

# Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

November 2011

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## WDFW Introduces PHS Management Recommendations for Shrub-steppe

By Jeff Azerrad, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife published a new guide for managing and protecting shrub-steppe habitat and the wildlife that live there. This guide is the latest in our agency's [Priority Habitats and Species](#) (PHS) series of management recommendations. We write these guidance documents to provide you with some ways of protecting priority habitats and priority species. Our PHS series currently include publications for five priority habitats and 84 priority species.



Development encroaching on an area of shrub-steppe habitat.

### What is Shrub-steppe?

Although shrub-steppe is mainly found in the Columbia Plateau, it also occurs in the foothills of the eastern Cascade Mountains, and in parts of the Okanogan and Blue Mountains. Undisturbed shrub-steppe consists of a mix of sagebrush and perennial bunchgrasses. Native wildflowers are also a common sight. However, non-native annuals, including very aggressive ones like cheatgrass are prevalent in present-day shrub-steppe. But even though most of today's shrub-steppe is not pristine, many birds, mammals, reptiles and insects call it their home. Consequently, WDFW designated shrub steppe as a priority habitat and wrote these management recommendations to give individuals like you the tools to plan for projects near these sensitive areas.

While many land use activities have had a hand in the loss of shrub-steppe, we focused our PHS guidelines on a particular activity. Specifically, we concentrated on the impacts that commercial and residential development have on shrub-steppe. Although other activities like farming and wind power also have impacted shrub-steppe, there are existing resources to help address these impacts. Not until now has anything comprehensive been available to explain ways of avoiding or minimizing the impacts of development on shrub-steppe.

### PHS Shrub-steppe

[Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Managing Shrub-steppe in Developing Landscapes](#) is a comprehensive source of information to help you reduce the impacts of development on shrub-steppe wildlife. It includes a set of recommendations intended to assist in mitigating the potential impacts. Rooted in the science of shrub-steppe management and conservation, this expertly reviewed publication is designed for anyone planning for new development in eastern Washington. We specifically



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## SHRUB-STEPPE

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wrote these recommendations at the request of local government, and although it is primarily intended for city and county planning departments, others including resource consultants, developers, conservation organizations, and landowners will find it useful.

We organized the recommendations into two key sections. One is for long-range planners who develop comprehensive plans, planning policies, regulations, and incentives. It is also helpful if you are someone who periodically evaluates proposals to change local zoning or urban growth areas. Our recommendations offer ways to identify potential shrub-steppe across large areas, like counties and watersheds, and provide practical strategies for protecting shrub-steppe through long-range planning.

In the other recommendation's section, we focus exclusively on planning for a new home, subdivision, or business. Here readers will find useful information on how to determine when shrub-steppe is on a particular site. We then offer some tools for avoiding or minimizing the impacts of development near shrub-steppe. This section serves as a useful guide for anyone needing to write a habitat management plan.



Sage Sparrow

### For More Information

We encourage you to take a look at our new PHS shrub-steppe management recommendations along with our other PHS publications by going online to [http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmt\\_recommendations/](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmt_recommendations/). We have also posted fact sheets summarizing key sections of the shrub-steppe publication. One fact sheet focuses on long-range planning and shrub-steppe, while the other is for anyone who is working on a proposal for an individual development near shrub-steppe.

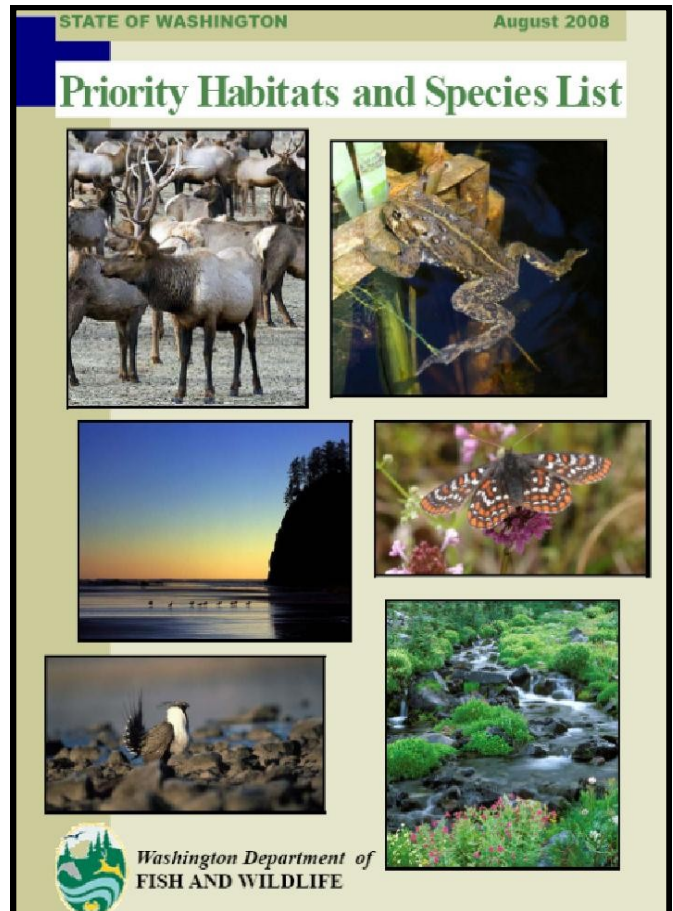
We are available to talk with jurisdictions about the new shrub-steppe publication. If you work for a county or city that is interested in using our shrub-steppe recommendations as a guide for local planning, feel free contact the [WDFW habitat biologist](#) in your county to set up a consultation or to answer your questions. We will also be giving a talk on the shrub-steppe guidelines at the upcoming Eastern Washington Planners' Forum in Moses Lake (details on [Page 4](#)). Send us an email at [planningforwildlife@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:planningforwildlife@dfw.wa.gov) for general questions about the new PHS shrub-steppe management recommendations.

# 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 update of the list was done in 2008. Another update is now being planned, 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?

If you have thoughts about these or other PHS-related issues, we would like to hear from you now. To provide us with input, go to our [online questionnaire](#)>>





## Conferences, workshops & training

- **2012 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Winter Forums

- January 19 – Southwest Wash..... TBD..... Email Contact: [Ike Nwankwo](#)
- January 19 – Olympic Peninsula Bainbridge Island... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
- January 18 – Northwest Wash..... Burlington..... Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
- January 25 – Eastern Wash..... Moses Lake..... Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to discuss local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. The dates and locations are subject to change, so make sure to email the forum contact prior to attendance. The contact person can also supply a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **APA's 2012 National Planning Conference**

Save the date! Los Angeles plays host to the American Planning Association's 104<sup>th</sup> National Planning Conference, April 14-17, 2012. Come to enjoy the sessions, mobile workshops, training seminars, and networking opportunities. More information is available at <http://www.planning.org/conference/index.htm>. Early conference registration begins February 16, 2012.

- **Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology 2012 Conference**

Save the date! This year's annual meeting will be held in Hood River, Oregon, March 19-22, 2012. Check back at <http://www.thesnvb.org/annualmeeting.html> for more details in the coming weeks.

- **Society for Conservation Biology North American Conference**

Save the date! Conference symposia will cover topics like planning protected areas for climate change, landscape conservation cooperatives, freshwater conservation, and decision support tools for policy evaluation. The conference will be held in Oakland, California, July 15-18, 2012.

- **Ecological Society of America's Annual Conference**

Save the date! This year's annual conference will be in Portland, Oregon, August 5-10, 2012.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort among several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals about coastal management. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and resource managers. The upcoming course schedule is on [CTP's](#) website.

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, comprehensive planning and plan implementation, and the role of the planning commission. Co-sponsored by the [Department of Commerce](#) and the [Planning Association of Washington \(PAW\)](#), the course is presented by professional planners and attorneys and is open to all. All attendees receive handouts prepared by the presenters, and are referred to the on-line version of the [Short Course Manual](#) which accompanies the course. Twenty pre-scheduled regional courses are provided each year. Commerce and PAW also offer the short courses online at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1380/default.aspx>.

Please see the [Current Short Course Schedule](#) for dates, times, locations, and registration information. For more information, visit the [Short Course Web page](#) or email [Janet Rogerson](#).

## Grant opportunities

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) is a cost-share program that helps small forest landowners correct fish passage barriers on their forestlands. Landowners interested in enrolling in the program must submit an *Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation* form to DNR Small Forest Landowner Office. Applications are available at Washington Department of Natural Resource's [FFFPP website](#). Projects that rank high enough will receive funding in January.

- **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 habitat for anadromous species. Questions about the grant and about the upcoming funding cycle can be directed to Serena McClain at [rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org](mailto:rivergrants@AmericanRivers.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 range from \$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.

- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.

- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low—and sometimes dry—with significant consequences for salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports partners by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) working in partnership with the [Bonneville Power Administration](#) (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the [Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#).

- **Additional grant opportunities**

- The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) list of grants.
- [grants.gov](#) is the federal government's primary grant search engine.
- Grant Programs for a Local Government from the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- The [Washington Department of Commerce](#) list of grants relevant to GMA planning.

# WDFW Contacts for Fish and Wildlife Planning

## [GMA AND SMA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEB PAGE](#)

### Regional Technical Assistance

#### Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); [karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:karin.divens@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); [mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Southwest Washington:

George Fornes, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); [george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:george.fornes@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Theresa Nation, 360.902. 2562, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); [theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:theresa.nation@dfw.wa.gov)

### Statewide Program Development

#### Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Katie Knight, 360.902-2618; [katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Priority Habitats & Species Publications:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; [jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Local Habitat Assessment:

Katie Knight, 360.902. 2618; [katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Priority Habitats and Species Data:

PHS on the Web: <http://www.dfw.wa.gov/mapping>

Data Request Hotline: 360.902.2543; [phsproducts@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:phsproducts@dfw.wa.gov)

Data Stewardship: Terry Johnson, 360.902-2494; [terry.johnson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:terry.johnson@dfw.wa.gov)

## Fish & Wildlife Planner

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