

Open Space and Wildlife Habitat

Vashon-Maury Island



Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division
Office of Rural and Resource Programs

Purpose of this presentation

- Current use assessment programs
- Forestry activity
- Farm and agriculture land
- Conservation efforts
- Planning efforts
- Things I won't talk about

Open Space Taxation Act

(Open Space, Agricultural, Timber Land)

Chapter RCW 84.34.010 Legislative declaration:

"...it is in the best interest of the state to maintain, preserve, conserve...open space lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops, and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of the state and its citizens.

...assessment practices must be so designed as to permit the continued availability of open space lands for these purposes..."

Current Use Assessment Programs

Forest Land

Twenty acres or more of contiguous forest primarily devoted to the growth and harvest of timber.

1397 acres on VMI

(approximately 268,400 acres in KC participating)

Farm and Agricultural Land

Production of livestock or agricultural commodities. Financial requirements dependent on acreage.

692 acres on VMI

(approximately 30,904 acres in KC participating)



Current Use Assessment Programs

Timber Land

Five to twenty acres of contiguous forestland devoted to the growth and harvest of timber. An approved and implemented forest stewardship plan is required.

790 acres/83 owners on VMI

(3331 acres/290 owners in KC participating)

Public Benefit Rating System

Property containing one or more of the defined open space resources. Examples include stream buffers, ground water protection, threatened/endangered wildlife, farmland, public recreation, historic property and others.

817 acres/110 owners on VMI

(7183 acres/803 owners in KC participating)

Open Space Resources Vashon & Maury Island



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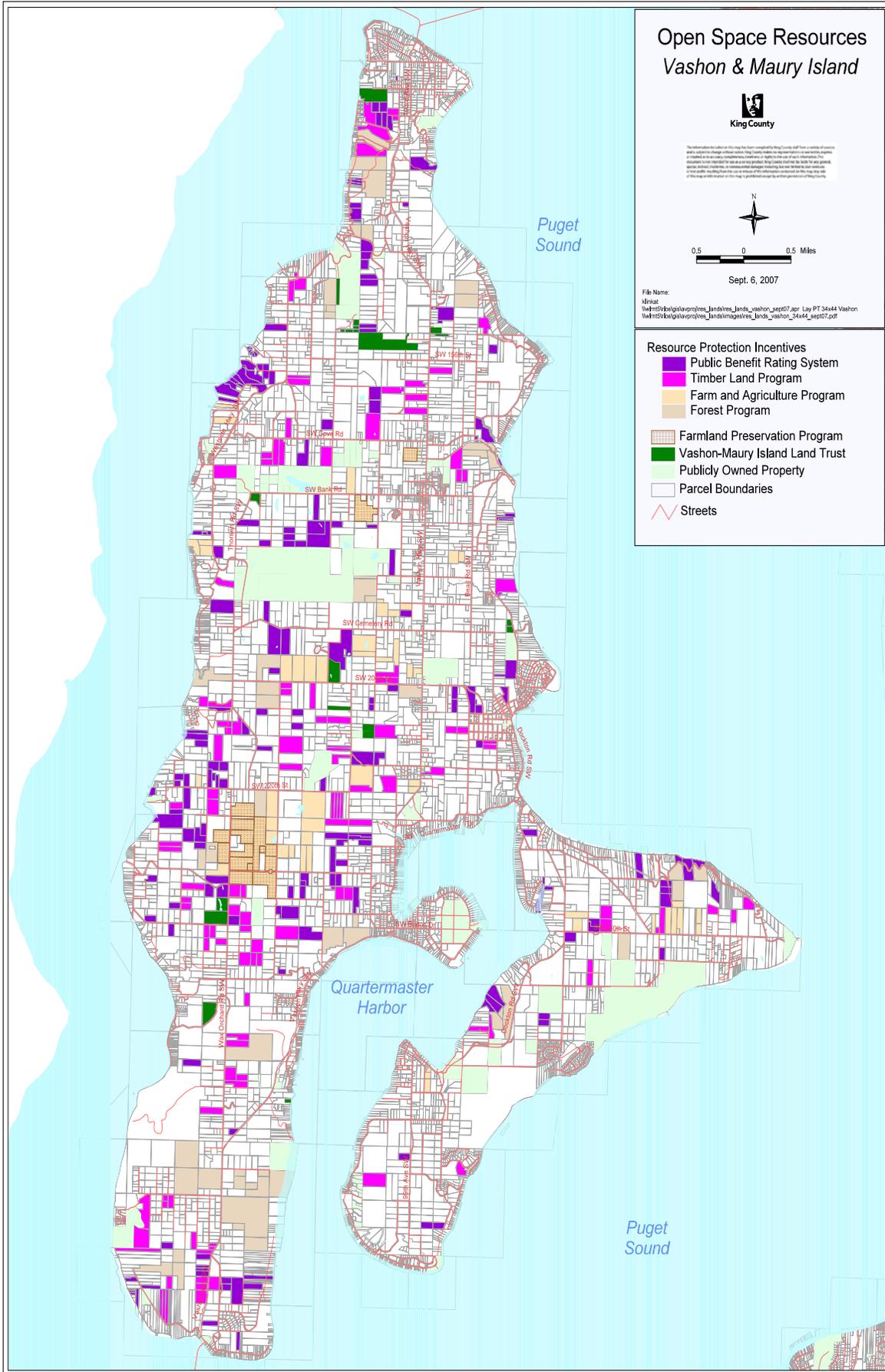
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Sept. 6, 2007

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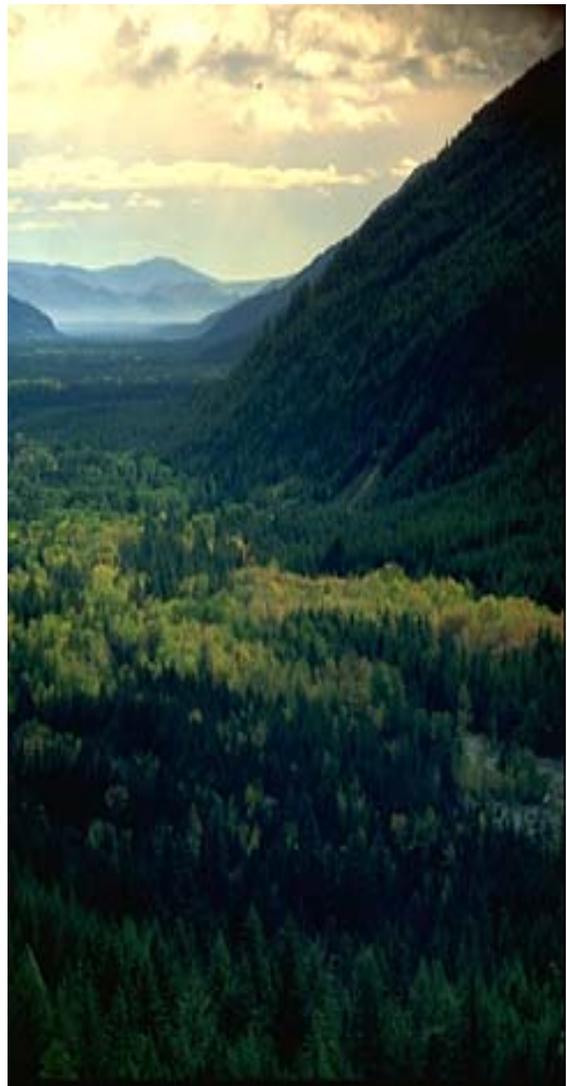
Resource Protection Incentives

- Public Benefit Rating System
- Timber Land Program
- Farm and Agriculture Program
- Forest Program
- Farmland Preservation Program
- Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
- Publicly Owned Property
- Parcel Boundaries
- Streets



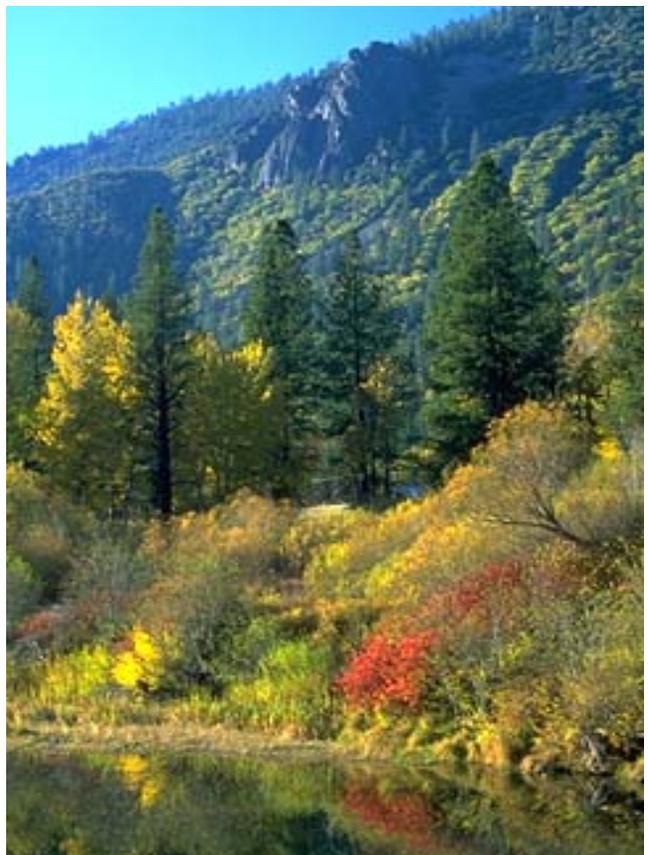
Timber Land Program

- Property must be zoned Forest (F) Agriculture (A) or Rural Area (RA)
- 5 - 20 acres of land devoted to growth/harvest of trees for commercial purposes
- **Approved and implemented forest stewardship plan**



Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs)

- Points awarded for voluntarily providing protection to resources beyond that required (native vegetation/forest)
- Total translates into land value percentage reduction (50% to 90%) for the portion participating
- Home site, area used, are NOT eligible for current use tax reduction



Sample PBRS Categories

- Surface water quality buffer
- **Wildlife habitat**
- Equestrian-pedestrian trail linkage
- **Farm and agricultural land**
- Aquifer protection
- **Forest stewardship land**
- Rural open space
- Historic landmark
- Public access
- Watershed protection

Defined in PBRS Resource Information document



Enrollment

- 🕒 Submit application before December 31
- 🕒 King County staff visits property
- 🕒 Preliminary staff recommendation
- 🕒 Public hearing (present staff report)
- 🕒 Hearing Examiner recommendation
- 🕒 King County Council approval
- 🕒 Agreement signed and recorded on title

Withdrawal/Removal

- Owe up to seven (7) years of savings back plus interest
- 20% penalty if not in program for 10 years and if 2 years notice isn't given
- **Forest Land (RCW 84.33)** removal "cost" based on current years savings times years enrolled, but not more than 10

Change of ownership does not trigger removal

If sold, the buyer/next owner may sign notice of continuance and continue in program

Forest Stewardship Plan

Benefits of a Forest Stewardship Plan

- defines ownership objectives - integrates protection/enhancement of forest resources
- short/long term objectives, analyze current conditions, wildlife, forest's resources
- determine resource protection or enhancement measures and details sequence of activities to accomplish objectives



Forest Stewardship Plan

Three ways to produce a plan:

- hire a natural resource consultant
- write your own plan
- Forest Stewardship Class

Criteria for plan approval:

Address protection, enhancement of the forest resources

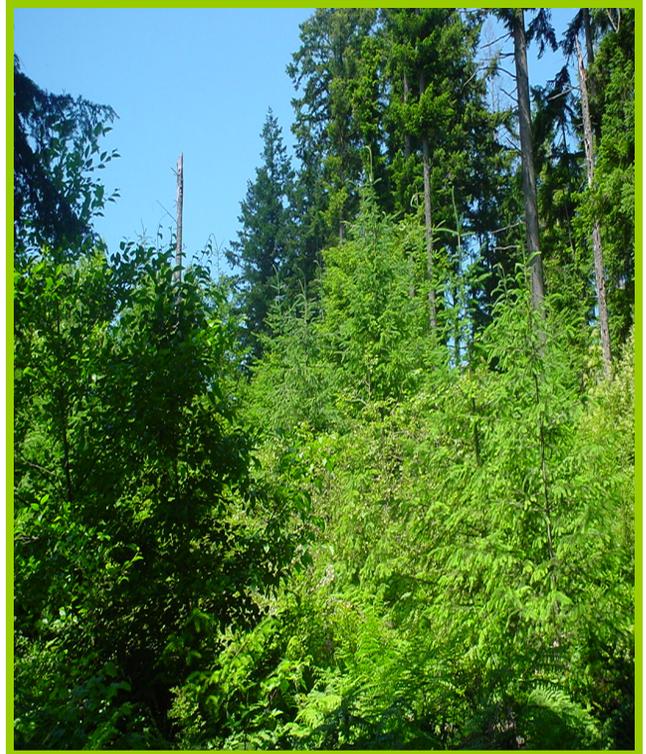
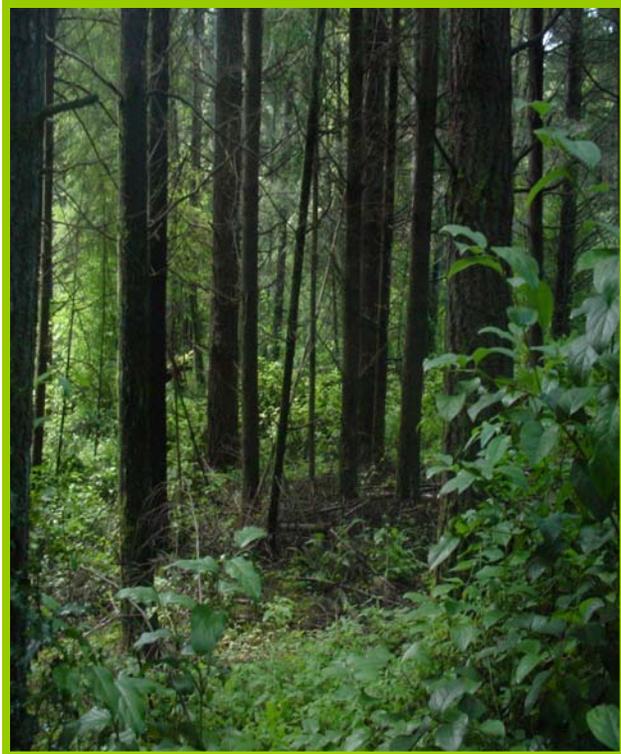


Cover time frame of at least 10 years

Pertains to the entire forested ownership, including any area to be reforested

Recommended management activities consistent with stated landowner objectives

Open Space and Habitat Conservation on Public Lands



Island Center Forest (363 acres)



Combination of working forest, ecological lands, and passive recreation

Island Center Forest

Year-long planning effort with Vashon community to develop Site Management Guidelines.

Extensive trail system



Hunting allowed to continue following discussion with WDFL and Friends of Island Center Forest

Island Center Forest

Community
Partnership
Grant in the
works

Contract with
Vashon Forest
Stewards for
forestry work

Just sold the
first timber
harvest
(\$33,160)

Youth Forestry
Project

Considering FSC
certification



Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust

Mission

- ❑ Conserve lands to protect the natural ecosystems and rural character of Vashon-Maury Island.

Current priorities

- ❑ Shinglemill, Judd, Christensen
- ❑ Marine shorelines

Involvement

- ❑ Owns property purchased/donated in fee
- ❑ Easements on private property
- ❑ “co-operative” deals with King County and Vashon Park District
- ❑ Restoration efforts being conducted in conjunction with King County and Vashon Parks

Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust

Success this year

- ❑ 44 acres purchased in Shinglemill
- ❑ 86 acres added to Island Center Forest
- ❑ 92 acres purchased in Quartermaster Harbor

Impact

- ❑ Over 1000 acres that VMILT has worked to acquire (fee or easement)
- ❑ 235+ acres are now owned by Vashon Parks and stewarded by the Land Trust
- ❑ On another 251+ acres, the Land Trust has retained ownership.
- ❑ The additional 436+ acres are held by King County and Vashon Parks

Farm and agriculture on Vashon-Maury Island

Farm and agriculture land (current use)

- ❑ 692 acres...69 parcels

Farmland Preservation Program

- ❑ 241 acres...15 parcels,
7 owners



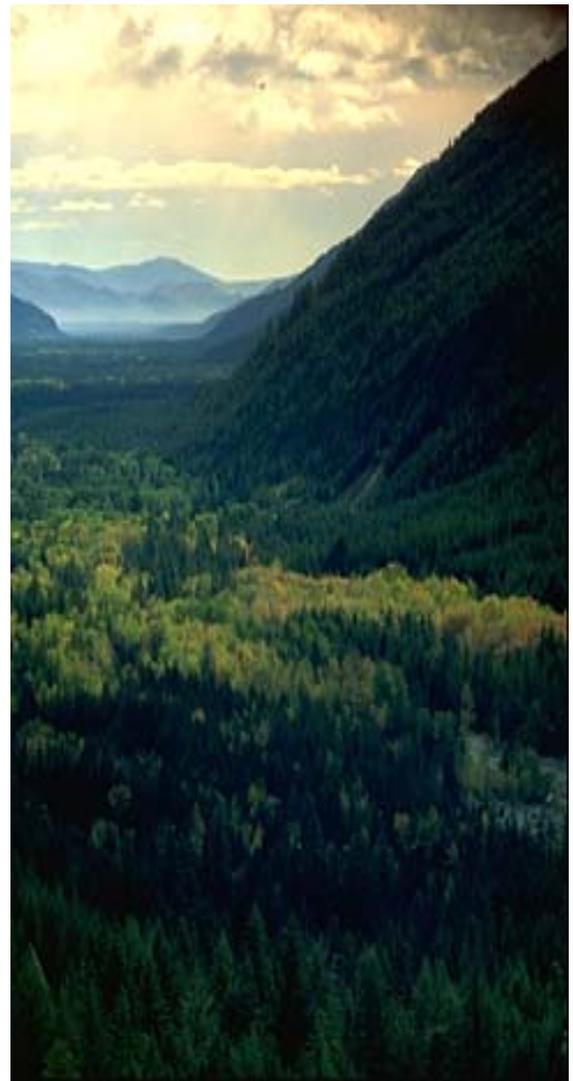
Vashon Island Growers Association

- ❑ Approximately six farms participate in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- ❑ Growers stands
- ❑ Vashon farmers market



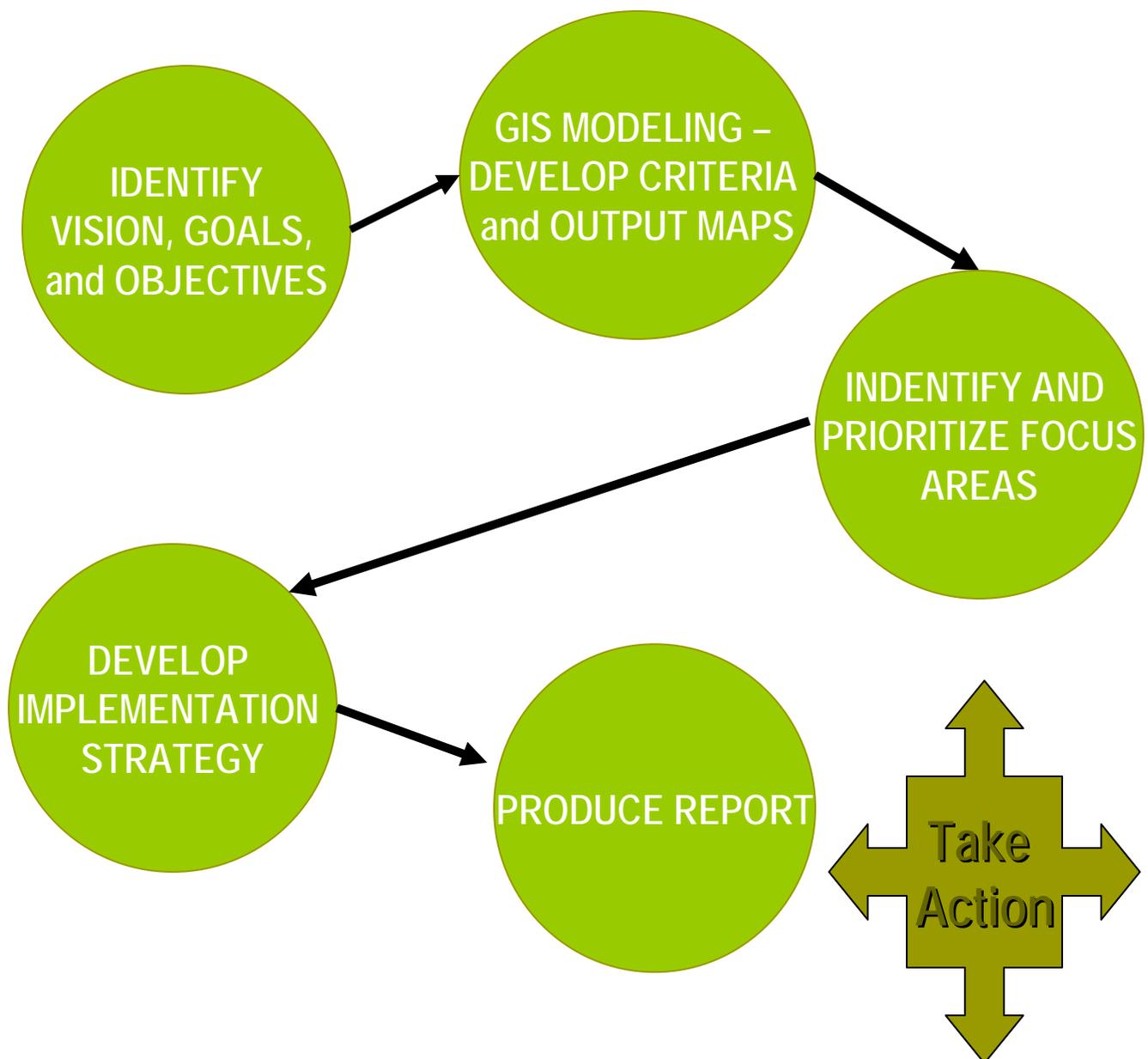
Greenprint for King County

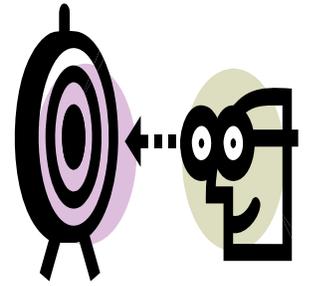
- ❑ an open space conservation vision for the county, assists with establishing priority areas
- ❑ GIS model that uses land and water data for assessing open space priorities
- ❑ landscape level and parcel scale views of conservation values within the county



Vashon-Maury Greenprint Process

CONSERVATION STRATEGY



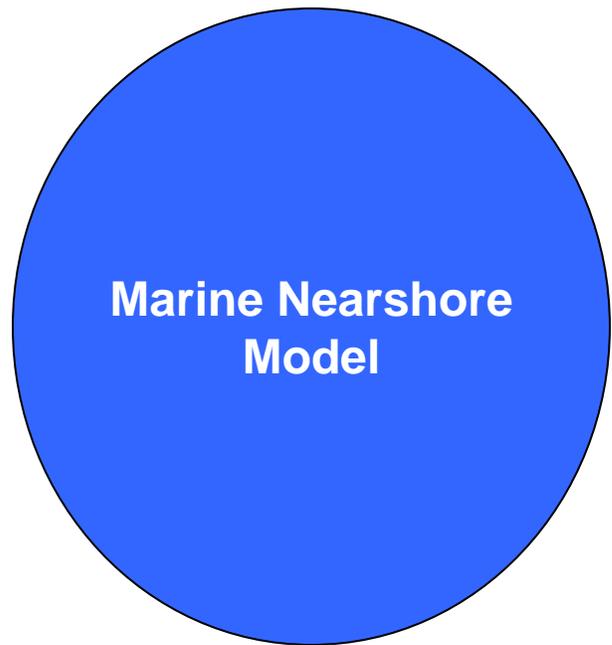
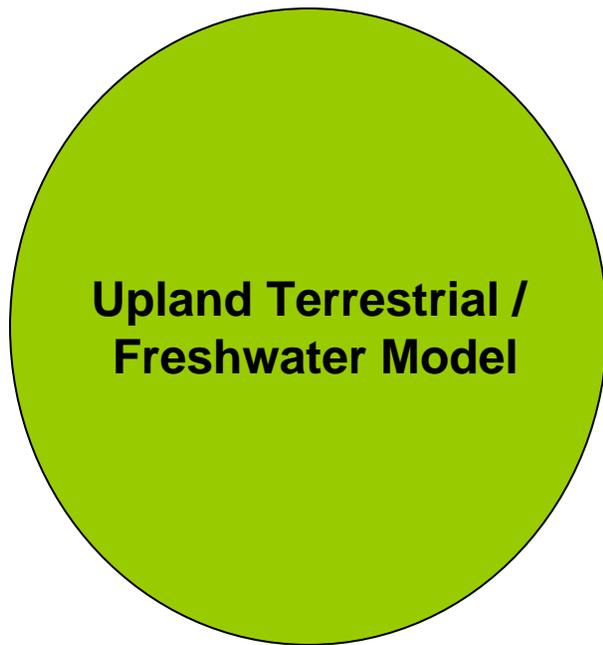


Project Objectives

- ❑ Evaluate the status of VMI **conservation** lands.
- ❑ Conduct GIS analysis to assist with identifying **ecological** areas with high conservation values.
- ❑ Integrate community's recommendations.
- ❑ Prioritize identified areas that achieve VMI's **ecological** goals.
- ❑ Develop an implementation strategy.

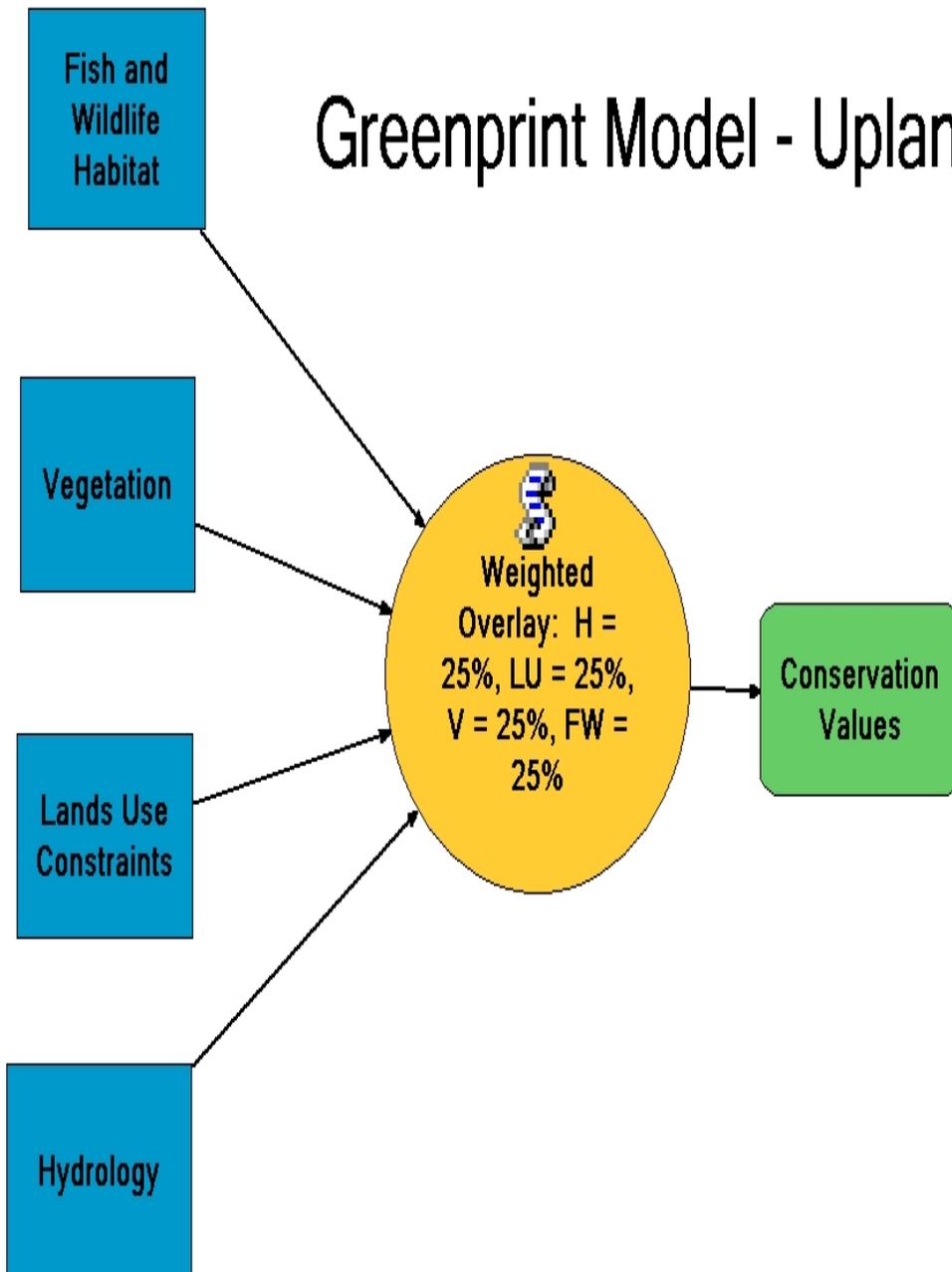
Vashon-Maury Greenprint Models

There are two models being used to
evaluate natural lands



Vashon-Maury Island

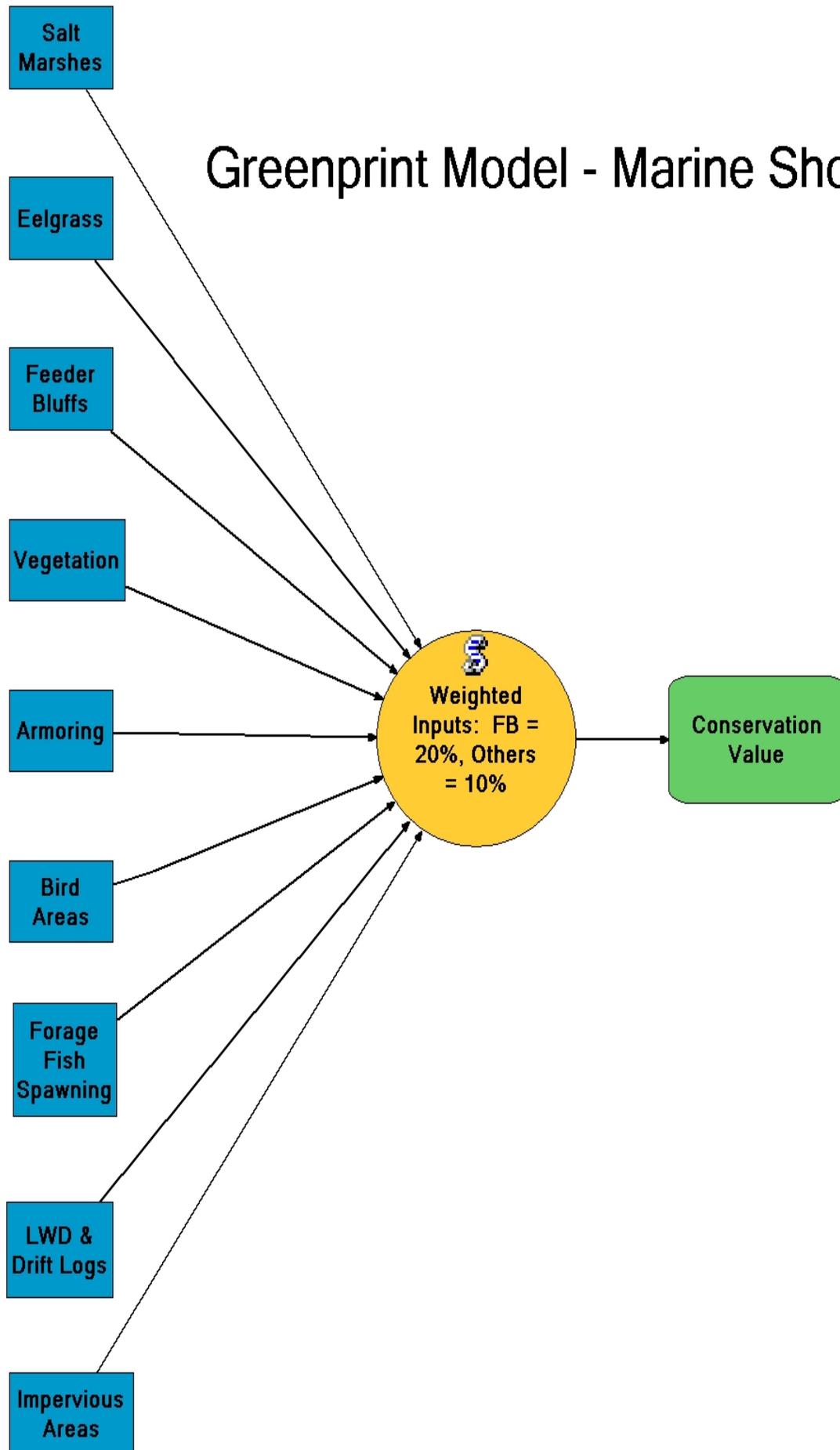
Greenprint Model - Upland/Freshwater



Conservation Values for each 25X25ft pixel

County-wide Model had 10 Class Criteria and 20 data sets.
Pixel 100x100ft

Greenprint Model - Marine Shoreline



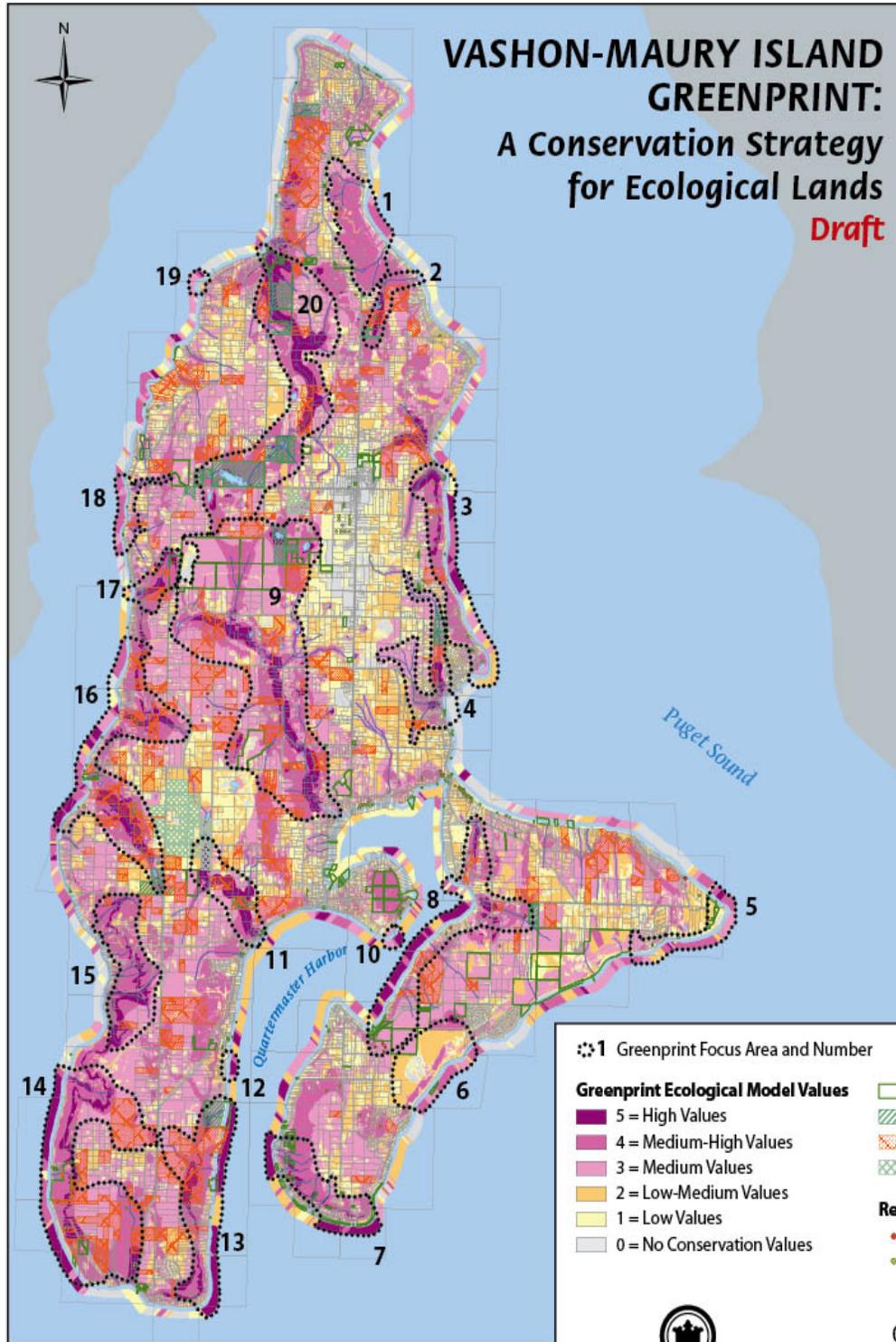
Criteria for Greenprint Focus Areas

A Greenprint Focus Area is defined as:

“An area of land or water identified as having value for the conservation of cultural, ecological, or natural resources.”

- ❑ Areas with GIS model conservation values of high to medium-high
- ❑ Areas identified as being unique ecological places (i.e. salt marshes) by technical staff, or other planning efforts
- ❑ Ecological areas identified by community or land trust that require minimum restoration

Greenprint Focus Areas



20 focus areas have been identified

🗺️ 1 Greenprint Focus Area and Number

Greenprint Ecological Model Values	Public Land
5 = High Values	Vashon Maury Island Land Trust
4 = Medium-High Values	Current Use Taxation
3 = Medium Values	Farmland Preservation Program
2 = Low-Medium Values	
1 = Low Values	
0 = No Conservation Values	
	Resource Lands Identified by Residents
	• Access and Trails
	• Flora and Fauna

King County

0 1 2 Miles
January 2007

Methods for Prioritizing GPFA

1: Rated all of the GPFA using these criteria:

- ❑ Presence of **Unique or Rare Habitat Types**
- ❑ Consistent with **Other Planning Efforts** – Regional versus Local
- ❑ Potential **Residential Development Risk**
- ❑ Intact **Functioning Processes** that will sustain GPFA

2: Public Workshop to seek community input

- ❑ Protect **marine nearshore** (regional resource)
- ❑ Protect **Shinglemill and Judd creeks** (important salmon habitat)
- ❑ Protect **groundwater discharge and water supply** lands
- ❑ Focus Area 6 - concern with loss of forest cover, water contamination, and salmon habitat impacts.

Recommendations

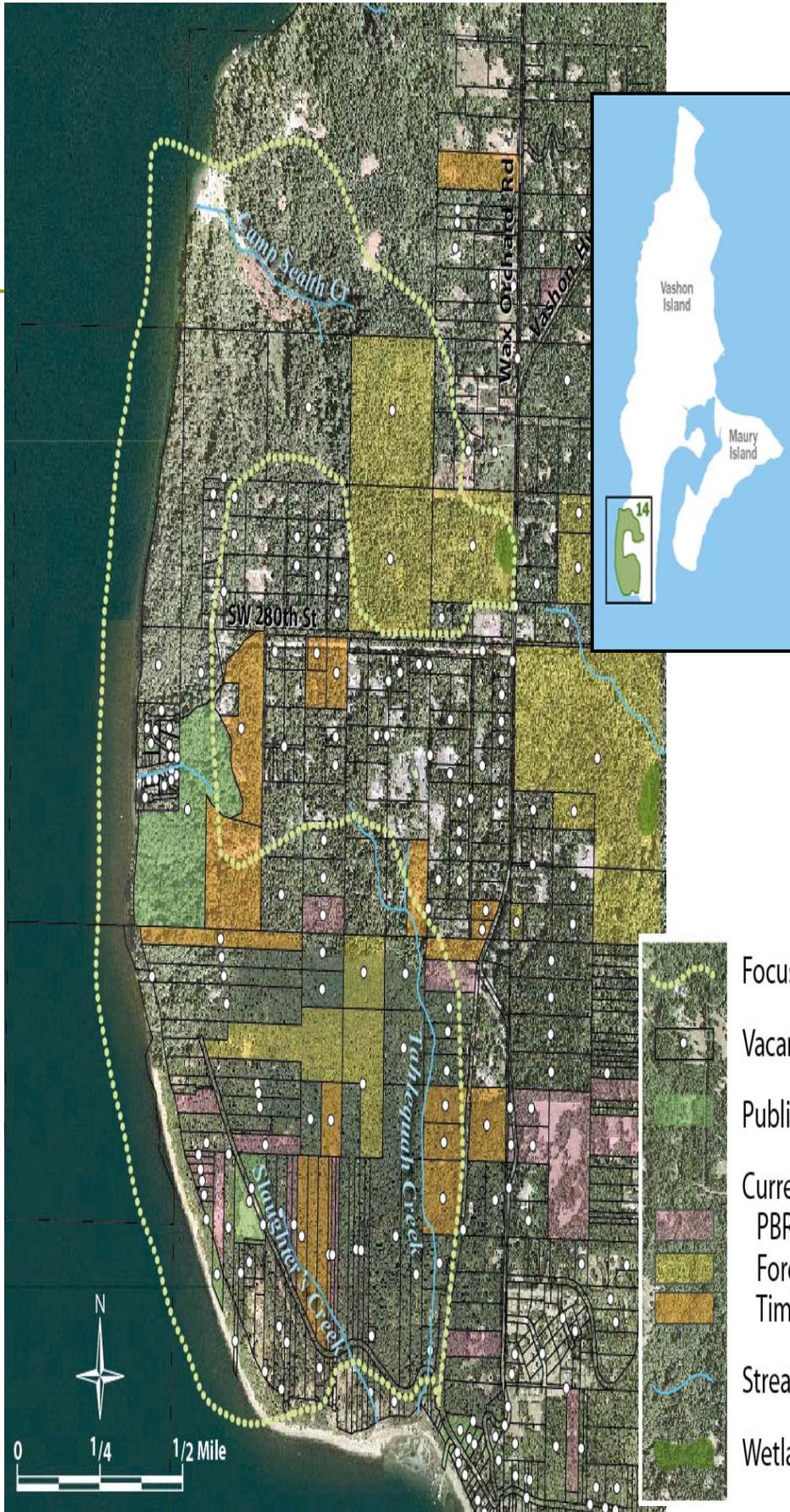
PRIORITIZE

- Allows each GFA to be reviewed for its own unique set of conservation values
- Ensures community input is being incorporated
- Assists with implementation by directing limited resources

CONCLUSIONS

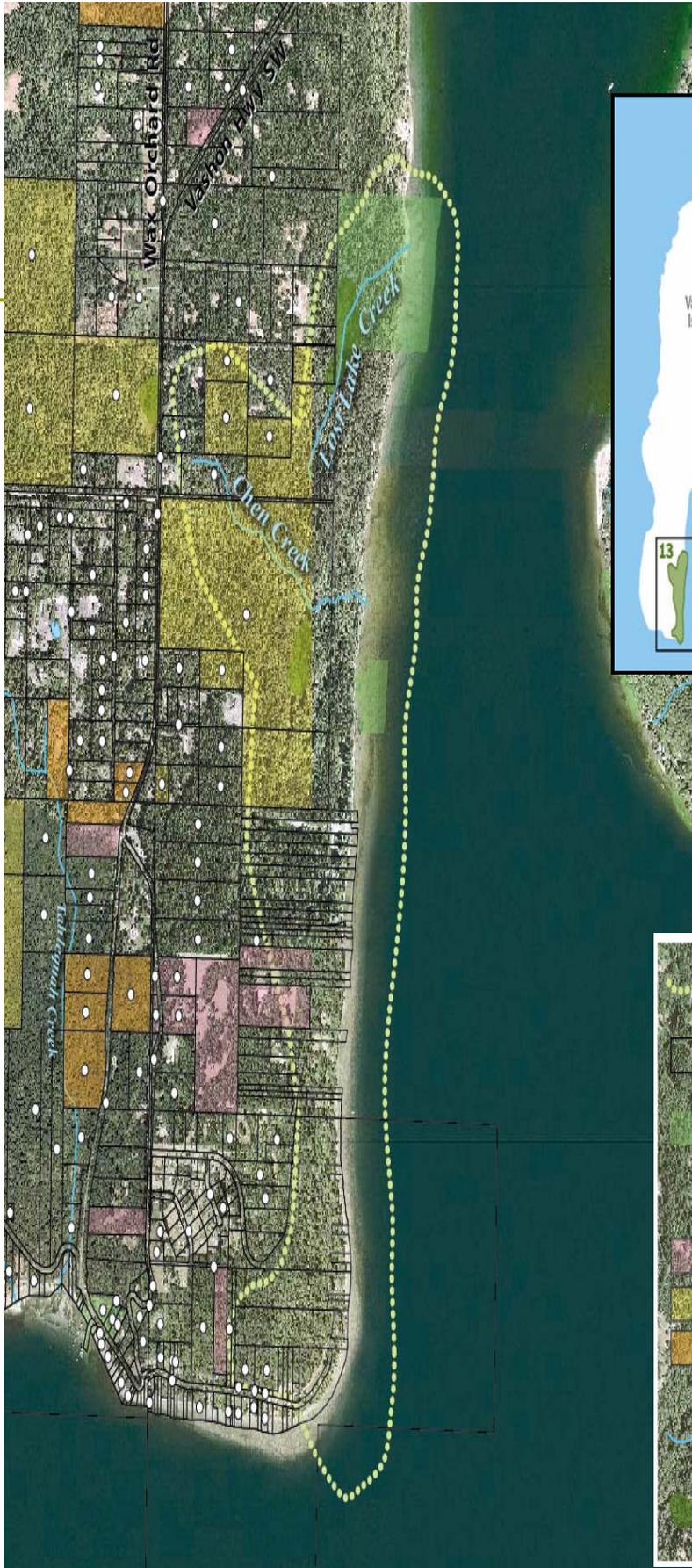
- All areas are important for conservation
- Conservation efforts for the next ten years within 8 focus areas
- Partner with other agencies, programs, non-profits, and community to implement the Greenprint

Focus Area 14



- Focus Area Boundary
- Vacant Parcel
- Public Land/Vashon-Maury Land Trust
- Current Use Taxation
 - PBRS
 - Forest
 - Timberland
- Stream
- Wetland

Focus Area 13



- Focus Area Boundary
- Vacant Parcel
- Public Land/Vashon-Maury Land Trust
- Current Use Taxation
 - PBRS
 - Forest
 - Timberland
- Stream
- Wetland

Vashon-Maury Island

- ◆ 51 acres of shoreline – half the shorelines of King County
- ◆ Vashon Island - 12 miles long
- ◆ Maury Island - 6 miles long
- ◆ 25,000 acres
- ◆ Population has doubled in past 20 years



Vashon-Maury Island Preservation/management

- Forestland: **1397 acres**, 123 parcels
- Farm and agricultural land: **692 acres**, 69 parcels
- Timber Land: **790 acres**, 83 owners
- PBRS: **817 acres**, 110 owners
- FPP: **242 acres**, 7 owners/15 parcels
- VMILT: **149 acres**, 22 parcels
- Vashon Parks: **684 acres** (516 acres adjacent to shoreline)
- Parks/public: **327+ acres**

5139 acres preserved and managed... **20.56%** of Vashon-Maury Island

Implementation Tools

Landowner interest

Education and Technical Assistance

- Classes and Workshops

Stewardship and Plans

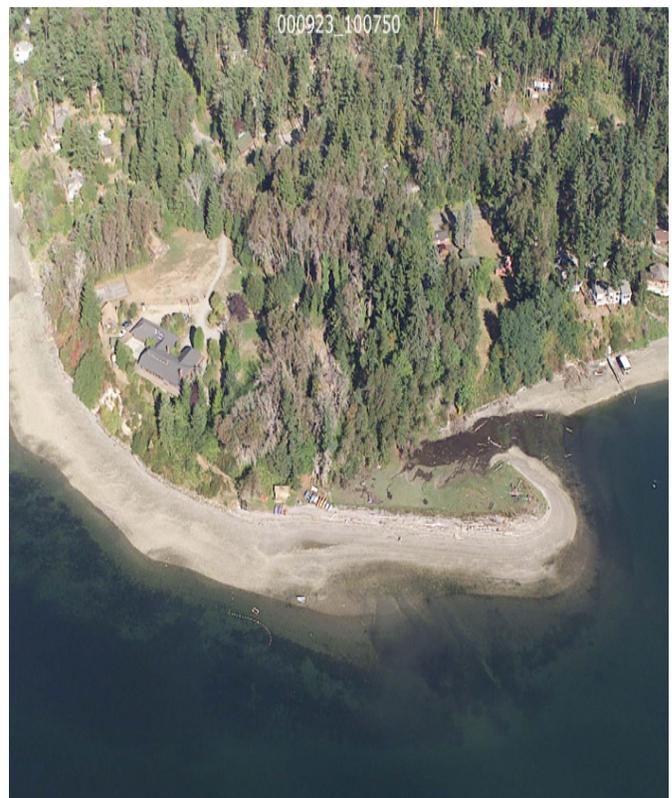
- Forest, PBRS, Farm, Rural

Incentives

- Current Use programs
- TDR program
- Cost-share programs

Acquisition

- Fee simple or conservation easements



Who to contact...

Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) and Timber Land:

Ted Sullivan (206) 205-5170

email: ted.sullivan@kingcounty.gov

Forest Land and Farm and Agricultural Lands:

Susan Monroe (206) 269-3969

email: susan.monroe@kingcounty.gov

Vashon Maury Island Land Trust

Tom Dean, Executive Director (206) 463-2644

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Vashon Steward:

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