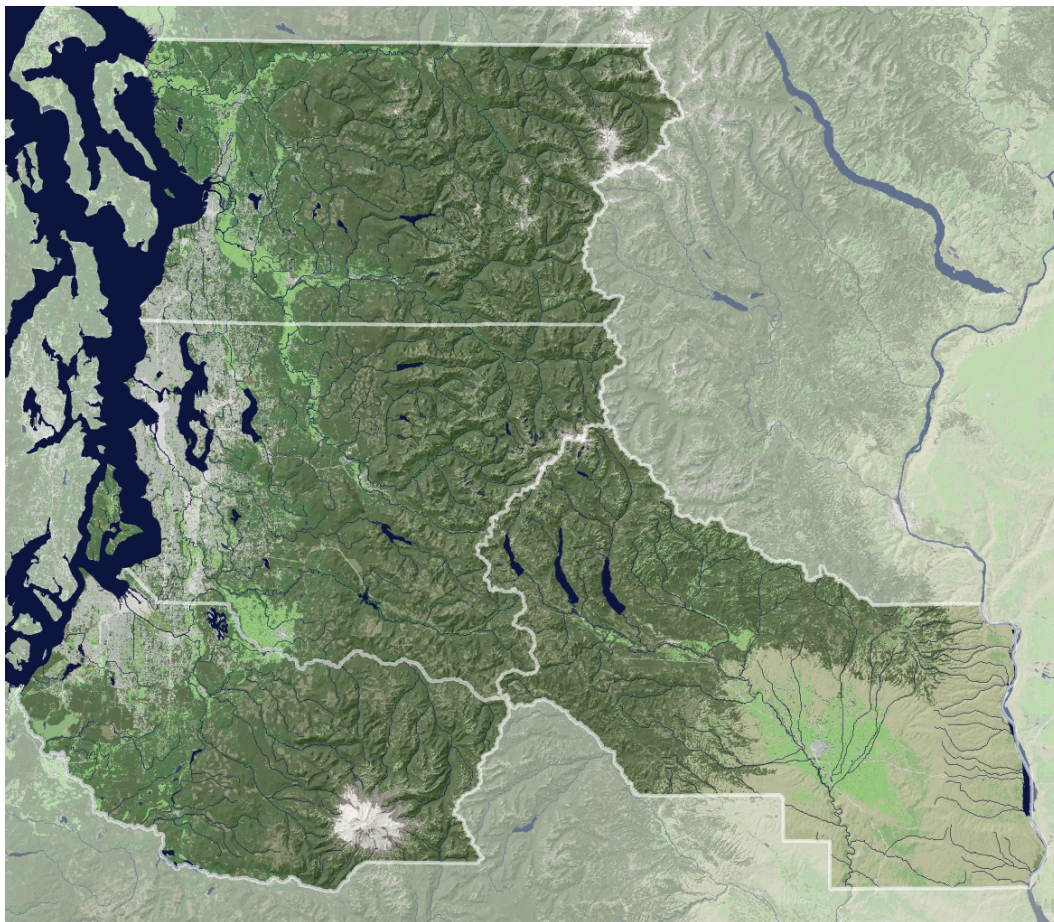


# Progress Report 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022



May 1, 2008



The Cascade Agenda region encompasses King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

The Cascade Agenda fundamentally remains what it was three years ago. It is a recognition that the solution to our region's most pressing challenges – population growth, climate change, the health of Puget Sound – is learning to live within the footprint we have already claimed for ourselves and conserving our natural and working landscapes.

In the 1,078 days since we announced The Cascade Agenda, our region's challenges have come into greater resolution, as you will read in this report. Housing affordability is driving our growth farther and farther into our rural lands. We are losing working forests and farms at an alarming rate. The next 20 years will bring an unprecedented boom in construction as our population soars. How we build and where we build will decide our future – the future of Puget Sound, the future of our landscapes and most importantly, the future quality of life for our children and grandchildren.

In the following pages, you will read about the dedication and accomplishments of many partners, which have allowed The Agenda to become more than simply a vision. From learning how to build and live differently to finding new ways to conserve broad landscapes, The Cascade Agenda is now a set of tangible and attainable solutions to our region's challenges. Together, we have accomplished more than we dared to hope, but not nearly as much as we need.

Clearly, in the years ahead, we must redouble our efforts and we outline the specifics in this report. We must find ways to protect our environment that work with and not against our economy; that enhance and do not impoverish our communities. In short, we must learn to grow with grace.

One hundred years is a long time. There will be ups and downs along the way but working as a community, I know we will succeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Duvernoy".

Gene Duvernoy  
President  
Cascade Land Conservancy





“All you’ve got to do is open your eyes to see the land changing beneath your feet. The water is poisoned. There is too much urban sprawl and too much apathy and disrespect for our Mother Earth. To meet these challenges, we have got to work together. Old enemies need to be friends. Fishermen, farmers, builders and timber companies. We’re all in the same canoe and we have got to learn to paddle together. We all need to base our decisions on the impacts they will have on our children and the generations to come.”

– Billy Frank Jr., Nisqually Indian Tribe,  
Cascade Agenda Leadership Team

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# 100 Years Forward

A VIEW ACROSS OUR REGION

IN MAY 2005, The Cascade Agenda began as a call to action, a call for change. A call to each of us to imagine the future we want for our children and grandchildren. An opportunity to envision the communities, natural environment and economy that will sustain us for the next 100 years.

## CRITICAL MOMENT IN HISTORY

The Cascade Agenda is a recognition that our region is at a critical moment in history. Locally, we expect our population to more than double in the next century, growing to more than 9 million people, about the size of Los Angeles today. Globally, we know that climate change threatens our natural environment, economy and standard of living.

In response to these mounting pressures, The Agenda offers the opportunity to protect our quality of life now and create a better future for those who come after us.

## OUR SHARED VISION

This collective vision for the region is grounded in the belief that a broad coalition can achieve fundamental change. Nearly 100 civic organizations, businesses and government agencies and more than 750 community leaders and passionate citizens from King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish counties stand behind The Cascade

Agenda. Supporters range broadly from farmers, foresters and tribes to housing, arts and culture interests. (A full list of endorsers is available at [www.cascadeagenda.com](http://www.cascadeagenda.com).) Clearly, the ideas behind The Agenda speak powerfully to our community.

Together, these community visionaries are advancing two big goals outlined in The Agenda:

- Conserve nearly 1.3 million acres of working forest, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas.
- Make cities and towns great places to live, work and raise our families.

Accomplishing these bold goals will require leadership from every sector and a voice from every constituency. The Agenda's collaborative "big tent," a key precept from the beginning, continues to offer the best way forward. And the tent is growing. The Cascade Agenda is joining with key regional initiatives like the Puget Sound Partnership and the Puget Sound Regional Council's Prosperity Partnership to achieve a common future.

## CREATING A FUTURE FOR OUR REGION

In 2008, The Cascade Agenda is recognized as a leading example in a national movement to learn how we can live

well as we live sustainably. At the end of the day though, it really is about us and conserving our own region's lands and waters as we create communities that will provide us with a high quality of life.

For all the far-flung travels of a mobile society, most of us spend the vast amount of time close to our neighborhoods, homes and jobs. The Cascade Agenda is a very real demonstration that despite the global challenges we face, there are immediate and decisive actions we can take right here at home. That together we will create a future for our region – this cherished place on the globe.

## TRACKING OUR SUCCESS

The Agenda also contains one big promise – accountability. The framers of The Agenda realize, like any good business or organization, that they must measure what the many friends and partners accomplish toward The Agenda's goals. The promise was to report every three years on progress. This is the first Cascade Agenda Progress Report.





# Guiding Principles

THE CASCADE AGENDA is creating a new movement for land conservation and community building, requiring creative new approaches to our challenges. Success so far has hinged on these basic principles:

**Farsighted:** Looking out 100 years changes the debate. There are no villains or heroes, only a community working toward a common hope for our children.

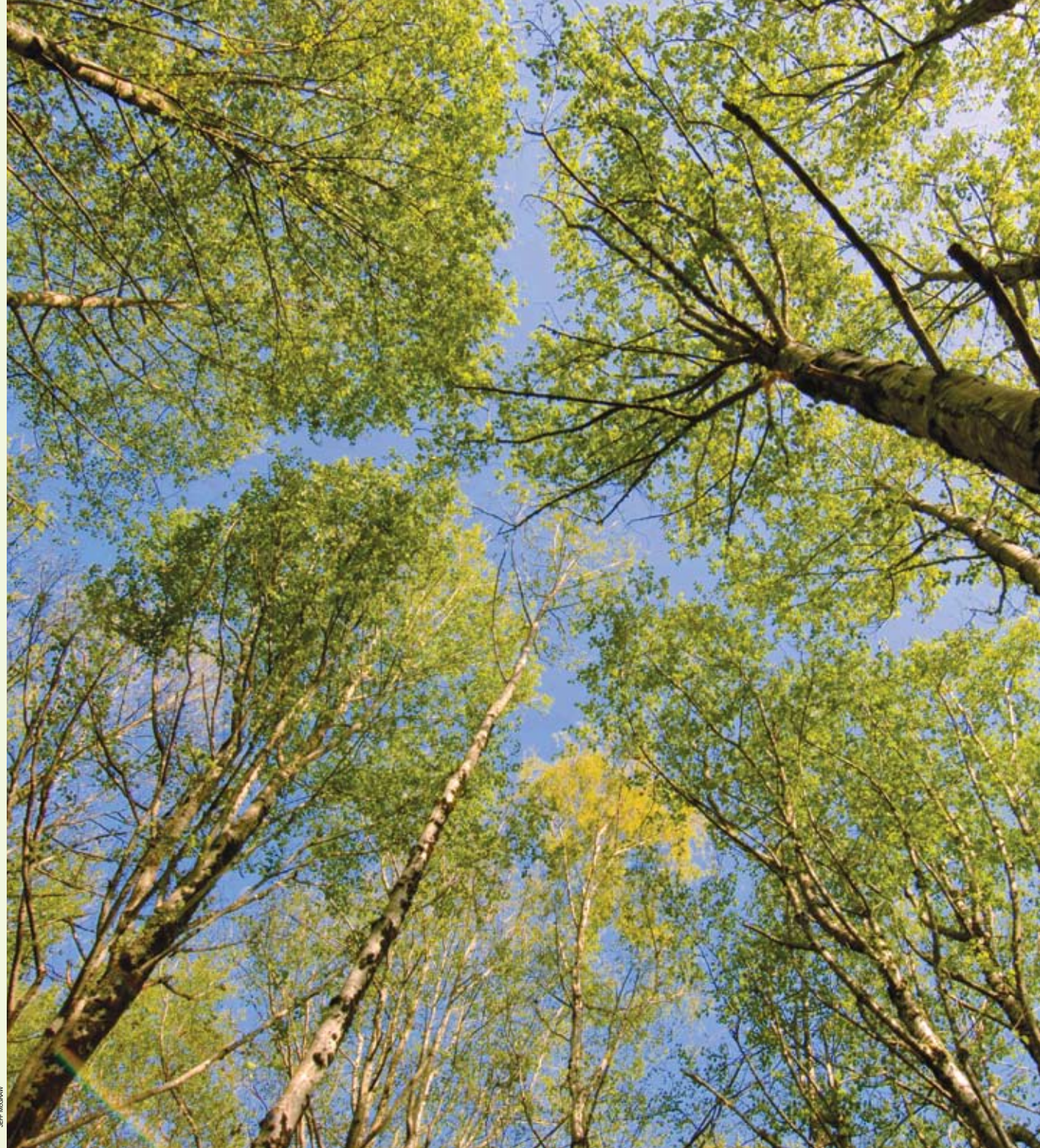
**Urgent:** The region can no longer wait. Action must be taken now, in the next few years, or we run the risk of going down a path taken by other regions of the country where unmanaged sprawl leaves people searching for yet another, better place to live.

**Fair:** Market-based conservation strategies will be permanent and sustainable because they are fair for all stakeholders and build on our existing legal framework.

**Collaborative:** Real, lasting solutions will come only from a collaborative big-tent approach.

**Innovative:** Protecting our land on a scale never seen before in the region will require smart, market-based conservation strategies and close attention to improving the communities where we live. The Cascade Agenda is dedicated to creativity and innovation.

**Balanced:** Success for the region means carefully balancing our economic, community and environmental needs. We can no longer see these as rival concerns.





# More Critical Than Ever

The world and the region have not been static in the three years since The Agenda was rolled out. The changes with each passing year make the work of the many Cascade Agenda partners all the more critical.

“The biggest driver of global warming pollution and fossil fuel dependence in the Puget Sound region is you and me and what comes out of our tailpipes. Cleaner cars and fuels will help us meet the climate challenge, but providing better transportation choices is the third essential leg of the stool. Without it, increases in vehicle miles traveled will swamp the gains we make in vehicle technology. And without comprehensive solutions to global warming, we’ll be treading water for real.”

— Gregg Small  
Executive Director, Climate Solutions

## Consider Our Challenges

### POPULATION GROWTH

Our communities continue to grow. The Puget Sound Regional Council reported last September that the population of the four-county area it covers (King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties) grew by about 166,000 from 2004 to 2007. Looking longer, we know that our region’s population will double in the next 100 years, adding enough people to populate six cities the size of Seattle. Where all those people will live, how they will get to work and how we can pass on to them a great quality of life are huge questions, the same challenges that drove the creation of The Agenda in the first place.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Reports of accelerating climate change and its impact on the environment and our quality of life are becoming a part of our everyday concerns. While responses are now being seriously developed, many questions remain. What value do trees provide as a means for carbon sequestration? What is the fate of our coastlines? Where and how can each of us best live to reduce our

carbon footprint? With leadership from state and local governments, local nonprofits and businesses in the area, Washington State and its cities are coming to the forefront of international efforts to reduce our carbon footprints.

### HEALTH OF PUGET SOUND

There is a new urgency about the health of Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership was formed in 2006 to address the health of our region’s inland sea. According to the Partnership, two million acres of forest at the base of our mountains have been paved and built up in less than one generation and stormwater runoff is the primary cause of pollution in Puget Sound.

It is called the Puget Sound basin for a reason.

The lands around the Sound are part of a huge funnel – what is built, where it is built and how it is built will determine the quality of the water in the Sound. The Agenda’s success in protecting our region’s upland forests is critical to the health of Puget Sound. In turn, the health of the Sound immeasurably impacts the health of our communities.



Glaciers are retreating across the Northwest.

JOHN SCURLOCK



TODD PARKER

## LOSS OF FORESTS AND FARMS

In King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish counties we have lost 18,000 acres of active farmland and 37,000 acres of private working forest land since 2004.

“We’re dismantling the forest, tearing it up, breaking it down into little parcels. It isn’t the forest it used to be,” said Brian Boyle, a former state Commissioner of Public Lands and now convener of the Northwest Environmental Forum at the University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources. We face the real risk of seeing our signature Northwest quality of life slip away in a matrix of sprawling mini-estates and congested traffic.

## Sprawl

Our population is growing. How can we best accommodate those of us who want a rural lifestyle, while still maintaining our farms and forests, natural environment and quality of life?

Large-lot development is creating a new kind of sprawl. The reasons for this development boom are complex and far-reaching.

Real-estate values have risen sharply in the region, spreading even to land far from urban centers. Long-term timber operations are often less attractive financially than the option of harvesting and then developing the land due to changing tax laws, new company ownership structures and market risks and rewards.

One of the most significant trends identified by The Cascade Agenda is the rapid conversion of our rural and working lands to large-lot development, 10-, 20- and 60-acre home sites that are consuming the landscape. Nearly 12 percent of all new housing units from 2003 to 2006 were built outside our cities’ and towns’ designated growth areas. Analysis of expected population growth and land available for development under current laws shows this trend will simply use up all our available land over the next few generations. Sprawling large lots use too much water and too much land, cost too much to serve and accommodate too few people to be sustainable.



CHRISTOPHER WALTER, CLC

These visualizations of the Mid Valley Community along the Puyallup River in Pierce County show existing farmland in 2008 (left) and what might happen (right) without such efforts as the Transfer of Development Rights program enacted by the Pierce County Council.



## Consider Our Choices

THE CASCADE AGENDA identifies nearly 1.3 million acres to conserve for working forests and farms that are vital to our economy; for streams, rivers and estuaries that reach the cobbled shore of Puget Sound; and for the parks, trails and recreation areas where we strengthen our bodies and renew our souls. The Agenda also declares that our cities must be vibrant, providing magnets for the people coming this way. And, with the certainty of dramatic population growth over the coming century, we challenge the region to rethink how we use rural lands.

### LANDSCAPES FOREVER

The Cascade Agenda is advancing a suite of innovative, market-based conservation strategies to meet the scale of our goals. Cascade Land Conservancy and other Cascade Agenda friends and partners have already pioneered many of these creative, incentives-based strategies. Examples of key strategies include:

**Adding Value:** We are bringing bottom-line value to land transactions that also provide significant conservation through strategies such as Conservation Villages. These compact, rural communities provide new housing choices and protect large swaths of nearby forests, farms and natural lands.

**New Financing:** We are developing creative new programs to finance the conservation of working farms and forests using ongoing cash flow from farm crops and timber. Examples include establishing Conservation Development Authorities and allowing nonprofit organizations to acquire working forest lands through Community Forest Bonds.



KRISTI DRANGINIS

**New Markets:** We are creating new conservation markets to provide revenue streams for foresters and farmers while also allowing our region to achieve our shared conservation goals.

Our conservation strategies are founded on good governance, fiscal prudence and respect for individual choices and different approaches. Our community is strong enough, creative enough and generous enough to realize the benefits of this endeavor for our future generations.

“Energy is precious and requires a tradeoff of other resources we value. We all need to be thinking ahead. We need to steward our resources and give future generations the most flexibility we can so they can balance needs that we cannot foresee today – if we conserve our region’s land and water, our kids and grandkids will be better off for it and will be able to bring innovation and creativity to address the challenges of climate change, post-oil, new economies and burgeoning population. I believe we have the know-how and the will to give them that opportunity.”

— Steve Reynolds, President  
Puget Sound Energy – Cascade Agenda Leadership Team



### WELCOMING CITIES

Stopping sprawl by making our cities and towns vibrant and livable is a major environmental priority for this region. As traffic congestion and gas prices increase, people place more value on convenience and options for getting around. With family sizes generally smaller, many members of our community are interested in other options – cottages, condominiums, town homes and small lots. Our region must respond to these changing desires and build a variety of homes to meet the needs of our families in the years ahead.

All of us – developers and environmentalists, governments and neighborhoods – must join the effort to provide our families with quality homes at all price ranges within our existing cities and towns. We must find ways to offer safe, private and quiet refuges to residents at all income levels.

Once more, when given another option for addressing their rising real-estate value, many farmers and foresters say they would choose it and keep their land working.

As a response to this need, The Cascade Agenda is focused on transferring development rights to our existing communities and supporting options that allow our region to continue growing within our cities and towns, while at the same time protecting our working and natural landscapes.

## Consider Our Future

CLEARLY, THE WORLD has changed around us in these three years. The Agenda is a critical path forward in creating a region to serve our society for 100 years. When we consider any of the grave environmental issues facing us – climate change and loss of plant and animal diversity, natural lands, farms and working forests – the best response is to learn to live within our current community footprint and conserve the rest of our landscapes.

Our region needs The Cascade Agenda and its broad vision – land for economy, community and environment – now more than ever.

## Compact, Complete and Connected Communities



Would you want to live here?



Or here? Why?

These two illustrations show the stark difference that commitment, focus and investment can make in our communities. A desolate, abandoned streetscape can be transformed into a lively neighborhood offering a range of housing options, a variety of transportation choices and great places to visit: parks, shops, restaurants, a museum, a movie theater. These amenities and the financial base to support them depend on more people living and working nearby. The difference can be measured by the number of feet on the street; dollars spent with local businesses; the few minutes it takes to get to work, school or the gym; and the variety of entertainment, music and art shows you can visit in any given week. It all sums up into a safe, pleasant, walkable community that offers a higher quality of life.



# Making Progress

The Agenda was created with input from thousands of our region's residents. This shared vision grew from values long championed by many in the region. The Agenda is not a call to action **for** our region, it is a call to action **from** our region.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS of many independent entities are achieving the vision of The Cascade Agenda, including – but certainly not limited to:

- Setting the framework necessary to establish a region-wide Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program. In winter 2007, State Legislation, sponsored by Representative Geoff Simpson, directed the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to develop a TDR marketplace throughout central Puget Sound. Just a few months later Pierce County adopted the Pierce County Purchase/Transfer of Development Rights Program ordinance – one of the most far-reaching programs of its kind in the country. Momentum and commitment to Transfer of Development Rights as a common-sense solution is building statewide.
- Establishing the Puget Sound Partnership charged with restoring the health of Puget Sound.
- Creating the Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2040 – promoting the well-being of people and communities, economic vitality and a healthy environment.

- Increasing the number of public and protected lands between 2004 and 2007, in total amounting to 114,000 acres, an increase of 3.9%.

- Partnering with Cascade Land Conservancy and many others, landowners across the region are working to conserve over 250,000 acres. The projects range from initial explorations to nearly

*The Agenda is not a call  
to action for our region,  
it is a call to action  
from our region.*

completed efforts. In the years ahead these projects have the potential to realize the level of landscape conservation envisioned in The Agenda. This trend can be solidified by governments boldly implementing programs such as Transfer of Development Rights as an element of wise development, entitlements and land-use changes.



Joanna Nelson, CLC Green Seattle Partnership Project Manager, instructs members of the Beth Shalom congregation on the proper way to plant a tree.

CLC PHOTO



- Convening regional leaders by the Urban Land Institute for “Reality Check,” a visioning exercise to build consensus and momentum around shared regional growth and transportation strategies. A broad group of sponsors joined to host this project: Cascade Land Conservancy, Enterprise Community Partners, Futurewise, Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish counties, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, Puget Sound Regional Council and the University of Washington.
- Authorizing the study and development of Conservation Markets by the 2007 Legislature to match the mitigation needs of private developers and public agencies with conservation services that willing farmers and foresters may wish to incorporate into their crop production.
- Building momentum through the success of the 2008 Priorities for a Healthy Washington bringing locally grown food to schools, restoring forests in cities and providing local solutions to climate change.
- Maintaining spectacular destination parks and trails throughout the region, with leadership from on-the-ground groups such as EarthCorps, Student Conservation Association, Washington Trails Association and Washington Water Trails. Particular accomplishments, serving as a model for all, have been achieved in the Cascade Foothills under the consistent hand of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. In 2007 alone, the Greenway created the Rattlesnake Ridge Trail, Issaquah-Highpoint Trail and Snoqualmie Point Park.
- Doubling to \$100 million the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program led by the Washington Wildlife

and Recreation Coalition and a broad stakeholder effort. Farmland conservation has also been added to the program.

- Bringing together the joint skill-sets of the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and People For Puget Sound, the Alliance for Puget Sound is restoring and protecting hundreds of miles of shoreline and working to create 10 new parks and natural areas along Puget Sound over the next three years.
- Forging daring new programs to serve our cities, including Cascade Agenda partnerships with affordable housing groups to solve the sprawl problem by addressing a root cause – lack of affordable housing in our cities.
- Establishing a statewide Biodiversity Conservation Strategy by the Washington Biodiversity Council. Among other things, the Strategy proposes better incentives and markets for landowners that will provide tangible benefits for conservation land and open space.
- Launching The Cascade Agenda Cities Program that creates partnerships with the region’s cities to advance the goals of The Cascade Agenda. To date, Ellensburg, Issaquah, Kirkland, Shoreline and Tacoma have joined the program.
- Coming together, leaders are revitalizing our downtowns across the region. From Tacoma to Bellevue to Burien, there is a new civic commitment to making lively and vibrant communities. Clearly, there is a host of factors for this emerging trend, not least of all is the Growth Management Act.

“Raising a family. Running a business. Stewarding our forests. Farming the land. Those are the tough jobs. The measure of Washington’s success will be whether we have helped our people and our communities flourish. Together we can make a great future for Washington.”

– Gov. Chris Gregoire  
for *The Cascade Agenda* three-year report



Gov. Chris Gregoire signs TDR marketplace legislation at the CLC 2007 Conservation Awards Breakfast.

- Developing a link between two existing wildlife areas and keeping the land open for wildlife to roam and people to hike, bird, fish and hunt through conservation of over 17,500 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in Kittitas County's Skookumchuck Watershed by the Trust for Public Land and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Advancing the Seattle Great City Initiative, a citizen-led effort to advocate for affordable housing, better transportation options, design and environmental standards and investments in public spaces.

*Our region's progress has been undeniable and significant... but not yet sufficient.*

- Growing Green City Partnerships, a series of public-private collaborations between Cascade Land Conservancy and local cities, to develop community-based stewardship programs for forested parklands and community open spaces in Seattle, Tacoma, Kirkland and Redmond. The importance of healthy forested communities is now achieving statewide attention through the leadership of Audubon Washington and the landmark Evergreen Communities legislation, passed in the 2008 legislative session.
- Launching the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative with a key acquisition of 404 acres just outside Ashford by the Nisqually Land Trust, as a first phase in a long-term effort to protect a sustainable system that includes working forests, recreational opportunities and a commitment to the long-term health of the community.

"My work is to be part of making a great city. But think of that classic Seattle postcard: the Space Needle framed by snow-capped peaks and a sparkling Puget Sound. We need to all see that connection in everything we build: we have to grow our families, make our homes and expand our businesses while sustaining this region's lands and waters."

– Ada Healy, VP of Real Estate Development, Vulcan,  
for The Cascade Agenda three-year report



BRADLEY HANSON





Students work the land for the Green Seattle Partnership.

CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY

“The Cascade Agenda offers a unique opportunity to preserve what’s best about this region for our children.”

– Denis Hayes,  
President, The Bullitt Foundation

“The landscapes we love, the special places we knew as a child, these are the things we stand to lose if we don’t find a smart way to deal with our inevitable growth. The Cascade Agenda will make room for future generations – your children and mine – to grow up loving that same landscape.”

– Maryanne Tagney Jones,  
CLC Board Chair



BRADLEY HANSON

Revitalized White Center Park opened in 2007.

- Revitalizing the White Center Heights Park through a partnership between Starbucks Corporation, King County Parks, University of Washington, White Center Community Development Association, Cascade Land Conservancy and the help of hundreds of volunteers.
- Creating a living laboratory for Central Washington University Students on Gladmar Park, a 45-acre island in the Yakima River outside of Ellensburg, through the cooperative effort of Kittitas County, Central Washington University and Cascade Land Conservancy.

**OUR REGION'S PROGRESS** has been undeniable and significant but, given the extraordinary challenges we face, not yet sufficient. As the information in the following section demonstrates, The Cascade Agenda has identified a set of concrete actions that transform this region. With groups like Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Regional Council, The Cascade Agenda and many others, working together we will achieve our shared vision.

# How We Can Get There

The roadmap is before us. The signposts are clearly marked.

THE AGENDA IS A CALL for us to act now, while keeping a long-term perspective on where we are headed. The next decade alone will determine whether we succeed in maintaining a region sufficient to sustain future generations.

Our shared values are reflected in the many individuals, organizations and businesses who endorse The Agenda. An effective structure has been created to focus the work of this broad coalition. A Leadership Team of regional decision makers guides the work of The Agenda and a management group meets early mornings twice every month to move The Agenda's implementation strategies forward.

With the strength of these leaders and a century-long horizon, our region must look to the short, mid and long term.

In the short term: **Secure**

- Create communities that draw people with good jobs, homes and neighborhoods
- Encourage development to shift into cities, towns, conservation villages and clusters

"Pierce County has a choice, but people need to know – we are almost out of time. We are losing farmland at a rate that will chew up our local food supply in a couple of decades and the same is true for our timberlands. But now we'll be preserving these lands in the marketplace, bringing real value to farmers and developers to shift our county's growing population to places where it ought to be – not our farmlands and forestlands. There's a lot of work ahead and The Cascade Agenda helps us chart that course. We need our cities to join in the effort – but this is a legacy worth reaching for."

– Terry Lee  
Chair, Pierce County Council



TIM ENGSTROM



- Make interim purchases of quality farms and forests that would otherwise convert; remove development rights and resell the land at resource land prices
- Preserve working forest and farmlands at risk of conversion
- Support farmers and family foresters
- Develop the tools needed to succeed in the marketplace and a changing world – financing, legislation, land use, markets and ideas

In the mid-term: **Sustain**

- Restore preserved lands
- Expand and enhance stewardship of private farm, forest and natural lands
- Improve community and economic links to working lands

In the long term: **Steward**

- Enhance stewardship of natural resources
- Secure and maintain resources to steward our region's natural assets

**THE SPIRIT OF THE AGENDA IS SPREADING**

One important development already is occurring: The spirit of The Agenda is spreading around the region, around the country as communities see the power and value of a 100-year vision.

Work is under way for an “Olympic Dialogues,” a series of meetings with major stakeholders on the Olympic Peninsula. To the north, the Whatcom County Legacy Project is also looking out 100 years – “Imagine Whatcom County in 2107,” an article on the effort began. On a more

focused scale, Federal Way-based Friends of the Hylebos are embarking on their own endeavor to implement a local vision of The Cascade Agenda in the Hylebos Watershed. Their efforts provide a model for how local groups can help achieve The Cascade Agenda's regional vision.

**FUNDING OUR EFFORTS**

Any endeavor as ambitious as The Cascade Agenda needs fuel. One of the most important successes of The Agenda since its rollout has been the community's generous response to a \$20 million fundraising campaign spearheaded by Cascade Land Conservancy and Co-Chairs Nick Hanauer, Gerry Johnson and Martha Kongsgaard and Honorary Co-Chairs Alan Black and Mimi Gates. All sectors of the region are generously contributing to the campaign – foundations, individuals, government and business.

**ONE CHALLENGE, ONE VOICE, ONE SOLUTION**

Today is a time of hope tinged with apprehension. Our challenges are great. As a region, we must come together to save our landscapes, make our cities livable and create a meaningful response to issues from climate change to loss of farmland. But we have hope. Our far-sighted vision, collaborative and balanced approach and dedication to innovation and creativity will allow us to meet our urgent challenges, together as one voice.

**WE HAVE ONE CHALLENGE:** Creating a future worthy of our children.

**WE HAVE ONE VOICE:** Working together is the only way.

**WE HAVE ONE SOLUTION:** The Cascade Agenda.



# Cascade Agenda Three-Year Report

## Snapshot in Time: Progress and Next Steps

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, The Cascade Agenda's partners have achieved many successes, learned much and seen a great deal of change. Most important of all, we have reconfirmed and sometimes shifted the path forward.

The following pages of this report provide further detail on:

- How we get there
- Where things stand
- What is being done
- What this all means
- What is next

This report gauges where we stand and what progress we've made toward each major goal of The Cascade Agenda. We've found many stark realities and some hopeful trends. Every three years, we are committed to

assessing where we've come and where we're going – even if it means a change in our course of action. While three years is a short time in which to assess our efforts, we promised to come forward with this first report to understand the data available and test how best to judge our region's progress.

The troubling reality is that data are generally not available in a form that allows us to clearly assess our progress toward The Agenda's goals. Without good information, our region cannot clearly understand the impact of our choices. Our decision-makers must ensure that our region is monitoring the factors which will determine our future.

With this report, The Cascade Agenda's framers invite you to consider both the good and the bad and what we can all do to fulfill the promise we made to future generations. What follows is data collected from various published sources and a limited amount of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis.



# Cities, Towns and Neighborhoods

**GOAL:** Create cities, towns 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.

We must make our cities, towns and neighborhoods appealing to the additional 3.5 million people who will live here in the next century.

## HOW WE GET THERE

To make cities complete, compact and connected, we must:

- Manage growth responsibly and level the playing field between urban infill and rural development, while transferring development rights from farm, forest and natural land.
- Make the most of new housing by increasing 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.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

**Rising home prices, longer commutes, no savings**

- Homes cost more: From 2000 to 2006, median household income increased 17% while median home prices soared 75%. There was a 5% increase in families spending more than 30% of income for housing.
- It costs more to build in cities: In King

County, permit approval to develop five homes in the Urban Growth Boundary takes ~3 months and \$20,000 more than similar rural development.

- Affordable homes farther away: From 2001 to 2006, a net of ~20,000 households left King County for Pierce and Snohomish counties. The average income of households leaving King County was lower than those staying or moving in, suggesting families are finding more-affordable homes elsewhere. Average commute distance increased 5% to 12.8 miles per day in our region from 1999 to 2006.
- Costs of travel high: National research suggests families pay more for combined housing and transportation costs when longer commutes are factored in.

## We need to build things right

- We need to invest in infrastructure. Nationwide we face a \$1.6 trillion gap for infrastructure in the next 5 years. In Washington, ~30% of cities report poor or unsafe street conditions; ~20% report insufficient funds for fresh water or for storm water and sewer systems. More than 20% of county-owned bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

## Moving past our old love-hate relationship with cities



Cities can be crowning achievements or blights. We need to commit ourselves to ensuring that our cities are always worthy of our children.

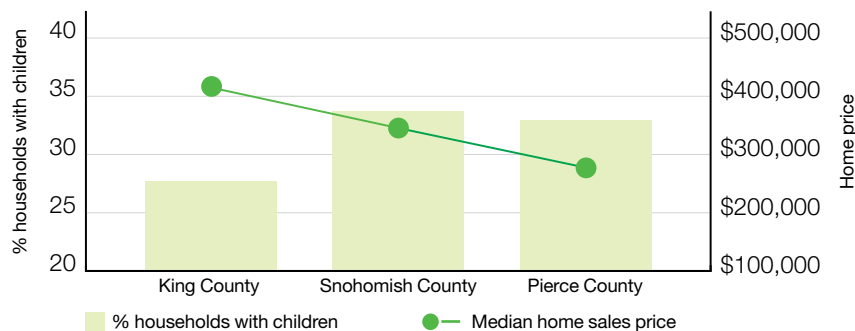
- We need to build smart. Half of all buildings standing by 2025 will have been built between 2000 and 2025. Well-designed buildings with efficient appliances reduce energy demands 60 to 70%. Compact, walkable communities reduce miles we drive ~25 to 50%. People living in compact communities have lower rates of obesity and chronic diseases.

## Much of the housing built today won't meet future needs

- Nationally, households with children declined from ~50% in the 1960s to

## Families, Children and Housing Prices, 2006

Families with children tend to live where home sales prices are lower.



~30% today. Likewise, per person household size decreased from 3.3 to 2.6, while the number of households has increased.

- In our region, single-parent families, starters, empty nesters, singles and seniors make up over 70% of households, with only 22% being married couples with children.
- National surveys show 55% of people would prefer to live in “smart growth” communities near shopping, restaurants, schools and jobs. Estimated demand for attached and small-lot housing will exceed the current supply by 35 million units over the next 20 years, while demand for large-lot housing will be less than the current supply.



Tacoma, a Cascade Agenda City, has been a leader in creating a vibrant and livable community.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

- People are choosing to make 30% of commutes by carpool, transit, walking, biking and working from home. After a 6.4% increase in transit ridership from 1999 to 2006, ridership exploded in 2007 with a 12.5% increase on Sound Transit and a 7% increase on Metro.
- Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2040 plans for future growth and guides local policies and transportation investments to maintain our region's quality of life.
- Cascade Agenda Cities: Ellensburg, Issaquah, Kirkland, Shoreline and Tacoma are working with Cascade Land Conservancy to increase the livability of their neighborhoods.

### WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Now is the time to change the way we grow. What, where and how we build over the next two decades will impact how much energy we use, our time spent in traffic, our climate, Puget Sound, our waistlines and overall health, as well as our pocketbooks.

### WHAT IS NEXT

The Cascade Agenda Cities Program will educate citizens and community leaders about why and how to make communities stronger and more vibrant. Working with partner efforts, The Cascade Agenda will advance innovations in community development, green building, housing and transportation. We will work with communities to demonstrate new ways we can sustain our neighborhoods' quality of life.

### Innovative Projects Leading the Way



Communities are revitalizing commercial areas. Burien Town Square brings a new City Hall and central park, a King County library, 60,000 sq. ft. of commercial space and 400 homes.



High Point, developed by the Seattle Housing Authority and master planned by Mithun Architects + Designers + Planners, offers mixed-income housing and low-impact development strategies in a walkable neighborhood.



# Rural Communities

**GOAL:** Maintain the features of rural life, with new approaches to development guided by the principles of conservation that recognize and respect the economic interests of land owners.

Homes scattered among open fields, on wooded lanes, along clear streams define what many of us in the Northwest think of as rural character. Yet, in a death by a thousand cuts, we are inadvertently losing what we love most about our region to a matrix of large lots.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Make cities vibrant places to live, work and raise families so most of our region's future residents choose to live in compact communities.
- Provide creative, low-impact alternatives to current rural development patterns so that choosing to live in rural areas can complement, not compromise, our region's natural and community character.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

### Losing ground to development

- Over 18,000 acres of our region's farms and forests are lost to development every year.
- Between 2003 and 2006, King, Pierce and Snohomish counties issued permits for 9,800 new units on rural and resource lands. While the rate may have slowed, the trend still indicates 12% of new houses were built in rural areas.

### We can't afford it

- We cannot afford to buy the real estate value: Across The Cascade Agenda region there are ~140,000 rural and resource zone development rights with an aggregate value of ~\$3.5 billion.

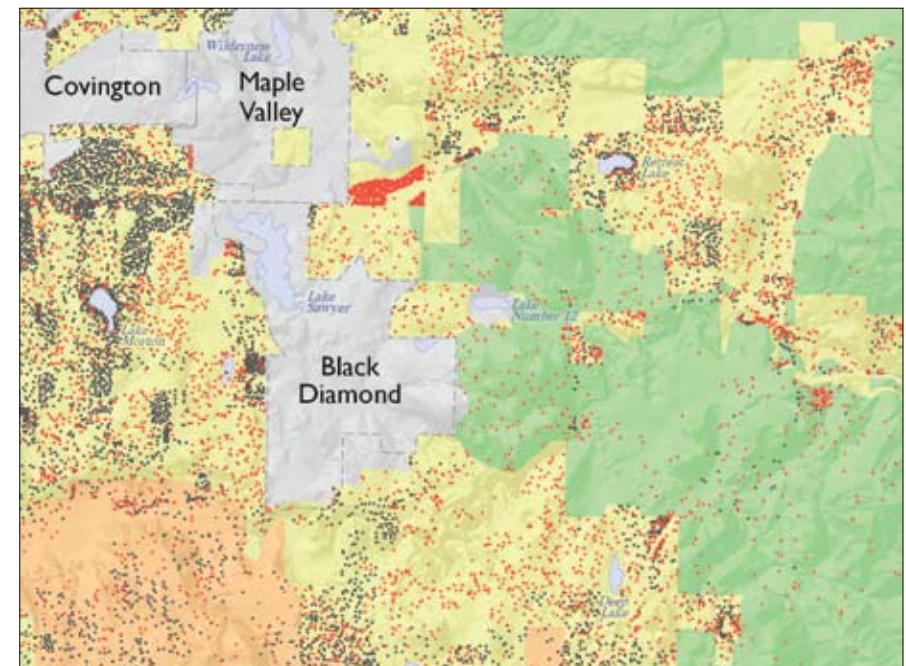
- We cannot afford to pay for sprawl: A national study indicates that sprawling residential development costs \$13,000 more per unit than compact development. This means that even if only half the units were permitted, our communities would face a nearly \$1 billion price tag for additional roads and other public service costs compared to compact development.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

- Addressing an increasing need for sound floodplain management, King County is developing its Flood Buyout and Home Elevation Program, which funds voluntary management options for homeowners.
- Washington Department of Ecology and Kittitas County signed a groundwater management agreement guiding how decisions are made on rural residential developments served by exempt wells.
- As directed by the Eastern Growth Management Hearings Board, Kittitas County is working to update its comprehensive plan and development regulations to better address rural development.

## New Residential Building Permits, 2003–2006

Black dots represent built homes. Red show potential homes.

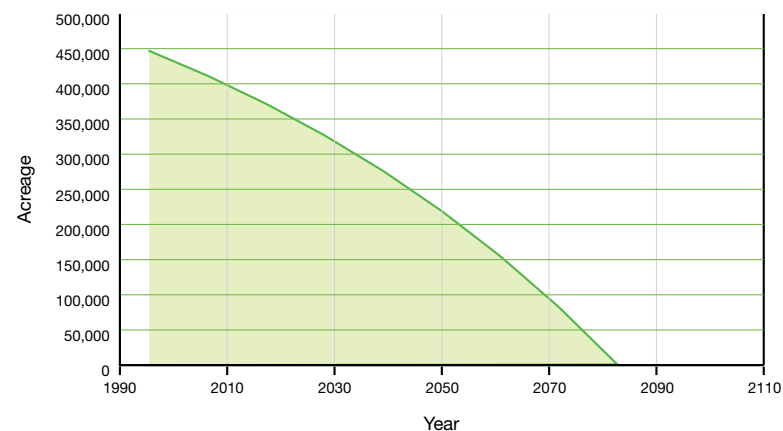


As more houses are built outside our cities and towns we will lose our farm, forest and natural lands. We must find new ways to keep them.

- While controversial with some landowners, King County's critical areas ordinance, updated in 2004, enlarged critical area buffers, increased storm water runoff restrictions and limited clearing and grading activities. Pierce and Snohomish counties have also adopted ordinances aimed at protecting environmentally sensitive areas.
- Snohomish County's Sustainable Development Task Force provides incentives for low-impact development techniques. Using this program, the Snoqualmie Gourmet Ice Cream site incorporated a bio-filtration swale within the public right of way, instead of a standard sidewalk, and a low-impact trail system to serve the Maltby community.
- New membrane sewer systems allow safe, effective wastewater treatment at a reasonable price, with filtered effluent clean enough for re-use as landscape watering. The Tulalip Tribe pioneered this technology at Quil Ceda Village.
- Recent, prominent studies provide a better understanding of watershed impacts from large-lot developments and data to inform decisions. Washington Department of Ecology's 2007 State of the Sound report lists stormwater runoff as the leading cause of pollution in urban waterways. A recent EPA analysis indicates that 10,000 houses at 8 houses per acre would produce 73% less stormwater runoff than 10,000 houses at 1 house per acre.

### Rural/Agricultural Acreage Supply As Population Increases

King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties



### WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Real estate values have risen sharply in our region, spreading to farm and forest lands far beyond our urban centers. Large lots waste our most precious resources – land and water – and cost communities too much to serve to be sustainable. At the same time, the recent property rights initiative can be viewed as an expression of frustration by rural landowners who, like urban residents, seek to ensure the value of their property. We must change how we develop rural lands and forge new partnerships with rural communities to maintain our lands and waters.

### WHAT IS NEXT

The region needs to deploy market-based tools that leverage incentives and private capital to achieve The Cascade Agenda's vision for conservation and urban development. We need to make our cities spectacular places to live so they become magnets for population. Recognizing that there will still be growth in our rural areas, we need to find new ways to manage that growth appropriately. While not universally supported, Conservation Villages are one alternative that should be tried. We cannot stand by and wait for the perfect solution as the land continues to convert. If we don't act, we may run out of time to make meaningful choices.

### A New Strategy: Conservation Villages



Compared to large lots (middle), a Conservation Village (bottom) offers a low-impact, low-water use alternative that achieves significant conservation benefits.

BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY



# Parks

**GOAL:** Weave parks into the fabric of every neighborhood and connect our communities to one another by trails.

The Northwest lifestyle is defined by the outdoors, by where we play and where we recreate, from national parks to pocket parks, from sports fields to trail corridors, from raging rivers to placid boat launches.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Add 30,000 acres of urban parks, located within a half-mile walk of all city residents and 82,000 acres of destination parks. Acquire these lands at pace with population and maintain 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents for urban parks.
- Connect and improve regional trail networks.
- Ensure water and shore access every eight miles of our rivers in rural areas.
- Work with timberland owners to provide public access for recreation.
- Offer diverse users recreational opportunities on public lands.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

### Gain in parklands

- Since 2004, over 14,000 acres of parkland has been added, keeping pace with the growing population.

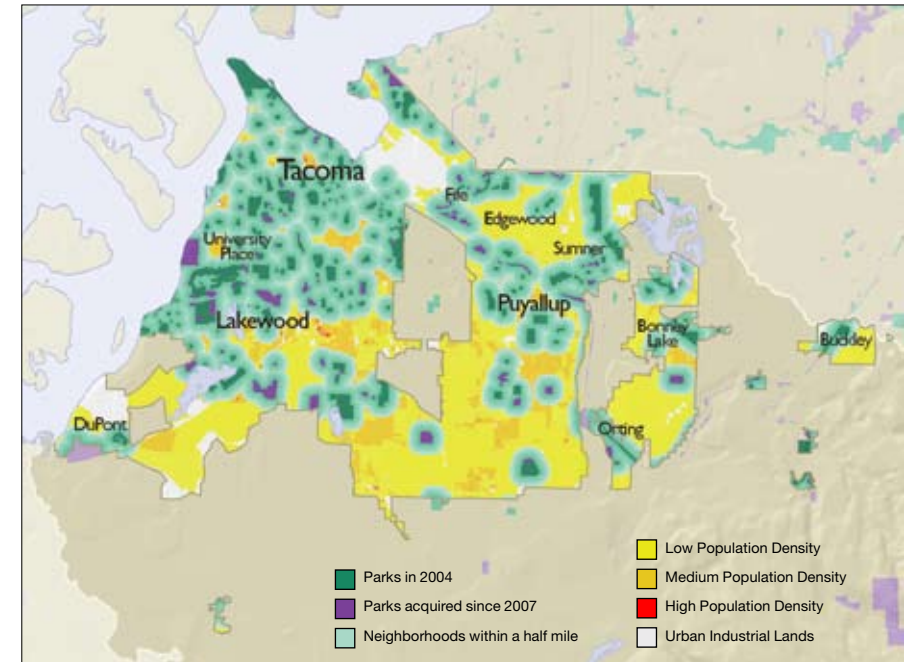
### Not all residents served

- New park acquisitions need to be well distributed to improve quality of life in dense neighborhoods.

### Loss of funding

- Federal funding has decreased for park management and acquisitions. The U.S. Forest Service lost \$64 million in maintenance funding last year. The Land and Water Conservation Acquisition Fund has decreased by over \$100 million in the past 10 years.

**Tacoma Area Urban Park Proximity**



New parks have been added in Pierce County since 2004; however we still have not reached our goal of a park within a half mile of all urban residents.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

AT A GLANCE BY NUMBERS	
Washington Trails Association	83,000 volunteer hours in 2007
Student Conservation Association	Over 250 volunteers in Washington State
Washington Water Trails	10 Cascadia Marine Trail sites in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties; Over 100 public places to launch non-motorized boats on the Lakes to Locks Water Trail
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	\$100 million in 2007-2009 biennium for parks, water access sites, trails, wildlife habitat and farmland preservation
Kittitas County	Parks and Recreation District #1 established
Washington State Parks	Centennial preparations and development of 100-year plan
Alliance for Puget Sound	Plans for 10 waterfront parks in 3 years
King County	Developing a Regional Trail System of more than 300 miles
State of Washington and City of Seattle	Washington State appropriated \$4.5 million and Seattle appropriated \$5 million to transform Seattle surplus schools into new parks and civic spaces

WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Cities can grow gracefully if parks keep pace with population. Our region has acquired a significant amount of new parkland but some communities still lack a neighborhood park within walking distance. A decrease in funding for public agencies presents a significant obstacle to reaching our goal. Like the Olmsted Brothers 100 years ago, we must focus on developing a spectacular park system throughout the region – a park system accessible to all. Parks supply us with cleaner air, filter our water and provide habitat for wildlife. In addition, our parks provide opportunities for recreation and places to explore nature and connect with our neighbors.

WHAT IS NEXT

The Cascade Agenda coalition will continue to work together to acquire additional park land, strategically placed to serve the entire community. Cascade Land Conservancy is working with cities large and small to acquire parks for underserved communities, including revitalization of surplus schools. The Cascade Agenda Cities Program is working with Leadership and Member cities to encourage investment in parks and open space as a critical component of urban livability.



King County has completed construction on an 11-mile recreation trail connecting Lake Sammamish State Park and Marymoor Park. Originally secured by Cascade Land Conservancy, this was a once-missing link in our region’s world-famous trail system.



# Natural Heritage

**GOAL:** Ensure our region's natural heritage and iconic species thrive in the future, so that our region can remain deeply connected to the natural world.

Through the right combination of efforts, we can secure survival of our diverse ecosystems.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Maintain wildlife corridors and 30% of each of our region's habitat types, ~140,000 acres.
- Retain the native species unique to our area.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

- Nearly 52% of central Puget Sound shoreline has been modified by development.
- Invasive species pose a threat to 25% of Washington's plant species.
- The Pacific Northwest's temperature could increase between 0.2 and 1.0° F each decade over the next 100 years, changing snowpack, stream flow, Puget Sound, seasons and temperature – all testing the resilience of our region's wildlife.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

- Washington has nine ecologically significant regions for biodiversity. These assessments were developed by the Nature Conservancy of Washington, Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources and others.

- Washington Biodiversity Council's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy identifies incentives for landowners to enhance biodiversity on their lands.
- Conservation organizations, alongside local, state and federal agencies, have conserved more than 114,000 acres over the past three years.
- King County is advancing a strategy to connect carbon emission savings with Transfer of Development Rights, encouraging conservation of land and reduction of emissions.

## WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Not only is our region's quality of life at stake from unchecked sprawl, but the natural systems upon which we depend are also threatened by business-as-usual. We must act now to conserve land for wildlife habitat and change the way we grow to minimize our impacts on climate change.

## WHAT IS NEXT

Better science provides the foundation for programs that allow species to live side-by-side with communities. Climate change requires we provide opportunities for adaptation, particularly by maintaining habitat connectivity. Understanding the link between conservation, climate change and our region's quality of life will increase our ability to protect the Northwest's heritage.



Studies have identified areas of high mortality for wildlife trying to cross I-90. WSDOT is upgrading the route to include crossings for wildlife and Cascade Land Conservancy is acquiring habitat on either side of the highway to protect the wildlife corridor.



Despite the apparent beauty of this setting, the Fragrant Water Lily is an invasive plant that degrades our wetland ecosystems.

# Stewardship

**GOAL:** Restore our region's diverse landscapes, through sustained stewardship of public lands and partnerships with private landowners.

We must plan strategically, apply resources wisely and be willing to get our hands dirty. As communities learn to care for their ground, neighbors also learn to care for one another.

## HOW WE GET THERE

Through the innovation and good spirit of individual landowners, the sweat-equity of volunteers, the vision of elected leaders and better understanding of stewardship practices, we must:

- Maintain the biodiversity of our region and restore self-sustaining ecosystems.
- Prevent proliferation of invasive species that destroy natural systems.
- Establish plans and financial resources for stewardship of our lands.



GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

The Green Kirkland Partnership is one of the Green Cities Partnerships that is marshalling volunteers around the region to restore forested parkland in cities.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

Invasive species present the most pressing problem for urban parks.

- 70% of Seattle's forested parklands will be lost within 20 years due to invasive species if no action is taken – other cities face similar challenges.
- Most communities lack basic information about the extent of their invasive species problem.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

- The Evergreen Communities Act, championed by Audubon Washington as a Priority for a Healthy Washington, encourages cities to enhance forests where we live and work.
- Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle and Tacoma have established Green City Partnerships with Cascade Land Conservancy to create and implement plans that will, collectively, restore ~6,000 acres of forested parkland. These programs make parks great places for people as they improve the air, water and habitat. The programs have leveraged ~\$3.3 million worth of capital improvements through volunteer sweat-equity.

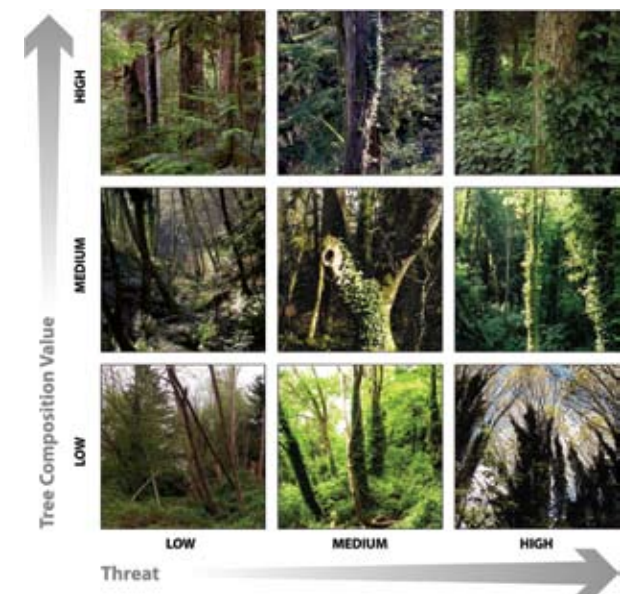
- In our region, EarthCorps has recruited 103,618 hours of volunteer service. Cascade Land Conservancy's Land Stewards program connects a dedicated volunteer to each of its preserves.

## WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Stewardship of our lands is more urgent now due to an increase in invasive species and the demands of a growing public on our parklands. We need to increase collaboration, expand volunteer programs and commit resources to addressing our urgent stewardship challenges.

## WHAT IS NEXT

Stewardship is not just for public lands. Increased stewardship may be promoted through such programs as Stewardship Partners' Salmon Safe certification. The key to success will be creating business-friendly incentives for landowners to steward their lands for a range of natural resource values as they conduct ongoing farm and forest operations.



Tree-Iage is a restoration matrix developed by the City of Seattle and Cascade Land Conservancy for the Green Seattle Partnership. It looks at nine different categories of forest conditions from a healthy forest with native conifer trees and shrubs (upper left) to a forest of dying deciduous trees overgrown with English Ivy and other invasive plants (lower right). Knowing the state of a forest can help estimate the costs of restoration and make decisions on where to prioritize restoration efforts across the city.



# Farming

**GOAL:** Keep farms and the business of farming as a part of our way of life and ensure farmers can make a living by fostering farmers markets and other strategies for their products.

Our farms support a growing movement to eat fresh, healthy, locally grown food and present the potential to offer a wide range of environmental values.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Conserve 85% of remaining unprotected farmland, amounting to ~106,000 acres in Pierce, King and Snohomish counties and ~200,000 acres in Kittitas County.
- Promote farm economy by increasing local food consumption to ~5% of what we eat.
- Ensure water for farms, with special attention to needs of farms in Kittitas County.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

### Gain of farms. Loss of acres.

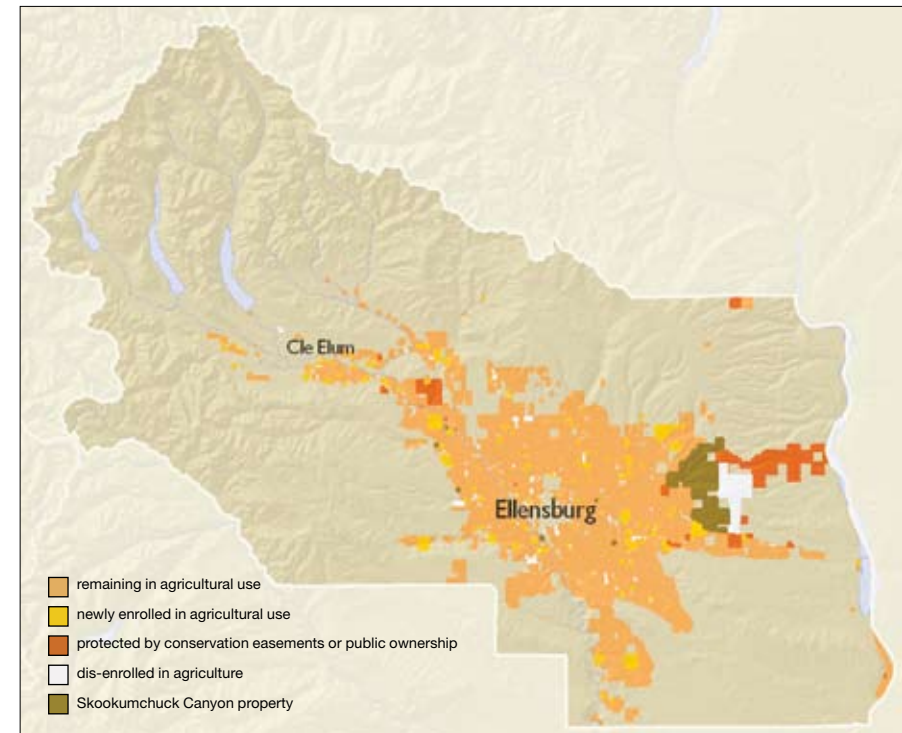
- From 1992 to 2002, Washington gained 5,675 farm operations, but lost 407,999 acres of farmland. During the same time period the average size of a farm decreased from 520 acres to 426 acres.
- While overall acreage declined, farms from 10 to 49 acres increased by 30% and farms from 1 to 9 acres increased by 38% from 1992 to 2002. During this same time period, farms earning less than \$50,000 per year increased by 28%. The majority (67%) of this increase was observed in farms earning less than \$2,500 per year. Statewide, smaller and part-time operations are on the increase.

- In The Cascade Agenda region, we lost 5.5% (more than 18,000 acres) of farmland over the past three years, 21% located on the west side. Of the ~14,000 acres lost in Kittitas County, 6,500 acres were removed from farmland designation as part of the Wild Horse Wind Power Project where land is being managed under a pilot conservation grazing plan.

### Farm economy changing

- Costs are rising: From April 2005 to April 2008, average U.S. gas prices rose \$1.10/gal.
- Water supply is uncertain: In 2007, 7,000 exempt residential wells were drilled in Kittitas County, up 10% from 2002. Exempt wells limit water available for farms.
- Our farming community is approaching retirement. In 2002 the average age of farmers in our region was 55.
- Today, Cascade Harvest Coalition is seeking to link 424 farmers with land for lease or purchase. Yet, only 58 parcels are available for lease. And, central Puget Sound farmland prices are high due to real estate conversion value, at \$7,000 to \$10,000 per acre, where farming value would likely be only ~\$5,000 per acre.

## Changes in Kittitas County Agricultural Lands, 2004–2007



Changes in lands enrolled in the county Current Use Agriculture tax program.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

### Local food consumption growing

- The Office of Farmland Protection was established and farmland was added to the mission of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program by the 2007 Legislature.
- Number of Washington farmers markets increased by 65% between 1998 and 2006 and gross sales by 8% between 2004 and 2005. The 2008 *Local Farms – Healthy Kids* Act, championed by Washington Environmental Council, increases local food consumed through schools, food banks and farmers markets.
- Statewide, organic farm acreage increased from 43,720 acres in 2004 to 81,051 acres in 2007.

### Finding new solutions

- In 2007, Pierce County created a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program to address real estate value and protect farms.
- The Conservation Markets study was funded by the 2008 Legislature to match mitigation needs with services that landowners may wish to provide as part of their land management.

- The Ruckelshaus Dispute Resolution Center is exploring new approaches to a longstanding conflict over implementation of critical areas ordinances. Tribal and local governments and conservationists along with agricultural stakeholders are working together, providing hope that we can forge new partnerships to improve the health of riparian corridors, while also addressing the business realities of farmers.

## WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

We've lost a great deal of farmland to development and more is threatened by soaring real estate values. Zoning allows encroachment of large-house lots onto fertile farmland, making it hard for farmers to farm and eroding the potential environmental benefits these fields might provide. Many of our region's farmers are retiring, and a new generation of farmers cannot afford to purchase land. Left with few options, retiring farmers are selling land for development.

## WHAT IS NEXT

To offset this trend we must implement innovative strategies such as Purchase of Development Rights and Transfer of Development Right programs that address the real estate pressures that lead to conversion. We can celebrate our farmers, our region and our environment by choosing local foods for our families, schools, hospitals and businesses. Meanwhile, the ongoing tension between the urgent need for riparian protection and the overall community benefits of farming cries out for new cooperative approaches.



MARGOT CHEEL

There are six major river systems in the region that flow into Puget Sound. Conserving the lands called for in The Cascade Agenda will maintain water quality in the Sound.



MATTHEW SIMEX

The Cascade Agenda calls for the conservation of nearly 200,000 acres of farmland in Kittitas County, nearly 60 percent of the total farmland conservation goal.



# Waters

**GOAL:** Protect and restore our freshwater and marine ecosystems.

In our region, seven river systems travel a combined 23,000 river miles from glaciers on the mountaintops through wilderness, working forests, farms, port cities and estuaries. The Cedar, Green, Nisqually, Puyallup, Snohomish and Stillaguamish rivers reach Puget Sound. The Yakima flows into the Columbia River.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Protect our river headwaters through conservation of foothills forests.
- Conserve and restore ~19,000 acres along rivers and streams. Preserve and restore ~14,000 acres along Puget Sound shorelines and estuaries.
- Limit impervious surfaces and retrofit built areas to maintain the health of our watersheds.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

- 74% of our watersheds are designated public lands, private working forests or farmlands. Since 2004, 2% of our watersheds converted from farming and forestry to other rural uses.
- Between 2004 and 2007, 5,223 acres of wetlands were protected in The Cascade Agenda region. Conservatively, 65,000 acres of wetlands remain in unprotected status. A recent study showed that half of onsite mitigation projects failed, wasting millions of dollars and missing a significant conservation opportunity.

- Snowpack in the Cascades has declined 15 to 35% since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, resulting in a decrease in summer stream flow.
- Climate presents new risks. Climate models warn Puget Sound may rise 0.5 to 4 feet by 2100, threatening over \$1 billion in Port of Seattle waterfront investments and challenging our ability to achieve Cascade Agenda shoreline goals by jeopardizing over 60% of estuarine beaches and tidal swamps with flooding.
- Between 1991 and 2001, impervious surface in the Puget Sound area increased by 10.4%, increasing water pollution caused by stormwater runoff.



TODD PARKER

There are six major river systems in the Cascades that flow into Puget Sound. Efforts to conserve working forests in these watersheds will help improve water quality in the Sound.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

- Since 2004, the region has protected 2,140 acres of Puget Sound shoreline.
- From the uplands to the shoreline, the region is mobilizing to protect our waters and restore the health of Puget Sound. Notable efforts include the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Alliance, Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2040, The Cascade Agenda and many neighborhood and tribal efforts to restore salmon habitat and reforest city parks.
- The region is leading the nation in creating new markets for Carbon Credits and Transfer of Development Rights that will protect upland habitats and respond to climate change, which are critical to the health of Puget Sound.
- Near the Snoqualmie River, Cascade Land Conservancy has a conservation easement on 172 acres of the 225 acre Snohomish Basin Mitigation Bank owned by Habitat Bank, LLC.

- In 2005, the first conservation lease of public aquatic lands was completed in Woodard Bay near Olympia. This 10-year lease project, supported by the Russell Family Foundation in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and Washington Department of Natural Resources, is helping bring back Washington's native Olympia oyster, a keystone species that nearly vanished from the Sound.

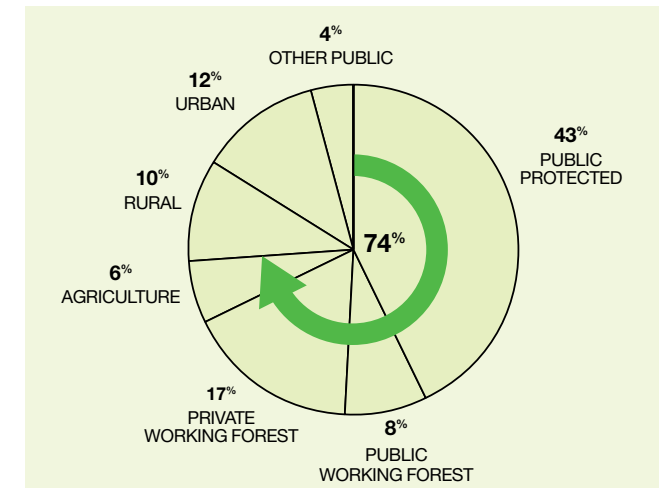
### WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Rain rolls off our roofs, driveways, parking lots and roads and flows into our ground water, streams and rivers en route to Puget Sound. Everything that happens uphill impacts Puget Sound. The quality of our water and aquatic ecosystems serves as an important indicator of the health of our region as a whole. Since 2004, we have made modest progress toward our Cascade Agenda waters goals but there is still a great deal we need to accomplish. We must redouble our efforts to protect Puget Sound and the streams and rivers that flow into it.

### WHAT IS NEXT

As a region, we must overcome the threats against our freshwater and marine ecosystems posed by climate change, an expanding population and the pressure to convert natural and working lands for development. As awareness of the threats to Puget Sound increases, several major regional initiatives have formed to protect our inland sea. We need to find new ways to develop the land, to stop the expansion of impervious surfaces and to accommodate our population on the smallest possible footprint. We need to find new markets to achieve conservation goals. We can't buy our way out of the problem. Now, it is time to build on the momentum generated around the region and continue to work together toward our common goals.

### Watershed Land Management



While there have been changes in the percentages, the overall story remains good: 74 percent of the lands needed to restore the health of our watersheds are public land, private working forests or farmland.



TODD PARKER

A sunset at Lund's Gulch Beach in Snohomish County reflects the beauty of the Sound.



# Cascades

**GOAL:** Maintain a ribbon of forests along the slopes of the Cascades as a source of clean rivers and abundant wildlife, the sustenance of many livelihoods and destination for our recreational endeavors.

The Cascades comprise the heart of our ecosystem, cleansing the water we drink, protecting our cities and towns against floods and providing vistas that lift our spirits. What happens in the Cascades has a direct influence on all of our landscapes.

## HOW WE GET THERE

- Conserve 93% of private working forests, ~777,000 acres. Preserve 5%, ~48,000 acres, for habitat and recreation.
- Maintain ~2.3 million acres of existing public lands.
- Support mills in the region, producing ~325 million board feet per year.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

### Forest acres decreasing

- The bad: Since 2005, our region lost 29,605 acres, 3.6%, of private working timberland.
- The good: Since 2005, 14,640 acres, 1.8%, were acquired as public land, some for timber and some for natural heritage.

### Forestry business changing

- Real estate values are 10 to 100 times greater than timberland values.
- Compared to other Western states, the business of forestry is more expensive in Washington: Property taxes and timber taxes on forest lands are ~\$3.28 per acre in Eastern Washington

and ~\$15.51 per acre in Western Washington. Meanwhile, Idaho taxes are ~\$4.72 per acre, while Oregon taxes are just ~\$2.54 per acre.

- With rising diesel fuel prices, proximity to a mill directly affects the profit margin on a load of logs. The good: Snohomish's longtime Buse Mill continues to operate and Sierra Pacific has opened a new mill with the latest technological innovations. The bad: Two mills in Pierce County closed; six remain. No mills exist in Kittitas County. Two nearby mills in Yakima County closed.

### A chance to make things right

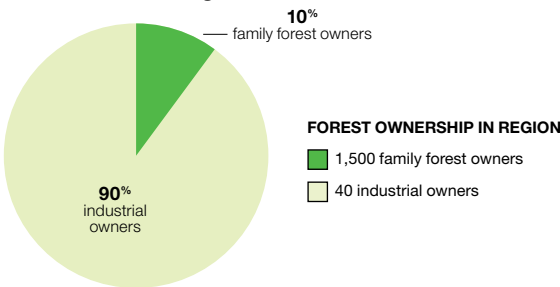
- Forest land is being converted at an astounding rate. There is a significant statewide shift from industrial land ownership to small family forest land ownership. In the coming years, our policy choices will determine if the business of forestry and the ethic of forest stewardship is a legacy we offer our children.

## Forest Lands in Cascade Agenda Region

COUNTY	Minimum Estimated Development Rights	Private Forestland Acres in Cascades (Rounded)	Acres Forestland Converted to Non-Forest uses since 2004
King	3,500	250,000	21,500
Kittitas	2,500	195,000	1,900
Pierce	3,000	230,000	400
Snohomish	1,500	115,000	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>790,000</b>	<b>25,400</b>

Since 2004, our region lost 3.6% of private forestland to other uses, primarily large residential lots. The table above shows acres lost, acres remaining and the approximate number of development rights these forestlands contain. If we could transfer a relatively small number of development rights to a compact development, we could literally maintain hundreds of thousands of private forestland for the long run.

## Land Area Changes



### WHAT IS BEING DONE

- In 2007, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land exchanges secured 52,000 acres of contiguous timberland in Kittitas County.
- The Legislature provided DNR with \$70 million to acquire resource lands at risk for conversion.
- The Legislature and local jurisdictions are grappling with how to bring methods for capturing real estate value, including Transfer of Development Rights, to a scale sufficient to address the needs of farmers, family foresters and timber companies.
- Since 2005, DNR has been awarded more than \$10 million in Federal Forest Legacy grants, with potential to protect 15,000 acres and already resulting in conservation of 82,000 acres.

### WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

Since 2005, 3.6% of our private working forests have been converted to non-forest uses and 1.8% was shifted to public ownership. We can hardly afford to lose more if we want to maintain a viable timber economy and the forests that produce precious ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and stormwater control. All of us have a stake in the forests of our Evergreen State. We must act together to maintain our heritage.

### WHAT IS NEXT

Our region has two great tasks before it. First, we must address the real estate value of our forests as cost-effectively as possible, which means focusing conservation programs (such as TDR) on large tracts of operating timber. Second, we need to demonstrate appreciation for family forest landowners who actively steward their properties. Our community must make it easy and attractive for family foresters to stay in business.



Working forests remain a key to the vitality of our region and goals of The Cascade Agenda.

### Maintaining working forests is a key to the vitality of our region.

More than a century ago, the timberlands of the Carbon River Valley were aggressively harvested. In the past 100 years we have learned how to better steward our forests for future generations. Scientific research and innovations in forestry practices allow us to manage these woods for a variety of economic and ecological services. Today, the very forests we have worked so hard to restore are now at risk of being lost forever, this time to development. We must utilize innovative policies and programs to conserve the forested foothills of the Cascades.





# Looking Forward 100 Years

AS HAS BEEN STATED many times in this report, the friends and partners behind The Cascade Agenda have achieved a great deal in the past three years and looking ahead, we have much more to do. Considering our region's grave challenges and unique competence, we have reason to be both fearful and hopeful. We are setting ambitious goals but if any region in the country can get this right, we can.

The Cascade Agenda is not a call to action **for** our region, it is a call to action **from** our region. Thousands of people have contributed to The Agenda's vision and progress and many more are needed in the coming years to create the future that we want for ourselves and those who come after us.

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in The Cascade Agenda and to everyone who continues to work diligently to protect our great lands and enhance our great communities.

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## NOTES:

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## CITATIONS:

For a full list of citations and explanations of all data provided, please see [www.cascadeagenda.com](http://www.cascadeagenda.com).

For more information, please see:  
[www.cascadeagenda.com](http://www.cascadeagenda.com)  
[www.cascadeland.org](http://www.cascadeland.org)







# Cascade Agenda by the numbers...

Number of acres to be conserved by The Cascade Agenda to insure a ribbon of working forests in the Cascades *777,000*

Number of acres to be preserved along rivers, streams and other sensitive areas *48,000*

Total biennial budget for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program after doubling in the 2007 Legislature *\$100 million*

Expected population in the four-county area in 2100 *9 million*      Number of new residents in the PSRC area from 2004-2007 *166,000*

Number of groups, businesses, civic organizations and individuals who have endorsed The Cascade Agenda *850*

Rise in sea level predicted in Puget Sound because of global warming *0.5 to 4 feet*

Green Seattle Partnership 2007 volunteer hours *57,372* including about *10,000* individuals

Percentage increase in farmers markets from 1998 to 2006 *65%*      Percentage of farmland lost in the past three years *5.5%*

Voting margin in the Pierce County Council for a Transfer of Development Rights program *7-0*

Cascade Agenda cities *5*      Cascade Agenda cities expected in the next year *11*

Number of Green Kirkland and Green Tacoma Partnerships volunteer hours in 2007 *3,740*      Number of volunteers *1,220*

Parks and natural areas along Puget Sound that the Alliance for Puget Sound expects to create over the next three years *10*

Number of people who have been a part of a conversation about The Cascade Agenda over the past three years *17,000*

Revolving fund created by The Cascade Agenda Capital Campaign and Cascade Land Conservancy to conserve land *\$14 million*

Days until next Cascade Agenda progress report *1,095*

Days to wait until action is taken to conserve great landscapes and create great communities *0*



### **The Cascade Agenda Leadership Team Looks Forward 100 Years**

The Cascade Agenda holds the promise of leaving a future worthy of our children and grandchildren and the legacy of a region that got it right. That is why we are part of this visionary program to secure the health and vitality of our communities, landscapes and economy.

The Leadership Team is the best expression of the “big tent” needed to make The Cascade Agenda a reality. Together we have created a unique and powerful vision.

As we stop for a moment to review our progress, we recognize all that has been accomplished and the many partners who contributed to a shared success. We also recognize the tremendous challenges that lie ahead. Please join us in our commitment to creating a better future for the next generations.

Cascade Agenda Leadership Team  
May 2008



## **THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

<b>J. M. Allen</b>	Managing Member, Allen & Company, LLC
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<b>Charley Bingham</b>	Former Weyerhaeuser Executive
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<b>Phyllis Campbell</b>	President, Seattle Foundation
<b>Bob Drewel</b>	Former Snohomish County Executive
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<b>Jay Gordon</b>	Executive Director, Washington State Dairy Federation
<b>Stone Gossard</b>	Pearl Jam, Community Leader
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<b>Sally Jewell</b>	President and CEO, REI
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<b>Martha Kongsgaard</b>	President, Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
<b>Doris Koo</b>	President and CEO, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc
<b>Steve Leahy</b>	President and CEO, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
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<b>Ken Miller</b>	Washington Farm Forestry Association, Family Forest Foundation
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<b>Bob Santos</b>	Former Executive Director of Inter*Im and Former Regional Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
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