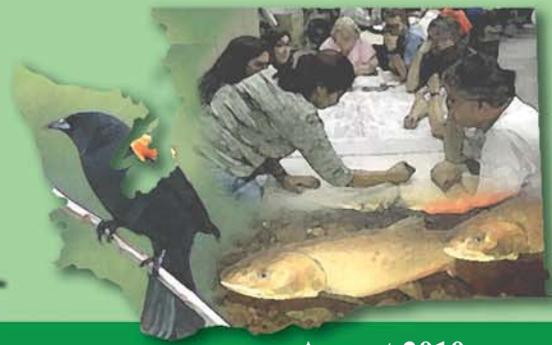


Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

August 2010

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How the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project can inform SMP updates

By Margen Carlson & Katie Knight, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

A new product is available to identify factors that have degraded many of the physical processes of Puget Sound's nearshore environment. Produced by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP), the "Change Analysis" geodatabase identifies and describes changes to environmental conditions (from their historic state) along all of Puget Sound. Created to support PSNERP's comprehensive restoration planning, this tool may also be useful to jurisdictions that are updating Shoreline Master Programs (SMP). These jurisdictions will find it particularly useful for updating certain SMP elements such as shoreline inventory and characterization, classification of environmental designations, cumulative impacts analysis, restoration planning, and in meeting the standard for no-net-loss.



Courtesy of the Washington Department of Ecology
Shown here is a channel blockage near the outlet of the Nisqually River. The dike that caused this impairment has since been removed, restoring key physical processes to the estuary.

What is PSNERP's Change Analysis Geodatabase?

The PSNERP team created the Change Analysis geodatabase by comparing maps from the 1850's with more recent datasets and photos. The database can be used for project analysis throughout the nearshore¹ of Puget Sound and can support analysis at a variety of scales (e.g., Puget Sound-wide, sub-basin, drift cell.). Because each user will be looking for answers to different types of questions, the data has been organized into the four "tiers" illustrated in the figure on the following page. This tiered approach gives each user the ability to answer different types of questions about nearshore restoration and protection (e.g., identification of watershed health). The geodatabase ultimately can assist with local planning by helping jurisdictions identify the fundamental causes of ecosystem decline along Puget Sound's shorelines.

Relevance to Shoreline Master Programs

The PSNERP Change Analysis tool is well-suited to shoreline planning because it can be used at a variety of scales and can help identify ways of protecting and restoring nearshore ecosystems. One critical use of the geodatabase is in helping develop the inventory and characterization report; the foundation of the Shoreline Master Program. In particular, PSNERP's Change Analysis tool can provide key information required in the inventory and characterization report. This includes current shoreline conditions as well as actions for shoreline protection and restoration. When paired with local knowledge and biological indicators, the geodatabase can help a jurisdiction efficiently complete a thorough inventory and characterization.

Please see PSNERP on Page two

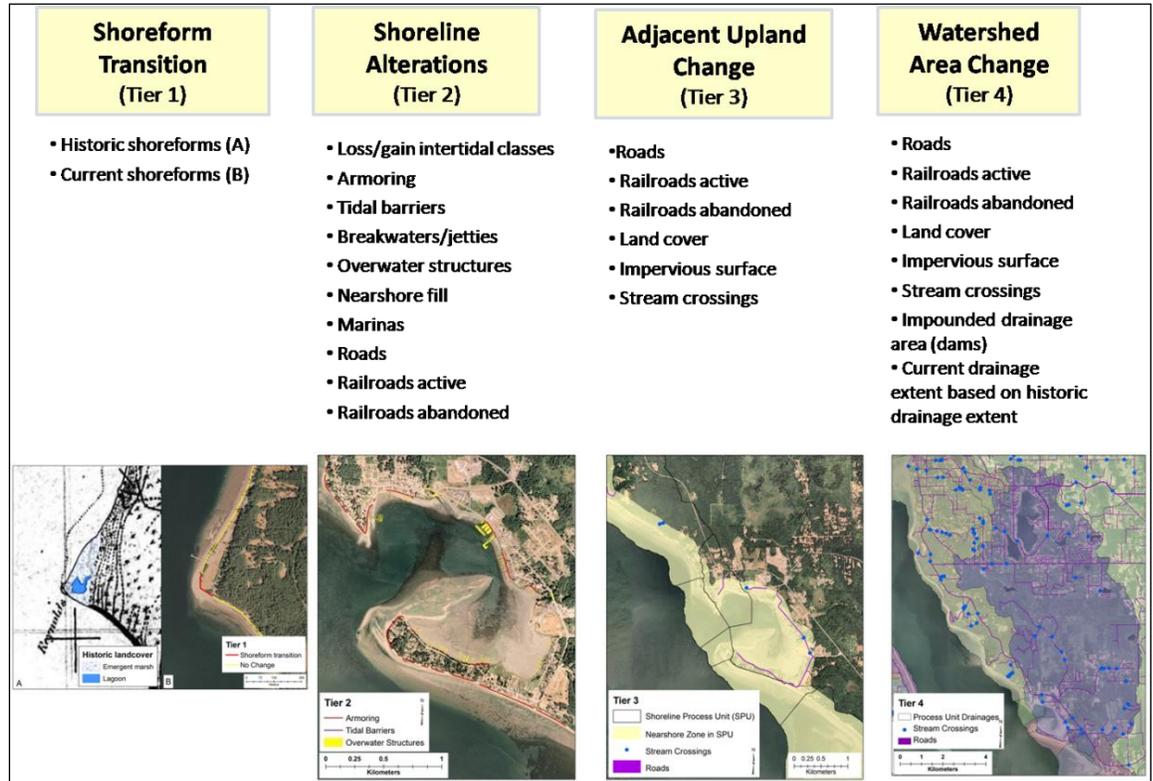
¹Area encompassing the shallow water of estuarine deltas and marine shorelines, the top of the coastal bank to water depths where light supports plant growth, and rivers upstream to the end of tidal influence.



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Change Analysis can also help in designating shoreline environments as required in local SMPs. These designations that are used to establish permitted uses and development standards can be identified using Change Analysis data. In particular, the geodatabase can help ensure that environmental designations are supported with accurate and relevant information (e.g., existing land uses, shoreline function, potential for restoration/protection).



Change Analysis Geodatabase Layers depicted in four tiers.

The original source data used in the Change Analysis tool can also be teased out to help in identifying key indicators to meet the SMP standard of no-net-loss of ecological functions. This standard of no-net-loss has been a difficult one for local governments to meet because of a lack of consistent and measurable indicators. Information about various ecological stressors derived from Change Analysis (e.g., armoring, roads, fill, etc.) may serve as the indicators to be measured and analyzed. These potential indicators may help local governments better address no-net-loss and help to identify ways to reduce the cumulative impacts of development.

Tailoring the Change Analysis Tool

To achieve a consistent analysis and to allow for accurate comparisons, the PSNERP team passed over any data that were only available for portions of Puget Sound. Although this approach was taken, it should not be assumed that data missing from the geodatabase is not of value to some jurisdictions. In some instances this type of data (i.e., data covering smaller geographic areas) will actually enhance the tool’s ability to address local issues. For example, a jurisdiction with more detailed local shoreline armoring data could use that in place of the existing PSNERP armoring data to further enhance their analysis. With this type of scenario in mind, the team created a geodatabase that could be amended to accommodate locally-derived datasets.

Learn More about PSNERP’s Change Analysis

A [presentation](#) can be viewed on the Web to get a better understanding of PSNERP and the Change Analysis geodatabase. A direct [link](#) to the geodatabase is found at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ website. It is important to note that accessing and interpreting the geodatabase requires a professional with an expertise in geospatial analysis. For additional information about shoreline project planning and for WDFW technical assistance, go to http://wdfw.wa.gov/habitat/gma_sma/.

Puget Sound nearshore guidance updated

The publication entitled *Protecting Nearshore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound* was recently amended. This document, which provides a synthesis of “best available science” for the nearshore environment, was considered “interim” given that the science is evolving rapidly, especially with the Governor’s focus on the health of Puget Sound. The guidance now contains recommendations that are found in the Aquatic Habitat Program’s white paper, *Protection of Marine Riparian Functions in Puget Sound, Washington*. Given these amendments, we are asking users of the “interim guide” to now refer to the updated publication.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2010 Washington Planners’ Forums:**

- Fall Forums**

- Oct 21 – Southwest Wash. – Vancouver.....Email Contact: [Joyce Phillips](#)
- Oct 21 – Olympic Peninsula – Location TBD.....Email Contact: [Janet Rogerson](#)
- Oct 20 – Northwest Wash. – Ferndale.....Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- Oct 27 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend C.C., Moses Lake.....Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. The dates and locations are subject to change, so make sure to email the forum contact prior to attendance. The contact person can also supply a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **American Planning Association - Washington Chapter Regional Conference**

Save the date! This annual conference will take place at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick on October 5–6. The theme for this year’s conference is “Implementing Smart and Healthy Growth.”

- **Climate change and birds: a west coast perspective**

Sponsored by the California and Oregon/Washington Chapters of Partners in Flight, presenters will discuss climate change science related to landbirds in Washington, Oregon, and California. Breakout sessions will facilitate communication between researchers and managers. The conference will take place in Ashland, Oregon on October 19th – 20th. For more information, contact [Jaime Stephens](#) or [Aaron Holmes](#).

- **American Planning Association - 2011 National Planning Conference**

Save the date! The APA will be holding its annual conference in Boston from April 9th through April 12th. The deadline to [submit a proposal](#) to present at this conference is August 24th.

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort between several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals who make decisions about coastal management in Washington. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and coastal resource managers. The upcoming course schedule can be found on [CTP’s website](#).

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is on the [Department of Commerce’s website](#). Courses are scheduled at the request of communities and are open to the public. Everyone who attends receives a course manual. Call or email [Janet Rogerson](#) with questions at 360.725.3047.

Grant opportunities

- **Water quality grants and loans**

The Washington Department of Ecology administers an integrated program to fund projects that improve and protect water quality. Each year, Ecology’s Water Quality Program accepts applications from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and some qualified non-profits seeking financial help to improve or protect water quality in their communities. To make the process simpler and more efficient, applicants can submit one application for all three state and federal grant and loan funding sources. The application period runs from September 1 – November 5. Application information and materials and application workshop dates will be posted on [Ecology’s Water Quality Program web site](#). Question about this program can be directed to [Jeff Nejedly](#).
- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program**

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is a protection and restoration funding opportunity developed by the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership to support the transition from opportunistic project funding to strategic and sustained nearshore ecosystem restoration in Puget Sound. An application for funding is due in October. Contact [Betsy Lyons](#) if interested in applying for funds.
- **River restoration grants**

American Rivers, through its partnership with NOAA’s Community-based Restoration Program, provides funding for dam removal or fish passage projects to individuals and organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and tribal governments; and other commercial and non-profit organizations. The partnership funds projects that benefit anadromous fish and support the restoration of habitat for anadromous species. Questions about the grant and about the upcoming funding cycle can be directed to Serena McClain at rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org.
- **Get your community involved in watershed restoration**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports science-based watershed restoration initiatives that demonstrate strong community engagement and strive to implement a long-term restoration approach. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$40,000 annually for up to a 10-year period. BEF accepts letters of inquiry on an open basis, and there is no official cycle for the review and solicitation of proposed Model Watershed Projects. Any individual, organization, tribe, or local government in the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low – and sometimes dry – with significant consequences for imperiled salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports program partners in the Columbia Basin by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) working in partnership with the [Bonneville Power Administration](#) (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the [Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#).
- **Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership Technical Assistance Opportunity**

Technical assistance funds are available to help project sponsors develop, design, and implement larger, more complex estuary restoration projects. Available services will include conceptual designs, engineering, hydrology, geotechnical and other technical skill sets. Applications are accepted on a rolling first come first served basis.
- **Additional grant opportunities**
 - The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s](#) list of grants.
 - Click [HERE](#) for the federal government’s primary grant search engine.
 - The Association of Washington Cities has an electronic newsletter called “[Grant Alert](#).” Many grants are relevant to natural resource issues affecting cities throughout Washington.
 - The [Department of Commerce](#) administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning.
 - The [Washington Biodiversity Project](#) provides an overview of opportunities to receive grants and incentives for projects that lead to the conservation of Washington’s biodiversity.

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

GMA and SMA Technical Assistance Web Page:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/planning/gma_sma/index.html

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

509.754.4624 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin); mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov

Southwest Washington:

Ted Labbe, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); ted.labbe@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Katie Knight, 360.902.2618, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Policy and Technical Assistance Coordination:

Katie Knight, 360.902-2562; katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment:

John Jacobson, 360-902-2479; john.jacobson@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N · Olympia, WA · 98501-1091