PRIORITY HABITATS

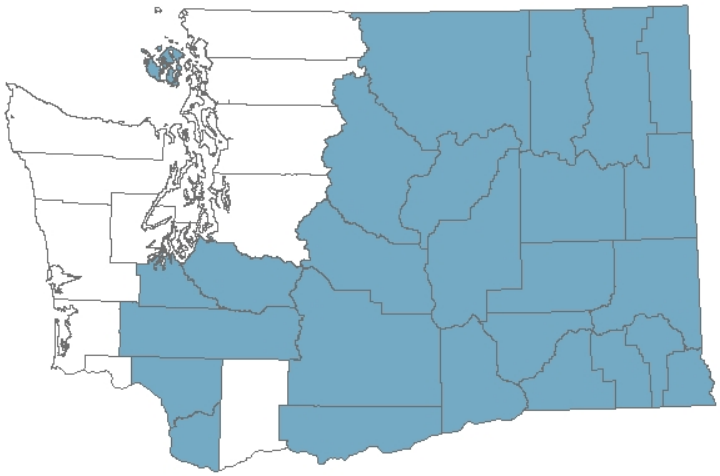
Terrestrial Habitats

Aspen Stands

Priority Area Description

Pure or mixed stands of aspen greater than 0.4 ha (1 acre)

Washington Distribution by County*



Biodiversity Areas and Corridors *

Priority Area Description

Biodiversity areas and corridors are areas of habitat that are relatively important to various species of native fish and wildlife.

1. Biodiversity areas
   a. The area has been identified as biologically diverse through a scientifically based assessment conducted over a landscape scale (e.g., ecoregion, county- or city-wide, watershed, etc.). Examples include but are not limited to WDFW Local Habitat Assessments, Pierce County Biodiversity Network, and Spokane County's Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Linkages.

   OR

   b. The area is within a city or an urban growth area (UGA) and contains habitat that is valuable to fish or wildlife and is mostly comprised of native vegetation. Relative to other vegetated areas in the same city or UGA, the mapped area is vertically diverse (e.g., multiple canopy layers, snags, or downed wood), horizontally diverse (e.g., contains a mosaic of native habitats), or supports a diverse community of species as identified by a qualified professional who has a degree in biology or closely related field and professional experience related to the habitats or species occurring in the biodiversity area. These areas may have more limited wildlife functions than other priority habitat areas due to the general nature and constraints of these sites in that they are often isolated or surrounded by highly urbanized lands.

2. Corridors
   Corridors are areas of relatively undisturbed and unbroken tracts of vegetation that connect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, priority habitats, areas identified as biologically diverse (see attribute 1a), or valuable habitats within a city or UGA (see attribute 1b).

Washington Distribution by County

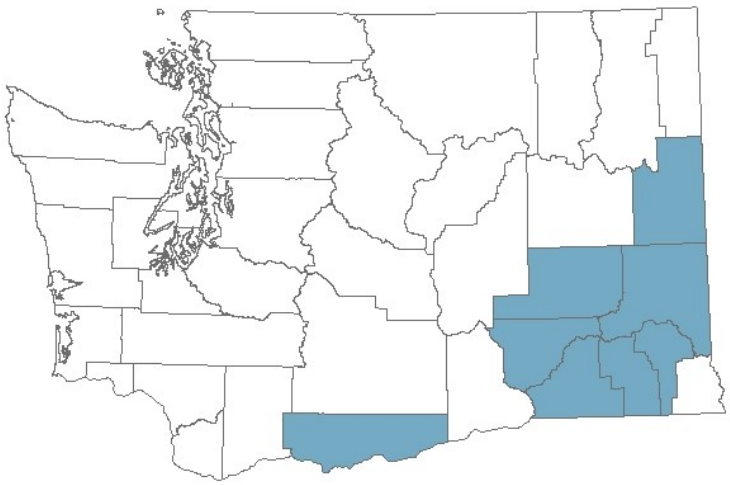
* All areas in the PHS Database mapped Urban Natural Open Space (UNOS) and Rural Natural Open Space (RNOS) will be reevaluated. This reevaluation will occur during upcoming PHS mapping sessions. Some areas mapped UNOS and RNOS will be reassigned to Biodiversity Areas and Corridors or to other existing priority habitat types. Areas mapped UNOS and RNOS that do not fit the priority area description of an existing priority habitat type will be removed from the PHS database by no later than August 2010.

Eastside Steppe

Priority Area Description

Nonforested vegetation type dominated by broadleaf herbaceous flora (i.e., forbs), perennial bunchgrasses, or a combination of both. Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) is often the prevailing cover component along with Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Rough Fescue (*F. campestris*), or needlegrass (*Achnatherum* spp.). Steppe plant communities in drier sites typically have a sparse cover of grasses and forbs. Meadowlike communities characterized by a very dense cover of native perennial forbs and bunchgrasses are supported in areas with greater precipitation or on soils with higher moisture-holding capacity. Shrubs are either absent or scattered in the overstory of steppe habitat (see Shrub-steppe for sites with more prominent shrub cover). When sparse shrub cover is present, sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.) are commonly found in drier steppe, while Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and rose (*Rosa* spp.) are often present in more meadowlike expressions. Sites with less disturbed soils often have a layer of algae, mosses, or lichens. At some more disturbed sites, non-native species such as Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*), Yellow Star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), or Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) may be co-dominant species.

Washington Distribution by County



Herbaceous Balds

Priority Area Description

Occurs as variable-sized patches of grass and forb vegetation located on shallow soils over bedrock that commonly is fringed by forest or woodland. Typically consists of low-growing vegetation adapted for survival on shallow soils amid seasonally dry conditions, and is often on steep slopes. Dominant flora includes herbaceous vegetation, dwarf shrubs, mosses, and lichens. Rock outcrops, boulders, and scattered trees are often present, especially Douglas-fir, Pacific madrone, and Oregon white oak. Balds occur within mid-montane to lowland forest zones. On slopes near saltwater shorelines in the northern Puget Trough, herbaceous balds and herbaceous bluffs can sometimes be difficult to differentiate. Balds typically are smaller than 5 ha (12 ac), although some can be up to about 100 ha (≅ 250 ac).

Washington Distribution by County

Inland Dunes

This placeholder is for a new priority habitat that will capture areas known as Inland Dunes.

Work was carried out to establish that this eastern Washington habitat fits the criteria for being added to the PHS List. Due to time constraints, a definition for this new priority habitat has yet to be developed. A definition will be developed later in Fall 2008. After the definition has gone through peer-review, Inland Dunes will be included in the PHS List.

Juniper Savannah

Priority Area Description

All juniper woodlands.

Washington Distribution by County

Old-growth/Mature Forest

Priority Area Description

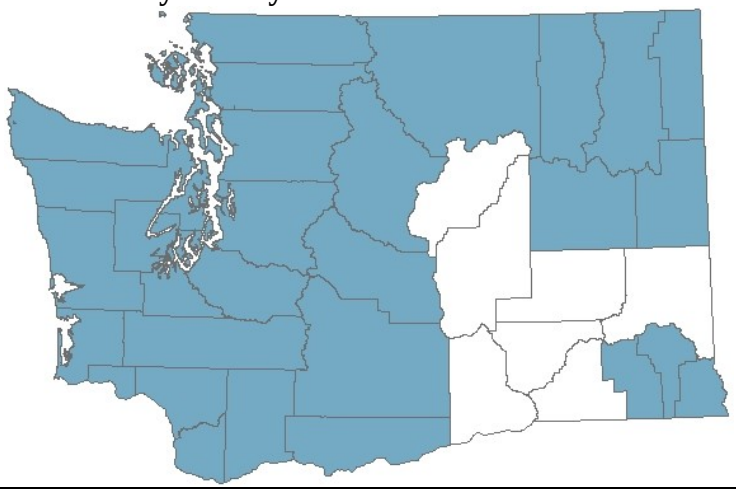
Old-growth west of Cascade crest: Stands ≥ 3 ha (7.5 acres) having at least 2 tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 20 trees/ha (8 trees/acre) that are > 81 cm (32 in) dbh or > 200 years of age; and > 10 snags/ha (4 snags/acre) over 51 cm (20 in) diameter and 4.6 m (15 ft) tall; with numerous downed logs, including 10 logs/ha (4 logs/acre) that are > 61 cm (24 in) diameter and > 15 m (50 ft) long. High elevation stands (> 762m [2500ft]) may have lesser dbh [> 76 cm (30 in)], fewer snags [> 0.6/ha (1.5/acre)], and fewer large downed logs [0.8 logs/ha (2 logs/acre) that are > 61 cm (24 in) diameter and > 15 m (50 ft) long].

Stands smaller than 3 ha (7.5 acres) in rural and urban areas can still retain significant wildlife value and therefore should be evaluated as a potential biodiversity area (see Biodiversity Areas and Corridors).

Old-growth east of Cascade crest: Stands are highly variable in tree species composition and structural characteristics due to the influence of fire, climate, and soils. In general, stands will be >150 years of age, with 25 trees/ha (10 trees/acre) that are > 53 cm (21 in) dbh, and 2.5-7.5 snags/ha (1 - 3 snags/acre) that are > 30-35 cm (12-14 in) diameter. Downed logs may vary from abundant to absent. Canopies may be single or multi-layered. Evidence of human-caused alterations to the stand will be absent or so slight as to not affect the ecosystem's essential structures and functions.

Mature forests: Stands with average diameters exceeding 53 cm (21 in) dbh; crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of snags, and quantity of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth; 80 - 200 years old west and 80 - 160 years old east of the Cascade crest.

Washington Distribution by County



Oregon White Oak Woodlands

Priority Area Description

Stands of oak or oak/conifer associations where canopy coverage of the oak component of the stand is 25%; or where total canopy coverage of the stand is ≤25%, but oak accounts for at least 50% of the canopy coverage. The latter is often referred to as oak savanna. In non-urbanized areas west of the Cascades, priority oak habitat consists of stands ≥ 0.4 ha (1.0 ac) in size. East of the Cascades, priority oak habitat consists of stands > 2 ha (5 ac) in size. In urban or urbanizing areas, single oaks or stands < 0.4 ha (1 ac) may also be considered a priority when found to be particularly valuable to fish and wildlife. Oak woodlands in western Washington may contain understory plants indicative of Prairie (see Westside Prairie).

Washington Distribution by County

Online information and guidelines for management of **Oregon White Oak Woodlands**:

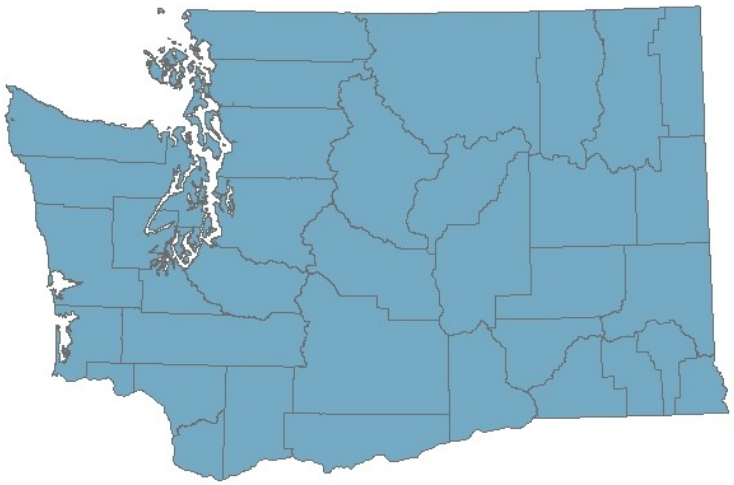
Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Oregon White Oak Woodlands

Riparian

Priority Area Description

The area adjacent to flowing or standing freshwater aquatic systems. Riparian habitat encompasses the area beginning at the ordinary high water mark and extends to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. In riparian systems, the vegetation, water tables, soils, microclimate, and wildlife inhabitants of terrestrial ecosystems are often influenced by perennial or intermittent water. Simultaneously, adjacent vegetation, nutrient and sediment loading, terrestrial wildlife, as well as organic and inorganic debris influence the biological and physical properties of the aquatic ecosystem. Riparian habitat includes the entire extent of the floodplain and riparian areas of wetlands that are directly connected to stream courses or other freshwater.

Washington Distribution by County



Online information and guidelines for management of **Riparian**:

Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Riparian

Shrub-steppe

Priority Area Description

A nonforested vegetation type consisting of one or more layers of perennial bunchgrasses and a conspicuous but discontinuous layer of shrubs (see Eastside Steppe for sites with little or no shrub cover). Although Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) is the most widespread shrub-steppe shrub, other dominant (or co-dominant) shrubs include Antelope Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), Threetip Sagebrush (*A. tripartita*), Scabland Sagebrush (*A. rigida*), and Dwarf Sagebrush (*A. arbuscula*). Dominant bunchgrasses include (but are not limited to) Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Thurber's Needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), and Needle-and-Thread (*Hesperostipa comata*). In areas with greater precipitation or on soils with higher moisture-holding capacity, shrub-steppe can also support a dense layer of forbs (i.e., broadleaf herbaceous flora). Shrub-steppe contains various habitat features, including diverse topography, riparian areas, and canyons. Another important component is habitat quality (i.e., degree to which a tract resembles a site potential natural community), which may be influenced by soil condition and erosion; and the distribution, coverage, and vigor of native shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Sites with less disturbed soils often have a layer of algae, mosses, or lichens. At some more disturbed sites, non-natives such as Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) or Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) may be co-dominant species.

Washington Distribution by County

Online information and guidelines for management of **Shrub-steppe**:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Shrub-steppe research page

Westside Prairie

Priority Area Description

Herbaceous, non-forested (≤ 60% forest canopy cover) plant communities that can either take the form of a dry prairie where soils are well-drained or a wet prairie.

Dry Prairie: Located in areas containing prairie vegetation. Although dry prairie can occur on other soils, typically it occurs on any one of the soils known to be associated with prairie (Table 1). Locations occurring on mapped prairie soils where the surface is impervious is not considered dry prairie. Certain vegetation characteristics typify dry prairie. These include the occurrence of diagnostic grasses, sedges, and forbs. Mosses, lichens, and bare ground may also be found in the spaces between grass and forb cover. In parts of Puget Trough, prairie can sometimes be recognized by mounded topography.

The presence of certain diagnostic plants is required to establish an occurrence of dry prairie. In particular, three of the diagnostic grasses, sedges, or forbs (Table 2) are required.

Shrubs such as Black Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglassii*), Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uvaursi*), and Oval-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*) can be found at low densities within prairie. Some Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) can also be present in native prairie (see Oregon White Oak Woodlands for areas with denser oak stands).

Native and nonnative invasive plants typically dominate most remaining prairie. Common invasives are Scot's Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Colonial Bentgrass (*Agrostis tenuis*), Common Velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), Tall Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), and Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Other invasive grasses, forbs, and shrubs also can be present.

Wet Prairie: Located in areas containing prairie plants. Although wet prairie can occur on other soils, typically it occurs on any one of the soils known to be associated with prairie (see Table 1). Locations occurring on mapped prairie soils where the surface is impervious is not considered wet prairie. In the Lower Columbia - Willamette region of southwest Washington, wet prairie occurs on clay-rich soils that are saturated to the surface during the early part of the growing season, gradually drying out during the summer. Wet prairies in Puget Trough generally are found on glacial outwash soils that typically are limited to swales or low-gradient riparian areas. Three diagnostic grasses, sedges, or forbs from a combination of the wet prairie diagnostic species list (Table 3) and the dry prairie diagnostic species list (Table 2) are required to establish the presence of wet prairie.

Washington Distribution by County

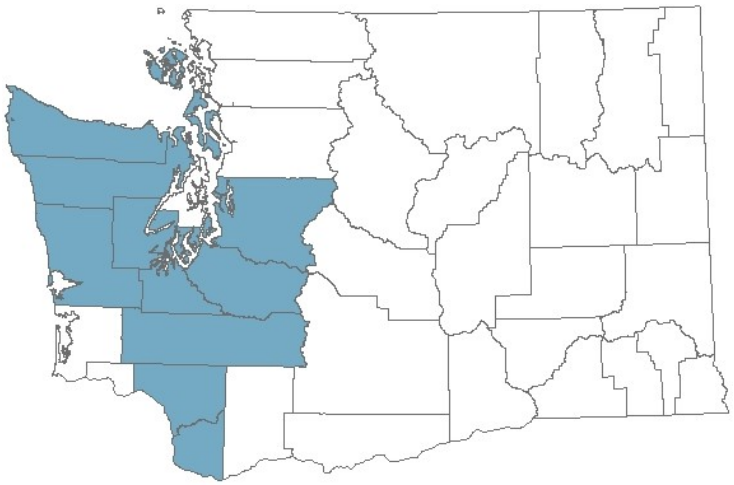


Table 1. Soils that prairie commonly occur upon. *

Soil				
Puget Sound Region		Southwest Washington		Coastal Region
Bozarth	Pilepoint	Bear Prairie	Nisqually	Bear Prairie
Carstairs	Pondilla	Cove	Powell	Carstairs
Coupeville	Prather	Doty	Prather	Quillayute
Coveland	San Juan	Galvin	Sara	Sequim
Ebys	Snakelum	Gee	Sauvie	Spanaway
Galvin	Spana	Hillsboro	Sifton	Wellman
Haro	Spanaway	Hockinson	Spanaway	
Hiddenridge	Townsend	Lauren	Washougal	
Newburg		Mossyrock	Yacolt	
Nisqually		Minniece		

* Working soil list is based on 2008 prairie soil analysis conducted by the Olympia, Washington office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Prairie sites with existing native prairie vegetation can also be found on soils that are not listed here.

Table 2. Common and rare diagnostic dry prairie plants.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Common Name (*Scientific Name*)
Spreading Dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)	Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria affinis* v. *affinis*)	Sierra Sanicle (*Sanicula graveolens*)
Deltoid Balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*)	Hound's-tongue Hawkweed (*Hieracium cynoglossoides*)	Northwestern Saxifrage (*Saxifraga integrifolia*)
Harvest Firecracker-flower (*Brodiaea coronaria* ssp. *coronaria*)	Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)	Scouler's Catchfly (*Silene scouleri*)
Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*)	Foothills Desert-parsely (*Lomatium utriculatum*)	Idaho Blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium idahoense* v. *idahoense*)
Long-stolon Sedge (*Carex inops* ssp. *inops*)	Bicolored Desert-gold (*Linanthus bicolor*)	Curtus's Aster (*Sericocarpus rigidus*)
Golden Paintbrush * (*Castilleja levisecta*)	Ternate Desert-parsley (*Lomatium triternatum*)	Missouri Goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis* v. *tolmieana*)
California Oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*)	Sickle-keel Lupine (*Lupinus albicaulis*)	Sticky Goldenrod (*Solidago simplex* ssp. *simplex*)
Puget Sound Larkspur (*Delphinium menziesii*)	Prairie Lupine (*Lupinus lepidus*)	Springbank Clover (*Trifolium willdenowii*)
Upland Larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallii*)	Cut-leaf Silverpuffs (*Microseris laciniata*)	Howell's Triteleia (*Triteleia grandiflora* v. *howellii*)
Henderson's Shootingstar (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*)	Douglas Blue-eyed-grass (*Olsynium douglasii*)	White Triteleia (*Triteleia hyacinthina*)
Aspen Fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*)	Shortspur Seablush (*Plectritis congesta*)	Sand Violet (*Viola adunca*)
Common Woolly-sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum* v. *leucophyllum*)	Fanleaf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracillis*)	Upland Yellow Violet (*Viola praemorsa* v. *nuttallii*)
Roemer's Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* v. *roemeri*)	Western Buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis* v. *occidentalis*)	Meadow Deathcamas (*Zigadenus venenosus* v. *venenosus*)

* Federally Threatened species

Table 3. Diagnostic wet prairie plants.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Common Name (*Scientific Name*)
Dense Sedge * (*Carex densa*)	Bradshaw's Lomatium * (*Lomatium bradshawii*)	Plantain-leaf Buttercup (*Ranunculus alismifolius*)
Green-sheath Sedge (*Carex feta*)	Bog Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pinnatus*)	Bird's-food Buttercup (*Ranunculus orthorhynchus*)
Foot-hill Sedge (*Carex tumulicola*)	Large-leaf Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)	Northwestern Saxifrage *(Saxifraga integrifolia)*
One-sided Sedge (*Carex unilateralis*)	Wyeth's Lupine (*Lupinus wyethii*)	Bog Saxifrage (*Saxifraga oregana*)
Giant Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*)	Gairdner's Yampah (*Perideridia gairdneri*)	Hairy-stemmed Checkermallow * (*Sidalcea hirtipes*)
Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*)	Oregon yampah * (*Perideridia oregana*)	Rose Checkermallow * (*Sidalcea malviflora* v. *vigata*)
Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)	Fragrabant Popcorn Flower (*Plagiobothrys figuratus*)	Idaho Blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium idahoense* v. *idahoense*)
Annual Hairgrass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*)	Great Polemonium * (*Polemonium carneum*)	California False Hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*)
Cascade Downingia (*Downingia yina*)	American Bistort (*Polygonum bistortoides*)	American False Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*)
Oregon Coyote Thistle * (*Eryngium petiolatum*)	Fanleaf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*)	

* Rare wet prairie species

Aquatic Habitats

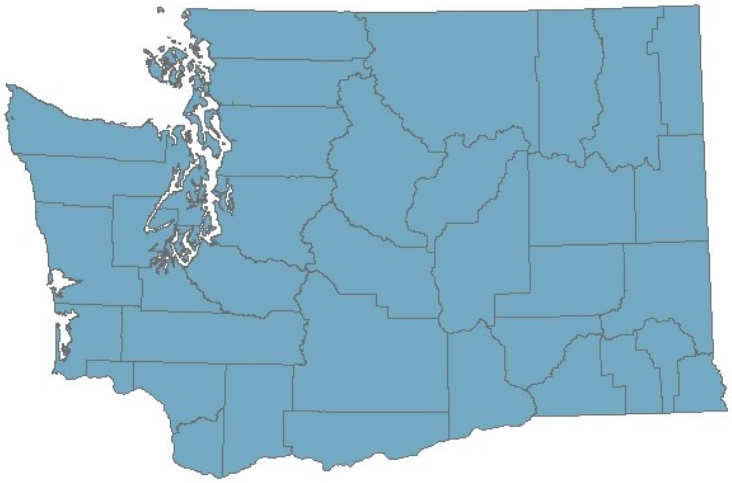
Freshwater Wetlands and Fresh Deepwater

Priority Area Description

Freshwater Wetlands: Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have one or more of the following attributes: the land supports, at least periodically, predominantly hydrophytic plants; substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soils; and/or the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Fresh Deepwater: Deepwater habitats are permanently flooded lands lying below the deepwater boundary of wetlands. Deepwater habitats include environments where surface water is permanent and often deep, so that water, rather than air, is the principal medium within which the dominant organisms live. The dominant plants are hydrophytes; however, the substrates are considered nonsoil because the water is too deep to support emergent vegetation. These habitats include all underwater structures and features (e.g., woody debris, rock piles, caverns).

Washington Distribution by County



Online information and guidelines for management of **Freshwater Wetlands and Fresh Deepwater**:

Wetland Mitigation in Washington State: Part 1

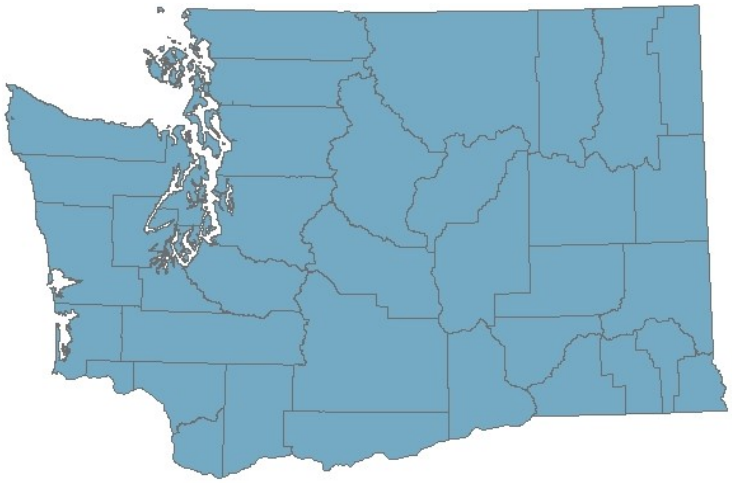
Wetland Mitigation in Washington State: Part II

Instream

Priority Area Description

The combination of physical, biological, and chemical processes and conditions that interact to provide functional life history requirements for instream fish and wildlife resources.

Washington Distribution by County



Coastal Nearshore
(estuary bay)

Priority Area Description

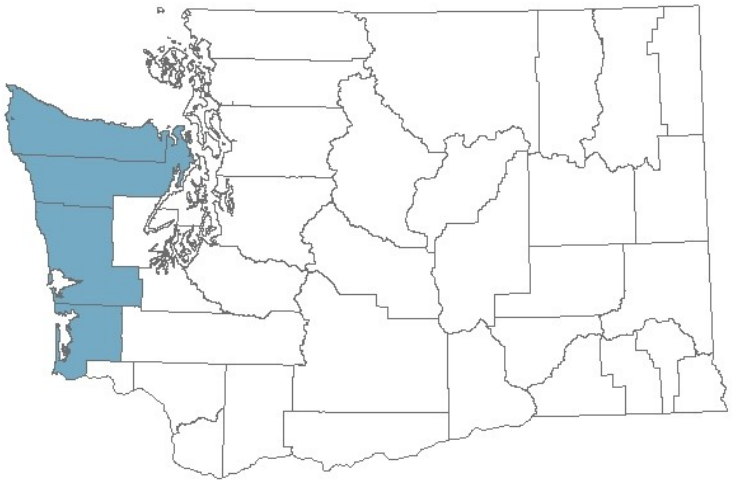
Encompasses relatively undisturbed nearshore estuaries of Washington's outer coast, including Gray's Harbor, Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia River. In the Columbia River, this zone includes waters west of the Astoria-Megler Bridge. Estuary bays are semi-enclosed bodies of water that have free connection with the open ocean. Priority habitat zones are:

Shore – Also called the marine riparian zone, shore habitat extends inland from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. The shore includes feeder bluffs (i.e., eroding bluffs), as they are an important source of sediments that form and sustain beaches. Shores consisting of native vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, dune grasses), fine-grained sand, imbedded large woody debris, or actively eroding bluffs are of particular importance. Headlands with concentrated seabird use are also significant.

Intertidal – Extends from the OHWM to the extreme lower low water (ELLW). Intertidal areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae, emergent vegetation) or habitat-forming species (e.g., native oyster reefs) are of particular importance. Intertidal areas within a river/stream delta or an area used for spawning by forage fish are also significant.

Subtidal – Extends waterward from ELLW to the maximum depth within the bay. Subtidal areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae), or habitat-forming species (e.g., native oyster reefs) are of particular importance. Subtidal areas within an estuarine embayment or an area used for spawning by forage fish are also significant.

Washington Distribution by County



Open Coast Nearshore

Priority Area Description

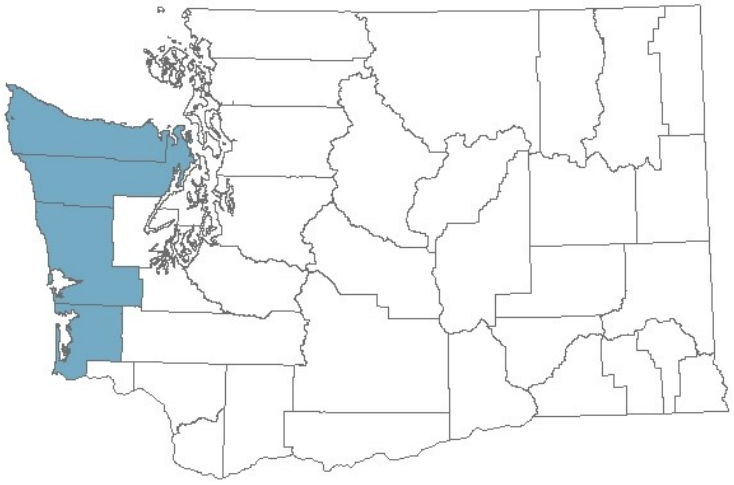
Encompasses relatively undisturbed non-estuarine nearshore of Washington's outer coast, from the Canadian border south to the Oregon border. Priority habitat zones are:

Shore – Also called the marine riparian zone, shore habitat extends inland from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. The shore takes in feeder bluffs (i.e., eroding bluffs), as they are an important source of sediments that form and sustain beaches. Shores consisting of native vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, dune grasses), fine-grained sand, imbedded large woody debris, or actively eroding bluffs are of particular importance. Headlands with concentrated seabird use are also significant.

Intertidal – Extends from the OHWM to the extreme lower low water (ELLW). Intertidal areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae, emergent vegetation) or habitat-forming species (e.g., goose-necked barnacles, mussel beds) are of particular importance. Intertidal areas within a river/stream delta or an area used for spawning by forage fish are also significant.

Subtidal – Extends from ELLW to -100 meters. Subtidal areas within an estuarine embayment or areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae), or habitat-forming species (e.g., corals, sponges) are of particular importance.

Washington Distribution by County



Puget Sound Nearshore
(estuary fjord)

Priority Area Description

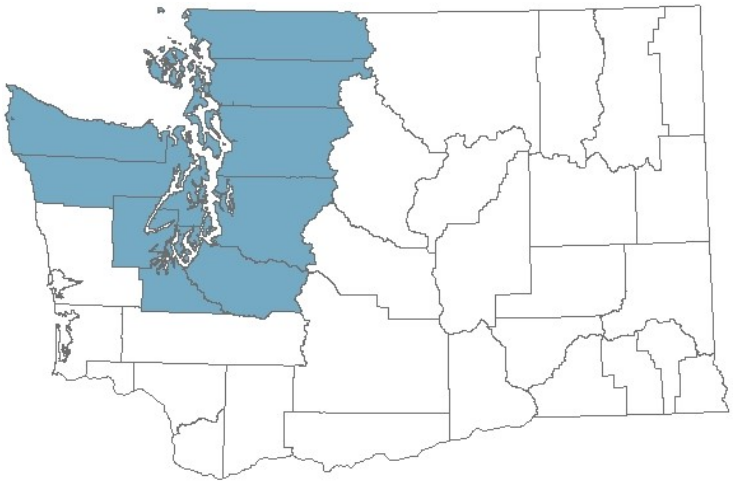
Encompasses relatively undisturbed nearshore Puget Sound, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, the San Juan Islands and Hood Canal. Priority habitat zones are:

Shore – Also called the marine riparian zone, shore habitat extends inland from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. The shore takes in feeder bluffs (i.e., eroding bluffs), as they are an important source of sediments that form and sustain beaches. Shores consisting of native vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, dune grasses), fine-grained sand, imbedded large woody debris, and actively eroding bluffs are of particular importance. Headlands with concentrated seabird use are also significant.

Intertidal – Extends from the OHWM to the extreme lower low water (ELLW). Intertidal areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae, emergent vegetation) or habitat-forming species (e.g., native oyster reefs) are of particular importance. Intertidal areas within a river/stream delta, estuarine embayment, or a pocket beach, or an area used for spawning by forage fish are also significant.

Subtidal – Extends from ELLW to -30 meters. Subtidal areas consisting of rocky substrate, native vegetation (e.g., eelgrass, macroalgae), or habitat-forming species (e.g., sea pens, native oyster reefs) are of particular importance. Subtidal areas within an estuarine embayment or an area used for spawning by forage fish are also significant.

Washington Distribution by County



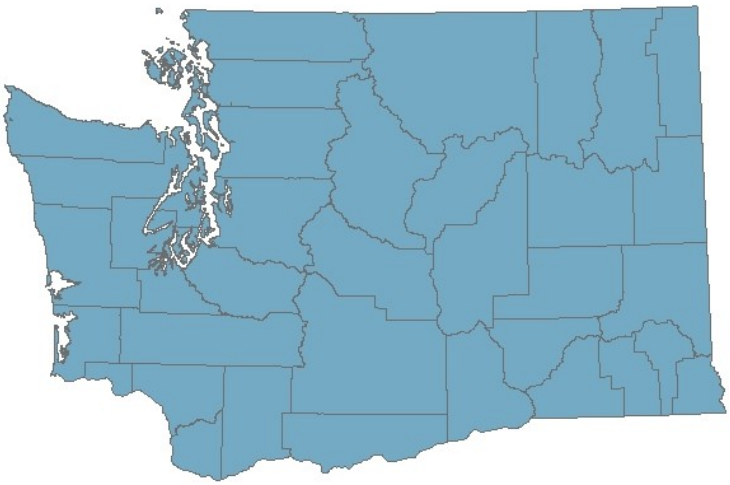
Habitat Features

Caves

Priority Area Description

A naturally occurring cavity, recess, void, or system of interconnected passages (including associated dendritic tubes, cracks, and fissures) which occurs under the earth in soils, rock, ice, or other geological formations, and is large enough to contain a human. Mine shafts (a man-made excavation in the earth usually used to extract minerals) may mimic caves, and abandoned mine shafts with actual or suspected occurrences of priority species should be treated in a manner similar to caves.

Washington Distribution by County

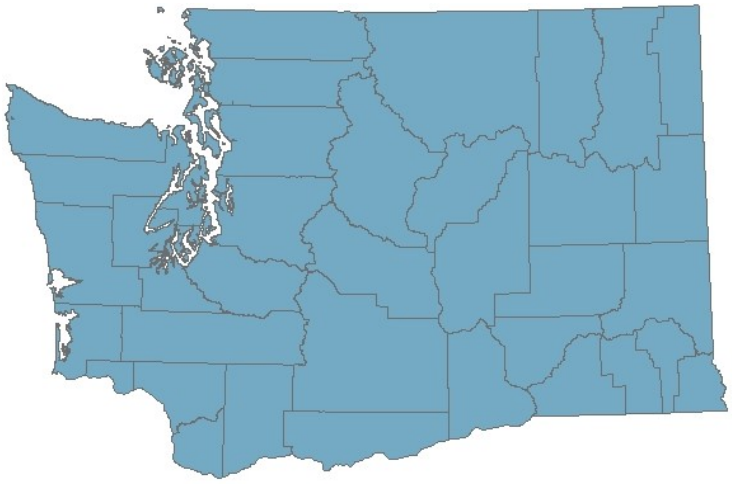


Cliffs

Priority Area Description

Greater than 7.6 meters (25 feet) high and occurring below 1524 meters (5000 feet).

Washington Distribution by County

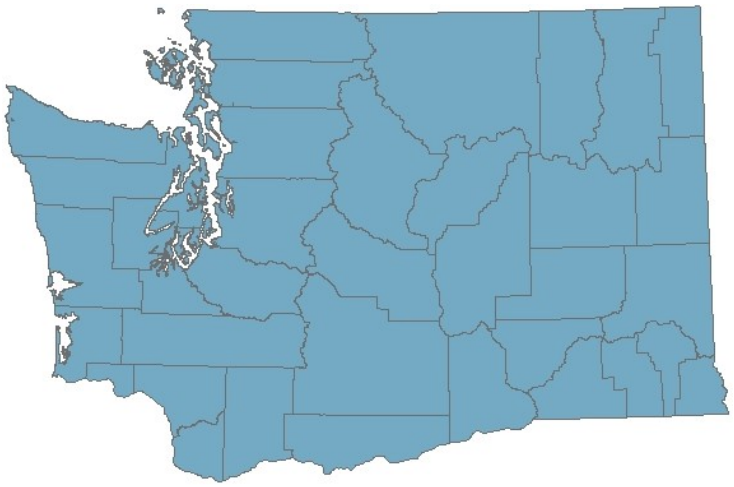


Snags and Logs

Priority Area Description

Snags and logs occur within a variety of habitat types that support trees. Trees are considered snags if they are dead or dying and exhibit sufficient decay characteristics to enable cavity excavation/use by wildlife. Priority snags have a diameter at breast height of > 51 cm (20 in) in western Washington and > 30 cm (12 in) in eastern Washington, and are > 2 m (6.5 ft) in height. Priority logs are > 30 cm (12 in) in diameter at the largest end, and > 6 m (20 ft) long. Abundant snags and logs can be found in old-growth and mature forests or unmanaged forests of any age; in damaged, burned, or diseased forests; and in riparian areas. Priority snag and log habitat includes individual snags and/or logs, or groups of snags and/or logs of exceptional value to wildlife due to their scarcity or location in a particular landscape. Areas with abundant, well-distributed snags and logs are also considered priority snag and log habitat. Examples include large, sturdy snags adjacent to open water, remnant snags in developed or urbanized settings, and areas with a relatively high density of snags.

Washington Distribution by County

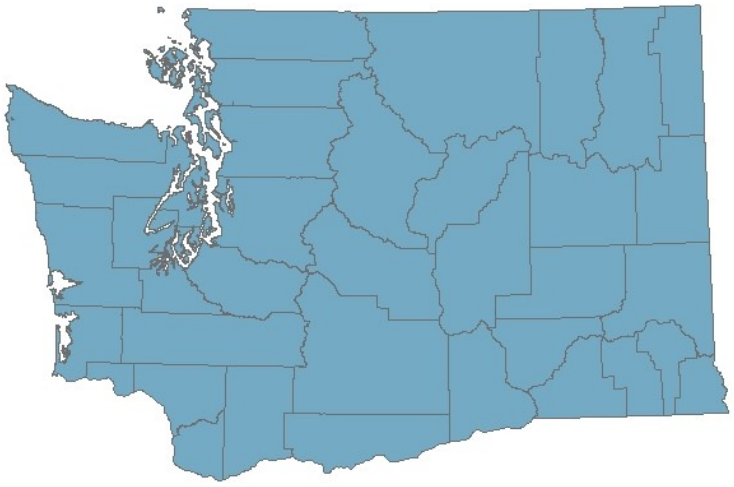


Talus

Priority Area Description

Homogenous areas of rock rubble ranging in average size 0.15 - 2.0 m (0.5 - 6.5 ft), composed of basalt, andesite, and/or sedimentary rock, including riprap slides and mine tailings. May be associated with cliffs.

Washington Distribution by County



Appendices

Appendix 1. Glossary of nearshore priority habitat terminology.

Embayment – An indentation in a shoreline forming an open bay.

Extreme Lower Low Water – The lowest tide occurring during a lunar month, usually near the new or full moon.

Habitat-forming species – An organism that creates or modifies habitats that are in turn used by other organisms for shelter, feeding, or other purposes. In the marine environment, this typically is a sessile organism such as corals or barnacles.

Ordinary High Water Mark – A mark that will be found by examining the bed and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a character distinct from that of the abutting upland.

Relatively Undisturbed Nearshore – Any nearshore habitats that retain some essential elements or functions important to the maintenance of native species use (e.g., eelgrass for herring spawning).

Rocky substrate – Seafloors and land consisting of rocks, boulders, bedrock, and consolidated sediments exceeding 10 inches in diameter. Consolidated sediments consist of aggregates of clay, sand, gravel, and cobble compressed in to hard texture features resembling rock.