

FORT&ERRA

2015 PROGRESS REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS



3	Introduction
4	Agriculture
6	Forests
8	Natural Heritage & Stewardship
10	Parks & Recreation
12	Rural Cities, Towns & Communities
14	Cities & Neighborhoods
16	Waters

INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We only know where to head, by knowing where we've come. Good advice. Timeless in fact. We took it to heart preparing this progress report. It covers our work and also a sense of what has happened in our region — this place — since we launched the Cascade and Olympic Agendas just one decade ago.

There are plenty of facts and figures to provide a measure of our success, as well as the grave challenges of population growth, climate change and expanding regional and economic divides. We asked ourselves, and many in the community, if we are on time doing enough to ensure our region flourishes into the next century.

In this progress report we also have tried to capture some of the successes of our many wonderful partners; NGO, government, citizen group and business. Tried, but almost by definition, incompletely so. Just too many at work in this place. We are fortunate indeed to live in a region where so many are dedicated to our future. You also will read stories and examples about this place that provide a richer, fuller description than numbers do to illustrate the work we all have done and a sense of all that is left to be done.

We will work hard to periodically update this progress report so that everyone can know how this region is faring and how Forterra is doing. We all are in this together after all. Over time expect to see the Next Steps goals for each of the following landscapes be further honed with measures and deliverables. Also, the descriptions of what we have accomplished together will grow as this region heads more and more in the direction we want it to go. We expect this first progress report to be a baseline for an ever improving region, this place.

This progress report, as helpful as we hope it is, does not stand alone. It is part of our bigger effort, what we call the Next Wave of our Cascade and Olympic Agendas work. We reckoned with the information in this report as we look ahead to our next decade. It is joined equally by our Dinner Table report about the concerns and dreams of thousands of our neighbors across the region, our analysis of trends and directions impacting this place and what we learned from our own experience over these years.

Deep consideration and spirited debate informed by all these sources have convinced us to double down on our work to help sustain this place. Forterra is steadfastly committed to the Agendas and our ongoing 10 year conservation and community endeavors. We remain focused on our most cherished of resources—the land. On the land that we live, work and play whether urban core, rural town square or remote wilderness. We recommit ourselves, but with three new, stronger approaches to our work that keeps pace with today's world: Cities; Corridors; and Voice of the Region. They each are described on this website. Take a look at them and tell us what you think. Our goals and strategies will continue to evolve and be refined over the years—in the dramatically uncertain world in which we live, staying current and probing 'what if' is crucial.

Together as partners, we can make this place special for generations to come.



Gene Duvernoy, President

AGRICULTURE

Both farms and the business of farming are permanent elements of our landscape and way of life. Farmers markets continue to thrive and farming provides sustainable careers so that family farms remain vital and new farmers can join the ranks.

Agricultural lands provide many benefits to our community: from local foods and family-wage jobs, to wildlife habitat, flood risk reduction, and open space accessible to the public. Often, agricultural lands are at the greatest risk of conversion to non-open space uses, and will bear the brunt of impacts associated with climate change, particularly reduced availability of water resources and shifting weather patterns. Forterra and partners across the region are working collaboratively to not only conserve farmlands, but also invest in agricultural infrastructure so farm businesses can be successful as our region develops.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Forterra has successfully conserved several working farms across the four county Cascade Agenda region, totaling 1,378 acres. The 153-acre Matlock Farm in Pierce County's Puyallup Valley is a recent success. This project not only protected the property from incompatible development, but also balanced farmland conservation with salmon habitat restoration, while allowing for the property to be transferred to the next generation of farmers.

One of Forterra's key partners in farmland conservation – PCC Farmland Trust – has conserved over 700 acres of farmland throughout the Central and South Puget Sound region over the past decade, particularly in the Snoqualmie and Puyallup river valleys.

Forterra has also developed and implemented county-wide transfer of development right (TDR) programs in Kittitas, Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties. In addition, Forterra developed three state-level legislative

proposals that led to the development of regional TDR marketplace legislation, as well as a TDR-based tax increment financing program known as the Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program, or LCLIP. Both programs prioritize designated agricultural lands as sending areas for TDR credits. Bellevue identified regional farmland and forests as sending sites for their TDR eligible redevelopment project.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Farmland is in demand in the South Sound, so much so that farmers are often unable to find land that is both suitable and affordable to buy. There is also a new wave of farmers – both young farmers looking to start their own businesses as well as folks looking to develop a second career – that are buying farmland but do not have the institutional knowledge that comes with being part of a multi-generational family farm. The business of farming – particularly on the west slope of the Cascades – has changed as there are far fewer commercial farms (e.g. those that distribute their goods regionally), as the vast

HOW WE GET THERE

- Conserve 86% of our remaining unprotected farm and ranch land.
- Promote the agriculture economy to preserve farmers' and ranchers' ability to make a living off the land.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of water for agricultural uses.



Stillaguamish Farm and Cascade Mountains in the background.

AGRICULTURE CONTINUED

majority of farmers sell their products either directly to a consumer or through a farmers market.

The rate of farmland conversion has been relatively low over the past decade compared to the previous one, primarily attributable to the downturn in the economy and slow housing growth. There are, however, an increasing number of farms as average farm size decreases. (See figure A.)

WHAT'S NEXT

With a growing economy and low inventory in the housing market, we expect conversion of agricultural lands to non-farm uses to pick up again over the next several years.

Economic challenges will likely continue to grow. For success, retaining agricultural infrastructure, such as availability of farm equipment, markets, and seeds, is crucial.

Climate change will be a significant factor shaping agriculture in the years ahead. The availability of water – particularly in summer months – as well as increasing temperatures are expected. This will likely reduce the viability of some crops in our region.

Funding constraints remain a significant barrier to achieving the scale of conservation envisioned in the Agendas. New tools providing access to new money are needed. Past and current concepts that would help achieve our goals include: Value Capture Financing and LCLIP.

CONCLUSIONS

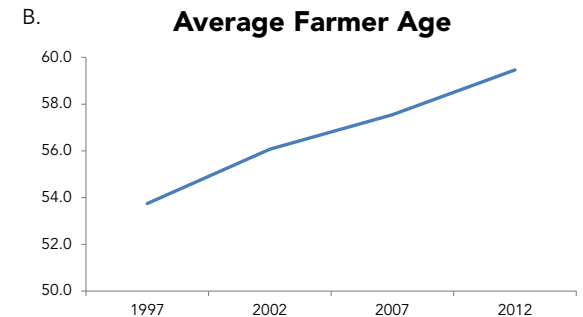
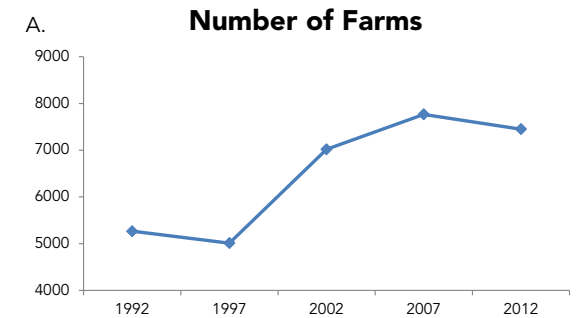
We continue to lose agricultural land to development, and more is threatened by the return of rising real estate values combined with zoning that allows conversion of farmland.

We must invest now in agricultural land conservation at the local, regional, and state level to protect the dwindling agricultural land base. We can leverage those investments by encouraging the use of the burgeoning TDR markets in our urban centers, resulting in a decrease in the cost of farmland that makes it more affordable to those interested in growing their farm businesses or starting a new one.

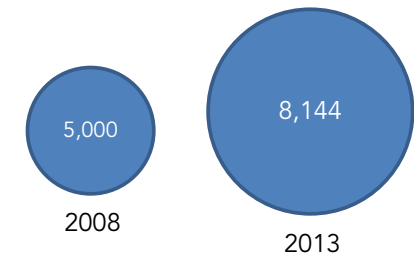
In order to minimize conversion, we must also invest in the infrastructure that supports agricultural businesses, and help connect the next generation of farmers to affordable farmland.



Matlock Farm, Pierce County, 2015.



C. Farmers Markets in Washington State



A. While farm acreage has remained relatively stable, the number of farms in the region has increased since 1992. This trend highlights the shift from large, commercial operations to small farms, leading to more farms on smaller pieces of land. B. Our farmers are aging. It is imperative we support the next generation of farmers to maintain our regional farm land. C. In Washington State, the number of farmers markets increased from 5,000 in 2008 to 8,144 farmers markets in 2013 (USDA's National Farmers Market Directory).

FORESTS

Our wild and working forests form a broad ribbon along the slopes of our mountains, serving as a source of clean rivers and abundant wildlife while sustaining many livelihoods and providing a destination for our recreational endeavors.

Forest lands provide many benefits to our community: from local wood products and family-wage jobs, to fish and wildlife habitat, watersheds, flood risk reduction, and stunning scenery and open space accessible to the public. Ownership of forest lands is shifting and these lands are at risk of conversion to non-forest uses. Our forests will also shift in area and character with climate change, particularly in patterns and amounts of snow and rain. Forterra and partners across the region are working collaboratively to not only conserve wild and working forest lands, but also invest in timber and recreation infrastructure so that forest-related businesses can be successful as our region grows.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Forterra partnered with federal, state and local agencies to conserve wild and working forest lands across the four-county Cascade Agenda region. Our successes, both large and small, range from groves of pristine old-growth forests, to a 90,000-acre working forest in the Snoqualmie Valley, and establishing the 50,000-acre Teanaway Community Forest in Kittitas County. We have also protected important connectivity habitat near the new wildlife crossing structures along I-90 east of Snoqualmie Pass. Using Forest Legacy, Land & Water Conservation Fund and other tools, the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and Columbia Land Trust conserved large tracts of forest land in the Cascades.

Forterra also developed and implemented transfer of development rights programs in Kittitas, Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties to prevent conversion.

Within the Great Northern Corridor along Highway 2, we have focused on challenges and opportunities in the Upper Skykomish

Valley. Working with the local communities and counties we developed a vision for economic revitalization based on twin goals of recreation enhancements and natural resource conservation.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Changing ownership is focusing large investors in more profitable forest land closer to mills and export docks in western Washington. This leaves fewer economic forestry opportunities for slower growing forests at higher elevations and east of the Cascades. Global markets drive prices while limited access to logs constrains opportunities for local mills.

Climate change is happening, which will result in decreased snowpack in the Cascades as well as increased temperatures, resulting in changing forest character and an increased frequency of fire. This will also affect the wildlife and fish species that depend on these forests and their streams. It will also affect availability of water for both urban and agricultural uses.

HOW WE GET THERE

- Conserve 94% of our working forest land base.
- Balance economic uses with recreation and ecological preservation.
- Ensure the regional forest products industry remains both environmentally sustainable and economically viable.



Big Creek, Kittitas County.

FORESTS CONTINUED



The economic upturn is re-igniting interest in converting forest lands to rural subdivisions and recreational homes, especially in lower elevation forests.

Recreation has increased dramatically in our public and private forest lands near major metropolitan areas. However, public land managers have reduced budgets to deal with increased public use.

WHAT'S NEXT

We will use transfer of development rights to maintain working forests in lower valleys, and selected public acquisitions for habitat and recreation values.

With climate change accelerating, we will need to address lasting effects by maintaining refugia and connectivity corridors for fish and wildlife and create economically viable working forests within this new paradigm.

Changing forest land ownership will require development of community forests and other tools to retain working forests in certain areas. We need to develop new value-added products to sustain local mills.

Increased recreation use is an opportunity to revitalize rural communities. We need to improve infrastructure to accommodate this demand while protecting sensitive habitat and wild lands. Maintaining the traditional

character and livability of these towns are challenges, as development occurs and economic drivers change from natural resource management to tourism.

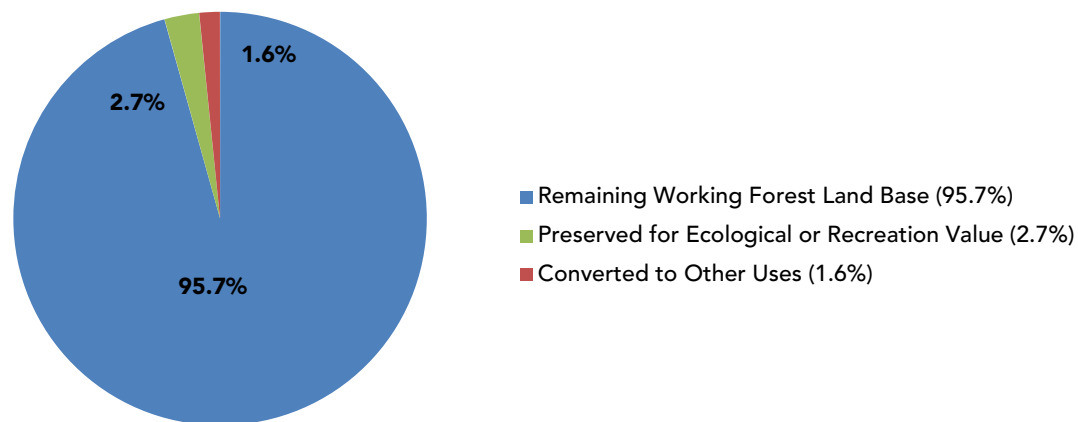
CONCLUSIONS

Forest ownership, character and management are changing with the climate, global markets and public use. Thus we must continue to focus on conserving public and private working forests and protecting our remaining wild lands and critical habitat. We must secure our working forest land base, and accordingly strengthen our timber industry infrastructure and develop new products and markets. The goals in the 2005 Cascade Agenda remain achievable, but immediate action is essential.



Working forests in Pierce County.

Regional Working Forest Land Base Change



We maintained nearly all of our working forests in the region. The economic slowdown reduced pressure for development in forest lands and a small amount of forest land was dedicated to protect critical habitat and sensitive recreation values. With our goal of 94% conserved, we have little room for error. Small forest landowners are most vulnerable to the pressures of conversion, and we must ramp up our efforts in this segment of the industry.

NATURAL HERITAGE & STEWARDSHIP

Our natural heritage and iconic species thrive, so that we remain deeply connected to the natural world that sustains and inspires us. Our region's diverse landscapes are restored through sustained stewardship of public lands and partnerships with private landowners.

If we maintain and improve the health and ecological function of terrestrial, marine and aquatic habitat on public and private conservation and working lands, while restoring and stewarding the highest-priority lands within urban and rural communities, we can secure the long-term viability of our native species and natural communities. To this end, we must impart in all of our communities the sense of being a part of nature, rather than detached from it, in order to increase public valuation, support and engagement with habitat conservation, restoration and stewardship.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Forterra and partners have made great strides in conserving and restoring our region's natural heritage. We have increased public understanding and support for conservation through on the ground restoration work parties, environmental education projects, and outreach to landowners, community groups and elected officials.

Cedar River Stewardship in Action, a partnership which includes Seattle Public Utilities and King County Noxious Weed Control Program, is an example of a landscape scale, riparian restoration program that engages the community in the stewardship of their riverfront properties. In four years, we've engaged 380 private landowners along 16 river miles, successfully reduced the highly invasive knotweed footprint by 85%, and installed over 50,000 native plants.

Forterra's Green City Partnerships program has expanded to six Puget Sound Cities

and includes Seattle, Kirkland, Tacoma, Redmond, Kent, and Everett. This regional model of community-based stewardship collectively seeks to restore 7,460 acres of forested and natural area parks and open space. So far the partnerships are restoring 1,750 acres and have logged over 900,000 volunteer hours.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Habitat is distributed across thousands of landowners, posing a challenge to managing healthy, high-functioning habitat in the region. For example, there has been decreased riparian forest cover in the Cedar River/Lake Washington basin since the 1990's, which puts pressure on all natural processes and increases flood hazards, jeopardizing public safety.

The proliferation of invasive species in urban and rural areas and their impact on native habitat and species is an enduring problem.

HOW WE GET THERE

- Maintain or improve the health and ecological function of terrestrial, marine and aquatic habitat on both public and private lands.
- Restore and steward the highest-priority lands within urban and rural communities needed to secure the long-term viability of our native species and natural communities.
- Restore and steward wildlife habitat and natural ecological processes on the critical portions of our working lands, and integrate these considerations into ongoing management.
- Instill the sense of being a part of nature in our communities, rather than apart from it, in order to increase public valuation, support and engagement with habitat conservation, restoration and stewardship.

NATURAL HERITAGE & STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED

WHAT'S NEXT

Landscape-scale, public-private collaborative efforts are showing the best results for restoration success.

Limited funding and resources necessitate the need for new, innovative ways to increase ecological stewardship on public and private lands.

A greater connection can be made between habitat conservation and restoration and rural recreation and economic development in corridors such as Highway 2 and the Yakima Canyon Scenic Byway. We need to devise new ways to bring nature back into our cities by recreating habitat for appropriate native plant communities, with an emphasis on increasing the extent and health of our urban forests and tree canopy cover.

CONCLUSIONS

We have protected many important lands with irreplaceable ecological values, and have achieved hard-won progress where we have invested in restoring healthy, functional habitat. However, habitat for native species is fragmented across the landscape and pest species continue to spread into and take over natural areas. Our growing population is putting even greater pressure on habitat to meet our built environment and recreation needs.

Climate change threatens major disruptions to our native ecosystems, shifting home ranges, inundating coastal habitat, igniting massive forest fires, acidifying our marine waters, and exacerbating invasive species issues. While the cost of addressing these issues is rapidly increasing, funding has remained largely unchanged.

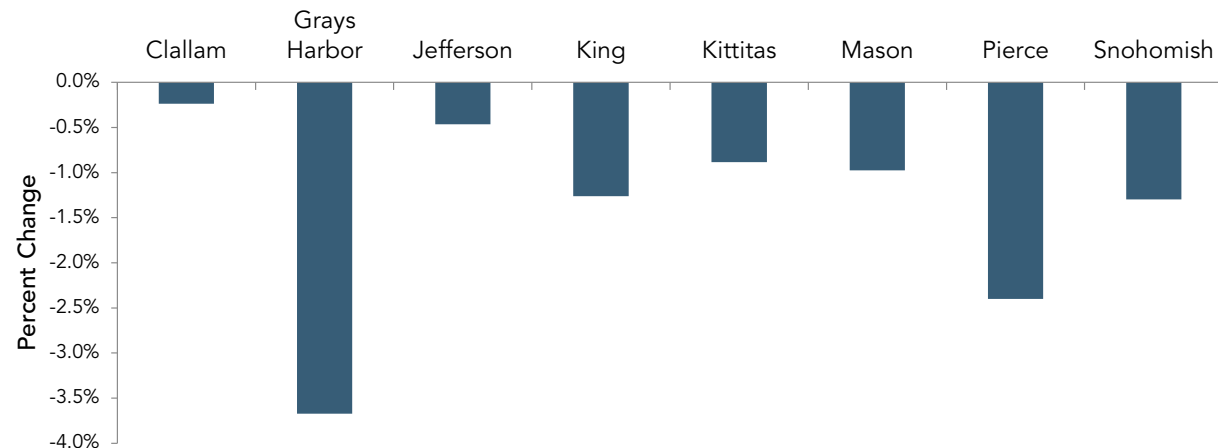
The challenge is considerable, but we have learned how to engage communities, marshal resources, and coordinate partnership efforts that can affect significant changes at the regional and local level.



Redmond area students battle blackberry roots with the Green Redmond Partnership at Farrel-McWhirter Park.

Forest Cover Loss, 2000-2011

on our natural heritage lands and in our communities



This graph shows the decreased forest coverage, excluding working forest lands, which are important for the environmental health and livability in our counties.

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and recreation lands weave into the fabric of every neighborhood in the region and connect our communities to one another by trail systems.

Whether you are preparing your ascent to the top of Mt. Rainier or exploring the forested trails through your neighborhood greenbelt, parks and access to outdoor recreation are essential to our quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. There is also a growing awareness of the physical and mental wellness benefits to spending time in nature. Much has been accomplished in the last 10 years, but our work is not yet done. As cities and towns grow, so will the need and demand for parks and a variety of recreation opportunities.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Over the past 10 years Forterra, partner organizations, and government agencies have successfully advanced the parks and recreation goals of the Agendas. Some highlights include two miles of South Puget Sound shoreline at Devil's Head on the Key Peninsula and Jacobs Point on Anderson Island. These destination parks will allow the public to access the shoreline from both land and water trails, while simultaneously protecting forest and fish and wildlife habitat. The 800 acre expansion to Mt. Rainier National Park and the future Wellington Hills regional park near Woodinville provide regional forest land destinations.

There were also several important urban park additions, such as the 98 acres in Japanese Gulch purchased by the City of Mukilteo with help from the Japanese Gulch Group, and an addition to the Duwamish Hill Preserve in Tukwila. In both cases these acquisitions were critical to meeting multiple goals for establishing trail connections, education, conserving and restoring habitat, and preserving cultural elements to the land.

Trails have always been important. Two notable examples with our partner King County, a national leader in the field: in our early years, the acquisition and conversion of 11 miles of railroad right-away from Redmond to Issaquah, which is now the well-loved East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail; later, the acquisition of the west side of Lake Washington 50 mile Burlington Northern Railroad right-away.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Continued population growth and rising land costs, particularly in our urban areas represents a challenge for the future. With an increasing demand for land comes higher costs to acquire new parks and heightened competition over space within a fixed land base. A core issue is now how to achieve our goals while also meeting related social needs like redevelopment and affordable housing.

HOW WE GET THERE

- Provide an adequate amount of city and town parks located within half a mile of all residents (10 acres per 1000 residents in urban areas), and strive for a diversity of recreation and educational activities to match the needs of the local community.
- Maintain our current access level to Destination Parks by securing additional lands and expanding the availability of activities to meet the needs of our growing and changing population.
- Provide waterfront parks and access points along our river, lake and saltwater shorelines to afford diverse urban and rural recreation opportunities that equitably meet the needs of all communities.
- Build upon existing trail networks to connect popular destinations at the neighborhood, city or town and regional scales and provide a range of trail uses that reflects community and regional needs.

PARKS & RECREATION CONTINUED

WHAT'S NEXT

Significant efforts to acquire parklands are needed to meet our regional goals. In urban areas, we need increased funding to support and maintain our existing parks system and add more to ensure there is an equitable distribution within walking distance of every resident. Resources should focus on bringing parks to underserved communities who have on average fewer opportunities to access wild lands.

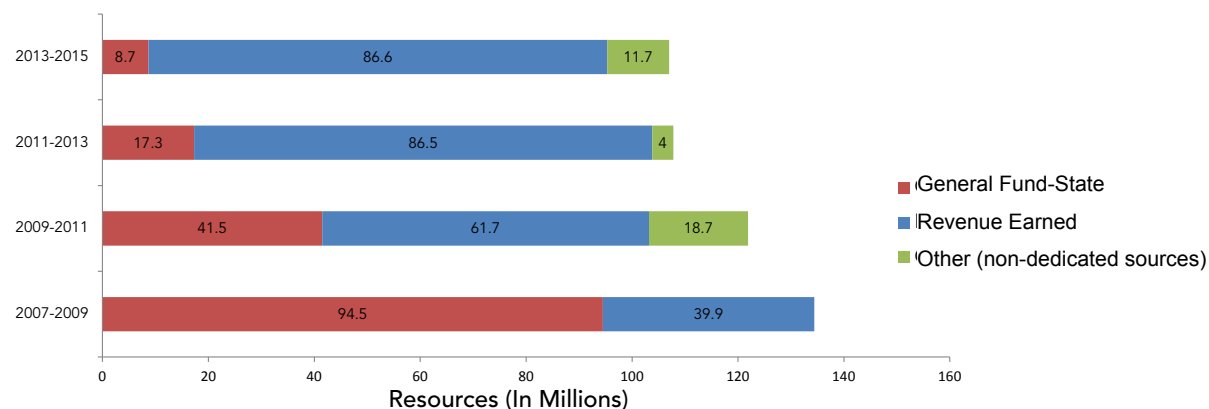
In order to meet the growing demand for access to parks, shorelines, and recreation opportunities both in rural and urban communities, we need to continue to build more partnerships and take an integrated approach, blending multiple funding sources to meet multiple habitat conservation and recreational needs.

CONCLUSIONS

In order to meet the growing demand for access to parks, shorelines, and recreation opportunities both in rural and urban communities, we need to continue to build more partnerships and take an integrated approach, blending multiple funding sources to meet multiple habitat conservation and recreational needs.

Source: Washington State Parks

Reduction in Available Resources for State Parks



State Parks' significant financing challenge began during the 2009-11 Biennium. A change in State policy resulted in a majority of the agency's financing being shifted away from the relative certainty of General Fund to a greater reliance on earned revenue. This rapid change and resulting decrease in funding caused deep reductions in staffing, programs and overall park operations.



Japanese Gulch ribbon cutting for 98 acres of urban park. Mukilteo, Snohomish County.



Devil's Head, Pierce County.

RURAL CITIES, TOWNS & COMMUNITIES

Our rural cities, towns and communities maintain intrinsic quality of life features while utilizing new approaches to development that are guided by the principles of conservation that recognize and respect the economic interests of landowners.

In the face of regional population growth, our rural communities need more attention than ever. As they transition from resource-based economies, our rural communities are finding ways to create livable-wage jobs and provide a high quality of life while still managing for the continuing impacts of sprawl.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Forterra has engaged rural communities across the region in projects and planning efforts focused on recreation, livability, health and economic development. The Makah Tribe sought Forterra's support to increase its people's health by making it easier and safer to walk and bike in the village of Neah Bay.

To move tribal members to safer ground above the Tsunami Inundation Zone, the Quinault Indian Nation plans to develop the Taholah "Upper Village" as a mixed use, walkable community providing residents with easy access to community facilities.

The City of Aberdeen is redeveloping its historic downtown for which Forterra facilitated community listening sessions to engage residents in the process. Nearby, Ocean Shores became the first community on the Olympic Peninsula to adopt a Complete Streets ordinance, which ensures that future roads and street improvements work for all users.

Forterra has also sponsored the Great Northern Corridor program, which is helping Skykomish and Index develop recreation

based economic growth while protecting the natural resources that attract visitors and are vital to the watershed.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Although the trends for urban sprawl are much reduced since the writing of the Cascade Agenda, it continues to be a significant development pattern – often disproportionately affecting lands adjacent to urban growth boundaries.

Water is increasingly a challenge and concern facing development in rural communities, notably in Central Washington. And rural communities are also challenged by the limited amount of funding available for rural infrastructure.

WHAT'S NEXT

Having made strides in the last 10 years toward shifting the development trends back into our urban cities, we need to redouble our efforts to create vibrant rural cities, towns, and communities.

HOW WE GET THERE

- Strengthen economies by developing a locally-relevant mix of traditional and new business opportunities that create more living wage jobs.
- Provide creative, low-impact alternatives to rural development patterns so that choosing to live in rural areas complements, rather than compromises, our region's character.
- Make communities healthy, livable and affordable for all residents.



Downtown Snohomish.

RURAL CITIES, TOWNS & COMMUNITIES CONTINUED

We can strengthen economies by developing a local, relevant mix of traditional and new business opportunities that create more living wage jobs. Recreation and tourism are growing opportunities in many areas — but we must also develop new jobs by investing in the resources that attract new businesses such as clean industry incubators, technology support, and sustainable energy.

We can provide low-impact alternatives to rural development patterns so that choosing to live in rural areas complements our region's character. Low-impact alternatives include: minimizing impervious surfaces, promoting green building standards, and generating conservation in rural areas.

Support resource-based economies through improved transportation and other infrastructure along with effective marketing – local labels for wood, wine and produce. We have an opportunity to revitalize rural communities utilizing new technologies such as Cross Laminated Timber, recreation-based economic development where appropriate and main street redevelopment planning for struggling small towns.

Our strategy is to make greater use of the “Corridors” model, which links conservation with recreation and rural economic development. We have a solid start with the Great Northern Corridor and are developing plans for the Carbon/Puyallup corridor and the upper Yakima basin.

Funding constraints remain a significant

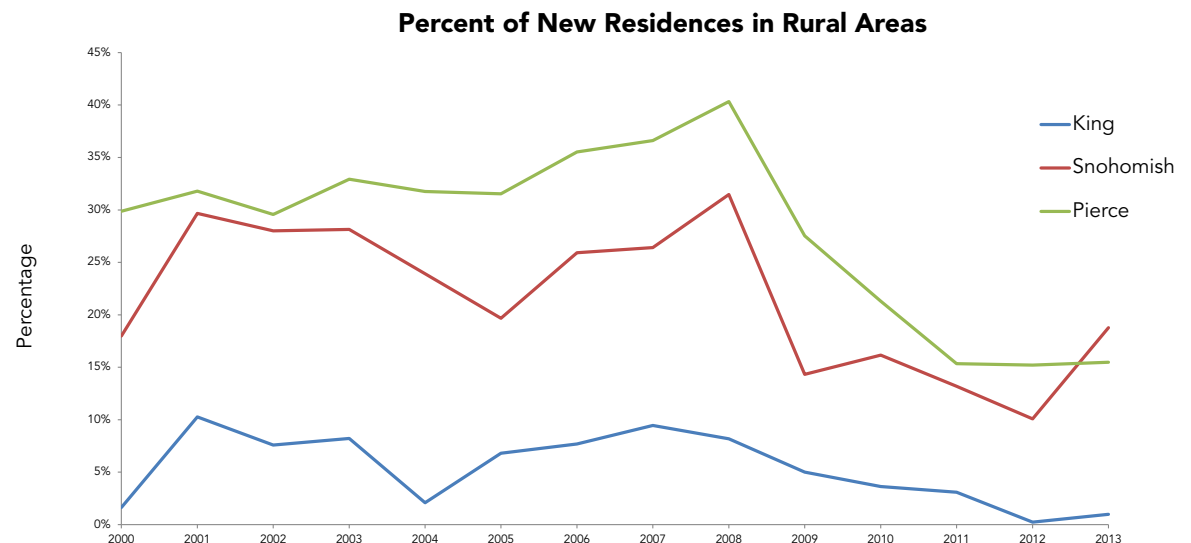
barrier to achieving the scale of conservation envisioned in the Agendas. Additional tools providing access to new money are needed.

CONCLUSIONS

The positive effects of our current economic recovery have disproportionately benefited our major cities. We need to amplify our efforts to create vibrant rural cities, towns and communities. We can build on the recreation and natural resource economic sectors of these communities. Through approaches like mass timber construction and other new technologies, recreation-based economic development, and main street planning, our rural communities can retain and attract an innovative and energetic population.



Working farms and forests.



Since 2008, the proportion of new homes being built in rural areas has been steadily decreasing. This is likely due to a combination of the effectiveness of regional Growth Management Act planning and shifting market forces. However, sprawl remains a significant development pattern in our region, and the recent uptick in new rural homes in all three counties suggests it remains a powerful threat particularly as the economy thrives.

CITIES & NEIGHBORHOODS

Our urban community is a mix of vibrant cities and neighborhoods that provide affordable, attractive and safe places to live, work and raise families, with the majority of new homes in walkable neighborhoods near transit connections, jobs and shopping.

Forterra launched its urban community work in 2005 as part of the Cascade and Olympic Agendas. Over the past ten years we worked on a wide variety of projects, celebrated big successes and learned transformative lessons. Forterra's cities and neighborhoods work spans urban planning and transfer development rights to food access and community engagement to ecosystem services markets. This work touched communities in over 50 cities and towns throughout our region.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Over the past 10 years Forterra, partner organizations, and government agencies have made great strides toward managing regional growth and improving our quality of life.

Forterra developed state-level Transfer of Development Rights legislation, including the Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program, which supports vibrant city neighborhoods and rural conservation.

Issaquah adopted a plan to guide the long-term evolution of the city's commercial core into a more sustainable urban area that will meet our community's needs for environmental protection, jobs, housing and rapid transit. Forterra worked with the community to develop a National award-winning Complete Streets policy for the City of Ocean Shores. Partnering with Global to Local, we have worked with the Cities of Tukwila and SeaTac to create award-winning community liaison programs that bring historically underrepresented communities into the city planning process.

Forterra worked with the City of Federal Way and Urban Food Link to improve access to healthy food by developing policies and regulations to support urban agriculture uses.

Puget Sound Regional Council led Growing Transit Communities, a planning effort to create solutions that will encourage high-quality, equitable development around rapid transit.

As a member of the Regional Equity Network, Forterra helped host the first ever Puget Sound Equity Summit.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Economic and ecological forces are creating significant changes. The rate of sprawl as a development pattern is diminishing—partly a result of regional planning and partly due to independent social and economic forces. Notably, more people are moving into urban core neighborhoods.

A consequence of the influx of new residents to our cities is the displacement of poor communities as prices increase, pushing

HOW WE GET THERE

- Manage growth responsibly and level the playing field between urban infill and rural development, while transferring development rights from farm, forest and natural land.
- Increase new housing supply, choices and affordability; develop walkable neighborhoods near transit; construct well-designed, efficient buildings.
- Make strategic public investments, such as transit, sidewalks, roads, bridges, sewer and water systems; support community assets, such as libraries, museums, theaters and parks.
- Ensure the inclusion of social equity throughout development of programs, policies and projects, including engaging historically underrepresented communities.

CITIES & NEIGHBORHOODS CONTINUED

long-time residents from culturally diverse neighborhoods in cities like Seattle and contributing to a “suburbanization of poverty” in the region. Nowhere is this more evident than in South King County, where affordable housing has drawn immigrants and refugees from across the globe, as well as low-income families forced from Seattle by rising housing costs.

Our inadequate infrastructure is failing at a time we need it to serve a growing population, which adds to existing challenges.

Climate change will impact our future and refugees from other parts of the country and the world may change the number and diversity of people living in our region.

WHAT’S NEXT

Today we see our region changing rapidly: population growth, increasing diversity, gentrification and growing economic and social inequity. Our challenge is to make our cities places that will support vibrant communities over the long term. We need improved community involvement, projects, and policies to ensure all our residents enjoy a high quality of life in the future.

Much more work remains ahead of us if we are to be sustainable. We need a comprehensive approach that includes tools to replace old infrastructure and look to natural infrastructure as part of the solution. We will need expansive solutions to inadequate transit services. Related

to that, we need to prioritize Green and Equitable Transit Oriented Development. We need new public and private means for funding the development and infrastructure needed to house our growing economy and population.

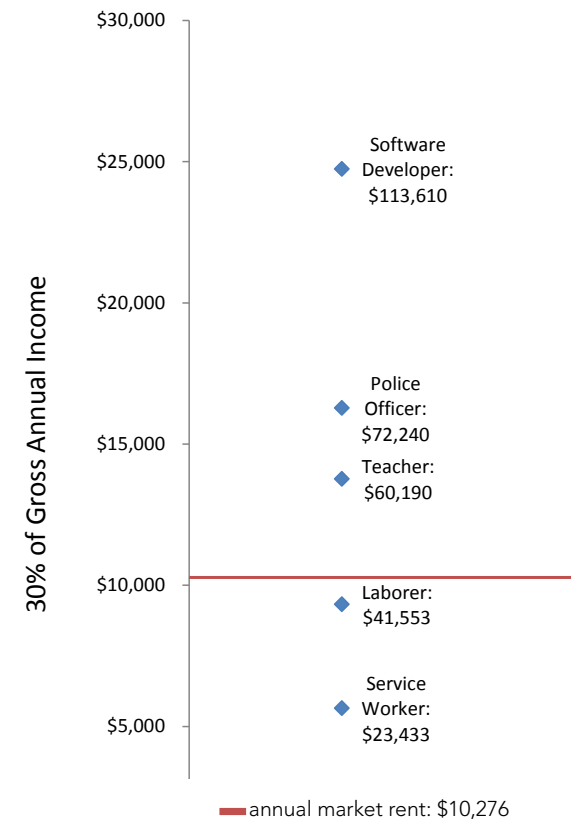
CONCLUSIONS

A sustainable region is not possible without healthy, vibrant, growing cities. Working with residents and partners, we must address the increasing social, economic and environmental challenges of that growth and the role urban real estate plays. As a region we must work on many fronts, using education, engagement and demonstration projects that inspire and lead the market. However, all of this will not be possible without strong political will, a commitment to implementation and a comprehensive approach to cities including the built, natural and social infrastructure.



Community members participate in City of Tukwila planning.

Who Can Afford Rent in the Puget Sound Region?



As the region’s population grows, rents continue to increase, pushing some residents out of our major centers and further from jobs and services. This graph shows the fair market rent (averaged across King, Pierce and Snohomish counties) and how well various job sectors are able to afford that rent. Each job sector is placed on the graph according to 30% of their gross annual income—and net annual incomes are noted. (Rents from Low Income Housing Alliance and Salaries from Washington State Bureau of Labor and Statistics.)

WATERS

Our freshwater and marine ecosystems are protected, healthy and resilient.

The waters of the Pacific Northwest underpin the character and quality of life that this region is famous for, producing majestic temperate rainforests, bountiful salmon runs, timber, crops, shellfish and a multitude of recreational opportunities. By stewarding and restoring our riparian systems, estuaries and Puget Sound shorelines, we can minimize the impact of our land uses and the built environment on water quality, a critical element of providing a healthy system for people, industry and wildlife.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

A broad-based effort has been made to ensure the quality and productivity of our fresh and marine waters. With tribes, government agencies and others, we have conserved key marine shorelines, including Maury Island, Port Gamble Bay, and Willapa Bay. The Nature Conservancy's protection of tidelands and associated riparian lands in Dabob Bay is one of many examples of progress. Restoration at the Nisqually estuary by US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Nisqually Tribe and others have re-established critical saltwater marsh habitat.

Upstream, we saw successful efforts to conserve and restore habitat along salmon streams – such as the Stillaguamish River and South Prairie Creek. Floodplains by Design is an ambitious public-private partnership working to reduce flood risks and restore habitat along Washington's major rivers.

Many partners made great progress establishing green infrastructure. A bright example is restoration work done by Duwamish Alive! and Restore the Duwamish

Shoreline Challenge — cleanup efforts bringing salmon and other fish stocks back to our ecosystems.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Climate change is predicted to have multiple impacts on our water systems. For example, shifting precipitation patterns will diminish our summer water supply, sea level rise will inundate coastal habitats and private properties, and increased ocean acidification is degrading our marine ecosystems.

As our population continues to grow, so does our built environment. Traditional development design and technologies – particularly sprawl – have negative effects on water supply in a number of ways, such as impervious surfaces channeling stormwater and preventing aquifer recharge.

Although salmon are an iconic and essential element of our water system, some stocks continue to decline, significantly affecting human and wild consumption including sustaining endangered orcas.

HOW WE GET THERE

- Protect and restore our fresh water and marine ecosystems.
- Protect river headwaters through conservation of foothill forests.
- Maintain lower watersheds through a full range of farmland, park, riparian and open space conservation approaches.
- Conserve and restore Puget Sound shorelines & estuaries.
- Limit impervious surfaces and retrofit built areas of our watersheds.



Lower Lions Reach, along the lower Cedar River.



WHAT'S NEXT

We must redouble our efforts to protect and restore our watersheds, aquifers and marine waters. We can protect the natural function and hydrological integrity of both shorelines and floodplains by preventing inappropriate development and restoring degraded areas.

Watershed-scale planning, coordination and investment approaches are needed by integrating multiple, overlapping concerns such as forestry, agriculture and habitat conservation and restoration. In urbanized areas, we need to make greater use of on-site stormwater mitigation solutions such as greywater treatment, rainwater harvesting, and roof gardens.

To have healthy streams and productive farms we need to build on gains made in balancing water quality protection and ecological restoration with continued viability of farming activities.

Opportunities exist to create new markets that would fund conservation and restoration, promoting water quality. Water quality trading, critical areas mitigation banking and wetland banking offer expanded options for land owners to earn a return while promoting water-benefiting management activities. Finally, to maintain instream flows, we must conserve water in our municipal, industrial and agricultural uses.

CONCLUSIONS

High quality fresh and marine waters are critical to our region and require increased attention to maintain and restore. Conserving our forests and farms is a key action to maintain the health of our watersheds.

A key indicator of success is the restoration of healthy salmon runs – the basis for commercial, tribal, and sport fisheries as well as aquatic and terrestrial predators.

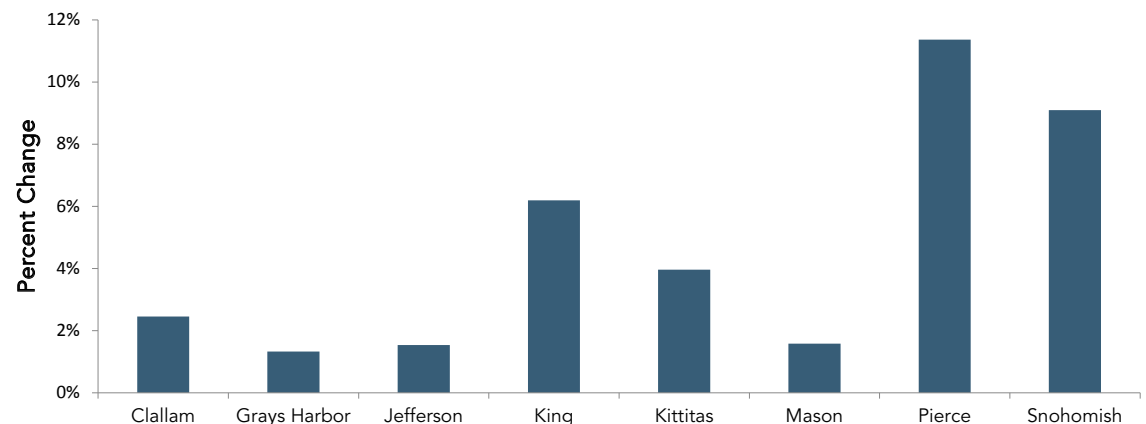
Issues of ocean acidification and sea level rise loom large, and the region must lend its weight to international efforts, given their impacts to our entire marine ecosystem and particularly our vital shellfish industry. We must increase our efforts to implement designs that improve aquifer recharge and use water as efficiently as possible in all regards.



Port Gamble, Kitsap County.

Impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and pavement, prevent stormwater infiltration, increasing runoff into sewer systems and waterways. Too much runoff can dramatically reduce the health of our watersheds. The increases in impervious surface in all eight counties are dramatic and warrant increased focus.

Impervious Surface Change, 2001-2011



CONTACT US

MAIN OFFICE

901 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2200
Seattle, WA 98164
206-292-5907

CENTRAL WASHINGTON OFFICE

409 North Pine Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-1654

SOUTH SOUND OFFICE

1119 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1300
Tacoma, WA 98402
253-274-5673

forterra.org

FORT&RRA

© Forterra 2015

