

6 CHARACTERIZATION DATA GAPS

The Inventory and Characterization includes the most current, complete, accurate and available environmental, scientific and technical information related to Kitsap County's marine and freshwater shoreline ecosystems. After review of the draft report, staff and technical experts have identified certain areas where additional information if available would encourage more effective shoreline management within Kitsap County pursuant to WAC 173-26-201.3.c.(viii).

Comprehensive Mapping of Feeder Bluff Locations:

The absence of coastal geomorphic mapping in Kitsap County represents a gap in the mapping of specific local nearshore conditions. Much of the sediment found on Puget Sound beaches (~90%) is derived from eroding coastal bluffs, commonly referred to as *feeder bluffs*. (Andrea MacLennan, Coastal Geologic Services, personal communication, October, 2010). The conservation and restoration of these sediment sources are ashoreline ecological functions to be managed for No Net Loss (as required by WAC 173-26-210). Further, feeder bluffs have been identified as a high priority by several agencies and organizations (Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) among many others). Mapping and analysis of current and historic sediment sources/feeder bluffs can provide a measure of key nearshore processes; sediment supply, transport and accretion/deposition. These large scale processes influence the health of nearshore systems and provide ecosystem structure, supporting many habitat functions upon which the nearshore food web depends. Mapping and analytical results can improve permit review efficiency, without requiring site verification, as well as inform planners, resource managers, and restoration/conservation practitioners. The data can also be used to better understand where differing hazards associated with sea level rise and climate change are likely to occur.

High Resolution, Comprehensive Stream Location Mapping:

Current stream maps (Washington DNR, 2007) are often too generalized and do not provide adequate resolution and must be used with field verification, particularly when working at the parcel level. Some efforts are underway by the Wild Fish Conservancy with the West Sound Lead Entity to map and "type" streams in East Kitsap and North Pierce Counties with great detail. This level of information is currently finished for the Miller Bay area, but has yet to be decided where the next round of effort will be applied. It has been suggested that streams under SMP jurisdiction be given consideration during the selection process.

Freshwater habitat assessments available to Kitsap County are over seven years old. Changes have occurred in the landscape within that time, though it can not always be determined how or where. In order to be more accurate for specific reaches of streams, more needs to be known about vegetation, sediment loads, overall habitat and fish use.

Updated Fish Passage Barrier Map:

Several sources of fish passage barrier data exists from different agencies, with different dates and different levels of completeness. An updated, prioritized list of fish passage barriers is needed. This list should be a “living” document , updated by both salmon recovery agencies and public works.

High Resolution Local Marine Vegetation Survey:

While some information exists from the Washington Department of Ecology and the Department of Natural Resources, neither source provides high enough resolution to support permit decisionmaking as a primary source. A local baseline survey at appropriate resolution would provide decision makers with a more efficient means to determine site specific impacts of certain development actions without having to visit the site. A comprehensive survey at appropriate resolution would provide relevant information on the health and abundance of important marine vegetation species such as eelgrass. A more detailed marine vegetation survey would also assist in the County's on-going monitoring of No Net Loss.

A Shoreline Permit Tracking System:

A shoreline permit tracking system within the Kitsap County Land Information System (LIS) will help in tracking No Net Loss indicators for future SMP updates. Currently, permit exemptions are not tracked. Establishing a method for tracking this type of information will lessen the need to start from scratch on a new Nearshore Inventory during the next SMP Update. The information needed to describe permitted activity could include the number, type and size of newly permitted shoreline modifications or activities and new or expanded shoreline uses, as well as documentation of projects that receive a shoreline permit exemption. The County will determine a final list of No Net Loss indicators to track as the SMP Update progresses.

A List or Map of Locally Targeted Habitats and Species, as outlined in KCC Title 19.300.310 (3)(2-3).

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas should include federal, state and *local* habitats and species which, if altered, “may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term”. Currently, the habitats and species data utilized under this code are *federal and state listed* or *monitored*. Looking into additional habitats and species of local importance will enrich this database and our understanding of local habitat functions.