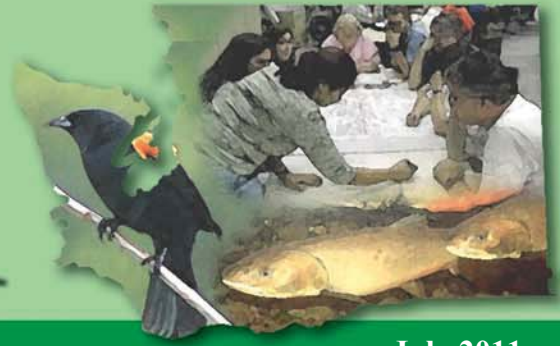


# Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

July 2011

## PHS on the Web: A New Way to View Fish and Wildlife Data

WDFW is excited to announce a new way to access our Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data. Through an online, interactive mapping application called "*PHS on the Web*" anyone who is connected to the Internet can now view WDFW's PHS data.

Each year, hundreds of customers have submitted written requests to WDFW for PHS data.

Until now, WDFW was only able to provide specified customers with

a hard copy map or a CD showing the known locations of priority species and habitats within certain areas. The department also has long provided some customers (mainly counties) with GIS-ready PHS data (e.g., GIS Layer Files) for their use in land use planning and project review. Although WDFW will continue to provide these services, we have now added *PHS on the Web* to our PHS "tool box."

In recent years, state budget cuts have reduced WDFW's capacity to provide PHS data, driving up fees and wait times for those seeking the information (wait times are currently between 5 and 8 weeks from the time of request). As a response to these issues, and to implement the agency's conservation mission, an in-house team of GIS and land use experts developed *PHS on the Web*. WDFW biologists and a focus group of customers provided review and feedback as the tool was being developed to help ensure it met the needs of most users.

Providing more accessible PHS data has long been an important conservation objective for WDFW. This is because for years the agency has encouraged the use of PHS information in the land use and conservation planning arena. Now that it is online, it can be easily accessed with just a few clicks of your mouse.

### The capabilities of PHS on the Web

*PHS on the Web* is an interactive GIS map tool that can be navigated by means of a set of easy-to-use site locator tools. This includes a mechanism for zooming in and panning to any place in the state. Sites can also be found by entering a place name, address, parcel number, Township/Range/Section, GPS coordinate, county, or Water Resource Inventory Area. The user can then see if PHS data has been mapped within a selected area of interest.

Please see **PHS ON THE WEB** on Page Two



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Applicants name:  
Address & phone:

If the location of a known species or habitat is found, it can then be clicked on (e.g., a bald eagle nest, a stream reach, or a waterfowl concentration area) to view more detailed information such as the status of a species, the description of a habitat area, or the availability of published [PHS Management Recommendations](#). Reports and project area maps can then be printed. Background layers including aerial photos, topographic maps, city and county boundaries, and streets provide context and help users easily zero-in on an area of interest. Users can be assured that what they are seeing is the most current data. This is because all the sources of data are directly fed into *PHS on the Web* and are updated as new data is made available.

### Who is using PHS data, and for what purposes?

The data is used by many to help avoid impacts on vulnerable fish and wildlife. For instance, it is used to plan and prioritize for local conservation projects. The use of the PHS data is often required by local, state, and federal agencies as part of a permitting, incentive, or grant program. PHS is used in the review of local development proposals, in forest practices and aquatic resource permitting, and in “scoring” properties for eligibility in open space tax incentive programs.

Common PHS customers include land use consultants seeking information about a piece of property that they were contracted to evaluate. Citizens interested in knowing what species occur on their property also use PHS. Environmental groups often use PHS for planning a conservation project. Local governments also use PHS data in reviewing projects, proposals, and other land use plans and policies.

### Data gaps

It is important to understand that while all PHS data is verified before it is entered into our databases, WDFW does not know what is on every site in the state. In other words, there are many sites where priority habitats and species exist that have never been identified, documented nor mapped into PHS. So although the PHS data is a good way of identifying what we know is out there, the data will always be incomplete. Therefore, a site should always be visited by a habitat expert or professional biologist to see what else might be there and to review a proposal’s potential impacts to fish and wildlife.

### Responsible use of *PHS on the Web*

As with all fish and wildlife data, WDFW expects users to treat the information responsibly. Fish and wildlife resources belong to all citizens of Washington State. There are penalties associated with harming and harassing protected species. Some species that are highly vulnerable or have a history of human abuse (e.g., illegal collecting) cannot be viewed in the same manner as data for all other species. Rather, users are given a much more general description when one of these sensitive species is in the vicinity of an area of interest. Users needing to see specific locations that are marked as sensitive (e.g., bat colony) must meet certain eligibility requirements, and have to submit a completed data release request form, found online at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/maps\\_data/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/maps_data/).

*PHS on the Web* includes a help menu and frequently asked questions page to help users understand the navigation tools and interpret the data. WDFW hopes this “do-it-yourself” tool will provide customers who would otherwise wait weeks for maps gain quick access to information they need to make good development and conservation decisions.

Because this is a new web application, WDFW is interested in getting your feedback. We encourage you to try it out and to send an email to [planningforwildlife@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:planningforwildlife@dfw.wa.gov) with any comments or suggestions. To access *PHS on the Web*, go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>.

# WSU Extension Offers Opportunities for Small Forest Landowners

Kevin W. Zobrist, *Washington State University Extension*

Small forest landowners contribute tremendously to Washington's economy and environmental quality by serving an important role as the stewards of more than three million acres across the state. Their lands are important for maintaining water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The trees they maintain mitigate for climate change by capturing and storing carbon. The aesthetics and recreation opportunities of these forestlands contribute to the overall quality of life for citizens throughout Washington.

Most small forest landowners do not own their land primarily for timber or income. Rather most of them maintain it for what it offers in terms of privacy, a rural lifestyle, aesthetic enjoyment, wildlife habitat and other ecosystem values. Because many of these forestlands are in lowlands and in areas that are rapidly developing, there are often economic pressures that can lead a landowner to consider subdividing a forested stand to pursue a new commercial or residential development. When these lands are developed, important forested habitat becomes fragmented and is permanently lost.

## Opportunities for Small Forest Landowners

Washington State University (WSU) Extension's Forest Stewardship Program helps small forest landowners maintain their forestland. The program explains opportunities for managing and maintaining a forest for health, resilience, and diversity. Instructors and other instructional resources help landowners identify and achieve their personal objectives. Such objectives can include the improvement of a forest's aesthetics, enhancing wildlife habitat, and reducing the risk of wildfire. Our extension educators work with each landowner to identify ways of achieving these important goals while also showing how these goals may be compatible with making an income from timber or specialty forest products. Participants also learn ways of lowering the cost of maintaining their forest (e.g., tax-reducing incentives).

The Forest Stewardship Program offers classes, workshops, field days, and individual assistance throughout the year. The flagship of the program is a multi-week short course called *Forest Stewardship Coached Planning* that provides comprehensive training on forest stewardship including forest health and ecology, native plants, silviculture, wildlife, soils, and more. The course "coaches" forest landowners on how to develop their own stewardship plan. Through developing these plans, landowners learn how to more effectively manage their forestlands. They also learn how to qualify for cost share programs, sustainable forest certification, and how to significantly reduce their property taxes. These benefits help forest owners restore and enhance their woodlands and maintain their land as forest.

Forest Stewardship classes and workshops are offered on evenings, weekends, and even online. Technical manuals and online learning are available for participants to pursue additional learning on their own. The Forest Stewardship Program also works with local schools and community groups, providing opportunities for youth and adults to learn more about the natural world around them.

The WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program is highly successful. Hundreds of small forest landowners as well as many school children and others in the community participate every year. Over 80 percent who participate in classes and field days put their new-found skills to practice within a year. This translates



Forest landowner participate in a field practice exercise as part of WSU's Forest Stewardship Coached Planning course.



into scores of acres that are voluntarily enhanced and restored each year. Participating landowners commonly implement new stewardship projects such as planting trees, invasive species removal, and enhancing wildlife habitat. Over three quarters of those that participate report a greater likelihood of maintaining their land as forest over the long term. This statistic is consistent with national research that has shown this type of education is effective at reducing the chances of forest being converted to development.

These Forest Stewardship Programs are offered by WSU Extension in collaboration with and with funding support from a number of federal, state, and local partners. These include the Washington Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, conservation districts, non-profits, and local county governments.

The WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program is open to all, whether you have only an acre or hundreds of acres, or are just interested in forestry. We invite you to visit our website at <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/> to locate your local WSU Extension Forestry Educator. On this website you will also find a list of upcoming events and can sign up to subscribe to our free statewide and region-specific newsletters.

## The Value of the Priority Habitats and Species Management Recommendations

By Jeff Azerrad, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

In the last issue of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*, readers were invited to take part in a survey to help us gauge the value that land use planners place on the [Priority Habitat and Species \(PHS\) Management Recommendations](#). The roughly 200 readers who took part in this survey provided us with invaluable information. In the coming years, this information will be used to develop an even more useful set of PHS products.

Using the results of a similar survey of the same group in 2003, we drew some interesting comparisons. For one thing, we saw a jump in the number of planners now using the PHS Management Recommendations. Although it is no surprise that more land use professionals are using the PHS Management Recommendations, we never expected such a sharp rise in use (see Table). This increase may be attributed to a greater focus on outreach by WDFW. It also may be due to other factors such as some recent changes to PHS. These include a change to tailor our management recommendations to better suit the particular needs of land use planners.

Response Group	2003	2011	Change
Overall	41%	65%	+ 25%
Eastern Washington Respondents	39%	51%	+ 12%
Western Washington Respondents	34%	61%	+ 27%
Respondents indicating they work in private consulting	28%	75%	+ 47%
Respondents indicating they work in local government	37%	46%	+ 9%
Respondents indicating they work in state/federal government	--	62%	--

In addition to this increase in use of PHS, the survey allowed us to draw other conclusions. For instance, the 2003 survey revealed certain deficiencies with our management recommendations. One deficiency was the ability of PHS to guide the management of habitat in urban and suburban areas. In 2003, respondents told us PHS lacked guidance for managing wildlife in developed or developing areas. The agency took this response seriously and made a point to provide guidance specific to urbanizing areas (e.g., compatible residential zoning densities). Now far fewer planners express that PHS is lacking in this type of guidance.

Please see **PHS Survey** on Page Five

We also asked survey respondents about two specific PHS publications. One was recently released in 2009, titled *Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas*, to address the impacts on wildlife associated with residential development. Although most who took the survey said they have yet to use this publication, a significant proportion has begun using it. Most who said they are familiar with it, made a point of mentioning that it was a valuable source of information.

The other publication we assessed through the survey was WDFW's *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Riparian*. This older publication (published in 1997) is one that WDFW is considering for an update later this year. To assess the need to update our riparian guidelines, we wanted to know who was using it. We also wanted to see what other publications planners were using for guidance on riparian habitat management.

Even though PHS riparian was released almost 15 years ago, most respondents reported they still are using it. To get a better sense of the need to update the riparian recommendations, we asked respondents to identify other publications they are using to address riparian habitat management. Although respondents listed a wide range of titles, no one publication seemed to be receiving wide use among this audience. Also, no one guide for addressing impacts to wildlife in riparian areas was identified. Because roughly 85% of Washington's terrestrial wildlife uses riparian areas, the lack of guidance for these species indicates a clear need to update WDFW's riparian guidelines.

In conclusion, the survey provided some very useful insight that will guide how we proceed when developing future PHS products. Not highlighted in this article are other survey findings that may be of interest to readers of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*. For more on these other findings please go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/pub.php?id=01200>.

## Conferences, workshops & training

- **2011 Washington Planners' Forums:**

- **Summer Forums**

- July 21 – Southwest Wash.....Stevenson..... Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
    - July 21 – Olympic Peninsula.....Port Townsend..... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
    - July 20 – Northwest Wash.....Burlington..... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
    - July 27 – Eastern Wash..... Moses Lake..... Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. The dates and locations are subject to change, so make sure to email the forum contact prior to attendance. The contact person can also supply a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **The Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum**

The State Recreation and Conservation Office is hosting a forum where state agencies will share information about recently funded land acquisitions and plans for future purchases. Participating agencies will present maps and other information about these lands and lands they are looking into for future funding. Attendees will engage in the discussion and will be encouraged to ask questions and identify opportunities for coordination. Contact [Dominga Soliz](#) at (360) 725-3937 to learn more about this forum that will be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Natural Resource Building in Olympia.

- **International Conference on Ecology & Transportation**

The mission of this conference is to share quality research applications and best management practices that address wildlife, habitat, and ecosystem issues related to the delivery of surface transportation systems. The conference will be meeting at The Westin Seattle, August 21-25. Registration information can be found at [http://www.icoet.net/ICOET\\_2011/registration.asp](http://www.icoet.net/ICOET_2011/registration.asp).

- **American Fisheries Society - Annual Meeting**

Set your sights on attending this year's Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Seattle from September 4-8 at the Washington State Convention Center. With its focus on "New Frontiers in Fisheries Management and Ecology: Leading the Way in a Changing World," the conference will provide a wonderful opportunity for fisheries professionals to meet and exchange ideas and information.

- **Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife along with other state and federal agencies are sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual climate science conference. The conference will include presentations and workshops to exchange information about emerging climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation for the Pacific Northwest. The conference will be meeting in Kane Hall at the University of Washington, September 13-14.

- **American Planning Association - Washington/Oregon Joint Conference**

Save the date! This annual conference will take place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland on October 19 - 21. The theme for this year's conference is "Cascadia Collaborative: Bridging to the Future."

- **Salmon in a Changing Climate: Practical management options for an era of environmental change**

Save the date! This workshop will examine whether decisions about management of salmon and their habitats can be practically informed by the newest scientific insights on expected responses of wild salmon to climate and environmental change. The workshop will be held in Portland, Oregon, November 15-17.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort between several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals about coastal management in Washington. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and resource managers. The upcoming course schedule is on [CTP's website](#).

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, comprehensive planning and plan implementation, and the role of the planning commission. Co-sponsored by the [Department of Commerce](#) and the [Planning Association of Washington](#), the course is presented by professional planners and attorneys and is open to all. All attendees receive handouts prepared by the presenters, and are referred to the on-line version of the [Short Course Manual](#) which accompanies the course. Twenty pre-scheduled regional courses are provided each year. Please see the [Current Short Course Schedule](#) for dates, times, locations and registration information. For more information, visit the [Short Course Web page](#) or e-mail [Janet Rogerson](#).

## Grant opportunities

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a cost-share program that helps small forest landowners correct fish passage barriers on their forestlands. Landowners interested in enrolling in the program must submit an *Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation* form to DNR Small Forest Landowner Office. Applications are available at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp/>.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wetlands-associated wildlife. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both programs require that grant requests be matched by partner at no less than a one-to-one ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. The standard grant deadline is July 29<sup>th</sup>. The small grant deadline is October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **River restoration grants**

American Rivers, through its partnership with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, provides funding for dam removal or fish passage projects to individuals and organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and tribal governments; and other commercial and non-profit organizations. The partnership funds projects that benefit anadromous fish and support the restoration of habitat for anadromous species. Questions about the grant and about the upcoming funding cycle can be directed to Serena McClain at [rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org](mailto:rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org).
- **Get your community involved in watershed restoration**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports science-based watershed restoration initiatives that demonstrate strong community engagement and strive to implement a long-term restoration approach. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$40,000 annually for up to a 10-year period. BEF accepts letters of inquiry on an open basis, and there is no official cycle for the review and solicitation of proposed Model Watershed Projects. Any individual, organization, tribe, or local government in the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low – and sometimes dry – with significant consequences for salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports partners by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) working in partnership with the [Bonneville Power Administration](#) (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the [Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#).
- **Additional grant opportunities**
  - The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) list of grants.
  - Click [HERE](#) for the federal government's primary grant search engine.
  - [Grant Programs for a Local Government from the USFWS](#)
  - The [Department of Commerce](#) list of grants relevant to GMA planning.

# WDFW Contacts for Fish and Wildlife Planning

## [GMA and SMA Technical Assistance Web Page](#)

### Regional Technical Assistance

#### Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); [karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov)

#### North-central Washington:

509.754.4624 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

#### South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin); [mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Southwest Washington:

George Fornes, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); [george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Theresa Nation, 360.902. 2562, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); [theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov)

### Statewide Program Development

#### Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Katie Knight, 360.902-2618; [katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; [jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Local Habitat Assessment:

Katie Knight, 360.902. 2618; [katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov)

#### WDFW PHS Data:

PHS on the Web: <http://www.dfw.wa.gov/mapping>

Data Request Hotline: 360.902.2543

## **Fish & Wildlife Planner**

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