

Protecting Puget Sound Through Funding and Implementing Septic Programs

Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and
Water Protection

Ag/WQ Advisory Committee – February 19, 2015



Public Health – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington

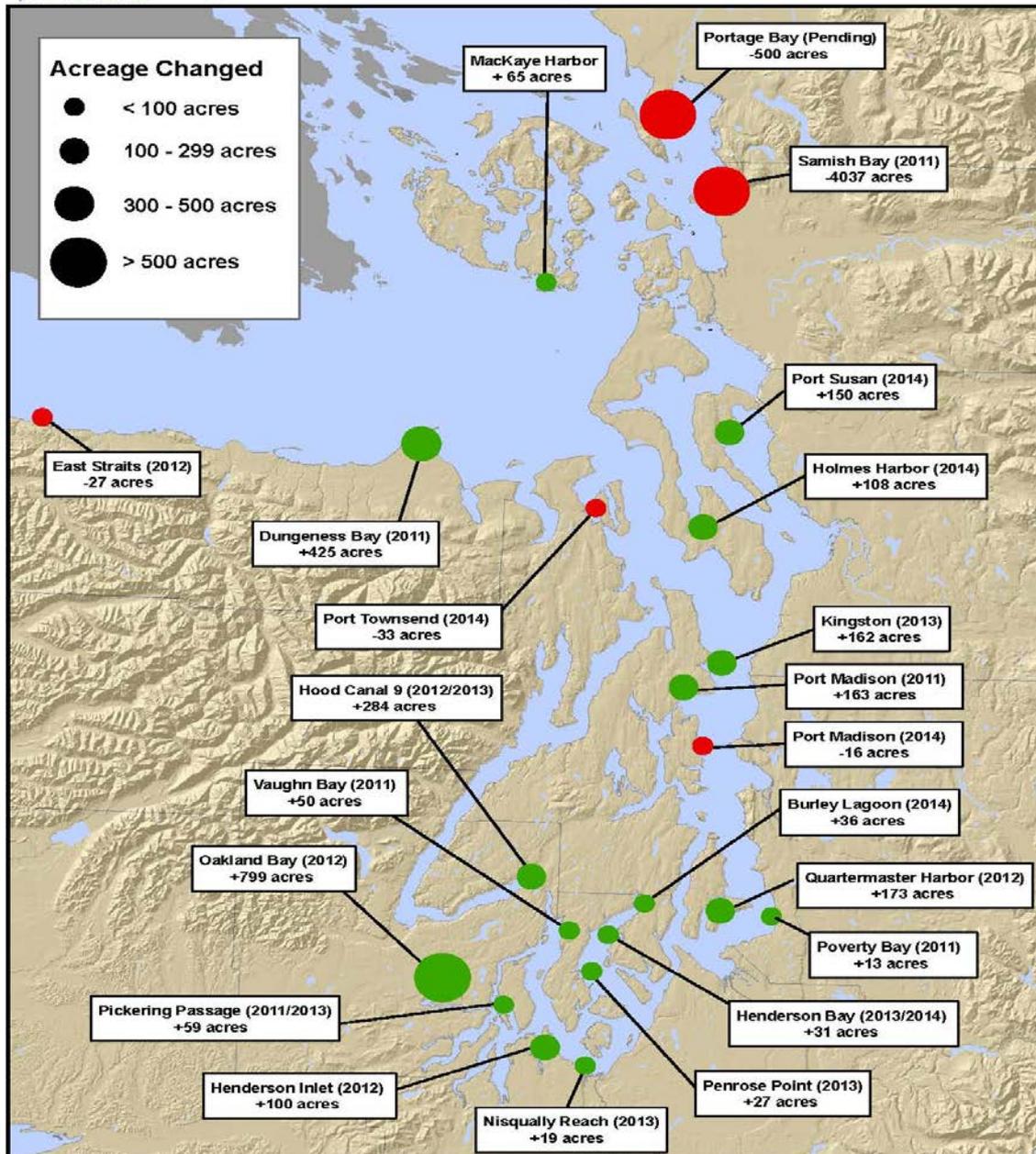
Department Of Health Mission

Working to protect and improve the health of Washington State

Office of Shellfish & Water Protection Mission

Improve the health of people in Washington State by ensuring:

- *shellfish are safe to eat,*
- *beaches are safe for swimming, and*
- *on-site sewage and reclaimed water systems are properly managed.*



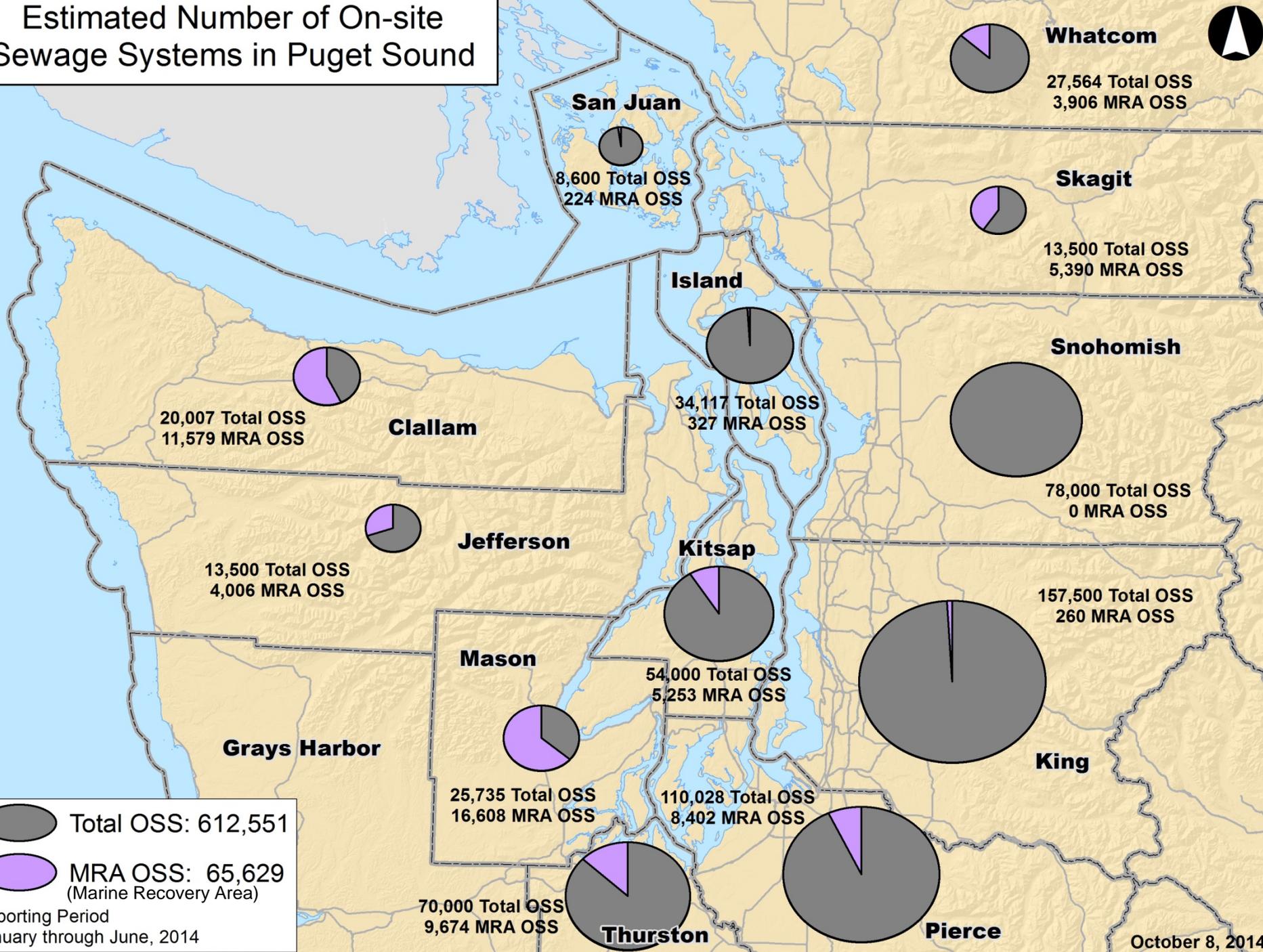
2011-2014 Success?...

- 2,736 acres improved
- 4,609 acres impacted
- Success masked by large downgrade in Samish and Portage downgrade (approx 4,500 acres)
- Water quality improvement can take years
 - Hood Canal 9 - 25 years
 - Oakland Bay - 25 years
 - Portage Bay - 9 years

Puget Sound Wastewater Infrastructure

- Centralized Wastewater Treatment
 - 100 municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)
 - Regulated by Department of Ecology
- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment
 - 290 large on-site sewage systems (LOSS)
 - Regulated by Department of Health
 - 600,000 on-site sewage systems (OSS or septic)
 - Regulated by Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)

Estimated Number of On-site Sewage Systems in Puget Sound



Whatcom
27,564 Total OSS
3,906 MRA OSS

Skagit
13,500 Total OSS
5,390 MRA OSS

Island
34,117 Total OSS
327 MRA OSS

Snohomish
78,000 Total OSS
0 MRA OSS

20,007 Total OSS
11,579 MRA OSS

Clallam

13,500 Total OSS
4,006 MRA OSS

Jefferson

Kitsap
54,000 Total OSS
5,253 MRA OSS

157,500 Total OSS
260 MRA OSS

Grays Harbor

Mason

25,735 Total OSS
16,608 MRA OSS

110,028 Total OSS
8,402 MRA OSS

King

70,000 Total OSS
9,674 MRA OSS

Thurston

Pierce

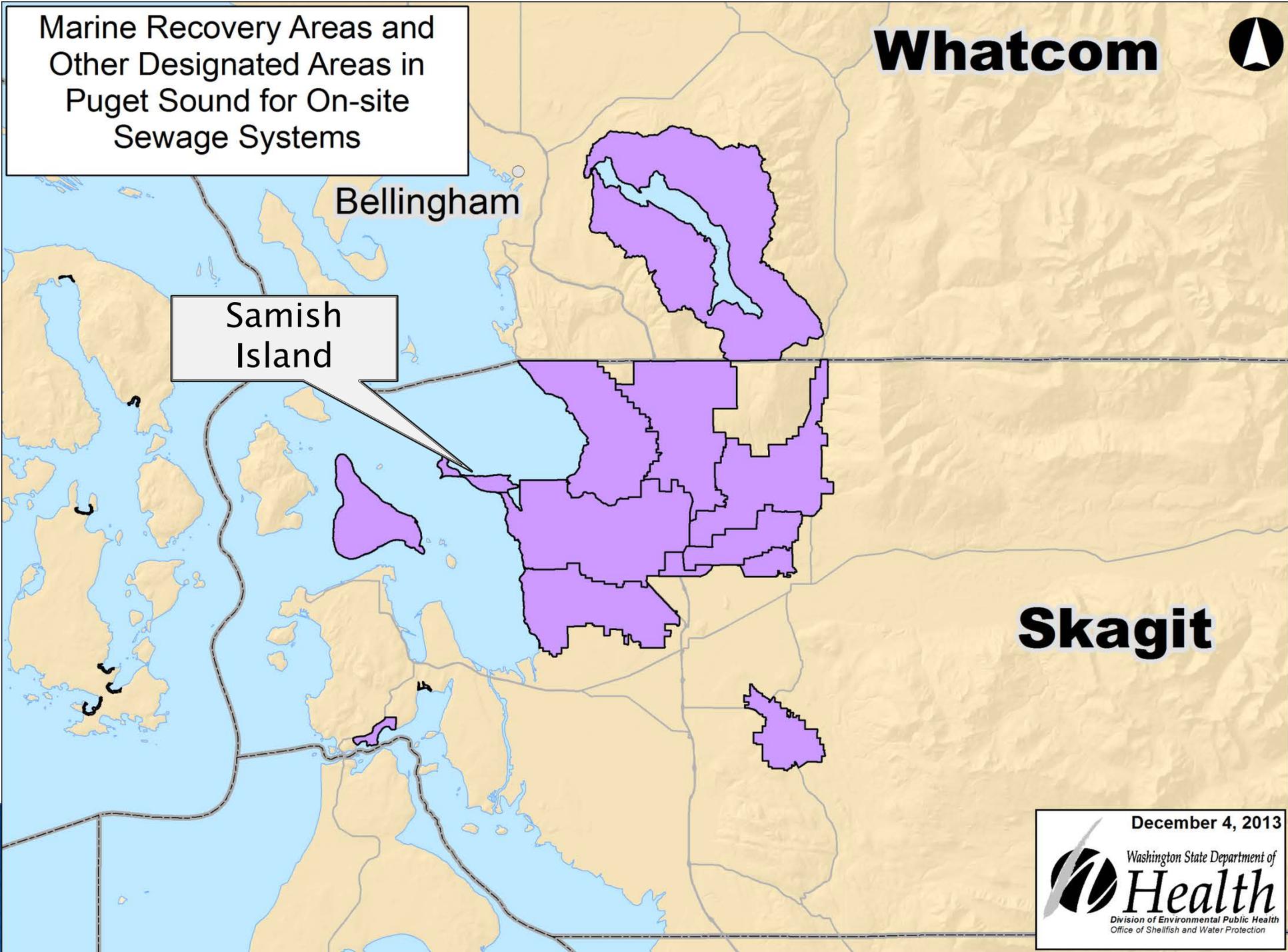
Total OSS: 612,551
 MRA OSS: 65,629
 (Marine Recovery Area)

Reporting Period
January through June, 2014

October 8, 2014

Marine Recovery Areas and
Other Designated Areas in
Puget Sound for On-site
Sewage Systems

Whatcom



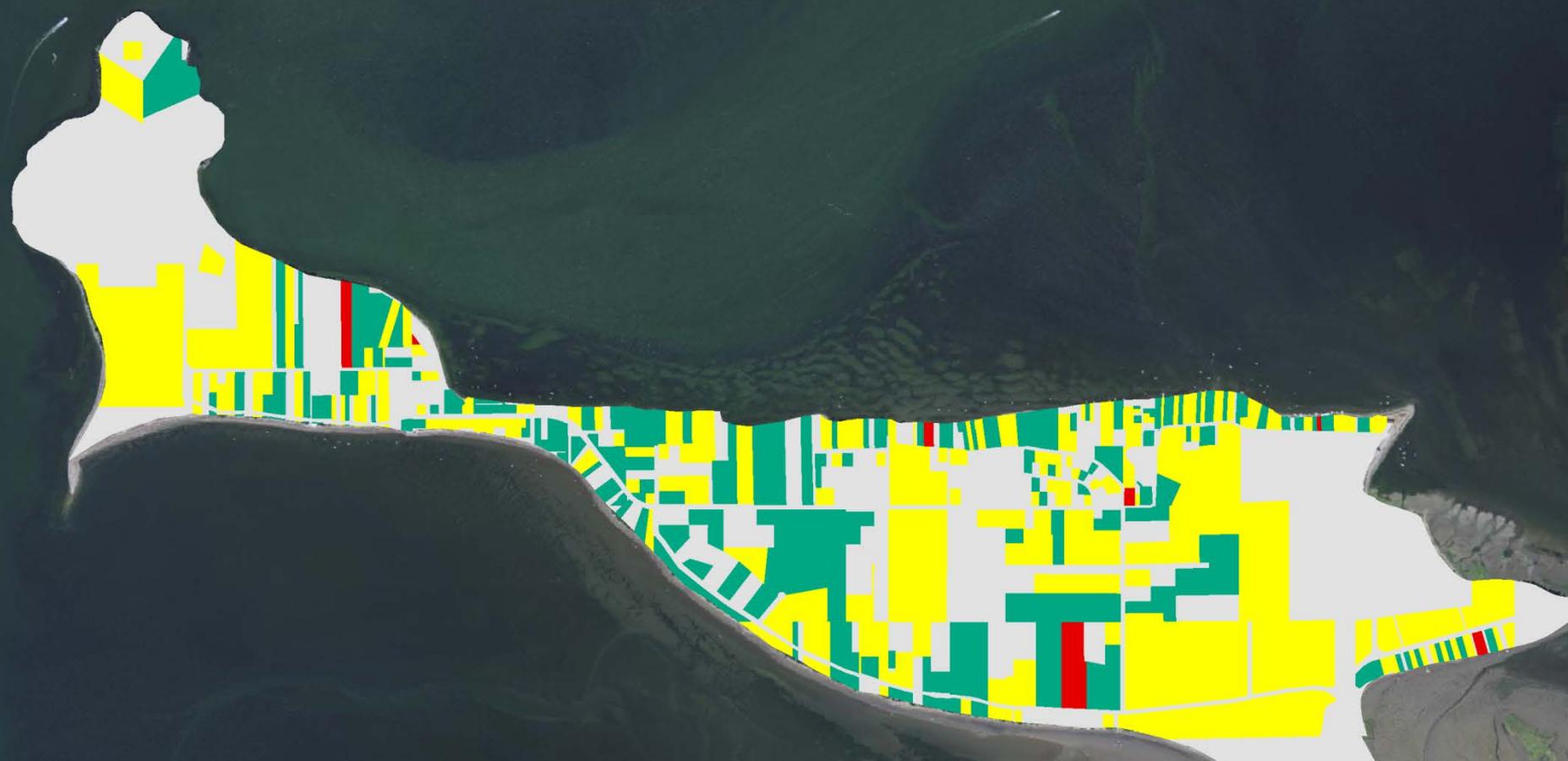
Bellingham

Samish
Island

Skagit

December 4, 2013

Marine Recovery Area On-site Sewage Systems Parcel Status



Genesis of Septic Finance Project

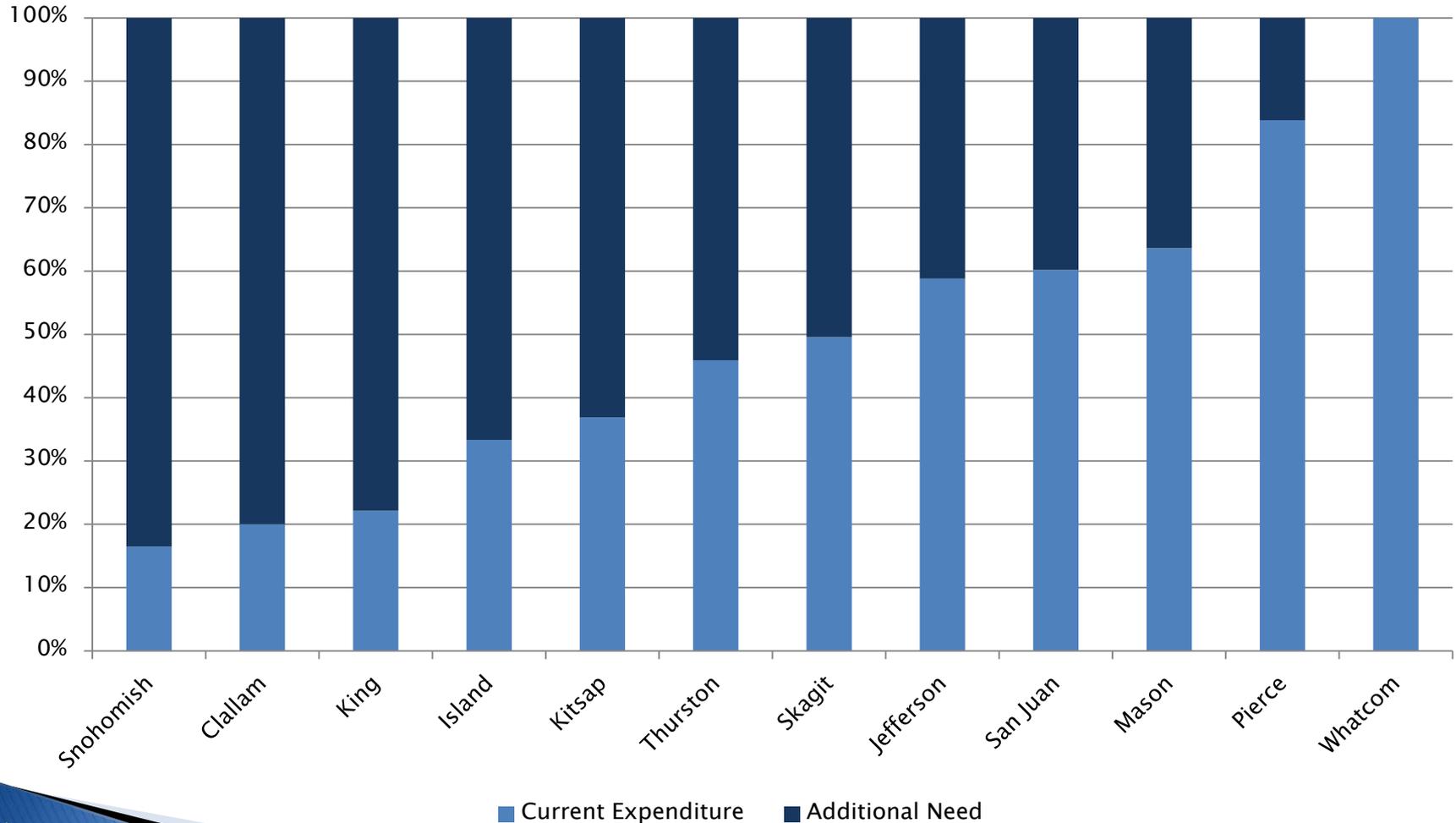
- EPA National Estuary Program Funding (started 2010)
- Puget Sound Environmental Health Directors Ranked Regional Priorities (2011)
- Puget Sound Action Agenda (2012)
 - Septic finance programs listed as priority actions

Advisory Committee Members

- ▶ County Commissioners (2)
- ▶ Environmental Health Directors (3)
- ▶ City Treasurer (1)
- ▶ Washington Realtors Association (1)
- ▶ Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (1)
- ▶ Building Industry Association of Washington (1)
- ▶ Washington State Local Public Health Officials (1)
- ▶ Washington Environmental Council (1)
- ▶ Shellfish Industry (1)
- ▶ Washington On-Site Sewage Association (1)
- ▶ Puget Sound Partnership (1)
- ▶ Department of Ecology (1)

Percent of Unmet Need

Current Expenditures and Unmet Need by County, 2013



Septic Financing Bill Summary

- ▶ Establish a \$30 minimum annual fee
- ▶ Require Puget Sound counties to update management plans every 5 years
- ▶ Authorize regional septic low-interest loan program
- ▶ Develop standards and guidance on program elements
- ▶ Encourage pollution identification and correction (PIC) efforts



Conclusion

- ▶ We're working on all pollution sources
- ▶ Working to build sustainable funding for local non-point source programs
- ▶ We're making EPA investments in local non-point source programs and providing incentives
- ▶ The work is unending and we're always looking at making lasting changes

**Thank You
Any Questions?**

Department of Health

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