

Fish & Wildlife Planner



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Introductory Issue of Fish and Wildlife Planner Draws Kudos, Prompts Interactive Q&A

Jeff Azerrad, Wildlife Program

The *Fish and Wildlife Planner* was unveiled as a quarterly newsletter last November. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) specifically developed this publication to address the fish and wildlife needs of planning professionals statewide.

Soon after the first issue was published, the department received feedback from numerous planners throughout Washington. Most comments were brief one-liners encouraging us to continue producing this newsletter because many felt it provided a valued contribution to their work here in Washington. A number of subscribers forwarded the newsletter to other interested readers. We subsequently received emails from those wanting to be added as new subscribers. Our readers also gave us more detailed suggestions to consider for future issues.

One such suggestion came from a reader in Bonney Lake. This individual noted the value of producing a more interactive newsletter. He specifically said we should consider adding a section where professionals from WDFW respond to questions posed to us by readers of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*.

In the summer issue, we will introduce a section dedicated to Q&A. We will have experts from WDFW respond to questions received from planning professionals that pertain to important fish and wildlife conservation and planning topics.

If you have questions, please email them to Jeff Azerrad at azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov. Remember to write "Q&A" on the subject line when emailing your question. Selected questions will be forwarded to the appropriate expert at WDFW for a response. Questions and responses will be included in subsequent issues of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*.

Because the *Fish and Wildlife Planner* is still relatively new, we are continuing to build a more extensive readership base. Please feel free to forward this newsletter along to other interested readers so we can share information about important fish and wildlife activities with as wide an audience as possible. Thank you.

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COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR WASHINGTON

By Chris Sato, Wildlife Program

Washington is home to a remarkable variety of fish and wildlife species. However, changes to our landscape and native habitat have put many of our species at risk.



Taylor's Checkerspot

WDFW File Photo

In 2001, Congress established a new Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to help state and tribal wildlife agencies address the unmet needs of wildlife and wildlife habitats for conservation, education, and recreation. These grants are available for implementation of wildlife and habitat conservation programs and planning activities. For a state to be eligible for these grants, resource agencies must develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 2005.

In partnership with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is currently developing a CWCS for the state. Washington's statewide strategy will address a full array of our native species. Guiding principles for Washington's strategy include conserving species and habitats of greatest conservation need, recognizing the need to keep common species common, and building and strengthening conservation partnerships with other agencies, tribes, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations.

In developing the plan, WDFW will make use of information from past and ongoing inventory and planning efforts, including the Ecoregional Conservation Assessments and Subbasin Plans. This strategy will help guide WDFW programs over the next ten years. Broad agency and stakeholder involvement will help ensure our strategy is useful for organizations and local governments involved in wildlife conservation planning. The Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy can be used to guide habitat acquisition and restoration, influence management of public lands, assist counties in land use planning, and guide priorities for grant programs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WDFW is applying the following guiding principles to the CWCS for Washington:

- Address the conservation of species and habitats of greatest conservation need, while recognizing the importance of keeping common species common.
- Promote the long-term conservation of Washington's biodiversity; coordinate development of the CWCS with the Washington Biodiversity Council.
- Build the Washington CWCS from a large body of existing work, including eight ongoing ecoregional assessments.
- Strengthen conservation partnerships with other conservation agencies, local governments, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.
- Link CWCS to the goals of WDFW's Strategic Plan.
- Create a document that can be readily used by a wide range of Washington residents.
- Use the CWCS to draw attention to important wildlife conservation issues.



Brown Pelican

USFWS Image Library

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CWCS

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CWCS AND LOCAL PLANNING

Local opportunities for conservation are increasing through growth management planning, conservation futures, and open space property tax incentive programs administered by jurisdictions throughout Washington. Local conservation districts, land trusts, and watershed councils that assist landowners also enhance opportunities to influence local conservation planning. Washington's Wildlife Conservation Strategy will help counties and local communities understand how their fish and wildlife resources contribute to our state's biodiversity.

Information in the CWCS is organized by ecoregion. Washington has nine ecoregions that extend into surrounding states and provinces. Some counties are completely within one ecoregion, while others may contain portions of two or more. Ecoregional assessments are being completed to prioritize landscapes across entire ecoregions according to their value and suitability for conservation. The department has drawn upon ecoregional assessments to identify and categorize species and habitats of greatest need for Washington's Conservation Strategy.

This regional perspective should help counties better understand their role in conserving our state's fish and wildlife. The CWCS provides the biological justification and context for citizens and agencies to cooperate and invest limited resources to conserve critical habitats and species.

For more information on the CWCS, please contact Chris Sato at (360) 902-2493, or go to Washington's CWCS website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/cwcs/>.

BIODIVERSITY NOW

Protecting Pierce County's Biodiversity Through Open Space Planning

By Katherine Brooks, Pierce Co. Planning and Land Services, and Michelle Tirhi, Wildlife Program

The Washington Growth Management Act requires every county to address open space in their comprehensive plans. Pierce County knows this very well as this was one of the few issues appealed to the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board when the county adopted its comprehensive plan in 1995. The county lost that appeal and the Hearings Board remanded the plan to revise the open space component.

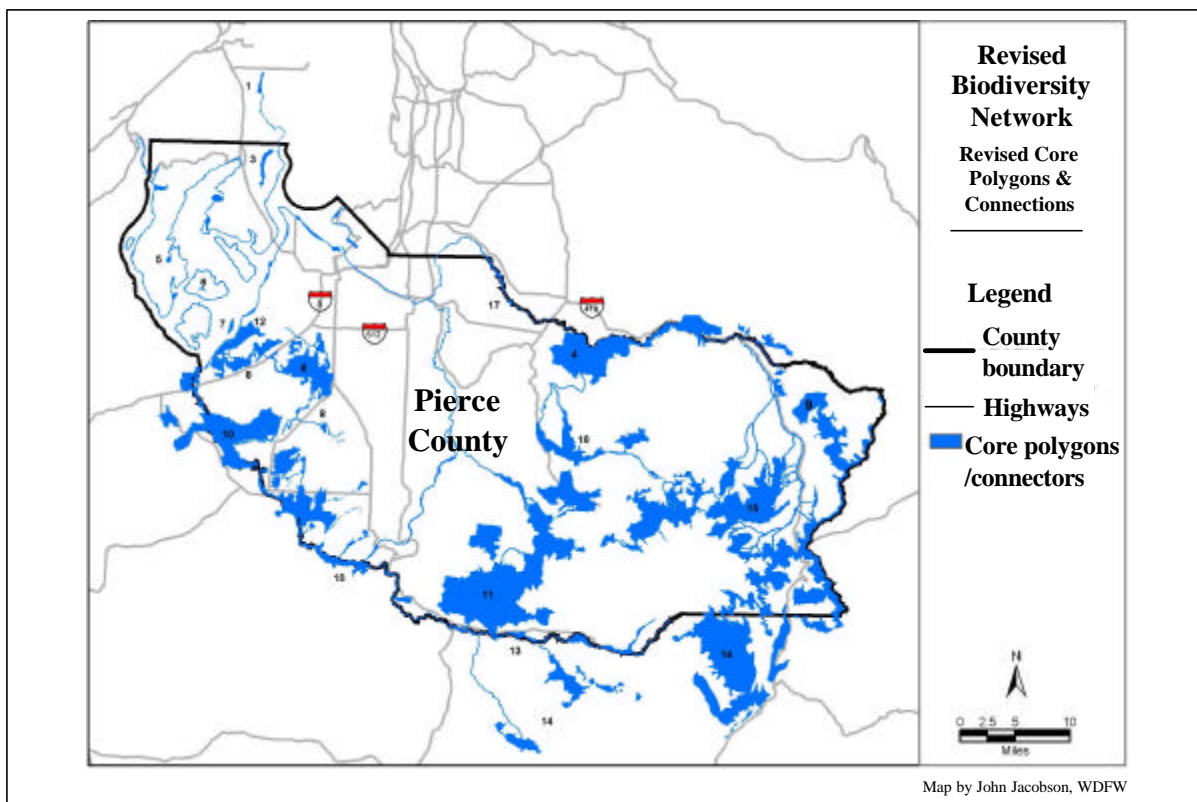
During this process, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the University of Washington (UW) asked the county to include lands containing the greatest fish and wildlife biological diversity, or "biodiversity," as open space. Pierce County embraced this philosophy and, along with several key partners, embarked on a multi-year process to develop a countywide biodiversity plan. The county subsequently conducted a finer-level assessment. The main stakeholders in this process were WDFW, UW (Urban Planning Department and Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit – NatureMapping Program), Tahoma Audubon, and Metro Parks – Tacoma. The planning method used to identify biodiversity areas was "gap analysis."

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“Gap analysis” uses the mapping technologies of satellite imagery and Geographical Information Systems to create a vegetation map. From that, wildlife distributions are mapped and areas of high biodiversity are identified. The map is refined or “ground-truthed” with all known plant and wildlife occurrences from WDFW’s Priority Habitats and Species and Streamnet databases, the Department of Natural Resources’ Heritage and Sensitive Plant databases, county natural resource inventories, and local expert opinion. Core habitat areas were connected by corridors, which are often located along waterways. The resulting coverage was the Biodiversity Network.



The Biodiversity Network has been considered in community planning processes in Pierce County. In one community plan, the network was the basis for the creation of a Residential [sensitive] Resource land use designation (which allow reduced densities inside urban growth areas) and the establishment of habitat conservation based design standards (e.g., low impact development techniques, minimum native vegetation retention).

By applying the Biodiversity Network in various planning processes, the county is putting emphasis on proactive conservation of multiple species, rather than on reactive restoration of individual threatened or endangered species. This approach helps guide county planners in directing more intense development away from known biodiverse lands, and it can also guide private and public land conservation purchases and easements.

For additional information about Pierce County’s Biodiversity Network, please contact Katherine Brooks at kbrooks@co.pierce.wa.us.

Aquatic Habitat Guidelines

By Ken Corwin, Habitat Program

The Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program (AHG) is pleased to announce the completion of the *2004 Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines* (SHRG). These guidelines are an important contribution to the management of Washington's stream corridors for protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. The SHRG is designed to consider planning, design, and ecological functions for natural stream habitat restoration. It includes methods for restoring the natural supply of sediment, water, and wood to streams; water quality; habitat connectivity; and habitat diversity. Issues addressed in the guidelines include channel configuration, riparian function, hyperheic function, and floodplain connectivity. Channel design parameters are addressed, including specific habitats (spawning, rearing, holding, riparian, etc.), habitat forming structures, and off-channel habitats.



The Aquatic Habitat Guidelines series is being developed to address marine and freshwater habitat protection and restoration through the consistent application of good science for design, construction, and operation of projects affecting aquatic systems.

This series will provide guidance to lead entities, enhancement groups, local and state agencies, tribal governments, developers, planners, design engineers, landowners, and others. The guidelines are being prepared through the cooperation of the Washington State departments of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), Transportation, and Ecology, with grants provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Participation in the project has also expanded with the addition of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Kay Caromile, an Environmental Engineer at WDFW, was the primary author of this multi-agency effort.

Printed copies of *Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines* are not yet available. However, each chapter can be downloaded at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/shrg/index.htm>. Funding for training is currently being pursued.

For additional information on the AHG, visit our web site at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/>. Our web site is updated periodically with current information on other guidelines:

- *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines – a companion to SHRG*
- *Design of Road Culverts for Fish Passage*
- *Fish Protection Screen Guidelines for Washington State*
- *Fishway Guidelines for Washington State*

Questions regarding the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines can be directed to Ken Corwin at (360) 902-2590 or by email at corwikwc@dfw.wa.gov.

WDFW Introduces New Addition to PHS Management Series

By Jeff Azerrad, Wildlife Program

A series of management recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species have been available to the public since 1991. This series is used by many planners to inform important land use decisions that affect Washington's native species and habitats.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has been aware of some potential limitations of our management recommendations, and a comprehensive survey and evaluation of their usefulness to local planners was initiated in 2004. The survey targeted planners and consultants who work for local jurisdictions throughout Washington. Survey respondents told us that information contained in the management recommendations should be boiled down to the most pertinent facts necessary for planning. Planners also stated that our recommendations may be difficult to apply to smaller projects (e.g., individual residences and subdivisions).

In response to these survey results, WDFW has begun the development of companion publications to simplify the use of our management recommendations. These new publications are called Single Pagers, and they are essentially an abbreviated version of the multi-page management recommendations that have been available for several years. The Single Pager will:

- condense the multi-page management recommendations down to specific information that is of primary interest to local planners,
- present certain recommendations so readers can more easily see how they apply at different scales (e.g., subdivision, sub-area, county-wide) when feasible.

The first series of Single Pagers are taken directly from species accounts in the *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds*. Over the next year, WDFW will be seeking feedback from planners on the Single Pagers. If planners find them useful, WDFW will develop similar publications that concisely address the management and conservation of other priority species and habitats.

Questions and suggestions about Single Pagers can be directed to Jeff Azerrad at azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov.

Statewide Educational Opportunities

March Events

- **Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference** – Topics include stormwater impacts, coastal and watershed planning, impacts of urbanization, and smart growth and low impact development; March 29-31 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center; details available at <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/psgb/save.html>.

April Events

- **Pesticides and Fish and Wildlife Resources** – April 18-22 at Fort Worden State Park Conference Center, Port Townsend, WA; \$850 tuition; Contact Karene Motivans at 304.876.7458 for additional information.
- **What Makes it Green, Sustainability: a collaborative process** – The American Institute of Architects, Seattle Chapter, presents an event on April 28-29 to investigate collaborative efforts of sustainable design and the advancements of sustainable building techniques. Details are available at <http://www.aiaseattle.org/wmig2005/>.
- **Empowered by Planning** – Topics include a training session on Shoreline Master Program updates, a session on WDFW's Coordinated Wildlife Conservation Planning effort, property takings, and CAO updates; held in Spokane at the Ridpath Hotel on April 28-29; \$150 registration fee; contact the Planning Association of Washington for details.

** If you want us to post your workshop, conference, or short-course dealing with fish and wildlife topics in this newsletter, please forward all relevant details to Jeff Azerrad at azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov.

Agency Planning Contacts

Growth Management Issues

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North-central Washington – Chris Parsons, 509.754.4624 Ext. 12, (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington – Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin)

Southwest Washington – Carl Dugger, 360.906.6729, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat)

Puget Sound – Daniel Penttila, 360.466.4345 x242, (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Island, San Juan)

Olympic Peninsula – Jeff Davis, 360.895.3965, (Kitsap, Jefferson) Chris Byrnes, 360.895.6123, (Clallam); Gloria Rogers, 360.249.4628, (Mason); Noelle Nordstrom, 360.902.2412, (Grays Harbor, Pacific); Debbie Carnevali, 360.264.5148, (Thurston); Don Nauer, 253.863.7979 (Pierce)

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