

Land Use Deep Dive Briefing Memo
Island LIO Executive Committee Meeting: July 24, 2019

Topic: Barriers and challenges local officials face in protecting ecologically important lands and tools that can provide support.

Background: The Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) is considering four potential options to pursue in support of local elected official's protection and restoration efforts related to land use planning. In February 2019, the Partnership presented potential options for supporting local elected officials and the Puget Sound Institute and Department of Natural Resources also presented the results of the ex-Urban Growth Area (e.g. outside of Urban Growth Areas) critical analysis. During the discussion at the February 2019 meeting, the ECB expressed interest in having a focused, detailed discussion about land use in Puget Sound with the goal to come up with a path forward for the ECB to support local elected officials in protection and restoration efforts related to land use planning.

Option 1: Buildable Lands Analysis: Engage with counties and cities as they conduct their review and evaluation under the Buildable Lands Program and complete their buildable lands analyses.

Option 2: Critical Areas Effectiveness Study: The ECB could support an effort to use the results of this study to interview counties and cities that have successfully protected critical areas and then develop a set of best practices.

Option 3: Mapping Project: The ECB could support a project to identify and map ecologically important areas and working lands to support local elected officials in land use planning.

Option 4: Continue researching options: Partnership staff and ECB to further scope other options to support local elected officials in making land use decisions that lead to Puget Sound recovery.

The ECB brainstormed a number of options and requested to look more at potential opportunities within the Buildable Lands Program as well as ways to use the results of the Critical Areas Effectiveness Study. At the May 29th ECB meeting, the Board decided to convene a subcommittee to explore the four options of tools presented and to solicit input from local officials about what the barriers and challenges are in protecting ecologically important lands and to brainstorm what other potential tools the ECB can provide or support. The subcommittee will refine the problem statement as a group and set the goals and objectives during the first meeting.

Next steps: The ECB land use subcommittee will meet in August to brainstorm how the ECB can work with local governments to protect ecologically important lands for Puget Sound Recovery. Commissioner Price Johnson will serve on this subcommittee.

Potential for Regional Engagement:

The ILIO Executive Committee will discuss the barriers and challenges that exist in protecting ecologically important lands and brainstorm idea about what potential tools could provide support. County, city and town planners are encouraged to attend the ILIO Executive Committee meeting to share input on this topic.