What does Conservation Planning have to do with WSDOT?

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Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum

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Huh?

Entrance Only Do Not Enter
WSDOT Background

- We keep people and business moving-
  Environmental protection is part of Agency Mission & Strategic Objectives

- Over 110,000 acres of right of way, over 7,000 lineal miles of highway to operate and improve.

- Coordination on conservation efforts helps:
  - make transportation projects decisions that are environmentally sustainable
  - provide ecologically meaningful mitigation
Partnering on mitigation

• We emphasize impact minimization and avoidance, but some impacts are unavoidable and require mitigation.

• We seek quality mitigation opportunities and collaborators for restoration efforts.

• Promote advance mitigation projects that achieve complimentary resource management goals of other agencies and organizations.
WSDOT Regional Environmental Managers

Northwest: Terry Drochak 206-440-4548
North Central: Claton Belmont 509-667-3055
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South Central: Jason Smith 509-577-1921
Eastern: Tammie Williams 509-324-6134
What do effective partnerships look like to us?

– Clear communication on opportunities and needs

– Commitment to work together so that project needs and conservation objectives are met

– Recognition of the added benefits of collaboration in conservation by regulators

– Flexibility in process when needed and a willingness to find creative approaches to get there.
Final statewide habitat connectivity analysis from the Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group
Coordinating to Promote Habitat Connectivity
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