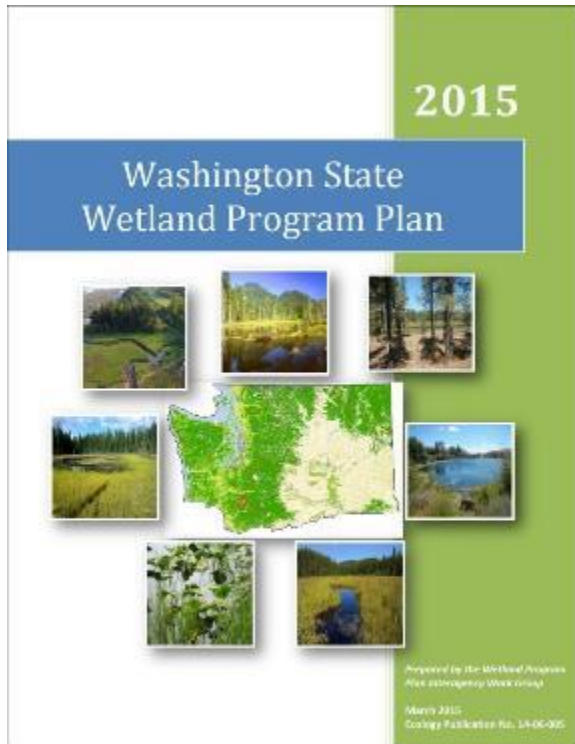


# Washington State Wetland Program Plan

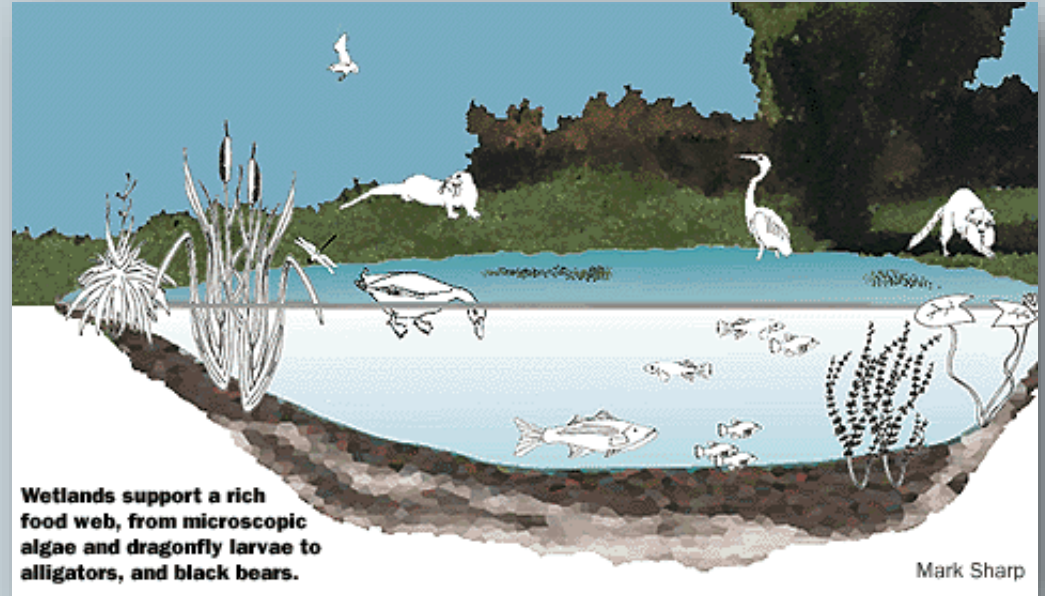


Rick Mraz  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Wetland Policy Lead

# Presentation Outline



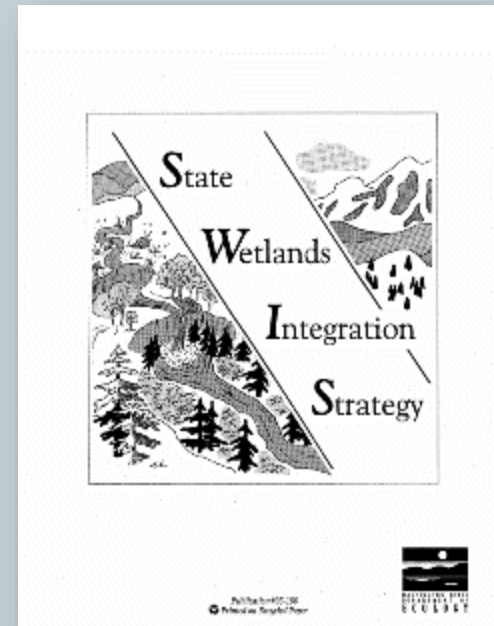
- What's a WPP?
- Why bother?
- Development process
- Implementation schedule
- Timeline
- Interagency Meetings



# Wetlands in WA State



- **EO 89-10 – Governor Booth Gardner**
  - “...no overall net loss”, overall net gain
  - EO 90-04 directed Ecology and several other resources agencies to use their existing authorities to protect wetlands
  
- **Previous planning efforts:**
  - State Wetland Integration Strategy
  - Mitigation that Works Forum Report



# What's a Wetland Program Plan?



- Part of EPA's *Enhancing State and Tribal Programs Initiative*, funded by a Wetland Program Development Grant
- Will help us articulate what we want to accomplish with our wetland program over time
- Strategic tool for coordination and sharing
- 3-6 year timeframe



# EPA's 4 Core Elements + 2 we added



- Regulatory Activities
- Voluntary Restoration and Protection
- Monitoring and Assessment
- Water Quality Standards

AND

- Outreach and Education
- Sustainable Financing



# WPPs typically include



- How the wetland program will work
- Information about state's wetland resources, including threats and impacts
- Brief assessment of the current wetland program, its strengths and challenges
- Potential partners
- Core elements with goals, activities, leads & partners
- Implementation schedule

# Why write a Wetland Program Plan?



- To assemble a comprehensive view of wetland management in Washington
- Identify key actions to accomplish in order to improve the wetland program
- To advocate for EPA funds
- To establish a multi-agency wetland-focused working group



# Process for Development



- Used existing policies, plans, efforts as background
- EPA framework served as model
- Reviewed other state & tribal WPPs for ideas
- Drafts created & reviewed by:
  - Wetlands Technical Advisory Group
  - Interagency committee
  - Core Element working groups
  - Tribal governments
  - Local governments
  - The public





# Agencies involved



- WDNR
- WDFW
- WSDOT
- Commerce
- WSCC
- PSP
- Agriculture
- Parks
- RCO
- EPA



# Staff from these tribes contributed



- Colville Tribes
- Kalispel Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Nisqually Tribe
- Squaxin Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes
  
- NWIFC
- TWIG



# Tribal involvement

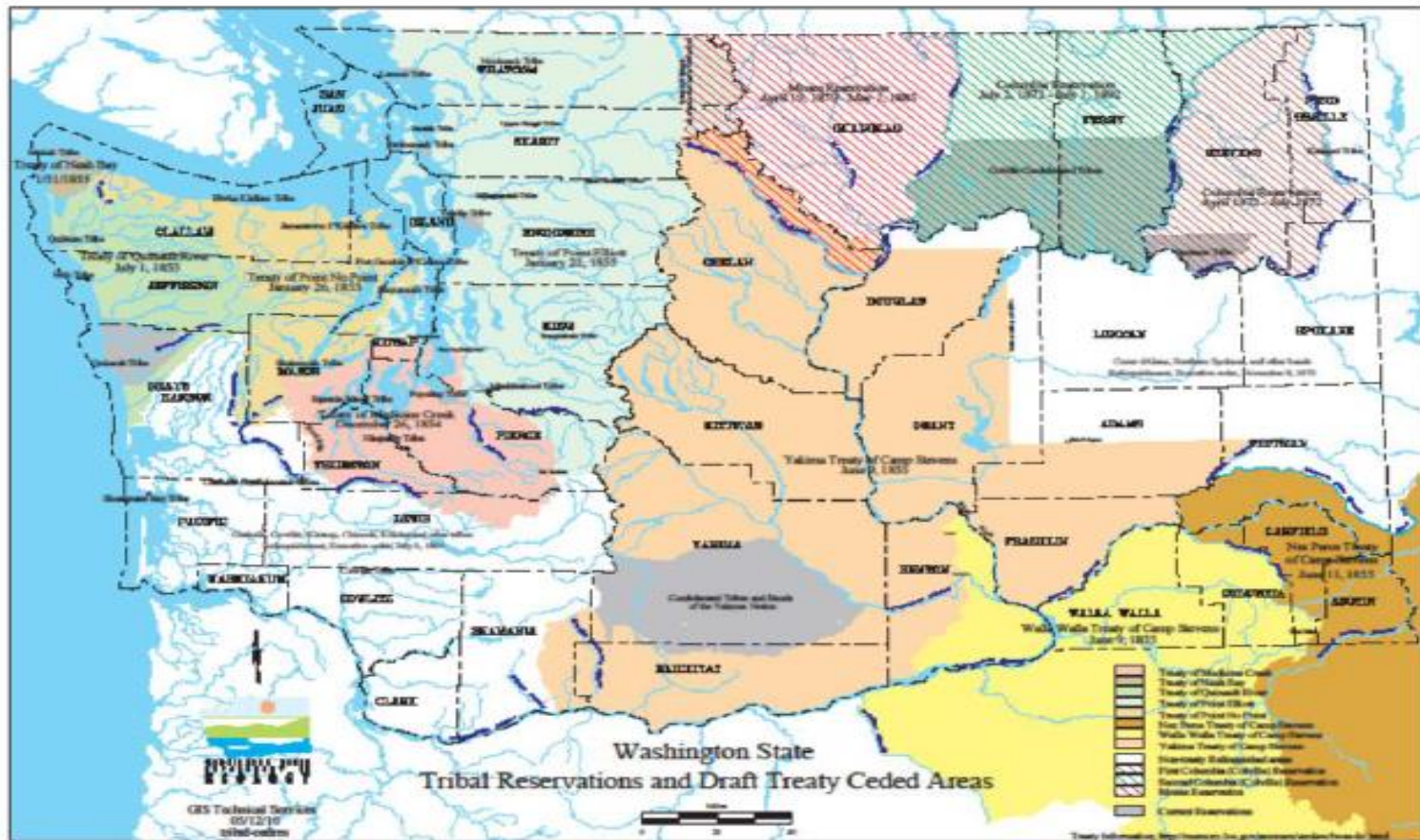
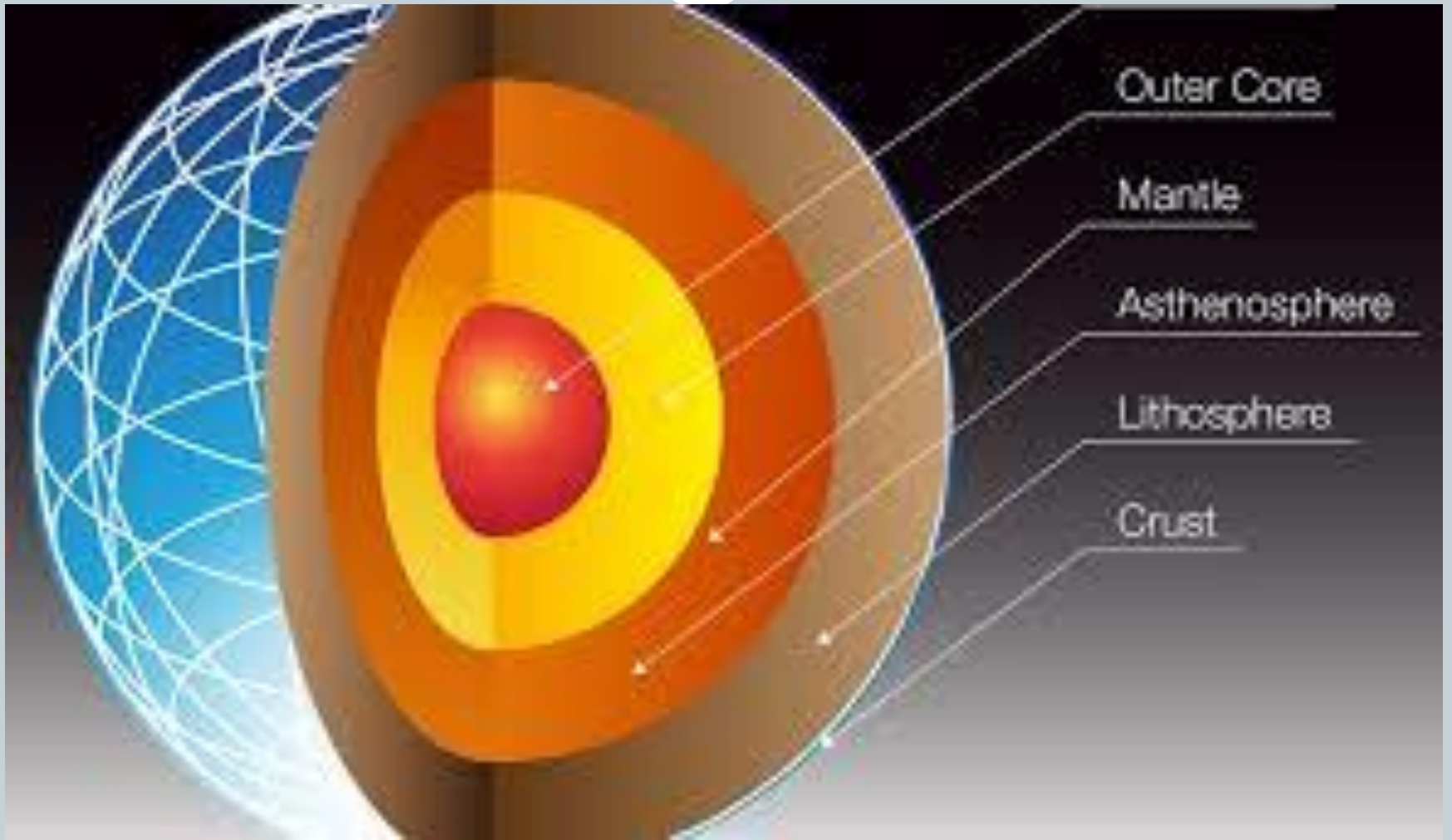


Figure 2. Map of Washington State Tribal Reservations and Draft Treaty Ceded Area. Map from [http://goia.wa.gov/tribal\\_gov/documents/Tribal Cedres.pdf](http://goia.wa.gov/tribal_gov/documents/Tribal_Cedres.pdf).

# Development – Core elements



# Core element - Regulation



## GOAL

To increase protection at the landscape and site scale by avoiding, minimizing, and where there are unavoidable adverse impacts, ensuring adequate compensation for wetland loss.

# Regulation - objectives



- 1. Promote efficient & consistent administration of regulatory activities through §401 WQ certifications and support to local governments.
- 2. Increase wetland protection through better application of avoidance & minimization practices.
- 3. Develop successful compensatory mitigation strategies for unavoidable wetland impacts.
- 4. Evaluate the state regulatory program & state regulated activities to ensure adequate protection of wetlands at the landscape and site scale.

# Regulation Objective 1, Action 3



Action	Lead; Partners	Activity
<p>3. Enforce state permit conditions and address violations to ensure wetland protection</p>	<p>Ecology; WDFW, WDNR</p>	<p>1. Continue to update, develop, and implement enforcement and compliance mechanisms, guidelines, and resources</p>
		<p>2. Increase focus on violations, and compliance with and enforcement of, permit conditions for impact and mitigation sites, including shorelines</p>
		<p>3. Continue to explore new avenues for working with local governments on enforcement of permit conditions</p>

# Periodic plan review



- Maintain the momentum to carry out plan activities
- Hold agencies accountable to their commitments
- Communicate with the public our successes and challenges in wetland management



# Plan evaluation



## GOAL

To evaluate the effectiveness of each of the six core elements and the effectiveness of the Wetland Program Plan as a whole

# Implementation Schedule



- Lists high priority activities for the next 6 years
- Organized by core element
- Refers to specific activities in the action tables
- Lists leads, co-leads, and supporters
- Specifies whether it's an ongoing activity or a new one
- If a new activity, specifies what years it will occur

# Implementation Schedule



Activity	WPP Reference Core element <u>Objective.Action.Activity</u>	Lead; co-lead - supporters	ongoing	Actions taken
				efforts in the SEA program and with other agencies.
Continue to provide technical assistance to local governments in developing and administering wetland regulations.	Regulatory 1.6.1 through 1.6.4	Ecology; - Commerce, WDFW, WDNR-NHP	✓	Ecology provided technical assistance and CAO comments on 142 local government ordinances since 2016.  Regional wetland specialists regularly provide focused technical assistance to local governments when reviewing wetland delineations, ratings, mitigation plans, enforcement actions, etc.
<p>Increase focus on violations, and compliance with and enforcement of, permit conditions for impact and mitigation sites, including shorelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue current <u>wetland mitigation compliance program</u>.</li> <li>• Explore development of a shoreline compliance program.</li> </ul>	Regulatory 1.3.2	Ecology	<p>✓</p>	<p>Successfully prosecuted wetland violation in Pierce County resulting in \$90,000 judgment.</p> <p>The <u>wetland mitigation compliance program</u> is an on-going program that began in 2006. For Ecology-issued wetland permits issued since 2004, the program has tracked approximately 280 projects with traditional mitigation requirements, and 100 projects using alternative migration such as mitigation bank credits, advance mitigation, or in-lieu fees.</p>

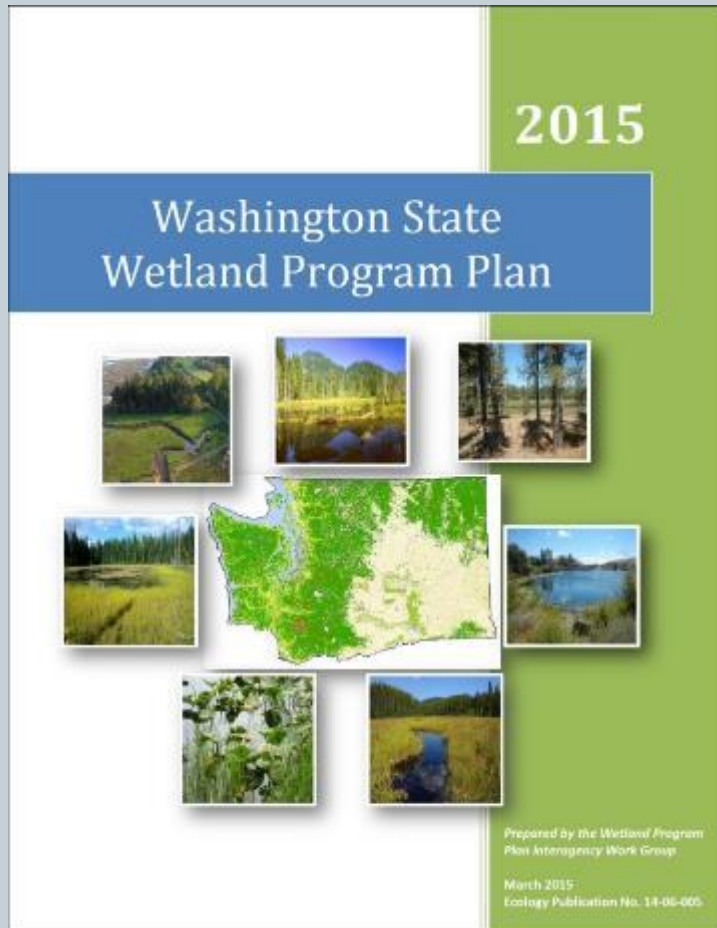
# Plan update



- Begun this year
- First IAWG meeting scheduled for March 4, 2020



# Thank you



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# Survey Summary



<b>Element</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Agency Tally</b> <b>11</b>	<b>Public Ranking</b> <b>26</b>
Regulatory	1.3 Enforce state permit conditions and address violations to ensure wetland protection	6	24
Regulatory	3.1 Use mitigation banking and in-lieu fee programs for compensatory mitigation	5	9
Monitoring & Assessment	2.1 Implement phased wetland mapping efforts and development of Level 1 landscape assessments	5	16
Restoration & Protection	2.1 Prioritize and share with relevant groups rare, vulnerable, threatened, and important wetland types for impact avoidance, minimization, and acquisition/protection.	3	14