

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

March 2007

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Grassroots group advances conservation of biodiversity in Gig Harbor

The recent work of the Crescent Valley Alliance (CVA) demonstrates just how much a dedicated group of local citizens can accomplish. The CVA is a partnership of residents in the Crescent Valley of Gig Harbor committed to the responsible stewardship of the area's watershed habitat. The area in which they work was identified for its ecological significance through a county-wide assessment conducted by [Pierce County Biodiversity Network](#). The CVA has done much to protect this important watershed and to enhance native biodiversity for current and future generations.



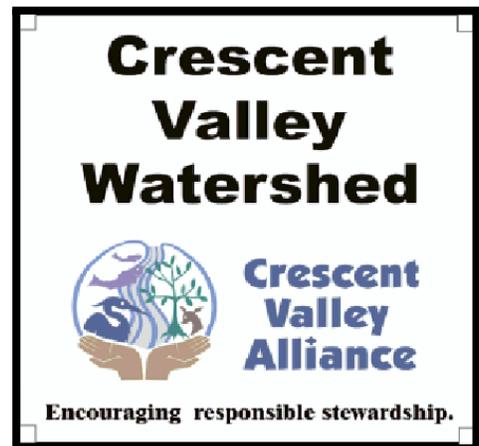
Organizers and participants of Crescent Valley's "BioBlitz" inventory area's wildlife resources.

In 2006, this grassroots organization developed an action plan to guide their efforts to preserve biodiversity. They have accomplished a number of their planning goals, including the installation of signs along the watershed's boundary to inform visitors about Crescent Valley's unique qualities (see illustration below). They also produced a brochure to inform community members about CVA's work. This brochure provides citizens with useful information on ways to be good stewards of their land. Members were also instrumental in conducting a comprehensive inventory of wildlife within the Crescent Valley watershed.

Members are currently working on an open community event entitled "Encouraging Responsible Stewardship." They also are doing work to qualify for certification as a "Community Habitat" through the National Wildlife Federation.

For more information about the Alliance, call Lucinda Wingard at (253) 858-3647.

This article is the first of a series in the *Fish and Wildlife Planner* to give recognition to groups that have been instrumental to biodiversity planning in Washington



Washington
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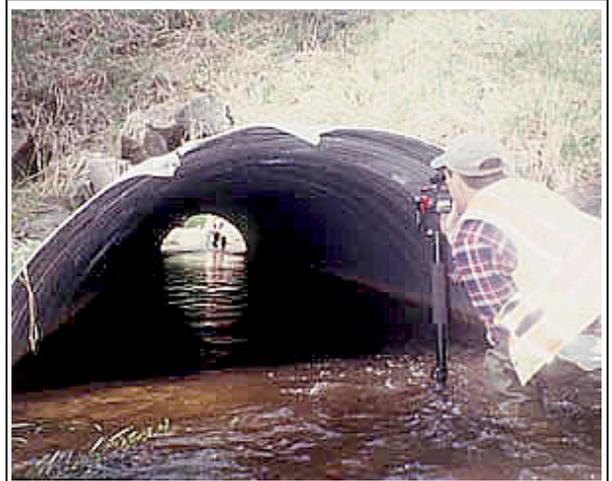
Applicants name:
Address & phone:

WDFW looking for local government input in Habitat Conservation Planning

By Marc Daily & Jennifer Quan, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) recently completed the first year of a six-year process to develop two Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) for species listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). One plan will cover activities conducted under WDFW's Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) program. The other will cover activities occurring on WDFW's wildlife areas. Both HCPs are being developed to ensure that WDFW's HPA and land management programs are in compliance with ESA requirements.

Habitat Conservation Planning is a lengthy process that requires extensive input and involvement from stakeholders and the general public. Thus, a significant part of WDFW's HCP development will focus on public outreach. WDFW is developing each HCP through collaborative participation with tribes, stakeholders, and federal, state, and local governments. WDFW encourages readers of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner* to take part in both of these important planning efforts (see "public outreach" below).



WDFW Image Library

The Hydraulic Project Approval HCP

An assessment of a culvert for fish passage.

The Hydraulic Project Approval HCP will ensure that hydraulic projects comply with ESA requirements and contribute to the conservation and recovery of listed species. A scientific review of HPA provisions will identify the best ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse impacts to affected species. The HCP will also streamline the permit process for projects that require HPAs and other permits subject to ESA review (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers permits). This HCP will cover HPA activities throughout the state in fresh and marine waters and will address the full range of projects that require an HPA, including:

- Bank protection
- Fish passage correction
- Flow control structures
- Dredging
- Aquatic habitat restoration
- Piers, docks, and marinas
- Bridges and culverts
- Aquaculture



WDFW Image Library

Copper Rockfish will likely be covered under the HPA Habitat Conservation Plan.

Many of these activities are also regulated at the local level. Therefore, WDFW will involve local governments throughout HCP development to ensure consistency with Shoreline Master Programs, Critical Areas Ordinances, and other local regulations.

In support of the HCP, the agency completed a series of white papers evaluating potential impacts, mitigation measures, and data gaps associated with water crossings, overwater structures, streambank protection, and mineral prospecting. These white papers, which may provide useful information for local planners, can be downloaded off the [web](#).

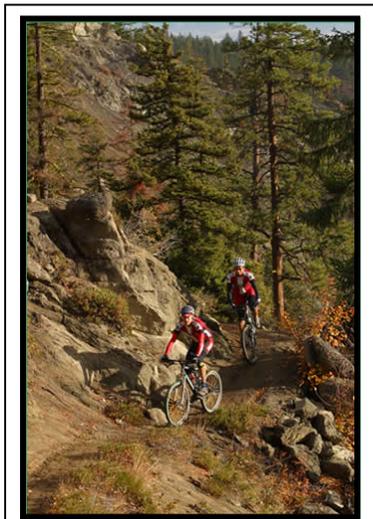
HCP

Continued from Page Two

This year, white papers will be developed for seven other types of hydraulic projects. In addition, compliance and effectiveness of current HPA provisions will be surveyed, and a research program will be developed to address data gaps and uncertainties.

Wildlife areas HCP

Consistent with [WDFW's mandates](#), the Wildlife Areas HCP will ultimately focus on conservation as it guides management of roughly 850,000 acres of WDFW-owned land. It will be used to evaluate benefits and risks to ESA-listed species that result from habitat enhancement and restoration (e.g.,



WDFW File Photo

Mountain biking on the Colockum Wildlife Area.

riparian revegetation), recreation (e.g., hunting), and operation and maintenance (e.g., pesticide application) occurring on WDFW Wildlife Areas. This HCP will also be consistent with WDFW's [Lands 20/20](#) policies as well as the agency's [Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy](#).

A comprehensive inventory of species, habitats, and land management activities are planned as part of this project. Related information will be evaluated to highlight conservation opportunities and to identify impacts to ESA-listed species. With this information, WDFW will be able to more effectively manage lands for both conservation and public use benefits.

Progress in 2006 included a general inventory of species, habitats, and land management activities; development of a GIS database; mapping; and an initial literature review. A more detailed inventory was prepared for the Methow, Sinlahekin, and Scotch Creek Wildlife Area complexes in Okanogan County. This work will continue in 2007, and we will also be increasing public participation.

Public outreach

To kick off public outreach in spring of 2007, WDFW will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state. These meetings are being held to answer questions and familiarize interested parties about both HCPs. These sessions will also serve as an ideal opportunity to offer suggestions and provide input. WDFW encourages planners to attend these meetings to ensure that local issues are considered. The following are the meeting dates, times, and locations. Directions are given on the [HCP](#) web page.

For more information

See WDFW's [HCP website](#) for additional information on both projects. To get on the project mailing lists, provide input, or to obtain further information, send an email to the Hydraulic Project Approval HCP project at hydraulichcp@dfw.wa.gov or the Wildlife Areas HCP at wildlifehcp@dfw.wa.gov. Marc Daily, the HPA project lead, can be reached by phone at 360.902.2526. Jennifer Quan, the Wildlife Area project lead, can be reached at 360.902.2508.

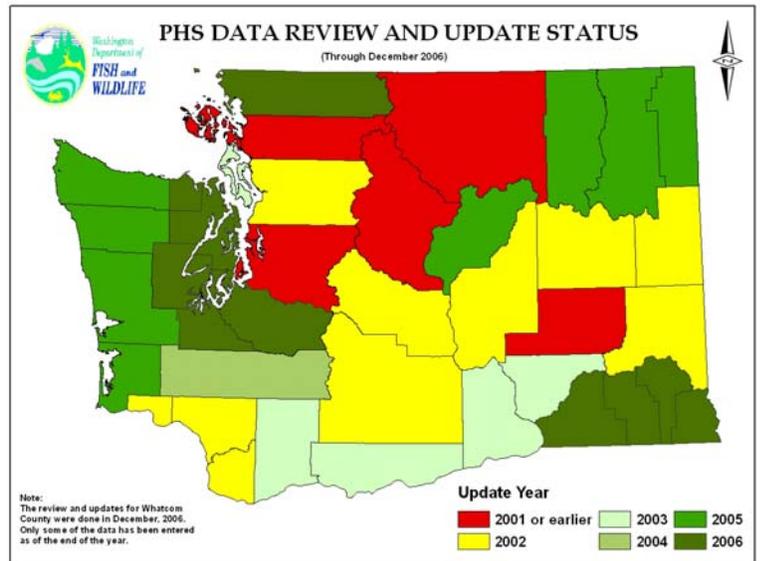
WDFW Habitat Conservation Planning public meeting schedule.

April 30 Yakima 7:00-8:30 Yakima Regional Library	May 8 Mount Vernon 7:00-8:30 Skagit Valley College
May 1 Wenatchee 7:30-8:30 Cashmere Community Center	May 10 Olympia 7:00-8:30 Lacey Community Center
May 2 Spokane 7:00-8:30 Spokane Valley Library	May 15 Vancouver 7:00-8:30 Vancouver Community Library

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 locations of important fish and wildlife species and habitats. Priority species are those that require protective measures to ensure their future survival because of their low numbers, sensitivity to habitat alteration, tendency to form vulnerable aggregations (e.g., heron rookeries), 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 PHS data is shown in this figure.



PHS data were updated in 2006 for Walla Walla, Columbia, Asotin, Garfield, Thurston, Pierce, Mason, and the eastern halves of Clallam and Jefferson counties. An update session was held in December 2006, for Whatcom County. In 2007, updates are planned for Snohomish, Spokane, Whitman, and Lincoln counties.

Other important fish and wildlife databases

Besides PHS, other databases managed by WDFW contain information commonly used by cities and counties throughout the state. The Wildlife Program manages the Wildlife Heritage, spotted owl, and marbled murrelet databases. The Heritage database contains data on numerous threatened, endangered, sensitive and candidate species. In the future, the newly designed Wildlife Survey Data Management (WSDM) database will be rolled out. WSDM will contain records from the Wildlife Heritage, spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and several other internally used databases using a common data structure.

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 also include resident fish data. Other fisheries data includes WDFW's forage fish database that can be viewed through [Salmonscape](#).

All these databases can inform local planning and are available to those who request PHS information.

Requesting PHS information

Directions for requesting PHS maps or digital data can be 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.

Grant opportunities

- **River restoration grants** - American Rivers, through its partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'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. More information can be found at the [American Rivers](http://AmericanRivers.org) website. Questions can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@amrivers.org.



Photo courtesy of Steve Penland
Kennedy Creek chum salmon run.

- **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 are \$5,000 to \$40,000 annually 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 within the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about this opportunity.
- **Program helps forestland owners remove barriers to fish passage** - Forest land owners with streams that have barriers to fish passage may be eligible for help in removing the barriers through the Family Forest Fish Passage (FFFP) Program. FFFP provides technical aid and 75-100 percent of the cost to correct barriers, depending on the nature of the project. Application deadline is June 30. Eligibility and contact information and an application form are on [FFFP](#)'s website.
- **Mitigation bank proposals** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Seattle District), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 10), and the Washington Department of Ecology will be jointly accepting proposals for new wetland mitigation banks in Washington. There will be a 7-week open submittal period from August 13 through September 28, 2007. During the open submittal period, proposals will be accepted and evaluated by the interagency Mitigation Bank Review Team. Please see the [public notice](#) for more details.
- **Additional grant opportunities** - The following links can direct you to a variety of other grants that can help fund local conservation planning initiative:
 - The Puget Sound Action Team's (PSAT) web site contains links to both PSAT grant opportunities as well as other funding opportunities. Most grants on this page are geared towards Puget Sound communities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - 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 (CTED) administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning activities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2007 Washington Planners' Forums:**

- April 18 – Eastern Wash. – Moses Lake: Best Western Lakeside Inn – Contact: [Ted Gage](#)
- April 18 – Northwest Wash. – Bellingham: Harbor Center Conference Room – Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- April 19 – Southwest Wash. – Vancouver: TBA – Contact: [Ted Gage](#)
- April 20 – Olympic Peninsula – Bremerton: Norm Dicks Conference Center – Contact: [Tim Gates](#)

These forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk informally about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work impacts land use. Please email the contacts provided above for meeting times and additional details.

- **Salmon Habitat Conference: Building Better Projects:** This conference will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Tacoma, on April 26. This "nuts and bolts" conference is a forum for project sponsors to learn and network about successful projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Workshops cover protection and acquisition, habitat restoration, nearshore and estuary projects, and fish passage and screening. For more information, go to the [conference home page](#).
- **American Planning Association - Inland Empire Annual Conference:** This annual conference sponsored by the APA-Inland Empire section will take place at the Elkin's Resort in Priest Lake, Idaho on May 31 and June 1. For more information, please email [Scott Kuhta](#). Email [Susan Winchell](#) to register for this conference.
- **Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference:** This conference sponsored by the Association of Washington Cities will take place in Tacoma, on June 12-15. More information is posted on the webpage of the [Association of Washington Cities](#).
- **2007 Great Northwest Planning Conference - Planners Without Borders:** Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center, Tacoma, Washington, October 3-5. Please see the [call for session proposals](#) which provides more details about this event.
- **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. A list of courses are at [CTP's](#) website.
- **Short Courses/Planning Education:** Free, three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, the basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is available on the [Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of local communities and are always open to the public. Everyone who attends will receive a short course manual. Call or email [Ted Gage](#) with questions at (360) 725-3049.

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

Jeff Lawlor, 509.456.4082, (Pend Oreille, N. Spokane); lawlojil@dfw.wa.gov
Karin Divens, 509.255.6103, (S. Spokane, Lincoln, Whitman); divenkad@dfw.wa.gov
Allen Palmanteer, 509.738.2364 (Ferry, Stevens); palmagap@dfw.wa.gov
Mark Grandstaff, 509.527.4141 (Walla Walla); grandmh@dfw.wa.gov
Tom Schirm, 509.382.1266 (Garfield, Columbia, Asotin); schirtbs@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

Chris Parsons, 509.754.4624 Ext. 12 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams); parsoebp@dfw.wa.gov

South-central Washington:

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

Southwest Washington:

Tim Rymer, 360.906.6729, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); rumertr@dfw.wa.gov

N. Puget Sound:

Pam Erstad, 425.379.2308, (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Island, San Juan); erstapke@dfw.wa.gov

S. Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Jeff Davis, 360.895.3965, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston); davisjpd@dfw.wa.gov

GMA & PHS Coordinator:

Jennifer Hayes, 360.902-2946; hayesjlh@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

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

Local Habitat Assessments Project:

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

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

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