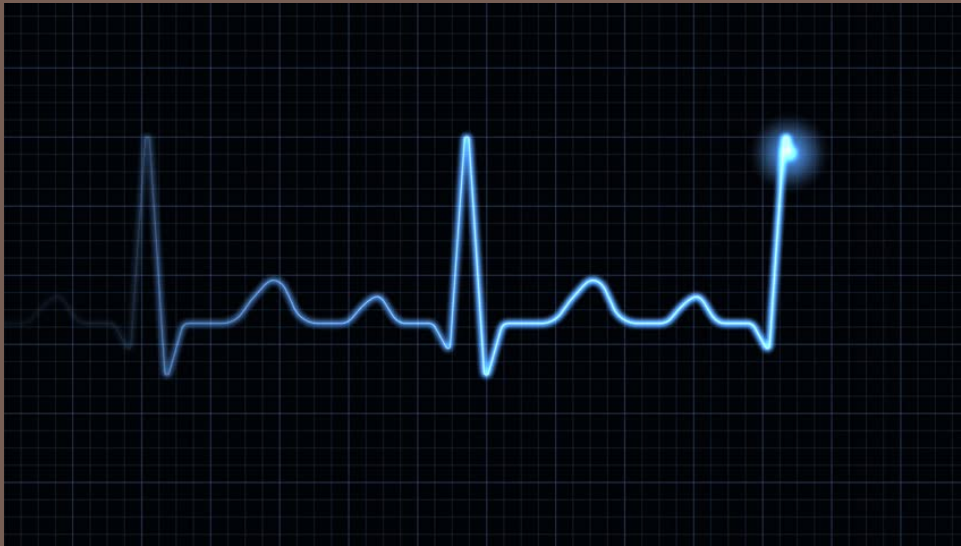


BEYOND STABILIZATION: NEXT STEPS FOR LARK RECOVERY IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND



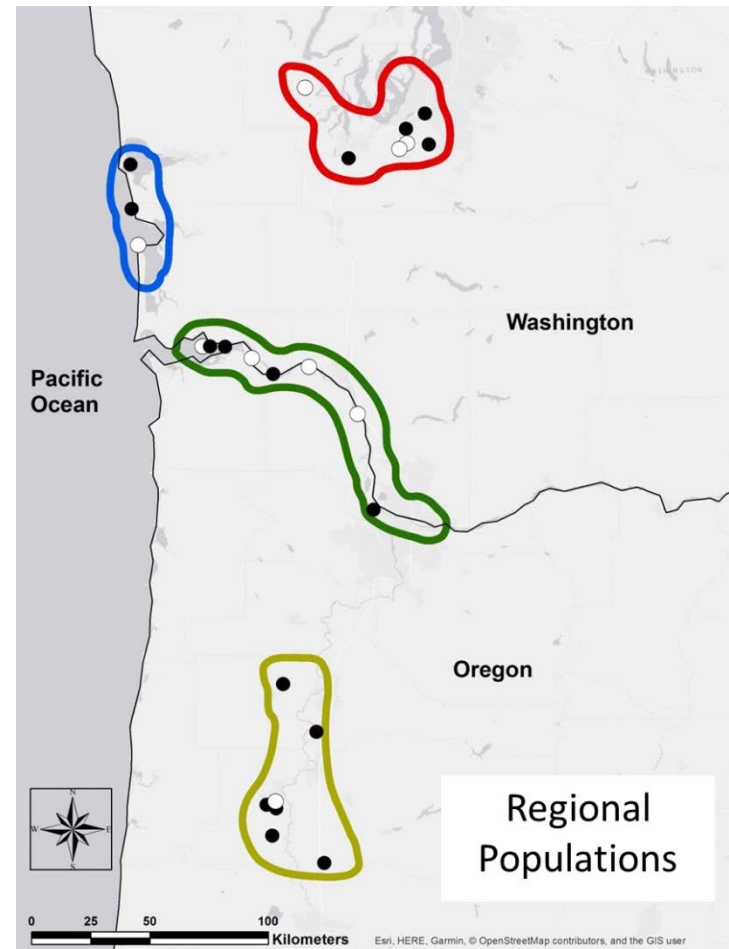
Gary L. Slater
Center for Natural Lands Management

Objectives

- 
- A person wearing a grey vest and dark pants is standing in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. They are holding a camera with a large lens mounted on a black tripod. In the background, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees under a hazy sky. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the natural environment.
1. Provide evidence of stability
 2. Outline important conservation strategies for lark recovery

Background

- Three (sub)-populations
- South Puget Sound:
(2015: 250 individuals)
- Range-wide population:
1,170-1,610 (Altman 2011)



Distribution - South Puget Sound



Why stabilization?



- Occupied sites have high human impacts to ground-nesting bird
- Sites with strong declines
- Data indicated population declining ~38% year (2002-2005; Camfield et al. 2011)

How to stabilize

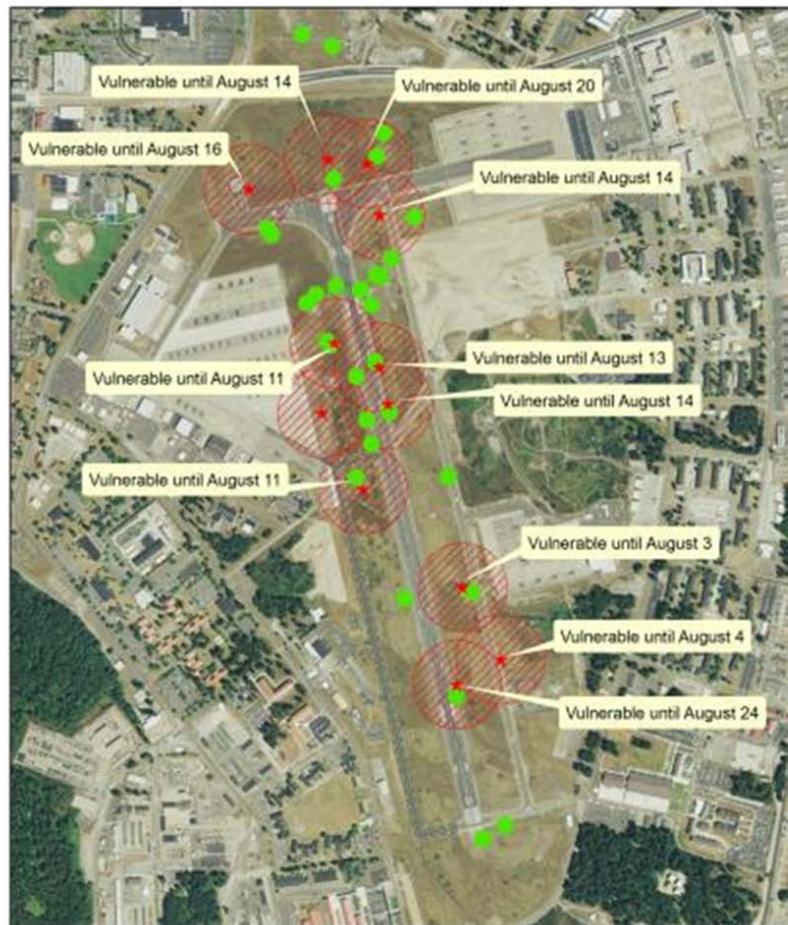


Primarily directed on JBLM

- Minimize effects of military training and airfield operations
- Better understand limiting factors
- Increase amount and suitability of habitat

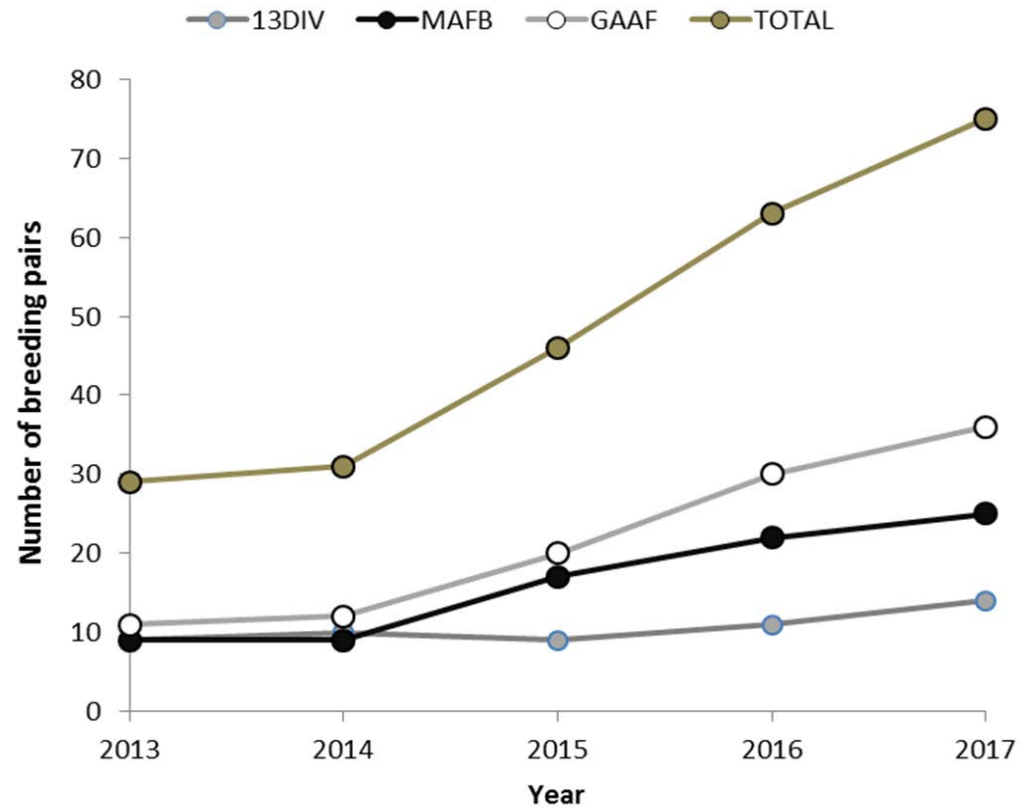
Evidence of stabilization

GAAF Lark Status 27 July 2015

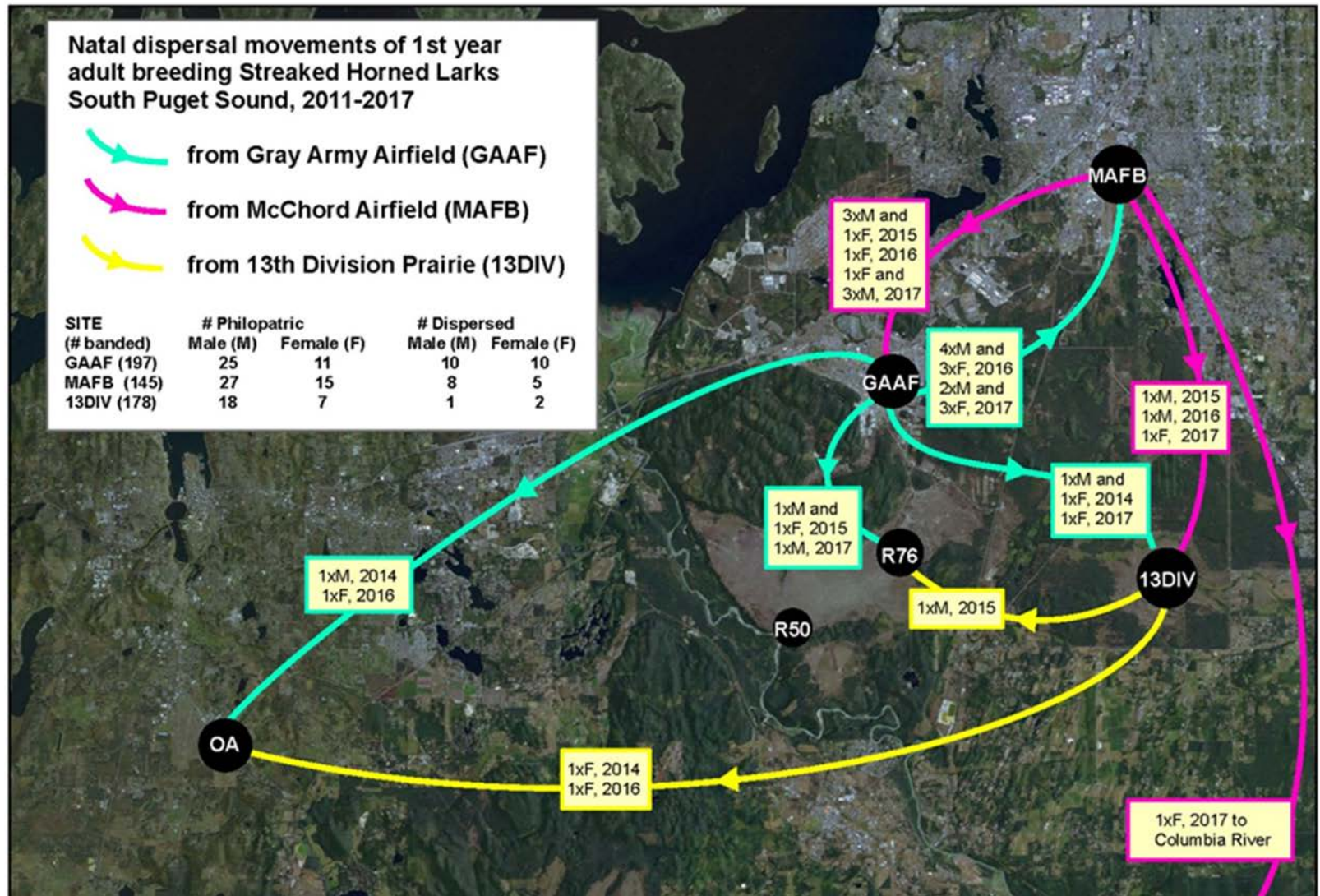


Nest Status
★ Active
● Inactive
Recommended Stay Out

0 475 950 1,900 Feet



Evidence of stabilization



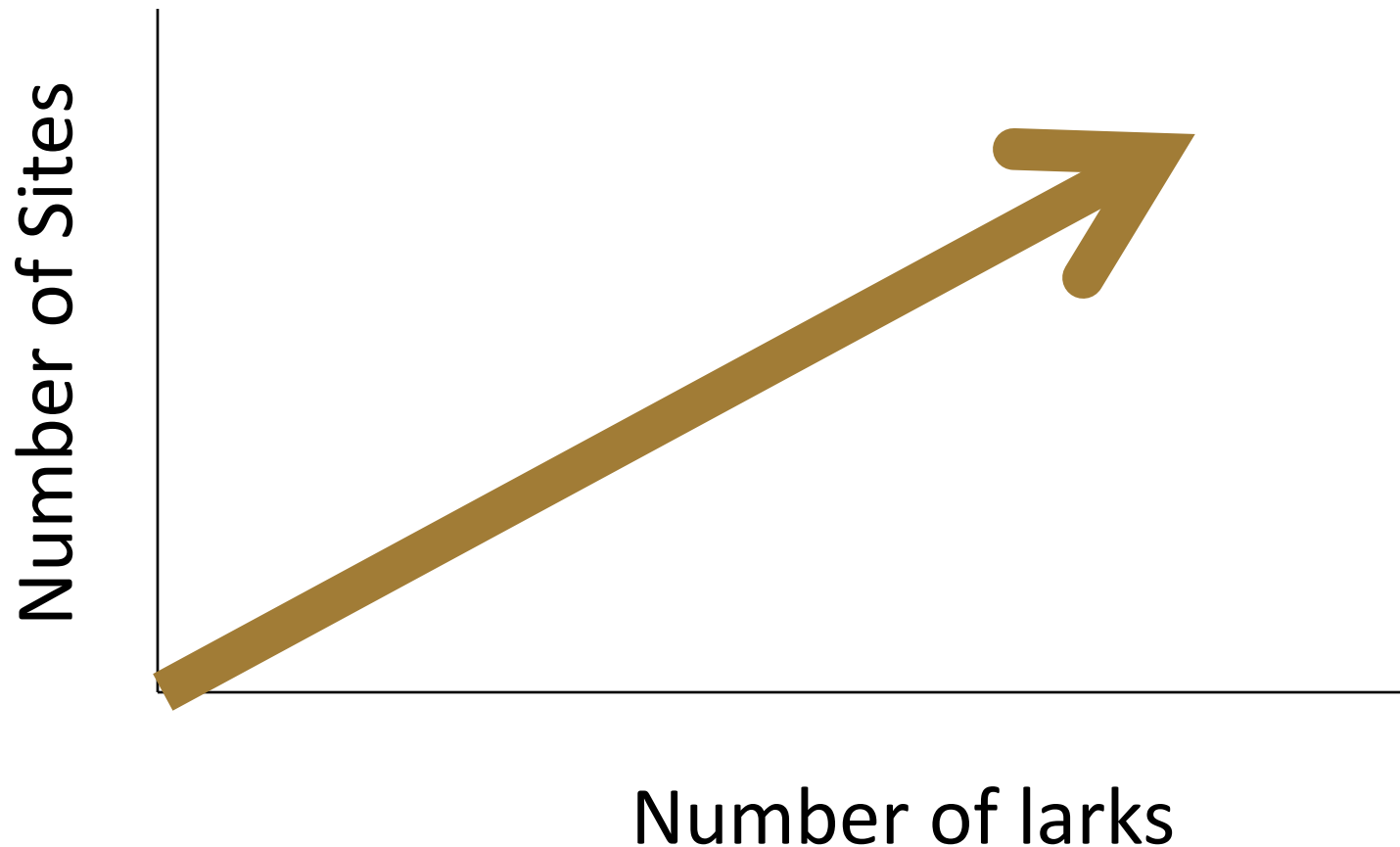
Evidence of stabilization



Off-base airfields - Less information

- 2015: survey results indicated stability (potential male-biased ratio) (Keren and Pearson 2016)
- 2018: Sites will be resurveyed by WDFW

Streaked Horned Lark Recovery



Recovery starts on airfields



- Support 80% of the South Sound population
- Continue protecting nests/vulnerable periods
- Identify other shared goals or opportunities
 - Reduce mowing activities
 - Reduce strike hazard



FROM THIS

Demonstrating Grass Conversion



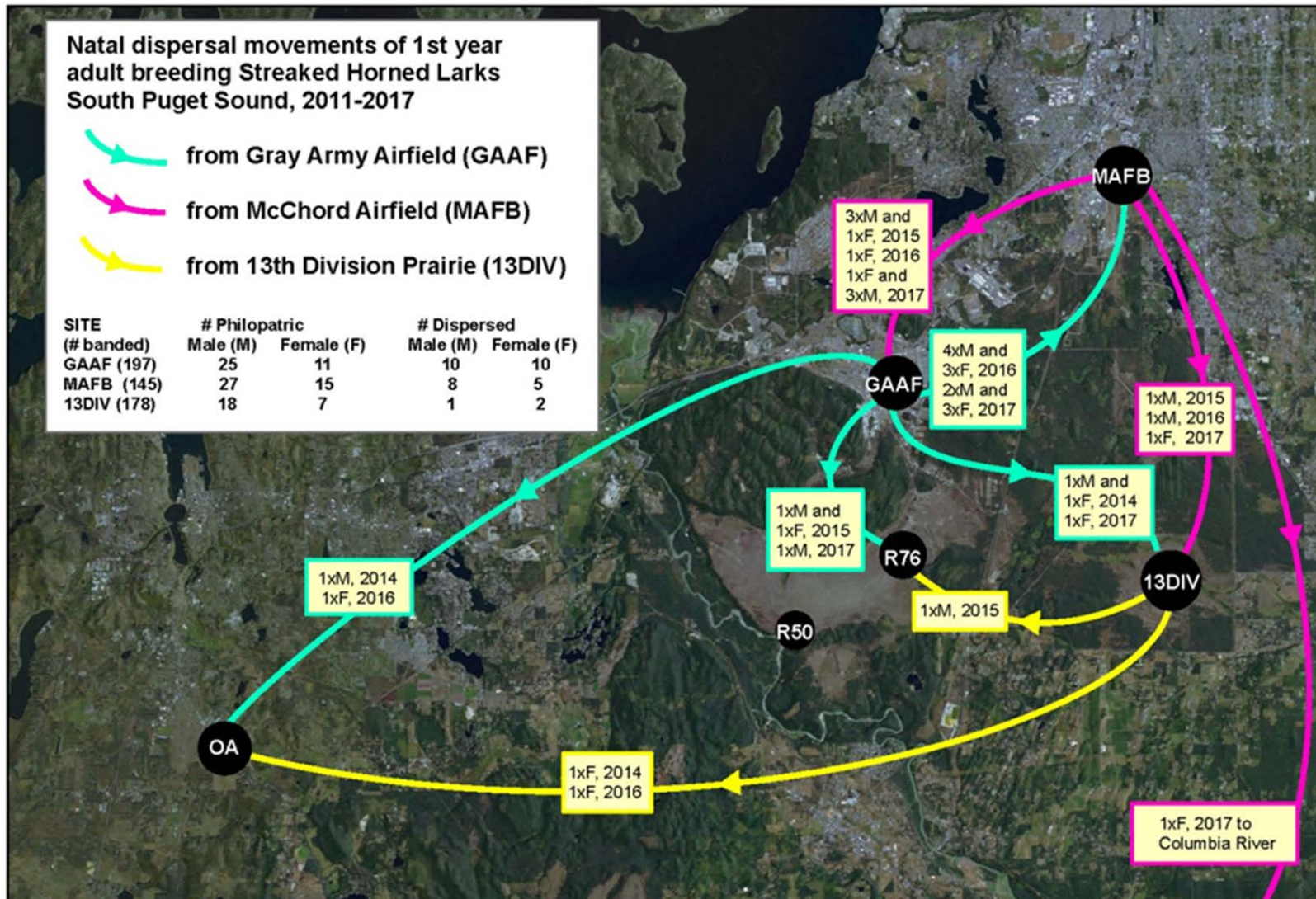
TO THIS

Airfield

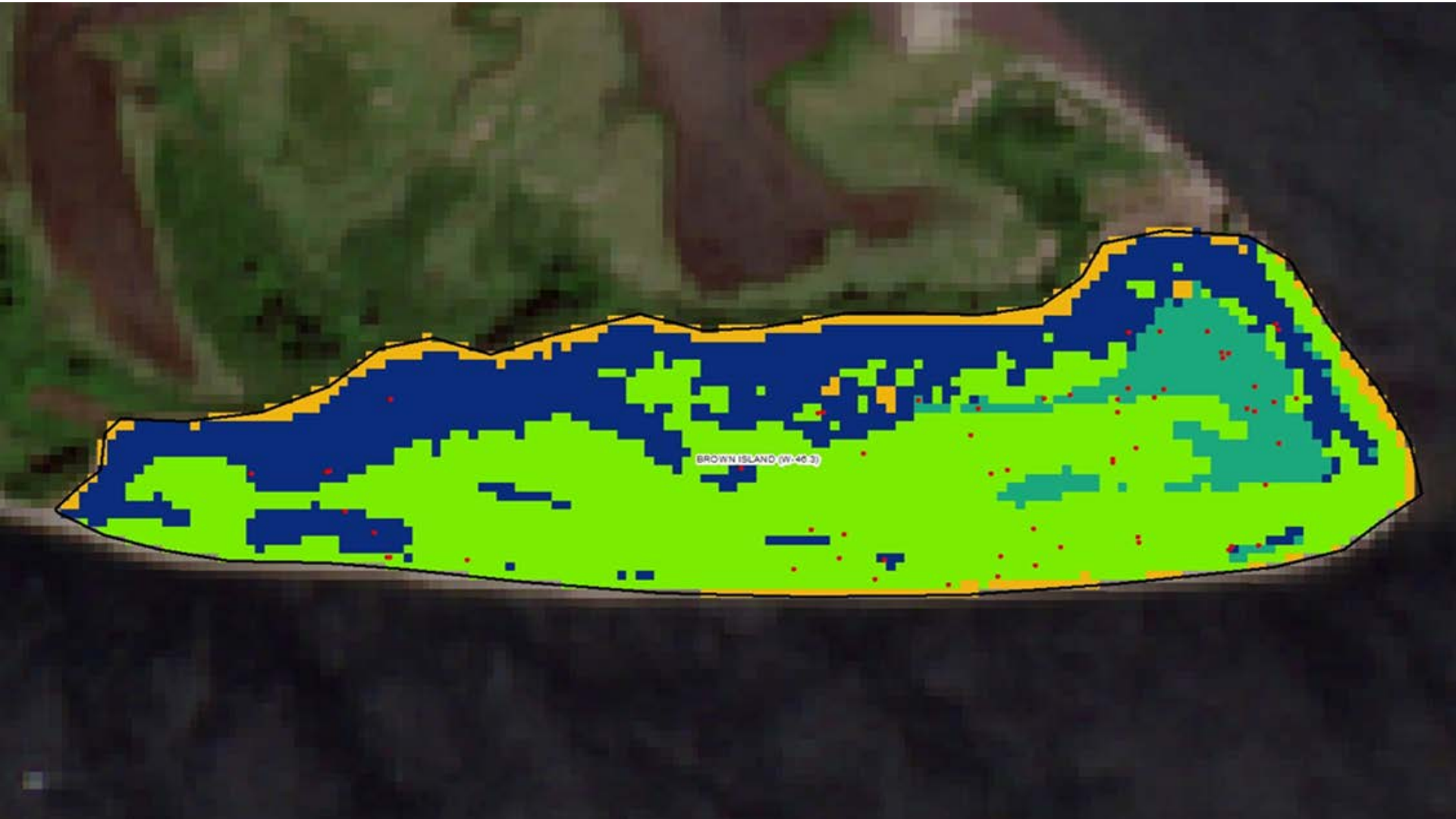


- Need to encourage off-base airfields and FAA that it is in their best interest.
 - Incentives?
- Interim strategy to increase population size and establish birds at new sites
- Ultimately be source of reintroductions
- Successful implementation at JBLM is key

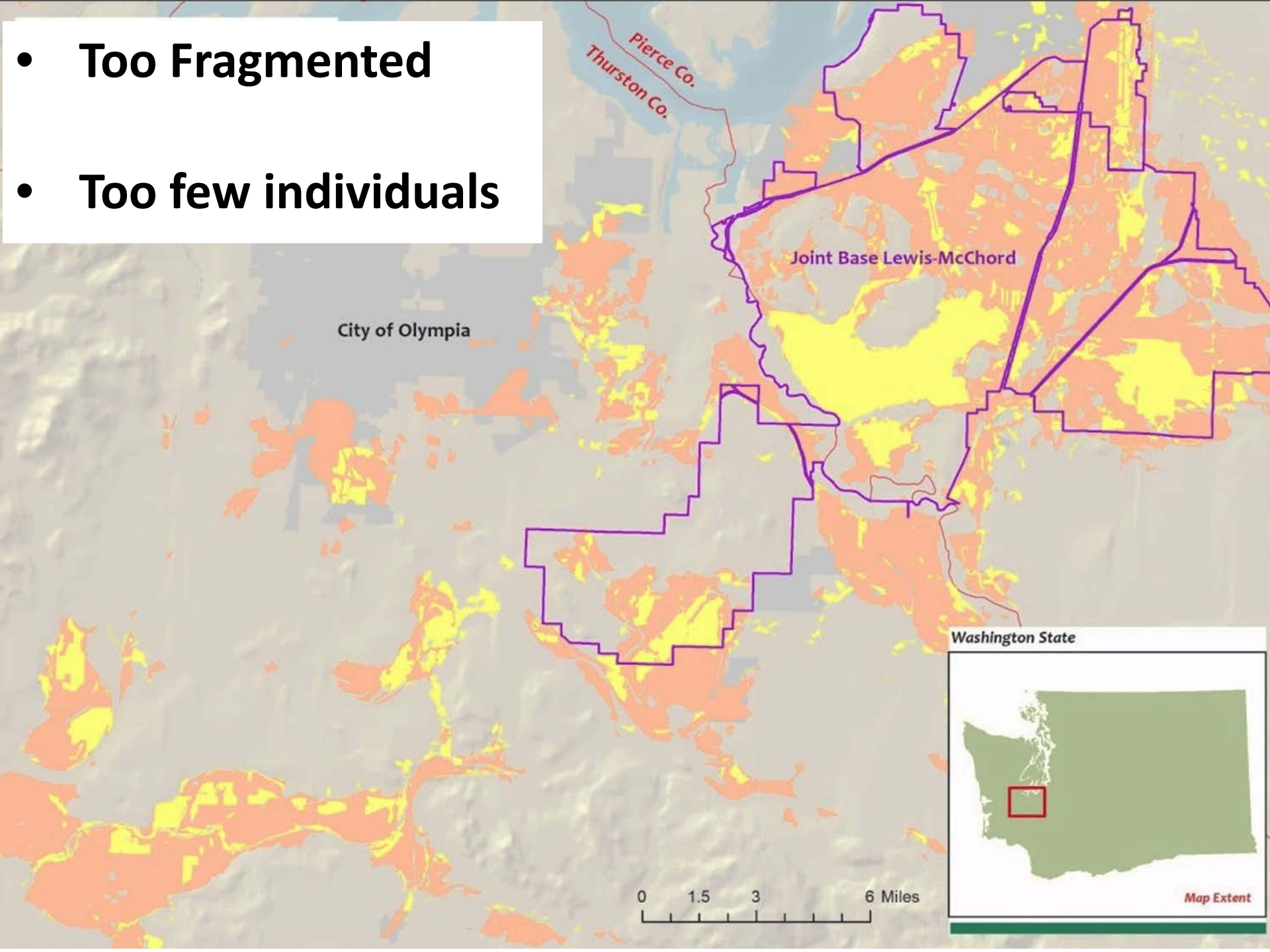
Investigate absence of colonization



Is habitat suitable?



- Too Fragmented
- Too few individuals



Reintroduction

- No previous reintroduction of larks or other passerine grassland birds
- Long-term strategy - Need to plan now.
- **First step:** Develop capture, handling, and husbandry techniques - separate subspecies
- **Second step:** Pilot study
- **Third step:** Full implementation assuming source population available.

Summary To achieve recovery

Dependent on airfields – at least in the short-term

Identify the key to colonization

Reintroduction



Legend

- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Current Grassland
- Historic Grassland
- County Boundaries
- Populated Area

