

Vancouver Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workshop – 4/11/2018 Breakout Notes

Benefits of Critical Areas Monitoring

- Political support via neutral expertise/data

Challenges of Critical Areas Monitoring

- Educating the public (need for fact sheets)
- 1 click print capability for educational brochures
- Scale of geography

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

- How can we rectify the disconnect between property owner benefits and the community? Good to have quantitative information that monitoring could provide. EPA collects this information for air quality. That kind of information from the state would be helpful.
- How can you quantify ecological values re: critical areas?
- Are we issuing permits consistently? Issues with staff turnover.
- What are long term benefits of critical areas protection?
- How can a monitoring system be predictable from a consultant/developer point of view?
- Are we prioritizing correctly in permits?
 - Small addition v. hydrology & function
- Mitigation monitoring is the best option for monitoring because there is better follow through and certainty. Are there more options for banking?
- From the scientific perspective, are you achieving results?
- How can monitoring be done efficiently with existing resources?
- Development community knows very little about the benefits of monitoring and adaptive management.

What monitoring are jurisdictions doing?

- Stevenson does not have a lot of development to monitor.
- Vancouver requires reports and financial assurances.
- Cowlitz County tracks projects, but there is not tracking process. Planners track their own projects.
- Centralia doesn't monitor. The best trigger is complaints.
- Chehalis is mostly built out.
- Lewis County does not track a lot. They do have active code enforcement.

Peer consultation

- Encourage citizen pressure on elected officials.
- Fund monitoring because funds are all spent on permitting.
- Prioritize resources to where activity is occurring to address issues of large geographical areas.

- Implementation and effectiveness monitoring provides certainty for developers.
- Monetize the benefits of critical areas protection – e.g. fisheries, tourism; easier to explain value to electeds.
- Final local examples where regulations broke down, and how monitoring made the regulations better.
- Overall site plan approval to ensure critical areas buffers are not intruded upon
- Timing of investing in a monitoring and adaptive management program is important, e.g. shoreline or GMA grants.
- Set up permit systems for monitoring.
- Invest in projects with outside support instead of relying strictly on staff
- Have state provide training and technical support.
- If the critical areas ordinance is appealed, commitment to a monitoring and adaptive management program can show that they are doing the right thing. Paying for a program can be sold to elected officials as a way to avoid lawsuits.
- Up front funding for tools like HRCD are more useful than trying to increase staff capacity
- Regarding possible future workshops - State assistance on how to do file management and track permits would be helpful. Funding for staff training on this using existing systems is helpful.

Sharing your existing efforts (Levels of Monitoring)

Permit Implementation Monitoring	Permit Effectiveness Monitoring	Ecological Validation Monitoring
<p>Thurston County</p> <p>Grays Harbor –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring re violations • CAO • Code enforcement (complaint driven) <p>Olympia –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code enforcement • Digitize wetlands 	<p>Mason County –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement • SMP and resource management • Mitigation <p>Tumwater –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code enforcement (complaint driven) • Urban forestry management plan • CAO <p>Bonney Lake –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAO • Increase monitoring • Watershed plan • Code enforcement 	

Peer Consultations – Serve as peer consultants to further develop 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