

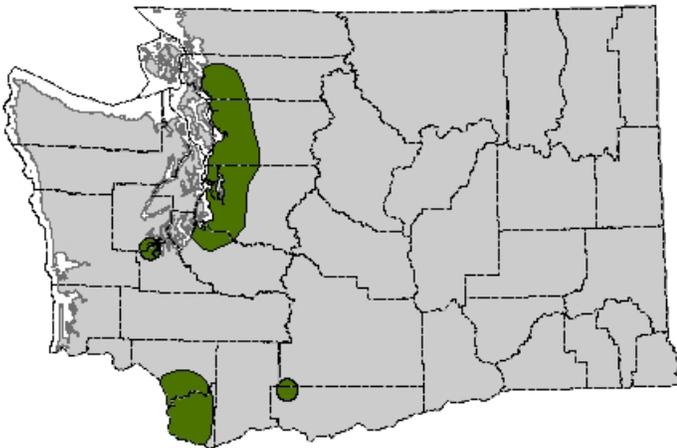
## Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

*information for family forest owners*

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Photo of Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*)  
By Kelly McAllister/ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:

IUCN, Conservation International, and NatureServe. 2004. Global Amphibian Assessment. [www.globalamphibians.org](http://www.globalamphibians.org), version 1.1. Downloaded on September 5, 2006

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**Species:** Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*)

**Group:** Amphibian

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G2, S1

**Legal Status:** State Endangered

### General Description

This species is a medium-sized pond-breeding frog. Adults range 2-4 inches in length. Coloring on the back is olive, brown, or brick red with black spots that have irregular edges and light centers. Adults breed in early spring and lay large gelatinous egg masses in clusters. Adults eat insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and spiders. Larvae (tadpoles) eat algae and organic debris.

### Habitat

This species is highly aquatic; they live in or near permanent bodies of water year-round. Current populations occur in large wetlands with an associated stream network. Adults breed in seasonally flooded margins of these wetlands. Wintering occurs in areas of the wetland that do not freeze.

### Range in Washington

Current populations occur in Thurston and Klickitat counties.

### Threats

The primary threat to this species is wetland degradation and loss, including changes in hydrology, water quality, and vegetation. Introduction of non-native predators such as bullfrogs and game fish to wetland complexes may also be a threat.

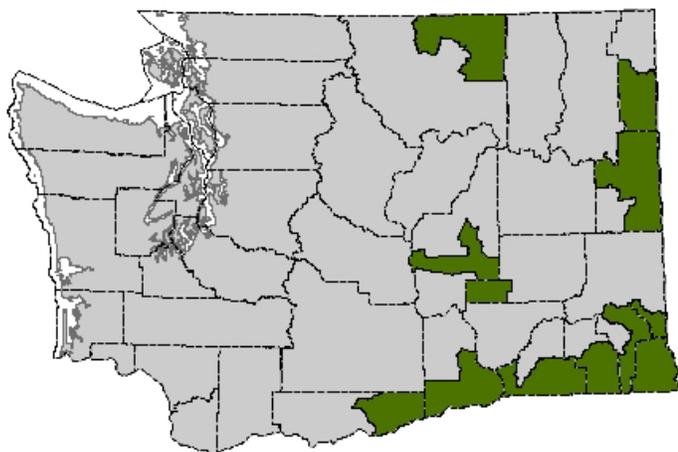
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Photo of Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)  
by William P. Leonard 1997 Washington Dept of FW



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:

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**Species:** Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)

**Group:** Amphibian

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G5, S1

**Legal Status:** State Endangered

### General Description

This species is a medium-sized pond-breeding frog. Adults range 2-5 inches in length. Coloring on the back is brown or green with large, light-edged dark spots. There are two distinct light-colored ridges that run down the back from the eyes to the hind legs. Adults breed in spring and lay large gelatinous egg masses attached to vegetation. Adults eat insects and worms. Larvae (tadpoles) eat algae and organic debris.

### Habitat

This species lives in wetlands, wet meadows, and along stream and river corridors. They use areas with dense herbaceous cover adjacent to mesic habitat. Adults breed in shallow, relatively still parts of wetlands, oxbows, and ponds.

### Range in Washington

Current populations occur near Moses Lake, Washington but these frogs have historically occurred in forested wet areas in northeastern Washington.

### Threats

A primary threat to this species has been widespread collection for biological supply vendors. Additional threats may include competition and predation from exotic species such as carp, mosquito fish, and bullfrogs, and water quality changes from pesticides and fertilizers.

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Photo of Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)  
by Chris Brown [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

**Species:** Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)

**Group:** Reptile

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G3G4, S1

**Legal Status:** State Endangered

### General Description

This species is a medium-sized pond turtle. Adults grow to roughly 8 inches long (shell length). The shell is smooth and dark brown or olive on top, sometimes with fine streaking. The head is also dark and does not have the bright yellow or red coloring of some other turtle species. Females lay eggs in spring, usually within 100 feet of water. This species eats aquatic animals such as insects, crayfish, amphibians, and vegetation such as algae and cattail roots.

### Habitat

This species lives in wetlands, ponds, lakes and slow-moving parts of streams and rivers. Pond turtles need basking sites such as floating logs, emergent rocks and pieces of wood, and mats of vegetation.

### Range in Washington

Current populations occur in several places along the Columbia Gorge.

### Threats

The primary threat to this species has been conversion of wetland habitat to agriculture and development, especially in the Puget Trough region. Populations are now very small and isolated, and are at risk from site-specific threats such as disease and predation.



Map source is Washington GAP Analysis with following reference:  
Cassidy, K. C. 1997. *Washington Gap Project Reptile and Amphibian Distribution Models, Version 5*. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Washington Seattle, WA. Downloaded September 5, 2006

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Photo of Sharp Tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

**Species:** Sharp Tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

**Group:** Bird

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G4, S2

**Legal Status:** State Threatened

### General Description

This species is a small prairie grouse. Adults are 17 inches in length and have a wingspan of 25 inches. These grouse are mottled brown with a pale pointed tail and a slightly crested head. Males have a purple neck patch. This species gathers in groups at breeding areas (called leks) in the spring. Males compete with each other and try to lure females with a dance-like display that includes a distinctive “whump-whump-whump” drumming. Their diet is plants, seeds, and some insects.

### Habitat

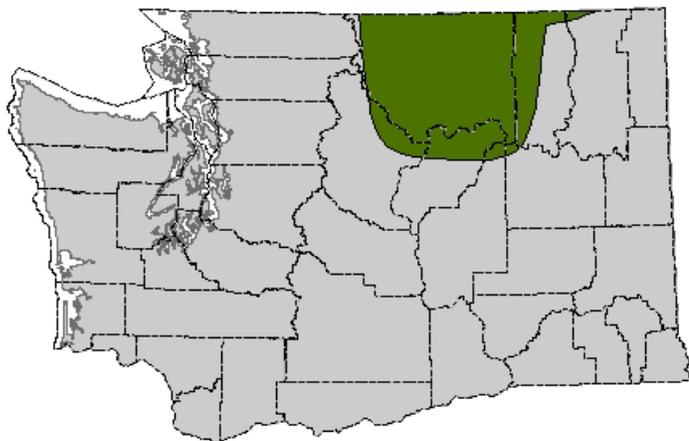
This species lives in shrub (e.g. sage) steppe and meadow steppe with intermittent forest.

### Range in Washington

Current populations occur in Okanogan, Douglas, and Lincoln counties.

### Threats

Threats to sharp tailed grouse include the alteration of shrub steppe habitat to grazing and agricultural uses, fire suppression and in-growth of trees in meadow steppe, and fragmentation and isolation of remaining populations of this grouse.



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US, and Environment Canada - WILDSPACE. Downloaded September 5, 2006

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Photo of Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)  
By J&K Hollingsworth/ US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Species:** Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

**Group:** Bird

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G3, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Threatened, State Endangered

### General Description

This species is a medium-sized forest-dwelling owl. Adults are 18 inches in length and have a wingspan of 40 inches. Spotted owls have a stocky body, short tail, and broad wings. Adults are brown with white spots across on the abdomen and have dark brown eyes. These owls nest in large cavities, hollows, and mistletoe balls in older conifer trees in the spring, and young fledge by the end of the summer. Spotted owls have a four-note territorial call ("hooo-hoo-hoo-hoooo"). Their diet is primarily rodents, especially Northern flying squirrels, woodrats, and other squirrels and mice. Spotted owls can be confused with barred owls (*Strix varia*) which are larger, have white streaks on the abdomen, and have a five-note call.

### Habitat

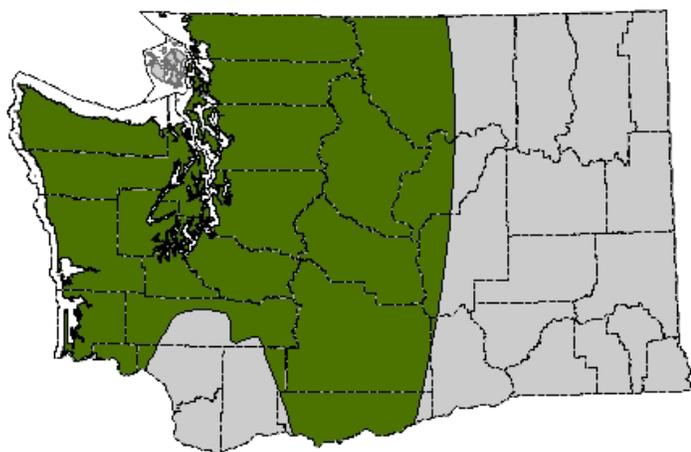
This species lives in older, multi-aged coniferous forests, generally characterized by multiple layers of trees, trees with structures such as cavities, hollows, broken tops, and other types of damage, and large amounts of snags and logs. Intensively managed forest stands generally do not have the structures to meet the nesting requirements of these owls or their prey, especially in western Washington.

### Range in Washington

Spotted owls occur in older forests in western Washington and along the eastside of the Cascade crest in forests with a mix of Douglas-fir and pine.

### Threats

Historically, the primary threat to this species has been conversion of older, multi-layered forests to intensively managed stands. More recent threats include competition with barred owls, habitat change from fire suppression, habitat loss from fires, and possibly disease.



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Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US, and Environment Canada - WILDSpace. Downloaded September 5, 2006

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*Photo of American Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum)  
By Kelly McAllister/ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

State Range Image Not Currently Available

**Species:** American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

**Group:** Bird

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G4, S1

**Legal Status:** State Sensitive

### General Description

This species is a medium-sized bird of prey. Adults are 16 inches in length and have a wingspan of 41 inches. Adults are slate gray with a light-colored abdomen that is spotted or barred with black. These falcons have a dark head with a light throat and dark “mustache” below the eyes. This species nests in spring on cliffs. Their diet is birds of all sizes. These falcons are famous for the speeds they reach when diving to capture prey.

### Habitat

This species lives in cliffs, usually near to a waterbody.

### Range in Washington

This subspecies is the primary subspecies that occurs in Washington. Populations are growing and they are currently found in cliff habitat in many locations in Washington, especially west of the Cascade crest.

### Threats

Historically, the primary threat to this species was eggshell thinning from DDT in the food-chain. With the ban of DDT, populations are now recovering.

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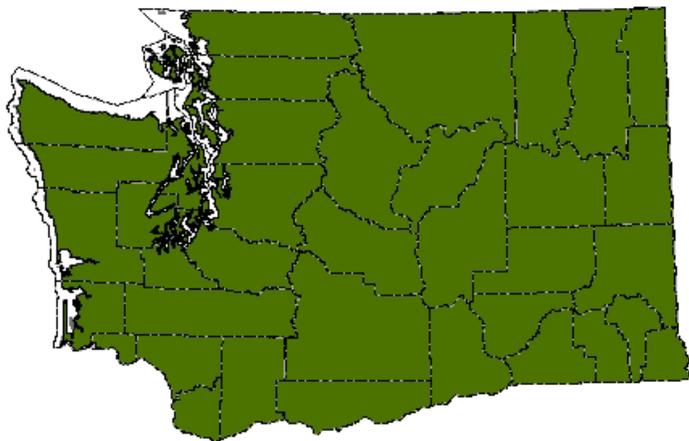
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Photo of Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)  
By Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



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**Species:** Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

**Group:** Bird

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G5, S1

**Legal Status:** State Endangered

### General Description

This species is a very large crane with a long neck and long legs. Adults stand 3-5 feet in height and have a wingspan of 5-6 feet. Adult cranes are tawny gray with a lighter colored head, white cheeks, and a red crown. Immature sandhill cranes are similar in color without the red crown. Cranes are easily recognized in flight with their legs and necks extended. This species migrates north in spring to breeding habitat in the northern US and Canada. Nests are built on the ground and tended by both adults. This species has a loud and rattling call that can be heard for some distance. Their diet includes tubers, plants, grain, worms, insects, mice, frogs, birds, and snakes.

### Habitat

Sandhill cranes that breed in Washington generally use wet meadows and the edges of wetlands for nesting. These areas are often surrounded by shrublands or pine forests. Wetlands areas are also used for staging areas during migration. Foraging often occurs on nearby grain fields and other agricultural lands.

### Range in Washington

There are several subspecies of sandhill cranes. Small numbers of the greater sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) breed in Yakima and Klickitat counties. In addition, large numbers of lesser sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) migrate through eastern Washington on their way to and from breeding grounds in Canada. Smaller populations of sandhill cranes fly through western Washington.

### Threats

The primary threat to sandhill cranes is nest mortality from coyotes, raven, raccoons, and other predators. Other threats include changes in wetland habitat from agricultural, development, and other activities that alter hydrology and vegetation.

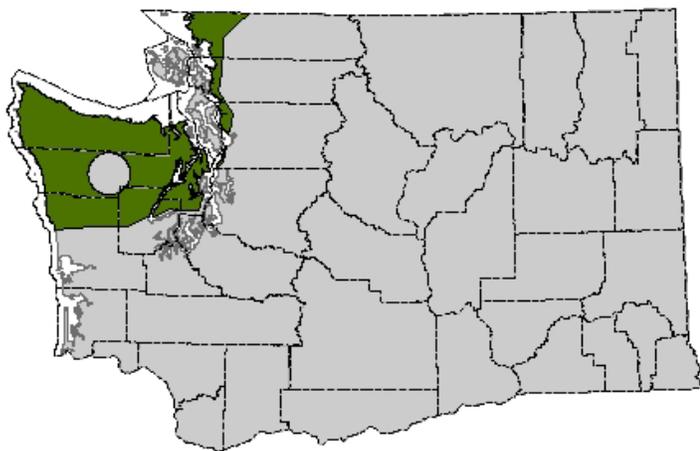
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Photo of Keen's Myotis (*Myotis keenii*)  
By Mark Carema University of Washington Burke Museum



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSpace." Downloaded September 5, 2006

**Species:** Keen's Myotis (*Myotis keenii*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G2G3, S1

**Legal Status:** none

### General Description

This species is a small forest-dwelling bat. Adults are 3-3.5 inches in length. This bat has brown glossy fur with lighter coloring on the abdomen. Wings are dark brown or black. This species breeds in fall and the young are born in spring. Their diet is flying insects including moths, beetles, mosquitoes, and flies.

### Habitat

This species lives in the wet low-elevation forests of southwestern British Columbia and northwestern Washington. These bats use caves, rock crevices, tree cavities, and bark crevices for roosting in the summer. In the winter, these bats hibernate in larger protective structures such as caves.

### Range in Washington

This species occurs on the Olympic Peninsula and in low-elevation northwestern Washington.

### Threats

Little is known about the details of this species' life history. There is concern that intensively managed forests may not provide adequate snags or trees with cavities and other damage for roosting habitat.

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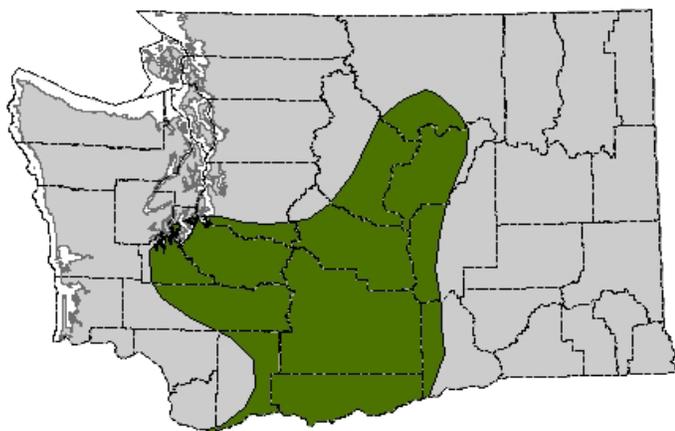
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Photo of Western Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*)  
www.wdfw.gov



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSPACE."  
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**Species:** Western Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G5, S2

**Legal Status:** State Threatened

### General Description

This species is a large tree squirrel. Adults range 18-24 inches in length including the tail. These squirrels are silver-gray with white on the abdomen and a large, fluffy tail. Young are born in the spring. This squirrel has a hoarse barking chatter call. This species eats seeds from various trees, especially acorns and pine seeds. Other foods include fungi, berries, and occasionally insects. The Western gray squirrel can be confused with the introduced Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) which is smaller, has a brown-shaded "saddle" on the back, and a smaller tail.

### Habitat

This species lives in mixed pine and fir forests, often in association with oak woodlands. Structures for dens such as cavities are important for nesting.

### Range in Washington

The species occurs in Pierce, Thurston, Chelan, Okanogan, Klickitat, and Yakima counties.

### Threats

In Washington, the primary threat is conversion of habitat to development, especially oak woodlands in the Puget Trough region. Other threats may include habitat alteration due to forest management, fluctuating yearly supplies of seeds, and disease (e.g. mange).

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*Photo of Columbian White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus)*  
[www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

State Range Image Not Currently Available

**Species:** Columbian White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G5, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Endangered, State Endangered

### General Description

This is a subspecies of white-tailed deer that occurs only along the lower Columbia River. Deer are brown to grayish or grizzled brown with a white abdomen. The tail is brown on top and white underneath. Males have antlers which are shed annually. Fawns are born in the spring. Deer eat grasses, herbs, shrubs, and younger leaves of trees. White-tailed deer can be distinguished from black-tailed deer by their smaller ears, white tail, and antlers tines that come off a single beam.

### Habitat

This subspecies lives in wet bottomland forests, meadows, and prairies that occur on islands and along the banks of the lower Columbia River.

### Range in Washington

This subspecies occurs in Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties.

### Threats

Historically this subspecies was hunted to very low numbers in the 1800 and early 1900s. Current threats include flooding of current habitat, especially Columbia River islands, and problems associated with small population size.

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Photo of Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

**Species:** Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G5, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Endangered, State Endangered

### General Description

This is a population of caribou that lives in forests instead of tundra. Adults are up to 6 feet in length and weigh 200-300 pounds. Males are larger than females and both have antlers. These caribou are dark brown with a small white rump patch and a pale grayish neck. Mating occurs in the fall and calves are born in the spring. Adults and weaned young eat shrubs, herbs, and grasses in summer, and lichen in winter.

### Habitat

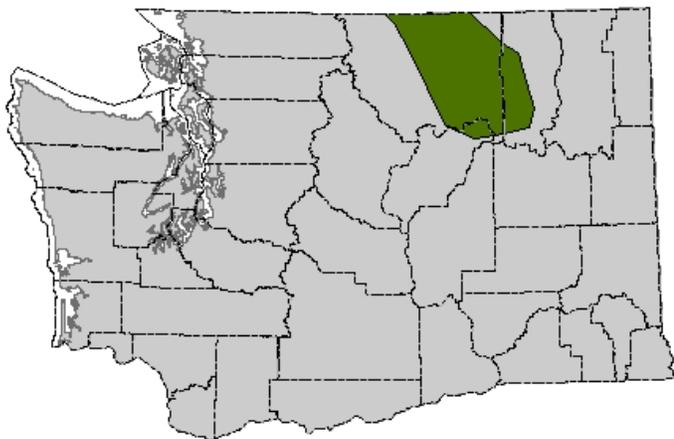
Woodland caribou live in dense forests in northeastern Washington. Forests that are sufficiently old enough to have abundant lichen growth are important for winter survival.

### Range in Washington

This species occurs in northeastern Washington.

### Threats

The primary threat to this population is loss of habitat, especially forests with abundant lichen. Other threats include predation and problems associated with small population size.



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSPACE." Downloaded September 5, 2006

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Photo of Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)  
www.nps.gov

**Species:** Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G4, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Threatened, State Endangered

### General Description

This bear is the larger of the two bears in Washington. These bears can be 6-7 feet long and weigh 400-1300 pounds. Coloring ranges anywhere from blond to deep brown or black. Cubs are born in spring and stay with their mothers for several years. Grizzly bears are omnivorous and eat roots, plants, fungi, berries, insects, fish, amphibians, and mammals of all sizes. The grizzly bears can be confused with the much more common black bear (*Ursus americanus*) which is smaller and does not have a distinctive hump at the shoulder.

### Habitat

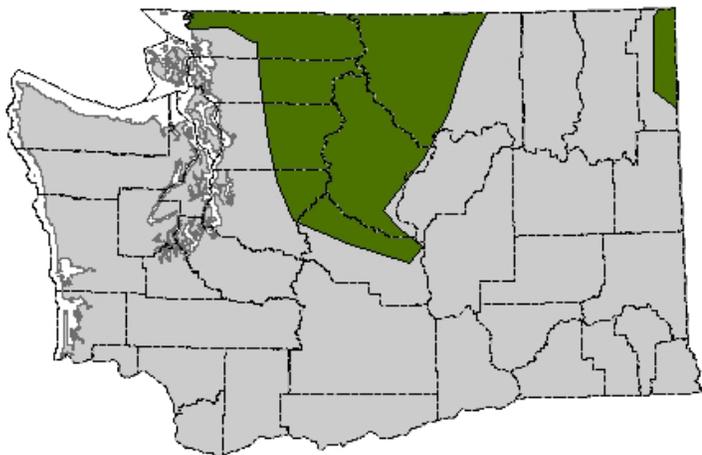
This species has a very large home range and historically occurred in most habitat types in Washington. Currently, grizzly bears are recolonizing into more remote forested habitats in northern Washington from Canada.

### Range in Washington

This species was extirpated in Washington. Grizzly bears now exist in small numbers in the northern Cascades and northeastern Washington.

### Threats

The primary threat to grizzly bears has been persecution by humans.



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSpace.  
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The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit [www.wdfw.wa.org](http://www.wdfw.wa.org) or [www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp), or [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org).



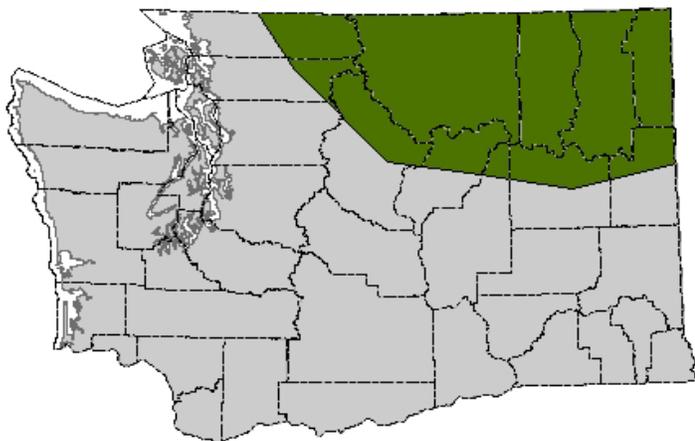
# Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

*information for family forest owners*

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)  
www.fws.gov



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**Species:** Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G4, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Endangered, State Endangered

### General Description

This species is the largest of the Canids (wild dogs) and can be twice the size of a coyote. Adults are up to 6 feet in length from nose to tail tip and weigh 60 pounds or more. Their coloring is generally gray to gray-brown with dark markings around the eyes. Wolves generally live in packs and pups are born in the spring and cared for by the entire group. Howling allows pack members to contact each other and serves as a territorial declaration between packs. This species is known for pack hunting large animals such as moose and elk but their diet includes all sizes of animals.

### Habitat

This species has a very large home range and historically wolves occurred in most habitat types in Washington. Currently, wolves are recolonizing into more remote forested habitats in northern Washington from Canada.

### Range in Washington

This species was extirpated in Washington in the early 1900s. Wolves now exist in the northern Cascades and northeastern Washington.

### Threats

The primary threat to this species is persecution by humans and encroachment into remote habitat.

## Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

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Photo of Mardon Skipper (*Polites mardon*)  
By William Leonard [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

**Species:** Mardon Skipper (*Polites mardon*)

**Group:** Insect

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G2G3, S1

**Legal Status:** State Endangered

### General Description

The species is a medium-sized prairie butterfly. Adults are 1 inch in length. This species has a stout, “fuzzy” body and fast skipping flight typical of skippers. Coloring is tawny-orange with darker bands along the upper edge of the wings. Adults emerge from pupae in the spring and mate. Larvae feed through most of the summer and winter as pupae. Adults eat nectar typically from violets and flowers in the vetch family. Larvae feed on bunchgrass, particularly Idaho fescue and red fescue. This species can be confused with other skipper species which slightly different wing color patterns.

### Habitat

This species lives in prairie grasslands. Historic habitat includes the grasslands of the Puget Trough and meadows in pine forests east and south of Mt. Adams.

### Threats

The primary threat to this species is conversion of prairie habitat to development, agriculture, and other uses, especially in the Puget Trough region. Other threats include mortality from insecticides, and habitat loss to forest in-growth and invasive exotic plants (especially Scotch broom).



Map of Counties where Mardon Skipper occur in Washington state. 2006

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