

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

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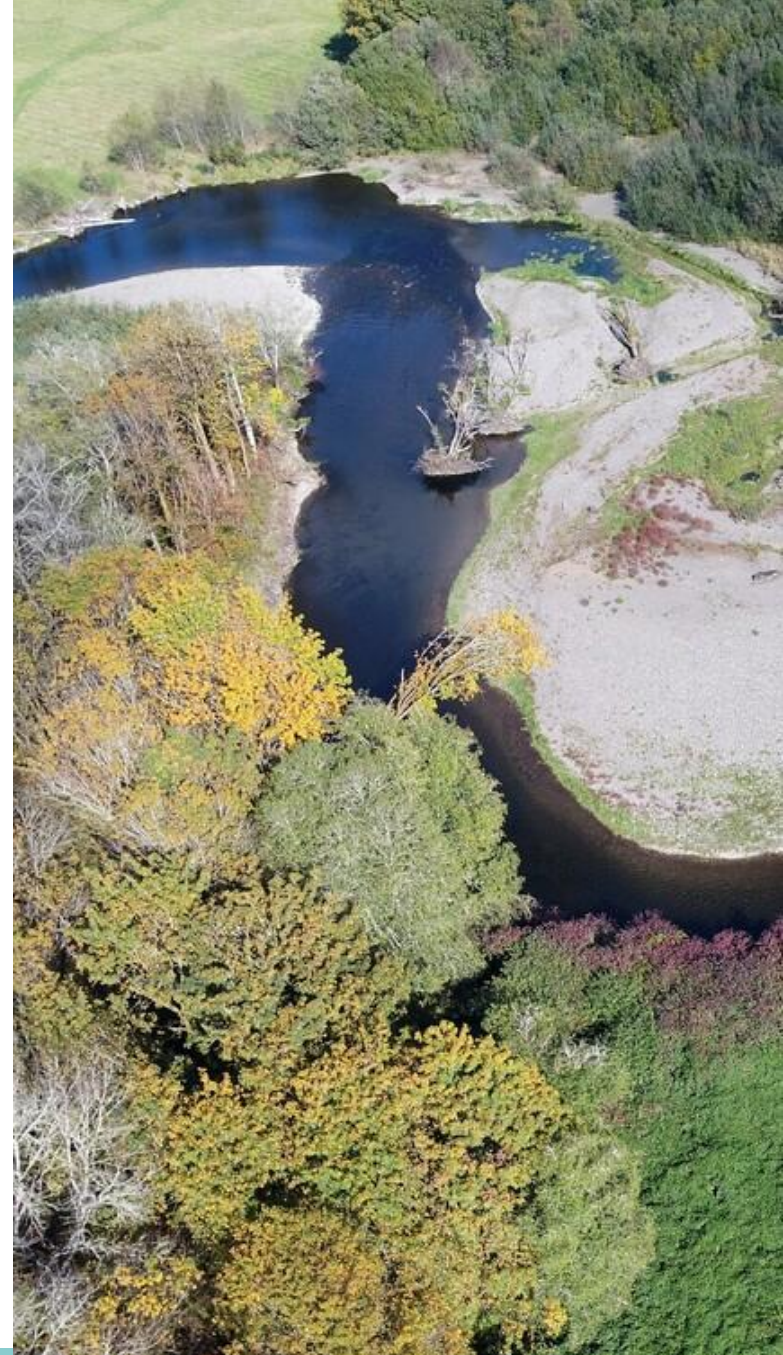
Passport to 2044 Webinar Series:
Planning for Critical Areas
November 30, 2022



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Overview

1. The Growth Management Act (GMA) and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs)
 - Requirements and Definitions
2. How WDFW helps local governments designate and protect FWHCAs
 - Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Resources and Tools
 - Technical Assistance





GMA and FWHCA Requirements and Definitions

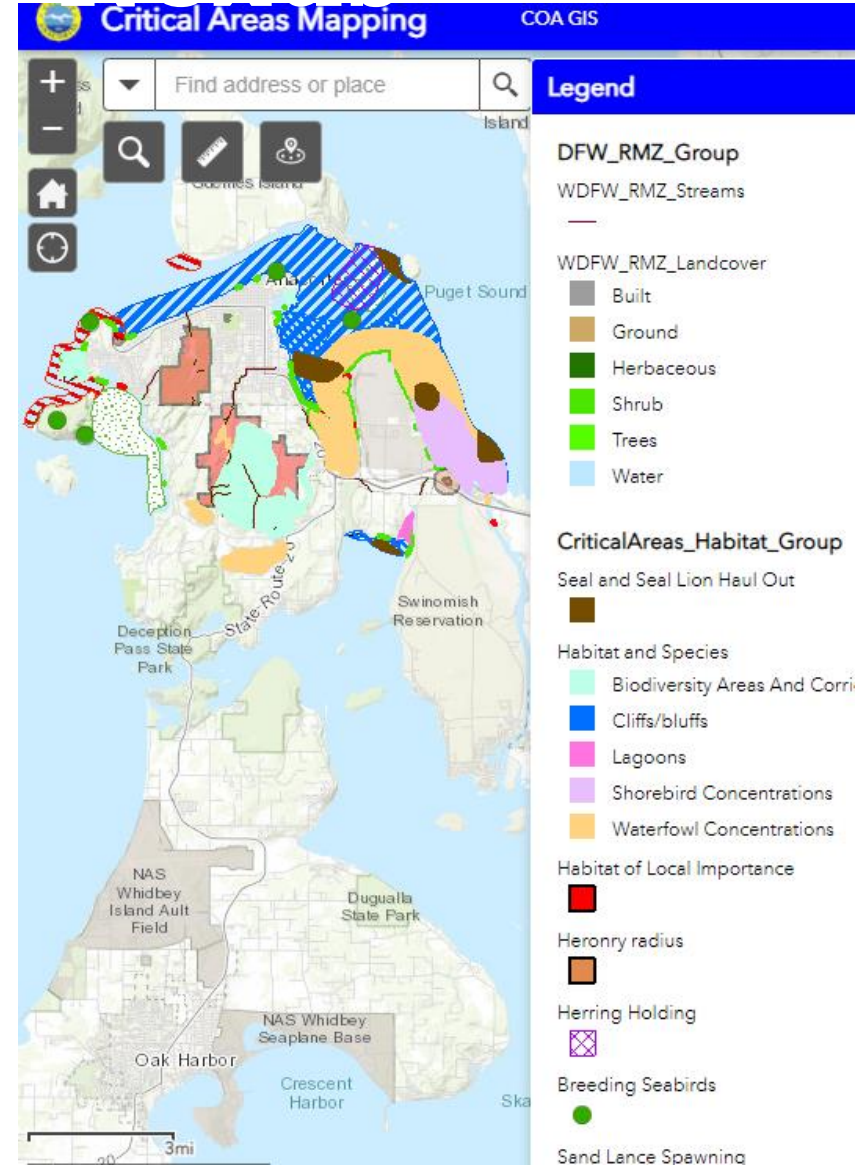
GMA Requirements

- **Designate** critical areas
- **Protect** the functions and values of critical areas
- Include the **best available science**
- Give special consideration to **anadromous fisheries**
- Allow **no net loss** of ecosystem functions and values
- Support **viable, connected populations** over the long term

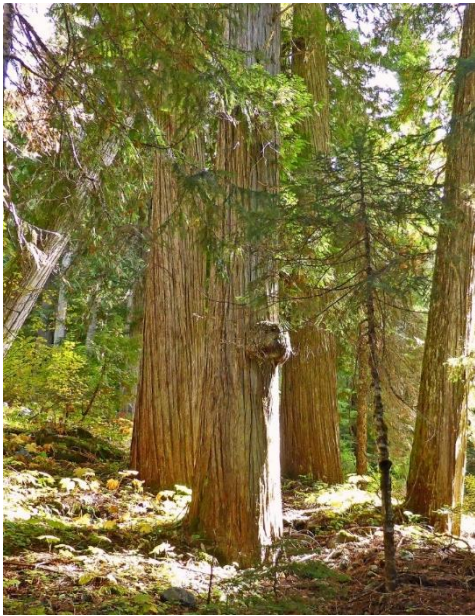


FWHCA Minimum Designation Guidelines

- Determine lands that have a *primary association* with protected species and adopt regulations protecting them
 - Performance standards the are primary mechanism
 - Maps provide the general location (advisable)
 - Site/project level delineation



FWHCA Minimum Designation Guidelines



What to Areas to Designate?

- State and federally listed and sensitive species
- WDFW Priority Habitats and Species
- DNR rare plants and ecological communities
- Habitats and species of local importance
- Other specified areas and considerations



FWHCA Minimum Protection Guidelines

How to protect?

- Critical Area regulations
- Development densities
- Urban growth area boundaries
- Open space corridors
- Incentive-based land conservation and stewardship programs

Avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts



What other Laws affect FWHCAs?

- Endangered Species Act
 - NOAA (marine and anadromous species)
 - USFWS (terrestrial and freshwater species)
- Other federal laws
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- *See Critical Areas Handbook for resources*



Hallelujah! Images © Debra Hoskins





How WDFW Helps Local Governments Designate and Protect FWHCAs

PHS Components

Designate



PHS List



PHS Maps

Protect



PHS Management Recommendations



PHS Technical Assistance

Continuous
Improvement



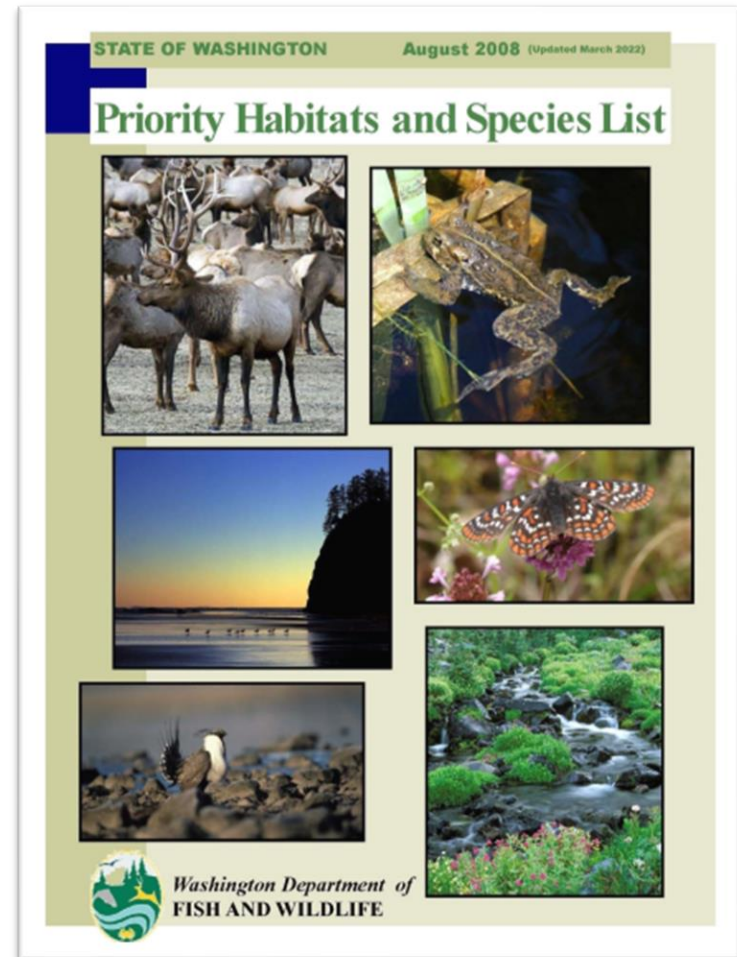
Monitoring and Adaptive Management



PHS List

To support FWHCA designation:

- Criteria-based, vetted list
 - 20 Priority Habitats
 - 269 Priority Species
 - 10 groups of Priority Species
- Plus additional info
 - County-level distribution map
 - State- and federal listing status
 - Primary association areas



PHS on the Web Map & Reports

Where to designate FWHCAs?

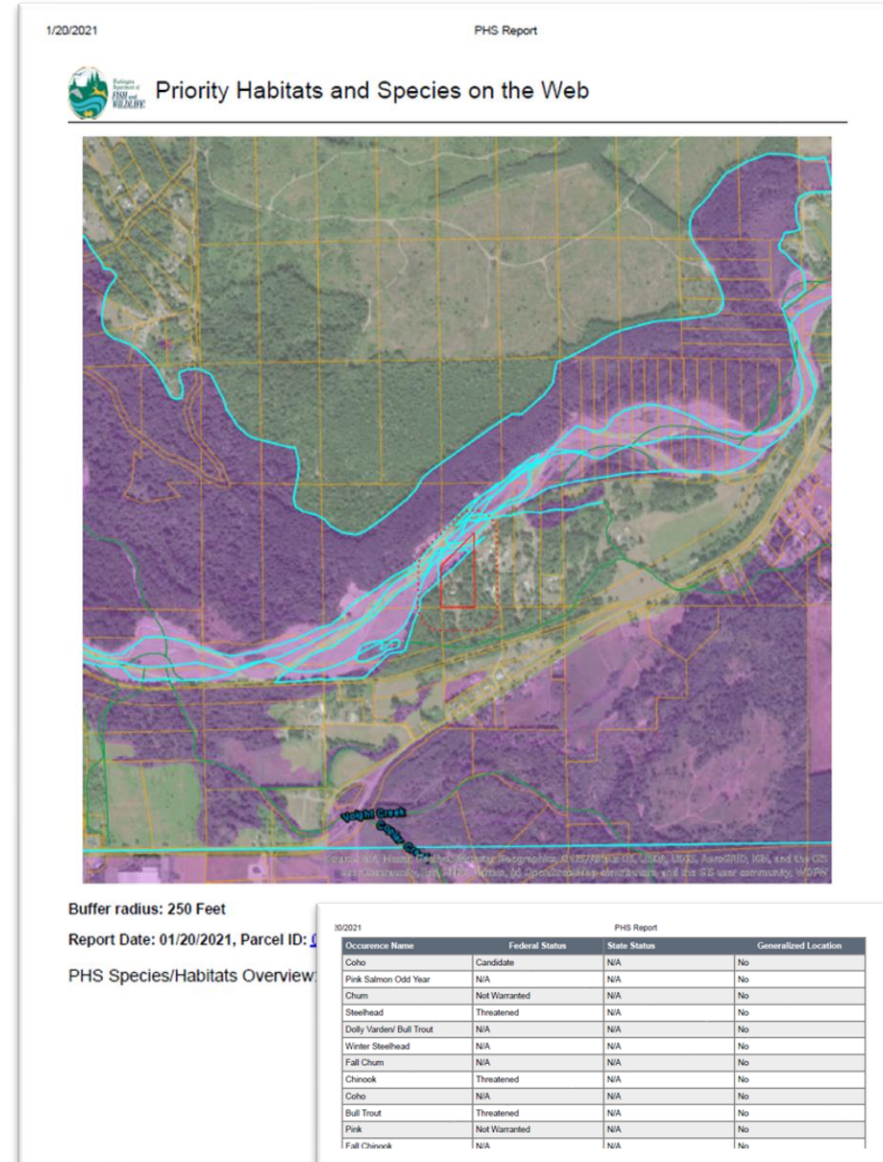
- Simplest way to check for PHS “hits” spatially
- *Request sensitive digital data with a non-disclosure agreement*

Caveats

- Doesn't include all types of Priority Habitats
- Species move and exist in places we haven't surveyed
- Validate with site-scale info



Department of Fish and Wildlife



PHS Report			
Occurrence Name	Federal Status	State Status	Generalized Location
Coho	Candidate	N/A	No
Pink Salmon Odd Year	N/A	N/A	No
Chum	Not Warranted	N/A	No
Steelhead	Threatened	N/A	No
Dolly Varden/ Bull Trout	N/A	N/A	No
Winter Steelhead	N/A	N/A	No
Fall Chum	N/A	N/A	No
Chinook	Threatened	N/A	No
Coho	N/A	N/A	No
Bull Trout	Threatened	N/A	No
Pink	Not Warranted	N/A	No
Fall Chinook	N/A	N/A	No

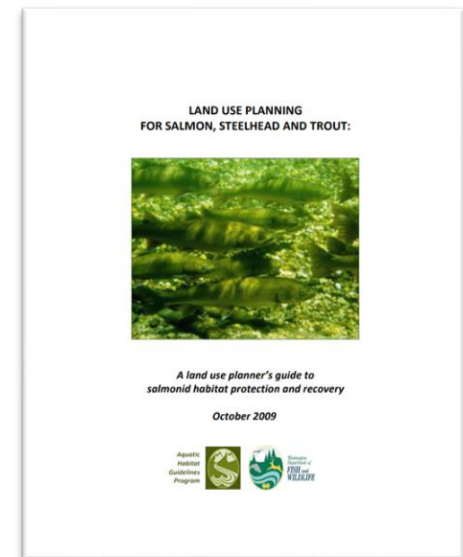
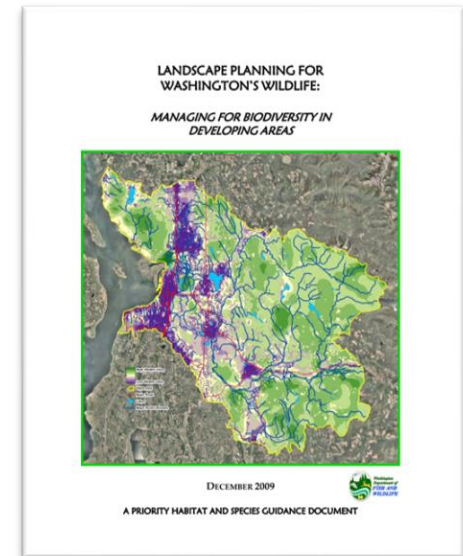
PHS Management Recommendations

Broad

- **Landscape Planning** for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas
- **Land Use Planning** for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout

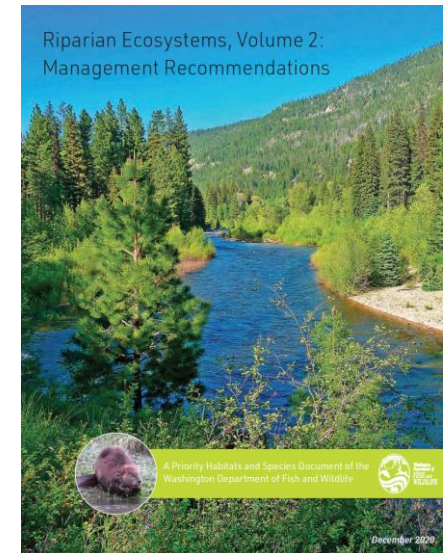
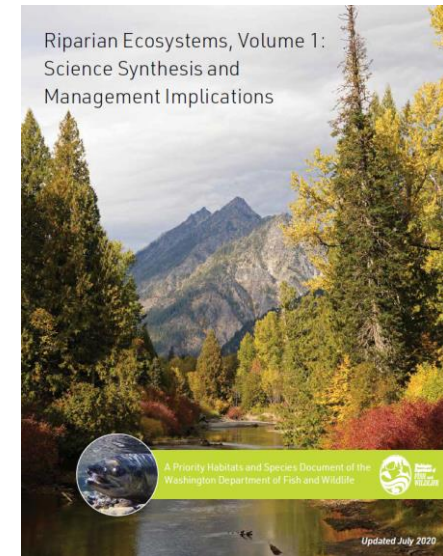
Specific

- **Habitats:** Shrubsteppe, Oak Woodlands, etc.
- **Species:** Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, etc.



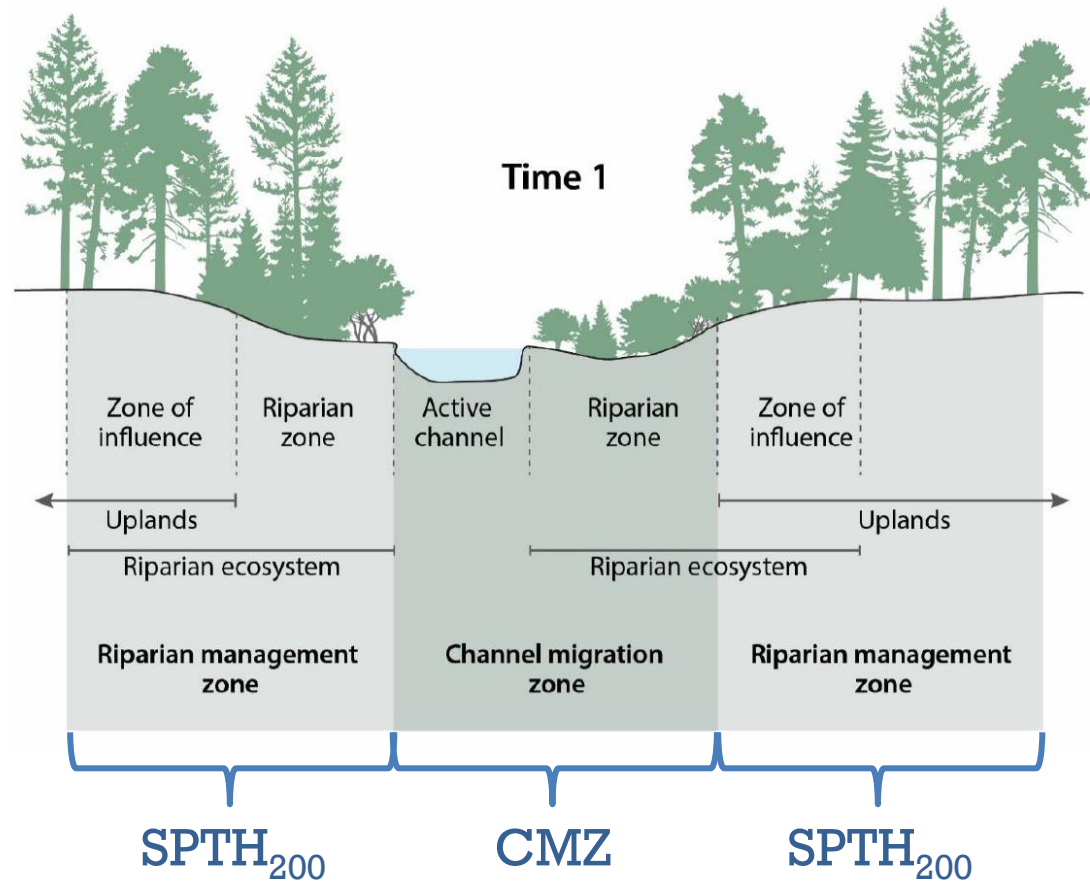
PHS Management Recommendations: Riparian Ecosystems

- **Volume 1: Science Synthesis**
- **Volume 2: Riparian Management Recommendations**
- A Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) is more than a buffer
- Applies to all stream types
- Recommendations differ by ecoregion (forested or dryland)



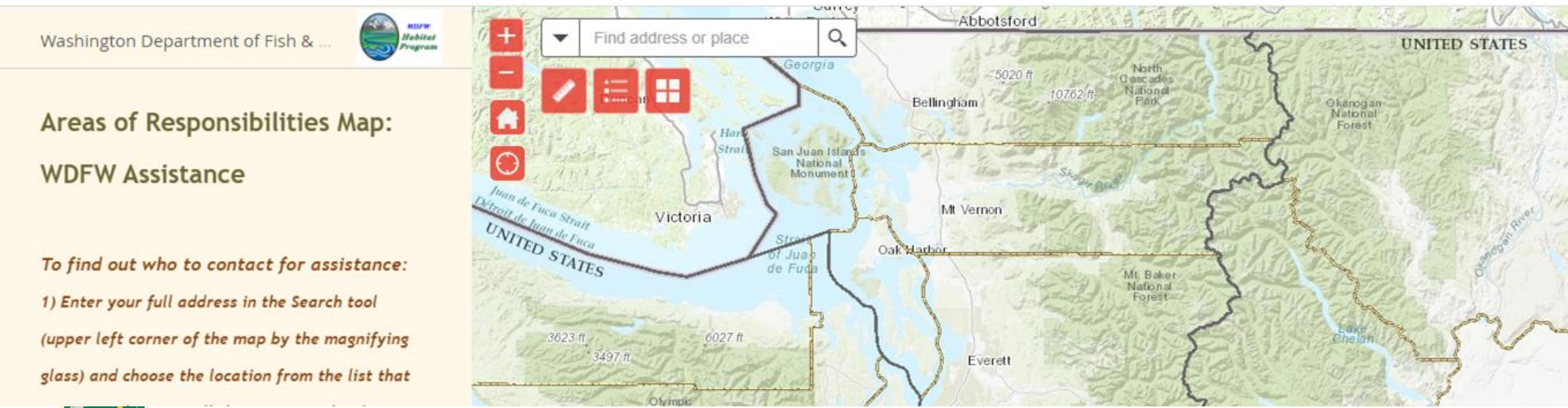
RMZs in Forested Regions

- Measure from wider of stream bank or Channel Migration Zone (CMZ)
- Width = 200-year Site Potential Tree Height (SPTH_{200})
- Minimum 100 feet for pollution removal
- SPTH_{200} online tool



WDFW Technical Assistance

- It's complex!
- WDFW Habitat Biologists are a resource
- Use our map for contact info in your jurisdiction
- Caveats
 - Start with written PHS Management Recommendations
 - Be patient 😊



What's Next: PHS

Riparian Guidance Implementation

- RMR-CAO Checklist
- SPTH₂₀₀ PHS data (2023)

Biodiversity Areas & Corridors

- Expanding coverage and guidance (2023)
- More important than ever given climate-related shifts in habitat use and species' ranges



Q & A

(after all
presentations)

