Olympia Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workshop – 3/12/2018
Breakout Notes

Benefits of Critical Areas Monitoring

- 80/20 principle – by protecting the highest quality wetlands (20%), you get 80% of the ecological benefit
- Identify volunteer species to monitor (biggest bang for the buck)
- Predictability for developers
- Adapt more quickly

Challenges of Critical Areas Monitoring

- Lack of permit holders' understanding of mitigation plans – need for education
- Standardizing information – boxes to check
- Standardizing timelines across local-state-federal agencies
- Changing fees
- Jurisdiction needs to find resources for correctives actions up front, saves money later if it is caught early
- Enduring actions
- Need to see and know the results of monitoring
- Lack of understanding regarding enforcement by staff who must enforce multiple code requirements – focus on public health and safety
- Monitoring - performance standards – goals nexus
- Performance standard within margin of error
- Hard to monitor large amounts of land – time consuming
- Rapid data gathering
- Lack of consistency with online tools

What questions would you like to answer through critical areas monitoring and adaptive management?

- Are the buffer widths correct? Are they ecologically sensitive?
- Do regulations work? Benchmarks for different critical area types.
- Are we maintaining functions at the landscape scale? Not just on the site?
- Is the critical areas ordinances sufficient?
- Do the permits reflect the CAO?
- Did you follow up? Threshold for action based on what you find? Schedule of action – who does what, when?
- Cumulative impacts of change over time.

Sharing your existing efforts (Levels of Monitoring)

Permit Implementation Monitoring		Permit Effectiveness Monitoring	Ecological Validation Monitoring
Thurston County **Grays Harbor** – • monitoring re violations • CAO • Code enforcement (complaint driven) **Olympia** – • Code enforcement • Digitize wetlands	**Mason County** – • Enforcement • SMP and resource management • Mitigation **Tumwater** – • Code enforcement (complaint driven) • Urban forestry management plan • CAO **Bonney Lake** – • CAO • Increase monitoring • Watershed plan • Code enforcement		

Peer Consultations – Serve as peer consultants to further developer critical areas monitoring and adaptive management programs in your jurisdiction (group ideas/observations)

- Borrow someone else's system
- Collective monitoring for an area, e.g. a lake – Programmatic use of consultants by landowners – peer pressure to participate
- Economic functions and values of critical areas
- Value of joint enforcement – Ecology and local governments can issue letters together. Use Ecology for enforcement when locals lack enforcement
- No small cities in the room – no resources or records