

Restoring Biodiversity in Washington: 2023-2025 investments

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Washington
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**FISH &
WILDLIFE**



Biodiversity is the sum of life in all its forms, including plants, animals, and the habitats they depend on.

Habitat loss and degradation, climate change effects, pollution, wildlife diseases, and invasive species **threaten Washington's biodiversity.**



But there is hope. We've had tremendous successes when we've invested in the science and data that helps prioritize actions to reverse species population declines and enhance habitat.

All WDFW photos



2023 Legislative Budget – Biodiversity Appropriation

(32) (a) \$8,000,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$15,000,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the protection, recovery, and restoration of biodiversity, the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and a review of the department of fish and wildlife. Examples include habitat protection and restoration, technical assistance for growth management act planning, fish passage improvements, conservation education, scientific research for species and ecosystem protection, and similar activities. Funding in this subsection may include pass-throughs to public, nonprofit, academic, or tribal entities for the purposes of this subsection.

2023-2025 Biodiversity Investments

\$24M initial investment for FY24-25 | \$31M ongoing

\$13.5M – Species Conservation

\$8.6M – Habitat Conservation

\$1.9M – Policy & Outreach

- Develop and implement species recovery plans
- Stop or slow declines in species and habitat loss
- Improve our knowledge of current species and habitats status, trends, and needs
- Support partnerships and public engagement to maximize biodiversity protection and recovery actions across Washington.

Species Conservation

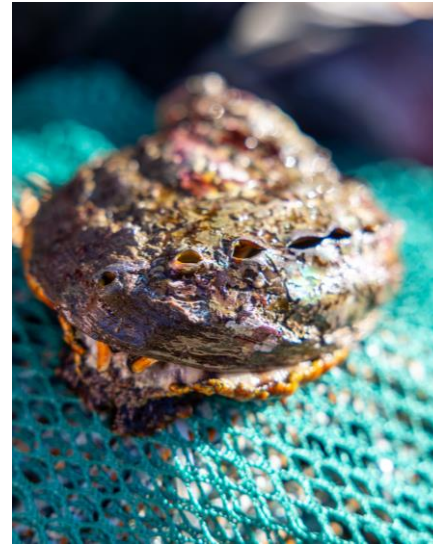
- Expanded surveys and monitoring efforts for many species of greatest conservation need (SGCN)
- Recovery plans and actions to boost and benefit at-risk or imperiled species populations



Northern leopard frog at release
(Credit: WDFW)



Fisher monitoring station
(Credit: WDFW)



Pinto abalone broodstock
(Credit: WDFW)



Sharp-tailed grouse release
(Credit: WDFW)



eDNA collection
(Credit: WDFW)

Species Conservation

Wildlife Diversity Grant Program:

- 2024-25: 17 projects funded in first round for \$1.1M
- 2025-27: 10 to 15 projects to be funded for ~\$2M



Bat hibernacula surveys
(Credit: Shawn Thomas)



Desert-striped whipsnake study
(Credit: Adrian Slade)



Wildfire impacts on lynx habitat
(Credit: Home Range Wildlife Research)



Bumble bee monitoring
(Credit: Xerces Society)

Habitat Conservation

- Creating and implementing strategic habitat plans
- Modernizing standards and guidance for protecting and restoring habitats



Shoreline armoring removal (Credit: WDFW)



Shrubsteppe habitat in the Columbia Plateau (Credit: WDFW)

Habitat Conservation

- Helping people follow standards
- Integrating standards into land use and other regulations
- Increasing pace and effectiveness of restoration



2022 prescribed burns at Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (Credit: WDFW)



2016 oil spill at Ocean Shores (Credit: WDFW)

Education & Outreach

- Served 700+ people with biodiversity themed educational materials, events, and workshops
- Award-winning Washington wildlife lesson
- 16% of Washington schools or districts have been exposed to or have adopted all or part of the Wild Washington curriculum.



Sage Thrasher (Credit: USFWS)



Students learning about biodiversity (Credit: WDFW)

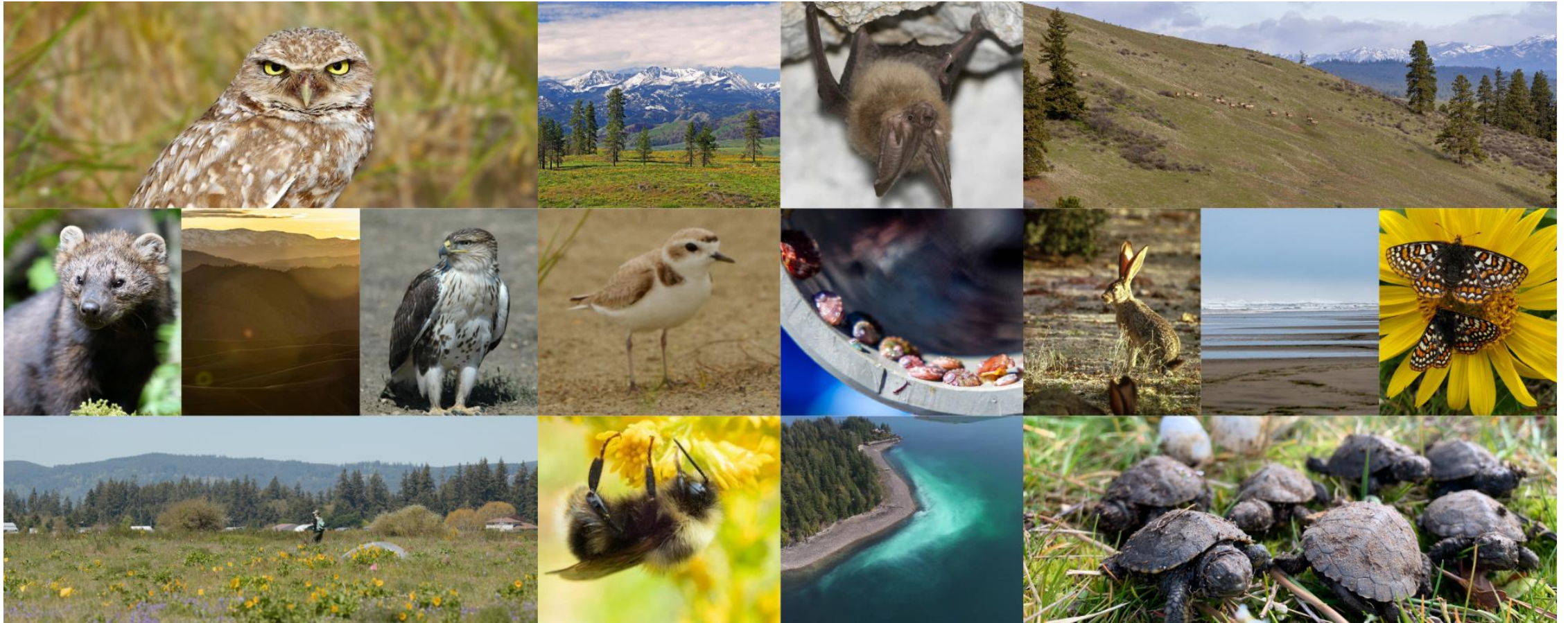
Education & Outreach

- Pollinator workshops and school and community pollinator gardens.
- Public webpage on biodiversity in Washington
- Videos highlighting biodiversity projects and concepts, with 500,000+ views



Habitat at Home sign (Credit: WDFW)

Ongoing funding ensures that this critical work continues, helping to protect and restore Washington's biodiversity.





Thank you!

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