

Washington Conservation Science Institute, LLC

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Science for a Sustainable Future

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Established in 2011, the Washington Conservation Science Institute is a science-based natural resource consulting organization with expertise in wildlife ecology, aquatic ecology, landscape ecology, environmental assessment, and the development of strategies to manage and conserve natural resources. Our company moto is “Science for a Sustainable Future”. We provide clients in government, industry, and other private and public organizations demonstrated capabilities to execute research, management, monitoring, and inventory projects. We have expertise in the design, management, and implementation of complex environmental assessments in support of aquatic and terrestrial restoration. We have an extensive and proven track record in research and monitoring project design, implementation, reporting, and application of management recommendations. We specialize in working together with others on any size of natural resource assessment project.

Washington Conservation Science Institute provides solutions to natural resource challenges using established and innovative scientific approaches. We accomplish this through a diverse array of professional services to address natural resource and conservation issues for our clients. This includes developing projects; interpreting results of inventory, monitoring, or management programs; and assessing and forming mitigation strategies.

Products and Services

Development and Management of Projects

Our firm is based on many years of successful experience in developing and administering research, monitoring, inventory, and environmental assessment projects for a diverse array of natural resource challenges.

Assessment of Populations and Habitats

Personnel in our company have extensive experience in describing the relationships between wildlife or fish populations and their habitats. Our personnel have broad backgrounds in the description and analysis of terrestrial and aquatic habitats from individual fine-scale habitat components to broad-scale landscapes and ecoregions.

Land Management Plans

We have extensive experience in the development and synthesis of scientific information used in the design and implementation of land management planning. For example, we have created land stewardship plans for small landowners and we have participated in the development of large and complicated management plans covering entire national forests.

Restoration

Our personnel have been key players in the creation, adaptation and implementation of terrestrial and aquatic restoration strategies utilized by land management agencies, conservation groups, and natural resource collaboratives. We regularly guide and contribute to restoration planning processes, from development of the science assessment tools, performing analyses, preparing assessment documents and managing complex and often controversial planning efforts.

Monitoring and Research

Collectively, we have designed and implemented dozens of monitoring and research projects addressing a wide-array of ecological questions. Examples include monitoring the effects of forest restoration treatments on birds, understanding the interactions between access management and wildlife, assessing the contribution of forest roads to sediment delivery in salmon streams, evaluating landscape fire risks to surrounding communities, and understanding how carnivores and ungulates utilize habitat resources when influence by recreation. Our research has appeared in numerous scientific journals and technical publications.

Data Synthesis and Modeling

We provide expertise in developing, compiling, and synthesizing natural resource data. We have also developed and applied numerous techniques to model habitat suitability and quality (e.g., Habitat Suitability Indices, Bayesian Networks) using large data sets to assess the effects of landscape management alternatives on wildlife and fish habitats and populations.

Report Preparation and Publication

We have demonstrated experience in preparing technical and professional reports and publications that are scientifically sound (e.g., peer reviewed) based either on information collected by our company or by other organizations. Our final products, whether digital or print, are consistently of the highest quality and present project results clearly and attractively.

Personnel

Bill Gaines is the Executive Director of the Washington Conservation Science Institute. Bill holds a M.S. in Aquatic Ecology from Central Washington University, and a PhD in Wildlife Science from the University of Washington. Bill has 30 years of experience in natural resource management and conservation, working for both private and public agencies. He has conducted research and assessment studies for a wide-array of terrestrial and aquatic species resulting in over 60 peer-reviewed articles and technical reports. Bill has been intimately involved in the development of assessment tools and decision support systems to help managers of government agencies and other organizations identify and prioritize actions that inform restoration and conservation planning and decision-making.

Andrea Lyons is the Director of Terrestrial Ecology Program at WCSI, and a Wildlife Biologist/Data Analyst. Andrea holds a M.S. Degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. Andrea has over 20 years of experience in natural resource management, field studies on a wide array of wildlife species, and data analyses for complex research projects while working for both public and private agencies. She specializes in the assessment of habitat selection and population modeling. Her research has appeared in numerous journals and technical reports.

James Begley is the Director of the Spatial Ecology Program at WCSI, a GIS Analyst/Landscape Ecologist. James holds a M.S. in Resource Management from Central Washington University. James has been involved with natural resource field data collection, analyses, and monitoring for 25 years while working for both public and private organizations. James has performed ecological modeling and assessments for numerous projects and studies related to natural resource and transportation planning. He has been integral to the development of decision support systems and processes to help managers of government agencies and other organizations make sound planning decisions regarding natural resources and transportation. James has both experience and an understanding of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Restoration Strategy, the Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP), and TerrainWorks/NetMap.

Code of Ethics

1. Uphold the dignity and integrity. We shall endeavor to avoid even the suspicion of dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or unprofessional demeanor.
2. Refrain from plagiarism in verbal or written communications and shall give credit to the works and ideas of others.
3. Refrain from fabrication, falsification, or suppression of results, and shall not deliberately misrepresent research findings, or otherwise commit scientific fraud.
4. Exercise high standards in the care and use of live vertebrate animals used for research, in accordance with accepted professional guidelines for the respective classes of animals under study.
5. Protect the rights and welfare of human subjects used in research and obtain the informed consent of those individuals, in accordance with approved professional guidelines for human subjects.
6. Be mindful of their responsibility to society, and seek to meet the needs of all people when seeking advice in ecologically-related matters. We shall studiously avoid discrimination in any form, or the abuse of professional authority for personal satisfaction.
7. Recognize and inform clients or employers of our prime responsibility to the public interest, conservation of natural resources, and the environment. We shall exercise professional judgment, and avoid actions or omissions that may compromise these broad responsibilities. They shall cooperate fully with other professionals in the best interest of the natural resource.
8. Provide maximum possible effort in the best interest of each client or employer, regardless of the degree of remuneration.
9. Accept employment to perform professional services only in areas of our own competence, and consistent with the Code of Ethics. We shall seek to refer clients or employers to other natural resource professionals when the expertise of such professionals shall best serve the interests of the public, natural resources, and the client or employer.
10. Maintain a confidential relationship between professionals and clients or employers except when specifically authorized by the client or employer or required by due process of law or the Code of Ethics to disclose pertinent information. We shall not use such confidences to their personal advantage or to the advantage of other parties, nor shall they permit personal interests or other client or employer relationships to interfere with their professional judgment.
11. Refrain from advertising in a self-laudatory manner-beyond statements intended to inform prospective clients or employers of one's qualifications-or in a manner detrimental to fellow professionals and the wildlife resource. We shall clearly distinguish among facts, hypotheses, and opinions. We shall provide professional advice and guidance only when qualified to do so by training and experience.
12. Refuse compensation or rewards of any kind intended to influence their professional judgment or advice or to secure preferential treatment. We shall not permit a person who recommends or employs them, directly or indirectly, to regulate or impair their professional judgment. We shall not accept compensation for the same professional services from any source other than the client or employer without prior consent of all the clients or employers involved.
13. Avoid performing professional services for any client or employer when such service is judged to be contrary to the Code of Ethics or detrimental to the well-being of natural resources and the environment.
14. Advise against an action by a client or employer which violates any statute or regulation.

