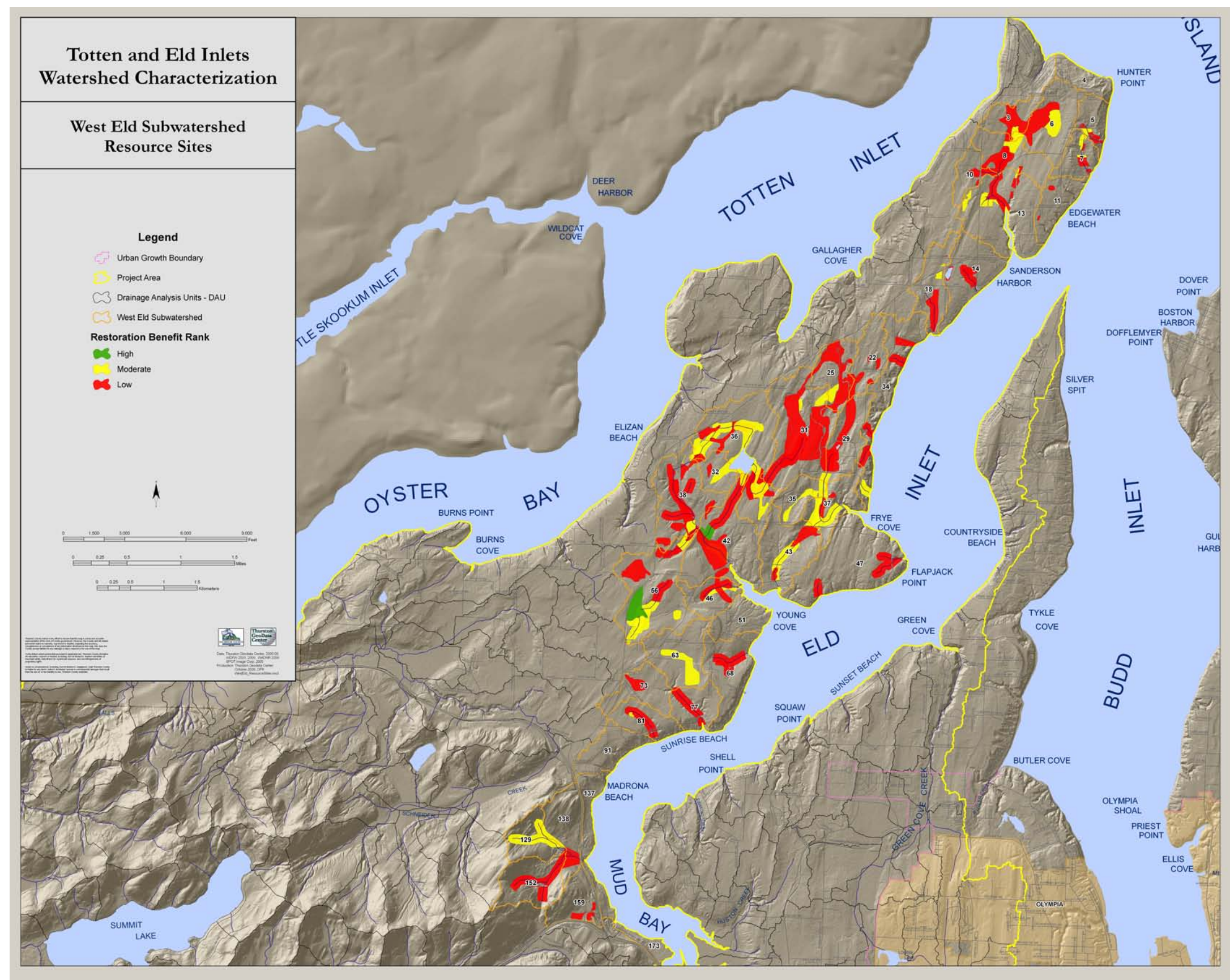


Figure 38 West Eld Sub-watershed Resource Sites



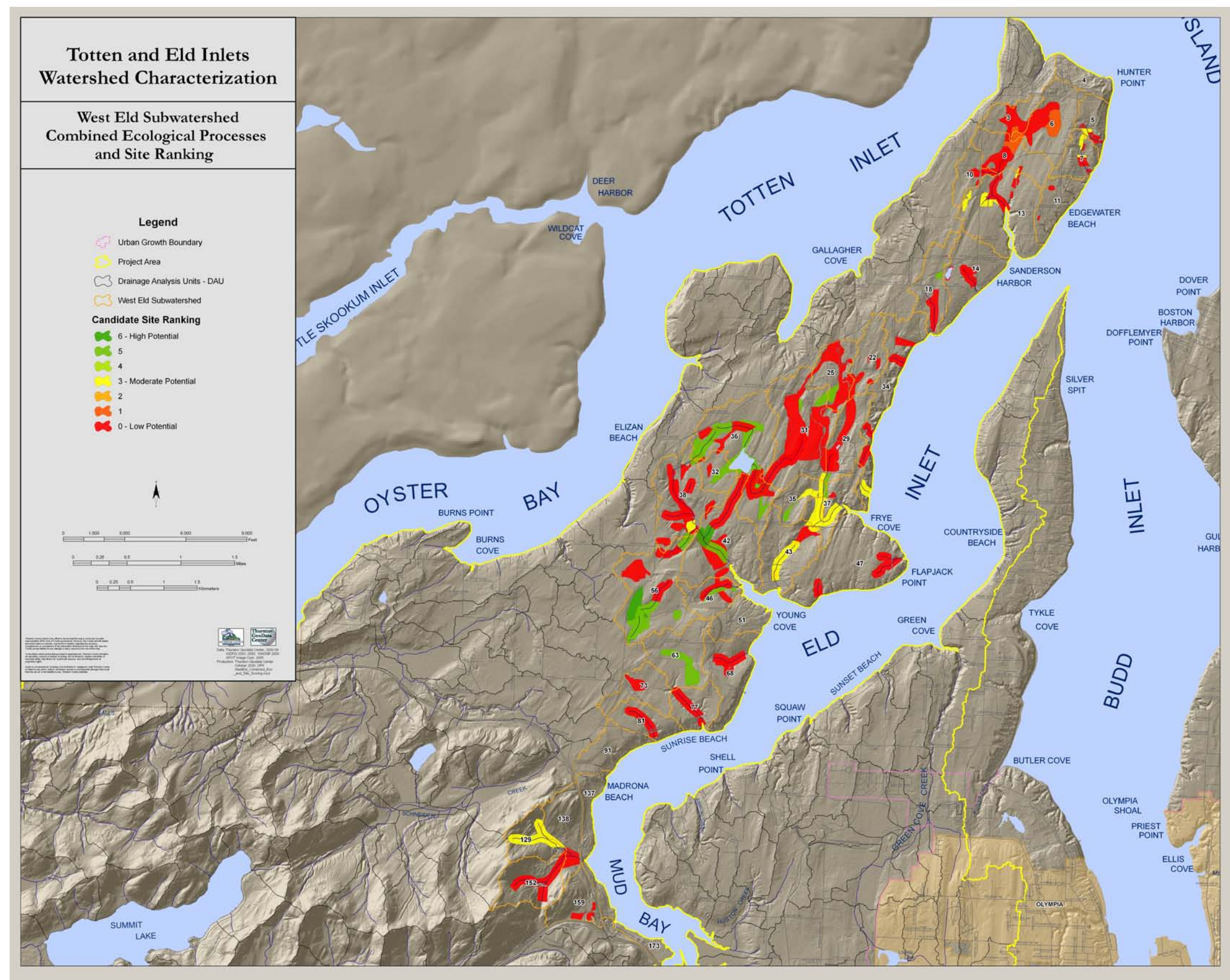


Figure 39 West Eld Sub-watershed Ecological Processes and Resource Site Scoring



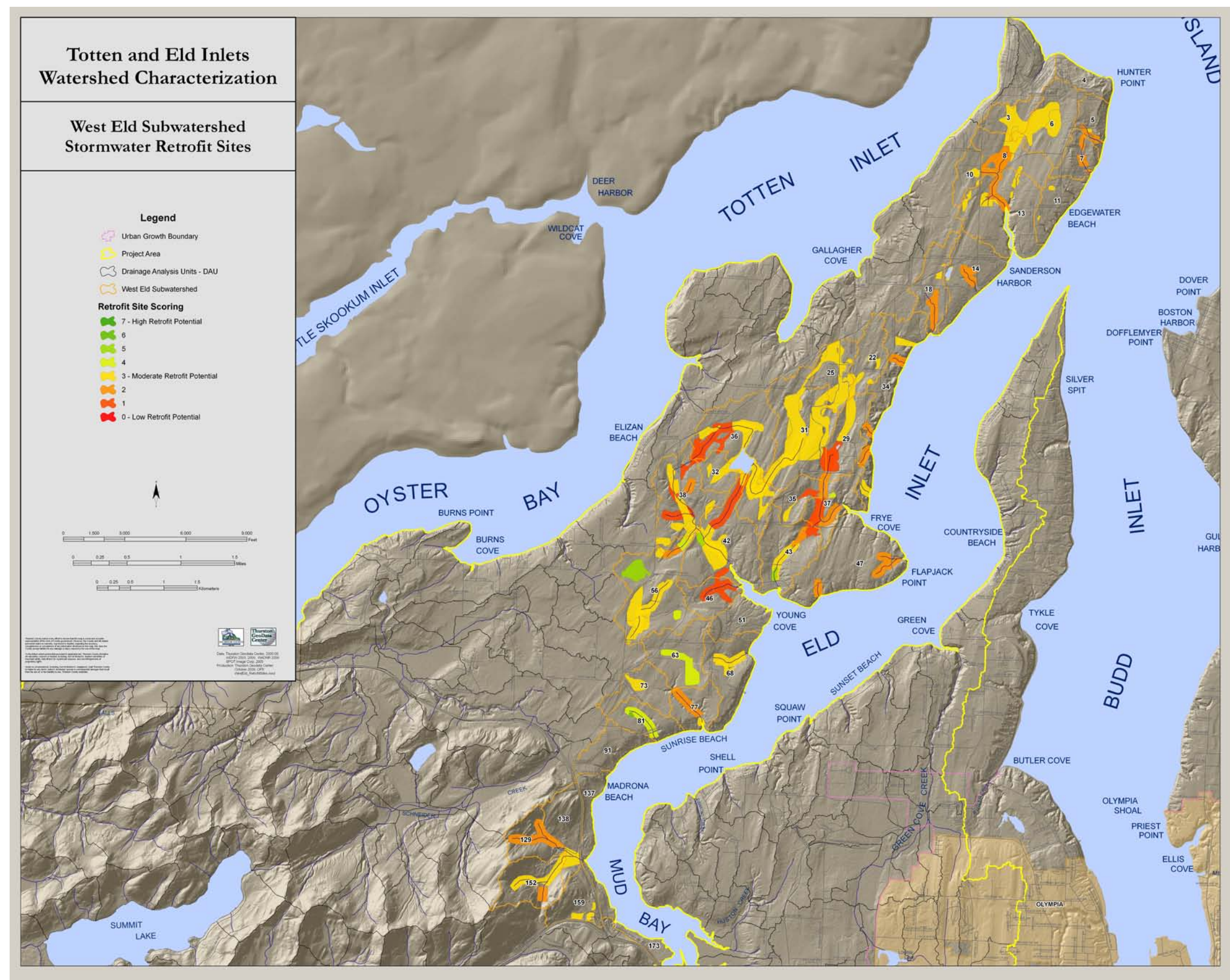


Figure 40 West Eld Sub-watershed Retrofit Sites