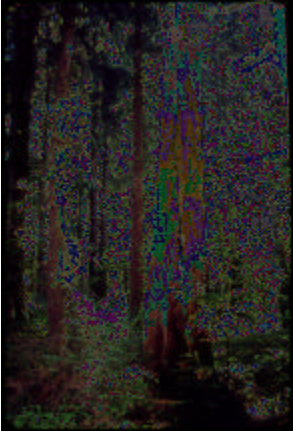


Washington Forest Protection Association

Issue: Wildlife Habitat

The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife is conducting an assessment of current forest conditions and developing a model to project trends to determine if additional protection is needed for wildlife habitat.

Background: Over the last twenty-five years, forest management on our state's public and private forestlands has changed, sometimes dramatically, in the effort to maintain and/or restore complex forested ecosystems within the context of local, state, and federal law. The changes are based on (1) forest practices rules packages (2) voluntary conservation planning efforts to address threatened and endangered species on public, private, and tribal lands, (3) ecosystem-based planning on federal and municipal forestlands, and (4) an increased effort to preserve unique forested habitat through local, state, and federal conservation programs and exchanges. The economic costs of these changes have been significant.



The cumulative effects of these changes will likely result in a spatial array of habitat conditions and the creation and/or maintenance of biological components that will benefit many wildlife species over time.

Action: The Washington Forest Protection Association has been busy over the last two years in compiling publicly available data and assessing current habitat planning efforts in the state of Washington.

Result: To assist in the assessment effort, WFPA has compiled the following information:

- ? A map of forested Washington state with showing where habitat protection measures are currently being implemented on public and private forestland;
- ? A white paper describing in detail, the variety of land management strategies to address preservation and conservation of habitat conditions – both regulatory and voluntary – that are being implemented on public and private forestland;
- ? Compilation of wildlife research that will assist in the wildlife habitat assessment being proposed by Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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