

Natural Areas Program



The Natural Areas Program protects outstanding examples of the state's extraordinary diversity. These lands represent the finest natural, undisturbed ecosystems in state ownership, often protecting rare or vulnerable plant and animal species. The program manages two types of conservation lands, **Natural Resources Conservation Areas** and **Natural Area Preserves**.

**Conserving
Washington's
native species
and ecosystems,
today and
for future
generations.**



HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

Keeping habitats and ecosystems healthy through science-based management and restoration



BIODIVERSITY

Protecting Washington's native biodiversity and our most vulnerable plant and animal communities



VALUING NATURE

Strengthening public appreciation of nature by promoting environmental education, exploration and scientific research on natural areas



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Creating innovative ways to care for natural areas through community engagement and partnerships

Natural Areas Program Priorities



1 Healthy Ecosystems

- Prevent damage to healthy ecosystems
- Restore degraded ecosystems
- Adaptively manage for primary conservation goals
- Manage for support of landscape-level ecological functions



2 Biodiversity

- Control invasive species
- Monitor rare native species
- Expand the number and scale of species protected on natural areas
- Manage for species recovery



3 Valuing Nature

- Increase environmental education opportunities at natural areas
- Develop public access at appropriate sites for nature exploration
- Promote scientific research projects on natural areas, including topics of high public policy value such as climate change



4 Fostering Partnerships

- Engage community groups and volunteers to help maintain natural areas
- Share resources and minimize project overhead by joining with public agencies and non-governmental organizations
- Seek donated materials and labor for public access facilities development
- Cooperate with other public agencies on site monitoring and management

