

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

March 2013

New Guidance on Low Impact Development for Puget Sound

By Bruce Wulkan, *Puget Sound Partnership*

Stormwater runoff from development can significantly harm aquatic resources, if not adequately managed. In the Puget Sound region, pollutants in stormwater runoff, such as metals, petroleum products, pesticides, other toxins, and pathogens, pollute receiving waters, contaminate urban bay sediments, contribute to toxic accumulation in biota, harm and kill salmon, and close productive shellfish growing areas. High stormwater flows in wet months cause flooding and property damage, and degrade or destroy fish and wildlife habitat in streams and wetlands.

Although the Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regard stormwater as the greatest overall threat to urban waters, the issue of stormwater is not as dire as one might think. That is because in recent years local and state government and the private sector have greatly improved stormwater practices and programs. And today's stormwater requirements for new development and existing infrastructure are more protective than ever. Many regional jurisdictions are increasingly using low impact development approaches to strengthen their stormwater programs.

How LID is used in Puget Sound

Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative approach that holds great promise in stormwater management, and the Puget Sound region is a national leader in using LID. The Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University (WSU) Puyallup has one of the best LID research facilities in the nation, while local engineering firms, municipal governments, and development interests have pioneered many on-the-ground uses of LID practices.

Starting in about 2000, the Puget Sound Action Team (now the Puget Sound Partnership) actively promoted LID. Since then, the Partnership cited LID as a key component of the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#), the region's comprehensive plan to recover Puget Sound. Ecology added LID requirements to their new municipal stormwater NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits. In addition, the region's first LID manual released in 2005 provided much-needed guidance to professionals designing and installing LID projects throughout the Puget Sound region.

New Improved Tool for Applying LID in the Puget Sound Region

WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center and the Partnership recently released the 2012 [LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound](#) (LID Manual). As an update to the 2005 LID manual, it has been completely rewritten and redesigned with new information, results of recent research, and more graphics on approaches and techniques appropriate to the region.

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Applicants names:
Address & phone:

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

The 2012 edition contains chapters on: Site assessment; Site planning and layout; Vegetation and soil protection/reforestation; Site preparation, construction and inspection; Integrated management practices; Modeling practices; and information on regional soils and hydrology, effects of urbanization, and the need for LID. Detailed appendices follow the chapters.

The new manual is consistent with Ecology's 2012 *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*. Both manuals were concurrently updated in close coordination. This is key, given the fact that Ecology's manual is the region's primary source of guidance for stormwater management and adoption of portions of Ecology's manual is an NPDES permit requirement.

Many of Puget Sound's local governments adopted the 2005 manual, and many others use it by reference. Developers, builders, landscape architects and others also use the manual, and professionals around the globe have borrowed and used its text and graphics.



A schematic illustrating the use of a loop road design in a subdivision. This design improves safety access, and has an added benefit of enhanced stormwater management with integrated bioretention. (Source: LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound, December 2012)

The Project's Partners and Collaborators

WSU and the Partnership worked with many regional professionals to develop the 2005 LID Manual. In developing the 2012 edition we used a similar process. A core group of collaborators at WSU, the Partnership, and Ecology led the project. Soundwise Starrfish Consulting (now Veda Environmental) helped with facilitating, research, and public review, while AHBL illustrated, designed, and did the layout the manual.

A technical advisory committee provided input and content to the core group during much of the project's research and writing phases. The committee was comprised of professionals from a range of disciplines, including stormwater engineering, LID implementation, soils, hydrology, modeling, and landscape architecture. In addition, several regional LID experts helped write and edit portions of the new manual.

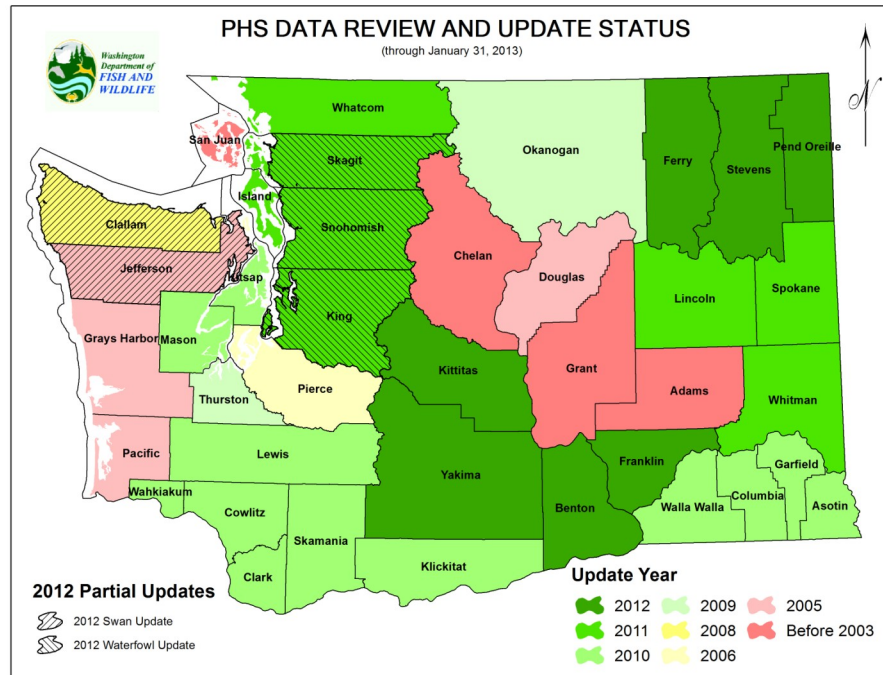
Funding for the project came from the Partnership as part of the state-funded LID Technical Assistance Program. WSU contributed significant in-kind staff time, and EPA Region 10 provided additional funding for design and layout.

The 2012 LID Manual is accessible online by going to either the [Washington Stormwater Center's](#) or [Puget Sound Partnership's](#) website. To learn more about content in the manual, please email [Curtis Hinman](#). Please email [Bruce Wulkan](#) or [Curtis Hinman](#) if you would like more information about the revision process.

Status of Priority Habitat and Species Data

By Terry Johnson, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) database contains the locations of important species and habitats. Priority species are those requiring protective measures or management to ensure their future survival because of low population numbers, sensitivity to habitat alteration, tendency to form in vulnerable groups (e.g., heron colonies), or because they are of commercial, recreational, or tribal importance. Priority habitats areas support diverse, unique, or abundant fish and wildlife communities. WDFW regularly updates its PHS database, and this figure shows the current status of the data.



Recent PHS data updates

In eastern Washington, updates were carried out for Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties. Updates to locations for species such as mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, waterfowl, American white pelican, bald eagle. The locations of priority habitats like biodiversity areas and corridors, shrub-steppe, cliffs, talus, aspen, and dunes we also updated.

In western Washington, data was updated for waterfowl concentration areas in King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties, plus trumpeter swan winter concentration areas in Clallam and Jefferson counties mapped by the Trumpeter Swan Society.

Planned 2013 PHS updates


PHS updates are planned for Clallam and Jefferson counties, while other counties are in preliminary update planning stages. The Trumpeter Swan Society is again currently mapping swan winter concentrations.

Requesting PHS information

PHS data are widely used by planners, consultants, applicants, other state agencies, universities, and conservation groups. Many local communities rely on PHS data to identify critical areas, shorelines, and to inform comprehensive planning, as well as site-specific project reviews. PHS data can also be incorporated into incentive-based programs such as open space tax programs. Regional WDFW staff listed on the last page of this newsletter can help you determine how PHS data can be used to inform local planning matters.

To access the data online, go to *PHS on the Web* at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>. Directions for requesting PHS maps or data can also be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/maps_data/ or by calling 360.902.2543. A written request for ordering PHS information can be sent to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Priority Habitat and Species Data Release
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501



Regularly Update your City or County's Priority Habitats and Species Data

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is always trying to keep up with the latest locations of Priority Habitats and Species (PHS). As a result, we often revise our PHS database as new and updated locations for species and habitats become available.

Because many of our city and county partners use PHS data in guiding their decision on local land use planning matters, it is important that the data they are using is up-to-date.

If you work for a county or city that receives the full PHS dataset for the planning area where you work, remember that it is important to request a new dataset every **six months**. By doing that you are ensuring the decisions you make using PHS data are based on current information.

So mark your calendar six-months out whenever you receive your city or county's new PHS dataset!

To request an updated PHS dataset, either call us at 360.902.2543 or make a written request to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Priority Habitat and Species Data Release
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501

WDFW's New, Simplified Hydraulic Permit Application

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is now offering a simplified application for people interested in obtaining a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for construction work in or near water. The HPA is a permit issued by the department to ensure projects are designed in a way that protects fish life.

The new form can be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/how_to_apply.html on the department's website.

The department developed the simplified application to reduce the amount of time it takes for applicants to fill out an application for a routine, simple project permit, said Randi Thurston, WDFW protection division manager.

"This new application will save both our customers' and biologists' time by not having to fill out or review multiple pages of application for a simple, low complexity project," Thurston said. "The simplified application is designed to provide our customers with another option when they have a simple project."

Eligible projects for the simplified application are listed on the application form. They include mineral prospecting, road maintenance work, and trenchless utility connections, among others. If a 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required, the applicant must submit the JARPA form to the department instead.

Thurston noted that similar efforts to improve processes are occurring throughout WDFW and other state agencies, as part of the Governor's lean management initiatives. Thurston said the new application will be evaluated periodically by WDFW to assess its usefulness as well as to identify improvements that may be necessary.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2013 Washington Planners' Forums:**

- **Spring Forums**

- April 17 – Northwest Wash.....Burlington..... Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
- April 18 – Peninsula..... Shelton Email Contact: [Joyce Phillips](#)
- April 18 – Southwest Wash.....Longview..... Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
- May 1 – Eastern Wash.....Moses Lake..... Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to discuss 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 agenda for upcoming forums are posted [online](#) a few weeks prior to the scheduled dates.

- **Washington's GIS Conference**

Washington State Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association is pleased to sponsor the 16th annual Washington GIS Conference. The annual Washington GIS conference provides a unique venue to bring together the entire Washington GIS community for three days of workshops and presentations that can be essential for keeping up with rapid advances in geospatial technology. This year's conference will be held at the Lynwood Convention Center, May 6-8, 2013.

- **The Salmon Recovery Conference**

This year it will be held in Vancouver, Washington on May 14–15, 2013. The conference includes two thought-provoking days of all things salmon on the shores of the great Columbia River. As before, the conference focuses on building better salmon recovery projects and sharing lessons learned.

- **APA Washington's 2013 Annual Conference**

Save the date! This year's conference will be held at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, October 2-3, 2013. Open registration begins early-July.

- **Western Planner's Conference**

Save the date! The 2013 conference will be hosted by the Nevada chapter of the APA. It will be held in Lake Tahoe, October 13-16.

- **Shoreline Master Program Planners Coordination**

Ecology sponsors regular coordination meetings for towns, cities and counties conducting comprehensive Shoreline Master Program updates. Quarterly meetings are in Tumwater for Western Washington jurisdictions. Semi-annual meetings are in Moses Lake for Central and Eastern Washington jurisdictions. The meetings provide a forum to share information and experiences and to hear the latest news and state guidance.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort among several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals about coastal management. 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 \(PAW\)](#), the course is presented by professional planners and attorneys and is open to all.

Please see the [Current Short Course Schedule](#) for dates, times, locations, and registration information. For more information, visit the [Short Course Web page](#) or email [Dee Caputo](#).

- **WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Classes**

Throughout the year WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship Program provides educational resources and technical assistance to forest owners and managers in Snohomish, Skagit, King, and Island Counties. Upcoming classes are posted online at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestryevents.htm>.

Grant opportunities

- **National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program**

Under this program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides matching grants to states for acquisition, restoration, and management or enhancement of coastal wetlands. Go to http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/docs/2014_NCWCGP_RFA_Final.pdf for information about the Fiscal Year 2014 grant application process and eligibility requirements.
- **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. Both the standard and small grants programs require no less than a one-to-one match. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. The **standard grant** deadline is July 26, 2013, while the **small grant** deadline is October 31, 2013.
- **Water Quality Financial Assistance**

The Washington Department of Ecology manages three water quality grant and loan programs with one combined funding cycle, one application form and submittal period, and a combined funding offer list. Each year, Ecology's Water Quality Program accepts applications from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and qualified non-profit organizations seeking financial help to improve or protect water quality. Applications are being accepted from September 1 to November 2, 2012.
- **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 upcoming funding cycles can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation. 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 non profit organizations. Information about upcoming RCO grants is available at <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/schedules.shtml>.
- **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.
- **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.
 - The federal government's primary grant search engine is [grants.gov](#).
 - Grant Programs to Local Governments from the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
 - The [Washington 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

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

Southwest Washington:

George Fornes, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); 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

Statewide Program Development

Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Margen Carlson, 360.902.2229; margen.carlson@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Publications:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment:

George Wilhere, 360.902.2369; george.wilhere@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats and Species Data:

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

Data Request Hotline: 360.902.2543; phsproducts@dfw.wa.gov

Data Stewardship: Terry Johnson, 360.902-2494; terry.johnson@dfw.wa.gov

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N · Olympia, WA · 98501-1091