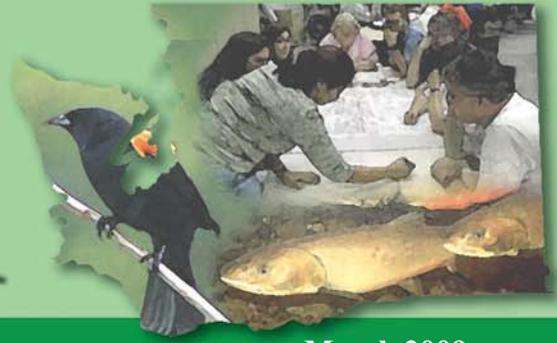


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

March 2009

Opportunities to Fund Fish and Wildlife Conservation Efforts in a Difficult Economy

By Ginna Correa, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

In these tough economic times, funding for fish and wildlife conservation from traditional sources, such as local tax revenue, is hard to come by. More than ever, competitive grants originating from federal, state and private sources, will support the projects that are essential to the conservation of Washington's diverse fish and wildlife. Although obtaining funds may seem daunting during this recession, money from the grants described below can fill funding gaps that will ultimately get local conservation efforts underway.

These grants are all available to local governments in search of funds for various conservation-oriented programs. In particular, these grants can fund habitat restoration, land acquisition, management, species recovery, and other types of efforts that benefit local species and habitats. Although the following is not an exhaustive list of every conservation grant available to cities and counties, it does represent a cross-section of grants available to you when planning your next project.



Photo courtesy of RCO

Poulsbo is using a \$261,000 ALEA grant to restore habitat along Dogfish Creek, at the north end of Liberty Bay on Puget Sound.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

One of the largest state habitat protection grants is the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) administered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. The program has awarded more than \$544 million statewide since 1990. Funding can be used to protect habitat, preserve working farms, and create new local and state parks. Local governments, tribes and state agencies may apply for certain WWRP funds and some grants require matching funds. An independent team of experts rank projects based on benefits to the public, level of threat to the property, or presence of threatened or endangered species. All of the seven grant categories (Critical Habitat, Natural Areas, Farmland Preservation, Riparian, Trails, Urban Wildlife, and Water Access) are funded once every biennium by the legislature.

Section 6 Grants

From 2000-2008, Washington has been awarded \$106 million, totaling over 25% of the available Section 6 funds nationwide. Section 6 grants consist of three programs established under the federal Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF). The three grant programs are:

- > Recovery Land Acquisition grants (funding permanent protection of lands that support approved recovery plans for listed species),
- > Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (HCP) grants (funding permanent protection of lands that complement conservation provided by an approved HCP), and
- > Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants (funding to develop HCPs).

Please see **GRANTS** on Page 2

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Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

These grants provide funding to states for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands. A state must have a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to be eligible to receive CESCFC funds. In Washington, Section 6 grants are administered by USFWS in conjunction with the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources. These grants are primarily intended to contribute to the conservation of federally threatened and endangered species. Although this grant is available only to the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, local-state government partnerships can be formed to fund important conservation efforts.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring access to outdoor recreational resources including but not limited to parks, trails, and wildlife lands. Eligible grant recipients are counties, cities, towns, park districts, port districts, tribes, and state agencies. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grants are to be evaluated based on a project's technical merits and by how the project addresses the needs and priorities of a statewide comprehensive or strategic plan, and public/private partnerships. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the National Park Service and [Recreation and Conservation Funding Board](#).

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board administers two grants to protect and restore salmon habitat. The board also supports feasibility assessments for future projects and activities. Eligible applicants may include cities, towns, counties and special districts such as ports; tribal governments; state agencies; nonprofit organizations; regional fisheries enhancement groups; and private landowners. To be considered for funding, projects must be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which funding is sought. All projects require [lead entity](#) approval and must be a high priority in the lead entity strategy or regional recovery plan.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a cost-share program that helps small forest landowners correct fish passage barriers on their forestlands. To obtain funding, a small forest landowner is required to provide a match of the lesser of either:

- 25% of any costs associated with the removal or replacement of a particular fish passage barrier; or
- \$5,000 for the removal or replacement of a particular fish passage barrier.

Small forest landowners are not required to provide a match if the barrier was installed under an approved forest practices application or an approved hydraulics approval. Once projects are selected, the [Recreation and Conservation Funding Board](#) administers the grants.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account provides grants to purchase, improve, or protect aquatic lands for public purposes, and to provide and improve access to such lands. It is guided by concepts that include the reestablishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands, providing or restoring public water access, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands. Grant applications are evaluated using eleven categories: critical habitat, farmland, local parks, natural areas, riparian, state lands development and renovation, state lands restoration and enhancement, state parks, trails, urban wildlife habitat, and water access. Any division of local or state government, as well as Native American tribes, are eligible to apply if legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, or recreational facilities. Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private entities are not eligible, but are encouraged to seek a partnership with an eligible entity.



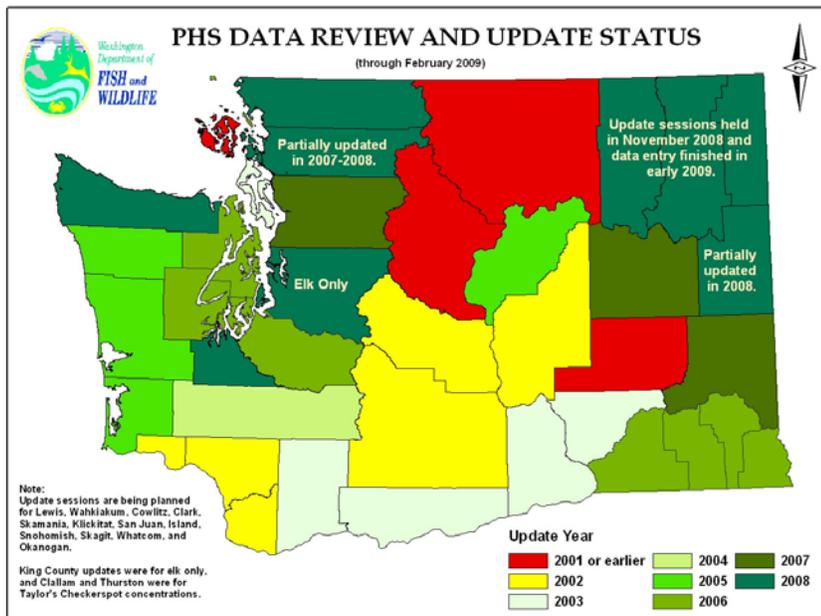
Photo courtesy of Brian Abbott

Culvert replaced through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program in Lewis County

Status of Priority Habitat and Species data

By Terry Johnson, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) 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. The agency regularly updates its PHS data, and the current status of the data is shown in this figure.



PHS data were updated in 2008 for Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties, partially updated in Spokane County, and updated to reflect new elk data in King County. Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly data was entered for Clallam and Thurston counties in early 2009. Data for Whatcom and part of Skagit County was updated in 2008. Data updates are currently underway or are planned for later this year in Okanogan, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Wahkiakum counties.

Other important fish and wildlife databases

A variety of WDFW databases are available to those who request PHS information from our agency. The Wildlife Program manages the Wildlife Survey Data Management (WSDM) database and the Spotted Owl Site Center database. Both of these databases house data for priority species that are endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidates.

The Fish Program maintains the Washington Lakes Rivers Information System (WLRIS) that contains 1:24,000 scale salmonid spawning, rearing, and distribution data. WLRIS will later add information on the locations of important resident fish. WLRIS also contains important data for many species of fish that are on WDFW's PHS List.

WDFW also maintains a bald eagle buffer GIS layer. Local planners and project applicants who need to determine if a project requires a [Bald Eagle Management Plan](#) commonly use this layer. This buffer layer is undergoing some modifications in 2009 to bring in additional shorelines to give a more complete picture of where management plans might be needed. Answers to frequently asked questions about the requirements of a Bald Eagle Plan are available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/baldeagle/>.

These 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.

Requesting PHS information

Directions for requesting PHS maps or digital data can found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/release.htm>, 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.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2009 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Spring Forums

- April 16 – Southwest Wash. – 4400 NE 77th Ave, VancouverEmail Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- April 17 – Olympic Peninsula – Port Orchard City Hall.....Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- April 22 – Northwest Wash. – 5659 Barrett Road, Ferndale.....Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- April 22 – Eastern Wash. – Shilo Inn, Moses Lake.Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Summer Forums

- July 16 – Southwest Wash. – 710 SW Rock Creek Dr., Stevenson.....Email Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- July 17 – Olympic Peninsula – Port Townsend, Pope Marine Bldg.....Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- July 22 – Northwest Wash. – Burlington City Hall.....Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- July 22 – 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 to the forum contact prior to attendance. Email the contact person for a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **Planning Association of Washington Annual Conference**

This day-and-a-half conference will feature sessions on a variety of land use planning topics including planning for climate change, walkable communities, as well as a short-course on local planning. This conference will be held in Blaine, Washington on April 9th and 10th. More information about the conference can be found at the [Planning Association of Washington's](#) website.

- **Salmon Habitat Project Conference**

This year's conference has expanded to offer two full days of learning opportunities from experts in salmon recovery. This two-day conference will be held at the Little Creek Conference Center in Shelton on April 15th and April 16th.

- **APA's 2009 National Planning Conference**

Minneapolis, Minnesota plays host to the American Planning Association's 101st National Planning Conference, April 25, through April 29, 2009. More than 5,500 planners, students, and citizens are expected to enjoy sessions, mobile workshops, training seminars, and networking opportunities. More information is at <http://myapa.planning.org/nationalconference/>.

- **Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference**

Save the date. This year's annual conference will be held at the Spokane Convention Center from June 23rd to June 26th.

- **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 Community, Trade and Economic Development'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

- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) - Federal FY 2010**
The Washington State Department of Ecology announces that CELCP applications will soon be available. Funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), CELCP is a national, competitive program that provides matching grants for public land acquisition projects that preserve lands with significant ecological and conservation values. Grants will be due to Ecology sometime between March and May 2009.
- **River restoration grants**
American Rivers, through its partnership with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, provides funding for dam removal or fish passage projects to individuals and organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and tribal governments; and other commercial and non-profit organizations. The partnership funds projects that benefit anadromous fish and support the restoration of habitat for anadromous species. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1 of each calendar year. Questions can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@amrivers.org.
- **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 of the current year.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

Maximum grant is \$1,000,000 with 25-30% non-federal match for either acquisition or restoration. In Washington, grants are available only to or through four state agencies: Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Ecology and State Parks. Contact Washington PCJV Coordinator [Joe LaTourrette](#) (360-754-2594) for the best initial contacts with these agencies.

- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**
Established pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to conserve threatened and endangered species. Parties seeking grant funds to protect lands in perpetuity for habitat conservation may apply for a Recovery Land Acquisition grant or a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition grant. Parties seeking grant funds to plan and develop an HCP may apply for a Habitat Conservation (HC) Planning Assistance grant. Intent forms for acquisition projects will likely be due in early June. Periodically check the [Section 6 grant website](#) for updates on the 2010 funding cycle.
- **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.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**
The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- **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 Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development 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

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892.1001 x 323, divenkad@dfw.wa.gov (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties)

North-central Washington:

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

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, teskemst@dfw.wa.gov (Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, and Yakima counties)

Southwest Washington:

Ted Labbe, 360.906.6731, labbetrl@dfw.wa.gov (Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties)

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

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

GMA & PHS Coordination and Technical Assistance:

Jennifer Hayes, 360.902-2562, hayesjlh@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754, azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment/Landscape Planning Technical Assistance:

John Carleton, 360.902.2622, carlejpc@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

Fish & Wildlife Planner

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