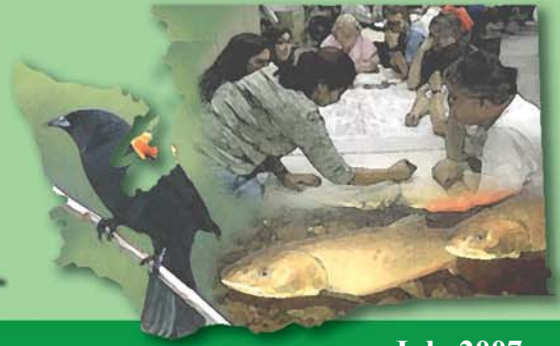


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

July 2007

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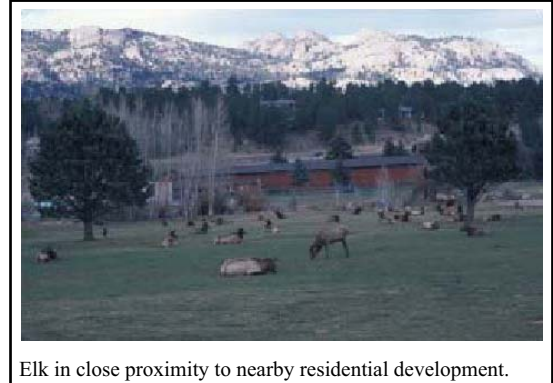
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New resources for GMA planning from CTED

By Doug Peters, *Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development*

Across the state in a lowland forest, a herd of elk moves downslope seeking new spring forage in pastures near a state highway. Over the past few years several new houses were built in these former pastures, bringing new roads, fences, and tasty new shrubbery, increasing the potential for conflicts between these large, wild animals and the new residents.



Elk in close proximity to nearby residential development.

This situation describes one of many complex issues that communities across Washington face when trying to address wildlife through critical areas protection under the Growth Management Act (GMA). While cities and counties are responsible for developing regulations to address impacts such as this, communities need technical assistance and financial aid to help fulfill their GMA obligations. The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED), through its Growth Management Services program, is expanding the help it provides small communities to cope with a variety of issues. In particular, the following two resources are being offered to communities throughout Washington:

- A new technical assistance guidebook for small towns and cities that are implementing their critical areas ordinances (CAOs), and
- Competitive planning grants to address topics such as regional collaboration to protect critical areas that extend across political boundaries.

Small communities CAO implementation guidebook

The *Small Cities Critical Areas Ordinance Implementation Guidebook*, designed especially for Washington's smaller cities and towns, is now available at [CTED's](#) web site. CTED prepared this guidebook with help from the Association of Washington Cities, private nonprofit groups, other state agencies, and staff from several small cities. The guidebook outlines ways to address the protection of critical areas in the face of increasing development pressure. It also summarizes steps in processing permits for development proposals that could impact critical areas. The publication supplies the reader with a list of relevant state agency contacts, examples of checklists for permit review, definitions of key terms for critical areas, and useful handouts that can be customized and distributed by local communities. This publication is available as a CD or in hard copy, and also can be downloaded off the Web.

Grants to encourage regional GMA planning

Later this summer, local governments will be able to apply for *Competitive Planning Grants* to help fund a variety of planning projects in their communities. One of the goals of these grants is to encourage regional, cross-jurisdictional cooperation in GMA planning. Because communities need to address planning for parks and recreational lands, critical areas, and open space corridors, many possibilities for collaboration exist.

Please see CTED GRANT on Page 2



Washington
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Given that important lands rarely conform to political boundaries, regional collaboration should be encouraged to craft the policies and regulations that will benefit by cross-jurisdictional cooperative planning. Such efforts can bring together cities, counties, interested environmental organizations (e.g., land trusts, salmon recovery groups), industry, social service organizations, and others that want to build stronger, more resilient communities and conserve vital environmental amenities.

An excellent example of an opportunity for collaboration is the identification and designation of open space corridors (RCW 36.70A.160). In communities around the state, lands designated as open space corridors include streamside riparian habitat, trails, and greenbelts that provide a variety of benefits. For local citizens, these areas serve as popular recreational spots. For wildlife, open space corridors provide valuable habitat and migratory routes used by a range of animals, including many that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has designated as priority species.

Because corridors serving a number of important functions (e.g., migration of the elk herd described above) often cover extensive areas of land, regional planning offers the best approach to keep these places intact and functional. However, it is important to be aware that opportunities to protect major corridors and maintain regional connectivity may not last forever. Communities must act on opportunities to designate and preserve open space linkages through collaboration before essential habitat is lost to new development. With the availability of this grant from CTED, now is an excellent time to coordinate in regional planning activities.

Those interested in applying for these grants are encouraged to review resources and examples useful to those who want to form cross-jurisdictional partnerships to carry out regional planning efforts. The [Washington Biodiversity Project](#) has information about local and regional biodiversity planning and conservation efforts within Washington. The Defender's of Wildlife [Biodiversity Partnership](#) is a resource that provides Internet-accessible information on the economic and ecologic importance of regional conservation planning. This site is specifically dedicated to promoting and supporting regional and statewide strategies to conserve biodiversity. An example of regional collaborative conservation can be found at the [Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program's](#) (BBOP) website. Specifically, BBOP consists of a partnership of business, scientific organizations, government agencies, research institutes, and financial institutions now working together in Puget Sound.

For more information about Competitive Planning Grants, the guidebook for small cities, or for any questions regarding GMA or critical areas protection, please contact Doug Peters at (360) 725-3046 or at douglasp@cted.wa.gov.

Assessments complete for all of Washington's ecoregions

Washington has nine ecoregions, each containing a unique composition of physical features, ecological communities, and species (Figure 1). In 1996, the first ecoregional assessment (EA) was initiated for the Columbia Plateau. This assessment began a process of identifying the most important areas necessary to conserve the state's biodiversity. Recently, the last of nine EAs was completed. The primary authors of all of Washington's EAs are WDFW, The Nature Conservancy, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

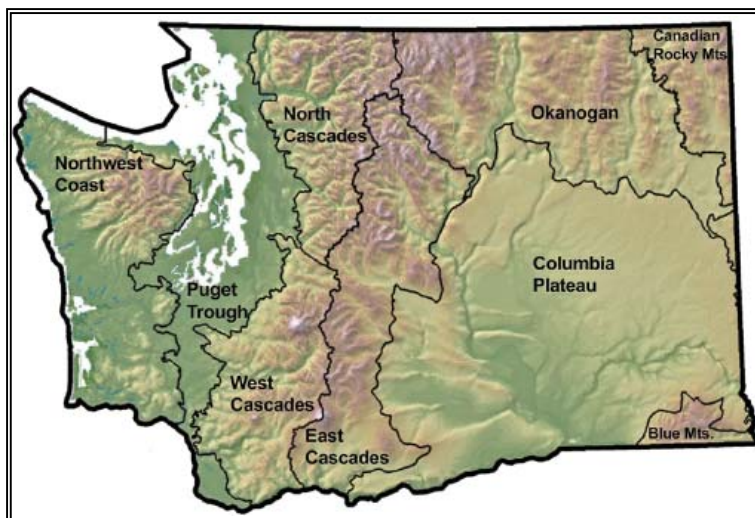
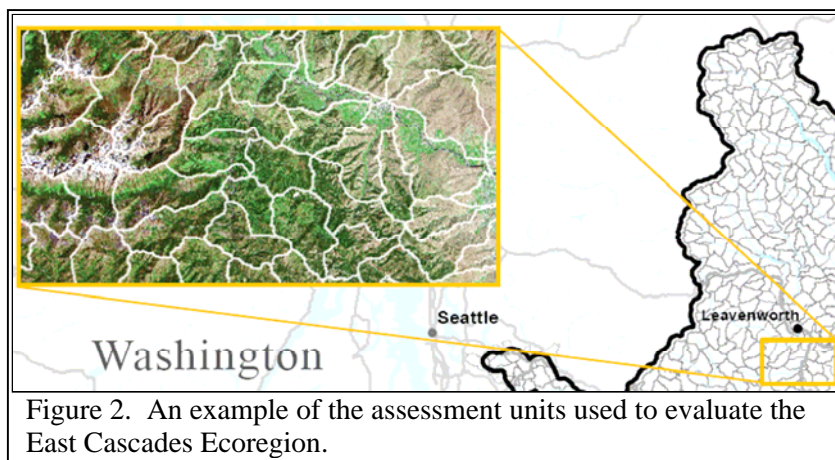


Figure 1. A map of all ecoregions in the State of Washington.

Ecoregion

Continued from Page 2

With all of Washington's ecoregions now assessed, the next phase involves applying what we have learned to actual on-the-ground conservation planning. To help facilitate the management and conservation of important areas, all ecoregions were divided into smaller units known as assessment units or AUs (Figure 2). During the assessments, sophisticated analyses were done using a variety of data sources to identify every AU's conservation potential. The information derived from these analyses will be of value in directing WDFW's future conservation planning activities, and it may inform others who are working on their own conservation initiatives.



In general, high priority areas have the highest biological value and/or the least human impacts. The places identified in the assessments may be important for a number of reasons:

- They have a large variety of important species or habitat types.
- They are the most practical places to do conservation because they have lower human impacts.
- They are the last largely intact landscapes where ecological processes might be maintained.
- They have rare or imperiled species or habitat types.

Some of assessment products will be especially valuable to inform and guide conservation planning throughout the state. These products include:

- Suitability Index Data and Maps – Information that was generated to identify locations where successful conservation is most likely achievable.
- Irreplaceability Data and Maps – Information to help groups identify the relative biodiversity value of AUs within a given ecoregion.
- Underlying Data – The underlying plant, animal, and ecosystem data that were used to conduct all EAs.
- High- Mid- and Low-risk Conservation Portfolios – Maps providing three different scenarios for conservation of biodiversity within an ecoregion.

These and other tools will be of value to a variety of users, including city and county government, natural resource agencies, and local land trusts. Given the coarse scale of the assessment (about 1:100,000), the information derived from all the EAs will be most useful for those working on broad-scale conservation planning efforts (e.g., regional or county-wide comprehensive planning). WDFW can assist local jurisdictions with a more detailed process to apply EA information to local land use planning activities such as UGA expansion, zoning, and the pinpointing of the best places to direct conservation tax credits. Although the assessments can inform the decisions of those developing regulatory policy, the EAs alone will have no regulatory authority. Additional details on the use of EAs were discussed in the [summer, 2005](#) issues of *the Fish and Wildlife Planner*.

A [Washington Ecoregional Assessment](#) website has been created and can be used to view all assessment reports and maps as well as the underlying data that went into the completion of each EA. For assistance with using EA information in local land use planning, contact John Carleton at (360) 902-2622.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2007 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Summer Forums

- July 18 – Eastern Wash. – Moses Lake: Best Western Lakeside Inn – Contact: [Ted Gage](#)
- July 19 – Southwest Wash. – Stevenson: Rock Cr. Community Ctr. – Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- July 20 – Olympic Peninsula – Port Townsend: Pope Marine Building – Contact: [Tim Gates](#)

Fall Forums

- October 17 – Eastern Wash. – Moses Lake: Best Western Lakeside Inn – Contact: [Ted Gage](#)
- October 18 – Southwest Wash. – Vancouver: TBA – Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- October 19 – Olympic Peninsula – Shelton: Shelton Civic Center – Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- October 24 – Northwest Wash. – Mount Vernon: TBA – Contact: [Doug Peters](#)

These forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk informally about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies. All forums begin at 9am.

- **WSU Nearshore Restoration Short Course** – Have you heard the term "Nearshore" but aren't quite sure what it means? Are you interested in learning more about the health of Puget Sound? Would you like to get your hands dirty by being involved in a habitat restoration project? If so, this short course is for you! Courses will be held in Seattle and Stanwood on the following dates: August 23rd 10am-3pm; August 24th 3pm-7pm; August 25th 10am-2pm. The short course costs \$50 and registration materials are available at [WSU King County Extension's](#) website. To register, contact [Tara Zimmerman](#).
- **Stream and Wetland Ecology Basic Training** – This course is essential for developers, property owners, elected officials, and land use planners interested in understanding stream and wetland ecology. Gain insight into watershed terminology; understand the functions and values of wetlands; discover how streams function and their relationships to forest, wetlands, underwater insects, fish, wildlife and people. This course is being offered on September 13th at the Northwest Stream Center, McCollum Park, in Everett. Training costs are \$85. For more information or to register call 425-316- 8592 or go to the [Web](#).
- **Ecological Restoration Conference** – The conference program is currently being shaped but will include presentations and posters that create an opportunity for wetland scientists and those interested in habitat restoration to exchange information and knowledge to conserve, enhance and restore ecosystems of the Columbia Basin and the Pacific Northwest. The conference will be held at the Yakima Convention Center between September 25-28. For more information, visit the [Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest's](#) conference website.
- **2007 Great Northwest Planning Conference: Planners Without Borders** – This conference will take place at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center in Tacoma on October 3-5. Topics include environmental management, growth management, urban design, and rural planning. Please see the Washington Chapter of the [American Planning Association's](#) website for more details about this event.
- **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. A list of courses are can be found at [CTP's](#) website.
- **Short Courses/Planning Education** – Free, three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, the basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is available on the [Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of local communities and are always open to the public. Everyone who attends will receive a short course manual. Call or email [Ted Gage](#) with questions at (360) 725-3049.

Grant opportunities

- **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, including habitat restoration. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1 of each calendar year. More information can be found at the [American Rivers](#) website. Questions can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@amrivers.org.
- **Wetland mitigation bank proposals** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Seattle District), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 10), and the Washington Department of Ecology will jointly accept proposals for new wetland mitigation banks in Washington. There will be a 7-week open submittal period from August 13 through September 28, 2007. During this period, proposals will be accepted and evaluated by the interagency Mitigation Bank Review Team. Please see the [public notice](#) for more details.



Wetland in Cowlitz County

WDFW Image Library

- **Growth Management Regional Collaboration Competitive Grant** – Local governments are eligible for funding to support regional activities that would yield multi-jurisdictional benefits (e.g., cooperative identification and designation of open space corridors). This grant is being offered through the Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development. Grant amounts awarded are tiered based on the number of cooperating jurisdictions. The application deadline will be September 17, 2007. For more information please contact [Doug Peters](#) by email or by phone at 360-725-3046.
- **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 within the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about this opportunity.
- **Additional grant opportunities** – The following links identify other grants that can help fund local conservation planning initiatives:
 - The Puget Sound Action Team’s (PSAT) web site contains links to both PSAT grant opportunities as well as other funding opportunities. Most grants on this page are geared towards Puget Sound communities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - 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 [HERE](#).

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.255.6103, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); divenkad@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

Chris Parsons, 509.754.4624 Ext. 12 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams); parsocbp@dfw.wa.gov

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin); teskemst@dfw.wa.gov

Southwest Washington:

Tim Rymer, 360.906.6729, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); rumertr@dfw.wa.gov

N. Puget Sound:

Pam Erstad, 425.379.2308, (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Island, San Juan); erstapke@dfw.wa.gov

S. Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Jeff Davis, 360.895.3965, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston); davisjpd@dfw.wa.gov

GMA & PHS Coordinator:

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 Assessments Project:

John Carleton, 360.902.2622; carlejpc@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

Fish & Wildlife Planner

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