

Periodic Status Review

Columbian White-Tailed Deer and Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager
Ann Potter, Wildlife Biologist

Wildlife Program, Diversity Division

WAC Requirement

- Currently 45 listed species
- WAC 232-12-297 requires that we review the status of listed species every five years to determine if they require:
 - Uplisting (e.g., sensitive to endangered)
 - Downlisting (e.g., endangered to threatened)
 - Delisting (i.e., removal from list)
 - No change in status

As Defined by WAC 232-12-297

- 1) Endangered:** “seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state”
- 2) Threatened:** “likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats”
- 3) Sensitive:** “vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats”
- 4) None of the above:** does not need to be listed



PSR Process

- Press Release Feb 2014, 2015, 2016- One year for interested parties to contribute information:
 - Species demographics
 - Habitat conditions
 - Threats and trends
 - Conservation measures
 - New data since last status review
- Documents prepared with all contributed information
- WDFW biologist, then external expert review
- 90 day public comment period
- Comments integrated and responses compiled
- Periodic status reviews finalized



Today



- Separate presentations on:
 - Columbian White-Tailed Deer (Hannah Anderson)
 - Taylor's Checkerspot (Ann Potter)
- Time for questions after each species
- Decisions

Columbian White-tailed Deer Periodic Status Review



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FISH and WILDLIFE

Hannah Anderson

Wildlife Program, Diversity Division

Natural History

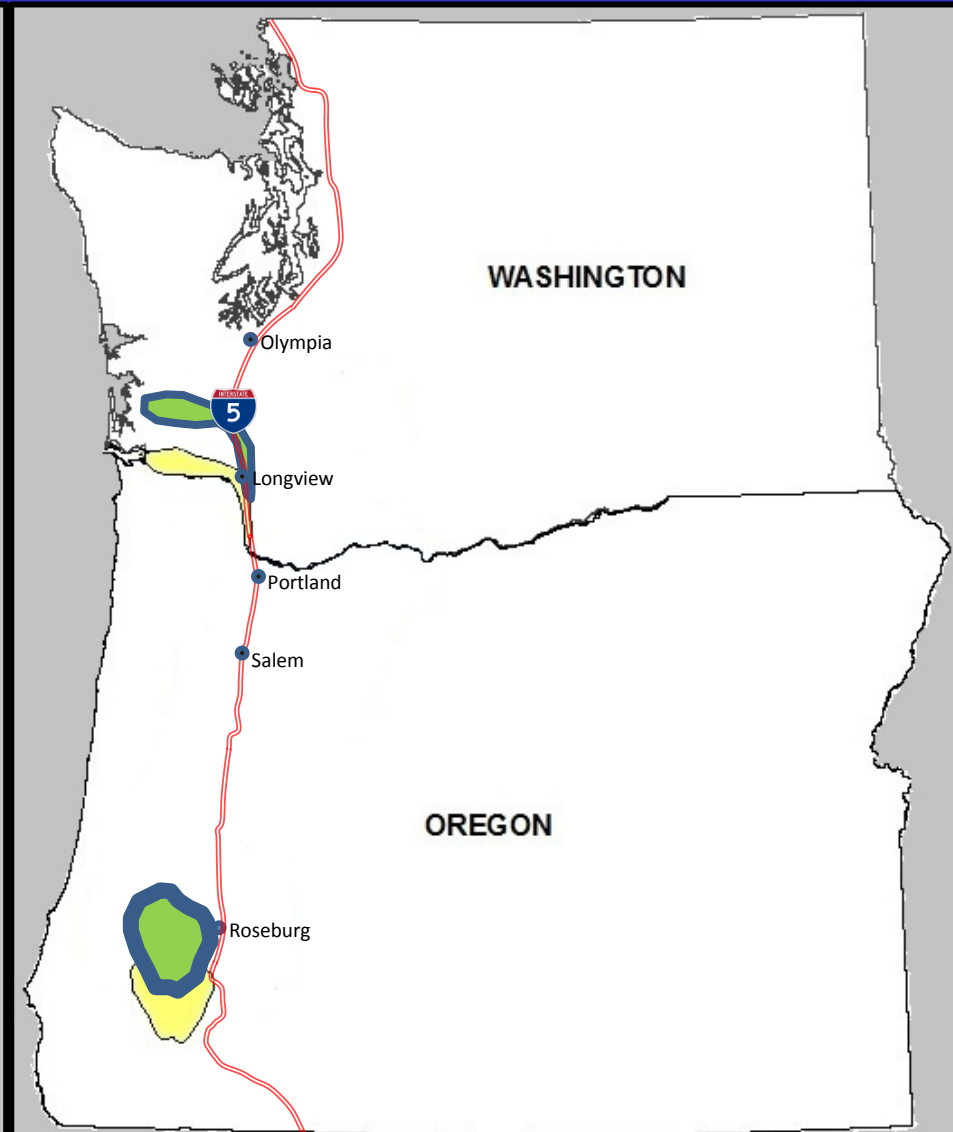
- Subspecies of white-tailed deer
- Pacific Northwest endemic
- Appearance almost indistinguishable from Northwest White-tailed Deer



Photo courtesy of Al Clark

Historical Distribution

Current Distribution

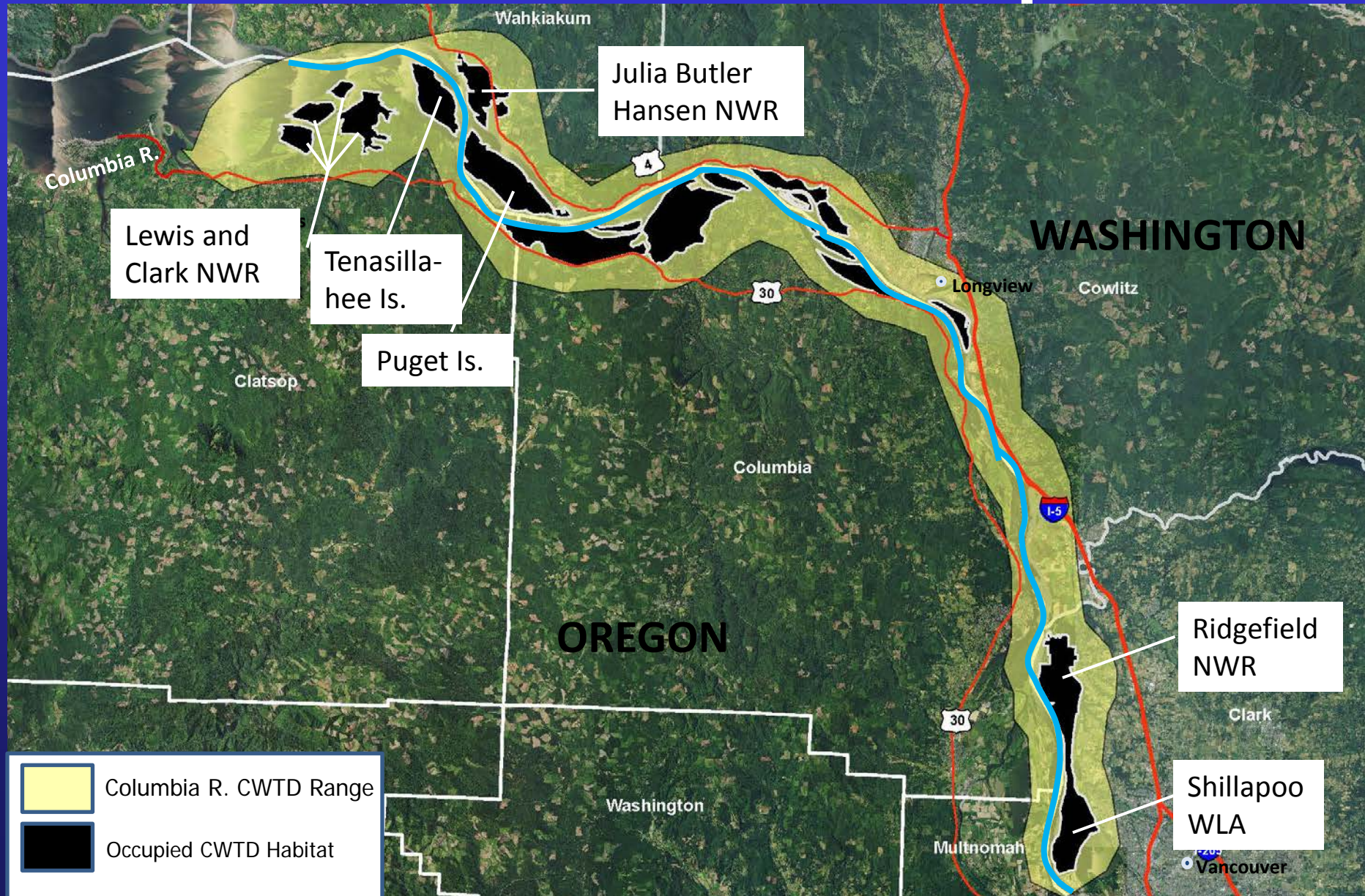


Legal Status

- Federally Endangered
- State Endangered in Washington
- State Endangered in Oregon



Columbia River CWTD Population



Columbian White-tailed Deer Historical Habitat



Photo courtesy of southsoundprairies.org

Columbian White-tailed Deer Current Habitat

- Open understory
- Prefer deciduous forest
- Avoid conifer forest
- Riparian

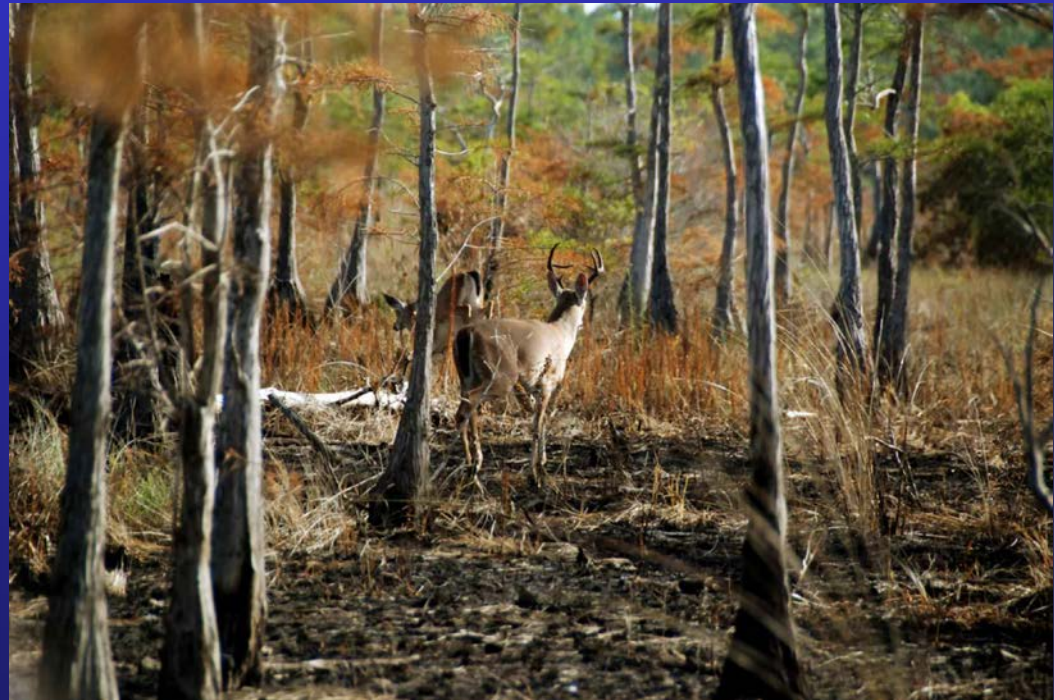


Photo courtesy of USFWS

Historical Population Status

- Historically abundant
- Near extirpated by 1900
- Est. 300 – 400 CWTD along lower Columbia River at ESA listing in 1973
- ~750 in 1984
- ~ 550 in early 2000s
- 2015 estimate at ~950

Factors Affecting Columbia White Tailed Deer Populations:

Habitat loss



Factors Affecting Columbia White Tailed Deer Populations:

Habitat fragmentation



Factors Affecting Columbia White Tailed Deer Populations:

Flooding and altered flood regimes



Factors Affecting Columbia White Tailed Deer Populations:

Interspecies relationships



Photo courtesy of USFWS



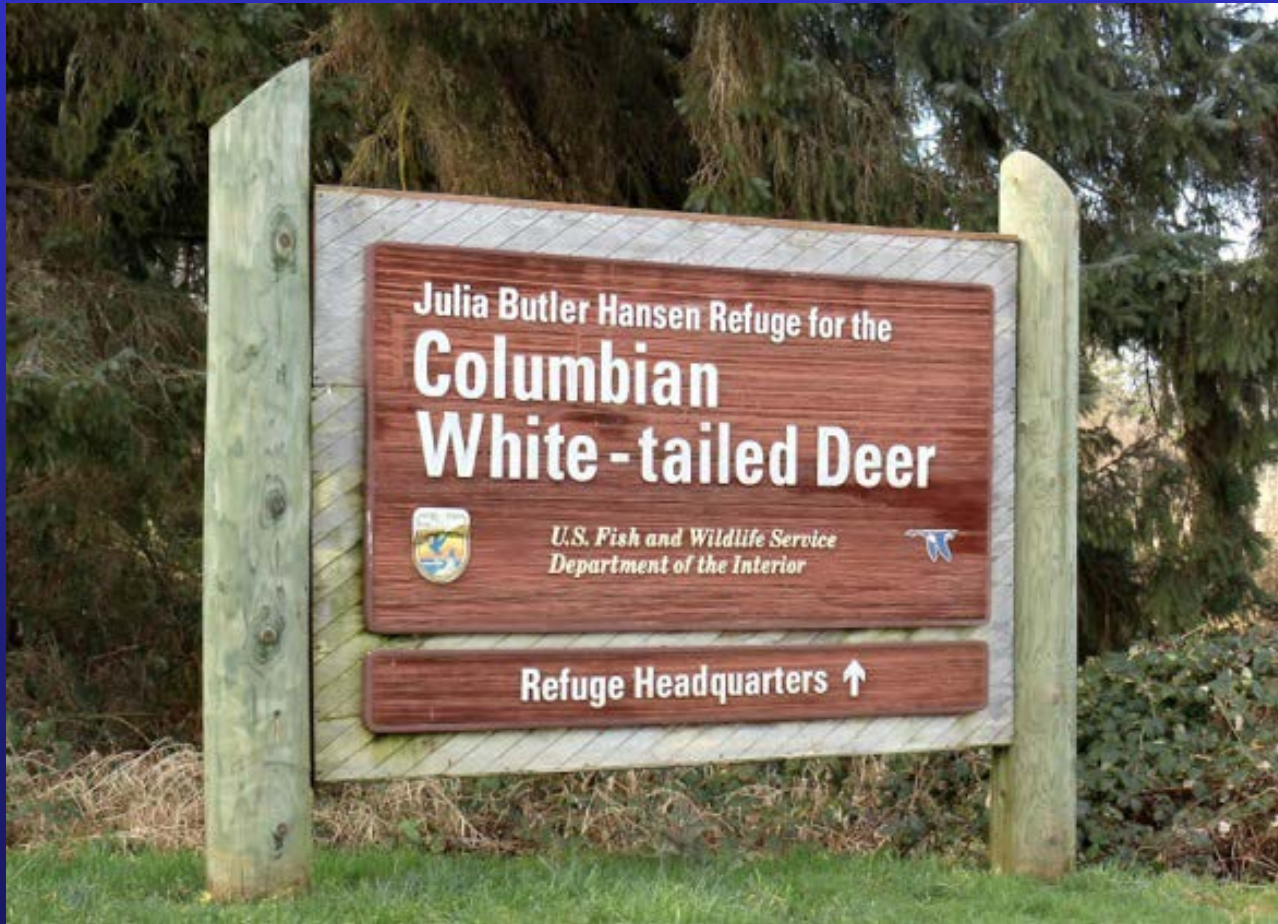
Photo courtesy of ODFW



Photo courtesy of ODFW

Management Activities

Habitat protection



Management Activities

Habitat restoration



Photo courtesy of USFWS

Management Activities

Predator control



Photo courtesy of BLM

Management Activities

- Translocations:
 - 63 translocated to Tenasillahe Island
 - 33 translocated to Mainland JBH
 - 132 translocated to Upper Estuary Islands
 - 58 translocated to Ridgefield NWR



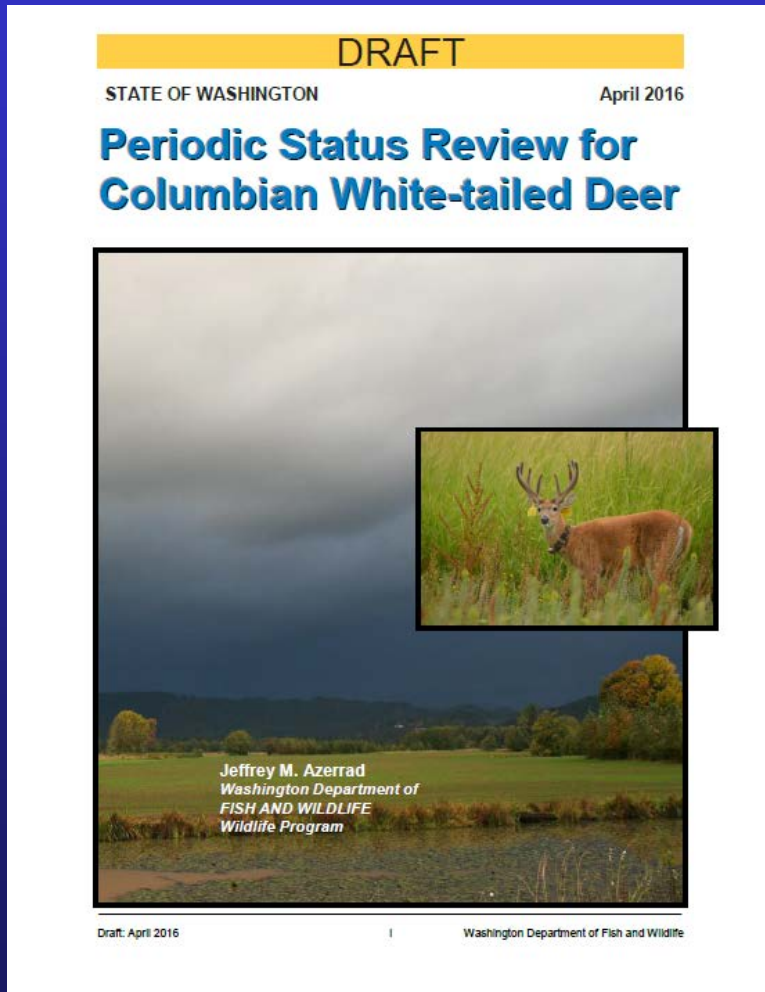
Photo courtesy of USFWS

Population Viability

- We know very little about the number and demographic make-up needed to:
 - Ensure population persistence
 - Inform management actions
- Population and Habitat Viability Analysis



Review and Recommendation



Recommend retaining endangered status for Columbian White-Tailed Deer

Public Comments

- 1 public comment
 - Urging continued classification as Endangered



Questions



Courtesy of USFWS

TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT: STATUS IN WASHINGTON



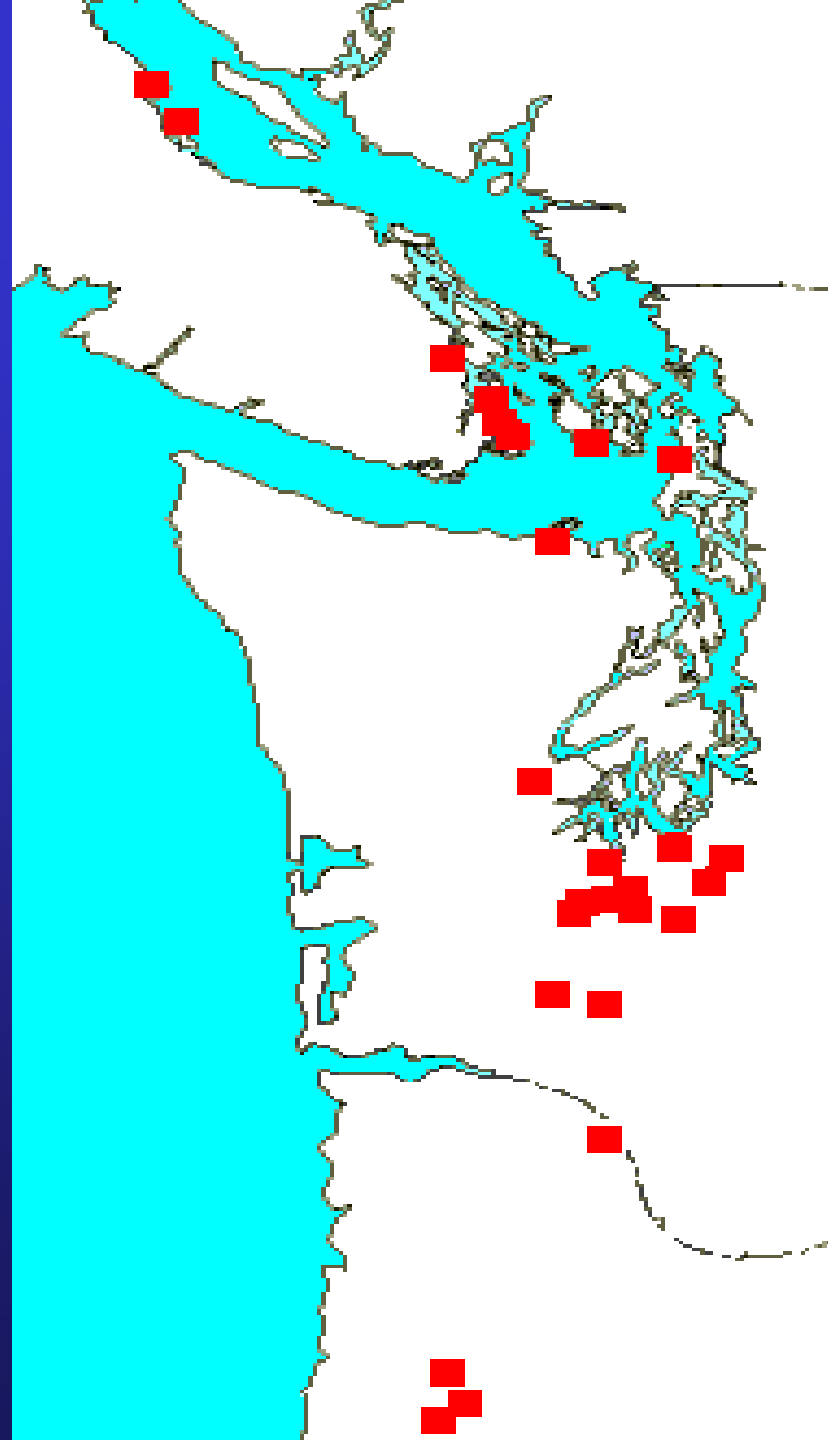
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Wildlife Program, Diversity Division

Photo by Aaron Barna

Pacific Northwest Endemic

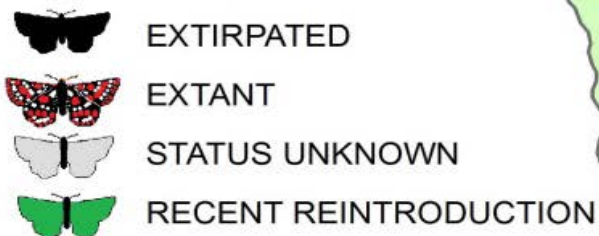
- Range: Southeastern Vancouver Is to southern Willamette Valley, Oregon
- Historical distribution:
 - Documented on >80 sites
 - Currently outside of WA:
Persists on 1 site in
Canada, and 2 sites in
Oregon



Washington Distribution

- Historically documented from >45 locations
- In 2006, at the time of state listing, known from 10 locations
- Since 2006: extirpated from 7 sites and found on 5 new sites
- Currently inhabits 8 sites in Washington

TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT



Listing Status

- 2006: Listed State Endangered
- 2013: Listed Federally Endangered
- Low number of populations & many are small and/or isolated
- Pattern of recent extirpations
- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation

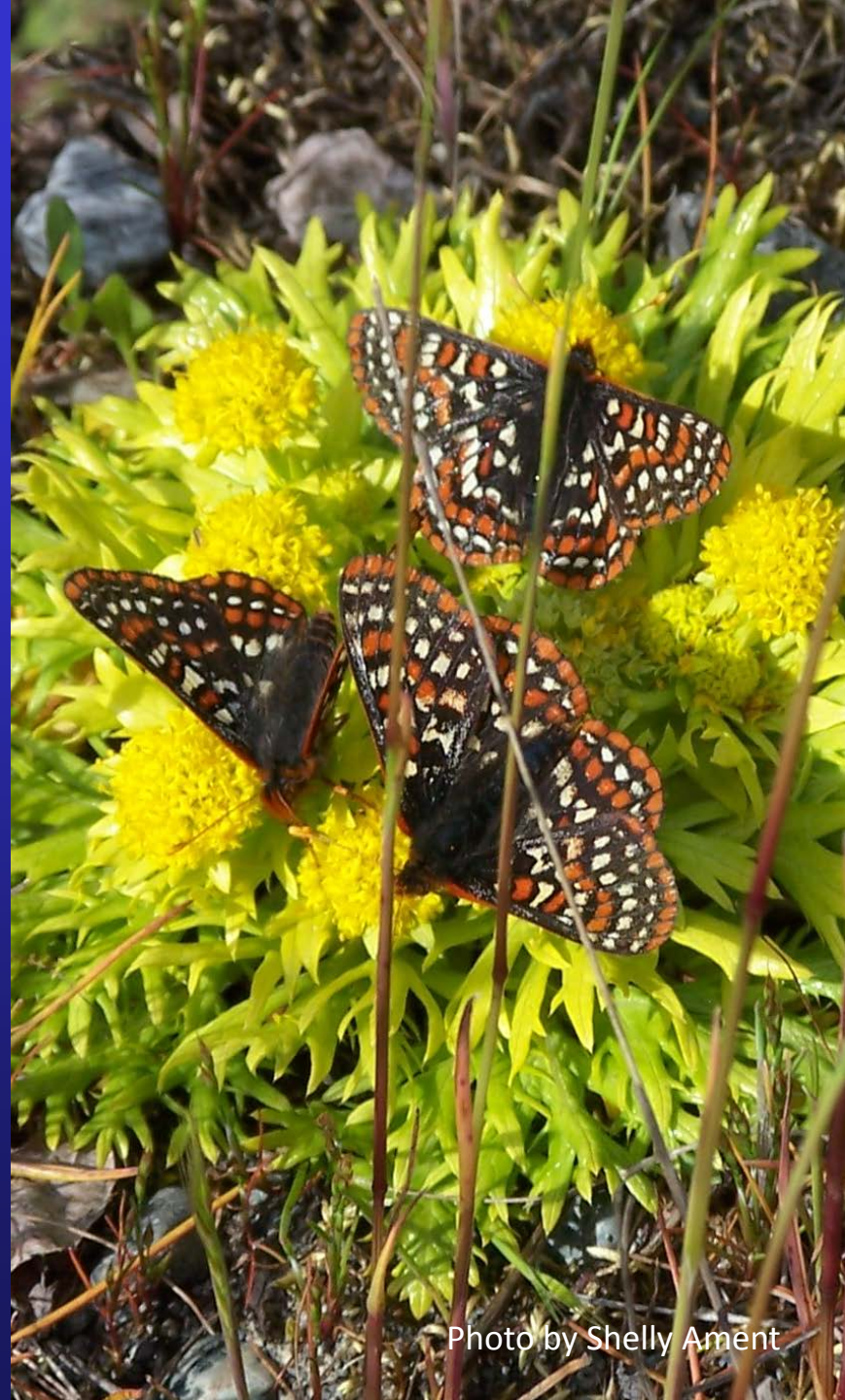


Photo by Shelly Amert

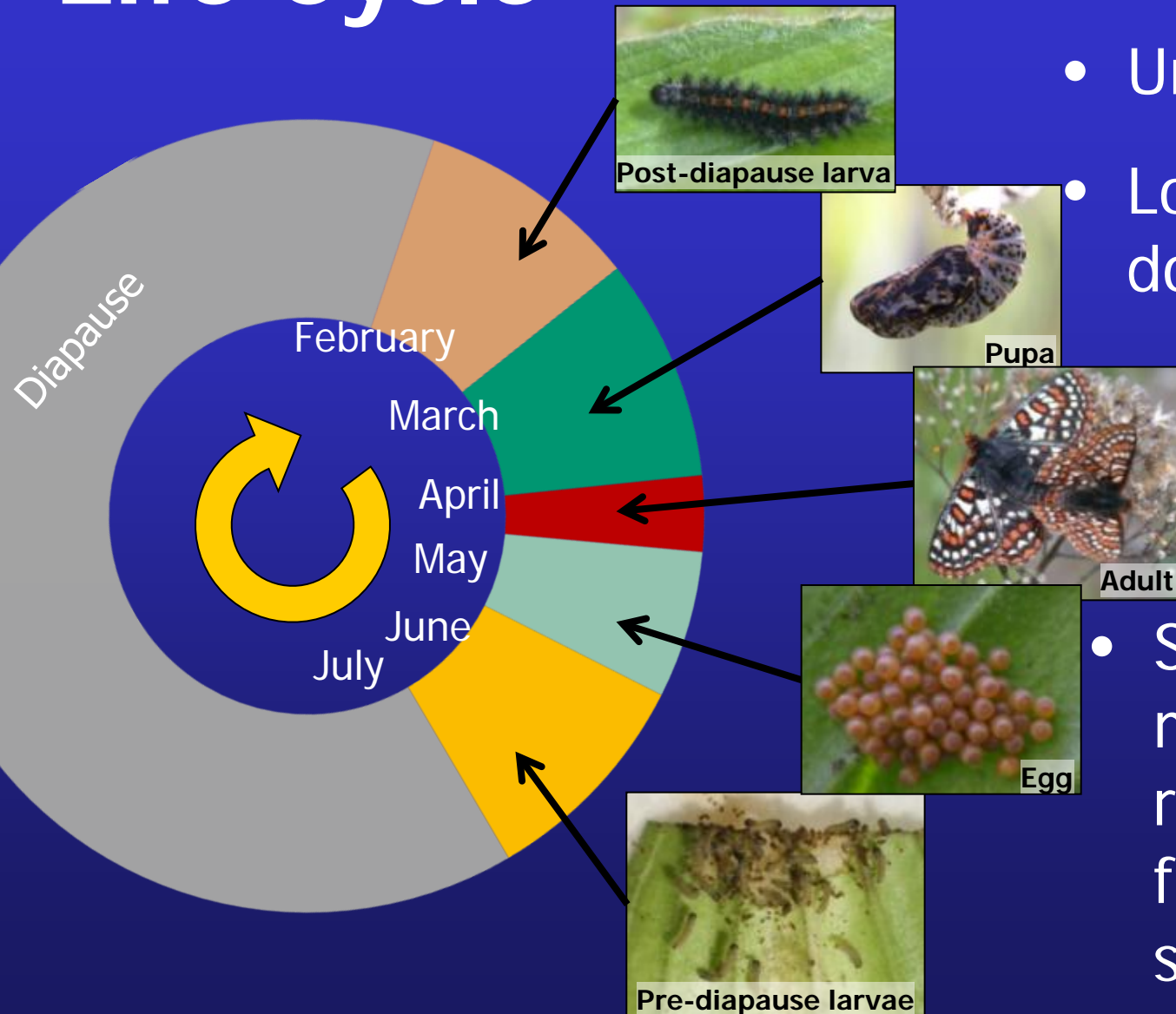


Natural History

Photo by Aaron Barna

Life Cycle

- Non-migratory
- Univoltine
- Long period of dormancy



- Specific micro-habitat requirements for each life stage

Habitat

- Habitat specialist: Inhabit rare, short-stature, grass and herbaceous vegetation systems
 - Low-elevation prairies
 - Montane meadows
 - Coastal bluffs and stabilized dunes
 - Forest clearings and balds



Photo by Aaron Barna

Larval and Adult Food Plants

Eggs/pre-diapause

Harsh Paintbrush



Post-diapause

Blue-eyed Mary



Adults

Puget Balsamroot



English Plantain



Sea Blush



Sea Pink

Population Status

Clallam County

- 3 sites >1,000 butterflies
- 3 sites several hundred butterflies
- 1 site <100 butterflies

South Puget Sound Region

- Single extant site 1,000-10,000 butterflies (Joint Base Lewis-McChord)
- Reintroductions underway at 4 sites

Limiting Factors

- 8 populations remain, many are small and isolated
- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
 - Land conversion
 - Invasive species
 - Loss of fire





Photo by Aaron Barna

Limiting Factors

Other factors:

- Military Training
- English Plantain pathogen
- Weather/Climate

Management and Recovery



Photo by Aaron Barna

Conservation Efforts

- Active collaboration between state, federal, and non-profit partners
- Management plans for most occupied sites
- Voluntary protection for Forest Practices
- USFWS Recovery Plan recently initiated



Surveys and Monitoring

Surveys

- Potential habitat to locate new sites

Monitoring

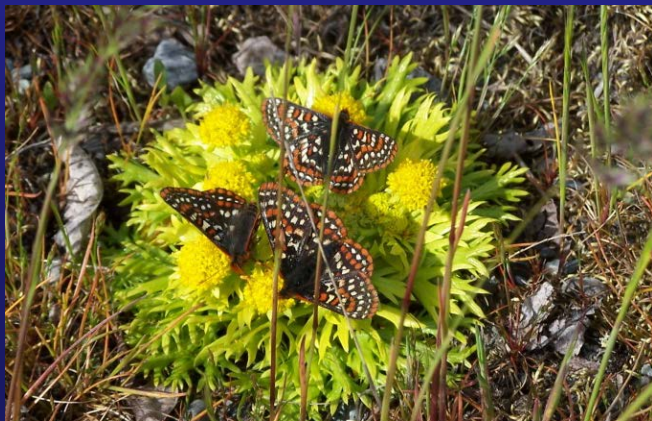
- Adult abundance
- Within site distribution
- Verify extirpations



Photo by Ann Potter

Habitat Restoration Clallam County

Remove
encroaching
trees and shrubs



Habitat Restoration South Puget Sound region

Management to:

- Control invasive plants
- Use prescribed fire
- Re-establish natives



Reintroductions: South Puget Sound Region

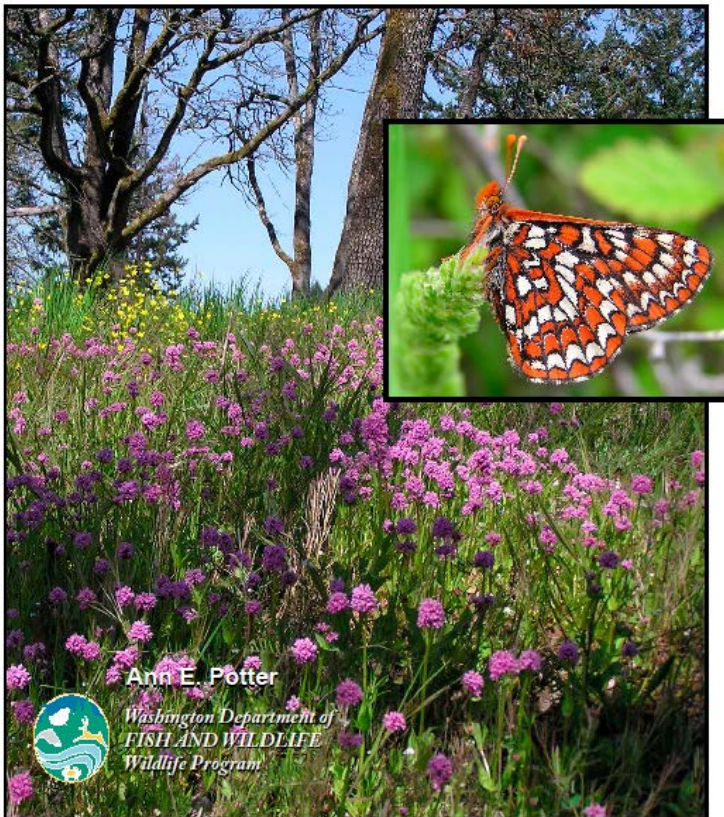
- Captive rearing underway: Oregon Zoo & Mission Creek Correction Center for Women
- Active reintroductions at 4 sites
- One site met establishment criteria in 2016



Summary Recommendation

STATE OF WASHINGTON **DRAFT** April 2016

Periodic Status Review for Taylor's Checkerspot



- 8 populations remain, many are small and isolated
- Habitat loss: legacy and continued
- Continued threats
- Recommend retaining endangered status for Taylor's checkerspot

Public Comments

- 1 public comment
 - Encouraged Commission to fund more surveys and habitat restoration

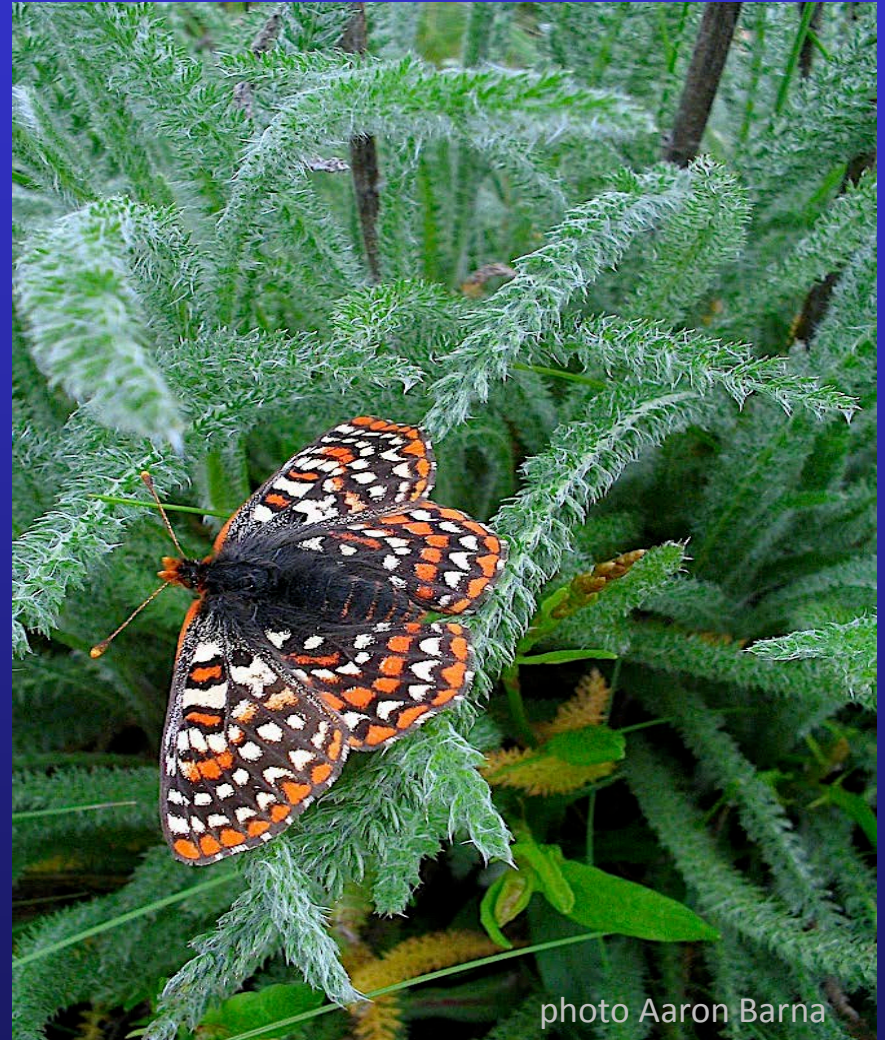


photo Aaron Barna



Questions