

## Appendix G. Open Space Assessment Tool

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The Open Space Assessment Tool (OSAT) was developed for the [Regional Open Space Strategy](#) project as a prototype mapping portal to baseline the region's vast array of critical open space services and benefits to inform conservation, enhancement and protection priorities in the region. Driven by an ecosystem services approach and with a lens to fully account for the full spectrum of open space benefits, the ROSS identified 16 key open space services:

- Air
- Water
- Food
- Shelter
- Energy
- Materials
- Waste
- Disaster mitigation
- Work
- Play
- Health
- Transport
- Cultural
- Education
- Aesthetic
- Community

Many of these services can be quantitatively mapped and are part of this GIS baselining effort. More information is available on TPL's [Open Space Assessment Tool](#) webpage.

The ROSS highlighted five key regional challenges and their intersection with open space planning: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Human Health, Social Equity and Economic Development. The intention of the OSAT is to aggregate the region's most strategic data available to date to understand opportunities and tradeoffs in regional decision-making across these challenges, communities and the landscape. This prototype portal represents some of these services and regional challenges, and will be updated each year. Click [here](#) to learn more about the data metrics development approach adopted.

### Analysis of open space services provided by the regional open space network

The regional open space network was overlaid with six of the open space services mapped in the OSAT. Table H.1 shows the acres of open space services provided by the regional open space network. 137,000 acres of the network help mitigate against landslides. 1 million acres of the network provide corridors for wildlife and 1 million acres also provide critical habitat to species listed under the Endangered Species Act. 970,000 acres of the network support tourism. 1.6 million acres of the network help improve water quality in rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound. 614,000 acres of the network help to moderate stormwater runoff.

**Table H.1. Acres of open space services provided by the regional open space network.**

Service:	Acres:
Landslide mitigation	137,000
Wildlife corridors	1,005,500
Critical habitat	999,500
Tourism	968,500
Water quality	1,596,100
Moderate stormwater runoff	613,600