



# **Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV Project**

## About the GeoRoute Model





# GEOENGINEERS Geo Route

115 kV Transmission Line Route Study  
Sammamish – Juanita

Locating a route for a 115 kV transmission line that is compatible with:

- Sensitive Land Uses
- Sensitive Natural Features
- Engineering Design and Safety Standards
- Community Values

## AVOIDANCE AREAS

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

### Built Environment Layers

- Parks and Open Spaces (10%)
- Ferrous Sites (<5 Acres) (25%)
- Schools
- Major Events Production Areas
- Scenic View Corridors
- Interstate Right-of-Way
- Zoning-Single Family
- Zoning-Multi Family

### Natural Environment Layers

- Priority Habitats-Fresh (15%)
- Priority Habitats-Salinity (10%)
- Stream Management Areas (10%)
- Streams
- Flood Zones
- Lakes
- Streams of No Fish
- Landslide Hazard
- Wetlands
- Salinity Hazard
- Critical Threshold

WEIGHTED AVOIDANCE AREAS  
COMMUNITY INPUT

MAP IT

### Engineering Layers

- Interstate Right-of-Way (10%)
- 200' setbacks from Right-of-Way (20%)
- Steep Slopes >= 40%
- Parcels not adjacent to public Right-of-way (20%)

## OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHTED OPPORTUNITY AREAS  
COMMUNITY INPUT

- Railroad Right-of-Way (10%)
- Existing Right-of-Way (10%)
- Adapted Steep (10%)
- Zoning-Industrial/Commercial
- Ferrous Sites (>10 Acres)

MAP IT

## COMBINED OPPORTUNITIES & AVOIDANCE AREAS

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHTED OPPORTUNITY & AVOIDANCE AREAS  
COMMUNITY INPUT

MAP IT

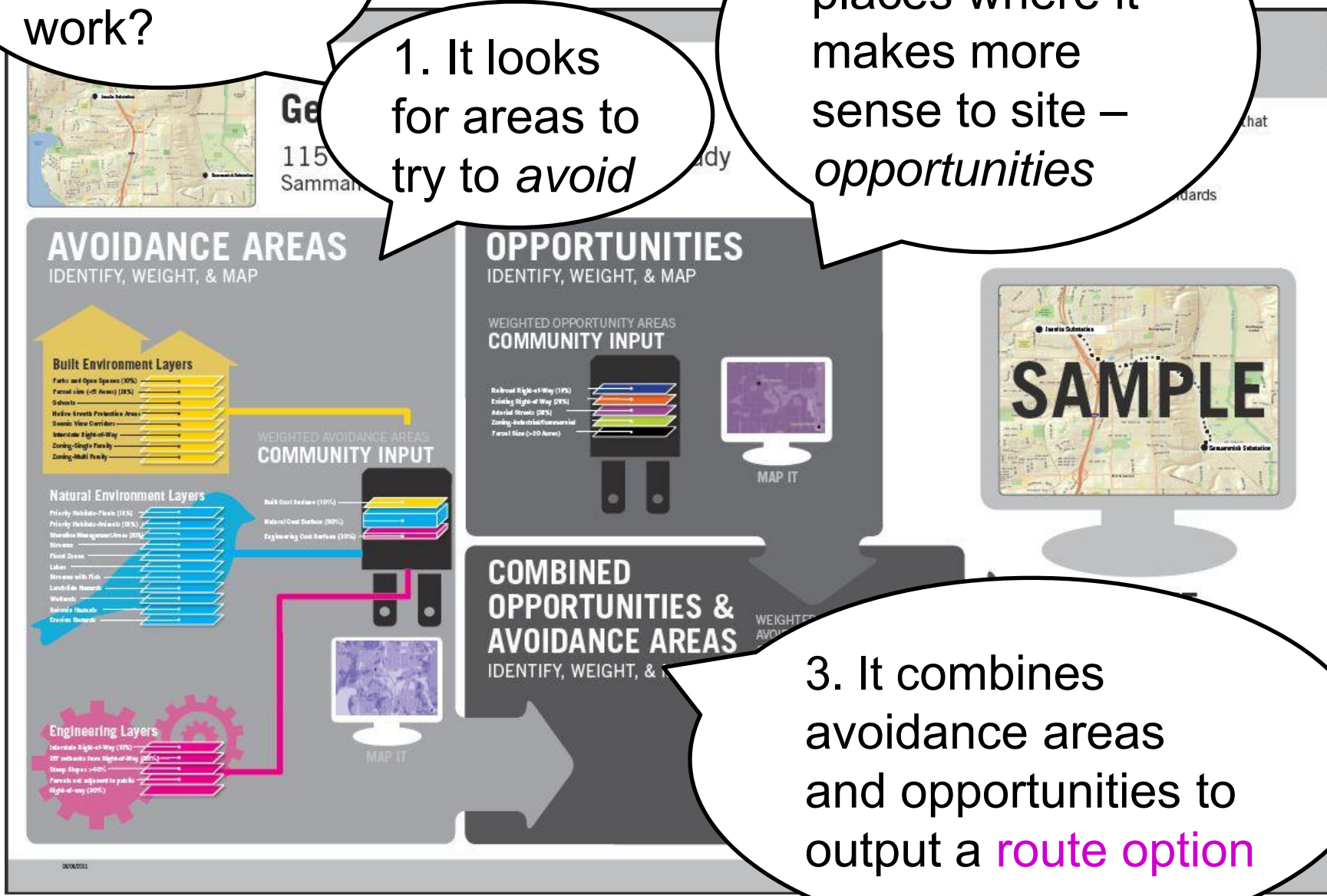


**OUTPUT:  
MAP OF ROUTE**

How does a siting model work?

1. It looks for areas to try to *avoid*

2. It considers places where it makes more sense to site – *opportunities*

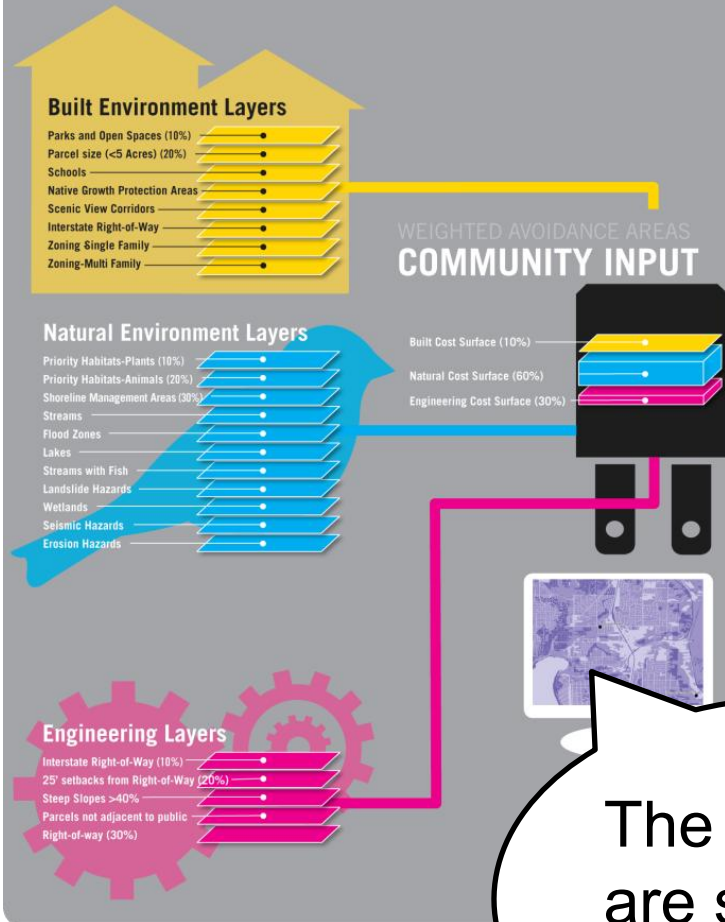


3. It combines avoidance areas and opportunities to output a **route option**



# AVOIDANCE AREAS

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

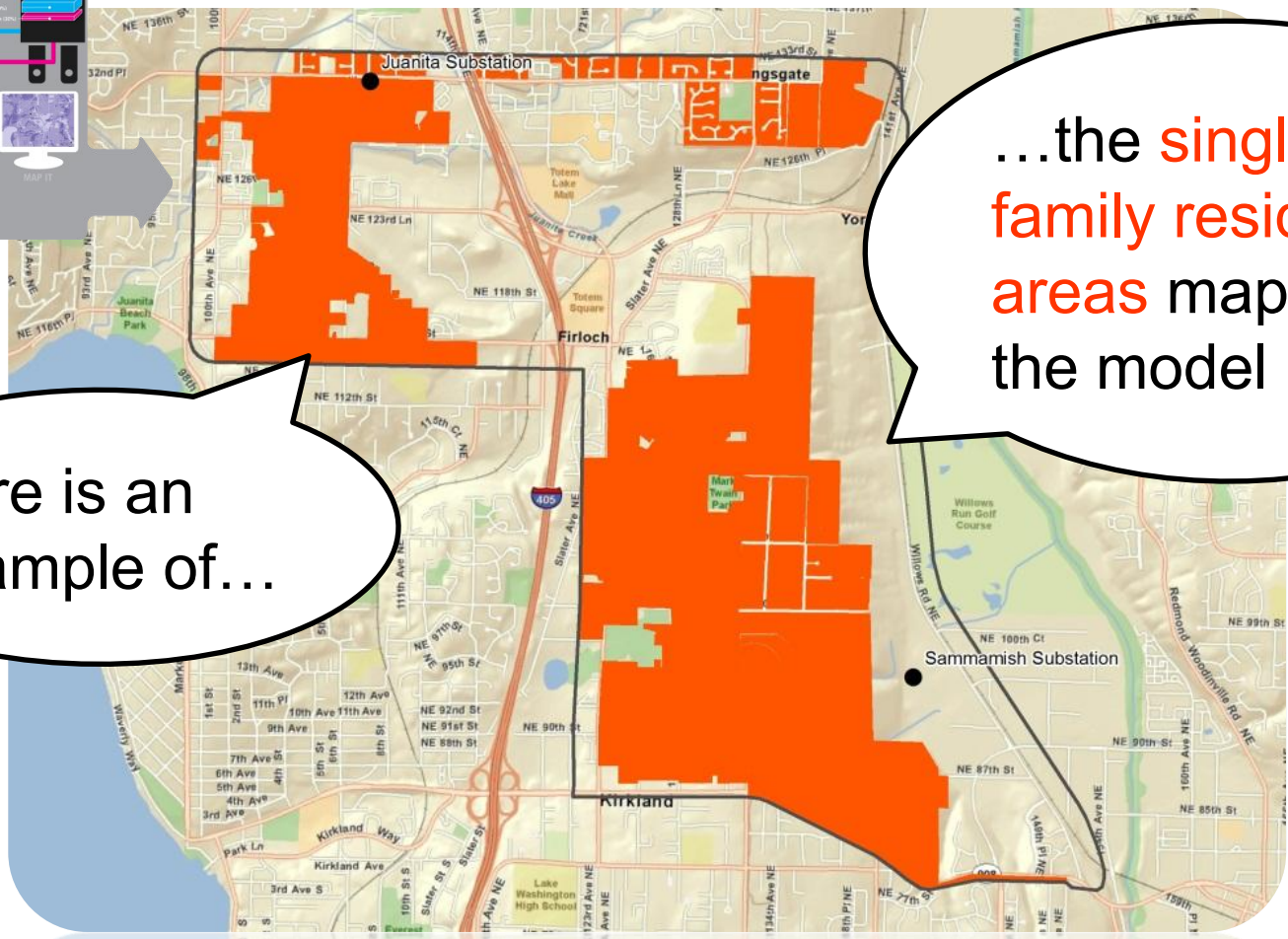
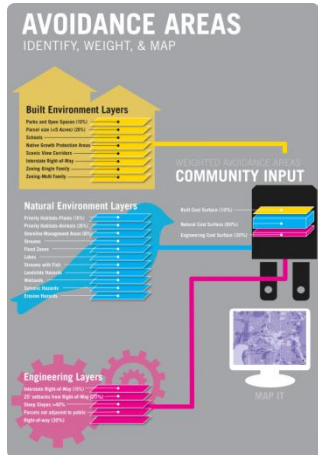


- Avoidance areas are:
  - Built environment criteria
    - single family residential, schools, parks, etc
  - Natural environment criteria
    - wetlands, contiguous tree canopy, etc
  - Engineering criteria
    - curved streets, steep slopes, etc

The criteria are shown as layers of data



# Mapping Avoidance Areas: Single Family Residential



Here is an example of...

...the single family residential areas mapped in the model



# OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHTED OPPORTUNITY AREAS  
**COMMUNITY INPUT**

- Railroad Right-of-Way (10%)
- Existing Right-of Way (20%)
- Arterial Streets (30%)
- Zoning-Industrial/Commercial
- Parcel Size (>20 Acres)



MAP IT

Opportunities are also mapped as layers

- Opportunity areas include:
  - PSE-owned rights of way
  - Commercial / industrial areas
  - Parcels > 20 acres



# Mapping Opportunities: Commercial / Industrial Zoning

## OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHTED OPPORTUNITY AREAS  
COMMUNITY INPUT



MAP IT

We've heard people say transmission lines should be...

.... in **commercial areas** rather than residential areas, so we've considered it an **opportunity**



# Putting it all together...





# Putting it all together...

## AVOIDANCE AREAS

The model balances the need to try to avoid areas...



## OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHT  
COST

...while taking advantage of the opportunities

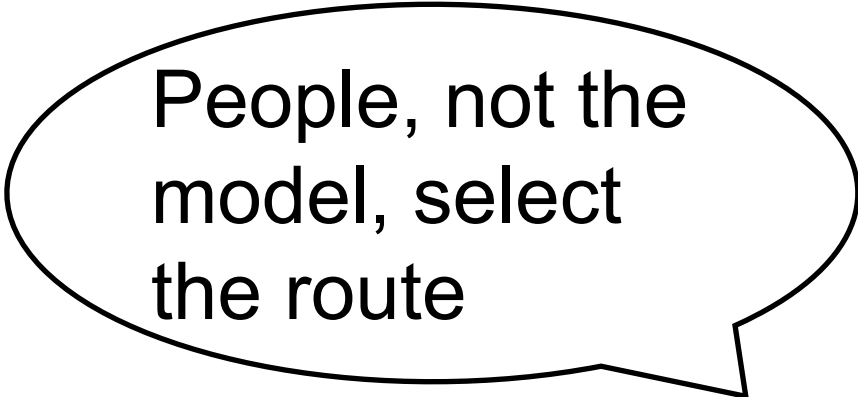
%

And then produces a **route option** for discussion



# Using the model outputs...

- It is up to the advisory group and PSE to:
  - Interpret the model outputs
  - Consider community input
  - Develop possible route alternatives for community review
  - Identify a preferred alternative for community review



People, not the  
model, select  
the route



Now watch  
the model run



# GEOENGINEERS

## Geo Route

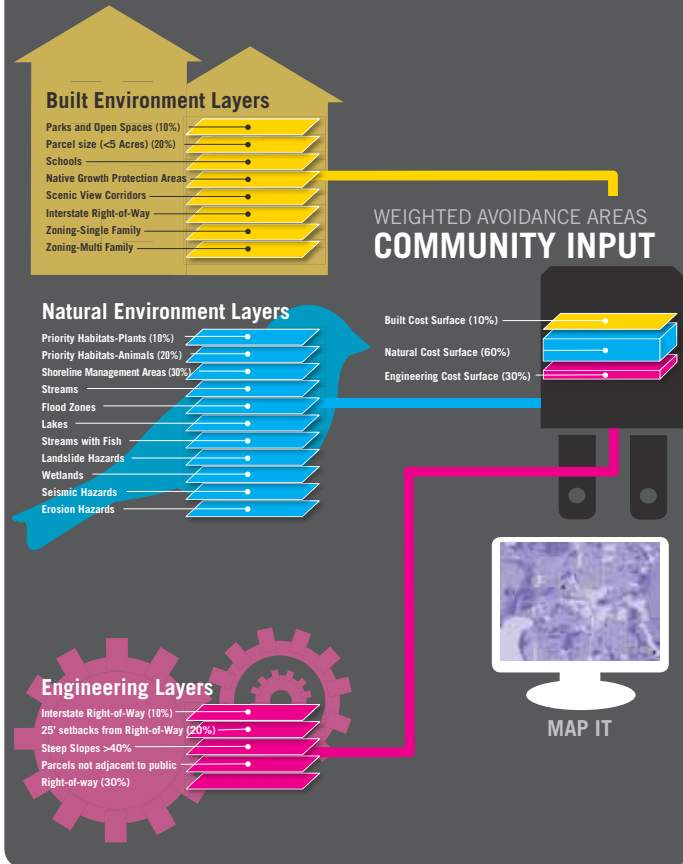
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### AVOIDANCE AREAS

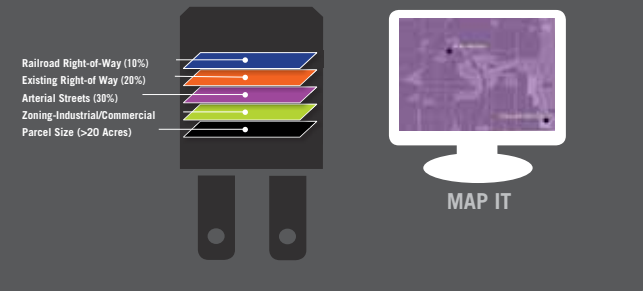
IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP



### OPPORTUNITIES

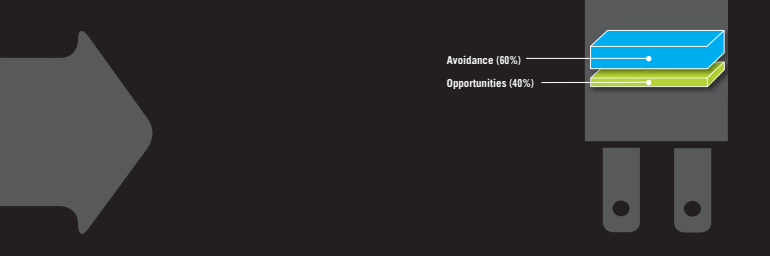
IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP

WEIGHTED OPPORTUNITY AREAS  
**COMMUNITY INPUT**



### COMBINED OPPORTUNITIES & AVOIDANCE AREAS

IDENTIFY, WEIGHT, & MAP



**OUTPUT:  
MAP OF ROUTE**

# GeoRoute Model Criteria and Weightings

## Avoidance Areas: Built Environment

Data Reviewed, Within Study Area	Weighting	Data Sources
Single-Family Residential Zoning	20%	Redmond, Kirkland
Multi-Family Residential Zoning	15%	Redmond, Kirkland
Urban Recreation Zoning	10%	Redmond
Native Growth Protection Easement	15%	Redmond, Kirkland
Parcel Size < 5 acres	7%	Redmond, Kirkland
Local Parks	8%	Redmond, Kirkland
Mapped View Corridors	5%	Redmond, Kirkland
Area of known WSDOT Improvements	10%	PSE
School Parcels	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Avoidance Areas: Natural Environment

Data Reviewed, Within Study Area	Weighting	Data Sources
Wetlands < 1 acre	5%	Redmond, Kirkland
Wetlands > 1 acre	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
Landslide Hazard	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
Erosion Hazard	10%	Redmond, King County
Seismic/Liquefaction Hazard	5%	Redmond, Kirkland
Steep Slopes	10%	LiDAR derived from Puget Sound LiDAR Consortium
Stream, non-fish bearing (PHS)	5%	Redmond, Kirkland, WA Dept F&W
Stream, fish-bearing (PHS)	10%	Redmond, Kirkland, WA Dept F&W
Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) Polygons	15%	WA Dept F&W
Shoreline Jurisdiction	0%	Kirkland, King County
Lakes (included in wetlands)	0%	Redmond, Kirkland
100-yr floodplain	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
Contiguous Tree Canopy >10 acres	10%	Kirkland, digitized from aerial photos
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Avoidance Areas: Engineering Considerations

Data Reviewed, Within Study Area	Weighting	Data Sources
Interstate Highway Crossing	30%	King County
Parcel not adjacent to Public R/W	15%	Redmond, Kirkland
Buildings within 15' setback of R/W	20%	Redmond, Kirkland
Steep Slopes	20%	LiDAR derived from Puget Sound LiDAR Consortium
Street Curves	15%	Redmond, Kirkland
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	



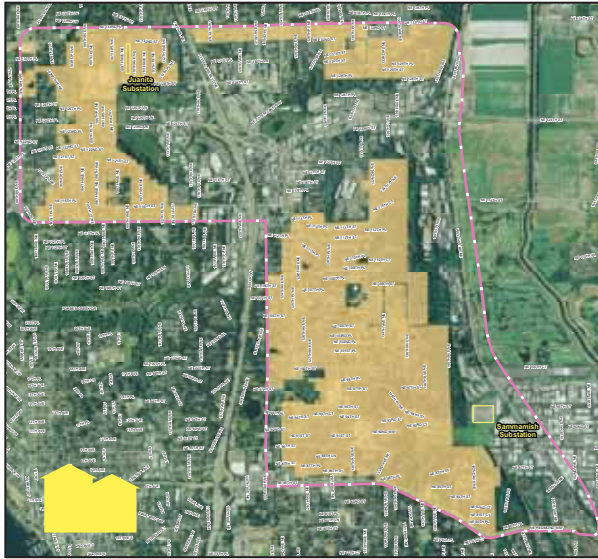
## Opportunities

Data Reviewed, Used for Modeling	Original Weighting	11/28/11 Weighting	Data Sources
W/in Commercial, Industrial Zoning District	15%	20%	Redmond, Kirkland
Adj. to Arterial Street	25%	25%	Redmond, Kirkland
Adj. or w/in Regional Trail Rights of Way	10%	0%	Redmond, Kirkland
Adj. to Railroad Rights of Way	10%	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
Parcel Size > 20 acres	10%	10%	Redmond, Kirkland
PSE Ownership/Rights of Way	15%	15%	Redmond, Kirkland
Overhead Distribution	15%	20%	Redmond, Kirkland
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

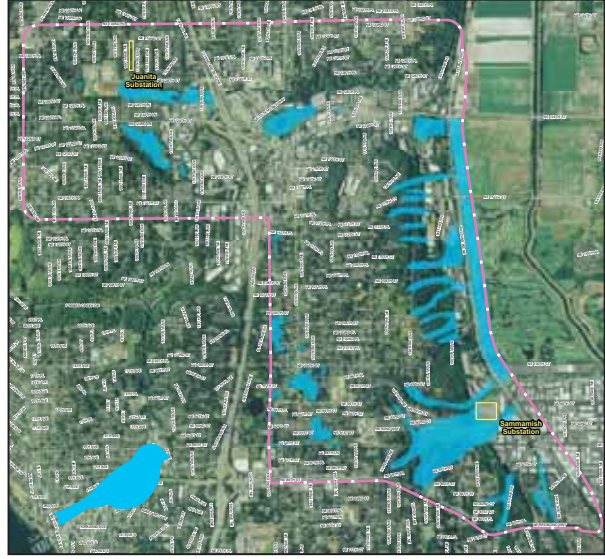


# Example Layers in GeoRoute Model

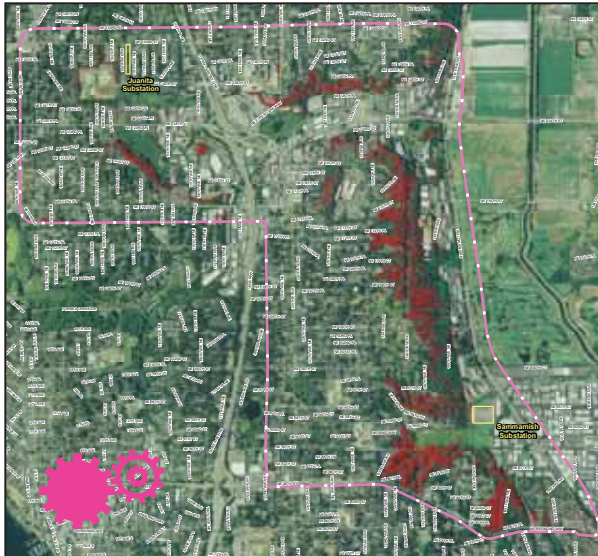
Single Family Residences:



Wetlands:



Steep Slopes:



Commercial and Industrial:

