PUGET SOUND
CHARACTERIZATION AND
ASSESSMENT PROJECT

CENTER FOR STREAMSIDE STUDIES
NOVEMBER 3, 2009
• Sound-wide assessment of:
  • Freshwater processes
  • Nearshore processes
  • Wildlife habitat
Objectives

- Help bridge “the gap” between science and its application
- Work within a watershed planning framework
Objectives

- Identify and prioritize areas for protection, restoration and development.
Benefits of a Watershed Approach

- **Regulation & Enforcement**
  - Understand processes at a watershed scale
- **Improved land use planning & management**
- **Identify best areas for mitigation and protection**

- **Effort and Focus**
  - **Level of Resource Protection**
    - Low
    - High
Issaquah Characterization Example

- Current and Future Conditions Report:
  
  Protect Processes in Upper Watershed
  - Limit Forest Clearing
  - Limit Impervious Cover

Prescribe Solutions

Identify solutions to reduce human impacts and improve ecosystem benefits
Issaquah Example

- Current and Future Conditions Report:
  - Restore floodplain in Issaquah
    - Purchase homes
    - Remove channelization
    - Regulate location of new development
Prioritize Using Characterization
South Issaquah Creek Greenway

Acquisition & restoration
Planning of the right elements at the right time:

- Problems had compatible solutions (flooding and habitat need)
- Solutions had a value for both people and aquatic resources

Cooperation between County, City, and Non-Profit Groups

Long term involvement by key individuals from agencies and non-profit groups