



## Memorandum

**TO:** Whatcom County Planning Commission

**FROM:** Sam Ryan, Planning & Development Services Director

**DATE:** December 8, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Birch Bay Watershed Action Plan Public Hearing  
File #PLN2011 - 0012

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The public hearing on December 8, 2011 is a chance to get input on changes made by the Birch Bay Ad hoc Stakeholder group since your last meeting on this topic, May 13, 2011. The proposal includes an option for managing stormwater using Low Impact Development principles and techniques. The proposal also contains an amendment to the Critical Areas Ordinance that will establish Birch Bay specific rules that alter buffer widths, provide clarity on wetlands impacts, and change how buffer mitigation is handled.

This will be the fifth full meeting of Planning Commission to review this proposal, at this work session discussion will focus on how the program has changed since your last review.

In your packet you will find:

- **Overview Handout** – This one page handout describes changes made by the Birch Bay Ad hoc Workgroup and describes the highlights of the program.
- **Staff Report** – Background, consistency with state and local law, reasons for action, and staff recommendation to Planning Commission. Please note the findings and then the conclusions beginning on page 11. The Commission recommendation will be forwarded to Council with a minority and majority report following this meeting.
  - Exhibit A – Low Impact Development option, Zoning Code (WCC 20.50).
  - Exhibit B – Birch Bay specific Critical Areas Ordinance amendment.
  - Exhibit C – Operation and Management of the Habitat Mitigation Fund.

More information, including tracked changes to the documents above :  
[http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/naturalresources/specialprojects/actionplan\\_downloads.jsp](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/naturalresources/specialprojects/actionplan_downloads.jsp)