



Department of Commerce



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

# Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management

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April 19, 2018

Peninsula Part II Workshop

# Workshop Goals



- Introduce the concept of critical areas permit monitoring and adaptive management
- Explain/explore why monitoring might be beneficial
- Share tools for monitoring critical areas permit implementation and effectiveness
- Discuss challenges and identify resources

# Why Monitor? Legal basis?

- No statutory requirement to monitor under GMA or SMA.
- Best Available Science WAC 365-195:
  - Encourages monitoring and evaluation of critical areas protection efforts (905(6))
  - In absence of valid scientific information, recommends a “precautionary or no risk” approach, or an interim adaptive management approach (920)
- Monitoring has been required in some hearings board cases under certain circumstances:
  - Jefferson County - less stringent protection standards against seawater intrusion into potable water supplies(2002)
  - Skagit County - less-than-precautionary approach (2003)
  - San Juan County - limitations on modeling and data regarding increased UGA density impacts to seawater intrusion (2006)

**Permit  
Implementation  
Monitoring**

**Permit  
Effectiveness  
Monitoring**

**Ecological  
Validation  
Monitoring**

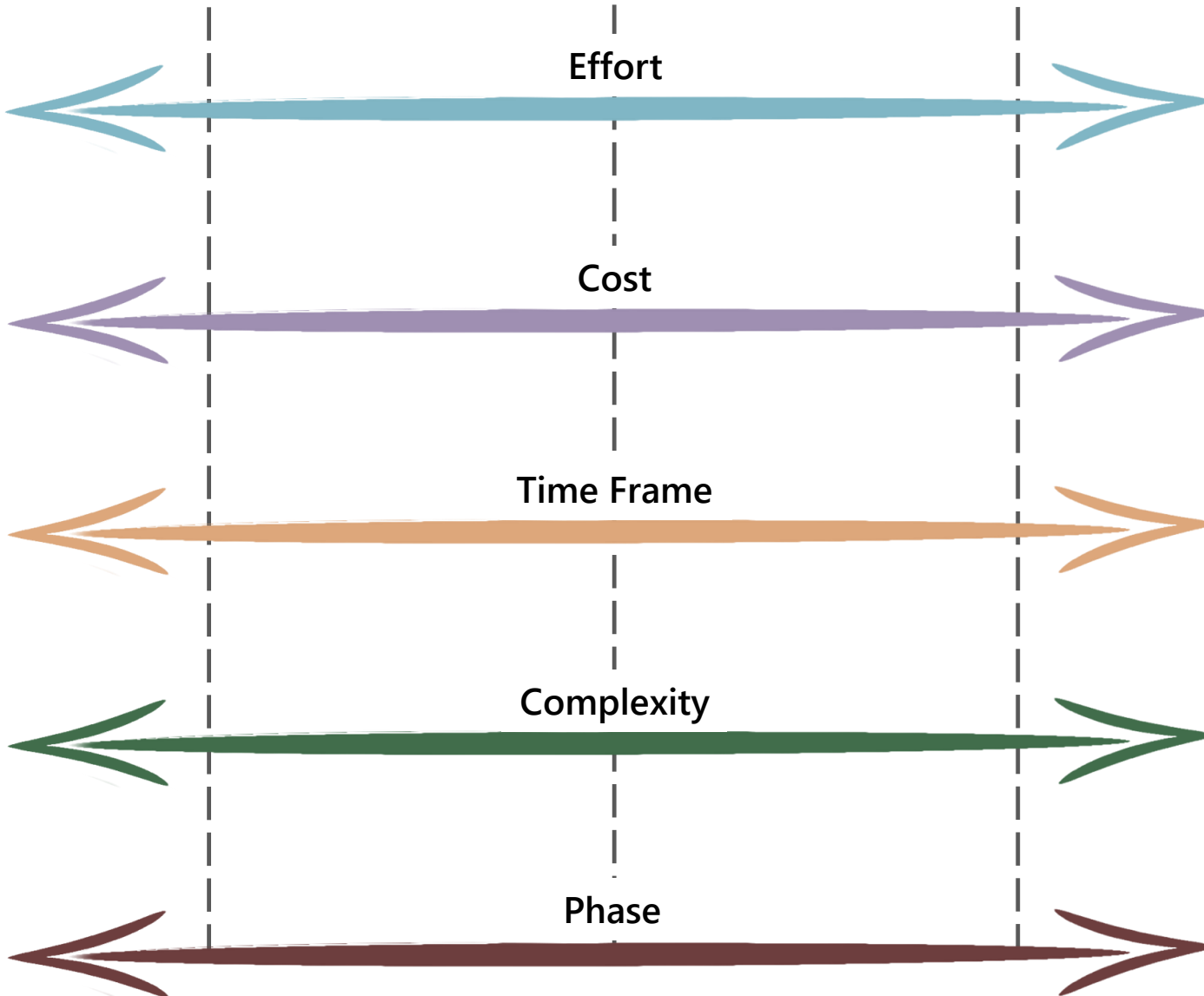
Effort

Cost

Time Frame

Complexity

Phase



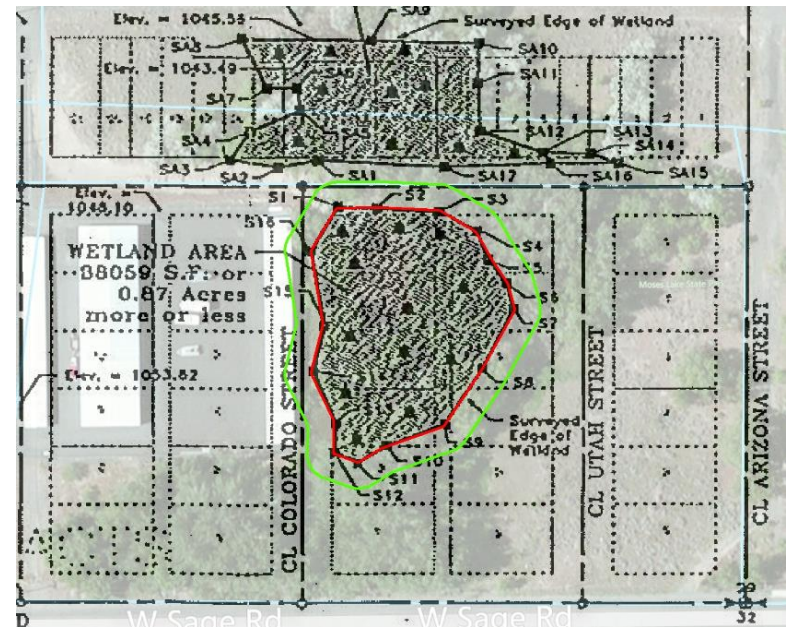


# Primary emphasis of this guidance

Monitoring or tracking permit implementation and/or applicant compliance with mitigation requirements.

Adaptively managing based on results, e.g.:

- Staff review process, training
- Application forms, guidance for applicants
- Administration interpretations
- Revising regulations



# Benefits of monitoring: Feedback from Workshops

## Provides certainty

- Ensures regulations are being implemented
- Mitigates legal liability
- Helps identify risk of development to people and environment
- Data is better than anecdote

## Educates

- Validates efforts
- Provides area-wide trends
- Demonstrates no net loss/progress to officials
- Educates applicants – fosters support



# Benefits of monitoring: Feedback from Workshops



## Improves process

- Updates critical areas inventory and status
- Creates consistency over time
- Tracks performance standards and mitigation
- Can lead to code clarification/improving process (what to require, what not to require)
- Informs inter-relatedness of regulations
- Identifies cross-team improvements

# Challenges of monitoring: Feedback from Workshops

## Limited resources

- Staff, funds, limited grants
- Homeowners lack funds to pay for monitoring

## Political issues

- Changes in leadership
- Lack of political will
- Lack of training/knowledge
- Changing state mandates
- Balancing diverse interests (e.g., jobs v. environment)





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# Monitoring and Adaptive Management Steps



1. Articulate reasons for Monitoring
2. Identify Key Study Questions/Objectives
3. Design Monitoring Program
4. Determine Monitoring Time Frame
5. Evaluate Results and Make Recommendations

# Step 1: Articulate Reasons for Monitoring

- Direction from core plans or policy documents, ordinances
- Inadequate protection of specific critical
- Unpermitted activities
- Community complaints
- Desire to improve transparency and accountability
- Improve the permit process



Courtesy of City of Bellingham

# Step 2: Identify Study Questions/Objectives

## Key Questions

- **How do we ensure that these conditions are implemented?**
  - Implementation monitoring
- **How do we know if performance standards are met over time?**
  - Effectiveness monitoring
- **Without one you don't have the other**

Courtesy of Island County



# Step 3: Designing A Program

- Discrete categories of actions?
- Reliable way to track permits and conditions?
- Sample size and random selection?
- Selection bias/access to permit information?

City of Bellingham  
Department of Public Works Laboratory  
April 2015

## URBAN STREAMS MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2014



# Step 4: Monitoring Time Frame



Every 5 years?

Every 8 years  
for update?

Retroactive  
review?

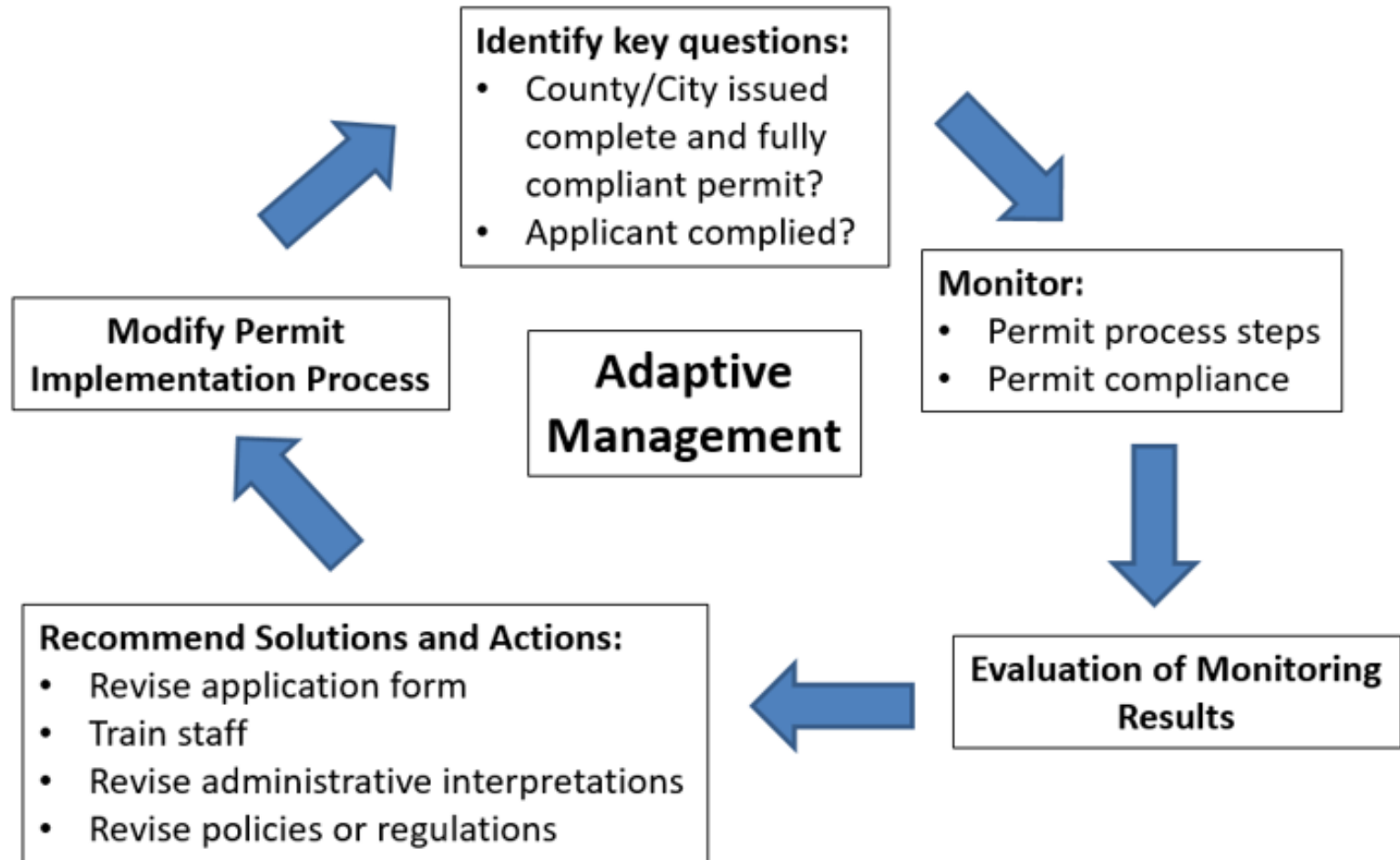
- Scope of monitoring?
- Ongoing or limited time frame?
- Specific reporting periods?

# Step 5: Evaluation and Recommendations

- Evaluate results
- Produce reports that answer the monitoring questions
- Make recommendations for training staff, tweaking/improving the permit process, revising regulations



# Permit Monitoring and Adaptive Management







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Questions?

[Draft Monitoring and  
Adaptive Management  
Chapter](#)

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