

January 7, 2019

Dear Kent School District 5th grade students,

Have you ever seen a frog, toad, or salamander? All of these animals are amphibians found in local parks and wetlands in Kent. However, amphibian populations are shrinking and Washington's native amphibians need your help!



Amphibians, like all living things, depend on their habitat to meet their needs. Wetlands are one important habitat for amphibians, and unfortunately, Washington's wetlands are disappearing. Since the 1780s, Washington State has lost 31% of its wetland area, from 1.35 million acres to 938,000 acres.

Over 1,900 species of frogs, toads, and salamanders, 30% of the world's amphibians, are at risk of extinction. To save the world's amphibians, we need to quickly learn more about their needs. The future of amphibians isn't just in the hands of scientists and government officials; you can help play an important role in saving these animals.

Woodland Park Zoo wants to know how you plan to protect Washington's native amphibians. This year, you will learn about amphibians, wetland habitats and how using scientific ideas can help protect the environment. You will use your knowledge to develop scientific, feasible, affordable and ethical solutions for how people in your community can help native amphibians thrive in Kent. Your ideas can inspire your community to take action in protecting amphibians and wetland habitats. Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Woodland Park Zoo