

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

July 2008

New website to learn more about local salmon restoration projects

By Erik Neatherlin, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Have you ever wondered what's going on with salmon restoration in your watershed, who's doing the work, where the projects are located, and how you can get involved in these efforts? Thanks to a joint effort by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and local watershed groups, searching for restoration projects is as easy as finding directions on MapQuest®. Now you are just a mouse click away from the *Habitat Work Schedule* (HWS) system, a web-based salmon habitat project database that can be accessed at <http://hws.ekosystem.us/>.

This new HWS system provides information about Washington's Salmon Recovery [Lead Entity program](#).

The Lead Entity program is a watershed- and community-based approach developed by the legislature as part of salmon recovery. The 27 Lead Entities across Washington develop locally supported, science-based restoration projects. This process has been successful by involving the public in salmon restoration.

The Lead Entity Habitat Work Schedule system

The Lead Entity HWS system is the mapping and project-tracking tool that allows Lead Entities to share their habitat protection and restoration projects with the public. The HWS system makes it easier to communicate actions laid out in the watershed salmon recovery plans. By mapping projects, linking them to each other and recovery goals, and making it all available on the web, Lead Entities can now make salmon recovery projects more accessible to their partners, potential funding sources, and the public.

Key features of the HWS system are:

- Easy to use
- Optional privacy and security features
- Data sharing and transfer methods
- Fast mapping and project search tools
- Advanced reporting and export capabilities

The public portal

There are two ways to access the HWS system: the public portal and a login portal. The public portal is open to anyone with Internet access, and one can search for projects using the map or a keyword (Figure 1). The public can navigate maps to view and compare projects in their watersheds. When the user scrolls over a project icon (Figure 2), a text box appears summarizing the project. Users can click the "View Project" icon, and a

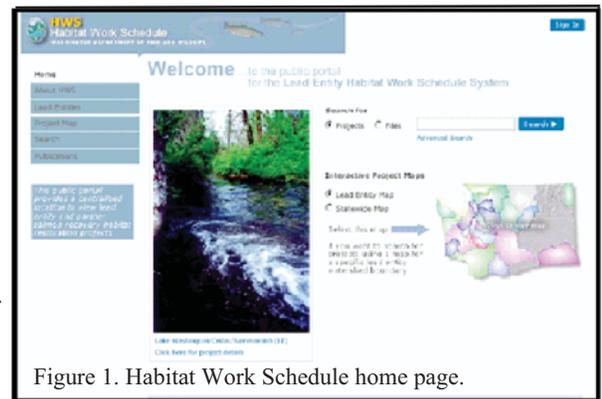


Figure 1. Habitat Work Schedule home page.

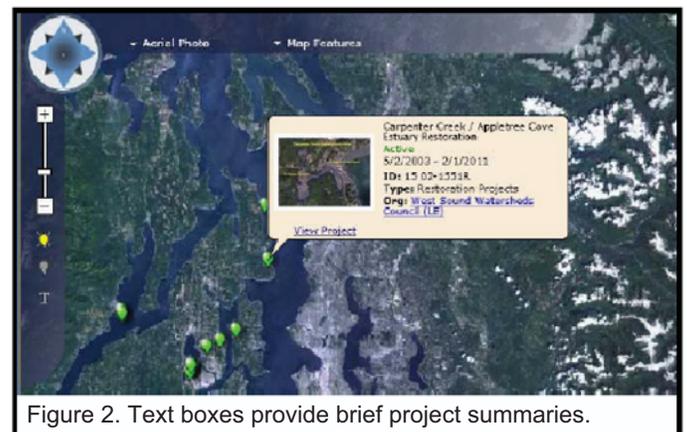


Figure 2. Text boxes provide brief project summaries.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Good Neighbor Handbooks
Page 3

Conferences, Workshops,
& Training
Page 4

New WDFW Planner in
Southwest Washington
Page 5

Grant Opportunities
Page 5

WDFW Contacts
Page 6

Washington Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Applicants name:
Address & phone:

HABITAT WORK SCHEDULE

Continued from Page 1

window will appear to provide more detail, including a description, goals and objectives, charts illustrating progress, limiting factors, species affected, contact information, and other information the project manager wants to share. Each project page also allows a user to view posted photos, maps, and documents.

Users can also learn about projects by clicking on specific Lead Entity watersheds (Figure 3). This provides a more detailed view of projects, along with a homepage for each Lead Entity. This part of the site helps Lead Entities better communicate with community and citizen groups. Lead Entities can share documents and post messages to this site.

The login portal

The system's login portal is for advanced users such as Lead Entities and project sponsors who need to manage projects, query reports, and conduct data entry. In addition to the features available in the public portal, login users can manage budgets, timelines, and tasks; upload, download and manipulate maps; and generate advanced reports.



Figure 3. Example of a Lead Entity home page.

Information security

Information security is a key component of HWS. Lead Entity administrators set the security levels for all login users, thereby ensuring sensitive project information is not distributed inappropriately. All project data reside in a secure location hosted by Paladin Data Systems, Inc., and are accessible at all times.

First step toward stronger partnerships

The HWS system brings together Lead Entity habitat projects in one place. This allows other organizations to post and share projects with the public through the Lead Entities. In fact, a goal of the HWS System is to reach out to other organizations that are instrumental in actually putting salmon recovery projects on the ground. These other organizations may include watershed health groups, regional fish enhancement groups, regional recovery organizations, conservation districts, land trusts, Tribes, and federal, state and local governments.

As organizations grow more sophisticated and restoration projects become increasingly complex, these projects require a broader suite of funding. One of the hopes is that the HWS system will make it easier to link high priority restoration projects with appropriate funding sources.

The value of the system

The HWS system is in its first year. Lead Entity watersheds and project sponsors are being trained to use the system and are adding proposed and ongoing projects to the system. Currently, there are about 5,000 projects in the system. Most projects will be viewable by the public this month. In the coming year Lead Entities and their partner organizations will add completed restoration projects to the system to provide a more complete picture of salmon recovery.

The Habitat Work Schedule will continue to be a work in progress for the next year. Its value will increase as projects cycle from a concept to a proposal to completed projects. This tracking will leave a legacy for future generations who want to know how local communities worked to protect and restore salmon habitat in Washington State.

Whom to contact

To learn about salmon recovery and restoration work going on in your local watershed, visit the [Habitat Work Schedule System](#) website. To inquire about your watershed (including how to obtain a login ID), contact your local Lead Entity Coordinator using the [Lead Entity Directory](#). To learn more about the HWS system, contact Erik Neatherlin, Project Manager at 360-902-2559 or at neathean@dfw.wa.gov

Good Neighbor Handbooks Help Washington's Residents

By John Carleton & Jeff Azerrad, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

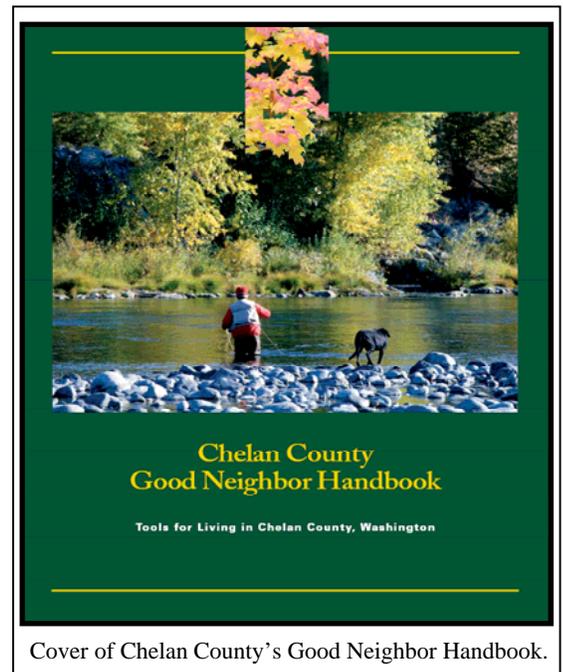
Good neighbors, to many of us, are those who keep their pets in their own yards, minimize noise, or help out by watering plants while a neighbor is on vacation. Another way to be a good neighbor is to maintain a healthy environment through good stewardship. Several good-neighbor handbooks have recently been published to help guide residents of Washington who wish to practice good stewardship.

Good stewardship is a concept that embodies high ideals. One such ideal is the act of sustainably managing the environment so natural resources can be passed to future generations. When individuals strive to be good stewards, they make choices that benefit their neighbors and the community at large. While certain state and local laws require property owners to accomplish a minimum level of stewardship (e.g., regulatory buffers to protect streams), actions by residents who go above and beyond these minimum levels further enhance livability and the natural processes that maintain healthy environments. This act of going above and beyond the minimum is an essential element of good environmental stewardship.

Good-neighbor handbooks

To help landowners go beyond the minimum level of conservation required by law, several "good-neighbor handbooks" have recently been published in Washington State. These handbooks provide practical information to those who wish to learn more about aspects of good stewardship, such as living in harmony with wildlife, conserving limited resources, and making better choices when landscaping a yard. These handbooks are especially valuable to residents who may be new to an area.

One recently published handbook is the [Chelan County Good-Neighbor Handbook](#), developed by the [Chelan-Douglas Land Trust](#) in collaboration with Chelan County Natural Resources Department, the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, Chelan County PUD, and the Rotary Club of Wenatchee. Chelan County Conservation District and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a technical review of this publication.



Cover of Chelan County's Good Neighbor Handbook.

For people moving to Chelan County, this handbook is a good source of practical recommendations to guide stewardship. Recommendations include how to build a home that is energy efficient and that reduces the risk of wildfire damage. A major section is dedicated to living with wildlife, explaining how to maintain and enhance valuable habitat while avoiding wildlife damage and conflict. The guidebook lets new residents know what kind of wildlife they may encounter. Tips on identifying and controlling common noxious weeds and invasive species are given. The guide presents valuable information on water use, flooding, riparian protection, and wastewater management. Useful web links and a directory of local conservation organizations are identified to provide residents with practical advice and information. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust mails a copy of the handbook to all who purchase property in the county.

Other handbooks have been published to provide similar information to residents in other Washington communities. These include the [Good-Neighbor Handbook: A Guide For Landowners in the Methow Valley](#) produced by the [Methow Conservancy](#). [Legacy of Stewardship: A Landowner's Guide to the Okanogan](#) by the [Okanogan Valley Land Council](#) was recently published to provide residents around Okanogan County with information on stewardship of water, wildlife, weeds, and wildfire. Partly because of their role in developing the Methow Valley handbook, the Methow Conservancy won WDFW's Organization of the Year award in 2001.

Publishing a good-neighbor handbook in your community

Although a handful of Washington's communities have published good-neighbor handbooks, most citizens do not have a similar resource available for their community. Although publishing such a handbook requires a financial commitment, the pooling of resources and knowledge among dedicated groups can help support the development of these publications.

In your own community, consider partnering with cooperators that may include local land trusts, community service groups, local and state government, and environmental organizations. Also, grants identified in the [Grant Opportunities](#) section of the Fish and Wildlife Planner often include financial opportunities focused on funding such efforts. Finally, it is important to learn from those who have published their own good-neighbor handbooks. Contacting these groups should be a first step in the development of a good-neighbor handbook to serve your community.

This article is part of a continuing series in the *Fish and Wildlife Planner* to give examples of groups that have been successful in biodiversity planning in Washington.

Conferences, workshops & training

- 2008 Washington Planners' Forums:

Summer Forums

- July 16 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend Community Col. Contact: [Dave Catterson](#)
- July 17 – Southwest Wash. – Rock Creek Comm. Ctr., StevensonContact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- July 18 – Olympic Peninsula – Port TownsendContact: [Tim Gates](#)
- July 16 – Northwest Wash. – Location TBDContact: [Doug Peters](#)

Fall Forums

- October 15 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend Community Col.Contact: [Dave Catterson](#)
- October 16 – Southwest Wash. – 4400 NE 77th Ave, Vancouver.....Contact: [Valerie Grigg Devis](#)
- October 31 – Olympic Peninsula – SuquamishContact: [Tim Gates](#)
- October 15 – Northwest Wash. – Location TBDContact: [Doug Peters](#)

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.

- **American Planning Association - Washington Chapter Regional Conference – Save the date!** – This annual conference will take place at Spokane's Davenport Hotel October 13 – 15. The theme for this year's conference is "Plan it for the Planet: Stewardship for the 21st Century." More information about the conference will be posted at <http://www.washington-apa.org/2008conf/index.html>.
- **Pacific Northwest Wildlife Connections - Save the date!** This conference will focus on ways to integrate ecological considerations into land use and transportation planning. Discussions will focus on transportation systems and cover the best available tools for enabling animals to cross highways. The meeting will take place at the Oregon Zoo in Portland October 19 – 23. Contact [Suzanne Rosen](#) or go to <http://www.oregonzoo.org/Events/Calendar/images/PNWCflyer.pdf> for more information.
- **Coastal Management Courses** – The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort between several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals who make decisions about coastal management in Washington. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and coastal resource managers. A list of courses can be found at [CTP's website](#).
- **Short Courses/Planning Education** – Free, 3-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is on the [Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of communities and are open to the public. Everyone who attends receives a course manual. Call or email [Janet Rogerson](#) with questions at 360.725.3047.

New WDFW biologist to assist SW Washington communities

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to announce the hiring of biologist Ted Labbe to assist southwest Washington communities with conservation planning. Ted will provide policy outreach and assistance to local governments updating land use plans and development regulations to protect fish and wildlife populations consistent with the Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act. Ted will also oversee updates and integration of the agency's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data with regional planning efforts.

Ted worked for nine years with the Point No Point Treaty Council and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe as a habitat biologist focused on conservation issues around Hood Canal and the northeast Olympic Peninsula. Following a year of exploring South America, Ted returned to the Northwest and worked with the nonprofit Wild Fish Conservancy. Ted has diverse work experiences in watershed planning, salmon recovery, forestry, habitat assessment, and land use planning. He has an M.S. degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University, and a B.A. degree from Bowdoin College in Maine. Originally from Portland, Oregon, he is enjoying living in his old hometown and commuting by bike to the WDFW Vancouver office. Ted can be reached at 360-906-6731 or labbetrl@dfw.wa.gov.

Grant opportunities

- **Water Quality Grants and Loans** – The Washington Department of Ecology administers an integrated funding program to fund projects that improve and protect water quality. Each year, Ecology's Water Quality Program accepts applications from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and some qualified non-profits seeking financial help to improve or protect water quality in their communities. To make the process simpler and more efficient, Ecology allows applicants to submit one application for all possible funding sources. The application period runs from September 1 - October 31. Application workshops are currently being scheduled. For more information go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/indexfunding.html>
- **River restoration grants** – American Rivers, through its partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'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. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1 of each calendar year. More information can be found at the [American Rivers](http://www.amrivers.org) website. Questions can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@amrivers.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 are \$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. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.
- **Additional grant opportunities** – The following links offer information on a variety of grants that can help fund local conservation planning initiatives:
 - Click [HERE](#) to use the federal government's primary grant search engine.
 - The Association of Washington Cities has an electronic newsletter called "[Grant Alert](#)." Many grants are relevant to natural resource issues affecting cities throughout Washington.
 - The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning activities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - The Washington Biodiversity Project provides an overview of opportunities to receive grants and incentives for projects that lead to the conservation of Washington's biodiversity. Click [HERE](#).

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.255.6103, divenkad@dfw.wa.gov (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties)

North-central Washington:

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

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, teskemst@dfw.wa.gov (Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, and Yakima counties)

Southwest Washington:

Ted Labbe, 360.906.6731, labbetrl@dfw.wa.gov (Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties)

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Katie Knight, 360.902.2618, knighkmk@dfw.wa.gov (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom);

GMA & PHS Coordination:

Jennifer Hayes, 360.902-2562, hayesjhl@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754, azerrjma@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment/Landscape Planning Technical Assistance:

John Carleton, 360.902.2622, carlejpc@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

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