



The Washington Biodiversity Council

The Washington Biodiversity Council is chartered by the Governor to create a long-term vision and approach for conserving Washington's remarkable biological diversity.

Council members are landowners, government natural resource managers, tribal representatives, and members of the education, business, and environmental communities.



Washington's Biodiversity is in Our Hands

Washington's biological diversity is in decline. It is under increasing pressure from population growth, climate change, development, invasive species, and other threats. Fortunately, we are well positioned to tackle these threats, with committed citizens, landowners, and organizations dedicated to conserving our natural heritage.

For a copy of the full strategy, to learn more about biodiversity, and to discover how to get involved, please visit our website: www.biodiversity.wa.gov

WASHINGTON BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | STEWARDSHIP

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Washington Department of Transportation |
| Ron Juris
At-large, Diamond J Farms, Inc. | |
| Judd Kirk
Port Blakely Communities | |



WASHINGTON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Sustaining Our Natural Heritage For Future Generations

Washington's Biodiversity

From the fertile soils of the Palouse to the diverse marine life of Puget Sound, our state is blessed with exceptionally rich and varied natural environments and resources. Yet, as our population soars, Washington is experiencing a dramatic decline in native biodiversity.

The *Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* provides actions and programs to engage Washingtonians in conserving our state's precious natural legacy.

Biodiversity:

the full range of life in all its forms.

Why Biodiversity Matters

Biological diversity is essential to our health and to our economic and cultural futures.



Washington's Heritage—Basic to Our Economy.

Washington's diverse ecosystems are the foundation of our natural resource economy. They make Washington a desirable place for new enterprises.

Ecosystem Services—Essential to Our Prosperity

Flood control, water purification, crop pollination, and carbon storage to lessen the effects of climate change are all vital to human health and well-being.

Medicinal Benefits—Providing Nature's Pharmacy

Most medicines stem from natural sources. What secrets still lie undiscovered in fungi, mosses, invertebrates, and other plants and animals? We can't afford to lose them and their potential to provide new treatments.

Intrinsic Value—Helping Us Find Our Place

Biodiversity enriches our regional culture—from Northwest arts and literature to our recreation activities, quality of life, and even our local cuisine.

Resilience—Staying Healthy in the Face of Change

Biodiversity keeps our options abundant and varied in a changing world.

Why Biodiversity Matters Most—A Legacy for Our Children

We must be good stewards of our natural heritage if our children's children are to share in the many benefits of the diverse and healthy ecosystems we enjoy today.



Moving Forward

The Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy builds on the state's existing strengths to provide a new and integrated approach.

- **Defining priorities** by regionally mapping biodiversity value and threats to biodiversity.
- **Improving assistance to landowners** to make biodiversity conservation easy and rewarding on working lands and open spaces.
- **Measuring progress and engaging citizen scientists** to monitor Washington's biodiversity by tapping the state's most important resource—its people.
- **Planning for land use and development** to incorporate biodiversity conservation priorities and tools into planning for future residents.
- **Making scientific information accessible** to understand more about Washington's biodiversity and to make that knowledge readily available for decision makers.
- **Educating kids and adults** to connect all Washingtonians with a better awareness of biodiversity's importance to our quality of life—and how to take action.

At the core of the strategy is the belief that public, private, and nonprofit entities need to work together to achieve a widely shared vision.



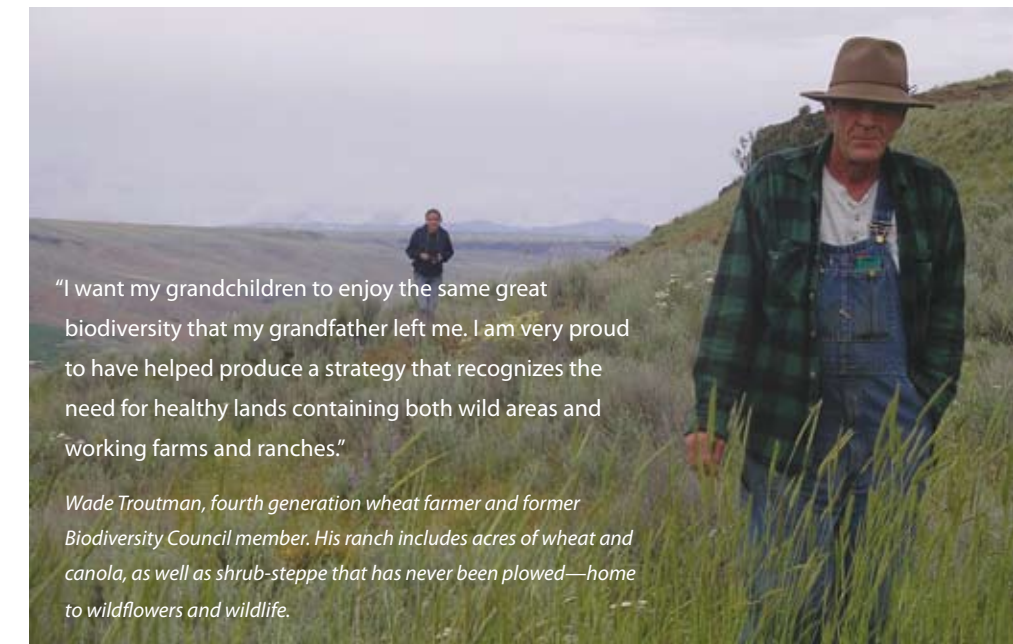
A Landscape Approach Is Important

The *Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*

adopts a landscape approach to focus investments and to promote better coordination among conservation efforts where we work, play, and live. It uses **ecoregions** as the landscape unit for its recommendations.



Ecoregions are broad areas that share similar flora and fauna, geology, hydrology, landforms, and working landscapes. They are practical divisions for conservation planning because they reflect large-scale ecological and economic patterns.



"I want my grandchildren to enjoy the same great biodiversity that my grandfather left me. I am very proud to have helped produce a strategy that recognizes the need for healthy lands containing both wild areas and working farms and ranches."

Wade Troutman, fourth generation wheat farmer and former Biodiversity Council member. His ranch includes acres of wheat and canola, as well as shrub-steppe that has never been plowed—home to wildflowers and wildlife.