

## ENVIRONMENT ELEMENT

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Environment Element is to establish goals and policies that, when implemented effectively, achieve a balance between land development and use activities and environmental protection, consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

Jefferson County believes that a healthy environment is fundamental to the quality of life of its citizens. While protection of the environment is a primary goal of the GMA planning process, neither the text of the Act nor the decisions of the Hearings Boards define specifically how this is to be accomplished. Therefore, for the purposes of this plan, Jefferson County has adopted a working definition of environmental protection which is based on the relationship between four essential components:

- Watershed and Fish Habitat Recovery Management Strategy;
- Regulatory Strategy for Consolidated Environmental Review;
- Critical Areas Protection Strategy; and,
- Public Education and Involvement Strategy.

Jefferson County is required under GMA to designate and protect critical areas. Protection of Critical Areas shall include a review of the best available science to protect the function and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

#### **Watershed and Fish Habitat Recovery Management Strategy**

Currently, Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon, Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, and bull trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, Water Resource Inventory Area 17, which is located primarily in Jefferson County, is considered by the State Department of Ecology to be one of the 16 critical “water short” basins in the State of Washington.

A key strategy to successfully balancing environmental protection and development is to engage in watershed and salmon recovery planning. Jefferson County has been involved with both planning efforts since 1998. The County will continue to work with other local, State and tribal agencies to jointly develop and implement comprehensive integrated watershed and salmon recovery plans.

Based on these plans, the County anticipates needing to update policies, plans and development regulations to assure the protection of water resources and salmon habitat. The goals, policies and action items in the Environment Element reflect the County’s commitment to natural resource management based on watershed and fish habitat recovery planning.

Watershed management of hydrological resources addresses wetlands, shorelines, surface waters, aquifer recharge, landslide hazards, flood hazards, and frequently flooded areas. It incorporates management of instream flow volumes and storm water quality and quantity. It has a direct impact on and is integrally related to the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

As watershed plans are translated into land use regulations, a number of programs may be affected. Table 8-1 below provides an overview of the County regulatory issues for various water uses, and the Comprehensive Plan elements in which some of these issues are addressed. The primary agencies and laws with regulatory authority or involvement for the various water uses are listed in Table 8-2.

**Table 8-1  
Water Resources: Uses, Regulatory Issues, and Comprehensive Plan Elements**

<b>Water Resource</b>	<b>Water Uses</b>	<b>County Regulatory Issues</b>	<b>Comprehensive Plan Elements <i>with primary water resources responsibility</i></b>
<b>Ground Water &amp; Surface Water Uses</b>	<i>Potable Water Supply: Domestic/Commercial and Municipal</i>	Aquifer recharge, wellhead protection, storm water, water quality, water system planning, individual wells	<u>Utilities</u> – water systems, individual wells, wellhead protection, storm water <u>Environment</u> – aquifer recharge, water quality
	<i>Industrial</i>	aquifer recharge, storm water, water system planning, wellhead protection, water quality	<u>Utilities</u> – water systems, wellhead protection, storm water <u>Environment</u> – aquifer recharge, water quality
	<i>Agricultural</i>	aquifer recharge, storm water, water quality, flooding, wetlands, fish/wildlife habitat, aquifer protection	<u>Utilities</u> – storm water <u>Environment</u> – aquifer recharge, flooding, wetlands, habitat, aquifer protection, water quality <u>Capital Facilities</u> – flood management
<b>Instream Flows</b>	<i>Fish/Wildlife; Recreation; Hydropower</i>	instream flows, storm water, water quality, fish/wildlife habitat, flood management, shorelines management, wetlands	<u>Utilities</u> – storm water <u>Environment</u> – instream flows, flooding, wetlands, habitat, shorelines, water quality <u>Capital Facilities</u> – flood management
<b>Marine</b>	<i>Fish/Wildlife; Shellfish;</i>	fish/wildlife habitat, shellfish protection areas, wetlands,	<u>Environment</u> – habitat, shellfish, wetlands, shorelines, water quality.

	<i>Recreation</i>	shorelines management, storm water, water quality	<u>Utilities</u> – storm water
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**Table 8-2  
Water Resources: Responsible Agencies and Applicable Laws\***

<b>Water Resource</b>	<b>Water Uses</b>	<b>Federal Authority and Environmental Laws</b>	<b>State Authority and Laws</b>	<b>Local Authority and Laws</b>
<b>Ground Water &amp; Surface Water Uses</b>	<i>Potable Supply: Ground Water Quality/Quantity Management</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency <u>Legal</u> : Clean Water Act, Ground water guidelines, Safe Drinking Water Act	<u>Agencies</u> – Depts of Ecology and Health <u>Legal</u> – Ground Water Quality Standards, Surface Water Quality Standards, Water Code	<u>Agencies</u> – Planning Department; Public Works; County Health Department <u>Legal</u> – Critical Areas Ordinance; Coordinated Water System Plan
	<i>Potable Supply: Drinking Water</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency <u>Legal</u> – Safe Drinking Water Act	<u>Agencies</u> – Department of Health	<u>Agencies</u> – County Health Department; Planning Department <u>Legal</u> – Critical Areas Ordinance; Coordinated Water System Plan
	<i>Industrial</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency <u>Legal</u> – Clean Water Act	<u>Agencies</u> – Department of Ecology <u>Legal</u> : NPDES regulations, Water Code	<u>Agencies</u> – Planning Department
	<i>Agricultural</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Natural Resource Conservation Service <u>Legal</u> – Clean Water Act	<u>Agencies</u> – Department of Ecology; Department of Agriculture <u>Legal</u> – Water Code, Surface Water Quality Standards	<u>Agencies</u> – Planning Department; Public Works; Washington State University Cooperative Extension; Conservation District
<b>Instream Flows</b>	<i>Fish/Wildlife Recreation Hydropower</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; National Park Service; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation <u>Legal</u> – Clean Water Act; Endangered Species Act; Indian Treaty Rights	<u>Agencies</u> – Department of Ecology; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Fish and Wildlife <u>Legal</u> - Water Code	<u>Agencies</u> – Planning Department; Public Works <u>Legal</u> – Critical Areas Ordinance; Shoreline Master Program
<b>Marine</b>	<i>Fish/Wildlife Shellfish Recreation</i>	<u>Agencies</u> – Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife; Bureau of Indian Affairs; National	<u>Agencies</u> – Department of Ecology; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Department of Health	<u>Agencies</u> – Planning Department; Public Works; County Health Department <u>Legal</u> – Critical Areas Ordinance; Shoreline Master Program

		Marine Fisheries; Army Corps of Engineers <u>Legal</u> – Clean Water Act; Endangered Species Act	<u>Legal</u> – Shellfish Certification, Surface Water Quality Standards	
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\*This list of laws and agencies is not all-inclusive, but lists those most frequently encountered on the local level.

### **Regulatory Strategy for Consolidated Environmental Review**

A Regulatory Strategy for Consolidated Environmental Review is an approach that combines various state and local environmental protection programs within a single regulatory framework. By encouraging inter-agency cooperation and integrating these programs into a unified implementation strategy, the review process is simplified and made more efficient, thereby making environmental protection more comprehensive, effective and predictable.

### **Critical Areas Protection Strategy**

“Critical areas” is a term of art from the Growth Management Act to describe environmentally sensitive natural features, such as streams and wetlands. The following are identified as environmentally critical areas through RCW 36.70A.030(5):

- Wetlands;
- Aquifer recharge areas;
- Frequently flooded areas;
- Geologically hazardous areas; and,
- Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

The Critical Areas Protection Strategy describes the regulations and methodologies used to protect the environmentally critical areas found throughout Jefferson County. Protection and enhancement of critical areas were determined by the state legislature to be essential to the maintenance of public health and safety.

The designation of Critical Areas in Jefferson County was guided by GMA requirements, state guidelines, and a extensive local review process. Jefferson County adopted an Interim Critical Areas Ordinance in 1994. Jefferson County adopted the Unified Development Code (UDC) on December 18, 2000. The UDC incorporated the Interim Critical Areas Ordinance protection standards, modifying the standards for consistency with the Best Available Science, as required by law.

The protections for fish and wildlife habitat should be revised periodically as more information becomes available so that the regulations are consistent with Best Available Science.

The regulatory protection of critical areas will improve as the data base of information is developed over time. Action items under this strategy include continuing to inventory and map environmental conditions, which will increase the efficiency and the level of protection over the 20-year period of this plan. Digital critical areas maps will be updated as new scientific information becomes available.

### **Public Education and Involvement Strategy**

A Public Education and Involvement Strategy has been included in the Environmental Element in recognition of the importance of public awareness and involvement to the success of an environmental protection program. Education regarding measures and regulations designed to protect property owners from environmental hazards will improve compliance with these regulations. In addition, when property owners of existing development are educated regarding natural processes and resource protection, they are likely to better manage their property, to seek assistance early, and to avoid taking actions which may cause problems on their own or nearby land.

A public involvement approach is also far more cost-efficient for both property owners and the County, in that addressing problems in advance is generally less costly than being forced to address them after they have become critical. Jefferson County's commitment to public education and involvement through the action items of this strategy will result in more effective protection of resources, the protection of life and property, and a population of residents who are more informed about, supportive of, and individually active in environmental protection.

## **COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

In order to address the environment in a comprehensive manner, Jefferson County has developed environmental goals and policies for protection of the following:

- Shorelines
- Air quality
- Natural heritage vegetation and landforms
- View and noise conditions

### **Shorelines**

Jefferson County contains significant shoreline resources, with approximately 202 miles of saltwater shoreline, 367 miles of streams, and 14 miles of lake shoreline. Over 80 percent of the shorelines in Eastern Jefferson County are privately owned, while most of the shorelines in the West End along the Pacific Ocean are managed by the National Park Service. In addition to providing fish, shellfish, and wildlife habitat, the shorelines of Jefferson County have value for residential and economic uses.

Shorelines of the State are regulated under the Shoreline Management Act ("SMA," Chapter 90.58 RCW). Amendments to the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program must be approved by the Department of Ecology and must comply with the State law. Shoreline permits issued by the County are reviewed by the State for compliance with State law. The County's Shoreline Master Program must be updated by December 1, 2011, according to the SMA. The goals and policies of a revised Master Program will be adopted as an element of the Comprehensive Plan. During the interim period prior to adoption of a revised Shoreline Master Program, where shoreline regulations conflict with other ordinances, the more restrictive regulations shall apply.

The marine shorelines of Eastern Jefferson County have been developed at a rapid rate in some areas over the past several decades. In some areas, adverse impacts to the environment have occurred in terms of fish habitat damage, water quality degradation, altered patterns of sediment transport, and landslides where drainage and construction measures have exacerbated the instability of bluffs. Because activities in one area of the shoreline can have significant impacts in other shoreline areas, permit review processes must recognize the interdependence of shoreline landform stability and habitat with shoreline transport systems, drainage systems, and geologic conditions.

## **Air Quality**

Air quality throughout Jefferson County is generally good. The Olympic Air Pollution Control Authority, with regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act, attributes air pollution on the Olympic Peninsula to motor vehicles, outdoor burning, industrial emissions, and residential wood stoves. Air quality in East Jefferson County is more of a concern than that of the West End, given the higher concentrations of development and population.

Occasional burning bans, which include the use of wood-burning stoves, are declared when regional weather conditions result in a decrease in regional air quality. Over the next 20 years the population growth in East Jefferson County may contribute to a decrease in air quality, in particular along major transportation routes. The Environment Element proposes policies and strategies to address the long-term air quality of the County.

## **Natural Heritage Vegetation and Landforms**

Jefferson County's natural environment includes native vegetation, ecosystems, and landforms which have value to the community as the basis of its natural heritage. It is the intent of the County to protect areas of native ecosystems and to promote the use of native vegetation. Natural landforms and geologic outcrops with educational and scientific value, are included as having natural heritage value, and protection of these areas is encouraged for the education and enjoyment of future residents.

## **View and Noise Conditions**

The mountain, water, and valley views found in Jefferson County have significant value for County residents and visitors. County residents depend on these scenic resources for enriching their quality of life and maintaining economic vitality. Tourist activities and real estate property values reflect the high value placed on this aesthetic amenity. There are currently no regulations for the protection of views and viewsheds. A public discussion can be used to determine the extent to which citizens feel that view protection should be regulated.

Given the rural nature of the County, there is very little light or glare "pollution" of concern to residents. Protection of the rural character of the community includes protection from excessive light and glare that may accompany development.

In rural Jefferson County the noise of a neighbor's chain saw is generally an accepted part of life, and noise conditions have not generally been considered a problem. Resolving the impacts of growth in a changing rural area may require a level of noise regulation that will be determined in future public processes.

## **CRITICAL AREAS MAPS**

Maps are provided on the following pages that depict the location of critical areas identified by Jefferson County for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 1998. Not all critical areas have been mapped, as the scale and quality of information used to make maps often does not reflect precisely what is on the ground. Jefferson County will continue to improve the information on which permit processing is based, in order to protect the public from inappropriate development and to protect the functions and values of critical areas. A digital map server is used by development review staff to initially gauge whether there may be

environmentally critical areas on a parcel proposed for development. The digital information is updated when new information becomes available.

CRITICAL AREAS WETLANDS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS WETLANDS, WESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS AQUIFER RECHARGE SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS FREQUENTLY FLOODED AREAS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS LANDSLIDE HAZARD, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS EROSION HAZARD AREAS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS SEISMIC HAZARD AREAS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS SOIL LIMITATIONS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS – FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, WESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

TOPOGRAPHY, EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

TOPOGRAPHY, WESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

## GOALS AND POLICIES

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The goals outlined below provide direction for the protection of Jefferson County's environmental features in a balanced relationship with other land uses. These goals are based on the requirements of the Growth Management Act, which outlines specific criteria for environmental protection, and on the issues and opportunities identified by county residents.

As in all elements of this Plan, the goals are general statements while policies are more specific. Goals state the general growth management intentions of the County while the policies are the processes for implementation. Strategies identify action items which consist of the specific projects or programs that will be used to implement the policies.

The Environmental policies provide the basis for review of critical areas protections and related development standards contained in the Jefferson County Unified Development Code and other regulations.

### WATER RESOURCES

#### GOAL:

**ENG 1.0**      **Manage, protect, enhance, and conserve water resources through a comprehensive watershed management program that is integrated with recovery plans for fish species proposed for listing under the ESA.**

#### POLICIES:

**ENP 1.1**      The County should take an active lead in developing watershed management plans which incorporate the Dungeness-Quilcene plan and watershed plans for small, independent marine drainages.

**ENP 1.2**      Participate in the Jefferson County Water Resources Council and other collaborative watershed and salmon habitat conservation planning processes with state, federal and tribal governments and local stakeholders, in order to integrate water resource management for human needs with fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration.

**ENP 1.3**      Manage water resources using the best available scientific information and participate in collaborative processes to develop new information.

**ENP 1.4**      Encourage public education and information to foster citizen understanding and support of water resource management and conservation plans.

#### GOAL:

**ENG 2.0**      **Protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources, and enhance and restore them where they have been damaged.**

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POLICIES:

- ENP 2.1** Preserve the environmental functions of surface and ground water resources whenever feasible, and require mitigation measures for land use activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water.
- ENP 2.2** Manage surface water resources in accordance with a storm water management plan developed within the framework of a comprehensive watershed management plan.
- ENP 2.3** Protect surface water and its functions through mitigation measures developed in coordination with the Department of Ecology, the Department of Transportation, and other local, state, federal, and tribal agencies.
- ENP 2.4** Work with the Department of Ecology to restore and protect instream flow volumes, and comply with the State's Surface Water Quality Standards and other programs affecting surface water resources, consistent with a comprehensive watershed management approach.
- ENP 2.5** Maintain buffers between land-disturbing activities and surface water resources to meet the standards of the best available fisheries science for protecting water resources and related habitat functions.
- ENP 2.6** Promote best management practices to protect surface and ground water in land use regulations related to septic systems, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.
- ENP 2.7** Minimize the adverse impacts of land use activities on water resources where there is a potential for hydraulic continuity between surface and ground waters.
- ENP 2.8** Work with the Department of Ecology and other agencies to minimize salt water intrusion, to evaluate ground water resources that have been damaged either by salt water intrusion or other contamination, and to identify technically and financially feasible measures for remediation of adverse impacts.
- ENP 2.9** Coordinate with the Department of Ecology in developing a reliable data base of ground water monitoring data, in complying with State Ground Water Quality Standards, and in promoting water rights management that is consistent with the protection of existing water rights and with comprehensive watershed plans.
- ENP 2.10** Establish a well monitoring program, whenever possible in conjunction with partners such as the Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 and the Department of Ecology, with protocols to assure quality control, and coordinate data interpretation and application through Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Planning Units operating in Jefferson County per the Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82).
- ENP 2.11** To maintain the good water quality found in Jefferson County's freshwater and marine waters, Jefferson County supports utilizing a range of sewage treatment options, including community drainfields and centralized sewage treatment systems, subject to State law.

GOAL:

**ENG 3.0**      **Ensure a sustainable and safe water supply as a critical necessity for residential, economic, and environmental needs.**

POLICIES:

**ENP 3.1**      Work with the Water Utilities Coordinating Committee to revise the Coordinated Water System Plan for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, in order to provide a safe and adequate water supply for County residents and other uses in balance with the protection of environmental functions of water resources.

**ENP 3.2**      Support the development and implementation of wellhead protection programs for all public supply wells, and encourage the siting and construction of individual wells in a manner which protects existing water users and the ground water supply.

**ENP 3.3**      Preserve and protect both existing and future water supplies, and encourage activities which utilize alternative water sources that are compatible with environmental protection, in accordance with state and federal laws regulating alternative water uses.

**ENP 3.4**      Relying on technical input from the PUD, WRIA Planning Units, State Department of Ecology, and others as appropriate, review well monitoring data annually and report to the Board of County Commissioners on the status of seawater intrusion and other groundwater contaminants of concern in Jefferson County, and every five years prepare a comprehensive analysis.

**ENP 3.5**      Implement an adaptive management program to protect groundwater against seawater intrusion.

**ENP 3.5.1**      Conduct analysis of the monitoring data as follows:

- Define area of concern based on the extent of monitoring data that indicates potential seawater intrusion.
- Use appropriate combination of accepted scientific methodology for evaluating seawater intrusion impact, as described in Pacific Groundwater Group study (1996), Washington Administrative Code, United States Geological Survey protocol, and other contemporary examples and approaches.
- Conduct appropriate statistical analysis for evaluating groundwater using methodology approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for groundwater monitoring, such as the Sen's Slope Indicator Test.

**ENP 3.5.2**      If statistically significant degradation in an area is determined to be the result of seawater intrusion, Jefferson County will immediately take one or more of the following actions:

- Adopt a moratorium in the affected area on the issuance of building permits for which individual groundwater wells are proposed as proof of potable water until such time as area water quality improves or a plan is developed with the objective of improving area water quality.

- Adopt a moratorium on subdivisions in the affected area that propose individual groundwater wells as proof of potable water until such time as area water quality improves or a plan is developed with the objective of improving area water quality.
- Establish an aquifer protection district via public vote (RCW 36.36) *or, if necessary*, petition Ecology to form a groundwater management area (per WAC 173-100).

## SHORELINES

### GOAL:

**ENG 4.0**      **Preserve the long-term benefits of shoreline resources.**

### POLICIES:

**ENP 4.1**      Shorelines of statewide significance shall be managed according to the following order of preferred uses as established in the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58.020):

1. Recognize and protect state-wide over local interests;
2. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
3. Achieve long-term over short-term benefits;
4. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
5. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline;
6. Increase recreational opportunities for the public on the shorelines; and,
7. Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58.100 and deemed appropriate or necessary.

**ENP 4.2**      The County shall revise the Shoreline Master Program to establish and implement policies and regulations for land use that are consistent with the Shoreline Management Act, the Growth Management Act, and the Comprehensive Plan. The goals and policies of the revised Shoreline Master Program shall be incorporated as an element of the Comprehensive Plan, while the development regulations of the SMP shall be integrated with the critical areas protections and other standards in the Unified Development Code. Until the revised SMP is adopted, where a regulatory provision is inconsistent with other County ordinances, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

**ENP 4.3**      Coordinate to incorporate local, state and federal laws into the recommendations of cooperatively-developed, comprehensive watershed and habitat conservation plans in shoreline planning processes.

**ENP 4.4**      Promote public access on shorelines in a manner that preserves or enhances the characteristics of the shoreline.

**ENP 4.5**      Increase shoreline physical and visual public access in transportation planning, especially in the development of viewpoints and trails.

**ENP 4.6**      Shoreline management decisions should preserve sites having historic, cultural, scientific, and archaeological value as identified under the appropriate authorities designated by state and federal law.

**ENP 4.7** Encourage and participate in projects and programs that foster a greater understanding of shoreline protection and hazards, maritime activities and history, and environmental conservation.

GOAL:

**ENG 5.0** **Allow development along shorelines which is compatible with the protection of natural processes, natural conditions, and natural functions of the shoreline environment.**

POLICIES:

**ENP 5.1** Regulate shoreline land use activities based on the best available scientific information.

**ENP 5.2** Protect nearby properties and the shoreline environment from the individual or cumulative effects of development that may interfere with the functions of sediment transport systems along the shoreline.

**ENP 5.3** Establish a preference for the use of non-structural rather than structural solutions in projects for shoreline stabilization, mitigation, rehabilitation, restoration, and enhancement.

**ENP 5.4** Coordinate with Department of Ecology water resources management and comprehensive watershed plans in order to protect water resources along shorelines, and to prevent, minimize, and mitigate salt water intrusion of coastal aquifers.

**ENP 5.5** Coordinate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and other marine resources.

**ENP 5.6** Manage shoreline hazard areas such as unstable bluffs and erosion and coastal flood hazard areas to protect public safety and public and private property.

**ENP 5.7** Manage storm water for proposed and existing development in a manner consistent with Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.

**ENP 5.8** Promote best management practices to protect shorelines in land use regulations related to septic systems, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.

## **AIR QUALITY**

GOAL:

**ENG 6.0** **Protect air quality from the adverse impacts of land use and development and improve it where it is degraded.**

POLICIES:

**ENP 6.1** As a member of the Olympic Air Pollution Control Authority, continue to obtain technical information on air quality as a basis for an air quality improvement program.

- ENP 6.2** Land use activities that create or compound air quality problems should be avoided or mitigated.
- ENP 6.3** Coordinate the provision of public transportation to prevent congestion in areas of higher land use densities and in shopping and recreation areas, and promote multi-modal transportation for commuters to reduce pollution emissions from automobiles.
- ENP 6.4** Promote public education programs that provide information on air quality problems and measures which individuals can take to improve air quality.
- ENP 6.5** Promote best management practices to protect air quality in land use regulations related to sewage treatment plants, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.

## **NATURAL HERITAGE VEGETATION AND LANDFORMS**

### GOAL:

- ENG 7.0** **Protect Jefferson County's natural heritage, including native vegetation and unique landforms.**

### POLICIES:

- ENP 7.1** Encourage collaboration with state programs such as the Washington Natural Heritage Program and local conservation groups to identify and protect plants, plant communities, habitats and landforms which reflect the County's unique natural heritage.
- ENP 7.2** Encourage the protection and acquisition of priority sites and habitats which protect native ecosystems.
- ENP 7.3** Provide accurate information as resources allow so that land use decisions recognize and reflect protection of native ecosystems and rare landforms.
- ENP 7.4** Native vegetation should be used whenever possible in habitat restoration projects and linking of open space areas.
- ENP 7.5** Encourage the utilization of native vegetation and drought-tolerant species to reduce water consumption and landscape maintenance costs.
- ENP 7.6** Encourage public education and information to foster citizen understanding of native ecosystems and Jefferson County's unique natural heritage.
- ENP 7.7** Encourage protection of unique geologic sites, conditions, and values, including locations of unique scientific interest, such as fossil locations and special mineral and rock locations.

- ENP 7.8** Support efforts of the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board and other agencies to eradicate invasive species of vegetation.

## VIEW AND NOISE CONDITIONS

### GOAL:

- ENG 8.0** **Protect the habitability, environmental quality and natural beauty of Jefferson County from the adverse impacts of development with respect to viewsheds and noise and mitigate impacts based on the conditions.**

### POLICIES:

- ENP 8.1** The public process for adopting and amending County ordinances should include a discussion of the public interest with respect to protection of views and viewsheds.
- ENP 8.2** Include in the public planning process a discussion regarding limiting noise pollution impacts through ordinance provisions which may require appropriate mitigation such as vegetative buffers, setbacks, acoustical walls, and termination of activities.
- ENP 8.3** Establish standards to limit the glare from outdoor lighting.

## CRITICAL AREAS REGULATED UNDER THE CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

### Geologic Hazard Areas

### GOAL:

- ENG 9.0** **Ensure that landslide and erosion hazard areas are appropriately designated and that measures to protect public health and safety are implemented for hazardous areas.**

### POLICIES:

- ENP 9.1** Review standards to minimize adverse impacts to public health and safety and to public and private property for areas where risk may occur from hazards such as landslides, erosion, subsidence, and other impacts associated with geologic hazards.
- ENP 9.2** Improve the scientific information which serves as the basis of land use and planning, such as the nature and distribution of geologic materials, processes, and conditions.
- ENP 9.3** Land uses in geologic hazard areas should be allowed only when appropriate mitigation is provided to protect public safety and the environment.
- ENP 9.4** Establish a preference for the use of landslide mitigation measures which are compatible with natural conditions, including setbacks, appropriate siting, drainage control, buffers, and bioengineering solutions.

- ENP 9.5** The County may require geotechnical reports for areas of potential risk from geologic conditions or processes when necessary, and may provide for qualified staff or peer review of studies under a reasonable fee schedule.
- ENP 9.6** Promote best management practices to minimize landslide risk in land use regulations related to septic systems, drainage, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.
- ENP 9.7** Promote public education programs that foster an understanding of landslide hazard areas and encourage homeowners and communities to mitigate existing problems.

GOAL:

- ENG 10.0** **Minimize seismic risk to life and property on new and existing structures.**

POLICIES:

- ENP 10.1** Continue to promote development which is designed to avoid or minimize seismic risk in land use regulations, including best management practices related to septic systems, drainage, industry, and other development.
- ENP 10.2** Continue to improve the scientific information for identifying areas of seismic risk from impacts such as shaking, ground breaking, tsunami, and landsliding, to serve as the basis of land use decisions and for recommending the retrofitting of existing development, as appropriate.
- ENP 10.3** Locate and construct transportation facilities, utilities, and essential public facilities to minimize adverse impacts from seismic events.
- ENP 10.4** Continue to coordinate with the State Department of Transportation to develop and implement a schedule for seismic reinforcement of Jefferson County bridges.
- ENP 10.5** Continue to promote public information programs to educate the public regarding the appropriate response to a seismic emergency in accordance with state, federal, and local emergency plans.

**Flood Hazard Areas**GOAL:

- ENG 11.0** **Protect flood hazard areas from development and uses that compromise the flow, storage and buffering of flood waters, normal channel functions, and fish and wildlife habitat and to minimize flood and river process risk to life and property.**

POLICIES:

- ENP 11.1** Coordinate flood plain management with watershed and habitat plans developed in multi-jurisdictional processes with community representation.

- ENP 11.2** The County flood plain ordinance should address flood plain development standards and best management practices with an emphasis on managing the land use rather than managing the river.
- ENP 11.3** Minimize flood damage by amending the flood ordinance to establish standards which preclude incompatible uses, protect the floodplain from significant adverse impacts, and promote non-structural solutions for flood plain management.
- ENP 11.4** Promote public education and involvement regarding flood plain protection measures and hazard response.
- ENP 11.5** Minimize flood damage to development by limiting flood plains to low intensity land uses and by limiting land uses in floodways to repairs of existing structures, temporary uses which are removable in the event of a flood, and uses that have a low flood damage potential, such as agriculture, stock grazing, parks, golf courses, horticulture, forestry, or parking areas subject to applicable regulations.
- ENP 11.6** Essential public facilities shall be allowed in the base flood plain only when no feasible alternative is available.
- ENP 11.7** Storm water management plans should minimize adverse effects of floods on existing and future development and protect the natural conditions and functions of the flood plain.
- ENP 11.8** Encourage the designation and purchase of open space and riparian habitat in flood hazard areas consistent with watershed and habitat conservation plans and a flood management plan.
- ENP 11.9** Land use decisions should consider the future cumulative cost to the public of flood plain development.
- ENP 11.10** Implement the goals and policies of the Jefferson County-City of Port Townsend Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in October 2004.

### **Fish and Wildlife Habitat**

#### GOAL:

- ENG 12.0** **Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat throughout Jefferson County.**

#### POLICIES:

- ENP 12.1** Participate in multi-jurisdictional processes with community representation for development of coordinated watershed and habitat conservation plans to serve as the basis of land use decisions that may affect fish and wildlife habitat.

- ENP 12.2** Land use decisions should recognize the priority of the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat in accordance with proposed listings of threatened and endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- ENP 12.3** Buffers for fish and wildlife habitat areas should be consistent with the best available science for habitat protection.
- ENP 12.4** Promote the protection of wildlife habitat corridors that connect otherwise isolated habitat areas.
- ENP 12.5** Promote best management practices to protect fish and wildlife habitat in land use regulations related to septic systems, drainage, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.
- ENP 12.6** Coordinate with appropriate agencies to avoid adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat in the review and approval of development proposals.
- ENP 12.7** Cooperate and coordinate in habitat restoration efforts with regional organizations

### **Aquifer Recharge Areas**

#### GOAL:

- ENG 13.0** **Protect aquifer recharge areas from depletion of aquifer quantity or degradation of aquifer quality.**

#### POLICIES:

- ENP 13.1** Aquifer recharge areas should be designated and managed based on the best available science.
- ENP 13.2** Until geohydrologic studies provide additional information regarding the full extent of aquifer recharge areas, the County should protect aquifer recharge capability in all areas of the County.
- ENP 13.3** Storm water should be managed to enhance and protect aquifer recharge quality and rate of infiltration based on a comprehensive watershed plan.
- ENP 13.4** Promote best management practices to protect aquifer recharge areas in land use regulations related to septic systems, drainage, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.
- ENP 13.5** Encourage the use of community water systems to serve new shoreline development.

### **Wetlands**

#### GOAL:

**ENG 14.0      Protect and enhance wetlands in all their functions.**

POLICIES:

**ENP 14.1**      Designate and manage wetlands based on the best available science.

**ENP 14.2**      Land use activities that may impact wetlands should be reviewed in the context of a comprehensive watershed and habitat conservation plan.

**ENP 14.3**      Standards for wetland buffers should be consistent with the best available science as recommended by wetland and habitat biologists.

**ENP 14.4**      Promote best management practices to protect wetlands in land use regulations related to septic systems, drainage, forest practices, agricultural practices, industry, and other development.

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## STRATEGIES

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### A. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT RECOVERY STRATEGY

Jefferson County's strategy for management of environmental resources will be conducted in the context of a collaborative watershed management approach to the interrelated functions of the resources, in order that land use activities are consistent with plans for the recovery of fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

1. Participate as a member of the Water Resources Council for Water Resources Inventory Area 17 and other areas of Eastern Jefferson County, and as a member of watershed management unit(s) formed by multi-jurisdictional and community interests for watersheds in Western Jefferson County. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 3.0)
2. Work with the Department of Ecology to resolve applications for water rights in Jefferson County based on scientific information developed through a watershed management plan. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0)
3. Develop a surface water management plan based on a watershed approach to resource management. (Corresponding Goal: 2.0)
4. Continue to participate in watershed studies to identify and characterize surface and ground water resources and their interrelationships, in order to provide a scientific basis for water resource management, and to identify alternative and future sources of supply sufficient to meet projected population growth. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0)
5. Work with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee to establish long-term public supply needs, to identify and protect future water supplies, and to establish regional conservation programs and funding mechanisms. (Corresponding Goals: 3.0, 4.0)

### B. CONSOLIDATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REGULATORY STRATEGY

Jefferson County's strategy for resource protection is based on an ongoing effort to inventory and collect information related to the County's environmental resources and functions based on the best available science, and to protect the resources through implementing ordinances.

1. Implement and continually improve a consolidated environmental review process that promotes efficient and timely permit decisions and a more comprehensive environmental review. (Corresponding Goal: 1.0)
2. Continuously evaluate and develop standards for development, where appropriate, which include incentives for the protection of environmental resources, public access to shorelines, the creation of open space, the conservation of water resources, and the protection of viewsheds. (Corresponding Goals: 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 8.0)

### C. CRITICAL AREAS STRATEGY

Jefferson County’s strategy for protection and management of critical areas shall be based on best available science.

1. Continue to inventory and map landslide and erosion hazard areas, as funding becomes available, to serve as the scientific basis for land use decisions. (Corresponding Goal: 9.0)
2. Based on ongoing inventory, identify shoreline areas of risk such as unstable coastal bluffs, areas of erosion and coastal flood hazard areas; and protect shoreline drift cell functions and values; designate them as critical areas where appropriate; and establish restrictions for uses and activities to protect public safety (Corresponding Goals: 4.0, 5.0, 9.0)
3. Ensure that development regulations are sufficiently protective to maintain the County-wide National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System in order to develop new programs to mitigate flood hazards and reduce insurance rates. (Corresponding Goal: 11.0)
4. Work with local agencies and citizens in existing Flood District Boards and establish Flood District Boards in flood hazard areas where they do not exist. (Corresponding Goal: 11.0)
5. Continue to inventory and map seismic hazard areas as funding becomes available, and amend the development regulations accordingly to minimize seismic hazards. (Corresponding Goal: 10.0)
6. Seek funding to inventory public and essential facilities which do not meet current seismic construction standards, and prioritize facilities for seismic reinforcement. (Corresponding Goal: 10.0)
7. Review the floodproofing and storm water management measures for development in the flood plain to minimize adverse impacts to property and to natural flood plain functions, such as channel storage and lateral migration of channels. (Corresponding Goals: 11.0, 12.0)
8. Review the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for consistency with flood management plan based on a watershed approach, to preclude incompatible uses, to protect flood plain functions, to promote non-structural solutions, to protect water quality and quantity, and to support habitat recovery plans.

*“Precluding incompatible uses and development does not mean a prohibition of all uses or development. Rather, it means governing changes in land uses, new activities, or development that could adversely affect critical areas. Thus for each critical area, counties and cities planning under the act should define classification schemes and prepare development regulations that govern changes in land uses and new activities by prohibiting clearly inappropriate actions and restricting, allowing, or conditioning other activities as appropriate.”* Chapter 365-190-020 pursuant to RCW 36.70A050.

(Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 2.0, 11.0, 12.0)

9. Collect existing information, identify and map important areas of both private and public lands containing fish (including shellfish) and wildlife habitat areas, as funding becomes available. Examples of such areas are:

- Stream corridors and wetland areas;

- Habitat areas for endangered, threatened, candidate, monitored, and sensitive species;
  - Priority habitats as identified by the Department of Fish and Wildlife;
  - Known wildlife movement corridors;
  - Priority recreational and commercial shellfish growing areas as identified by the responsible State agency;
  - Kelp and eelgrass areas which are important to herring reproduction;
  - Naturally occurring ponds of less than 20 acres;
  - Raptor habitat areas;
  - Corridors which provide the only cover in high density areas and serve as connection to other habitat areas;
  - Other “habitats and species of local importance” (Chapter 365-190-080(5)(c)(ii) WAC) such as the winter range of the Roosevelt elk herd; and
  - Fish hatcheries.
- (Corresponding Goals: 12.0, 14.0)

#### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

Jefferson County recognizes that strategies for environmental protection are closely related both to public safety and the public enjoyment of resource values and functions, and that the County strategy must include measures for public involvement and education.

1. Cooperatively implement, with available resources, a public education and involvement process to promote citizen understanding and support of water resource protection and conservation through watershed management. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 3.0)
2. Support and implement programs for education of the public and the development community regarding development hazards and measures required and recommended for protection of environmental resources as funding becomes available. (Corresponding Goals: 5.0, 9.0, 10.0, 11.0, 13.0)
3. Conduct public education programs which foster an understanding of landslide hazard areas and the role of feeder bluffs in drift cell functioning to preserve shoreline area function and values, and work with developers, homeowners, and communities to avoid and mitigate existing problems and to prevent future problems. (Corresponding Goals: 5.0, 9.0)
4. Support public education programs that promote an understanding of issues related to boater safety.
5. Develop data and procedures to coordinate the declaration of burn bans to be consistent with local monitoring information. (Corresponding Goal: 6.0)
6. Work with environmental education groups to collect and disseminate information on listings and proposed listings of fish species as endangered or threatened and impacts of the listings on land use activities. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 12.0)