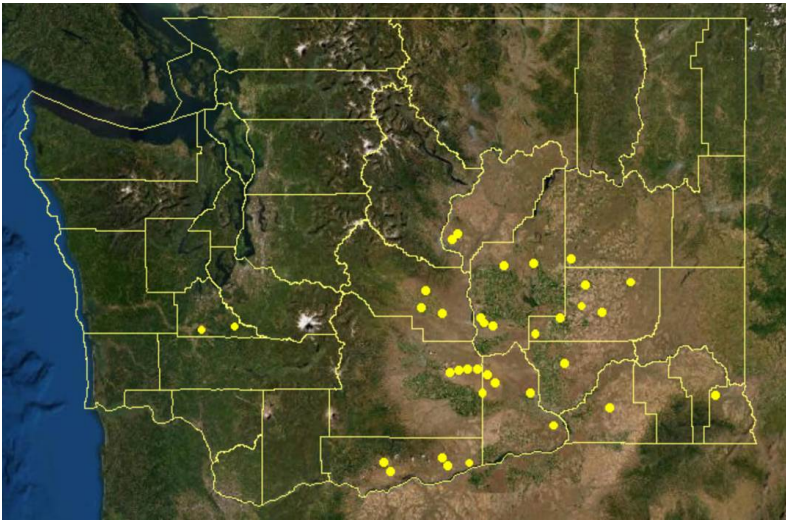# Supporting habitat-friendly solar facilities

Yellow points on map above indicate proposed solar power facilities.

Balancing habitat needs with solar facility development | $400K

Proposals to develop industrial solar power facilities are booming in Washington with 39 proposals under consideration that would cover over 80 square miles in Eastern Washington.

Much of that land is functional shrubsteppe, one of the state's most diverse and at-risk ecosystems that provides habitat for species found nowhere else in the state, such as the Greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, and burrowing owl.

Renewable energy and conservation communities see an increasing urgency around balancing habitat needs with solar facility development.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fully supports meeting clean energy requirements to reduce climate change. Furthermore, the Department believes that the build out of renewable energy facilities can be compatible with protecting key habitats and species.

To keep up with existing and future solar energy siting proposals, address their on-the-ground impacts, and engage in policy forums intended to reduce conflict and impacts of industrial scale solar development, WDFW is requesting two additional full-time equivalent staff and $50,000 of funding for consultants to provide technical support.

This increased staff capacity will support the Governor's decarbonization goals, ensure responsiveness for solar power developers, and reduce the impacts of solar facilities on species and habitats.

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