APPENDIX 4: CWCS OUTREACH PLAN

Communications will be continual and outreach will be opportunistic throughout the project, but there are three primary phases or points of contact with agencies, NGOs and the public which are being built in to the CWCS planning process.

1. **Initial Outreach:** Informs our various internal and external publics of the overall SWG program, including the EAs and CWCS project, and how our partners and the public can be involved in the development of the CWCS. Started with a briefing for the EMT and Fish and Wildlife Commission in December 2003 and continues with presentations to groups and various other outreach opportunities. Includes:

    - Development of a dynamic PowerPoint, CWCS outline and timeline (2003).
    - Development of a CWCS website and two full-color brochures, one for the CWCS and one for the overall SWG program (February 2004).
    - Creation of, and regular meetings with, an internal steering committee and external advisory committees (see attached CWCS committee lists).
    - Presentations to the various WDFW standing advisory committees, including the Game Advisory Council (12/13/03), Lands Advisory Council (3/27/04), and the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council (4/24/04). These standing councils include representatives from many statewide conservation groups and they will hopefully serve as a venue to get the word out/back to these groups.
    - Presentation on EAs and CWCS process at the midwinter Wildlife Diversity Workshop
    - Presentations to Audubon Washington, The Nature Conservancy, WWRC, NW Land Trust Alliance and other wildlife conservation organizations, as opportunities arise.
    - Briefings/meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service and other federal agencies at their request (Spring 2004).
    - Briefings/meetings with the Washington State Assn of Counties, Washington Forest Protection Assn, and key agricultural contacts.
    - A briefing for key Congressional staff as part of March 2004 trip to Washington DC.
    - Coordination meetings with Yakama Indian Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, and other tribes that manage large tracts of wildlife habitat, as well as smaller tribes. Work closely with Tribal Liaison Dick Stone and with WDFW Regional Directors on tribal outreach efforts.
    - A “heads up” letter from Director Koenings to all WDFW employees (May, 2004).
    - An article in the WDFW employees’ newsletter (Fall 2004).
    - Development of a CWCS link on the WDFW website (April 2004).
    - Meeting with Assistant Directors and Regional Directors on April 29 in Hyak to review CWCS process relative to Ecoregional Assessments, Subbasin Planning, Shared Salmon Strategy and other ongoing planning processes.

2. **Draft Strategy Review:** A second round of coordination and public involvement when we have a draft CWCS to review. A partial review of some components of the strategy such as species and habitat lists will also be done as we go along, by internal and external steering and advisory committees. Review will include:

    - Briefings for EMT, Regional Directors and Fish and Wildlife Commission.

- Follow-up meetings with many of the same groups and agencies as in the initial outreach phase, as well as agriculture and other groups not contacted in the initial outreach phase.
- A WDFW press release to outdoor media (June 1, 2005).
- A round of regional informational meetings to review the draft CWCS with regional stakeholders; work closely with the Regional Directors in setting up these meetings (June, 2005).
- Briefings for Governor's staff and key legislators.

3. **Post-submittal Outreach and Publicity:** Once the CWCS is submitted to and accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WDFW should develop an 8 to 12-page Executive Summary and entertain a third round of outreach to the outdoor media and our various publics. The focus would be on the final CWCS and how it lays out the future course of wildlife conservation in Washington. This third round of outreach would have a number of advantages: it would let our various publics see how we used their input on the draft plan (if we did); it would give us another shot at people we missed with the draft strategy; it would give the outdoor media something shorter and more polished-looking (Executive Summary) to feature in stories; and it puts the final plan in the hands of people who can help address the resource problems identified in the strategy.

Other outreach and coordination efforts:

4. **Technical Development and Review:** Development of our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list and associated habitats, as well as statewide and ecoregional conservation strategies. Includes:

    - Participation in the WDFW's Ecoregional Assessment (EA) oversight committee to ensure close coordination with the EA products and the CWCS; close coordination with the EA and county planning elements of the overall SWG program.
    - Convening of ad-hoc species and habitat review committees consisting of wildlife taxa experts from WDFW, WDNR and groups such as Audubon Washington. Follow-up meetings with Harriet Allen and her staff to refine the SGCN matrix.
    - Meetings with Paul Ashley (Region 1) and David Johnson to develop ways to incorporate the subbasin planning and WHROW processes into the CWCS.

5. **National and Regional Coordination:** The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have initiated national and regional coordination efforts. These efforts have direct benefits for all concerned and we will participate in both national and regional coordination efforts. Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and other national conservation groups will also participate in these efforts. Director Koenings will represent WAFWA on the National Advisory and Acceptance Team (NAAT) for the CWCS.

    - National coordination meetings with IAFWA, FWS, OWP and other state wildlife agencies. Includes meetings in Burnet, Texas, Washington, DC (March 2004), Spokane (April 2004), and Nebraska City, (August 2004).
    - Monthly coordination conference calls with FWS Region 1 and state conservation strategy coordinators in Region 1 states (February 2004).
    - Bimonthly meetings in the Vancouver/Portland area with FWS, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and conservation strategy coordinators from Idaho and Oregon.

APPENDIX 5: MAJOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

Audubon Washington
Defenders of Wildlife
Cascade Land Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Indian Tribes

- Chehalis Confederated Tribe
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hoh Indian Tribe
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Kalispel Indian Community
- Lower Elwha Klallam Indian Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Makah Indian Tribe
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Quileute Indian Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Samish Tribe
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Skokomish Tribe
- Spokane Tribe
- Squaxin Island Indian Tribe
- Stillaguamish Indian Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tulalip Tribes
- Upper Skagit Tribe
- Yakama Nation

Intermountain West Joint Venture
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
National Park Service
National Resources Conservation Service
Northwest Habitat Institute
Northwest Land Trusts
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Partners in Flight
People for Puget Sound
Puget Sound Action Team
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
The Nature Conservancy of Washington
The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

USDA Forest Service
- Colville National Forest
- Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Okanogan National Forest
- Olympic National Forest
- Umatilla National Forest
- Wenatchee National Forest

U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Army (Yakima Training Center)
- U.S. Navy (Puget Sound bases)
- U.S. Air Force (McChord and Fairchild AFBs)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Columbia National Wildlife Refuge
- Conboy National Wildlife Refuge
- Copalis National Wildlife Refuge
- Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
- Flattery Rocks National Wildlife Refuge
- Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge
- Hanford Reservation
- Julia B. Hansen National Wildlife Refuge
- Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
- McNary National Wildlife Refuge
- Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Pierce National Wildlife Refuge
- Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge
- Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
- Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge
- San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge
- Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
- Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

Washington Conservation Districts
Washington Department of Agriculture
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Natural Heritage Program
- Natural Areas Program

Washington Department of Transportation
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Washington Sea Grant

Washington State Association of Counties

- Adams County
- Asotin County
- Benton County
- Chelan County
- Clallam County
- Clark County
- Columbia County
- Cowlitz County
- Douglas County
- Ferry County
- Franklin County
- Garfield County
- Grant County
- Grays Harbor County
- Island County
- Jefferson County
- King County
- Kitsap County
- Kittitas County
- Klickitat County
- Lewis County
- Lincoln County
- Mason County
- Okanogan County
- Pacific County
- Pend Oreille County
- Pierce County
- San Juan County
- Skagit County
- Skamania County
- Snohomish County
- Spokane County
- Stevens County
- Thurston County
- Wahkiakum County
- Walla Walla County
- Whatcom County
- Whitman County
- Yakima County

Washington State Conservation Commission
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington Water Resources Association
Yakima County
Yakima Salmon Recovery Board

Washington Priority Habitats and Species List

The Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) List is a catalog of those species and habitat types identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as priorities for management and preservation. Because information on fish, wildlife, and their habitats is dynamic, the PHS List is updated periodically.

The PHS List is a catalog of habitats and species considered to be priorities for conservation and management. Priority species require protective measures for their perpetuation due to their population status, sensitivity to habitat alteration, and/or recreational, commercial, or tribal importance. Priority species include State Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, and Candidate species; animal aggregations considered vulnerable; and those species of recreational, commercial, or tribal importance that are vulnerable. Priority habitats are those habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. A Priority habitat may consist of a unique vegetation type or dominant plant species, a described successional stage, or a specific structural element.

There are 18 habitat types, 140 vertebrate species, 28 invertebrate species, and 14 species groups currently on the PHS List. These constitute about 16 percent of Washington's approximately 1,000 vertebrate species and a fraction of the state's invertebrate fauna. Mapping of priority habitats and species was initiated in 1990 and includes about two-thirds of Washington's 43 million acres. The remaining third generally involves federal and tribal lands. Mapping consists of recording locational and descriptive data in a Geographic Information System (GIS). These GIS databases represent WDFW's best knowledge of fish and wildlife resources and occurrences. It is important to note, however, that priority species or priority habitats may occur in areas not currently known to WDFW biologists or in areas for which comprehensive surveys have not been conducted. Site-specific surveys may be necessary to rule out the presence of priority habitats or species on individual sites.

Included in the PHS system of databases are WDFW's PHS Points and Polygon Databases, StreamNet, and the Wildlife Heritage Database. Other information sources include the Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Lands Division database on kelp beds and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's information on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI).

Questions and requests for additional PHS information may be directed to:

Priority Habitats and Species
WDFW Habitat Program
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia WA 98501-1091

Internet Access:
The PHS internet home page can be accessed via the World Wide Web at:
www.wa.gov/wdfw/hab/phspage.htm

Washington Natural Heritage Program

The Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) was established by the State Legislature and placed within the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in 1982. The main objectives of establishing the program were 1) to develop and maintain an objective classification of the state's species and ecosystems, 2) to develop an inventory of the locations of priority species and ecosystems, 3) to use the information to help guide the development of a statewide system of natural areas, and 4) to share the information with agencies, organizations and individuals for environmental assessment and land management purposes.

Since its establishment, the WNHP has been gathering information on rare species and both rare and common ecosystems. The WNHP maintains the primary statewide information system on rare plant species, managing information on more than 350 species of rare plants and more than 5,000 locations of those species statewide. The WNHP also has information and expertise on select groups of rare animal species. The WNHP zoologists work cooperatively with WDFW zoologists on individual projects and on setting species priorities. The WNHP's vegetation ecologists are responsible for the development and maintenance of the statewide ecosystems classification used in ecoregional assessments and other conservation planning purposes.

The Washington Natural Heritage Information System is a major source of information for individuals, agencies and organizations engaged in land use planning and decision making. During the recently concluded biennium (2003-2005), the WNHP provided information to more than 1,000 private companies, local governments, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and educational institutions.

The WNHP is a member of a network of similar programs throughout the western hemisphere. The network, NatureServe, has member programs in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, and several Latin American and Caribbean nations. All programs use the same basic methodology and data management tools to assess rarity and for setting conservation priorities. This allows for improved sharing of information and consistency of conservation efforts across political boundaries.

Questions and requests for additional information regarding WNHP can be directed to:

Washington Natural Heritage Program
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014
(360) 902-1661 or (360) 902-1667

The WNHP home page can be accessed via the Internet at:
http://www.dnr.wa.gov/inhp/index.html

Additional information about NatureServe is available via the Internet at:
http://www.natureserve.org

Interactive Biodiversity Information System

IBIS is an informational resource developed by the Northwest Habitat Institute (NHI) to promote the conservation of Northwest fish, wildlife, and their habitats through education and the distribution of timely, peer-reviewed scientific data.

IBIS contains extensive information about Pacific Northwest fish, wildlife, and their habitats, but more noteworthy, IBIS attempts to reveal and analyze the relationships among these species and their habitats. NHI hopes to make the IBIS web site a place where students, scientists, resource managers or any other interested user can discover and analyze these relationships without having to purchase special software (such as geographic information systems) or hassle with the integration of disparate data sets. IBIS will, however, provide downloadable data for users who desire to perform more advanced analyses or to integrate their own data sets with IBIS data. Finally, NHI sees IBIS as not only a fish, wildlife, and habitat information distribution system but also as a peer-review system for species data. We acknowledge that in a system as extensive as IBIS, there are going to be errors as well as disagreement among scientists regarding the attributes of species and their relationships. NHI encourages IBIS users to provide feedback so we may correct errors and discuss discrepancies.

The IBIS web site is in the early stages of development; however, NHI staff, with the support of many project partners, has been developing the data for over five years. The IBIS database was initially developed by NHI for Oregon and Washington during the Wildlife-Habitat Types in Oregon and Washington project. IBIS data is currently being refined and extended to include all of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the Columbia River Basin portions of Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. IBIS will eventually include species range maps, wildlife-habitat maps, extensive species-habitat data queries, and interactive wildlife-habitat mapping applications allowing dynamic spatial queries for the entire Pacific Northwest as previously defined.

Internet Access:

The IBIS Internet Home Page can be accessed via the World Wide Web at:
http://www.nwhi.org/ibis/home/ibis.asp

Questions about IBIS may be directed to:
The Northwest Habitat Institute
P.O. Box 855
Corvallis, OR 97339
Phone:(541)753-2199
Fax:(541)753-2440
habitat@nwhi.org

Washington GAP Analysis Program

The Washington GAP Analysis Program (GAP) is a nation-wide program currently administered by the Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey (BRD-USGS; formerly the National Biological Service [NBS]). The overall goal of GAP Analysis is to identify elements of biodiversity that lack adequate representation in the nation's network of reserves (i.e., areas managed primarily for the protection of biodiversity). GAP Analysis is a coarse-filter approach to biodiversity protection. It provides an overview of the distribution and conservation status of several components of biodiversity, with particular emphasis on vegetation and terrestrial vertebrates. Digital map overlays in a Geographic Information System (GIS) are used to identify vegetation types, individual species, and species-rich areas that are unrepresented or underrepresented in existing biodiversity management areas. GAP Analysis functions as a preliminary step to more detailed studies needed to establish actual boundaries for potential additions to the existing network of reserves.

The primary filter in GAP Analysis is vegetation type (defined by the Washington GAP Analysis Project as the composite of actual vegetation, vegetation zone, and ecoregion). Vegetation types are mapped and their conservation status evaluated based on representation on biodiversity management areas, conversion to human-dominated landscapes, and spatial context. Vegetation is used as the primary filter in GAP Analysis because vegetation patterns are determinants of overall biodiversity patterns (Levin 1981, Noss 1990, Franklin 1993). It is impractical to map the distributions of all plants and animals, but GAP Analysis makes the assumption that if all vegetation types are adequately represented in biodiversity management areas, then most plant and animal species will also be adequately represented. The second major GAP Analysis filter is composed of information on the distribution of individual species. This filter can be used to identify individual species that lack adequate protection and, when individual species maps are overlaid, areas of high species richness. In most states, including Washington, vertebrates are the only taxa mapped because there is relatively little information available for other taxa, and because vertebrates currently command the most attention in conservation issues.

The following are general limitations of GAP Analysis; specific limitations for particular datasets are described in the appropriate sections:

GAP Analysis data are derived from remote sensing and modeling to make general assessments about conservation status. Any decisions based on the data must be supported by ground-truthing and more detailed analyses.

GAP Analysis is not a substitute for the listing of threatened and endangered species and associated recovery efforts. A primary argument in favor of GAP Analysis is that it is proactive in recognizing areas of high biodiversity value for the long-term maintenance of populations of native species and natural ecosystems before individual species and plant communities become threatened with extinction. A goal of GAP Analysis is to reduce the rate at which species require listing as threatened or endangered.

The static nature of the GAP Analysis data limits their utility in conservation risk assessment. Our database provides a snapshot of a region in which land cover and land ownership are dynamic and where trend data would be especially useful.

GAP Analysis is not a substitute for a thorough national biological inventory. As a response to rapid habitat loss, GAP Analysis is intended to provide a quick assessment of the distribution of vegetation and associated species before they are lost and to provide focus and direction for local, regional, and national efforts to maintain biodiversity. The process of

improving knowledge in systematics, ecology, and distribution of species is lengthy and expensive. That process must be continued and expedited in order to provide the detailed information needed for a comprehensive assessment of the nation's biodiversity.
GAP Analysis is a coarse-filter approach. The network of Conservation Data Centers (CDC) and Natural Heritage Programs established cooperatively by The Nature Conservancy and various state agencies maintain detailed databases on the locations of rare elements of biodiversity. Conservation of such elements is best accomplished through the fine-filter approach of the above organizations. It is not the role of GAP to duplicate or disseminate Natural Heritage Program or CDC Element Occurrence Records. Users interested in more specific information about the location, status, and ecology of populations of such species are directed to their state Natural Heritage Program or CDC.

Internet Access:
The Washington GAP Analysis Internet Home Page can be accessed via the World Wide Web at: http://www.fish.washington.edu/naturemapping/waGAP/public_html/index.html

Questions about the Washington GAP Analysis Project may be directed to:
Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
University of Washington Box 355020
Seattle, WA 98195-5020
(206)543-6475

Partners in Flight

Partners in Flight was launched in 1990 in response to growing concerns about declines in the populations of many land bird species, and in order to emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives. The initial focus was on Neotropical migrants, species that breed in the Nearctic (North America) and winter in the Neotropics (Central and South America), but the focus has spread to include most landbirds and other species requiring terrestrial habitats. The central premise of Partners in Flight (PIF) has been that the resources of public and private organizations in North and South America must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to achieve success in conserving bird populations in this hemisphere. Partners in Flight is a cooperative effort involving partnerships among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. All Partners in Flight meetings at all levels are open to anyone interested in bird conservation.

Partners in Flight's goal is to focus resources on the improvement of monitoring and inventory, research, management, and education programs involving birds and their habitats. The PIF strategy is to stimulate cooperative public and private sector efforts in North America and the Neotropics to meet these goals.

Bird Conservation Planning Information

One of the primary activities being conducted by Partners in Flight - U.S. is the development of bird conservation plans for the entire continental United States.

The Flight Plan

The guiding principles for PIF bird conservation planning can be found in the Partners in Flight
bird conservation strategy, The Flight Plan. It is composed of four parts:
(1) setting priorities
(2) establishing objectives
(3) conservation action
(4) evaluation.

Physiographic Areas

The spatial unit chosen by Partners in Flight for planning purposes is the physiographic area. There are 58 physiographic areas wholly or partially contained within the contiguous United States and several others wholly or partially in Alaska. Partners in Flight bird conservation plans in the West use state boundaries as their first sorting unit for planning, with each plan internally arranged by physiographic area or habitat type.

Integrated Bird Conservation

A common spatial language can greatly enhance the potential for communication among conservation initiatives. Under the auspices of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), Partners in Flight worked with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Unites States Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, as well as with counterparts in Mexico and Canada, to develop a standard map of planning regions to be shared by all initiatives. These Bird Conservation Regions are intended to serve as planning, implementation, and evaluation units for integrated bird conservation for the entire continent. Future revisions of PIF Bird Conservation Plans will begin to utilize Bird Conservation Regions as the planning units, facilitating integration with planning efforts of the other initiatives.

Species Assessment

An important component in The PIF Flight Plan is the identification of priority species. PIF recognized that existing means of setting conservation priorities did not capture the complexities and needs of birds. The PIF Species Assessment process uses the best of traditional methods modified by our knowledge of bird biology to create a scientifically credible means of prioritizing birds and their habitat. It is a dynamic method that uses several criteria to rank a species' vulnerability. Numerical scores are given for each criterion, with higher scores reflecting higher vulnerability. The most vulnerable species are those with declining population trends, limited geographic ranges, and/or deteriorating habitats.

PIF Watch List

The Partners in Flight Watch List was developed using the Species Assessment to highlight those birds of the continental United States, not already listed under the Endangered Species Act, that most warrant conservation attention. There is no single reason why all of these birds are on the list. Some are relatively common but undergoing steep population declines; others are rare but actually increasing in numbers. The Watch List is not intended to drive local conservation agendas, which should be based on priorities identified within each physiographic area.

Species Account Resources

Species accounts that synthesize scientific literature on the life histories and effects of management practices on particular bird species are available from a variety of sources.

Bird Conservation Plans Summary Document

The development of Bird Conservation Plans is a complicated process. More detailed information about the PIF Bird Conservation Planning Process and PIF Bird Conservation Plans is provided in the recent PIF publication - Partners in Flight: Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States.

Internet Access:

The Partners in Flight Internet Home Page can be accessed via the World Wide Web at: http://www.partnersinflight.org/

National Wetland Inventory

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces information on the characteristics, extent, and status of the Nation's wetlands and deepwater habitats. The National Wetlands Inventory Center information is used by Federal, State, and local agencies, academic institutions, U.S. Congress, and the private sector. The NWIC has mapped 90 percent of the lower 48 states, and 34 percent of Alaska. About 44 percent of the lower 48 states and 13 percent of Alaska are digitized. Congressional mandates require the NWIC to produce status and trends reports to Congress at ten-year intervals. In addition to status and trends reports, the NWIC has produced over 130 publications, including manuals, plant and hydric soils lists, field guides, posters, wall size resource maps, atlases, state reports, and numerous articles published in professional journals.

The NWI National Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, includes a state-of-the-art computer operation which is responsible for constructing the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Digitized wetlands data can be integrated with other layers of the NSDI such as natural resources and cultural and physical features, leading to production of selected color and customized maps of the information from wetland maps, and the transfer of digital data to users and researchers world-wide. Dozens of organizations, including Federal, State, county agencies, and private sector organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, have supported conversion of wetland maps into digital data for computer use. Statewide databases have been built for 9 States and initiated in 5 other States. Digitized wetland data are also available for portions of 37 other States. Once a digital database is constructed, users can obtain the data at no cost over the Internet, or through the U.S. Geological Survey for the cost of reproduction.

NWI maintains a MAPS database of metadata containing production information, history, and availability of all maps and digital wetlands data produced by NWI. This database is available over the Internet.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act requires that NWI archive and disseminate wetlands maps and digitized data as it becomes available. The process prescribed by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16, "Coordination of Surveying, Mapping, and Related Spatial Data", provides an avenue for increased NWI coordination activities with other Federal agencies to reduce waste in government programs. As chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Wetlands Subcommittee, the NWI Project Leader is responsible for promoting the development, sharing, and dissemination of wetlands related spatial data. The Secretary of the Interior chairs the Federal Geographic Data Committee. NWI continues to coordinate mapping activities under 36 cooperative agreements or memoranda of understanding. NWI is involved in training and providing technical assistance to the public and other agencies.

NWI maps and digital data are distributed widely throughout the country and the world. NWI has distributed over 1.7 million maps nationally since they were first introduced. Map distribution is accomplished through Cooperator-Run Distribution centers.

Users of NWI maps and digital data are as varied as are the uses. Maps are used by all levels of government, academia, Congress, private consultants, land developers, and conservation organizations. The public makes extensive use of NWI maps in a myriad of applications including planning for watershed and drinking water supply protection; siting of transportation corridors; construction of solid waste facilities; and siting of schools and other municipal buildings. Resource managers in the Service and the States are provided with maps which are essential for effective habitat management and acquisition of

important wetland areas needed to perpetuate migratory bird populations as called for in the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Management Plan; for fisheries restoration; floodplain planning; and endangered species recovery plans. Agencies from the Department of Agriculture use the maps as a major tool in the identification of wetlands for the administration of the Swampbuster provisions of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills. Regulatory agencies use the maps to help in advanced wetland identification procedures, and to determine wetland values and mitigation requirements. Private sector planners use the maps to determine location and nature of wetlands to aid in framing alternative plans to meet regulatory requirements. The maps are instrumental in preventing problems from developing and in providing facts that allow sound business decisions to be made quickly, accurately, and efficiently. Good planning protects the habitat value of wetlands for wildlife, preserves water quality, provides flood protection, and enhances ground water recharge, among many other wetland values.

Additional sources of data are maintained by the Service to complement the information available from the maps themselves. The Service maintains a National List of Vascular Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands. This list is referenced in the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, and in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's procedures to identify wetlands for the Swampbuster provision of the Farm Bill. The recent report on wetlands by the National Academy of Sciences found the National List to be scientifically sound and recommended that the Service continue development of the list. The Service has developed a protocol to allow other agencies and private individuals to submit additions, deletions, or changes to the list. The National List and Regional Lists are available over the Internet through the NWI Homepage.
NWI digital data have been available over the Internet since 1994. In the first year alone 93,000 data files were distributed through anonymous file transfer protocol (FTP) access to wetland maps digital line graph (DLG) data. To date, over 250,000 electronic copies of wetland maps are in the hands of resource managers and the general public. One-third of the digital wetlands files downloaded off Internet went to government agencies at Federal, State, Regional, and local levels. Other users include commercial enterprises, environmental organizations, universities, and the military. Users from 25 countries from Estonia to New Zealand to Chile obtained NWI maps from the Internet. This excellent partnership provides information to any government, private, or commercial entity that requires assistance to address issues throughout the world.

The National Wetlands Inventory Internet Home Page can be accessed via the World Wide Web at: http://wetlands.fws.gov/

Ecoregional Assessments

Ecoregional Assessments (EAs) are the product of a partnership between TNC and WDFW. Other major contributors to EAs are the natural heritage programs in Washington and Oregon. Ecoregional Assessments also have benefited from the participation of many other scientists and conservation experts as team members and expert reviewers. EAs use an approach developed by TNC (Groves *et al*. 2000; Groves *et al.* 2002; Groves 2003) and other scientists to establish long-term conservation priorities within the natural boundaries of ecoregions. "First iteration' or first edition assessments have been completed for over 45 of the 81 ecoregions in the U.S., and for several others outside the U.S, with the objective of completing assessments throughout the U.S. (and in many parts of Canada and other countries) by 2008. The Nature Conservancy is leading a number of these assessments, while others are led by partner organizations or agencies using the same basic methodology.

Overview of the EA Process

The EA process follows the basic steps described below. An EA may devise innovations where necessary to address specific data limitations or other challenges they confronted.

1. Identify conservation targets – Conservation targets are those elements of biodiversity – plants, animals, plant communities, habitat types, etc. – that are included in the analysis. Targets are selected to represent the full range of biodiversity in the ecoregion and to include any species of special concern.

Robert Jenkins, working for TNC in the 1970s, developed the concept of 'coarse filter' and 'fine filter' conservation targets for use in conservation planning (Jenkins 1996; Noss 1987). This approach hypothesizes that conservation of all communities and ecological systems (coarse filter targets) will also conserve the majority of species that occupy them. This coarse filter strategy is a way to compensate for the lack of detailed information on the vast number of poorly-studied invertebrates and other species.

Fine filter targets are those species or natural communities which can not be assumed to be represented in a conservation plan simply by including the full range of coarse filter targets. Fine filter targets warrant a special effort to ensure they are conserved. These are typically rare or imperiled species or natural community types, but can include wide-ranging species, ecoregional endemic species, species that are ecoregionally disjunct, or keystone species.

2. Assemble information on the target locations and occurrence quality – Data are assembled on target occurrences from a variety of sources. Although existing agency databases make up the bulk of this data set, data gaps are often filled by gathering previously scattered information and consulting specialists for specific target groups.

3. Determine how to represent and rank target occurrences – Decisions are made regarding the best way to describe and map occurrences of each target. Targets may be represented as points for specific locations, such as rare plant population locations, or polygons to show the areal extent of coarse filter targets. In addition, the quality of each occurrence is ranked where possible using the NatureServe element occurrence ranking system (NatureServe and TNC 2000). The data are stored in a Geographical Information System (GIS).

4. Set representation levels for each target – The analytical tool used for ecoregional assessments requires representation levels or "goals" for how many populations or how much habitat area must be conserved to sustain each target over time. These

"goals" are used to drive the next step of the process: selection of a portfolio of conservation areas. In reality, very few targets are sufficiently understood to allow scientists to estimate with a high degree of confidence the number and distribution of occurrences that will be sufficient to ensure survival. It is essential that users of ECAs recognize this limitation. The goals do not correspond to sufficient conditions for long-term survival of species. They do, however, function as analytical tools for assembling an efficient portfolio of conservation areas that captures multiple examples of the ecoregion's biodiversity. These goals also provide a metric for gauging the progress of biodiversity conservation in the ecoregion over time.

There is another more profound reason for not setting conservation goals in a scientific assessment. Conservation goals are a policy choice that should based on societal values. Policy choices are the responsibility of those entrusted to make them: agency directors, stakeholder commissions, county commissioners, the legislature, etc. This assessment was conducted by scientists, not policy makers. Our use of goals is not a policy statement. The "goals" are simply an analytical device for mapping important places for conservation.

5. Rate the suitability of assessment units – An ecoregion is divided into thousands of "assessment units." The assessment units can be based on watersheds, a cadastral system, or a regular rectangular or hexagonal grid. Each of these units is compared to the others using a set of factors related to suitability for conservation. Suitability is roughly equivalent to the likelihood of conservation success. Suitability encompasses surrogates for habitat quality, such as road density or the extent of developed areas, as well as factors likely to influence conservation feasibility, such as proximity to urban areas, the proportion of private lands, or the existence of established conservation areas (Davis *et al*. 1996).

It is important to note that the factors chosen for this "suitability index" strongly influence selection of conservation areas, i.e., a different set of factors can result in a different portfolio. Also, some factors in the suitability index cross into what is traditionally a policy arena. For example, setting the index to favor the selection of existing public over private land presumes a policy of using existing public lands to meet goals wherever possible; thereby minimizing the involvement of private or tribal lands.

6. Assemble a draft portfolio – An EA entails hundreds of different targets existing at thousands of widely distributed locations. The relative biodiversity value and relative conservation suitability of thousands of potential conservation areas must be evaluated. This complexity of information precludes simple inspection by experts to arrive at the most efficient, yet comprehensive, set of conservation areas. Hence, EAs use an optimal site selection algorithm known as SITES. Developed for The Nature Conservancy by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, SITES is computer software that aids scientists in identifying an efficient set of conservation areas. It uses a computational algorithm developed at the University of Adelaide, Australia.

To use SITES, one must input data describing the biodiversity at and the conservation suitability of the thousands of assessment units in the ecoregion. The number of targets, condition of targets, and rarity of targets present at a particular place determines the biodiversity of the unit. Conservation suitability is input as a suitability index (described above) representing a set of weighted factors chosen to represent the relative likelihood of successful conservation at a unit. The relative weighting of each of these factors is determined by the scientists conducting the assessment.

SITES strives to minimize an objective function. It begins by selecting a random set of hexagons, i.e., a random conservation portfolio. Next, SITES iteratively explores

improvements to this random portfolio by randomly adding or removing other units. At each iteration, the new portfolio is compared with the previous portfolio and the better one is accepted. The algorithm uses a method called simulated annealing (Kirkpatrick *et al*. 1983) to reject sub-optimal portfolios, thus greatly increasing the chances of converging on most efficient portfolio. Typically, the algorithm is run for 1 to 2 million iterations.

Keep in mind that SITES is a decision support tool. That is, it cannot generate the ultimate conservation portfolio. Expert review and revision are necessary to compensate for gaps in the input data or other limitations of this automated part of the portfolio development process. 7. Refine the Portfolio Through Expert Review – The assessment teams and additional outside experts review the draft portfolio to correct errors of omission or inclusion by the computer-driven site selection process. These experts also assist the teams with refining individual site boundaries.

Strengths and Limitations of EAs

EAs are a resource for planners and others interested in the status or conservation of the biological diversity of an ecoregion. EAs improve on the informational resources previously available in several ways:

• EAs are conducted at an ecoregional scale. It provides information for decisions and activities that occur at an ecoregional scale: establishing regional priorities for conservation action; coordinating programs for species or habitats that cross state, county, or other political boundaries; judging the regional importance of any particular site in the ecoregion; and measuring progress in protecting the full biodiversity of the ecoregion.

• In order to prepare an EA, diverse data sources are drawn together into a single system. Terrestrial species and habitat information is brought together as an integrated planning resource. Expert input has been gathered, reviewed by other experts, and documented. This database is available for ongoing analyses, continued improvement of the data themselves, and application to other natural resource questions.

• An EA tells us which areas contribute the most to the conservation of existing biodiversity. It provides a baseline to measure conservation progress over time as we continue to improve our understanding of the ecosystems and species we hope to conserve. At the same time, it is important to recognize the limitations of EAs and to understand how they should be utilized. Users should be mindful of the following:

• An EA has no regulatory authority. It is simply a guide for conservation action across the ecoregion. As a guide with no regulatory authority, a portfolio is intrinsically flexible. A portfolio should not constrain decision makers in how they address local land use and conservation issues. Since many types of land use are compatible with biodiversity conservation, the large number and size of conservation areas creates numerous options for local conservation of biodiversity. Ultimately, the management or protection of the conservation priority areas will be based on the policies and values of local governments, organizations, and citizens. Decision makers should use this guide to inform their choices.

• Sites or “priority conservation areas” described in an EA are not intended to be dominated by parks or nature reserves set aside from economic activity. While some areas may require such protection, most can and will accommodate multiple uses as determined by landowners, local communities and appropriate agencies.

• An EA is one of many science-based tools that will assist conservation efforts by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. It cannot

replace, for example, recovery plans for endangered species, or the detailed planning required to design a local conservation project. It does not address the special considerations of salmon or game management, and so, for example, cannot be used to ensure adequate populations for harvest.

• EAs are an ecoregion-scale assessment. Therefore, a conservation portfolio will not include many places that are significant for the conservation of local biodiversity, such as small wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs, and small, high-quality patches of common habitat types. Due the spatial scale of an assessment, some conservation priority areas may include places that are poorly suited for conservation. Also, the boundaries ascribed to sites in a portfolio may not coincide to boundaries drawn with higher resolution data. For this reason, local assessments will be necessary and are encouraged.

• A conservation portfolio should not be used as a guide for siting restoration projects. Priority conservation areas include high-quality habitat that must be maintained as well as lower quality habitat that will require restoration. But they are not the only sites in the ecoregion that merit restoration, whether for rebuilding habitat for imperiled species, increasing salmon or game abundance, improving water quality, or other community objectives.

APPENDIX 11: CWCS COMMITTEES

CWCS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee includes people from other agencies, as well as statewide wildlife organizations. Group are convened on a bimonthly or quarterly basis to review and provide input on the CWCS process. Individuals also represent their agency/organization's general interests with regard to the CWCS.

- Robert Alvarado, USDA Forest Service, Region Six, Portland, OR
- Carole Richmond, Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
- Chris Regan, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Craig Partridge, Washington Department Natural Resources
- Pene Speaks, Washington Department Natural Resources
- Verlyn Ebert, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region One, Portland, OR
- Dan Edwards, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region One, Portland, OR
- David Jennings, Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council
- Doug Myers, Puget Sound Action Team
- Elizabeth Gray, The Nature Conservancy of Washington
- Jane Rubey, Washington Department of Ecology
- John Marzluff, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources
- John Stuhlmiller, Environmental Policy, Washington Farm Bureau
- Karen Dvornich, Manager, Washington GAP Project
- Ken Risenhoover, Wildlife Conservation Director, Port Blakely Tree Farms
- Mark Heckert, Washington Wildlife Federation
- Nina Carter, Executive Director, Audubon Washington
- Paul Wagner, Washington Department of Transportation
- Sara Vickerman, Defenders of Wildlife, West Coast Office, West Linn, OR
- Todd Thompson, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Spokane, WA

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Angela Stringer, The Campbell Group
- Charles F. Lennox, Seattle Audubon Society
- Chris Holland Cedar River Watershed Educational Center
- David Jennings, Black Hills Audubon Society
- Doug Pineo, Washington Department of Ecology
- Dyche Kinder, The Mountaineers
- Frank and June Potter, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
- Helen Engle, National Audubon Society
- John Fleckenstein, Washington Natural Heritage Program
- Kate Stenberg, Sammamish
- Len Steiner, Conservation Committee
- Sally Van Niel, Everett Community College
- Tom Campbell, Peace and Plenty Farm

LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Arvilla Ohlde, Belfair
- Brad Johnson, Washington Wildlife Federation
- Brian Briscoe, Montesano
- Brian Davern, Vancouver
- Burl Booker, Connell
- Dan Kinney, Yakima Valley Audubon
- John Blankenship, Olympia
- John Comes, Bothell
- Marianne Brown, Ferndale
- Neil Kayser, Washington Cattlemen's Association
- Norm McClure, Statewide CRM Task Group
- Paul Ancich, Fircrest
- Phil Mosher, Wenatchee
- Robert Stoll, Spokane
- Steve Bondi, Methow Conservancy
- Tom McCoy, Selah
- Tom Rutten, Seattle
- William White, Easton

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Angela Stringer, The Campbell Group
- B.J. Thorniley, Trappers Association
- Bill Vincent, Disabled Sportsmen of Washington
- Bob Mayton, Aberdeen
- Brad Johnson, Washington Wildlife Federation
- Bruce Johnson, Borderline Bassin' Contenders
- Cliff Barbre, Ephrata
- Dale Sharp, Renton
- Dean Cook, Washington State Archery Association
- E. Reade Brown, Olympia
- Fred Zitterkopf, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
- Gregory Field, Washington State Muzzleloading Association
- H. Martin Keilwitz, Western Washington Wildlife Council
- Jim McGowan, Colville
- Ken Raedeke, Raedeke Associates, Inc.
- Lauren McBroom, Jr., Redmond
- Rick Liebel, Washington State Bowhunters
- Rick Lind, Tonasket
- Roger McKeel, Naches
- Rusty Hunt, Washington Grange
- Sage Lane, Tonasket
- Terry Hunt, Washington Grange
- Tony Wells, Citizens for Washington Wildlife
- Walter Christensen, Washington State Muzzleloading Association

CWCS Internal Steering and Taxa Expert Committees

CWCS In-House Steering Committee

This committee is the core of the Ecoregional Assessment Oversight Committee, with additional WDFW representation. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide a Department-wide sounding board for CWCS, a point of contact for all Department programs, and a mechanism to make sure the CWCS is coordinated with the other elements of the SWG program, as well as other WDFW programs.

- David Ware, Game Division Manager
- Dick Stone, Wildlife Policy Lead
- Elizabeth Rodrick, Land Conservation Section Manager
- Harriet Allen, Endangered Species Program Manager
- Howard Ferguson, Region 1 Biologist
- John Pierce, Wildlife Research Division Manager
- Mark Quinn, Lands Division Manager
- Marnie Tyler, WDFW Monitoring Coordinator
- Mary Lou Mills, Marine Ecosystems Manager
- Rocky Beach, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager
- Steve Penland, Habitat Program Division Manager
- Sue Patnude, Region 6 Regional Director
- Tim Quinn, Habitat Program Division Manager and Chief Scientist
- Tim Waters/Margaret Ainscough, Public Affairs Director

Species Taxa Expert Committee (Ad Hoc)

- Alex Bradbury, WDFW
- Ann Blakley, WDFW
- Ann Potter, WDFW
- Casey Richart, WDFW
- Chris Chappell, WNHP
- Chris Sato, WDFW
- David Hays, WDFW
- Derek Stinson, WDFW
- Don Kraege, WDFW
- Donny Martorello, WDFW
- Gary Wiles, WDFW
- Gerald Hayes, WDFW
- Jeff Azerrad, WDFW
- Jeff Lewis, WDFW
- Jerry Nelson, WDFW
- Jim Ames, WDFW
- Jim LaBonte, ODFW
- Jim Uehara, WDFW
- Joe Buchanan, WDFW
- John Fleckenstein, WNHP
- Kelly McAllister, WDFW
- Lisa Hallock, WNHP
- Marc Hayes, WDFW
- Mary Lou Mills, WDFW
- Mick Cope, WDFW
- Molly Hallock, WDFW

- Rex Crawford, WNHP
- Rocky Beach, WDFW
- Russell Rogers, WDFW
- Steve Jeffries, WDFW
- William Leonard, WSDOT

APPENDIX 15: CWCS OUTREACH RECORD 08/23/05

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
NW CWCS Coordination	Oct 29, 2003	West Linn, OR	Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Holly Michael, ODFW Gail McEwen, ODFW Sara Vickerman, DOW Bruce Taylor, DOW	Initial coordination meeting with Oregon counterparts and the staff from Defenders of Wildlife, at their office in West Linn, Oregon
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting	Dec 3, 2003	Port Townsend, WA	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato Rocky Beach	Briefed Director Koenings and the Commission on the CWCS process; Rocky and Joe gave the PowerPoint presentation developed by Chris
NW CWCS Coordination	Dec 22, 2003		Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Holly Michael, ODFW Verlyn Ebert, FWS	Coordination and information exchange. Process is more important than the plan. Keep things at a strategic level, ecoregional OK. Make sure we address 8 essential elements WA relying heavily on WHROW. Suggested FWS tribal liaison: Scott Aikin, R1.
Game Advisory Council	Dec 13, 2004	North Bend, WA	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed Game Advisory Council on CWCS. Gave the CWCS PowerPoint, asked the Council for their help in developing and reviewing the strategy. Also in attendance were Dave Brittell, Dave Ware and Commissioner Russ Cahill
WA CWCS Coordination with WADNR	Jan 16, 2004	Olympia	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato John Gamon	Initial meeting with John Gamon, Washington Natural Heritage Program Manager
National CWCS Coordination Meeting	Jan 21-24, 04	Canyon of the Eagles State Park, Texas	Joe La Tourrette Rocky Beach	National coordination meeting for CWCS. Diversity managers and CWCS managers were in attendance from 35 states.
Coordination between CWCS and Subbasin plans	Jan 27, 2004	Spokane, WA	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato	Met with Paul Ashley and Shelly (?) to discuss ways to incorporate subbasin planning work into CWCS
WDFW Wildlife Diversity Division Workshop	Feb 2-4, 2004	Leavenworth, WA	WDFW diversity personnel from across the state	Short overview on CWCS and PowerPoint presentation.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
NW CWCS Coordination	Feb 17, 2004	Phone conference	David Bunn, CA Christen Mitchell, HI Rita Dixon, ID Holly Michael, OR Rocky Beach, WDFW Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Sara Vickerman, DW Verlyn Ebert, FWS	Establishment of regularly scheduled conference calls to update each other on plan developments, successes and failures, and coordination between shared ecoregions.
Meeting with Chris Parsons at CTED re CWCS	Feb 18, 2004	Olympia	Joe La Tourrette	Overview of CWCS; requested Chris be on our Advisory Committee
National/NW CWCS Briefings for Congressional contacts in Washington, DC	March 1-4, 04	Washington, DC	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed staff from Washington Congressional Delegation, as well as Senate Interior Appropriations staff on Washington state's approach to CWCS; gave out draft copies of CWCS and SWG brochures developed by WDFW. Had a lunch meeting on May 1 with Naomi Edelson and Dave Chadwick with IAFWA regarding CWCS coordination.
NW CWCS Coordination	Mar 16, 2004	Phone conference	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato Rocky Beach Rita Dixon, ID Gayle Berger, CNMI Sara Vickerman, DW Dana Dolsen, UT Verlyn Ebert, FWS Chris McKay, FWS	ID: Adapted WA PowerPoint; got good interest from state and federal agency leaders. Will use for other working groups. Met with governor's office, got approval to publish revised IAFWA brochure. WA: Jo went to DC. WA on track with timeline, working on committees, species matrix refinement, plan review, BM pilot. Marianas: Just getting started. UT: Using species approach, fine filter. Doing intensive habitat planning for restoration efforts, will use these detailed plans for CWCS approach. DW: How can NGOs help? When to engage, help with business & industry. Possibility of having OWP monitoring workshop in western states in May or June. Verlyn will check on possibilities. Meanwhile, Dana and Holly will critique OWP workshop in Ohio.
Colville Confederated Tribes	March 17, 2004	Spokane, WA	Joe Peone, CCT	Commissioner Pelly was meeting with Colville tribal

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			Lisa Pelly, WA FWL Comm	wildlife managers on wildlife coordination issues. She asked me to join her and brief them on WDFW's project to develop a CWCS, as well as how the tribes could access their own SWG funds
North American Wildlife Conference	March 18, 04	Spokane, WA	Rocky Beach Joe La Tourrette	Represented Washington on Teaming With Wildlife committee meeting at North American Wildlife Conference. Included directors, diversity managers and CWCS managers from other states, as well as IAFWA and NGO staff
CWCS Steering Meeting #1	Mar 23, 04	NRB, Olympia	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato Rocky Beach Elizabeth Rodrick Steve Penland Dick Stone Mick Cope Harriet Allen Mary Lou Mills	CWCS status update, hand out outline, timeline, brochure samples. Discuss steering team's role, review steering team roster. Review advisory committee member list. Review 3rd draft outreach and communications plan.
Lands Management Advisory Council	March 27, 04	Cle Elum, WA	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed Lands Management Advisory Council on CWCS. Gave the CWCS PowerPoint, asked the Council for their help in developing and reviewing the strategy. Also in attendance was Mark Quinn from WDFW
NW CWCS Coordination	Apr 1, 04	Vancouver, WA	Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Chris Sato, WDFW Alan Holt, TNC Chris Robbins, TNC Holly Michael, ODFW Kevin Church, IDFG Bruce Taylor, DW Marcelo Bonte, DW Verlyn Ebert, FWS	Shared information and suggestions between groups. Highlights: DATs for information only. All FWS have been sent letters telling them to cooperate with CWCS. WA outline, OR using similar approach. Focal species concept for ecoregions, WA's Blue Mountains pilot. How interstate EAs will match; heavy reliance on subbasin planning. WA species matrix; OR going public with data collection Remember that CWCS is strategic level.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
				WA outreach will follow plan used for Biodiversity Initiative. Worked well. Advisory teams will provide liaison to outside groups. Message to tribes: help us to help you; tribal grant applications are usually high quality. WA SWG brochure. Everybody wants copy. Salmon: OR is going to overlay StreamNet with terrestrial NHP. OR and WA need to coordinate. ID will roll monitoring into periodic NHP assessments, defaulting to NHP; they use EO records. Monitoring a thorny issue – need to set objectives in order to develop monitoring. ID says NatureServe will develop tools within next 2-3 years for abundance monitoring. NHP can provide standardized qualitative measures of habitat or plant community. Discussion on outreach for farming, hook & bullet groups. Public outreach (inform only) versus public involvement (can you help us, what do you think?)
Wetland Ventures Newsltr	April, 04	PCJV/IWJV	Statewide newsletter – goes to over 15,000 people	Short article on CWCS; contact WDFW (Chris Sato)
CWCS Steering Meeting #2	April 8, 04	NRB, Olympia	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato Margaret Ainscough Rocky Beach Harriet Allen Dick Stone John Pierce Elizabeth Rodrick David Ware Sue Patnude Howard Ferguson Mary Lou Mills	CWCS status update, review updated steering committee roster, review advisory committee member list update. Review revised outreach and communications plan. Review species matrix, discuss possible criteria.
Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council	April 24, 04	Cle Elum, WA	Rocky Beach Joe La Tourrette	Briefed Diversity Council on CWCS. Gave the CWCS PowerPoint, asked the Council for their help in developing and reviewing the strategy.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
NW CWCS Coordination	Apr 26, 04	Phone conference	David Bunn, CA Rita Dixon, ID Holly Michael, OR Dana Dolson, UT Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Sara Vickerman, DW Verlyn Ebert, FWS	Regularly scheduled conference call to update each other on plan developments, successes and failures, and coordination between shared ecoregions. Holly and Dana discussed recent OWP meeting in Ohio.
Meeting with WDFW Regional Directors on CWCS and EA Coordination	Apr 29, 04	Hyak, WA	Rocky Beach Elizabeth Rodrick George Wilhere Erik Sutherlin Chris Sato Joe La Tourrette	Met with six regional directors to discuss regional outreach for CWCS and EAs as well as coordination between CWCS, EAs and other planning efforts such as subbasin plans.
Coordination w/USFWS	May 7, 04	Phone Call	Ken Berg - USFWS	Called and left message re CWCS and Ken serving on our Advisory Committee – no response as of 5/21
National CWCS Coordination	May 11, 04	Conference Call	Rocky Beach Joe La Tourrette	Subject was national summary document and national rollout strategy for CWCS. IAFWA and about six states were represented
Coordination with Puget Sound Management Plan	May 12, 04	Puget Sound Water Quality Action Tm GA Bldg - Olympia	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato Doug Myers, PSWQAT	Met with Doug Myers to discuss coordination between the WPG EA and other plans for habitat conservation in Puget Sound. Doug recommended we tie our efforts to the PS Plan as much as possible
NW CWCS Coordination	May 18, 04	Vancouver, WA	Holly Michael, ODFW Rita Dixon, IDFG Chris Robbins, TNC Marcelo Bonte, DW Verlyn Ebert, FWS	Information exchange and updates. Highlights: Holly brought the workbooks from the OWP monitoring workshop. Some good pointers, I think. She will give us copies. She said the workshop was a good refresher but she was hoping for more

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato	options. ID's final draft of their strategic plan is online. WA had an outreach meeting with their regional directors. We pent a lot of time talking about species selection, habitats. ID is working with PIF on population estimates. Holly brought a bunch of her work plans and left them with WA. WA brought up the NAAT guidelines.
Pacific Coast Joint Venture – Washington State Steering Committee	May 20, 2004	Tacoma, WA	Cross-section of wildlife professionals from state and federal agencies and statewide wildlife groups	Provided an overview of the Washington CWCS process; provided copies of CWCS material to the Steering Committee
CWCS Advisory Committee	May 27, 04	Olympia - NRB	Nina Carter Karen Dvornich Verlyn Ebert Elizabeth Gray David Jennings Dr. John Marzluff Chris Parsons Craig Partridge Chris Regan Carole Richmond Dr. Ken Risenhoover Paul Wagner	First meeting of CWCS Advisory Committee. Gave an overview of CWCS, discussed the role of the advisory committee. Had a spirited discussion of the species list that drives the CWCS. Agreed to meet either bi-monthly or quarterly.
Washington Wildlife Federation Board of Directors	June 2, 04	Issaquah Hatchery	Mark Heckert John McGlenn Ronni McGlenn John Douglas Ken Hilton Bob Johnson Ed Forslof	Gave overview of CWCS, showed PowerPoint. Asked the Board to provide a review of the planning materials. Also asked if they would like to have someone represent WWF on our Advisory Committee; President Mark Heckert volunteered. WWF is developing a website that will showcase the state's habitats and ecoregions; they would like to work with us and make it compatible with the results of the CWCS process
Intermountain West Joint Venture – Washington State Steering Committee	June 10, 2004	Ephrata, WA	Cross-section of wildlife professionals from state and	Provided an overview of the Washington CWCS process; provided copies of CWCS material to the Steering Committee

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			statewide wildlife groups	
Washington Forest Protection Association	June 23, 2004	Olympia, WA	Joe La Tourrette Elizabeth Rodrick Tom Davis George Wilhere Ann Goos (WFPA) Bill Garvin (WFPA)	Elizabeth and George gave an overview of Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin EA, Joe gave brief overview of CWCS; will schedule a longer meeting for July 30, 2004
Washington Forest Protection Association	July 15, 2004	Olympia, WA	Joe La Tourrette Bill Garvin (WFPA)	Follow-up to June 23 meeting, with specific focus on CWCS. Bill Garvin suggested other contacts within the agriculture and business communities.
Office of the Governor	July 20, 2004	Olympia, WA	Joe La Tourrette Bob Nichols	Bob is Senior Environmental Policy Advisor to Governor Gary Locke. Joe briefed him on the CWCS and the relationship to the Washington Biodiversity Council and other on-going processes.
Pacific Environmental Education Institute (PEEI)	July 21, 2004	Olympia, WA	Joe La Tourrette Margaret Tudor Lynn Ferguson Barbara Macgregor Heath Packard	Margaret and Lynn are staffing the new PEEI. Barbara is with WDNR, Heath is with Audubon Washington. The group wanted to find out more about CWCS and how it relates to the Washington Biodiversity Council and PEEI.
CWCS "One Year Out" Conference	Aug 2-4, 2004	Nebraska City, NB	Jeff Koenings Rocky Beach Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato	National conference on CWCS. Forty seven states represented, as well as NGOs and UWFWS people, including Director Steve Williams. Director Koenings represented NAAT and WAFWA. Joe La Tourrette gave a presentation on August 2 about Washington's process.
Tribal Letter Out	Aug 6, 2004		Letter to Washington Indian Tribes from Director Koenings	Invites Tribes to meet with WDFW and coordinate the development of the CWCS
Region Six USDA Forest Service	Aug 19, 2004	Olympia, WA	WDFW: Director Koenings, ADs Dave Brittell, Lew Atkins and Greg Hueckel, Marnie	General "meet and greet" to strengthen working relationship between the agencies. Joe gave a brief overview of the CWCS process, handed out

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			Tyler, Rocky Beach, Joe La Tourrette. FS: Alan Christensen, Grant Gunderson, Sarah Madsen	brochures and 6/page handouts of CWCS PPT. FS personnel pledged to work closer with us on CWCS. Followup calls and tentative discussion of a September 14 meeting in Vancouver. Rob Huff will attend next Advisory Committee meeting on September 23 in Olympia.
Washington Farm Bureau	August 25, 2004	Olympia, WA	WDFW: Tom Davis and Joe La Tourrette. WA Farm Bureau: John Stuhlmiller, Assistant Legislative Director	Tom Davis set up the meeting in NRB with John Stuhlmiller of Farm Bureau, Rebecca McMillen of the WA Grange and Kristen Sawin of Assn of WA Business. Only John showed up for the meeting. Joe gave an overview of CWCS and assured John that CWCS was not oriented to more regulation. John agreed to be on our Advisory Committee. Joe will try to reschedule with Grange and AWB.
Defenders of Wildlife	August 25, 2004	Olympia, WA	Director Koenings, Rocky Beach, Joe LaTourrette. DOW: Sara Vickerman	Meeting to discuss relative role of DOW and other NGOs and IAFWA related to CWCS development and monitoring.
CWCS Advisory Committee	Sept 23, 2004	Olympia – Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge	Nina Carter – Audubon WA Karen Dvornich – WA Gap Verlyn Ebert - USFWS Elizabeth Gray - TNC John Stuhlmiller - WFB Doug Myers - PSWQAT Chris Parsons – WA CTED Pene Speaks – WA DNR Chris Regan – State Parks Carole Richmond - IAC Dr. Ken Risenhoover – WFPA Paul Wagner - WSDOT Jane Rubey – WA Ecology Sara Vickerman - Defenders Mark Heckert - WWF	Second meeting of CWCS Advisory Committee. Gave a presentation on development of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need list, general update on development of Washington CWCS. Agreed to meet again later in 2004.
Intermountain West Joint Venture – Washington Steering Committee	October 7, 2004	Columbia National Wildlife	Ivan Lines - DU Ron Frieze – WDFW Mike Livingston – WDFW	Regular meeting of Washington Steering Committee. Presentation on CWCS with emphasis on how it relates to all-bird planning being done by IWJV

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
		WA	Ernie Holt – NRCS Teri Pieper – Audubon WA Bob Flores – USFWS Tracy Hames – Yakama IN Howard Browers - USFWS Jim McGowan - USFS	
Washington Biodiversity Council	October 14, 2004	Olympia, WA	Full Biodiversity Council appointed by Governor Locke – about 30 people	First official meeting of the WA Biodiversity Council. Presentation on how WDFW and conservation partners are using CWCS development as a venue for addressing biodiversity conservation in Washington state.
Oregon/Washington Working Group of Partners in Flight	October 26, 04	Troutdale, OR	Regular meeting of OR/WA Working Group	Gave an update on development of OR and WA CWCS. Holly Michael from ODFW was unable to attend due to a back injury.
Forest Service/BLM Species Coordination Group	October 29, 04	Portland, OR	Management personnel from both agencies engaged in fish and wildlife species listing	Gave an overview of Washington CWCS to the group, in particular our process for developing a Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. FS and BLM are interested in adopting our list. In attendance were: Rob Huff, Interagency Conservation Planning Coordinator; Barb Hill, BLM State Office Wildlife Biologist; Sarah Madsen, Forest Service (FS) TES Species Program Manager; Elaine Rybak, FS TES Wildlife Bioloigst; Carol Hughes, Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species (SSS) Specialist; Russ Holmes, FS Regional Botanist; Kelli VanNorman, Interagency Inventory Coordinator; Marianne Turley, Statistician; Kathy Anderson, SSS Program Transition Coordinator.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
CWCS Monitoring Workshop	November 10, 04	Portland, OR	Representatives from UWFWS, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Natural Heritage Program, Oregon State University, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.	Workshop was co-hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Defenders of Wildlife. Defenders of Wildlife has a contract from the Doris Duke Foundation to help develop a framework for state agencies to use in monitoring landscape-level habitat changes over time. Their consultants were also in attendance and they expect to have a report out by the end of 2004.
WA State Association of Counties	November 18, 04	Olympia, WA	Briefed Paul Parker and Scott Merriman of WSAC staff on EAs and CWCS. Joe La Tourrette, Elizabeth Rodrick, Erik Neatherlin, George Wilhere and Tom Davis from WDFW	Counties are primary protectors of critical FWL habitat via Growth Management Act. Focus on how we are using EAs to develop both the CWCS and county-level assessment information for GMA. Paul and Scott gave us valuable feedback; one note was to make sure we don't overlook the importance of the cities.
WDFW Habitat Program	November 29, 04	Olympia	Habitat Program Staff	Brought Habitat Program up to speed on EA and CWCS processes. Asked Habitat to give critical review of our ecoregional writeups.
The Nature Conservancy	December 2, 04	Seattle	Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Elizabeth Rodrick, WDFW George Wilhere, WDFW Elizabeth Gray, TNC John Floberg, TNC Bill Robinson, TNC	Coordination meeting to resolve issues related to content and use of Ecoregional Assessments for CWCS.
NW CWCS Coordination Conference Call	December 8, 04	Phone conference	Anita Shaul, NV Chris Sato, WA	Regularly scheduled conference call to update each

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			Christen Mitchell, HI Dana Dolsen, UT Gayle Berger, Marianas Holly Michael, OR Rita Dixon, ID Sara Vickerman, Defenders Verlyn Ebert, FWS	and coordination between shared ecoregions. Reviewed results of CWCS monitoring workshop, each state gave an update of their progress.
WDFW Fish Program	December 8, 04	Olympia	Fish Program Staff	Brought Fish Program up to speed on EA and CWCS processes. Asked Fish Program to give critical review of our ecoregional writeups.
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – Wildlife Committee	December 14, 04	Olympia, plus teleconferencing with Forks and Mt. Vernon offices of NWIFC	Joe La Tourrette, WDFW Chris Madsen, NWIFC	Briefed Committee on CWCS. We will do follow-up meetings with individual tribes when draft CWCS chapters are ready to be reviewed. Representatives today from Point No Point Treaty Council, BIA, and the Squaxin, Skokomish, Elwha, Makah, Swinomish, Sauk-Suiattle, Quinault, Hoh, Stillaguamish, and Quilayute Tribes.
Washington State Legislature	January 13, 05	Olympia	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed Ken Jacobsen, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources, Oceans and Recreation Committee on CWCS. He requested a follow-up briefing on the SGCN list and a committee briefing later in the legislative session on the CWCS.
WDFW – Region Three	January 26, 05	Yakima	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed Regional Director Jeff Tayer and Regional Wildlife Program Manager Lee Stream on CWCS ecoregional chapters and review process for Region Three staff and stakeholders.
Yakama Indian Nation	January 27, 05	Toppenish	Joe La Tourrette	Briefed YIN Wildlife Department Manager Arlen Washine and his wildlife staff on CWCS process. Will give them an opportunity to review drafts of ecoregional chapters that in include Tribal lands.
WDFW – Region Two	January 28, 05	Ephrata	Rocky Beach	[illegible]

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato	Wildlife Program Manager Matt Monda and Regional Habitat Program Manager Chris Parsons on CWCS ecoregional chapters and review process for Region Two staff and stakeholders.
WDFW – Wildlife Diversity Division Workshop	February 2, 05	Alderbrook Lodge, Union	Rocky Beach Joe La Tourrette John Pierce	Updated division field staff on SGCN list and other components of CWCS. Discussed review process and instructions for ecoregional chapters of CWCS.
US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge Managers	February 8, 05	Nisqually NWR, Olympia, WA	Joe LaTourrette Dave Brittell	Gave overview of CWCS to Washington refuge managers, all of whom are developing Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for their refuges. Follow-up will be required.
CWCS Advisory Committee	February 14, 05	Snake Lake Nature Center, Tacoma, WA	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato CWCS Advisory Committee	Provided an update on CWCS process and ecoregional chapter format to Committee.
Western States NatureServe Conference	April 13, 2005	Blaine, WA	Natural Heritage Managers from 13 Western states	Discussed CWCS process with Natural Heritage managers
WDFW – Region Four	April 19, 2005	Mill Creek, WA	Region Four Regional Director, Wildlife, Habitat, and Fish Program staff	Briefed Puget Sound regional staff on status of CWCS. Reviewed draft North Cascades and Puget Trough ecoregional chapters, asked for comments.
Washington Biodiversity Council	April 22, 2005	Olympia, WA	Lynn Helbrecht, Executive Director	Briefed new Executive Director on CWCS, how CWCS process links with the role of the WA Biodiversity Council
WDFW – Region Six	April 25, 2005	Montesano, WA	Joe LaTourrette, Region Six Regional Director, Wildlife, Habitat, and Fish Program staff	Briefed Coastal regional staff on status of CWCS. Reviewed draft NW Coast and Puget Trough ecoregional chapters, asked for comments.
Planning Association of Washington – Annual Convention	April 28, 2005	Spokane, WA	Joe LaTourrette, state affiliate of American Planning Association. Land use	Gave a presentation to city and county planners about CWCS and the relationship of this planning process to the ecoregional assessments and the

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
			counties all over Washington state	the ecoregional assessments.
Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV) – Management Board	May 4, 2005	Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia	Joe LaTourrette, state, federal and private wildlife managers from BC and five western states	Provided an update of CWCS process. PCJV is a partnership focused on habitat conservation projects in the Pacific Coast biome.
WDFW Press Release	June 1, 2005	Statewide	WDFW Public Affairs Office's statewide list of newspapers and other media	Statewide press release went out regarding posting of draft CWCS on WDFW website (www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/cwcs) and details of upcoming public meetings throughout the state.
WDFW Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee	June 4, 2005	Olympia, WA	Joe LaTourrette, Rocky Beach. WDAC advises the Director of Fish and Wildlife on wildlife diversity program	Briefed WDAC on draft CWCS progress—unveiled components of draft CWCS to the committee.
Public Informational Meeting on CWCS – WDFW Regional 3 Office	June 7, 2005	Yakima, WA	Joe LaTourrette, stakeholders invited by WDFW staff, plus notified by June 1 press release	Gave an overview of CWCS background, process, and draft document. Answered questions. Asked attendees to access the draft CWCS on the CWCS website and to get comments to WDFW by June 30, 2005.
CWCS Advisory Committee	June 9, 2005	Olympia, WA	Joe La Tourrette Chris Sato CWCS Advisory Committee	Unveiled the draft CWCS to Advisory Committee; asked them to access draft via website and get comments to WDFW by June 30; deadline later extended to July 8, 2005.
Public Informational Meeting on CWCS – WDFW Regional 1 Office	June 9, 2005	Spokane, WA	Joe LaTourrette, stakeholders invited by WDFW staff, plus notified by June 1 press release	Gave an overview of CWCS background, process, and draft document. Answered questions. Asked attendees to access the draft CWCS on the CWCS website and to get comments to WDFW by June 30, 2005.
[illegible]	June 13, 2005	Ephrata, WA	[illegible]	Gave an overview of CWCS background, process,

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
on CWCS – WDFW Regional 2 Office			stakeholders invited by WDFW staff, plus notified by June 1 press release	and draft document. Answered questions. Asked attendees to access the draft CWCS on the CWCS website and to get comments to WDFW by June 30, 2005.
Public Informational Meeting on CWCS – WDFW Regional 5 Office	June 14, 2005	Vancouver, WA	Joe LaTourrette, stakeholders invited by WDFW staff, plus notified by June 1 press release	Gave an overview of CWCS background, process, and draft document. Answered questions. Asked attendees to access the draft CWCS on the CWCS website and to get comments to WDFW by June 30, 2005.
Washington DNR Natural Heritage Program Staff	June 21, 2005	Olympia, WA	Joe LaTourrette, Chris Sato, managers and staff of WA Natural Heritage Program	Unveiled the draft CWCS to Natural Heritage staff, acknowledged their contribution to CWCS via WA Natural Heritage Plan, asked them to access draft via website and get comments to WDFW by July 8, 2005
WA Forest Protection Assn (WFPA)	June 22, 2005	Olympia, WA	Joe LaTourrette, WDFW, Josh Weiss, Env Policy Dir, Dr. Ken Risenhoover, Port Blakely Timber Resources	WFPA is an association of large timber companies. Briefed WFPA on draft CWCS, especially sections related to timber management, asked for comments back by June 30, 2005 (comments rec'd on July 1)
Public Informational Meeting on CWCS – WDFW Regional 6 Office	June 22, 2005	Montesano, WA	Joe LaTourrette, stakeholders invited by WDFW staff, plus notified by June 1 press release	Gave an overview of CWCS background, process, and draft document. Answered questions. Asked attendees to access the draft CWCS on the CWCS website and to get comments to WDFW by June 30, 2005.
Game Advisory Committee	July 1, 2005	Letter	From Jim McGowan, Colville National Forest	Mr. McGowan provided comments as a member of a "super committee" of WDFW advisory committees
Anadromous and Marine Sport Fishing Advisory Committee	July 6, 2005	Phone Contact	Between Polly Fisher and Rocky Beach of WDFW	Ms. Fisher provided comments as a member of a "super committee" of WDFW advisory committees.
Washington Farm Bureau	July 6, 2005	Olympia, WA	Joe LaTourrette, John Stuhlmiller, Env Policy Director	John Stuhlmiller is on CWCS Advisory Committee but was unable to make our June 9 meeting.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	WHY
				related to agricultural impacts, asked for comments back by July 8, 2005 (comments rec'd on July 8)
Pacific Coast Joint Venture	July 7, 2005	Tacoma, WA	Joe LaTourrette, Washington State Steering Committee of PCJV	Unveiled the draft CWCS to state PCJV working group.
USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management	July 11, 2005	Portland, OR	Joe LaTourrette, combined wildlife policy group from Region 6 Forest Service and BLM	Asked Forest Service and BLM in June to review draft CWCS and prepare comments for WDFW. July 11 meeting was to review draft CWCS and combined FS/BLM comments
US Fish and Wildlife Service	July 12, 2005	Lacey, WA	Joe LaTourrette, State Director and staff of Washington Ecological Services Office of USFWS	Review draft CWCS with Ken Burg and his staff, discuss their comments on draft document
Washington Treaty Indian Tribes	August 5, 2005	Statewide	29 Tribal Chairs and Directors	Letter from Director Jeff Koenings providing another opportunity for the Tribes to review and provide comments to WDFW on the draft CWCS
Department of Defense Installation Commanding Officers	August 9, 2005	Statewide	Commanding officers of nine major Army, Navy and Air Force installations	Letter from Director Jeff Koenings providing another opportunity for the military to review and provide comments to WDFW on the draft CWCS
Washington State Association of Counties	August 19, 2005	Olympia, WA	Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director	Met with Mr. Parker and his staff earlier in the CWCS development process. Contacted him again to make sure he had a chance to review and comment on the draft CWCS.

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091
Internet Address: http://wdfw.wa.gov

June 1, 2005

Contact: Joe La Tourrette, (360) 902-2247
or Rocky Beach, (360) 902-2510

Public review under way for proposed wildlife conservation funding strategy

A series of informational meetings will be held across the state this month as part of a public review process for the Washington's draft Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS).

Citizens have until June 30 to comment on the draft strategy. The CWCS will be posted by June 7 at **http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/cwcs** on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) website. Written copies may be obtained by contacting Joe La Tourrette at (360) 902-2247.

Washington and other states must submit a CWCS to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this October to be eligible for new federal funds aimed at addressing unmet needs of wildlife and habitat conservation, with emphasis on species not hunted or fished. The new funds come from Wildlife Conservation and Restoration and State Wildlife Grants programs adopted by Congress in 2000 and 2001.

"This strategy identifies Washington species and habitats in greatest need of assistance," said WDFW Director Jeff Koenings, "It builds on other planning efforts, emphasizes non-regulatory approaches and provides a framework for future management of many wildlife species that have been overlooked or underfunded in the past."

Local informational meetings on the CWCS are scheduled for:

- June 7, Yakima, 7 – 9 p.m., WDFW South Central Regional Office, 1701 S. 24th Ave.
- June 9, Spokane, 7 – 9 p.m., North Spokane County Library, 44 E. Hawthorne Rd.

- June 13, Ephrata, 7 – 9 p.m., WDFW North Central Regional Office, 1550 Alder St. N.W.
- June 14, Vancouver, 7 – 9 p.m., WDFW Southwest Regional Office, 2108 Grand Blvd
- June 22, Montesano, 7 – 9 p.m., WDFW South Sound/Olympic Peninsula Regional Office, 48 Devonshire Road
- June 23, Mill Creek, 7 – 9 p.m., WDFW North Puget Sound Regional Office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd

Development of Washington's CWCS has been under way since early 2004 with input from other natural resource management agencies and a variety of interest groups, all represented in a CWCS Advisory Committee, explained WDFW's project manager, Joe La Tourrette.

La Tourrette noted that the draft CWCS incorporates information and policies from many other recent efforts, including Washington Biodiversity Committee recommendations, eco-regional assessments developed in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's sub-basin plans.

Comments on the draft CWCS should be sent by June 30 to Joe La Tourrette, CWCS Project Manager, WDFW, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091, or via e-mail to latoujel@dfw.wa.gov

# # #

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; We will love only what we understand; We will understand only what we have been taught."

-- Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

For more information, contact:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501
www.wdfw.wa.gov (360) 902-2515

About the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Washington is home to a remarkable variety of fish and wildlife species. But changes to the landscape and native habitat as a result of human activity have put many of these species at risk.

In 2000, Congress established a new Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to help state and tribal wildlife agencies address the unmet needs of wildlife and associated habitats including conservation, education and wildlife-associated recreation. To be eligible for federal grants, each state must develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 2005.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently developing the state's wildlife conservation strategy in partnership with other government agencies, nongovernment organizations and the public. Washington's statewide strategy will be a landscape-based document that addresses a full array of the state's fish and wildlife, with a focus on species and habitats in greatest need of conservation.

Guiding principles for Washington's conservation strategy include conserving species and habitats with greatest conservation need, recognizing the need to keep common species common, and building and strengthening conservation partnerships with other conservation agencies, tribes, local governments and nongovernment organizations.

In developing Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will incorporate information from other species plans, inventories and habitat assessments, including:

- Ecoregional Conservation Assessments
- Washington Natural Heritage Program
- Northwest Power Conservation Council subbasin plans
- Partners in Flight
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Puget Sound Action Plan
- Shared Salmon Strategy
- Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- WDFW 2003-2009 Game Management Plan
- WDFW threatened and endangered species recovery plans
- Freshwater and marine fish management plans

Some of these plans may be viewed on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at www.wdfw.wa.gov or may be obtained in hard copy by contacting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (360) 902-2515.

Eight Essential Elements

1. Include information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife species, including low populations and declining species, which are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state.

2. Identify the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to the conservation of priority species.

3. Identify problems that may adversely affect priority species or their habitats. Identify factors and research that may help to conserve priority species and habitats.

4. Determine actions needed to conserve priority species and their habitats. Establish priorities for implementing such conservation actions.

5. Provide for periodic monitoring of species and habitats, as well as the effectiveness of conservation actions. Adapt conservation actions as needed to respond to new information or changing conditions.

6. Coordinate the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Strategy, to the extent feasible, with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes which manage significant areas of land or water within the state.

7. Incorporate public involvement in the development, revision and implementation of the Strategy.

8. Provide for the review of the Strategy and, if appropriate, revision, at intervals of not more than 10 years.

Washington Wildlife Conservation Strategies

WDFW Species and Habitat Goals:

- Protect a full range of fish and wildlife diversity
- Maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitats
- Recover endangered and threatened species
- Provide sustainable harvest of game and commercial species

Washington's diverse topography, exposure to Pacific Ocean currents and weather patterns, and location on the migratory path of many wildlife species make it one of the most biologically diverse states in the nation, encompassing seacoast, shrub-steppe, native prairie, parts of four major forested mountain ranges, and Puget Sound.

In fact, Washington contains most of the major ecosystem types found in the western United States, including two found nowhere else in the world: the Olympic rainforest and the channeled scablands of eastern Washington. These landscapes and the biological diversity they support are contained within nine continental ecoregions that extend from the Pacific Northwest Coast and Puget Sound in the west to the Columbia Plateau and Northern Rocky Mountains in the east. Washington's ecoregions are defined by similarities in flora and fauna, resulting from similar soils, geology, hydrology, and landforms.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has a responsibility to protect this unique legacy. The conservation strategies outlined in this brochure are integral to the preservation of our rich natural heritage for current and future generations.

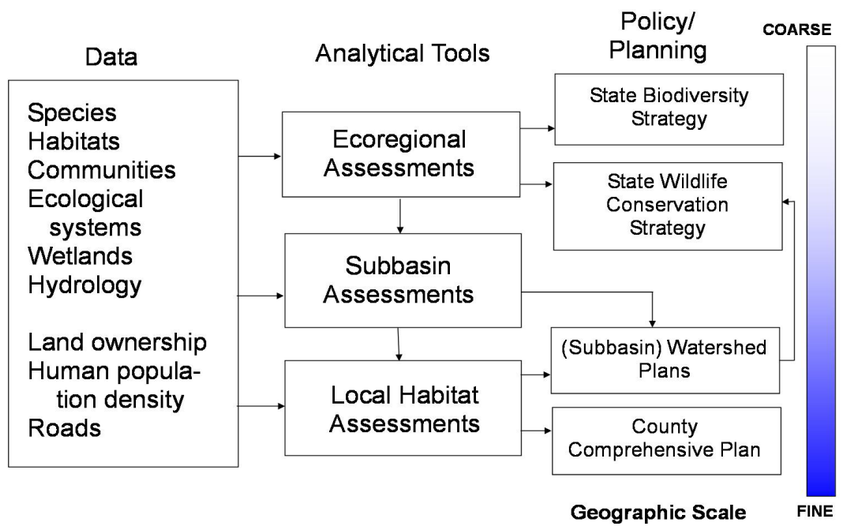
For more information, contact:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501
wdfw.wa.gov (360) 902-2515

State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

In 2000, Congress established a new Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to help state and tribal wildlife agencies address the unmet needs of wildlife and associated habitats, for conservation, education and wildlife-associated recreation.

To be eligible for these federal grants, each agency must develop a state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 2005.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently developing a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in partnership and consultation with other government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and the public. Washington's strategy will be a statewide, landscape-based effort that addresses future conservation of all the state's fish and wildlife--with a focus on species and habitats in greatest need of conservation. In developing this strategy, the Department of Fish and Wildlife will incorporate information from other inventory and planning efforts, including ongoing ecoregional conservation assessments and subbasin plans.



Washington Biodiversity Recommendations

The 2002 Washington Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6400, which mandated, among other things, improved coordination of public and private biodiversity information and conservation actions. The 2002 legislation was recommended by Defenders of Wildlife, implemented by The Nature Conservancy, and supported by a number of state and federal agencies (including the Department of Fish and Wildlife), Indian tribes and conservation organizations.

Under contract to the State, The Nature Conservancy of Washington convened a public/private biodiversity committee to review existing public and private programs and develop recommendations for a state biodiversity strategy by October 2003. The resulting 2003 Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Report includes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for a standing biodiversity council, an integrated data management system, a public education and outreach program, more technical assistance to local governments, and a series of new landowner incentives. In March 2004, Governor Gary Locke signed an Executive Order establishing a standing Washington Biodiversity Council, and the Legislature subsequently appropriated funds to the Council to begin implementing the recommendations included in the October 2003 report.

Ecoregional Conservation Assessments

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy on assessments of nine ecoregions that cover the entire landscape of Washington. These ecoregional assessments identify sites and landscape features that are important for conserving the full range of the state's biodiversity. They do not replace individual species recovery plans or management plans for harvested species, but are designed to ensure that the highest priority biodiversity sites are identified and protected first.

The ecoregional assessments compile existing biodiversity information, conduct a spatial analysis, and design alternative conservation portfolios for sites and landscapes of high priority. Data are compiled and analyzed for species and habitat types, as well as land ownership and other geographic features. Species and locations are rated for their habitat quality and suitability for conservation. These data are then analyzed with a computer algorithm that allows scientists to optimize the selection of preferred conservation areas. Terrestrial, aquatic and marine conservation portfolios are developed for expert review by scientists from agencies, tribes, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. Nine ecoregional conservation assessments covering Washington state will be completed by 2006.

The Department will use ecological assessments to guide habitat protection, influence management of public lands, assist counties in land use planning and guide priorities for grant programs.

Subbasin Planning

Subbasin planning is a process coordinated by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council as part of the Council's 2000 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council was created in 1980 by Congress to give the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington a voice in how the region plans for its energy needs, while at the same time mitigating the effects of the hydropower system on fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin.

The Council's 2000 Program included a new project review and selection process that relies on the development of local subbasin plans to guide project funding. Subbasin plans are being developed in most of the Columbia River Basin's 62 tributary subbasins through an open public process that includes the participation of state, federal, local and tribal governments, landowners, and other stakeholders. In the future, implementation and funding of the Program will be directly linked to subbasin plans, since the plans will become part of the Council's fish and wildlife program.

Each subbasin plan includes an assessment of historical and existing conditions, with identification of significant data gaps and future information needs; an inventory of past and ongoing fish and wildlife projects as well as programs undertaken by counties, state and federal agencies, tribes and other entities; and a 10- to 15-year management plan that includes a vision, biological objectives, strategies, and recommendations for research, monitoring, and evaluation.

Local Habitat Assessment

Local communities have an important role in wildlife conservation. Counties do growth management planning; administer the conservation futures and open space property tax incentive programs; and support local conservation districts, land trusts, and watershed councils that provide assistance to private landowners. As Washington communities take a more active role in planning their futures, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is striving to provide more comprehensive fish and wildlife information in formats that are useful for local planning and that address broad-scale land use issues.

The Department currently maintains a list of Priority Habitats and Species, which gives counties data on the location of priority fish and wildlife habitats as well as habitat management recommendations. But the current PHS approach does not address larger landscape issues such as habitat connectivity, prioritization of habitat areas, cumulative effects of development, or multi-county habitat coordination. This project will increase the Department's capability to help local governments connect sites of ecoregional importance with habitats of local significance.

The local assessment is a Geographic Information System-based procedure that integrates, synthesizes and models existing data and information such as vegetation and land cover maps, Priority Habitats and Species, ecoregional assessments and state Natural Heritage locations to produce digital maps that portray the relative importance of habitat across the landscape.

Understanding specific habitat function within the broader landscape can better inform land use decisions, and projecting future habitat conditions will help local decision makers to understand where habitat is likely to be lost or gained under various land-use plan alternatives.