

# Washington Natural Heritage Program Partners Meeting 2019 Break-out session notes

*Notes have been transcribed as written.*

## Education and Outreach

### Common Themes and Solutions

- Different agencies need to get their stories out
- Connect with more people and new audiences
- Relevant messaging
  - Diversify presenters: Get stories from mix of cultures and backgrounds (this might include professional and non-professionals telling relevant stories)
  - Story is relevant to audience
- Blogs – need content
- Human interactions – not all online (great to have web content, but one on one (or one to many) human interaction is still important in telling stories)
- Story maps
  - Species based
  - NAPs: What is there? Why is it protected?
  - Ecosystems
- Web apps: information about sites and species. Use QR for species and natural area information
- Better education about government regulations
  - ESA: plants vs. animals
  - Different between state and federal agencies
- Data repositories

### Initial Discussion

<b>What are you doing?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Blog for WA Native Plant Society	Great content
Systemic Environmental education in public schools – all teachers, all students	Locally relevant environmental issues. Problems, questions, opportunities
Department of Ecology blog	Examples of stories about high quality ecosystems, work at Crowberry bog ...who is audience?
Education about pollinators	Centralized repository of info on pollinators. Ex.: what to plant, seed sources, east side vs. west side. What plants do caterpillars need. Ecosystem info too

WNPS – chapter programs and events	Education for membership. -outreach to greater community
Hiring Watchable Wildlife Coordinator, Urban emphasis (WDFW)	More public participation and education opportunities, esp. for youth
	Market our relevancy to the public
Forest Service – environmental education	Staffing beyond traditional biology skills -social skills, engineering
Women in Natural Resources STEM	Tell our stories – good things, not all bad
Influence management on private lands -buffers, clean water, habitat management	Messaging about ESA on private lands – people don't know rules
Government – NEPA projects, ESA, etc.	Educate public about land management law/policy
State Parks -get loved to death -Recreation impacts -informed users – about other values and landscape	Funding for environmental education (from legislature) Interpretation – why was park established? What are important elements there?
Story maps -species based -ecosystem based -NAP info	Content for Story boards -images -maps -text -generalized “bogs” “shrub steppe” etc. to be useable by multiple partners
USFWS Inform public, other agencies on regulatory obligations	Better info on state listed vs. ESA listed or BLM/USFS sensitive Better info to help with compliance
Involve Public in projects (example schools helping replant campground)	Time

<b>What do you want to do?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Reach more people – combat plant blindness	Partnerships. Content. IT image support
Do this for all school districts, home schools	Resources, change in attitudes about public education
Tell good stories about wetlands (not all rules & regulations)	Need content...
Have pollinator info more available	More info, places to refer people
	Need actual species. Human interaction – not all online
Involve public land managers with education outreach on Natural Area Preserves	Get public connected to NAPs & conservation
Tell stories better	Need support from management
Engage interest from private land owners for conservation	Outreach workshops about program restoring – technical assistance
Better education – unified	Web apps w/specific info on parks

	-rules -why there are rules QR
	Field Guide app – has info on protection status/rules -links to USFWS

## Connectivity and Conservation Priorities

### Common Themes and Solutions

- Each of us identify partners and reach out to them
- USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
  - Updating strategic Plan
  - Provide Overview
  - Everyone bring priorities to table
- Summarized today and route to everyone and have everyone add details to all items from the flip charts
- Create means for sharing NHP/NAP reports and those of other agencies / entities
  - Conservation Botany Google Group?

### Initial Discussion

What are you doing?	What do you need?
	Tools Ability to share resources Local jurisdiction participation and counties → need to enhance their ability to partner
USFWS – Assessing rare species -driven by petitions -want to be more proactive	Need rare species info and sooner/earlier
USFWS – Habitat restoration	Be more strategic / more bang for the buck Better focus on smaller scale
WDFW – Acquiring land	Be more strategic – need more info. More effective partnerships
USFWS / BLM – Coordination between/among agencies re: sensitive species lists	Need cross-agency coordination on the landscape
Using models to ID conservation priorities	Collaboration/partnerships / \$ Better perspective on agency priorities
WNPS gives out conservation grants – generally restoration	Info re: who needs small grants
DOE – recently updated guidelines for local jurisdictions on GMA implementation. Need: better mapping at a usable scale	Better coordinate – Conservation Districts & salmon enhancement
Better effort in include tribes in the process	

	Increased networking – better management of islands (state parks) in bigger landscapes
	Education within agencies of need to connectivity/conservation planning

<b>What do you want to do?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Create better/current maps	Support advocacy
DNR, USFWS Partner with Land Trusts	Land trust partners (communication with them through WALT)
Improve land management (state agencies)	Field data, more capacity
Look at Metro Portland model for habitat connectivity, management, etc.	Need to stay up with science
Measure our success	Ditto
Demonstrate our success	
Finer scale climate change maps	Species-specific (listed species) connectivity needs
Create landowner incentives -state funded incentive -also USFWS	Legislation and funding – long-term funding
WNHPS – increase your conservation advocacy	Additional ideas re: priorities
Better mechanism(s) to ID shared priorities (plants/animals) (agency/agency)	Resources to implement Federal resources

## Research

### Common Themes and Solutions

- Monitoring – Methods, Interpretation
- Research Network
- Management questions

### Initial Discussion

<b>What are you doing?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Managing rare plants (BLM)	Taxonomic – specific data indicating when to classify EO as historic
State Wetland Program Plan Wetland M&A workgroup → platform for sharing – NWCA	Finish Strategic Plan → address specific research questions
	USFWS, WNPS → need proposals for research on candidate species
Habitat restoration	Research on restoration techniques (USFWS)
Botanical surveys statewide	Public lands access
Photo documentation	Submit into records for distribution, penology
Recovery planning for federally-listed plants/section 7 (ESA) consultation/SSAs	Site-specific habitat & historical information on listed (federally-listed) plant occurrences

PNW USFS Research Station Land managers, communicate with them to prioritize research questions	Form research questions better/more focused
CC Vulnerability Assessments (WNPS)	Breeding system of plants
Managing small patches/small populations (WA State Parks)	What is viable? How to manage? Can we make them viable?

<b>What do you want to do?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Monitoring of species and habitat (USFWS & BLM)	Improved interpretation of data
Effectiveness monitoring	We protect X is still there?
More collaboration → contribute/gather data ECY / Columbia Land Trust Leveraging community science for management needs	Clarification Plans Protocols Network  List of Questions
Want to help / Volunteer	Need good experiences, authentic contributions Agencies need good BMPs structures for matching the volunteers to <u>needed</u> objectives
PlantQuest – eBird – like website for reporting flower time (Burke Herbarium) Phenology – shift models Distributions of plants	(same as what we want to do)

## Ecosystem Assessment and Mapping

### Common Themes and Solutions

#### Initial Discussion

<b>What are you doing?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Informal plots	Support in identifying new classification units for NVC; Do our informal plots meet NVC requirements?
State-listed (wildlife) monitoring	
	Better shrub-steppe mapping
	Habitat mapping off public lands
	White bark pine mapping

ID of high quality habitat/community EO (shrub-steppe)	Field instruction from WNHP staff
Riparian mapping	High-resolution LiDAR
WNPS Conservation advocacy	Online resources for quick assessment of sites (for independent contractors, etc)
	More EIA training
	3 <sup>rd</sup> party (e.g. Ecology) pointing to WNHP Map Viewer data

<b>What do you want to do?</b>	<b>What do you need?</b>
Have \$/capacity for uncharismatic species, or non-listed species (wildlife)	\$ / capacity
Do assessment of native ecosystems and their conditions to help support funding requests: funding for restoration and strategic acquisition	Up-to-date inventory and assessments
Drones for rare species management ***Potential opportunity / collaboration with USFWS certified pilot	
Respond to WNPS advocacy requests	Training on NHP resources (online)
EIA Working Group -CLT, WDFW, State Parks, DNR, SEE Botanical	Facilitator – Janet (WDFW)?
Identify and build on shared priorities across taxonomic groups (Wildlife / Plants)	(Revised NW Forest Plan) Public Education & Support
Regional ecosystem-based assessments	