

# Department of Fish and Wildlife Update

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January 11, 2023



# Programs

1. Fish Program – aquatic management, science, hatcheries.
2. Wildlife Program – terrestrial management, science, lands, diversity, and hunter education.
3. Habitat Program – ecosystem restoration, energy and major projects, hydraulic permits.
4. Enforcement Program – public safety, fish and wildlife laws, invasive species checkpoints, conflicts.
5. Construction & Management Program – facilities, leases.
6. Director's Office – conservation, public affairs
7. Business Services - budget, license, contracts and fiscal services; IT operations.



# Regions



# 80+ ORGANIZATIONS UNITED

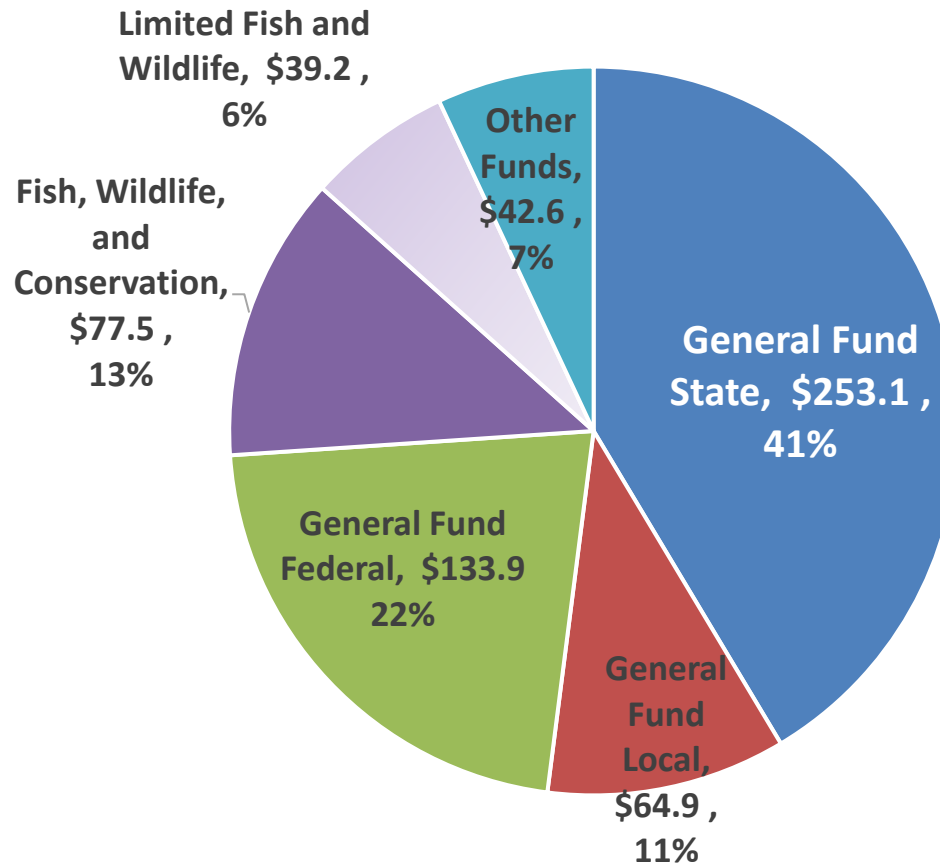
## WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

# SUPPORT THE BUDGET



# 2021-23 Operating Budget - \$611M

(dollars in millions)



# Governance

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has a commission structure for policy implementation.

- Commissioners are appointed by Governor: 3 east of Cascade crest, 3 west of Cascade crest, 3 'at-large'
- No multiple commissioners from same county



# Questions?



# 2023 Policy Level Focus

## Restoring Washington's Biodiversity

WDFW lacks the resources necessary to track biodiversity status of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need and implement protection and recovery actions for these species





# BIODIVERSITY IN CRISIS:

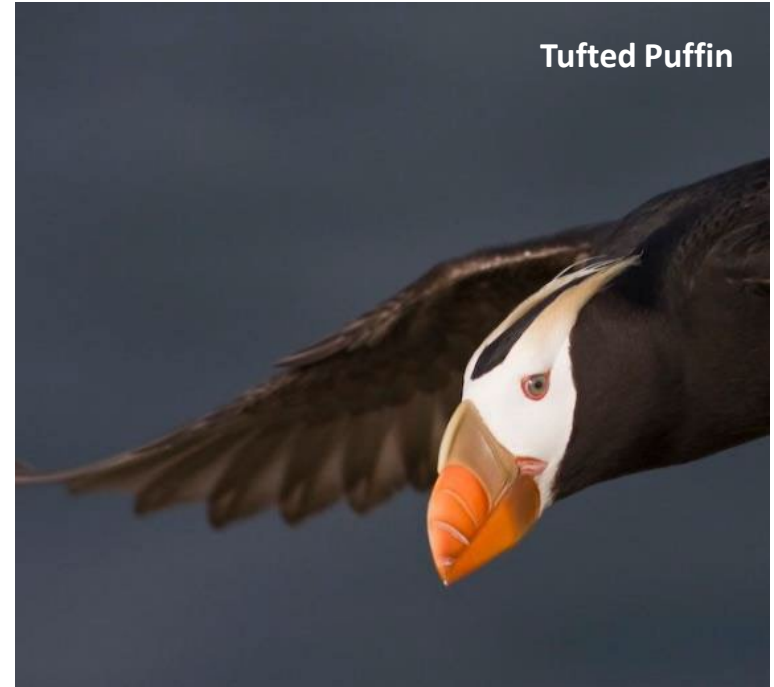
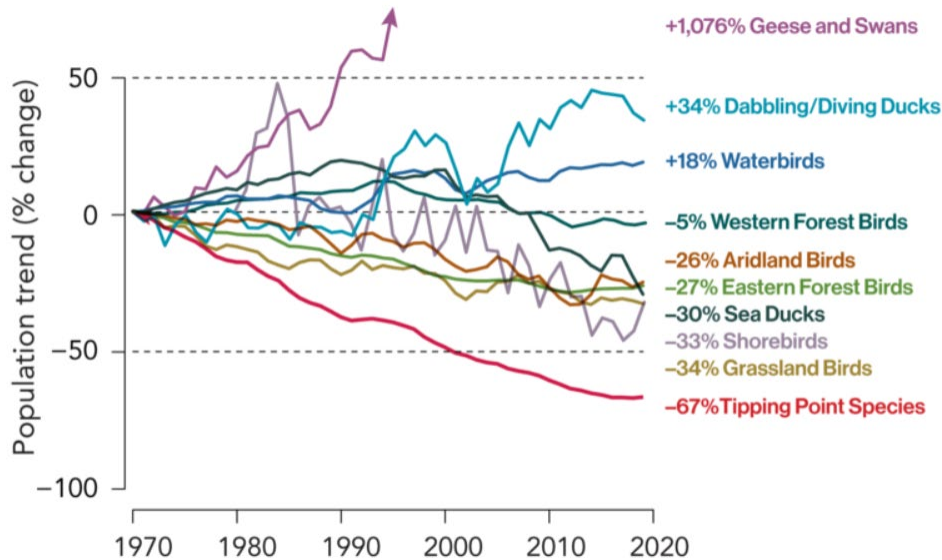
## NATIONAL THEMES PLAY OUT RIGHT HERE IN WASHINGTON STATE

- Population declines
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Climate change
- Listed species
- Loss of recreation value



# Spotlight: 2022 State of the Birds

- 1 in 4 birds lost since 1970
- 70 tipping point species, 15 occur in WA
- Both rare and common species affected



- Decline in every habitat type *except* waterfowl where national coordinated action and secure funding are in place



# WDFW plan to address the crisis: State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)



- Comprehensive plan for conserving the state's fish and wildlife and natural habitats on which they depend
- Focuses conservation actions before species become imperiled and before opportunities for recovery diminish
- Aims to recover already imperiled species so they do not go extinct

White-tailed ptarmigan

# Washington SWAP identifies 268 Species and 50 Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need



Streaked horned lark  
Photo by J. Treadwell

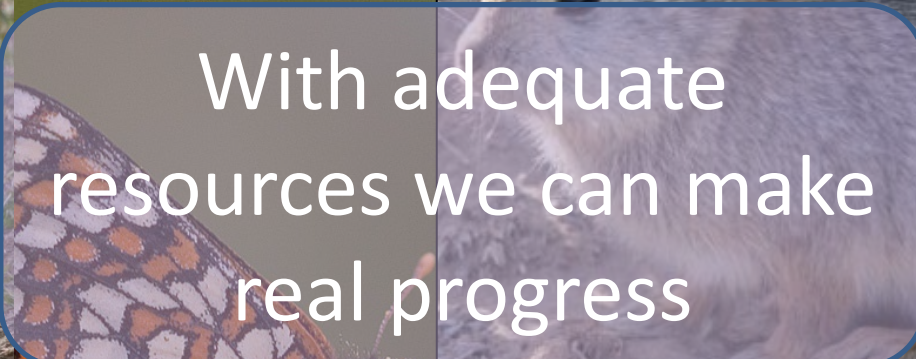


Sweat bee

# Chronic Underfunding to Address Biodiversity Challenges

- ▶ Only a fraction of SWAP implemented
- ▶ Investment largely focused on listed species
- ▶ Significant knowledge gaps remain
- ▶ Funding inadequate and insecure





With adequate resources we can make real progress

# Fisher Recovery





Western Snowy Plover



# Western Pond Turtle



# Non-listed species need attention too



# WDFW STANDS READY

- Conserve species populations and protect and restore habitat
- Fill knowledge gaps inhibiting our ability to act
- Support partnerships and public engagement

## IN ORDER TO

- Preclude the need to list species; recover those already listed
- Stop or slow habitat loss, increase habitat quality and function
- Enhance function of existing regulatory structure

# THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW TO RESTORE WASHINGTON'S BIODIVERSITY

**Jackrabbit**  
Photo by WSU

