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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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
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 role 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
Thank you!

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