

MITIGATION THAT WORKS FORUM

Watershed-based Mitigation - Draft Sliding Scale Decision Matrix

Broad Scale (e.g., Regional, County, Watershed or Sub-basin)					
Management Goal/Need	What information do we need?			What information do we have?	What decisions could we make?
	<i>Water Flow Processes</i>	<i>Water Quality Processes</i>	<i>Habitat</i>		
<p>Identify high priority areas for conservation/preservation (<i>important areas that are minimally altered, unique, rare, or otherwise intrinsically valuable</i>)</p>	<p>Important areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subbasin boundaries • Surficial geology /permeability • Land cover • Rain-on-snow/snow-on-snow zones • Precipitation • Floodplain type / confinement • Topography • Depressional wetlands • High value habitats/resources <p>Alterations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impervious surface • Land cover conversion • Loss of wetlands 	<p>Important areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil types • Depressional wetlands • Ditches/channelized streams • Riparian areas • Topography • Locations of onsite septic, outfalls, dairies and/or animal unit calculations <p>Alterations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of forest cover • Road network/density • Loss of wetlands • Lack of riparian vegetation • Land cover conversion 	<p>Important areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target species guilds • Land cover types (historic and existing) • Critical habitats • Salt marshes • Productive salmon streams • Natal & pocket estuaries • Forage fish spawning areas • Wildlife concentration areas • Feeder bluffs & drift cells <p>Alterations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major passage barriers • Road network/density • Development type/density • Impervious surface • Others (?) 	<p><u>Data:</u> Readily available data from various sources [No or relatively little new data collection required]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-CAP • SSHIAP • NRCS • SUURGO • USGS precip. data • NWI & local wetland inventories • PHS • Pictometry (can be purchased) • LiDAR • Health Dept. data • Agricultural/Conservation District data • ShoreZone data • Coastal Atlas <p><u>Plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basin plans • Comprehensive stormwater management plans • WRIA (2514) watershed management plans • Limiting factors reports • TMDLs • Water supply plans • Eco-regional and Local Habitat Assessments • Salmon Recovery Plans • Habitat Conservation Plans • WDFW Landscape analysis and species management plans 	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful for locating where preservation could occur via a mitigation bank, ILF program or other means. • Identifies potential areas for acquisition/conservation easement. • Helps with stormwater management planning, and local comprehensive plan/zoning decisions. • Helpful for identifying suitable areas for Low Impact Development (LID). • Helps identify where development density/may need to be modified (decreased) to preserve existing processes and functions – i.e., sending area for development credits. • Helps in planning/maintaining wildlife corridors. <p><u>Permitting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps identify areas where impact avoidance may be critical. • Helps to determine if out-of-kind mitigation should be allowed. • Informs design decisions (e.g., LID) for projects with hydrologic impacts. • Informs design decisions for projects that would impact habitat, water quality or introduce new contaminant sources.

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	<i>Water Flow Processes</i>	<i>Water Quality Processes</i>	<i>Habitat</i>		
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline Management Restoration Plans • Tribal restoration plans • DNR restoration plans <p>[Watershed characterizations are completed in Whatcom, Jefferson, Snohomish, and Clark counties.]</p>	
Identify priority areas for restoration (<i>important areas that are altered but not irreversibly</i>)	Same information as above	Same information as above	Same information as above	Same information as above	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful for locating where restoration could occur via a mitigation bank, ILF program or other means. • Helpful for defining mitigation bank service area boundaries. • Helps identify where development density may need to be modified (decreased) to accommodate restoration of processes and functions – i.e., sending area for development credits. • Identifies potential areas for acquisition and future restoration. • Helpful for identifying suitable areas for Low Impact Development (LID) or retrofit. <p><u>Permitting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that proposed mitigation in these areas could get expedited approval.
Identify priority areas development (<i>areas where more intensive development can occur without major adverse effects on water quality, water flow or habitat</i>).	Same information as above	Same information as above	Same information as above	Comprehensive plans and zoning maps (with growth projections).	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps identify where development density may need to be increased to relieve pressure on other areas – i.e., receiving areas for development credits <p><u>Permitting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation for project that occur in these areas would be off-site.

Mid to Site-scale (e.g., Sub-basin, drift cell, project)			
Management Goal/Need	What information do we need?	What information do we have?	What decisions could we make?
Create a pre-screened list of high priority conservation/preservation sites or projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General broad-scale Conservation-Restoration- Development framework from above • Preservation site locations and boundaries • Stakeholder input about “local” priorities within specific sub-basins • Additional site assessment to quantify potential area/function/credits available and determine sustainability • Additional ‘due diligence’ site assessment information (Phase 1 site assessment, cultural resources review...) • Preservation ‘mechanism’ (easement, fee simple...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists of potential preservation/acquisition projects from plans noted above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankers and ILF providers can purchase these sites as credit generators. • Developers can buy these areas to offset impacts of projects in areas designated for Development or Restoration areas.
Create a pre-screened list of high priority restoration sites/projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General broad-scale Conservation-Restoration- Development framework from above • Lists of potential restoration and enhancement projects from plans noted above • Stakeholder input about “local” priorities within specific sub-basins • Additional ‘due diligence’ site assessment information (Phase 1 site assessment, cultural resources review...) • Design plans for implementing restoration projects • Permits to ‘build’ restoration projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool for determining mitigation number/type credits that could be available (e.g., Dennis Canty salmon plan tool) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankers and ILF providers can restore these sites and sell credits. • Developers can select a restoration project to mitigate for development impacts. • Local jurisdictions can implement these projects over time to help achieve no net loss. • These sites would be high priorities for receiving grant funding.