

Transfer of the Hunter Education Division and Certain Wildlife Conflict Responsibilities from the Law Enforcement Program to the Wildlife Program



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Bruce Bjork, Chief, Law Enforcement Program

Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program

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Outline

Hunter Education Division

- *Overview of Division*
- *Transfer Implementation*

Problem Wildlife

- *Overview of Current Responsibility*
- *Overview of Post-Transfer Responsibility*
- *Transfer Implementation*



Hunter Education Division

Basic Hunter Training

- Hunting accident prevention
- Handling firearms safely
- Wildlife conservation
- Sportsmanship and ethics

13,000 Students Certified

900 Volunteer Instructors



Hunter Education Division

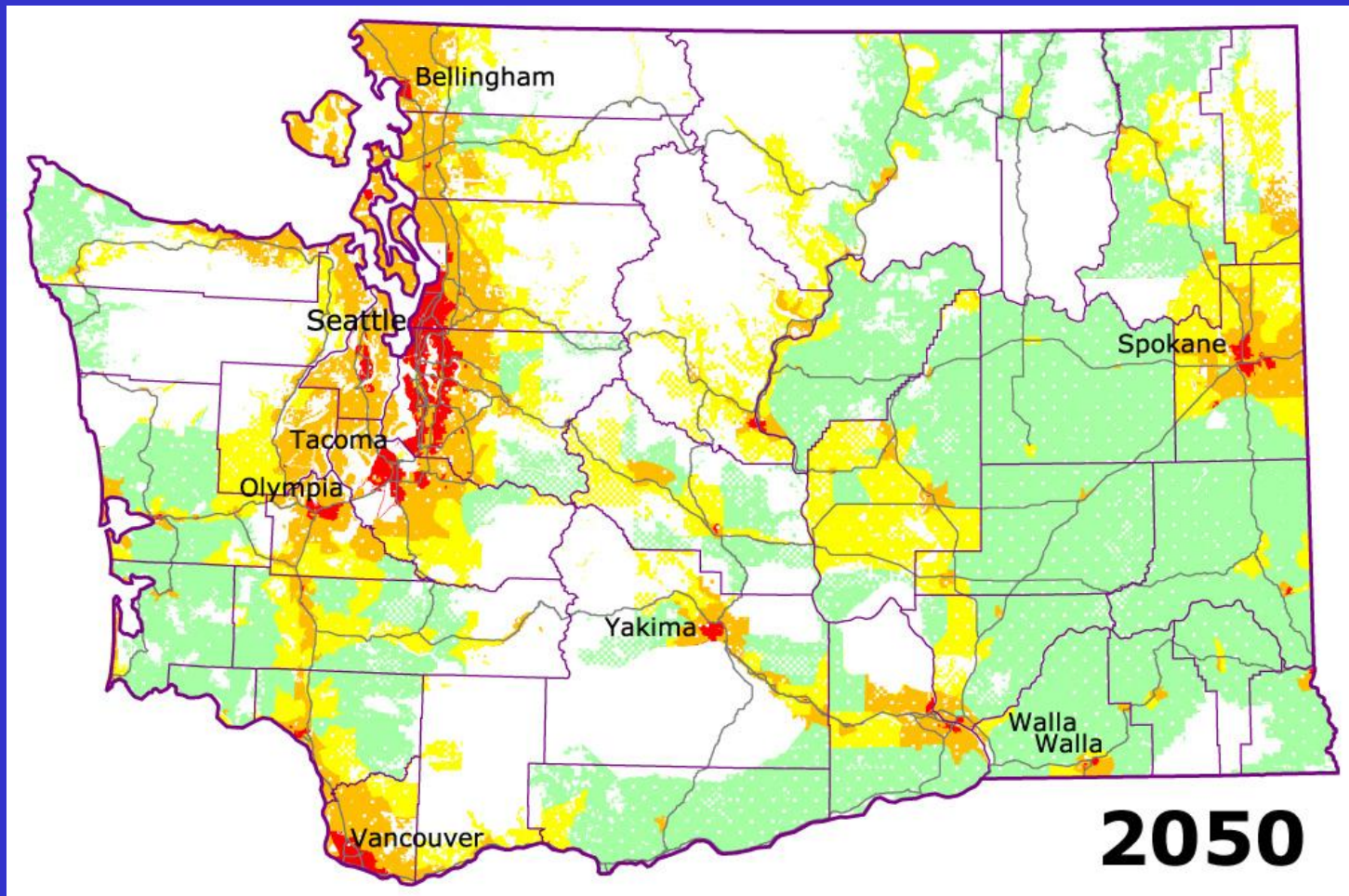
- Statewide Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP)
- Hunter Education Deferral Program
- Military Hunter Education Exemption Program
- Statewide Trapper Education Program
- National Archery in the Schools (NASP) pass-thru grant
- Shooting range grants



Next Steps

- Recruit new Division Manager
- Move staff
- New PR Grant
- Communicate with Instructors and Master Hunters
- Complete by July 1





Land Use Categories

- Urban/Suburban (>2 units per acre)
- Low Density Suburban (1 unit per 0.5 to 10 acres)
- Exurban (1 unit per 10 to 40 acres)
- Rural (less than 1 unit per 40 acres)
- Unbuildable (public land, open water, too steep)
- County Line
- Major Highway

Problem Wildlife Overview

Current Activities: Law Enforcement Program

- *Deer/Elk Conflict Response*
- *Dangerous Wildlife Response*
- *Manage the Wildlife Control Operator Program*
- *Process damage claims*
- *Investigate depredations*

Current Activities: Wildlife Program

- *Deer/Elk Conflict Response in R3*
- *Investigate depredations—wolf*

Recent Improvements to Managing Wildlife Conflict

- RCW 77.36 Wildlife Damage (2009)
- WAC 232-36 Wildlife Interaction Regulations (2010)
- Third-Party Damage Assessments
- Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators

Post-Transfer Roles and Responsibilities for Problem Wildlife

Activity

Deer/Elk Damage

Dangerous Wildlife

- On Scene
- Depredation Investigation
- Depredation Investigation
- Timber Damage

Injured (Deer/elk)

Injured (species of concern)

Nuisance Wildlife

Respondent

Wildlife

Enforcement

Enforcement –initial response

Wildlife—necropsy

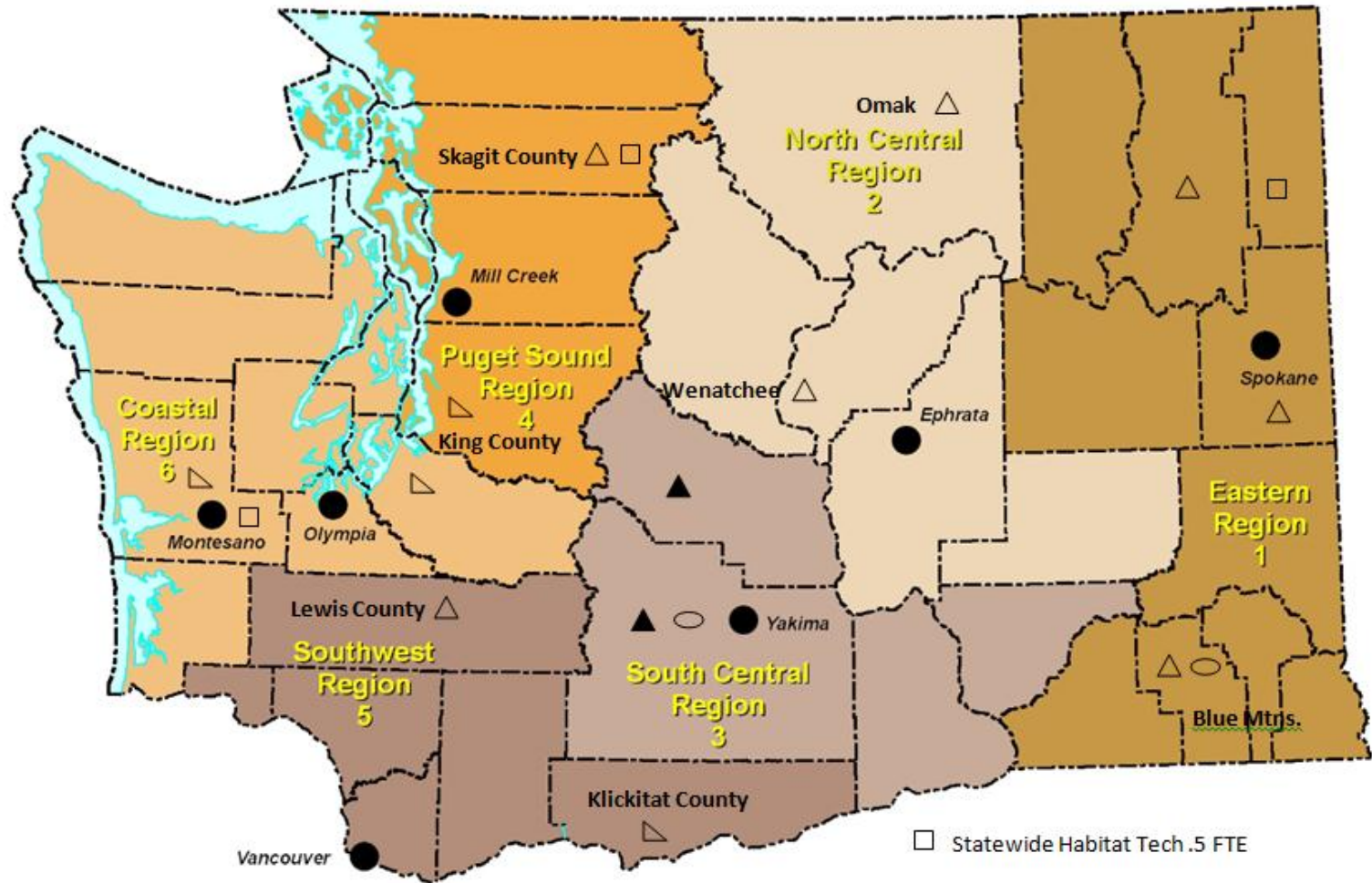
Wildlife

Enforcement

Closest proximity

NWCO

Proposed Staffing



- ▲ Environmental Specialist 3 – Existing FTE
- △ Environmental Specialist 3 – Proposed 1 FTE
- ◻ Environmental Specialist 3 – Proposed .5 FTE

- Habitat Tech – Proposed .25 FTE
- ◻ Habitat Tech – Proposed .5 FTE
- Regional Office Locations

Next Steps

- New Wildlife Conflict Section
- Recruitments of Conflict Specialists
- New PR Grant
- “Rolling” Transfer by Region this summer



Summary

- Joint commitment to successful transfer
- Alignment of activities/agency functions within a single Program
- Sound use of agency resources
- Improved customer service/long-term solutions

