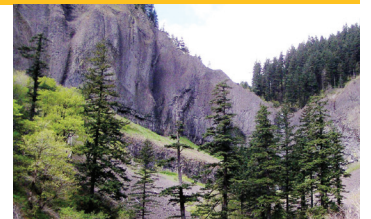


Natural Heritage Program



The Natural Heritage Program provides scientific expertise and information for effective conservation of Washington's rich natural heritage.

Connecting
conservation
science with
conservation
action since
1977



CONSERVING NATIVE SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

We use objective scientific criteria to determine which plant and animal species and ecosystems are in need of conservation, and we identify the best sites for conserving them.

INFORMING LAND-USE DECISIONS

Use of the program's information allows economic growth and development to be balanced with conservation of Washington's natural heritage—our biological inheritance.

We are *the* source of scientific information about rare plants and ecosystems of the state.

PRESERVING OUR SENSE OF PLACE

Washingtonians identify with the natural beauty and diversity of our state. By conserving our native species and ecosystems, we can ensure that future generations inherit the Washington we know today.

What Does the Natural Heritage Program Do?



CATALOGUE & PRIORITIZE

What plants, animals and ecosystems occur in Washington?
Which are most in need of conservation attention?

- We catalogue the plants, animals and ecosystems of Washington
- We prioritize the conservation needs of species and ecosystems using methods shared by a network of programs in all 50 states and several other countries
- We ensure that our state's conservation priorities are current and up-to-date, reviewing and revising them as new information is gathered

INVENTORY

Where are the species and ecosystems of conservation concern?
What condition are they in?

- We conduct intensive field work on the species and ecosystems most in need of conservation attention
- We collect information from all available sources, including government agencies, conservation organizations, consulting firms, universities and individuals
- We have created the most current and comprehensive database of the state's rare plants, animals and ecosystems, with more than 7,300 locations recorded



SUPPORT CONSERVATION ACTION

What conservation tools are available?
Which will work best?

- We provide the science that supports species and ecosystems conservation, sharing data and expertise with federal, state and local agencies and with non-profit conservation organizations
- Conservation priorities assigned by the Natural Heritage Program are the framework for building the statewide system of natural areas. These priorities help guide state conservation funding through sources like the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- We work with county planners, consultants, developers and others to ensure smart growth and development, including the creation and implementation of county land use ordinances

