

The Public Land Survey System

The Public Land Survey System (PLSS), regulated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, is a method used to subdivide and describe land parcels. Generally, land is divided into Townships that are 36 square miles in size, each square mile being called a 'section.'

The Washington DNR PLSS township, range, and section information may contain more than the normal 36 sections. Township subdivisions with numbers higher than 36 are either tracts, donation land claims, protracted blocks, Indian allotments, or another type of land conveyance.

Townships, ranges and sections containing Natural Heritage data will be formatted the following way:

T__N R__E/W S__

Examples:

T23N R44E S23

T05N R13W S18

PLSS data may also contain $\frac{1}{2}$ townships and $\frac{1}{2}$ ranges which will show up as '.5' in either the township or range number.

Examples:

T24.5N R08W S32

T28N R08.5W S23

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