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Piloting Green Shores for Homes: How Does the Rating System Really Work?

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Piloting Green Shores for Homes: How Does the Rating System Really Work?

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City of Seattle

Photo: NASA Visible Earth

Funded by EPA
How Does the Rating System Really Work?

• Evaluation of rating system
  ➢ Submittal information required
  ➢ Ease of scoring each site
  ➢ Credit categories

• Results of evaluation

• Adjustment to rating system

• Next steps
Rating System Evaluation

February 2014

- 2 Freshwater sites
  - Kirkland, WA
  - Lake Washington
- 2 Marine sites
  - San Juan County, WA
  - Salish Sea
- Selection of sites
- Tech team members
  - 2 subgroups N & S
Lake Washington
Green Shore Site Components

- Both sites
- Partial bulkhead removal
- Gray and green shoreline structures installed
- Riparian vegetation
- Large woody debris
- Gravel and boulder placement
Lake Washington
Site 1

Before

After

2013/08/16
Lake Washington

Site2
San Juan County Sites

Orcas Island - Site 1
- Bulkhead removed
- Soft shore protection – sand/gravel/boulders/LWD
- Creosote pile removal

San Juan Island - Site 2
- no bulkhead installed
- rainwater management limited site disturbance, native vegetation/tree
San Juan County
Site 1

Before

After
San Juan County
Site 2
Submittal Information and Ease of Rating System

- Reviewed info provided for permit applications
- Permits - Shoreline Master Program/Environmentally Critical Areas
- Determine information needed to calculate credit score
- Ease of use – link to credit document, use JARPA
Credit Categories

3 Main Categories
• Shoreline Processes
  ➢ Bulkhead removal
  ➢ Setbacks
• Shoreline Habitat
  ➢ Riparian vegetation
  ➢ Large woody debris
• Water Quality
  ➢ Impervious surface
  ➢ Pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer

• Monitoring required or bonus points, what if you don’t do something, i.e. don’t put in a bulkhead, don’t cut down trees, the roll of LWD in different environments.
What Did We Learn and What Did We Change?

• All sites are not created equally - site conditions influence what can be done on site
  
• Example - Parcel size, urban/rural, freshwater/marine
  
• Difference in LWD function in the marine environment compared to a lake environment.
  
• Result adjusted rating system so smaller wood is favored in the lake environment LWD okay for marine environment
What Did We Learn and What Did We Change?

• Most important - condition of site at the completion of project
• Award credits for saving trees
• Don’t “penalize” a site that doesn’t have a bulkhead & isn’t adding one
• Adjusted rating system
Bonus Information

• Lake WA property owners
• What motivated the home owners to green their shoreline?
• Attracting a lot of attention from recreational boaters
What’s Next for the Rating System?

1) Train local Green Shore Verifiers and Re-evaluate the rating system
2) Complete Lake Washington wind and wave mapping
3) Finalize rating system – June 2015
4) Implement the program in Lake Washington San Juan County and British Columbia
Contact Information
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