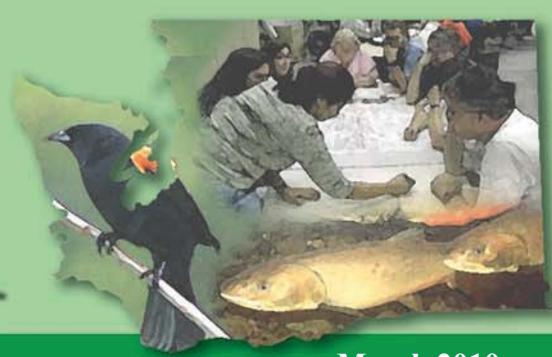


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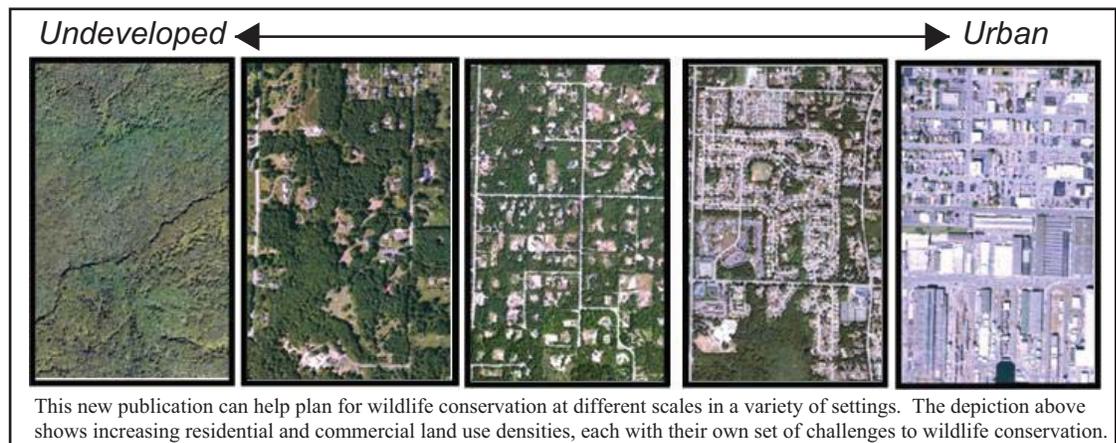
A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

March 2010

New resource for wildlife-friendly planning

By Jennifer Davis, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Have you ever wanted to figure out where the best areas are for wildlife in your community? Do you wonder how habitat management plans can be more effective for wildlife protection as parcels develop? Are you interested in how your local plan or incentive program can contribute to biodiversity conservation?



This new publication can help plan for wildlife conservation at different scales in a variety of settings. The depiction above shows increasing residential and commercial land use densities, each with their own set of challenges to wildlife conservation.

In December 2009, WDFW released a new resource for local land use and natural resource planners, decision-makers, and citizens interested in incorporating wildlife and biodiversity conservation into local planning activities. *Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for biodiversity in developing areas* is the latest addition to WDFW's series of *Priority Habitats and Species* management recommendations. This publication was written by WDFW biologists, planners, and resource experts, with the help of advisors from local governments, tribes, and other fish and wildlife experts. It provides a synthesis of the current science behind how wildlife responds to a developing landscape, with an emphasis on how different residential development densities impact various species.

The document does much more than just catalogue the impacts of development, however. It offers practical tools and recommendations for how comprehensive plans, development regulations, and incentive programs can incorporate wildlife-friendly planning approaches.

Examples from Washington communities that have successfully implemented wildlife-friendly planning are highlighted, from Pierce County's biodiversity network to Spokane County's wildlife corridor plan. Emerging tools are described, including a new assessment technique for determining the habitat value of a potential development site. Numerous resources and links geared toward local planners are provided throughout the document. Planning activities at a variety of scales are addressed, within the context of how the whole landscape works- or doesn't work- for wildlife. The document includes recommendations about how to identify the highest-quality habitat areas across a county or watershed, how to design cluster developments with the greatest benefit for wildlife, what wildlife-friendly comprehensive policy language might look like, what incentive programs are most useful to wildlife and biodiversity conservation, and many other related topics.

The document's appendices include excerpts from the scientific literature about wildlife response to development, and a new tool, the *Species and Development Database*. This interactive Excel database includes a list of Washington species, where they occur (searchable by county), and how they respond to different development densities and landscape alterations. The database, as well as the entire document, can be downloaded from WDFW's web site, at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmtrecommndations/>. For more information, and for assistance with implementing the ideas and approaches in the document, contact planningforwildlife@dfw.wa.gov.

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Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

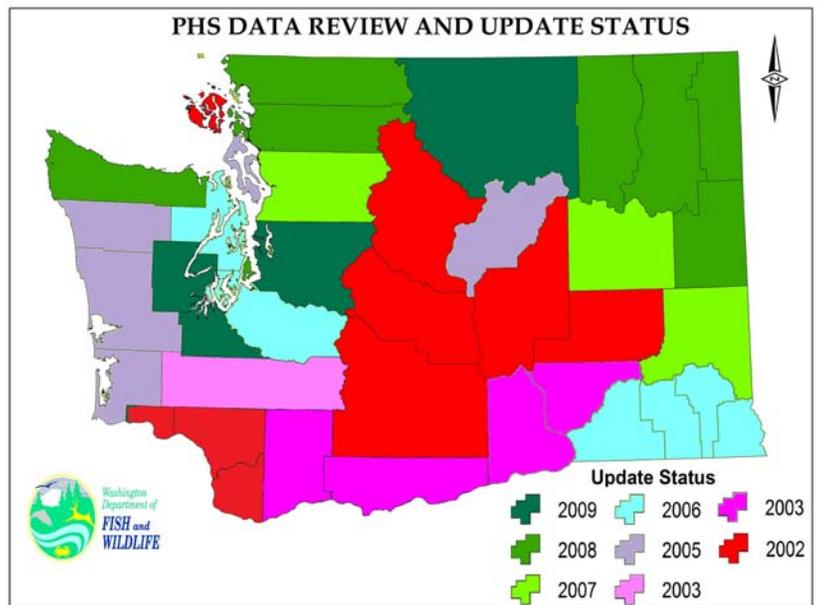
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Status of Priority Habitat and Species data

By Terry Johnson & Jennifer Davis, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) database contains information on the location of important species and habitats. Priority species are those that require protective measures or management to ensure their future survival because of low population numbers, sensitivity to habitat alteration, tendency to form in vulnerable groups (e.g., heron colonies), or because they are of commercial, recreational, or tribal importance. Priority habitats are areas that support diverse, unique, or abundant fish and wildlife communities.



WDFW regularly updates its PHS data, and this figure shows the current status of the data.

PHS data were updated in 2009 for King, Thurston, Mason, and Okanogan counties. Data in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties recently was updated but still needs to be entered into the database. We anticipate that the data for these counties will be entered into PHS by May 2010. Additional updates for Mason County are planned and later this year we plan to update data in San Juan, Whatcom, and Skagit counties.

Requesting PHS information

PHS data are widely used by planners, consultants, applicants, other state agencies, universities, and conservation groups. Many local communities rely on PHS data to inform critical areas, shoreline, and comprehensive planning, as well as for site-specific project reviews. PHS data can also be incorporated into incentive-based programs such as conservation futures or open space tax programs. The regional WDFW staff listed on the last page of this newsletter can help you use PHS information for your needs.

Directions for requesting PHS maps or data can found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/maps_data/, or by calling 360.902.2543. A written request for ordering PHS information can be sent to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, PHS Data Release, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501.

A new way to access PHS data coming soon

In response to customer requests for easier access to PHS data, and to address cuts in our data release budget, WDFW is developing and testing a new, interactive, web-based tool for distributing and mapping PHS data. This do-it-yourself tool will allow anyone with internet access to view non-sensitive Priority Habitat and Species locations using an easy to navigate map, through WDFW's web site. Users will be able to search for their property, view aerial photos, parcel and street maps, and view PHS point, line, and polygonal data, similar to what they would receive on a hard copy map ordered from the agency.

Customers will be able to identify what species or habitats are mapped in an area of interest and see basic information such as species' status (e.g., State Endangered) and the data source. Direct links to WDFW's [management recommendations](#) and [recovery plans](#) will be provided. PHS customers will be able to request detailed reports, hard copy maps, and digital data from WDFW as they always have, but this new web-based system will provide another option for those with needs that can be satisfied online. Potential uses include initial project screening, education about the types of species and habitats in a community, and identification of conservation opportunities. After testing the tool with local planners, consultants, biologists, and other customers in the coming months, WDFW plans to launch the web site this summer. The next issue of the Fish and Wildlife Planner will provide more details about how to access data on the web using this new web-based system.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2010 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Spring Forums

- Apr 15 – Southwest Wash. – Battle Ground Email Contact: [Joyce Phillips](#)
- Apr 21 – Olympic Peninsula – Location TBD Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- Apr 20 – Northwest Wash. – WECU Educational Center, Ferndale Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- May 5 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend C.C., Moses Lake Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Summer Forums

- July 15 – Southwest Wash. – Stevenson Email Contact: [Joyce Phillips](#)
- July 21 – Olympic Peninsula – Location TBD Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- TBD – Northwest Wash. – Location TBD Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- July 28 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend C.C., Moses Lake Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. Date and location are subject to change, so make sure to email the forum contact prior to attendance. Email the contact person for a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **APA's 2010 National Planning Conference**

New Orleans, Louisiana plays host to the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference, April 10–13, 2010. Planners, students, and citizens are expected to enjoy sessions, mobile workshops, training seminars, and networking opportunities. More information about this conference can be found at <http://www.planning.org/conference/>.

- **Wetland Delineation Intensive**

Learn how to delineate wetlands with new guidance described in the new Corps of Engineers regional supplements for Washington state and learn to properly identify and describe wetland hydrology, plants and soils. The training course is on April 12-16 at the Edmonds Convention Center.

- **Washington Forest Practices Adaptive Management Annual Science Conference**

This conference highlights studies including riparian research and monitoring on fish- and non fish-bearing streams, amphibian research and monitoring, and upland research and monitoring on roads and unstable slopes. The conference will be held in the DSHS Office Building 2 Auditorium in Olympia on April 13th.

- **State of the Salmon Conference**

From May 4–7, 2010, the State of the Salmon Program will host an international conference in Portland, Oregon entitled: “Ecological Interactions between Wild and Hatchery Salmon.” Abstracts will be posted online soon. Inquiries about this conference should be emailed to inquiries@stateofthesalmon.org.

- **2010 Western Planner / Planning Association of Washington Conference**

Save the date. This year's conference will honor the lasting legacies and living landscapes found throughout Washington. The conference will be held August 10–13, 2010 in Vancouver, Washington. Questions about the conference can be directed to Brian Frampton at (509) 888-3253 or bframpton@wenatchewa.gov.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort between several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals who make decisions about coastal management in Washington. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and coastal resource managers. The upcoming course schedule can be found on [CTP's](#) website.

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is on the [Department of Commerce's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of communities and are open to the public. Everyone who attends receives a course manual. Call or email [Janet Rogerson](#) with questions at 360.725.3047.

Grant opportunities

- **State grants available for recreation and conservation projects**
Applications are being accepted April 1 – May 3, 2010 for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Washington Wildlife Recreation Program, and Recreational Trails Program. For more details go to http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/grants_available.shtml.
- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) Grants Application Process**
The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a cost-share program that helps small forest landowners correct fish passage barriers on their forestlands. Landowners interested in enrolling in the program must submit an *Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation* form to DNR Small Forest Landowner Office by June 30th.
- **Get your community involved in watershed restoration**
The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports science-based watershed restoration initiatives that demonstrate strong community engagement and strive to implement a long-term restoration approach. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$40,000 annually for up to a 10-year period. BEF accepts letters of inquiry on an open basis, and there is no official cycle for the review and solicitation of proposed Model Watershed Projects. Any individual, organization, tribe, or local government in the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**
As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low – and sometimes dry – with significant consequences for imperiled salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports program partners in the Columbia Basin by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation working in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.
- **Additional grant opportunities**
 - Click [HERE](#) to use the federal government’s primary grant search engine.
 - The Association of Washington Cities has an electronic newsletter called “[Grant Alert](#).” Many grants are relevant to natural resource issues affecting cities throughout Washington.
 - The Washington Department of Commerce administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning activities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - The Washington Biodiversity Project provides an overview of opportunities to receive grants and incentives for projects that lead to the conservation of Washington’s biodiversity [HERE](#).

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

GMA and SMA Technical Assistance Web Page:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/planning/gma_sma/index.html

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

509.754.4624 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin); mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov

Southwest Washington:

Ted Labbe, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); ted.labbe@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Katie Knight, 360.902.2618, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Planning Technical Assistance Manager:

Jennifer Davis, 360.902-2562; jennifer.davis@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment:

John Jacobson, 360-902-2479; john.jacobson@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

Fish & Wildlife Planner

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N · Olympia, WA · 98501-1091