



# Ecology's Clean Energy Coordination

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January 29, 2025

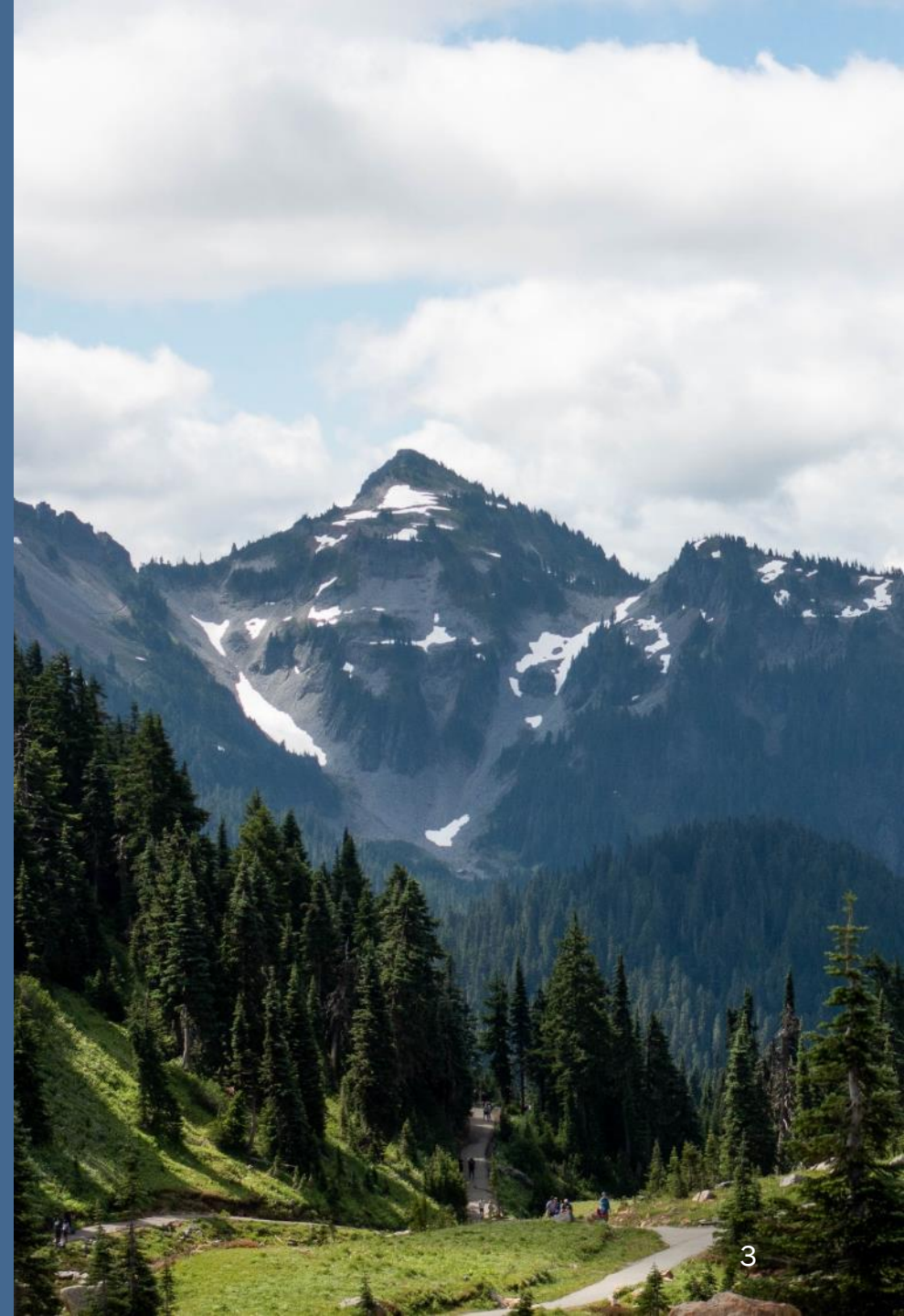


# Clean Energy Tribal Engagement and Consultation Actions in 2024

- Five clean energy Tribal forums/meetings held to share information and receive feedback
- Provided update at State-Tribal Climate Roundtable in September
- Sent notifications of comment periods with offer of government-to-government consultation
- Shared draft solar, onshore wind, and green hydrogen PEIS sections for early Tribal review and feedback
- Extended comment periods for Tribes on draft PEISs



# Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements



# Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEISs)

Ecology is developing three PEISs

- Green hydrogen production and storage facilities
- Utility-scale solar energy facilities
- Utility-scale onshore wind facilities



Legislative deadline to complete these is June 30, 2025

[PEIS webpage](#)

# Green Hydrogen PEIS Tribal Comment Period

Began January 7 and **goes through 11:59 p.m. March 6, 2025**

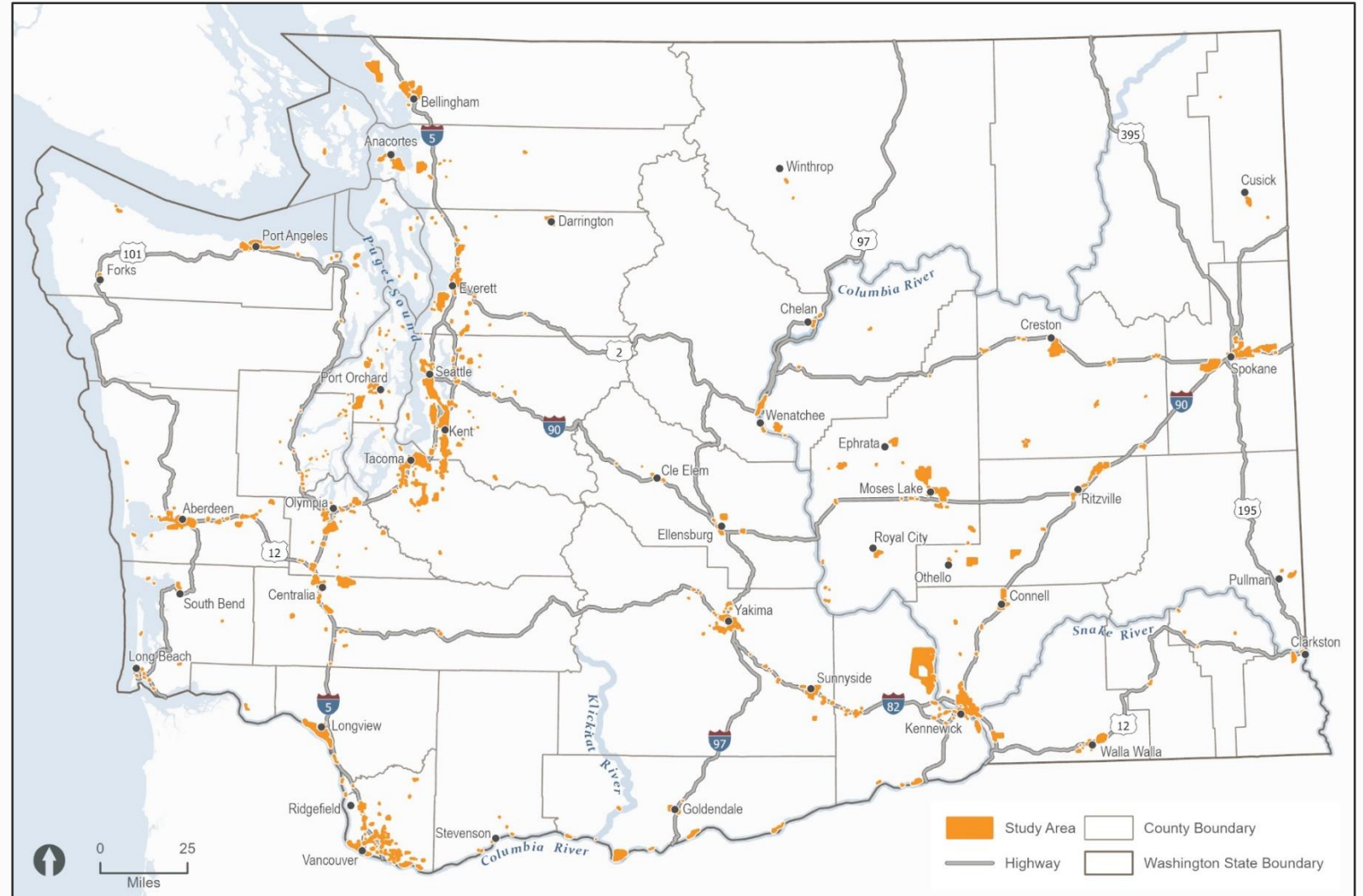
- [Comment form online](#) (this will close at the end of the public comment period on February 6, 2025)
- Email to [cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov)
- Provide comments at a Tribal forum
  - February 20, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Zoom registration link](#)
  - February 25, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. [Zoom registration link](#)
- Send US Mail to: Clean Energy Coordination, Department of Ecology, PO Box 47709, Olympia, WA 98504-7709

**Please note: today's presentation is to share information, but not for making formal comments.**

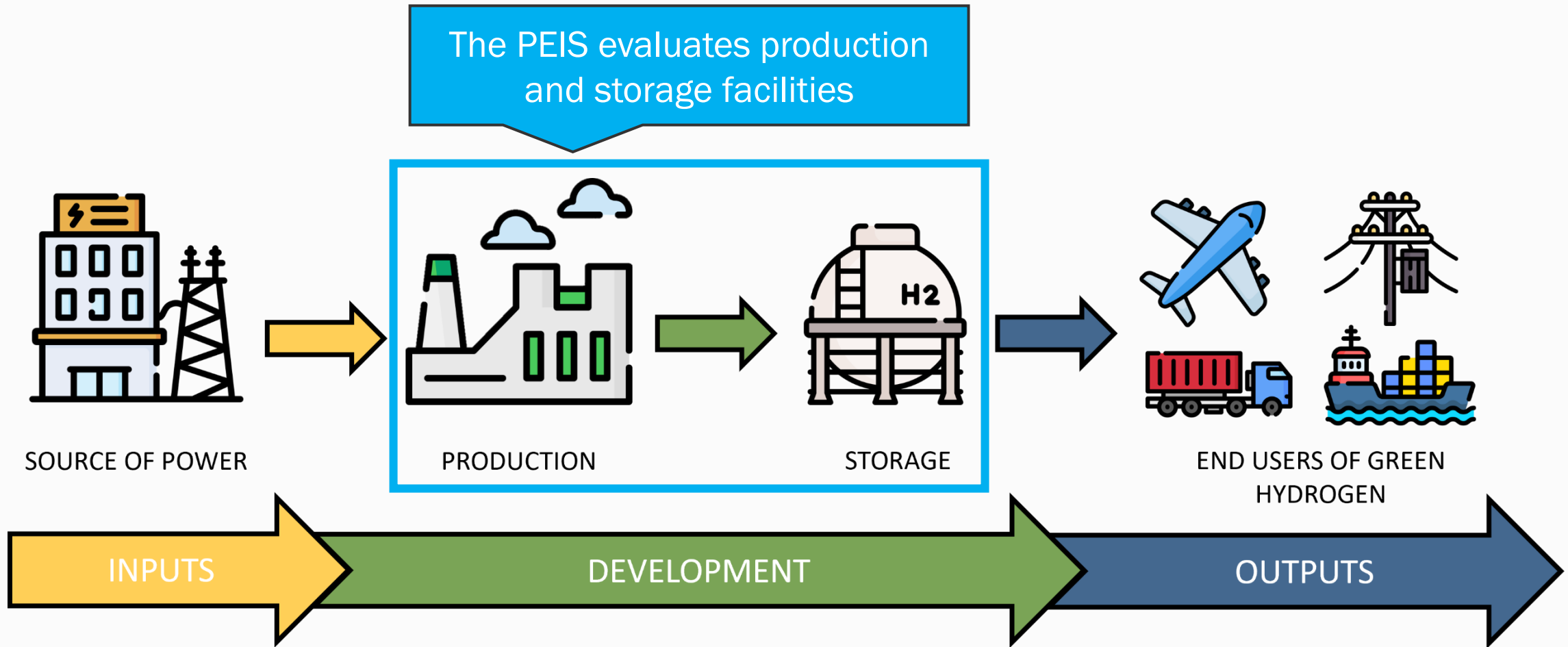
# Green Hydrogen Scope of Analysis

Based on:

- Areas with industrial or industrial-use supporting zoning
- Distance to transmission lines



# Green Hydrogen System



Icons Created by Flaticon.com

# Facility Types Evaluated in the PEIS

- Green hydrogen production facilities
- Production facilities with back-up battery energy storage systems
- Green hydrogen storage facilities
- No Action Alternative



*Steam methane reforming and liquid storage facility - Air Liquide - Apex, NV*

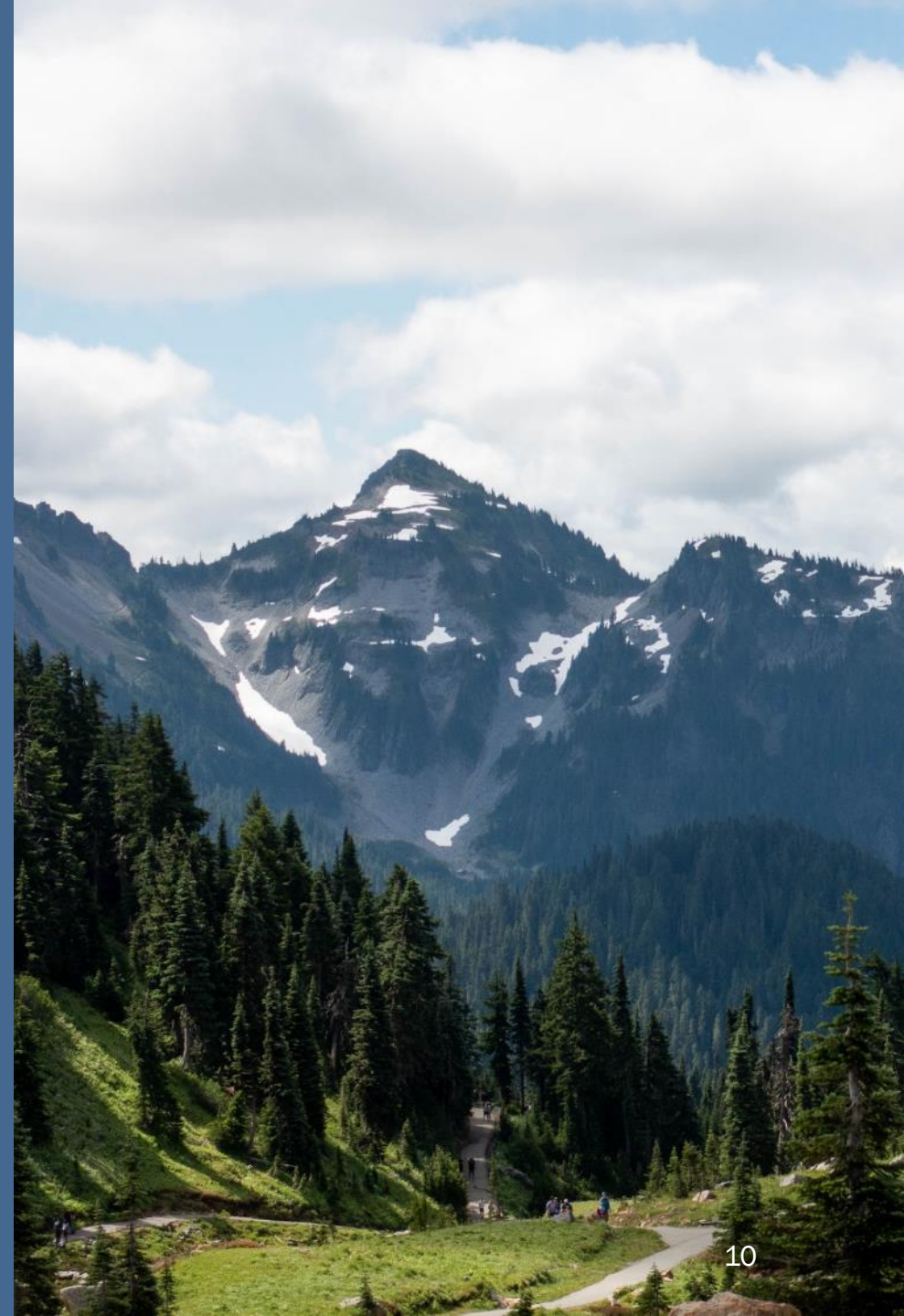


# PEISs - Next Steps

- Green hydrogen Draft PEIS comment period ends Mar 6
  - Review comments and prepare final PEIS
- Solar and Onshore Wind PEISs
  - Joint comment period ended last fall
  - Review comments and prepare final PEISs
- Outreach for the final PEISs
  - Planning Tribal forum for spring 2025
  - Developing guidance and tools for developers and local governments on using the PEISs
- Final PEISs released by June 30, 2025



# Coordinated permit process



# Coordinated Permit Process

- Ecology has a new coordinated permit process for eligible clean energy projects
  - Includes environmental review and state and local permits
  - Requires early Tribal engagement and consultation
  - Includes pre-application phase and initial assessment
  - Single work plan developed
- For most clean energy projects, there are three different pathways developers can choose
  - Applicants decide which to use based on their needs and their project
- No projects using this process as of January 2025

[Coordinated permit process webpage](#)

# Clean Energy Review and Permitting Options

## Coordinated Clean Energy Permit Process (new)

Led by Ecology

Optional process

Includes SEPA  
environmental review

State and local  
permitting agencies  
make permit decisions

## Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) Process

Led by EFSEC

Some project types are  
required to use, others  
are optional

EFSEC does  
environmental review  
and makes state and  
local permit decisions

## Local government-led environmental review and permitting processes

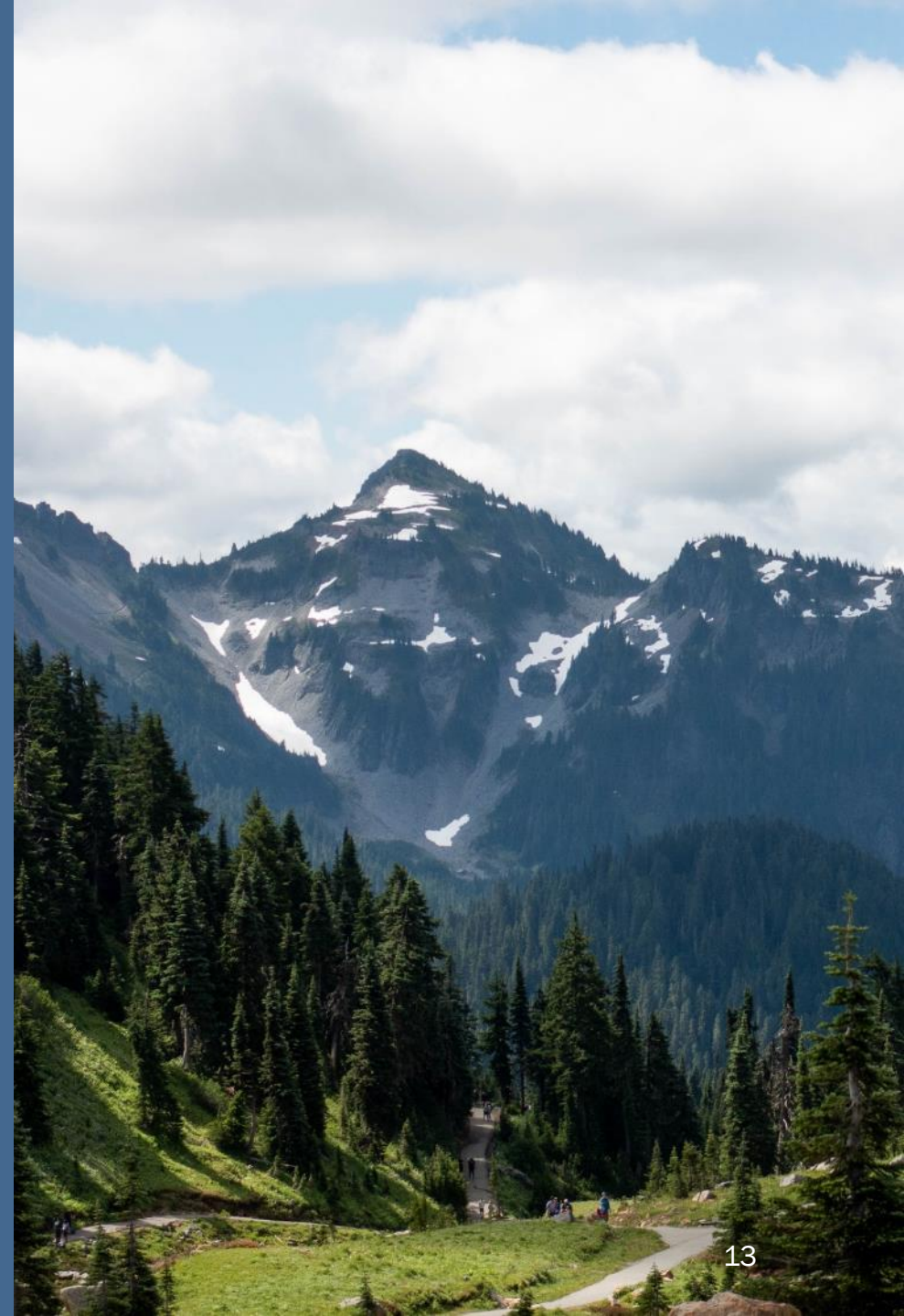
Led by local  
government

SEPA environmental  
review done by  
city/county/state

State and local  
permitting agencies  
make permit decisions



# Interagency Clean Energy Siting and Coordinating Council



# Interagency Clean Energy Council

- Ecology and Dept. of Commerce co-lead a group of 13 agencies, councils, and offices
- Objectives:
  - Improve information sharing among agencies
  - Identify policy-level issues
  - Discuss options for agencies to improve permitting processes
- This council does not make decisions and does not review specific projects

# Annual Legislative Report

- Updates on state and federal agency actions on clean energy
- Recommendations for improving clean energy siting and permitting:
  - Improving Tribal engagement and consultation
  - Planning statewide clean energy development
  - Making siting more beneficial to communities
  - Permitting improvements

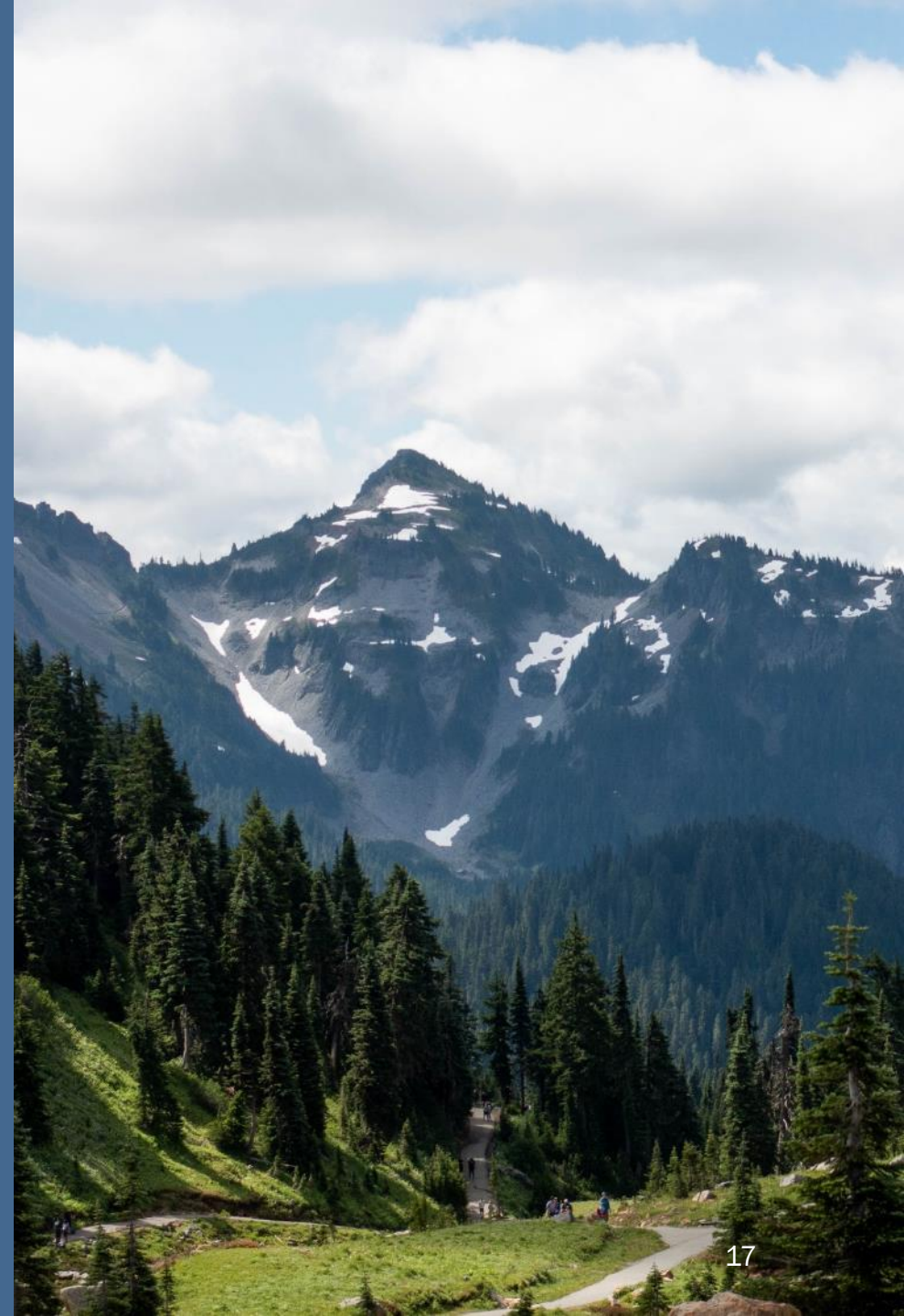
# Interagency Clean Energy Council Tribal Engagement and Consultation

- Provided updates at State-Tribal Climate Roundtables and Ecology clean energy Tribal forums
- Shared draft report recommendations with Tribes for review and feedback
- Focus this year is improve information sharing and engagement with Tribes and interested parties
- Our agenda includes developing a Tribal engagement and consultation plan with potential options





# Geothermal Energy Collaborative Process



# Geothermal Energy Collaborative Process

- New work for Ecology ([Senate Bill 6039](#))
- Working with Commerce, DNR, WDFW, and DAHP
- Objective: Identify opportunities and risks associated with geothermal energy development
- DNR will identify three sites with high energy potential
- Requires government-to-government consultation with potentially affected Tribes
- Interim report in June 2026, final report by June 2027

# Starting the Collaborative Process

- Ecology planning to hire consultants and staff
- Develop multiple options to support equitable participation
- Provide information about:
  - Three sites identified by DNR with high energy potential
  - High-level information about geothermal technologies
- Identify potential impacts to:
  - Rights, interests, and resources, including Tribal cultural resources, of potentially affected federally recognized Tribes
  - State or federal endangered species
  - Overburdened communities
- Develop factors to help in siting projects

# Collaborative Process

- At the request of Tribes, the process can include additional participation with independent subject matter experts
- Subject to funding availability, Ecology shall provide grants to potentially affected federally recognized Tribes to support the evaluation of impacts and support participation

# Thank you!

*Please join us for the  
U.S. Bureau of  
Reclamation & Ecology  
break-out session on  
the Lower Snake River  
Dam Water  
Replacement Study*



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[Clean energy information webpage](#)