

WDFW's Role in Shared Stewardship

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What is shared stewardship?

All Lands, All Hands

Collaborative process

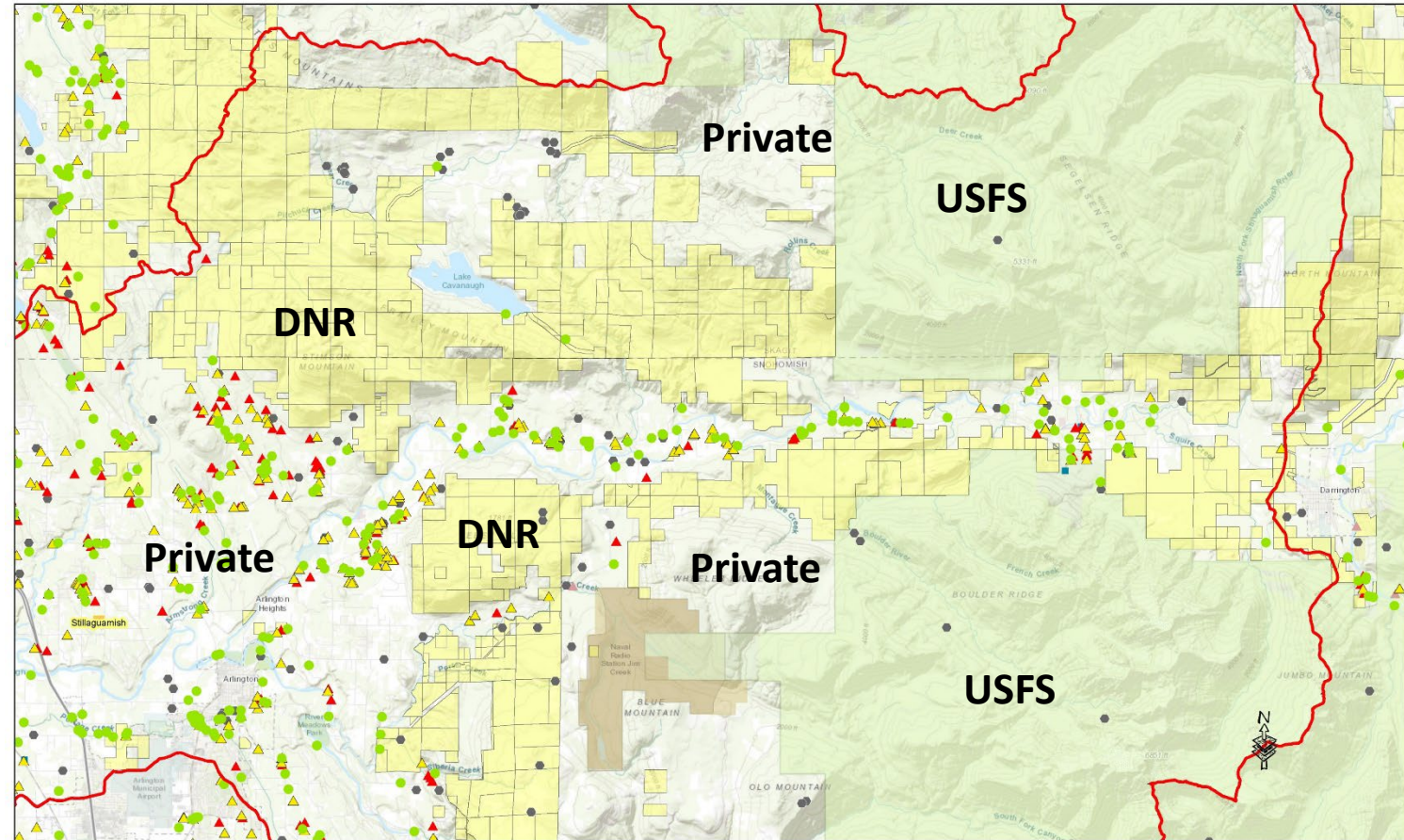
Led by USFS, DNR, WDFW

Work with partners

Shared priorities

ALL LANDS

Landscape scale



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0 1.75 3.5 7 10.5 14 Miles

12/21/2021



Right Work, Right Place, At the Right Scale

- Ecological Restoration
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Sustainable Recreation
- Healthy Communities
- Sustainable Infrastructure





Why shared stewardship?

Missions

WDFW:

Preserve, protect, and perpetuate the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

DNR:

Manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations.

U.S. Forest Service:

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



“Washington’s fish and wildlife are facing real challenges,” said WDFW director Kelly Susewind. “Large-scale collaborations like this are critical if we are to preserve our native species. It is encouraging to have three of the state’s largest land stewards come together in this new agreement and work more effectively to promote healthy wildlife and ecosystems in Washington.”

Shared Stewardship MOU signing May 8, 2019

Forest Land Management

WDFW: 200,000 acres

DNR: 2 million acres

USFS: 8 million acres

Tribes: 1.7 million acres

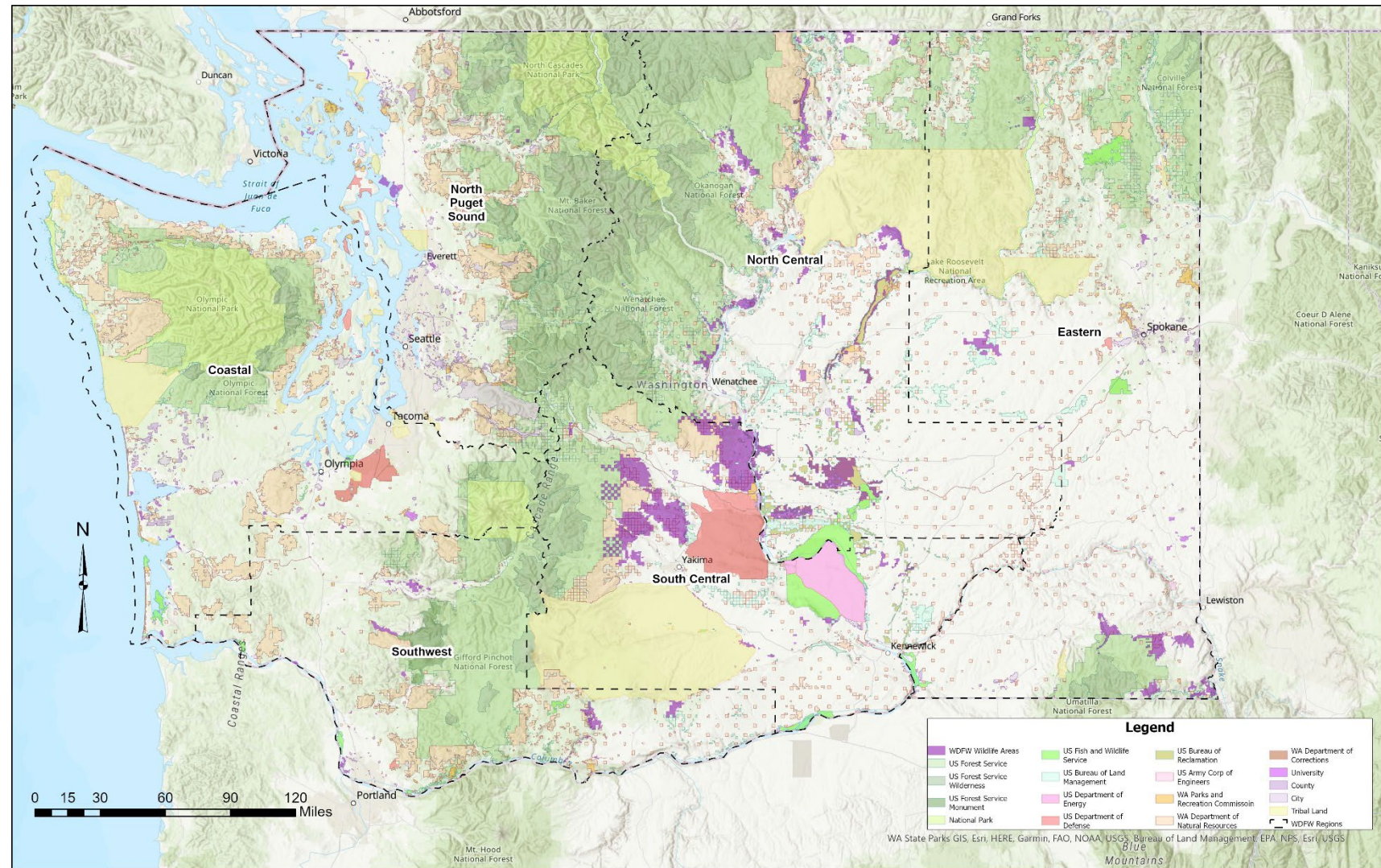
Private Industrial: 4.6 million acres

Private Non-Industrial: 3.2 million acres

Nat. Park Service: 1.1 million acres

Other: 1.2 million acres

State Total: 22 million acres

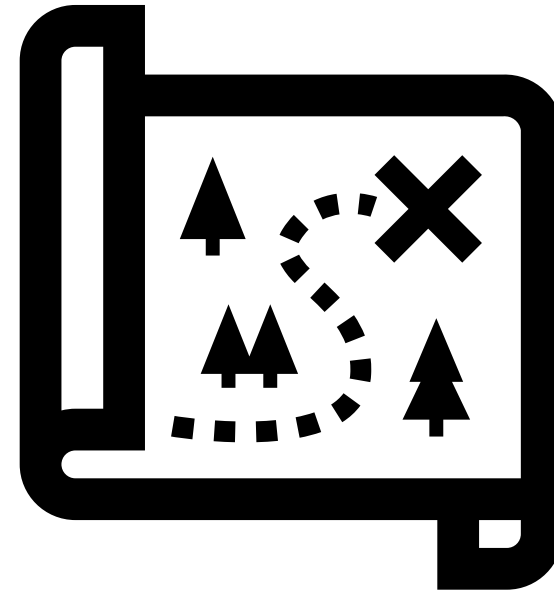




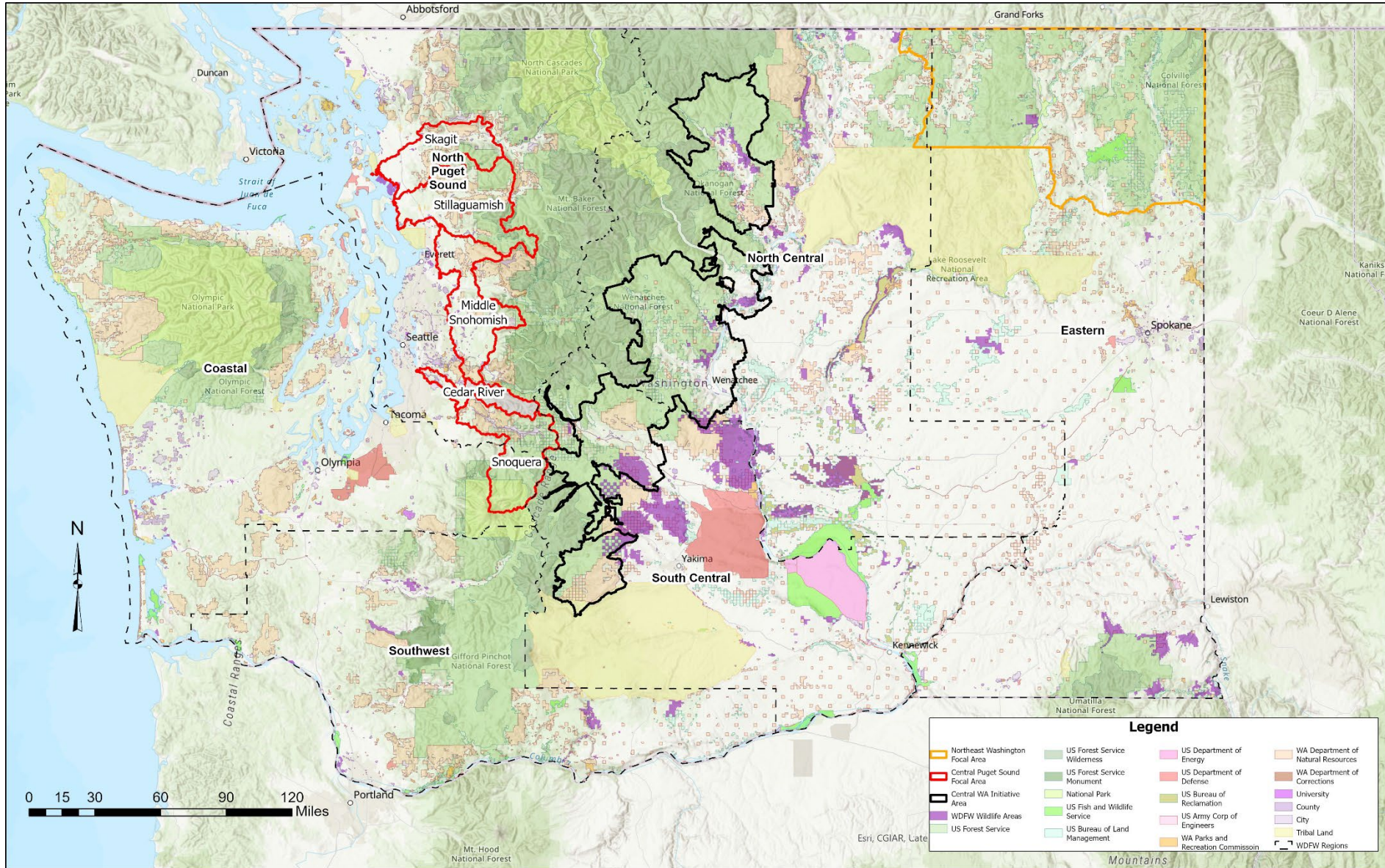
What's happening with shared stewardship?

Progress

- WDFW, DNR, USFS coordination
- Internal WDFW coordination
- WDFW, DNR, USFS – Shared Stewardship initial focal areas
- Several Good Neighbor Authority agreements with USFS



Initial Focal Areas



Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows Forest Service to enter into agreements with states, counties, and tribes to conduct work on National Forest lands

“authorized forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services”
Partners do work themselves or contract out

Forest Service retains National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) authority and approval of vegetation management activities

No match required

State agencies allowed to retain receipts from timber sales and reinvest in additional GNA work

Not Allowed:

- Construction of paved or permanent roads or parking areas
- Construction, alteration, repair, or replacement of public buildings or works
- Activities in wilderness or designated roadless areas
- Other lands where vegetation removal is not allowed



Example Good Neighbor Authority Projects

Early Seral Habitat

Riparian Restoration

Meadow Restoration

Aspen Restoration

Post-Fire Planting

Thinning

Prescribed Fire

Invasive Species Control

Fish Passage

Beaver Dam Analogs

Instream Habitat Restoration

Road Reconstruction/Repairs

Seasonal Road Closure

Road Decommission

Disease Surveillance

Fish & Wildlife Surveys



WDFW Good Neighbor Agreements

WDFW Admin	USFS Admin	Purpose	Status
Headquarters	USFS Region 6	Master Agreement	Active through 2028
Director's Office	USFS Region 6	Shared Stewardship Coordinator startup	Active through 2022
Headquarters – Wildlife Program	USFS Region 6	Monitor white-nose syndrome in bats on multiple national forests	Active through 2022
Region 1	Colville National Forest	Correct fish passage barriers on Hwy 20 Sherman Creek	Active through 2024
Region 1	Umatilla National Forest	Lick Creek Fire Recovery, Fish surveys in Mill Creek and Asotin Creek Watersheds	Active through 2028
Headquarters – Habitat Program - Fish Passage Division	USFS Region 6	Fish Passage Assessments in Southwest Washington & Design/Engineer Fish Passage projects in Southeast Washington	In Development
Headquarters	USFS Region 6/Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	Implementation of projects in Central Washington Initiative area	In Development





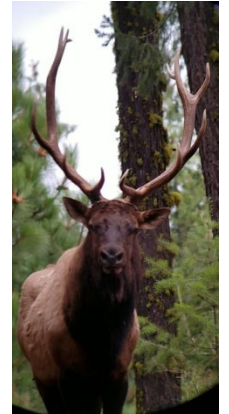
Potential Shared Stewardship Benefits

Improve Fish & Wildlife Habitat

Threatened and Endangered Species



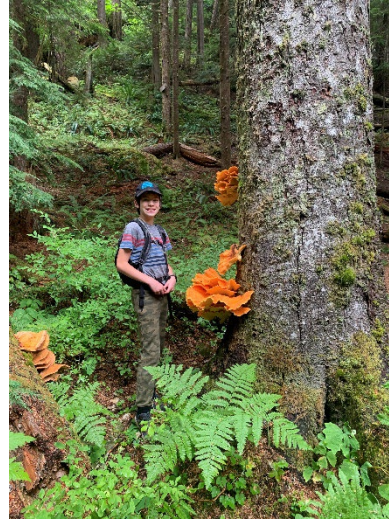
Game Species



*Photos from WDFW Photo Gallery both staff and public-used with permission.



Improve Recreational Opportunities



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Benefits to Communities





Example Projects



Thinning

20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan-Eastern Washington:

- 2.7 million acres of forests in eastern WA overstocked
- Goal – 1.25 million acres of cross-boundary treatments by 2037 to improve resiliency
- Since 2014, WDFW has thinned over 14,940 acres

*Photos from WDFW Photo Gallery both staff and public-used with permission.



Prescribed Fire

- Since 2014, WDFW has treated 7,643 acres with prescribed fire.
- History of cross-boundary prescribed fire with DNR, USFS, and BLM

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Resilient Ecosystems

- Ponderosa pine and larch savannas
- Oregon white oak
- Quaking aspen
- Puget Sound prairies

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Deferred Maintenance

USFS Washington (2018)
\$227 million backlog roads,
trails, and road bridges

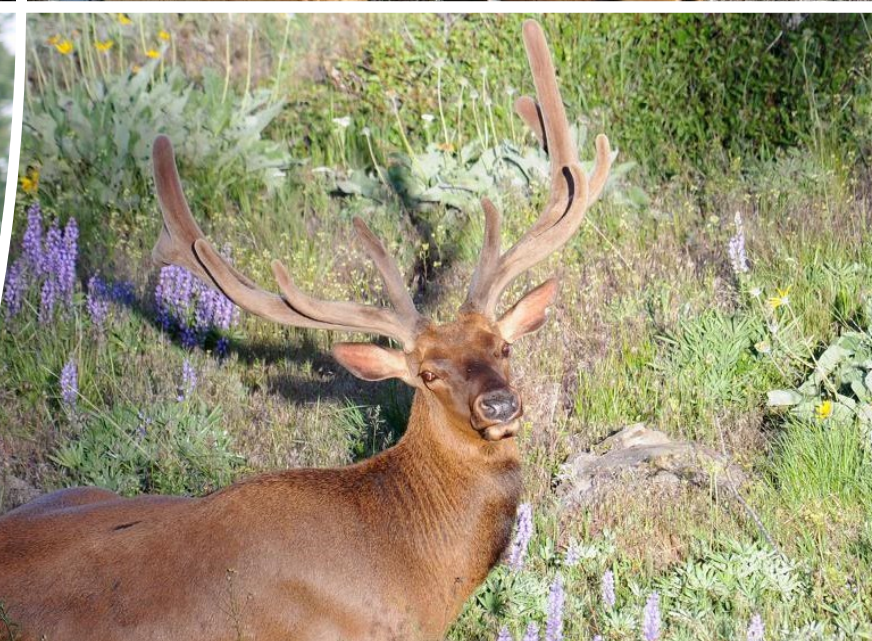


- Correct fish passage barriers
- Address stormwater runoff
- Improve Access:
 - Recreation;
 - Commercial activities;
 - Tribal activities;
 - Vegetation management;
 - Fire management




Wildlife Migration Corridors

- Sec. Order 3362
- WA Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group (wacconnected.org)
- Highway crossings
- Resilience to climate change





Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest



Please Recreate Responsibly
to Protect This Area:

Camp on Existing Campsites

- Don't create new campsites or camp on vegetation

Keep it Clean

- Take all items, including trash and food scraps, home with you.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses if available. Otherwise, bury human waste 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet (70 big steps) from water.
- Pack out or bury your pet's poop.
- Keep soap, food, and human or pet waste out of rivers, lakes and streams.

Respect Plants and Landscapes

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items undisturbed.
- Don't make rock dams in the river. They hurt fish and the river ecosystem. Remove rock dams you find.
- Don't cut or carve living plants.

Be Careful with Fire

- Use a camp stove for cooking.
- Use only existing fire rings.
- Don't burn trash or food. Pack it out.
- Burn all wood to ash. Ensure fire is completely drowned and cold before you leave.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Properly store your food and trash to keep it away from wildlife
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Never approach, feed or follow them.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors




- Be considerate of others that are here to enjoy nature as well, keep your group's noise down and be aware of how it may impact others
- Control your pet to protect it, other visitors, and wildlife.

Motor Vehicle Use

- Motor Vehicle Use allowed on designated routes only (36 CFR 261.13).
- ATV/UTV recreational motorized use allowed on designated motorized trails only.
- Refer to the most current Forest Service, Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

For More Information
 Please Visit the Enumclaw Ranger Station:
 Maps (MVUM) are available at the Ranger Station.
 450 Roosevelt Ave E, Enumclaw, WA 98022
 (360) 825-6585

Funding provided by:

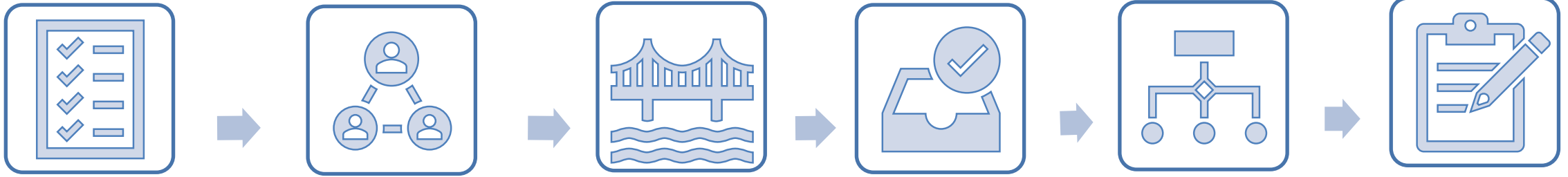








How does WDFW fit into shared stewardship?

Opportunities to Engage



Develop Priorities & Plan Projects

- WDFW Habitat Program is active in Forest Collaboratives
- * Collaboratives focused on USFS lands except Tapash-All lands.
- Opportunity to provide input outside collaboratives
- Work with partners to seek \$ and build capacity
- Inventory/Assess project needs

Environmental Review

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Possible shared staff between WDFW and USFWS and NOAA Fisheries for ESA review?
- Possible help gathering data on T&E species to complete ESA and NEPA requirements?

Design & Engineer Projects

- Habitat and Capital Asset and Management Programs possible capacity?

Comment on Projects

- Habitat Program fills this need

Manage & Implement Projects

- Wildlife Program cross-boundary work (thinning & prescribed burns)
- Wildlife Program private lands biologists
- USFS has significant needs
- How much do we want to work off WDFW lands?

Effectiveness Monitoring

- Are we achieving desired outcomes?
- Tap into existing efforts e.g., Wildlife, Fish, and Habitat Program science efforts
- Community Science



Potential Partners

- Tribes
- Conservation Districts
- Forest Collaboratives
- Salmon Recovery Organizations
- Conservation Northwest
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Wild Sheep Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Pheasants Forever
- Trout Unlimited
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
- Washington Trails Association
- Tread Lightly!
- Volunteers and Community Science



Successes:

- Annual coordination mtgs. with USFS staff and WDFW staff
- Consensus on pilot shared stewardship focal areas
- All three agencies at table for discussions
- Single point of contact for shared stewardship (e.g., WDFW and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF)

Challenges:

- Covid-19 pandemic limited options to work with partners and slowed progress.
- Need to learn to work together effectively at scale:
 - Will take time, staff capacity, stability in positions, and improvements in sharing data
- Staff turnover in all three agencies
- Difficulty filling positions:
 - Lots of opportunities right now;
 - Often limited pool of qualified candidates



Conserve and Protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat:

- Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Game Species
- Reduced human-wildlife conflicts
- Improved hunting/fishing opportunities
- Community Science

Maintain & Improve Infrastructure:

- Recreational access
- Tribal co-manager access to 1st foods
- Vegetation Management
- Fire Management

Community Benefits:

- Reduced wildfire risk
- Improved water quality and quantity
- Improved air quality
- Improved Roads
- Forest Products = \$
- Recreation = \$



Questions?

