

Leadership and Partnership With Developing Communities

Increasing District Capacity to be an Effective
Local Government Partner on Land Use Issues

The Basics

It all begins with the Board



Be a Great Partner!

- n Adopt a Strong Organizational Character
 - n Relationships are everything

- n To be seen as a credible partner, act like one.
 - n Be civil - The real Golden Rule, always works better than the cynical one
 - n Create an environment where people can count on each other
 - n Bring your partner local governments into your planning processes, and they will bring you into theirs

Principles for Building & Maintaining Credibility Internally & Externally

- n When in doubt, OVER-communicate!
 - n With each other and your partners
- n Accurately represent the official positions and policies of your Board.
 - n District interactions with other local governments should be done in consultation with the Board, key staff and, where possible, coordinated through a consistent central point of contact.
- n Make inter-agency agreements living documents, keep them up to date and make them match-up with what is actually happening on the ground
- n NEVER burn bridges!

Building Cooperation Starts with Your Long Range Plan

- n Make your Long Range Plan “our” Long Range Plan by seeking advice and comment from your intergovernmental partners...and use it!
- n Ask your partners, “What can you do to help us implement our plan.”
- n You are seen as a serious partner, when you always use your long-range plan to drive funding decisions – Be brave! Don’t waver on this!

The District Role on Developing Lands and Urbanizing Lands



Your New District Motto..



“Every
Acre
Counts!”

Get the T-Shirt!



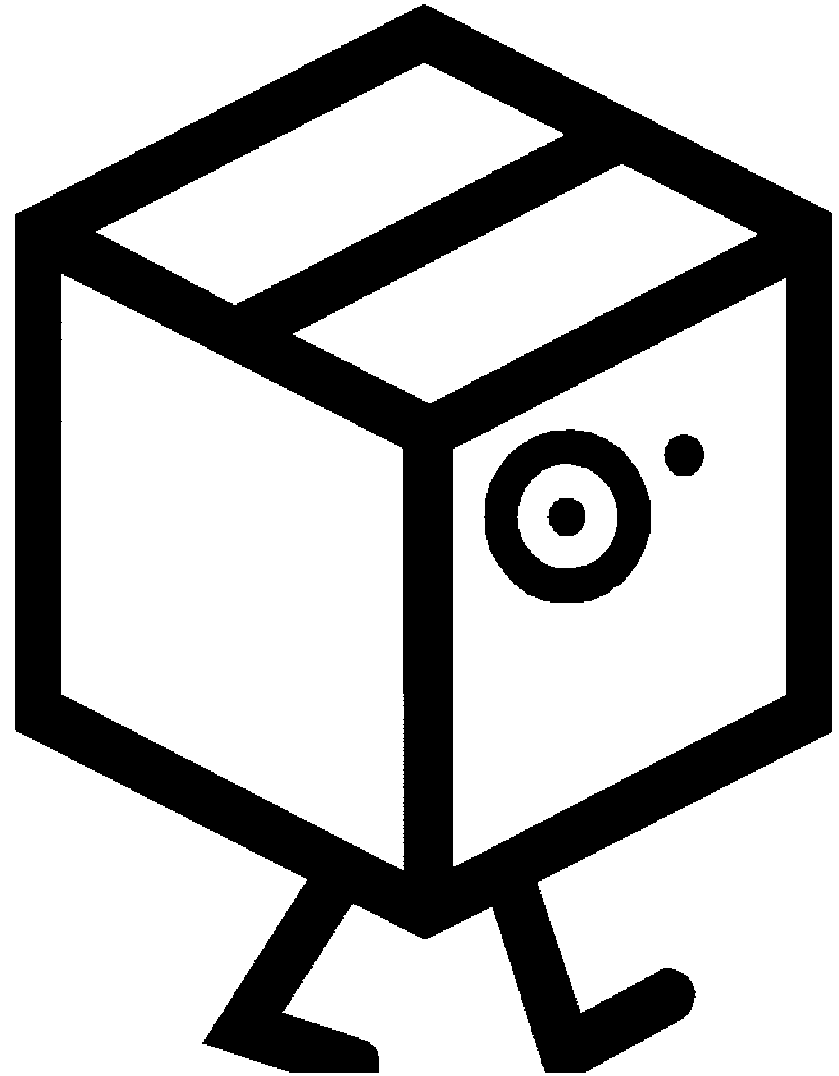
Does this sound familiar?



No Problem!

It's OK to think inside
the box...

Because it's a pretty nice
one!



What's in your district tool kit that your district could possibly offer your local planning department?



Memo to Planning Department: When you think of private lands, think of Conservation Districts

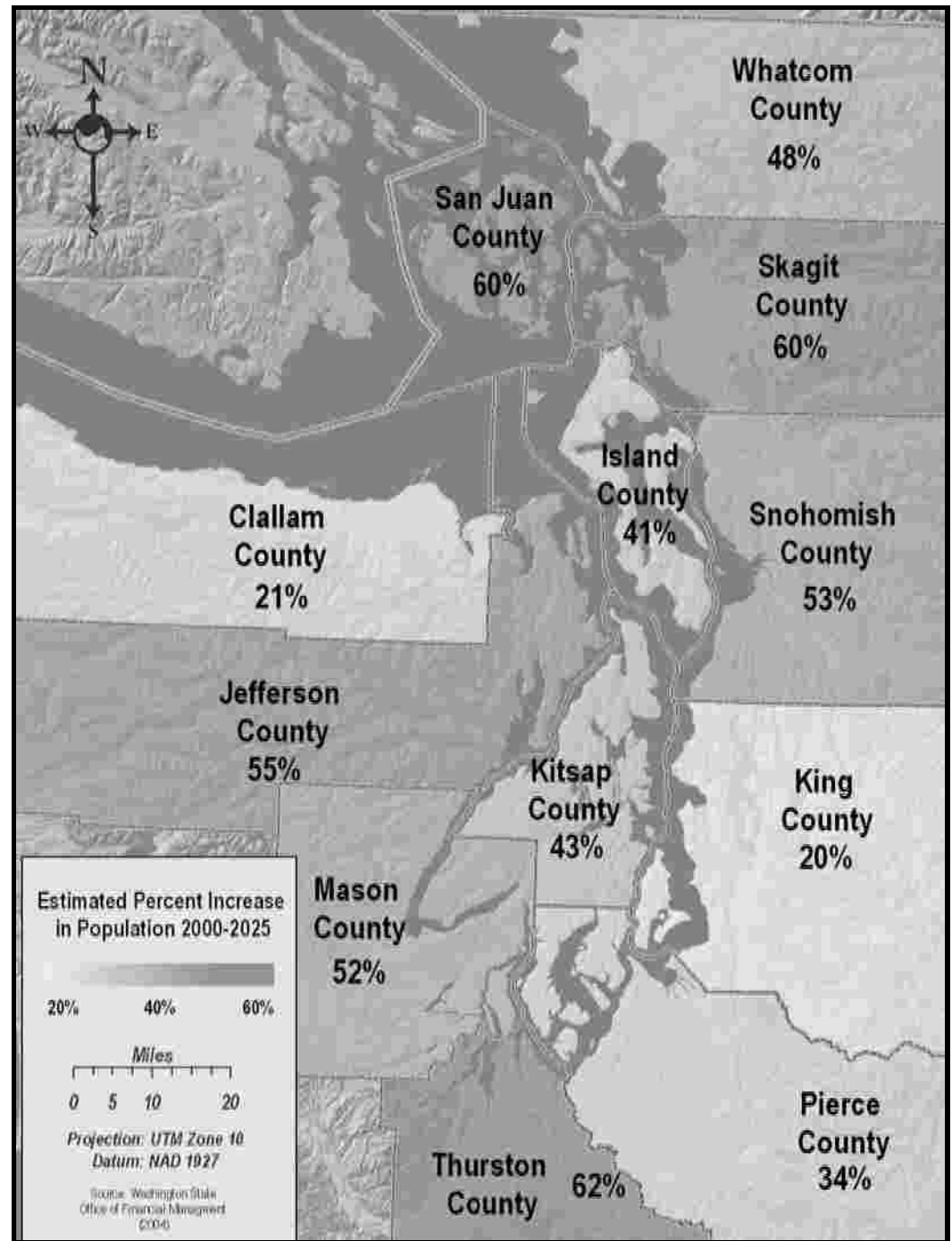


Demand for District Services

- n Increases with the number of landowners
 - n In Washington there are over 220,000 small-acreage parcels with livestock
 - n Snohomish CD receives over 200 new requests for service per year from small acreage owners



Puget Sound Population Growth: 2000 - 2025



Growth Management Act

- n Designation of Resource Lands “of long term significance”
- n Creation of Critical Areas Ordinances
- n Use of “best available science”

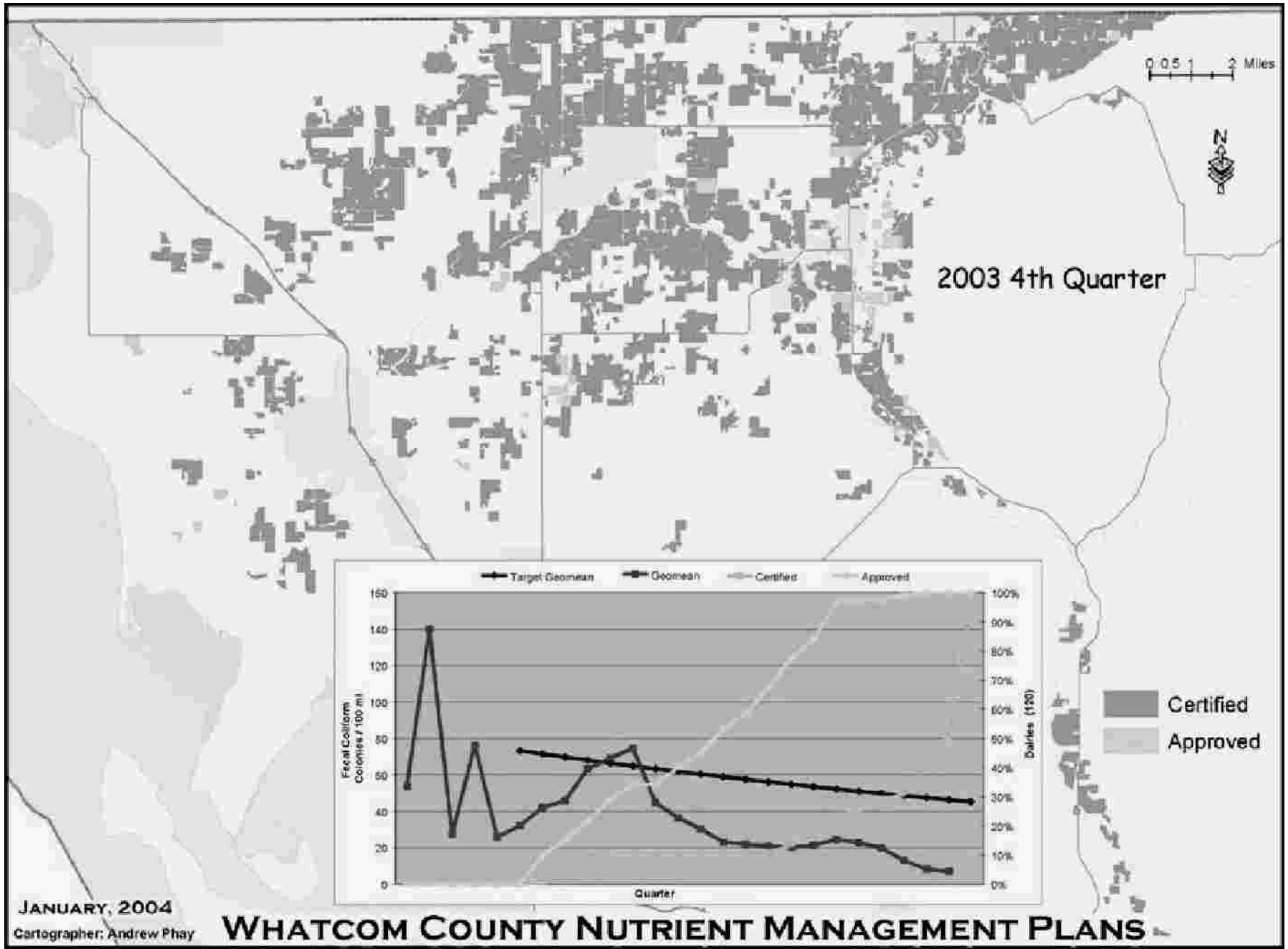
- n Well....guess what?

The wheel's already been invented!

- n The District Long Range Plan should have already identified resource lands of long term significance
- n NRCS Field Office Technical Guide not only is the "best available science," it's the best application of science available
- n So...here's what one Conservation District did

Whatcom Conservation District





Strategies for Protecting Critical Areas on Agricultural Land

- n Focus on farming activities
- n Reinforce with county programs
- n Balance requirements to risk
- n Standardized guidance that empowers individuals
- n Effective oversight that avoids duplication through cooperation
- n Capture environmental baseline and monitor progress in way that respects privacy
- n Support both technically & financially

Balancing Requirements to Risk

- n Each farm/ranch is unique but grouped to achieve program efficiencies, effectiveness and resources as follows:
- n Low impact = < one animal per farmable acre
- n High impact = dairy, AFO/CAFOs
- n Medium impact = all others: crop, orchard, livestock (not low or high risk), drainage improvement districts.
- n High Intensity Operations Comply with
 - n General Permit requirements
 - n Specific NPDES permit requirements
- n MOA with State Agencies
- n County staff proactively enforce program elements

Technical & financial support

- n Technical Assistance

- n NRCS & Conservation Districts

- n One on one to individual producers

- n To groups through newsletters & work shops

- n Financial Assistance

- n Federal & State

- n Priority practices protecting water quality

But Wait! There's More!

- n Districts in Washington are learning that their expertise can be used in a whole new way.
- n Assisting their communities to develop using a softer footprint

Conservation Districts
and
Low Impact Development

Effects of Stormwater on Water Quantity

- n Flooding and property damage.
- n Damage to stream channels during wet months and lower stream flows during dry months
- n Less groundwater recharge.



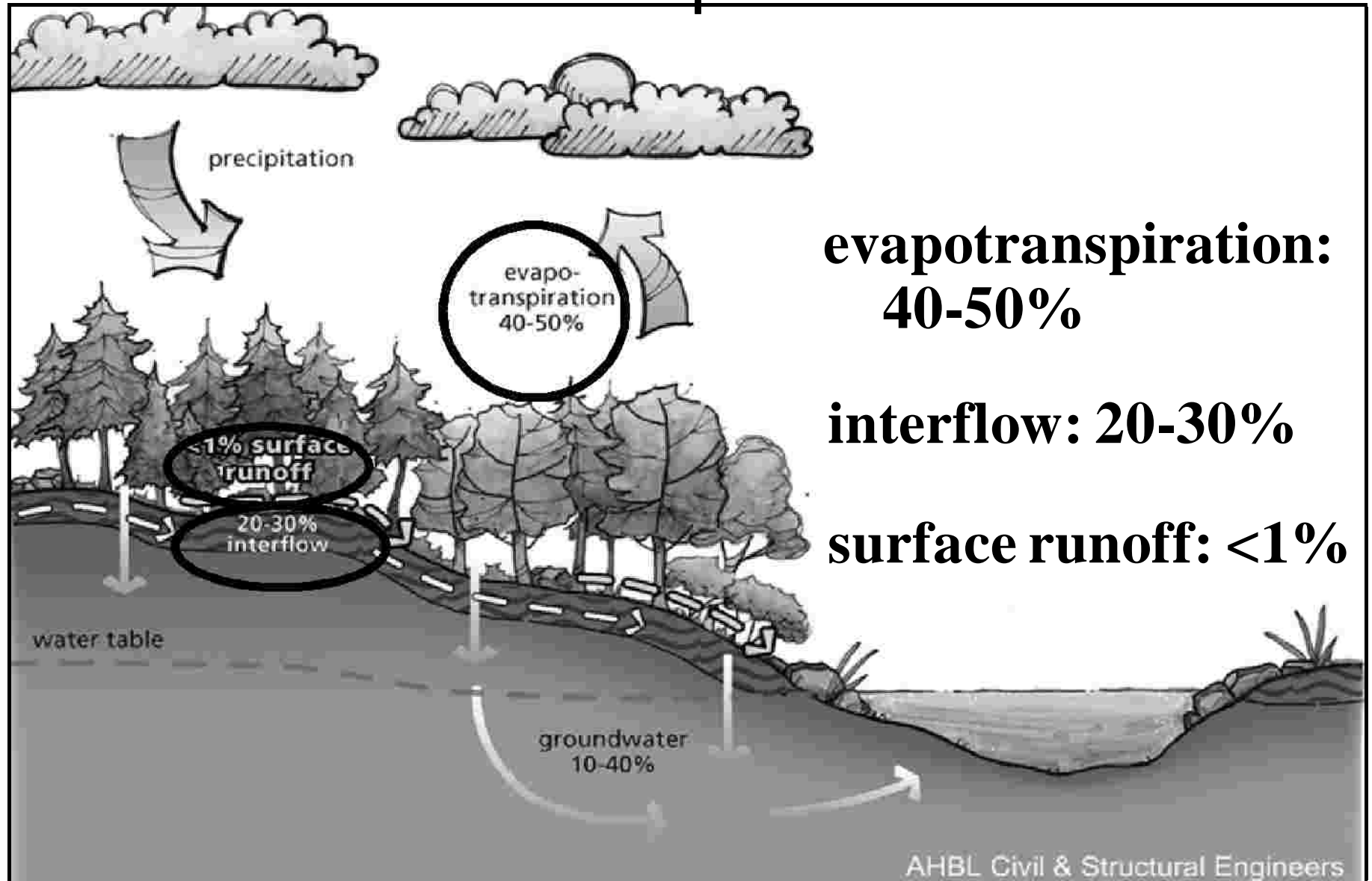
*Photo courtesy Hans Hunger,
Pierce County Water Programs*

Effects of Stormwater on Water Quality

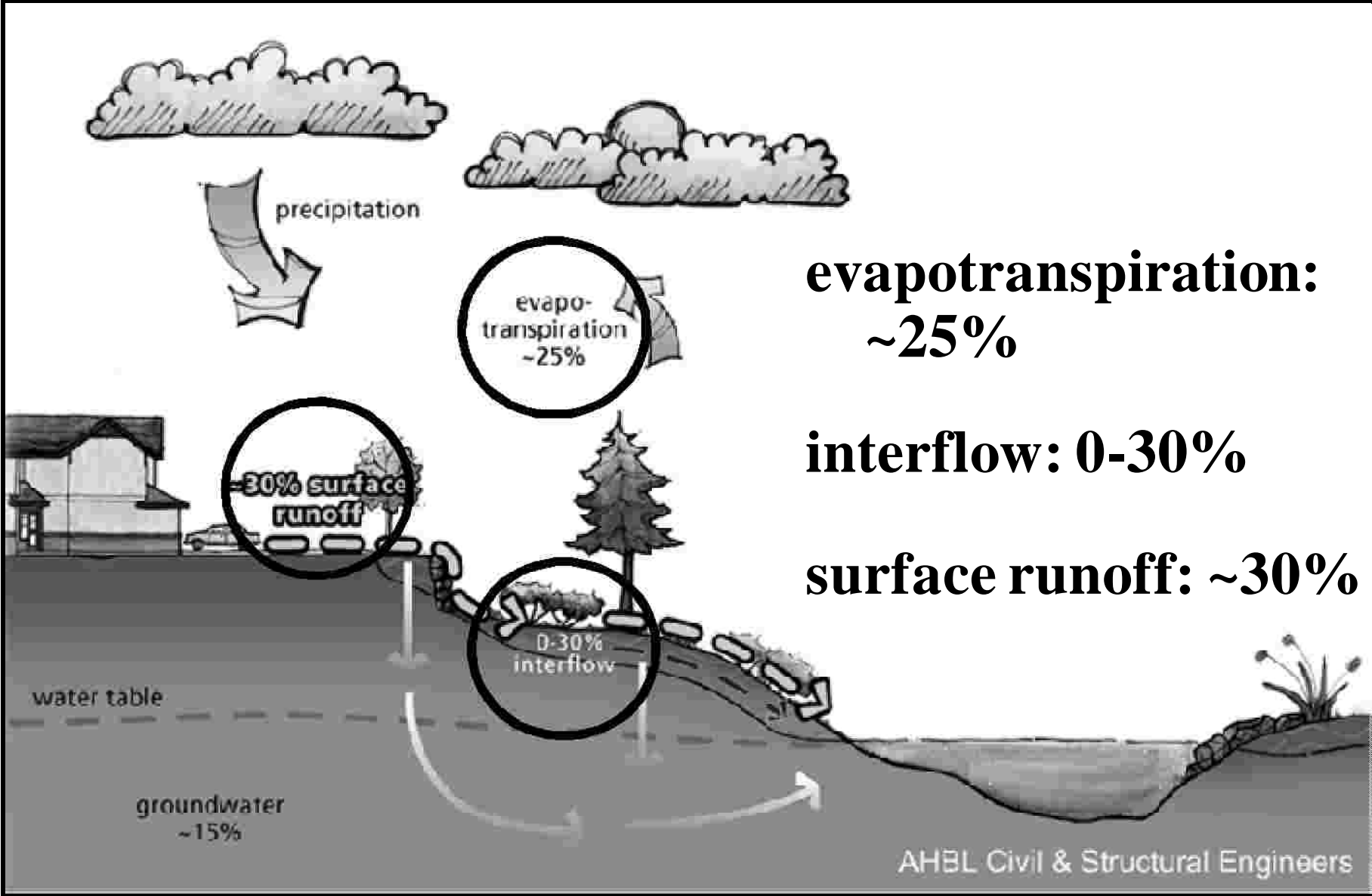
- n Restrictions on shellfish harvest
- n Harm to fish and other aquatic life.
- n Polluted sediments

Photo courtesy Taylor Shellfish Farms, Inc.

Watershed Hydrology BEFORE Development



Watershed Hydrology AFTER Development



Low Impact Development

- n Mimics site natural hydrology.
- n Uses suite of site design elements and practices.
- n Protects and uses site's natural features.
- n Uses many small-scale stormwater controls.
- n Manages stormwater close to the source.
- n Applies to urban, suburban & rural sites.

Benefits of LID

- n Can better protect water resources.
- n Can reduce infrastructure costs.
- n Creates more attractive, livable communities.
- n Can enhance property values.
- n Helps meet stormwater requirements.
- n FREE, incentive based service provided by conservation districts.

Limitations of LID

- n Not a substitute for stormwater standards
- n Does not replace effective land use planning.
- n Some areas may not be suitable for LID. These areas require other protective implementation elements of the Backyard Conservation Program developed by NRCS and delivered through the conservation districts.



Integrated Management Practices

- n Bioretention
- n Amended soils
- n Permeable pavement
- n Vegetated roofs
- n Rainwater harvesting
- n Minimal excavation foundations

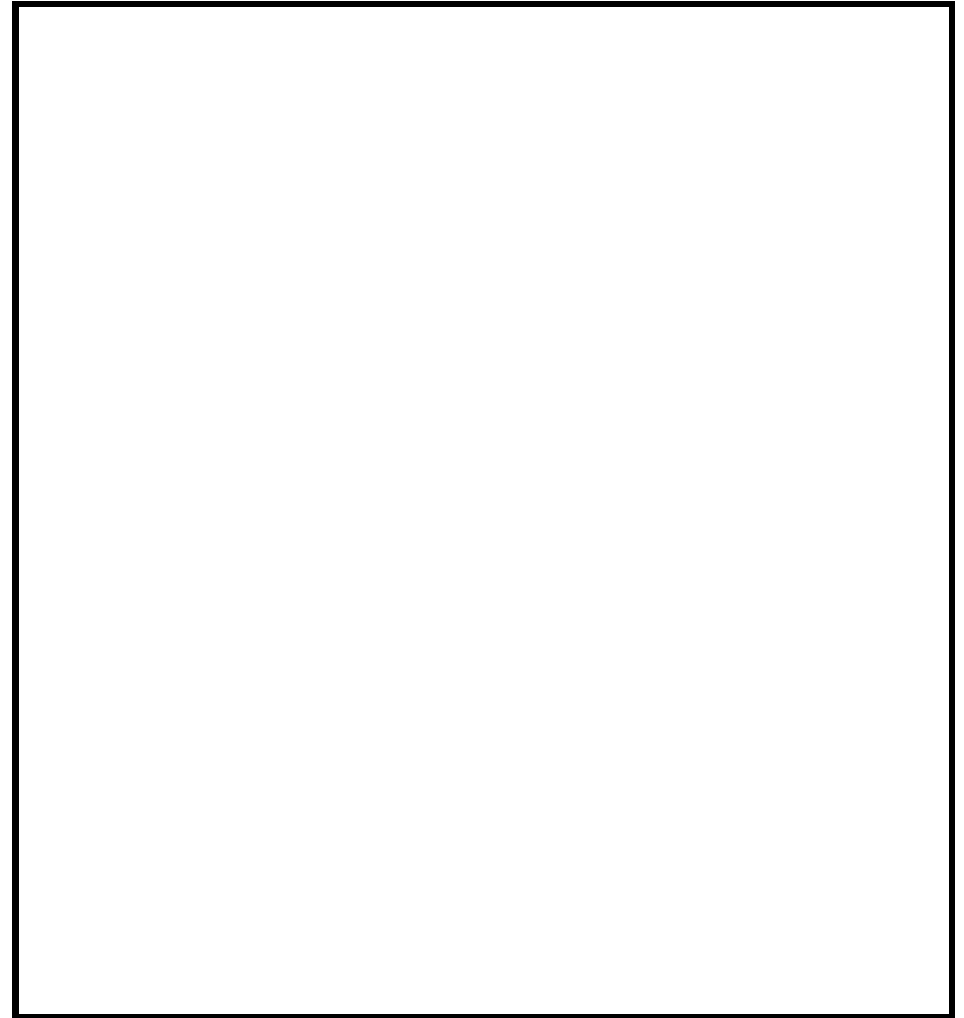


Photo courtesy Seattle Public Utilities

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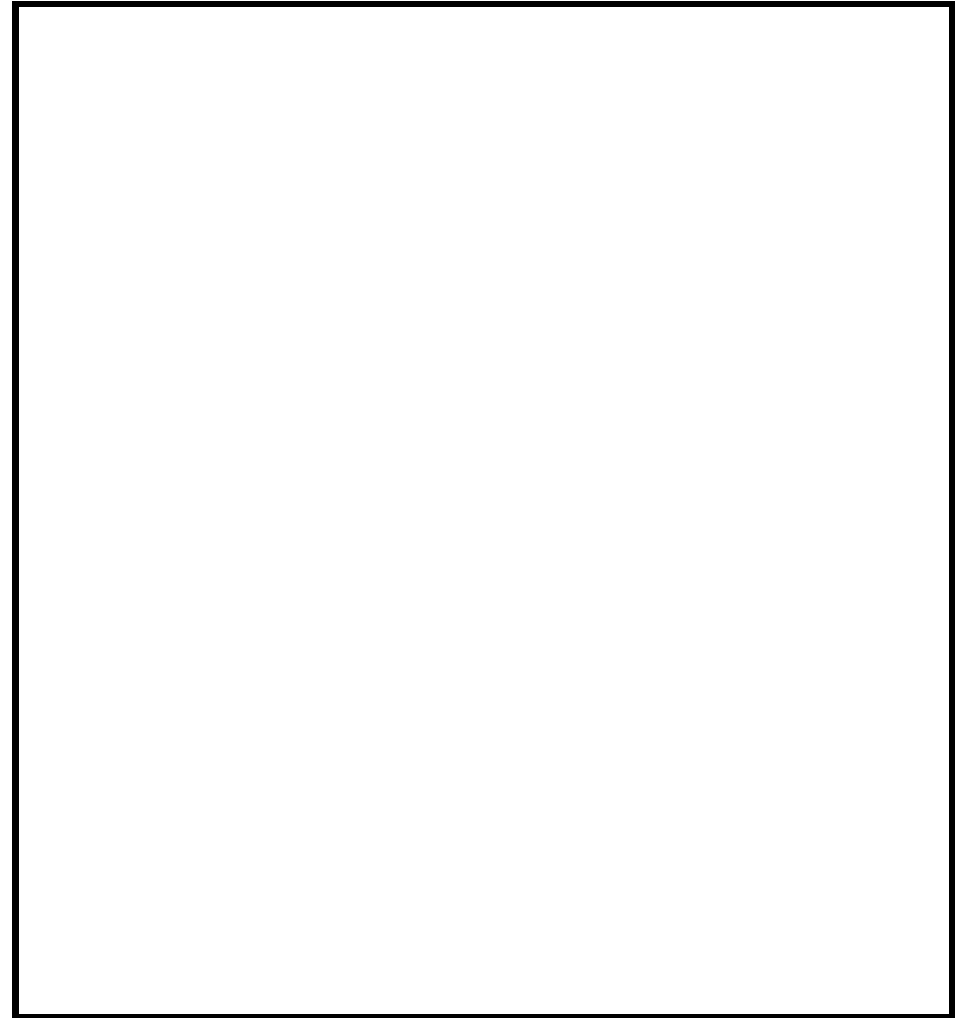


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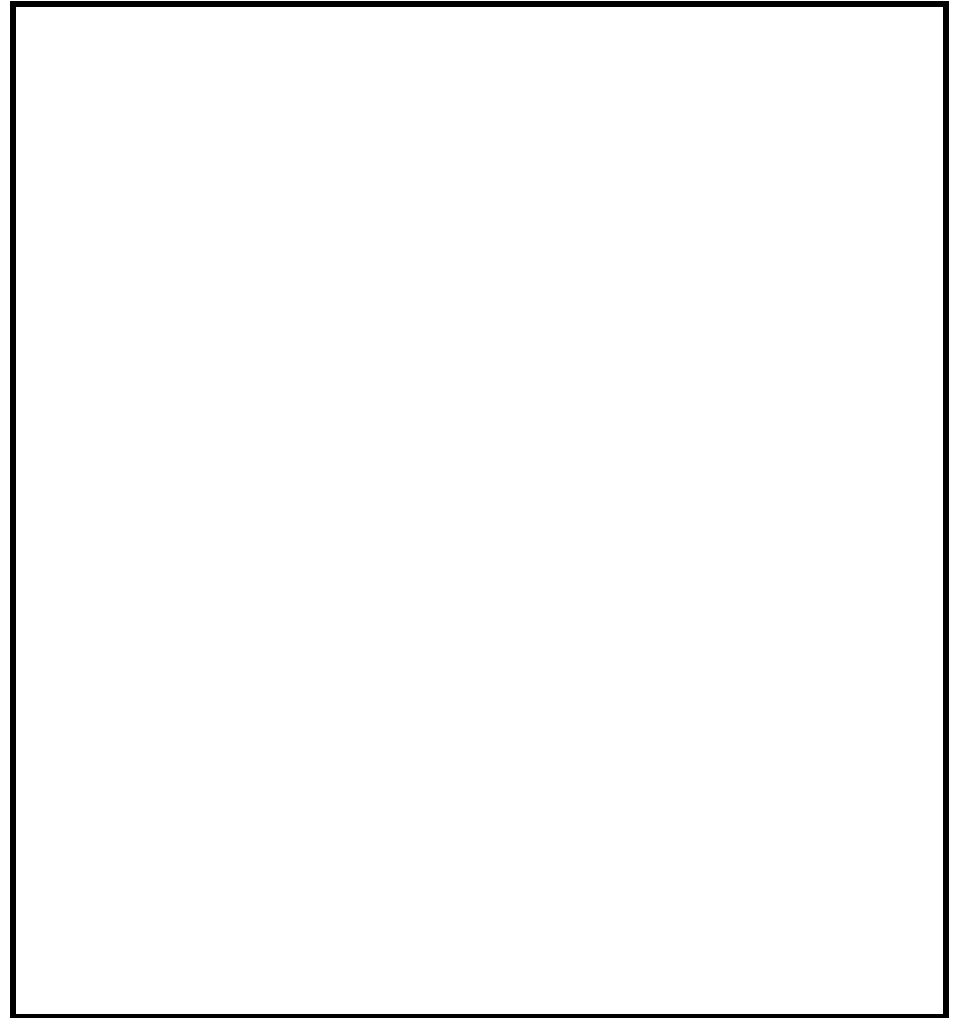


Photo courtesy 2020 Engineering

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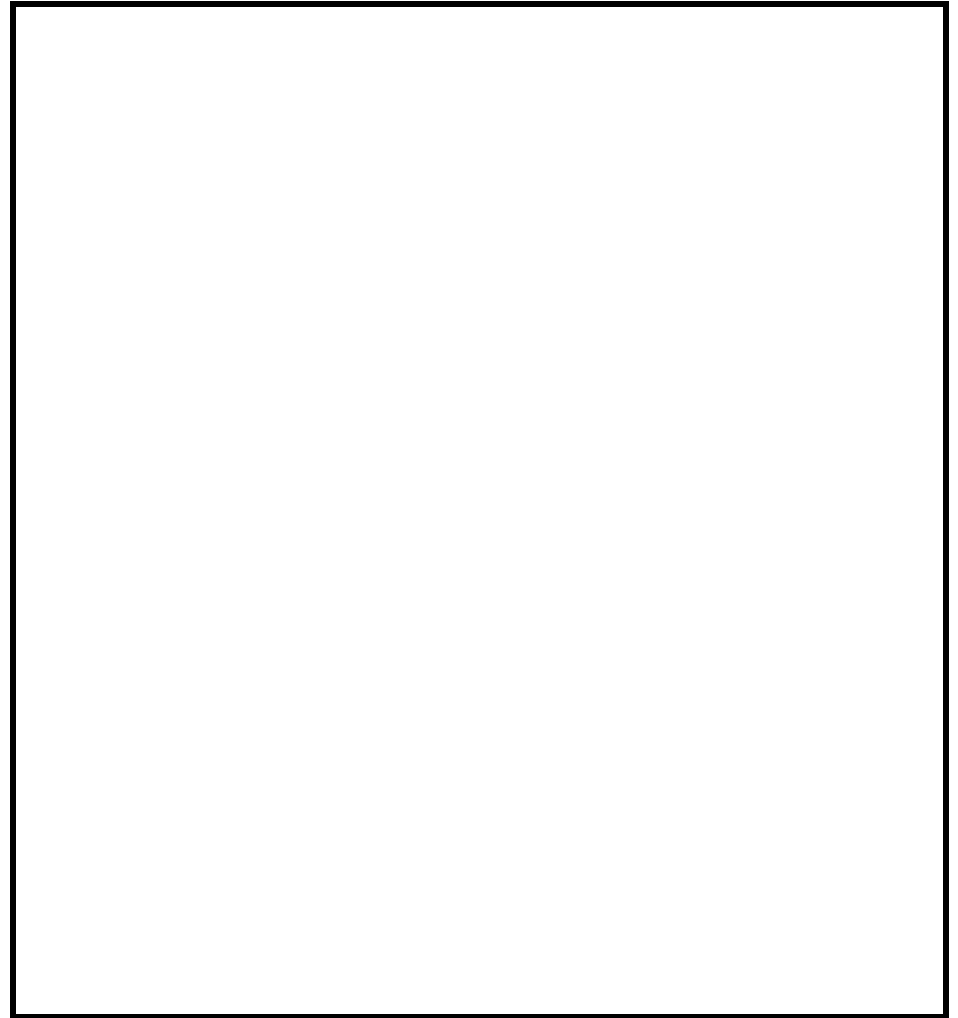


Photo courtesy SvR Design

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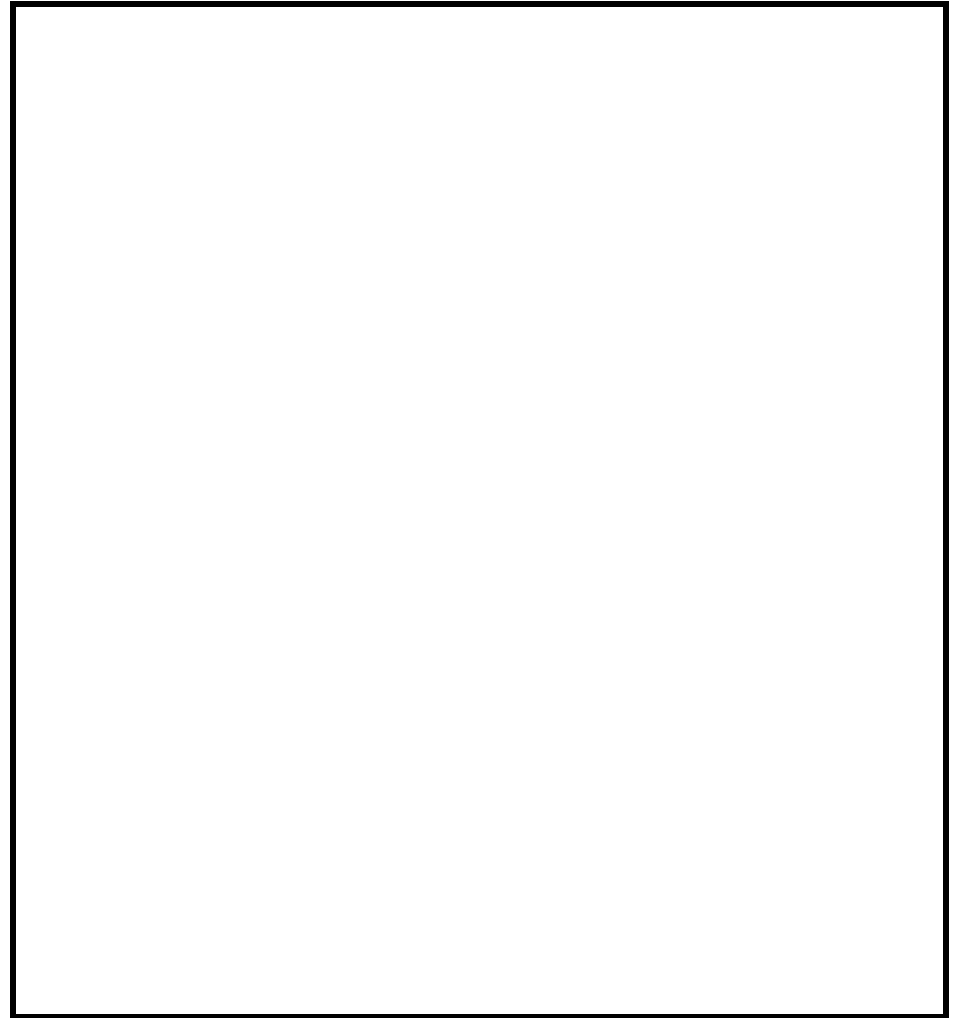


Photo courtesy Northwest Water Source

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Photo courtesy Tom Holz

To be even more effective, we need
more of these...

Examples of Low Impact Development Programs




BOARD & STAFF • MISSION • PROGRAMS • COMING EVENTS • LINKS

- n Planning Department essentially inactive
- n District stepped-in to provide developers and landowners guidance



Examples of Low Impact Development Programs

- n  King Conservation District.
- n District engineer worked with City of Seattle created a template for implementing the city's LID effort.
- n Template can be transferred to other jurisdictions

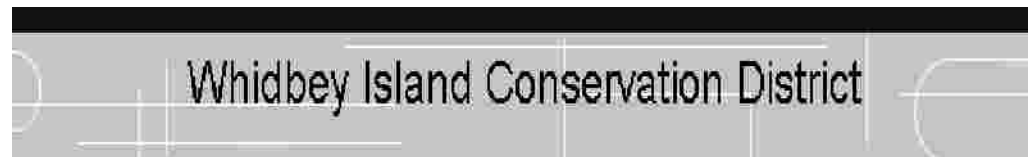
Examples of Low Impact Development Programs



- n Received a small \$20,000 EPA Grant to train a developer and their engineer to implement a low impact development in Port Angeles.
- n Word gets around...Other developers are calling the district asking for their assistance
- n EPA is pretty excited about the potential of districts to implement LID

...and my personal favorite...

n the



- n Rebuilding their program by making their centerpiece program low impact development and backyard conservation.
- n Beginning with partnership with the City of Langley

Home Work...

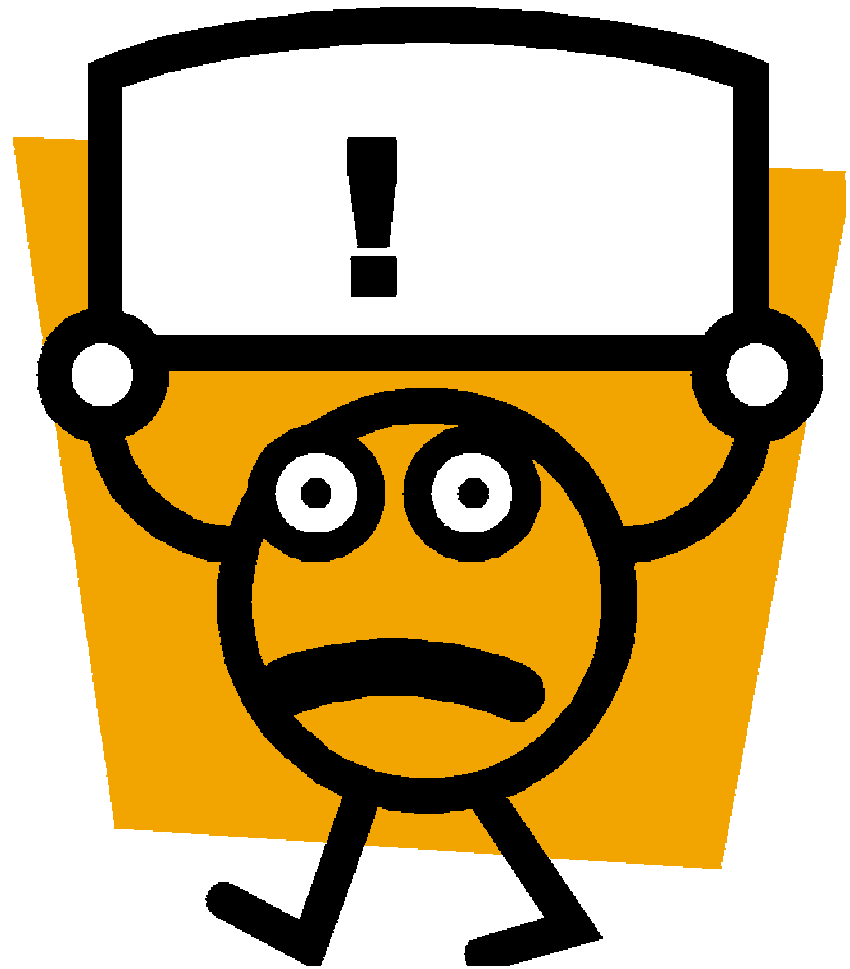
- n Think about the districts you represent and the programs you manage
- n What is the most challenging local partnership situation that exists in your state, area or district.
 - n What are the top two things you would do to make it better?
- n Now think of the district with the best local partnerships
 - n What are the top two things you would ask them to consider to make them great?

A couple of useful ideas when I'm out of logical explanation for irrational politicians, a useful view of the world ...

"Politics are for people who have a passion for changing life, but a lack of passion for living it"

- Bonanza Jellybean, Cowgirl

From Even Cowgirls Get the Blues by Tom Robbins



Finally, for alternative strategies in working with private landowners...

- n Please see the Dreamworks presentation:



- n At a theater near you...



Thanks!

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