



Improving the Conservation of Washington's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

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Penny Becker, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager

Amy Windrope, Habitat Ecosystems Services Division Manager

Jennifer Quan, Government Affairs Director

WDFW's Mission



Washington
Department of
FISH and
WILDLIFE

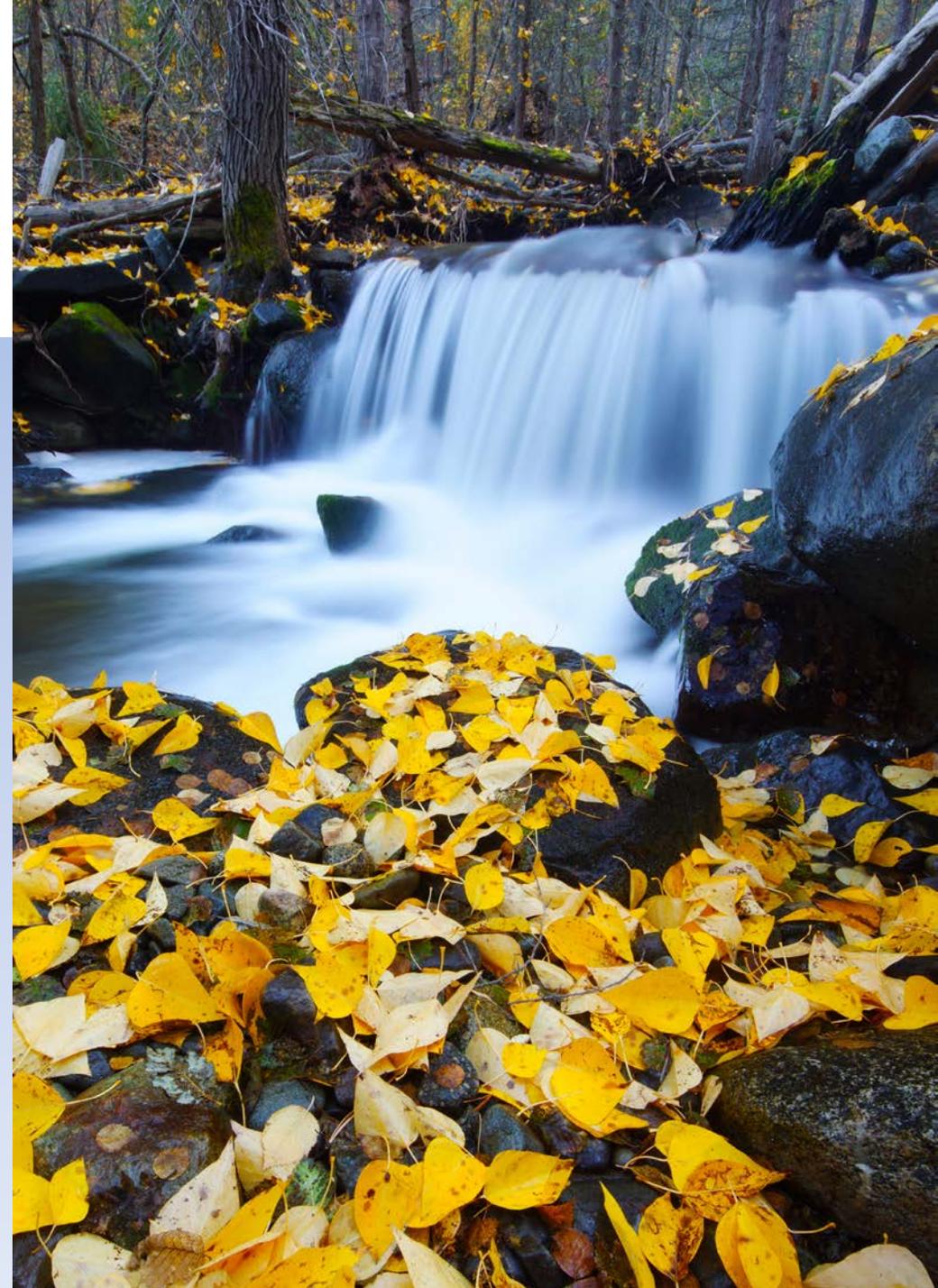
To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.



WDFW's Wild Future Initiative

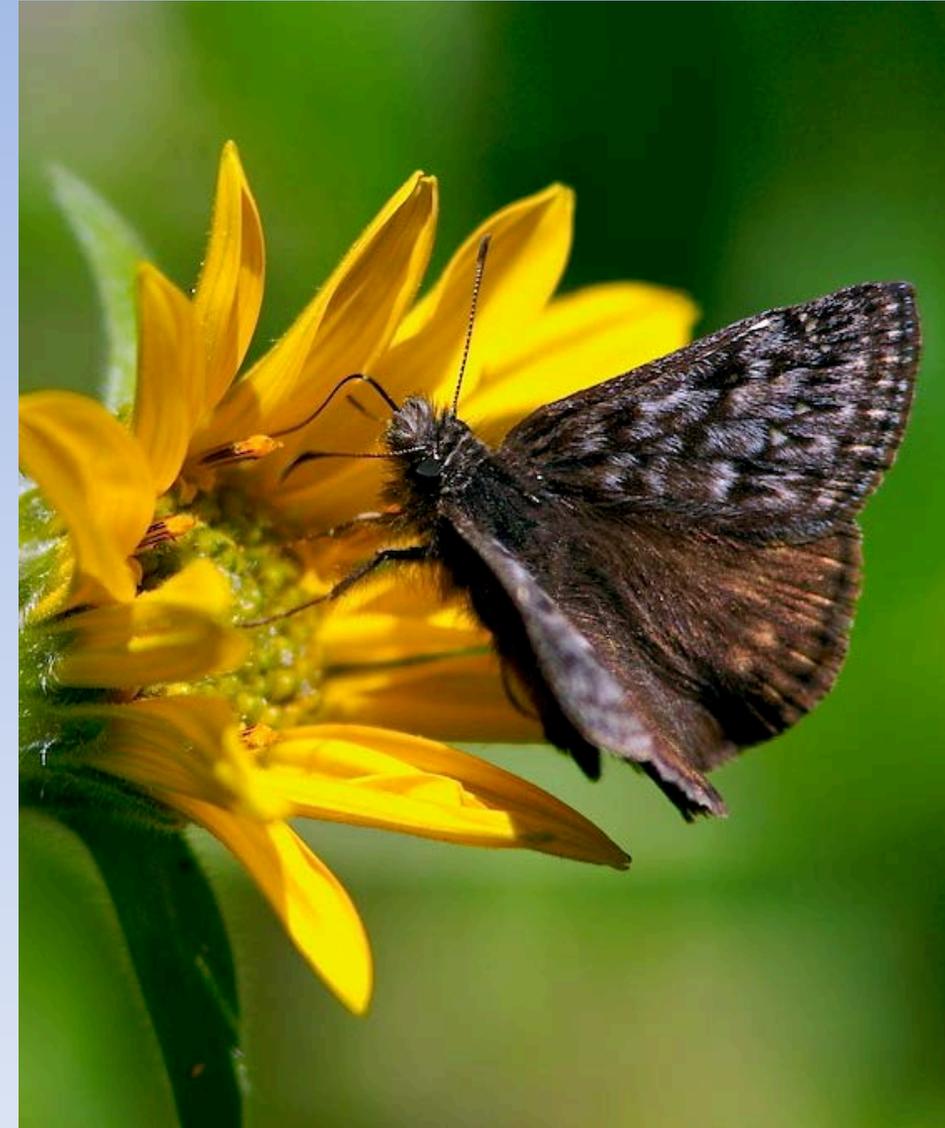
Last fall we began a new multi-year outreach initiative aimed to:

- **Listen** to our partners, customers, stakeholders
- **Report** what we heard and what we are going to do in response
- Use the input to **make internal improvements and guide future investments**



We heard that Washingtonians want:

- Abundant fish and wildlife for future generations
- Expanded and restored recreational opportunities
- Increased law enforcement presence
- Improved outreach to an increasingly diverse population, especially youth
- Simpler rules and clearer communication
- More habitat restoration and better land stewardship
- More opportunities for partnerships and public participation
- Greater focus on species not hunted or fished
- Improved outreach to an increasingly diverse population, especially youth





Wild Future Phase 2: Improving Capacity for Conservation in WA

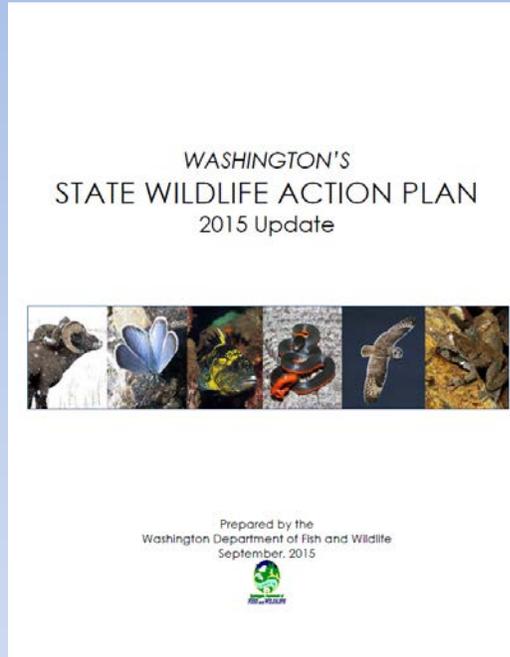
More effectively protect fish, wildlife and their habitats for future generations by:

- Better understanding and addressing the needs of declining species and their habitats BEFORE they are listed – proactive rather than reactive
- Increasing and expanding collaborations and partnerships
- Incentivizing and implementing more habitat improvement – landscape conservation
- Better supporting local governments – technology and expertise
- Connecting people with nature and conservation -- broaden education and nature tourism



Washington's Wildlife Action Plan

Approved by Commission in 2015,
USFWS in 2016



268 Species of Greatest
Conservation Need

- 95 Invertebrates
- 51 Fish
- 14 Amphibians
- 12 Reptiles
- 52 Birds
- 44 Mammals

And the habitats they rely upon



National and Local Efforts



Barcroft Media/Eiko Jones / Barcroft Media



Current Funding for Fish and Wildlife

Federal Funding History

- 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act
 - 1950 Dingell-Johnson Act
 - 1984 Wallop-Breaux Amendment
- \$1 Billion Annually
Primarily for Game
Wildlife & Sport
Fisheries

- 2001 State and Tribal Wildlife Grants \$50 Million annually

Average amount for Washington is approximately **\$1.2 Million**

Critical support for some species, but not enough to effectively manage all species and habitats.



National Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources

National Co-Chairs

- *John Morris, Founder Bass Pro Shops*
- *David Freudenthal, Former Governor of WY*

Panel Representation

- *outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing*
- *energy industry*
- *conservation organizations*
- *sportsmen's groups*
- *others*



Charge: *Recommend a mechanism to sustainably fund the conservation of ALL fish and wildlife*



Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources

RECOMMENDATION 1

Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).





Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Blue Ribbon Panel will examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.





Washington Wildlife Leaders Forum

Attendees: F&W Commission, WDFW, Gov Office, Legislators, Conservation NGOs, Hunting & Angling Orgs, USFWS, State Parks, WWRC, AFWA, Tribes, & out of state presenters

Presentations:

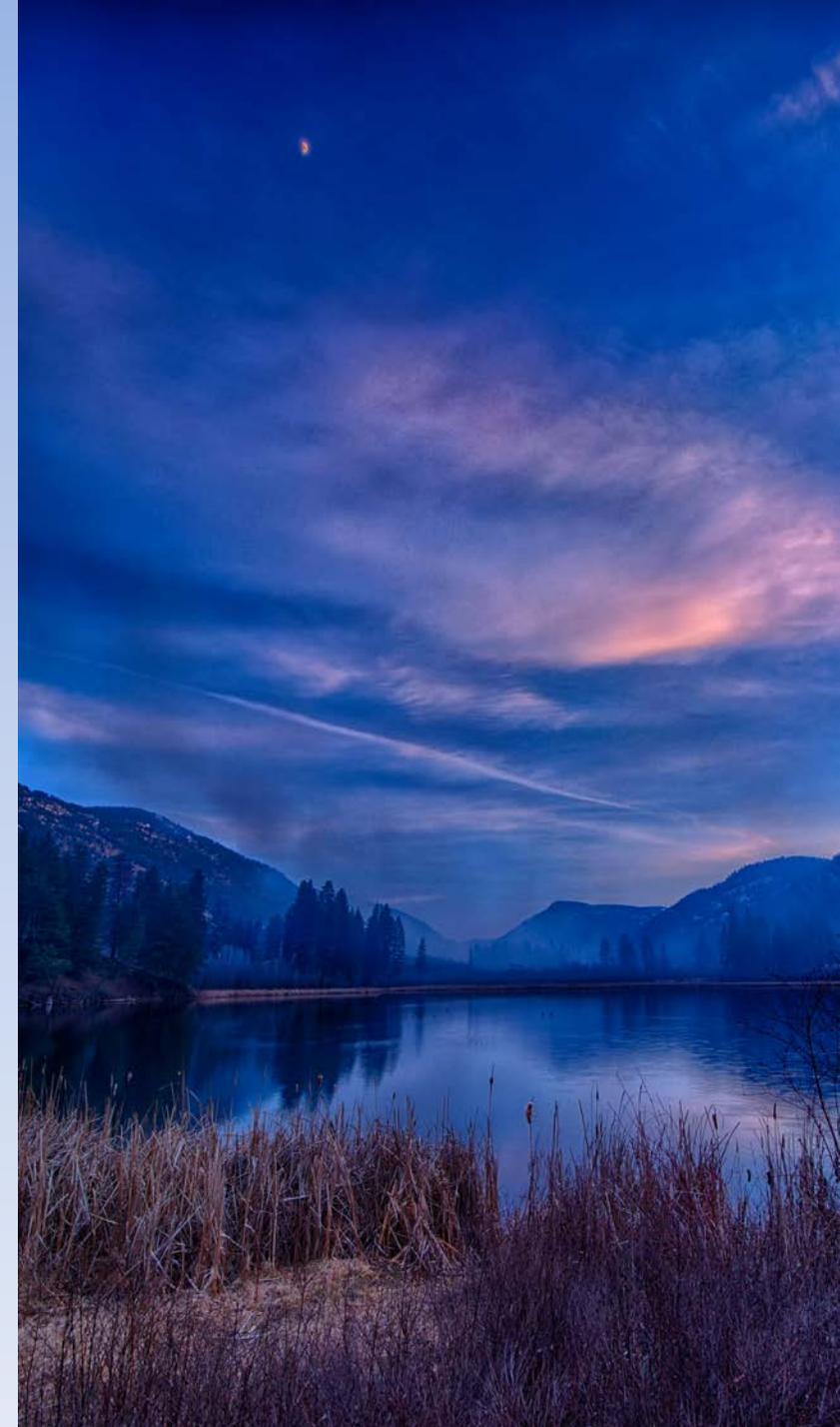
Blue Ribbon Panel Update/H.B. 5650

Oregon Task Force

Governor's Letter

Support for Effort from Leadership

- Governor Inslee's Letter
- Draft Policy from Commission



Task Force to Explore Strategies for Washington's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

1. Perform an assessment - Public values? What is working, what is not?
2. Work with stakeholders to identify regional priorities
3. Increase relevancy to the public and better engage partners in fish and wildlife conservation
4. Develop recommendations for long-term sustainable funding sources for conservation
5. Expand environmental/outdoor education for youth and connect outdoors to Washingtonians of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds to the outdoors
6. Support Washington-based businesses that rely upon the natural resources

Discussion



Questions?