



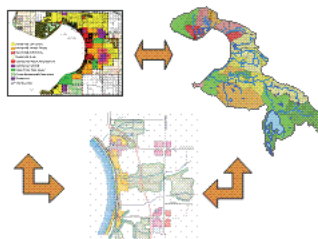
Birch Bay Watershed Action Plan

BE PART OF THE LOOP

This e-newsletter is intended to keep interested parties informed of progress, events, and developments related to watershed-based land use management in the Birch Bay Watershed. The newsletter has been sent to you because of your involvement or interest in the project in the past. Please circulate this email to those you think may be interested, and have them email me if they wish to be added to the distribution list or would like to discuss plans further.

Public involvement and guidance for the project will occur through:

- Public Workshops (Sept - Oct)
- Action Plan Web Site - It is a work in progress, but will be expanded as new materials become available.
- Individual and Stakeholder Meetings
- Goals described through existing plans



Integration of expressed community goals and natural resource services

[Action Plan Web Site](#) [existing plans](#)

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

Significant effort has been expended in recent years by the residents of the Birch Bay watershed to describe how they would like their community to develop. We plan to build on the expressed goals of existing plans to improve customer service related to permit review, pursue non-regulatory approaches that maintain and improve ecosystem services over time, and to develop standards that reflect unique watershed conditions: no longer a one-size-fits-all approach.

This project will refine and implement recommendations from the 2007 Watershed Characterization Pilot Study.

[Birch Bay Watershed Characterization Pilot Study ExecSummary](#)

COMING SOON

The consultant team is currently working on finding ways to identify and quantify ecosystem services in the Birch Bay watershed. This will assist in developing market, exchange or incentive systems to align economic interest with improvements to these services. A brief report will be available in October.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IS KEY



The US Environmental Protection Agency has provided grant funding through a cooperative agreement with Whatcom County. Whatcom County Planning and Development Services is managing the Action Plan, and Public Works will be handling the monitoring and stormwater facility inventories. A consultant team lead by ESA Adolfsen will work in conjunction with WA Department of Ecology, EPA, and Whatcom County staff on the technical aspects.

Work products will be reviewed by interested committees, stakeholder groups, and individuals from the community.

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 Questions or comments? E-mail us at pgill@co.whatcom.wa.us or call 360-676-6907