

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



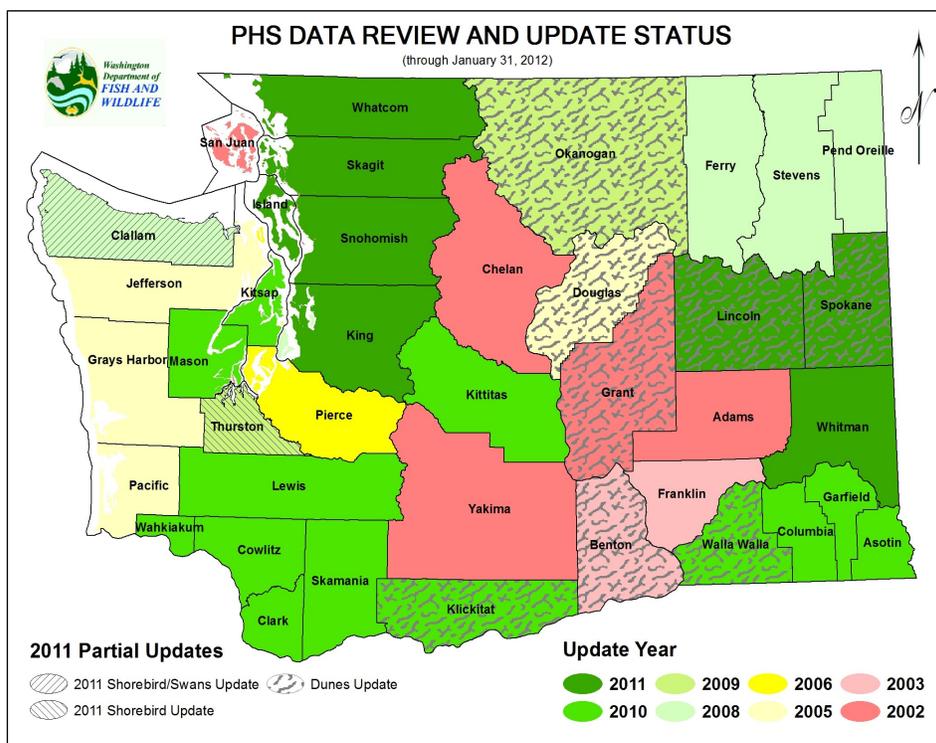
A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

April 2012

Status of Priority Habitat and Species Data

By Terry Johnson, *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 requiring 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 database, and this figure shows the current status of the data.



Recent PHS data updates

PHS data was updated throughout much of Washington in 2011. In western Washington, new and revised data was entered for elk, mountain goat, swan, waterfowl, and shorebirds in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and King counties. In Clallam County, swan and shorebird datasets were revised, and some shorebird data was updated in Thurston County.

In eastern Washington, data was updated for Inland Dune, Shrub-steppe, and the Biodiversity Areas and Corridors priority habitat types. As Inland Dunes were recently added as a new type of priority habitat, a number of known dune locations were added to PHS for counties across much of eastern Washington. In particular, dunes were added to the PHS Database for Grant, Okanogan, Douglas, Benton, Walla Walla, Lincoln, Spokane, and Klickitat counties. New locations of Shrub-steppe were added in Whitman County, while new biodiversity area data was updated in Spokane County.

Please see PHS DATA on Page Two

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Applicants name:
Address & phone

PHS DATA

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Revisions to the database were also made for a number of game species in eastern Washington. This included revision to mule deer data in Whitman, Lincoln, and Spokane counties. Revisions were also made to Elk, White-tailed Deer, and waterfowl data in Lincoln and Spokane counties. In addition, data was revised for American White Pelican and Bighorn Sheep in Lincoln County and for Moose in Spokane County.

Planned 2012 PHS updates

Data updates are planned for Clallam, Jefferson, Pierce, Thurston, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Yakima, Franklin, and Benton counties. There will also be a follow-up to the 2011 Spokane County update. In addition, more waterfowl updates will likely occur in Snohomish and Skagit counties. A pilot project is underway to review and update deer, Elk, Mountain Goat, and Bighorn Sheep data for Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties. We also plan to map shorebirds in Grays Harbor and Pacific 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 identify critical areas, shorelines, and to inform comprehensive planning, as well as site-specific project reviews. PHS data can also be incorporated into incentive-based programs such as open space tax programs. Regional WDFW staff listed on the last page of this newsletter can help you determine how PHS data can be used to inform local planning matters.

To access the data online, go to *PHS on the Web* at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>. Directions for requesting PHS maps or data can also be 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
Priority Habitat and Species Data Release
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501

WDFW updates land use planning guidance for Great Blue Herons

This month WDFW updated a publication that is part of our series of *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species*. This revised guidance publication replaces the Great Blue Heron guidelines last updated in 1999. Over the past year, significant planning went into the update of this publication. At the onset of developing the Great Blue Heron guidelines, potential users were invited to offer early feedback. We were interested in knowing what questions users would like addressed in an update to this publication. After a draft was prepared, comments were sought from an extensive group of stake-holders and peer-reviewers. All comments were carefully considered prior to preparing the final publication.



The *Great Blue Heron Management Recommendations* publication is now available online. It includes a comprehensive overview of the latest scientific knowledge about this species. Some major changes you will notice include a new set of habitat buffers, guidance for urban heron colonies, and a more comprehensive set of guidelines for managing important areas used by nesting herons.

Other guidelines in this same series are under development or consideration. This includes an update of the riparian management recommendations as well as plans to write guidelines for the Westside Prairie priority habitat type. If you have any questions about the Great Blue Heron publication or any other publication in this series, please contact [Jeff Azerrad](mailto:Jeff.Azerrad@wdfw.wa.gov) by email or at 360-906-6754.

WDFW Unveils New Tool for Landscape Evaluation

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), The Nature Conservancy, and Washington's Natural Heritage Program partnered on a series of assessments to develop a road map for conserving regional biodiversity in all of Washington's nine ecoregions. In completing the Ecoregional Assessments (EA), vast amounts of data were collected, verified, and used for measuring the ecological value of places across Washington. Products from these EAs currently help the partners to be more strategic in conserving habitat.

The EAs are also used by other groups. The Washington Biodiversity Council in particular developed conservation opportunity maps using the EAs. Conservation opportunity maps offer a way for groups to see what landscapes their investments in conservation might provide the greatest returns in terms of protecting biodiversity.



The ecoregions of Washington

DATA VIEWER

To provide access to the conservation opportunity maps as well as the underlying data, we recently unveiled a tool called the Conservation Opportunity Framework (COF) data viewer. This tool provides anyone with ArcGIS (Version 9.3.1 or higher) a way of using this information to evaluate the conservation value of landscapes anywhere in Washington.

The COF data viewer can help you see generalized locations of species of plants, animals, and habitats. This includes generalized locations of many species of conservation priority including Threatened or Endangered species. The tool also gives you the unique ability to measure a landscape's value relative to other places in the ecoregion. And by having access to the conservation opportunity data, this tool can help you evaluate the relative return for investments in project that conserve biodiversity.

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA VIEWER

Although the data viewer offers new ways of using the EAs, it is important you understand its limitations. Possibly the biggest limitation is that data has not been updated since the EAs were completed. And because many EAs were finished in 2004, they lack more up-to-date data. We also were unable to give exact locations of species, in part because of agreements made with partners that shared their data with us. You therefore can only see a general rather than an exact location of a species occurrence. One other limitation is that the data viewer only includes terrestrial species data, but it lacks data for fish.

Because of these limitations you should not use this as the sole source of data when evaluating a landscape. Rather you should use the data viewer in combination with other sources of information like WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species data, which displays known location of priority fish and wildlife species and habitat on-site. This data is frequently updated and is now available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>. Other informative data you can use in combination with the data viewer include the [Statewide and Columbia Plateau Habitat Connectivity Analyses](#) and WDFW's [Local Habitat Assessments](#).

ACCESSING COF DATA VIEWER

To access the data viewer, download a set of compressed files located in a zip folder ([CLICK HERE](#)). Once you have completed the download, open the COF_Tool folder and then open the subfolder named "docs." This is where you will find installation instructions and a user guide. After installing the data viewer onto your laptop or PC, review the user guide for a detailed explanation of how to use this tool. Please contact WDFW's Wildlife Diversity Division with questions about the COF data viewer.

New WDFW Biologists to Assist Western Washington Communities

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to announce the hiring of biologists George Fornes and Theresa Nation, who both are currently assisting western Washington communities with conservation planning. They provide policy outreach and assistance when local governments are updating land use plans and regulations to protect fish and wildlife populations under the growth management and shoreline management acts. They also help integrate the agency's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data with regional planning efforts.

Theresa has been with WDFW for 5 years. Prior to her current position, she worked on developing WDFW's Wildlife Areas Habitat Conservation Plan. In the past, she has worked in the fisheries field and was involved in a variety of research areas. These include habitat and population ecology, hydroelectric dam impacts, and disease pathology. Theresa holds a Master of Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College. She also received a B.S. in Biology from Portland State University. Born and raised in Washington, Theresa can often be found outside skiing, mountain biking, and doing volunteer trail work.



Theresa Nation

George spent five years as a wetland and habitat biologist with the Clark County Department of Environmental Services, where he wrote permits for development proposals. Earlier in his career he worked on similar land use issues from the other side of the counter, as an ecological consultant in Bellingham.

George's diverse experience has included tallgrass prairie restoration in Illinois, bird and fox reintroductions on the Channel Islands in California, waterfowl in Wenatchee, land surveying in Spokane, and macaws in Bolivia. He holds a Master of Biological Sciences from Eastern Illinois University, and a B.S. in Ecology from the University of Illinois. When he is not working, fixing up his house, or wrangling his toddler, George enjoys playing music and hiking.



George Fornes

Theresa's work will cover all jurisdictions throughout Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula. She works out of our Olympia office, and can be reached at 360-902-2562 or theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov. George's area of coverage is southwest Washington. He is based out of our office in Vancouver, and can be reached at 360-906-6731 or george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov. Please see the back page of the newsletter for the full list of counties in Theresa and George's coverage area.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2012 Washington Planners' Forums:**

- Spring Forums

- April 18 – Northwest Wash..... Burlington..... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
- April 19 – Olympic Peninsula..... Bainbridge Island..... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
- April 19 – Southwest Wash..... Woodland..... Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
- April 25 – Eastern Wash..... Moses Lake..... Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

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

- **American Planning Association's 2012 National Planning Conference**

Los Angeles plays host to the APA's 104th National Planning Conference, April 14-17, 2012. Come to enjoy the sessions, mobile workshops, training seminars, and networking opportunities.

- **Planning Association of Washington Conference**

This conference will be held at the Campbell's Resort in Chelan from April 30 through May 2. This year's theme is "facing reality, finding resiliency."

- **Columbia River Estuary Conference**

Bringing together project leaders, program managers, and researchers to highlight findings and perspectives from research and monitoring and the implications for restoration and recovery of ESA listed species in the lower Columbia River and estuary. May 15-17, 2012 at the Liberty Theater in Astoria, Oregon.

- **Restoration 2012: Beyond Borders**

Four of the Northwest's premiere ecological restoration and fisheries organizations are coming together to host this annual meeting. The event will focus on exploring our knowledge of ecosystem and habitat restoration and natural resource management across natural and manmade borders. May 15-18 at the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

- **Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference**

This year's conference will be held at the convention center in Vancouver, Washington, June 20-21, 2012. Open registration begins in mid-April.

- **Society for Conservation Biology North American Conference**

Save the date! Conference symposia will cover topics like planning protected areas for climate change, landscape conservation cooperatives, freshwater conservation, and decision support tools for policy evaluation. The conference will be held in Oakland, California, July 15-18, 2012.

- **Ecological Society of America's Annual Conference**

Save the date! This year's annual conference will be in Portland, Oregon, August 5-10, 2012.

- **APA Washington Chapter's 2012 Conference**

Save the date! The theme of this year's annual conference is "Breaking Gridlock — Creating New Alliances." The conference will be held October 11-12, 2012 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

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

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, comprehensive planning and plan implementation, and the role of the planning commission. Co-sponsored by the [Department of Commerce](#) and the [Planning Association of Washington \(PAW\)](#), the course is presented by professional planners and attorneys and is open to all. Attendees receive handouts prepared by the presenters, and are referred to the on-line version of the [Short Course Manual](#) that accompanies the course. Twenty pre-scheduled regional courses are provided each year. Commerce and PAW also offer the short courses online at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1380/default.aspx>.

Please see the [Current Short Course Schedule](#) for dates, times, locations, and registration information. For more information, visit the [Short Course Web page](#) or email [Janet Rogerson](#).

Grant opportunities

- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office is now accepting applications for several of their grants. Applications are due May 1, 2012 for the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#), [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#), and the [Washington Wildlife Recreation Program](#) grants. Applications are due June 30, 2012 for those wanting to apply for funding through the [Family Forest Fish Passage Program](#).

- **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program**

These grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat. Applications for fiscal year 2013 funding are due June 29, 2012. For more information about eligibility and how to apply go to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent notice](#) about the availability of this grant opportunity.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

Matching grants for organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wetlands-associated wildlife. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both programs require that grant requests be matched by partner at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from other federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as a match. The standard grant deadline is July 27th while the small grant deadline is October 25th.

- **Water Quality Financial Assistance**

The Washington Department of Ecology manages the three water quality grant and loan programs as one. There is one combined funding cycle, one application form and submittal period, and a combined funding offer list. Each year, Ecology's Water Quality Program accepts applications from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and qualified non-profit organizations seeking financial help to improve or protect water quality. Applications are accepted from September 1 to November 2, 2012.

- **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. Questions about the grant and about upcoming funding cycles can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org.



More grant opportunities

- **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 salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports partners 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**

- The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) list of grants.
- The federal government's primary grant search engine is [grants.gov](#).
- Grant Programs to Local Governments from the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- The [Washington Department of Commerce](#) list of grants relevant to GMA planning.

WDFW Contacts for Fish and Wildlife Planning

[GMA AND SMA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEB PAGE](#)

Regional Technical Assistance

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:

George Fornes, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Theresa Nation, 360.902. 2562, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov

Statewide Program Development

Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Katie Knight, 360.902-2618; katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Publications:

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

Local Habitat Assessment:

Katie Knight, 360.902. 2618; katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats and Species Data:

PHS on the Web: <http://www.dfw.wa.gov/mapping>

Data Request Hotline: 360.902.2543; phsproducts@dfw.wa.gov

Data Stewardship: Terry Johnson, 360.902-2494; terry.johnson@dfw.wa.gov

Fish & Wildlife Planner

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