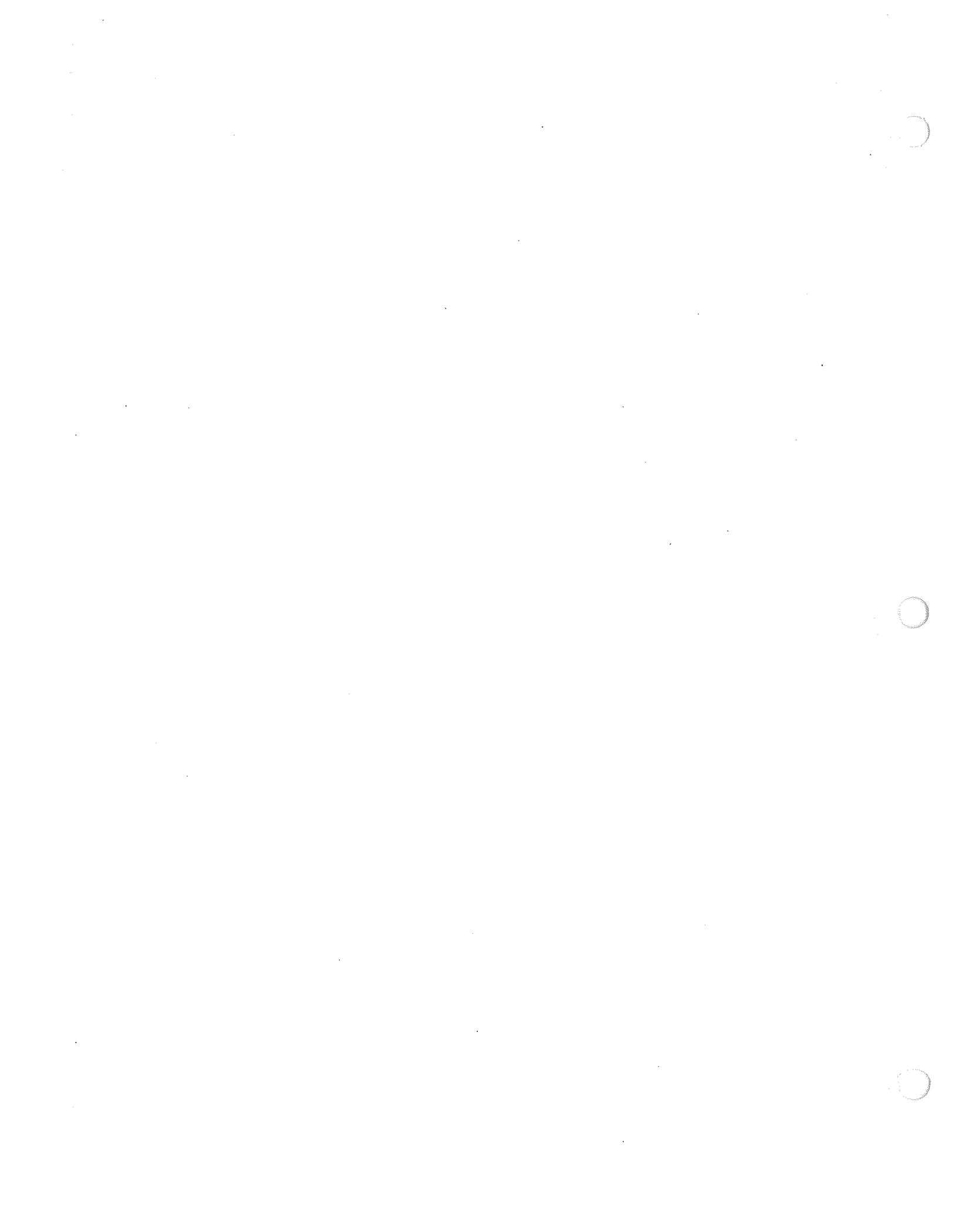




PART VIII

NON-REGULATORY
WILDLIFE and HABITAT
PROGRAMS



NON-REGULATORY WILDLIFE AND HABITAT PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

This section provides a current summary of wildlife and habitat related governmental and non-governmental programs that are available federally, within the state and locally through community organizations. The programs summarized below include topics such as habitat restoration, enhancement, incentive, education, public involvement and funding. Programs vary from government grant funding sources, to model programs for community application. All of the programs listed provide potential funding opportunities for local wildlife and habitat protection.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 has three main purposes. First, it is intended to improve coastal zone management through adoption and effective implementation by the states of coastal zone management programs (CZMPs) that meet federal standards. Second, the act provides funding to states to accomplish their CZMPs. States may in turn allocate a portion of these funds to local governments to carry out local programs. Third, the act authorizes federal agencies to implement requirements under approved state CZMPs. This means that before a federal permit or license can be issued for a federal action that affects a state's coastal zone, the applicant must show the federal permitting or licensing agency that the proposed project is consistent with a state's CZMP.

Projects affecting Washington's coastal zone are regulated through the Shoreline Management Act, which is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology and local city and county governments.

The act states that CZM programs "*should at least provide for the protection of natural resources, including wetlands, floodplains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, coral reefs, and fish and wildlife habitat...*" while also providing for reasonable coastal development growth. In practice, habitat protection through the act is much as under the Shoreline Management Act since the local shoreline master programs comprise the state CZM program. Through the act's consistency requirement, coastal zone habitat protection may also be strengthened by permit requirements under state laws that have been approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Coastal states are also eligible for grants that may be used to acquire lands designated for preservation or restoration because of their conservation, recreational, ecological or aesthetic values. The act defines "coastal resource of national significance" in part as "any coastal wetland...or fish and wildlife habitat...determined by a coastal state to be of substantial biological value." Numerous projects and programs benefiting fish and wildlife habitat receive funding on a cost share basis.

A fine example of a local application of CZM funding, is the City of Bellingham's Padden Creek Lagoon habitat restoration and protection project. Through a CZM grant, the city's Park and Recreation Department conducted a formal site study of the lagoon, creek and adjacent wetlands. The study not only assessed habitat functions and human impacts, but also provided site specific plans for restoration, public access and area management. The subsequent implementation of the recommendations and plans presented in the *Padden Creek Estuary Area Planning Study*, have proven effective in the enhancement of the lower Padden Creek system. The Padden Creek Estuary project serves as a highly successful demonstration project for the city and a model for the region.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1980

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act was enacted by Congress in 1980 to help states pay for nongame wildlife protection programs. The bill authorized the Department of Interior to provide three dollars for every dollar the state spend to develop comprehensive management plans for nongame wildlife species.

Congress has severely cut funding under the Conservation Fund. Washington Department of Wildlife spends over \$1.4 million annually on its nongame program and relies on the revenue from the sale of personalized license plates for this program. Limitations in the nongame program due to underfunding are serious, allowing only for selective species monitoring, management and some research activities.

Due to the budgetary shortfalls of the WDW nongame program and the subsequent lack of available personnel, it is important for the city to employ a wildlife biologist or a person with wildlife expertise to oversee the wildlife resources within the city.

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act authorizes wetlands acquisition for migratory waterfowl refuges. A related statute, the Migratory Bird hunting and conservation Stamp Act, authorizes acquisition of properties or conservation easements, or lease of small wetlands for use as "waterfowl production areas." The Wetlands Loan Act speeds purchase of waterfowl habitat by making duck stamp receipts available for expenditure without congressional approval. The loan fund also authorizes purchase of upland habitat needed to buffer adjacent wetlands. These programs provide nearly all the funding for acquisition of National Wildlife Refuge lands. Program funding levels fluctuate widely with the level of congressional appropriations.

Although there are no national wildlife refuge lands in the city of Bellingham it remains a remote but viable option for the procurement of locally significant wetland and adjacent upland habitats.

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

The purpose of the National Estuary Program is to promote conservation and management of nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution, development or overuse. The Puget Sound was formally designated an estuary of national significance under the program in 1988. The program authorizes a comprehensive conservation and management plan. The 1991 Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan provides all the program elements required under the program including protection of wetlands, nearshore habitat, shellfish, sediment quality, and fish and wildlife restoration and maintenance.

Local application of this program is uncertain due to funding limitations.

NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (PACIFIC COAST JOINT VENTURE)

In 1986 the Secretary of the Interior for the United States and the Minister of the Environment for Canada signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, establishing a 15 year framework for international cooperation. The Plan's emphasis on creating and restoring wetlands and habitat protection for migratory waterfowl is projected to cost \$1.5 billion. In an effort to implement the goals of the Plan, important geographic/habitat areas were identified and a cooperative structure in each area was established, with USFWS as lead in the U.S. The Pacific Coast Joint Venture involves interested representatives from government and private entities from the area stretching from San Francisco to the Skeena River, British Columbia.

In the Pacific Coast Habitat: A Prospectus the Pacific Coast Joint Venture has identified over 82,000 acres of "high-priority" waterfowl habitat targeted for acquisition in Washington State. Of that, 2,200 acres of habitat have been identified in the Bellingham Bay area. Site specific acquisition lands were not identified.

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION & DINGELL-JOHNSON FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION ACTS (1937-1950)

These programs provide federal matching grants to states for habitat restoration. In both of these programs the funds are used primarily for habitat enhancement, development and maintenance, research, and some acquisition. The funding source is a tax on hunting and fishing equipment. Currently, the WDW and WDF receive \$4.8 and \$2.4 million, respectively under both programs. The WDW dedicates most of the Pittman-Roberts funds for operations and maintenance of existing habitat while also allocating some funding to habitat restoration in eastern Washington. Half of the Dingell-Johnson funds are also administered by WDW and used for sport fishing restoration projects. Priority project sites are those involving salmonid habitat. Also a priority are lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a government or tribal entity.

STATE PROGRAMS

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION (IAC)/WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RECREATION PROGRAM (WWRP)

Since 1990, the Washington State Legislature has appropriated \$113.4 million for the acquisition and preservation of wildlife and recreation lands. The account in which these funds are dispersed is the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program. Administered by the IAC, the funds from the WWRP are disseminated to local and state agencies specifically for acquisition of significant wildlife habitat, natural areas and parks state wide. Program funding is divided into two accounts equally, which are Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation.

WWRP matches funding for wildlife related projects under the Habitat Conservation Account. The habitat account is divided into three categories:

- 1) Critical Habitat (state agency eligibility only)
- 2) Natural Areas (state agency eligibility only)
- 3) Urban Wildlife Habitat (state and local agency eligibility)

The Outdoor Recreation Account provides matching funds for local and state parks, trails and water access. Obviously, park acquisition has a positive spin-off for wildlife by protecting more open space. Generally speaking, wildlife may benefit from projects funded through both accounts.

As of July 1, 1993, any agency, such as the City of Bellingham, who wishes to submit a grant application for Urban Wildlife funds under the WWRP, must adopt a conservation plan or include an element in the comprehensive plan which assesses habitat types, inventory, needs, goals, opportunities, priorities, management program and implementation strategies (IAC:Guide to Planning Requirements -draft-, June 28, 1991).

PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY (PSWQA)

In 1985 the Washington State Legislature enacted Chapter 90.70 RCW restructuring the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority and charging it with responsibility to develop, adopt, and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive water quality management plan for Puget Sound and its watersheds.

The 1989 Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan includes action programs for cleaning up and preventing pollution of Puget Sound. Each program contains a statement of goals and objectives for long and short-term water quality management. Several of these action programs contain elements which directly or indirectly protect fish and wildlife habitat. The most significant of these are the programs addressing public education and involvement, nonpoint source pollution, shellfish protection, municipal and industrial discharges, contaminated sediments and dredging, stormwater, wetlands protection, and spill prevention and response.

Public Involvement and Education Projects Fund (PIE)

The Public Involvement and Education Fund or PIE is part of a more comprehensive education program in the Puget Sound plan. The goal of the program is to increase understanding of Puget Sound and its resources and the effect of human activities on them and to facilitate public involvement in decisions to clean up and protect the Sound. To achieve this goal, PIE provides funding to community organizations, tribes, local governments, trade associations etc. who develop projects that serve as models that will encourage, educate and involve citizens in the cleanup, monitoring and protection of the Puget Sound. Specific project topics suggested are wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, growth management, recycling, shellfish protection, stormwater etc.

Since 1987, the Washington State Legislature has appropriated approximately \$1 million each biennium from the Centennial Clean Water Fund for the PIE program. The funds are administered by PSWQA. PIE grants are awarded to eligible projects on a cyclic bases. Project proposals are accepted in four categories which include, peer education, Puget Sound Plan Implementation, model project implementation and translating and disseminating Puget Sound research results.

The PIE fund would be a logical source of funding for education and hands on restoration, enhancement and demonstration projects implemented by the City as part of its wildlife program.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Regional Stream Enhancement Program

Implemented in 1990 by the WDFW, the Regional Stream Enhancement Program offers technical coordination and funding for local stream and riparian habitat restoration and fisheries enhancement projects. The WDFW provides staff coordinators, technical assistance and funding. The program is administered through twelve regional councils which manage an annual \$600,000 program budget. The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association coordinates with WDFW staff to implement the program locally utilizing a volunteer work force and cooperating landowners.

Small streams are the backbone of fisheries resources and the focus of the programs efforts. An additional advantage of this restoration and enhancement program is that stream and riparian improvements benefit all wildlife dependent on these habitats.

Local Applicability

This is yet another program that would benefit local wildlife through volunteerism, agency cooperation and non-regulatory means. The program is currently operating without a plan but instead addressing projects as they are brought to the attention of the council or staff. Presenting to the program staff a plan or list of priority project sites within the city would facilitate activities on those sites. Stream and riparian habitat restoration should be a priority

in the city, and efforts should be made to coordinate with the Regional Enhancement Program and Adopt-A-Stream to achieve restoration, enhancement and monitoring of all fish bearing streams within the city.

Cooperative Wildlife Program

The WAC 232-32 sets forth a structure for funding volunteer wildlife projects state wide. Funding for the Co-op Program is through the DNR's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. The WDW administers the Co-op Program by accepting, reviewing, awarding and managing project contracts with qualified volunteer organizations.

Examples of the types of projects funded through the Co-op Program include public education, stream enhancement and monitoring, rearing and planting of fish stocks, habitat restoration, and other enhancement and public awareness projects. Funding is limited to material costs only.

Opportunities for local Co-op projects are nearly unlimited. The City of Bellingham could, through its wildlife program, encourage and collaborate with private community groups by providing site specific suggestions and guidelines for projects, and by offering assistance in securing funds from WDW for such projects.

Nongame Program

An integral division of the Washington Department of Wildlife is the Nongame Program. The mission of the nongame program is to preserve and enhance the nongame wildlife and habitat resources of the state for the benefit of present and future generations. This mission is without the necessary habitat regulatory authority. The responsibility of the nongame program is primarily to identify, inventory and monitor sensitive wildlife species. The program goals include:

- identification of nongame species and to acquire data, through scientific study of their population, abundance, distribution, habitat requirements, natural history and ecology
- preserve natural habitats and native nongame wildlife species at self-sustaining levels and thereby perpetuate the diversity of wildlife in the state
- provide for the public education and enjoyment of nongame wildlife while ensuring minimal impact on the resources.

Unfortunately, the lack of habitat regulatory authority has hindered the WDFW's ability to effectively achieve its mandate. The current loss of habitat estimated at 30,000 acres per year and sixty-three state species considered for, and twenty-eight species presently protected under the Endangered Species Act suggests a resource management crisis.

Crucial to the Growth Management mandate to identify critical wildlife areas, the WDFW has dedicated considerable staff and resources to the identification of critical habitats throughout the state. The Nongame Program database and species files in addition to the Washington Natural Heritage Program and other sources of information serve as the foundation for this effort,

known as Priority Habitats and Species (PHS). PHS staff rely on Nongame data systems for baseline information, updates and nongame management recommendations.

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program

When undeveloped lands are converted to residential use, significant amounts of wildlife habitat are lost as forests and pasture lands are transformed into flat lawns landscaped with non-native trees and shrubs lacking in structural and species variety.

In 1985 the Department of Wildlife began its Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program to assist homeowners interested in enhancing their yards for wildlife. So far, over a thousand homeowners in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties have joined the program. Homeowners inventory the habitat resources in their yards, and WDW suggests ways to improve the value of their yards for wildlife. Enhancements may include landscaping with plants that provide food and cover, leaving brush and rock piles that can shelter small animals, and providing sources of water. Native plant species are encouraged. Participants also receive a certificate that can be displayed as a symbol of their concern for wildlife resources.

In addition to its educational value, as the program expands it is expected to protect and enhance significant amounts of wildlife habitat, especially in urbanizing areas. Neighborhood backyard sanctuary projects should be encouraged. Several target neighborhoods throughout the city have been identified as having the greatest potential for increasing the habitat function to benefit local wildlife. However, all neighborhoods will contribute to habitat enhancement by participating in the program, by simply planting street trees, erecting bat and bird boxes, utilizing native vegetation and allowing a portion of a neighborhood park lot to revert to its natural state. Neighborhoods adjacent to natural areas, parks or open space may effectively create a backyard sanctuary buffer if enough households participate in the program. Such a buffer would increase the value of park or open space to wildlife and enhance the neighborhood character.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Area Preserves Act

The Natural Area Preserves Act of 1972 directs DNR to cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, private organizations and individuals in the protection of natural areas. In 1981 the legislature amended the act to establish the Natural Heritage Program whose purposes are to:

- 1) develop a classification of natural heritage resources;
- 2) maintain an inventory of the location of these resources;
- 3) maintain a database for this information;
- 4) provide assistance in the selection and nomination of areas containing natural heritage resources for registration or dedication.

The act also requires DNR to prepare and update biennially a Natural Heritage Plan. The plan must present the criteria for selection and approval of natural areas and list the resources to be considered for protection. The Natural Area Preserves System is a focused, limited effort to protect the best examples of Washington's natural heritage. It is not intended to protect all habitats and wetlands that may be of value in an area.

Natural areas are designated to preserve significant examples of typical and rare terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, special species and rare geological features. In addition to their functional and educational value, these areas also serve as baselines for comparisons with similar, altered ecosystems. Natural areas are managed to allow natural ecological and geological processes to predominate, although threats to the natural values of a preserve (such as invasion of a noxious plant) may be controlled.

The program has identified high-quality intertidal and freshwater wetlands throughout the lowlands and commercial forest lands of the Puget Sound basin. These sites have been entered into the Natural Heritage Database, from which information can be disseminated to land managers, developers, protection organizations, state and local agencies and others in need of this information.

Although there are no Natural Heritage sites located in the Bellingham, there are two sites that tie into habitat blocks originating from the city, they are:

1) Lake Louise: 137 acre wetland, bog and associated conifer/mixed forest of exceptional biological diversity. Will be managed by DNR as a natural area for educational purposes.

2) Chuckanut Mountain: Larrabee addition

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

The ALEA was established by the 1984 Legislature. Funding for the ALEA is from lease revenues received by DNR for state-owned aquatic lands. Commercial use of leased aquatic lands restrict public access and in some cases negatively impact the ecological value of the site. In an effort to offset these impacts, the DNR administers the ALEA to provide public access, recreation and interpretive projects that are water dependent.

The ALEA grants are available to local and state agencies for projects that meet project guidelines and application requirements. Bellingham Greenways has received project funding from this program.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

BELLINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Greenway Program

In May 1990, Bellingham voters approved a six-year levy to raise seven million dollars to acquire greenways throughout the city. Greenways include land for trails, habitat and parks. A citizens' advisory committee guides the land acquisition process and Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department staff implement the program. Parks staff also procure matching grants for land acquisition and program operations. Greenway procurement is accomplished through various means including trail easements, land donations, and fee simple purchase. Efforts have focused on creek corridors and abandoned rights-of-way, linking existing trails and parks. The program has also hired a part time volunteer coordinator to organize and lead volunteer activities such as revegetation and restoration projects in addition to the Adopt-A-Trail program. Volunteer programs leverage funds, actively involve citizens and build community support for habitat enhancement and protection.

Current Use Taxation Program

The state legislature established a process whereby parcels of land can be taxed on the basis of their current use value rather than the usual assessment practice of using highest and best use market value. The purpose of this legislation was to preserve agricultural and forestry land and to provide incentives for land near urban areas to remain natural rather than being developed.

This program allows land owners to reduce their property tax in exchange for leaving their land undeveloped and allowing appropriate public access. Land involved in this program may be unilaterally withdrawn by the owner, but there may be tax penalties if the land did not remain undeveloped for the agreed-to amount of time.

In 1988, roughly 250 acres of undeveloped land in Bellingham were registered in the program.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Many valuable habitat sites have been preserved through voluntary efforts and public-private partnerships. Local non-profit community organizations, conservation groups, neighborhood organizations, schools and dedicated individuals have played a vital role in protection of our natural environment including wildlife and its habitat. Many of these groups have held environmental education programs, sponsored local habitat restoration/enhancement projects, promoted acquisition programs such as Greenways, lead educational field trips, and participated in public process to protect wildlife habitat.

The following is an overview of these volunteer groups and programs and their current role in the community and potential role working in cooperation with the City of Bellingham to

implement the proposed Wildlife Program. By providing a program structure and coordinating these community groups, a city wide Wildlife Program would leverage funding, involve interested citizen volunteers of all ages, promote stewardship and accomplish the goals and objectives of the program on a community level.

Portions of this section were extracted from *The Whatcom County Outdoor Organizations Directory 1992*. The directory was compiled by Bill McCallum for the North Cascades Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5805, Bellingham WA 98227.

ADOPT-A-STREAM FOUNDATION

The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation was started in 1982 as an outgrowth of efforts by the Snohomish County Department of Public Works to protect and enhance salmon habitat in Snohomish County. The foundation publishes a quarterly newsletter and provides advice and encouragement to numerous volunteer groups interested in translating their concerns about habitat degradation into actions that benefit fish and wildlife habitat. The foundation has hosted two Adopt-A-Stream conferences for those interested in developing similar programs around the Sound.

An example of the foundation's work is Pigeon Creek which flows through the city of Everett. The creek was adopted in 1982 by the entire Jackson Elementary School and the Salmon Club of Evergreen Middle School. Since then, coho salmon have returned to the creek for the first time in many years. Adopt-A-Stream provided funds for an egg box, aquarium, water quality testing kits, and paint and templates so that "No Dumping" signs could be painted on curbs throughout the creek's watershed. The school children provided the labor and enthusiasm to clean up and inventory the creek and to distribute educational pamphlets. They also successfully lobbied the city council to fund educational signs and to buy property at the headwaters of the creek for stormwater control.

Due to the importance of Bellingham streams for fisheries, wildlife and aesthetics, it is logical to suggest that the City organize an on-going volunteer Adopt-A-Stream program as a component of the larger Wildlife Program. Neighborhood groups, schools, environmental organizations, scout troops or other community organizations could be coordinated to restore, enhance and monitor our streams. As stream stewards, the Adopt-A-Stream participants would gain a sense of ownership, appreciation and understanding of the complex yet fragile stream ecosystem.

ALABAMA HILL ASSOCIATION

To promote the interests of the Alabama Hill neighborhood in matters of land use, zoning and others laws, regulations and ordinances which affect the quality of life of the neighborhood. To obtain and disseminate information of a public nature to residents of the neighborhood.

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The Associated Students Environmental Center provides a resource center with over 100 books, dozens of magazines, filing cabinet of information for research and education, current news and action opportunities network. Educational programming: environmental speakers, forums, music, films, and Earth Day Fair. Environmental Activism Center: opportunities for action, letter writing, networking with action groups.

BELLINGHAM MOUNTAINEERS

To explore and study the mountains, forests and water courses of the northwest; to gather into permanent form the history and traditions of this region; to preserve by the encouragement of protective legislation or otherwise the natural beauty of the northwest; to make expeditions into these regions in fulfillment of the above purposes; to encourage a spirit of good fellowship among all lovers of outdoor life.

CONCERNED SOUTHSIDE CITIZENS

Concerned Southside Citizens (CSC) is a citizens group concerned about environmental protection of south Bellingham and Bellingham Bay. The group cooperates with the City Parks Department to enhance habitat in the 100-foot setback west of Padden Lagoon, obtained through CSC's 1989 agreement with the Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

To provide print, radio and video services to educate and inform the general public about a wide range of environmental issues. We work with citizens groups, government agencies, and other organizations.

FAIRHAVEN NEIGHBORS

The protection and enhancement of the Fairhaven residential neighborhood and surrounding environment.

FRIENDS OF CHUCKANUT

To protect the beauty of Chuckanut Drive by securing reasonable development and ensuring the health, safety and welfare of community members in the vicinity of Chuckanut Drive.

FRIENDS OF LAKE WHATCOM

The preservation and improvement of the water quality of Lake Whatcom and environmental protection of the Lake Whatcom watershed area.

INTERURBAN NEIGHBORS

Citizens united to preserve:

- Quality of life in Bellingham
- Character of Bellingham neighborhoods
- Local ecology

MT. BAKER HIKING CLUB (a.k.a. Mt. Baker Club, Inc.)

The purpose of the club is to provide regular opportunities for hiking, camping, and related social and outdoor activities. It also promotes the conservation of recreational areas of interest to the club. It has a potluck dinner or other social activity once a month.

NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION (NSEA)

To improve and protect salmon production through habitat restoration, education and artificial production facilities i.e. net pens and remote site incubators. NSEA has improved riparian habitat throughout Whatcom County and is creating an endowment for future project funding.

NORTH CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY (NCAS)

The North Cascades chapter of the National Audubon Society was founded in 1972 has been actively involved in local conservation issues and habitat protection. The objectives of this chapter are to promote the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife, their habitat, plants, soil and water. To increase public appreciation of the values of wildlife, plants and the natural environment, and to stimulate action to preserve and protect them.

NCAS provides monthly educational programs, field trips and newsletter. Wildlife and habitat preservation is consistently addressed in organization functions.

NCAS also sponsors the annual Christmas Bird Count. The local count is part of a national survey. The Bellingham/Whatcom County Christmas Bird Count started in 1967, for an area encompassing a 7.5 mile radius which includes most of Bellingham. Christmas bird count data provides the most comprehensive biological survey information within the city, it is however limited to birds.

North Cascades Audubon is the owner and steward of Scudder Pond near Lake Whatcom. This open water wetland provides habitat for beaver, muskrat, amphibians and a plethora of wetland associated birds. It also provides public access by trail and is a popular destination for local school field trips.

NORTHWEST ECOSYSTEM ALLIANCE

The Greater Ecosystem Alliance promotes protection of biodiversity, using principles of conservation biology applied through education, research and advocacy. Our efforts to sustain biodiversity focus on conserving the Greater North Cascades, Mongshee, Selkirk and Olympic Peninsula ecosystems.

NORTHWEST MUSHROOMERS

To encourage the understanding and appreciation of mycology for the amateur and scientist alike.

NORTHWEST STEELHEAD AND SALMON COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED: WHATCOM CHAPTER

The conservation, preservation and protection of trout, steelhead and salmon and their cold water habitat.

PUGET SOUNDERS

Puget Sounders promote and sponsor public education and environmental conservation. Puget Sounders responds to questions and concerns it provides informational referral, program support and services to neighborhood groups, and educational programs.

RAPTOR ROOST

To rehabilitate injured wild birds and animals. To promote education of dangers our wild birds/animals face in sharing the planet with hominids. Lobby for better wild bird care, increase of habitat, and safer handling of oil on land and water.

SAMISH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

To keep neighbors educated on current neighborhood and citywide issues. The main purpose is to watchdog construction to see that drainage is addressed and developments are compatible with existing neighborhoods.

SIERRA CLUB: MT. BAKER GROUP

The group's focus is to actively promote environmental conservation. Also important are outings to enjoy and learn about the environment, and group social activities.

SQUALICUM BEACH COMMITTEE

A group of open space and wildlife habitat advocates involved in development of the Little Squalicum Park Site Plan and concerned with the management and preservation of tidelands, beaches and open areas adjacent to the 13-acre park site. Many of the committee members are Birchwood and Columbia neighborhood residents.

WHATCOM COUNTY LAND TRUST

In 1979 the Washington legislature passed a law (RCW 64.04.010) that allows any government agency or nonprofit natural conservancy corporation to hold or acquire development rights or conservation easements "to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or conserve for open space purposes, any land or improvements upon a piece of land." The law defines "nonprofit nature conservancy corporation" as an organization that qualifies as being tax exempt under requirements of the federal Internal Revenue Code. The organization must also have as one of its principal purposes scientific research, the conservation of natural resources for the general public, or the conservation of natural areas including but not limited to wildlife or plant habitats.

The Whatcom County Land Trust is dedicated to the preservation and protection of unique natural, scenic, agricultural and open space land in Whatcom County through acquisition of perpetual conservation easements or other land interests that insure the protection of the resource value. The WCLT holds conservation a easement to protect the ecological integrity of the 78 acre Clark Point peninsula and it also oversees the development and use on Teddy Bear Cove Park on the city's southern fringe.

WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: KOMA KULSHAN CHAPTER

1. Preservation of endangered flora
2. Conservation of threatened habitat
3. Education of the public to the value of native plants
4. Enjoyment and study of native plants

WASHINGTON SEA GRANT PROGRAM (University of Washington)

Address needs of marine resource users in North Sound area through education programs, applied research and by providing information to individuals on request.

WASHINGTON TROUT

To preserve, protect and restore Washington's wild fish populations and their habitat.

WHATCOM FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Informal network for responding to neighborhood and community issues.

With approximately one-third of the neighborhood in public land to the north (Whatcom Falls Park and Bayview cemetery), one-third undeveloped steep-sloped forest land to the east, and numerous creeks, springs and wetlands to the south, the quiet rural atmosphere is our most precious asset and the focus of our efforts.

WHATCOM INDEPENDENT MOUNTAIN PEDDLERS (WHIMPY)

Mountain bicycle trail etiquette, trail building, education, and exploration. Working with public schools on helmet safety for kids, flagging trails for repair, encouraging the involvement of mountain bikers in local trail and bicycle related issues.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

A regional independent non-profit wildlife conservation organization. The WCT provides support for conservation oriented wildlife research, education and stewardship. The Trust is dedicated to the advancement our current understanding of indigenous wildlife communities to further their conservation through informed decision making.

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

To provide a forum for discussion of neighborhood issues; to carry out projects to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood; to provide neighborhood representation at relevant meetings.

