

# OVERVIEW: WDFW's ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES IN SMP UPDATES

*ECOLOGY EAST SIDE PLANNERS' FORUM*

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# Objectives

1

- Participants learn what you can expect from WDFW during your SMP Update

2

- Participants understand WDFW staff roles & responsibilities

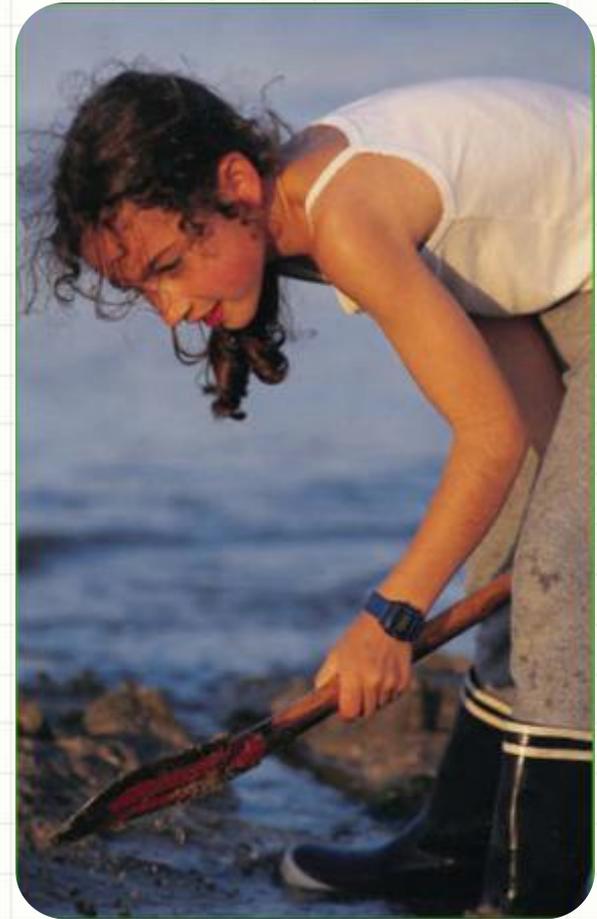
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- Local planners know how to contact your WDFW advisor



# Discussion Points

1. Commitments, Roles & responsibilities
2. WDFW's level of engagement in SMP Updates
3. Legal basis of WDFW's involvement
4. Staff contacts



# WDFW's COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SMP UPDATES



# What Can Local Governments Expect of WDFW in SMP Updates?\*

1. That WDFW will maximize collaboration and partnership while fulfilling our mission to perpetuate fish, wildlife, and habitat.
2. That WDFW staff will establish and maintain professional relationships with local staff.
3. That WDFW will share what strategic interests WDFW has in your SMP Update.
4. That WDFW will provide timely, scientifically-sound technical data on fish, wildlife, and habitat.
5. That WDFW will provide timely written comments.



# What Can Local Governments Expect of WDFW in SMP Updates?\*

- \* These expectations are what we are aspiring to; a work in progress. Factors at play:
  - Diversification
  - Funding/staffing levels
  - Training/expertise
- \* If your experience is widely divergent from these expectation, let me know.



# **WDFW's SMP UPDATE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**



# Big Picture

1. SMPs are owned jointly by the local jurisdiction and Ecology
  - Each approves the final plan
  - Local jurisdiction primary land use regulator; balances many interests
  - Ecology provides oversight and support
2. WDFW is a technical advisor for matters related to fish & wildlife
  - WAC: WDFW to provide science about Priority Habitats and Species, *e.g.*, riparian
  - Mission: Perpetuate fish & wildlife



# Local Gov't Roles & Responsibilities

## 1. Land use regulator

- SMP is the shoreline's Comp plan + CAO + Zoning Code + Permitting system

## 2. Keep SMP up to date

- Remain in compliance with evolving SMA and SMP Guidelines
- Complete comprehensive update every 8 years
- Annual amendments as needed



# Ecology Roles & Responsibilities

## 1. Oversight role

- Regional Staff
  - Review compliance checklists
  - Manage grant
- Agency Director: Approve when consistent with SMA and WACs

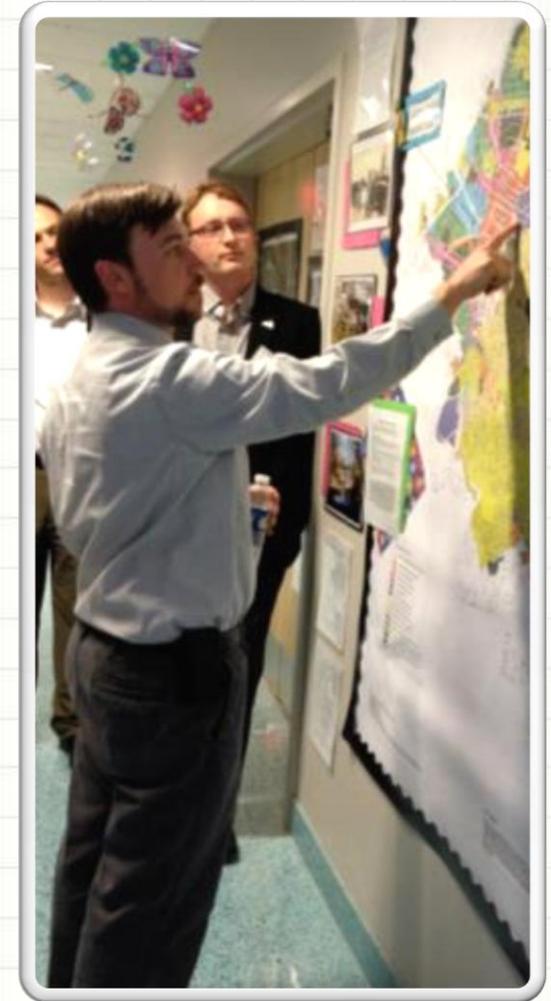
## 2. Support role (regional planner)

- Explain guidelines
- Provide examples
- Review/comment on draft elements
- State agencies speak with one voice



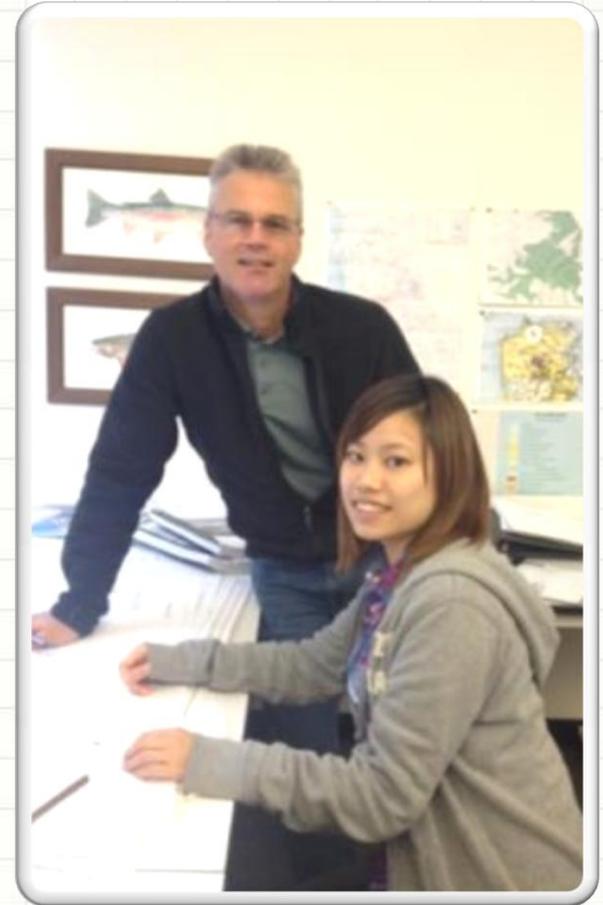
# WDFW Roles & Responsibilities: Regional Biologists

1. Establish & maintain relationships with key players
2. Track/report Update progress
3. Help determine our strategic interests, level of engagement
4. Provide identified level of support to local government
5. Provide written comments
6. Elevate issues as necessary



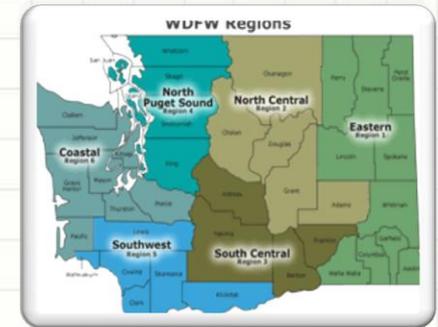
# WDFW Roles & Responsibilities: Regional Habitat Program Managers

1. Establish/maintain key relationships
2. Guide Biologists
3. Provide (for) training
4. Preview written comment
5. Elevate issues to HQ staff
  - Unresolved disagreement with sister state agency
  - Proposed SMP threatens our mission to perpetuate fish & wildlife (WDFW likely appeal)



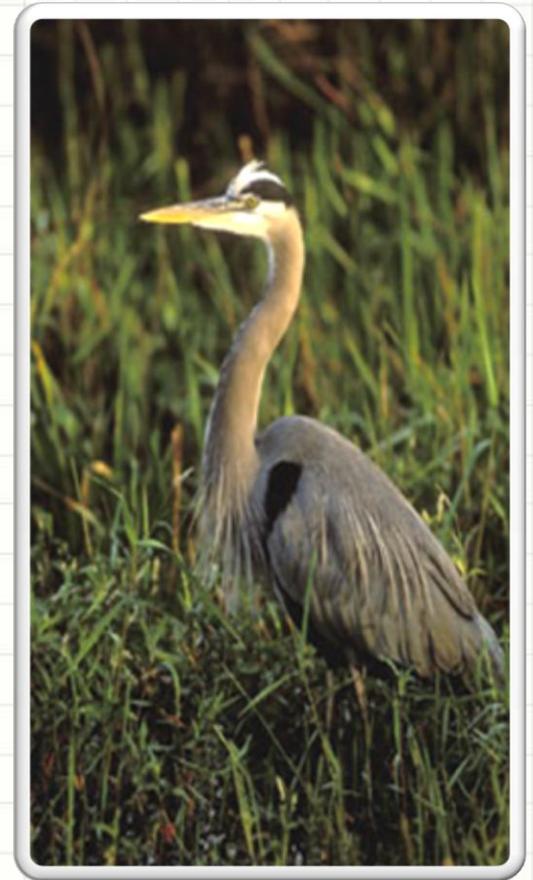
# WDFW Roles & Responsibilities: Headquarters Staff

1. Establish/maintain key relationships
2. Provide direction to Regions
3. Facilitate trans-regional efforts
  - Training/resources/tools
  - Trans-regional issues
  - Common standards (e.g., PHS)
4. Interface with Executive Management
  - Elevate significant challenges
  - Elevate potential SMP appeals



# Roles & Responsibilities: Final Thought

- Cooperation and collaboration are necessary.
  - They lead to a greater understanding, stronger support, and a better outcome.
- Counties and cities are key fish & wildlife managers.
- Win-wins
  - Avoid species listings
  - Enhanced certainty for developers
  - More hunting, fishing, wildlife watching

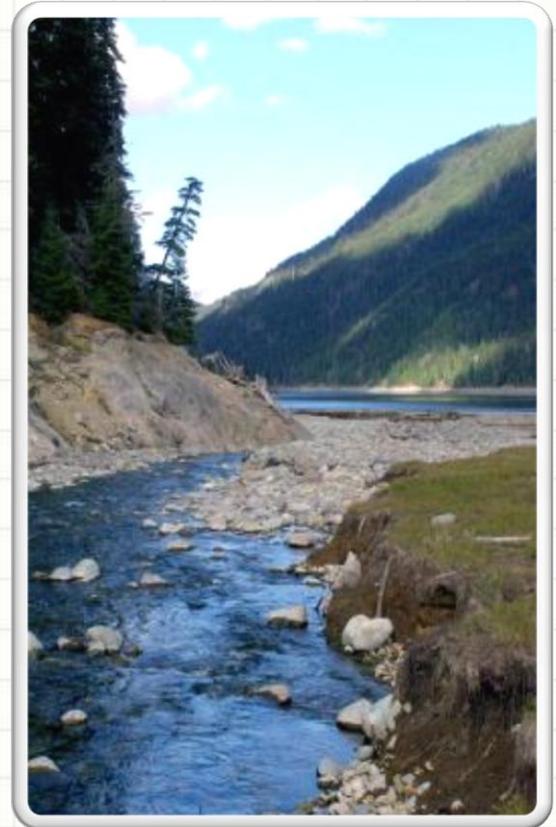


# WDFW ENGAGEMENT IN SMP UPDATES



# Strategic Investment of WDFW Staff

- Not all SMP Updates are created equal
- WDFW needs to focus on Updates with a higher potential payoff for fish & wildlife
  - What's the difference between expected results if we are engaged vs. not?



# What are WDFW's Strategic Interests?

## 1. Is PHS utilized?

- Identifying & designating FWHCAs: PHS List
- Location of FWHCAs: PHS maps
- Habitat Management Plan Content: Use of PHS Management Recommendations?
- HMP Review: Utilize WDFW technical expertise?

## 2. Are ecologically important areas properly designated?

- Natural or Conservancy

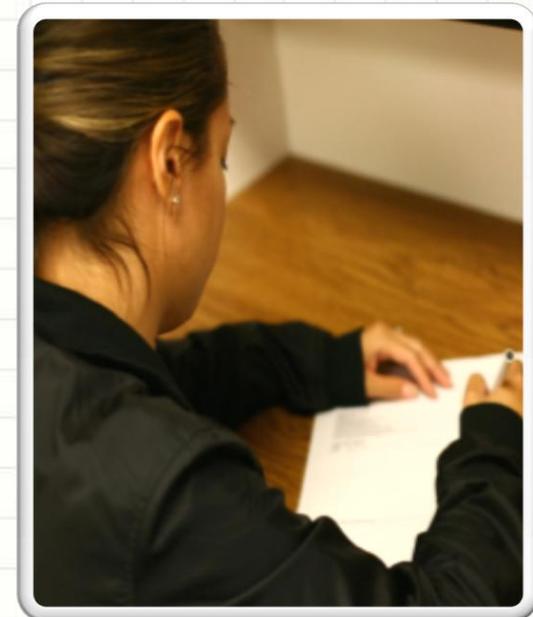
## 3. Are riparian buffers adequate?

- Protect **functions** per Management Recommendations?
- *Especially* in Natural and Conservancy areas.



# Determining our level of engagement

- Level of Engagement based on...
  - Scope of Revisions
  - Habitat Quantity/Quality
  - Room for Improvement. Existing:
    - Environment Designations
    - Riparian Buffers
    - Allowable Uses
    - Community's openness to input
- Other factors
  - Biologist training
  - Prior agreement
  - Unique situation



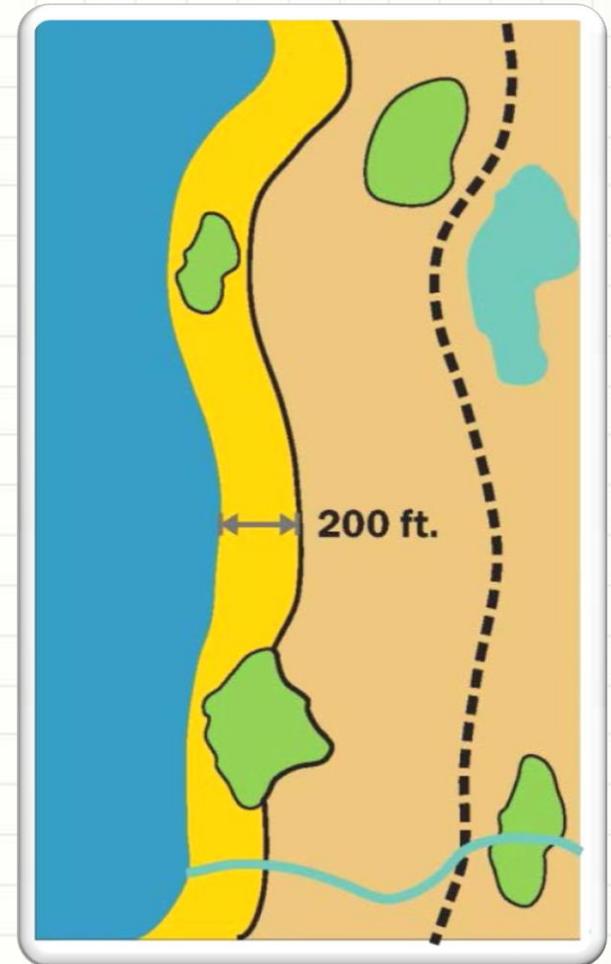
# Varying Levels of Engagement

Action	L	M	H
Develop relationship with local planner, Ecology planner; check in at major milestones	X	X	X
Engage discussion of SMP Jurisdiction delineation			X
Provide PHS data for Shoreline Characterization	X	X	X
Provide other data for Shoreline Characterization		•	X
Participate in Technical Advisory Committee for Enviro Designations, Policies, Regs, Restoration priorities		•	X
Analyze Draft provided to PC; provide written comment		•	X
Analyze Draft provided to BCC; provide written comment		•	X
Est. hours for this Update (to be determined w/mgmt)	<40	<100	>100



# Phase 1 Tasks for WDFW Bios

- Understand Update's scope and anticipated timing
- Determine opportunities to engage formally, informally
  - Public Participation Plan
- Provide input regarding optional SMP Jurisdiction areas



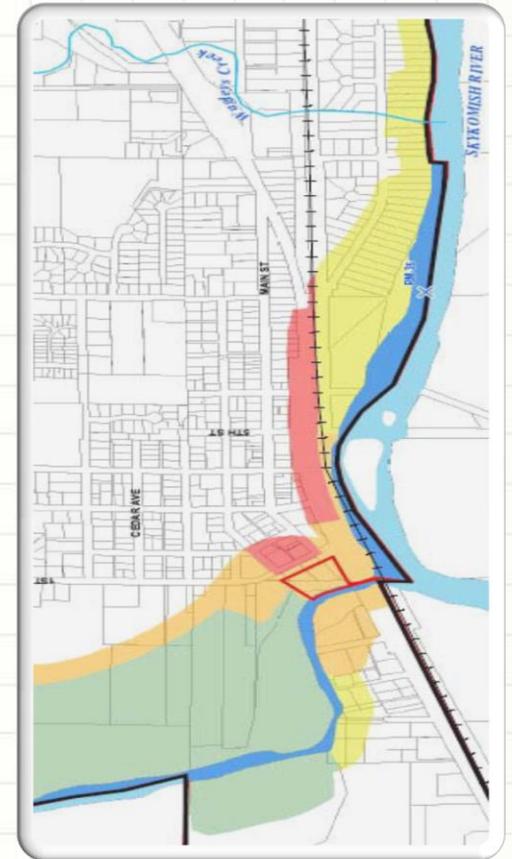
# Phase 2 Tasks for WDFW Bios

- Provide input to shoreline inventory
  - PHS Data
  - Other data regarding species, habitats, priority fishing/hunting areas
- Comment on consultant's characterization of
  - Ecologically important areas
  - Processes, functions and uses



# Phase 3 Tasks for WDFW Bios

- Let local fish & wildlife interest know of opportunities to be involved with visioning, goals, policies
- Encourage ecologically important areas be designated “Conservancy” or “Natural”
  - Discourage high intensity there
- Help define “adequate” buffers



# Phase 4 Tasks for WDFW Bios

- Encourage important restoration projects
  - Method for identifying key projects and/or
  - Specific key projects
- Provide input about SMP's No Net Loss



# Phase 5 Tasks for WDFW Bios

- Provide written comment to Planning Commission
  - Perhaps also oral testimony
- Provide written comment to Board of Commissioners/Council
  - Perhaps also oral testimony



# WDFW'S LEGAL BASIS FOR ENGAGING IN SMPs



# Legal Basis: The Law

- Police powers: Common basis for laws regarding land use and fish & wildlife
- RCW 77.04.012: WDFW to “preserve, protect, perpetuate” fish & wildlife
- RCW 90.58: Local gov’ts & Ecology to:
  - “obtain the comments of any...state... agency having any special expertise [about environmental impacts]” (§100)
  - Consider state agency input when updating SMP (§340) and receive formal comments from agencies on plans (§090)



# Legal Basis: Rules

- WAC 173-26: SMP amendment procedures
  - §201 Local governments *should* contact relevant state agencies... for available [scientific and technical] information.
  - §201 Before undertaking substantial work, local governments **shall** notify applicable state agencies to identify state interests, ... information, and methods for coordination and input



# Legal Basis: Rules (con't)

## WAC 173-26: SMP amendments

- §221(5) (b) In establishing vegetation conservation regulations, local governments **must** use available scientific and technical information...At a minimum, local governments *should* consult...*Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats*, prepared by the Washington state department of fish and wildlife where applicable...



# RESOURCES



# WDFW Area Habitat Biologists

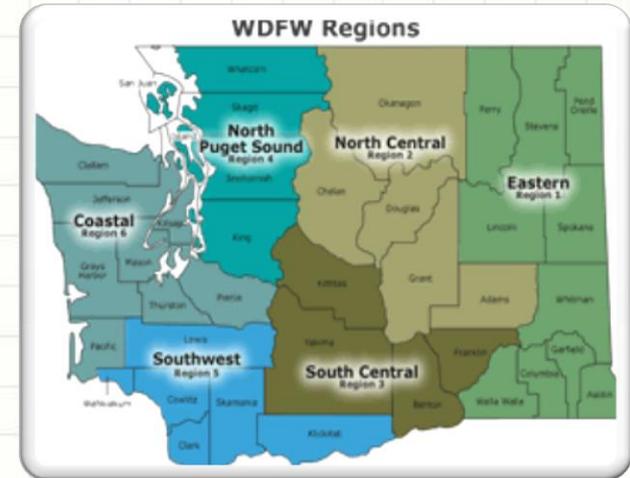
- Your single point of contact
  - Current county/city assignments at

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/ahb/>



# WDFW Resources

- Regional Habitat Program Manager
- HQ staff
  - Keith Folkerts, (360) 902-2390, [keith.folkerts@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:keith.folkerts@dfw.wa.gov)
  - Land Use Policy Lead/  
PHS Section Manager



# Summary/Conclusion

- WDFW is committed to collaborating with you on your SMP.
  - Our level of engagement will vary based on your SMP's importance to fish and wildlife.
- WDFW's role: Technical advisor for matters related to fish and wildlife.
- We have a legal mandate to sustain fish and wildlife and to advise on riparian protection.
- Your WDFW Biologist is your primary point of contact.



**QUESTIONS?**

