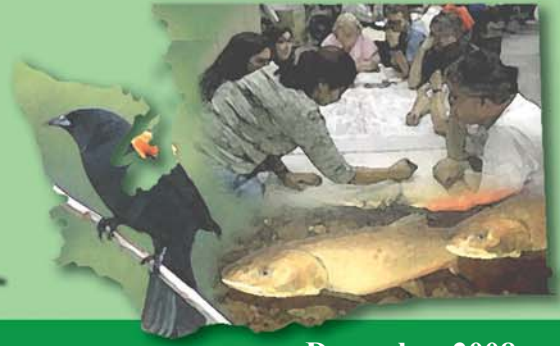


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

December 2008

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife updates its list of Priority Habitats and Species

By Jeff Azerrad, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) recently completed a comprehensive revision of its list of Priority Habitats and Species (PHS). The PHS List is WDFW's main catalog of species and habitats of conservation and management concern. For nearly two decades, PHS information has been a primary tool used by landowners, NGOs, environmental consultants, cities, counties, and state and federal agencies to conserve and protect Washington's diverse fish and wildlife resources. The new PHS List can be accessed online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phslist.htm>.

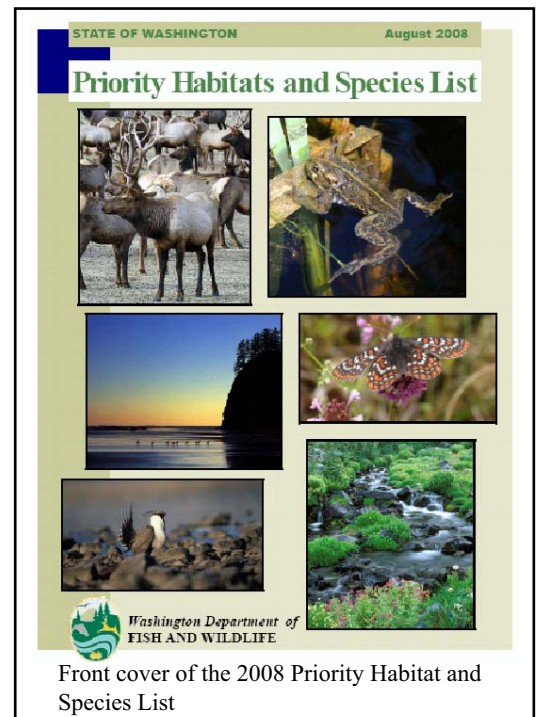
An update of the PHS List was necessary to reflect new scientific information that has accumulated since the last major revision occurred in 1999. The update, which required a great deal of input from experts and users of the PHS List, began with an information-gathering (i.e., scoping) phase to identify and prioritize potential revisions. An extensive revision process followed, focusing on matters identified during this scoping phase.

Major updates include changes to the list of priority species, revised definitions for priority habitats, and modifications to the overall format of the publication. An advisory group composed of biologists and habitat experts oversaw every major change. Specialized sub-committees guided revisions to priority habitat definitions. The update concluded with an extensive peer review, during which roughly 70 scientific experts and users of the list - including local city and county planners - provided important comments. The entire update from beginning to end was thoroughly documented.

Some notable revisions to the PHS List include:

- the addition of a few new priority habitats, including herbaceous balds, inland dunes, and biodiversity areas and corridors;
- major revisions to the definitions that guide the way we map priority habitats such as eastside steppe and westside prairie (formerly known as prairie and steppe) and shrub-steppe;
- a reorganization and revision to the nearshore marine and estuarine priority habitat definitions;
- the removal of the priority habitats known as Urban and Rural Natural Open Space (replaced by the Biodiversity Areas and Corridors priority habitat).

Please see **PHS LIST** on Page 2



Front cover of the 2008 Priority Habitat and Species List

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Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

The revised list has been revamped to ensure it is as user-friendly as possible. New features include county-specific distribution maps for every priority species and habitat, along with embedded links to publications that are useful for the management of priority species and habitats. The new list also includes more specific information about the status of all state and federally listed species, as well as improvements to make it easier for readers to navigate the list online.

Other useful PHS tools available online include our Priority Habitat and Species [management recommendations](#) and [digital data](#). Used in conjunction with the PHS List, these sources of best available science can help inform local land use decisions by providing guidance to help minimize impacts to important fish and wildlife resources.

The PHS List will be an online resource.

Those who have been using our old, hard copy version of the PHS List should recycle it and begin using the new online version. If you are less familiar with our PHS resources, we encourage you to take a moment to learn more about the kind of information PHS can provide to benefit local fish and wildlife planning and protection efforts.

For more information about recent updates to the PHS List, please contact Jeff Azerrad at azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov or at 360.906.6754.



Courtesy of Chris Chappell

Herbaceous balds represent one of the latest habitats added to the PHS List.

WDFW publishes new priority species management recommendations for Dungeness Crab

The agency has released a new publication as part of its series of *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species*. This new publication provides guidance on a number of management and planning considerations that are relevant to the conservation of Dungeness Crab, a priority species.

Included in this publication is information related to:

- Proper timing of activities that are known to impact Dungeness Crab
- Impacts of dredging and ways to approach this activity
- Restoration and enhancement of important Dungeness Crab habitat
- Effects of water quality on the species
- Use of Low Impact Development standards to minimize the impacts of construction in or around critical Dungeness Crab habitat



This publication, which has gone through extensive peer-review, will serve as a useful source of best available science (WAC 365-195-900 to 925). The target audience of this publication includes land use professionals working for all coastal and Puget Sound cities and counties, environmental consultants, developers proposing projects that may impact nearshore habitat, as well as agency resource professionals who regulate or provide guidance to individuals working in or around nearshore waters.

We encourage these and other individuals to bookmark the online link to this publication. It is currently available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/dungeness_crab/2008_dungeness_crab_phs_recs.pdf.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2009 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Winter Forums

- January 16 – Olympic Peninsula – Convention Center, Sequim.....Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- January 21 – Northwest Wash. – Mount VernonEmail Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- January 22 – Southwest Wash. – Location TBAEmail Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- January 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 to the forum contact prior to attendance. Email the contact person for a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **[Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference](#)**

The 2009 conference, hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership and Environment Canada, will build upon the experience of previous conferences by connecting scientific research and management techniques to priorities for meaningful action. Mark your calendar to attend this conference that will be held February 8-11 in Seattle, Washington. Early registration runs from now until January 9, 2009.

- **[State of the Salmon 2009 Conference](#)**

State of the Salmon's second international conference, "Bringing the Future into Focus," is the only conference dedicated to the conservation of Pacific salmon throughout their native range. Rapidly changing climate, habitat and markets highlight the need for key scientific information and effective management practices from the Pacific Rim salmon nations. February 2-5, 2009 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia.

- **[Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology/Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society Joint Conference](#)**

Some topics at this year's annual conference will include stream-associated amphibians and westside forest management, habitat connectivity planning, and pocket gopher/prairie conservation. The meeting will take place in Stevenson at Skamania Lodge from February 18-21, 2009.

- **[APA's 2008 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/>. Online registration will begin in December, 2008.

- **[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.

- **[Short Courses/Planning Education](#)**

Free, 3-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 360.725.3047.360.725.3047.

Grant opportunities

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program**
The ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program provides monetary support for qualifying volunteer organizations and individuals who want to undertake projects that are beneficial to the fish and wildlife of Washington State. Applications for the next round of funding will be accepted from December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.
- **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 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. Ecology expects NOAA to release its Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity in mid-December 2008. Grants will be due to Ecology sometime between March and May 2009.
- **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. 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 (SFLO) by June 30th of the current year.
- **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 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**
The following links offer information on a variety of grants that can help fund local conservation planning initiatives:
 - 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. Click [HERE](#).

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.255.6103, 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:

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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