THE CASCADE AGENDA
A 100 YEAR VISION FOR
PIERCE, KING, KITTITAS, AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

SPONSORED BY
THE CASCADE DIALOGUES STEERING COMMITTEE

"We are a remnant people in a remnant country. We have used up the possibilities inherent in the youth of our nation: the new start in a new place with new vision and hope. We have gone far toward using up our topsoils and our forests and many of our other natural resources. We have come or we are coming fast, to the end of what we are given. ***The good possibilities that lie ahead are only those that we may make ourselves, by a wiser and more generous and more exacting use of what we have left."*** (W. Berry, *The Long-Legged House*, page 45)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cascade Agenda is a call to action.

Today the Agenda's many partners in King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish counties are proposing an action plan to identify, preserve and protect those things in the Northwest we treasure and want to pass on to our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren – the vistas, the forests, the waters and the character, cultures and economies of the communities in which we work and live.

We love this land and here is how we propose to save our region for the next century.

First, we have identified 1.26 million acres that we must conserve in this region for working forests and farms, for the streams, rivers and estuaries that reach the cobbled shore of Puget Sound, for the parks, trails and recreation areas where we strengthen our bodies and renew our souls. If we do this we make certain a better future. And we as conservationists know how to do this – over the past few years we have developed sophisticated tools on a local scale that we believe can have a transforming region-wide application.

Second, we must make our cities vibrant and vital, providing a magnet for many of the people coming this way. It is happening already with developers and public officials in many of our urban centers who have the foresight to build bold, exciting communities. As conservationists we will do our part to help them succeed by providing the natural and working lands beyond our cities and the parklands inside our cities that make our urban neighborhoods great places to live.

Third, with the certainty of dramatic growth in the coming century, we must rethink how we are using our rural lands. We must ask ourselves how our rural lands can be used to reach essential economic as well as conservation goals. We have some ideas -- that creating rural villages and other new ways of developing the rural landscape may be preferable to letting our region's quality of life slip away into a matrix of 5- and 10-acre lots -- but they involve a larger conversation. We can move that conversation forward.

And we know it will be expensive. Rough estimates put the total value of these conservation goals at about $7 billion over the next 100 years, an achievable challenge with the creative private and public resources we can design. Less than $2 billion is required for outright purchase of land with the remainder coming from our tested market-based conservation techniques.

Those are the big jobs that lie ahead. We began this Cascade journey by looking back.

A Century That Transformed Our Region

A little more than 100 years ago, Congress, looking out on a rapidly urbanizing nation, took action to set aside massive landscapes in Wyoming and California,

creating the national parks of Yosemite, Sequoia and Yellowstone. In the same decade, President Grover Cleveland established the Mt. Rainier Forest Reserve, along with 11 others around the country, which were to become a system of National Forests to preserve the forests and the water supply and provide a reliable supply of timber.

The population of the entire state was a little more than 500,000 then with about 120,000 in the two big cities of Seattle and Tacoma. The very first automobile in the Pacific Northwest had just arrived in Seattle from Kittitas County. Farsighted civic leaders in Seattle had hired the prestigious Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass., to look 100 years into the future and design a parks system for future generations, "to make a beautiful place."

Today, 100 years later, just under 3.5 million people live, work and play in the Central Cascades region, and it is, indeed, a beautiful place.

We also use this land that we love. It goes to work for us every day. We live on it, we farm it, we harvest its timber and we build commercial centers and neighborhoods, towns and city centers with soaring architecture. Our homes, families, jobs and futures depend in large part on our abundant natural resources and public assets. One cannot imagine life without them. One cannot imagine losing them. Today, standing on the shoulders of those farsighted conservationists and civic leaders of more than 100 years ago, we are looking long as well.

In many conversations over the past year, people told us that while they love their Northwest, they are worried about its future, and cite some disquieting trends: Continued urbanization, unplanned growth, sprawling development from shoreline to ridgeline. The continued loss of open space, natural systems and wildlife. The loss of natural resource based jobs in farming, fishing and forestry. And overcrowding, even in parks, on trails and on roads.

Our Challenge

No challenge we face is greater than the challenge of growth. Our four Cascade counties are expected to double in population over the next 100 years, and even that may be a conservative estimate. How will we accommodate more than 3.5 million additional people and still maintain the strong economy, livable communities and the natural and working landscapes we want as a region?

Two futures seem to be laid out in front of us. In one—a future taken by some other regions of the country—unmanaged growth, sprawl, dependence on the car and the highway have defined a reality in which daily congestion, frustration and the loss of green and open space leave people looking for a better place to live.

In the other future—one clearly still available to the Northwest—our streams, beaches and estuaries are restored, functional and accessible to all. Our farms, ranchlands, forests and orchards are conserved and working, with their owners fairly compensated for taking care of them. Our urban neighborhoods and communities are full of people, lively, diverse and within walking distance of jobs, stores, spectacular parks and trails.

It is a future well within our grasp. It is a vision for the future we verified with the many people who took part in the Town Halls, Insight Panels and Forums of the Cascade Dialogues. They told us to think in the very long term. They told us we are on the right track.

It is a tall order to create a plan and strategies for the long term that are flexible enough to adapt to the rapid pace of change yet focused enough to not lose sight of the vision. We believe we have done that. We know that without a plan to systematically and strategically save what we value, it will surely diminish or even disappear.

The Cascade Dialogues

More than a year ago, about 100 Pierce County residents pulled up folding chairs around some tables at the Mountaineers Club in Tacoma to begin what we called the Cascade Dialogues, a regional conversation to inform a 100-year conservation agenda for the Cascades, the waters and the communities of King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

As many as 3,500 people have been involved in the Cascade Dialogues. We have engaged elected and business leaders, civic leaders and stakeholders from tribes, farmers and foresters, and heard not only what they value in the region but what concerns them about the future. We have consulted planners, economists and scientists on the critical features of the forests, waters, farms and urban areas of the region.

We heard about our differences and about what ties us together. We heard good ideas about how the conservation of our natural environment could serve our economic future and how our economy might help conserve the landscapes.

The Cascade Dialogues Steering Committee—a diverse, broadly based group representative of the four counties and of key local and regional organizations—spent the year sorting out what we heard from the people, the scientists and the experts. In regular monthly, then twice-monthly meetings, members wrestled with the numbers, maps and environmental science developed by small working groups made up of the best experts we could find, the leadership team at the Cascade Land Conservancy, other conservation organizations and our mapping partner, CommEn Space.

A team of writers took on the tough task of putting down on paper not only what the science told us, but also what other organizations working on similar issues have produced, organizations like Shared Strategies for Puget Sound, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and others. At Steering Committee meetings and in small working groups, draft after draft was discussed, always improved, never shortened.

The complete Cascade Agenda Report is a 40,000-word working document (available at www.cascadeagenda.org) that offers a comprehensive analysis of what we need to do as a region to preserve the Cascades, the waters and the communities we care so much about. It will change and grow as we carry the Agenda forward.

What follows is a summary of our most important findings and recommendations.

The *Cascade Agenda*: A Call to Action

The Agenda starts with the belief that the foundation of an outstanding quality of life is a good job, and with the view that conservation and economic development need each other to succeed. Unless we have homes and jobs, we will not have the financial means for conservation. And unless we conserve our natural resources, our high quality environment, people will not want to bring their creativity, talent and productivity to the region. If we are to be the kind of place people told us they want, we must get started today on two big jobs.

First, we have identified 1.26 million acres of working and natural land that we must conserve, and as conservationists we know how to do this. It is a realistic goal. During the last five years, local conservation groups conserved about 150,000 acres. Just last year, King County, the Cascade Land Conservancy and Hancock Timber Co. came to agreement on conserving 90,000 acres of working forest land, using the sophisticated conservation tools and strategies we have developed. The protection of the Snoqualmie Forest is the first step, already accomplished, toward our 100-year goal. If we start now on these 1.26 million acres, and if we do this well, in relatively short order, we will be prepared for the future.

There is some good news here. While we have converted significant areas to other uses over the last 100 years, we have also done a pretty good job in protecting the natural landscapes we value. We start with a large base of more than 2 million acres of our four-county region already in public ownership as working forest or preserved natural areas. And we have some of the most stringent forest practices regulations in the nation.

Our second big job is perhaps more difficult and complex. To achieve the kind of future we heard about in the Cascade Dialogues, we must make our cities attractive and affordable places, so that more of the 3.5 million people coming our way can freely choose to live in them. Vibrant, livable cities and new ways of looking at rural development can take pressure off forests, farms and the most sensitive rural lands. We can help these places succeed through our conservation of close-in forests and farmlands outside our cities and by helping secure more parks, trails, green spaces and access to the water inside our cities.

To help us think long term, out 100 years, we divided the region into different landscapes to address particular needs within each. Here are detailed looks at the individual landscapes.

The Cascades that inspire us

On an old-fashioned regional features map of the United States, the one where Ohio is overlaid with a picture of a tire and Florida has oranges, Washington has an evergreen tree. It was the way many viewed the state – and still do. We call ourselves the Evergreen State. Seattle is the Emerald City, in other words a green city, where folks can leave their urban neighborhoods and be hiking or skiing in the mountains in less than an hour. That privilege is a key to the quality of life we treasure.

The Cascades are more than the scenic backdrop for our daily lives. The mountains – and the verdant forests on their slopes -- comprise the very heart of our region's ecosystem, cleansing our air and water, protecting our cities and towns against the floods of spring and providing the vistas that stir our spirits. The Cascades are the source of many livelihoods, and the habitat for the animals that give meaning to the legends we teach our children. If ever there was a treasure worth protecting, it would be these mountains. Our ancestors knew that, too, and so they began the task of preserving the Cascades, by creating national parks and wilderness areas and placing working forests in public stewardship. They gave us an incredible legacy -- 2.3 million acres in the Cascades are already in public hands within our four counties!

Yet, in the past 30 years, Washington State has seen two million acres of timberland disappear, through low-density residential development or conversion to other use. The forest that vanished in those 30 years would be nearly as large as King and Pierce Counties combined. Most of that loss has occurred in the low-elevation forests, which are among the most productive forest lands on the face of the earth. Our region cannot allow this erosion of our foothills forests to continue or the health and biodiversity of the upland Cascade forests will gradually be compromised, for what happens in the Cascades has a direct influence on all the other landscapes in the region.

Our vision for the Cascade forests is to maintain an unbroken ribbon of low-elevation forests, stretching from the northern Snohomish County line to the southern border of Pierce County on the west side of the Cascades and from the northern edge of Kittitas County to the Yakima County line in the east. By achieving that goal, we will preserve a heartland of forests that will form the basis for protection of plant, animal and fish species, provide the basis for wildlife corridors throughout the region and ensure a supply of products from the land ranging from wood to clean air and cool summer water. To achieve this vision, we propose to:

- Conserve 93 percent of private working forests, or about 777,000 acres. In addition, preserve another 5 percent, or 48,000 acres, which places those lands in permanent preserved status.
- Maintain the 2.3 million acres already in public hands in preserved or working forest status.
- Provide sufficient timber to support several mills in the region – about 300-to-350 million board feet a year.
- Recognize that the Cascades are at the very heart of our region. What happens in the Cascades has a direct influence on all of our other landscapes. Our efforts should emphasize maintaining connectivity and diversity of recreation, ecosystem and ownership patterns.
- Focus on the low elevation foothills – the closest, most productive, most at risk part of the Cascades.

The Waters that sustain us

In the Pacific Northwest, our lives and our land are shaped by water.

When it falls from the sky for too long we grow weary. When it doesn't, we rejoice. When too little of it falls as snow in the winter, we worry about our power bills, the prospects of our farmers and the fate of the salmon. We live to the rhythm of waters.

In our four counties are seven major rivers -- the Yakima, Cedar, Puyallup, Nisqually, Snohomish, Stillaguamish and the Green. Combined, these rivers form seven watersheds and travel 3,768 river miles from glaciers on the mountaintops through wilderness and working forests, farms and estuaries, reservation fishing villages and great port cities, and on into Puget Sound.

Our waters are as complex in their nature as the lands they traverse. Lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, estuaries and the Sound are all connected. They are one moving force that sustains every one of our region's landscapes.

That complex system of waters has been under stress for many years. Perhaps we first began to sense the danger 40 years ago when the water in our biggest lake became too polluted for our children to swim there. The people of the region took action then and cleaned Lake Washington, but today we are facing more insidious and difficult challenges, created by the changes in land use around our waters.

Past practices among our foresters and farmers, our miners and factory operators, homebuilders and homeowners, have all taken their toll, bit by bit, as silt clouded the rivers and asphalt covered farmland that once held and cleansed our region's rainwater. The results of those past practices are seen in yearly flooding in rural towns, in declining salmon runs and in news reports of threats to the health of Puget Sound itself.

Fortunately the spirit that saved Lake Washington still lives in our community. Efforts both large and small have been mounted in the past few years: public utilities have begun campaigns to conserve the supply of clean water, tribes have led regional efforts to restore salmon habitat, community groups and port authorities have worked together to revive wetlands and citizen groups have even managed to restore portions of our grittiest industrial shoreline to health.

There is more good news: 74 percent of the lands needed to restore the health of our watersheds are public lands, private working forest or farmlands that could be part of the solution with conservation and careful stewardship.

Saltwater shorelines will be more difficult because maritime and other industries have used the shorelines for industrial purposes for decades. Yet, all one needs to do is visit Kellogg Island or the Thea Foss Waterway to know that those shores, too, can be redeemed.

Our goal will be to protect all the fresh water and marine ecosystems that have not yet been damaged and to bring back to life many of those that have. To achieve that goal, we propose to:

- Protect the headwaters of our rivers through conservation of our foothills forests. Estimates put the number of acres to be preserved along rivers and streams at 19,000 acres. But these estimates await further refinement through Shared Strategies and local watershed processes.
- Preserve and restore another 14,000 acres along Puget Sound shorelines and estuaries.
- Limit impervious surfaces across all seven watersheds to specific targets set to meet local conditions. Innovations in building design and technology will

help. Expansion of Transfer of Development Rights programs will be a key element to maintaining the health of our watersheds.

- Recognize that we conserve much of this land by achieving the Agenda's goals. In the long haul, acquisition of wetlands and streams for parks will protect important parts of our watersheds, conservation of working timberlands will protect our headwaters, conservation of farms will sustain the functions of the middle reaches and efficient development in our rural areas will keep watersheds healthy.

The Communities that sustain us

If there is anything that binds us together as a region, if there is any constant that has marked time from the beginning, if there is any one element that defines the Northwest character, it is perhaps this: The outdoors.

We are outdoors -- a lot. We hike, we climb, we run, we jog, we fish, we hunt, we bike, we ride snowmobiles, we ski, snowshoe, boat, sail, camp, backpack, golf, ride our horses and garden. We join several hundred of our neighbors for a Sunday stroll around Green Lake in Seattle or trudge up Three Fingers in relative solitude. We paddle a quiet estuary in the South Sound. We crest Elk Heights along an interstate highway in early spring, wildflowers painting the steppe landscape of the Columbia Basin ahead of us with soft pastels of green and pink and purple.

We also use this land that we love. We live on it, we farm it, we harvest its timber, we build commercial centers, and neighborhoods, towns and city centers with soaring architecture that expresses our finest creativity. We have homes, families, jobs and futures.

Cities, towns and neighborhoods

Cities, towns and neighborhoods are part of the Cascade Agenda because conservation and development are really two sides of the same coin. The Cascade Agenda asks how can we accommodate development but optimize conservation gains elsewhere. We also recognize that the Growth Management Act is the foundation for action: it's the law and we respect that. We also believe that the debate and the discussion changes when you look out 100 years instead of the usual planning horizon that goes out 20 or 30 years.

While the Cascade Agenda focuses on the four-county area of King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, the Agenda also recognizes that what happens in Kitsap County will affect the greater Puget Sound Region. The Agenda also recognizes that population will move north and south, into Skagit and Whatcom counties to the north and Thurston County to the south – especially if we don't handle our region's growth well.

But the focus for the Agenda is the spine of the Cascades and what happens on either side of it in the four-county area.

The demographics of the region were very different 100 years ago. The Alaska Gold Rush brought a wide variety of risk takers to the area. The fishing industry attracted people from Norway, Sweden and Finland. In the 1840s, the first black pioneer, in

what later became Washington Territory, arrived here and started a farm outside Olympia. His name? George W. Bush.

While the region today remains largely white, it is changing. More than 5 percent of the population said they were of mixed race in the 2000 census. More than 13 percent were Asian, 8 percent African American, 5 percent Latino and 1 percent American Indian or Alaska Native.

Latino and Hispanic populations are growing rapidly here and in Eastern Washington. Caucasians already are in the minority in California and the Census Bureau estimates that by the time today's kindergarten kids are eligible for Social Security, Caucasians will make up 49.6 percent of the total U.S. population. Hispanics will be 26.6 percent, African Americans 13.3 percent, Asian Americans about 9 percent and Native American/ Alaska Native about 1.5 percent.

Increasingly the diversity of the region is not separated by race but by class. Median household income in Washington State is about $45,000 but the range within the four-county region runs from less than $15,000 to more than $75,000.

There are several challenges facing us. Broad segments of our community do not engage with the natural landscapes that define it. And for many members of our community there are far more immediate concerns than conservation. Saving a pristine forest is one thing, but for some communities the focus is on the here and now.

Farming

Washington is blessed with fertile soils and an ideal climate for growing crops. Our state is second only to California in the diversity of its produce, with more than 115 different crops. Although our four counties have lost many of their farms to development, we still have a rich variety of farms and orchards, some passed from generation to generation for more than 100 years.

Moreover, the remaining farms and orchards in the Cascade region are the life blood of a growing trend that is providing locally produced farm products that are fresher and healthier for our area residents. While the local market holds the most promising boost for the future farm economy west of the Cascades, Kittitas County farming will rely on several key commodities for the world market such as timothy hay while increasing the production of goods for local consumers.

Unless we take action now, however, the odds are that farms and orchards will continue to vanish from our landscape as development pushes farther into the countryside and city dwellers buy up agricultural land as country estates. The Growth Management Act, locally defined Agricultural Production Districts, coupled with such programs as King County's Farmland Preservation Bonds, have provided a measure of protection in many rural areas, but in other rural areas, where land is zoned to permit one home for five or ten acres, land is quickly being converted to other purposes with little benefit for the region.

Our vision is that both farms and the business of farming will be preserved as permanent elements of our landscape and our way of life. Farmers' markets will

continue to thrive, and new strategies will be found to assure our farmers can make a living by farming. Our goals are to:

- Conserve 85% of the agricultural land that remains in the four counties, including 106,000 acres on the west side of the mountains and 200,000 acres in Kittitas County.
- Support the regional farm economy by promoting more consumption of locally produced foods. Increase local consumption of local produce to about 5 percent of what we eat, an increase that will enhance the viable of our local agricultural economy.
- Provide an adequate and consistent supply of water, an important part of the agriculture industry in Kittitas County.

Parks

When the Olmsted Brothers created their visionary plan for Seattle's park system 100 years ago, they sought to make the natural environment a prominent element of every neighborhood within the city. In large part, they succeeded. The areas of our region that are graced with their parks (and those of their followers) have retained their livability and economic value, through good times and bad, throughout the past century. There is a lesson in that success: well designed parks and space for recreation are essential elements of vibrant cities -- just as important to the life of our cities as any other part of the urban infrastructure.

The people of our region are blessed with wonderful parks, from National Parks to tiny urban pocket parks, providing opportunities to pursue an almost endless variety of recreational activities. Today, these recreation lands constitute a huge asset for our community and are a magnet that attracts and helps to hold a skilled workforce in our region. Yet not every neighborhood is well served by the park systems we have today, and, with hundreds of thousands of new residents expected, more park land must be acquired to keep pace.

Like many parts of the Cascade Agenda, county-to-county recreational land needs vary. In more densely populated areas of King County, land prices are higher and additional parklands will more frequently come from smaller purchases. Programs such as Seattle's Green Seattle Partnership also will help restore existing parkland.

Development and population growth are moving at a different pace in Kittitas County where the challenge is to maintain and enhance its spectacular recreational assets. Because the county is geographically and politically "divided" into "Upper County" and "Lower County," it will be important to create a recreation network that connects people to the vast areas of public lands as well as to the two parts of the county.

In Snohomish County, people want a system of trails that connects their communities to the high mountains; in Pierce County, residents are concerned about the health of estuaries and the links to the salt water beaches of Puget Sound.

Our vision is that parks and recreation land will be woven into the fabric of every neighborhood in the region, and that our cities and towns will be connected to one another by trail systems that encourage walking, running and cycling. Our goals are to:

- Design recreational opportunities that meet the needs of diverse users while protecting and restoring ecosystem function on public lands.

- Work with private timberland owners to maintain and expand public access programs for recreation.
- Connect and improve regional trail networks with a regional consolidation and gap analysis of local plans to identify needed links.
- Keep pace with population growth by adding 30,000 acres of urban parks, ensuring that there is a park within a half-mile walk of all urban residents or within an eighth mile in more densely populated areas.
- Maintain the quality of experience our residents now have at regional destination parks such as Point Defiance in Tacoma, by adding 82,000 acres to destination parks over the next century.
- Make water and shore access available along every eight miles of our rivers in rural areas.

Across the Landscapes

Because nature is, in fact, a single system, there are forces at work across the landscapes we have described: the movement of plants and animals, the shifting tides of human migration and even the movement of time itself.

Natural Heritage

For centuries, the people of our region have been deeply connected to the natural world. Native Americans' survival required a sophisticated knowledge of the land and its bounty for food, shelter and spiritual well-being.

A desire to protect this region's abundant resources has a rich and deep tradition as well. The first Caucasian residents depended on the availability of resources for food and shelter. Early on in the exploration of the Pacific Northwest, the importance placed in the natural environment was manifest in the desire to identify and understand the biological diversity.

Lewis and Clark catalogued many species in their Voyage of Discovery. While visiting our area in the 1820s, famous 19th century botanist David Douglas also catalogued species and ultimately his name was given to our best-known conifer, the Douglas fir. Today, there are still species that can contribute to human health that are part of the ecology of our home area. Our natural wealth has been shown to contribute to the desirability of the area for people to live, work and play.

Today, it is still a matter of survival -- for endangered species such as the Spotted Owl and the Puget Sound Chinook and for us, our culture. With the right combination of actions, we can secure their survival and restore the great and diverse ecosystems that characterize the Cascade counties.

Our vision is that after 100 years, our region's natural heritage will be far more secure than it is today, and the survival of our region's iconic species will be assured. Our goals are to:

- Maintain our region's biological diversity by striving to protect about 30% of the original extent of our region's various habitats, an area that we estimate to be an additional 140,000 acres on both sides of the Cascades.
- Retain the spectrum of native species that are unique to our area.
- Maintain the means for wildlife to move throughout traditional ranges.

Stewardship

Perhaps it goes without saying, but a plan for 100 years must include a commitment to stewardship. For even when we are successful in acquiring the right to preserve land or water, that prize will not be passed intact to future generations without a sustained effort.

For the past several decades, stewardship has focused primarily upon correcting the mistakes of the past---by cleaning up pollution, reviving natural patterns of forest succession and restoring waterways to health. Today new challenges are emerging, created by invasive species, fragmentation of habitat and even the simple pressure of too many boots hiking the same beloved trails. We know that we cannot fully predict how such challenges will evolve or what new issues our children and grandchildren will encounter as they work to protect the legacy of lands and waters we wish to leave them.
But we can predict with certainty that their success, like ours, will be contingent upon finding ways to work together.

It is our responsibility to leave them with some examples. The Cascade Dialogues have demonstrated a formula by uniting environmental organizations, business leaders, government agencies, tribes and other community organizations in common cause. But the Dialogues do not represent the only example or even the first.

We are building on a tradition that is exemplified by many others, such as the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust and its allies, who have succeeded in mobilizing hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours each year to improve and care for the Greenway. Their example teaches us that extraordinary things can be accomplished when we plan thoughtfully and work as one to achieve our conservation goals. Perhaps we cannot predict all the challenges, but we can state our intentions.

Our Goals for stewardship will be to:

- Establish a plan and the financial resources for the stewardship of each property we preserve.
- Restore, whenever possible, self-sustaining ecosystems by repairing the damage from past practices.
- Prevent the proliferation of invasive species that threaten to destroy the balance of natural systems.
- Maintain, to the greatest extent possible the existing level of biodiversity within our region.

The Built Environment

The Cascade Agenda would not be complete without a vision for the communities in which most of our people live and work. In fact, in a very real sense, conservation and development are two sides of the same coin. Both begin with the same premise – there are going to be more people living here in the next 100 years, and they will need homes and places in which to work. The question is how to meet those needs while protecting the natural resources that make this region unique.

The Growth Management Act has been a powerful and a strong force in guiding development and encouraging conservation. Maps of the region, charting growth patterns, provide some encouragement. While the maps show that tremendous

growth has occurred during the past 10 years, the vast majority of that growth has stayed within the boundaries set by the Growth Management Act. Go out a few years, to 2020 and the picture remains hopeful.

But if we go out 100 years to 2100, the picture begins to change. If land use regulations and zoning codes remain as they are for the next 100 years, our urban areas will begin to spill over the current boundaries but not drastically so, because the density within the growth boundaries would be much higher than it is today. Seattle is destined to look more like downtown Vancouver, B.C., with many high-rise apartment and condominium towers.

Yet, urban growth boundaries and residential densities are set by elected officials, and they are subject to many pressures. Even a slight change in the policies they choose could unleash a huge surge of development in the rural areas and foothills forests of the region.

In Kittitas County, the issues are different. It is still a largely rural area although it is increasingly attracting people from the west side of the mountains to establish second homes there. Most parts of the county are less than two hours drive away from the urban centers on the west side. Kittitas County population may grow by more than 100,000 people over the next 100 years. But that estimate could grossly understate the population gains – people with second homes in the county are not counted as residents, for example, since they are already counted in their county of primary residence.

Our vision for the cities, towns and villages of our four counties is that they will become even more alive and interesting than they are today. We expect to see infill of our urban neighborhoods, but with more and better parks -- neighborhoods in which it is possible to live, work and play without needing a car.

We must make our cities vibrant and vital, providing a real draw for many of the 3.5 million people coming this way. It is happening already in Tacoma, Everett, Ellensburg and Seattle where innovative developers are building bold communities with new economic hubs housed together.

Whenever development issues were discussed during the Cascade Dialogues, most participants seemed to be in agreement on how we need to grow our cities and towns. But when it came to the rural areas, the discussion almost immediately turned to the question of growth management, the critical areas ordinances and the growing discord among mostly rural property owners. The conclusion reached during many of the discussions was that the Cascade Agenda, and the spirit of civil discourse it represents, may provide a unique opportunity to begin a rational discussion of the issues of land use and property rights in the rural zone. People expressed a real hunger for a middle ground and a common future.

Our vision is that it will be possible for all those who have a stake in the future of the rural zones to work together to identify the features of the rural landscapes they most value and create better ways of maintaining them. We imagine new approaches to rural development, guided by the principles of conservation that recognize and respect the economic interests of the land owners. Our goals will be to:

- Convene the stakeholders in constructive conversation.

- Provide the best possible analysis of the conservation and community values of rural lands.
- Assist the stakeholders in reaching agreements and creating new tools to preserve the character of the rural zone such as implementation of Transfer of Development Rights programs as a means to preserve important landscapes while providing a fair economic return to land owners.

Conclusion

In the end, the Cascade Agenda is all about communities and how to sustain them over the next century -- maintaining rural communities and transforming our cities and towns so that they invite newcomers to live, work and raise their families.

How do we achieve these goals? The roadmap is before us, the signposts are clearly marked. And a 100-year horizon for the journey the Agenda embarks upon makes all the difference.

The time frame is divided into three segments with a broad strategy for each.

In the near term, the Agenda calls for us to act now to conserve the working land base and support foresters and farmers while also preserving recreation and natural resource lands.

In the mid term, the Agenda tells us to connect what we have done. The emphasis is on restoration of preserved lands, on expanding programs to support private land stewardship, on developing the community and economic links to the working land. For example, more farmers' markets can provide additional markets for regionally grown produce.

In the long term, the Agenda says we must sustain what we have accomplished. New revenue streams will make the working forests and farms economically feasible, stewardship of natural resources will be enhanced and adequate and consistent maintenance funds will be established.

The near term is most crucial. The toolbox already developed is large and sophisticated, but additional tools will have to be added to make the goal of near-term acquisition a reality.

We will need authority to issue Community Forest Bonds. The Agenda calls for additional assistance with Transfer of Development Rights or clustering. We can encourage long-term investments with additional federal tax benefits. New ways of financing acquisition can be developed through such innovations as the Cascade Land Conservancy's Conservation Investment Fund. We need to find ways to deploy new revenues sources coming from carbon sequestration or the storm-water storage capacity created by the forest canopy.

The Agenda is a call to action to help support landowners.

Among small family foresters, the Agenda will help with Group Habitat Conservation plans, technical support, cash flow pools, new incentives for long-rotation/selective harvest and cost control support such as funding for law enforcement.

On the farm, the Agenda calls for expansion of Puget Fresh and other marketing support, inexpensive financing for investing farmers, help with diversifying products and investment in infrastructure and land bank quality lands at risk of conversion.

When it comes to investment, the Agenda advocates:

- Creation of performance-based economically incentivized regulation.
- Rewards for landowners who do the right thing.
- Introduction of new technology and expediting regulatory recognition.
- Landscape-scale conservation benefits by permitting rural villages and conserved lands.

The Agenda recognizes the complexity of the situation. There is the need, for example, to invest in infrastructure to support working lands and urban lands. Not the least of these is the need for better transportation systems necessary to support the kinds of densities the Agenda calls for.

A working forest means mills and other processing facilities. New mitigation techniques such as swales, vegetation along roadways, more permeable surfaces in developments are needed. Cities already are recognizing the need to look at surfaces in a different way – the City of Seattle has a new program of street design that accomplishes that goal.

What does it add up to?

Of the 5.3 million acres in the four-county area, 54 percent of the land is already protected through preserved public lands and conserved private forests.

The 2105 conservation goal is to have 4.1 million acres, or 77% of the region protected. About 2.8 million acres are protected today as public lands or through conservation easements.

About 1 million additional acres of primarily private land will be conserved as working farms and forest. And about 265,000 acres will be preserved as public parks, natural areas and shorelines.

It will not happen without cost – the estimate to conserve and preserve the lands identified in the Cascade Agenda is about $7 billion in today's dollars, an average of about $70 million a year over the 100-year time frame -- or a few good sales days for Boeing.

Our analysis shows that about $2 billion of that total will be outright purchase of sensitive land. About $1 billion can be accomplished in the capital markets with a variety of strategies such as mitigation banking, voter approved funding measures and conservation development.

The rest, as much as $4 billion worth of conservation, can be done in the private market with aggressive use of transfer of development rights (TDRs), a tool we have used on a number of smaller projects that we believe can be applied on a larger regional scale to compensate land owners for the value of their holdings. In fact, we estimate that using the leverage provided by TDRs, almost a quarter of the new housing needed for population growth could be captured.

To do it right, however, the acquisition piece of the Agenda will have to be frontloaded, with more land acquired in the next 30 years than over the life of the Agenda.

Some have asked if 100 years is too long, questioning if it will weaken the sense of individual responsibility – making the future so big, so far out that we might turn our backs on the actions we must take today.

But is it such a long time? Like many people born in the 1950s, Gene Duvernoy, Cascade Land Conservancy president, can hold a photograph of his French-born grandfather in one hand and a photograph of his Korean-born daughter in the other. His grandfather was born in 1885. His daughter, Sina, could easily live to 2075 given current longevity. Duvernoy holds nearly 200 years in his hands.

It is not such a long time away after all. We hold the future in our hands. We have the opportunity to leave our children's grandchildren a legacy of a region that got it right.

King County

King County is the most urban of the four counties with more than 1.5 million residents. The land in the county is under the most pressure because of the growing population and increasing development.

Yet even in such a populous county there are successes. In September 2004 King County and John Hancock Timber, the company that operates what's known as the Snoqualmie Tree Farm, signed an historic document that will keep 90,000 acres as a working forest. That's an area twice the size of Seattle.

The agreement was one of the largest public purchases of development rights in the Pacific Northwest and one of the biggest such contracts in U.S. history. Under the county's agricultural zoning, the forest could have been broken into 80-acre plots. King County Executive Ron Sims said at the time that the market would have welcomed that kind of development.

Using sophisticated mapping techniques, CommEn Space, an environmental map maker, showed how the area might have been developed. The maps show how different the Snoqualmie Valley could have looked in the years ahead without the action taken by the county, Hancock and groups such as the Cascade Land Conservancy, which helped facilitate the transaction.

"This is a deal that involves a willing private property owner and government officials who see the bigger picture," said an editorial in the Seattle Times. "Future generations will only marvel at the opportunity they seized."

If we are going to succeed in conserving what we value about this region far into the next century, startling changes in perspective will be required from all of us, especially in King County.

How will we secure sufficient space to accommodate a growing population while also ensuring proper stewardship of our natural environment? Working to improve development practices may, on its face, seem contradictory to the goals of land

conservation, but the two objectives are two sides of the same coin. Creating desirable neighborhoods that efficiently use our developable land base and concentrate population within vital urban centers and vibrant rural communities is fundamental to protecting our open spaces.

Kittitas County

While farms, ranches and the rural quality of life continue to be defining aspects of the county, changes are rapidly occurring. In 1954, there were about 1,100 farms with an average size of 602 acres, totaling 680,600 acres. In 2002, there were only 230,646 acres in farm land.

Farmers in Kittitas County have recognized and supported the need to preserve viable agricultural lands in the county, yet they know change is happening. Kittitas County is the fourth fastest growing county in Washington State. The county is increasingly supporting the eastward migration of people from western counties. People are attracted to the county's way of life, low population, abundant open space and recreation opportunities.

More than 2,000 people living in Kittitas County commute to jobs on the west side of Snoqualmie Pass. Many others have built recreation and vacation homes there, especially in the rolling forested foothills and along the river valleys.

Kittitas County acknowledged the importance of its natural amenities to economic development when the Kittitas County Commissioners created a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC was asked to create a county recreation plan that includes an economic analysis of recreation and tourism, maps of the county's recreational infrastructure and a plan to enhance and fund that recreational infrastructure.

In the lower county, availability and access to trails and open space will need to be fully incorporated with new housing developments and planned accordingly to sustain projected increases in county population. With the increased fragmentation and development of private forest tracts in the upper county, the community will have challenges in acquiring and maintaining recreation easements across private lands as well as funding for the stewardship and management of trail corridors that can serve a wide array of users in both summer and winter seasons.

Pierce County

With Mt. Rainer in its backyard, it is no wonder that residents of Pierce County are proud of what they have accomplished.

At a Town Hall meeting as part of the Cascade Dialogues process, residents said the county has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes that support a diversity of species. The community has succeeded in implementing landscape-scale conservation, protecting urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.

Communities in Pierce County have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts, with broad community support for conserving natural lands, maintenance of watershed health and salmon recovery.

And the people of the county have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.

Access to the parks that make the county so attractive is a question. For instance in Pierce County the last transit stop into the Cascades is in Buckley, 16 miles from the gates of Mt. Rainier National Park.

Pierce County is a good example of some of the deep analysis that went into the Cascade Agenda. In recreation, for example, the Agenda has a goal of an urban park within walking distance of every resident. Experts helped the framers of the Agenda study the location and size of parks within the urban growth boundaries of Tacoma. Similar studies were done in the other counties, but Tacoma's was particularly representative.

The analysis demonstrated both underserved areas for the existing population, as well as opportunities for park expansion as the population grows. Also it is worth noting that this analysis clearly identifies low population areas such as Fort Lewis and the Port of Tacoma, where additional recreational acquisitions are not a priority from a walking-distance or population density standpoint.

Snohomish County

The waters that sustain us are especially true in Snohomish County.

For example, the Snohomish watershed is the largest watershed in our region. It encompasses almost 1,000 miles of rivers including the Snoqualmie, Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers, as well as 77 miles of shoreline within its 1.2 million acres.

The Snohomish estuary is the second largest estuary in Puget Sound. Historic and current photos of the estuary from Smith Island show how this area has changed in the last 150 years and CommEn Space, the environmental map maker, shows us again what was and might be.

Like the other estuaries in our region, the close proximity to a major water body and the nutrient rich soils attracted the early settlers who logged, diked and drained the estuary to raise crops and earn a living. While farming is still a major activity in the watershed, other land uses such tribal lands, large urban centers like the City of Everett and Mukilteo, and economic drivers like the Port of Everett, all play a dominant role in the condition of the estuary and shoreline.

The historic extent of the Snohomish estuary is 14,000 acres. The current estuary extent is 4,650 acres, placing it just over the Agenda's goal of protecting 30% of the historic habitat extent (4,200 acres).

Beyond the waters, the people of Snohomish County told us they are proud that the county balances a diversity of landscapes and land uses including economically and ecologically valuable wetlands, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound shorelines; productive and sustainable agricultural lands and forests; historic and vibrant downtown urban and residential areas for all people, and beautiful scenery.

At a Town Hall meeting, the people in Snohomish County said they are committed to taking a regional view to enhance the quality of life for all of us. For example, communities in Snohomish County have come together to make salmon recovery possible and support such initiatives as the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

For the purposes of the Cascade Dialogues process, as well as this document, we have divided the region into three landscapes. While these landscapes are not physically or functionally distinct, they provide an intuitive way to divide the region for discussion purposes. These landscapes are:

- **The Cascades that inspire Us**, the Cascades landscapes runs north to south and includes our low elevation working forests and mountain in-holdings, as well as the headwaters to our watersheds.
- **The Waters that sustain Us**, the waters landscape includes our watersheds, the shores of Puget Sound, and the estuaries where freshwater and saltwater meet.
- **The Communities that define Us**, the communities landscape is a wide-ranging, capturing our urban and rural communities, our working farms, trails, parks and recreational lands.

In addition to these three landscapes, there are a several uses and themes that bridge across the landscapes of our region. These themes have applications in all three landscapes and can be discussed in terms of how they connect people to these landscapes.

- Natural Heritage
- Cultural Heritage
- Stewardship
- The Built Environment

The *Cascade Agenda* is organized into chapters, with each chapter discussing a single landscape or theme. Each of these chapters is organized as follows:

Introduction:
The introduction provides a definition of the landscape or theme and a summary of the contents of the chapter.

Case and Context:
The case and context section provides an overview of the landscape, its features, history, significance, and the threats to its integrity, such as sprawl, fragmentation, or changing economics.

Vision:
The 100 year vision statement identifies what we aspire to maintain about this landscape in 100 years.

Goals:
The statement on goals describes specific measures that, when accomplished, will contribute to our vision of the future.

Benchmarks:
The benchmarks include both quantitative and qualitative measurements for progress towards achieving our goals.

Strategies:
The strategies section articulates our plan of action. These activities are organized as near-, mid- and long-term efforts, while recognizing that "near-term" activities will continue to occur into the longer-term and that some strategies we believe should receive greater investment and focus in the mid- or long-term are under way today.

Near-Term: Acquire and support
- Conserve working farm and forest lands
- Enhance economic opportunity on farms and in forests
- Preserve recreation and natural resource lands

Mid-Term: Connect
- Emphasis on restoration of preserved lands
- Programmatic support for private land stewardship
- Community/economic connection to working land

Long-Term: Sustain
- Deploy new revenue streams for working land
- Enhance stewardship of natural resources
- Establish adequate, consistent maintenance funds

Ongoing Analytical Work
We have set measurable benchmarks for determining our progress towards accomplishing the goals that will lead us to the future we envision for this region. Where possible we have relied upon scientific analyses. However, we were committed in this enterprise to not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. So, therefore, where scientific or economic analyses were incomplete or to date inconclusive, we have taken the precautionary principle and relied upon the values expressed by Town Hall participants and the best professional judgments of regional leaders and experts to set measurable benchmarks that will be most likely to maximize our options in the future. As additional analytical work is completed, for instance as regards the necessary steps to restore Puget Sound, the market expansion needs of west side farmers, or the impacts of global warming, the *Cascade Agenda* should be updated.

CHAPTER 1: THE CASCADES THAT INSPIRE US

Introduction

The Cascades landscape runs north to south and includes low elevation working forests and mountain in-holdings, as well as the headwaters to our watersheds. This landscape is largely defined by its forests, including many working forestlands on both public and private land. These forests provide important wildlife habitat and corridors for migratory species to move between protected areas. They also mediate the hydrologic functions of the entire region by storing precipitation. Finally, these forestlands provide ample opportunities for recreation. Healthy forests provide services that are vital to maintaining a vibrant economy in our region. Without forests, stormwater management costs would skyrocket and we would not have the recreational opportunities that help to draw new businesses to our region. Additionally, intact forestlands are key to maintaining high quality habitat and migration corridors for our fish and wildlife species. Working forests currently provide a viable financing mechanism to preserve forestlands. Thus, our strategies in the Cascades are tightly bound to maintaining forestry as a viable industry in our region.

Case and Context

On an old-fashioned regional features map of the USA, the one where Ohio is overlaid with a picture of a tire and Florida has oranges, Washington has an evergreen tree. The forests that cloak the west slopes of the Cascades are unlike those found anywhere else outside of the Northwest. Conifers like western hemlock and Douglas-fir have evolved over the centuries to adjust to our region's climate,

topography and latitude. They photosynthesize best in the diffuse light and cloudy weather typical of the Northwest winter. Left undisturbed they grow to legendary heights that rival the skyscrapers in the business centers of our cities and suburbs. On the eastern slopes this dense forest spreads down into the dry hills, becoming sparser as the water diminishes. Once dominated by fire and massive red-barked Ponderosa pines, these forests while still extensive, are younger, denser and interspersed with recreational homes. Only careful stewardship will replicate the formerly wide-spread natural processes of fire that now present a hazard to both the forest and people of the eastern foothills.

Why Conserve the Cascades

The Cascades are an invaluable resource - providing jobs, recreation, clean water and air, scenic vistas and a healthy ecosystem full of wildlife and fish. We have inherited an irreplaceable treasure and should conserve it for future generations.

Our Starting Point: We have developed five principles that have guided our Agenda for Action in the Cascades. They reflect what we heard during our Town Hall meetings, gatherings of conservationists, meetings with timber land operators and owners and our own cumulative years of experience:

1. The Cascades are at the very heart of our region. What happens within these landscapes has a direct influence on all of our other landscapes.
2. Saving our forests can no longer be viewed as a zero-sum game to advance either the public interests or the economic interests of the landscape. We must grasp the opportunity to advance both – alone, neither succeeds.
3. Ecological, economic, and regulatory certainty and predictability benefit all parties.
4. Our efforts should emphasize preserving connectivity and diversity of both ecosystems and ownership patterns.
5. We first should focus on the low elevation foothills – the closest, most productive, most at-risk part of the Cascades.

Among the greatest benefits of these forests is their ability to absorb and slowly release rainwater. In Puget Sound where average rainfall tops 40 inches per year, the fate of stormwater runoff has both financial and biological implications. The loss of forest cover leads to flashy instream flows that cause widespread stream degradation through erosion and scouring. In today's terms, what we have remaining still provides $5.9 billion in annual stormwater control.[1] As development expands, as further forestlands are cut and not regenerated, we will have to spend additional funds to control the added run-off. But we can't engineer stormwater ponds to handle that much rain. Add more extreme storm events that global climate change models predict for the Northwest and the financial benefits of intact forestlands – preserved and harvested – become invaluable. What's more, as snow packs decrease in size and summers become drier, the slow release of waters from the foothills will help to keep cool water flowing in our region's streams during the hottest parts of the year.

1 Mazza, P. and E. Foder. Taking Its Toll: The Hidden Costs of Sprawl in Washington State. Climate Solutions. October 2004 <http://www.climatesolutions.org/pubs/pdfs/sprawl.pdf>.

Water is a critical resource on both sides of the crest. The Cascades supply water for domestic use to major urban centers such as Tacoma, Everett and Seattle from the Cedar, Tolt, Sultan and Green rivers. Irrigation is essential to east side agriculture, depending on waters captured from the Yakima and Teanaway rivers. Salmon swim deep into the heart of our region through the cool waters coursing out of the Cascades and into the Yakima, Teanaway, Stillaguamish, Skykomish, Raging, Cedar, Green, White, and Puyallup rivers. Many smaller streams are inhabited by resident trout. We discuss the significance of the Cascades to the healthy function of these watersheds in the "Waters" chapter.

There are other economic benefits to protecting our forests that we can only begin to anticipate. Forecasters are developing alternative weather scenarios for the Northwest as our region's climate changes, due to increased volumes of carbon dioxide in the air. Temperate forests are particularly good at absorbing and holding carbon, and carbon in the atmosphere will be a problem for all of us in the future. Research suggests that King County forests alone sequestered 56 million metric tons of carbon in 2000.[2] One plausible vision could be the creation of a vibrant carbon-trading market that compensates landowners for maintaining large forested areas like those we have today along the slopes of the Cascades.

Wildlife relies on the diversity of the Cascades landscape and is vulnerable to discontinuities in its fabric caused by highways, recreational hubs and residential conversion. Interjecting fingers of development, along with wider and more heavily traveled highways, create obstacles both north to south and across elevation gradients, presenting significant barriers to the flexibility and dynamic processes necessary for our wildlife and plant communities to remain vibrant. We discuss the significance of maintaining the complex fabric of this landscape in our chapter dedicated to the Natural Heritage of our region.

The outdoors has always drawn on the hearts of Northwesterners. Today, recreation is increasing throughout the Cascades, but especially in areas within easy driving distance of our cities. The intensity and array of sports, along with the diversity of expectations for services, continue to expand beyond traditional uses such as hunting, skiing, horseback riding and hiking to new and extreme sports such as single-track mountain biking and multi-modal 24-hour races. Providing these recreational opportunities is important for recruiting a skilled work force to our region, as well as to offering to our grandchildren the quality of life we enjoy today. This intensity and range of sport will continue to engender potential user-conflicts and the possibility of impacts to natural resources that create unique management challenges, which we discuss in our "Stewardship" and "Recreation" chapters.

Resolution of these user conflicts will rely on common appreciation of the unique resources the Cascades offer, and recognition of the need to maintain the foothills as an interwoven fabric. Working forests depend on the resilience of a well-stewarded, diverse landscape. The natural, aesthetic and recreational resources appreciated by the entire community in the foothills, lowlands, and the whole of Puget Sound are dependent on a fabric of forested foothills. For the foreseeable future, the only

2 Turnblom, E.C., Amoroso, M.M., Ceder, K.W., Lippke, B.R., Mason, C.L., McCarter, J.B.
1 March 2002. Estimation of Sequestered Carbon in King County Forests. October 2004
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/forestry/pdfs/KC_Carb_Proj_Rep.pdf>.

feasible mechanism for protection of this landscape is in maintaining the profitability of timber harvesting to prevent conversion of forest lands to residential development.

An Extraordinary Resource

About This Land

The foothills are better suited to active forestry than the high mountains, with lower elevation providing warmer temperatures and less snow cover allowing for faster-growing, larger trees. The gentler slopes and deeper soils make the land better suited and more resilient to timber management, resulting in greater profitability and fewer environmental impacts.

The Cascades contain extremely diverse vegetation, including sensitive communities, such as old-growth forest stands, bogs and rare species such as orchids. This diverse vegetation and elevation promotes an assortment of over 640 species of wildlife.[3] Unfortunately, several species are endangered, such as marbled murrelet and spotted owl; primarily due to loss of habitat. To retain our region's biological richness and diversity, we must maintain all the unique ecosystems and functions of this landscape. For instance, many species require both upper and lower elevations for survival, so maintaining lower elevation foothills in a mix of preserved and working forest will connect and complement protection of habitat in higher elevation national forests and parks.

Wildlands are a critical component of this landscape, including Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Mt. Rainier National Park, plus numerous roadless areas within our national forests. Together these wildlands provide important habitat and recreational opportunities - but alone they are unsustainable, disconnected pieces of land that provide limited functions to the overall landscape.

Collectively, these wild, preserved and working lands are a diverse, connected landscape that offers both ecological and economic functions to us today and to our grandchildren in the future.

History of the Land and People

The history of Northwest peoples is written on the land. Native Americans relied on the Cascades for hunting, fishing and gathering. The Western Red Cedar tree species has played a crucial role in shaping the lives of Native Americans, providing many uses including wood for long houses and bark for weaving clothes and baskets. Tribes managed some of the forests of our region through fire, to promote wildlife and plants important to their survival. In order to travel to seasonal camps and to trade resources with more distant tribes, local peoples established a network of transportation routes over and through the mountains that we continue to rely upon today.

The railroads came into the Cascades during the 1870s and crossed Stampede Pass in 1887, providing a new means of transportation to facilitate the nation's westward migration. Homesteaders began farming in the river bottoms in the mid-19th

3 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. November 2004 <http://wdfw.wa.gov/faq/faqmain.htm>.

century, eventually converting large expanses of low elevation forestland to agriculture. Soon thereafter, settlers constructed irrigation reservoirs and ditches to create farmland and to irrigate crops. In addition to farming, the region's forests provided another growing market for the new settlers. The first national forests were established in the 1890s. The expansive swaths of highly productive timberland and the roads that accessed the lumber drew timber companies that logged their way into the Cascades. For instance, in 1900, Frederick Weyerhaeuser bought large blocks of land from the railroad, some of which became the Snoqualmie and White River Tree Farms. Railroads hauled the logs, and the company's mill in Snoqualmie operated for over a century.

Northwest forests have provided extraordinary economic benefits. One hundred years ago, Washington State completed its ascendancy in the timber industry, becoming the biggest timber producing state in the union.[4] While today the average value of Northwest timberlands is $2,000 an acre, in the backwoods of Maine it's closer to $500 an acre.[5]

Substantial conservation progress has been made over the last 105 years, with national parks, wilderness areas, natural area preserves and special habitat protections established on public lands. On private lands, the Forest Practices Act brought fish and wildlife into the timber equation. Urban growth spread through the rural lands and into the foothills in the latter half of the 20th century, and the development of second homes and resorts has accelerated the fragmentation of the once unbroken forest. Recently, communities have taken more dramatic measures to protect these timberlands from development, such as the easement purchased by King County to permanently protect as working forest over 90,000 acres of the Snoqualmie Forest. Collaborative, non-confrontational agreements between timber landowners and nearby communities have set the stage for the upcoming century.

Who Owns and Manages the Land?

The Cascades are a mix of public and private lands managed to accomplish a wide-variety of objectives (Figure 1).

Federal lands

For the most part, federal lands occupy the mid- and upper-elevations of the Cascades. Management on national forests ranges from pristine wilderness to timber management areas, "matrix lands", with a variety of recreation opportunities. National parks preserve outstanding natural features and ecosystems, but also

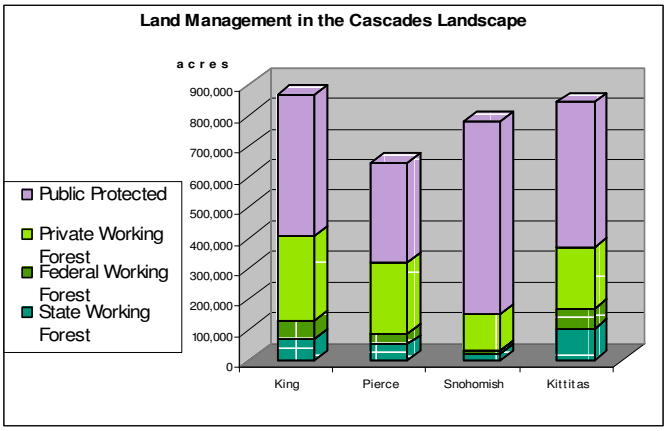


Figure 1: Land Management in the Cascades Landscape.

4 Findlay, J. 1998. *Industrialization, Technology and Environment in Washington.* Department of History, University of Washington. October 2004 <http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/hstaa432/lesson_14/hstaa432_14.html>.

5 Institutional Timberland Investment. Yale Forest Forum. YFF Review 5(2) 2002. October 2004 <http://research.yale.edu/gisf/assets/pdf/yff/05.03.pdf>.

provide public recreation, including some extraordinarily high-intensity areas such as the alpine meadows at Paradise in Mt. Rainier National Park.

State lands

State land ownership comes under various jurisdictions and serves many purposes throughout the Cascades. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages trust lands to provide revenue to beneficiaries for such purposes as school construction. These forests are covered by a habitat conservation plan (HCP) which requires protection of habitat for endangered species. However, trust lands may be sold or traded to meet the ongoing cash-flow needs of beneficiaries. DNR is accountable to trust beneficiaries for revenue production and for continued portfolio diversification out of timberland and into other asset types. The trust obligations put greatest pressure on DNR over management of lands that are less productive and hardest to manage due to incompatible neighboring uses that are often correlated with the highest real estate values. On the ground, trust obligations can translate into the auction of lands that are nearest our communities for real estate development.

In contrast, Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs), such as Mount Si, include components of public recreation, and Natural Area Preserves (NAPs), which are extremely sensitive habitat protection areas open only for scientific research, are also managed by DNR, but were established for ecosystem protection. Washington State Parks manages more than 30,000 acres across more than 40 parks[6] in the Cascades within the four counties. State parks are generally managed to protect habitat values, but give high priority to the public's enjoyment with campgrounds and active recreation maintained at many sites. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages its lands to primarily benefit wildlife, so any active forestry is conducted to promote elk habitat and generate revenues for stewardship.

Other Public Lands

Seattle owns two watersheds for drinking water protection in the Cascades - the Tolt River and the Cedar River. The Cedar River is managed according to an HCP that precludes commercial logging, but Seattle has initiated a program of ecological thinning to promote late-successional forest and fund HCP activities. King County manages lands such as Taylor Mountain for open space, recreation and forestry. Tacoma Public Utilities secures drinking water from the Green River Watershed, where their lands are managed under an HCP with a mix of preserved and commercially harvested timber lands. Everett owns lands around their reservoir in the Sultan watershed to protect water quality and provide recreation.

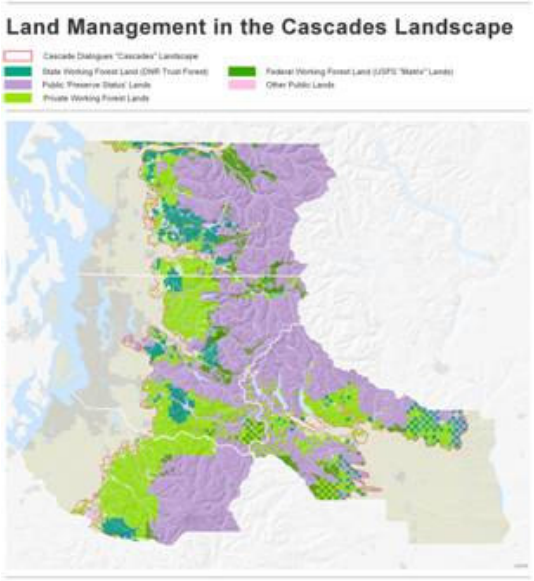


Figure 2: Land Management in the Cascades Landscape.

6 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Lands Prograr

Private Lands

In the four counties included in the *Cascade Agenda* about 830,000 acres, are private forest lands (see Figure 2) and these lands tend to be located in the lowlands. The majority of these forests, about 500,000 acres, are owned by a few large timber companies; however these tree farms are changing hands and fractionating into smaller ownerships. These private lands have been actively managed for much of the past century and have significant road development, with only a few thousand acres of old-growth timber left. There remain a half dozen large tree farms that are 50 - 120,000 acres each, and another half dozen or so that are in the 10 - 40,000-acre range. But a significant portion of the forestlands are now in much smaller ownerships, generally less than 2,000 acres, held by numerous companies and families. The lands on the periphery are constantly being converted to non-forest uses.

The recent conversion of one large working forest demonstrates an innovative new use for large forest tracts. The 6,200 acre eco-friendly resort uses 1,200 acres of development to finance the permanent preservation of 5,000 acres as open space. While the project has been carefully designed with great environmental benefits, it does represent a new trend in conversion of working forest lands and the potential for additional fragmentation of the previously undeveloped foothills landscape.

Our Challenge

The timber industry has shaped the natural systems of our region over the past 100 years. But even as the timber industry has affected our environment and been a source of economic vitality for our region, it has also influenced the landscape in unexpected ways: the value of these working timberlands, on both sides of the Cascades, has helped to promote new development on currently functioning timberlands.

Over the past 30 years, Washington lost 2 million acres of timberland[7], the equivalent of a forest slightly smaller than King and Pierce counties combined, through low-density residential development or conversion to other use. Once forestland has been converted to residential use, it is unlikely that it will ever be recovered.

The forces shaping the Cascade forests are in great flux as we take this 100 year look into the future. As recently as the 1990s a few long-standing, local companies were the primary timberland owners in Washington. For example, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company's ownership comprised a large portion of the wood products industry ownership in Western Washington. Great expanses of the foothills from Longview to Monroe were owned by Weyerhaeuser. Today, Weyerhaeuser only owns a fraction of all timberlands in Washington State. Some lands have been converted to residences, large tracts have been broken and sold in smaller parts, and many new buyers are non-traditional forest headquartered in cities far distant from the Northwest. These smaller properties and distant owners bring a different perspective to the management of the timberlands of our region.

7 *Our Changing Nature: Washington Resource Trends in Washington State*, Department of Natural Resources, 1998.

Economic pressures to sell land are growing for both corporate and small land owners. Corporate restructuring and shareholder expectations for higher profit margins, combined with low cost labor in other countries and the global economics of commodities like timber and pulp, have put pressure on large corporations to realign their timber holdings. Smaller landowners with less financial flexibility may be forced to sell lands even if they would like to maintain them in forestry. Non-traditional forest investors bring shorter-term revenue demands into the timber management equation.

Simple statistics help to explain the consequences of this transformation to more fragmented land ownership. In King and Pierce Counties, the forested landscape is quickly fragmenting, shifting from large contiguous areas of forest to patches of smaller, less commercially viable holdings. In King County's rural forest district, where small land owners are encouraged to manage family lots amidst very low density development, average parcel size has dropped from 16 to 14 acres in four short years.[8] Lots are smaller because landowners are sub-dividing and segregating properties with an interest in converting them to residential development. What's more, the flatter low-elevation lands at greatest risk of conversion and nearest to the sprawl creeping from our urban centers are the same lands that are best suited for timber management. In eastern Washington the creeping nodes of residential development dampen both timber management activities and present human safety challenges that limit land managers' abilities to allow natural or prescribed fires to rejuvenate the landscape.

The loss and fragmentation of forests impacts the economics of timber as well as the ecological health of our region. The changes in the timber market globally as well as the timber wars of the 1980s and 1990s resulted in the shutdown of many of our region's mills. Timber from the lands in our region flows in many directions, but much of our local wood goes to mills in Snohomish, Pierce, and Yakima counties. No lumber mills remain in King or Kittitas counties, putting strain on local landowners seeking crews, technical support and log buyers. Some logs are exported from the docks in Olympia, Tacoma, and Everett. The million acres of public and private working forest can produce roughly 300-350 million board feet (MMBF) per year under a typical timber harvest rotation of 40-60 years on state and private lands, and somewhat longer on federal lands.

Today, logging crews and mills that support the timber landowners of King County are located to the north and the south. Along with increasing residential development and the difficulty of transport on busy roads and highways, this increasingly strains the viability of timber management in our most rapidly urbanizing areas.

Moving Forward: Crafting a Platform for Action

To determine which lands constituted a conservation priority we analyzed our Cascade land base working with scientists, timberland owners and operators, conservationists, and

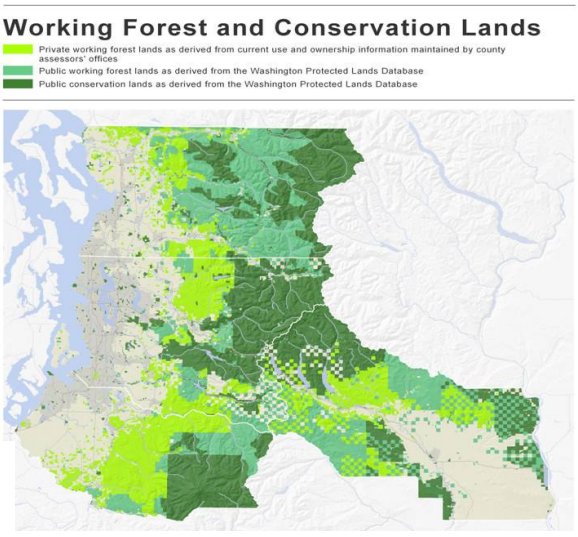


Figure 3: Working Forest and Conservation Lands.

8 King County Department of Natural Resources.

King County Timber Report. King County: Wadsworth, B. 1999.

naturalists. The analysis concluded that the region must produce the timber necessary to continue to supply at least three regional mills. While transporting timber throughout the region can be costly, these mills are needed to maintain an economically viable timber industry and preserve a complex forest environment for terrestrial and riparian habitat and the other critical environmental functions such as stormwater management. This analysis was supported by an array of spatial data:

Figure 3 is a map of our region's working forest and conservation lands demonstrates the current vibrancy of our Cascade forests and that it is certainly not to late for us to take the necessary action to ensure that future generations can also benefit from its many contributions to this region.

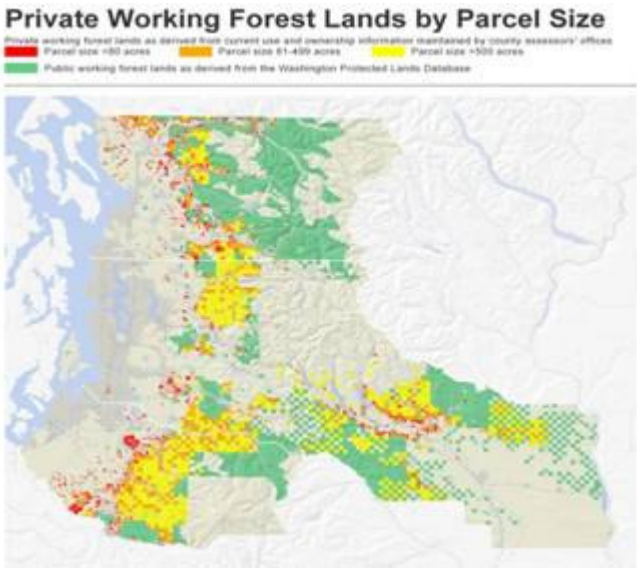


Figure 4: Private Working Forest Lands.

Figure 4, is a map of our private lands provides a sense of their range of vulnerability to conversion and importance to a continued working forest landscape. The smaller parcels typically lie closer to our built environment and must contend with greater ecological impacts due to their increased edge to center ratio and contact with a greater number of neighboring uses. Conversely the larger properties are typically better able to conduct long-term major forest operations. At the same time it must be recognized that many of these smaller properties are both profitable and well-managed by individuals who have a love of the woods and a keen sense of the marketplace.

This map illustrates that our best forestry property is in private ownership and warrants conservation on this resource point alone. The many environmental and public benefits that a working forest supplies make the case for conservation of this landscape immeasurably stronger.

The map Coniferous Forest Stand Age (Figure 5) illustrates that our private lands have been subjected to greater harvesting than our public forest lands. The graphic suggests that our public lands should continue to act as a reserve that provides mature complex forests.

In summary, our analyses have shown that the majority of the Cascade land base warrants immediate conservation due to the risk of conversion to other uses. This analysis has also revealed that conservation of the current mosaic of working and preserved forests can continue to deliver public and economic benefits.

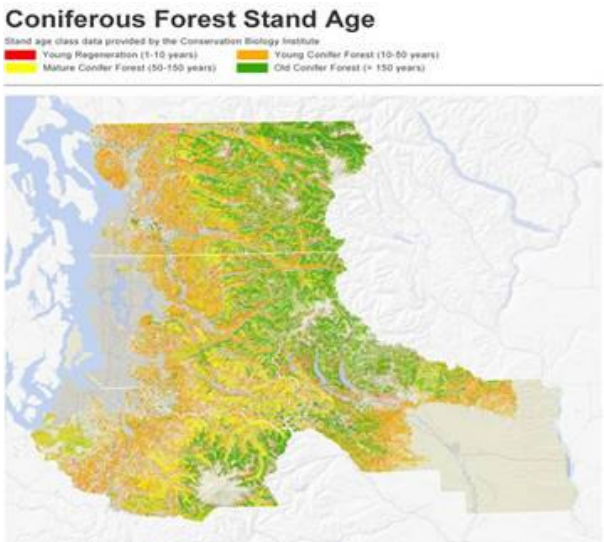


Figure 5: Coniferous Forest Stand Age.

It is clear that if we can achieve our goals and benchmarks that we will be able to provide future generations with a forested, fully functioning Cascade landscape with its economic and environmental benefits intact.

Vision

Our vision for the Cascades is a broad expanse of forests and waters from the Cascade ridges to the lower foothills. This scenic landscape, with its dramatic focal points, is the signature backdrop of life in our region.

From deep old-growth forests to broad expanses of young planted stands, interspersed with meadows, wetlands, rivers, lakes, talus and glaciers, we will sustain the rich diversity of the Cascades ecosystem. Our mountains and foothills will be abundant with native plants and wildlife. These slopes will offer up clean, cool water for fish, wildlife and people. The forests will soak up winter rains, slowing floods and harboring summer waters.

The Cascades will accommodate a wide spectrum of forest activities and recreational opportunities close to urban centers from primitive hiking to close-in campsites and preserved wilderness to efficiently managed timber operations. A well-designed network of roads and trails will provides access, while respecting the fragility of our forests' premier natural values. Cultural traditions linked to these forests will continue to bring joy, guidance and remembrance to future generations. The Cascades will provide substantial resources, economic benefits, and extraordinary wild beauty which are the keys to maintaining the quality of life that attracts people and businesses to our region.

Goals

To realize our vision, we have several interrelated goals, many of which will also appear with the other landscapes of the *Agenda*.

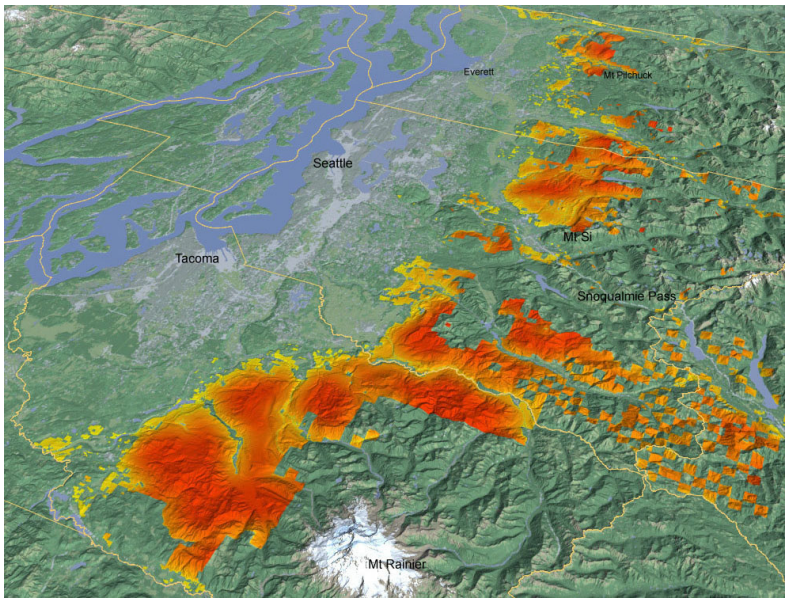
- Maintain a large, contiguous and diverse forest landscape.
- Sustain a vibrant local timber economy.
- Provide high quality habitats and strong corridors for native wildlife.
- Protect the hydrologic functions of our watersheds.
- Create opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation activities.

Although much is uncertain about the products and services from the Cascades that will be most valued in the future, we believe the following objectives will be important to achieving our goals.

<u>Objectives</u>

- Conserve the vast majority of Cascade forestlands, and collaborate with landowners to strategically focus on areas that must be converted to the forest edge.
- Advance conservation of low elevation foothills forests to a top priority in the near term, because the economic pressures and opportunities in this landscape demand quick action.
- Retain the existing portfolio of public forest lands, with no net-loss of total acreage.

- Manage the Cascades to maintain healthy populations of all native fish and wildlife.
- Ensure that sufficient timber is being contributed from the working forests of the Central Cascades to support the long-term operations of mills in Pierce, Snohomish, and Yakima Counties.
- Provide attractive and affordable dense-communities with a variety of settings and amenities, to avert the conversion of the foothills into residential sprawl.
- Steward the foothills to reflect the natural diversity of the Cascade ecosystem, with swaths of young conifers interspersed by old-growth stands, wet meadows and fire-influenced Ponderosa giants towering over open forest floors; alongside a portfolio of commercial forest lands with well-distributed age-classes that provide a mix of products to local mills and global markets.
- As a region, support local timberland owners who invest in becoming leading growers of certified sustainable forests and timber products.
- Establish reasonable "fee-for-service" mechanisms that support and compensate private landowners who permit public recreational access and provide natural resource benefits with their forest lands, while keeping the fee rate affordable to all of the region's citizens.



Forest Conservation Opportunities and Priorities – *The deeper orange and red areas show larger parcels of private forest lands that are contiguous with public lands or other working forests in the western foothills of the Cascades. Lighter orange and yellow indicates smaller parcels and those on the edge of the forest.*

Benchmarks

To sharpen our focus, we have set measurable benchmarks by which to judge our success in the next 100 years.

- **Retain 96% of the Cascades landscape in forests and natural open space**
  2004 total: 3,310,000 acres

- **Retain 97% of the forests currently held in private ownership**
  2004 total: 830,000 acres
  - Maintain 92% as working forest, with up to 10% managed specially for habitat and timber: 777,000 acres
  - Preserve 5% for old growth, unique habitat values and recreation: 36,000 acres

- Expect 3% to convert to other uses, primarily consisting of smaller parcels on the periphery of the Cascades, minimizing fragmentation and encouraging development nearest to services: 20,000 acres

❖ **Maintain today's entire public land portfolio**
2004 total: 2,300,000 acres
- Retain 82% in Preserve status: 1,883,000 acres
- Retain 16% in Timber status: 373,000 acres
- Move 2% from Timber status to Preserve status, including old-growth and matrix forest within the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness Area: 44,000 acres
- Acquire key parcels from private ownerships, primarily for habitat and recreation preservation purposes: 36,000-40,000 acres.

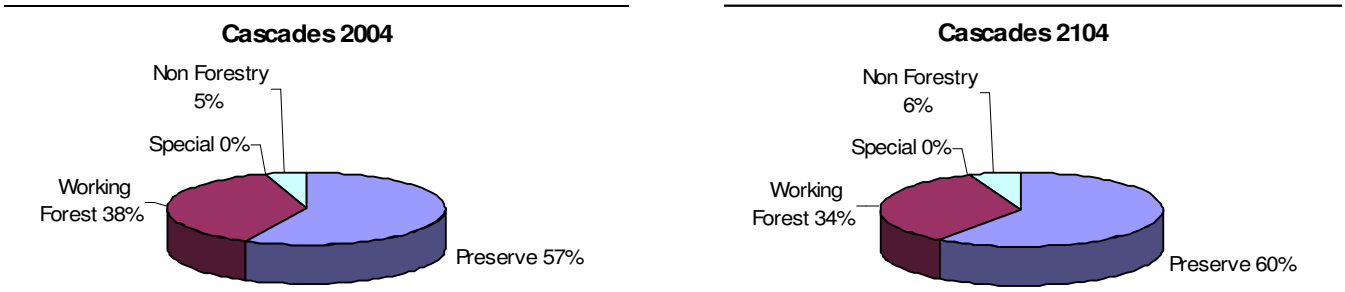


Figure 7: Cascades Goals
A look at our Goals for Action for the Cascades Landscape *– Our goals insure that the vast majority of the Cascades will still be in forest and other natural habitats. Working forests (federal, state and private) would be modestly reduced with a corresponding increase in fully preserved lands (federal, state and local).*

Strategies

The *Cascade Agenda* identifies existing and as yet untried methods for conserving forestlands. New ideas will emerge, and we must be quick to respond to changing conditions. Meanwhile, we must embark on the effort to conserve the Cascades today.

Many conservation groups have justifiably focused on saving the remaining old growth and the best functioning forest habitat we have left. One thrilling feature of a 100-year planning horizon is that conservation provides time to recover forests of varied age and complexity, forests that can provide a range of economic, recreation and habitat benefits, including working forests with a mix of stand ages that are actively managed for timber production.

Near-Term

Paramount to realizing our vision is maintaining the forest land base. While much attention has been focused in recent years on public agencies updating their land management plans, conservation of private lands currently threatened by fractionation and conversion is an ever more pressing challenge. In the next ten to twenty years, huge areas will be at risk of conversion, especially smaller parcels along the forest fringe.

We have taken a strategic approach to private lands in terms of acquisition of property or programmatic support. For lands that are to be *preserved* for habitat or recreation values, the public likely will buy the property outright. For lands that will be *conserved* for timber production, either the public or a non-profit organization will acquire a conservation easement that extinguishes development rights but retains the right to harvest timber according to current regulations. Because conservation of timberland through acquisition of development rights is expensive, such efforts are likely to be focused on larger tracts. For smaller parcels, we recommend *retaining* woodlots in active timber harvesting by providing a regulatory environment and programmatic support conducive to an economically viable and ecologically sustainable timber industry.

Several strategies will be implemented to ensure the forest is not significantly reduced or fragmented.

- Increase certainty
  - All stakeholders work together to ensure fair and effective implementation of the current regulatory regime. Collaborate on developing strategies to address new issues as they arise.
  - Identify preservation lands, with the intent to protect fragile and rare habitats or provide key recreational access.
  - Identify long-term forestry lands, with the intent of maintaining a sufficient land base for supporting the local timber economy.
- Work with Family Forests and the State to create a program to reduce oversight and provide more certainty to regulation of small landowners in exchange for enhancement and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and other forest resources. This program should be similar in make-up to the Family Forest Management Plan outlined by the Washington Farm Forest Association, including the following provisions:

  - The program will create outcome-based management plans tailored to each property, which will be applicable for 15 years.

  - The plans will establish resource objectives, which will require the landowner to implement specific conservation measures.

  - The conservation measures cannot change over the course of the 15 year life of the plan, providing certainty to the forest owner.

  - Approval of the plans will consider the public benefits provided by the family forest through implementation of the plan (such as wildlife habitat, improved water quality, etc.)

  - Forest owners agree sustainably harvest their timber (based on specific criteria), meet the requirements of the management plan, and maintain the property in the forest land tax classification.

  - The State agencies (DNR, WDFW, DOE) will provide incentives for additional enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and will monitor compliance with the terms of the management plan throughout the life of the program

- Partner with timber companies to conserve working timber lands or complete direct acquisitions of preservation lands
  - Local transfer of development rights allows communities that benefit from the Cascade foothills to accommodate growth in exchange for conservation easements permanently extinguishing potential development in the foothills, and financially compensating landowners for potential real estate values.
  - General obligation bonds can be issued by local governments through a vote of the people. Such bond measures could be state- or county-wide, and typically focus on providing the community with some specific benefits, such as parks or conservation of agricultural lands.
  - Enhanced federal tax benefits could be structured to provide incentives for long-term investments in timber producing lands within the Cascades.
  - Land trades may allow public agencies such as DNR to divest of real estate properties while acquiring high quality timber lands for long-term management.
  - Public Funds, ranging from county conservation futures tax (CFT) or real estate excise tax (REET) to state funds such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to federal land and water conservation funds (LWCF) and Forest Legacy grants are dependent on tax revenue and legislative authorization.

- Complete direct acquisitions of working forest land
  - A Public Development Authority could be created to acquire and manage some timber lands either because they are no longer attractive to the private market or because the property provides other public benefits that may influence management. For instance, communities may wish to invest in conservation of the headwaters to local watersheds or may wish to control harvest regimes of lands that define their boarders.
  - With congressional authorization, non-profits could issue tax-exempt Community Forest Bonds to finance acquisition of large tracts of forest land that are at risk of conversion. The favorable bond financing would allow placement of a conservation easement extinguishing development rights in the near-term, while in the long-term allowing options for how intensively the land might be harvested.
  - Privately-placed securities may allow philanthropically-minded investors or patient capital to support acquisition of lower-productivity forests or timberland with very young trees where revenue generation will be attenuated in the near-term.
  - Securitized financing provides many potential benefits to timber investors, including access to a greater range of capital and offering long-term fixed rate debt with typically longer amortization schedules.
  - The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is uniquely placed as a public agency with a large portfolio of commercial timberland and preserve areas. The agency has the technical wherewithal and staff to continue to manage, if not expand, its holdings in the Central Cascades.

Mid- and Long-Term

In the mid- to long-term, more innovative methods will be developed and implemented for conservation of harvested and preserved forests. While the

community cannot guarantee timber management will be profitable, the community can provide a suitable environment for economically viable forestry.

- *Small Landowner Support*
  Landowners with tracts smaller than 500 acres have been disproportionately impacted by current regulations. In addition, the shift in the local timber economy away from King and Kittitas counties has made it more difficult for small landowners to maintain equipment, retain logging crews and transport logs.

  - As sustainability accreditation gains traction, group certification may be required to allow smaller landowners to maintain their foothold in local and global markets. Conservationists may be able to join forces with small timberland owners to provide the required habitat set-asides, the technical analyses, and other stewardship elements that would present insurmountable hurdles to an individual small woodlot owner. Currently there are two widely recognized certification programs:

    - The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program is a comprehensive system of principles, objectives and performance measures developed by foresters, conservationists and scientists, that combines the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality.

    - The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, membership-based organization that brings people together to promote responsible management of the world's forests through developing standards, a certification system and trademark recognition.

  - In Washington State, timber companies and other private landowners have pioneered HCPs as a way to conserve salmon and other endangered species while allowing for commercial timber harvest and other development activities. Group HCPs may allow collectives of small woodlot owners to secure the same benefits of certainty and predictability that large timber companies have secured through HCPs. Lewis County's Family Forest HCP is an innovative effort to help small private forestland owners in Lewis County develop an HCP tailored to the needs of owners of small tracts of private land.

  - Technical support is essential for small woodlot owners to stay competitive and keep up with current regulatory requirements. The region needs to continue to provide services such as those provided through Washington State DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office, which promotes the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners by seeking to provide resources and develop policies that conserve Washington's privately owned non-industrial forests.

  - Establishing mechanisms for small forest landowners to pool revenues may allow for participants to either make immediate cash draws to meet emergency needs or to benefit from an assured cash flow over a period of

years, rather than relying on a 40+ year timber rotation which may strain a landowner without sufficient diversity of stand age on a small property.

- Stewardship partnerships and incentives may also provide small forest landowners the resources they need to care for aspects of their properties that provide greater public benefits, such as wetlands and riparian corridors. This may be an area where the public, non-profit and individual landowners may be able to collaborate to accomplish greater conservation benefits on the ground.

- Create incentives for long-rotation/selective harvest and other habitat/timber management strategies.

- *Regional Transfer of Development Rights*
  The market for Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) may be enhanced through expansion of TDR trading to a regional scale. Explorations are already under way to assess the necessary mechanisms and viability of such a regional approach. Pilot projects could demonstrate the efficacy of TDRs in this region.

- *Cost Control Support*
  Both small and large forest landowners are impacted by increasing costs for maintaining their lands. The community could support the stewardship of timberlands by providing additional funding for law enforcement to control such costly management challenges as vandalism, garbage dumping, methamphetamine labs, arson and other property damage.

- *Deploy New Revenue Streams*
  In the long-term we cannot rely solely on the economics of timber to maintain foothill forests. As a community, we should explore new revenue streams to incentivize and compensation mechanisms for the myriad of public benefits provided by private forests.

  - Carbon Sequestration may be an emerging mitigation funding opportunity, with timberland owners being compensated for retaining forest canopy and harvesting on agreed-upon rotation schedules.

  - Biosolids applications have been tested through a partnership between King County government and Washington State DNR. Improvements in waste treatment and application methods have reduced some of the early impacts associated with deposition of biosolids on recently harvested timberland. Today, the cost-savings and soil-enhancing benefits of biosolid applications on nearby forestlands continues to be a viable method for financing acquisition of close-in working timberland that would otherwise be at risk of conversion. This funding stream, as well as application of other fertilizer compounds consisting of waste-materials may be a key financing mechanism for those properties that have been heavily harvested and lack near-term revenues from timber.

  - The importance of forested foothills to the retention and recharge of water is becoming increasingly recognized by our communities. Compensation for water retention and recharge services may be a way for downstream

residents and municipalities to incentivize landowners to maintain lands in working forest and to manage timberlands in ways that enhance water absorption.

- Recreation fees and cost-share programs may in the near-term only address the costs of containing undesirable access on tree farms, as has been the case at the Snoqualmie Forest. However, major timberland owners and recreationists in the region anticipate that as populations increase throughout our region, there will be an increasingly vibrant fee-access market for pedestrians and vehicles. It is important to note that fee-access will be priced to make recreation in the Cascades accessible to people from every income level. Senator Ken Jacobsen (D) has been a leading proponent for exploring mechanisms and incentives for timberland owners to provide recreational benefits for an economic return; his efforts are ongoing, with the objective of securing some early demonstration projects in this arena.

- *Adequate infrastructure investments*
  Long-term viability of the timber industry, as with many industries in our region, will depend on adequate infrastructure investments in our roads and highways, our ports, our mills and our technically skilled work-force. Some of these investments require public funds, such as roads, highways and ports; others require companies that recognize long-term opportunities in our region and individuals inspired to pursue the most current skills. Our community can take the steps necessary to fund the former, and can provide a business and academic climate sufficient to foster the latter.

- *Independent Science Team*
  Throughout the process of the Cascade Dialogues, it became apparent that when we look out 100 years, stakeholders in the foothills have more in common than not. All parties hunger for certainty and predictability. The creation of an independent science team to support ecology and industry, but not wedded to one or the other as a client, would inspire increased collaboration and could greatly enhance an informed, dispassionate decision-making dialogue when challenges arise in the future.

- *Riparian Corridors and Stream Function*
  Today's regulatory requirements have established buffers along much of our riparian corridors. However, some careful thinning of second growth in these sensitive areas may improve the structural diversity and accelerate development of large woody debris, which is important in stream function. Collaborative stewardship of riparian corridors both west and east of the Cascade divide could be one way to improve the ecological benefits of these important reserves.

- *Collaborative Stewardship*
  Stewardship of our public lands is essential to maximize the myriad benefits inherent there. This will require increased and stable funding to insure that recreation facilities are maintained, watershed restoration is accomplished and scientific research and monitoring is performed. Such measures provide greater habitat protection and certainty for endangered species, which can

give greater flexibility to private lands, as well as solving major recreation conflicts.

- *Market-based Mechanisms for Conservation*
  Partner with real estate agents to develop a program of marketing ecologically-important parcels to conservation-minded buyers when they come on the market. (e.g. the Conservation Land Network in Southwestern Montana).

  Work with environmentally-conscious developers to create limited development schemes that can finance larger conservation set-asides on ecologically important lands.

  "Forest Banking" is based on the existing model of "Grass Banking" being employed by various conservation organizations in the Great Plains. Forest Banking would exchange the right to sustainably harvest trees on public or private conservation lands in exchange for conservation of private lands. In effect, a landowner would donate an easement on his tree lot (extinguishing development rights and requiring sustainable land management practices) in exchange for the right to harvest trees on conservation lands equal to the value of the easement.

CHAPTER 2: THE WATERS THAT SUSTAIN US

Introduction

The waters landscape is composed of our lakes and rivers, the shores of Puget Sound, the estuaries where freshwater and saltwater meet, and all the lands in between that participate in the hydrologic cycle through water interception, absorption, run-off, and discharge. As one of the more intricate landscapes, our regional waters are complex in nature, and in the lands they traverse. Lakes, wetlands, estuaries, rivers, streams, reservoirs and the Puget Sound, all complex in their own right, are linked together into one broad moving landscape interlaced throughout the Cascades and Community landscapes.

It is a landscape on which we depend to sustain our communities, economy and environment. This dependence results from the multitude of benefits that our rivers and streams provide such as scenic recreation, wildlife habitat, commercial water supply and hydropower, to name only a few. From such an intricate connectivity to our landscapes, our communities and our economies, one may infer that activities occurring in the broader landscape are closely associated to the entire network. With closer inspection one can see that the hydrologic cycle becomes the fine thread that ties it all together. Over the years, our diligent scientists, and experts have invested significant time and resources and dedicated their lives to understanding how this complex thread functions with the landscape and creates the intricately woven fabric of our watersheds. Essential for fish, water quality and agriculture these studies have proven especially helpful for understanding how to repair specific areas of the watershed fabric, particularly when normal functions fray.

The connectivity of our watersheds demonstrates how easily our activities can influence the entire watershed, no matter how remote. While many property owners have become aware of the impacts that result from particular management activities

and have made great strides to improve their own land management by investing in efficient, sustainable management practices, our ever-growing population poses a real challenge to the future integrity of our waters. Increases in land development and subsequent increases in impervious surfaces to support housing and transportation pose particular challenges to this fabric. These challenges need to be addressed in our 100-year vision if we are to leave behind cool, clean streams, lakes you can swim in and a Puget Sound capable of making a living on for our grandchildren, and future generations.

Case and Context

In the Pacific Northwest, our lives are shaped daily by water. The constant drizzle that deposits on the slopes of the Cascades fills our rivers and lakes, across which floating bridges transport us, to the eventual convergence of our rivers and streams into the iconic Puget Sound where we fish for salmon, dig for shellfish and ship goods internationally. East of the Cascades, our rivers irrigate crops and fill our faucets before emptying into the Columbia River made famous in Lewis and Clark's explorations.

Long ago, water in glacial sheets carved the valleys and plains around us, depositing the soils in which we have carved our communities and farms. The west side of our four county area comprises a broad low-lying depression known by regional experts as the Puget Lowland. The eastern side of the region is similarly shaped, but differs as it gradually transitions into a valley around the Ellensburg area (Kittitas Valley) until meeting the Columbia Plateau. These unique areas, formed through specific geological and glacial processes, have defined how our water descends from the Cascades to form our watersheds.[9] Today, those glaciers still remain high up in the snow-capped peaks of the Cascades. During the summer, the glaciers and snow pack melt into the rivers on which we depend on for drinking water, transportation, wildlife, agriculture and recreation. In the four counties these rivers include the Yakima, Cedar, Puyallup, Nisqually, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Green Rivers. Combined, these major rivers form seven major watersheds and travel 3,768 river miles (not including tributary miles) through working forests, agriculture, urban development and ports. Water provides the link to all of our landscapes, connecting the Cascades to our agricultural lands and our communities (Figure 1).

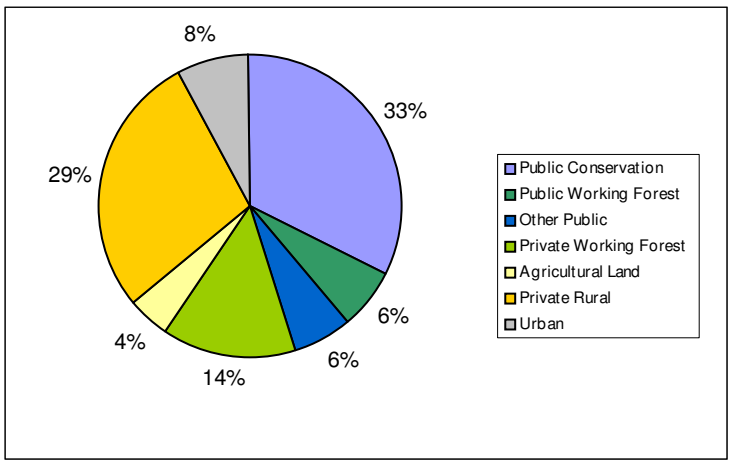


Figure 1: Land management along the major rivers in King, Kittitas, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

9 Booth, D. B., R.A. Haugerud, and K.G. Troost, 2003, Geology, Watersheds, and Puget Lowland Rivers: chapter in D. Montgomery, S. Bolton, and D.B. Booth, eds., Restoration of Puget Sound Rivers: University of Washington Press.

While we simplify this landscape into one term, "our waters", this landscape is one of our most complex. Its intricacy arises not only from all the benefits we derive from it, but also because it is inherently dynamic and unpredictable. We cannot predict how much rain and snow we will get in a year to determine whether we will face a summer drought, or if we will have plenty of instream flows to meet both our energy needs and support salmon runs. Nor can we predict when, where or how our waterways will change course.

Salmon, the icon of the Northwest, add to the complexity of this landscape. Our waters provide habitat for this federally listed endangered species, which has complex life cycles and specific habitat requirements (Figure 2). While we have made significant headway in learning about these species since their listing, we have much more to learn, specifically about how our land use activities are influencing their habitat, and ultimately their survival.

Challenges

Waterways provide us with many benefits that when out of balance often pose unique challenges to these systems. Challenges to our waters arise at any of three levels: 1. within the stream corridor; 2. land use around our waters; and 3. global impacts on our water systems.

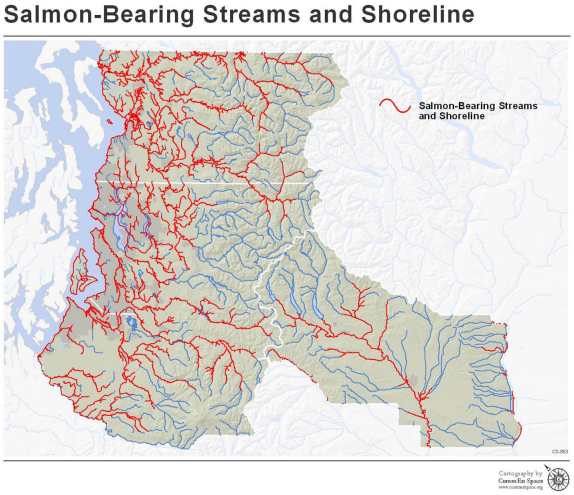


Figure 2: Salmon habitat within the Cascade Agenda landscape.

The first level includes challenges that occur within the stream corridor itself, such as water quality, barrier constraints such as culverts, dams, levees or dikes, diversions through groundwater and stream withdrawals, and forest cover along the shoreline. To illustrate this point, groundwater withdrawals for domestic drinking water in the summertime may reduce water levels critical for wildlife, or removal of forested canopy cover along our waterways prevents shading and stream cooling—critical components of salmon habitat—in addition to impairing shoreline bank stabilization.

The second level includes challenges imposed from land use around our waters such as forestry, agriculture, residential landscaping, gravel mining and recreational uses. For example, timber harvesting in the upper watershed of the Stillaguamish, where slopes are steep and unstable has increased sediment transport in the Stillaguamish River and reduced water quality. An additional challenge in this second category includes conversion. Increased impervious surfaces, erosion, sediment input, barriers and vegetation removal that result from stabilizing the land for development pose significant implications on the health of our waterways. For instance, where stream channeling in the flood plain reduces the unpredictable movement of river migration to allow housing and services for a growing population, the ability of the river to respond to and control flooding diminishes.

The third level of challenges imposed on our waterways result from global events such as climate change and global warming. These events occur beyond our watersheds, and beyond our region, but greatly impact the future of our water and our region's viability. Our region relies on the slow melting of snow pack in the summer for all the varied uses such as drinking water and landscaping. With climate change warming our weather, this water reserve will diminish as our glaciers recede and melt away, and snow no longer falls high in the foothills. Furthermore, our snow pack will be replaced by heavier rains in late summer creating more frequent and flashier flood conditions. The level of change our region will experience in this landscape within the time span of our 100-year vision will be drastic. Sure, we can claim that impacts to our snow pack result from what other countries are releasing into the air, but since Washington, Oregon, and California have been ranked the 7th largest polluter in the world[10] our role in global climate change is greatly contributing to the overall future of our waters. Unless we are savvy and strategically develop alternative storage, conservation and restoration technologies, our region faces a daunting future.

Of course, challenges cannot rigidly be placed into one category or another. Many water issues result from any combination of local, watershed or global impacts that may also pose unique problems and opportunities in each of the different systems. Incorporated into our local landscape, water issues and opportunities will differ with the water's location in the region. Challenges in the Duwamish-Green River, for example, may not be the same as those in the Nisqually or Yakima rivers.

Numerous scientific reports have indicated the health of our waterways is at great risk. In the next 100 years, this risk will be greatly influenced by our growing population. The Yakima River basin is one of the most intensely irrigated areas in the United States.[11] What happens when the population continues to grow and the amount of water needed to sustain increased food crops conflicts with transportation, habitat and drinking water needs? Strains on our watersheds will continue to grow with our population, and our natural resources face serious risk of loss or degradation. The approach of addressing specific water resource challenges in isolation is no longer feasible. Today, many groups are working to address the challenges of our water resources. Together - with a regional approach - we can and must address the challenge of how we will meet the demands of a growing population and still maintain high quality water systems that sustain healthy lifestyles for people, fish and wildlife.

How to measure our challenges

One of the most significant indicators of how we are impacting our watersheds has been the decline of salmon. As the number of wild salmon returning to spawn decreases every year, the industries and communities relying on them have struggled to maintain their profitability. Researchers have worked over the last few decades to isolate the answer to these declines speculating over-fishing, clear cuts, habitat loss, and pollution to be just a few of the culprits, but finding no one cause entirely responsible. Today, thanks in large part to the ample research on salmon,

10 PSCAA 2002.. 2002 Puget Sound Update: Eighth Report of the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Team. Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. Olympia, Washington.

11 USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA). 1999-2000. December 2004 http://or.water.usgs.gov/yakima/index.html.

we know that many of the same factors that influence salmon returns are also indicators of the health of our waterways. This research has also provided us with several metrics that allow us to determine the quality of our waters and help us identify opportunities to ameliorate impacts. For ease of analysis and discussion we have separated the regional waters into two categories: Freshwater and Saltwater.

Freshwater

Rivers and Streams: The 3,768 miles of rivers that weave their way through our four-county region traverse a varied and complex landscape. 2,800 of those miles eventually connect to Puget Sound through some form of outlet in Pierce, Snohomish, and King County's 330 miles of Puget Sound shoreline. The rest of our river system connects to the Columbia River. Human activities in these corridors have caused many impacts to the ecological integrity and condition of the system, the extent of which can be measured by several factors including:

1) Maintenance of a mature tree canopy to shade and cool stream and lake temperatures and to stabilize the shoreline.
2) Remaining natural river functions: ability to meander, presence of large woody debris, organic material and sediment recruitment, and flood moderation.
3) Channel complexity: meander allows greater flood attenuation, sediment and organics deposition, wildlife habitat.
4) Amount of remaining intact habitat.
5) Timed and balanced water withdrawals.
6) Water quality: dissolved oxygen levels, mineral and nutrient loading, temperature, pH, and microbial content.

On a regional level, a look at how lands along the riparian corridors are managed gives us an indication of how human actions impact our waters (Figure 3). As might be expected, a majority of the riparian corridors are under good management in public conservation land, working forests, and working agricultural lands. Roughly 63% of these corridors have already been identified in the *Cascade Agenda* for conservation (Figure 4). The remaining 37% of our freshwater shorelines are within the rural and urban areas, and have no form of protection. However, the Shared Strategy and Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) are currently working to identify particular reaches of our riparian corridors and lake shorelines not currently protected where conservation and restoration efforts will rehabilitate watershed functions for the benefit of salmon. We will look to these groups to help direct our conservation and restoration efforts along these corridors once their planning process is complete.

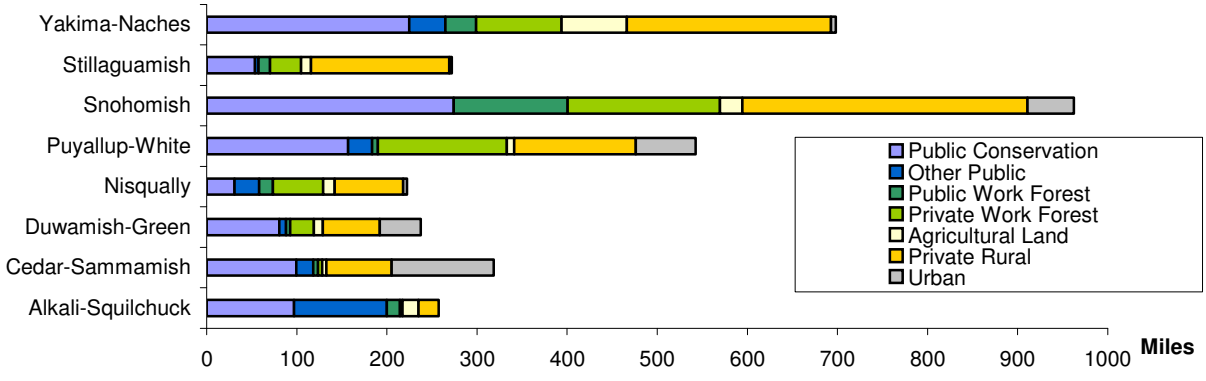


Figure 3: Land Management along our riparian corridors.

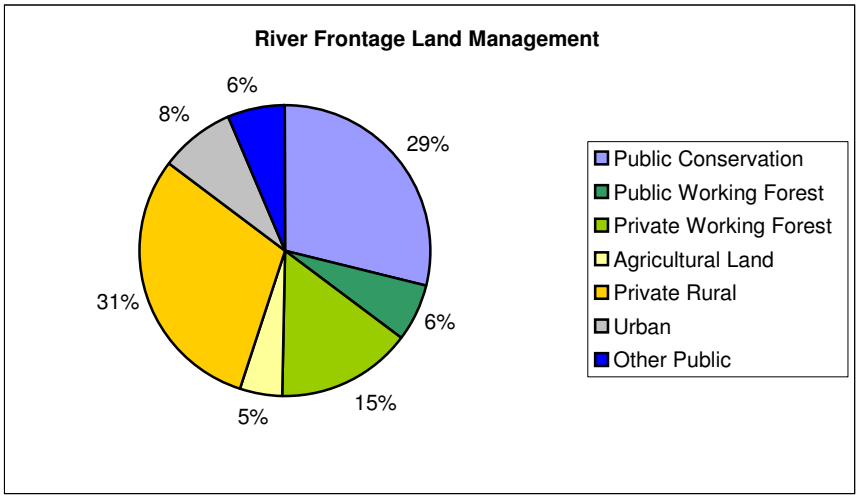


Figure 4: Summarized land management along our riparian corridors.

Watersheds: This landscape is not simply the stream miles and water bodies that cross and dot the land, but also the area of land that surrounds this system and provides direction to flows or sediments for transport downstream. In terms of total area the extensive network of water within our region traverses an area that exceeds 5 million acres including shorelines, lakes, farmlands, cities, tribal lands, and mountainsides, roughly equivalent to twice the size of Connecticut. This network of components is what the Environmental Protection Agency defines as a watershed: the area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, or even the ocean. In our region the seven watersheds include the Nisqually, Puyallup-White, Duwamish-Green, Lake Washington-Cedar, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and the Yakima (Figure 5).

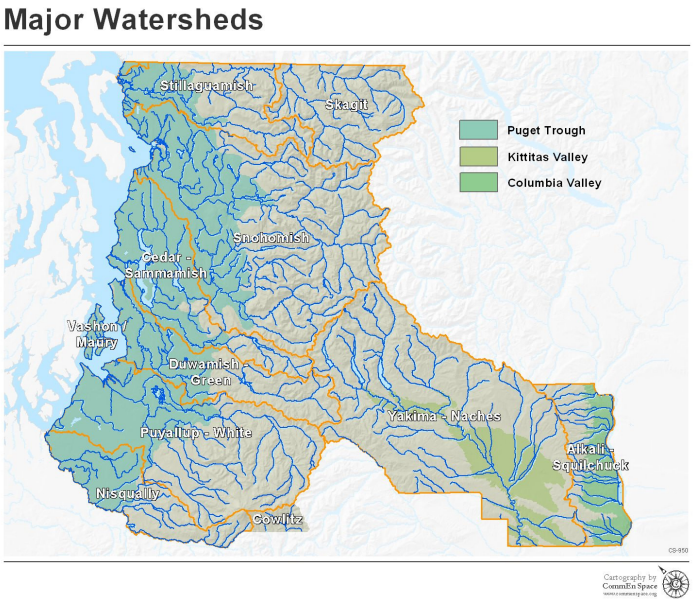


Figure 5: The major watersheds of the four-county region. For purposes of our analysis we focused our attention on the Nisqually, Puyallup-White, Duwamish-Green, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and the Yakima. We excluded the Skagit, Cowlitz, and Naches as these are major watersheds that, while still very important, extend far beyond CLC's service area. Vashon Maury is included in the Duwamish-Green watershed, and the Alkali-Squilchuck is included in the Yakima watershed.

With an area over 5 million acres it is easy to see how dramatic changes in the watershed might have significant impacts on the quality and condition of our waters. In fact, some of the most influential impacts to our water systems relate to the land surrounding and draining into the riparian corridors; these include the amount of remaining high quality habitat and the amount of impervious surface, both of which serve as metrics for watershed health.

As has been demonstrated in our other landscapes in the *Cascade Agenda*, conversion poses one of the major threats to our environment and local economy. This threat is of equal concern for our waters landscape. Conversion of our watershed from natural habitat to impervious surfaces has been shown to produce dramatic changes to the geomorphic, hydrologic and biological processes of our watersheds. These changes result from the change in delivery time of storm water into our river system. Precipitation that reaches the ground that is not intercepted by vegetation is usually stored in the soil column after a rain event.[12] Loss of permeable ground through impervious surfaces disrupts this cycle by blocking infiltration into the soil. The excess water that falls on impervious surfaces immediately drains overland into river systems carrying with it any oils, chemicals or other pollutants that collect on roadways, sidewalks, or driveways. The pollutants deposit into waterways much more quickly and in greater quantities without being filtered by biological processes. This ready transport of pollutants accounts for the decline in water quality associated with impervious surfaces.

Early evidence of the impacts on stream condition from impervious surfaces arose from studies on river biotic diversity. Klein correlated decreases in biotic diversity when impervious surfaces exceeded 10%.[13] Since then, other studies have indicated that spawning success of anadromous species in the Hudson River significantly declines when 15% of the watershed is urbanized[14] and that water quality is impaired at 8-12% imperviousness becoming severe above 30% imperviousness.[15] While the absolute cutoff value of impervious surfaces for producing impacts is not isolated to any particular percentage number, there is consensus that watershed processes are impacted through increased stream flow and velocity, decreased flood attenuation, increased scour, erosion, and deposition, decreased biological diversity, and decreased water quality.

Analysis

Until further refinement of this metric, we have chosen to qualitatively analyze the level of impervious surfaces in our watersheds. While certain levels encourage rapid surface water run-off, it is also recognized that certain building and mitigation techniques are available that minimize these impacts, and may allow for an adjustment to the level of impervious surfaces permitted in a watershed. We will discuss these techniques in more detail in our strategies section.

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12 Booth, D. B., R.A. Haugerud, and K.G. Troost, 2003, Geology, Watersheds, and Puget Lowland Rivers: chapter in D. Montgomery, S. Bolton, and D.B. Booth, eds., Restoration of Puget Sound Rivers: University of Washington Press.

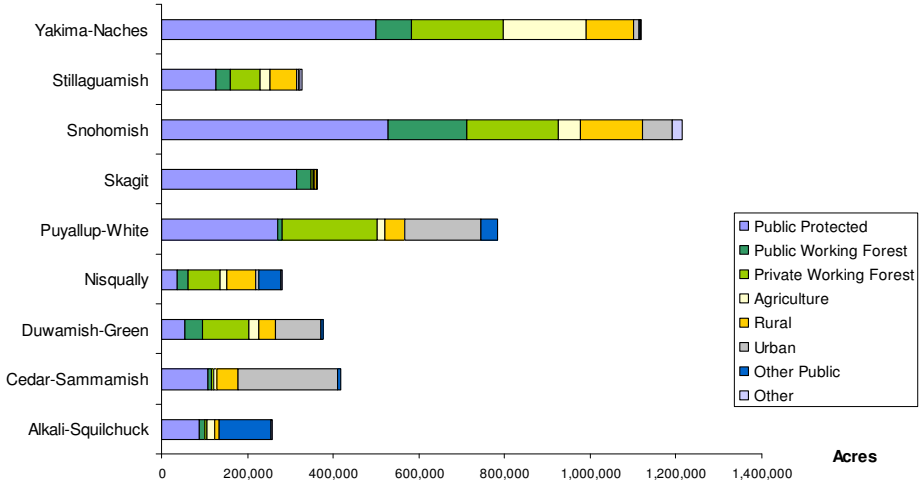
13 Klein, R.D. 1979. Urbanization and stream quality impairment. Water Resources Bulletin 15:948-963.

14 Limburg, K. E., and R. E. Schmidt. 1990. Patterns of fish spawning in Hudson River tributaries: response to an urban gradient? Ecology 71:1238-1245.

15 Spence, B.C., G. A. Lomnicky, R. M. Hughes, and R. P. Novitzki. 1996. An Ecosystem Approach to Salmonid Conservation TR-4501-96-6057. ManTech Environmental Research Services Corp., Corvallis, OR.

We start the analysis with a review of how the land is managed throughout the watershed to give us perspective on the extent of impacts to our waters (Figure 6). As was seen with the riparian corridors, a majority of our watersheds are managed largely as public, forestry, and urban with less in our rural lands. On a watershed level 74% of the land has been identified in the *Agenda* for conservation or protection (Figure 7). Considering the potential for significant impact from impervious surfaces, the rural and urban lands pose the greatest risk for watershed impairment. This 22% of our watershed is the area where we will need to focus our efforts to maintain the health of our watersheds. Now that we have a sense of the general condition of our regional watersheds, we can demonstrate how these impacts function on a local scale by reviewing the processes within one watershed. As an example we will examine the Snohomish watershed.

Figure 6: Land management by watershed within the Cascade Agenda's region.



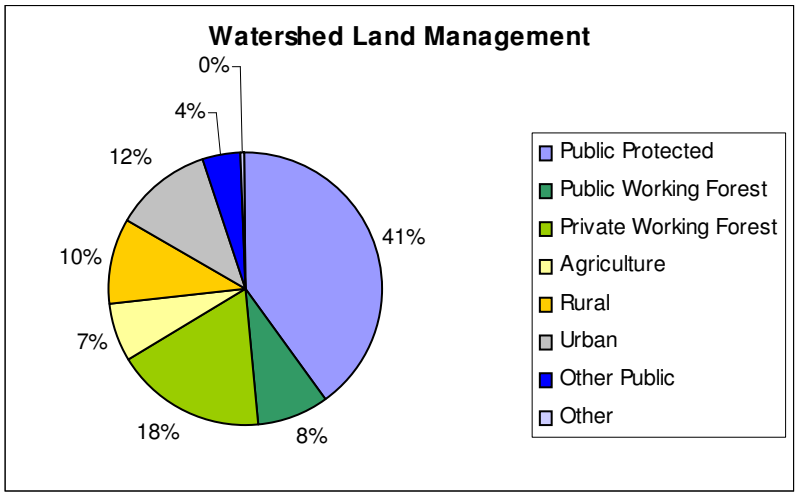


Figure 7: Cumulative land management within the Cascade Agenda's watersheds.

Snohomish Watershed

The Snohomish watershed is the largest watershed in our region. It encompasses close to 1,000 miles of rivers including the Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and Snohomish Rivers, as well as 77 miles of shoreline within its 1.2 million acre boundary (Figure 8).

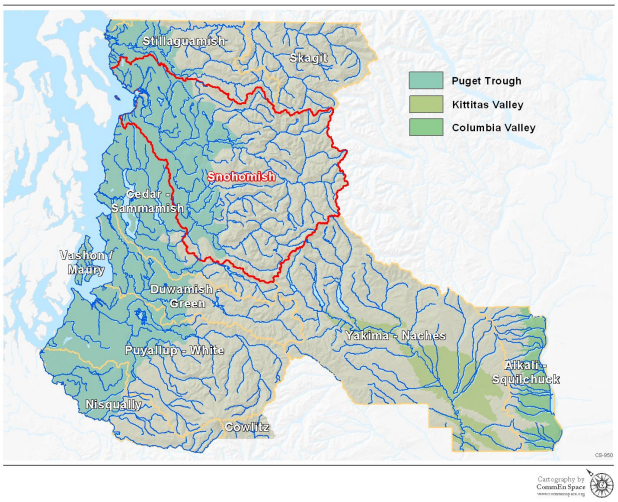


Figure 8: Snohomish watershed is the largest watershed in the Cascade Agenda region.

This watershed consists of 20 sub-basins known as watershed administrative units (WAU) (Figure 9). A majority of the WAUs are located in the headwaters of the watershed where the rivers begin their journeys. This region is currently in relatively good condition as the majority of this watersheds- 44% of public lands are in the headwaters, while 33% are also working forest: either public or private (Figure 10). This portion of the landscape has low incidences and density of impervious surfaces due to the dominance of mature forest canopy. As the tributary streams and rivers traverse the forested upper watershed of the Mt Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest and Alpine Lakes Wilderness, small organic materials, large woody debris and sediments are collected and transported downstream.

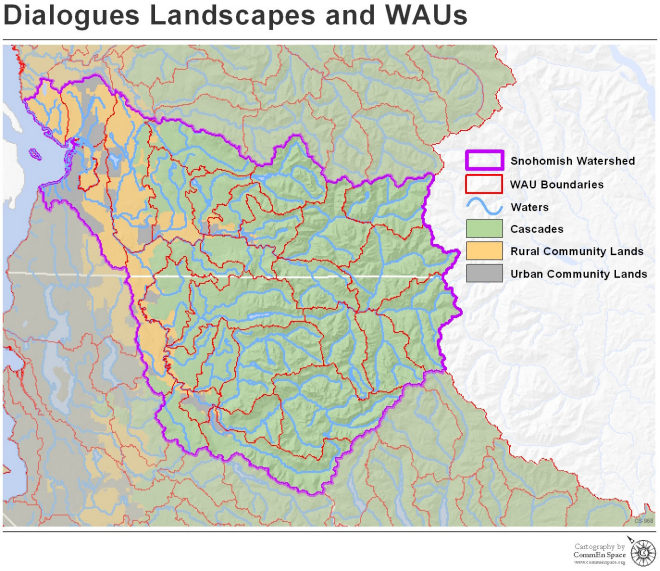
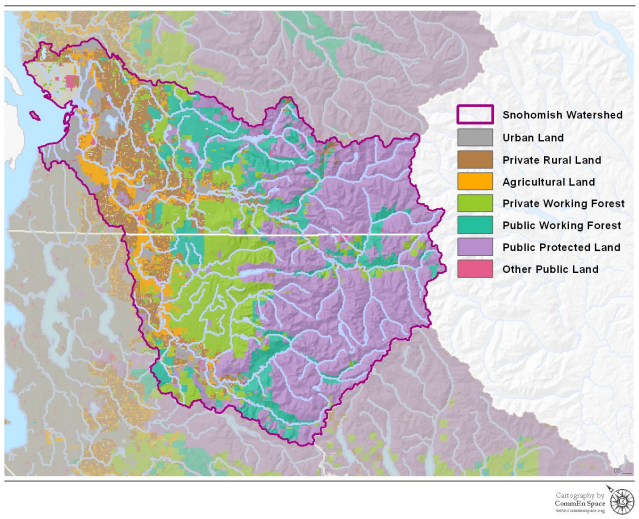


Figure 9: Snohomish watershed administrative units in relation to the Cascade Agenda landscapes.



These headwater forests also shade and cool the streams and lake shorelines, allowing stream temperatures to accommodate salmon and other wildlife. Additional characteristics of the headwaters include storage reservoirs both natural, like the Alpine Lakes, and man-made such as Spada Lake reservoir and the Tolt River reservoir that supply

Figure 10: Land management with the Snohomish Watershed.

drinking water and hydroelectric generators for our energy uses. The upper watershed is a critical area of the watershed as any actions in the headwaters or upper watershed have a cumulative effect on the waters downstream. Conversion of the upper watershed from forestry to residential development along

with land management practices such as logging on unstable slopes pose the greatest challenge to the condition of the upper watershed. However, both of these challenges are easily addressed through strategic market-based solutions such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), in addition to sound management practices such as Fish and Forest and stewardship.

In the lowlands our waters face different challenges. Community lands dominate and public lands and working forests recede to the foothills. This is where the rivers open out into broad floodplains, and pass through our farmlands and large suburban and urban landscapes on their way out to Puget Sound. Some of the rivers collect in depressions in the landscape leftover from the glaciations and form lakes, such as Lake Roesigner, Lake Champlain, or Lake Stevens, where surface runoff also collects and supplements the water supply stored in the system. The sediment and organic material loads the rivers have collected along their descents into the lowlands begin to drop out and recharge the nutrient supply in the lowland soils during flood events and channel migrations, making it a very productive area for farming. Large woody debris accumulates and slows the river velocity, stabilizes the river bank and lake shoreline and allows for pooling and off-channel habitats ideal for salmon. In-stream flows from these lowland rivers are drawn to the many farmlands that remain in the floodplains of the Skykomish, Snoqualmie and Snohomish Rivers to irrigate our crops. Additionally, wells tap into the subsurface reservoir of ground water to provide drinking water to our rural residents. Despite all these benefits, these lowland waters are faced with greater challenges than in the upper watershed on several fronts. From conversion of our resource lands, to various barriers that preserve our communities; from the unpredictable nature of rivers, such as levees and dikes, to the pollutants that collect on the impervious surfaces and the elevated nutrient loading of our streams from residential fertilizers; the lowland stretch of the watershed is where the impacts of our activities in the upper watershed and lowlands begin to accumulate in the system. Solutions to these challenges are not as straightforward as those in the upper watershed, given that the lowland is where our population is centered, and where access to affordable housing must be available to meet our future needs.

To achieve low levels of impervious surfaces in the Snohomish watershed we know that we will have to focus our efforts where we stand to gain or lose the most: the rural and urban areas, where our population growth will be absorbed. Maintaining our watershed functions will require strategic conservation in these rural and urban lands to allow for population growth without the expense of our watershed health. This will require a high degree of conservation effort in our rural lands and extra restoration and retrofit efforts in our urban areas. Strategies for each area include:

> RURAL: If we account for our goals in the *Agenda* for our Cascades, farmlands, and community parks, we know that a good portion of these watersheds will be protected. Conservation of our Cascade landscape can provide 409,000 acres of conserved land. Additional conservation can be achieved through our agricultural goals: conserving 50,000 acres in active farmland, and our destination parks goal of providing 15,000 acres of existing

and proposed open space lands. This accounts for 474,000 acres, or 40% of the total watershed acreage. Keeping in mind we are relying on the work of Shared Strategy and the WRIA's within our riparian corridors, we can include an additional 23,000 acres of conserved riparian corridors and lake shoreline where impervious surfaces will be reduced and/or prevented, for a 2% gain in watershed conservation within the Snohomish watershed.

URBAN: In the urban area, parks and open space will reduce the level of impervious surface, but strategies for reducing impacts on our waterways will be paramount, as current impervious surfaces already exceed the recommended minimum. Where we cannot meet our goal, alternative building strategies and mitigation will help us to reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces. With sensitive building design, mitigation and retrofitting we may be able to protect nearly the entire watershed from significant impairment.

For example, alternative streets such as the City of Seattle's Street Edge Alternative (SEA) street project, decrease impervious surfaces, establish vegetation, and use ecological processes in an urban setting to control stormwater runoff. Road retrofitting, green roofs and swales are other current strategies and excellent examples of the types of mitigation techniques we can use in the more urbanized areas of the watershed. As scientific research exposes more about the impacts of impervious surfaces and new building and mitigation technologies are developed, our standards may be adjusted, especially as we consider the relationship of other factors such as canopy cover that may reduce the severity of these impacts on the system.

Saltwater

One additionally unique characteristic of our region is that our freshwater streams empty directly into Puget Sound, a major estuary of the Pacific Ocean. Nearly 3,000 miles of freshwater rivers traverse three of our four counties to empty into this basin by way of estuaries or tributary streams that intersect the 331 miles of saltwater shoreline (Figure 11). Both estuaries and shorelines serve as important transition areas that provide specific gradients in ecological, chemical and physical functions. Estuaries provide gradual transition between freshwater and saltwater aquatic systems, whereas shorelines provide transition between terrestrial and aquatic systems. These areas are both critical to salmon habitats as they are essential for their adjustment to and from salt water and provide protection and foraging opportunities as they undergo their transition to saltwater conditions.

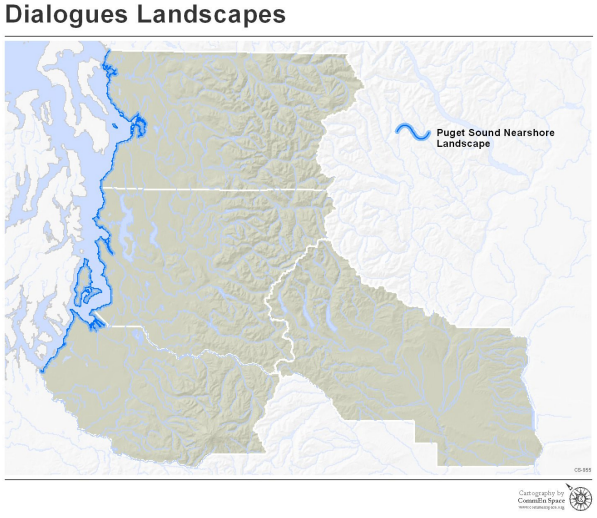


Figure 11: The regional saltwater shoreline extent including estuaries and Puget Sound.

Shorelines
Humans are also partial to shorelines for their residential views and economic opportunities such as ports and industry. Our region is no different from any other shoreline city: high property values accrue along the waterfront and the ease of transport entices industrial development.

An examination of shoreline land management in our watersheds highlights this challenge (Figure 12). Our urban and rural communities dominate the shoreline much more prevalently than in the lowland or upland watershed landscapes. Only a small portion of the shoreline region is in public conservation lands and agriculture (except in the Stillaguamish watershed where farming and rural communities dominate the shoreline).

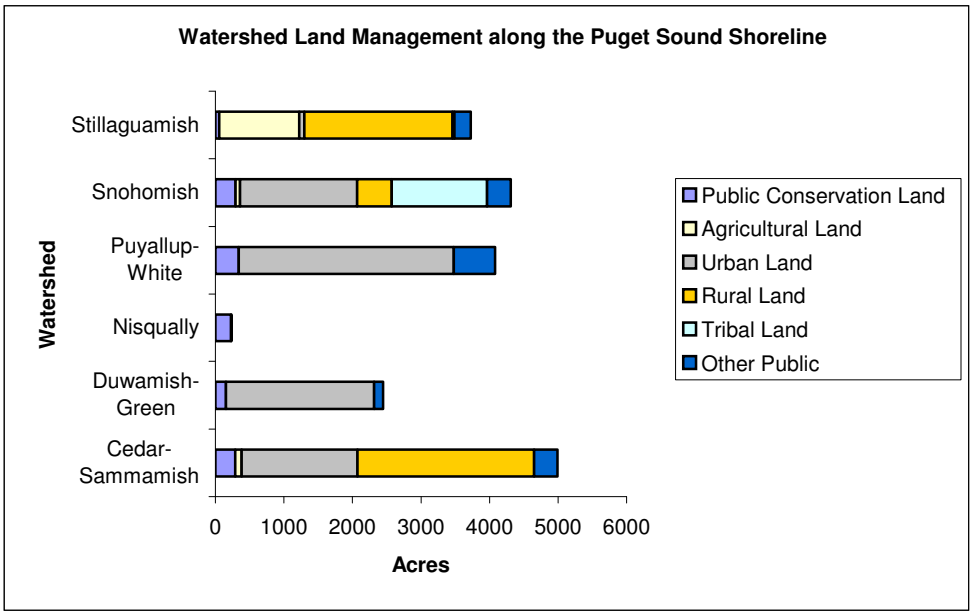


Figure 12: Land management along the Puget Sound shoreline by watershed.

To support the infrastructure required by our urban and rural communities, 76% of the combined shoreline of Snohomish, King and Pierce counties is currently modified by bulkheads, riprap, boat ramps or land fills. This amounts to 247 miles out of 331 miles, or 1/12th of the entire Puget Sound shoreline. Nearly 85% of the shoreline is under private ownership, with 71 miles belonging to the railroad right-of-way. From the remaining 15% of the shoreline that is public land, only 8% is public conservation land and only 6% of that is unmodified (Figure 13).

Current patterns of housing and industry location make it difficult for salmon or other wildlife because development often impairs the natural processes that occur between the land and the water. Natural, unmodified shorelines such as sandy, rocky beaches and feeder bluffs allow for sediment and nutrient transport into marine waters that promote food webs and nutrient cycling marine organisms depend on. The erosive energy of tidal waves driving these transport processes is blocked by shoreline armoring designed to prevent beach erosion and protect property values.

Estuaries
Our regional estuaries also show significant signs of urbanization. Early settlers found that areas where major rivers met a large water body, like Puget Sound, were

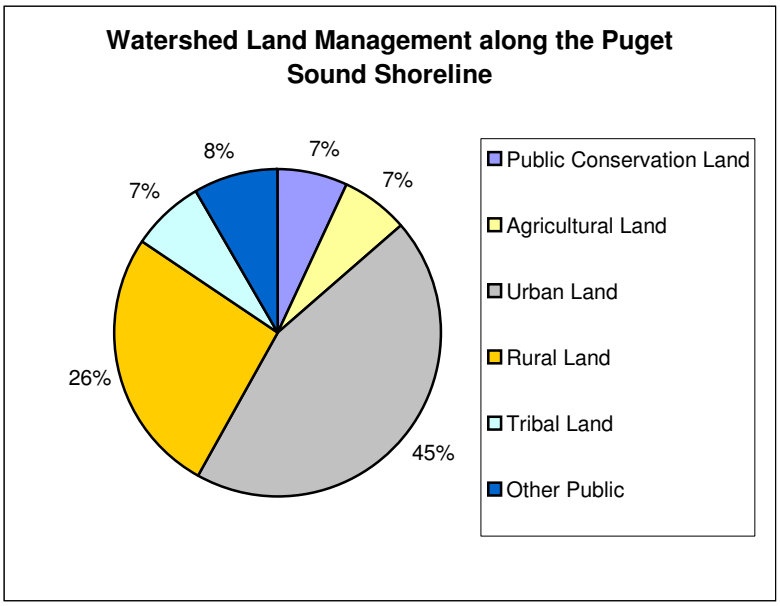


Figure 13: Watershed Land Management along our Puget Sound Shoreline

ideal for settlement. Spacious enough for thousands of settlers, these nodes provided easy access to transportation of otter pelts, timber, productive fisheries and the shellfish industry, and eventually for gold seekers heading towards Alaska and goods bound for international markets. The soils, rich in nutrients deposited by spring floods, also provided ideal agricultural lands, so long as floods were controlled and the land drained.

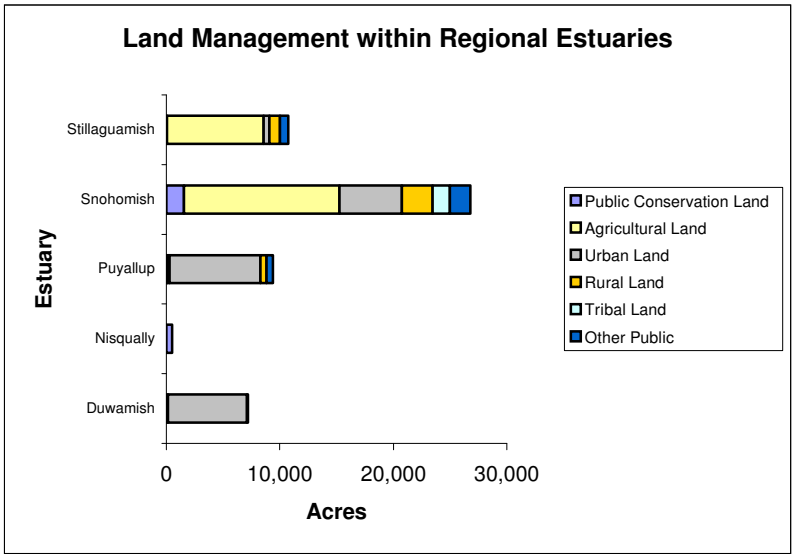


Figure 14: Land management within our Puget Sound estuaries

Land management today demonstrates these same general patterns (Figure 14). Large urban communities that support our cities, industrial, commercial and residential neighborhoods are the norm, particularly in our commercial and port estuaries of Commencement Bay and the Duwamish River. In our northern estuaries of the Stillaguamish and Snohomish, agriculture remains the dominant land use where commercial pressures have not had as much influence on historic land use patterns.

Since the first settlers arrived, we have taken advantage of the plethora of opportunities provided by our regions estuaries, oftentimes posing significant challenges to the natural estuarine processes. Today, only 12,950 acres of estuary habitat exists, more than a two-fold decrease from the combined historic extent of approximately 30,000 acres.

The listing of salmon under the endangered species act, paired with contaminated shellfish and declines in habitat, have spearheaded several investigations into the constraints on functions and processes of our estuaries, shorelines and nearshore environments adjoining Puget Sound. Quantities of toxic materials in the sediment and water, water temperature, natural vegetation, wildlife habitat and the absence of wildlife are just a few of the concerns these groups are investigating. While this research has advanced our understanding of this complicated system, we are dealing with challenges not only from within the estuaries and their shores, but also from the broader landscape, compounding the effort to pinpoint impacts and, ultimately, to establish solutions that are effective and feasible. One may think of our region's saltwater landscape as a mixing pot where water transported from our extensive river network combines with materials washed off five million acres of land. We have previously addressed the challenges for the upper watershed and their impacts on overall watershed condition; likewise, challenges within our saltwater landscape, such as the current status and constraints on our estuaries and shoreline impact overall watershed condition. Metrics for estimating this impact include:

<u>Shoreline / Nearshore Metrics</u>

1) Amount of remaining unmodified shoreline
2) Presence of feeder bluffs and condition of connection with Puget Sound
3) Connection to freshwater tributary streams
4) Providing wildlife migratory refuge, nesting and forage areas
5) Amount and quality of forest cover
7) Invasive species e.g., *spartina* sp.
8) Historic habitat extent
9) Sediment quality

<u>Estuary Metrics</u>

1) Amount of remaining unmodified shoreline
2) Stream temperature
3) Estuary complexity (e.g., dendritic channels and high marsh)
4) Sediment, LWD, and organic transport from upstream
5) Water quality
6) Amount and quality of forest cover, eelgrass beds
7) Number of shellfish bed closures, contaminants
8) Population status of scoters, rockfish, salmon, harbor sea and herring
9) Historic habitat extent

The shoreline and estuary components of the saltwater segment of our watersheds are tied together in so many ways that several of the metrics used to determine the ecological value of one could without a doubt be used for the other.

Analysis

Currently, research on Puget Sound's shorelines and estuaries has not resolved how many of these features should be conserved. However, one metric that has been commonly used by the Natural Heritage program and The Nature Conservancy is a

measure of the historic habitat extent. According to these organizations, protection of 30% of the historic habitat extent is sufficient to support a minimal level of biodiversity. The National Research Council conducted a scientific literature review and concluded that a minimum of 10-40% of all marine habitats should be protected for effective conservation of ecosystem biodiversity.[16] This measure of biodiversity is an important metric because these reports show how our current habitat compares to natural habitat in its ability to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, and adaptive community of organisms and ecosystem processes. Loss of biodiversity is a strong indicator of habitat loss as it implies that the processes supporting quality habitat, such as system integrity, resilience and water quality are impaired. As a comparison, historic habitat extent has been nearly eliminated in the Duwamish estuary where we also see low levels of biodiversity. The Nisqually estuary, however, has remained largely intact and even supports a wildlife refuge. As a precautionary measure, focusing current efforts on restoration and conservation of 30% of the historic extent of our region's shorelines and estuaries will allow us to start working on protecting this section of our watershed while scientists and experts work to better understand how much of the historic extent needs to be protected and functioning at an optimum level. By recognizing the commercial and economic constraints in several of our estuaries that will prevent large-scale conservation and restoration to historic habitat extents, we will devise strategies and opportunities to work to both support these industries as well as restore this landscape. To better understand this area of our waters landscape we extend our Snohomish watershed case study to the Snohomish estuary.

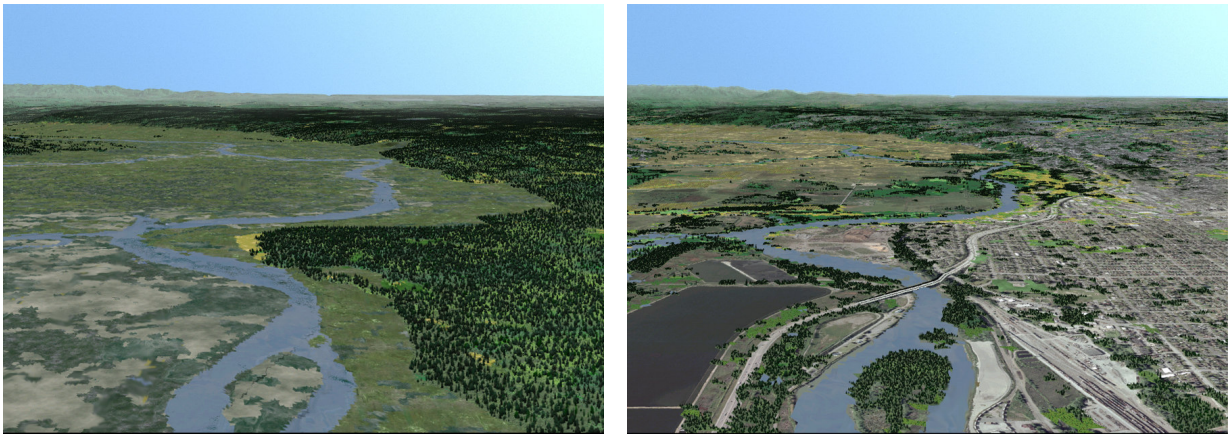


Figure 15: The pre-European settlement (left) and current condition (right) of the Snohomish Estuary near Everett.

Snohomish Estuary:
The Snohomish estuary is the second largest estuary in Puget Sound. Historic and current photos of the estuary from Smith Island show how this area has changed in the last 150 years (Figure 15). Like the other

16 Marine Reserves Working Group. 2001. How Large Should Marine Reserves Be? A summary of findings of the National Research Council's committee on the evaluation, design, and monitoring of marine reserves and protected areas in the United States. May 2001. Unpublished.

estuaries in our region, the close proximity to a major water body and the nutrient-rich soils attracted the early settlers who logged, diked and drained the estuary to raise crops and earn a living. While farming is still a major activity in the watershed, other land uses such as tribal lands, large urban centers like the cities of Everett and Mukilteo and economic drivers like the Port of Everett play a dominant role in the condition of the estuary and shoreline (Figure 16). Currently the shoreline of the Snohomish watershed consists of 138 miles, 75% of which is modified by shoreline armoring (Figure 17).

The historic habitat extent of the Snohomish estuary is 14,000 acres. The current estuary extent is 4,650 acres, placing us just within our goal of protecting 30% of the historic habitat extent (4,200 acres). Of the 77 miles of historic shoreline extent, our goal is for 23 miles to be unmodified; currently 21 miles are unmodified. These 21 miles of shoreline (the equivalent to 450 acres of estuary) should not be considered trivial because we already have more than 30% of the estuary in its natural state. These extra acres and shoreline miles are vital to the regional effort to restore our estuaries and serve to offset the lower restoration potential in the urbanized estuaries of the Duwamish and Puyallup.

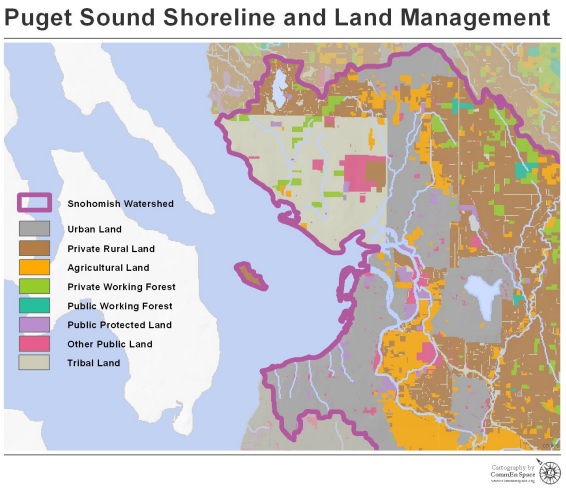


Figure 16: Current land management within the Snohomish estuary.

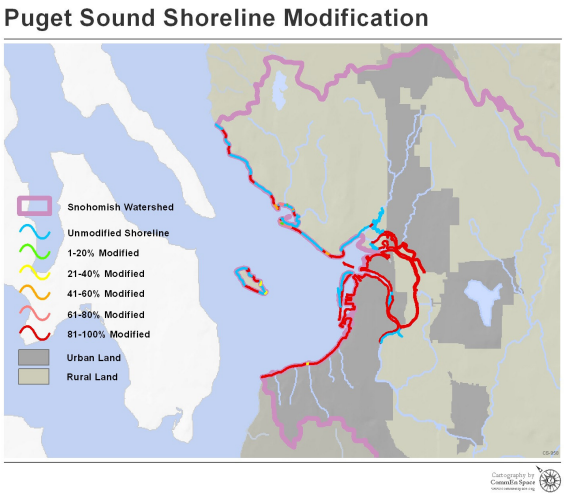


Figure 17. Shoreline modification extent along the Snohomish estuary shoreline.

The 30% protection level certainly does not address all of the functions and processes that occur within our estuaries and shorelines, especially those that concern salmon. Until further research can be performed, this approach should be thought of as a starting point for improving the overall biological integrity of our estuaries and shorelines within a regional conservation approach.

Our region includes only three of the 12 counties that border Puget Sound, making our efforts at improving water quality and ecological function only one piece in the puzzle of conserving the entire Sound. This inland sea connects to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia that cross into Canada before joining the Pacific Ocean. It would be in our best interest to collaborate with Canada and the nine remaining Puget Sound counties to work towards the conservation and restoration of our impressive inland sea.

Vision

In 100 years we will have conserved and restored our watersheds so that fish, wildlife and people can thrive in and around our waters. We will reestablish long stretches of uninterrupted natural shoreline, reconnecting floodplains and forests to major rivers and streams to natural saltwater beaches. We will create new opportunities for people to walk along the cobbled shores of our inland sea or great reaches of nearby rivers.

We will work to restore the natural functions of our waterways that reduce the number of shellfish bed closures, allow our children to swim in the local lake or river, and permit the return of adult-sized salmon to the rivers and streams, allowing our grandchildren to witness their remarkable size.

We will have a consistent, clean, reliable and adequate surface and groundwater supply in the Yakima River Basin to: 1) support working farms; 2) support and sustain municipal and domestic water supplies over time; 3) protect and keep water in the headwater tributaries and mainstream Yakima River in order to restore fish passage in all historically inhabited tributaries; and 4) to have sustainable, viable and harvestable fish populations to support both Indian treaty harvests and non-Indian fisheries.

Goals

Regional Goals

Our approach to this landscape has been to break it down to its moving parts: first to the division between freshwater and saltwater, then down into the riparian corridor and watersheds of the freshwater segment, and finally to the estuaries and shorelines of the saltwater segment. We recognize that several groups are working within these major divisions themselves to identify areas for protection, how much land is needed and how much it will cost. We hope to lean on the WRIA planning process and the Shared Strategy for their draft Regional Recovery Plan due in mid-2005 to guide our processes in the riparian corridor, and for the estuary and shoreline segments. We also aim to rely on and support the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Recovery Program to identify conservation efforts in the estuaries and shoreline habitats. We anticipate their final technical analysis in two years.

While Kittitas County has not experienced the same level of development our western counties have, development is starting to direct itself towards this county. Considering this challenge, we can start early to prevent degradation of our waters landscape through working with developers and property owners to reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces. We must also have a clear understanding of water rights as today only half of the basin has water rights determinations in the form of conditional final orders. Water rights in the west have a reputation of being contentiously coveted by users and nowhere is this more evident than in the Yakima River Basin, where water has been over-appropriated among users. The current court case that has been active since 1977 will determine the surface water rights in 10% of the state's land area, in a process involving 4,000 registered water rights claims and over 40,000 land owners. These determinations are critical to water users in the Yakima River Basin, including municipalities, especially during the drought years.

To realize our vision, we have several interrelated goals that rely on many of the objectives established in our other landscapes of the *Cascade Agenda*. For maximum conservation efforts in our waters landscapes we will need to implement the goals from the "Cascades", "Farms", and "Parks" chapters such that we conserve a large, diverse forested landscape that protects our headwater tributaries; economically viable farmlands that conserve natural river processes; and provide enough parks and trails within walking distance of all urban residents to reduce impervious surfaces in the downstream urban portion of the watershed that also offers public access to our marine and freshwater shorelines for recreational opportunities.

Riparian / Watershed

Riparian

- Implement Shared Strategy and WRIA goals 19,000 acres of riparian and lake shoreline priority conservation such that our region has
    - Improved water quality
    - Functional conifer riparian buffers along streams, rivers, and lake shorelines.
    - Improved fish passage
    - Restore off channel rearing habitat,
    - Developed and promoted land owner incentive programs and stewardship opportunities to maintain high quality ecosystems

Watershed Wide

- Accommodate community and economy while maintaining watershed functions
- Maintain the integrity of our rural communities and watershed by preventing high levels of impervious surfaces in our upper watersheds
- Encourage technical strategies for building and infrastructure in our urban, lower watershed that will offset existing impervious surface impacts
- Improve instream flows in all headwater tributaries, and lowland rivers to meet the needs of fish and wildlife, and of our growing communities
- Collaborate with timber managers, and farmers to enhance stewardship opportunities within our headwaters, and lowland landscapes
- Reduce water user conflicts
- We will expand water front parks and improve natural lake functions on Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, and other major lakes.

Shoreline and Estuaries:

Protect 30% of the historic habitat extent of our regions saltwater shoreline and five major estuaries to serve as a biodiversity conservation baseline.

Shoreline

- Conserve and restore 30% of our regions salt water shoreline: 5,000 acres
- We will reconstitute long stretches of natural shore, by working with landowners to conserve and restore our beaches to a natural condition with emphasis on opportunities to reconnect sediment transport and perennial stream mouths with naturally functioning saltwater beaches.
- Implement the goals of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Recovery Program once their technical information is available.

Estuaries

- Conserve and restore 30% of our regions estuarine habitat: 9,000 acres. Greater focus will be placed in the rural, agricultural estuaries of the Nisqually, Snohomish, and Stillaguamish where there is greater opportunity to restore water quality, wildlife habitat, and estuary complexity. These three estuaries may offset the limited conservation and restoration opportunities in the urban industrial estuaries of the Puyallup and Duwamish

Benchmarks

- Protect major watershed landscape through conservation of the Cascades, farmlands, and parklands: ≈4.8M acres
- Reduce impervious surfaces in our rural, and headwater landscapes
    - Reduced stormwater runoff
    - Improved water quality
- Improved mitigation technology for mitigating for existing impervious surfaces.
- Conserve 19,000 acres of forested riparian corridors
- Conserve 5,000 acres of unmodified saltwater shoreline
- Conserve 9,000 acres of high quality estuarine habitat

Strategies

Restoration opportunities will rely on the cooperation of willing landowners, and may require re-engineering strategies to accommodate existing shoreline uses, such as homes and transportation corridors. Currently single-family homes account for 50% of the shoreline modifications throughout the state through hardening and bulkheads.[17]

Near-Term

Site Specific: *Riparian, Shoreline, Estuary*

- Incorporate priorities
    - Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Recovery Program
    - Shared Strategy
    - WRIAs
    - Landowners cooperation

- Support acquisitions
    - Maintain or increase public funding at federal, state and local levels
    - TDRs, conservation easements and development incentives

- Improve instream flows through:
    - Innovative management strategies such as aquifer recharge, off stream storage, vegetation, and reduced consumption
        - Voluntary water conservation: Seattle Public Utilities estimates each person uses, on average, 83 gallons of water a day;[18]

17 Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, 20022002 Puget Sound Update: Eighth Report of the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring

Team. Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. Olympia, Washington.

18 Welch, C. 2001. City Wants Water Use Voluntarily Cut by 10%. Seattle Times. Friday, April 06, 2001

- Green roofs, low flow toilets, rain barrels, increase landscaping that can store and intercept rainwater and runoff;
- Recycle wastewater for irrigation of golf courses, business parks, or other landscaping purposes;
- Reforest buffer areas with conifers to promote bioretention, thus reducing peak stormwater runoff.

Distributed: *Watershed-wide*

Rural

- Reduce levels of impervious surfaces
  - Cluster development onto smaller areas of development with higher density to prevent sprawl, and reduce the need for impervious surfaces;
  - Implement TDRs program to transfer development from our forestlands, farmlands, and rural lands to areas more appropriate, such as areas where infrastructure already exists;
  - Establish conservation easements to protect priority areas of our watersheds in perpetuity;
  - Seize opportunities for redevelopment such as, old mill sites, or closed retail ventures, as appropriate to economics of the community.
- Retrofit infrastructure and new mitigation techniques for areas already impacted by impervious surfaces such as:
  - Swales;
  - Vegetation along roadways;
  - Green roofs and permeable surfaces in developments.
- Stewardship and Incentives
  - Facilitate landowner incentive and stewardship programs to promote conservation and restoration of our waterways;
  - Develop strong indicators of watershed health such as stream temperature, or instream flows.

Urban

- Optimize high intensity economic uses in our urban communities while:
  - Restoring land to natural functions as opportunity allows;
  - Investing in innovative re-development and infrastructure retrofitting techniques;
    - Use innovative urban design to promote stormwater retention by using Seattle's SEA street as a possible model;
    - Provide sediment windows within modified shorelines to allow sediment transport;
    - Retrofit the railroad line to allow tidal influence, sediment transport, and reconnect stream mouths to Puget Sound.;
    - Reduce dysfunctional septic systems and encourage connection to sewer system.

  - Establish stewardship programs similar to those established in our rural landscape.

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http://o.archives.seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=waterconserve06m0&date=20010406

In addition to local and watershed strategies we can achieve the most success for our waters landscape as a whole through increasing regional opportunities that promote strategic, innovative mechanisms for conservation.

- Develop a demand management program that recognizes sources of impacts to the watershed and develops a revenue stream from the sources of impacts. For example, recognizing the impacts cars and their related infrastructure have on water quality through engine, break, tire and road wear, in addition to oil leaks, road salts and fertilizers used in the medians. To compensate for these impacts on water quality a vehicle fee could generate a revenue stream to fund conservation and restoration efforts.
- Develop a quick action consortium of groups that is poised to quickly acquire property as it becomes available. The consortium should be a combination of scientific, political, financial, and community organizations that is well connected and financially capable.
- Conservation efforts will be based on proactive situation response:
  - Economic re-development
    - When land use changes from such economic uses as a mill site, including brownfields or port, our efforts should be focused on re-developing the site to maintain the economic viability to the community, while providing restoration opportunities. Such re-development might include a water-dependent research facility or railroad retrofit that reduces impervious surfaces, provides public access, and encourages natural watershed functions.
  - Disaster relief and Infrastructure updates
    - In response to natural disturbances such as mudslides or earthquakes, expand conservation opportunities where redevelopment is not feasible or is too costly.
    - Encourage restoration opportunities to major capital improvement projects such as the sea wall or other road retrofits like the Viaduct overhaul.

Mid- and Long-Term

- Expand and promote the quick action consortium
  - Maintain or increase public funding at federal, state and local levels
  - Target ecological restoration of former industrial sites, including brownfields
- Expand and improve stewardship programs
- Advance technology, mitigation mechanisms for impervious surfaces
- Review science, uses and perspectives of our waters as technology and science becomes available.
  - Recalibrate acquisition and restoration targets accordingly
- In anticipation of impacts of global warming to our snow pack and to seasonality of rain fall we will
  - Reduce our region's emission of green house gasses (GHG) and set the stage for a total reduction in GHG emissions on the West Coast;
  - Maintain historic flow regimes in major rivers, through increased storage capacity and flow management
    - aquifer recharge;
    - direct storm water runoff, high river flows to off stream storage areas such as recharge zones, wetlands;

- Allow conjunctive use where applicable;
- Encourage voluntary water use conservation.

CHAPTER 3: THE COMMUNITIES THAT DEFINE US
OUR AGRICULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LANDS

Our Agricultural Lands

Introduction

In addition to supplying food for our region's burgeoning population, Northwest farms also provide beautiful and ecologically functioning open spaces in close proximity to our cities, towns and rural communities. These farms, despite their essential role in our local economy and landscape, are at risk. The recent housing development boom and the ensuing increase of agricultural land real estate value exert great conversion pressure on our region's farmers. This pressure demands planning today to preserve this region's agricultural heritage for tomorrow. In this landscape particularly, it is useful to describe and understand the similarities and differences of our working farms to the east and to the west of the Cascades in order to gain a better understanding of the unique problems and opportunities facing our farmers.

Case and Context

In addition to supplying food for our region's burgeoning population, Northwest farms also provide beautiful and ecologically functioning open spaces in close proximity to our cities, towns and rural communities. These farms, despite their essential role in our local economy and landscape, are at risk. The recent housing development boom and the ensuing increase of agricultural land real estate value exert great conversion pressure on our region's farmers. This pressure demands

planning today to preserve this region's agricultural heritage for tomorrow. In this landscape particularly, it is useful to describe and understand the similarities and differences of our working farms to the east and to the west of the Cascades in order to gain a better understanding of the unique problems and opportunities facing our farmers. This section, therefore, examines farming on each side of the Cascades, then with the benefit of this understanding advances goals suitable for our entire region.

Our Starting Point: We have identified three principles that have guided our Agenda for Action for Farms. They reflect input received during our Town Hall meetings, conversations with scientists, conservationists, meetings with farmers, economists and consumers, and our own cumulative years of experience:

1. As long as farms remain viable as a cohesive working landscape, they will continue to provide a multitude of public benefits in addition to contributing to our local food supply. These benefits include:
    a. The potential to accommodate the ecological functions of local watersheds and the natural processes of rivers, as well as an opportunity for riparian and wetland restoration projects that might be compatible with farming if appropriate incentives and support can be provided to landowners.
    b. Sustaining an historically important element of our culture
    c. Contributing about $398 million a year to our regional economy[19]
    d. Providing open space near our communities
    e. Offering a variety of food options such as community sustainable agriculture, supplying farmers markets and farm stands, and specialty crops
2. While food security is a region-wide issue for the Northwest, we should be able to fully utilize the produce from our farmland locally in the years ahead to ensure farms remain viable despite an ever changing national market. A brief example illustrates this point:
    a. 1 person's full menu diet can be supported by 1.2 acres of farmland, which we describe in more detail below.
    b. By way of example, dedicating <u>every</u> acre of farmland (≈360,000 acres total) in our four counties for food production would support 12% of Central Puget Sound's population (2.5 million in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties). As our population increases in the next century this analysis demonstrates that local markets supplying a mere 4% of our future estimated food needs would keep this land fully employed and consequently providing the array of benefits attendant to this working landscape.
3. Because they generally contain the best soil and most cohesive agriculture communities and infrastructure networks, we first should focus on conserving lands within the Agricultural Production Districts and then move on to the other remaining high quality intact areas of farming that provide the greatest range of leveraged benefits.

19 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service-Washington County Profiles. Market Value of Production in 2002. United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. May 2005 <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/counties/coprofile.htm>.

Kittitas County is the largest producer of timothy hay in the state.

East of the Cascades: Yakima Basin Farms

East of the Cascade Range, agriculture in Kittitas County is primarily affected by climate, water supply and drainage conditions. The Upper County is predominately commercial forest with very little commercial agriculture land. The Lower County is predominately commercial agriculture and contains some commercial forest land to its north. Kittitas County lies in one of the driest regions of the Pacific Northwest and farmers today continue to rely on irrigation to grow crops. Historically, the county's economy depended on raising livestock and mining, but agriculture became the top employer and income producing industry by the 1950s.

Whereas the western "upper" portion of the county is characterized by low elevation forests, the eastern "lower" portion of Kittitas County is defined by low valley plains and terraces created by the geologic history of the Yakima River. The major plain surrounding present-day Ellensburg is thought to be an ancient lake floor. Originally occupied by the Yakama and Wenatchi Indians, Kittitas County was named after the Indian word "Kittitas" which means "plenty food," aptly named for the area's abundance of traditional roots, wildlife, and fish from the Yakima River as well as expansive plains and rangelands in present-day Ellensburg to graze horses. American fur traders bought horses from tribes in this area as early as 1812. By 1861, the first white settlers regularly moved through the county as they drove cattle from the south through the Yakima Valley. By 1867, a trading post was established at Ellensburg and settlers soon began establishing homesteads, acquiring lands with squatter's rights and through the Homestead Act of 1862. Kittitas County's dry climate made the first settler's livelihood center around grazing cattle over large areas.

Water soon became widely available in Kittitas County when settlers developed an irrigation system in 1871 and by 1881 a group of farmers established the Ellensburg Water Company. Within 20 years of the first irrigation system, water was accessible

to over 30,000 acres of farmland. Irrigated agriculture, increased livestock use, the coming of the Northern Pacific Railway and the development of the Roslyn-Cle Elum coal mines resulted in a population explosion between 1900 and 1910. The Kittitas Division of the Yakima Irrigation Project was completed by 1930 and resulted in over 70,000 acres of new land under irrigation. Coal mining activity began to decrease during the 1940s, but agriculture continued to expand with the development of irrigation projects. The construction of land routes through Snoqualmie Pass opened new markets for sweet corn and green peas. Ellensburg became well known for its livestock industry and soon local farmers and ranchers began the Ellensburg Rodeo, which quickly became what it remains today - a major rodeo, community tradition and a tourist attraction in the western U.S.

Due to increased irrigated agriculture, Kittitas County's rural population actually increased from 1910-1950, whereas the rest of the state saw an increase in urban population. Likewise, the total number of acres in farms increased in Kittitas County while other Washington counties saw a decrease in farmland and an increase in non-farm uses during that period. Today, as in the 1950s, raising livestock (cattle and sheep) and producing hay, grains and other feed crops dominate the agriculture industry in Kittitas County. While neighboring Yakima and Chelan counties are large producers of specialized fruits and vegetables, these crops exist in small numbers in Kittitas County, mainly due to cooler temperatures and a shorter growing season. In addition, the increased specialization of hay crops is directly related to the county's intensive livestock production.

Today, Kittitas County stands as the largest producer of timothy hay and has become known worldwide for their quality crop. An estimated 70% of the county's timothy hay production is exported, primarily to Japan for race stable horses. An estimated 200-250 farmers commercially grow timothy hay on nearly 30,000 acres of land, making timothy hay the number one cash crop in the county, pulling in an annual value of at least $30 million.

While farms, ranches and the rural quality of life continue to be defining aspects of the county, changes are rapidly occurring. In 1954, there were approximately 1,100 farms with an average size of 602 acres, totaling approximately 680,600 acres in farm land. In 1992, approximately 355,300 acres were reported in farm lands and in 2002, this number dropped approximately 35% from 1992 acreage to approximately 230,646 acres. Similarly from 1992 to 2002, the average size of farms decreased 53% from 469 acres to 248 acres. Despite this reduction in farm lands, the market value from farm products has remained surprisingly consistent from 1954 to 2002, with livestock and livestock products accounting for approximately 40% of the market value and crop sales accounting for approximately 60% of market value from Kittitas County farms.

In addition, the market value of agricultural products increased 13% from 1992 to 1997 for a total of $79,634,000 but then declined 31% from 1997 to 2002 with a 2002 market value totaling $56.3 million. The average per farm market value of production decreased 26% from 1997 to 2002 and government subsidy payments to Kittitas County farmers increased 59% from 1997 to 2002.

Farmers in Kittitas County have recognized and supported the need to preserve viable agricultural lands in the county. They have also recognized the vulnerability of being a mono-crop economy based on timothy hay. Increased regulatory

requirements associated with the Endangered Species Act and best management practices for water quality to support salmon species have added another layer of costs and considerations to farming. In addition to increased costs and regulations, younger generations of farming families are seeking other livelihoods. This is at least in part due to the rising land values, making it difficult for young farmers to purchase farmland. Additionally, estate taxes make it difficult to pass family farms down to the next generation without selling off significant acreage to cover the tax. These pressures, coupled with increased population growth and development in the county, have put the community in a predicament; they must balance the desire for viable agricultural lands with the economic motivation to subdivide and sell land for top financial gain.

Kittitas County is the 4th fastest growing county in Washington State. The county is increasingly supporting the eastward migration of people from western counties. People are attracted to the county's way of life, low population, abundant open space, and recreation opportunities. Over 2,000 people living in Kittitas County commute to jobs on the west side of Snoqualmie Pass. Many others have built recreation and vacation homes here, especially in the rolling forested foothills and along the river valleys. Central Washington University in Ellensburg has hit a record high enrollment of nearly 9,000 students. In Lower County, increased development pressure has resulted in the rezoning of many agricultural lands. Under the new zoning designations, allowable development densities have been substantially increased by converting from minimum lot sizes of 20 acres to minimum lot sizes of three acres. For example, under the former zoning, 100 acres of farmland could be divided into five homesites, while under the current zoning it could be divided into 33 homesites; as a result, larger tracts of farmland are now open to considerable fragmentation. This rapid growth has started to significantly strain government services ranging from processing large numbers of rezoning applications to providing the necessary infrastructure to support the new residences (e.g. road and sewer improvements, and additional schools and fire stations).

West of the Cascades: Puget Sound Farms

With a temperate climate, well-drained alluvial soils, and ample water, the Puget Sound region is one of the nation's great agricultural areas. At the height of the

season, farm stands provide a cornucopia of fresh produce: artichokes and apples, spinach, squash and strawberries, carrots and kiwi, beans, beets and blueberries, garlic, greens and grapes, leeks, lettuce and loganberries, peppers, potatoes, peas and plums.

In the wake of European settlement, farms in our valleys supplied food to the cities that formed at the western end of the transcontinental railroads, and our farms prospered along with the cities. In addition to creating a local food supply for Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and smaller Washington communities, our regional farms began selling their products to more distant markets around the turn of the 20th century. Hops vines covered the Puyallup Valley, destined for breweries across America and even England. By the 1930s, millions of dozens of eggs were shipped annually from western Washington to the Atlantic seaboard. This trend intensified after World War II, which gave rise to new distribution networks that made transportation of farm products ever easier and cost effective. At the same time, the American diet shifted from highly perishable fresh foods to processed goods. The new consumption and distribution patterns favored those areas of the country, like the central Puget Sound, which were naturally suited for agriculture. To keep up with the demand and to lower production costs, farms tended to be larger (averaging more than 200 acres in size) and to specialize in one or two farm products raised for the wholesale or "commodity" markets. Under this market, farmers enjoyed a standard of living that was comparable or even superior to that of their urban counterparts. Farms typically stayed in a family, handed down to the next generation.

In the 1950s and 60s, the new Interstate highway system was built along the fertile valleys of the central Puget Sound, making the transportation of raw farm goods even easier, but also triggering non-farm development in rural areas. Soon, agricultural lands were competing directly with other industries. In the fifteen years between 1982 and 1997, 527,800 acres were converted to urban uses in Washington State. Nearly half of this land was converted from forestlands, located mainly in western Washington. Additionally, during this same period 89%, or more than 1 million acres of the cropland in existence in 1982, was taken out of production and enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Another 352,000 acres of farmland were converted to urban land uses.[20]

During this time, the state lost 7,000 farms[21] and as the number of farms declined, growers lost access to local farm supply stores, equipment dealers, and the support of a local culture centered on farming.

View North from Algona near Auburn in 1940 (above) and 2000 (below).

20 United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Inventory-Summary Report. 1997. November 2004 <www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/1997/summary_report>.

21 United States Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture. 2002. November 2004 <www.nass.usda.gov/census/>.

Today virtually every acre of our remaining agricultural land in the Puget basin is subject to unrelenting conversion pressure.

Development pressures pose a number of other challenges for the farms that remain. Housing developments near farming areas magnify the need for noise and odor control. Traffic jams are now common on country roads, making it difficult to move tractors and equipment. New neighbors, initially attracted to the bucolic country scenes, can quickly become impatient with the sights, sounds, smells, noises and long hours that are part of farm life.

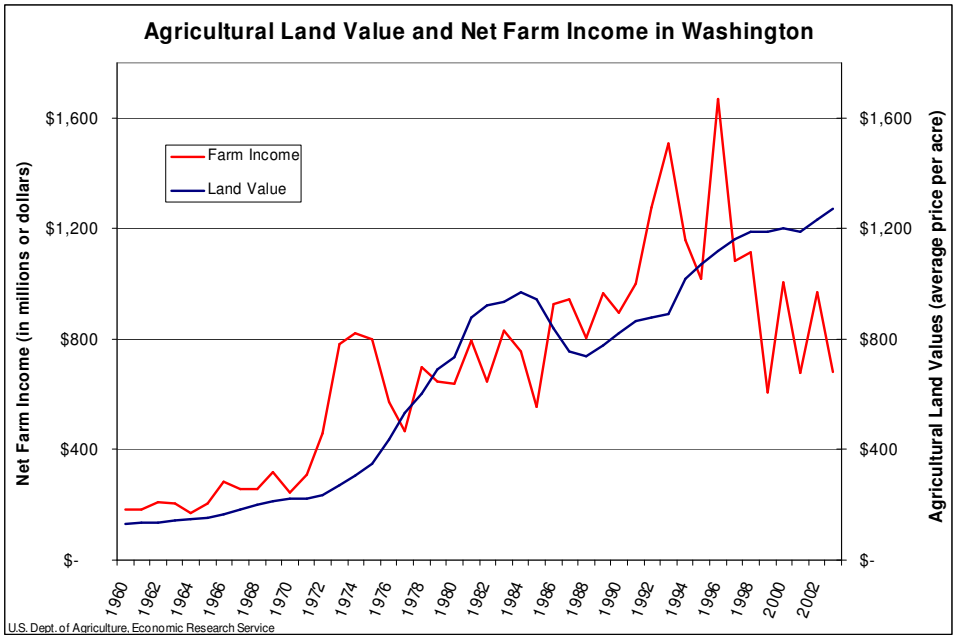


Figure 1: Agricultural Land Value and Net Farm Income in Washington 1960-2002.

Declining profits and increasing land values during the last decade have created even more incentives for farmers to convert Puget Sound farmland (Figure 1). Globalized food distribution networks have now replaced the national systems that initially benefited our west side farms. Cheap food is flown to North America from all over the world. As a percentage of their income, Americans spend less on food than any other developed nation, and this figure declines every year. While food processing and marketing has become increasingly sophisticated, the share of the food dollar that local farmers receive also keeps shrinking. This trend is exacerbated by concentration in the food manufacturing and grocery retail sectors. The local processors that once purchased farm products to make pickles, jams and canned corn have closed their plants or moved them to other parts of the country or the world. Buyers for fresh produce are located in ever more distant cities, and they tend to source from areas of the country that can provide a year-round supply, like California. To cope with shrinking margins, farmers over the past decades have adopted more intensive management practices, ranging from the use of fertilizers and chemicals to maximizing the use of available land area for crops or animals.

Those farmers who grow for commodity markets face increasing uncertainty about the future of agriculture in the central Puget Sound region. Selling to realize the real

estate value of their property is a compelling option for the average farmer, who is now 55 (compared to 50 in 1982)[22] and often with children employed in other disciplines. Such uncertainty breeds an understandable reluctance to invest in new equipment or farming practices.

At the same time, recent health conscious trends have led local consumers to become increasingly attracted to the quality and freshness of locally grown food. Seasonal farmers' markets have sprung up in nearly every town and city in the central Puget Sound drawing both local farmers and some from just over the Cascade Range. School districts and hospitals are exploring arrangements with local growers to supply fresh food to their cafeterias, replacing more processed foods.

Farmers are experimenting with a variety of means for meeting this demand and making their operations more profitable. Some farms are actively reworking their business structure, forging innovative distribution networks to meet the new consumer demand for locally raised products. Many larger farms, which continue to sell most of their goods in global commodity markets, are now shifting a small portion of their production to direct marketing aimed at tapping into markets specializing in locally grown produce.

Market-based reasoning provides the basis for this shift from producing for a global commodity market to creating food at a regional level for local consumption. In some cases, the income that farmers receive from local marketing is equal to or greater than their profit from the bulk of their operations vested in commodity produce. These profits are obtainable because local marketing recaptures the margins that are lost to transportation costs, processing, and "middlemen" in commodity driven markets. Cutting this overhead provides growers with a new source of profitability. Moreover, growing and selling locally allows farmers to differentiate their produce in the marketplace, connecting the farmer to the local market, and, in turn, connecting the consumer to the surrounding landscape. In urban centers, farmers are finding consumers who are willing to pay a premium for products raised locally. With this economic potential, new entrepreneurs may be drawn into the agricultural industry, but they will continue to face significant barriers, including high land costs and the difficulty of accessing water rights for summer irrigation.

Farms that weather the current transition in agriculture and society may find a financially viable future, not just from the greater returns that come with direct marketing but through recognition and compensation for additional services these resource lands provide to local communities.

In addition to fresh, healthy food, well-managed farms provide habitats and buffers for salmon and upland wildlife, aquifer recharge, floodwater retention, urban-rural separators, scenic vistas, and open spaces. Protection of salmon in particular has emerged as a public priority. Working in collaboration with farmers to establish economically viable means for enhanced riparian corridor stewardship and sustainable production practices can contribute to restoring and maintaining habitat

22 United States Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture. 2002. November 2004 <www.nass.usda.gov/census/>.

for fish and other wildlife, while open agricultural lands allow for more natural watershed functions than more developed lands.[23]

Over the past few decades, the vast majority of federal funding for farming has rewarded producers for raising specific commodities—largely corn, rice, wheat, soybeans and cotton. Given the crops raised here, growers in our area have received very little of this support. In contrast, the new federal Conservation Security Program (CSP) recognizes that farms provide an array of public services for which agriculture has not been adequately compensated. Leading-edge growers are designing their farms to capture the value of these "environmental services" through CSP and other federal programs for environmental stewardship.

In addition, local communities can choose to invest additional funds to compensate farmers and to maintain the economic viability of retaining these lands in agriculture. Using funds from a bond passed in 1979, the farmland protection program in King County has permanently protected 13,500 acres of farmland, most of which is still farmed today. Similar moves are now getting started in Pierce and Snohomish, spurred on by the availability of $1 billion in matching funds in the 2002 federal farm bill.

The Future for Central Puget Sound and Kittitas Farms

Farmers in this region are at a crossroads: there are growing markets and increasing support for local agriculture, but mounting forces against farming threatens this critical component of our local landscape. The rising value of farmlands that have potential for other developed uses continues to be a particularly significant obstacle. We will continue to lose this essential land base unless one of three things happens soon:

1. If profitability takes a huge leap, with consumers paying a fair price for locally grown fresh food cultivated on otherwise highly developable land, agricultural uses could, in theory, become competitive with development.
2. Barring such a tectonic economic shift, we can choose to shoulder the cost differential between development and agricultural land values by acquiring the development rights to compensate farmers for forgoing conversion of their property.
3. The third alternative shifts the economic burden disproportionately onto the backs of farmers who are already financially stressed, by removing potential development value through regulation.

The *Cascade Agenda* recommends the second of these alternatives: the purchase, transfer or clustering of development rights, to enhance the protections that existing agricultural zoning offers this resource base.

The carrying capacity of the Northwest's agricultural land base is a matter that we have not yet considered as a region because of the international food production and delivery systems that have shaped our markets in recent decades. However, this delivery system is highly dependent on petroleum-powered transportation. Wise

23 Maestas JD, Knight RL, and Gilgert WC. 2002. Biodiversity across a rural land-use gradient. *Conservation Biology* 17(5):1425-1434; Odell EA, Theobald DM, Knight RL. 2003. Incorporating ecology into land use planning: the songbirds case for clustered development. *APA Journal* 69(1):72-82.

planning should consider a "post-oil" economy in which our region should consider whether it would be best served by retaining an ability to grow our essential food products at the regional level. When we contemplate the best approach for conserving this land base, and who should pay that cost, we need to factor in future food security. While food production in the central Puget Sound primarily contributes to local consumer's food options, the maintenance of a vibrant local agricultural economy sets the tone for food production throughout our region, where the maintenance and encouragement of local food consumption will play a significant role in providing the Northwest with food security.

According to Carrying Capacity Network, a national non-profit advocacy group working to secure a sustainable future for the United States,[24] 1.2 acres of farmland can provide a diverse diet, from meat to grains to fruits and vegetables, for one person. Using this estimate for a back-of-the envelope estimate of food contribution potential from our four counties: if all of the 360,000 acres of farm land currently enrolled in C.U.T. were dedicated to food production, they would provide 12% of the food supply for the 2.6 million people living today in the three west side counties of Pierce, King, and Snohomish. This consumption rate demonstrates how feasible it would be for local consumers to fully support local farms. Today, Seattle residents are reported to secure 0.5% of their food supply from local farmers' markets. If the residents and institutions of Pierce, King and Snohomish obtained only a bit more than 3% of their food needs from local farms we would fully employ all 81,686 acres of farm lands currently located within each west side county's Agriculture Production Districts (APDs). If these residents and institutions expanded their consumption of local farm produce to 4% of their total food supply we would employ over 100,000 acres of west side farm lands enrolled today in current use taxation; at these consumption levels another 540,000 residents could fully support the lands we propose to conserve on the west side. Projecting the population of the three counties into the year 2100, we may have as many as 7 million people here. Together, if they chose to consume 4% of their food from local farms they could fully employ the nearly 306,000 acres we propose to permanently conserve-including existing conservation easements-in all four counties.

On the west side the acreage of farmlands has fallen below the threshold necessary to support processing infrastructure, making local markets one of the most viable means of supporting these operations. On the east side, land is not a limiting factor. For the foreseeable future Kittitas agricultural production is able to compete in the national and international marketplace. However, given the larger market issues at play, by the end of this century Kittitas farms may also need to rely on local consumption of products. Educating and

Lands currently in agricultural production through out our four-county region.

24 Carrying Capacity Network. 2004. November 2004 www.carryingcapacity.org.

engaging local consumers today will provide future options to both west and east side farmers.

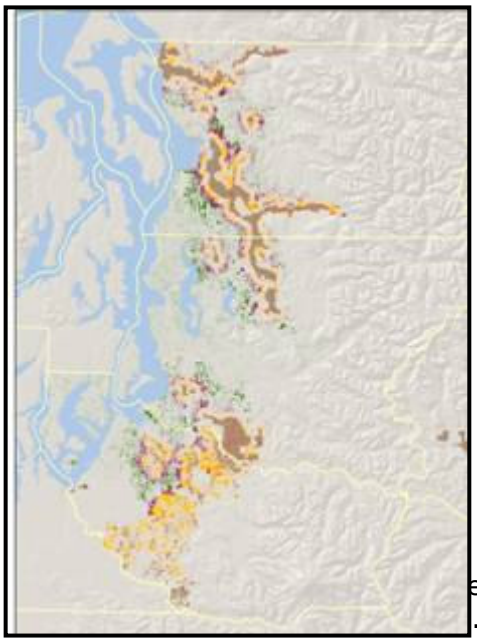
There is reason to be optimistic that farming in our region can continue in a manner that contributes to our regional economy and environment. Too often, "economic development" in rural areas has been code for "anything but farms." In order to keep farming in our communities, we must protect the land base. To protect this base, we must share the cost of implementing conservation practices with farmers, and ensure that farms have ample access to economic development resources that help farmers. These resources must help farmers identify which crops grow best in our region, teach farmers how to market their products with a local brand identity; and also help local agriculture retain an optimal amount of the product's value. Citizens are working to integrate farms into their larger community development strategy, and in doing so they are seeking to define an economically viable future for farms, benefiting everyone in the region.

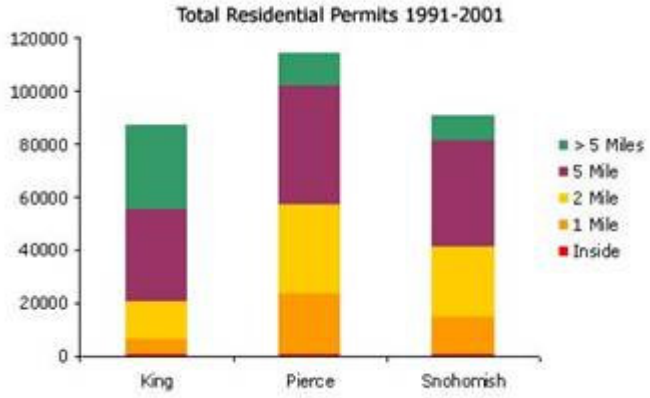
Moving Forward: Crafting a Platform for Action

To determine which lands need to be conserved we analyzed our agricultural land base working with scientists, conservationists, farmers, economists, and consumers. This analysis was based on the recognition that farmlands provide our communities with a multitude of benefits beyond food and produce to our communities and that these values can be obtained for less by maintaining the functionality of these lands for farming.

Today the four counties have a total of 358,994 active farm land. Of that, 291,611 acres are in areas the counties have identified as Agriculture Production Districts (APDs), or other similar comprehensive plan designations such as Kittitas County's Commercial Agricultural Zones (CAZ).

	Within APD	Outside APD	Total CUT
Pierce	10,091	13,454	23,545
King	33,601	24,638	58,239
Snohomish	37,719	18,786	56,505
Westside Subtotal	**81,411**	**56,878**	**138,289**
Kittitas (CAZs)	210,200	817	211,017
Total	**291,611**	**57,695**	**349,306**





Despite rapid growth in King County, significantly fewer permits were issued near or within the APD.

The analysis of recent permit activity in the three western counties suggests that King County's investment in securing development rights on 13,500 acres, approximately 40% of today's APD acreage, has had a dampening influence on conversion pressures in and near the APDs, both by directly removing development rights and by providing a context in which the investment of public dollars to compensate landowners provides an appropriate balance to regulatory enforcement of resource land zoning.

This analysis also suggests a triage approach to how acquisition of development rights should be staged in the three west side counties. First priority in Kittitas County should be given to the largest farms with the most senior water rights within the APDs.

Vision

We will conserve a viable land base for farms and ranches in order to retain an agriculture industry in our region that makes a significant contribution to our local economy and maintains the social and environmental benefits that we all reap from these rural lands. We will compensate landowners for stewardship which protects habitat, water and air, while advancing efforts to build and diversify farm products and markets for our farmers.

Goals

In each county, maintain an economically viable farming industry on a conserved agricultural land base that provides multiple community and ecological services.

Objectives

- Conserved agricultural lands that come onto the market will be purchased by farmers for production purposes.
- To maintain and enhance the viability of west side agriculture specifically, and to enhance economic options in the long-term for Kittitas farmers:
  - Create the economic drivers to fully employ conserved farm acreage. A small increase in local consumption of locally-grown food through increased market availability, institutions (schools and hospitals), and direct farmer to consumer venues could accomplish this objective.
- To maintain and enhance the viability of Kittitas agriculture specifically:
  - Support diversification of farm products
  - Broaden the diversity of markets
  - Assist planning efforts to incorporate innovative land use techniques which provide limited development toward the goal of strengthening the financial sustainability of a farm
- The land base will be stewarded to maximize other ecological and community values, in a manner that is economically viable for farmers and ecologically viable for fish.

Benchmarks

- Conserve 306,000 acres Total (85% of all farms enrolled in C.U.T., includes existing conservation easements in King County)
  - 120,000 acres in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties
  - 186,000 acres in Kittitas County

- Increase local consumption of local farm products to 4%, a consumption level by which a west side population of 3 million would fully employ the conserved west side lands and a future population of 7 million could potentially employ the conserved Kittitas county lands.
- Implement Cooperative Stewardship Plans on 200 miles, roughly 90%, of riparian corridors that traverse today's agricultural land base**.**

Strategies

Near-Term

Conserve the Land Base: Organize the portfolio of agricultural lands so that the highest quality production lands are permanently conserved; key habitat lands are set-aside and restored; and core agricultural areas are buffered by compatible adjacent uses and supported by appropriate public services and road systems.

- Conserve existing APD lands, which by definition are the highest quality and most intact agricultural lands. We recommend the following action schedule:
  - 95% of west side APD farms and 75% of west side non-APD farms in rural area
  - 95% of existing farms in Kittitas County (all in CAZs)
  - For those farms outside today's APDs, conservation priorities should be given to those farms where water rights are intact, with the highest quality soils, and that are largest in size and/or in closest proximity to other conserved farms or APDs, and other criteria
- Identify and compensate farmers for preserving key habitat areas that should be set aside for natural resource management within conserved farmlands.
- Especially in Kittitas County, where land is not a limiting factor, work with landowners and local communities to guide development away from the most productive farmland into areas with the infrastructure to accommodate residential growth. Assure that county planning incorporates innovative land use techniques to prevent sprawl such as clustering development, clustering credits, transfer of development rights and conservation easements.
- Educate landowners new to agricultural areas on what to expect while living in a rural environment. This includes a reduced level of services and the possibility of nuisances such as noise and odor resulting from normal farming practices.[25]
- Educate landowners in new residential developments on the importance of best management practices for water conservation and water quality.

Mid- and Long-Term

Support farmers' efforts to remain in farming

- Expand local consumption: Invest in Puget Fresh and other marketing support to increase consumer demand to 4% of local food supply
- Agricultural lands located in proximity to population centers could be preserved to produce food products for the local market through an innovative combination of agricultural easements and a marketing campaign. Landowners could donate or sell an easement on their land, foregoing their development rights, in exchange for membership in a branding and marketing

25 Clark, J. *Code of the West*. Larimer County, Colorado. February 2005 <http://www.larimer.org/planning/planning/code_of_the_west>.

concept known as "Legacy Farms". This brand would allow consumers to choose a product grown on a local farm they know will be preserved for agricultural production for perpetuity and reward that landowner for their decision to preserve their land. In addition to the consumer's potential selection preference for Legacy Farm products, the market might also bear a somewhat higher pricing structure as further incentive for the farmer to embrace the Legacy Farm concept.

- Secure inexpensive financing for agricultural land purchases and farm improvements
- Establish a mechanism to bank quality lands at risk of conversion, when farmers do need to sell
- Increase farm competitiveness by diversifying products and investing in infrastructure:
    - In Kittitas County, support the diversification of agricultural products and distribution outlets and invest in new infrastructures that support new products.
    - On the west side, ensure that conserved agricultural lands can be fully employed, with emphasis on food production.

- Ensure Sufficient Water Supply
    - In Kittitas County secure a consistent, adequate water supply in the Yakima Basin.
    - On the west side ensure that water rights are retained with agricultural lands.

- Enhance Stewardship
    - Through market demand, technology and incentives, support stewardship practices that provide multiple community benefits (e.g. water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic viewsheds and urban separators).

Over 44 miles of river run through Snohomish County farmlands.

    - Establish Cooperative Stewardship Agreements: In the four counties, farmland currently abuts 223 river miles. Given the overlapping goal in Waters of conserving existing farm land adjacent to river corridors, except where the land should be preserved and restored to provide specific habitat values, we have established a goal of deploying and maintaining a restoration/stewardship plan for 90% of today's river miles that abut farm land, totaling approximately 200 river miles.

THE COMMUNITIES THAT DEFINE US

Visitors on the shore of Lake Washington at Seward Park in Seattle.

Our Recreational lands

Introduction

Our region is home to abundant recreation lands. From national parks down to urban pocket parks, these lands provide opportunities to pursue endless recreational activities. We owe a deep gratitude to those with the foresight to set aside these public lands in previous centuries and decades. Today, these recreation lands constitute a huge asset to our community, both in aesthetic and economic terms. Not only are these lands available for the enjoyment of our citizens, they provide a strong economic force bringing both jobs and a skilled workforce to our region. As our population grows throughout the coming years, we will need to respond by maintaining and enhancing our park system to meet the growing demand for recreation lands.

Case and Context

The rugged snow-capped mountains of the central Cascade Range stand sentinel over the Puget lowlands and shrub steppe of the Columbia Plateau. Steep glacier-clad crags, alpine meadows, and forested valley floors throughout this mountainous terrain are the setting for many back-country expeditions and day-long sojourns. Many of us consider our experiences in these landscapes to be the essence of living in the Puget Sound and an essential aspect of our lives. This form of recreation, however, is a relatively new progression in residents' perspectives regarding parkland and their relationship to it.

When Washington became a state in 1889 the major population centers that we know today had already been established. The forests, rivers and estuaries that surrounded these nascent cities served multiple economic purposes. As a region whose livelihood was based on natural resources, the lands outside of the city were generally viewed as the venue for logging, mining, fishing or farming. What was not harnessed for these productive purposes was generally perceived as wasteland or dangerous wilderness.

With its abundant open spaces, natural resources and relatively small populations our four counties have historically offered their inhabitants a quality of life dependent on the outdoors – from the Native Americans who fished, hunted and gathered to the first settlers who cut trees, raised cattle and grew crops, the region has continued to draw residents and visitors because of its rich outdoor resources. Kittitas County has been able to retain this way of life much longer than the west side counties, but now the pace of building even east of the mountains has begun to change.

Our Starting Point: We have identified four principles that have guided our Agenda for Action for Recreation. They reflect what we heard during our Town Hall meetings, gatherings of recreation enthusiasts, parks and recreation managers, private landowners, elected officials, developers, and our own cumulative years of experience:

1. All of our current parks and trails are well used.
2. Re-Greening our communities is a major factor in human quality of life and ecological functions.
    a. Public lands
    b. Private lands
3. We cannot ignore quality of life in the competition to attract quality employees.
4. A wide variety of recreation opportunities must be provided close by our communities.

Parks of the late 1890s and early 1900s were the antithesis of the wild. They were cleared places dedicated to the people and society of the young communities. Because many of the Northwest's leaders hailed from eastern urban centers or had traveled abroad, they arrived with ideas about how a proper city should look and serve its residents. Public spaces in the cities were one element in their plans to create desirable and cultured communities in the frontier that would attract businesses, investment and quality citizens. Accordingly, both Seattle and Tacoma formed parks departments in 1890 and began to set aside lands for the good of the public. This was the heyday of the national thinking referred to as the "City Beautiful Movement" that was working to make older, industrialized and dirty urban areas cleaner, safer and more appealing.

Developers of the brand new neighborhoods ringing the initial town sites dedicated large swaths of land for parks with resort-style amenities to attract visitors who could be converted to buyers. These were often more like amusement parks, featuring rides, dance pavilions and exotic plantings, but also built upon the aesthetics promoted by the preeminent parks planner, Frederick Law Olmsted, and other City Beautiful proponents. At the same time, public transportation - in the form of stage coaches and railroads – was extending out into the wild lands. Mt. Rainier National Park was established in 1899 and by 1905 adventuresome travelers

could take a train, be picked up by a local outfitter in his wagon and make their way by horseback or on foot to a privately-owned hotel inside the park. Although Kittitas County lacks any National Park lands, in 1908, the 2.2 million acre Wenatchee National Forest was established to be managed for long-term uses such as timber, water, and grazing, with more than 465,000 acres in Kittitas County[26] that have long been used by local residents for recreation.

During the early part of the 1900s the prosperity of coastal communities allowed them to make investments in design, land and equipment. Notably, Seattle hired the famous Olmsted brothers to produce a plan to guide the development of "parks and boulevards" to shape the future of the city. Seattle voters approved the first bond to pay for parks in 1906. The popularity of sports like tennis and baseball prompted a wave of new investments. A month after the Washington State Legislature passed a law in 1907 allowing cities to form separate park districts, residents voted to establish the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. In 1913 the state formed the progenitor to what is now Washington State Parks.

Investments in acreage and construction from these formative decades have proven to be permanent and treasured legacies that give our older neighborhoods their character and provide today's populations with access to the waterfronts, both marine and freshwater. These places offer us an understanding of the degree to which parks, boulevards, gardens and other public greenspaces contribute to urban quality of life.

Both the Great Depression and the widespread use of the automobile brought about dramatic shifts in priorities and perceptions about parks, here and around the country. Local and State parks were an essential component of people's lives during those years both because they were a source of free or inexpensive entertainment, and because the Work Progress Administration (WPA) created jobs to improve public facilities. Local, state and federal properties benefited from construction projects ranging from picnic shelters and restrooms to complexes such as Seattle's Camp Long, the entirety of the Gingko Petrified Forest State Park near Ellensburg and eight "fieldhouses" (community centers) in county parks in Des Moines, White Center, Si View (North Bend), Richmond Highlands, Enumclaw, Preston, Bellevue Highlands, and Burien.

Cars freed urban dwellers from the constraints of trains, horses and trolleys, and allowed working people the opportunity to travel easily to and from distant locations. Destinations, such as the lodge on Mt. Rainier or Snoqualmie Falls, were now within reach of a growing number of residents. Sites such as these were suddenly accessible, even as day trips from cities. People of means could even have a second home in the mountains or at the beach where children might spend an idyllic summer away from the city. In the 1930s, the Ginkgo Petrified National Forest State Park was established in Kittitas County, setting aside nearly 7,500 acres and 27,000 feet of shoreline along the Columbia River to preserve the geologic and cultural history so dramatically visible there.

The aftermath of World War II signaled major shifts in how area residents lived and spent their free time. Military installations and defense industries had brought people and prosperity to the region. Veterans and their families could afford cars

26 Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger Station, Luci Bull, personal interview. 5 May 2005.

and the advent of 30-year mortgages, with no down payment for vets, created a veritable boom in residential suburban housing. The new subdivisions quickly consumed former countryside, but developers did not have to create expansive parks to attract buyers: backyards gave everyone a place to set up their own private swing sets and barbeques. With easy access to State Parks, National Forests and National Parks these homeowners placed little value on large tracts of public land close to home and State Parks saw "skyrocketing public demand" between the 1950s and 1960s. However, homeowners placed a high value on purchasing a home near rural areas and working farms, encouraging sprawling development.

In the 1960s, when federal grants and local funding measures were approved for local parks, investments began again. Rejuvenation and establishment of park lands in King County came in the form of Proposition 6, the "Forward Thrust" Parks and Recreation bond that voters approved in 1968. This $110 million bond enabled the purchase, creation and improvement of parks. The first regional parks were acquired in this period, including Cougar Mountain, Seahurst Marine Park, Richmond Beach and Fort Dent. Simultaneously, funds spent on highways were bringing formerly rural areas into the orbit of the cities. This decade saw the start of our current system of locally-protected resources - it signaled the expansion of the parks systems into the suburbs and the beginnings of the trail system for which the region is now justly famous.1

The 1960s and 1970s saw a changed mentality toward the environment in the U.S., as manifested in the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Wilderness Act (enacted in 1964). This evolution of sensitivity was mirrored in the Northwest. People became more aware of the needs of other creatures and dangers associated with pollution. Demand for natural greenspaces serving multiple recreational and environmental purposes resulted. In Seattle and King County this sensibility, combined with the growing economy and burgeoning population, resulted in the biggest expansion of the park system. In 1968, 64.7% of voters approved Proposition 6, bonding $118 million for the purchase, creation, and improvement of parks throughout the County. Over 260 park projects were completed with the funding, including the acquisition of several new parks and the improvement and expansion of many existing facilities.[27] Throughout the area, residents had more leisure time and more activities in which to engage. Sports such as snowmobiling and cross country skiing dramatically increased in popularity, expanding the seasons for outdoor activities and the distance people drove to engage in them. In 1976, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Act was passed. This 394,000-acre wilderness area extends from Highway 2 to Interstate 90 on both sides of the Cascade crest, with nearly 700 mountain lakes and multitudes of rocky peaks coursed by deep timbered valleys, the area is accessed from 47 trailheads and offers 615 miles of trail.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife manages over 830,000 acres state-wide in a series of wildlife areas that provide habitat and migration routes to wild species as well as a variety of recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, boating, plant identification, and wildlife viewing. In Pierce, King and Snohomish counties the department manages approximately 7,900 acres in wildlife

27 The online encyclopedia of Washington State history. November 2004 <http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=4116>.

areas, while in Kittitas County the department manages a much larger portfolio of 217,000 acres[28].

The 1970s and 1980s were the decades for the birth of regional trail systems, including: the Sammamish and Burke-Gilman trails in King County; Pierce County's Foothills Trail from Puyallup to Mt. Rainier; the Interurban Trails from Kent to Auburn and Lynnwood to Everett; the Centennial Trail in Snohomish County; and the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and the Coal Mines Trail which extend into Kittitas County.

In addition to publicly owned lands, the region has long relied upon the vast tracts of privately owned working forest lands. Within the four-county area more than 830,000 acres of foothills forest are owned by private timber land managers, with some tracts open for fee or free public recreational access. In some cases, such as is often the case in Kittitas County, these private lands offer a gateway to more remote public lands

Although a slump in the timber and aerospace industries in the 1980s put a damper on the general economy, King County experienced growth from the high-tech industries that had made the Seattle-area their home. This industry had brought a younger, highly educated and generally health conscious population into the metropolitan area. The desires of this generation, combined with the steady loss of privately-owned open space, gave the momentum for King County's successful 1989 Open Space Bond Measure which generated $117 million. These funds gave a huge boost to acquisition and development of regional and neighborhoods parks, and critical components of the regional trail system.

Recent decades have witnessed shifts within area park agencies from acquisition to a focus on management and operations in existing park systems. Park and recreation departments are being called upon to provide an array of services for the elderly, the young, adolescents and other specific populations. Teens are often the focus of programs that offer youth positive educational activities during the summer and after school. These needs put a strain on local governments; at the same time state and federal land management agencies have witnessed substantial reductions in funding for programs, staff and maintenance of their properties.

Unlike western counties, Kittitas County's urban area comprises only 2% of the county's land mass, leaving today's residents less dependent on neighborhood parks and urban spaces for recreation. Kittitas County's 2,315 square miles is diverse, with everything from high mountains, coniferous forest, pasture and rangeland, to shrub steppe and river front, offering an abundance of year-round recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Roughly 63% of the county's total land base is currently in public ownership and residents and visitors have historically enjoyed access to these public lands. Only 90 miles from the Seattle area, Kittitas County is rapidly becoming a recreation hot spot for visitors.

Meanwhile, formerly rural areas and small towns are experiencing population growth and continued subdivision pressures. These burgeoning municipalities are struggling to supply greenspaces near where people live and work. Therefore, many local governments are requiring that developers provide parks, or funding, as part of their subdivisions. Pierce, Snohomish and King Counties have instituted the Conservation

28 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Program, Mark Quinn. Personal interview. 6 May 2005.

Futures Tax to help underwrite needed expansions of their park and open space systems. But expanded ownership leads to expanded funding struggles for park development and operations.

Despite these challenges, today's city planners, community leaders, and residents recognize that parks, trails and open spaces are essential to the fabric of desirable communities, just as they were when the region's cities were young. Increasingly, regional leaders also view urban amenities as critical for protecting remaining rural lands, by making cities attractive places to live. Achieving the goals of the Growth Management Act requires that regional growth be concentrated in urban areas - and parks are an important way to help make dense communities more enjoyable living spaces for every demographic.

Ironically, the caliber of our parks and trails – together with the accessibility of beautiful regional destination parks and public lands - is part of the allure that is contributing to our region's steady population growth and the stresses placed upon our shared public spaces.

This growth has ramifications for west side counties as well as Kittitas County, where the economy's dependence on resource extraction has diminished greatly over the years, but the importance of recreation has increased. The unique and diverse natural beauty that was appreciated and protected in years past has today become an increasingly important and defining aspect of the county. Kittitas County's population has remained fairly low, at just 35,000, and many people identify with the county's rural character and want to enjoy the available and accessible public lands and open spaces that the county offers. Importantly, Kittitas County is just east of the population pressures squeezing from the west side of the Cascades and many visitors make the 90 mile trip to recreate in Kittitas County year-round. And because the housing market has not yet reached high metropolitan prices, many people are building seasonal, recreation homes, especially in the upper county where such homes comprise the majority of housing units.

Additionally, developers are beginning to capitalize on the lower land values and access to recreation of the Upper County with resort community developments. While these developments often set aside significant acreages as open space, the huge influx of new residents they create will challenge the Upper County to maintain and enhance its infrastructure and community services. The surge in popularity of the Upper County and the well recognized recreation assets in the county have also put development pressure on lower county communities to sell agriculture land for housing and commercial development.

Quality of life is an important consideration for businesses and individuals looking to relocate. One recent estimate suggests that 780,000 new residents must be accommodated in the next 20 years within our region. In order to accomplish the conservation goals articulated in other sections of this document, the newcomers - and probably some of us who have been here for years – need to live in a more compact manner. Urban villages, close to public transportation, are most desirable when they are accompanied by conveniently located green spaces and trails that allow bike or foot access to amenities such as regional parks and the waterfront.

Kittitas County acknowledged the importance of their natural amenities to economic development when the Kittitas County Commissioners created a Recreation Advisory

Committee (RAC). The RAC was asked to create a county recreation plan that includes an economic analysis of recreation and tourism, maps of the county's recreational infrastructure, and a plan to enhance and fund the county's recreational infrastructure.

In addition to addressing the needs of residents who will arrive in the coming years, we must collectively commit to improving park and recreation opportunities for those who are already here. Our cities display a broad diversity of cultures and a disparity of financial capabilities. For many of our citizens travel to the mountains, shorelines, or islands has been unattainable for economic reasons. Providing recreational, educational and natural opportunities close to home for all residents, regardless of income level, should be a cornerstone of park and conservation planning for both ethical and political reasons. Correspondingly, we need to provide public transportation from our cities to destination parks and the Cascades so that urbanites, especially those from lower income neighborhoods, can gain affordable and convenient motorized access to the landscapes that define our region. Today, public transportation to destination parks and the Cascades is quite limited, and in many cases would require mountain biking or hitch-hiking to actually reach the trail heads. For instance in Pierce County the last transit stop into the Cascades is in Buckley, 16 miles from the gates of Mt. Rainier National Park. In King County several bus routes serve I-90, the interstate that bisects the Mountains to Sound Greenway. However, only one route, beginning in Seattle with a final stop in North Bend, comes close to providing trail access to any of the trailheads in the Greenway. Moreover, no public transportation runs from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass. Along Stevens Pass, bus routes terminate at Gold Bar, and in Kittitas County there is only a shuttle service that will attempt to provide transportation to remote locations as resources allow.

Although development and population growth is moving at a different pace in Kittitas County than in west side communities, Kittitas County must work to meet the challenges of maintaining and enhancing its recreation infrastructure. In the lower county, availability and access to trails and open space will need to be fully incorporated with new housing developments and planned accordingly to sustain projected increases in county population. With the increased fragmentation and development of private forest tracts in the upper county, the community will have challenges in acquiring and maintaining recreation easements across private lands as well as funding for the stewardship and management of trail corridors that can serve a wide array of users across both summer and winter seasons.

And because there is both an "Upper County" and "Lower County," it will be important to maintain a recreation network that connects the two parts of the county as well as offers local recreation opportunities near various neighborhoods.

Without engagement and support from all aspects of our communities, the conservation objectives espoused in the *Cascade Agenda* will not succeed.

Providing for the varied needs of local residents, acquiring the lands to extend the parks and trails systems into all our neighborhoods and caring for the lands that we own is going to be a challenge. But the reward will be livable cities and suburbs and the well-deserved reputation of being one of the best places to live in the world.

Moving Forward: Crafting a Platform for Action

To determine what lands needed to be conserved we analyzed our recreational land base working with gatherings of recreation enthusiasts, parks and recreation managers, private landowners, elected officials, developers, and our own cumulative years of experience. This analysis was based on the recognition that recreational lands provide a multitude of benefits beyond food and produce to our communities and that these values can be obtained for less by maintaining the functionality of these lands for farming.

In analyzing the Parks and Recreation opportunities of our region we examined recreational activities according to three categories: the Cascades Region; Regional Destination Parks; and Urban Parks.

What we have not been adequately able to treat across any of these landscapes are privately held recreational properties, in large part because they are so varied in nature and because there is no straightforward way to analyze these sites with available GIS data. These properties include everything from privately owned ski resorts, to private golf courses, to private recreational resorts, to children's camps owned by scout clubs, to water parks, to outdoor amphitheaters, to hunting club properties. Today these private enterprises fill a unique niche in the Northwest's recreational portfolio and conversion of privately held recreational properties, as we have seen with many rural resorts and more than a few golf courses, erodes the range of recreational experiences available to the public. Given the unique nature of these properties and the clients they serve we make no specific recommendations within the *Cascade Agenda*, but encourage local communities to collaborate with the owners of such businesses to support their ongoing presence in the region.

The Cascades Region

The foothills and high mountains are dominated by large tracts of publicly owned lands primarily managed by federal or state agencies and private timberlands (Figure 2). Because acquisition funds are severely limited and because of our need to maintain the economic viability of working timberlands in the foothills region, we recognize that the recreational acreage in the foothills will not expand greatly in terms of outright acquisitions. This leaves opportunities to collaborate with private timberland owners to maintain and increase recreational access on private lands, as well as opportunities to optimize recreational opportunities on existing public lands. Recreational acquisitions should be focused on unique properties with significant ecological features, such as lakes or old growth trees; inholdings within large tracts of public ownership or key linkages, such as recreational trail easements that will maintain access to public lands in Kittitas County and parcels that contain portions of the Pacific Crest Trail.

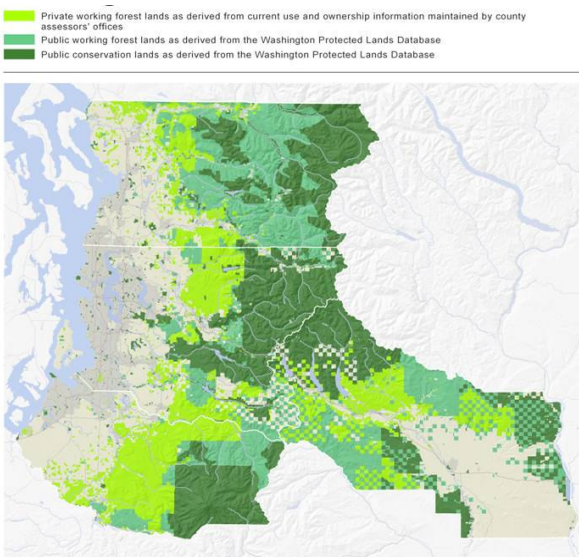


Figure 2: Ownership of the Cascades working forests, conservation and recreational lands.

Regional Destination Parks

Regional Destination Parks are predominantly, but not always, located in the rural areas of the region and managed by local municipalities or state agencies (Figure 3). The notable exception to their predominant location in the rural area are a few of the urban shoreline parks, such as Point Defiance Park in Tacoma which is one of the largest urban parks in the United States with nearly 700 acres of old growth forest and gardens, scenic vistas, and saltwater beaches. More typical examples of these parks, which are all greater than 100 acres in size, include Gingko State Park in Kittitas County and Robe Canyon Park in Snohomish County. Regional Destination Parks are much loved today by the citizens of our region, and Parks Managers suggest that the acreage is well used but sufficient to meet today's demands. However, as the region's population increases we will need to expand our Regional Destination Parks portfolio to keep pace. This means maintaining an acreage ratio of 10.4 acres per 1,000 people for medium-size regional parks (100-640 acres) and 9.9 acres per 1,000 people for large regional parks (> 640 acres). It is worth noting that at this time Kittitas County's park system is largely concentrated in a few larger tracts, and is greatly complimented by the extensive portfolio of recreational lands located within the Cascades Region.

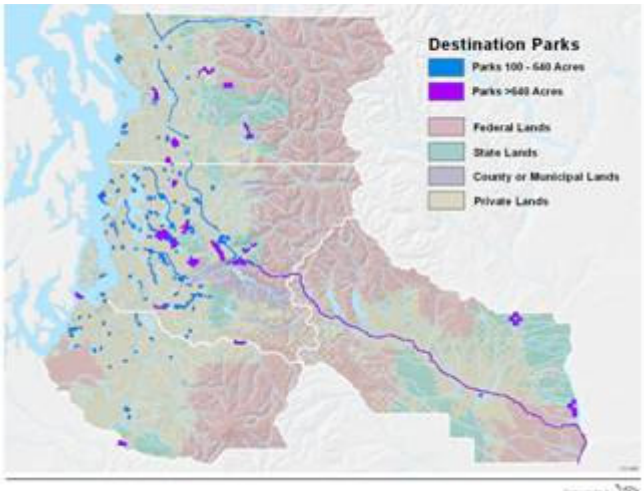


Figure 3: Regional destination parks and trails.

	Medium Regional Parks 100-640 acres			Large Regional Parks >640 acres		
	number	acres	acres per 1,000 people	number	acres	acres per 1,000 people
King	92	22,172	12.8	11	15,243	8.8
Kittitas	1	228	6.8	4	6,815	204.3
Pierce	21	4,131	6.4	2	1,545	2.4
Snohomish	22	4,852	8.0	6	6,277	10.4
Region	136	31,383	10.4	23	29,880	9.9

Regional and Urban Water and Shore Access

Our region's waters are truly an iconic part of the Northwest landscape, from the

banks of the Yakima, to the Green River, to Lake Washington, to the Snohomish Estuary.

Today we have a high frequency of public land ownership, not all of it for recreational purposes, throughout our rivers and saltwater shorelines (Figure 4). The details on this ownership are discussed in detail within the waters section. From a recreation standpoint, what is relevant is that according to the baseline standards for shore access that we have set, as discussed below, if the management of all shorefront public land optimized recreational access we would for the most part meet our objectives for providing significant access to our rivers, lakes and Puget Sound.

Based on our discussions with small boat enthusiasts, we have set a recreational shoreline access distance at eight miles in the rural area and for hand boat pull outs and camping spots along Puget Sound. In addition, to meet the needs of urban residents we have increased shoreline access frequency to every mile within urban areas. In urban areas we have adopted a broader definition of shore access to include both street ends and bluff views, where topography and railroad corridors must be acknowledged.

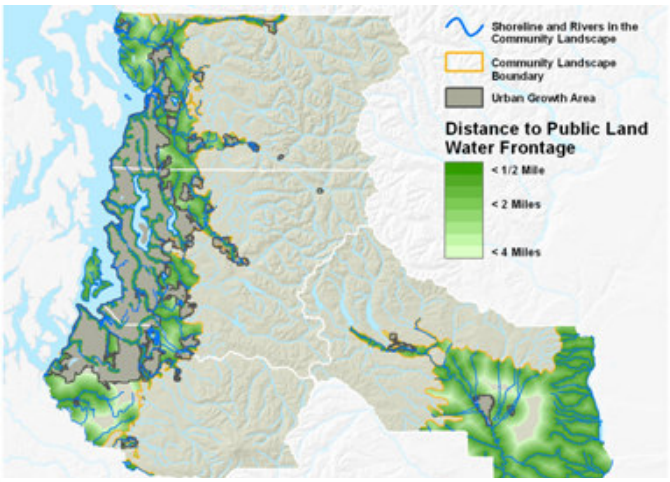


Figure 4: Water frontage on public lands.

For the long-term we believe emphasis should be put on expanding connectivity between existing access points via purchases of shoreline access easements and key properties, increasing the availability of hand-boat camping spots to close gaps in the Cascadia Marine Trail, and rethinking how we want to manage the shoreline when unusual opportunities arise, such as re-development of former industrial sites or landscape shaping events such as mudslides and earthquakes.

Urban Parks

We have classified Urban Parks as those less than 100 acres in size within the Urban Growth Boundaries which primarily serve the open space and recreational needs of surrounding neighborhoods (Figure 5).

Today in our region we have some significant variability in the presence of urban parks, partly reflecting the rapid growth of some urbanizing areas such as Snohomish County, where urban infrastructure has not yet caught up with the influx of new residents and partly reflecting the dramatic difference in landscape context, as you find in the towns of Kittitas County where residents to date have recreated in the rural areas and foothills nearby.

GIS analysis suggests places that are dramatically underserved given today's population, but also suggests opportunities to invest in parks infrastructure just ahead of or at pace with population growth. This analysis is regional in nature and requires

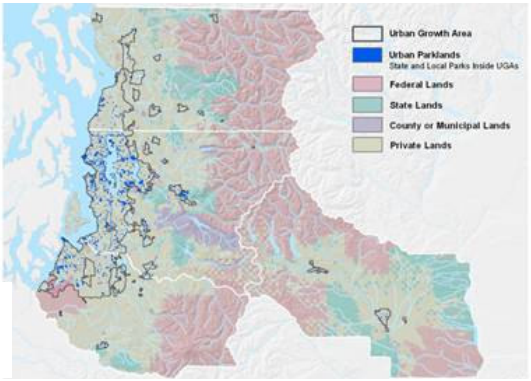


Figure 5: Urban Parks in the four-county region.

refinement at the local level. For instance, a closer look at areas that appear well-served in terms of physical proximity to parks reveals significant on the ground barriers between residents and parklands, including obstacles such as freeways, railroad tracks or ravines.

There are two additional considerations in approaching prioritization of parks acquisitions. One will be identifying economically disadvantaged communities that may be underserved in terms of density and scale of parks opportunities. The second will be determining an appropriate method for weighting acreage acquisitions to serve the region's highest density urban areas. Clearly, residents in condominium or town homes will have less personal access to open land, and hence will have a greater need for access to active and passive park space than residents of single family homes on ½- to 1-acre lots. If we wish to encourage a broader array of our populace to consider living in alternatively designed, higher-density residences we will need to provide adequate park space to make those options attractive.

	Number of Parks	Acres of Parks
King	993	20,205
Kittitas	27	299
Pierce	201	6,157
Snohomish	99	2,208
Region	1,320	28,869

We have set two baseline thresholds for urban park lands:

1. A park within walking distance of every urban resident.
   We have estimated walking distance to be ½-mile. If today's urban parks were well distributed we would in fact need less than 1,000 sites in terms of locational frequency. Today's 1,320 parks are not well-distributed, and the maps below highlight some of those gaps as well as an approach for communities wishing to analyze their own parks systems.

2. 9.5 acres of urban park land per 1,000 urban residents.
   We must maintain adequate park land in dense communities to maintain a quality park experience for visitors. Examining cities across the United States, and considering those that have a reputation of being well-parked, a linear regression analysis suggests (Figure 6) that a high quality urban park experience can be maintained if there are 9.5 acres of park land per 1,000 urban residents.

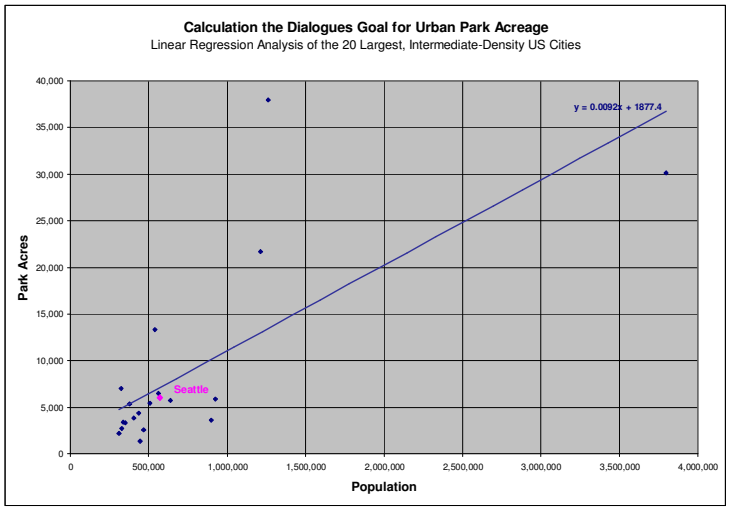
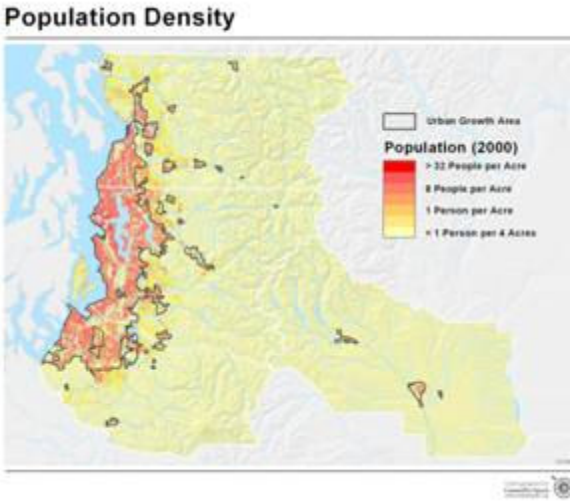
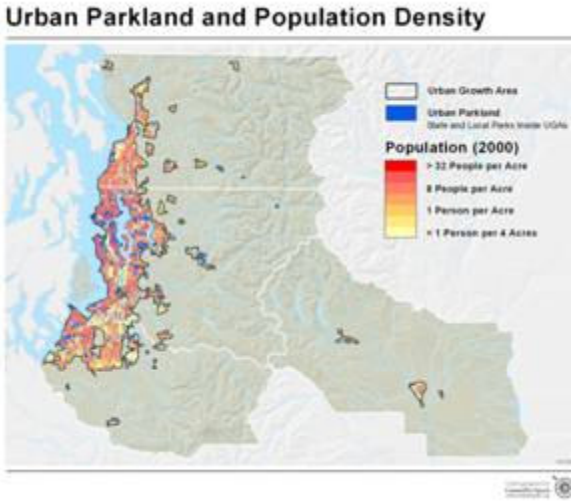


Figure 6: Dialogues Goal for Urban Park Acreage

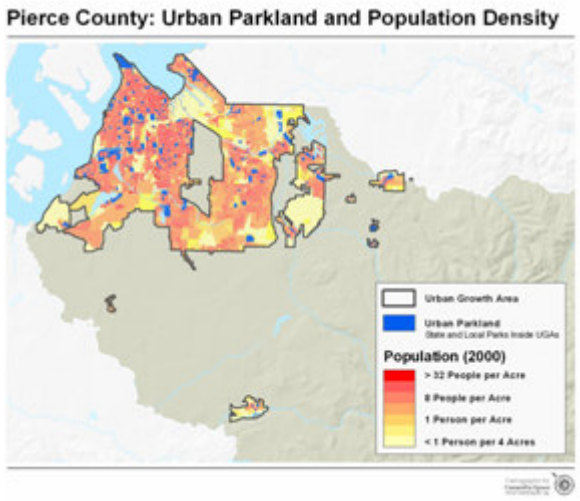
Parks Within Walking Distance

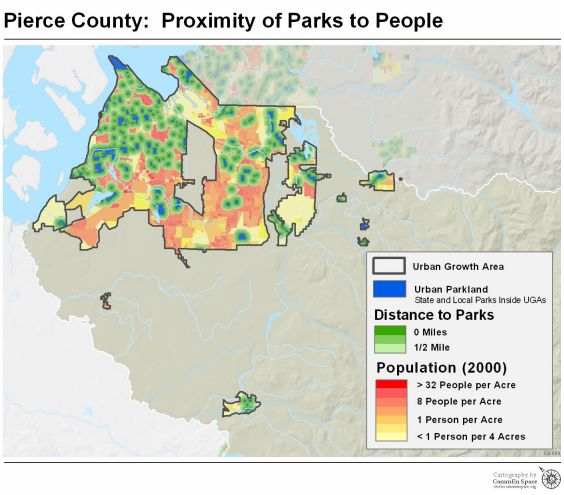
The following maps show distribution of urban population density and urban park land.





The following maps display this distribution within Pierce County's Urban Growth Area, with emphasis on ½-mile service area.

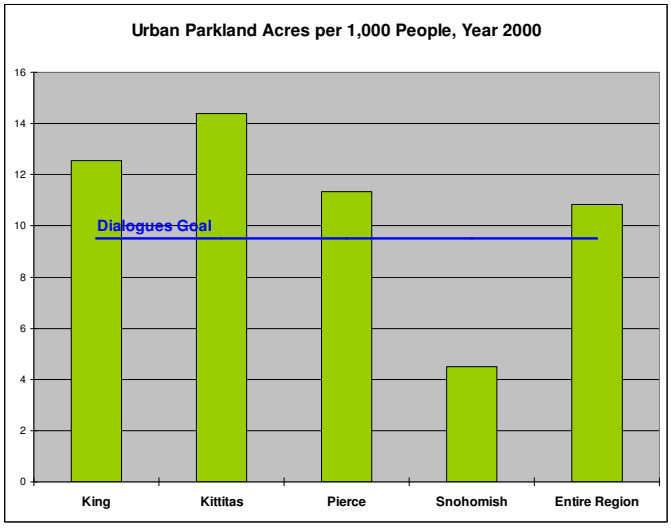




This analysis demonstrates both underserved areas for existing population, as well as opportunities for park expansion as the population grows. Also it is worth noting that this analysis clearly identifies low population areas such as Fort Lewis and the Port of Tacoma, where additional recreational acquisitions are not a priority from a walking-distance or population density standpoint.

Vision

We will have an expansive network of parks and trails so that every resident of urbanized neighborhoods will be within walking distance of either a park or trail. We will identify regional destination parks in each county and establish, expand, and connect them with well-developed trail systems. Local and regional parks will provide a variety of recreational opportunities from active sports fields to passive walks in natural settings. With destination parks serving as trail hubs to anchor a regional trail network we will link Puget Sound to the Columbia and provide the backbone for a Vancouver to Vancouver trail route by connecting trail hubs throughout the Puget Sound lowlands and foothills from the Stillaguamish to the Nisqually. Our urban and regional parks and trails will be complimented by a trail network in the Cascades that will provide the visitor with a sense of the wild. Abundant public access to rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound will provide ample opportunities for boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing.



Goals

- Maintain and enhance recreational access in the Cascades
- Expand and establish regional destination parks to keep pace with population growth of the region
- Integrate and connect the regional trail system
- Because water is a defining feature of our region, ensure frequent and connected public access to both marine and freshwater shorelines
- Provide parks and trails within walking distance of all urban residents
- Provide adequate facilities for active recreation
- Maintain park lands and facilities at a high level; coordinate facilities management and development among adjoining jurisdictions

Objectives

Cascades

- Maintain and enhance recreational access to the publicly-owned working forests and preserved lands in the high mountains and foothills of the Central Cascades.
- Collaborate with private forest landowners to provide recreational easements and other means to optimize public enjoyment of the forest foothills and provide for a diversity of high quality recreational experiences.
- Coordinate management and access across the diverse ownerships in the Cascades to optimize the quality and variety of recreational opportunities available to our region's citizens.

Regional Destination Parks

- Expand and establish regional destination parks in each county that will serve as anchors to a regional park network. All public agencies and all jurisdictions with lands contributing to destination landscapes or offering connectivity between regional park anchors will work together to maximize public recreational access. Examples of destination landscapes include Lake Washington, the Nisqually River, Cle Elum Ridge, the L.T. Murray Wildlife Refuge area, Puget Sound shorelines, Robe Canyon and the Stilliguamish River. While Kittitas County will also grow in population, from a population today of 35,000 to as much as 110,000 or 200,000 in 2100, we recognize that the county has a great proportion of public lands. To meet the recreational needs of county residents and visitors alike, the primary concern will be maintaining connectivity between and to public lands. While maintaining the existing public land base acquisition efforts should focus on trail easements and unique recreational assets identified by the local community.
- Ensure that all citizens can access affordable and convenient public transportation to enjoy the destination parks and the Cascades that define our region.

Regional Trail Network

- With destination parks serving as trail hubs to anchor a regional trail network, emphasize creating linkages between anchor points. By connecting trail hubs throughout the Puget Sound lowlands and the Cascade foothills from the Stilliguamish to the Nisqually, and linking upper and lower Kittitas County all the way to the Columbia River, our region could eventually link Puget Sound to the Columbia and provide the backbone for a Vancouver to Vancouver trail route.
- Regional trails should be designed to accommodate a wide array of users and provide a variety of outdoor experiences in all seasons.

Water and Shore Access

- Provide public access to the iconic shorelines and waters of our region. Priority should be given to public access on all shorelines, wherever cultural and natural resources can support it. Both frequency and connectivity are critical. We define public access to mean no less than 60 feet in urban areas, with the possibility of intervening uses and landscapes where the shorelines are constrained, for instance road-ends on high bluffs above railroad rights of way that still provide a breathtaking opportunities for regional views and to experience the breeze off Puget Sound. Connectivity emphasizes public access along a shore for one or more miles. The eventual creation of expansive shore trails should be an aspiration of our region.

Urban Neighborhood Parks

- Provide attractive and affordable dense communities with ample parks to provide a quality of life which will reduce the present demand that drives residential sprawl into our natural resource and agricultural lands.
- In rural areas throughout the four-county region, encourage clustering of development with easily accessible green space and recreation serving higher-density neighborhoods. Use green spaces to both buffer residential areas from incompatible land uses such as industrial or commercial areas and

highways, as well as to serve as urban separators. Provide trails and boulevards to encourage people to recreate in their neighborhoods day-to-day while also having the ability to visit neighboring communities and the regional park network on longer outings.

- Establish parks within walking distance of every resident of urban neighborhoods and provide sufficient park land for urban residents to maintain an active, high quality recreational life in their own neighborhoods. To do so we should modify and accelerate current standards for park creation and management such as:
    - Secure all unused railroad rights of ways for new trail corridors or hold for future green space use.
    - Redefine public spaces to ensure quality of open space experience.
        - Optimizing potential park uses for all publicly-held lands, including such approaches as:
            - Utilizing street and utility rights of ways as pocket parks, linear green space and/or trail corridors. This approach could be advanced by converting low volume street corridors, especially as the availability of mass transit increases in urban areas.
            - Capping of water reservoirs, increasing the security of our drinking supplies, while providing active recreation facilities.
            - Creating park space on public building roof tops.
            - Incorporating compatible or temporary uses for port properties.
            - Optimizing hours and functions of public school grounds to meet multiple needs of the community.
        - Prioritizing conversion to parks facilities over asset disposal when publicly owned properties are no longer useful for original public purpose;
        - Incentivizing private landowners to create public commons on rooftops and in other components of building or site design, especially in finding creative means to enhance the interface between public and private property. Focus on re-greening the areas between residences and streets by providing verdant buffers and canopies along these thoroughfares and parking lots.
- Invest in the reforestation of urban lands both public and private to establish the native plant communities and canopies that will create a connected and high quality landscape for the next century.
- Provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities, active and passive, traditional and emerging, all linked with educational opportunities, to engage citizens in the landscape and parks systems.
    - Ensure all children have opportunities to experience rural and forest areas; include conservation education and an outdoor experience in curriculum of every grade school.
    - Develop parks in a manner that offers natural areas, experimental forests, community gardens, demonstration areas and interpretive trails within easy reach of school groups and individuals.
    - Meet the active recreation needs for traditional and emerging sports throughout our urban communities.

Benchmarks

To sharpen our focus, we have set measurable benchmarks by which to judge our success in 100 years.

Cascades

- Maintain public recreation lands of 2.2 million acres
  - Includes Federal, State, Local park and timber lands
  - Excludes watersheds and other non-access lands
- Significantly increase recreation opportunities per acre
  - Projected increase for habitat and recreation: 45,000 acres
- Collaborate with private timberland owners and public agencies to acquire critical recreational easements to access public lands, especially in Kittitas County, in a manner compatible with timberland management operations.

Regional Destination Parks

Regional destination parks serve today's population well. We currently have about 20 acres of medium and large regional parks for every 1000 people. In order to maintain this quality experience for future generations, we will need to grow the regional destination park system in keeping with projected population growth.

- For parks greater than 640 acres in size:
  - Today our region has 30,000 acres of large landscape parks.
  - To serve the projected population of our region in 2100 at the same level we will need to acquire an additional 40,500 acres over the next century.
- For parks between 100-640 acres in size:
  - Today our region has 31,000 acres of large parks.
  - To serve the projected population of our region in 2100 at the same level we will need to acquire an additional 42,000 acres over the next century.

Regional Trail Network

- Connect regional destination parks with urban communities and Cascades landscape.
- Regional consolidation of local plans, conducting gap analysis to identify needed links.

Water and Shore Access

- In rural areas, water or shoreline access every 8 miles
  At a minimum, we will provide shore access every 8 miles in rural areas which will total approximately 420 new parks or access points (there are roughly 3,345 miles of riverfront).
- In urban areas, water or shoreline access every 1 mile
  In dense urban areas, we will ensure that there will be at least one shoreline access point for every mile in highly urbanized areas. This would call for a total of 455 public access points along the 455 miles of urban freshwater lakes and streams. Correspondingly for Puget Sound shoreline, the goal should be for providing 331 access points along the 331 miles of waterfront.

Urban Neighborhood Parks

In order to attract residents to high density urban neighborhoods, open space must be readily available.

- For all residentially zoned neighborhoods ensure that there is park within a half-mile walk of all urban residents or within an eighth mile in more densely populated areas.
    - Today there are 1,320 parks within the four county urban growth area. If these parks were perfectly distributed we would require at most 957 parks.
    - In planning new parks, priority should be given to underserved, low income neighborhoods and secondly to the highest density areas of our communities.
- In order to ensure that urban residents have a high quality park experience, we should provide 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents, a correlation found in the best parked large cities of the U.S. today.
    - Today we have 29,000 acres of urban park land in the four county region, exceeding this urban park standard by 4,000 acres.
    - However, as our population grows we will need to acquire or secure recreational access to an additional 30,000 acres by the year 2100. Optimizing recreational use of the 29,000 acres of urban non-park public lands and creating incentives for private landowners to provide publicly accessible recreational amenities compatible with their land use will be important ways to cost-effectively meet this park standard.
    - Priority for park acreage should be given to areas that have the highest density of residents, where there is the greatest need for public open space and maximal number of users.

Although the *Cascade Agenda* does not have objectives or goals specific to active recreation, we recognize that there are a variety of needs the parks base must meet. Our research suggests the following basic standards for active recreation facilities[29]:

Recreation Standards

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	***NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION***	***SERVICE RADIUS***	***LOCATION NOTES***
Basketball	1 per 5,000	¼ to ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings
Baseball	1 per 5,000 Lighted: 1 per 30,000	¼ to ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex
Football	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park
Golf	9 hole: 1 per 25,000 18 hole: 1 per 50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 holes can accommodate 350 people/day 18 holes can accommodate 500-550 per/day
Golf-driving range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a golf course complex
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Best as part of multipurpose facility
Soccer	1 per 10,000, probably lower	1-2 miles, probably smaller	Number of units depends on popularity—it is popular in this area
Softball	1 per 5,000	¼ to ½ miles	May also be used for youth baseball
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Located in community park or school site

[29] Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

Strategies

Near-Term

- Acquire and secure the landscapes, parks and trail corridors needed to serve our region's citizens for the next 100 years. To do so the following strategies should be employed:
  - Bonding
  - Impact fees
  - TDRs with bonus where fee-simple contributed
- Optimize public recreational opportunities on non-park public lands, where appropriate
- Establish multi-jurisdictional coordination, management and funding agreements to optimize public recreational experiences and access to destination landscapes, including creation of a multi-agency recreation plan with NPS, USFS, WDNR, from Mt. Baker to Mt. Rainier
- Redefine how our communities are built and how publicly-owned lands are managed, to encourage connectivity and efficient use of our limited land base.
  - Adopt policies for "no-net-loss" of public parks and trails, and prioritizing park conversion to disposition of other public lands
  - Work with counties to incorporate a regional trail plan into their comprehensive plans and land use planning decisions
- Invest in re-greening both public and private lands to optimize the recreational and ecological functions of these properties.

Mid- and Long-Term

- Provide public transportation so that our urban populace can gain motorized access to regional destination parks in every county.
- Prioritize this service to low-income neighborhoods where public transportation may represent the only affordable means of accessing the destination parks or the Cascades.
- Ensure that citizens with less physical and transportation mobility have adequate access to meaningful park experiences
- Dedicate adequate and consistent funding for facility construction and maintenance, education, natural resource stewardship, and recreation programming.
- Develop compensatory measures, resources, and other incentives to encourage private landowners to design for and permit public recreational access in a manner compatible with their uses and management activities.

CHAPTER 4: NATURAL HERITAGE

Introduction

Just as the Cascades, our shared waters, and our communities define our region, the biological diversity – biodiversity - found in the four-county area plays a significant role in shaping the unique land that we call home. This section, therefore, examines the biodiversity, or in other words, the natural heritage of this region. After discussing why natural heritage is an essential component of our landscape, the section offers an analysis of how we can economically thrive and grow in this region, while simultaneously protecting the unique habitats that support biologically rich flora and fauna.

Case and Context

Developing a Conservation Ethic

For centuries, the people of our region were deeply connected to the natural world. Native Americans who lived in what is now Washington State practiced a kind of conservation ethic long before European settlers arrived. They knew the biota and species, the distinctions among them, and the unique properties of each. As a hunting and gathering society, Native Americans depended on their ability to sustain their resources for food, shelter and spiritual survival.

A desire to catalogue, identify and understand characterized many of the early visitors of European descent. Lewis and Clark catalogued many species in their Voyage of Discovery. David Douglas, a famous 19th century botanist, visited this far-corner of the country in the 1820s, sending back numerous plant samples to the

Royal Horticulture Society in Great Britain; the name of our most well-known conifer, the Douglas fir, speaks to his legacy. The discovery process continues today and seeks to give us the intimate knowledge of place that is at the heart of today's ethic of biodiversity conservation.

A desire to not only catalogue but also protect this region's abundant resources has a rich and deep tradition as well. For the first human residents, it was a matter of survival - they depended on the availability of resources for food and shelter. For more contemporary residents it has been an aspiration that was largely in response to another significant trend in the state's history - the abuse and overuse of the region's natural resources. Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, who worked in Roosevelt's administration as the nation's first Forest Service chief, were early champions of forest protection, a spirit they extended to Washington. Pinchot, a Yale-trained forester who spent time in Europe studying sustainable forest practices, was appalled by the cut-and-run logging operations he saw in parts of the country. Roosevelt, a hunter and outdoorsman, was also concerned by what he saw as a reckless exploitation of natural resources. Both men predicted that unless scientific management of resources was put into practice, America would fail to meet its future needs. "We are not building this country of ours for a day. It is to last through the ages," Roosevelt wrote. Under Pinchot, the Forest Service added millions of acres to the national forests, controlled their use, and regulated their harvest. And in what was one of the first governmental conservation acts in the new state of Washington, Roosevelt in 1909 created Mount Olympus National Monument, in part to protect the Roosevelt elk - named in his honor - that were being decimated by over-hunting.

Roosevelt's ethic - a hunter's appreciation for the need to steward land - took root in Washington State and gave birth to some of the earliest state-sponsored conservation efforts. In 1939, the state's newly formed game commission, recognizing that deer, elk and other wildlife needed large stretches of habitat, began to buy land along Sinlahekin Creek in Okanogan County, creating the state's first game refuge. Even today, conservation and hunting are intertwined; some of the region's strongest conservation groups - from Ducks Unlimited to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - work to protect habitat in part because they know their sport can only persist if wildlife thrive. And hunters continue to be one of the strongest constituencies in support of many of our state's most important protected areas, from state-owned wildlife areas to our national forests.

A Modern Conservation Ethic

A new kind of conservation ethic began to grow in the mid- to late-1900s, both in Washington and across the country, fueled in part by the publishing of two seminal books. Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1948, has been hailed as one of the wellsprings of America's environmental movement and the first widely received book that articulated both a scientific rational and emotional plea for land protection. Leopold, also a Yale-trained forester, expressed an unabashed love of the land and called for a conservation ethic rooted not only in what was utilitarian but also in what was moral. *A Sand County Almanac*, however, did not gain currency and attention until several years later, after the publication of another watershed book, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, in 1962, which catalogued the long-term effects of pesticide use. A decade later, the nation's most significant and, some would argue, effective conservation law, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), was passed along with other important environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act. The

stage was now set for a new and exciting chapter in biodiversity conservation, one that would prove to be tumultuous and spirited.

This movement played out in Washington State at many levels. A growing awareness of resource degradation and species extinction brought a mounting desire to experience the outdoors. Ironically, as outdoor recreation began to increase, significantly more and more people were drawn to the Northwest by its abundance of opportunities for outdoor recreation, putting increasing pressure on public lands. In government, people like former Gov. Dan Evans took a leadership role in land protection, bringing the concept of habitat protection into the mainstream. The Nature Conservancy, the first active land trust in the state, started buying land in Washington in the early 1970s, setting parcels aside as nature sanctuaries and building a network of preserves that persists today.

Fueled in part by the species-by-species orientation of the ESA, the state's conservation movement focused considerably on collecting and organizing information on populations of species, particularly those that were rare or imperiled, and protecting parcels where those species were found. In the 1970s, the state's Natural Heritage program was formed as the repository of data on the location and status of the state's species and habitats. In 1972, in further recognition of the inherent importance of natural lands, a state law establishing Natural Area Preserves (NAPs) was passed. This statewide system of natural areas is managed to safeguard biodiversity and is available for educational and scientific purposes only, rather than general public use. Today, the state boasts 49 NAPs and 28 Natural Resources Conservation Areas, a sister-designation that recognizes important habitat but allows for low-impact public use.

New Approaches and Understanding

Perhaps ironically, even as this ESA-fueled battle over old-growth raged, conservationists, public officials, and biologists began moving away from a species-by-species approach and took a harder look at the ecological impact of certain timber practices. Their research showed that clear cutting and road building led to erosion and run-off, which increased sedimentation and destroyed streams along with important species - most notably, salmon – that relied on the watersheds. These observations began to offer a more comprehensive basis to counter detrimental practices.

The timber industry, too, was changing. Timber companies were beginning to buy more forest lands in other parts of the country and the world; others were recognizing the real estate value of their lands, particularly those within the fast-growing Puget Sound region, and were beginning to convert their land base into buildable lots.

Finally, in 1993, timber industry leaders, conservationists, scientists, and public officials - including then-President Bill Clinton - came together at the Northwest Forest Summit in Portland in an attempt to find some balance between the region's timber economy and the ecological health of our forests. The Northwest Forest Plan was created, reducing but by no means eliminating the amount of commercial forestry that can occur on public lands. It was followed, six years later, by the state's Forest and Fish Act, the most significant revision of state forestry regulations in more than 25 years. This new set of rules, which regulates logging on eight

million acres of privately owned land and two million acres of state-owned land, goes much farther in protecting salmon than previous forestry regulations while providing a greater degree of certainty to the timber industry.

In the last 10 years or so, the conservation community has started focusing on the importance of large functioning ecosystems and the interplay among the plants, animals and ecological systems that make up a healthy landscape. Although small preserves created through the efforts of state and local agencies, the Nature Conservancy, and Washington's growing network of land trusts are still considered important, greater knowledge about ecological systems has increased concern about isolated tracts of conserved land. Nevertheless, they've helped to safeguard examples of our state's natural heritage that would have been lost. Many of these small preserves are also in semi-urban or suburban areas and thus offer a way for people to connect with nature and maintain a sense of place. Leading conservationists, however, now believe that it is more important to safeguard large, contiguous landscapes, where ecological processes - from the way a forest is supposed to burn to the way a river is meant to meander - can unfold. Connectivity of habitat has become a leading concept. Protected wildlife corridors are being established or re-created. And in some instances, conservationists are beginning to work with private landowners to create large protected areas that prohibit development and utilize sustainable forestry practices.

This new comprehensive approach is unfolding throughout the state. The Cascades Conservation Partnership has made strides over the last few years to end the so-called "checkerboard" ownership in the Cascades, a leading cause of fragmented habitat in the central Cascades corridor. The Trust for Public Land and Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust have headed up a large coalition which has secured a 90-mile Greenway from the Puget shoreline to the Columbia Basin, that provides a valuable dispersal corridor for many species. The Cascade Land Conservancy worked with Hancock Timber Resources Group and the City of Seattle to protect more than 90,000 acres of working forest in the foothills of the Cascades. The Nature Conservancy is focused almost exclusively on protecting and restoring large, ecologically important landscapes and is using sophisticated planning and modeling tools to determine where there are conservation opportunities to protect and sustain the region's biodiversity. And at the state level, Washington's new Biodiversity Council, will determine how the state can approach biodiversity conservation comprehensively, proactively, and in a way that engages the full array of stakeholders.

So where are we today? Even with the significant progress of the last 20 years, many important species still hang on by only a thread. Several salmon stocks have been listed as endangered, and the northern spotted owl is still thought to be in decline. The region's population growth continues to put enormous pressure on our natural lands, despite the passage of the Growth Management Act in 1990, and that growth is forecast to continue at a rapid pace for the next 50 years. All too often today's population growth is accompanied by harmful impacts on native plants and animals due to direct habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and introduction of invasive, non-native species. Private landowners and governments lack the knowledge, resources and incentive to steward their properties in an ecologically friendly manner.

The Future of Our Natural Heritage

It seems likely that our generation controls the fate of many unique plants and animals. Scientists have long known that there must be a critical mass of individuals for a species to survive. Below a certain number, the population enters an irreversible crash that can only be halted by extreme and expensive intervention such as captive breeding. Even if an adequate number of individuals remain, the species may disappear because it has no places to disperse, forage, breed or safely raise young. We do not have sufficient information to accurately predict how many orcas, owls, martens, oaks or penstemons are necessary to continue their existence, particularly in the face of unforeseeable events such as blowdowns, fires or oil spills which could quickly change a species´ prospects for survival. With climate change shrinking glaciers, modifying temperatures and potentially raising ocean levels we need to act now to create swaths of conserved acreage that will allow species to relocate and adapt to new circumstances.

Although the majority of the region's residents do not now rely directly on the continued existence of our native and unique biota, our consciences demand that we leave room and resources for these non-human species. Many financial, human-centric reasons are brought forward in support of conservation of the natural wealth we inherited. And there are economic justifications such as the health of the fishing industry, or the continued attractiveness to newcomers and the protection of the tourism industry. But the importance of maintaining or restoring the full range of native species that rightfully belong here with us must also be supported at a philosophical and ethical level.

However, there is much to suggest we're at a new and promising threshold. Conservation groups are working more collaboratively than ever before. And perhaps of greatest significance is that many of these groups, their staffs, and their supporters are thinking in visionary terms, asking themselves and their communities just what it is we want our future to look like. How do we create a region where both human and natural communities thrive? How do we ensure that our children and their children inherit a landscape rich in natural wonder?

Vision

Moving Forward: Crafting a Platform for Action

We will secure, restore and maintain examples of all the functional and viable ecosystems that characterize our area – the Cascades, our watersheds, the foothills, the Puget Sound and the Columbia Basin – and thereby conserve biologically unique features such as rocky bluffs, oak savannahs and shrub steppe. In this way we will expect to halt the extirpation of species.

Much of the protected habitat will be located in rural and exurban areas. However, the interspersing of natural areas throughout the metropolitan areas will provide critical dispersal capacity for plants and animals, and will enrich our human experience.

Private landowners equipped with the knowledge, resources and incentives to practice ecologically sound management will contribute significantly in improving the health of our natural heritage.

With increased exposure to nature via its accessibility and a comprehensive environmental education curriculum, future generations will actively support the conservation of the area's plant and animal heritage.

Goals

- Conserve 30% of original habitat extent
- Reconnect and maintain ecosystem connectivity across the landscape

Benchmarks

- Meet the aforementioned benchmarks for the previous sections - Cascades, Farms, Waters, and Parks.
- Conserve an additional 90,000 acres, up to 30,000 of which would remain in private ownership with special agriculture and forest practices to enhance key habitats.

Strategies

Near-Term

- Secure priority areas to ensure functional integrity of landscapes that contain key ecosystems:
  - Cascades: acquire conservation easements and selectively obtain fee interests
  - Waters:
    - Acquire conservation easements and fee simple to protect fresh and saltwater habitat
    - Purchase water rights for fish and wildlife needs (while ensuring sufficient quantities for agricultural and human needs)
    - Provide resources and incentives to ensure community-wide measures aimed at conserving water quality and increasing water quality
  - Destination parks: purchase lands in full fee where the resulting park will be managed for both passive recreation and habitat protection.

- Secure priority areas to maintain and improve ecological integrity of native habitat (such as oak woodland, prairie and shrub steppe) and rare species (salmon, checkerspot butterfly, sage grouse) found now only in fragmented landscapes.
  - Primarily acquire fee simple
  - Lobby for enhanced management practices where habitat is on public land, while presenting incentives to compensate private landowners.

- Implement biodiversity scorecard to ensure 30% target met for each habitat.

- Design and implement methods of maintaining global and regional landscape connectivity for wide-ranging plant and animal species (for connecting isolated habitat fragments and providing movement attitudinally and longitudinally). The land uses which interrupt the movement of species across our region are primarily on privately-owned lands – residential, commercial and industrial development, agriculture and working forests.

    - Acquire conservation easements which promote management conducive to healthy habitat
    - Provide landowners with the knowledge, tools and incentives to manage their land in a habitat-friendly manner
    - Design new communities (and where possible, retrofit existing communities) so that development footprint provides the interspersing of habitat
    - Increase private sector investment in biodiversity and green infrastructure
    - Revise state and local tax structure to provide more funding for habitat conservation (increase acquisition funding) and increased tax credits to private landowners practicing sound methods

- Elevate public understanding and support for conservation of our natural heritage
    - Design and implement a biodiversity scorecard such as those used in Oregon and Britain
    - Increase substantially the scope of environmental and life sciences in K-12 education curriculum
    - Increase our collective knowledge about ecosystem dynamics
    - Increase research and monitoring to develop the science necessary to understand the systems and pressures so that we can make informed policy, management and conservation strategy decisions in the future

Mid- and Long-Term

- Maintain and restore the area's ecosystems, recognizing the dynamics of global climate change and biotic responses
- Conduct analysis and secure connectivity approach: least restrictive/most cost-effective alternatives
- Enhance restoration and stewardship
- Connect economic drivers to biodiversity
    - Encourage innovation through regulatory flexibility
    - Invest in "green infrastructure"
    - Revise state and local tax structure
- Evolve widespread environmental ethic
- Biodiversity scorecard in a standard tool in guiding public and private land management, policy and science
- Public sector funding is commensurate to meet acquisition, restoration, stewardship and education needs

CHAPTER 5: CULTURAL HERITAGE

Steamer Vashon at the Three Tree Point Dock in Burien, c1920.

Introduction

Our vision for conservation in the next century focuses on a range of environmental resources that define our region, including rivers, forests and wildlife. But our region's environmental legacy includes cultural as well as natural resources – and in thinking about land conservation strategies for the next hundred years, we have an opportunity to integrate protection of cultural and natural resources, and to develop long-term stewardship goals. Cultural resources include historical, cultural, and archaeological sites, as well as harvestable natural resources having traditional cultural value, that embody 10,000 years of local knowledge and use of our landscape by both indigenous people and immigrant/settler communities.

Case and Context

Along the shoreline of Puget Sound, in river valleys, and in the mountains are numerous archaeological sites associated with our region's First People. These sites contain physical evidence of environmental history and cultural practices, and provide a unique record of a sustainable way of life in our region over thousands of years. Native American traditional cultural sites are also found throughout the region, and are documented in the form of place names in the Puget Sound Salish language and stories from our region's rich indigenous oral tradition. The significance of such places lies in their unique association with myths and teachings which convey cultural values and knowledge of the landscape.

Traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering sites are still highly valued and regularly visited by tribal members in our region. Plants used for medicines, foods, dyes, and art work are harvested, animals such as deer and elk are hunted, and salmon, clams and other marine species are harvested – and these are regarded as cultural

resources as well as natural resources, given their prominent role in traditional practices and ceremonies.

Historic resources such as barns, railroad rights-of-way, and industrial sites provide insight into how non-Indian communities have settled and developed our region since the 1850s. Whether they are beloved landmarks on Main Street, or part of once-isolated rural settlements, such historic sites show us the craftsmanship, engineering, and sometimes the audacity of past generations.

All of these cultural resources taken together tell us something about the experiences, skills, and values of our region's past inhabitants. The Cascade Dialogues project presents us with an opportunity to work collaboratively with the historic preservation community to identify and protect cultural resources as an element of land conservation and stewardship. We may find opportunities to acquire and protect a parcel of land that provides foraging opportunities for wildlife, and also contains archaeological evidence of past hunting or tool making. We may be able to preserve an intact farmstead property, protecting an ensemble of historic farm buildings at the same time that we conserve wetlands and aquifer recharge areas. We may be able to advocate for a land swap that preserves mature forestlands while at the same time protecting a significant traditional location used for vision quests or a trail corridor dating back thousands of years. It depends on our willingness to share information and our interest in preserving our cultural heritage, along with our rich and diverse natural heritage.

By including cultural resource preservation as an element of the *Cascade Agenda*, we have the opportunity to weave cultural resource management into the fabric of environmental stewardship over the long term. We can begin by building working relationships between land conservation organizations, public agencies such as the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation which maintain cultural resource databases, and tribal governments whose traditional ceded lands encompass the areas in which we live and work.

As we learn more about the cultural and historical dimensions of lands we are working to protect, we will be able to make better informed decisions when developing stewardship plans and conducting restoration projects. For example, activities intended to restore and enhance an estuary area to benefit salmon might also disturb an archaeological site, unless the project proponents make an effort to work with archaeologists and tribal members to identify and document cultural resources prior to undertaking the project. Similarly, a project to conduct a sustainable harvest of a portion of timber on working forestlands could be structured to minimize impacts on areas of traditional spiritual importance to tribes. Or a conservation easement on a working farm may provide a land owner with resources to stabilize and rehabilitate a significant historic barn or maintain an historic landscape such as a century-old orchard. Recreational access to conserved lands can have implications for cultural resource preservation as well. Trail routes and construction methods can be planned to avoid culturally sensitive areas, and interpretive information can be developed to convey the significance of heritage sites while encouraging visitors to leave such places undisturbed.

The value of cultural resources is, to some extent, in the eye of the beholder. An archaeologist's appreciation of a site's potential to contribute data that enhances scholarly understanding of the past is quite distinct from a tribal elder's appreciation

of a site's unbroken connection to the lives and stories of ancestors. Nearly anyone, if given an opportunity to learn about cultural, historical, and archaeological sites, can appreciate their significance whether or not they have a personal connection to such places.

Some of the most interesting places in our region are cultural landscapes that contain multiple layers of history, often described as a palimpsest like a manuscript or painting that has been created and then recreated by different hands. Many of our river valleys include prairie areas that were maintained as open landscapes through controlled burning by Native Americans, who planted and harvested a variety of plants, and hunted animals which sought out the open lands. Many of these lands were recognized as having high agricultural value by the region's early non-Indian settlers, and were claimed and managed as farmland, beginning in the 19th century. Now such places may contain historic buildings, patterns of agricultural land use that changed over time, a record of natural history such as migrating river channels, and traces of earlier Native American habitation or use found in the ground or in stories from tribal oral tradition.

The views across our landscapes are treasured by residents and visitors alike, and can be counted among those resources that are most highly valued in our contemporary Pacific Northwest culture. Distant views taking in Mount Rainier or the Cascade peaks or looking out across Puget Sound are iconic in our region. But the more intimate local views across Lake Washington, the Snohomish Delta, or the Teanaway Valley, are vital elements of beloved places, and have a cultural significance that we often do not recognize until they are altered. The forested settings of small towns in the Cascade foothills are as much a part of their historic character as the brick or wooden buildings of their commercial and residential districts. For this reason, vistas that take in both working landscapes and wild areas should be considered along with more traditional cultural resources as aspects of the landscape that we can and should work to protect.

Vision

The Cascade Agenda is intended to articulate a vision for how to balance our region's economic and population growth with preservation of the environment, which includes many layers of our cultural heritage along with natural resources that may be more easily visible.

Goals

Our approach to conserving the cultural heritage of the region involves identifying those landscapes and buildings of significance and stewarding these places and structures for future generations once they have recognized.

Pre-Acquisition

- In prioritizing conservation acquisitions, assess and incorporate the significance of:
  - Native American heritage, including archaeological sites, and places related to oral tradition/mythology/tribal history
  - Habitat for native plants and animals having traditional uses by Native Americans, including hunting, shellfish harvesting and plant gathering areas

- Significant historic resources such as barns/farmsteads, docks, heritage landscapes and other representative resource types

Post-Acquisition
- Improve stewardship of cultural resources on conserved land

Strategies

Collaboration:

Establish a forum with sufficient trust among tribes, historic preservationists, archaeologists and conservationists to establish protocols and strategies for:

Pre-Acquisition
- Data/map sharing
- Confidentiality
- Site identification and sensitivity analysis
- Conservation prioritization
- Active partnership between historic/cultural preservation efforts and ecological preservation efforts

Post-Acquisition:
- Stewardship and land management
  - Ensure that restoration / management activities on preserve lands do not adversely impact cultural resources
    - Sensitive Areas: avoidance of and protocols if within
    - Guidance for encountering undocumented resources
  - When stewarding conserved properties, review potential impacts of activities to assess whether resources such as archaeological sites, cultural sites, historic trails or buildings would be affected by projects such as:
    - Timber harvest
    - Stream / shoreline restoration
    - Trail construction and other site development
    - Change of use in agricultural lands
- Document and interpret cultural resources of properties open to the public

CHAPTER 6: STEWARDSHIP

Introduction

Ongoing stewardship of conservation lands is a vital piece to the conservation puzzle, and an area that has posed many challenges for conservation organizations. As we move forward with this ambitious visioning process, it is vital to recognize that, even if all of our plans are enacted, they will not in themselves preserve our region's biodiversity without intensive and long-term stewardship of the resource.

While commonly used in conservation circles, stewardship is a term which is not always fully understood among the general public. At a basic level, stewardship of land and natural resources means caring for land in ways that ensure the sustainability of conservation values. To conservation professionals, stewardship means to protect, restore and maintain native ecosystems to mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation, invasive species and anthropogenic disturbance.

This section examines our history, current challenges and development of capacity to care for conservation lands in a manner that ensures the long-term sustainability of natural resource values.

Case and Context

Early Land Use and Development

As recently as 13,500 years ago, the Puget Sound region was blanketed by 3,000 feet of ice, the Vashon extent of the Fraser Glacier. All of the natural features

distinctive to this region: the enormous conifers, the salmon populations, and even the topsoil, are comparatively young in geologic time.

Current archaeological theory suggests that Native Americans moved into the Puget Sound region soon after the glaciers receded. This first wave of indigenous residents was believed to be nomadic hunters who had crossed the temporary ice bridge from Siberia. As big game populations receded, these tribes began to settle into foraging and agricultural communities, which grew and harvested foods and medicines, hunted and fished, and managed the landscape with selected timber harvests and controlled burns. Native American stewardship practices were incorporated into the religious and cultural life of the tribes, and while consumptive in nature, were conducted in a prevalence and manner which neither exhausted their resource base nor resulted in further loss of biodiversity.

European and American settlers first arrived into this region in the 1850's, and almost immediately set to the task of altering the landscape to fit their needs. Early activities of forest harvest, clearing for agriculture, coal mining and importation of crop plants soon gave way to even larger projects, such as the channelization of the Duwamish River, the construction of the Ship Canal, the damming of rivers for hydroelectric power, and widespread construction of cities and villages.

Early European settlers to this region had the impression that the abundant resources had the capacity for perpetual renewal. However, many of these resources were almost completely depleted within 100 years of European settlement. Salmon stocks were fished out and easily accessible timberlands were clear cut.

By the middle of the 20th century many of the regions ecosystems were in a significant state of decline and concerns arose over the management of these valuable resources. A few decades earlier, many areas had been set aside in forest reserves and national parks, but how these lands would be managed for extractive and recreational uses was largely undetermined.

Developing a Stewardship Ethic

By the 1970s several significant Congressional Bills such as the Wilderness Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act created the impetus for "multiple use" of conservation lands within Natural Resource Agencies. This concept called for the management of forest lands for passive recreation, wildlife habitat and watershed management, while simultaneously producing sustainable timber revenue.

In the meantime, the historic legacy of site disturbances such as water pollution, introduction of invasive species, and habitat fragmentation has resulted in the need for complete restoration of habitat lands, often in urban parks and natural areas. Restoration projects were first implemented by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. The habitat restoration profession emerged more recently with the development of the Society for Ecological Restoration in 1987.

Habitat restoration is often a local enterprise, instigated by citizens in hunting/fishing clubs or Community Councils, and supported by local government. This has changed since Chinook Salmon were listed in 1999 as a threatened species throughout most of the region's watersheds. To respond to this listing, the state government created

the Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Planning Process, which has become the largest and most comprehensive planning effort in habitat restoration.

Stewardship in the 21st Century

In the recent past, stewardship was focused primarily on historic site disturbances, dealing with issues such as pollutants, lack of natural forest succession and hydrologic interruption. As our human population grows and our land use patterns change, we find new challenges in the stewardship arena. Today, issues such as the proliferation of invasive species, loss of habitat due to development, and recreational pressure on habitat lands are of significant concern to the conservation community. As we look to the future, conservationists will continue to face new and complex challenges from global warming, declining water availability and the cascading effects of loss of biodiversity. To address these dynamic issues, we must create the infrastructure to monitor, evaluate and respond to bioregional change.

In addition, the future health of our environment is contingent upon our ability to work together. To develop the funding, political advocacy, and sweat-equity of concerned citizens, it is increasingly evident that we must prioritize and plan for stewardship through community-based, bioregional organizations. Increasingly, coalitions of organizations are taking this large-scale perspective and applying it across the region.

An excellent local example of this is the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, a small non-profit with incredible capacity to bring agency, environmental and community organizations together to preserve and steward the regional landscape along the I-90 corridor. The Greenway Trust has been most effective when working with other non-profits, such as EarthCorps and the Washington Trails Association, each of which recruit over 100,000 hours of volunteer time to steward activities on an annual basis.

According to census data, over three quarters of the citizens of Washington currently live in the urban environment. As successive generations grow further from the land, it is essential that children continue to learn about, and interact with, the natural environment. Lands stewardship provides a visceral, physical, and rewarding opportunity for youth to engage with habitat in their community. Service learning programs provided by non-profits such as EarthCorps and City Year provide an excellent opportunity to bring youth and the environment together.

Vision

We look for an environment in which our open spaces are well cared for and properly maintained so that they can provide a legacy of healthy ecosystems and recreational opportunities for many generations.

Goals

To realize our vision, we have set goals that are interrelated to those of the other *Agenda* landscapes.

- Maintain current levels of biodiversity
  - Prevent spread of invasive plants
  - Maintain intact habitats

- Restoration: Mitigation of historic disturbance to create self-sustaining ecosystems
- Healthy, functioning human communities
  - Clean air, clean water
  - Recreational access
  - Aesthetic enjoyment
  - Understanding and connection to the environment

Strategies

The Cascade Agenda identifies existing and yet untried methods for conserving our forestlands, waters, farms, parks, heritage lands and for enhancing the communities where we live and work. To ensure that these landscapes continue to support highly functional ecosystems that provide resources, services and opportunities for future generations we will need to be innovative in caring for and stewarding our region.

Near-Term

- Create bio-regional stewardship plans
  - Measurable goals
  - Analysis/Research/Monitoring
  - Implementation methodologies
  - Adaptive management
- Create stewardship funding mechanisms
  - Similar to Conservation Futures parcel tax
  - Green infrastructure funding via utility agencies
- Expand stewardship constituency
  - Recreational access
  - Involvement in stewardship activities
  - Education

Mid- and Long-Term Strategies

- Create bio-regional stewardship network
  - Expediting permit process
  - Create triage model for restoration prioritization
  - Research and development of environmentally benign control mechanisms
  - Collaboration with nurseries to avoid invasives and pests
  - Training in Best Management Practices
- Create incentives for working landscape stewardship
  - Habitat Conservation Plans
  - Assistance in planning, especially for small landowners
  - Invasives swat team

CHAPTER 7: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

The built environment is perhaps our most complex. It is essentially our developed cities and towns and the infrastructure that goes with development – roads, shopping areas, services, golf courses and high rise downtown cores.

We look at the built environment as part of the Cascade Agenda because conservation and development are really two sides of the same coin. Both start from the same premise – there are going to be more people living here in the next 100 years putting pressure on the land for development and for conservation.

Case and Context

The Cascade Agenda asks how can we accommodate development but optimize conservation gains elsewhere. We also recognize that the Growth Management Act is the foundation for action, it's the law and we respect that. We also believe that the debate and the discussion changes when you look out 100 years instead of the usual planning horizon that goes out 20 or 30 years.

While the Cascade Agenda focuses on the four-county area of King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, the Agenda also recognizes that what happens in Kitsap County will affect the greater Puget Sound Region. The Agenda also recognizes that population will move north and south, into Skagit and Whatcom counties to the north and Thurston County to the south – especially if we don't handle our region's growth well.

But the focus for the Agenda is the spine of the Cascades and what happens on either side of it in the four-county area.

Maps of the region give us some hope. While we can see tremendous growth of the built environment over the past few years, we can also see that growth generally has stayed within the boundaries set by the Growth Management Act. Go out a few years, to 2020 and the picture remains very much the same.

Go out 100 years to 2100 and the picture begins to change. If land use regulations continue as they are for the next 100 years, the built environment will begin to spill over urban boundaries but not drastically so. That's because the density within the growth boundaries is much higher than it is even today. Seattle likely would look more like downtown Vancouver, B.C., with many high-rise apartment and condominium towers.

But even a slight change in direction can produce alternative realities that show a huge push of residential sprawl into the rural lands and foothills of the region.

In Kittitas County, the issues are different. It is still a largely rural area although it is increasingly attracting people from the west side of the mountains who have second homes there. Most parts of the county are less than two hours drive away from the urban centers on the west side. Kittitas County population may grow by as many as 100,000 people over the next 100 years. But that estimate could grossly understate the population gains and residential conversion – people with second homes in the county are not counted as residents, for example, since they are already counted in their primary residence elsewhere.

As if that were not enough, there are a number of other questions raised as part of the built environment analysis, many of which we cannot answer.

There is the question of transportation. We have more people, more homes, more jobs and more outdoor recreation areas but that implies more roads to connect all these elements. Traffic already is a nightmare in parts of the region and there are many groups working to come up with solutions. The Cascades Dialogues Steering Committee does not feel it has the expertise to address the transportation questions, although it recognizes the significance it plays in any future scenarios regarding the region. Other imponderables include the effects of global warming and the possible end to an oil-based economy as oil supplies are consumed.

Some of the strategies developed to deal with the built environment:

- We can begin to address some of the goals with increased use of Transfer of Development Rights, or TDRs. They can be seen as a way to preserve land and provide economic benefit to land owners in return – all through the private market place.
- Clustering could help the rapid use of rural land, and might be especially effective for farmland. If development is focused in parts of the rural environment, then more land could be preserved in a natural setting.
- Urban areas can be used more efficiently by promoting more density – the downtown Vancouver sort of thing. Even within the city there are some opportunities for urban infill. Our towns can also grow denser, yet still retain a cozy local feel. We need to be creative.

Whenever the built environment was discussed during the Cascade Dialogues, the issue almost immediately went to the question of growth management, the critical areas ordinances and the growing discord among mostly rural property owners.

The conclusion reached during many of the discussions was that the Agenda presented perhaps a unique opportunity to act, to begin a rational discussion of the issues of land use and property rights among business, government, environmentalists, land owners and academics. Coming at the issue from the viewpoint of conservation also provides a different approach, one that has the potential to begin to resolve some of the issues.

One of the first actions of the Agenda likely will be the convening of a forum to begin an open, honest conversation regarding patterns of rural development. Some conclusions that flow from the Agenda:

- We cannot remain silent on the issue. There are suggestions that grow out of a conservation-based analysis that could help propel rational discussion at a forum
- We cannot lose sight of the conservation goals. Looking at the issue through the lens of conservation is what gives us power and credibility.
- There is some logic to a forum housed at the Puget Sound Regional Council as a first step in getting the conversation moving.

Where we live and work

We look at the built environment as part of the Cascade Dialogues because conservation and the development of the built environment where we live and work are really two sides of the same coin. Both start from the same premise – there are going to be more people living here in the next 100 years than there are now, perhaps as much as double the current population of about 3.3 million people. With that challenge we believe we need to be efficient, both in ensuring that our conservation efforts are cost-effective and highly leveraged by protection of lands in ways that provide multiple benefits – we expect the same of our built environment. Efficient use of resources, the reduction of waste, is one of the great cost-cutting economic metrics. We need to apply those principles here.

The Cascade Agenda also looks at the built environment as a conservationist opportunity. How can we encourage development in a way that optimizes conservation gains? We also recognize that the Growth Management Act is the foundation for action, it's the law and we respect that. We believe providing market-based incentives will allow us to achieve the conservation our community aspires to where what we seek to achieve reaches beyond what individual landowners and businesses, especially in our rural communities can bear. We believe that the debate and the discussion about both regulation and growth changes when you look out 100 years instead of the usual planning horizon that goes out 20 or 30 years.

While the Cascade Agenda focuses on the four-county area of King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, the population figure used here is the usual metropolitan statistical area which includes King, Kittitas, Pierce and Kitsap County. What happens in Kitsap County affects the Puget Sound region, of course, but the Dialogues centers on the spine of the Cascades and what happens on either side of that spine. The Dialogues process also recognizes that population will move north

and south, into Skagit and Whatcom counties to the north and Thurston County to the south.

"As a parent, businessman, and citizen, I am focused on protecting what makes the Northwest so extraordinary and at the same time offer places where people can live and work," said Peter Orser, CEO of Quadrant Homes, one of the largest home builders in the Northwest. "With the Dialogues, all the groups in our community are working on this challenge together."

Why? Because builders and conservationists look at the problem in much the same way.

Builders care about the coming population because land is scarce; demand for housing is at record levels and growing; urban infill and high rises only meets a part of the market's expectations; quality of life requires housing choices and wide price ranges; being profitable in the demanding housing and development arena requires great jobs and a high quality of life; and our choices about how to handle growth will be lost for good if we don't think in the longer term. Conservations care about the future because land is scare; demand for an increasing breadth of recreation opportunities; the challenge and complexity of maintaining a healthy environment are becoming increasingly clear; the economic and regulatory pressures on our farms and timber lands are at an all time high; and meanwhile our growing need for housing is putting pressure on the land. Land conservation is half the battle, but a strong economy and healthy communities are critical to the quality of life that is our driving force, and choices – or perhaps more accurately options -- will be lost if we don't think in the longer term.

Maps of the region give us some hope. While we have seen tremendous growth of the built environment over the past few years, we can also see that growth generally has stayed within the boundaries set by the Growth Management Act. Go out a few years, to 2020 and the picture remains very much the same.

Go out 100 years to 2100 and the picture begins to change. If land use regulations continue as they are for the next 100 years, the built environment has begun to spill over today's urban boundaries in incremental jumps, but not drastically so. That's because the density within the growth boundaries is much higher than it is today. Seattle likely would look more like downtown Vancouver, B.C., with high-rise apartment and condominium towers. Towns like Bonney Lake and Roslyn will have residences, shops, and offices intermixed in busy town-centers surrounded by dense neighborhoods that offer a range of home prices.

Challenges

The population will easily double in the next 100 years, although the rate of growth likely will flatten out at the far end of any estimate. The population of the Puget Sound area doubled between 1970 and 2003, a period of only 33 years, according to the Puget Sound Regional Council.

The Cascade Agenda calls for our community to take conservation beyond individual museum pieces to a landscape scale. As much as 1.3 million acres, mostly in the Cascade foothills and in rural areas, should be preserved if the region's quality of life is to be maintained.

In protecting these lands we have two categories: conserved lands and preserved lands. The word "conserve" carries meaning for us. We can gain great leverage by seeking multiple benefits from the lands we hope to protect. Nearly 1 million acres of farms and timber lands should remain primarily in private ownership supporting our economy and traditional ways of life, with the landowners compensated for foregoing the potential development of these properties. The 300,000 acres that we propose to preserve primarily in public ownership, can provide protection along stream corridors, maintain a wide range of unique plants and animals throughout our region – from prairies to old growth – while also offer recreation and other functions. We call for the built community to be crafted efficiently; we task ourselves with conserving and preserving lands efficiently.

Yet, even with our commitment to efficiency, there is limited land available and it is reasonable to question if we can accommodate competing uses.

In Kittitas County, the issues are different. It is still a largely rural area although it is increasingly attracting people from the west side of the mountains seeking second homes in the sunny eastern foothills. Most parts of the county are less than two hours drive away from west side cities. Kittitas County population may grow by as many as 100,000 people over the next 100 years. Given second home buyers and other potential demographic shifts, that estimate could grossly understate the population and development gains – perhaps by a factor of four or five.

Analysis

Our conservation goals are very aggressive – 830,000 acres of working forests, 260,000 acres of farmland, 117,000 acres of shoreline and 110,000 acres for parks and trails. There is also a limited supply of land left to build upon – about 232,000 acres in the rural areas assuming we can actually build on about 60 percent of the land given roads, other infrastructure and sensitive areas and about 475,000 acres in the urban area assuming that we will use more of the land 75 percent due to smaller lots, existing infrastructure and fewer sensitive area constraints.

Density is expected to increase over the next 100 years in both the urban and rural areas. But in the rural areas, available land is consumed at varying rates depending on overall lot sizes. Based on a footprint of one household per 10 acres, land is consumed by 2020 while five acres or three acres per household push the consumption rates out further. Even though 1 house per three acres spins out the useable "life" from a housing standpoint of the rural area, such a landscape would be severely fractionated, heavily roaded, put great demands on water quality and county services. Such three acre lots are unlikely to retain the rural values identified by GMA. That view point is likely to surprise few. But we challenge the conversation to be taken a step further. We believe it is time to revisit the question of whether the current build out of rural areas into 5 and 10 acre lots reflect or can maintain the rural values of GMA. On the face of it, a drive through a landscape split into these large lot estates might suggest that the rural landscape is being consumed at a careless rate – with great infrastructure cost, little public benefit and great ecological harm. If we hope to provide a diversity of jobs for our region – from high tech to traditional; if we want our kids to be able to live here and raise their families in great communities – we need to make sure there is enough land to support a range of ways to live from cities, to towns, to countryside, to farms, no matter whether they

have a modest income or great wealth. If we hope to provide options for future generations to respond to new economic opportunities and new ecological challenges – we should build out efficiently.

Kittitas County has a much different profile given the high number of rural acres available but even there available land begins to disappear in 2100 on a one household per 10 acre scenario. What is more alarming is the influx of second home consumers, careless of the landscape and traditions they are fractionating. We need to make sure that those of us from the "wet"-side do not love our rural eastern neighbor to death by not honoring the traditional recreation routes that have allowed people to wander through the local hills; hating clear cuts that keep large tracts of foothills forested; trying to keep green lawns in a place we visit for sunny skies. Worse, if housing options near our major cities fail to be compelling or become affordable, we will wreak havoc on families living far away but commuting, even over Snoqualmie Pass, to get to work on a daily basis – snarling traffic, polluting our air, and harrying our lives.

As is that were not enough, there are a number of other questions raised as part of the built environment analysis - many of them we cannot answer.

There is the whole question of transportation. We have more people, more homes, more jobs and more outdoor recreation areas to take advantage of, but that also implies more roads. Traffic already is a nightmare in the region and there are many groups working to come up with some solutions. Members of the Cascades Dialogues Steering Committee do not have the expertise to address these transportation questions, although we recognize the significance it plays in any future scenarios regarding the region.

The built environment also can obviously have distributed impacts on our watersheds. The natural heritage of the region, the wide diversity of plants, trees, animals and fish that are found here, also is affected.

We also must deal with the potential impact of climate change – warmer, drier winters could have a significant impact on the long standing benefit of snowpack/water storage in the Cascades. And if that were not enough, what happens if a post-oil economy must be developed?

On watersheds, there is some good news. If we can succeed in compensating landowners of working lands for foregoing potential development of their properties; and if we can keep public lands in the public domain: Almost three quarters of the lands in the seven watersheds in the regions either provide great public benefits and ecological functions in their current management or are available for more intensive stewardship through collaboration and longer-term investments. These acres lie in such areas as protected public lands, working forests or farmlands.

The conclusions drawn from a look at the built environment are straight forward – there is a need to conserve landscapes, there is limited land for communities, land consumption will continue with population growth and rural lands are being consumed rapidly by large-lot development.

Goals

- Economy: conservation and business working together create economic growth – market based solutions are sustainable and permanent
- Community: vibrant communities attract residents and maintain NW character – accommodate doubling of population
- Environment: meet our conservation goals

Strategies

- We can begin to address some of the goals with increased use of Transfer of Development Rights, or TDRs. They can be seen as a way to preserve land and yet provide some economic return to land owners for that.
- Clustering could help the rapid use of rural land. We could choose to accommodate more density in the rural area within efficient footprints, villages or towns, in exchange for permanent preservation and conservation of the lands we value maintaining in a natural setting.

Urban areas can be used more efficiently by promoting more density – the downtown Vancouver sort of thing. Even within the city there are some opportunities for urban infill.

How will we do it?

We see three big tasks ahead.

1. We need to recognize there is a legitimate public role in this effort so we must better coordinate the current levels of public spending. And then we add to that spending a variety of new tools such at mitigation banking and conservation development.

2. For timberland and farmland still producing revenue from harvests, we need to implement new financing tools to preserve those areas such as tax exempt bonds. Like a hospital district, we need to access markets for that long-term capital. Investors will see a return on that investment as the revenues from harvest to pay off the bonds.

3. And most exciting is the need for new markets that allow the trading of development rights or the value created by carbon sequestration in forest. An efficient market in transfer of development rights will allow the region to move development rights from lands we want to conserve to those lands best suited for development.

Simply put, transfer of development rights shifts the future development potential from one piece of property to another piece of property. It's a powerful mechanism to protect agricultural lands, forest lands and natural areas, plus family foresters trying to steward lands they have held for generations. TDR programs transfer development rights from lands identified for conservation to an appropriate development site, where purchasing developers may increase building density beyond what would otherwise be allowed.

Along with the transfer of development rights, a conservation easement is placed on the "sending site" preserving the land from development and keeping it as working forest or farmland.

We identified four alternatives for presenting the built environment as part of the final Cascade Agenda.

1. Provide preliminary analysis and recommendations for alternative development opportunities in rural areas
2. Provide preliminary analysis and recommend a forum for a broader discussion
3. Provide preliminary analysis
4. Be silent

The steering committee discussion then centered around four or five key points, the most basic of which was a recommendation that the Agenda try to strike some middle ground between options one and two, recognizing that the issue of what to do with especially rural lands is "radioactive," to use the words of one member.

The Puget Sound Regional Council has some concerns that efforts of the Agenda will be duplicating at best and at cross purposes at worst with some of the work of the PSRC. There was a suggestion that the PSRC might be the proper place to host a forum around the questions raised by the Dialogues/ Agenda.

However one steering committee member said that any forum needs "that outward, external pressure" in order to keep it from being a business as usual kind of effort. Simply working on rural preservation will make a difference, although it may take a generation before there is any significant change in attitudes about our rural landscape.

We need to involve the rural landowners in the discussion, asking them what their options are and what they see in the future. For many rural landowners, the pristine nature of their land is what is most important to them. We need to understand that respect for the land that exists and shy away from the "fundamental arrogance of urban interests dictating to rural interests."

Conclusions:

1. We should not remain silent on the issue. There is a way to make recommendations that grow out of a conservation-based analysis that could help propel rational discussion at a forum

2. We cannot lose sight of the conservation goals. Looking at the issue through the lens of conservation is what gives us power and credibility.

3. Groups such as the Puget Sound Regional Council provide perhaps the most logical place to begin to move toward a wider discussion.

4. A follow-on organization structure, with adequate staffing, is necessary to provide for the future of the Agenda and its role in the Built Landscape.

There is an analogy with the business world in the Cascade Agenda's work and its future. Boeing believes it has the best aerospace engineers and workers in the world.

It wants to set them free to think about aerospace and come up with ideas, but ideas that work within the marketplace and with constituents like airlines

The Agenda the chance to be set free to think about the future and what it might hold for us. But the ideas must work in the market place and with our constituents -- developers, land owners, government and conservationists.

If Boeing makes the plane the market wants it succeeds, the company flies and its fortunes soar. The Agenda has the same opportunity to create the product the region wants, and if it does then our future soars.

CHAPTER 8: IMPLEMENTATION

How we will achieve our goals

The *Cascade Agenda* lays out a bold future in broad strokes. Much work is under way in scientific laboratories, legislative committees, corporate offices and neighborhood schools that constitute the fine handiwork necessary to achieve this vision. With the publication of the Agenda we shift into a new phase – this is not the end of the process but the beginning.

Among the first steps to be taken:

1. We will seek a wide level of endorsement of the Agenda from government, business and environmental groups. We will ask endorsing groups to name a "champion" to help push the Agenda. The "Champion" would be task specific and vary from "effort to effort." We would need to tap the person who we believe would be most effective in getting the task accomplished either because of institutional role, community of interest, force of personality or whatever.
2. We will develop a community speakers bureau to help get the word out to the various groups in the region such as Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, Economic Development Councils as well as traditional environmental groups.
3. We will target top companies in the business community, calling on them to endorse the Agenda, appoint a point person and work with the leadership team to identify where they can assist with implementation.
4. We will create a new implementation structure including an advisory committee of noteworthy community leaders, an implementation team of action leaders and Agenda staff, a board coalition of endorsers, a "virtual committee" that will be called upon depending on the issue. And finally

groups will be created around specific issues such as working forests or stewardship.

Perhaps most important will be a series of pilot projects or projects that illustrate the power of the Agenda. Several projects already have been identified and will likely be announced over the summer.

Throughout this report we have often remained silent or only briefly discussed the substance of these efforts, and we have done so consciously with modesty. We are a community abound with experts and stakeholders who invest enormous resources, creativity and energy in achieving great work within their respective areas of expertise. But too often these efforts have occurred in isolation. The *Cascade Agenda* does not seek to compete with or to supercede these efforts. Rather, through the Cascade Dialogues and the *Cascade Agenda* we have attempted to create a forum and a vision broad enough to encompass the spirit of all of these undertakings.

We have done so because we believe our region is at a tipping point, where the traditional isolationist approach to the challenges of our community has become unproductively divisive, pitting our common interests against each other – when in fact our community's vitality will depend on the successes of all sectors. The *Cascade Agenda* is a call for cooperation, communication and coordination. Given our limited resources, the sustainability of our region will depend on a delicately balanced course of action.

In setting these initial goals and corresponding measurable benchmarks, the Cascade Dialogues Steering Committee hopes to spark an ongoing dialogue – a vibrant process for what should be included, expanded and adjusted in future editions of the *Cascade Agenda*. Our hope is to create the public forum experts working in the trenches have long desired with a much broader array of the region's decision makers and opinion leaders than any constituency would alone be able to recruit.

<u>Ongoing Analytical Work</u>

We have set measurable benchmarks for determining our progress towards accomplishing the goals that will lead us to the future we envision for this region. Where possible we have relied upon scientific analyses. However, we were committed in this enterprise to not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. So, therefore, where scientific or economic analyses were incomplete or to date inconclusive, we have taken the precautionary principle and relied upon the values expressed by Town Hall participants and the best professional judgments of regional leaders and experts to set measurable benchmarks that will be most likely to maximize our options in the future. As additional analytical work is completed, for instance as regards the necessary steps to restore Puget Sound, the market expansion needs of west side farmers, or the impacts of global warming, the *Cascade Agenda* should be updated.

Now that we have set forth our vision, our goals, our benchmarks for success and our strategies, the question that remains is: How shall we begin?

Where we go from here

There is Work for Everyone

Clearly, the achievement of a sustainable community provides a role to everyone and every sector of our region.

Solutions Must be Local

The four counties addressed in this *Cascade Agenda* have much in common, but also face unique challenges. Ownership patterns and landscape features, histories and cultures, development trends and economic drivers vary widely. Even with overarching visions, goals and strategies, ultimately our success will depend on solutions tailored to meet local needs. As the *Cascade Agenda* is implemented, local communities will have to determine what approaches work best and in many cases will have to create or refine strategies appropriate to them. We have attempted to acknowledge some of the core issues and differences facing each county, and in a few cases have identified initial courses of action tailored to the values and circumstances of individual counties. This is only a start. We hope that the Cascade Agenda will both be a source for regional solutions and a source for local inspiration, through sharing of information and acknowledgement of unique circumstances. More than anything, the Cascade Agenda's success will depend on local action. Without the investment of local leaders and communities in the ongoing implementation of this effort, no regional effort will succeed.

Partnerships Can Bring New Resources

The *Cascade Agenda*'s call for cooperation, communication and coordination will require an investment in partnerships, amongst the usual and the unusual suspects. This will be an expensive and time-consuming undertaking, but one that merits each organization's investment. If this call to partnership is successful, when we reconvene in five years we should see specific accomplishments that otherwise would not have been possible through the joint efforts of non-profits which traditionally have either not cooperated or have even competed, of non-profits and corporations, of government agencies and corporations, of corporations and tribes, and of environmentalists and resource users. We should embark on this effort with optimism that the pie can be made bigger through our efforts, through efficiencies, leveraging of resources and renewed community energy.

We'll Need Leadership

To invest in an uncertain enterprise with strange bedfellows and partners who have never previously been on our side will require bold leadership by decision-makers in agencies, tribes, non-profits and corporations. We must find small steps to forge these new relationships, ways to reap success and to move forward. The Cascade Dialogues Steering Committee members themselves commit to exploring new partnerships, and when the Cascade Dialogues is reconvened in 3 years the Committee will solicit commendations from throughout the community for unique partnerships generated since the announcement of the *Cascade Agenda*'s partnership challenge. To support the idea that such collaboration can generate new resources, we will recruit a national foundation which has not previously invested significant resources in our communities to offer a regional funding prize to further the endeavors of at least three such partnership endeavors.

Call to Reconvene
The Steering Committee will reconvene the community every three years under the Cascade Dialogues banner for three important reasons: first, to track our collective progress toward this vision; second, to renew the partnerships that will be necessary to implement the conservation plan; and, finally, to exchange information and recalibrate our plan to accommodate circumstances and needs more clearly understood than they were three years prior.

CHAPTER 9: ABOUT THE AGENDA

What got us started

A little more than one hundred years ago, Congress, looking out on a rapidly urbanizing nation, took action to set aside massive landscapes in Wyoming and California, creating the national parks of Yosemite, Sequoia and Yellowstone. In the same decade, President Grover Cleveland established the Washington State and Mt. Rainier National Forest Preserves, along with eleven others around the country, which were to become a system of National Forests to preserve the forests, the water supply, and provide a reliable supply of timber.

The population of Washington State was just under 500,000 in 1900, and the very first automobile in the Pacific Northwest had just arrived in Seattle.

One hundred years later, just under six-million people live, work and play in Washington State, a region awash in natural bounty and beauty. From nearly anywhere you stand in Everett, Seattle or Tacoma you may view the salty waters of Puget Sound, where Orcas return on an annual cycle, or the massive shoulders of Mt. Rainier, shockingly close, draped in 35 square miles of ice. In between, the world's largest temperate forest spreads north to south - across two countries, four states and provinces - supporting dozens of cities, towns and rural communities. Traveling west from the Columbia River, through Kittitas and Ellensburg, you will cross thousands of acres of the West's most productive farmland and on towards Steven's Pass, a gap in Washington's Cascade Mountains that inhabitants have been traversing for thousands of years.

These are abundant natural resources and public assets. One cannot imagine life in the Northwest without them. One cannot imagine losing them.

Yet, in the last 30 years, Washington lost 2 million acres of timberland, most of it converted to agriculture or low-density residential use. That's a forest slightly smaller than King and Pierce Counties combined. It's forestland that may never be recovered.

This wearing away of the natural resources that nourish our spirit and put food on our table is driven in large part by a growing population; and our need for more housing, more jobs, and more roads to connect the two. It should not come as a surprise that the natural treasures and the quality of life that attracted us to the Northwest would attract others; many others. For the past fifteen years the Northwest population has grown at a rate more than twice the national average.

We also can look to the recent past to give us hope that we can turn these trends around and ensure a future where we have vibrant communities side by side with vital ecosystems. Look at the evidence:

We have done a lot to hold on to the landscapes we value. In Washington State, 84,741 acres have been conserved through both public and private efforts. In the last five years, local conservation groups and agencies have conserved more than

57,000 acres, an increase of more than 200%.[30] Thinking more broadly, in the City of Seattle, residents have voluntarily decreased consumption of water per capita by 20% over 25 years[31]. Puget Sound Energy reports that its consumers, through use of more energy efficient appliances and construction practices have reduced their energy consumption per capita. Meanwhile, Washington produce farmers have increased the number of acres of organically grown produce seven-fold in the last decade, from 6,188 acres in 1993 to 43,166 acres in 2002[32]. Sales for the state's organic produce jumped from $175 million 2002 to $230 million in 2003.[33]

Today, standing on the shoulders of the farsighted conservationists of more than 100 years ago, the sponsors of the *Cascade Agenda* propose a 100 year plan to identify, preserve and protect those lands on which we place high public value. Those things in the Northwest we treasure and want to pass on to our grandchildren and our great grandchildren: the vistas, the forests, the farms, the waters, and the character, cultures and economies of the communities in which we work and live.

Preserving our key landscapes is about more than good hiking or habitat for a small bird. It's about preserving options for the future. We can increase the efficiency with which we use our land and other natural resources. We should expect our grandchildren, and even our grandchildren's grandchildren, to enjoy the extraordinary benefits of our natural world. We also should expect future generations to have the same opportunities to make a living that we enjoy today.

Two futures are laid out before us. In one - a future we can already see in some regions of the country - is unmanaged growth. Where dependence on the car and highway leads to daily congestion and frustration. Where rapid consumption of open lands results in the loss of working forests, local farms, and wildlife habitat. Where long drives and snarled traffic foul the air. Where hiking trails and biking routes across large-scale natural lands are a distant drive from urban centers. In the alternative future - one still available to the Northwest - our streams, beaches and estuaries are restored, functional, and accessible to all. Our farms, ranchlands, forests and orchards are conserved and working, with their owners fairly compensated for good stewardship of their land. Our urban communities have gracefully accepted higher densities of housing, so residents enjoy pedestrian-friendly, lively and diverse neighborhoods, within walking distance of spectacular parks, trails and open spaces. It is a future well within our grasp. It is a vision for the future we verified with more than 800 people who took part in the Town Halls, Insight Panels, and Forums of the Cascade Dialogues. They have told us to think in the long term. They have told us to be bold.

Informed by the people who live here, we have built a vision for our future. This is a vision large enough to engage the high hopes and dreams of our diverse region; a

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30 Land Trust Alliance. 2003 National Land Trust Census. Data received via Email 17 February 2005.

31 Water usage in the City of Seattle decreased from 170 million gallons per day (mpd) to 135 mpd between 1975 and 2000. Seattle Public Utilities. December 2004 <<http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Water_System/History_&_Overview/DEMOGRAPHI_200312020908145.asp>>.

32 McElrich, A. & Granatstein, D. Facts and Figures on the Organic Industry in Washington State, 2003. Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Food Program. October 2004 <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/WSDA-OFP%20'03_files/frame.htm>.

33 Musick, M. Tilth Producers of Washington. "A Brief History of Tilth". October 2004 <http://www.tilthproducers.org/wtahistlong.htm>.

vision that brings us prosperity and makes this region a great place to live. By doing so, we have created a plan that extends beyond political divides and spans economic cycles. Thus, while the implementation of this vision will be an onerous undertaking, reaching the goals of the agenda is not only valuable, it is within our capabilities. The natural environment has always sustained the Northwest economy and spirit. But for the future, it needs a little more help from us. Everyone has a job to do.

How we constructed the Agenda

At its core, the *Cascade Agenda* is a reflection of the aspirations and good sense of our neighbors and fellow citizens. The *Cascade Agenda* is a product of the Cascade Dialogues, an intricate network of communication through which citizens, scientists, businesspeople, politicians, and the Cascade Land Conservancy voiced their hopes for what this region will become and the values that will be preserved in our shared landscape over the next 100 years. Through the Cascade Dialogues we have refined and advanced these positive visions and established ambitious but at the same time realistic goals and strategies for action. Our process was straight forward and inclusive. The diagram above provides a sense of how we constructed the Agenda:

Town Hall Meetings were convened in each of four the counties in which the Cascade Land Conservancy operates, King, Kittitas, Pierce, and Snohomish. The discussions addressed conservation goals and tools that are appropriate to the needs and values of the surrounding community.

Insight Panel discussions followed the Town Hall meetings. The Panels provided an opportunity for leading citizens from the civic, business, media and academic worlds to respond to the outcomes of the Town Halls based on their years of involvement in their communities. The Panels captured and explored the trends, general concerns and hopes that were voiced by citizens.

The Seattle Post Intelligencer's Zone Page and Teen Dialogues provided an opportunity to reach and hear from the next generation of citizens and leaders on their priorities for conserving the landscape over the next 100 years.

This input was synthesized and analyzed by Cascade Land Conservancy staff, CommEn Space and reviewed by over a hundred experts in study sessions and individual consultations; leading to a draft agenda that was then presented back to those participating in the earlier town halls for their feedback and input into the final *Cascade Agenda.* Throughout the process the Steering Committee and Leadership Team provided strong direction and consistent review, judgment and reflection on the spirit and contents of the *Cascade Agenda*.

Why craft a 100-year vision now?

At each of our public meetings and in our conversations, the discussion always came back to this: When 100 years has passed, will the communities that live here, the civic leaders, the elders and the youth, and white and blue collar workers thank us for what we have accomplished?

The answer to that question can be found in the benefits of past long-term planning.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, periods of rapid change like the one we live in are precisely when long term thinking is crucial. Technology transforms our world almost daily. A mere ten years separates the early 1980s, when many of us began conservation work in this region, and the early 1990s when unimagined growth in our communities made this work crucial. Those same ten years mark the transition between telephones on every desk and an email account accessed from every cell phone. Today the passing of a few short years brings enough change to make commonplace aspects of everyday life something that would be completely unexpected to us just a few years prior.

But only by looking far ahead – beyond the horizon of the demographic forecasters, past the returns of our longest-term investments and well beyond the tumult of our quickly globalizing society – can we focus on the deepest changes that we feel assured will matter over the long haul. We have to look 100 years out to identify the most meaningful elements of our communities, the places and features that define us, regardless of the forces that change how we make our livings, enjoy our weekends or travel to our families between now and then. We need a 100-year vision because what will matter in 100 years is more essential, more common to the rich variety of people who will live here then, than what might matter in 10 years.

If we look back, we find that the landscapes of the Northwest have always inspired long-term action. Indeed, while we may at first shy away from imagining 100 years of growth, change and development, we are the beneficiaries of long term thinkers who did just that.

In 1937, on the eve of the Second World War and with the nation still suffering from the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt toured the Olympic Peninsula by car. Along the way, he was buttonholed by forest service officials and industry leaders who argued the nation needed the timber the Olympic peninsula forests had to offer. At that time and the forest promised profitable harvests of wood that would go directly into production of homes and planes constructed from spruce. But after coming face to face with the old growth of the Olympics, the President committed himself, against the judgment of many of his advisors and supporters, to protecting the extraordinary forests of what was then the Olympic National Monument.

The Park, now a designated world heritage site, protects one of the world's most unique ecologies, a temperate rainforest that receives more than 12 feet of precipitation a year.[34] Roosevelt's decision, made in the face of extraordinary uncertainty during the Depression, staved off the fate that came to the rest of the Olympic peninsula forests. Recent studies of timber harvest on the private and unprotected public lands of the peninsula illustrate what would have become of the world's only northern temperate rainforest. In just the last 30 years of the 20th century, 30% of the peninsula's forests were clearcut. In the decades before that, loggers cleared all of the old growth.

More than a quarter century before Roosevelt protected the Olympics, the State of Washington distinguished itself by another act with long term consequences. Upon becoming a state at the end of the 19th century, Washington was granted more than three million acres of federal forest land. Unlike many states which liquidated these

34 The National Park Service. October 2004 <http://www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage/olym.htm>.

assets, Washington set aside most of those lands to be managed for timber production to benefit public education and schools. Today the timber market fluctuates and environmental factors limit yields from these lands. Still, Washington residents receive $250 million in annual revenues from our trust lands[35], an ongoing stream of benefits sprung from a wellspring of long term thinking tapped nearly 100 years ago.

Long term thinking hasn't been confined to the national and state level either. At about the same point in history, the City of Seattle began purchasing forest lands some 30 miles beyond its easternmost boundary along the Cedar River. Much of the acreage was already thoroughly logged by then and other portions would still be harvested in the future. But over the next 40 years the city continued to purchase land in the drainage until it came to own the entire basin above a set of diversion dams that take drinking water out of the Cascades and make it available for city residents. Seattle is one of only a half-dozen cities its size that has ensured its clean water supply by owning and safely stewarding an entire watershed.[36] Today the utility that manages this water source is a world leader in conservation. Indeed in the face of 29% population growth, total withdrawals from the Cedar River have remained flat for more than 25 years thanks in large part to conservation efforts combined with more water-efficient technologies.

Notwithstanding these instances of long-range thinking, taking a 100-year approach to managing the abundance that still characterizes the Northwest is not common for our society. But failing to look out and respond to the political and economic demands of today with an eye towards tomorrow frankly would be unsupportable.

How can we be confident we can meet the challenges of the future? We've seen how absurdly off-target future gazing can be, and we know that the pace of technology frequently forces us to abandon established ways at the drop of a hat. Who knows the imaginative ways our descendents may address the challenges we recognize, such as population growth, post-oil economics, or climate change, much less the emerging issues of the future. Future generations will decide how these lands should best be stewarded. Our responsibility is to conserve these lands, to give the future residents of this region the options and flexibility that they will need to meet demands and challenges unknown to us. Our conservation efforts will remain relevant because our job is to preserve options for the future.

While several aforementioned uncertainties keep us from accurately charting projected changes in this region over the coming 100-year period, there are certain trends that we cannot afford to discount as we envision the future of the region that we are working to protect.

Population is a good place to start. The Northwest has grown at more than twice the national average in the last 15 years. Washington State predicts growth by county over the next twenty years. Their forecasts put more than 50% of the state's projected growth in the four counties on which the *Cascade Agenda* is focused.

35 Washington Department of Natural Resources. October 2004 <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/base/statelands.html>.

36 Friends of the Cedar River Watershed. http://www.cedarriver.org/watershed/index.shtml

Washington State anticipates 1.7 million new residents to arrive in only the next 20 years, let alone the next 100.[37]

If growth continues at current average densities in our four-county region, over the next 20 years an additional 2,300 square miles – the equivalent of four new cities the size of Tacoma - will need to be developed to accommodate this increase in population. Where and how will these new residents settle into our existing communities?

The average new home being built in King County is 15% bigger than it was 30 years ago. Similarly, per capita land consumption increased about 3% statewide between 1982 and 1997, meaning that not only is more land being developed to meet the needs of a growing population, but that this development is occurring on a larger and larger scale. This means that while the population density of the state as a whole has increased during this same period (as a result of our growing population), the density of our urbanized areas is decreasing – reflecting the trend toward more sprawling development patterns. In the absence of creative action, this development pattern will have wide-ranging consequences. For example, King County home buyers now spend 34% of their income to purchase a home, an increase of 70% since 1970.[38] Additionally, 26% more people commute to King County for work than 20 years ago.

While these trends are outside of the typical debate over open space protection, they provide fresh insight crucial to understand the long-term challenges to our community and its landscapes. They suggest a future of more congested commutes over longer distances; demands for more roads and subdivisions further and further from our jobs. They are a clear example of why the time is now and the place to take action is here. They also frankly illustrate that even as we gather to do our part in the Cascade Dialogues, similar efforts addressing complementary aspects also must proceed apace if we are to provide the foundation for great communities in the next century. We are mindful of the old rubric that the best time to have acted may have been 20 years ago–*but the next best time is now*.

How will we get there?

How do we begin to work toward such an ambitious vision in the face of such uncertainty? The people who joined in the Cascade Dialogues, from the Town Halls to the Steering Committee, have declared the principles that should guide our actions. These principles are at the very heart of the visions, goals, strategies, and significance of the *Cascade Agenda*. They are powerful and clear:

- **We share common goals:** Our common goals are to protect our precious natural and working lands in concert with our region's prosperity. Accordingly, we have engaged a broad array of individuals and organizations to join in the Cascade Dialogues. It will take the combined efforts of all these civic leaders to realize the goals we set forth in this *Cascade Agenda*.

37 Based on the 2002 Intermediate Estimate. Office of Financial Management. October 2004 < http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/index.htm>.

38 Institute for Washington's Future, October 2004 <http://forwashington.org/anop/housingcrisis.php>.

- ☐ **Everyone has a job to do:** Conservation can no longer be seen as an ideological or partisan issue. Collaboration to achieve our common goals is a matter of civic responsibility.

- ☐ **Conservation and the economy work together:** We expect conserved lands to contribute to a vibrant economy and we expect a vibrant economy to help us to conserve these lands.

- ☐ **We need to be efficient:** We should use our limited land and resource base carefully. Efficient use of our resources contributes to the sustainability of our region. We must build urban communities that can gracefully accept higher densities, so residents enjoy pedestrian-friendly, lively and diverse neighborhoods, within walking distance of parks, trails and open spaces.

- ☐ **Conservation must pay its way:** We cannot implement the *Cascade Agenda* solely with philanthropic and public funds. Nor can we rely on regulation which shifts and changes over years. Consequently, we expect to support a significant amount of conservation with revenues generated from these lands themselves.

- ☐ **We will preserve options for the future:** Prudent conservation of our landscapes provides options to our region's future leaders, who must respond to evolving community needs.

Our vision for the future

Our vision is to preserve for future generations the working landscapes, functioning ecosystems, and vital communities across this region, where urbanized areas, farmland, family housing, and natural areas coexist on a regional level and are mutually beneficial to each mother.

This vision will allow children to walk to schools and shops near where their parents work; to play in green parks and fields, near trails, that, when followed far enough, will lead them to the majesty of mountains. It will maintain a healthy living environment with clean air to breath and water to drink, lands for active recreation, and jobs for the entire region. This vision offers a variety of housing choices within easy access of shopping, services, and workplaces, where residents have the choice between walking, biking, and driving to the places they need to go. This vision will secure the future of the Northwest's ecological legacy upon which our livelihood is based. With these values intact, the region will maintain its appeal to current residents and to the global economy's highly mobile and talented workforce, who demand recreational opportunities and family friendly urbanized areas.

In the end it is this . . .
Our vision is to preserve for future generations
The priceless opportunity to live with nature –
To run along the beaches of Puget Sound,
To feel the stillness of forests,
To hear the music of rivers,
And marvel at the mysteries of wildlife.

Our vision is to protect for the future's children
The chance to breathe clean air and drink clear water;
To live in communities embraced by working forests, farms and orchards;
To walk to schools and shops near where their parents work;
To laugh and play in green parks and fields, near trails,
That, when followed far enough,
Will lead them to the majesty of mountains.

COUNTY SNAPSHOTS

What the people said

The *Cascade Agenda* began at the grassroots, in local Town Halls where over 600 people, with a wide range of perspectives, discussed the features of their communities and landscapes that matter most to them and to their quality of life. In addition to serving as the basis for the 100-year *Cascade Agenda*, these community conversations fostered new partnerships and consensus among these groups. Insight Panels, CLC staff and Steering Committee members participated in many additional conversations and small group gatherings to explore complex, technical issues and areas of special concern. Because the *Cascade Agenda* must be carried out in part by the next generation, we helped to create educational materials used in classrooms and in small group discussions convened by partner organizations. Altogether more than 1,500 people joined us in person to participate in the Dialogues, 460 classrooms have used the Dialogues curriculum, and another 800,000 people have been provided with information on the Dialogues through an insert in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

What follows below are snapshot looks at the four counties as they appeared in the 2005 Agenda Report, plus reports on what the people said from some of the various meetings held in the counties over the past 18 months:

Teenagers, hard working citizens and thoughtful regional leaders told us what we report to you here in the *Cascade Agenda*. They want to live in towns and cities embraced by a natural setting; they want fish and clear water in the streams and rivers; they want the foothills to be green. They want conservation to keep pace with development, and no one was confident that only regulation can achieve long-term conservation or meet the needs of the economy. Our region's citizens have an appetite for a long-term vision and with their input and encouragement we have crafted a vision for the future.

King County Insight Panel, June 25, 2004. Hosted by Seattle CityClub.

King County

King County is the most urban of the four counties with more than 1.5 million residents. The land in the county is under the most pressure because of the growing population and increasing development.

Yet even in such a populous county there are successes. In September 2004 King County and John Hancock Timber, the company that operates what's known as the Snoqualmie Tree Farm, signed an historic document that will keep 90,000 acres as a working forest. That's an area twice the size of Seattle.

The agreement was one of the largest public purchases of development rights in the Pacific Northwest and one of the biggest such contracts in U.S. history. Under the county's agricultural zoning, the forest could have been broken into 80-acre plots. King County Executive Ron Sims said at the time that the market would have welcomed that kind of development.

Using sophisticated mapping techniques, CommEn Space, an environmental map maker, showed how the area might have been developed. The maps show how different the Snoqualmie Valley could have looked in the years ahead without the action taken by the county, Hancock and groups such as the Cascade Land Conservancy, which helped facilitate the transaction.

"This is a deal that involves a willing private property owner and government officials who see the bigger picture," said an editorial in the Seattle Times. "Future generations will only marvel at the opportunity they seized."

If we are going to succeed in conserving what we value about this region far into the next century, startling changes in perspective will be required from all of us, especially in King County.

How will we secure sufficient space to accommodate a growing population while also ensuring proper stewardship of our natural environment? Working to improve development practices may, on its face, seem contradictory to the goals of land conservation, but the two objectives are two sides of the same coin. Creating desirable neighborhoods that efficiently use our developable land base and concentrate population within vital urban centers and vibrant rural communities is fundamental to protecting our open spaces.

What the people said
King County Town Hall, Issaquah, June 7, 2004

Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- King County has beautiful, peaceful, and natural landscapes that protect and preserve natural open space, clean water, and biodiversity.
- King County communities have efficiently maintained viable clean water in aquifers and surface waters.

- King County has unique working landscapes that support commercial fishing, waterfront trade, timber harvesting, and farming.
- Our communities provide viable economic opportunities to the people who live in this region including natural resources jobs such as farming, fishing, and forestry.
- People in King County have access to the outdoors, natural resources, and a diversity of recreational opportunities in the many parks, trails, and access points to rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound.
- Our community recognizes the unique cultural identity of this place which is defined by the natural resources of the forested Cascades and running waters of the Puget Basin. Our community values protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.
- Communities in King County are small, close-knit, diverse and changing.

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- The continued urbanization, unplanned growth, consumption, and sprawling development from shorelines to ridgelines.
- The continued loss of open space, natural systems, and wildlife.
- The loss of natural resources-based economies and jobs due to the degradation of natural resources and a changing economy.
- Climate change, drought, and a limited reservoir capacity that challenges our ability to sustain water resources economically and equitably.
- Current economic systems that do not value the true benefits and costs of natural resources, and therefore inhibit our ability to efficiently and economically manage our resources.
- The lack and unfair distribution of funding for natural resources conservation, especially restoration, protection of urbanized natural areas, and stewardship.
- Our fast-paced and busy lifestyles that create feelings of apathy and loss of control toward threats and challenges to natural resource protection.
- Our short-term thinking that creates barriers to innovation and a willingness to try new solutions.

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Healthy, intact, and diverse ecosystems that support clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.
- Public access and proximity to trails, parks, and other recreational opportunities that provide a variety of outdoor experiences.
- Sustainable communities with strong and healthy economies and environments.
- Diverse, integrated, multi-generational, and well educated communities.
- Strategic and coordinated long-term plans and guidelines to manage growth, maintain a high quality of life, and protect natural resources.
- A shared vision and sense of responsibility to our community and resources promoted by communication and cooperation among elected officials, businesses, and the broader population.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Create a healthy economy and community where generations of people want to live, and invest by conserving our natural resources.

- Work together toward an integrated plan that combines environmental, economic, and community concerns, and anticipates changes in these systems over time.
- Investigate economic incentives and marketing for green development because open spaces make communities attractive and desirable places for people to live and work.
- Ensure the economic sustainability of our farms, forested, and recreational lands in order to have fresh food and timber products for our homes, preserve natural resource jobs, and maintain open and natural spaces in our region.
- Provide funding to protect and manage natural resources as well as stewardship of public lands.
- Pay for the true cost of the services natural system provide such as clean water, clean air, and recreational values.
- Educate and encourage people to think broadly.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Approach conservation, economic and community planning from a landscape and systems perspective that focuses on values, ecology, sustainability, innovation, flexibility, and active decision making.
- Reliable protection and restoration of a diversity of natural landscapes, including connective areas, urban green spaces, and watersheds.
- Recognition that ecosystems and natural resources provide important, valued services to our community and economy.
- An ethic that all of us are responsible for conserving the Cascades, Puget Sound and natural resources beyond our region.

Waters

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", are you proud of?

- King County has beautiful and peaceful natural landscapes that support marine and aquatic biodiversity.
- King County communities have efficiently maintained viable clean water in aquifers and surface waters.
- King County has unique working landscapes that support commercial fishing, waterfront trade, and other waterfront activities.
- People in King County have access to recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, and fishing.
- Our community recognizes the unique value and cultural identity of this place which is defined, organized, and connected by water. Local people value protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", worry you?

- The expanding population, over-consumption, and sprawling development from shorelines to ridgelines.
- Climate change, drought, and a limited reservoir capacity that challenges our ability to sustain water resources and balance our water budget economically and equitably.

- Current economic systems that do not value the true benefits and costs of natural resources, and therefore inhibit our ability to efficiently and economically manage our resources.
- Our fast-paced and busy lifestyles that create feelings of apathy and loss of control toward threats to natural resources protection.
- Our short-term thinking that creates barriers to innovation and a willingness to try new things, such as using urban lands more intensely.

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Restored and uncontaminated natural shorelines, estuaries, rivers, riparian areas, shellfish, fish, and other marine and aquatic resources.
- Livable communities with green open spaces, clean drinking water, and active economies that support local jobs.
- Livable communities that use innovative architecture, design and engineering to reduce our cumulative impact on water resources, and recognition that protecting natural functions, such as the filtering capacity of natural vegetation, has great economic benefits.
- Long-term plans and guidelines to manage growth, maintain a high quality of life, and protect water resources.
- A shared vision and sense of responsibility to our community and resources promoted by communication and cooperation among elected officials, businesses, and the broader population.
- Community involvement and volunteerism promoted by a slower pace of life, a change of our work ethic to "work to live, not live to work," and ecological education.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Restore natural shorelines of Puget Sound by removing bulkheads.
- Manage growth by investigating economic incentives and marketing for green development and using transfer of development rights as a tool.
- Consider the effects of global warming on our water supply.
- Understand that the costs of water conservation on our economy and increase efficiency of fresh water use.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- A systems approach to conservation and community development planning that focuses on sustainability, cooperation, trust, economics, ecology, innovation, flexibility and active decision making.
- Protection and restoration of waters, rivers, riparian habitats, connected natural areas and shorelines.
- Ecological education and experience with the outdoors for all people.

Cascades

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", are you proud of?

- King County has sustainable large and intact forest landscapes with open spaces, trees, wildlife, and functioning watersheds.
- King County supports unique and economically viable working forest landscapes and communities that provide local forest products to the region.

Our forestry economy has benefited from long-term stewardship and management of forests.
- People in King county have access to trails and parks for recreation and connecting greenways.
- People in our community value the historic heritage of our forested landscapes.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", worry you?
- The continued development that converts working forest lands to residential and commercial uses, restricts access to recreational opportunities, reduces wildlife and natural resource benefits, and leads to a loss of natural resource jobs.
- The loss of choices for affordable housing.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?
- Intact, large forested landscapes that support biodiversity.
- Livable communities with public access and proximity to trails, parks, and other recreational opportunities that provide a variety of outdoor experiences.
- Sustainable and coordinated planning for recreation, conservation, and community development with reasonable regulations, moderate taxation, and respect for private property rights.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?
- Ensure the economic sustainability of our working farms and forested lands in order to have fresh food and timber products for our homes, preserve natural resources jobs, and maintain open and natural spaces in our region.
- Investigate economic incentives that maintain working landscapes.
- Consider all resources and impacts when planning for salmon habitat restoration.
- Enhance our tourism economy.
- Create sustainable communities that are modeled after older, compact, and self-sufficient towns.
- Provide funding for natural resources protection, management, and stewardship of public lands promoted by better accounting of the value of natural resources.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?
- Reliable protection of a variety of natural landscapes, including urban green spaces and forests, as well as other economically viable and sustainable land uses.
- Recognition that ecosystems and natural resources provide important and valued services to our community and economy and that all of us are responsible for conserving the Cascades and regions beyond King County.

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", are you proud of?
- King County has a beautiful diversity of wildlife and of naturally connected landscapes, rural areas, and open spaces.

- King County has economically viable farming communities that provide local produce throughout the region.
- People in King County have access to the outdoors, natural resources and recreation through community trails and parks.
- Local people value protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.
- Communities in King County are small, close-knit, diverse and changing.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", worry you?

- The continued urbanization, unplanned growth, and development.
- The loss of open space, shorelines, wetlands, wildlife and natural areas, especially in urban areas and less affluent communities.
- The narrow focus of community planning that excludes the consideration of economics, transportation, education, health, safety, and other community values.
- A lack of funding for natural resources conservation, especially restoration, protection of urbanized natural areas, and stewardship.
- A changing agricultural economy.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Open space, clean air, water, and natural areas.
- Access and proximity to walkable communities, recreation, and other natural resources.
- Sustainable communities with strong and healthy economies and environments where our grandchildren can grow-up, live for the long-term, and prosper.
- Desirable choices for land uses, food, transportation, and housing.
- Strategic and thoughtful planning, policies, taxes, and laws.
- A shared vision for our region promoted by citizen involvement, stewardship and education.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Create a healthy economy and community where generations of people want to live and invest by conserving our natural resources.
- Increase land and property values, enhance tourism and our outdoor recreation economy, and support working lands by conserving natural resources.
- Invest in programs that support working lands and balance multiple uses in our landscape.
- Anticipate changes in the economy, environment, and government policies and regulations.
- Reduce our use of chemicals.
- Provide funding for natural resources protection, management, and stewardship.
- Pay for the true costs of our impacts to the environment and value for the services that natural resources provide.

What are some important principles to this community?

- Value for land, water, air, open spaces and natural resources.

Value for working landscapes, livable communities, and good economics.

What the Insight Panel Found
Hosted by Seattle City Club, June 25, 2004

Facilitator:
Charles Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:
Sam Anderson, Master Builders Association
Phyllis Campbell, The Seattle Foundation
Gene Duvernoy, Cascade Land Conservancy
James Veseley, The Seattle Times

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

We face the challenge of arranging our community under a common vision for the future within the limited space and resources of our region.

We share a common culture living in the Northwest. Together, we identify and relate with such common markers as salmon, rivers, forest, and mountains.

These natural landscapes and communities surround us and play an essential role in our culture and economy.

We acknowledge the need to create livable communities in an urban area by recognizing our limited resources and the needs of future generations.

Dramatic Changes

As the population grows, the region is constantly faced with increasing suburban sprawl and density. Single family homes are still a strong market desire, yet more people are choosing to live in urban environments such as downtown Seattle.

To address the issue of living in a region with limited space, we need to address the constant tension in government and society between different special interest niches. We must come together under common values to move forward.

Many members of the community do not know how to help. As a result, our confusion often transfers to a lack of action or apathy.

Planning

Cooperative:
We must cooperate to find smart solutions for our changing region. Most importantly, we need to actively pursue these solutions.

To reach a common ground, all members of the community need to be engaged. Leadership should extend beyond a handful of big leaders and come from all levels.

Comprehensive and Inclusive:
Interest and leadership need to extend beyond the neighborhood level to a greater vision for the whole region. The Dialogues help form conversation about such visions.

Education will be a vital avenue towards livable and healthy communities with a high quality of life for everyone. We must take this challenge and opportunity to invest in our future by educating our youth.

Regional:
It will be necessary for the community and local bodies of government to work together as a region. We should strive towards the Tri-County process in which we have the most politically correct crowd around the table where both public and private partnerships will be essential.

Creative:
We have great processes for creating livable communities in the region, but often lack products of our effort. We must move forward with a single vision (map) with short-, mid-, and long-term strategies and actions.

Our solutions need to be non-ideological and extend beyond philanthropic reasons to include market based incentives that integrate a path towards a healthy economy and environment.

"It will be an on-going process as well as an initial path forward."

Reporting Back, King County Check In
Seattle, March 8, 2005

Did we capture your input?

- We were very impressed by the goals and strategies presented. They are a lot more involved than we expected.
- Yes. The Cascade Agenda also needs to address protection and stewardship of the land.
- Yes. We would like it to include goals about recreation lands and the various types of recreation activities people pursue. Recreation is a subject that reaches out across traditional lines and can bring people together to discuss the value of conservation.
- We want it to address connectivity between urban and rural settings in the Cascade Agenda.

Does it create a compelling vision?

- Yes. The presentation introduced a pragmatic and inspirational agenda. The regional approach is admirable.
- We like that the benefits to our local economy were addressed up front and that incentive-based solutions were at the forefront.

- The vision is compelling and addresses urban, rural, and wild land issues.
- Yes. We like that this is not an anti-people plan.
- Yes. The timing is right to do this.
- The VNS images of before and after show the vision. And the maps are great; people can find themselves on the maps.
- Yes. The Cascade Agenda does a good job of not seeming red or blue.
- Accomplishing these goals will be a challenge to do without the regulatory aspect. What kind of non-regulatory incentives could be provided to protect the rural area?
- The challenge is big and complex. Need to distill it. Show that this is a working plan by providing examples of how the work can be done.
- We liked overall vision, but are concerned about all the groups (government, communities, NGOs) that need to work together to achieve the goals. Who is going to be coordinating this effort?

Local angles

- People felt that the role of climate change needs to be acknowledged in determining whether ecological goals will be achievable.
- We would like to see examples of conservation projects along a single river or watershed, going from nearshore to the headwaters (urban, suburban, farms, working forests). If people can see examples that have been implemented in the places they know it demonstrates that real solutions can be achieved and that this is more than just protecting large landscapes (i.e. much broader than acquisitions which is how individuals most typically think of the CLC).
- How do we address urban housing prices that drive people out of the cities? Need to work with cities, governments and developers to improve urban areas, redevelop them, increase density and restore urban natural spaces.

How we can help

- Articulate the vision widely, beyond CLC's existing constituents. To achieve the goals set forth, many organizations need to do many things. We need to focus on the big tent.
- Create a tool kit for supporters to take to other audiences in order to get the word out.
- Get schools and youth constituencies engaged in the planning and implementation process.
- Make Dialogues presentations to cities and county governments throughout the region.
- Get past the choir when doing outreach.
- CLC can help land owners continue to conserve land for future generations.

Additional comments

- "Good summarization of public values for the area's landscape. Great job. Go forward!"
- "Reaffirmed and created a more hopeful picture than I might thought lay ahead."
- We are very interested to see the details and would like to have access to the presentation.

Cascades

- We like that this is a collaborative and cooperative process and that it is not threatening to private land owners. Now we need to make it sing for the broader community.
- There is a lot at stake and we all need to work together to conserve the region.

Waters

- Important to know that "not all river miles are equal" lowland riparian areas are different than headwater riparian areas. They serve different ecological functions and support different life stages for various species.
- We're not sure that protecting agricultural lands will protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Need to address the relationship between land preservation and ecosystem success.
- Need to address climate change effects on watersheds (stream flows, salmon migration, etc.). Different watersheds have different sensitivity to climate change.
- There are different opportunities for different water ways (Nisqually River vs. Duwamish) that should be looked at in carrying out the Cascade Agenda goals.

Communities

- Need to lay out prioritization schedule to make the conservation work happen.
- The role of government shouldn't necessarily mean that it is the regulator. The governmental role could be more cooperative and incentive based.
- What will neighborhoods look like with increased density? What will the regulatory system look like?
- Need to work with developers to build linkages into and between new developments and from where people live to where they play. How we develop connectivity inside urban zones is also important.
- Need to emphasize the importance of recreation, especially for the health of young people.
- Where will land for parks come from? Give examples of things that are happening now to demonstrate feasibility. Should we focus development near existing parks?
- Need to address the connection between land preservation objectives and desired ecosystem success/characteristics. Have we defined what kind of ecosystems we want to see in 100 years?

Steering Committee member Rebecca Wassell at the Kittitas County Check In, March 3, 2005.

Kittitas County

While farms, ranches and the rural quality of life continue to be defining aspects of the county, changes are rapidly occurring. In 1954, there were about 1,100 farms with an average size of 602 acres, totaling 680,600 acres. In 2002, there were only 230,646 acres in farm land.

Farmers in Kittitas County have recognized and supported the need to preserve viable agricultural lands in the county, yet they know change is happening. Kittitas County is the fourth fastest growing county in Washington State. The county is increasingly supporting the eastward migration of people from western counties. People are attracted to the county's way of life, low population, abundant open space and recreation opportunities.

More than 2,000 people living in Kittitas County commute to jobs on the west side of Snoqualmie Pass. Many others have built recreation and vacation homes there, especially in the rolling forested foothills and along the river valleys.

Kittitas County acknowledged the importance of its natural amenities to economic development when the Kittitas County Commissioners created a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC was asked to create a county recreation plan that includes an economic analysis of recreation and tourism, maps of the county's recreational infrastructure and a plan to enhance and fund that recreational infrastructure.

In the lower county, availability and access to trails and open space will need to be fully incorporated with new housing developments and planned accordingly to

sustain projected increases in county population. With the increased fragmentation and development of private forest tracts in the upper county, the community will have challenges in acquiring and maintaining recreation easements across private lands as well as funding for the stewardship and management of trail corridors that can serve a wide array of users in both summer and winter seasons.

What the people said
Kittitas County Town Hall, Ellensburg, May 6, 2004

Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- Diversity of habitats, beautiful open spaces, and convenient access to recreational activities nearby to where people live.
- Strong, vibrant, and open community with a sense of history and origins. Our community is made up of independent people with healthy skepticism and openness.
- Long history of working lands, family ownership and a commitment to stewardship.

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- The amount and type of development may result in loss of public access as well as biological and visual fragmentation of working and natural lands.
- Poor water resource planning, such as unsustainable development, misuse and over allocation that may lead to a lack of clean water.
- The challenge of maintaining an independently-minded community without antagonism among stakeholders while planning for the future and addressing our rapidly changing economy and landscape.
- The threats that high operating costs and changing markets present to maintaining a viable agricultural economy, forestry economy and open space.
- The uncertainty and potential impacts surrounding upcoming decisions about wind power, fire management, taxes, and decisions made from outside of our community.

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Economically and ecologically sustainable communities that rely on good management of natural resources through locally based decisions, including maintaining lands and resources for future opportunities.
- Unique beauty, habitats, landscapes and native wildlife in our county.
- Public access to, proximity to, and recreational use of natural resources.
- A vibrant, involved, and engaged community with both rural and urban features.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Provide for our economic and ecologic well-being over the long run by diversifying our economy, maintaining natural resources, and good planning.
- Protect our local identity and culture by connecting people to the land, wildlife, families, and our community.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Careful, long-term planning for sustainable water management, viable forest and agriculture economies, sound community development, and conservation, while anticipating impending changes such as global warming.
- Success will depend on local decisions, partnerships, collaborative rather than adversarial relations among stakeholders, and environmental education

Waters

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", are you proud of?

- Kittitas County has a beautiful landscape of rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands
- Kittitas County has a strong, vibrant, and open community with a sense of history and origins
- Our community is made up of independent people with healthy skepticism and openness

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", worry you?

- The amount and type of development, such as second homes, may result in loss of public access, a cluttered landscape, as well as biological and visual fragmentation of working and natural lands
- Loss of family farms and ranches
- Poor planning for water use and development
- Lack of clean water due to development, misuse, and over allocation
- Lack of big picture and long-term view when planning for water usage
- With the change in the make-up of the population and changing economic dynamics we risk a change in values about water resource management and about the landscape generally
- Antagonism between members of the community
- Rules and regulations that conflict with good management of our water resources

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Water, fish, wetlands, wildlife, forests, clean air and starry skies
- Land for food production
- Public access
- Public transportation
- Conservation and environmental education
- Community involvement
- Land use planning that considers population growth, development needs, and ecological concerns

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Provide for our economic well-being over the long run
- Employ ecological principles in water use (conservation, irrigation, and storage)
- Develop healthy ecological systems (wildlife corridors, water quality)
- Protect the cultural values of the people that use water and other natural resources

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Protection and restoration of riparian areas, open spaces, biodiversity, clean water, and clean air
- Government support for good water management and the removal of regulatory impediments to sound resource management
- Collaboration of multiple parties rather than adversarial relations
- Sustainable economic development for agriculture and fisheries
- Support and encouragement of conservation through environmental education

Cascades

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", are you proud of?

- Kittitas County has unique, diverse, and intact landscapes and ecosystems
- Communities in Kittitas County have nearby publicly accessible natural resources
- Kittitas County is made up of diverse people and constituencies
- Kittitas County has a long history of working landscapes, and the connection of people to these lands
- Kittitas County has benefited from good management of its natural resources
- The communities have maintained a small town and rural atmosphere
- The area has a sense of openness and space – both in the landscape and in the communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", worry you?

- Rampant, unsustainable and unplanned development
- Loss of access for people and connectivity between natural areas for wildlife
- Loss of natural resource based economics and employment
- Lack of water
- Over-use of recreational areas
- The uncertainty and potential impacts surrounding upcoming decisions about wind power, fire management, and taxes
- Conflicts between stakeholders that get in the way of finding mutually acceptable solutions
- The impact of management decisions that are made outside of our community

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Wild lands, native species, natural migrations, natural views, and clear skies
- Public access to, proximity to, and recreational use of natural resources
- Viable agriculture and timber economies that do not rely on government generated incentives
- Economically and ecologically sustainable communities
- Long-term planning and management of water resources, ecological systems, development, transportation, and taxes

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Enhance our recreation and tourism economy
- Retain valuable natural resources
- Maintain the rural and natural character of our community
- Maintain the identity of our local community
- Connect people to the land, wildlife, families, and our community

- Minimize the over-use and over-crowding of recreational lands

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Careful, long-term planning for sustainable water management, a viable timber economy, sound community development, and conservation, while anticipating impending changes such as global warming.
- Connectivity of natural areas for wildlife and people
- Protection of natural areas such as large tracts of forestland, water, and views
- Success will depend on local decisions, partnerships, and environmental education

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", are you proud of?

- People in Kittitas County have maintained a strong sense of community
- Kittitas County has a diversity of habitats, beautiful open spaces, and convenient access to recreational activities nearby to where people live
- Kittitas County has a long history of ranching , farming and family land ownership
- People in Kittitas County have a commitment to stewardship of our lands

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", worry you?

- Lack of planning for growth and development may lead to loss of open spaces and recreational opportunities due to economic pressures
- The challenge of maintaining an independently-minded community while planning for the future and addressing our rapidly changing economy and landscape
- The threats that high operating costs and changing markets present to maintaining a viable agricultural economy

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Clean air, long views, open spaces, and working forests
- The beauty of our community
- Good management of our natural resources based on locally-made decisions
- A vibrant city with small retail businesses, and places to live and visit
- Local food production, retail businesses, and health care
- Good economic development

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Enhance appreciation for the unique beauty, habitats, landscapes and native wildlife of our community
- Diversify our economy
- Provide good planning and growth management for our community

What the Insight Panel Found
Hosted by Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce, May 27, 2004

Introduction:

Jim Armstrong, Vice President of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County

Panelists:
Tim Engstrom, Ellensburg Daily Record
Larry Sharpe, Coldwell Banker Kittitas Valley Realty
Tami Walton, Mountain High Sports

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

There is a growing awareness that the landscapes and the communities that we cherish are rapidly changing due to population increases, development pressures, changing trends in the national and international economy that affects both our downtown core and our agricultural and natural resource businesses.

We recognize the challenge of wanting to grow and conserve, to maintain access for recreation and respect private property, and to provide enough water for fish and farmland and people. That is why we must think about these changes, create a common plan, and act together.

Although preservation of farmland, water and open space may be difficult it is a necessity that if we want to maintain these qualities, we need to try.

Dramatic Changes

We need to expect changes in our environment, economy and community over the next 100 years. For instance, agriculture as we know it will most likely change, as will our fuel and energy economy, population, climate and water storage capacity.

Planning

Strategic:
We need to be proactive and not reactive in confronting changes in our community. We need a plan that we can all agree upon, and then we need to act on it.

There is a political aspect to this planning as well. Unless we have people in power with the will to follow and act on the vision of the people, nothing will happen. We need a good political atmosphere at the county level that is amenable to implementing the vision of the people.

Cooperative:
It is important that everyone in the community is involved in this process and that we search for the middle ground to form cooperative solutions. We should not get caught in polarizing debates.

Creative:
Through more dialogues-type discussions in this county and in Chelan and Yakima counties, we could create a mission statement and vision for our region, in which we think about our values, what we care about as a guide for planning.

One idea would be develop a new thinking pattern with regards to water and efficiency. Just think about how we have radically changed our thinking and life patterns with regards to cigarettes – we need to have that kind of change in thinking with water too.

Stewardship

Ongoing management of our resources is what is key. The issue is not who owns the land, government or private landowners, but how that land is managed.

Reporting Back, Kittitas County Check In Ellensburg, March 3, 2005

Did we capture your input?

- The presentation captured our general concerns, but we would like to see more reflection on:
  - quality of life issues: air and water quality, light pollution ("dark skies"), landscape connectivity for people and wildlife;
  - public transportation, road density; and
  - climate change and changes to watershed hydrology.
- The presentation lacked the urgency that is felt by many people concerned about the region. It didn't capture the energy, passion or our love for Kittitas County's quality of life and landscape.
- Need to include accessibility of region by all socioeconomic levels.

Does it create a compelling vision?

- It would be helpful to have examples of pilot projects to demonstrate the tools intended to be used to help provide clarity to the Agenda's vision.
- The vision may be achievable. But we have to be practical about realities and it's going to take a tremendous amount of commitment and funding.

Local angles

- Need to look at higher population projections for Kittitas County, number seems low.
- Need to convey:
  - Interconnection between trails and loss of trails to development.
  - Concept that local issues have regional effects.
- Framing issues about timberland ownership in terms of timber harvest flow.

How we can help

- Ensure that system for water storage meets needs of fish, wildlife and irrigators.
- Create partnerships with: U.S. Forest Service, Central Washington University-Resource Management Program, the Yakama Nation, outdoor recreation groups

Additional comments

- More detailed information would be helpful, especially on the tools and methodologies proposed for use.

- We would like clarification on what the following phrases mean: Short-, Mid- and Long-Term.

Cascades

- We are concerned with wildlife connectivity and recreational access.

Waters

- We are concerned with acquisition, but acquisition alone does not guarantee sound stewardship of specific water and land management practices.
- The Cascade Agenda should also include language about funding an adequate supply and storage of water: conservation of healthy headwaters as a means of storing water.
- Provide scale to what is meant by local and regional.
- Concerned about how we go about achieving these watershed goals.
- Not enough snow pack in Cascades to act as a reserve.
- Need to implement water conservation to continue the fulfillment of water dependent activities.
- Almost all irrigation is for agriculture. What percent of agriculture is grazing or dry land wheat? The plan should address fostering and encouraging new models for agriculture.
- Concerned that pavement is going where the waters once would be absorbed.

Communities

- Agricultural lands can be worth more as developable land than as an orchard or farm. One can make an argument that farming won't exist in Kittitas County 100 years from now. We're focusing on trying to keep things as they are, such as agriculture, which could be gone in 100 years. Maybe we should focus on what will be around and of interest to our communities in the future, such as lands for recreational use.
- Development is speeding up. A study 5 years ago noted 500 cars cross Snoqualmie Pass each day for work. In 2004, 1,000 cars made the trip on a daily basis.
- Need to emphasize connectivity for wildlife and biotic communities.
- Socioeconomic disparity needs to be acknowledged in the final report.
- We are concerned about small parcel in-holdings that are being purchased for single homes and the implications for water use and recreational access in Upper County.
- We are concerned about recreational access. Recreation is a big value for moving to Kittitas Co., but ironically, access is being blocked by new developments.
- We feel a sense of urgency that the time to act is now. We have a deep passion for the land and we our concerned for the future of the region.
- We are concerned about water availability and the impacts of expected shortages.

Participants at the Piece County Town Hall, May 3, 2004 at The Mountaineers Lodge in Tacoma.

Pierce County

In the shadow of the magnificent Mt. Rainier, Pierce County boasts a big city with an abundance of urban open spaces, and natural shorelines. People who gathered at the Mountaineers Club said they were proud of the trails, wilderness, estuaries and natural shorelines that are accessible to the public. And they said they are "a community that puts a high value on working forests, farms and agriculture."

They worry about urban runoff and the health of the abundant waters of Puget Sound, and they see "a worrisome lack of connection between the people and the natural resources they rely on." They say they see the need to "protect natural resource based economies such as small timberland owners and fisheries…while preserving the open space and forests that help to maintain water quality and quantity." And, they believe "the health of rural economies is vital to the economic health of the region." "Start now," they say. "Don't wait another hundred years."

At a panel discussion hosted by the Tacoma City Club, Pierce County civic leaders cautioned the Dialogues to expect the unexpected in its long range planning process.

"There will be dramatic and unpredictable changes in our environment, economy, and community over the next 100 years. The future is a constantly moving target," they said. "Dramatic changes might include a war over fresh water allocation, major population growth, and major economic upheaval."

They also advised, "Conserving and preserving space is the first step in keeping our options open for the future."

The civic leaders concluded that "We must create a plan with a flexible framework that can accommodate changes in our environment, economy and communities and embrace different futures."

With Mt. Rainer in its backyard, it is no wonder that residents of Pierce County are proud of what they have accomplished.

At a Town Hall meeting as part of the Cascade Dialogues process, residents said the county has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes that support a diversity of species. The community has succeeded in implementing landscape-scale conservation, protecting urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.

Communities in Pierce County have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts, with broad community support for conserving natural lands, maintenance of watershed health and salmon recovery.

And the people of the county have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.

Access to the parks that make the county so attractive is a question. For instance in Pierce County the last transit stop into the Cascades is in Buckley, 16 miles from the gates of Mt. Rainier National Park.

Pierce County is a good example of some of the deep analysis that went into the Cascade Agenda. In recreation, for example, the Agenda has a goal of an urban park within walking distance of every resident. Experts helped the framers of the Agenda study the location and size of parks within the urban growth boundaries of Tacoma. Similar studies were done in the other counties, but Tacoma's was particularly representative.

The analysis demonstrated both underserved areas for the existing population, as well as opportunities for park expansion as the population grows. Also it is worth noting that this analysis clearly identifies low population areas such as Fort Lewis and the Port of Tacoma, where additional recreational acquisitions are not a priority from a walking-distance or population density standpoint.

What the people said
Pierce County Town Hall, Tacoma, May 3, 2004

Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- Pierce County has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes that support a diversity of species. The community has succeeded in implementing landscape-scale conservation, protecting urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.
- Communities in Pierce County have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts, with broad community

support for conservation natural lands, maintenance of watershed health and salmon recovery.
- Pierce County has fertile soils that support agriculture and forestry, and a community that values working forests, farms and agriculture.
- Pierce County is a community made up of diverse and proud people that are aware of watershed issues and hold landscape sustainability as a goal.
- Communities in Pierce County have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.

What characteristics of the community worry you?
- Stormwater discharge from urban city streets and farm runoff continue to damage the water and habitats in Puget Sound.
- The difficulty and expense of protecting and restoring nearshore and urban areas will be a great challenge for us.
- Collaborations are sometimes short-lived and fragile. There is little collaboration and coordination among efforts to maintain biodiversity.
- The lack of a community-wide consensus on, governmental commitment to and planning for long-term landscape planning in the face of rapid population growth has directly contributed to the degradation and loss of views, clean air, clean water, and working, natural and open lands.
- Lack of a connection between people and the natural resources they rely on.
- Tax burdens impact the community.

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?
- Clean drinking water.
- Sustainably managed family farms and timberlands which include a large portion of the open and forested landscape important to water quality and quantity.
- Protection of intact natural resources, restoration/recovery for degraded environments and long-term stewardship of water resources.
- Urban open spaces, forests, views, trails, wilderness experiences, fishing opportunities, parks, estuaries, and natural shorelines that are readily accessible to the public.
- Maintenance of our area's cultural and biological diversity.
- The merger of economic and environmental interests, so as to encourage alternative ways for maintaining a high quality of life and continuing to grow (smart growth, increased density of development, public transportation, smarter commutes, lighter human impacts).
- Continuation of our agricultural heritage through viable, local food production.
- Community involvement in decision-making.
- Connectivity among natural open spaces to support access and movement for wildlife and people.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?
- Enhance the diversity of our economy**.**
- Promote economic and business growth while maintaining the beauty of this region. Protect natural resource-based economies such as small timberland owners and fisheries. Recognize and support the ecological and economic values of open space and forests for maintaining water quality and quantity.

- Protect and connect natural habitats and open spaces that stretch from our backyards to the mountains in order to maintain access and connectivity for wildlife and people.
- Provide opportunities for personal, family and community inspiration through connections to the natural environment, community gardens, parks and open spaces. Promote healthy lifestyles, a high quality of life and a sense of history by maintaining a healthy environment, and by providing ways of engaging with the landscape for everyone, such as ensuring a supply of locally grown and organic produce at neighborhood markets.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Preservation, restoration and livability of urban environments needs to be a priority.
- Planning should tie together local and state-wide efforts and protect biodiversity. Planning should balance immediate and long-term demands, as well as integrate economic and environmental interests. Such planning must be equitable and should recognize that protection, conservation and restoration have direct economic benefits for our communities.
- Success will depend on personal connections through access to natural lands and the outdoors.
- Rural economies are important to the success of our communities.
- The Cascades should be an integrated landscape with economic, environmental, and social characteristics.
- Our preservation and conservation actions must begin now; we can't wait 100 years or we will be too late.

Waters

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", are you proud of?

- Pierce County has built broad community support for salmon recovery and increased public awareness of watershed issues.
- Communities in Pierce County have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts.
- Our community holds sustainability as a goal.

What characteristics of this community, especially the "Waters Landscape", worry you?

- Stormwater discharge from urban city streets and farm runoff continue to damage the water and habitats in Puget Sound.
- The difficulty and expense of protecting and restoring nearshore and urban areas will be a great challenge for us.
- Collaborations are sometimes short-lived and fragile.

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Clean drinking water
- Species diversity
- Fishing experiences
- Small timber land owners who own a large proportion of the forested landscape that is important to water quality and quantity
- Public access

- Public education
- Community involvement
- Merger of economic and environmental interests
- Principles of long-term stewardship and management of water resources
- Principles of protection for intact environments and restoration and recovery for degraded environments

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Protect the biodiversity of natural systems
- Enhance the diversity of our economy
- Protect natural resource-based economies such as though that support small timber land owners and fisheries.
- Protect an outdoor way of life by connecting natural and urban spaces.
- Build a concept of community at the watershed-level
- Promote education

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Preservation, restoration and livability of our urban environments needs to be a priority.
- Planning must balance immediate and long-term demands, as well as integrate economic and environmental interests.
- Success will depend on personal connections and access to natural lands and the outdoors.

Cascades

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", are you proud of?

- Pierce County has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes and open spaces that support a diversity of species.
- Pierce County has protected lands in perpetuity.
- Pierce County has fertile soils for agriculture and forestry.
- Communities in Pierce County have nearby publicly accessible natural resources.
- Our community is made up of diverse and proud people.

What characteristics of this community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", worry you?

- Unplanned and unrestrained growth and sprawl from urban centers into the foothills of the Cascades has led to the loss of natural and open lands in our county.
- A lack of community direction and planning has directly contributed to the sprawl and loss of natural and open lands.

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Small family farms
- Sustainable working forests stewarded with good timber management
- Community involvement
- A coordinated vision for foothills landowners
- Merger of economic and environmental interests

- Public transportation system that accommodates a growing economy and the environment.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Connect natural areas for wildlife and people
- Maintain access to lands and open spaces so that we can provide our community with historical connections, spaces for spirituality, and linkages to outdoors
- Enhance the diversity of our economy
- Realize the ecological and economic values of trees and forests to maintaining water quality and quantity

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Preservation of Mount Rainier as a large and natural space
- Protection of the biodiversity of our region.
- Rural economies are important to the success of our communities.
- The Cascades should be an integrated landscape with economic, environmental, and social characteristics.
- Planning that ties together local and state-wide efforts, protects biodiversity and integrates economic and environmental interests.

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", are you proud of?

- Pierce County has urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries, and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.
- Communities in Pierce County have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.
- Our community is made up of a diversity of people.
- Our county supports working farms and agriculture.
- Communities in Pierce County have been successful in conserving and restoring lands and waters at the landscape-level.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", worry you?

- Rapid population growth and a lack of commitment to long-term planning has led to the loss and degradation of farmlands, natural lands, views, clean air and clean water in our region.
- Lack of government support, collaboration and coordination among efforts to maintain biodiversity.
- Lack of a connection between people and the natural resources they rely on.
- Costly attention to the nearshore.
- Tax burdens will impact our communities.

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Communities Landscape" do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Urban open spaces, forests, views, trails, wilderness experience, parks, estuaries, natural shorelines.
- The Principle of restoration and recovery of natural areas.
- Cultural and biological diversity.

- Alternative ways to maintain a high quality of life and continue to grow (smart growth, increased density of development, public transportation, smarter commutes, lighter human impacts).
- A sense of our agricultural heritage through viable, local food production.
- Community involvement in decision-making.
- Connectivity among natural open spaces to support access and movement for wildlife and people.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Build strong values for natural resources and the environment that will promote economic and business growth while maintaining the beauty of this region.
- Create natural habitats that stretch from our backyards to the mountains.
- Provide opportunities for personal, family and community inspiration through connections to the natural environment, community gardens, parks and open spaces.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle and high quality of life by maintaining a healthy environment, providing locally grown and organic produce at neighborhood markets, and sustaining a vision of people as part of environment.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Protection, restoration, and conservation have direct economic benefits.
- Preservation of farmland and conservation actions must begin now, we can't wait 100 years or we will be too late.
- Planning and management must occur at a large-scale.
- Equity must be considered.

What the Insight Panel Found
Hosted by City Club of Tacoma, May 19, 2004

Introduction:
Kris Kaufman, Pierce County Trustee and Steering Committee Member

Facilitator:
Charlie Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:
David Seago, Tacoma News Tribute (Panelist)
Tim Thompson, Thompson Smitch Consulting Group
Charley Bingham, Weyerhaeuser Company

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

There is a growing awareness that our land base, water, and other natural resources are finite, and being used at an unsustainable pace.

The issue is that "We are the enemy and the enemy is us. It is our challenge."

We therefore feel an urgency and responsibility to think about our future now, make decisions, and act.

Our communities want to tackle problems together and find creative solutions and opportunities for enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our region.

Success will depend on engaging all affected interests, sectors, and people in our community in planning for life in the cascades over the next 100 years.

Dramatic Changes

We expect dramatic and unpredictable changes in our environment, economy, and community over the next 100 years. The future is a constantly moving target.

We have already witnessed changes in our community over our lifetimes – but we don't have to live with the mistakes of the past. It is as much about recovery as it is about conservation.

Dramatic changes might include – a war over fresh water allocation, population growth and sprawl, and changing economies.

Planning

Strategic:

Creating a long-term plan with values as a foundation and with explicit assumptions on which predictions and visions are based is the first step as we begin to think about and act on a shared vision for the Cascades region now and 100 years into the future.

We must act strategically and with enlightened self interest.

Flexible:

Any plan that provides only static predictions for the future will not be useful to us when dramatic changes occur.

We must create a plan with a flexible framework that can accommodate changes in our environment, economy, and communities as they occur and embrace different futures.

Leadership is essential for staying in tune with the changing needs and expectations of a democratic society

Creative and Cooperative:

We understand that water and land are related and that because problems are complex and difficult we need to find creative solutions.

Conserving and preserving space is the first step in keeping our options open for the future.

Success will depend on managing our lands, waters, and communities with flexibility, cooperation and long-term commitment and vision.

Reporting Back, Pierce County Check In
Tacoma, March 1, 2005

I am excited about what power a true vision can give to individuals, communities and organizations. – Dave Uberuaga, Mount Rainier National Park

Did we capture your input?

- The spirit of the town halls was captured, but people are eager to see details of the plan.
- Yes. It is important to emphasize that the Cascade Agenda lays out a plan that melds economic goals with conservation goals.
- Yes. We should monitor results of our efforts to make sure that the goals for fish and wildlife habitat are accomplished by achieving the other landscape goals.

Does it create a compelling vision?

- Yes. The goals make sense and the graphics are powerful.
- Taking a historical perspective is compelling.
- An adaptive management approach is compelling.
- Using hard economic numbers in the argument will make it compelling.
- High level overview leaves us wanting more, would like to see more.
- Making it warm and fuzzy, would make it more accessible to people. Don't forget to include wildlife habitat, great places to hunt and recreation opportunities.

Local Angles

- Pierce County needs and circumstances were addressed in this presentation with good local graphics.
- We like the idea of a green cities program in Tacoma.
- Other things to consider including as local issues would be:
    - Military bases and their use for forest and grasslands (oak savannahs)
    - South Prairie Creek
    - Rail road and shoreline-stream connectivity should be first priority of shoreline reclamation if the opportunity arises

How we can help

- Once the Agenda is complete and the vision is established, we will need more continuity in decisions.
- We need to keep the plan alive by revisiting it. Every three years isn't often enough. Zoning changes and review of the County's comprehensive plan occur, at least, every three years; we need to be ahead of this schedule and not reacting to it.

- Strong public education is essential. We need to get the word out! Outreach could include:
    - a public relations campaign targeting local news coverage that provides information and specific options and actions for the public
    - getting the word out to the public that land values increase because of open space
    - communication with businesses; reaching out to realtors and developers
    - educate kids
    - educate elected officials, we could help with 30-minute study sessions and presentations to city and county councils
    - a booth at the state fair

Have your perceptions and feelings regarding regional and local land issues changed as a result of your participation *The Cascade Dialogues?*

- "I feel like we may be getting somewhere."
- "I feel reinvigorated and enthused."

Additional comments

- "The size of the task is larger than what I had envisioned originally."
- "I especially appreciated Gene's comments on the symbiosis of the built environment and open space conservation. It expanded my perspective."
- The goals were set at the right level. The graphics were powerful in illustrating what was, what is, and what could be.
- Group discussion time is very valuable, try to include more time for discussion.

Additional concerns

Cascades

- The outcome of this effort may only provide a tool that will be used for additional funding for conservation of development rights and purchase of fee land. Other parts of this discussion, such as keeping working forests on the landscape through incentives, etc. shouldn't be ignored.

Waters

- We would like more emphasis on water quality and explanation of the relationship of water quality to land conservation. Make it clear that acquisition can be a prioritized to address benefits to natural stream functions and water quality protection.
- Be clear that floodplain protection is part of acquisition strategy.
- Important to include an emphasis on connectivity of habitats for water-dependent species.

Communities

- Need to have a Pierce County master builder on the Steering Committee.
- Growth management and Oregon's Proposition 37 need to be addressed.

Questions

- How are the priorities for this conservation plan being determined?
- How is it being implemented? Is the legislature tuned in?
- What about stewardship?
- Do urban expenses fit into the plan?

Participants at the Snohomish County Check In, March 10, 2005 in Everett.

Snohomish County

The waters that sustain us are especially true in Snohomish County.

For example, the Snohomish watershed is the largest watershed in our region. It encompasses almost 1,000 miles of rivers including the Snoqualmie, Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers, as well as 77 miles of shoreline within its 1.2 million acres.

The Snohomish estuary is the second largest estuary in Puget Sound. Historic and current photos of the estuary from Smith Island show how this area has changed in the last 150 years and CommEn Space, the environmental map maker, shows us again what was and might be.

Like the other estuaries in our region, the close proximity to a major water body and the nutrient rich soils attracted the early settlers who logged, diked and drained the estuary to raise crops and earn a living. While farming is still a major activity in the watershed, other land uses such tribal lands, large urban centers like the City of Everett and Mukilteo, and economic drivers like the Port of Everett, all play a dominant role in the condition of the estuary and shoreline.

The historic extent of the Snohomish estuary is 14,000 acres. The current estuary extent is 4,650 acres, placing it just over the Agenda's goal of protecting 30% of the historic habitat extent (4,200 acres).

Beyond the waters, the people of Snohomish County told us they are proud that the county balances a diversity of landscapes and land uses including economically and ecologically valuable wetlands, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound shorelines; productive and sustainable agricultural lands and forests; historic and vibrant downtown urban and residential areas for all people, and beautiful scenery.

At a Town Hall meeting, the people in Snohomish County said they are committed to taking a regional view to enhance the quality of life for all of us. For example, communities in Snohomish County have come together to make salmon recovery possible and support such initiatives as the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal.

What the people said
Snohomish County Town Hall, Everett, June 17, 2004

Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- Snohomish County balances a diversity of landscapes and land uses including economically and ecologically valuable wetlands, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound shorelines; productive and sustainable agricultural lands and forests; historic and vibrant downtown urban and residential areas for all people; and beautiful scenery.
- People in Snohomish County are committed to taking a regional view to enhance the quality of life for all of us. For example:
    - Communities in Snohomish County have come together to make salmon recovery possible.
    - People in our communities are particularly proud of and concerned about passing the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal.
    - Our communities are made up of friendly, open, hardworking, responsible people who care about the vitality and future of their communities and are willing to commit time and energy to stewardship of community resources.
- Snohomish County has benefited from wise and cooperative planning for public spaces, parks, and trails that have maintained our access to natural areas and recreation opportunities. This has allowed our communities to provide an educational environment and opportunity for people to experience the environment, natural resources, and recreation which enhances our quality of life.

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- Unsustainable land management, poorly planned growth and excessive development that fails to consider impacts to water quality, riparian areas, and hydrologic functions. Including:
    - Timber management that results in monoculture re-growth forests
    - Transition of forest timber lands to residential lands and development.
    - Continued loss of trees and vegetation that increases flooding.
    - Deterioration of water quality and stream system health

    - Hydrologic modifications of rivers such as channeling stream beds, dikes, and levees.
    - Loss of access to natural areas and recreation opportunities.
    - Sprawl that leads to a lack of large, open and intact natural areas.
- Lack of communication among various stakeholders in our community. Especially worrisome is the antagonism and polarization between development and environmental interests that inhibit our ability to come together behind a common regional vision and act on it.
- Inconsistency in government regulations and policies.
- The challenge of maintaining viable agriculture and forest lands within our changing economy.
- Lack of accessible, usable, and well-maintained urban parks, forests, and trails.
- Lack of funding for public works, protection, restoration, and management.

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Communities that are designed to provide more options for where and how to live including communities where homes, businesses, recreation, and natural areas are located in one place and connected by public transportation and natural areas.
- Economically sustainable communities, farms, and forest lands.
- Protection of natural resources and processes, with the recognition that these are fundamental to the area's survival, economic vitality, and quality of life.
- Clearly defined boundaries between urban lands and natural areas, as well as wildlife corridors and intact wilderness lands that provide a unique sense of place.
- Publicly accessible shorelines, lakes and rivers for recreation such as swimming, boating, walking, fishing, and shellfish harvesting.
- Communities where people:
    - have both interest and opportunities to care for lands, trails, parks and other community resources
    - feel safe, trust one another, and communicate.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Incorporate economics, ecology and sustainability into our planning efforts. Make sure to balance the need for local economic opportunities and the environment.
- Create affordable and livable urban areas to minimize development in rural undeveloped areas. Improve the quality of life in urban areas by focusing on community lands and urban areas as part of conservation planning.
- Conserve natural resources, beautiful landscapes and pleasant urban areas to provide economic benefits by increasing the area's quality of life.
- Adopt watershed scale thinking, planning and management for growth, development and conservation.
- Involve the private sector in cooperative efforts to conserve and protect natural resources.
- Develop government, regulations, and policies that reflect community values.
- Hold "Dialogues" type conversations in every community.
- Involve young people in schools in stewardship and in creating a community vision.
- Fund natural resources protection, conservation, and management.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- The long-term economic health of our region is tied to the conservation of our natural resources and a healthy environment. Conservation of native biodiversity, thriving ecosystems, and connected landscapes should be a priority.
- Regional planning and management should be driven by community values that balance economic and ecological principles; build cooperative partnerships among leaders and stakeholders; and are strategic and proactive.
- Cooperative planning efforts should emphasize partnerships and occur at multiple levels from local to regional and over short and long time frames. Our progress should be measured at each step toward our goal.
- All people in Snohomish County should equally share the responsibilities, costs, and benefits of maintaining a high quality of life in the area.

Waters

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", are you proud of?

- Snohomish County has healthy, clean and clear fresh waters and beautiful shorelines along Puget Sound.
- Communities in Snohomish County have come together to make salmon recovery possible.
- People in Snohomish County can find peace in the place where they live.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", worry you?

- Growth and development that fails to consider its impacts to water quality, riparian areas, and hydrologic functions.
- Continued loss of trees and vegetation due to increased development and unsustainable logging that increases flooding.
- High impact construction and unsustainable logging practices.
- Hydrologic modifications of rivers such as channeling stream beds, dikes, and levees.
- Antagonism and polarization between development and environmental interests inhibit our ability to come together behind a common goal and act on it.
- Competition for resources and funding.
- Inconsistency in government regulations and policies.
- Feeling at a loss to control our impacts on the environment and natural resources we depend on.

What characteristics about the community, especially the "Waters Landscape", do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Clean water as a basic resource for our survival, economic vitality, recreation, agriculture, energy, and ecosystems.
- Biodiversity of fish and aquatic resources.
- Floodplains around rivers that allow for the natural functioning and migration of stream beds.
- Natural wildlife corridors along riparian areas of rivers.
- Clearly defined boundaries between urban lands and natural areas.

- Publicly accessible shorelines, lakes and rivers for recreation such as swimming, boating, walking, fishing, and shellfish harvesting.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Maintain clean water as a basic resource on which other aspects of a healthy economy rely such as energy, industry, recreation, tourism, and agriculture.
- Adopt watershed scale thinking, planning and management for growth, development and conservation.
- Create affordable and livable urban areas to minimize development in rural undeveloped areas.
- Involve the private sector in cooperative efforts to conserve and protect water resources.
- Develop government, regulations, and policies that reflect community values.
- Increase public access to shorelines and waterways.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Preservation, restoration, and stewardship of riparian and natural river systems should be a priority in all land use planning as it will sustain our economy.
- Cooperative planning efforts should emphasize partnerships and occur at multiple levels from local to regional and over short and long time frames. Long-term planning creates solutions while short-term planning creates problems.
- Our progress should be measured at each step toward our goal.

Cascades

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", are you proud of?

- Snohomish County has unique ecological areas in the Cascade mountains that maintain biodiversity and critical habitats.
- People in our communities are particularly proud of and concerned about passing the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal.
- Snohomish County supports sustainable working forest lands.
- People in Snohomish County have access to connected trails and natural areas at low elevations and in urban areas as well as in our high mountain regions.
- Our communities provide an educational environment and opportunity for people to experience the environment, natural resources, and recreation which enhances our quality of life.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Cascades Landscape", worry you?

- Transition of forest timber lands to residential lands and development.
- Excessive and unsustainable forestry as well as monoculture re-growth forests.
- Deterioration of water quality and stream system health due to development and unsustainable forestry.
- Challenge of maintaining viable agriculture and forest lands within our changing economy.
- Loss of access to natural areas and recreation opportunities.
- Increasing crime, such as midnight dumping.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- An intact forested wilderness that creates a unique sense of place for people.
- Protection of forested landscapes for wildlife and people.
- Access to open spaces and forests for recreation.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Maintain natural resources jobs.
- Enhance tourism and recreational opportunities.
- Educate elected officials on land use issues.
- Balance the need for local economic opportunities and the environment.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- The long-term economic health of our region is tied to the conservation of our natural resources and a healthy environment.

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", are you proud of?

- Snohomish County balances a diversity of landscapes and land uses including economically and ecologically valuable rivers and waters; productive and sustainable agricultural lands and forests; historic and vibrant downtown urban and residential areas for all people; and beautiful views and scenery
- Snohomish County has benefited from wise and cooperative planning for public spaces, parks, and trails that have maintained our access to natural areas and recreation opportunities.
- People in Snohomish County are friendly, open, hardworking, responsible people who care about the vitality and future of their communities and are willing to commit time and energy to stewardship of community resources.
- People in Snohomish County are committed to taking a regional view to enhance the quality of life for all of us.

What characteristics of the community, especially the "Communities Landscape", worry you?

- Sprawl and unsustainable development that increases the amount of pavement and leads to a lack of large, open and intact natural areas.
- Lack of accessible, usable, and well-maintained urban parks, forests, and trails.
- Lack of funding for public works, protection, restoration, and management.
- Lack of communication among various stakeholders in our community.
- Lack of a regional vision and sense of responsibility.
- Increasing fear about population growth and its impact on our quality of life, especially the safety of our communities.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Beautiful natural areas, open lands, parks, and vibrant urban areas.
- Communities that are designed to provide more options for where and how to live including communities where homes, businesses, recreation, and natural areas are located in one place and connected by public transportation and natural areas.
- Economically sustainable communities, farms, and forest lands.

- Long-term, integrated planning and management that considers the entire landscape and follows a shared community vision.
- An environment that is conducive to learning about and experiencing the outdoors, ecology, and environment.
- Communities where people have both interest and opportunities to care for lands, trails, parks and other community resources
- Communities where people feel safe, trust one another, and communicate.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Conserve beautiful landscapes and urban areas to provide economic benefits by increasing the area's quality of life.
- Incorporate economics, ecology and sustainability into our planning efforts.
- Focus on community lands and urban areas as part of conservation planning.
- Adopt a vision that each neighborhood and business community should have a green and open natural area as a central focal point.
- Hold "Dialogues" type conversations in every community.
- Involve young people in schools in stewardship and in creating a community vision.
- Fund natural resources protection, conservation, and management.
- Invest in sustainable economic development in each community.

What are some important principles to this community?

- Conservation of native biodiversity, thriving ecosystems, and connected landscapes should be a priority.
- Regional planning and management should be driven by community values that balance economic and ecological principles; build cooperative partnerships among leaders and stakeholders; and are strategic and proactive.
- People and communities should be aware of, communicate about, and care for shared community resources.
- All people in Snohomish County should equally share the responsibilities, costs, and benefits of maintaining a high quality of life in the area.

What the Insight Panel Found, June 23, 2004
Hosted by Everett Area Chamber of Commerce and South Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce

Facilitator:
Charlie Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:
Bob Bolerjack, The Herald
Deborah Knutson, Economic Development Council of Snohomish County
Peter Jackson, Henry M. Jackson Foundation

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

There is a growing awareness that our natural landscapes define us, connect us, and provide the basis for the quality of life that we value.

We recognize the challenge that population increases and development pressure places on us to enhance the economic vitality of our region while maintaining natural resources and quality of life.

Our community realizes that we need to find balanced and inclusive solutions that bridge economic, environmental, and community interests. We are hopeful that community discussions, like the Dialogues will create new partnerships and solutions for creating a livable regional community.

We acknowledge that the health of every person in our community is connected to our local and regional environment. We must maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community by creating healthy, natural, vibrant, and affordable communities. In one word – Livable!

Dramatic Changes

We can only expect dramatic increases in population and development pressure as we move into the future.

Conservation and community planning need to be aware of and incorporate changing economics and global markets.

We are open to the possibility that changes in our governance and structure of our communities may be required to meet the needs of our changing society and environment.

Planning

Cooperative:

In the past, the gulf between economic and environmental perspectives has inhibited our ability to find effective solutions. We must come together and create a shared long-term vision for our region and then cooperate and compromise to find the means to achieve that vision.

Enhancing the civic awareness of young people in our community is the first step toward tackling these complex issues. We must invest today and engage our youth.

Comprehensive and Inclusive:

We should take a comprehensive look at the many planning efforts currently underway in our region to find the best opportunities to work together toward our common goals.

Our community values a diverse population. Any conservation or economic plan for our region should therefore provide options for livable communities for everyone and not just the elite.

Regional:

Although it is a challenge to balance local and regional needs, we understand that decisions about natural resources, economic, and community development often impact us as a region. We therefore have a responsibility and need to share and coordinate our planning efforts and decisions.

We need to understand our personal connections to our communities and to our natural landscapes in order to better plan for our future. We need a view of ourselves in our own landscape.

Creative:
Solutions will only be effective if creatively formed at the junction of community, economic, and conservation interests.

A real opportunity exists to engage the private and public sectors behind community and conservation planning using self-interest incentives that go beyond value driven and philanthropic actions to benefit us all.

Reporting Back, Snohomish County Check In
Everett, March 10, 2005

Did we capture your input?

- Yes. The presentation captured most of our key points for conservation. It got to the essence of the Cascades, Waters and Farms landscapes.
- We would like to see emphasis on water: rivers, watersheds, and shorelines in the final report.
- We would like to see emphasis on trails and their connectivity to parks.

Does it create a compelling vision?

- We like that the vision addresses the economy and the landscape as well as a wide range of interests.
- We like the scale and regional approach to The Cascade Agenda.
- The vision is compelling for us because CLC has a demonstrated track record of success for achieving conservation throughout the region.
- The graphics are very compelling. The historical views to the present are interesting because they help us envision what the landscape could be 100 years from now.
- The big picture is a good plan, but we think it's going to be a challenge for cities and counties to buy into the plan when they don't have the money to support it.
- Achieving these goals through incentives is ideal, but we need to acknowledge that regulations and GMA will play a part.
- The vision and strategies are good. But it will be a challenge to conserve farmland. Are the goals for supporting economically viable farming achievable? If we can't keep farms as farmland, can we convert it to public open space or restore the land to what it was historically?
- We want to know more about the specific strategies to achieve these goals. Where do we get the money to accomplish these goals?
- These goals seem achievable if we can contain sprawl and partner with developers.

- We are interested in how TDRs can play a role in achieving these goals.

Local angles

- The Cascade Agenda should include plans to increase corridors that link parks and open space for people and wildlife.
- The Cascade Agenda should look at TDRs to preserve agricultural lands and the local agriculture economy.
- It may be a more realistic goal to have parks within the walking distance of one mile.
- The maps we saw didn't reflect potential parks, trails or existing park lands that are not yet open.
- Has the plan addressed the tension between preserving agriculture with riparian conservation needs?

How we can help

- We need to get a lot of community groups on board, let them know about the vision, and go beyond the traditional environmental groups that would be in support of this plan.
- We need to reach out to school age kids because they are the future. We need school districts on board as well as youth groups.
- We can buy local food and lumber products. We need to maintain timber infrastructures to support mills and do the same for all other natural resource industries.
- CLC can help landowners and governments create conservation and development solutions.
- Have public meetings, like the town halls and county check ins, to help alleviate suspicions.
- Make urban areas more livable.

Additional comments

- "We like the long term view of 100 years and the stated goals. Good effort and keep getting input into the Dialogues."
- "The perception of goals is now clearer and I have a better understanding of how the process might work."
- "The slides showing the changes to the landscape and the built environment were really impressive."
- A timeline and stated goals per decade would bring the concept together for public buy- in.
- Keep the Dialogues going in order to increase understanding among all stakeholders and develop tools and techniques to achieve these goals.
- The Cascade Dialogues and the goals in the Cascade Agenda give hope for the future.

Communities

- We are under time pressure and funding pressure to achieve these goals.
- It will be necessary to work with private property owners to achieve these landscape goals. We will be more capable of achieving these conservation goals by working with private land owners than by working with government entities alone.
- A bond campaign may be an avenue to raise funds for additional local parks. A Forward Thrust movement for this century.

- Developers creating housing communities need to provide parks in their plans. We can't expect government agencies to provide all parks and recreation opportunities, because they don't have the money to do so. Developers will have to buy into this plan in order for them to set aside land for and to develop parks. Can we take a "carrot" approach to provide incentives to developers in order to have them work with us to achieve these goals?

Cascades

- Preserving and stewarding forestry land is a very important issue.
- Land is being converted from forests to development at an incredible rate. And when Snohomish County permits subdivisions in lands adjacent to forestlands it results in forest fragmentation and degradation (dirt bike trails and garbage).
- What incentives can we offer to help small forestland owners continue to keep their land in forestry?

Waters

- Shorelines are largely privately owned. Strategies should include working with these landowners to get public access. There could be many opportunities to increase access to shorelines in the future (railroads). Could we phase in more public access to the shoreline over time?
- Snohomish County needs a stronger vision for parks. Will the Cascade Agenda help encourage the County to do more for parks?
- The Cascade Dialogues addresses the needs of the region. There is no state agency looking at open space or parks. There is no one else looking at the region from a big picture perspective. The whole state needs to be looked at this way. The state should fund a similar effort for all of western Washington.
- State agencies should get on board with the Cascade Agenda.
- Transportation should be addressed, because sprawl follows transportation. Can't talk about one with out the other and if we don't address transportation issues now, we'll have more problems later.
- There need to be more greenways along highways.
- If we can all agree on a set of goals, we can move forward more easily.
- Snohomish County needs to replicate the King County tax of $5/parcel for habitat. Snohomish County needs to look at the taxation/habitat programs used in other counties and replicate them.

Teen Dialogues
Outreach Findings

Project Goals and Strategic Approach

The Steering Committee of the Dialogues project felt strongly that the next generation's input needed to be included in this project. To involve a diverse group of future conservationists in the Cascade Dialogues, Cascade Land Conservancy worked with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to produce a curriculum and five-part series in the P-I's *Zone* pages about land conservation and initiated the Teen Dialogues.

With financial support from The Boeing Company and Washington Department of Natural Resources, CLC sponsored a five-part series "Wild Land, Working Land" in The *Zone* as part of the P-I's Newspapers In Education program. The series ran for five weeks, beginning the last week of September through October, 2004, and had a total circulation of 800,000. The *Zone* series featured The Boeing Company logo prominently on each of the five pages. Additionally, a land conservation curriculum based on the series was disseminated to more than 460 classrooms through out King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

The Teen Dialogues were environmentally-based educational discussions to further ensure participation by a diverse, cross-section of young people conducted in each county with targeted groups of teens. Cascade Land Conservancy worked with an education consultant to develop a shortened curriculum to help include the youth perspective in the discussion.

The goals of the Teen Dialogues were to:

- Reach out to youth in the four-county area (King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish) and hear directly from young people about their thoughts on the outdoors.
- Initiate conversations about land conservation in classrooms through out the Puget Sound region.
- Establish initial relationships with educators and youth program coordinators to support future collaborations.

Engaging young people:
CLC worked with the P-I's Newspapers In Education program developers to design a *Zone* series and appropriate age-specific curriculum that presented the theme of economy, community and conservation.

CLC worked with its community trustee volunteers in each of the four counties to schedule Teen Dialogues presentations throughout the region. Each county engaged a different sector of the teen community: presentations in King County were made mostly to young people involved in parks and recreation groups. High school clubs and classes were the main focus of outreach in Kittitas and Pierce counties; while presentations in Snohomish County were made to youth programs such as YMCA and 4H. Several presentations also spurred interest in additional Teen Dialogues outreach opportunities.

The Cascade Dialogues also made presentations to youth program leaders in an effort to provide information about the Teen Dialogues and the curriculum to encourage interest in the program.

Methodology

The *Zone*
The five-part *Zone* series, sponsored by The Boeing Company, Washington Department of Natural Resources and CLC, ran from September 28, 2004 to October 26, 2004. Entitled "Wild Land, Working Land," the full page section ran each Tuesday and included articles on conservation, estuaries and watersheds, urban areas, invasive species, farming in the region, forestry and the Cascades. According

to the P-I's circulation information, readership for the *Zone* series was more than 800,000 people.

CLC worked with the P-I's Newspapers In Education program to design a *Zone* series and curriculum that presented the theme of economy, community and conservation. "An area such as ours needs business and commerce to survive and grow, but we also have to consider how population growth, business development and construction of new homes affect our environment," as stated to educators in the introduction to the lesson plan.

Involving 460 classrooms, this curriculum was distributed to educators participating in the Newspapers In Education program. It included materials for ESL students, topics to connect subject matter to students' daily lives and activities to encourage students to think more about land conservation and the environment. The lesson plan also suggested ways for students to get involved in stewardship activities and develop plans for how their families can help keep their neighborhoods and the entire region clean.

Teen Dialogues

The Cascade Dialogues team worked with education consultant Mary M. Lloyd Ed. D. to design a curriculum geared to 9th and 10th graders. While targeted to that age range it was also intended to have enough flexibility that it could be used for youth from ages eight to 18. The curriculum was designed to be presented in 30-60 minute segments. Trained facilitators, including CLC trustees and Dialogues Steering Committee members, lead the discussions with the various groups, which ranged in size from six to 30 students. During each presentation, facilitators encouraged the young people to brainstorm and share their thoughts about the outdoors and the environment. Facilitators recorded these comments on whiteboards or flipcharts. The presenter helped the students organize their ideas into different categories (such as: recreation, clean water, wildlife). These discussions were followed by students filling out individual surveys that asked them what they appreciate about the outdoors and what they can do to conserve a special outdoor place. Students divided up into small groups to talk about their surveys and reported out to the larger group on these discussions.

Youth surveys and presenter surveys were collected and recorded in order to report back to the Steering Committee and incorporate in *The Cascade Agenda*.

Overall Findings

The main themes that came out of the Teen Dialogues presentations were focused on young people's appreciation for the environment and their desire to protect it. Facilitators reported back that their presentations generated much interest from students who want to engage in activities to protect the environment and take care of the places they care about. "Urban kids are hungry, not just about the environment, but for a way to make a difference," said one facilitator reporting back from his presentation. Some teachers also asked about the possibility for their classrooms to get involved in stewardship projects in conjunction with *The Cascade Agenda*.

Participants in the Teen Dialogues were provided with surveys that asked them the following four questions:

1. List three things you like about the outdoors.
2. Name one outdoor space you use. How do you use it?
3. Imagine you were your parents' age. What one outdoor place would you like to see protected?
4. How could you help protect it?

List three things you like about the outdoors
Young people responding to this question commonly listed wildlife, trees and flowers, fresh air, water and the sun as things they like about the environment.

Name one outdoor space you use. How do you use it?
Responses to this question were often geographically based. Dialogues participants living in the Seattle area talked about nearby parks-Discovery Park, Madison Beach, Magnolia Playfield and the organized recreational activities they participated in. Participants from Teen Dialogues in the Ellensburg area included camping and mountain biking along Manashtash Ridge as well as swimming and fishing in Carrie Lake and the Yakima River.

Participant responses also included climbing trees, camping in camp grounds, gardening in their back yards and spending time at the beach playing in the ocean.

Imagine you were your parents' age. What one outdoor place would you like to see protected?
Many participants responded to this question by addressing a place they would like to see protected. They wanted to see oceans and rivers, farmland, forestlands, Washington rainforests, hiking areas and wildlife protected. Specific places outside of Washington State that they wanted to see protected include Yellowstone National Park, other national parks, tropical rainforests, and the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

How could you help protect it?
Suggestions for how to protect the environment and specific places ranged from using less packaging, picking up litter along trails and roadsides, cleaning up pollution, recycling more, starting a picket strike, to buying land and finding organizations to volunteer for and help with projects. Some participants were not sure how they could help but indicated a desire to volunteer their time to causes that did protect the places they cared about.

Following are selected examples of survey responses:

List three things you like about the outdoors.	Commonly listed: *Wildlife, climbing trees, forests and plants, water, sunshine* *"Three things I really like about nature are the sunset, the view of the mountains (the view, I have never been to the mountains) and the lakes."* *"I appreciate fresh air that the plants and trees provide, because when you are inside it is all stuffy."* *"Being able to get away from people."*
Name one outdoor space you use. How do	Commonly listed: *Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Carrie Lake, Discovery Park,*

you use it?	*Duwamish Hill, Manashtash Ridge, Mount Rainier, Squak Mountain, Teanaway Valley, Yakima River, trails, forests, the beach* *"A camp ground is one of my favorite places to interact outdoors"* *"My backyard. I plant flowers and plants."* *"The Magnolia Playfield is the place where I play baseball and soccer."*
Imagine you were your parents' age. What one outdoor place would you like to see protected?	*"Definitely places like Table Mountain. Outdoor areas close to Ellensburg or other towns, but far away enough and secluded enough that you can enjoy the outdoors as it is meant to be. I wouldn't like development around there."* *"I would like to see the mountains protected because one day I went hiking at Glacier Basin and saw tons of animals: frogs, squirrels and a lot more. I wouldn't like them to die."* *"I'd like to see the trees larger than they are today and have forests protected."*
How could you help protect it?	*"Limit development, set up conservation trusts, have a clear plan."* *"You could put protections around the forests and also plant more tress around your yard."* *"Write letters to governments to protect nature."*

Conclusion

Cascade Land Conservancy initiated the Teen Dialogues to gather input directly from the next generation of conservationists and include it in *The Cascade Agenda*. This portion of the Cascade Dialogues project has included outreach to youth-based organizations and classrooms, a land conservation curriculum distributed to 460 classrooms throughout the Puget Sound region and a five-part series published in Seattle Post-Intelligencer's *Zone* page that included a total circulation of 800,000 people. Each component of the Teen Dialogues has helped to inform the writers of *The Cascade Agenda* and establish a relationship that CLC can go to as the vision for the next 100 years begins to be implemented.

CASCADE AGENDA SIGNATORIES

Executive Team

- Charles Bingham, Sustainable Forestry Advocate and retired Weyerhaeuser Senior Executive
- Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council and Former Snohomish County Executive
- Gene Duvernoy, President, Cascade Land Conservancy
- Denis A. Hayes, President and CEO, Bullitt Foundation
- John Howell, Board Chair, Cascade Land Conservancy and Partner, Cedar River Group
- Mark Johnsen, Shareholder, Karr Tuttle Campbell and Chair, Cascade Dialogues Steering Committee
- Charles Royer, Former Mayor of Seattle and Moderator, Cascade Dialogues

Steering Committee

- Dennis Anderson, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Sam Anderson, Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties
- Jerry Arbes, Environmental Leader
- Ken Batker, Cascade Land Conservancy Pierce County Trustee
- Jabe Blumenthal, Climate Solutions
- Rod Brandon, King County Executive's Office
- Jim Briggs, Environmental Leader
- Bonnie Bunning, Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Tom Byers, Cedar River Group
- Eric Earling, Community Leader
- Daniel S. Evans, Environmental Leader
- Mark Funk, Snohomish County Executive's Office
- Roger Hoesterey, Trust for Public Land
- Ray Hoffman, Seattle Public Utilities
- Kris Kauffman, Cascade Land Conservancy Board of Directors
- Jim Kramer, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound
- Craig Larsen, City of Lynnwood Parks and Recreation
- Craig Lee, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
- Liz Loomis, Mayor of Snohomish
- Eric Liu, Community Leader
- Ivan Miller, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Aaron Ostrom, Futurewise
- John Olson, Cascade Land Conservancy Board of Directors
- Dave Ramsay, City of Kirkland
- Iain M. Robertson, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington
- Floyd Rogers, Environmental Leader
- Dave Russell, Cascade Land Conservancy King County Trustee
- Dale Smith, The Boeing Company
- Hudson Stansbury, Pierce County Executive's Office
- Maryanne Tagney Jones, Cascade Land Conservancy Board of Directors
- Mark Teske, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Pat Thompson, AFSCME Council 2
- Tim Thompson, Thompson Smitch Consulting
- Sonia Thompson, Cascade Land Conservancy Snohomish County Trustee
- Joe Tovar, University of Washington Northwest Center for Livable Communities
- Dave Uberuaga, Mount Rainier National Park
- Rebecca Wassell, Kittitas Environmental Education Network
- David Weekes, The Nature Conservancy
- Alison Carl White, Seattle Works
- Martha Wyckoff, Trust for Public Land Board of Directors