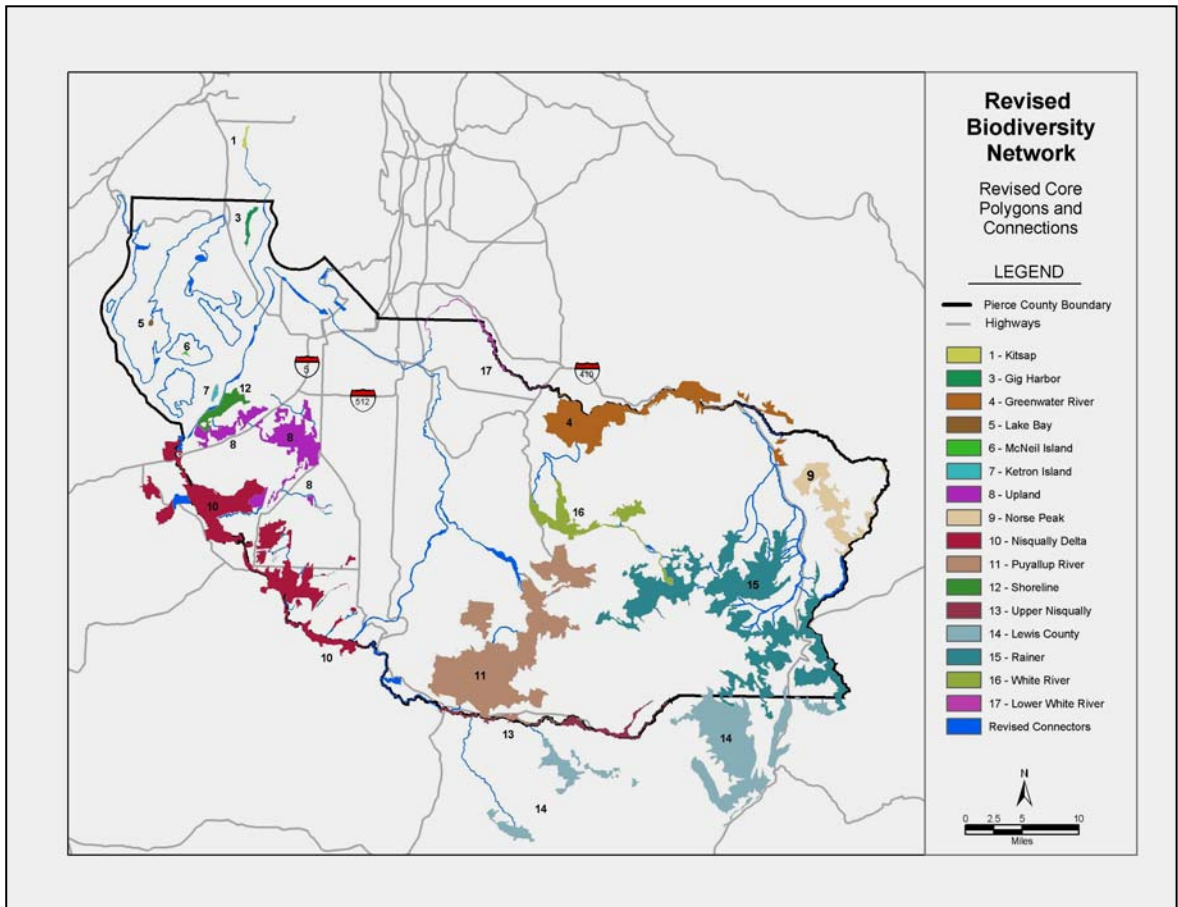


Pierce County Biodiversity Network Implementation Report to the Lower White River Community

A Work in Progress of the

Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance (PCBA)

(Pierce County Planning and Land Services, University of
Washington, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, MetroParks
Tacoma, Puyallup River Watershed Council)



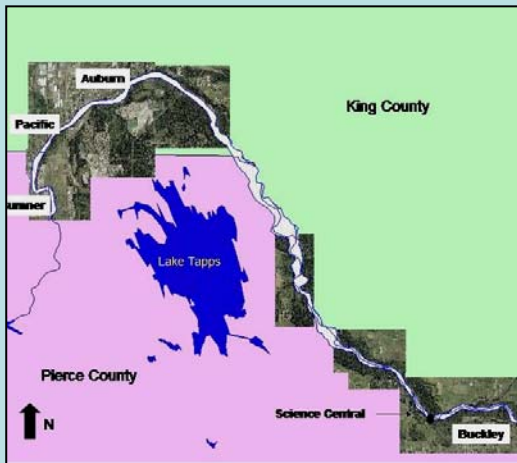
What is Biodiversity Planning?

Biodiversity planning is a method used to identify land areas that provide for a biologically diverse representation of species. This planning method considers long-term ecosystem health and establishes a goal of maintaining adequate habitat to ensure the continued viability of a diversity of species within an ecoregion.

Gig Harbor BioBlitz

June 3-4, 2005

What is a BioBlitz? A rapid biological inventory of the plant and animal diversity found in a designated area during a 24-hour time frame.



Purpose

To continue the implementation of conservation planning for the Biodiversity Network with landowners and experts to build enthusiasm around biodiversity preservation through open discussion and exploration with experts. In doing so, discover why biodiversity preservation is meaningful to the community (including economically and socially), and to verify species lists for long-term monitoring.

Who was involved?

Over 100 experts from natural resource agencies, universities, museums, Tahoma and Seattle Audubon, individuals with expertise on specific taxa, such as beetles, bats etc., volunteers, and landowners participated.

The Results

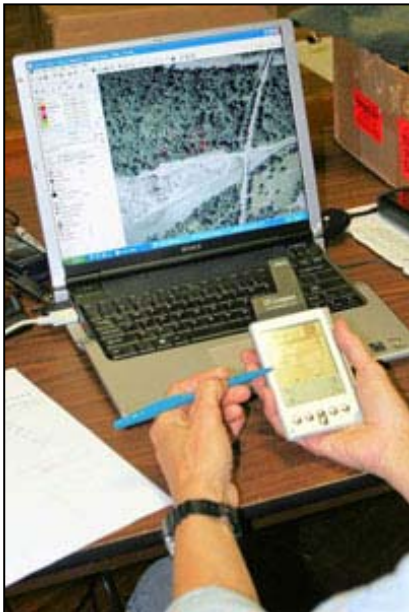
Taxa	Predicted	Observed	Not Predicted	Non-native
Birds	97	81	6	2
Mammals	48	27	2	4
Amphibians	8	7		1
Reptiles	5	3		
Fish		5		2
Plants	453	229	36	69
Invertebrates*		207		
Ants		10		
Aphids & Cicadas		8		
Bees		7		
Beetles		59		1
Butterflies & Moths		25		
Caterpillars		5		
Centipedes		4		
Dragonfly		1		
Flies		7		
Harvestmen		5		
Lacewings		2		
Millipedes		7		
Slugs & Snails		21		1
Snakefly		1		
Sowbug		1		
Spiders		33		8
Wasps & Hornets		10		
Worms & Leeches		1		
* - data are still being submitted by experts due to the length of time to identify the specimens				

What did we find?

The Washington Gap Analysis Project predicted 158 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians and 123 were observed. The list of 158 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles were predicted based on a 7-year research project, Washington Gap Analysis Project, conducted by the University of Washington with experts throughout the state from other universities, natural resource agencies, and private individuals.

There are four important things to understand about the results:

1. Bird predictions were for breeding birds only. We expect more species to be added to the list when a winter bird blitz is held.
2. We only spent 24-hours in portions of the Lower White River. There may be more wildlife species we didn't see.
 - For some birds, we won't have the opportunity to observe them until migration begins or during the winter.
 - We need more time to find more mammals by tracking their signs, for example, scat, tunnels, tracks, nests, and feeding signs.
3. We used the Washington Native Plant Society plant list for the Nisqually River area as a reference and identified 229 species of plants.
4. It takes time for the entomologists to identify each of their specimens, so the list of 207 invertebrates may continue to grow over the next few months. Fortunately, gathering these professionals together allowed us to collect lists of species identified in Pierce County, so the next bioblitz will have a list of over 340 species to use as the predicted species list.



The screenshot shows the CyberTracker software interface. The main window displays a table titled "Table: General Information Export" with the following data:

Observer	Tracker	Date	Mammals	Birds	Latitude	Longitude
1593	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	Common loon	47.170778	-122.03020
1594	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	Eastern Cottontail	47.171727	-122.02520
1595	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	American robin	47.171633	-122.02536
1596	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	European starling	47.170842	-122.02679
1597	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	Belted Kingfisher	47.170462	-122.03079
1598	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	Evening grosbeak	47.170343	-122.03068
1599	40	Tracker 4	6/2/2006	Violet-green swallow	47.170598	-122.03109

Below the table, there is a "Map: Fluor" window showing a satellite map of the study area with various colored markers (red, yellow, green, blue) indicating observation points along a river.

Biodiversity Management Area Stewardship Plan

The PCBA has spent the past 10 months working with the Crescent Valley Community as pilot to develop a Biodiversity Management Area Stewardship Plan. The draft will be presented to the public in September, 2006 and used as a template for the Lower White River BMA.

Habitats

Key ecological habitats and their functions

within the Gig Harbor BMA were identified: Crescent Lake, Crescent Creek, surrounding forests, wetlands & seeps and the Gig Harbor Estuary.

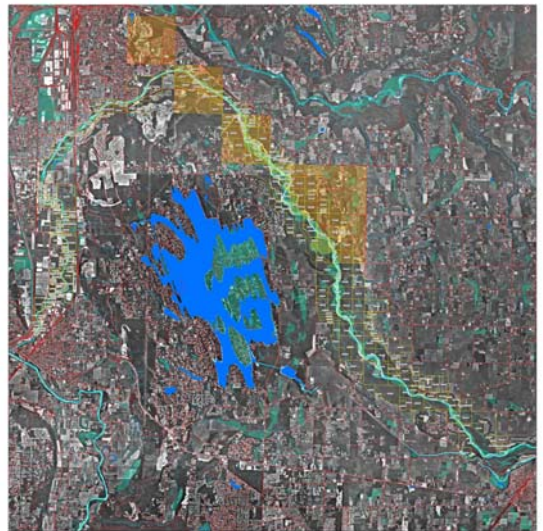
The same process will take place in the Lower White River over the next 10 months.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife used the Gig Harbor BMA as a pilot to develop the **Landscape Priority Habitats and Species metrics**. This year-long effort will be included in a report that will be made available to bring wildlife planning metrics into the planning process for the Lower White River. This report will be made available to all counties.

Action Steps

Actions steps within the stewardship plan will be included for each ecological habitat. The *NatureMapping* Program will provide

- training to community members and schools for basic fish and wildlife monitoring
- workshops to develop community initiated field research projects
- data repository and retrieval capabilities via the website



Lower White River BMA