

BIRCH BAY ACTION PLAN OPEN HOUSE

HOSTED BY

**WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT – NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION.**

**JUNE 1, 2010 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
BIRCH BAY BIBLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
7039 JACKSON ROAD, BLAINE WA**

From 6PM – 8PM on June 1, 2010, the Whatcom County Natural Resources Division hosted an open house as a follow up to the November 21, 2009 open house, to discuss implementation tools for the Birch Bay Watershed Action Plan. The open house was attended by approximately 10 people.

The first half hour of the open house was dedicated to allowing the public to provide input to, and ask questions of, Whatcom County staff, and visit various displays including:

- Watershed Portfolios – Initial results of the watershed characterization
- Implementation Tools – Example LID Manuals, and a description of the Wetland In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program

At 6:30, Peter Gill, of Whatcom County Planning and Development Services, greeted the audience and introduced Margaret Clancy, a consultant with ESA Adolfson. Peter and Margaret then provided a powerpoint presentation. The presentation covered the problems within the Birch Bay Watershed that need to be resolved, possible solutions and opportunities for community involvement.

Questions were taken throughout the presentation. Input included a desire to determine the amount of wetlands required for watershed health and then to allow development of any excess wetlands, over how the action plan would impact agriculture, how the action plan would interface with the Critical Areas Ordinance and the Conservation Program on Agricultural Lands, the importance of building on previous planning efforts through implementation rather than producing more planning documents, and providing an avenue for citizen involvement and decision making responsibility

Following the presentation, which lasted until nearly 7:30, staff continued to be available to discuss the action plan with the public. The open house came to a close at 8:00PM.