

Measuring Success of San Juan Initiative

11.17.09

Overview:

The San Juan Initiative Policy Group and staff feel that the true test of our work needs to be measured in the outcomes over time. To ensure that our efforts to stay the course and deliver the outcomes we desire, the Policy Group established detailed measures of success that are posted on our website. Specifically, the Policy Group believes that we need to measure the success over time of achieving the following objectives:

1. Retain the current percentage of native vegetation, trees and ground cover along the shoreline.
2. Reduce the number of bulkheads/armoring along feeder bluffs and beaches.
3. Encourage builders, realtors, community leaders, county officials and the public to appreciate a strong working relationship in which each party is respected for their role in protecting the environment.
4. Provide property owners and county planners with convenient access to technical assistance for maintaining views, creating access to the shoreline, and protecting the shoreline. Provide property owners of beaches and bluffs and other important shoreline features with financial incentives to protect their stretch of shoreline.
5. Provide the County with effective and efficient ways to track permits and compliance. Create a system for builders and property owners who have submitted permit applications to know where they are in the system.

We recommend the County and the Puget Sound Partnership convene the implementing agencies and the Policy Group in 2010 and 2012 to review the results and determine if the objectives listed above are being achieved and, if not, take corrective action.

Monitoring Future Outcomes

By December 2010

1. No new bulkheads have been constructed without a permit, and a new soft shore beach project or threatened structure relocation has been completed where appropriate.
2. 75% of all exemption and substantial development permits have had post-construction inspections to ensure compliance with permit.
3. Riparian vegetation coverage in the case study areas is unchanged at 88%; or, sample of residential properties with new homes shows intact buffer vegetation.

4. 20 properties have received the green stewardship recognition from the Conservation District
5. Web-site is operating and gets 20 hits/month.
6. Policy Group is reconvened and reviews outcomes of monitoring for submission of report to County Council, Puget Sound Partnership, and other state and federal agency partners.

By December 2012

1. Newly installed (as of 2010) permit tracking system in County Planning Department has the capacity to effectively search and track shoreline permits.
2. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and County Planning Department have a way to cross reference state and county permits.
3. No new bulkheads have been constructed since the end of 2010 without a permit.
4. Post construction inspections are occurring 75% of the time for shoreline permits and shoreline exemptions.
5. Riparian vegetation within the case study areas has not decreased below 88% on any individual property.
6. 50 properties have received the technical assistance from Conservation District for shoreline issues.
7. Surveys of builders, property owners, and County staff show that they feel their collective efforts are working to successfully develop and maintain properties in a manner that protects ecosystem functions and promotes community, business, and government stewardship.
8. New science showing links between shoreline processes and human actions is being used by planners and policy makers.
9. Policy Group is reconvened and reviews outcomes of monitoring in a report to County Council and Puget Sound Partnership.