

Regulations and acquisitions protect habitat in different ways

Whether the state should buy land depends on its goals. Considerations include:

- Does a species avoid edges of its habitat?
- How much habitat does a species need to live?



Regulation

Regulation creates narrow bands of protection. There can be large gaps in the areas protected.

Acquisition

Acquisition can create more contiguous protection.

EXAMPLES



Great Gray Owl

Acquisition offers more appropriate protection. Lives in large areas. Sometimes avoids habitat edges.



Tiger Salamander

Regulation may offer adequate protection. Lives in small areas. Sometimes avoids habitat edges.

Outcome information (how well programs work) can be improved through statutory direction, along with agency planning and investment for monitoring

Regulation

Statute does not require state or local governments to **monitor the effectiveness** of local regulations, so outcome measurement approaches vary.

Acquisition

Statute requires outcome-focused performance measures. Except for salmon recovery, the agencies **have not developed outcome measures.**

Limited outcome information available

Outcomes are measured for **acquisition programs** to protect salmon. Outcomes are measured for two regulatory programs related to the **federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts**. Each has a mandate, monitoring plan, and funding.

Legislative Auditor recommends that

- OFM and RCO should develop and submit a joint plan to the Legislature detailing the actions, costs, and timelines needed to comply with statutes that direct them to measure performance of land acquisitions and related programs.
- If the Legislature wants reliable information about the outcomes of regulatory programs implemented at the local level, it should consider requiring outcome-focused performance measures.
- DNR, WDFW, and State Parks should provide the Legislature with a plan detailing the resources necessary to report stewardship needs.

The complete report is on the JLARC web site.

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