

#### OCTOBER 01 - 02 | GRAND MOUND, WA WITH HYBRID OPTION

Theme: Pathways to Resilient Biodiversity and Equitable Landscapes.

#### **Objectives:**

- Celebrate the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan.
- Renew collective commitment to ecological connectivity work via the Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group.
- Establish collaborative action around "Paths to Success" strategies and feasibility needs.
- Build political and funding support.
- Mainstream connectivity conservation practice.

\*Hybrid option available for Day 1. Agenda is subject to change.

# )AY 01

#### 7:30AM Registration & Welcome Breakfast

- 8:30AM Welcome to WildLinks
- 8:40AM Keynote Speaker: Nova Simpson
- 9:20AM Connectivity History in WA
- 9:30AM Intro: Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan
- 9:50AM Intro: Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group

#### 10:00AM BREAK

- 10:30AM Tribal Lands, Indigenous-led Stewardship, FPIC, Tribal Engagement
  - Brinn Marri, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
  - Kim Sager-Fradkin, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
  - Patrick Freeland, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### 12:00PM Group Picture & Lunch

# 1:00PM Panel: Shared Learnings on Connectivity & Audience Q&A

- Nova Simpson, NDOT
- Kylie Paul, CLLC
- Julia Kintsch, ECO Resolutions
- Jeremy Romero, NWF
- Nic Callero, PEW
- Logan Christian, NCEL

#### 3:00PM BREAK

- 3:30PM Day One: Audience Q&A
- 4:30PM Wrap Up Day One
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour**

# 7:30AM Registration & Welcome Breakfast

## 8:30AM Championing Connectivity

- Margen Carlsen, WDFW
- Ahmer Nizam, WSDOT
- 8:40AM Paths to Success: About Today's Agenda & Work

# 9:00AM Breakout Group Work Sessions: Feasibility Needs

- Technical, Science, Research
- Communications, Education, Outreach
- Policy, Advocacy
- FPIC & Tribal Engagement

## 10:15AM BREAK (Switch Groups)

10:45AM Breakout Group Work Sessions: Feasibility Needs

## 12:00PM LUNCH

# 1:00PM Breakout Group Work Sessions: Implementation Avenues

- Transportation Infrastructure
- Public Lands & Habitat
- Private Lands/Voluntary Incentives
- Land Use Planning
- Tribal Lands & Indigenous-led Stewardship

#### 2:15PM BREAK (Switch Groups)

- 2:45PM Breakout Group Work Sessions: Implementation Avenues
- 4:15PM **Key Takeaways**
- 4:30PM Next Steps & Commitments
- 5:00PM Wrap-up & Adjourn

# Keynote Speaker: Nova Simpson, NDOT

Nova Simpson supports the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) as the Wildlife Crossing Program Manager. Specializing in animal behavior and transportation ecology for more than 20 years, she has helped NDOT integrate wildlife-friendly infrastructure into its research, planning, and design processes with the goal of improving connectivity and safety for all users. Nova also works part-time for ARC Solutions as a Connectivity Project Advisor on her weekends. Her roles at both NDOT and ARC Solutions place significant emphasis on public outreach and education, and her outgoing personality has helped establish meaningful and long-term partnerships.