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Pacific Northwest Wetlands  
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Jefferson County Planning Commission Critical Areas Committee & Advisory Group  
WSU Spruce Room

#### **Slide 104**

On the positive side

- Most people care about the environment;
- Most people enjoy wildlife;
- People are willing to die for their freedom – and they have been doing so for centuries. Reasonable property rights are fundamental to English Common Law and the American system;
- People accept reasonable regulation as beneficial to all – but they despise un-needed regulation.



#### **Slide 105**



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#### **Slide 106**

Can we protect people's dignity;  
their inalienable property rights;  
and achieve sustainable use of our resources?

  Outside protecting T&E species – make wildlife enhancement voluntary;



  Protect wetlands within the requirements of state and federal law in the least intrusive way possible.



  Stop using wetland's and wildlife as tools for growth management – these are separate issues and they should be addressed separately. Citizens see easily through the deception

#### **Slide 107**

Protecting and enhancing our wetlands and wildlife

● Let us build Jefferson County's Critical Area Ordinance on the following principles:

  Find win-win solutions that enhance landscape values for people, wetlands and wildlife;

  Provide education to help people know how to find and implement win-win solutions;

  Provide incentives for implementing win-win solutions;

### **Slide 108**

Thoughts on wetland buffers

- Ecology's BAS is a one dimensional document;
- Elected representatives are responsible for setting operating and performance standards – not bureaucrats;
- That present's an enormous challenge for Jefferson County's Commissioners

### **Slide 109**

How can we help generate defensible buffer widths?

- Provide additional perspectives from science
  - The Clean Water Act includes wetlands because wetlands buffer surface waters from upland activities – not because they are critical in and of themselves;
  - Wildlife have optimum habitat needs (WDOE, 2004)
  - Wildlife have minimum needs for populations to sustain themselves (not included in WDOE, 2004). We need both endpoints to define suitable buffer widths for wildlife.
  - Buffer needs to protect wetland water quality functions are continuously distributed – they are not discretely distributed. Effective water quality buffers start at less than a meter of width;

### **Slide 110**

Considerations for developing appropriate buffer widths and characteristics

- Why can't buffers and some wetlands be landscaped using attractive non-native, but non-invasive plants?
- Where are sensitive species documented in Jeff.Co.?
- How does rainfall affect wetland functions and necessary buffer widths in Eastern Jefferson County?
- Are there plants and animals that depend solely or even primarily on the 5% of our landscape that is used as home for people and for the production of food?
- Can we develop a long-range science program to fill in the gaps in our knowledge regarding wetlands in Jefferson County?

### **Slide 111**

*Can Jefferson County develop a truly creative CAO that protects wetland functions in a way that is considered reasonable and win-win by our citizens?*

### **Slide 112**

*I think we all hope so- and that's why we're here*