

Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Statewide Climate-Gradient Corridors Report

Appendix A: Climate-Gradient Corridor and Focal Species Guild Overlays

The maps included in this appendix identify areas of overlap among statewide climate-gradient corridor networks (WHCWG 2011) and focal species guild networks (WHCWG 2010). Three maps are provided, which correspond to the three focal species guilds identified in the statewide analysis: generalist, montane, and shrub-steppe. We offer the following suggested guidance regarding the appropriate interpretation and application of these additional products:

Areas where climate-gradient and focal species connectivity networks overlap highlight potential priority areas for climate-connectivity conservation efforts. Overlaying climategradient corridor networks with focal species connectivity networks offers additional opportunities for guiding climate-connectivity conservation decisions. For example, as areas of overlap are valuable for both current (focal species) and future (climate-gradient) connectivity, they suggest priority areas for connectivity maintenance and restoration.

These overlays may be most powerfully interpreted and applied by analyzing them together with other relevant map products. For example, comparing the overlays to the climate-gradient corridor networks (Figures 3 and 4 in WHCWG 2011) allows one to distinguish climate-gradient core areas (which are based on landscape integrity analyses from WHCWG 2010) from climate-gradient corridors.

Comparing the statewide climate-gradient corridor and shrub-steppe guild overlay to the Columbia Plateau climate-gradient corridor and focal species overlay may offer additional opportunities for interpretation and application. In addition, the Columbia Plateau Climate-Gradient Corridor Analysis (WHCWG 2013) provides further illustration of how to integrate across map products to inform interpretation. The WHCWG also has plans to complete additional analyses to guide prioritization of climate-gradient corridors in the Columbia Plateau.

Climate-gradient corridors should not be overlaid with species habitat layers to identify species-specific climate-gradient corridors. As habitat distributions are expected to shift in the future, it would be inappropriate to use individual species distribution maps as sources or destinations for species-specific climate-gradient corridors. Species distribution maps may, however, be used to prioritize climate-gradient corridors (e.g., by identifying and prioritizing corridors leading to landscape integrity core areas featuring relatively high levels of species diversity). More information, including full reports and data layers for climate-gradient, focal species, and landscape integrity analyses, is available at <u>www.waconnected.org</u>

References

- WHCWG (Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group). 2010. Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Statewide Analysis. Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation, Olympia, Washington.
- WHCWG (Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group). 2011. Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Climate-Gradient Corridors Report. Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation, Olympia, WA.
- WHCWG (Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group). 2012. Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Analysis of the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion. Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation. Olympia, WA
- WHCWG (Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group). 2013. Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Columbia Plateau Climate-Gradient Corridors Analysis.
 Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation, Olympia, WA.













