

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

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DNR's Aquatic Lands HCP: A New Resource for Planners

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The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) consistent with the agency's stewardship of state-owned aquatic lands. In composing the HCP, DNR made a variety of information available that local land use planners may find of value for guiding activities such as Shoreline Master Program updates. The following products are now available:

- Information about species of management concern
- Facts about various freshwater/saltwater habitats (e.g., effects of land use activities on aquatic habitats)
- Description of aquatic land use activities authorized by DNR
- Aquatic GIS database

Land use planning tools

Currently, DNR manages approximately 2.4 million acres of shorelands, tidelands, and bedlands (i.e., marine waters, major lakes and rivers). By statute, state aquatic lands are managed to provide a number of public benefits. These include encouraging direct public use and access, fostering water-dependent uses, ensuring environmental protection, promoting the use of renewable resources, and generating revenue as consistent with these benefits. A number of terrestrial and aquatic species that are listed as endangered, threatened, or of concern as well as non-listed rare species rely on these lands as habitat. Washington DNR's goal in writing an HCP is to make sure that species' habitat needs are protected while providing public benefits.

Scientific information developed in support of the HCP is available to land use planners in the following technical documents:

Information about species

DNR has analyzed the potential impacts of managed activities on 108 species of plants and animals that use state-owned aquatic lands for breeding, foraging, or rearing. Based on an analysis, DNR proposes that twenty-one species be covered in the aquatic HCP. This information is contained in "[Aquatic Resources Program ESA Compliance Project: Covered Species Technical Paper](#)." Information in this publication is of value to land use planners looking for scientifically credible information on the ecological requirements of critical species as well as information on land use activities that are known to negatively impact these species.

Please see HCP on Page 2



Photo courtesy of Steve Penland

Waters of the south Puget Sound at sunrise.

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Information about aquatic habitats

Six ecosystems and several associated habitats have been evaluated to organize information about the location of certain habitats, species' use of habitats, and interactions between habitat and DNR-authorized activities. The analysis and associated information is contained in the "[Aquatic Resource Program ESA Compliance Project: Covered Habitat Technical Paper](#)."



Information about land use activities

The "[Aquatic Resources Program ESA Compliance Project: Potential Covered Activities Technical Paper](#)" provides a coarse synopsis of the location of authorized activities that occur on state-owned aquatic land. The data identifies the section where each activity occurs, but does not provide more detailed information (e.g., size, precise location, etc.).

Since the Potential Covered Activities paper was completed, DNR has further refined the list of activities intended for inclusion in an HCP. These are: aquaculture (fin fish and shellfish), overwater structures (e.g., docks, wharves, mooring buoys, buildings, boat lifts and ramps), marinas, marine terminals, log booming and storage, public access, small-scale mining, sand and gravel mining, and wildstock geoduck harvest.

Washington DNR chose to seek coverage for these activities because:

- DNR has management authority over the activity;
- the activity has the potential to harm species of interest;
- conservation measures are available to reduce the activity's impact; and
- the activity is not already covered by other methods of ESA compliance.

Aquatic land ownership and parcel information

A variety of GIS layers including aquatic land ownership and aquatic land parcels are available at a website containing downloadable [DNR GIS](#) data.

Coming soon

A model was developed to estimate the effects of DNR-authorized activities on birds, fish, marine mammals, and amphibians. The model also provides analysis of the environmental benefits of specific conservation measures that can offset the impacts of these activities. Scientific peer review of the model and its application is presently underway and will be used to further refine the HCP.

DNR wants your feedback

As managers of aquatic lands in the cities and counties where you work, DNR wants to make this information as widely available as possible. DNR also wants to ensure that the information is of value to the work of local land use planners. Consequently, the agency is seeking your assistance to further refine the HCP. More specifically, DNR needs your feedback to better understand how cities and counties prioritize their aquatic land use activities. Your input will ultimately help assure that the tools DNR develops will better address the conservation planning needs of a wide variety of users. Washington DNR is also seeking information about potential conservation measures for activities covered in the HCP from industry, regulators, citizens, environmental groups, and trade associations.

For more information

Please see DNR's [ESA Compliance](#) website for additional information. If you want to provide feedback, please get on the project's mailing list. If you desire more information or have specific questions, please email the [ESA team](#) or contact [Dave Palazzi](#), ESA Team Lead, (360) 902-1069.

Call for planners to participate in a short online survey to improve PHS tool

Last year the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) issued a set of new publications called [Single Page Management Recommendations](#). The purpose of these publications was to provide local planners, land managers, consultants and others with abbreviated versions of our detailed, multiple-page [Management Recommendations for Priority Habitats and Species](#).

The Single Page Management Recommendations currently address some priority bird species that are often considered in local planning decisions. WDFW is now looking into the development of Single Page Management Recommendations for additional species. No matter if you have ever used them or not, we want your opinions about these publications in order to make them as useful as possible. Please take a few minutes to complete an electronic survey. All responses will remain completely confidential.

To take the survey, please click [HERE](#).

Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

New PHS/GMA Coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

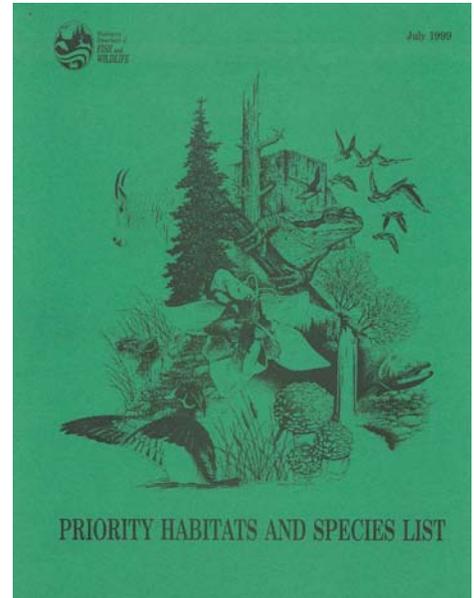
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Jennifer Hayes as the new coordinator for the Priority Habitats and Species Program as well as for the agency's activities in helping local jurisdictions respond to the Growth Management Act (GMA). Jennifer has worked for Thurston County as a senior planner dealing with comprehensive planning and policy development under the GMA. She has worked with community groups, the planning commission, and the Board of County Commissioners on a variety of land use planning issues, including controversial, high-profile issues that have generated considerable public interest. Jennifer has also worked as a private consultant assisting local governments in Washington State meet the requirements of the GMA, including the development of critical areas ordinances. In California, Jennifer worked with a sustainable communities leadership program in which she dealt with agricultural and open space issues in land use planning. Jennifer also served in the Peace Corps in the Slovak Republic.

Jennifer's educational background includes an undergraduate degree in environmental studies from the University of California, and two masters degrees (urban planning, natural resource policy) from the University of Michigan. Jennifer will be coordinating the activities of nine agency biologists who work closely with cities and counties in GMA and land use planning activities. Jennifer will work out of the Olympia office. She can be reached by phone at (360) 902-2562 or by email at hayesjlh@dfw.wa.gov.

WDFW looking for your feedback to help update the Priority Habitat and Species List

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently gearing up for an update of the [Priority Habitat and Species \(PHS\) List](#). The last full update of the list was carried out in 1999, and a partial update was completed in December, 2003. Since then, WDFW has new information that will be of value in the update including our list of Washington's Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Another full update is overdue, and we want your input early in the process.

If you have used our PHS list as a reference to guide your wildlife planning activities, tell us what you think of this planning tool. Specifically, we want to know what works and what needs improvement. For instance, are there definitions for specific habitats that are ambiguous or difficult to apply on the ground? Are there habitats or species of local importance that reside in the city or county where you work that we should consider adding to the list? Is there additional



If you have thoughts about these or other PHS-related issues, we would like to hear from you now. Please direct all your questions and comments to Jeff Azerrad by email at azerjma@dfw.wa.gov.

Conferences, workshops, & training

• 2007 Washington Planners' Forums:

- January 17 – Eastern Washington – Moses Lake: Hallmark Inn – Contact: [Dave Catterson](#)
- January 18 – Southwest Washington – Kelso: City Hall – Contact: [Karin Berkholtz](#)
- January 19 – Olympic Peninsula – Location To Be Announced – Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- January 24 – Northwest Washington – Location To Be Announced – Contact: [Doug Peters](#)

All Forum sessions are 9 am - 3 pm with lunch on your own. Forums include guest presentations, jurisdictional sharing/report on GMA issues and progress, updates from the Growth Management Hearings Boards, and a report from CTED. Information on upcoming forums can be found at [CTED's](#) website.

- **Keeping Working Forests - The Role of Forests in Preserving Open Space:** This two-day conference on November 28th and 29th will explore the loss of PNW forestlands to development through scientific documentation, policy discussions, case histories, and technical sessions on take home practical tools. Municipal planners, land trusts, rural government leaders, family forest owners, and developers are a few of the intended audience members. Click [HERE](#) for more information including the full conference agenda. If you would like to receive information on the conference, email [Richard Zabel](#) or contact him by phone at (503) 226-4562.
- **Improving Stormwater Management Using Low Impact Development Practices:** Learn more about innovative land development and stormwater management practices known as low impact development (LID) at this two-day course offered by the University of Washington's Engineering Professional Program. The course will be held in Vancouver, WA, on November 15th and 16th. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about opportunity.
- **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 [CTED's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of local communities and are always open to the public. Everyone who attends receives the short course manual. Call or email [Dave Catterson](#) with questions at (360) 725-3049.

Grant Opportunities

- **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 anadromous species' habitat. Application deadlines are November 1st and April 1st of each calendar year. Applicants are encouraged to go to the [American Rivers](http://AmericanRivers.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 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 private person, organization, tribe, or local government within the Pacific Northwest (OR, ID, WA, OR), may submit a letter of inquiry. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about this opportunity.
- **Wetlands conservation** - The US Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems, and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend on such habitat. The application deadline for this upcoming funding cycle is December 1st. Forty awards are expected with an award ceiling of \$75,000. Total program funding is \$2,000,000. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about this opportunity.



- **Additional grant opportunities** - The following links can direct you to a variety of other grants that can help fund your local conservation planning initiative:
 - The Puget Sound Action Team's (PSAT) web site contains links to both PSAT grant opportunities as well as other funding opportunities. Most, but not all, grants on this page are geared towards Puget Sound communities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - 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 (CTED) administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning activities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.

WDFW Contacts for Fish and Wildlife Planning

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