



Fish & Wildlife Planner

Proper Functioning Condition Methodology Aids Spokane County with Shoreline Management Update

Walt Edelen, Spokane County Conservation District

The Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD) recently completed a two-year shoreline inventory and assessment to provide information on the ecological condition and physical characteristics of riparian habitat and watersheds in Spokane County. The goal was to generate a useful product for decision-makers, especially to inform decisions regarding local Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) and Critical Areas Ordinances. Data from the assessment was put into Geographic Information System (GIS) form so local officials could readily obtain it to inform their decisions regarding local land use planning activities.

Background

This shoreline inventory and assessment came into being through the cooperation of concerned citizens, local government entities, the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE), Department of Fish and Wildlife, SCCD, and the Washington Environmental Council. For the past two years, this group scouted out the project, obtained funding, and completed this important work.



Photo courtesy of Spokane County Conservation District

Large woody debris along the West Branch of the Little Spokane River.

Methods and Findings

The current functional status of riparian and watershed conditions was determined through using the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) methodology as described in Technical Report 1737-15 (Bureau of Land Management, 1998). This qualitative methodology used a rapid assessment protocol that incorporated the best available quantitative science. In all, the analysis involved an assessment of 17 hydrologic, vegetative, and soils/geological attributes that were directly tied to the functionality of riparian systems. By using the PFC methodology, each stream reach was classified into one of four categories of functionality (i.e., proper functioning condition, functional-at-risk, nonfunctional, and unknown). Of the evaluated reaches, 71% of the river miles were in proper functioning condition, 27% were functional-at-risk, and 2% were non-functional.

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Ecologically, the evaluated reaches revealed widely varying conditions, with a considerable portion of current shoreline conditions falling short of their natural potential. Approximately 25% of river miles were found to be in good condition, while the majority of habitat communities were in fair condition (47%) and the remainder was poor.

More than 192 miles of shoreline and approximately 9,318 acres (200 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark) were included in the project. Evaluated streams and rivers were segmented into 'reaches' based on factors such as plant community type, valley form, geology, land use, or a combination of these factors. A total of 105 different reaches were delineated for the project area. The study focused on those shorelines under current regulation by local and state shoreline management programs.

Local Application

This shoreline inventory and assessment undoubtedly will inform local planning here in Spokane County. The GIS format of the project will make it easy to flag certain priority habitats that are proposed for new projects. Such information will give planners an idea of when certain habitats or features possibly require protection. In addition, Spokane County's new SMP requires restoration plans. The inventory and assessment will help county planners objectively identify areas with high restoration potential. The project will specifically help identify habitats that have been fragmented or disconnected. Restoration of these areas will help connect important habitat corridors. The project will also provide information that could help identify problems associated with water quality.

Information and Contacts

Findings from the shoreline inventory and assessment project can be found online at <http://sccd.org/water/shoreline/>. For additional information about the project, please contact Walt Edelen, Water Resources Program Manager at (509) 535-7274 or by email at walt-edelen@sccd.org.

Reference

Bureau of Land Management 1998. Riparian Area Management, A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and The Supporting Science for Lotic Areas, Technical Reference 1737-15. National Applied Resource Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado, USA.



Photo courtesy of Spokane County Conservation District

Old water wheel and cement structure on residential property along the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.



Photo courtesy of Spokane County Conservation District

Riparian zone along this reach of Pine Creek has been reduced to a narrow strip of vegetation dominated by reed canarygrass.



Photo courtesy of Spokane County Conservation District

Majority of this portion of Hangman Creek lacks adequate riparian vegetation.

Landowner Incentive Program Accepting Grant Applications from Private Landowners

Ginna Correa, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is a competitive grant process that provides financial assistance to private landowners for the protection, enhancement, or restoration of habitat to benefit “species at risk” on privately owned lands. Species at risk are defined as any fish or wildlife species that is federally or state listed as threatened or endangered, is a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered, as well as any other animal species determined to be at risk by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

This year, WDFW does not have grant dollars in hand. Rather, we are developing a portfolio of projects to submit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for future LIP funding. All projects will be subjected to federal compliance requirements for the Environmental Protection Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Compliance documentation will be prepared by LIP staff and will be submitted to USFWS following notification of funding. This means that selected projects might not be implemented for 18 months following notification.

For this grant cycle, individual landowners are typically eligible for up to \$50,000 in assistance. In addition, \$50,000 will be set aside for small grants. An individual applying for these small grant funds may apply for up to \$5000.



Courtesy of USFWS Image Library

Trees planted to restore riparian habitat along a creek in Washington.



WDFW Image Library

Habitat restoration

A 25% nonfederal contribution is required, which may include cash and/or in-kind contributions (e.g., labor, machinery, materials). Priority will be given to projects that provide more than the required minimum 25% nonfederal contribution. Project applications are due on or prior to December 16, 2005.

For additional information including application and application instructions see the LIP web-link at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/>. Questions can be directed to [Ginna Correa](mailto:GinnaCorrea@dfw.wa.gov) at (360) 902-2478 or by email at corregcc@dfw.wa.gov.

Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound

Bruce Wulkan, Puget Sound Action Team

Low impact development (LID) is a stormwater management and land development strategy that typically is applied to projects at the individual parcel or subdivision scale. This strategy emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features combined with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to closely mimic pre-development hydrology. The goal of LID is to prevent measurable harm to streams, lakes, wetlands and other natural aquatic systems resulting from commercial, residential, or industrial development.



Photo by Colleen Owen

Permeable pavers were installed at this Marysville parking lot for infiltration.

Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) and Washington State University Pierce County Extension have developed a [Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound](#). The manual contains detailed

guidance on how best to design, construct and maintain LID practices. The target audience includes engineers, planners, developers, builders, architects, landscape architects and others who design, review, permit, and build using LID techniques.

Purpose of the manual

The manual provides professionals involved in stormwater management and land development with a common understanding of LID goals and objectives. It provides a framework for site assessment and project design and gives specifications for individual projects. The manual also explains how individuals can obtain credits to help them reduce the size of their stormwater facilities by using LID techniques. The manual presents findings from national and international research and monitoring to help professionals make informed decisions when using LID techniques.

Why do we need LID?

Research shows that conventional development practices do not fully protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other aquatic resources from the adverse effects of development and stormwater runoff. The Washington Department of Ecology estimates that, of all waters on the state's list of polluted water bodies, about 30% are polluted because of stormwater runoff.

Pollution from nonpoint (or dispersed) sources, including stormwater runoff, has closed thousands of acres of shellfish growing areas. Federal agencies cite the loss of habitat due to development and stormwater runoff as one of the factors limiting salmon populations. Low impact development practices offer great potential

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LID

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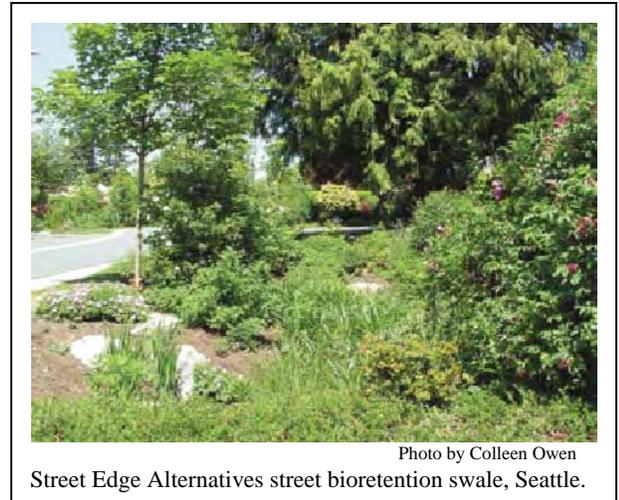
to more effectively manage stormwater runoff and other effects of development. This strategy can be used in new developments or as part of redevelopment plans.

LID Manual on the Web

To view or download the *Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound* go to PSAT's web site at:

http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/LID_tech_manual05/LID_manual2005.pdf.

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the manual, please call (360) 725-5444 or (800) 54-SOUND. For more information on low impact development, contact either Bruce Wulkan, stormwater program lead for PSAT, at bwulkan@psat.wa.gov or (360) 725-5455 or Curtis Hinman, faculty water quality agent for WSU Pierce County Extension, at chinman@wsu.edu or (253) 798-3257.



Local Habitat Assessment: A New Tool for Land Use and Green Space Planning

Erik Neatherlin, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Proactive land use planning at the local level soon will be easier thanks to Local Habitat Assessments – a Geographic Information System (GIS) tool currently being developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The assessment builds on Priority Habitats and Species data and Ecoregional Assessments (EAs; see [July, 2005 issue of Fish and Wildlife Planner](#) for a description of EAs) to help planners prioritize habitat within their county based on current conditions, surrounding landscape features, and ecoregional significance.

After a peer-review process that is due to wrap up by the end of 2005, the Local Habitat Assessment methods will be available for counties in western Washington. Based on initial feedback and interest, WDFW plans to develop a similar tool for eastern Washington. The tool uses a GIS platform to evaluate the entire landscape, so that every habitat – from urban to pristine – receives a relative ranking value. It may help with:

- Identifying urban growth boundaries
- Developing alternative mitigation or incentive programs
- Establishing green space networks
- Launching acquisition or easement programs
- Identifying opportunities for habitat connectivity

Potential users of the Local Habitat Assessment include local planners, elected officials, and citizens engaged in all aspects of land use, green space, and conservation planning. Others who will find the tool useful include individual landowners, developers, regional planning councils, or conservation and restoration groups that want to better understand how their projects can contribute to biodiversity on a local level.

For additional information about Local Habitat Assessments, please contact Erik Neatherlin, Project Coordinator, at (360) 902-2559 or by email at neathean@dfw.wa.gov.

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Submitted

Joe LaTourrette, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

On September 14, 2005, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted its new Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. This document outlines conservation strategies and priorities for about 200 fish and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their associated habitats, at both the statewide and ecoregional scales. It also suggests a new framework for future wildlife conservation in Washington, for state and federal agencies, local governments, private landowners, and private conservation groups.



WDFW Image Library

The Oregon spotted frog. One of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in WDFW's CWCS.

Washington is one of 50 states and three territories that submitted their own CWCS documents for approval before October 1, 2005. Approval of the CWCS will also make Washington and other state wildlife agencies eligible for continued federal funding from the new State Wildlife Grants program created by Congress in 2001. A full-color Executive Summary of Washington's CWCS will be available by the end of 2005. To review the full CWCS now, including many technical appendices, go to <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/cwcs/>.

Statewide Conferences & Workshops

- **Fall '05 Brown Bag Series – Tree Retention** - Wed., December 7, 2005, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm; Mercer Island City Council Chambers, City Hall, 9611 Se 36th St – A half-day APA Brown Bag featuring case studies from Seattle-area planners, arborists, landscape architects, and developers. An expansion on a successful summer event, this half-day brown bag will teach how to balance development against tree retention, both in long- range planning (policies and ordinances) and administration. Learn tree retention, replacement plantings, and urban forestry from experienced professionals – RSVP with Steve Ladd, ladds@ci.bonney-lake.wa.us, (253) 447-4350.
- **Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium** -- January 27, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; The Convention Center 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon – This event is a must for people in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region who want to network, build partnerships, and exchange information with others concerned about urban environmental issues and the practical application of related ecological and social sciences. The day will be packed with a series of short presentations, a poster session, two keynote speakers, raffles, and plenty of time to visit with colleagues and network. Come to learn, share and be inspired. Please see the UERC web site at <http://www.esr.pdx.edu/uerc/> for details.
- **Washington Planners' Forum – Upcoming Event** - The following are sponsored by WA APA, PAW, and CTED:
 - January 25, 2006 - Eastern Washington (Moses Lake: Hallmark Inn)All Forum sessions are 9 am - 3 pm with lunch on your own. Forums include guest presentations, jurisdictional sharing/report on GMA issues and progress, updates from the Growth Management Hearings Boards, and a report from CTED. Information on upcoming forums can be found at [CTED's](http://www.cted.wa.gov) website. Please direct questions to Ted Gage at 360.725.3049 or tedg@cted.wa.gov.

Grant Opportunities

- **Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)** – This is a competitive grant process to provide financial assistance to private landowners for the protection, enhancement or restoration of habitat to benefit species-at-risk on privately owned lands. Check the [LIP website](#) for additional information. Project applications are due December 16, 2005. Please direct questions to Ginna Correa at corregcc@dfw.wa.gov.

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Projects Grant Program** – The Volunteer Cooperative Projects Grant Program is a competitive grant process intended to provide monetary support for qualifying volunteer organizations and individuals who want to undertake activities that are beneficial to fish and wildlife across the state of Washington. Applications for projects are accepted each year of the biennium during the annual application period of January 2 through March 31. Applications accepted by March 31, 2006, may be for project funding for one year (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007). Information about the grant process and eligibility can be found on the web at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/volunter/vol-7.htm> or by contacting the Cooperative Projects Grant Coordinator at (360) 902-2700 or alea@dfw.wa.gov.

WDFW Planning Contacts

Growth Management Issues

Eastern Washington – Jeff Lawlor, 509.456.4082, (Pend Oreille, N. Spokane); Karin Divens, 509.255.6103, (S. Spokane, Lincoln, Whitman); Allen Palmanteer, 509.738.2364 (Ferry, Stevens); Mark Grandstaff, 509.527.4141 (Walla Walla); Tom Schirm, 509.382.1266 (Garfield, Columbia, Asotin)

North-central Washington – Chris Parsons, 509.754.4624 Ext. 12 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington – Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin)

Southwest Washington – Carl Dugger, 360.906.6729, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat)

Puget Sound – Pam Erstad, 425.379.2308, (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Island, San Juan)

Olympic Peninsula – Jeff Davis, 360.895.3965, (Kitsap, Jefferson); Chris Byrnes, 360.895.6123, (Clallam); Gloria Rogers, 360.249.4628, (Mason); Key McMurry, 360.249.1231, (Grays Harbor, Pacific); Debbie Carnevali, 360.264.5148, (Thurston); Don Nauer, 253.863.7979 (Pierce)

Ecoregional Assessment

George Wilhere – 360.902.2369

Erik Neatherlin – 360.902.2559, (Local Assessments)

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