

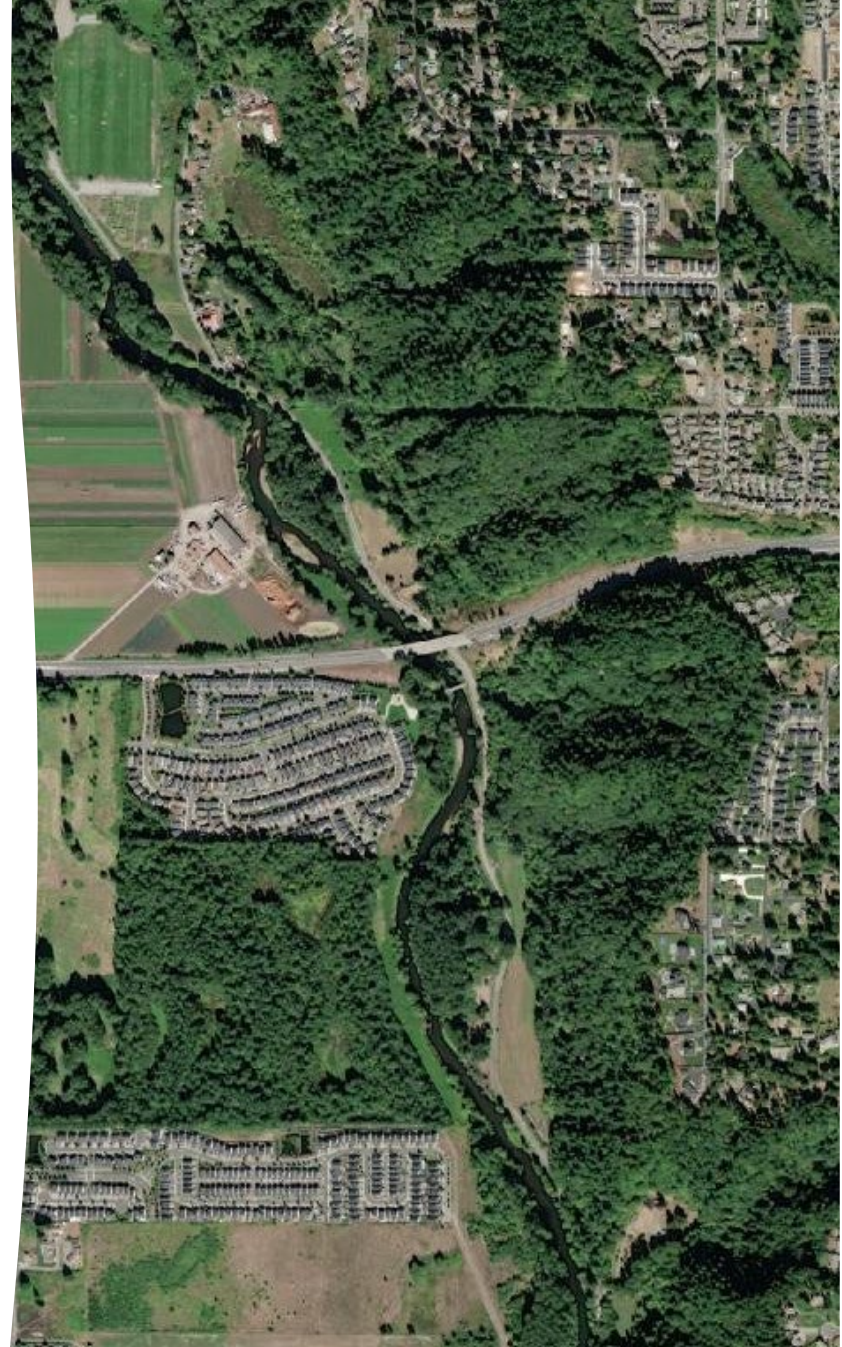
# WDFW's Role in Growth Management

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Ecosystem Services Division  
Habitat Program



# Overview

1. Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements for Fish & Wildlife
2. Priority Habitats & Species
3. Land Use Conservation & Policy
4. GMA Periodic Update
5. Voluntary Stewardship Program
6. Discussion



# GMA Requirements

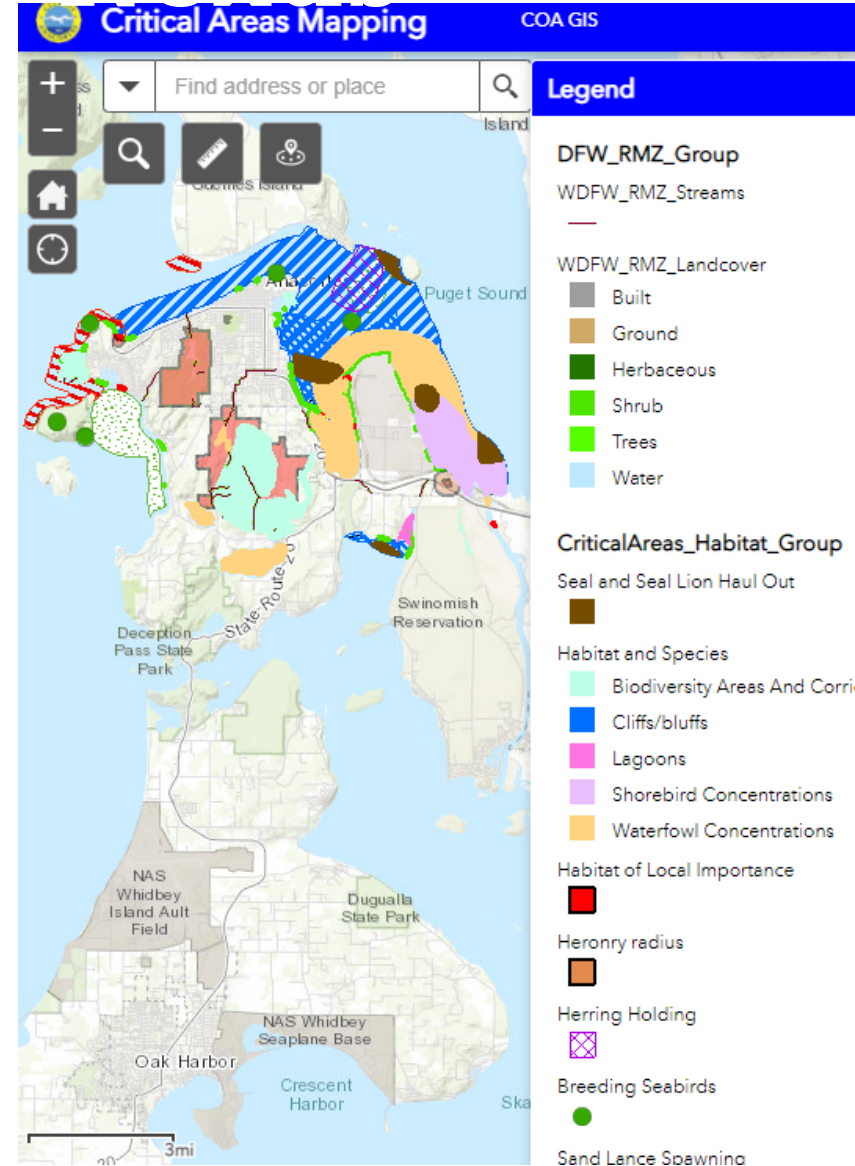


- Designate and protect critical areas
- Include the best available science
- Allow no net loss of ecosystem functions and values
- Give special consideration to anadromous fisheries
- Support viable, connected populations over the long term
- Emphasis on Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs)

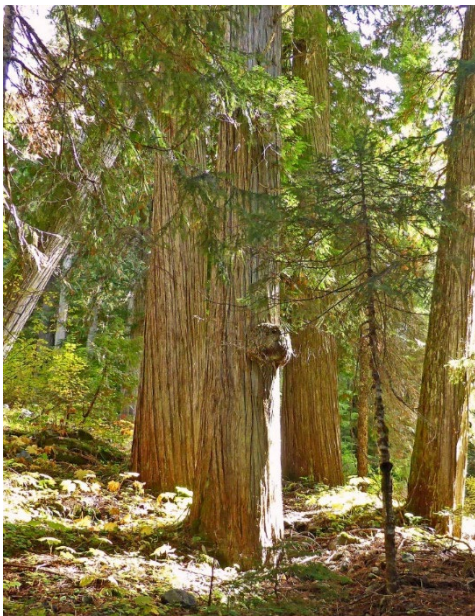
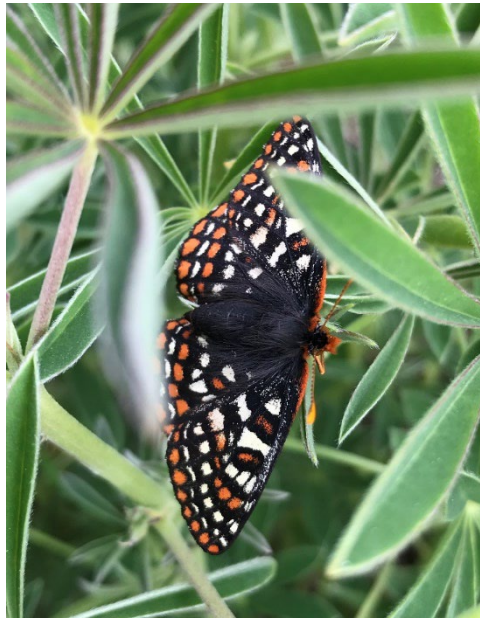


# FWHCA Minimum Designation Guidelines

- Determine lands that have a primary association with important habitats and species
- Describe their characteristics in performance standards
- Map their general location
- Delineate FWHCAs at the site/project level



# FWHCA Minimum Designation Guidelines



## What Areas to Designate?

- WDFW Priority Habitats and Species
- State and federally listed and sensitive species
- Seasonal ranges and movement corridors
- DNR rare plants and ecological communities
- Habitats and species of local importance
- Other specified areas and considerations



# FWHCA Minimum Protection Guidelines

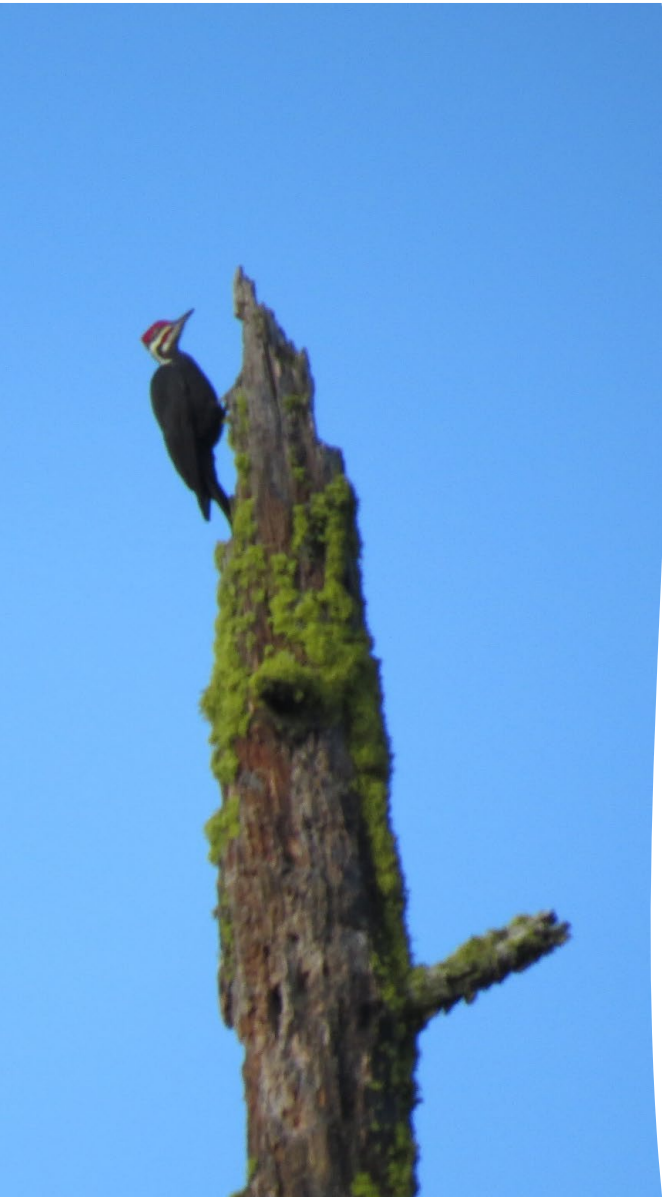
## How to protect?

- Critical Areas Ordinances
- Open space corridors
- Development densities
- Incentive-based land conservation and stewardship programs

*Through strict application of the mitigation sequence.*



# Priority Habitats & Species



## PHS Vision

All land use decisions made within the framework of Washington State's local jurisdictional authority align with WDFW's conservation priorities for species and their habitats.

## PHS Mission Statement

PHS effectively communicates WDFW's conservation priorities via

- data driven maps
- guidance, and
- technical assistance

to influence terrestrial and aquatic land use decisions such that priority habitats and species are protected and perpetuated.



# PHS Program Components

Designate



PHS List



PHS Maps

Protect



PHS Management Recommendations



PHS Technical Assistance

Continuous  
Improvement



Monitoring and Adaptive  
Management

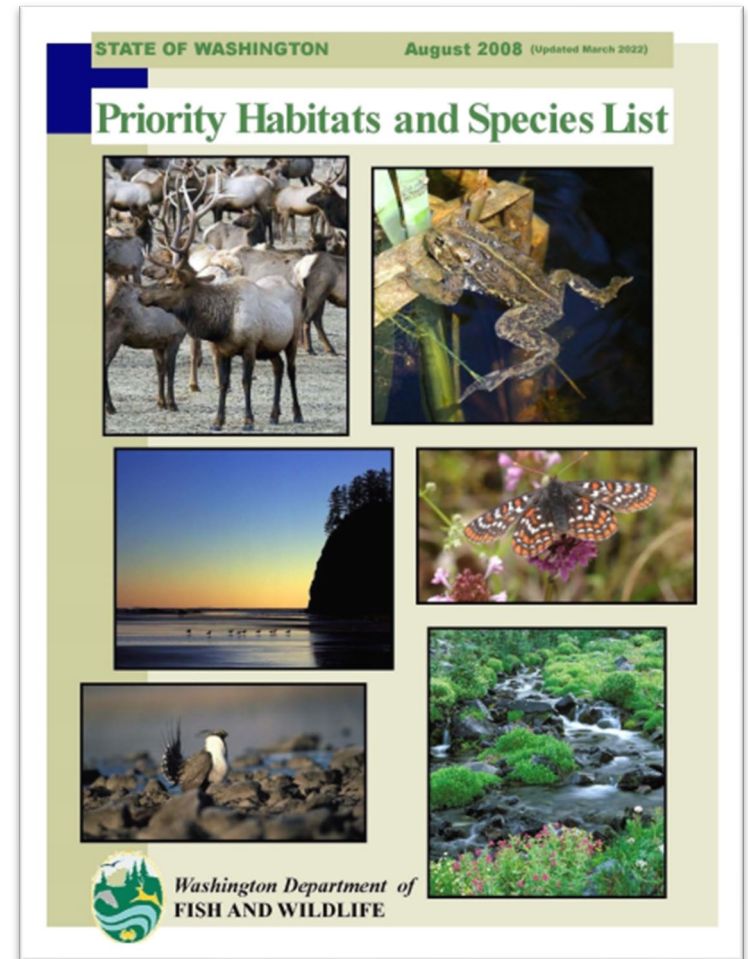




# PHS List

## To support FWHCA designation:

- Criteria-based, vetted list
  - 20 Priority Habitats
  - 181 Priority Species in 11 groups
- Additional info
  - County-level distribution
  - State and federal listing status
  - Primary association areas
- *Adopt PHS List by reference*



# PHS on the Web

## Where to designate FWHCAs?

- Simplest way to check a site for PHS records
- Request digital GIS data


## Caveats

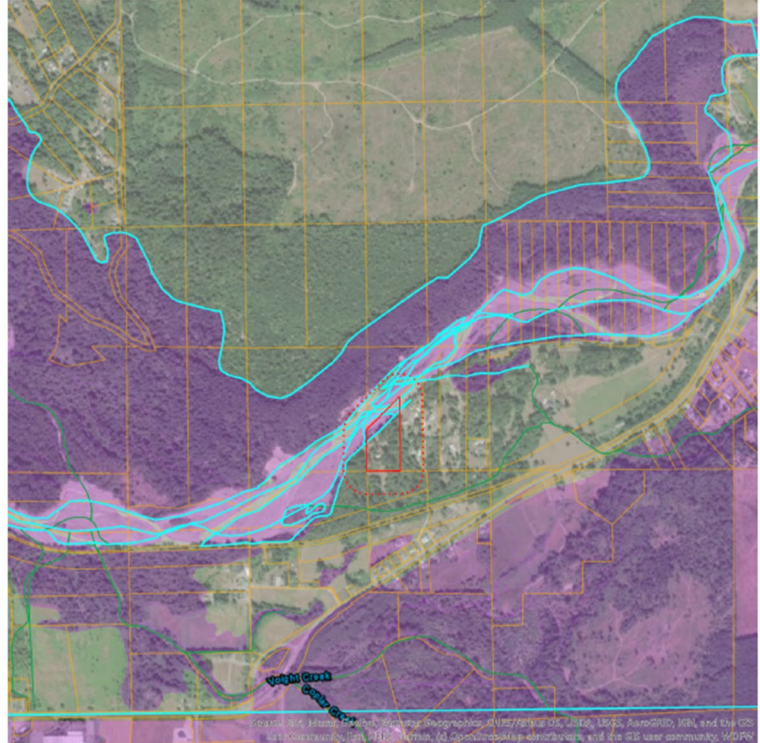
- Doesn't include all types of Priority Habitats
- Species move and exist in places we haven't surveyed
- Validate with site-scale info

*Adopt PHS Maps by reference*



1/20/2021 PHS Report

 Priority Habitats and Species on the Web



Buffer radius: 250 Feet  
Report Date: 01/20/2021, Parcel ID: [redacted]

PHS Species/Habitats Overview

Occurrence Name	Federal Status	State Status	Generalized Location
Coho	Candidate	N/A	No
Pink Salmon Odd Year	N/A	N/A	No
Chum	Not Warranted	N/A	No
Steelhead	Threatened	N/A	No
Dolly Varden/ Bull Trout	N/A	N/A	No
Winter Steelhead	N/A	N/A	No
Fall Chum	N/A	N/A	No
Chinook	Threatened	N/A	No
Coho	N/A	N/A	No
Bull Trout	Threatened	N/A	No
Pink	Not Warranted	N/A	No
Fall Chinook	N/A	N/A	No

# PHS Management Recommendations

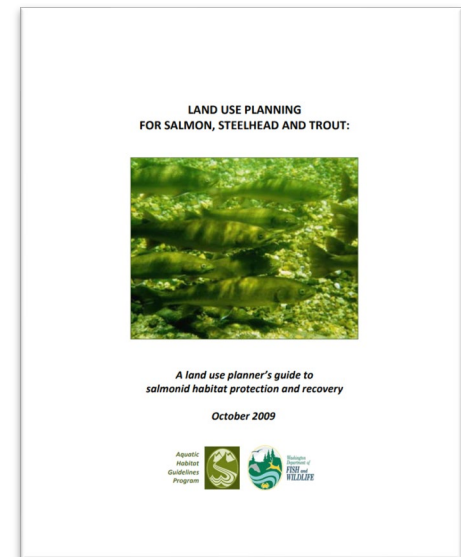
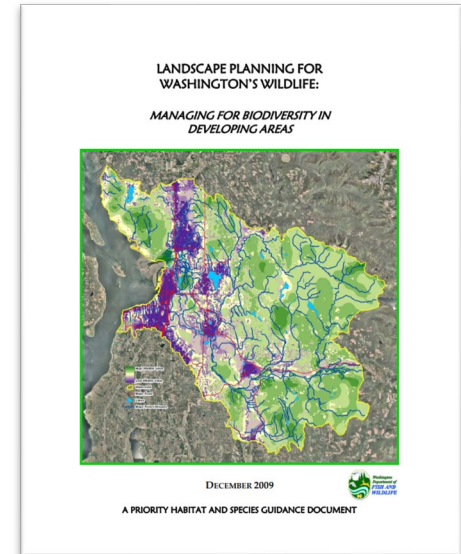
## Broad

- Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas
- Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout

## Specific

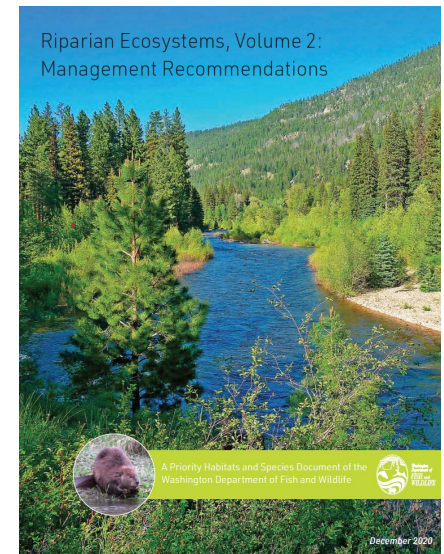
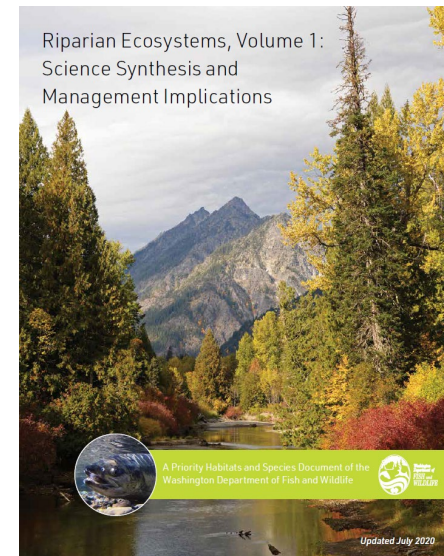
- Habitats: Shrubsteppe, Oak Woodlands, etc.
- Species: Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, etc.

*Adopt PHS Management Recommendations by reference*



# PHS Management Recommendations: Riparian Ecosystems

- **Volume 1:** Science Synthesis
- **Volume 2:** Riparian Management Recommendations
- The intent of Riparian Management Zone (**RMZs**) is to provide *fully functioning riparian ecosystems* in support of water quality, salmon recovery, and climate resilience among other ecosystem services.

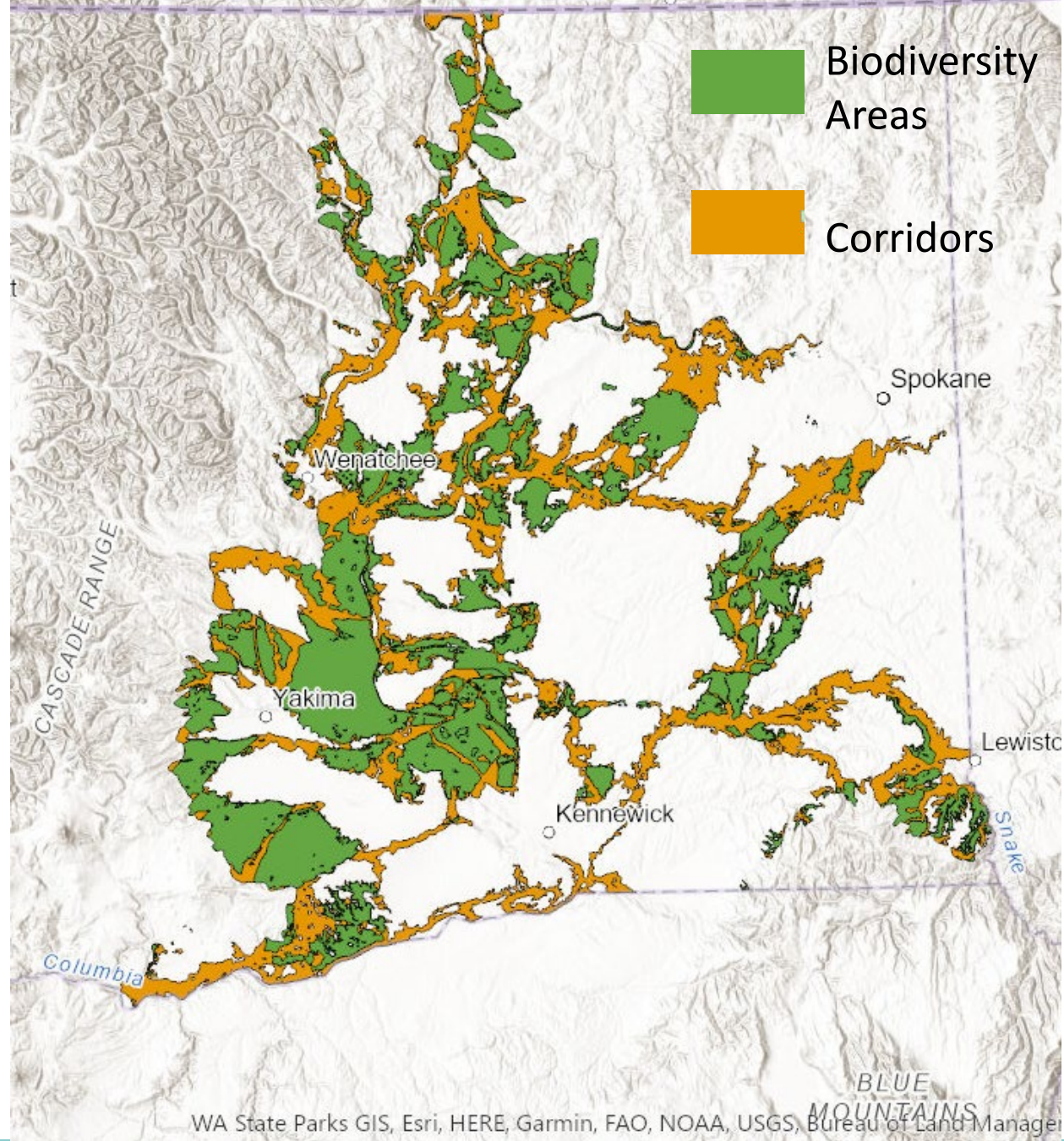


# PHS Columbia Plateau Biodiversity Areas and Corridors

*Is* for regional planning.

- Siting Urban Growth Boundaries
- Zoning changes
- Open space planning
- Siting major projects (solar)

*Is NOT* for site planning.



# PHS Team

PHS Section Manager



Julia Michalak, PhD

**Conservation Information Delivery Unit**

PHS Data Unit Manager



Keith Folkerts

**PHS Publications**

PHS List & Management Recommendations



Jeff Azerrad

**Habitat Specialists**

Connectivity Biologist



Zaneta Kaszta, PhD

Shrubsteppe Biologist



Ben Turnock

Database Manager

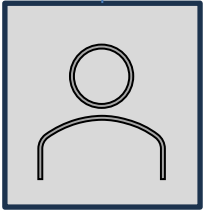


Terry Johnson

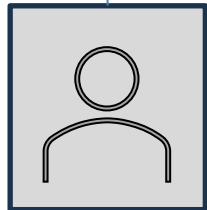
Data Release Manager



Lori Guggenmos



Habitat Specialist



Habitat Specialist



# Land Use Conservation & Policy



- **LUCP Mission:** to advance WDFW's mission via science-based land use policy updates and implementation
  - Develop tools, information, and training to support regions in engaging local jurisdictions, landowners, stakeholders, and tribes in land use planning
  - Project technical assistance and commenting
  - Growth Management and Shoreline Management



# Land Use Planning Conservation Priorities

- PHS products and services
- Riparian Standards
- Habitat Connectivity
- Salmon Recovery
- Climate Resilience
- No Net Loss and Net Ecological Gain





# RMZ Checklist

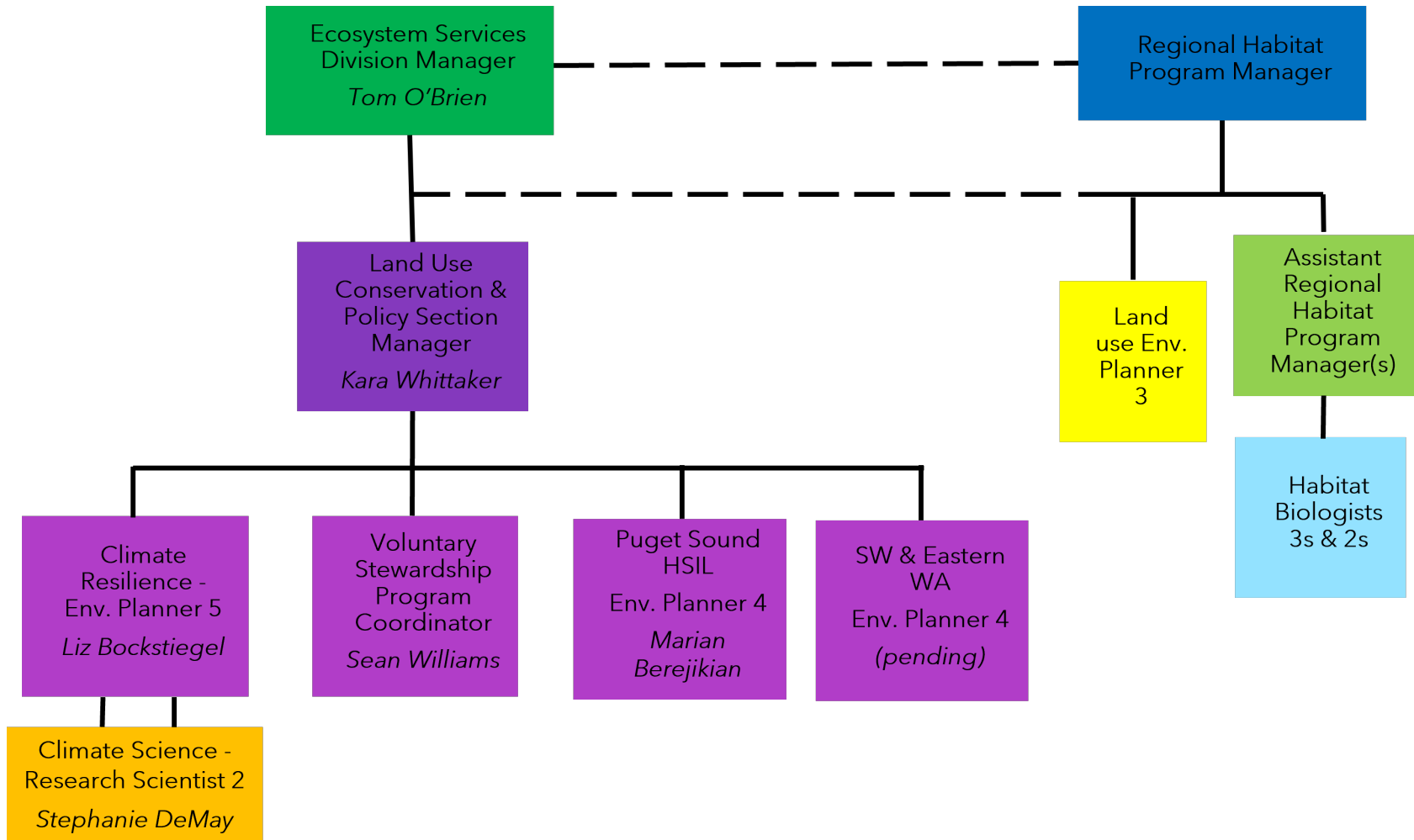
- A [voluntary tool](#) to help translate our BAS-based riparian guidance into CAO and SMP amendments.
- Our checklist [Addendum](#) provides links to sections of CAOs with language that reflects the general intent of our recommendations.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION (RMR)	LOCATION IN RMR VOL. 2	CITATION IN CAO	HOW ADDRESSED IN CAO <i>(or why not addressed in CAO)</i>
A. Does your CAO intend to protect all key riparian ecosystem functions (i.e., shade, root strength, nutrient input, wood input, and pollution control)?	Section 2.2.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Citation:	
B. Depending on your ecoregion(s), do your FWHCAs utilize the appropriate methodology (whichever width is greater) for delineating riparian management zones (RMZs) for all stream types? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <a href="#">Site-Potential Tree Height</a> (at age 200 years, SPTH<sub>200</sub>),</li> <li>• the extent of native riparian vegetation, or</li> <li>• the minimum pollution removal distance of 100 feet</li> </ul>	Section 2.3 and Fig. 2.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Citation:	
C. If your jurisdiction does <u>not</u> delineate RMZs consistent with the methods delineated in question B, do your FWHCAs	Section 2.3 and Fig. 2.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	





# LUCP – Region Relationships





# Land Use Planning Community of Practice

- Intentional coordination and collaboration among LUCP/HQ and Regional Habitat Program staff, especially among the six Regional Land Use Planners.
- Shared knowledge and a shared identity can drive strategy, solve problems, promote the spread of best practices, and develop people's professional skills.



# WDFW Technical Assistance

- WDFW Habitat Biologists are a land use planning resource.
- Use our online map for contact info in your jurisdiction.

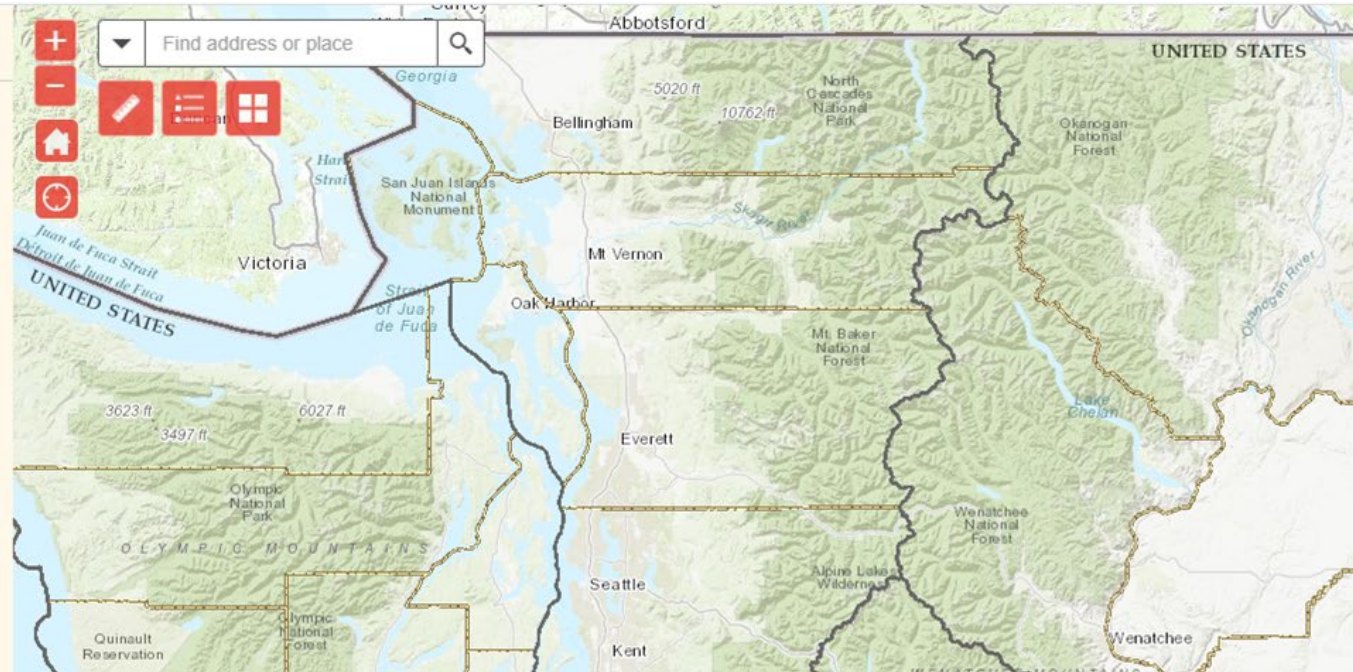
Washington Department of Fish & ...



## Areas of Responsibilities Map: WDFW Assistance

*To find out who to contact for assistance:*

- 1) Enter your full address in the Search tool (upper left corner of the map by the magnifying glass) and choose the location from the list that appears. The map will then zoom to that location.*
- 2) Or zoom in and pan to your area of interest.*
- 3) Then click on the map at the approximate location of your project and a pop up box will*



# Voluntary Stewardship Program

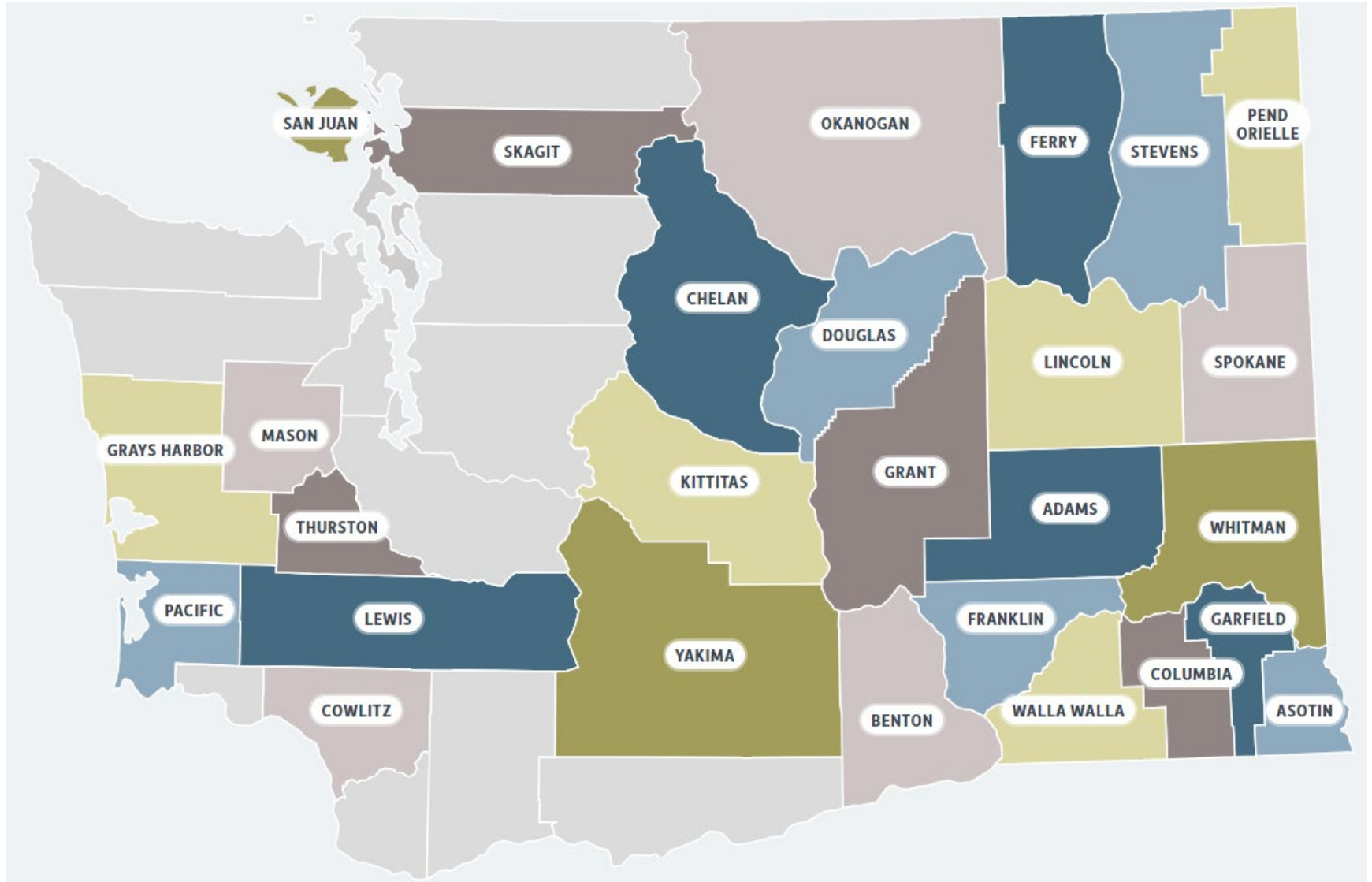


Photo: Foster Creek Conservation District

- GMA alternative to Critical Areas Ordinance regulations to:
  - Protect and enhance critical area functions and values
  - Improve agricultural viability
- VSP counties use financial incentives to voluntarily enroll agricultural landowners to engage in conservation practices



# VSP Counties



# Questions? Thank you!

- **Land Use Conservation & Policy Section**  
[Kara.Whittaker@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kara.Whittaker@dfw.wa.gov)
- **Priority Habitats & Species Section**  
[Julia.Michalak@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Julia.Michalak@dfw.wa.gov)

