



Department of Commerce



*Photo: SvR Design*

# Building Cities in the Rain:

## Watershed Prioritization for Stormwater Retrofits

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*Senior Planner*

*Growth Management Services*

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# Overview

1. Growth Management Act, NPDES, and Salmon Recovery
2. Building Cities in the Rain – Watershed Prioritization Guidance
3. Uses of the Guidance



# Puget Sound Regional Council: VISION 2040

## Jobs & Housing for 1.7 Million More People



2 more Seattles + 2 more Tacomas

### Central Puget Sound Region





# VISION 2040: Regional Growth Centers

Regional strategy focused on designated centers linked by transit:

## 29 Regional Growth Centers

- 2.5% of total UGA ( $\approx 25$  sq mi)
- Currently 29% of region's jobs

## 8 Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

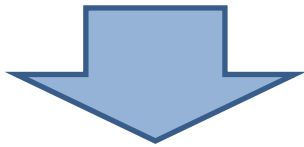
- 3.7% of total UGA area



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## “NPDES v. GMA”

**NPDES v. GMA:** Stormwater regulations are often more costly in ultra-urban areas than in green-fields.



**NPDES & GMA/Regional Growth Strategy:** How to encourage development in designated urban centers and manage stormwater effectively?



# NPDES and Urban Infill Redevelopment

**Before:** little or no water quality and flow controls, pollutant generating impervious surface



*Photo by A. Easton*

**After:** less impervious surface and some green infrastructure, little or no pollutant generating impervious surface



*Photo by Brett VA*





# NPDES and Salmon Recovery

## Waiting for redevelopment:

- Based on market forces and not highest-priority watersheds
- Not enough funding to retrofit all watersheds in the immediate future
- Public investment is not targeted to high-priority watersheds
- No opportunity to leverage funding for habitat restoration



*Tacoma Mall Subarea*



# Puget Sound Action Agenda

## **Commerce Near Term Action A1.2.1:**

“Land Use Planning Barriers, BMPs and Example Policies”: address barriers to policies that encourage compact growth, increased density, water quality standards, redevelopment.....”

**South Central LIO Near Term Action SC13:** “Develop recommendations for incentives and cost effective tools to meet stormwater management and GMA ... to encourage infill... in urban centers instead of greenfield... and to improve water quality.”





# Desired Outcome = Vibrant Designated Urban Centers + Clean Water + Restored Fish Habitat



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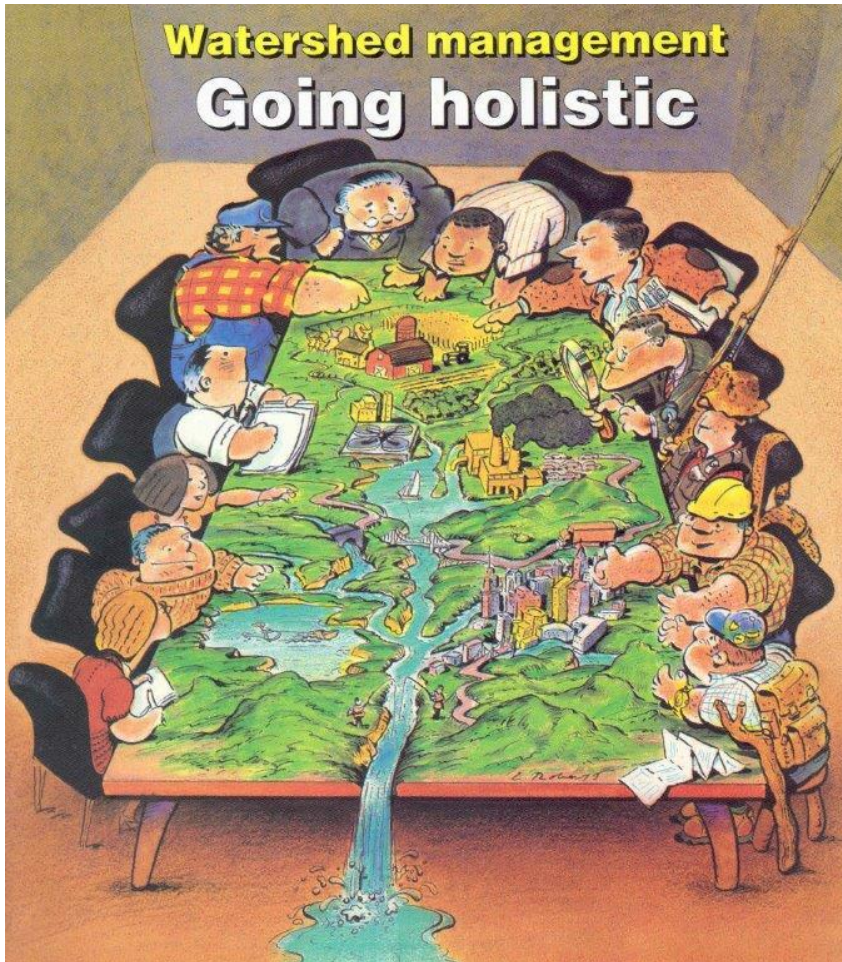
# Building Cities in the Rain

## Watershed Prioritization for Stormwater Investment





# Building Cities in the Rain Work Group



Tacoma      Issaquah  
Redmond      Bellevue  
King County      Thurston County  
Futurewise      Ecology  
WDFW      WRIA 8  
EPA      Commerce  
Puget Sound Regional Council  
Puget Sound Partnership

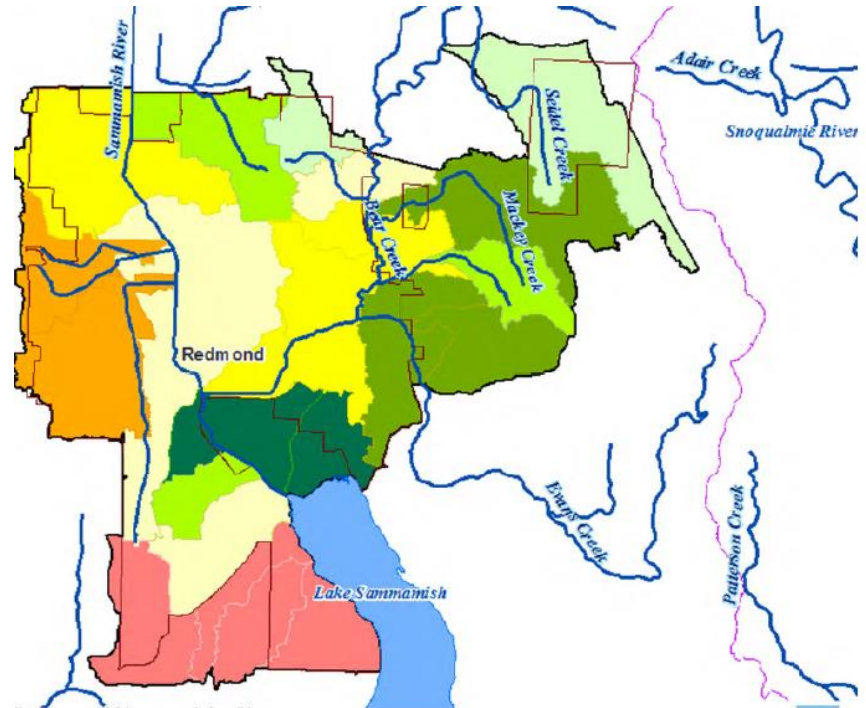


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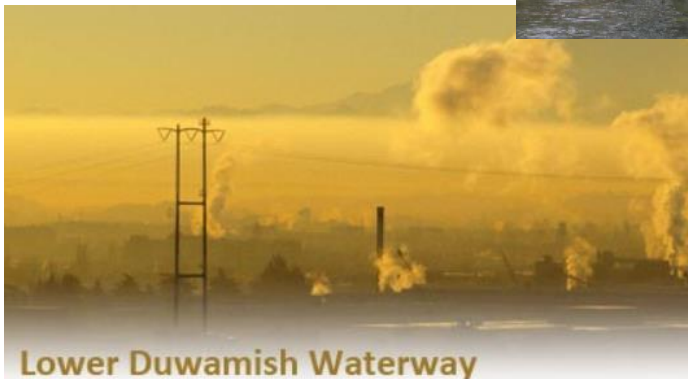


# Process and Data for Prioritizing Watersheds

1. Establish prioritization goals/policies.
2. Review regional-scale information as initial screen.  
**Refine with local data.**
3. Seek input from stakeholders (tribes, resource agencies, your neighbors/the public).
4. Plan for stormwater retrofits where expected to accelerate environmental improvement.



# Data Recommended for Prioritization



Lower Duwamish Waterway

1. Fish Use and Aquatic Conditions
2. Opportunity Assessment for Flow Control, Polluted Runoff Treatment and Low Impact Development
3. Considerations for Environmental Justice



# Uses for Watershed Prioritization

- Basin planning for stormwater facilities – early planning for capital facilities (ala GMA)
- Prioritizing project proposals for Ecology stormwater retrofit grants
- Informing water clean up plans (TMDL)
- Establishing a stormwater control transfer program




*Photo: SvR Design*





# Draft Watershed Prioritization Guidance

To view the guidance: [www.ezview.wa.gov](http://www.ezview.wa.gov)  
Comments were due April 30, 2016



## Building Cities in the Rain

[Portal ID #1780]

[Overview](#) [Contacts](#) [Events](#) [Library](#) [2013 Meetings](#) [2014 Meetings](#) [2015 Meetings](#)

### Building Cities in the Rain: Watershed Prioritization Guidance for Stormwater Retrofits

The Department of Commerce, in consultation with a work group of interested parties, has developed a draft [Building Cities in the Rain](#) guidance that describes a process for prioritizing watersheds for stormwater retrofits. It is intended to provide a tool for local governments to target investment in stormwater retrofits in a way that leverages opportunities for salmonid habitat restoration and facilitates redevelopment in urban centers. The Building Cities in the Rain guidance describes a four-step watershed prioritization process for stormwater retrofits. The guidance was released on March 1, 2016. **The draft guidance is available for public comment until midnight on April 30, 2016.**

[Click here](#) for the draft guidance.

**Please submit comments by email to:**  
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