



Volume 10 Number 1 February 2008

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## Changes ahead for *Wetland Ventures*

*Joe LaTourrette, Washington Pacific Joint Venture Coordinator*

*Wetland Ventures* has been a statewide joint venture publication for ten years. In 2006 we converted from print to electronic format. Our next issue will reflect another leap in technology and a change in audience. **To manage your subscription, read on.**

For more than ten years I've also been the Washington state coordinator for both Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV) and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV). In 2007 I resigned from the IWJV contract in order to focus on western Washington issues through the PCJV. For your information, IWJV is just beginning the process of hiring a new state coordinator to live and work on habitat issues in eastern Washington; for that job description and application details go to [www.iwJV.org](http://www.iwJV.org)

At the same time, Shelley Kirk-Rudeen, my co-editor at *Wetland Ventures*, has taken on an expanded role as the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the entire Pacific Coast Joint Venture, which includes the coastal parts of five western states and British Columbia.

In the future, instead of a statewide, bi-monthly e-newsletter, *Wetland Ventures* will be hosted on the Washington page of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture Website ([www.pcjv.org](http://www.pcjv.org)), but we will keep

you in the loop through more frequent email alerts when new stories, grants and resources are posted. Although our website audience will be Pacific Coast Joint Venture partners, IWJV partners are welcome to remain on the list. If you wish to unsubscribe, please scroll to the bottom of this email page and follow the directions there.

*Yours for conservation, Joe*

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## Opportunities and Announcements

### **Partners in Flight invites participation**

The next meeting of the PIF Implementation Committee will take place on 23-24 March 2008, immediately prior to the [North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference](#) in Phoenix, AZ. Various bird conservation committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet that week, as usual. In addition, the PIF Science Committee will meet on 28-30 March in the Phoenix area. Details on PIF meetings will be distributed via listservs. If you are not a member of these listservs and would like to be, or if you just want information for these particular meetings, contact [Terry Rich](#). This week will be packed with important discussions on bird conservation – participation is invited.

### **PIF, PARC, Bats and Pollinators**

Partners in Flight Western Working Group is exploring the overlap in conservation interests of [Partners in Flight](#), [Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#) (PARC), the [Western Bat Working Group](#), and the [North American Pollinator Protection Campaign](#). A brainstorming meeting is being planned during the week of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 25-29 March 2008 in Phoenix (see Meetings below). If you are interested in exploring collaboration among these initiatives, please contact [Terry Rich](#).

### **[Puget Sound Partnership seeks input at workshops](#)**

What is the status of the health of Puget Sound and what are the greatest threats to it? Get involved in restoring and protecting Puget Sound. Share your local perspective about the status of Puget Sound health and its greatest threats, and help establish priorities for the future. Workshops will take place from 1 to 5 p.m., followed by an open community conversation about Puget Sound health from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dates and locations:

- Feb. 25 Seattle
- Feb. 26 Tacoma
- Feb. 27 Everett
- Feb. 27 Friday Harbor
- Feb. 28 Bremerton
- March 5 Port Hadlock
- March 6 Bellingham
- March 7 Olympia
- March 7 Sequim

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## Grant deadlines

### **[ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program](#)**

February 28

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grants provide cost reimbursement for volunteer projects that support fish, wildlife and their habitats, improve access to the outdoors, collect

and disseminate fish and wildlife science and educate the public about resource conservation. The grants will be awarded for projects undertaken between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

Apply by Feb. 29 for upland game bird habitat funds

**NEW [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account \(ALEA\) Grant Program](#)**

**WA State Recreation & Conservation Office**

**Letters of Intent: March 3**

**Application Due: May 1**

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant Program provides grant-in-aid support for the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes, and for providing and improving access to such lands. It is guided by concepts originally developed by DNR, including re-establishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands, providing or restoring public access to the water, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage.

**NEW [Land & Water Conservation Fund](#)**

**WA State Recreation & Conservation Office**

**Letter of Intent: March 3**

**Applications Due: May 1**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funding to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources including but not limited to parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation.

**NEW [Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program \(WWRP\)](#)**

**WA State Recreation & Conservation Office**

**Letter of Intent: March 3**

**Applications Due: May 1**

The WA State Recreation and Conservation Office announces three new grant categories under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The WWRP provides funding for local and state parks, water access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, riparian and urban wildlife habitat, and farmland preservation. Three new grant categories:

- New Riparian Protection Grant Program
- New Farmland Preservation Grant Program
- Mitigation Banking Projects

**[North American Wetlands Conservation Act \(NAWCA\) Standard Grants](#)**

March 7, 2008

**NEW [Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grants – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)**

**March 14**

The EPA Wetland Development Grant Program provides financial assistance for wetland protection and enhancement to state, tribal and local government entities. Grants may be used to develop or enhance programs for the protection, management, or restoration of wetlands.

**NEW [Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership Habitat Restoration Project Application](#)**

**March 31**

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership is requesting proposals for habitat restoration projects in the lower Columbia River and estuary designed to improve the access and availability of rearing and spawning habitats for salmonid populations.

**NEW [Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program](#)**

**March 31**

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership is requesting proposals for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-based Habitat Restoration

Program (CRP) to fund marine habitat restoration projects in the lower Columbia River and estuary and in the Tillamook Bay Estuary. The objective is to bring together citizens and other partners to implement habitat restoration projects that benefit anadromous, estuarine, and marine species and their habitats.

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## Resources and Publications

### **Birds, Birding and Biodiversity**

#### **Sound to Sage – Breeding Bird Atlas of Island, King, Kittitas and Kitsap Counties (WA)**

##### **Seattle Audubon**

The result of over 10,000 hours of field surveying by more than 300 “citizen science” volunteers, Sound to Sage presents maps and accounts of the nesting occurrence of 213 species of birds in a four-county, 5,000-square-mile swath of Washington extending from the shores of Puget Sound across the Cascade Range to the sagebrush lands adjoining the Columbia River.

#### **Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Technical Reports**

This website features a wealth of technical reports. Topics include nearshore birds, Great Blue Herons, nearshore vegetation and restoration, beaches and bluffs, coastal habitats and tidal marshes, and more.

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### **Climate Change**

#### **Sea Level Rise in the Coastal Waters of Washington State**

Climate Impacts Group and Washington Department of Ecology

This new report on projected sea level rise for Washington State provides low, medium, and high estimates of sea level rise for 2050 and 2100 for the Puget Sound basin, the northwest Olympic Peninsula, and the central and southern Washington coast.

#### **Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change in Washington: Draft Recommendations of the Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups**

Washington State is nearing completion of an 8-month stakeholder-based process to identify potential climate change adaptation actions. Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups were convened in summer 2007 to develop recommendations. Their draft report is now available. Of special note are chapters on Coastal and Infrastructure, and Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Wildlife.

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### **Habitat Restoration, Management, and Planning**

#### **Ecological Assessment Methods Database**

National Biological Information Infrastructure

This database was created to help users identify suitable methods and quickly ascertain their utility for a specific application. The searchable database focuses on methods and also includes guidance documents which address key classification systems, sampling protocol, or method critiques.

#### **Statistical/Modeling Tools for the Design and Analysis of Conservation Monitoring Data**

Tools included concentrate on three types of monitoring data: 1) presence-absence data on individual species, 2) counts of individuals in one or multiple populations, and 3) simple counts of individuals of different species in a community. The website includes explanations of each tool presented and a spreadsheet for analysis, as well as other monitoring resources.

**Updated:** [Washington Coastal Atlas](#)

Online resource covering Washington's marine shorelines and the land areas near Puget Sound, the outer coast, and the estuarine portion of the Columbia River. View aerial photographs, locate habitat types, physical features, see changes in land cover, and more. The Coastal Atlas now includes information on:

- habitat features such as wetlands and eelgrass,
- physical features such as drift cells and slope stability,
- regulated features such as rivers and streams regulated by the Shoreline Management Act,
- shoreline modifications such as piers and docks, and
- jurisdictional delineations such as cities and watersheds.

More info: [Kathy Taylor](#), Marine Habitat Specialist, Washington Department of Ecology, 253-407-7125.

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## Conferences, Workshops and Training

### Calls for papers and abstracts

#### [The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference](#)

Conference November 8-12, 2008

Miami, Florida

#### **Call for Contributed Papers and Posters: deadline March 14, 2008**

Submission of contributed papers and posters are invited on topics of wildlife science, management, conservation, education, or policy within the broad theme of Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education.

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### Conferences

#### [Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology Annual Meeting](#)

Missoula, Montana

February 27-29

#### [Pacific Seabird Group – 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting](#)

Blaine, Washington

February 27– March 2

#### **NEW** [Washington Chapter and Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society](#)

2008 Joint Annual Meeting, Spokane

March 19 - 21

#### [73rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference](#)

Theme: Effective Conservation through Partnerships

March 25 - 29

(March 24: full-day workshop on climate change impacts on fish and wildlife)

Phoenix, Arizona

#### [Ingestion of Spent Lead Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife and Humans](#)

Convened by The Peregrine Fund at Boise State University

May 12–15, 2008

#### [126th American Ornithologists' Union Meeting, the 78th Cooper Ornithological Society Meeting, and the 28th Society for Canadian Ornithologists Meeting](#)

August 6-9, 2008

Portland, Oregon

[\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> North American Sea Duck Conference\*\*](#)

Quebec City  
November 10-14, 2008

**NEW** [\*\*Restore America's Estuaries\*\*](#)

**4th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration**

Theme: "Creating Solutions through Collaborative Partnerships"  
Providence, RI  
October 11-15

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**Training**

**NEW** [\*\*Intro to ArcGIS 9 for Fisheries and Wildlife Biology Applications\*\*](#)

Northwest Environmental Training Center  
March 26-28, 2008, Olympia, WA

**NEW** [\*\*Advanced ArcGIS 9 for Fisheries and Wildlife Biology Applications\*\*](#)

Northwest Environmental Training Center  
August 19-21, 2008, Olympia, WA

**NEW** [\*\*Coastal Training Program\*\*](#)

**Registration is now open for classes to be held April through June 2007.**

**Be sure to [create a profile](#) before registering if you have not taken a recent class**

- Grass, Sedge, and Rush Identification for Western WA Puget Lowland Habitats  
April 9-10, Olympia
- How to Determine the Ordinary High Water Mark  
April 16-17, Olympia
- Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems: A Guide for Puget Sound Planners to Understand Watershed Processes  
April 23, Bellevue
- Using the Revised WA State Wetland Rating System in Western WA  
May 7-8, Olympia
- Managing Shoreline Drainage for Slope Stability, Habitat, and Water Quality  
May 21, Everett
- Puget Sound Coastal Processes and Shoreline Stabilization Measures  
June 5 & 12, Coupeville and Mt Vernon

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## About Wetland Ventures

Wetland Ventures is a Washington newsletter of the Pacific Coast and Intermountain West Joint Ventures – public-private partnerships authorized and funded by Congress to protect habitat for migratory species and implement the objectives of major bird conservation initiatives.

**[Pacific Coast Joint Venture:](#)**

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Washington Coordinator: Joe La Tourrette, 360.754.2594 or [dipodomy@qwest.net](mailto:dipodomy@qwest.net)

**[Intermountain West Joint Venture:](#)**

IWJV Coordinator: Dave Smith 406-493-0925 or [dave@iwjv.org](mailto:dave@iwjv.org)

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