

From:
To:
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 7:33:33 AM

Board and Commission Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title Mr.

First Name Stephen

Last Name Nyman

Today's Date 1/3/2023

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Zip [REDACTED]

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Wildlife Advisory Committee

Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) Position:	I have professional experience as a wildlife biologist.
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 4
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?	Yes
If yes, please list dates:	Feb 2017 - Dec 2022
8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I am an employee (part-time) of HDR, Inc. a consulting company which provides engineering, environmental, and other services to a wide range of clients. I am not engaged in any work projects for the County nor am I aware of any current projects for which HDR is providing services to the County

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

Attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

see attached resume

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I devote most of my time to volunteer service projects in my areas of interest and expertise, where I can make a difference. I believe I have much to contribute to the continuing work of the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Teal Waterstrat (USFWS biologist) 360-753-7760; 360-951-2560
Ron Tressler (Wildlife Biologist, Seattle City Light) 206-386-4506; 206-858-3760

Signature of applicant:

Stephen Nyman

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, Washington

(Section Break)



Stephen Nyman, PhD

Amphibian Ecologist, Terrestrial Ecologist

I have an academic training in the study of salamanders, frogs, snakes, lizards, and turtles (i.e., herpetology), and career long field experience in this area. As a Senior Scientist with HDR, Inc., in Bellingham, Washington, I provide technical services associated with herpetological and wildlife studies, including surveys, habitat evaluations, and agency consultation for rare, threatened, and endangered species. I have performed more than 30 separate herpetological investigations in Washington, Oregon, California, and New York, ranging from watershed-level studies of complex hydroelectric projects to narrowly focused investigations of proposed residential and recreational developments. Most of this work involved coordination with other specialists, and management of field personnel. I am also experienced in a wide range of wetland, riparian, and botanical studies. In recognition of my expertise and achievements, I was awarded Professional Associate status by HDR in 2014.

I have conducted dedicated surveys and/or habitat evaluations for numerous state or federally-listed Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, Fully Protected (California), and other “special status” species, including Oregon Spotted Frog, Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, California Red-legged Frog, Cascades Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Boreal Toad, Limestone Salamander, Larch Mountain Salamander, Van Dyke’s Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamanders, Timber Rattlesnake, Pine Snake, Sagebrush Lizard, Western Pond Turtle, Bog Turtle, Marbled Murrelet, Bald Eagle, and Spotted Owl. My experience includes working in diverse habitats including instream, riparian, palustrine wetlands, forests, and talus; using specialized techniques; and adherence to accepted survey protocols.

As Lead Scientist with the Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Program, I have developed monitoring, research, and public outreach projects focused on the federally threatened Oregon Spotted Frog, including multi-year studies and habitat restoration since 2016 at the Whatcom Land Trust's Samish River Preserve and Catalyst Preserve. This is a non-salaried position which leverages committed, volunteered time and supporting grants to accomplish project objectives. I have pioneered and tested new techniques to remove and replace invasive reed canarygrass and expand essential habitats for Oregon Spotted Frog. I hold a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10(a)(1) Recovery permit (since 2015) for Oregon Spotted Frog and am a contributing member of the Oregon Spotted Frog Working Group for Washington State. In 2017 I participated in the non-regulatory designation of Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas in Washington.

Education

Ph.D., Biological Sciences
University of Rhode Island, 1985

M.Sc., Ecology
Rutgers University, 1979

B.A., Botany, minor Zoology
Rutgers University, 1975

Professional Affiliations

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Volunteer Affiliations

Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Program (Lead Scientist)

Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee

Employment

HDR, Inc.

Selected Project Experience

“Characteristics and Utilization of Oviposition and Larval Rearing Habitats by Oregon Spotted Frog and Potential for Habitat Restoration at the Samish River Preserve” and “Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Restoration Projects at the Whatcom Land Trust’s Samish River Preserve;” Whatcom County, Washington – Research studies and habitat restoration projects for the threatened Oregon Spotted Frog at a Whatcom Land Trust conservation property located in the headwaters of the Samish River. Partially funded by USFWS grants.

“Incorporating Oregon Spotted Frog habitat restoration into stewardship of the Whatcom Land Trust’s Catalyst Preserve” Whatcom County, Washington – On-going project to identify and implement site-specific habitat restoration measures for a declining population of Oregon Spotted Frog on a tributary of the South Fork Nooksack River. Partially funded by a USFWS grant.

Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Washington; Seattle City Light – Study Lead for special-status amphibian survey study in support of project relicensing. Study included habitat evaluations and surveys for Columbia Spotted

Frog, Oregon Spotted Frog, and Western Toad on the three reservoirs, transmission line right-of-way, and other areas that may be affected by this large project. Also prepared sections of License Application.

Oregon Spotted Frog Surveys and Habitat Assessment, Deming Levee Improvement Project; Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District – Conducted USFWS-permitted surveys and habitat assessment for Oregon Spotted Frog, an approved conservation measure required prior to implementation of a levee reconstruction project along the Nooksack River.

Hancock Creek and Calligan Creek Hydroelectric Projects, King County, Washington; Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County – Principal Investigator for amphibian and reptile survey study in support of licensing of two proposed run-of-river hydroelectric projects and possible project effects.

Sunset Fish Passage and Energy Project, Snohomish County; Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County – Principal Investigator for amphibian study and Project Manager for environmental services in support of licensing of proposed small hydroelectric project, including studies of water quality, benthic macroinvertebrates, mollusks, and raptors.

South State Water Project Hydropower and Devil Canyon Projects (California Aqueduct System), Relicensing, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California; Department of Water Resources and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power – Resource Lead for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Species and special-status aquatic species. Prepared sections of the Pre-Application Documents, developed study plans, directed implementation of study plans, and prepared sections of License Applications.

Yuba River Development Project, Relicensing, Yuba County, California; Yuba County Water Agency – Study Lead for herpetological studies in support of hydroelectric project relicensing, addressing issues associated with Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, California Red-legged Frog, and Western Pond Turtle.

Yuba-Bear and Drum-SpaULDing Hydroelectric Projects, Sierra Nevada Counties, California; Nevada Irrigation District and Pacific Gas & Electric Company – Technical and Study Lead for studies of Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, California Red-legged Frog, Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, and Western Pond Turtle in support of relicensing of two large, complex, inter-connected projects.

Cabin Creek Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project, Clear Creek County, Colorado; Public Service Company of Colorado – Technical Lead for Boreal Toad Study in support of relicensing and provided technical assistance in the development of license compliance measures for Boreal Toad.

Merced Hydroelectric Project, Merced and Mariposa Counties, California; Merced Irrigation District – Study Lead for herpetological studies and special-status branchiopods in support of relicensing. Species that were addressed included Limestone Salamander, a talus-dwelling terrestrial species, endemic to a small area, which includes the steep, rocky margins of the project reservoir. Study scope for this species included developing a habitat suitability model to identify potential habitat and two years of surveys.

Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project, Snohomish County, Washington; Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County – Project Manager and Principal Investigator for amphibian survey study in support of relicensing. Target species included Coastal Tailed Frog, Western Toad, Northern Red-legged Frog, and Northwestern Salamander.

Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, Pend Oreille River, Washington; Pend Oreille Public Utility District No. 1 – Principal Investigator for wildlife studies during relicensing

and development of Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan of lands associated with the project, governing 700 acres of PUD-owned lands and creation of amphibian habitat.

Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, Lewis County, Washington; Energy Northwest – Principal Investigator for amphibian study in support of relicensing. Performed intensive amphibian survey focused on special status species associated with instream, riparian, wetland, and talus habitats in the project-affected area.

Tacoma and Ames Hydroelectric Projects; San Juan, La Plata, and San Miguel Counties, Colorado; Public Service Company of Colorado – Technical Lead for relicensing, addressing wetland and riparian issues, and amphibians, including Tiger Salamander and Northern Leopard Frog.

Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, Columbia River, Washington; Grant Public Utility District No. 2 – Project Manager and Principal Investigator of wildlife issues in support of relicensing. The studies included site-intensive surveys for amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, breeding birds, and rare plants; extensive collection of habitat and habitat disturbance data; and habitat rankings within a large project area.

Upper American River Project, El Dorado County, California; Sacramento Municipal Utility District – Co-principal Investigator in support of relicensing, conducting studies of riparian and wetland areas associated with a large, complex project.

Stone Creek Hydroelectric Project, Clackamas County, Oregon; Eugene Water and Electric Board – Principal Investigator for wildlife, wetlands, and terrestrial habitats in support of licensing and license compliance, including designing, conducting, and reporting on a 15-year population monitoring plan for a rare, riparian plant, Clackamas *Corydalis*.

Herpetofaunal Inventory of State-Owned Lands, Hudson River Estuary, Columbia County, New York; New York Department of Environmental Conservation – Principal Investigator for herpetological evaluation, conducting intensive investigations of amphibians, snakes, and turtles on more than 500 acres of wetlands, riparian habitats, and upland forests near the Hudson River using dip-net sampling, cover object searches, frog call surveys, and other techniques.

Characterization of Reference Wetlands in Eastern New York, Columbia and Dutchess County; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Conducted amphibian surveys in four types of wetlands in the Hudson River Valley of New York in order to better define standards for wetland protection and restoration projects. Standardized sampling protocols were used at seasonal woodland pools, red maple swamps, clay meadows, and fens. The final report documented differences in amphibian use of the wetland types, discussed the efficacy of effort-constrained dip-netting, and made recommendations for wetland projects.

Selected Technical Papers and Presentations

Habitat restoration for the threatened Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) in an emergent wetland dominated by Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) at the Samish River Preserve, Whatcom County, Washington. (Society of Wetland Scientists, Pacific Northwest Chapter, 2022 Annual Meeting).

Agonistic behavior in female Oregon Spotted Frogs (*Rana pretiosa*). (Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Washington and Oregon Chapters of the Wildlife Society, and Northwest Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, 2019 Annual Meeting).

Habitat use and performance of Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) larvae at ponds and emergent wetlands of the Samish River Preserve, Whatcom County, Washington, and

- response to a habitat enhancement project. (Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Washington and Oregon Chapters of the Wildlife Society, and Northwest Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, 2018 Annual Meeting).
- Ecological aspects of Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) eggs and larvae at ponds and meadows of the Samish River Preserve, Whatcom County, Washington. (Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, 2015 Annual Meeting).
- Evaluation of characteristics to differentiate larvae of Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) and Northern Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*). (Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, 2015 Annual Meeting).
- Evaluation of an aquatic funnel trap for shallow water habitats used by Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*). (Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, 2015 Annual Meeting).
- Perspectives on the effects of Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) on habitat suitability for Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*), based on observations at the Samish River Preserve, Whatcom County, Washington. (Society of Wetland Scientists, Pacific Northwest Chapter, 2015 Annual Meeting).
- Cannibalism and size relations in a cohort of larval ringed salamanders (*Ambystoma annulatum*). (*Journal of Herpetology* 27:78-84).
- Ecological aspects of syntopic *Ambystoma maculatum* and *A. laterale-jeffersonianum* complex larvae in New Jersey ponds. (*Journal of Herpetology* 25:505-509).
- The distribution of the *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* complex in New Jersey. (*Journal of Herpetology* 22: 224-227).
- Mass mortality in larval *Rana sylvatica* attributable to the bacterium *Aeromonas hydrophila*. (*Journal of Herpetology* 20: 196-201).
- Ambystoma maculatum*. Reproduction. (Life History Note, *Herpetological Review* 18:14-15).