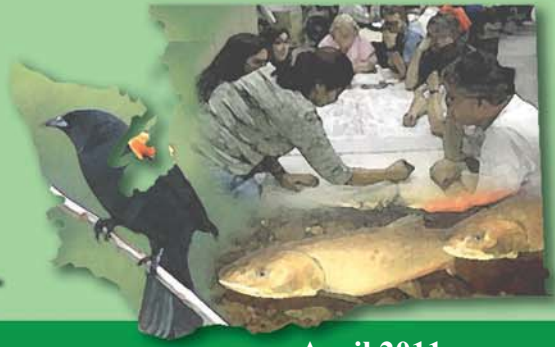


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

April 2011

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A Conservation Strategy for the Portland-Vancouver Region

By Mike Houck, *Urban Greenspaces Institute* & Dan Roix, *Columbia Land Trust*

In his 1938 address to the City Club of Portland, regionalist Lewis Mumford observed that, “*rivers are dividing lines from only one point of view: military attack. From every other standpoint the river basin as a whole is a unit.*” Thirty-three years later the Columbia Region Association of Governments took Mumford's holistic philosophy to heart, proposing a plan for a four county urban-wide park and open space system for the Portland-Vancouver region. However, it wasn't until 1992 that “a cooperative regional system of natural areas, open space, trails, and greenways” was formally recommended in Metro's Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan.

Subsequently, the Portland region approved over \$400 million in bonds, adding over 11,000 acres of publicly owned natural areas. Across the Columbia, Clark County, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and their partners acquired over 4,500 acres of shorelines, greenways, and fish and wildlife habitat primarily with Conservation Futures funds.



Photo courtesy of Mike Houck

Habitat Biologist, Ted Labbe from WDFW and Trails Program Coordinator Lisa Goorjian from Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation reviewing early drafts of maps developed for The Intertwine's Regional Conservation Strategy planning process.

The Intertwine and The Intertwine Alliance

While those efforts have been noteworthy, they never resulted in a significant integrated open space system and in no way addressed regional biodiversity across state lines. To deal with this shortcoming, Metro Council President David Bragdon called for the implementation of what has since become *The Intertwine Vision*. Among the major elements of The Intertwine was a call for the creation of a bi-state, Regional Conservation Strategy to:

- ensure biodiversity is protected, conserved and restored across the region's urban and rural landscapes;
- protect, conserve, and manage functional wildlife corridors;
- control invasive plant, animal and aquatic species and to reestablish native species; and
- maintain the long-term ecological integrity of streams, wetlands, rivers and their floodplains.

The Intertwine Alliance has joined with Chicago Wilderness, Houston Wilderness, Cleveland's LEAP program, and Amigos de los Rios in Los Angeles to form a national Metropolitan Greenspaces Coalition. This coalition currently is working at the national level to bring additional federal investment to metropolitan regions.

Please see **THE INTERTWINE** on Page Two



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Applicants name:
Address & phone:

Two major criteria for seeking funds include having a regional coalition of partners and a biodiversity strategy. For the Portland-Vancouver region, the coalition has been established through The Intertwine Alliance. Recent work developing a Regional Conservation Strategy will help to meet the other criterion.

Regional Conservation Strategy

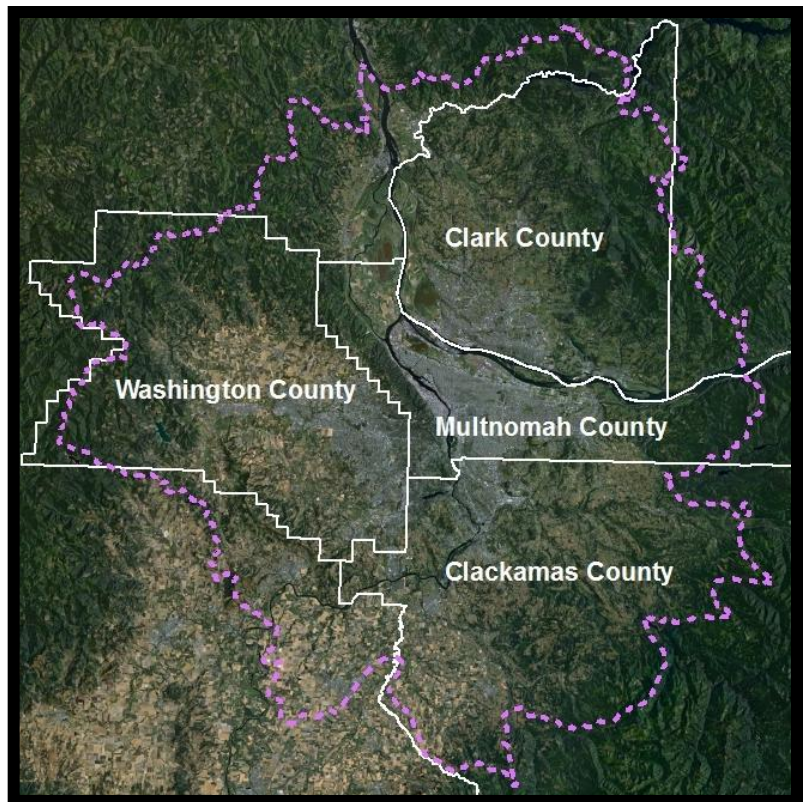
The Vancouver-based Columbia Land Trust has been facilitating the Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy (RCS). Through the participation of many partners, this group is developing a strategy for identifying a connected network of natural areas throughout the Portland-Vancouver region. This strategy, which is slated for completion this summer, will assess habitat across the region's urban-rural continuum (see map below). The strategy will also outline the most effective ways to invest in natural areas, while providing guidance to help conservation planners understand, sustain, restore, and expand remnant natural communities.

Major sources of information being used to develop the RCS include Endangered Species Act recovery plans, The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional plans, and Washington and Oregon's Wildlife Conservation Strategies.

How the strategy will be used

The RCS will ultimately provide guidance to address the conservation and restoration of regional biodiversity. To achieve this, a framework of key components was outlined:

- Development of a scientific foundation to identify areas of conservation opportunity by gathering and analyzing data for the entire region;
- Determine the extent to which biodiversity is represented in the region and the likely impacts of global climate change to biodiversity;
- Identification of additional areas needed for biodiversity conservation;
- Establishment of regional conservation actions for identified areas; and
- Production of materials, maps and web resources to guide land use decision making.



Dashed outline shows the area being assessed as part of The Intertwine's Regional Conservation Strategy.

The RCS will serve as a valuable guide for local and regional conservation planners. It will provide parks and planning departments with information to help with acquiring nature-based parklands, locating wildlife corridors, and developing climate change adaptation strategies. This year Clark County is scheduled to update its Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan. The RCS could serve as a useful guide for this planning process. In Oregon, Metro will make use of the strategy to refine maps of Urban and Rural Reserves. They also will use it to refine their list of target areas for acquisition and to help in developing a regional Climate Action Plan.

For more information

The RCS's planning process includes a series of technical review panels, and work groups that will be writing individual strategy chapters. If you want to be involved in the RCS or would like to provide comment on the draft strategy document, please contact [Dan Roix](#) by email or at (360) 213-1211; or [Mike Houck](#) by email or at (503) 319-7155. You can also receive periodic updates by joining the [Conservation Strategy's](#) online Groupsites.

Recent Changes to Bald Eagle Management Planning

The Fish and Wildlife Commission, which sets rules and policies for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), recently amended the Bald Eagle protection rules. The result of the rule change is that state Bald Eagle Management Plans are no longer required unless Bald Eagles are listed as Threatened or Endangered in Washington State. No longer will WDFW be asking local governments to require a state Bald Eagle plan prior to issuing local permits. However, there are other federal or local rules that still apply (see below).

Reason for the rule change

This amendment to the Bald Eagle rules was pursued mainly because of the species' recovery and delisting in Washington. Bald Eagles in Washington were first protected by the federal Endangered Species Act in 1978. From a low of only 104 breeding bald eagle pairs in 1980, Washington's population has increased dramatically, due in part to the protection of breeding habitat. By 2005, an estimated 840 occupied territories were documented throughout the state. In July of 2007 the bald eagle was removed from the federal endangered species list.

There are now indications that the population is nearing carrying capacity in parts of western Washington. Their numbers may still be increasing in northeastern Washington and along some rivers in western Washington. Although this dramatic recovery was the driving force behind the recent rule change, the decision was also made as a way to relieve agencies, local governments, and private landowners of the significant time commitment and other constraints associated with developing eagle plans.

Regulations not affected by this change

Landowners with existing bald eagle plans who wish to carry out any new clearing or construction first will need to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Although there will no longer be a state bald eagle management plan requirement, landowners must still comply with the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. This act requires landowners to consult with the USFWS to determine if a permit is required when proposing land use activities within 660 feet of an eagle nest. Depending on the type of land use activity being proposed, the USFWS can require either a 330 foot or 660 foot nest buffer. The specific details surrounding these requirements are found at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/guidelines/baea-moreconserve.html>.

Although the bald eagle is no longer listed as a State Threatened species, it remains on WDFW's list of Priority Habitats and Species due to its status as a State Sensitive species. For that reason, the agency still recommends that cities and counties protect eagles under local critical areas rules pursuant to the Growth Management Act. Landowners should check with their local jurisdiction to see if there are local requirements for eagle protection. Given that two-thirds of Washington's Bald Eagle nests are on private lands, it will be important for counties and cities to make sure that existing land use planning and permitting requirements are followed.



Adult bald eagle landing in nest.

New Publication Offers Land Use Planning Guidance for Western Gray Squirrels

Last summer WDFW released a publication as part of its series of *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species*. This new guidance publication addresses the conservation and management of the Western Gray Squirrel, a State Threatened species. Over the past several years, significant planning went into the development of this important publication.

At the onset of developing the Western Gray Squirrel management recommendations, potential users (e.g., counties, timber companies, conservation groups) were invited to offer early feedback. We were interested in knowing what questions users would like addressed in the new publication. After a draft was prepared, comments were sought from an extensive group of stake-holders and peer-reviewers.

All comments were carefully considered prior to preparing the final publication.



Photo courtesy of Rod Gilbert

The *Western Gray Squirrel Management Recommendations* is now available online. It includes a comprehensive overview of the latest scientific knowledge about this species. Specific sections provide guidance on how to minimize impacts of major land uses in squirrel habitat. These land use-specific sections offer strategies to plan and manage for:

- residential development;
- forestry;
- grazing;
- habitat restoration; and
- landscape-scale planning.

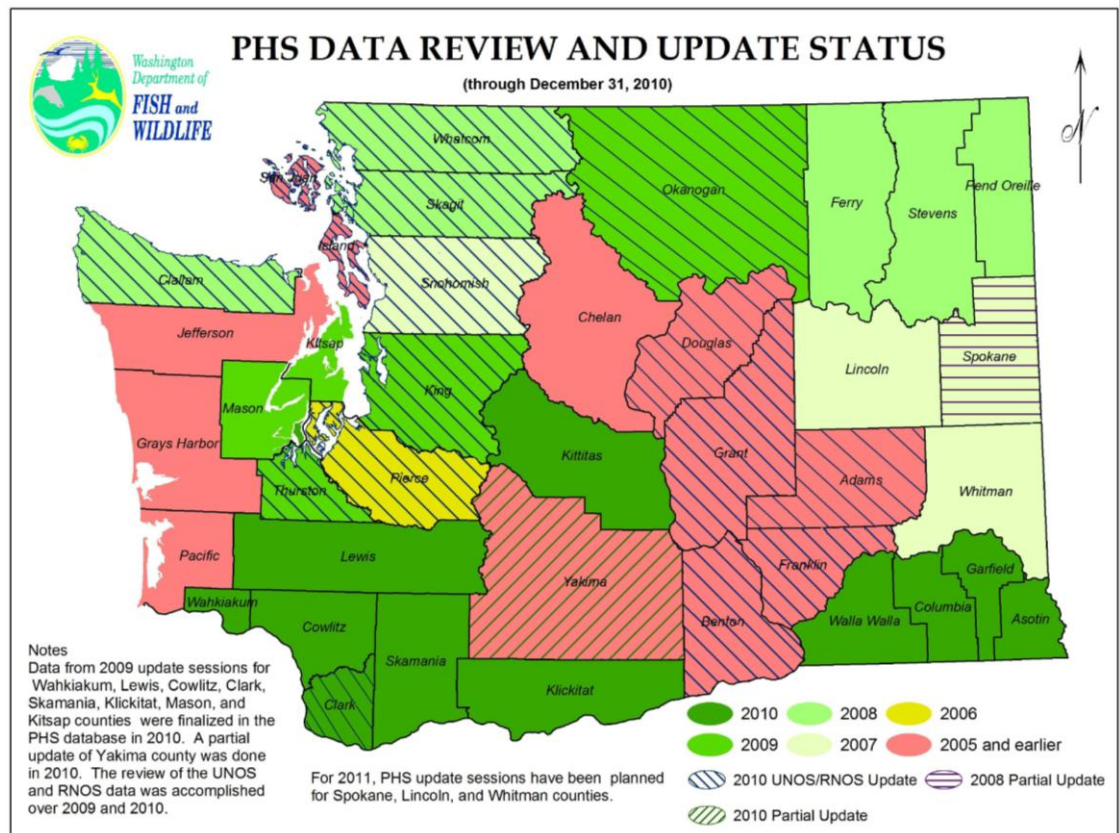
Currently other guidelines in this same series are under development or consideration. This includes a draft on the management of shrub-steppe habitat and another on the Great Blue Heron.

If you have any questions about the Western Gray Squirrel publication or any other publication in this series, please contact [Jeff Azerrad](#) by email or at 360-906-6754.

Status of Priority Habitat and Species Data

By Terry Johnson, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) database contains information on the location of important species and habitats. Priority species are those that require protective measures or management to ensure their future survival because of low population numbers, sensitivity to habitat alteration, tendency to form in vulnerable groups (e.g., heron colonies), or because they are of commercial, recreational, or tribal importance. Priority habitats are areas that support diverse, unique, or abundant fish and wildlife communities. WDFW regularly updates its PHS data, and this figure shows the current status of the data.



PHS data were updated in 2010 for Asotin, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Garfield, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Skamania, Wahkiakum, and Walla Walla counties. Also, Urban Natural Open Space (UNOS) and Rural Natural Open Space (RNOS) habitat types were removed from the PHS List and reviewed to see if they could be converted to another priority habitat or species use type. Mapped locations of UNOS or RNOS that could not be placed into an existing category were removed entirely from the database.

PHS updates are being planned for 2011 in Spokane, Lincoln, and Whitman counties. Updates for other counties are in preliminary planning stages. A formal definition was recently developed and published in the [Priority Habitat and Species list](#) for the Inland Dunes priority habitat. Because of this development, Inland Dunes data from the “[Conservation Strategy for Washington State Inland Sand Dunes](#)” is being added to the PHS database. In addition, data from the old “Island” priority habitat type is being reviewed for possible conversion to another priority habitat or species use. Similar to what occurred with UNOS/RNOS data, islands mapped in PHS that do not fit an existing category, will be removed.

Please see **PHS DATA** on Page Six

Requesting PHS information

PHS data are widely used by planners, consultants, applicants, other state agencies, universities, and conservation groups. Many local communities rely on PHS data to identify critical areas, shoreline areas, and inform comprehensive planning, as well as site-specific project reviews. PHS data can also be incorporated into incentive-based programs such as conservation futures or open space tax programs. The regional WDFW staff listed on the last page of this newsletter can help you determine how PHS data can be used to inform local planning matters.

Directions for requesting PHS maps or data can found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/maps_data/, or by calling 360.902.2543. A written request for ordering PHS information can be sent to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Priority Habitat and Species Data Release
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501

Help us Improve the Priority Habitat and Species Management Recommendations

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking feedback from land use professionals to improve our series of *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species* (also known as *PHS Management Recommendations*). This PHS publication series provides guidance to land use professional to address the management and conservation of species and habitats of statewide significance. The primary audience of these publications is local government land use planners, environmental consultants, policy makers, as well as government and non-profit resource professionals.

We invite you to take part in a survey to help us improve our management recommendations and make them more useful and relevant to the work you are doing. The survey will help us assess the value of our PHS publications and help us prioritize what new publications should be written or updated in the near-term. It should take less than 10 minutes for you to complete.

To access the online survey, please go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fish_and_wildlife_planner_survey

Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

Conferences, Workshops & Training

- **2011 Washington Planners' Forums:**

- **Spring Forums**

- April 21 – Southwest Wash..... Vancouver.....Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
 - April 21 – Olympic Peninsula..... Port Angeles Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
 - April 20 – Northwest Wash..... Bellingham Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
 - May 4 – Eastern Wash..... Ellensburg Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. The dates and locations are subject to change, so make sure to go to the [Regional Planners' Forum](#) website for the latest information and to get a copy of the agenda.

- **Salmon Recovery Conference**

The conference offers an opportunity for those involved in salmon recovery to reflect upon the past decade of recovery work, to consider what has worked, what is not working, and how to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of projects. Those in salmon recovery will share their experiences and learn from their peers about how to build better projects. This year's conference will be meeting at the Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center in Grand Mound, Washington, April 26-27.

- **APA - Inland Empire Section Annual Conference**

This year's conference will meet at Elkin's Resort in Priest Lake, Idaho, June 2-3. To find out if there is still space available for registration please clicks on this [email](#) link.

- **International Conference on Ecology & Transportation**

The mission of this conference is to share quality research applications and best management practices that address wildlife, habitat, and ecosystem issues related to the delivery of surface transportation systems. The conference will be meeting at The Westin Seattle, August 21-25. Registration information can be found at http://www.icoet.net/ICOET_2011/registration.asp.

- **American Planning Association - Washington/Oregon Joint Conference**

Save the date! This annual conference will take place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, October 19 - 21. The theme for this year's conference is "Cascadia Collaborative: Bridging to the Future."

- **Salmon in a Changing Climate: Practical management options for an era of environmental change**

Save the date! This workshop will examine whether decisions about management of salmon and their habitats can be practically informed by the newest scientific insights on expected responses of wild salmon to climate and environmental change. The workshop will be held in Portland, November 15-17.

- **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. The upcoming course schedule can be found on [CTP's](#) website.

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, comprehensive planning and plan implementation, and the role of the planning commission. Co-sponsored by the [Department of Commerce](#) and the [Planning Association of Washington](#), the course is presented by professional planners and attorneys and is open to the public. All attendees receive handouts prepared by the presenters, and are referred to the on-line version of the [Short Course Manual](#) which accompanies the course. For those without internet access, a Short Course Manual CD is available upon request. Twenty pre-scheduled regional courses are provided each fiscal year, and efforts are underway to provide an online version in 2011. Please see the [Current Short Course Schedule](#) for dates, times, locations and registration information. For more information, visit the [Short Course Web page](#) or e-mail [Janet Rogerson](#).

Grant Opportunities

- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service offers habitat acquisition grants for candidate, proposed and listed species. These funds are administered by state agencies with ESA Section 6 Cooperative Agreements and may in turn be awarded to local agencies, private landowners and groups for conservation projects. Pre-proposals for 2012 habitat acquisition grants will be due by June 1, 2012; see website for details.
- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPP) Grants Application Process**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a cost-share program to help small forest landowners correct fish barriers on their forestlands. Landowners interested in enrolling must submit an *Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation* form to DNR Small Forest Landowner Office by June 30th.
- **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program**

These grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat. Applications for fiscal year 2012 funding will be due June 30, 2011. For more information about eligibility and how to apply go to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent notice](#) about the availability of this grant opportunity.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wetlands-associated wildlife. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both programs require that grant requests be matched by partner at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. The standard grant deadline is July 29th. The small grant deadline is October 27th.
- **River restoration grants**

American Rivers, through its partnership with NOAA'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 and support the restoration of habitat for anadromous species. Questions about the grant and about the upcoming funding cycle can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org.
- **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 range from \$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 in the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low – and sometimes dry – with significant consequences for imperiled salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports program partners in the Columbia Basin by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) working in partnership with the [Bonneville Power Administration](#) (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the [Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#).
- **Additional grant opportunities**
 - The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) list of grants.
 - Click [HERE](#) for the federal government's primary grant search engine.
 - [Grant Programs for a Local Government from the USFWS](#)
 - The [Department of Commerce](#) list of grants relevant to GMA planning.

WDFW Contacts for Fish and Wildlife Planning

[GMA and SMA Technical Assistance Web Page](#)

Regional Technical Assistance

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

509.754.4624 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington:

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

Southwest Washington:

David Howe, 360.906.6729, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); david.howe@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Theresa Nation, 360.902.2247, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov

Statewide Program Development

Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Katie Knight, 360.902-2562; katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment:

John Jacobson, 360-902-2479; john.jacobson@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

Fish & Wildlife Planner

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N · Olympia, WA · 98501-1091