

Mount Vernon Critical Monitoring Adaptive Management Workshop – 2/5/18

Resources and Challenges of Critical Areas Monitoring

Below are the political, economic, and technical resources for and challenges of critical areas monitoring that were generated by participants at the 2/5/2018 workshop in Mt. Vernon, WA.

Political Resources and Challenges

Resources (Desired)

- Education in schools (begin early)
- Complexity of challenges
- Awareness of need
- Understanding ecology
- Linking code to implementation
- Training for elected
- Mandates with funding
- Support for staff/programs
- Vision – sharing a vision of where we want to go
- Defending lawsuits or trying to avoid them

Challenges

- Unfunded state and federal mandates (FEMA, all planning and updates, etc.)
- Inability to apply for grants without GMA compliance
- Laws based on property rights
- Changing state mandates
- Changes in leadership
- Backstop of state laws – funding
- Lack of political will
- Discrepancy in jurisdictions
- Combative approach versus more proactive
- Lack of long term ideology
- Balancing property rights
- Homeless populations – need supports so they don't have to move into critical areas
- Conflicts of interest (jobs versus environment)

Technological Resources and Challenges

Resources/Desired

- Continued data collection (especially remote sensing LiDAR)
- Trained GIS staff for meaningful data
- Updated databases – aerial LiDAR (state provided)
- Guidance on incorporating current data, e.g., climate change

- Coordination between towns, counties
- Grant to upgrade technology or new technology (i.e., databases)
- Connecting databases ~local wetland inventories – NWI mapping (duplication of efforts and research site information, or sites having to be researched)
- GIS staff plus subject matter experts
- Training
- Technical/sampling training
- Data sharing

Challenges

- Baseline data
- Lack of resources
- Lack of training/knowledge
- Database challenges (sorting, monitoring, transference of information)
- Delay in acquiring data
- Data/tech keeping up with climate change
- Number of databases – so many
- Property owners' privacy concerns (drones)

Economic Resources and Challenges

Resources/Desired

- State budget
- Property taxes and special assessments
- Ecology guidance on mitigation planning Technical support from other state agencies/state
- Long term implementation and monitoring
- State grants and guidance for VSP monitoring
- Conservation district funding assessments

Challenges

- State budget
- Staff
- Estimation of costs
- Loss of institutional knowledge
- Code enforcement/inspections
- Local regulators lack resources
- Time delays between AOS and release of funds
- Single-family residence permittees lack money on small projects to pay for monitoring