

Sound WAVES

PERSPECTIVES: ON GROWTH AND THE PUGET SOUND ENVIRONMENT

Many of us have heard the terms “Smart Growth,” “Livable Communities,” “Sustainable Development,” and “Growth Management.” But what do they mean?

As more people move into the Puget Sound Region, can we have a clean environment, a healthy economy and thriving communities?

In this issue of Sound Waves, we’re exploring the ideas around growth and the environment. We’ve asked a few Puget Sound Council members to give us their thoughts on some pressing questions on that topic. Here’s what they have to say.

Can the Puget Sound region accommodate growth and still protect the unique natural resources of the region?

■ **TOM PUTNAM**
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance



Growth is going to continue whether we like it or not. We can accommodate growth up to a point—but it will take strong leadership and education to make it happen right.

We need to increasingly value the natural resources we have, and to understand how embedded we are in

nature, not independent of it. Every person living here should understand the ecological—and perhaps spiritual—principles about how to live here. Nearly everything we do can be done better environmentally, starting with better design of buildings, landscapes, transportation, energy use and consumption.

■ **JACKIE AITCHISON**
Poulsbo City Councilmember



I think that we can accommodate growth and protect our natural resources, but we are

going to have to change the way we develop the land.

We are going to have to start implementing low impact development standards for *all* development. We are also going to have to *really* concentrate growth into the urban areas and not into the hinterlands.

■ **KIRK ANDERSON**
Fisher Companies, Inc.



Yes, I believe we can. If we honor our traditions and work together as a com-

munity, respecting and validating all interests, I believe we can do far more than just *accommodate* growth. Yet it will require fundamental changes in how we view growth and how competing interests view one another. In our state, the

primary source of revenue to take care of the environment, teach our children, and move people and goods along our highways, is directly related to the level of economic activity. Therefore, we all have a stake in the growth of our region.

To enhance our ability to care for our unique natural resources, we also must carefully tend to our unique economic resources. Both must thrive—not one at the expense of the other. For both are dependent upon one another. As a community we need to face our reluctance to fund and invest in the necessary infrastructure to keep our region economically and environmentally sound. Only by being realistic and by thinking about the broader community will we find a solution.

See “Perspectives,” Page 2

THE ROLE OF THE PUGET SOUND COUNCIL

The Puget Sound Council advises the Action Team on work plan priorities and tracks the progress of state and local agencies in implementing the plan. The Council also recommends changes to the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan* to address emerging issues.

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The Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team was created by the Washington State Legislature to lead efforts to protect Puget Sound.
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Counties

Louise Miller, Vice Chair, Metropolitan King County Council

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Jerry Van der Veen, dairy farmer

Business

Kirk Anderson, Fisher Companies Inc.

Environmental Community

Tom Putnam, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

Shellfish Industry

Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Co.

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Tribes

Fran Wilshusen, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

State Senate

Senator Tracey Eide
(D-Federal Way)

Senator Pam Roach (R-Auburn)

State House of Representatives

Representative Dave Anderson
(D-Clinton)

Representative Gary Chandler
(R-Moses Lake)

PERSPECTIVES, *continued from Page 1*

Should the way we develop land be modified to ensure that salmon streams, shellfish and other resources are better protected?

■ TOM PUTNAM

As a culture, we have to do a better job of integrating growth while protecting natural systems and infrastructure. There is not a clear separation between developed land and natural land.

While we inevitably encroach on nature, we can still mimic nature in our development activities. Buildings can be built to conserve energy and be durable and recyclable. Landscaping can be done to conserve water and minimize runoff. We can provide wildlife habitat in our own backyards.

We know how to do these things, but we need to implement them. The inspiring thing is that everybody doesn't have to do it all at once, and that each action can make a difference.

■ JACKIE AITCHISON

We must do what is necessary for the preservation, restoration and protection of our salmon streams, shellfish and other resources.

Salmon are an indicator species, and since they are threatened, we should pay attention to what this means. If the waters are not okay for fish if we continue doing what we have been doing, it's only a matter of time before the environment won't sustain our species.

■ KIRK ANDERSON

Real estate development is one of the most regulated economic activities around. Yet, for all our *rules*, our community has not found a completely satisfactory way to attain the results desired. Certainly things should change. Yet if our answer to

these challenging economic and natural resource needs is created in the image of our past or existing approach, how can we possibly expect a different result? To transcend our past failures we must transcend our past relatedness to these issues. If we only view these issues from the harbor of self interest, we'll never make progress. We all need to be willing to accept that our views of the world are not the only valid views. Only then can we begin to see our way clear of the pitfalls of competing self interest and find the power of a collaborative strategy.

What incentives should be provided to citizens, businesses and others to leave land undeveloped?

■ TOM PUTNAM

There are three types of incentives that can be offered: rational, psychological and monetary.

Rational incentives come from understanding the advantages, efficiencies, the downstream savings, and the multiplier effects of doing things in a resource-efficient manner.

Psychological incentives will come from improved peace of mind from living in structures and landscapes that are designed to be harmonious with natural principles of durability, light, efficiency and energy use.

Monetary incentives should be available in the form of loans, payments, rebates and tax policy changes.

■ JACKIE AITCHISON

I think we could allow bonus densities for the land that can be developed. We could also look at doing Transfer of Development Rights for those who preserve their land. It's done on the East Coast, but we haven't seriously looked at doing it here in the Puget Sound area.

Perhaps we could even consider a property tax credit for the most sensitive lands.

■ KIRK ANDERSON

The question makes a significant assumption that, in all cases, leaving land undeveloped is something that should be incentivised [*sic*]. In my opinion, the question of incentives to halt development misses the point—which to me is—what, how and where do we develop, and what do we want to preserve? In what form do we want to preserve it? How will we fund it? How do we change our development practices to become both more ecologically friendly and economically viable? We have both economic and environmental duties to concern ourselves with. Focusing only on the environmental is just as dangerous as focusing only on the economic. The more we delay facing the interdependence of both, the more the problems pile up, One elephant quickly becomes a herd.

What do you see as the biggest challenge to balancing healthy economic growth and a healthy environment?

■ TOM PUTNAM

The biggest challenge is overcoming the inertia of the status quo and implementing the changes we already know are possible. Large monetary and tax subsidies are given to destructive and inefficient technologies with hidden costs. Natural capital should be part of our accounting system.

Also, methodologies of design, construction, energy use, agriculture and waste treatment must be updated, and attention should be focused on positive examples like passive solar buildings, permaculture and more efficient transportation.

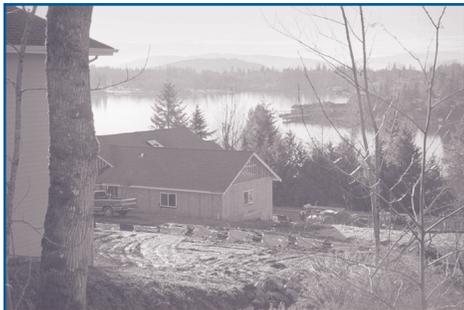
See "Perspectives," Page 4

NEWS FROM AROUND PUGET SOUND

Protecting Lake Whatcom

When it comes to development and water resources, some areas need greater protection than others. One such place is **Lake Whatcom**, drinking water source for the city of Bellingham and tributary to Puget Sound via Whatcom Creek. In 1999 Whatcom County adopted an overlay zone that limits land uses and establishes stricter development standards; designated Lake Whatcom as a special district and added requirements under both the stormwater and land clearing ordinances; and adopted an ordinance to transfer development rights to growth areas outside the watershed. For the city's portion of the watershed, Bellingham enacted new rules this year limiting the types and sizes of new developments, prohibiting land clearing and grading on areas greater than 500 square feet between October and April, and restricting impervious surfaces to 2,000 square feet or 15 percent of parcel area, whichever is greater.

Contacts: Sue Blake, Whatcom County Water Resources, (360) 676-6876, sblake@co.whatcom.wa.us; and Chris Spens, Bellingham Planning and Community Development, (360) 676-6982, cspens@cob.org.



Roderick C. Burton, Art & Design

This building lot in Bellingham's Silver Beach Neighborhood looks out over Lake Whatcom. New development restrictions, aimed at protecting the lake's watershed, will limit the types of new development as well as their size.

Jefferson and Clallam consider impacts of unincorporated UGAs

Implementation of the Growth Management Act in some rural counties is complicated by the existence of communities that are no longer rural, but are not yet urban. These unincorporated areas include the Tri-Area around Hadlock in **Jefferson County** and the Carlsborg area in **Clallam County**. Both of these areas are currently being considered for designation as unincorporated Urban Growth Areas. Land uses include a mix of residential, commercial and light industrial activities. Many small parcels that were platted prior to 1990 exist as "grandfathered" lots available for development. As build-out in these areas

occurs, the protection of water quality and habitat will require well-designed programs for stormwater management, expanded water delivery systems, and management of community and individual on-site septic systems—at a higher cost to local residents. In the next few years the Tri-Area and Carlsborg communities will be resolving difficult questions such as whether and how to transition to urban areas, what environmental impacts will be allowed, and how to fund new infrastructure and programs.

Good news for watersheds

San Juan County is celebrating its successful completion of the San Juan County Watershed Action Plan and Characterization Report. The Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Ecology this summer. Implementation of the plan started early. Identifying and repairing failing septic systems is a high priority. The county just received \$250,000 in state funding to provide low interest loans to homeowners. Mark Tompkins with the county health services says the loans are available to anyone with a failing system who applies. The county has provided this loan program since 1997. This year's funds will help to repair approximately 25 systems. Other good news for watershed implementation came from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which committed to updating all of the soil maps in the county.

Contact: Mark Tompkins, San Juan County Health and Community Services, (360) 378-4474

Thurston County education for realtors

Throughout the history of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority and the Action Team, the well-known link between land use and water quality has spawned a number of Public Involvement and Education (PIE) projects aimed at teaching land use professionals about these issues. Among them are the Pilchuck Audubon's Citizen Action Training School (1988-89), the Suquamish Tribe's School of Real Estate (1989-1991), and WSU Cooperative Extension's With a Water View. Initially developed to target realtors on the Olympic Peninsula, the WSU program has been offered in Thurston County since 1998. Real estate professionals from all over the state earn clock hours toward their licenses by participating in two-day courses on wetlands, on-site septs, groundwater, salmon and streams.

Contact: Melanie Ransom, (360) 786-5445, x. 7922 or ransom@wsu.edu. (See *Calendar of Events*, back page.)



Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team Local Liaisons:

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Thurston County:
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Mason, Whatcom, and Skagit counties:
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San Juan County:
Ginny Broadhurst, (360) 738-6122

Clallam, Kitsap and Jefferson counties:
Harriet Beale, (360) 379-4441

Pierce and King counties:
Kathy Taylor, (360) 407-7320

Stormwater book highlights education programs around Sound

ATTENTION LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND STAFF:

A new publication is available from the Action Team. *Stormwater Education Programs: Selected Examples from Puget Sound* highlights 18 local programs from around the Sound that educate and involve the public about stormwater and water quality. The publication is designed for officials and staff to develop effective stormwater public education and involvement programs. The *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan* calls on all cities and counties in the basin to develop such programs. For more information call (800) 54-SOUND or (360) 407-7300.

Editor's correction:

The Summer 2000 issue of *Sound Waves* included a photograph on page 5 of waterfront homes and bulkheads. We forgot to credit the name of the photographer—**Zoe Estus**. The editorial staff apologizes for this oversight.

GROWING SMARTER • ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS FOCUS ON NEXT STEPS FOR GROWTH MANAGEMENT

By Shane Hope

Managing Director, Growth Management—Office of Community Development

Growing smarter was the central topic in a series of roundtable discussions sponsored by the Office of Community Development (OCD) in last spring. Dialogue and ideas were sought to develop recommendations for the next phase of growth management in Washington. Many of those ideas are or will be receiving attention for possible state and local action in the coming year.

With growth and development continuing in the Puget Sound region, some of the qualities of life people appreciate most may be threatened. Other qualities may be enhanced. The Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed in 1990 to foster smart growth choices for the environment, the economy and healthy communities. It has helped reduce urban sprawl, protect critical areas, and conserve farm and forest lands. But many issues, including adequate transportation and affordable housing, demand a greater level of effort.

To provide a base for

discussion at the roundtables, OCD prepared brief issue papers on 12 topics. The papers, along with other information, are posted on a special website at <http://smartgrowth.wa.gov/> and are also available in hard copy by calling (360) 725-3000. Topics covered included:

- Transportation/land use
- Housing affordability
- Natural resources
- Infrastructure
- Salmon-friendly land uses
- Economic vitality
- Livable communities
- Regional and state coordination
- Energy
- Public health and safety
- Historic preservation
- Open space and greenbelts

Discussions were lively, with about 350 people representing a cross-section of interests in both eastern and western Washington.

The premier issue to surface was **infrastructure**, namely, the need to provide for adequate transportation, schools, water, stormwater and other capital facilities. This need was viewed broadly and touched on in almost all of the other roundtable topics. Two

general themes arose:

1. More infrastructure funding is needed.
2. An infrastructure strategy would help the state target its funds most effectively.

Since no state can fund all the infrastructure that citizens and groups might want, an infrastructure strategy could be developed to rank the needs for state funding. Such a strategy should be based on a vision for livable communities, long-term economic vitality, and a healthy environment.

Plenty of other specific ideas were raised too, ranging from ways to encourage agriculture (e.g., maintaining the farm-to-market road system) to ways to encourage livable communities (e.g., through local parks). At all roundtables, people said they wanted more information—research, data and education—to help them deal

with emerging issues. Notes from the regional roundtables, with much more detail, are available on request from OCD.

Currently, OCD is working with various agencies and organizations to take action on some of the key ideas discussed in the roundtables. A report on these actions, along with recommendations for long-term strategies on growing smarter, will be developed within the next few months.

Given that September 2002 is the date when local governments must review and, if needed, update their critical area regulations and other kinds of plans and development regulations, attention to the next phase of growth management is especially timely. Comments back to this author are welcome and may be sent by e-mail to the following address: juliek@cted.wa.gov.

GMA turns 10!

In special recognition of the 10th anniversary of the **Growth Management Act**, the Office of Community Development is planning a reception and awards ceremony on November 9. This event will honor some of the communities and developers that have helped Washington provide for attractive, responsible development, along with natural resource conservation.

For more information, call (360) 725-3000.

Perspectives, *continued from Page 2*

■ JACKIE AITCHISON

The biggest challenge we face is being open minded and willing to change the way we have been developing our land.

I think we Washingtonians have always been very proud of our independence—the wild west mentality. The individual's ultimate property owner's rights have prevailed for a long time. It will be

difficult to overcome this, but we must if we are to save our environment. We'll have to really cooperate and be creative to accomplish this. Being an eternal optimist, I think we can. But a lot of people's ways and ideas are going to have to change.

■ KIRK ANDERSON

I believe my answer to this question is woven within my previous answers. Our

biggest challenge is facing ourselves. It's been said that if you want to find out what a person is truly committed to, look at where they invest their resources. I think that's true of communities as well. What are *we* saying as a community about what *we* truly value? In this time of unprecedented economic expansion, what are we investing our resources in? Our community infrastructure needs attention.

This infrastructure consists not only of transportation, utility services, education and the like, but is the web of economic and environmental relationships that connect us—one to the other, whether we're aware of these connections or not. Our biggest challenge—are we willing to avoid pointing fingers and, as a community, fund the things we say are important to us.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT: Finding alternative ways to manage stormwater

By Curtis Hinman, Water Quality Field Agent,
WSU Cooperative Extension, Pierce County

The Puget Sound region faces significant challenges in managing the impacts of urbanization on aquatic habitat and water quality. According to a report by American Forests, within an area of 3.4 million acres in the Puget Sound basin, areas with high forest cover (50 percent or more) have declined by 37 percent, and areas of very low forest cover have increased by 25 percent between 1972 and 1996.

In the current commercial and residential development process, most, if not all, forest cover and native soils

are removed. Replacing native landscapes are relatively impervious subsoils or highly impervious roofs, parking lots and roads.

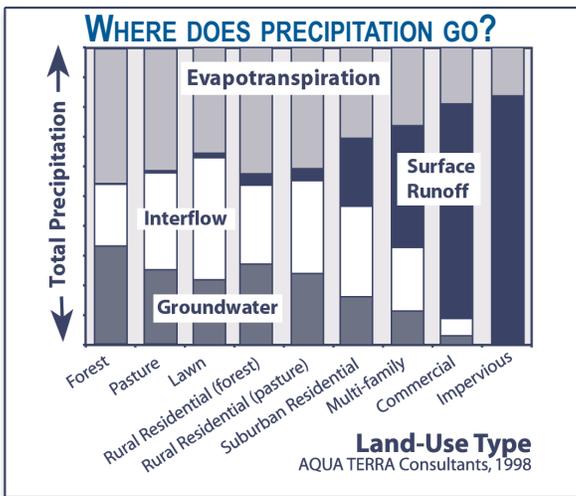
This conversion has tremendous effects on the quantity and timing of precipitation reaching Puget Sound streams. In the region's mature forests, most of the stormwater falling on the site is processed through evaporation, transpiration and infiltration—very little flows on the surface of the land. In contrast, a large portion of stormwater flows overland in the more impervious urbanized setting. (See diagram) This change in hydrology alters stream channel form, increases delivery of sediment and other pollutants, and negatively affects fish and other life in the stream.

Current stormwater management practices in urban settings focus on efficiently removing water from the site through collection and conveyance systems, and storing the overland flows in ponds for infiltration or controlled release to a water body. In many cases these strategies (under current recommended practices) have ultimately failed to protect streams from changes in hydrology associated with urbanization.

Low Impact Development (LID) is a new set of strategies

that shows promise for protecting water quality and aquatic habitat when used in conjunction with sound watershed and regional planning. Central to this strategy is maintaining, as closely as possible, the natural hydrology and reducing overland flow by evaporating, transpiring and infiltrating precipitation on site. In general, LID goals are achieved through site planning and development practices which include:

- assessing the site's soils, current and native vegetation cover, wetland areas, streams, and other critical areas;
- directing the location of buildings and roads away from critical areas and soils that can effectively infiltrate stormwater;
- maximizing retention of native vegetation cover to intercept, evaporate and transpire precipitation;
- preserving permeable, native soils and restoring disturbed soils with compost and other amendments;
- retaining and incorporating natural site features that promote infiltration of stormwater;
- minimizing building footprints, and road widths and lengths to reduce impervious surface coverage;
- using pervious surfaces (e.g. pervious pavement, pavers or gravel systems) where possible; and
- using smaller, decentralized bio-retention areas with appropriate vegetation to infiltrate stormwater.



FISH-FRIENDLY CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOPS ADDRESS ESA ISSUES

Builders and developers who deal with regulations on a daily basis will be facing even tougher restrictions as the Endangered Species Act goes into effect. A consortium of building associations, organizations and local and state government agencies are working together to educate builders with the hope of avoiding problems in the future. An example is a series of "Fish-Friendly Construction Workshops" scheduled throughout the Puget Sound starting next month.

"We want to protect species, but we want to be able to continue developing to

accommodate growth," says Doug Lengel, education director for the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, one of the organizations sponsoring the workshops. "Developers and builders who

understand various techniques and products will be in a better position to continue to operate. It's really about preparing for the future."

The day-long workshops, including a field trip, will be

offered in two series, with the fall series focusing on wood use and energy conservation.

The spring series will focus on site treatment and water management.

Workshops Details

Fall workshop dates and locations:

Nov. 14—Kitsap County

Nov. 15—Snohomish County

Nov. 17—King County

Registration for all workshops begins at 8 a.m. and the programs start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$50.

Participants earn 7.5 real estate clock hours. The program fulfills the educational requirement for the Built Green and Build A Better Kitsap programs. AIA Learning Units are also available.

• For the King or Snohomish County workshops,

call Kelly at the Master Builders Association at (425) 451-7920 or (800) 522-2209.

• For the Kitsap County workshop, call BIAW at (800) 228-4229 and ask for workshop registration.

The series, developed by Built Green™ and Build A Better Kitsap, is sponsored by the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, King County, Kitsap County, Snohomish County, and the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, in association with the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County.



PUGET SOUND'S HEALTH

The Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) is a coordinated effort among state and federal agencies to measure the health of Puget Sound's waters and resources. The program complements monitoring by local governments and citizen volunteers. This section highlights key PSAMP studies.



A TALE OF TWO ESTUARIES: REMEDIAL ACTION IN TWO PUGET SOUND WATERSHEDS

By Tim Determan

Office of Food Safety and Shellfish Programs, Washington State Department of Health

Since the early 1980s, pollution from human and animal waste has curtailed shellfish harvest in some "urbanizing" rural bays and inlets of Puget Sound. Citizens and governments have since labored to control fecal pollution sources by repairing failed individual on-site sewage systems, controlling runoff from pastures, and upgrading municipal sewage and stormwater facilities.

The Washington State Department of Health annually assesses fecal pollution for the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program. Last year, Health analyzed data collected from 45 of more than 100 commercial growing areas in Puget Sound. Nineteen of these areas were slightly to heavily affected by fecal pollution. Most affected areas have histories of remedial activities. This article highlights two such areas: **Oakland Bay** and **Burley Lagoon**.

Environmental Setting

Both Oakland Bay and Burley Lagoon are located in south Puget Sound. Both are sensitive to pollution because of limited tidal exchange. The Oakland Bay watershed is 10 times larger than that of Burley Lagoon. However, population density in Burley Lagoon watershed is six times higher. More than half the residents of Oakland Bay watershed live in Shelton,

which has a sewer system and treatment plant. In Burley watershed, two small hamlets—Burley and Purdy—are primarily served by on-site sewage systems. Outside these areas, the population in both watersheds is scattered on rural parcels along creeks and marine shorelines. Many rural residents in both watersheds keep livestock, although livestock densities are higher in Burley Lagoon watershed.

sewer system continues and new sewer lines extend into previously unserved areas. Local health and conservation district staff worked with owners of individual on-site sewage systems and small farms. In 1989 Oakland Bay was upgraded to *Conditionally Approved*.

Part of Burley Lagoon was downgraded to *Restricted* in 1981. Major pollution sources were failed on-site sewage systems and improper

source controls. However, by early 1997, water quality began to decline again. Remedial action was renewed and intensified, but contamination continues. Health reclassified Burley Lagoon *Restricted* in 1999.

Status and Trends for Oakland Bay and Burley Lagoon

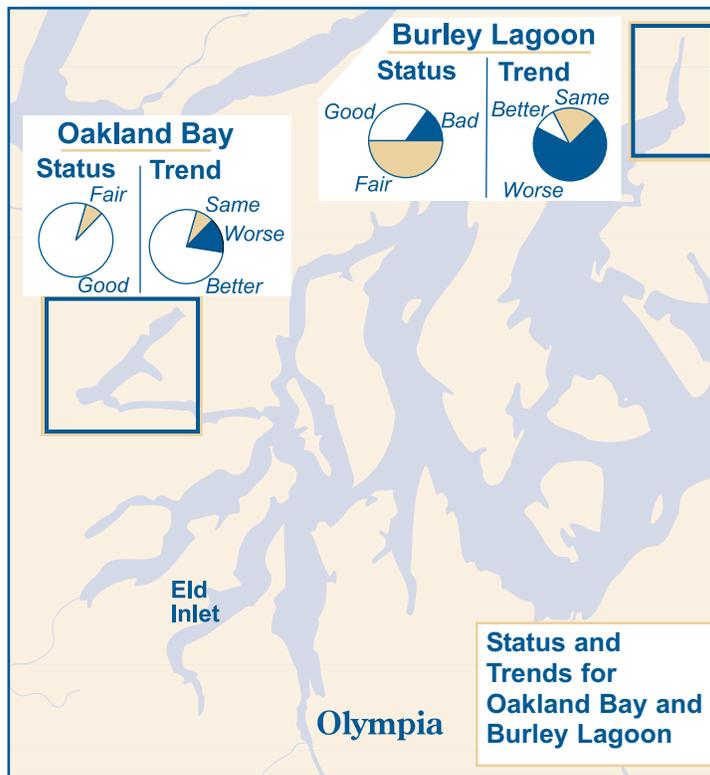
Recent conditions (Status) of growing areas are reported as Good, Fair or Bad based on a year's statistics—ending March 1999 (see graphic, left).

A third of 12 sampling sites in Burley Lagoon were Good. Half the sites were Fair. Two sites were classified as Bad. On the other hand, in Oakland Bay, all but one site were reported as Good. The site near the Shelton treatment plant outfall was Fair.

Changes in conditions over time (Trends) at growing areas are shown as percent of sampling sites where fecal pollution increased (Worse), decreased (Better), or stayed the Same. Trends in Oakland Bay were tracked from mid-1990, in Burley Lagoon from mid-1993.

Pollution at nine of 12 sites in Burley Lagoon increased. One site improved and two showed no change. On the other hand, pollution decreased at most sites in Oakland Bay. Improvement followed the start of Shelton's sewer project. However, two sites in northeastern Oakland Bay worsened. Although the status of these sites remained Good, the worsening trend suggests vigilance is needed.

See *Remedial Action*, page 7



Nonpoint Sources and Remedial Action

In 1987, shellfish grounds in northeast Oakland Bay were downgraded to *Restricted* due to stormwater contaminated by sewage from Shelton. In response, the city began to repair the leaky sewer system. Renovation of the

animal-keeping practices. In response, failed on-site sewage systems were located and repaired, and landowners were encouraged to keep animal wastes out of streams. Health upgraded the shellfish beds to *Conditionally Approved* in 1993 due to improved water quality and

FAST-GROWING SNOHOMISH COUNTY RETHINKS DEVELOPMENT

Snohomish County has embarked on an ambitious process to improve the way new development occurs in the county. The county council has recently taken a number of steps to change the regulatory framework in which development occurs and also to change the preconceptions of what new development must look like and how it must affect the landscape and environment.

Responding to citizens' concerns about the negative effects of rapid growth in south Snohomish County, County Council Chair Barbara Cothorn spearheaded a citizens committee to rethink the county's rules for planned residential communities, or PRDs. Newly drafted rules are currently before the council. They include changes to open-space requirements, lot size and buildable area calculations. All the changes move toward lessening the urban feel of PRDs, decreasing traffic problems, and protecting open space and

the environment.

Another regulatory move the council made recently, proposed by Council Vice-Chair Dave Somers, was to adopt an ordinance allowing a Reduced Drainage Discharge Demonstration Project. This demonstration project allows developers to innovate with development design to reduce stormwater runoff using concepts of low impact development. For example, developers will be allowed to narrow street widths to reduce the amount of pavement or impervious surface. Retention of tree canopy, amending disturbed soils with compost, native landscaping, increased infiltration of runoff, and pervious pavement are other options available through the project. Benefits of such innovation will be the reduced need for highly engineered stormwater best management practices, such as large detention ponds.

The county is also educating county staff and private businesses about the

need and benefits of changing how new land is developed. In March, 1999, the county co-sponsored a Soils for Salmon conference held in Seattle. The conference focused on the use of compost as an amendment to soils disturbed during the development process. Amending disturbed soils increases their capacity to retain water and decreases runoff. It also decreases the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, because plants grown in amended soils are healthier.

The county also helped finance the development of the Green Built program of the Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties. This program provides incentives to builders who incorporate green practices, such as water conservation and innovative site design, into their projects. The program is currently in its kickoff stage.

Finally, the county has commissioned the development of a short

course on low impact development for local elected and appointed officials throughout the county. The short course will educate officials about what low impact development is, how it differs from current development norms, and how to encourage such development within the cities of Snohomish County.

Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing counties in Washington. As such, it has experienced all the problems that come with rapid growth: increased traffic, loss of open space, environmental degradation, crowding, etc. The current administration is trying to avoid further problems by rethinking how growth occurs and how new development affects the landscape. Hopefully, these changes will help maintain the quality of life Snohomish County citizens have come to expect, including a healthy environment.

Remedial Action, *continued from previous page*

Summary

Improvement in water quality in Oakland Bay may be due to a specific pollution source and a municipally based solution. Success in Burley Lagoon has been more complex and elusive due to the variety of individual sources, which are hard to find, measure or control. Corrections usually require sustained one-on-one education, technical and financial assistance, firm and fair enforcement, abundant patience and good will all around. One such successful program was conducted by Thurston County in 1991-1994 among shoreline homeowners in Eld Inlet. As a result, fecal pollution was

substantially reduced. The Burley experience suggests that the struggle to control nonpoint pollution must be intensive and sustained. The present renewed remedial effort may lead Burley Lagoon onto the road to recovery once again.

(Editor's note: Trends at individual stations are summarized and are not individually represented in the graphic on page 6. For more detailed information, see page 40 of the 2000 Puget Sound Update. You can also download a PDF version of the "Pathogens and Nutrients" chapter of the Update from the Action Team's website. Go to www.wa.gov.puget_sound. Select "Publications" from the top menu bar and select "Master List.")

REGISTER NOW!



The Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team and a number of co-sponsors will convene the fifth **Puget Sound Research Conference** on February 12 to 14, 2001 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

Keynote presentations, technical posters, and more than 20 technical sessions will address Puget Sound ecosystem status and stressors and efforts to sustain and restore the Puget Sound ecosystem. Conference registration materials, available from the Action Team's web site (www.wa.gov/puget_sound) starting Nov. 2, provide more information about the conference program.

For additional information about the conference, visit the Action Team's web site or contact Action Team staff by telephone at (800) 54-SOUND or (360) 407-7300 or by e-mail at sredman@psat.wa.gov.

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Sound Waves is produced quarterly by the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team.

If you need this document in an alternate format, call our TDD number: 1-800-833-6388.

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Sound Waves is run on an alcohol-free press using vegetable-based inks.

CALENDAR

October 25
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Public Meeting on Marine Habitat of Jefferson County

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Contact: Michelle McConnell, (360) 385-5668 or michellelmcconnell@hotmail.com

October 26, January 25, April 26

The Secrets of a Successful Septic Education Program

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Dept. of Ecology, and the Thurston, Clallam and King counties health departments
A workshop for educators and technicians involved in educating homeowners about the proper care and maintenance of on-site septic systems.
Contact: Cathy Angell at (360) 428-1558 or cangell@padillabay.gov

October 26 -November 9
Horse Farm Management

Horses for Clean Water Education Program's winter classroom series

Learn about pasture and manure management for the health of your horse and the environment. Four different classes and a farm tour are part of this series.
Contact: Skagit

Conservation District at (360) 428-4313 or Whatcom Conservation District at (360) 354-2035 ext. 3

October 28
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Salmon Tours

Rural Development Committee of Kitsap County
Tour four salmon streams in the Central Kitsap Area. Includes a catered lunch with speaker. \$10/person.
Contact: Debbie Thomas, (360) 779-7592, ext. 723 or dthomas@kpud.org. Register online at www.kpud.org

October 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sammamish Releaf

Volunteer to plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive weeds and work to improve habitat along banks of the Sammamish River.
Contact: Polly Freeman, (206) 296-8359 or polly.freeman@metrokc.gov

November - December

Streamside Planting Volunteer opportunities

King County Department of Natural Resources
• November 4 & December 2
Dig up native trees and shrubs from a site scheduled to be cleared. Volunteers are also needed to pot up salvaged plants.
Contact: Greg Rabourn, (206) 296-1923.
• November 4 & 11
Green River (O'Grady Park)
Contact: Tina Miller at (206) 296-2990

• November 4
Snoqualmie River
Contact: Bob Spencer, (206) 296-1951

November 8-9

With a Water View Realtor Education: Salmon & Streams

USFS Headquarters, Olympia
Contact: (360) 786-5445 ext. 7922

November 10
7 p.m.

Sounds for the Sea: A Celebration of Puget Sound Jazz, Art and Entertainment

Benefit for People for Puget Sound at Experience Music Project
Cost: \$25, includes admission, refreshments, live jazz, dancing, and raffle ticket for Dale Chihuly's Sea Form Set (retail value \$20,000)
Contact: PPS, (206) 382-7007 or www.pugetsound.org