

WDFW Wildlife Diversity Division

Mission Statement

The Wildlife Diversity Division leads efforts statewide to manage, conserve and recover Washington's nongame wildlife and plays an active role in protecting and improving their habitats. We focus our effort on over 200 wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including those listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. We assess species distribution, abundance, population trends, and threats, and we make recommendations for their recovery. The Division shares this information and our technical expertise to guide and implement on-the-ground conservation and to facilitate partnerships to recover, protect, and maintain the many wildlife species and habitats of Washington's forest, prairie, shrubsteppe, riparian, wetland, mountain and marine ecosystems. This conservation mission is our trust responsibility to the current and future peoples of Washington.

Division Functions

Conservation Planning and Recovery Implementation

- Guiding, planning, and recovering species and habitats by collaboratively identifying and implementing actions to mitigate threats.

Disseminating Best Available Science

- Producing foundational reports to identify conservation needs and guide recovery such as species status reports, recovery plans, and reintroduction feasibility plans.
- Providing high-level species and habitat technical expertise to help guide the decisions of land use planners and managers and to assist WDFW staff in their development and review of project plans and proposals.

Survey and Monitoring

- Determining population distribution, size, and trend of species of concern to ascertain status and to inform conservation action.

Habitat Protection and Restoration

- Supporting the protection of habitat with non-regulatory tools, such as conservation easements and acquisitions.
- Coordinating and delivering to private landowners Farm Bill incentive programs and ESA regulatory assurance.
- Informing and implementing restoration actions to increase habitat quality and function.

Partnerships

- Forming and fostering large and small partnerships to respond to local and landscape level conservation needs and to collaboratively guide recovery planning and implementation.
- Collaborating to build and secure funding sources that allow us and our partners to effectively achieve conservation outcomes.

Outreach and Education

- Engaging local organizations, schools, and community scientists in science education, wildlife viewing, and applied conservation.

Permitting

- Reviewing and administering scientific collection, wildlife rehabilitation, and falconry permits.

Wildlife Diversity Division Composition and Structure

The Wildlife Diversity Division is composed of headquarters and regional staff. It's 34 headquarters staff members are primarily housed in Olympia with some regionally deployed staff. Regional staff include portions of wildlife district biologists and private lands biologists around the state equal to approximately 35 FTE. The Division headquarters and regional teams collaborate to identify, prioritize, and implement conservation actions.

The Division Manager supervises the Assistant Division Manager and four Section Managers. The Manager leads the Division's input on policy issues, manages the Division's budget, and is an active member of WLP Senior Staff.

The Assistant Division Manager supports the Division Manager and Section Managers and oversees permitting programs including wildlife rehabilitation, falconry, and scientific collection permitting. A primary role of the Assistant is to implement the Wildlife Diversity Grant Program aimed at conserving and recovering at-risk SGCN through collaboration with tribes and non-profit, academic, and public partners.

The Division's four sections are: Conservation Assessment; Endangered Species Recovery; Marine, Coast, Flyway; and Landscape Conservation. While the Section Managers each have distinct roles and functions, several staff reporting through those Sections fulfill the role of species lead for a specific group of taxa. Species leads work directly with the appropriate Section Manager for the necessary functions (e.g., surveys, reintroductions, recovery action, habitat protection/restoration, partnering).

Species leads are responsible for coordinating the conservation of a species throughout the life of its conservation status. They work with internal and external experts and partners to assess a species status, collaboratively develop conservation plans, and facilitate recovery implementation. Most SGCN have an assigned species lead. Specific functions include:

- Develop conservation strategies and recovery plans
- Lead, facilitate, and coordinate recovery implementation
- Be the program point-of-contact for assigned species
- Provide technical expertise for species conservation planning and implementation
- Develop candidate assessments, species status reports, and periodic status reviews
- Identify information gaps and coordinate efforts to fill gaps

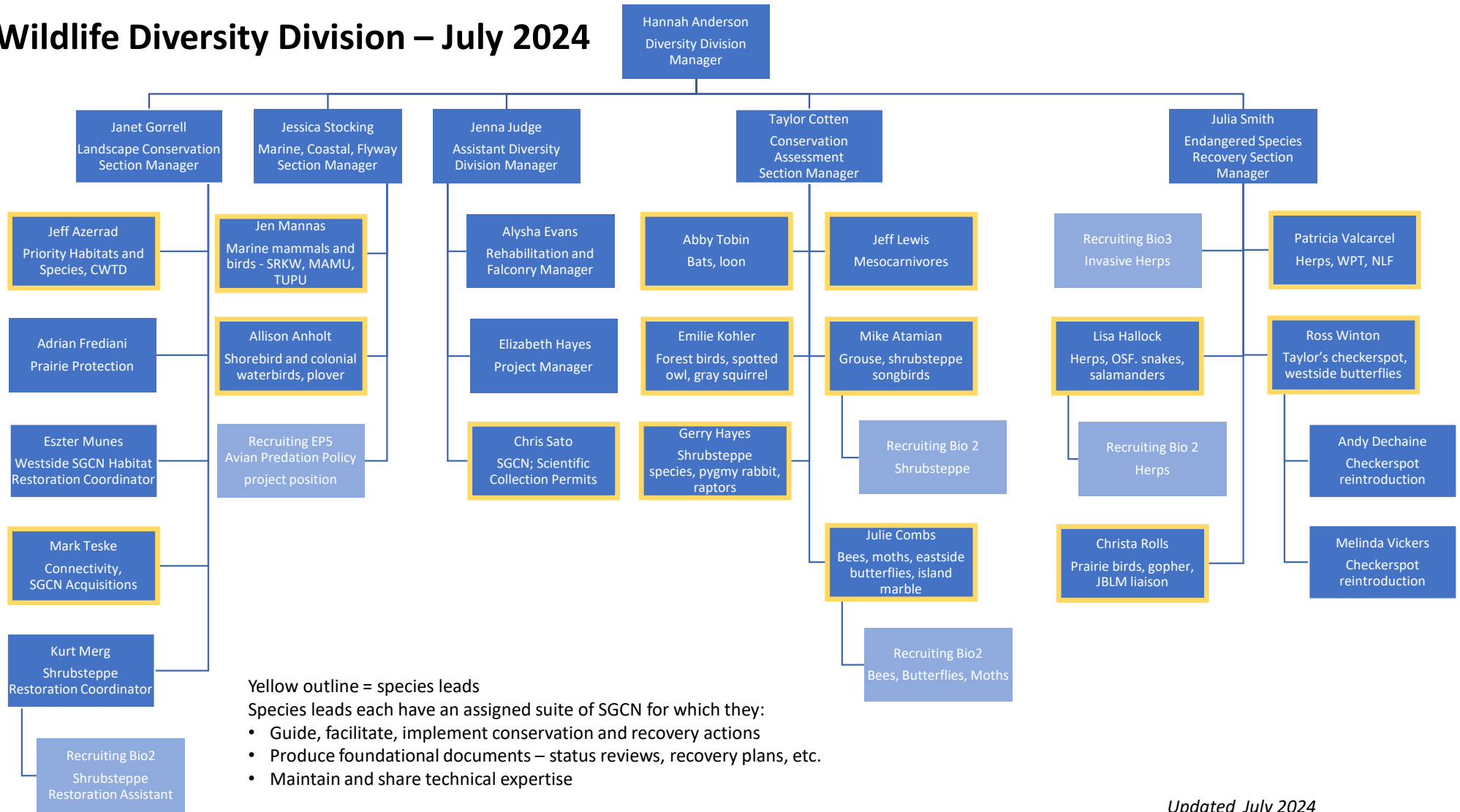
The Conservation Assessment Section Manager is responsible for coordinating wildlife survey and monitoring for non-game wildlife and managing the species status assessment process, which results in listing recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Section Manager is the Diversity Division's designated liaison to Science Division. Six species leads report through this section.

The Endangered Species Recovery Section Manager facilitates the recovery of Washington's state listed species, which include those that are federally listed under the ESA. They are the Division's designated liaison to US Fish and Wildlife Service. Four species leads report through this section as well as the on-the-ground staff implementing Taylor's checkerspot reintroduction and an invasive herp coordinator.

The Marine, Coast, Flyway Section Manager oversees the conservation work in the marine realm including recovery of southern resident killer whales and marine birds. Conservation of coastal and colonial waterbirds are also overseen through this section. The Section Manager is the agency's representative on the Pacific Flyway non-game technical committee and is the Division's liaison to NOAA and Fish Program. Two species leads and an avian predation poliy lead report up through this section.

The Landscape Conservation Section aims to develop, facilitate, and support internal and external partnerships necessary to achieve landscape scale conservation across public and private land. Two restoration coordinators, and two staff focused habitat acquisition/protection, and a Conservation Planner shared with Habitat Program's Priority Habitats and Species program, report up through this section. The Section Manager is the Division's designated liaison with Habitat Program and Lands Division.

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WDFW Regions and Wildlife Program Districts

