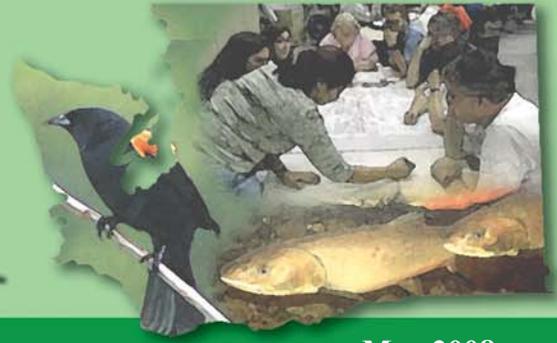


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

May 2008

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Land trusts: Indispensable partners in local planning

By John Carleton, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

What is a land trust?

Partnerships between local governments and land trusts have evolved over the years in Washington State, because both share a common goal of land stewardship that results in mutually beneficial outcomes. Local governments often work directly with these non-government organizations (NGOs) because land trusts are usually trusted by the public and because land trusts have unique skills that can help cities and counties achieve important planning goals.

Although the majority of local land trusts are found in the eastern United States where public land is scarce, Washington has 33 local land trusts that are coordinated by the [Land Trust Alliance](#) (LTA). Most of our state's land trusts serve only one or two counties, and each of these

organizations has a unique set of objectives. For many, the protection of habitat is a common objective, while others deal more with urban open space or farmland conservation. Others may focus their attention on working forests, estuaries, or freshwater riparian areas. All operate with the support of an energetic base of citizens interested in critical lands. In addition to these local land trusts, two national land trusts are very active in Washington. [The Nature Conservancy](#) and the [Trust for Public Land](#) work primarily on projects of state or national significance.



Courtesy of the Columbia Land Trust

Volunteers for the Columbia Land Trust who are planting trees on property that is cooperatively managed with Clark County.

Cooperative planning: Land trusts and local government

Land trusts function by identifying, protecting, and managing important lands - an objective they share with cities and counties responsible for identifying and protecting critical areas for wildlife and open space corridors. Although specific reasons for protecting open space and parklands may differ, commonalities among jurisdictions and land trusts often outweigh their differences. Both are attempting to achieve conservation of valued resources while trying to serve the needs of local citizens.

Although land trusts often cooperate with cities and counties, they must also maintain a clear level of autonomy. Often, purchases and bequests of property are successfully completed only after longtime relationships with landowners are cemented. These relationships must be nurtured because mutual trust takes time to cultivate. Land trusts fall short of their mission if they fail to carry out the original intentions of the landowner. Even if certain landowners may distrust government, some of these same landowners may trust one of these NGOs. A number of Washington land trusts have good working relationships with local governments, and some work with state and federal agencies as well. The following are two examples of local government cooperation with land trusts.



Please see LAND TRUSTS on Page 2

Examples of cooperation: Clark and Chelan counties

Clark County and [Columbia Land Trust \(CLT\)](#) have developed a very successful relationship. The county's Legacy Lands Program, a conservation futures program funded through property taxes, uses its revenue to serve as a local match for conservation grants to acquire shorelines, greenways, open space, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Patrick Lee, the Legacy Lands Program Manager, describes a collaboration where the county, CLT, other government agencies and conservation organizations collectively decide which organization is best placed to apply for grants, and how resources can be pooled to accomplish the acquisition.

This coordination has prevented potentially competitive situations that could have stifled the success of their mutual goals. Patrick describes some of the most significant efforts, including

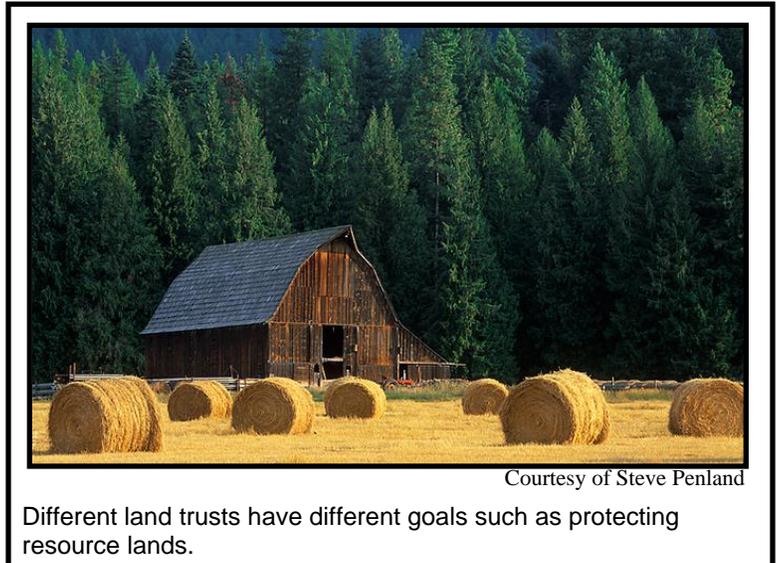
the protection of 2,500 acres along the East Fork Lewis River, with holdings by the county and CLT. One five-parcel acquisition included legal building sites. The Land Trust holds a conservation easement for the majority of each lot, allowing the county to sell the building rights at some future date to replenish the Legacy Account. Through a memorandum of understanding, CLT took temporary title of another county acquisition, providing caretaking services until the county was able to make public access improvements and assume management of the site. The ability of the land trust to process land transactions quickly led to a significant acquisition of property adjacent to an existing park. Because the transaction was completed in such a short time, the former owner was able to get a charitable tax deduction by donating a significant part of the land value. By agreement, CLT and the county will share management responsibilities until the county is able to take donation of the property.

Either the land trust or the local government can take the initiative to collaborate. In north-central Washington, [Chelan-Douglas Land Trust \(CDLT\)](#) brought together a forum of partners to evaluate a variety of conservation initiatives. Partners included state, federal, and local landowning agencies, NGOs, the local Realtors association, and Chelan County. The group has explored methods of protecting valuable resource lands while increasing economic opportunities that will not negatively impact the county's tax base. This partnership has resulted in land swaps where the tradeoffs have been positive to all sides.

CDLT is also engaged in initial discussions to develop local programs for trading of development rights, and it has coordinated with the Trust For Public Lands on a study to explore the feasibility of a local conservation futures program. CDLT's Executive Director, Bob Bugert, is also excited about other collaborations involving new agricultural models such as grass banking and credits for production of environmental services.

Working with your local land trusts

Land trusts are agile organizations, able to act swiftly. They also provide a wealth of useful services to support the goals of partners that often include local planning departments. Planners can explore these opportunities by contacting the local land trust(s) operating in their jurisdictions. If you do not know what trusts operate in your part of the world, it is easy to find that information through an Internet search engine that is available on LTA's Website. To find your local land trusts, just go to LTA's "[Find a Member Land Trust](#)" page.



Courtesy of Steve Penland

Different land trusts have different goals such as protecting resource lands.

Your review needed! Significant revisions to WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species List

Over the past year, WDFW has been updating the agency's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) List. The PHS List is a catalog of those species and habitats that WDFW has identified as priorities for management and conservation. The PHS List directly affects what the agency maps in our [PHS database](#), and new changes to the list will result in some changes to data that are released to cities and counties. Because information on fish, wildlife, and their habitats is dynamic, the list requires a periodic update. The last major update occurred in 1999.

The list that is now out for review has gone through extensive revision, and various experts have been involved in the development of the new draft.

A draft of the revised PHS List has been published, and we are interested in hearing from you! The PHS List is available for online review, and we are requesting comments from interested readers of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*.

If you would like to review changes to the draft, please go to http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/phs_review/index.htm. Instructions for reviewers are provided at this web link. Please submit all comments by June 11, 2008.

New WDFW planner to assist Puget Sound cities and counties

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to announce the hiring of Katie Knight as the new conservation planner for Puget Sound. Katie will provide policy and planning assistance to local governments as they develop land use plans and regulations consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA) and Shoreline Management Act (SMA). She will also help local governments integrate the agency's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) information in regional planning activities.

Puget Sound will be receiving a lot of attention from state and local governments over the coming years. Katie will be focused on the highest priority fish and wildlife issues in areas of the Puget Sound region ([WDFW Regions 4 and 6](#)). In addition, the position will work with WDFW's Watershed Stewardship Team to more fully integrate salmon recovery planning with GMA and SMA planning in local jurisdictions.



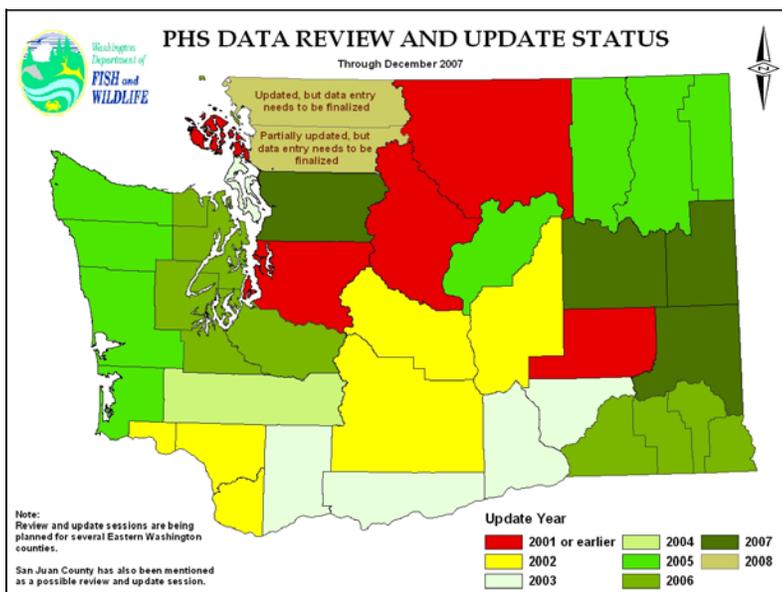
Katie was a long-range planner for Thurston County and is well-versed in GMA issues. She also worked for land trusts in Washington and Alaska, where watershed planning and salmon recovery planning were important aspects of her work. Katie has a master's degree from Cornell in land use planning and natural resource management. She was a recipient of the Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship, a fellowship awarded to future conservation leaders in public service. Katie's background and interests make her ideally suited to land use planning involving fish and wildlife in the Puget Sound area, and we're very happy to have her on board.

Katie will work out of the Olympia office. She can be reached by phone at 360.902.2618 or by email at knighkmk@dfw.wa.gov.

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 information on the locations of important species and habitats. Priority species are those that require protective measures to ensure their future survival because of low population numbers, sensitivity to habitat alteration, tendency to form in vulnerable groups (e.g., heron rookeries), or because they are of commercial, recreational, or tribal importance. Priority habitats are areas that support diverse, unique, or abundant fish and wildlife communities. The agency regularly updates its PHS data, and the current status of the data is shown in this figure.



PHS data were updated in 2007 for Spokane, Lincoln, Whitman, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. Data updates are planned for counties in eastern Washington later this year. In addition, WDFW is migrating all of its PHS data from ArcInfo to an ArcGIS geodatabase feature class format (see related article in the [Winter 2007](#) issue).

Other important fish and wildlife databases

Besides the PHS database, other databases managed by WDFW contain information commonly used by cities and counties throughout the state. The Wildlife Program manages the Wildlife Survey Data Management database and the Spotted Owl database. Both of these databases houses data for priority species that are endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidates for these classifications.

The Fish Program maintains the Washington Lakes Rivers Information System (WLRIS) that contains 1:24,000 scale salmonid spawning, rearing, and distribution data. WLRIS will later add information on the locations of important resident fish. WLRIS also contains important data for a many species of fish that are on the agency's Priority Habitat and Species List.

WDFW maintains a bald eagle buffer layer. Local planners who need to determine if a project requires a [Bald Eagle Management Plan](#) commonly use the Bald Eagle database. Answers to frequently asked questions about the requirements of a Bald Eagle Plan are available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/baldeagle/>.

All these databases can inform local planning and are available to those who request PHS information. There are many examples of activities that can benefit from the use of PHS data. For instance, many local communities rely on PHS data to inform various aspects of critical areas planning. PHS data can also be incorporated into incentive-based programs such as conservation futures.

Requesting PHS information

Directions for requesting PHS maps or digital data can found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/release.htm>, or by calling 360.902.2543. A written request for ordering PHS information can be sent to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, PHS Data Release, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501.

Changes to WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species database

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has made significant changes to the Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) data products that are distributed to planning agencies and other customers. These changes reflect updates in GIS technology and accommodate the redesign of WDFW's Wildlife Heritage database. Details about these recent changes were described in the [Fall 2007](#) issue of the *Fish and Wildlife Planner*.

Examples illustrating the new content of the PHS database have been posted on WDFW's [PHS Redesign](#) site. Customers who have requested digital data in the past two years have received a letter with instructions for accessing this site. Access to the site will include an email subscription service. We will use this service to notify subscribers about new additions to the web page, as well as other changes that may affect the use of WDFW data. Other users of PHS data can email phsredesign@dfw.wa.gov if they have questions, wish access the Internet site, or want to be added as a subscriber to this email list.

Grant opportunities

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program grants** - The Family Forest Fish Passage Program has funding to help small private forest landowners fix fish barriers on forestlands. Applications are being accepted through June 30, 2008, for funding for the following year. For more information, go the program's website at http://www.rco.wa.gov/srfb/grants/fffp_program.htm or directly contact the Small Forest Landowner Office at 360-902-1404 or sflo@wadnr.gov.
- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** – Established pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to conserve threatened and endangered species. Parties seeking grant funds to protect lands in perpetuity for habitat conservation may apply for a Recovery Land Acquisition grant or a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition grant. Parties seeking grant funds to plan and develop an HCP may apply for a Habitat Conservation (HC) Planning Assistance grant.

Intent Form Due July 1, 2008

Full Proposal Due August 4, 2008

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/section6/index.htm>

- **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](#) 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 [HERE](#).

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 – Quilcene.....Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- July 16 – Northwest Wash. – Location TBD.....Contact: [Doug Peters](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk informally about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use.

- **Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference** – This conference will take place in Yakima on June 17-20. More information will be posted on the webpage of the [Association of Washington Cities](#).
- **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](#) 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, three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, the basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is available on the [Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of local communities and are always open to the public. Everyone who attends will receive a short course manual. Call or email [Janet Rogerson](#) with questions at 360.725.3047.

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

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

Southwest Washington:

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

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

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

GMA & PHS Coordination:

Jennifer Hayes, 360.902-2562; hayesjlh@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

Fish & Wildlife Planner

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