

SUMMARY

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is proposing to construct the I-405, Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project (I-5 to SR 169, Phase 2), referred to as the Tukwila to Renton Project, to relieve congestion. The Tukwila to Renton Project extends approximately 4 miles along I-405, from I-5 to SR 169, and approximately 2 miles along SR 167, from I-405 to SW 43rd Street.

Study Approach

Biologists gathered existing information for the study area through literature and internet research; interviews with local, state, and federal agency personnel; and previously prepared WSDOT reports. Additional information on the ecosystem elements in the study area was gathered by conducting wetland delineations and stream surveys, and field verifying wildlife habitat data. The collected information was then compared to the project footprint, including all roadway and drainage improvements, to assess potential effects resulting from the project.

Baseline Conditions

Baseline ecosystem conditions in the study area are typically degraded. Rivers and streams in the study area have been channelized, diked, and straightened to accommodate development. All of the wetlands in the study area have been affected by human influence to some extent. Stream, river, and wetland buffer sizes are limited by their proximity to elements of the built environment and typically consist of immature trees, shrubs, or grasses intermixed with non-native invasive plant species. Wildlife habitats are fragmented throughout the study area and much of the baseline wildlife habitat is located in areas where vegetation is regularly maintained, which limits its productivity.

Project Effects

The project results in temporary and permanent effects to wetlands, aquatic resources, and wildlife habitat. The project fills or places structures in some wetlands, streams, and rivers. The project adds approximately 58 net acres of additional

impervious surfaces to the study area. A summary of these effects is detailed in Exhibit S-1.

Exhibit S-1: Summary of Ecosystem Element Effects

Ecosystem Element	Temporary Effects*	Permanent Effects*
Wetlands (acres)	1.1	7.5
Wetland buffers (acres)	0.5	8.1
Aquatic resources below ordinary high water mark (streams and rivers) (square feet)	64,000	73,500
Aquatic resources from shading (streams and rivers) (square feet)	4,000	37,500
Aquatic resources buffers (square feet)	46,000	318,000
Wildlife habitat (acres)	73.3	34.0

* All temporary and permanent effects in this summary table have been rounded up to either the nearest tenth of an acre or the nearest 500 square feet.

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Effects

The Tukwila to Renton Project was designed to avoid effects to ecosystem elements to the greatest extent practicable. Approaches such as locating project features away from ecosystem elements or installing retaining walls were incorporated throughout the design of the project. During construction, WSDOT will require that appropriate best management practices and conservation measures are implemented to reduce potential effects to ecosystem elements. Mitigation activities to offset project effects will be performed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations that govern the ecosystem elements detailed in this discipline report.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Mitigation for the project provides a means to off-set project effects and potentially improve the overall condition of the ecosystem elements in the study area. After minimizing and avoiding effects to ecosystem elements to the maximum extent practicable, compensatory mitigation will be implemented to offset the remaining adverse effects from the project to the ecosystem elements.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Meaning
BMP	best management practice
BRPS	Black River Pump Station
CAD	computer-aided design
CAO	critical areas ordinance
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DO	dissolved oxygen
DPS	distinct population segment
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	evolutionarily significant unit
GIS	geographic information system
GMA	Growth Management Act
HHD	Howard Hansen Dam
HOV	high-occupancy vehicle
HRM	Highway Runoff Manual
IDT	interdisciplinary team
LWD	large woody debris
MP	milepost
NB	Northbound
NHP	Natural Heritage Program
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHWI	ordinary high water mark
PAB	palustrine aquatic bed
PCE	primary constituent element
PCWRP	Panther Creek Watershed Rehabilitation Plan
PEM	palustrine emergent

I-405, TUKWILA TO RENTON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (I-5 TO SR 169 - PHASE 2)
ECOSYSTEMS DISCIPLINE REPORT

Term	Meaning
PFO	palustrine forested
PHS	Priority Habitats and Species
PSS	palustrine scrub-shrub
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RM	river mile
ROD	Record of Decision
SMA	Washington State Shoreline Management Act
SB	Southbound
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures
TPA	Transportation Partnership Account
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
amphibians	A group of vertebrate animals that spend part of their time on land and part in the water. Amphibians must return to the water to breed and they have distinct larval and adult forms.
anadromous fish	A fish species that spends a part of its life cycle in the sea and returns to freshwater streams to reproduce (for example, salmon, steelhead, and trout).
bank	The slope of land adjoining a body of water, such as a river, lake, wetland, or drainage channel. With respect to flowing waters, banks are either right or left as viewed facing in the direction of the flow.
bankfull channel	The stream channel formed by the dominant discharge, also referred to as the active channel, which meanders across the floodplain.
bankfull width	The width of the stream channel between the tops of the stream banks where, under high flow conditions, the water level would be even with the top of the banks. In a river with a floodplain, this is the point just before water would spill over onto the floodplain.
base flow	The volume of flow in a stream or river during dry conditions, as opposed to conditions influenced by storm runoff. Base flows discharge groundwater and water from upstream channels, wetlands, lakes, and ponds.
basin	An area of land that drains to a specific waterbody.
best management practice (BMP)	Innovative and improved environmental protection tools, practices, and methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of avoiding or reducing environmental effects.
buffer (aquatic resource)	A designated area along and adjacent to a stream or wetland that may be regulated to control the negative effects of adjacent development on the aquatic resource.
channelization (streams)	Structural alteration made to straighten, widen, deepen, or otherwise modify a natural stream channel.
cofferdam	A temporary watertight enclosure constructed around a worksite in a reservoir or on a stream, enabling the worksite to be pumped dry or the water level controlled so that construction can proceed in the dry.
confluence	The convergence of two streams of comparable size into a single channel, or the junction where two rivers, streams, etc. flow together.

Term	Meaning
construction footprint	The physical area affected by project construction activities.
corridor	Within the context of a visual analysis, the road or highway and the adjacent area that is visible from and extending along the highway. The distance the corridor extends out from the highway may vary depending on different factors, such as land use and topography, or the corridor may be defined as a set width, such as 1/4 or 1/2 mile.
critical areas	These include aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, flood hazard areas, geologic hazard areas, and wetlands. Critical area functions and values are protected by ordinances that require development to avoid or compensate for adverse effects on critical areas.
critical habitat	Under the Endangered Species Act: (1) the specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a federally-listed species on which are found physical or biological features essential to conserving the species, and that may require special protection or management considerations; and (2) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by a federally-listed species when it is determined that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.
culvert	A pipe or box structure that drains open channels, swales, or ditches under a roadway or embankment.
deciduous	Trees that shed their leaves annually.
delineation	Establishing the boundaries of a wetland by applying adopted jurisdictional methods.
direct effect	An effect caused by an action or alternative and occurring at the same time and location. Effects may be ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health-related.
direct-access ramp	A ramp that provides direct access to and from high-occupancy vehicle lanes for buses, carpools, and vanpools. This avoids the need to cross several lanes of general-purpose traffic, saving time and improving traffic flow and safety.
dominant species	A plant species that exerts a controlling influence on or defines the character of a vegetative community.
down-gradient	The direction of flow; i.e., downstream.
downstream	Referring to the direction of the flow of a stream or river.

Term	Meaning
drainage ditch	An open channel designed and constructed to convey water. This may include modifications of natural drainages or man-made historic channels incorporated in a system design.
ecosystem	A community of organisms interacting with each other, and the environment in which they live.
effect	Something brought about by a cause or agent; a result. This may include ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, health, or other effects, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects.
electrofishing	A fish sampling method that involves capturing fish using an electric shock technique.
emergent wetlands	Wetlands comprised of plants that are rooted in shallow water or saturated soil but have foliage that extends out of the water or above the ground surface.
encroachment	Any action, including the placement of fill and the construction of piers and bridge abutments, that will occur within the limits of the regulatory floodplain; intrusion by roads or development into habitat areas that reduces the area available to wildlife or reduces the functions of the habitat area.
endangered species	Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Federal legislation adopted to prevent the extinction of plants and animals.
erosion	The wearing away of soil or rock by the action of running water, wind, ice, or geologic agents. For this analysis, erosion relates primarily to stormwater runoff.
escapement	The number of adult fish that enter a fresh water system to spawn.
Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU)	The term used by the National Marine Fisheries Service for a fish species population protected by a listing under the Endangered Species Act.
federally-listed species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that has been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to be endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.
fill	Any material placed in an area to increase surface elevation.

Term	Meaning
filter fabric fence	Cloth fencing installed around a construction site to keep soil from migrating off the site.
filter strip	Grassy slopes that filter and diffuse stormwater running off highway shoulders.
flap gate	An opening through which water may flow freely at low water elevations, but which closes automatically and prevents water from flowing in the opposite direction at higher water elevations.
flood	An overflow or inundation that comes from a river, stream, tide, wave action, storm drain, or excess rainfall; any relatively high streamflow overtopping the natural or artificial banks in any reach of a stream.
forbs	Broad-leaved flowering plants.
forested wetland	A wetland characterized by woody vegetation that is 20 feet tall or taller.
general-purpose lane	A freeway or arterial lane available for use by all traffic.
geographic information system (GIS)	A digital computer mapping system that can overlay a wide variety of data such as land use, utilities, and vegetative cover, and provide a spatial analysis.
gradient	The rate at which a physical quantity, such as temperature or pressure, changes relative to change in a given variable, especially distance.
groundwater	That portion of the water below the ground surface that is free flowing within the soil particles. Groundwater typically moves slowly, generally at a downward angle because of gravity, and eventually enters into streams, lakes, and oceans.
groundwater recharge	The process where natural sources (infiltrating rain, snowmelt, or surface water) or pumped water enters and replenishes the ground water supply.
Growth Management Act (GMA)	Washington State legislation adopted in 1990, and subsequently amended, that requires all cities and counties in the state to conduct long-range comprehensive planning, and has more extensive requirements for the largest and fastest-growing counties and cities in the state. Such comprehensive plans must address several required topics, including but not limited to land use, transportation, capital facilities, utilities, housing, etc. The GMA requirements also include guaranteeing the consistency of transportation and capital facilities plans with land use plans.
grub	An action where roots or stumps are cleared by digging.

Term	Meaning
habitat	The environment or specific surroundings where a plant or animal grows or lives.
habitat fragmentation	The separation of a habitat into pieces that are no longer physically connected to each other as a result of human development.
hazardous materials	Any material that may pose a threat to human health or the environment because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics.
herbaceous	A plant with no persistent woody stem above the ground.
high-occupancy vehicle (HOV)	High-occupancy vehicle is a special designation for a bus, carpool, or vanpool provided as an encouragement to increase ride-sharing. Specially designated HOV lanes and parking are among the incentives for persons to pool trips, use fewer vehicles, and make the transportation system more efficient. HOV lanes on I-405 are generally inside (left-side) lanes, and are identified by signs and a diamond on the pavement. Currently, two or more (2+) occupants are required to use the I-405 HOV lanes. Motorcycles are allowed to use freeway HOV lanes as well.
hydric soil	Soils formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough to develop anaerobic conditions (absence of oxygen) in the upper part.
hydrologically connected	Linked to or associated with the water source of another system either through surface water, a stream, groundwater, etc.
hydrology	Within the context of a wetland, permanent or periodic inundation or prolonged soil saturation sufficient to create anaerobic conditions in the soil.
hydroseed	A mixture of grass seed, fertilizer, lime, and wood fiber mulch designed to rapidly revegetate cleared areas.
impervious surface	Pavement, roofs, and other compacted or hardened areas that do not allow the passage of rainfall or runoff into the ground.
incised	A term used to describe down-cutting (downward erosion) by a stream. Incision deepens and often steepens the stream channel.
indirect effect	An effect that occurs later in time or is removed in distance from the proposed action, but is still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural systems.

Term	Meaning
infiltration	The passage of water through the soil surface into the subsoil.
invasive species	Non-native species that disrupt and displace native species.
jurisdiction	A municipal government agency, such as a city or county, and as appropriate, federal and state agencies and federally recognized tribes. The term also can mean “to have authority over.”
land use	The type of activity (i.e., residential, commercial, or industrial) that occurs on property.
large woody debris (LWD)	Logs, limbs, or root wads that are waterward of the ordinary high water line. To qualify as large woody debris, it must be of sufficient size to be resistant to erosion, provide bank stability, or help maintain or create habitat features important to fish life.
levee	A manmade structure, usually an earthen embankment along the edge of a river channel, constructed to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.
macroinvertebrate	Small animals that are visible with the naked eye, yet have no backbone (insects, worms, larvae, etc.).
meandering	Following a winding and turning course.
minimization	Taking measures to reduce potential effects to the smallest practical amount, extent, size, or degree. Minimization could include alignment shifts, a commitment to seasonal construction windows, replacement of land or facilities, restoration or landscaping, or payment of fair market value for affected lands.
mitigation	An effort to: (1) avoid the effect altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimize the effect by limiting the magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using technology or by taking affirmative steps; (3) rectify the effect by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reduce or eliminate the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations; (5) compensate for the effect by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or (6) monitor the effect and take appropriate corrective measures.

Term	Meaning
mitigation bank	A mitigation project constructed in advance of planned development to mitigate for unavoidable effects on wetlands and their associated habitat. Banks are generally sized to provide sufficient mitigation for several development projects in one location. As a result, the bank typically provides higher functioning wetlands and more useable habitat than may be possible on an individual project scale.
obligate (OBL)	Vegetative species that almost always occur in wetlands under natural conditions (estimated probability greater than 99 percent).
ordinary high water mark (OHWM)	The elevation marking the highest water level, which is so common and maintained for a sufficient time in all ordinary years that it leaves evidence upon the landscape, such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, changes in soil character, destruction of or change in vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris. Generally, it is the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominately aquatic to upland species. Where the ordinary high water mark cannot be found, it is the line of mean annual flood – the highest the water gets in an average year, but not the highest it gets during extreme flooding.
palustrine	Tidal or non-tidal freshwater areas dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, mosses, or lichens. Palustrine also includes wetlands lacking this vegetation but having the following characteristics: area less than 20 acres, no active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline, and water depth in the deepest part is less than 6.6 feet at low water.
palustrine aquatic bed (PAB)	Surface waters dominated by plants that grow and form a continuous cover principally on or at the surface, including algal mats, detached floating mats, and rooted vascular plant assemblages. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent.
palustrine emergent (PEM)	A wetland characterized by erect, rooted, non-woody plants such as cattails, rushes, and sedges.
palustrine forested (PFO)	A wetland characterized by woody vegetation that is 20 feet tall or taller.
palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS)	Areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet tall, such as trees, shrubs, or young trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.
peak flow	The maximum instantaneous rate of flow during a storm, usually in reference to a specific design storm event.

Term	Meaning
pier	A vertical column or substructure unit that supports an elevated structure such as a bridge.
piscivorous animal	Animals that rely solely on fish as a food source.
pollutant	Any substance introduced into the environment that contaminates or otherwise adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.
primary constituent elements	Physical and/or biological habitat features needed for the survival and successful reproduction of a species.
priority habitats	Habitat types with unique or significant value to a diverse group of species.
pump station	A mechanical facility that controls flows from one body of water to another.
raptor	A raptor is a carnivorous (meat-eating) bird. All raptors share at least three main characteristics: keen eyesight, eight sharp talons, and a hooked beak. Eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls are all considered raptors.
reconnaissance-level field survey	A qualitative investigation, where the biologist walks the site, photographs key areas, and makes observations of plants and wildlife, to assess overall site conditions.
refugia habitat	An area of a stream that provides shelter or safety for aquatic species.
resident fish	Fish that do not migrate out to the ocean but remain in fresh water.
restoration	To improve a disturbed or altered wetland by returning wetland parameters that may be missing.
retaining wall	A structure used to hold earth in place where the natural grade cannot be maintained.
retention/detention pond	A stormwater facility designed to reduce stormwater runoff quantity and quality effects by storing the increased runoff volume that results from development, allowing the suspended particles to settle out, and then slowly releasing it at a controlled runoff rate.
revetments	Revetments are facings of stone, concrete, or even such materials as tires, placed on a riverbank or levee to protect from erosion.
riffle	A shallow area of a stream or river in which water flows rapidly over a rocky or gravelly stream bed.

Term	Meaning
right-of-way	Land purchased prior to the construction of transportation improvements along with land for sound walls, retaining walls, stormwater facilities, and other project features. This also includes permanent or temporary easements for construction and maintenance. Vacant land may also be set aside for future highway expansion under certain circumstances.
riparian	Pertaining to anything connected with or immediately adjacent to the banks of a stream, river, or other waterbody.
riparian area	The land and habitat adjacent to streams, lakes, estuaries, or other waterways, comprising the transition area between the aquatic ecosystem and the nearby upland terrestrial ecosystem. Riparian corridors, or zones, identified by soil characteristics or plant communities, include the wet areas in and near streams, ponds, lakes, springs, and other surface waters.
riprap	A manmade armoring, facing layer, or protective mound of rocks placed to prevent erosion or sloughing of a stream bank or structure due to flow of surface and stormwater runoff.
river mile (RM)	The distance of a point on a river measured in miles from the river's mouth along the low-water channel.
riverine	Freshwater areas that are contained within a channel and are not dominated by trees, shrubs, and persistent emergents; for example, rivers and streams.
runoff	Rainwater or snowmelt that leaves an area as surface drainage.
salmonid	Any member of the family Salmonidae, which includes all species of salmon, trout, and char (including bull trout).
saturated soil conditions	A condition in which all easily drained voids (pores between soil particles) in the root zone are filled with water to the soil surface.
scrub-shrub wetland	Wetland dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet tall. The vegetation may include shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that may be stunted because of environmental conditions. Scrub-shrub wetlands are flooded for extended periods during the growing season.
sediment	Material that originates from weathering and erosion of rocks, dirt, or unconsolidated deposits and organic material. Sediment is carried and deposited by wind, ice, or water. It is often transported by stormwater runoff and may be suspended within the water.

Term	Meaning
seep	A spot where water trickles out of the ground to form a pool or wet area.
sensitive species	Any native wildlife species that is vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened throughout a significant portion of its range without cooperative management or removal of threats.
sheet flow	Runoff that flows over the ground surface as a thin, even layer as opposed to a concentrated stream or channel.
Shoreline Management Act (SMA)	Washington State legislation adopted in 1971 that requires local jurisdictions to create and implement a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The purpose of the SMP is to regulate land use and new development within sensitive shoreline areas. Shorelines, according to the SMA, include all areas typically within 200 feet inland from principal bodies of water (rivers and streams with flows of at least 20 cubic feet per second, lakes over 20 acres, and tidal areas) and associated wetlands. The local SMP identifies standards of protection for shoreline areas, and typically contains shoreline policies, shoreline use environments or zones, and specific shoreline regulations. The final SMP is subject to approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology.
Shoreline Master Program	See: Shoreline Management Act.
side channel	A secondary stream that splits off and then rejoins the main channel.
slope	The change in elevation over a distance, or an inclined land form.
species of concern	Species whose conservation standing is of concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but for which status information is still needed for consideration to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.
Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan	A plan for minimizing effects to soil, surface water, and groundwater in the event of a spill of contaminated soil, petroleum products, contaminated water, or other hazardous substances. The SPCC plan addresses construction procedures, equipment, and materials.
staging area	Locations used during construction to provide room for employee parking, large equipment storage, and material stockpiles.
State-listed species	Species of wildlife that are considered to be at-risk and are protected by Washington State laws.

Term	Meaning
stormwater	The portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows overland, in channels, or in pipes into a defined surface water channel or a constructed stormwater facility.
stormwater detention	The process of storing stormwater in manmade facilities such as ponds or vaults and releasing the stormwater at a controlled rate. This helps control volume and rate at which stormwater enters streams and rivers. Controlling the flow of stormwater helps maintain or improve conditions in the streams and minimizes erosion of stream banks.
study area	The area specifically evaluated for environmental effects.
subbasin	A smaller portion, or subarea, of a watershed or catchment area.
substrate	Organic and mineral materials that form the bed of a body of water.
threatened species	Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
topography	The physical features of a geographic area taken collectively; especially, the variations in elevation of the earth's surface.
transportation corridor	Travel routes that routinely experience the heaviest volume of vehicles to and from primary locations within a region.
trapezoidal channel	A water conveyance channel such as a stream or ditch with a flat bottom and steep side slopes. Trapezoidal channels are typically used to convey high volumes of water such as flood or stormwater flows.
tributary	A stream or other body of water that contributes its water to another stream or body of water.
turbidity	A condition caused by suspended sediments or floating material that clouds the water and makes it appear dark and muddy.
understory	The vegetation of a forest that grows in the shade of the canopy (branches and foliage of mature trees meeting overhead). The understory usually consists of smaller herbaceous and shrub species such as ferns, various berries, and ivies.
uplands	An area that is not sufficiently wet to exhibit the vegetation, soils, and/or hydrologic characteristics associated with wetlands.

Term	Meaning
vegetative community	A unique and defined area of vegetation within an ecosystem that is composed of specific species of plants.
Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA)	The Washington State Department of Ecology has designated 62 WRIsAs for water and aquatic resource management issues. The terms WRIA and watershed are frequently used interchangeably, although a WRIA may include more than one watershed.
watershed	The region of land that drains into a specific body of water, such as a river, lake, sea, or ocean. Rain that falls anywhere within a given body of water's watershed will eventually drain into that body of water.
wetland	Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.
wetland boundary	The point on the ground at which a shift from wetlands to non-wetlands or aquatic habitat occurs. These boundaries often follow topographic contours.
wetland hydrology	The condition where water is present during a portion (between 5 and 12.5 percent) of the annual growing season.
wetted perimeter	The width of a watercourse that is covered with water, either flowing or non-flowing.
wildlife corridor	Linear spaces that connect the various areas of an animal's habitat that may be important for feeding, watering, resting, and/or breeding.