

## Appendix F: County-wide Planning Policies

**[This section needs to be updated with 2004 CWPP]**

Attached is an excerpt from the Kitsap Countywide Planning Policy as adopted by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on November 24, 2003, and by ordinance December 15, 2003 (Ordinance 312-2003). The Countywide Planning Policy as revised is currently in effect in Kitsap County.

As of January 22, 2004, these revisions have been ratified by City of Bainbridge Island, City of Bremerton, City of Poulsbo, Suquamish Tribal, and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Councils.

The Kitsap Countywide Planning Policy is the framework for growth management in Kitsap County. Under the Growth Management Act, the Puget Sound Region is defined as King, Kitsap, Snohomish and Pierce Counties. The Puget Sound Regional Council is responsible for developing the four-county regional transportation and land use vision. The Kitsap Countywide Planning Policy tailors the Puget Sound Regional Council's regional growth management guidelines to Kitsap County and are the policy framework for the County's and the Cities' comprehensive plans. The Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies address 15 separate elements, ranging from urban growth areas to affordable housing.

### **Element D. Open Space, Resource Protection, and Critical Areas**

Open space is defined as land area consisting of natural systems, resource lands and critical areas that include building limitations for future development. These critical areas include wetlands, wildlife conservation areas, steep slopes, frequently flooded areas and areas with a critical recharging affect. These open space lands also include aesthetic functions such as view sheds of the water or ridgelines. Many of these natural systems are inter-connected and cross multi-jurisdictional boundaries within the County. The strategy is to conserve these areas and connect them to create a regional open space network to protect critical areas, conserve natural resources, and preserve lands and resources of countywide and local significance

#### **1. The following policies relate to creating a regional network of open space:**

- a. The County and the Cities shall implement the Kitsap County Open Space Plan and the Kitsap County Consolidated Greenway Plan which identify a countywide green space strategy that incorporates planning efforts of the County, Cities, state agencies, non-profit interest groups and land trusts in the County.
- b. The County and the Cities shall preserve and enhance, through inter-jurisdictional planning, significant networks and linkages of open space, regional parks and public/private recreation areas, wildlife habitats, critical areas resource lands, water bodies and trails.
- c. The County and the Cities shall frame and separate urban areas by creating and preserving a permanent network of urban and rural open space, including parks, recreation areas, critical areas and resource lands.

**2. The following policies relate to conserving and enhancing the County's natural resources, critical areas and environmental amenities while planning for and accommodating sustainable growth:**

- a. The County's and the Cities' Comprehensive Plans shall each address regional air and water quality protection.
- b. The County and the Cities shall protect critical areas (wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, steep slopes, and geologically hazardous areas) and other environmental amenities such as view corridors, canopy cover, and ridgelines.
- c. The County and the Cities shall establish and implement best management practices to protect the long-term integrity of the natural environment, adjacent land use, and the productivity of resource lands.
- d. The County and the Cities shall establish procedures to preserve significant historic, visual and cultural resources including views, landmarks, archaeological sites, and areas of special locational character.
- e. The County and the Cities shall encourage the use of environmentally sensitive development practices to minimize the impacts of growth on the County's natural resource systems.
- f. The County and the Cities shall work together to identify, protect, and restore networks of natural habitat areas and functions that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.
- g. The County and Cities shall protect and enhance ecosystems that support Washington State's Priority Habitat and Species as identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- h. All jurisdictions shall maintain or enhance water quality through control of runoff and use of best management practices to protect aquatic resources.

**3. The following policies relate to listed species recovery under the Endangered Species Act (ESA):**

- a. The County and the Cities shall preserve, protect, and where possible restore the functions of natural habitat to support ESA-listed species, through the adoption of comprehensive plan policies, critical area ordinances, shoreline master programs and other development regulations that seek to protect, maintain or restore aquatic ecosystems associated habitats and aquifer through the use of management zones, development regulations, incentives for voluntary efforts of private landowners and developers, land use classifications or designations, habitat acquisition programs or habitat restoration projects.
- b. The County and the Cities shall provide incentive-based non-regulatory protection efforts such as acquisition of priority habitats through fee-simple and conservation easements from willing sellers.
- c. The County and the Cities shall jointly establish and implement monitoring and evaluation program to determine the effectiveness of restoration, enhancement, and recovery strategies for salmonids including ESA-listed species. Each jurisdiction shall apply an adaptive management strategy to determine how well the objectives of listed species recovery and critical habitat preservation/restoration are being achieved.

**4. The following policies relate to coordination of watershed and land use planning:**

- a. The County and the Cities shall participate in a planning program that determines changes in stream hydrology and water quality under different land use scenarios at full build-out of designated land use classifications.
- b. The County and the Cities shall coordinate land use planning using watersheds or natural drainage basins to implement strategies for restoration of aquatic habitat and to reduce impacts to other natural systems.
- c. Kitsap County shall coordinate and maintain a regional database of best available science for the purpose of modifying Critical Areas Ordinances, if funding is available.
- d. Upon adoption of a state classification system, the Cities and the County shall establish a single system for stream typing.