

Conservation on Private Lands: Strategies/Options/Components

Conservation via Opposition

Laws:

- Critical Areas Ordinance
- Shoreline Management Act
- Federal Clean Water Act (no net loss of wetlands policy)
- SEPA
- Growth Management Act (WA): concurrency requirements (esp. transportation)

Public comments to Planning Depts

- e.g., regarding SEPA checklist, EIS scope, EIS, wetlands application, infrastructure impacts/concurrencies
- e.g., during public meetings (development appl., EIS, Greenways, City Council)

Legal appeal of development application approval

- invoke SEPA
- invoke GMA: concurrency requirement
- invoke CAO, SMP
- invoke Clean Water Act (wrt. wetland impacts), and Army Corps Eng. determ.
- Limitation: must have legal standing

Conservation via Negotiation and Cooperation

- Land Trusts; conservation easements
- Developer set-asides, required: e.g., 42 acres/1000 residents (~500 units)
- Neighborhood plans

Conservation via Acquisition and Fundraising

- Land Trusts <http://www.whatcomlandtrust.org>
- NGO conservation organizations
 - The Nature Conservancy <http://www.nature.org>
 - Trust for Public Lands <http://www.tpl.org>
- Greenways Levy
- Parks and Open Space impact fees
- Metropolitan Park District <https://www.chuckanutcommunityforest.com/>
- Matching grants (Federal, State, Foundation, etc)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP);
administered by USDA-Farm Service Agency <http://www.whatcomcd.org/CREP/CREP.html>
- Wetland Mitigation Banking, e.g., <http://www.wildlandsinc.com/>

Building Public Support, Exercising Political Opposition

- Protests of Bank/Developer
- Resolutions at Shareholder meetings
- Publicize role of bank/businesses acting for or against conservation
- Expose/publicize true costs, e.g., Growth subsidy analysis
<http://www.rdnw.org/Documents/Fodor%20Study.pdf>
- Independent scientific study (independent of developer, government)
- Public forums and meetings (Planning Commission, Greenways, etc.)
- Comments at Council (City, County) meetings
- Contact elected officials (personal meetings, phone, letter, email)
e.g., students of Wellspring Community School (*Emily the Red-Legged Frog, ...*)
- Conserv. overflights with key decision makers e.g., Project Lighthawk: <http://www.lighthawk.org>
- Concerts, theatre, etc.
- Films, documentaries
- Media: newspaper, radio, TV, blogs, web sites
- Nonprofit organizations
e.g., Responsible Development, <http://www.rdnw.org/>
Futurewise, <http://www.futurewise.org/whatcom>
- Site tours and environmental education
- Direct action