

**Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting  
October 22, 2020**

**- STAC Wildlife Subcommittee Update –**

**Mike Kuttel, Jr. – WDFW Farm Bill Coordinator (Co-chair of Subcommittee)**

The Wildlife Subcommittee met virtually in late September 2020 to discuss the FY2021 EQIP State Wildlife Funding Pool and screening and ranking questions for the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART). The group had two weeks following the meeting to prioritize the following focus areas within the funding pool that were approved following the June 2020 STAC meeting.

- i. Salmon & Steelhead
  - ii. Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) - State and Federal
  - iii. Olympia Oyster
  - iv. Pollinators (emphasis on Monarchs)
  - v. Wildlife Corridors
- Feedback from the Subcommittee prioritized non-salmon threatened and endangered species (T&E), Wildlife Corridors, and Pollinators. There was support for creating funding pools for Aquatic Habitat and Terrestrial Habitat. This aligns well with the new NRCS habitat resource concerns (Aquatic Habitat for Fish and Other Organisms & Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates). By splitting into two Statewide fund pools we can continue to target high priority salmon restoration and position ourselves to request additional funding from National Headquarters for larger river restoration projects that will range from \$500,000 – \$1.5 million while ensuring funding is available to conserve terrestrial species.

**Request:** For FY2021, the Subcommittee requests the STAC recommend the following EQIP State Wildlife Funding Pools and focus areas to the State Conservationist:

- 1. Aquatic Habitat
    - a. Salmon & Steelhead
    - b. Olympia Oyster
  - 2. Terrestrial Habitat
    - a. Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) - State and Federal
    - b. Pollinators (emphasis on Monarchs)
    - c. Wildlife Corridors
- We received quality feedback on specific wording of ranking questions for each focus area (minus Olympia Oyster) in CART. We will work with the Subcommittee to finalize. Target is two or three ranking questions in addition to geospatial data.