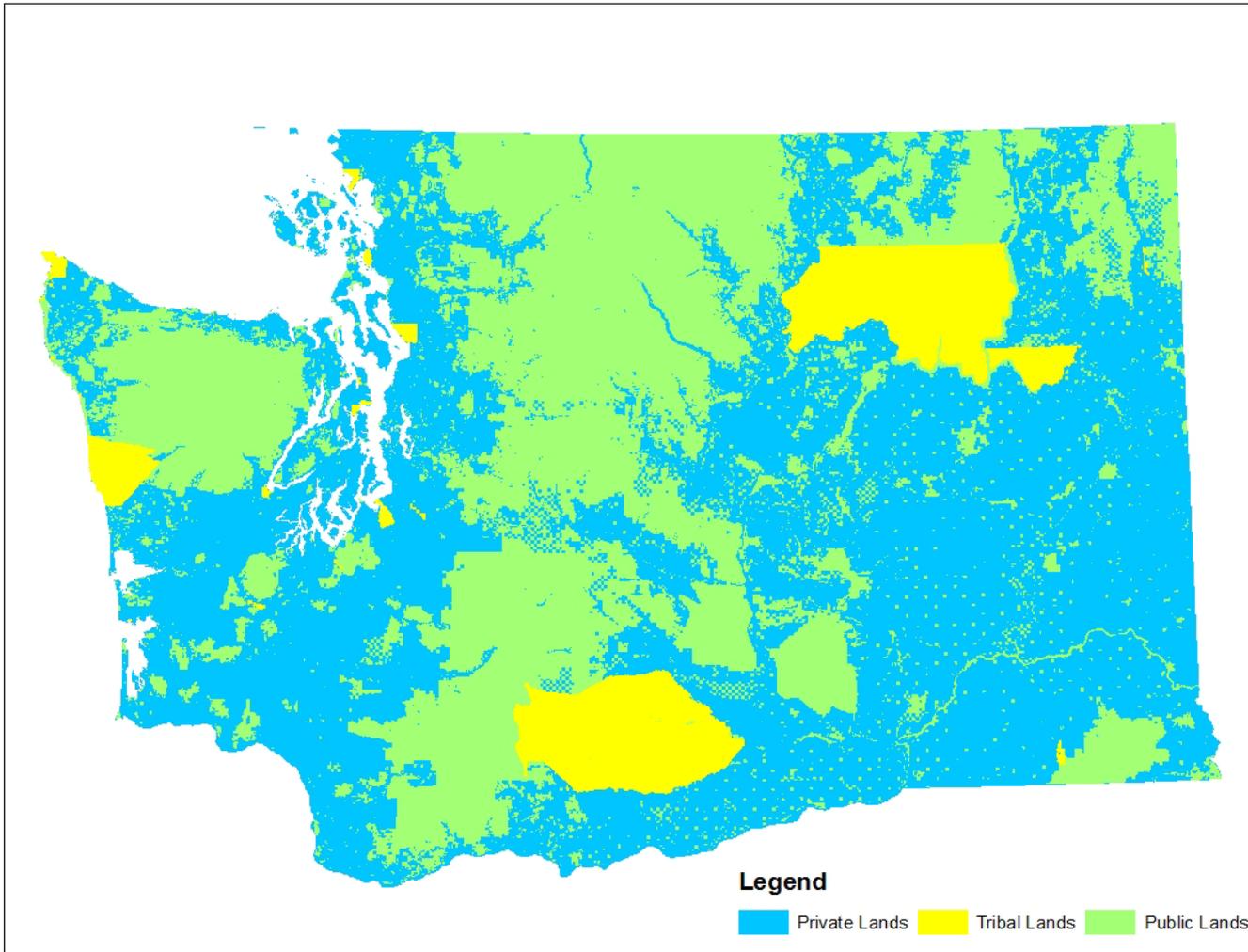


Agenda Item 7

Private Lands Program Overview Briefing

Private Lands in Washington



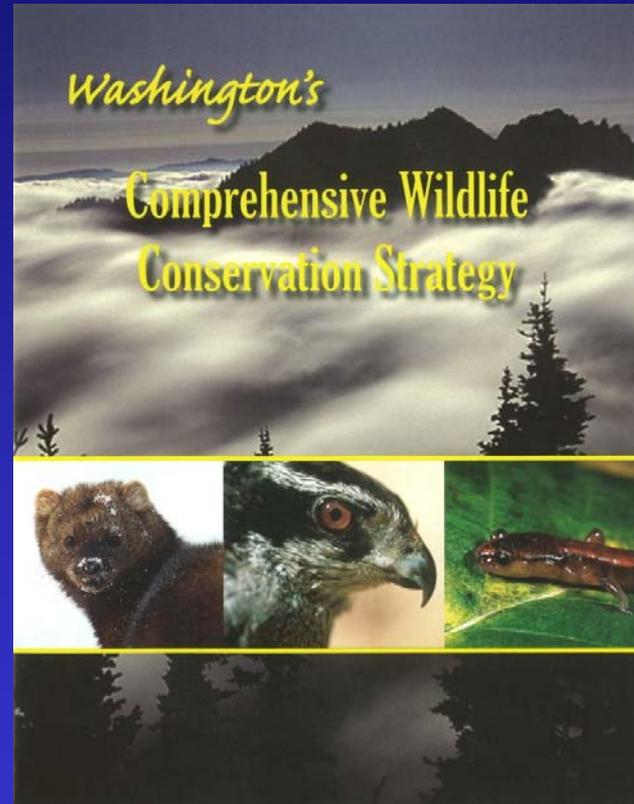
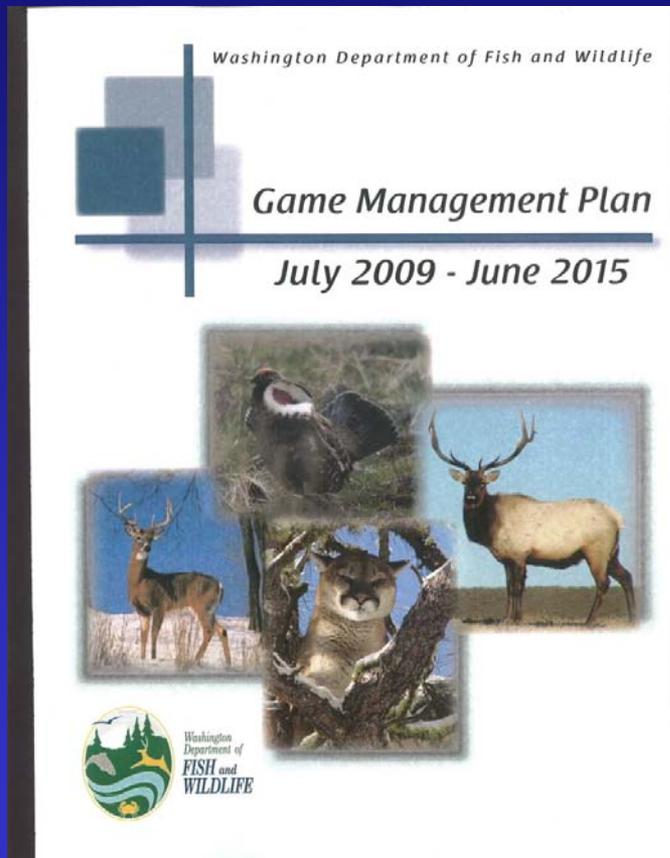
Eastside

55.9%

Westside

50.6%

Priorities



THE **SPORTSMEN'S**
V O I C E

F A L L 2 0 0 3 Volume 13 Number 2

EXPLORING THE ROAD TO ACCESS

**HUNTING ETHICS
LAND-ACCESS
PROJECT**

Report by the Izaak Walton League of America
and Responsive Management

**Strengthening America's
Hunting Heritage and Wildlife
Conservation in the 21st Century:
Challenges and Opportunities**

**FACTORS RELATED TO HUNTING
AND FISHING PARTICIPATION
AMONG THE NATION'S YOUTH**

PHASE V: FINAL REPORT

CONDUCTED BY RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA
2003

PRODUCED UNDER A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES FISH
AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DIVISION OF FEDERAL AID,
FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION
GRANT AGREEMENT 91400-01-0010

**The Future of Hunting and
the Shooting Sports**

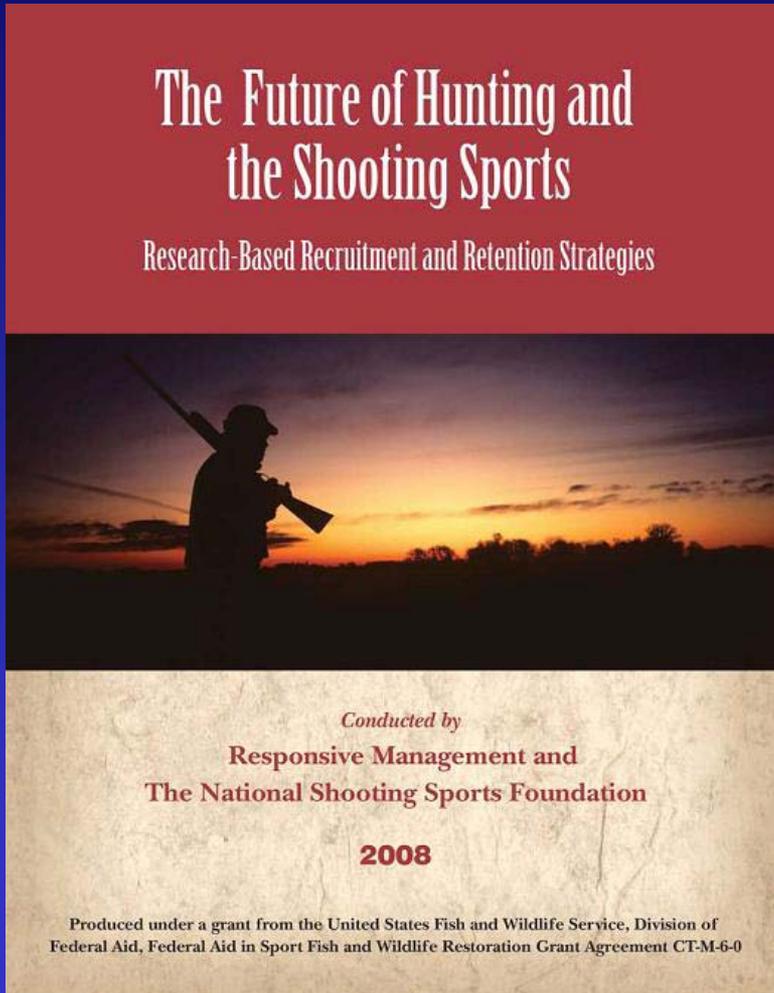
Research-Based Recruitment
and Retention Strategies

**Responsive Management
and
The National Shooting Sports Foundation**

Produced under a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of
Federal Aid, Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Grant Agreement C1M-60-

Sporting Conservation Council

Public Surveys



“Lack of access is one of the top constraints over which agencies and other organizations can have substantial influence”

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

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Public Surveys



ISSUES RELATED TO HUNTING ACCESS IN THE UNITED STATES

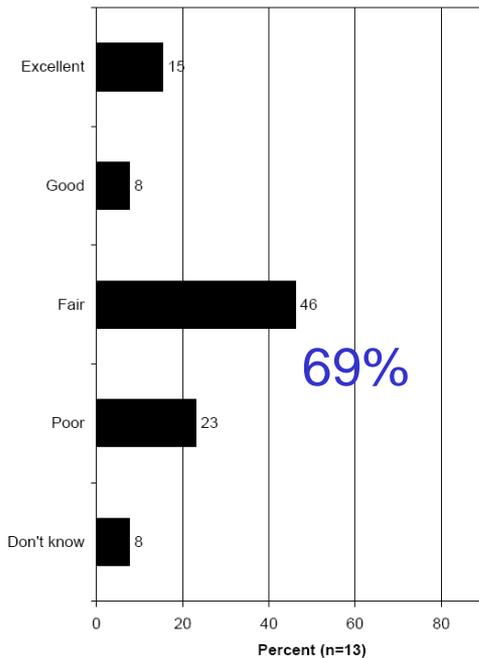
WASHINGTON STATE RESULTS

Responsive Management
and the
National Shooting Sports Foundation

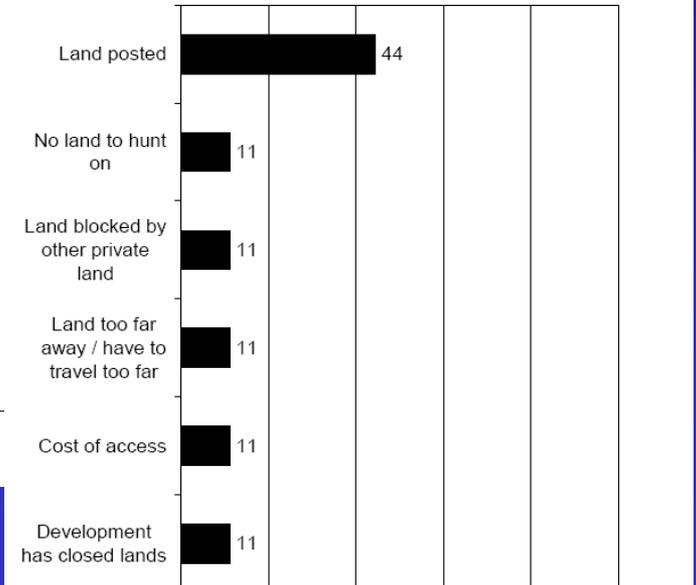
Conducted under Multi-State Conservation Grant CT M-8-R
from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
and administered by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

2009

Q69. How would you rate access to *private* lands for hunting (species) in Washington? (Asked of those who hunted their primary species mostly on private lands.)



Q72. What are the specific reasons you rate access to private land to hunt on in Washington as (fair or poor)? (Asked of those who hunted their primary species mostly on private lands and who rated the access to private land as fair or poor.)



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Private Lands Focus Areas

Skagit Priorities

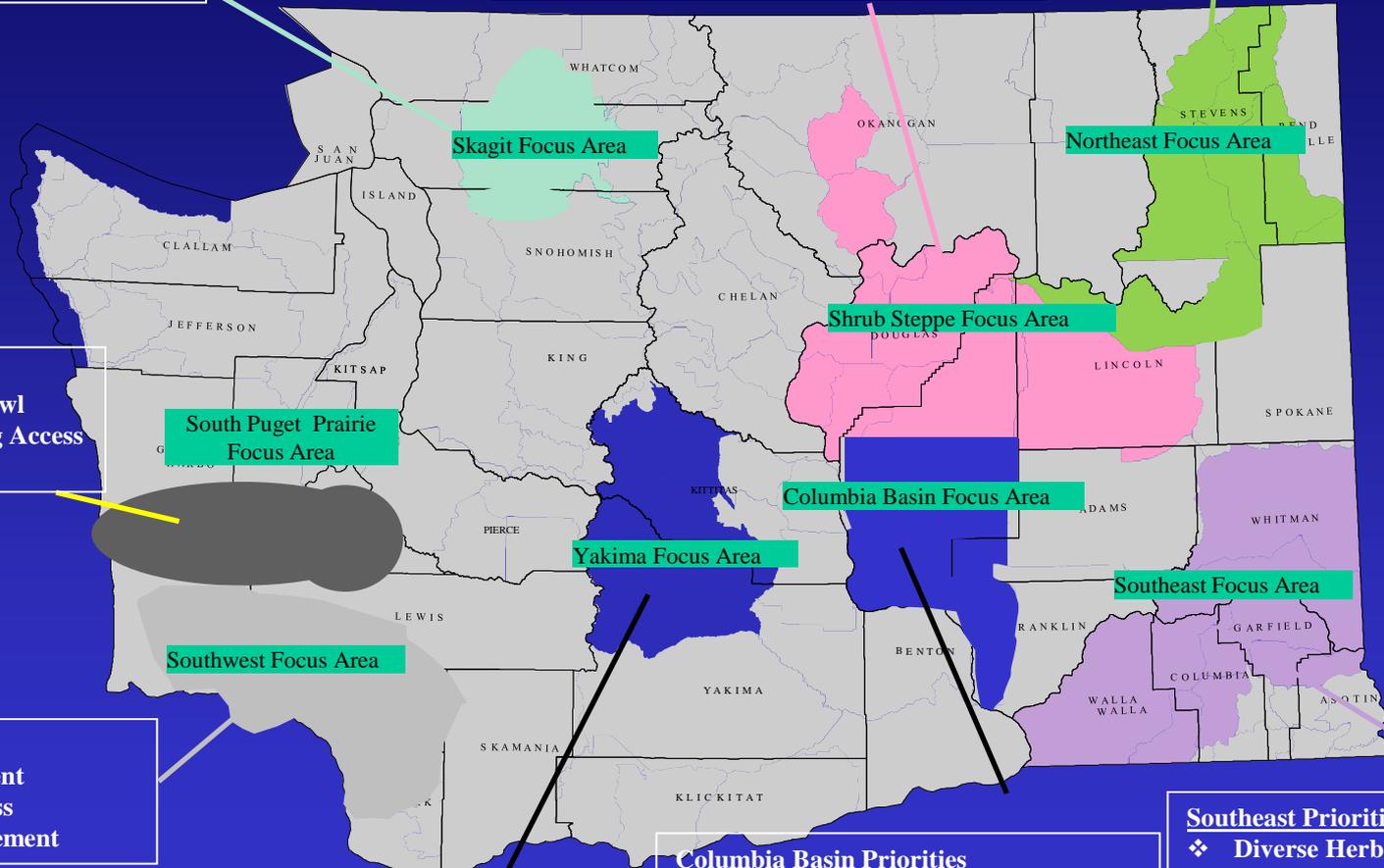
- ❖ Seabirds/shorebirds
- ❖ Wintering Waterfowl Habitat
- ❖ Waterfowl Hunting Access
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Industrial Timber Access

Shrub Steppe Priorities

- ❖ Restoration, Protection, Improvement
- ❖ HCP Development and Implementation
- ❖ Connectivity
- ❖ Riparian Habitat

Northeast Priorities

- ❖ Forest Management
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Agricultural and Timberland Access



South Puget Priorities

- ❖ Wintering Waterfowl
- ❖ Waterfowl Hunting Access
- ❖ Wetlands

Southwest Priorities

- ❖ Forest Management
- ❖ Timberland Access
- Road Management

Yakima Priorities

- ❖ Industrial Timberland Access
- ❖ Road Management

Columbia Basin Priorities

- ❖ Shrub Steppe
- ❖ Wetlands/Riparian
- ❖ Wildlife Action Plan Implementation
- ❖ Waterfowl Quality Hunting Access

Southeast Priorities

- ❖ Diverse Herbaceous Habitat
- ❖ Riparian:
 - Restoration/Improvement
 - Habitat Connectivity
- ❖ Pheasant Hunting Access

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

Fiscal Year 2012 Funding

- ❖ **PR - \$500,000 – base funding**
- ❖ **New WDFW – permit only hunts**
 - **\$400,000 annually**
- ❖ **VPA-HIP - \$1,000,000**
- ❖ **NRCS - \$213,000**
- ❖ **USFWS - \$38,000**
- ❖ **IWJV - \$30,000**

Private Lands Staffing

	Biologist FTE	
	2009	Current
Eastside	8	11.5
Westside	0	3
Total	8	14.5

	Technician FTE	
	2009	Current
Eastside	0	3.5
Westside	0	3
Total	0	6.5

Private Lands Biologists

“Full Service”

- Both access and habitat incentives
- All habitats / All species



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.



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Private Lands Biologists

- **Non-regulatory**
- **Access and Habitat focused**
- **Restoration expertise**
- **Partnership expertise**



New Federal Farm Bill Funding

❖ Farm Service Agency

➤ Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

- Round One: \$1.9 million
- Round Two: \$1 million

➤ State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement

- 71,200 acres; \$70 million
- 3.5 FTE

New Federal Farm Bill Funding

❖ Natural Resources Conservation Service

➤ Contribution Agreement

- 0.6 FTE for CRP and westside WRP

➤ Wetlands Biologist

- 0.5 FTE for eastside WRP

➤ Conservation Innovation Grant

- 0.6 FTE for pollinator habitat

➤ Sage-Grouse Initiative

- 0.75 FTE

Other New Funding

❖ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

➤ Personnel Agreement

- 0.5 FTE for eastside habitats

❖ Intermountain West Joint Venture

➤ Capacity Grant

- 0.25 FTE to facilitate Farm Bill program delivery

Federal Farm Bill in Washington State

FY2010 Program Funding

Program	Acres	Funding
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	163,000	\$ 15,800,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	104,000	\$ 1,100,000
Grasslands Reserve Program	305	\$ 1,100,000
Conservation Stewardship Program	263,000	\$ 17,600,000
Conservation Security Program	351,000	\$ 5,100,000
Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program	3,355	\$ 6,200,000
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program	3,389	\$ 1,800,000
Wetlands Reserve Program	204	\$ 250,000
Floodplain Easement Program	273	\$ 1,200,000
Conservation Reserve Program	1,428,046	\$ 74,686,806
Voluntary Public Access - Habitat Improvement Program	-	\$ 1,932,593
TOTAL	2,316,572	\$ 126,769,399

Information is subject to changes
and amendments over time.

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Private Lands WEB Interface

Hunting Access	
Private Lands Hunting Access	
Frequently Asked Questions	
Resources for Landowners	
Resources for Hunters	
Special Snow Goose Quality Hunts	
Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program	
Hunting Prospects	
Wildlife Areas	
Accessible Hunting / ADA	
	
 REPORT Violation/Poacher	
For more information on hunting, please contact the	

Hunting Access

Private Lands Access

Since about 50% of Washington is in private ownership, many public hunting opportunities rely on landowners opening their lands. In Washington, hunters must obtain landowner permission to hunt on private land; however WDFW is working with hundreds of landowners to help acquire permission. Currently, the WDFW private lands access program has over 600 landowner cooperators and over one million acres of private land under agreement in eastern and western Washington (see table below).

Recognizing the opportunity provided by private landowners is very important, but more important is treating private lands and the land owners with respect. When accessing private lands, always be courteous, close gates that you open, stay on designated roads (unless it is walk-in access), pack your trash out, and take time to thank a landowner for participating in the WDFW private lands access program!

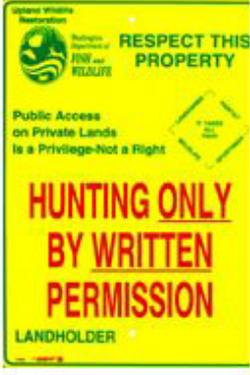
WDFW Access Programs

Since 1948, WDFW has worked with private landowners across the state to provide public access through a negotiated agreement. Landowners participating in a WDFW cooperative agreement retain liability protection provided under RCW 4.24.210. Landowners receive technical services, materials for posting (signs and posts), and in some cases monetary compensation. In addition, lands under agreement are well known by WDFW enforcement staff. Currently, the private lands access program includes four basic access agreement types:



Access multi-layered maps displaying game management unit (GMU) boundaries, deer and elk management areas, pheasant-release sites, and Private Lands Hunting Opportunities, as well as roads, topographical features and county lines. In addition, harvest statistics and hunting regulations are available by specific locale and species.

Private Lands Access Programs

Feel Free to Hunt	Register to Hunt	Written Permission Program	Landowner Hunting Permit Program
 <p>The sign is green and white. It features the WDFW logo at the top left. Text includes: 'RESPECT THIS PROPERTY', 'Public Access on Private Lands Is a Privilege-Not a Right', 'FEEL FREE TO HUNT', 'REGULATED HUNTING AREA', and 'LANDHOLDER'.</p>	 <p>The sign is yellow and white. It features the WDFW logo at the top left. Text includes: 'RESPECT THIS PROPERTY', 'Public Access on Private Lands Is a Privilege-Not a Right', 'REGISTER TO HUNT', 'REGULATED HUNTING AREA', and 'LANDHOLDER'.</p>	 <p>The sign is yellow and white. It features the WDFW logo at the top left. Text includes: 'RESPECT THIS PROPERTY', 'Public Access on Private Lands Is a Privilege-Not a Right', 'HUNTING ONLY BY WRITTEN PERMISSION', and 'LANDHOLDER'.</p>	 <p>The sign is black and yellow. It features the text: 'PERMIT ONLY AREA', 'A LANDOWNER HUNTING PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO HUNT ON THIS PROPERTY', 'Respect this property. Public Access on Private Lands is a Privilege WAC 230-13-421 and/or WAC 230-13-422', and the WDFW logo.</p>
<p>Private lands where WDFW has a management agreement with the owner to provide public access for hunting. Hunters are not required to gain additional permission when hunting lands posted with a Feel Free to Hunt sign.</p>	<p>Private lands in which WDFW has a management agreement with the owner where hunting is regulated by registration. Hunters are required to sign in and sign out to hunt on properties posted with a Register to Hunt sign.</p>	<p>Private lands where hunters must contact the landowner to obtain "written permission" before hunting on their property. WDFW provides signs and permission slips to landowners who make their lands available through this program. A landowner name and contact telephone number are placed on the Hunt by Written Permission signs so hunters can contact the appropriate landowner for permission.</p>	<p>This program includes private lands where WDFW negotiates public hunting access to unique and/or high quality hunting opportunities. Landowners are allowed to work with the Department to set special hunting season dates on their property and have hunting opportunities on their lands customized. Hunting opportunity is available to hunt these lands through special permit drawings.</p>

- Development of Online Reservation System

Northeast Focus Area

❖ Staffing

- 1 six-month biologist
- 1 eight-month tech



❖ Industrial Timberland Access

❖ Habitat Agreements



Northeast Focus Area

❖ Large Private Timber Companies

- Forest Capital Partner's
- Inland Empire Paper
- Riley Creek
- Stimson Lumber

❖ 90,920 acres



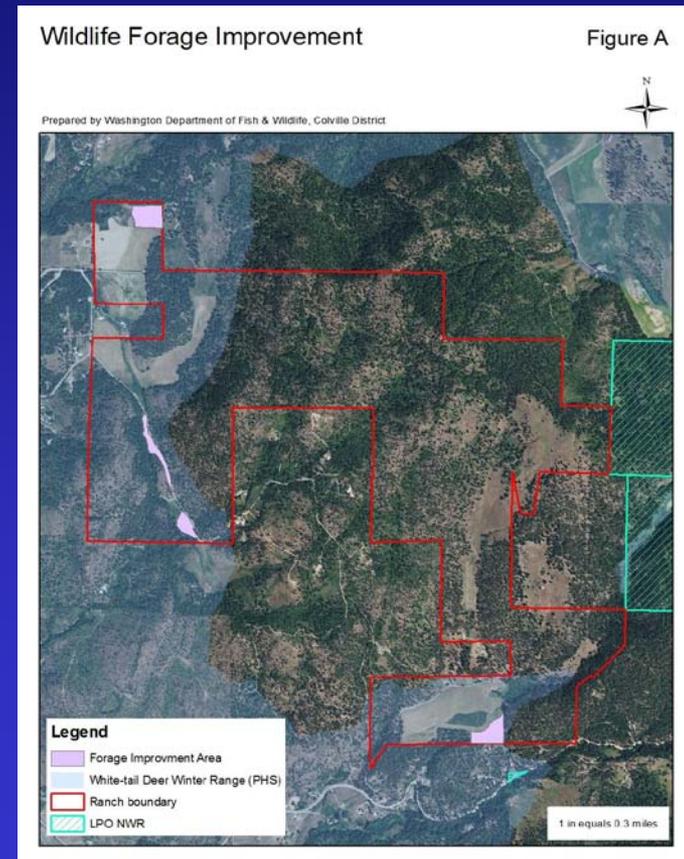
Northeast Focus Area

❖ USDA programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

❖ WDFW program

- Northeast Washington Habitat and Access Program
- White-tailed deer and turkey



Southeast Focus Area

❖ Staffing

- 4 existing + 1 new FTE
- two 3-month techs

❖ Pheasant hunting access

❖ Diverse herbaceous habitat

❖ Riparian restoration



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

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Southeast Focus Area

Hunting Access

- ❖ Cooperators – 239
- ❖ Feel Free to Hunt – 128,102 acres
- ❖ Hunting By Written Permission – 198,080 acres
- ❖ Register to Hunt – 7,450 acres
- ❖ Landowner Hunting Permit – 12,635 acres



Southeast Focus Area

Diverse Herbaceous Habitat

- ❖ **USDA programs**
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - State Acres For Wildlife (SAFE)

❖ CRP management



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Southeast Focus Area

Riparian Restoration

- ❖ **Partnerships for Pheasants**
 - 12 contracts
 - 553 habitat acres
- ❖ **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**
- ❖ **Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Program**



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Southeast Focus Area

Wind Farms and Access



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Southeast Focus Area

Blue Mountains Elk

- ❖ **Staff: reprioritized 1 existing FTE**
- ❖ **Increase landowner tolerance for elk**
- ❖ **Habitat enhancement**
- ❖ **Forage crops**



Southeast Focus Area

- ❖ **38 Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements**
- ❖ **Coordinated weed control - \$65,000**
 - **Blue Mountain Elk Initiative**
 - **Columbia County Weed Board**
 - **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**
 - **Resource Advisory Committee**
 - **WDFW**

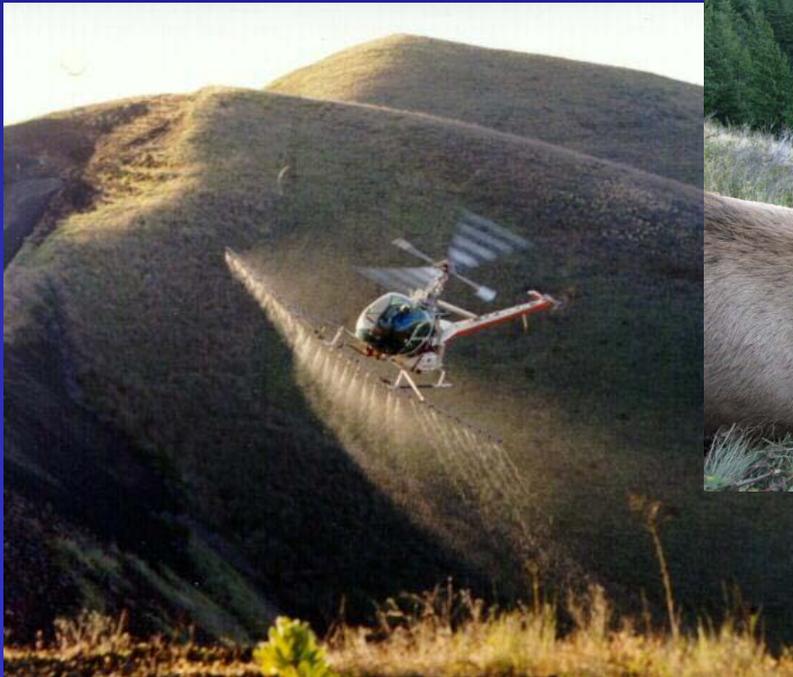


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Southeast Focus Area

❖ No Damage Claims!



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Southeast Focus Area

- ❖ **Feel Free to Fish Pilot**
 - **VPA-HIP grant**



Shrub Steppe Focus Area

❖ Staff:

- 2.5 FTE
- 2 nine-month temps
- 1 five-month temp

❖ Habitat restoration and improvements

❖ Hunting Access



Shrub Steppe Focus Area

❖ SAFE

➤ Douglas

- 80 landowners
- 53,023 acres

➤ Lincoln

- 22 landowners
- 3,025 acres

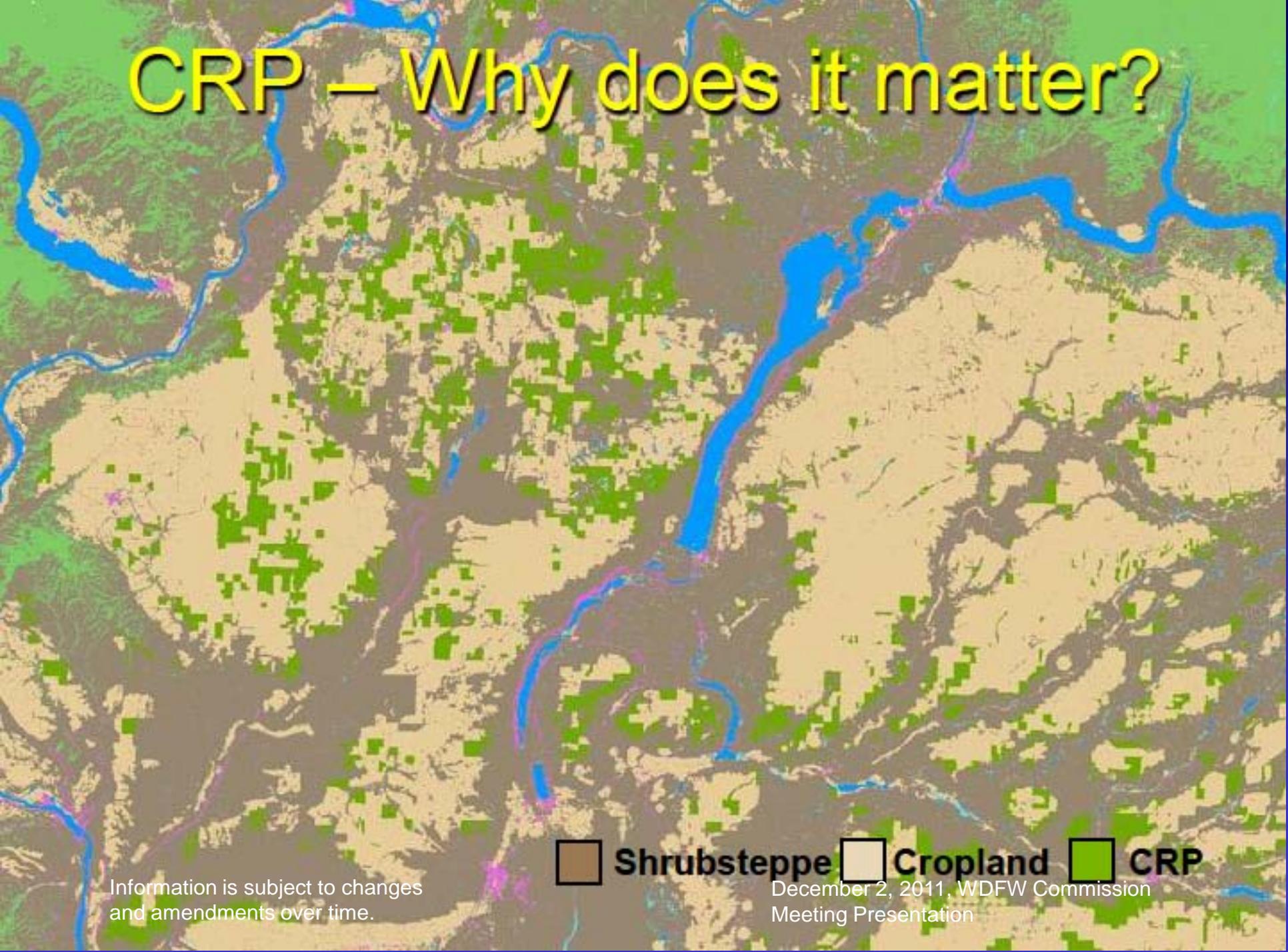
➤ Grant

- 6 landowners
- 1,699 acres



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

CRP – Why does it matter?



 **Shrubsteppe**  **Cropland**  **CRP**

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

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CRP Expirations

Year	Acres
2011	90,876
2012	277,345
2013	256,363
2014	142,274
2015	132,138
2016	104,072
2017	12,519
2018	167,478
2019	48,760
2020	206,789
2021	5,836
2022	4,312
2023	2,874
2024	4,772
2025	8,069
	1,428,888



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Shrub Steppe Focus Area

❖ EQIP

➤ 2009

- 10 landowners
- 1,276 acres grass
- 4,586 trees/shrubs
- 25,295 feet mulch

➤ 2010

- 24 landowners
- 1,668 acres grass
- 8,101 trees/shrubs
- 59,797 feet mulch

➤ 2011

- 24 landowners planned

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and amendments over time.



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Shrub Steppe Focus Area

Landowner Incentive Program



Information is subject to changes
and amendments over time.

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Meeting Presentation

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Shrub Steppe Focus Area

Hunting Access

- ❖ Cooperators – 249
- ❖ Feel Free to Hunt – 98,322 acres
- ❖ Hunting By Written Permission – 314,210 acres
- ❖ Register to Hunt – 4,040 acres
- ❖ Landowner Hunting Permit – 41,870 acres



Columbia Basin Focus Area

❖ Staff

- 0.5 existing + 1 new FTE
- one 6-month temp

❖ Waterfowl quality hunting opportunities

❖ Corn stubble retention



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Columbia Basin Focus Area

Hunting Access

- ❖ **Cooperators – 97**
- ❖ **Feel Free to Hunt – 168,005 acres**
- ❖ **Hunting By Written Permission – 59,055 acres**
- ❖ **Register to Hunt – 8,320 acres**
- ❖ **Landowner Hunting Permit – 147,042 acres**



Yakima Focus Area

- ❖ **Staff: future FTE**
- ❖ **Industrial Timberland Access**
- ❖ **Road Management**

Skagit Focus Area

❖ Staff

- 1 new FTE
- 1 new full-time tech
- 1 four-month temp

❖ Waterfowl Access

❖ Industrial Timberland Access

❖ Elk Damage Prevention



Skagit Focus Area

Waterfowl Access

- ❖ **Cooperators – 51**
- ❖ **Feel Free to Hunt – 2,338 acres**
- ❖ **Hunting By Written Permission – 2,032 acres**
- ❖ **Cooperators and acreage doubled**

Waterfowl Access on the WEB

Waterfowl Hunting
Limits, Seasons and Other Regulations
Types of Ducks
Puddle Ducks
Diving Ducks
Sea Ducks
Geese (including Brant)
Hunting Techniques
Where to Go
Shotguns, Shells and Shooting
Hunting Dogs
Hunting Big Water, Moving Water and Marine Areas
How to Care for Harvested Waterfowl
Migratory Bird Stamp & Artwork Program
Wildlife Management Information
Links to additional information



Waterfowl managers are predicting **the best fall flights of ducks for the 2011 season since 1955!** If it has been a while since you have gone duck hunting, this is the season to get back into it.

This is also the season to introduce someone new to waterfowl hunting

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been actively working to provide places for waterfowl hunting, and we hope you take advantage of these opportunities.

WHERE TO GO



[Learn more >>](#)

Every county in Washington state offers opportunities for waterfowl hunting but some areas stand head and shoulders above others. Find your favorite hunting spot!



Skagit Focus Area

- ❖ Watchable Wildlife
 - VPA-HIP grant



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

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Southwest Focus Area

❖ Staff

- 1 new FTE
- 2 six-month techs

❖ Industrial Timberland Access

❖ Waterfowl Access

❖ Oak Habitat Restoration



WDFW
PYZIK



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Southwest Focus Area

- ❖ **Cooperators-15**
- ❖ **Feel Free to Hunt-102,724 acres**
- ❖ **Hunting By Written Permission-3,929 acres**
- ❖ **Industrial Timberland Companies**
 - **Hancock Forest Management**
 - **Western Pacific Timber**
- ❖ **Habitat enhancement seeding of roads and landings**

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.



Southwest Focus Area

WDFW Land Access Volunteers



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The St. Helens Land Access Program provides additional weekday motorized hunting access in this area thanks to the combined efforts of Weyerhaeuser, WDFW, and the many volunteers of:

- Eyes in the Woods Assoc.
- Cowlitz Games and Anglers
- Vancouver Wildlife League
- WA State Bowhunters
- SW Washington Land Access Coalition
- Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation
- Yacolt Burn Sportsman Club
- Washington State Archery Association

Please respect Private Timberland property - let's not abuse these lands and work together to enjoy access.

2274 volunteer hours contributed in 2010

South Puget Sound Focus Area

❖ Staff

- 1 new FTE
- 1 six-month tech

❖ Waterfowl Hunting Access

❖ Industrial Timberland Access



South Puget Sound Focus Area

Hunting Access

- ❖ **Cooperators: 10**
- ❖ **Feel Free To Hunt: 1,255 acres**
- ❖ **Hunting By Written Permission: 280 acres**
- ❖ **Register To Hunt: 310 acres**

South Puget Sound Focus Area

❖ Timber companies

- Hancock Forest Management
- Campbell Timber
- Weyerhaeuser
- Rayonier Timber



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Summary

- ❖ Program expansion across the state
- ❖ Improve habitat and recreational access
- ❖ Focus on priorities
- ❖ Adapt and improve



Questions?



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