



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Dear Local Government Partners:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is pleased to announce the release of our final Priority Habitats and Species (*PHS Riparian Volume 2: Management Recommendations*). The document is available in manuscript form in PDF format on our webpage at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01988>.

WDFW began this undertaking nearly a decade ago, in 2012. In the years that have passed, many of our own staff as well as individuals who represent our tribal co-managers, sister state agencies, local government partners, and others have been involved with and contributed significantly to this effort. During the same timeframe, our world, nation, state, and many local communities have seen substantial changes, and so have Washington's ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that depend on them. Our agency has also changed in important ways in recent years, and we have worked hard to ensure this final version of Volume 2 clearly articulates WDFW's mandate and our current values, informed by the companion Best Available Science document (*PHS Riparian Volume 1: Science Synthesis and Management Implications*) which was our first ever PHS document to go through a Washington Academy of Science-led peer review.

This final Riparian Volume 2 manuscript focuses on landscape-level planning considerations for protection and restoration of riparian ecosystems. For those stakeholders who have grown accustomed to using PHS management recommendations to make decisions at the parcel level, such as for setting conditions on development permits, we recognize that there may be questions about how to implement Volume 2, particularly beyond updating their Critical Areas Ordinances and Shoreline Master Programs. As this is a change for WDFW as well, we don't yet have all the answers. That said, we look forward to shifting our resources in 2021 to implementation, and we will be working with you, our stakeholders, to understand what additional tools and resources would be useful.

As we did with Volume 1, we will also be producing a professionally designed Volume 2 version that will be substantively the same as the manuscript, but also include photographs and be fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Be on the lookout for that version in the first few months of 2021.

If you have questions about PHS Riparian Volume 2, please contact Mary Huff, Land Use Conservation and Policy Section Manager, [mary.huff@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:mary.huff@dfw.wa.gov).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margen Carlson".

Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director