

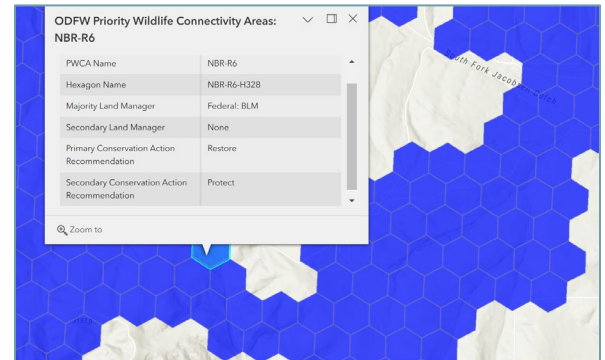


Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas (PWCAs)

Wildlife rely on the ability to move across the landscape to fulfill their daily and seasonal requirements to access food, water, shelter, and opportunities to reproduce. Human changes to the landscape often restrict the ability of wildlife to move by creating barriers, causing impacts to critical migration stopover sites, increasing habitat fragmentation, and inducing changes in wildlife behavior. Connected habitats aid wildlife in responding to shifting landscape conditions, allowing animals to safely move to seek new habitat following disturbances like human development, wildfire, drought, severe weather, the spread of invasive species, and climate change.

ODFW [Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas \(PWCAs\)](#) provide non-regulatory information on the parts of the landscape with the highest overall value for facilitating wildlife movement. The network of PWCAs serves as a science-based, informational tool to support planning for and implementation of habitat enhancement, restoration, conservation, transportation mitigation, land-use, and development efforts.

Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas include both quality habitat in intact, relatively undisturbed parts of the landscape as well as the best remaining marginal habitat to help wildlife navigate through developed or degraded areas. Focused investments in habitat within PWCAs can increase the likelihood of long-term maintenance of wildlife connectivity in Oregon and can maximize effectiveness over larger landscapes, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries to better enhance and protect habitat critical to wildlife movement.



PWCAs are made up of 40-acre hexagons. Each hexagon contains information on land manager(s) and recommendations for conservation action.

Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas can help inform both planning and on-the-ground conservation action to benefit wildlife habitat connectivity. Examples of application include:

- Identification of priorities for land acquisition, restoration, and barrier removal
- Identification of priority sites for transportation mitigation
- Land management plan revisions/decisions for habitat and recreation management for public lands
- Local and county government efforts to protect wildlife connectivity, including incorporation of PWCAs into county planning goals
- Investments through state and federal grant programs for conservation of habitat and working lands
- Informing renewable energy, land use, and waterway planning
- Climate resilience planning

For more information and to view an interactive PWCA web map visit:

www.oregonconservationstrategy.org