



Whatcom Chapter

Eric Hirst
1932 Rhododendron Way
Bellingham, WA 98229
656-6690
EricHirst@comcast.net

October 23, 2007

WA State Department of Ecology
Attn: Whatcom County SMP
1440 10th Street #102
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Department of Ecology:

On behalf of the Whatcom County chapter of Futurewise, I write in support of the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program (SMP), approved by the County Council on February 27, 2007.

Futurewise is a statewide public-interest group focused on healthy communities and cities while protecting farmland, forests, and open space. Futurewise favors Smart Growth, land-use patterns that accommodate an expanding population in ways that benefit current and future residents and that protect rural areas from development.

The Whatcom County SMP provides important protections for our shorelines, including, among others, Birch Bay, Bellingham Bay, Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, and the Nooksack River. This program will protect wildlife and its habitat, reduce shoreline erosion and runoff, enhance the quality of our Lake Whatcom drinking water, permit Cherry Point industries to continue operation while limiting future human activities that might harm shoreline resources, and promote public access to shorelines and water front. For these reasons, we urge the Department of Ecology to approve the Whatcom County Shoreline Master Program.

Eric Hirst
Futurewise Whatcom
Chapter President

Futurewise Whatcom Steering Committee
Rick Dubrow, Lynnea Flarry, Nick Hartrich, Eric Hirst, Greg Kirsch,
Charlie Maliszewski, Tris Shirley, Dan Warner