

# Toward a Natural Resources Asset Management Plan for Kitsap County

## Workshop Agenda

**Date:** April 13, 2022, 11:30-1:30 pm PT

**Goals:** Discuss and refine possible level of service targets for marine shorelines, hear an update on the comprehensive plan and discuss opportunities.

11:30 AM	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> – Dana Stefan and Elizabeth McManus and (Ross Strategic, Facilitators)
11:40 AM	<p><b>Discuss possible targets for marine shoreline natural assets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide examples of possible targets for marine shorelines for central Kitsap County - Charlotte Dohrn (WEC) and Matthew Medina (Kitsap County) – 10 min</li> <li>• Discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From the list of targets presented, which ones do you see most promising for delivering results and over what timeframe?</li> <li>○ Are there any targets that you think may not be viable to consider at this stage due to certain restrictions (e.g., lack of data, unclear actions, etc.)?</li> <li>○ From the identified targets, is there a sequencing that the team recommends to guide the KNRAMP implementation?</li> <li>○ Based on your experience, what actions/strategies can improve shoreline condition in the County?</li> <li>○ Are there shoreline areas that you think should be addressed first? From those areas, which ones should be targeted for protection and which ones for restoration?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:40 PM	<p><b>Discuss how natural asset management could be integrated into Kitsap County’s comprehensive planning update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief update on Kitsap County’s comprehensive planning process and timeline – Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech (Kitsap County) - 10 min</li> <li>• Discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What opportunities are there to integrate natural asset management more in the upcoming Kitsap County’s Comprehensive Plan update?</li> <li>○ Are you aware of other examples or approaches where natural asset management was incorporated into county/city comprehensive plans?</li> <li>○ Are there any specific KNRAMP materials or information that should be provided in advance to inform the update process?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:15 PM	<p><b>Updates from Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates from Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe</li> <li>• Updates from Suquamish Tribe</li> <li>• Updates from Kitsap County</li> <li>• Updates from WEC</li> </ul>
1:25 PM	<b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b>
1:30 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>

# Toward a Natural Resources Asset Management Plan for Kitsap County

April 13, 2022 Workshop  
Meeting Notes

## Discussion on possible targets for marine shoreline natural assets

The group discussed potential targets for marine shorelines, including targets that could be implemented in the KNRAMP, the sequencing of shoreline areas to first focus on, and actions and strategies to achieve desired levels of service. Suggestions and discussion highlights included:

- Suggestion from the group to start with the targets that have available data and can be measured, and further research the targets for which more information is needed.
- Feedback on specific objectives and targets:
  - Feedback on *Objective M1. Protect and restore natural shoreline processes*
    - Percent armoring works well as an indicator; there is a lot of momentum from Shore Friendly and other restoration efforts.
    - Nearshore restoration, specifically restoring small stream mouths is not currently represented in the list of targets. This should be called out, in either the targets or in a strategy/action. See restoration planning associated with the SMP, Nearshore prioritization, other sources. There may be opportunities associated with roads and stormwater projects.
    - It is important to consider linkages and consistency of armoring targets with the County's Shoreline Master Program. For example, M1.1. potentially links well with natural shoreline designations, but M1.2. is harder to apply as written.
    - There are several aspects of buffer and setback regulations. Compliance is conducted by visiting sites to see if what was permitted was built. Is there a concern/issue around unpermitted structures being built? Or is this more focused on effectiveness monitoring of the SMP and CAOs; is the current code related to setbacks and buffers working to allow for natural recession?
    - Illegal armoring is likely an increasing problem around North America with sea level rise. Important to balance out any new development or armor.
  - Feedback on *Objective M2. Protect and restore marine shoreline vegetation*
    - Currently, "developed" in the targets description is defined as 50% or greater in "developed" land cover classifications in the management unit.
    - Shoreline riparian areas in less developed drift cells: the group confirmed that land cover data (as opposed to land designation) should be used for cover data. The group indicated that environmental designation, defined in the Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 22), is challenging to measure due to various reasons including: some shorelines have more than one designation and different shoreline designations have different setbacks requirements.
    - It will be important to anticipate and plan for red alder decline along some of the shoreline riparian area. Climate change may be a factor, but red alder is a relatively short-lived species that come in after disturbance and can't replace itself. Relegated to damp riparian areas there is the potential for the loss of forest cover and dominance by invasive plant species. Red alder typically lives to be 60 to 70 years, with some individuals reaching 100 +.

- The County will not update the SMP during this comp plan update, but updated critical area ordinances are due on 6/30/2024.
  - Feedback on Objective M3. Address pollution and contamination so shorelines are safe for shellfish harvest
    - This target helps elevate the importance of shellfish growing areas/harvest by using an objective/target but doesn't make DCD the driver behind the solutions to reach the objective/target.
    - Objective 3 is of key importance for tribes since many shellfish harvest areas are closed for tribes. HCCC has a regional PIC program with three HC counties including Kitsap and the two HC Tribes, and it may be worth for the group to explore some connections. One option could be to expand abilities of the PIC program to open up abilities for shellfish growing areas.
  - Feedback on *Objective M4: Protect important ecosystem elements and assess possibilities for setting targets:*
    - Going forward, it could be helpful to review the NOAA data on eelgrass to explore if there is available information to identify and monitor sites with increasing or declining eelgrass.
    - There is increasing momentum around dive assessments in Puget Sound for kelp and eelgrass monitoring. Are there opportunities to use this data?
- Actions/strategies that can improve shoreline condition in the County:
  - Improve compliance, e.g., by ensuring that activities are permitted and offering more training for inspectors to enforce compliance.
  - One particular shoreline issue is related to armoring on private properties that often happens due to drainage problems. Need additional solutions to address drainage issues that cause shoreline erosion other than armoring. There are also drainage issues on public properties.
- Technical assistance is needed during shoreline design and cultural resource surveys. Potential shoreline areas to be addressed first by the KNRAMP:
  - Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe wants to see protection of Big Beef Creek and Seabeck areas.
  - Will be important to identify areas in both east side and the Hood Canal side of the county for investments. There are many restoration efforts the county is already involved in, with different partners, including Port Gamble Bay, Liberty Bay, and other public lands. There are lots of opportunities for public lands in the county, and opportunities to partner with land trusts.
  - Other ideas include to review research by PSRF and others about the locations of key habitats, review the County's existing prioritization framework for nearshore restoration projects, and identify opportunities associated with stormwater or shoreline roads projects.

**Discussion on how natural asset management could be integrated into Kitsap County's comprehensive planning update:**

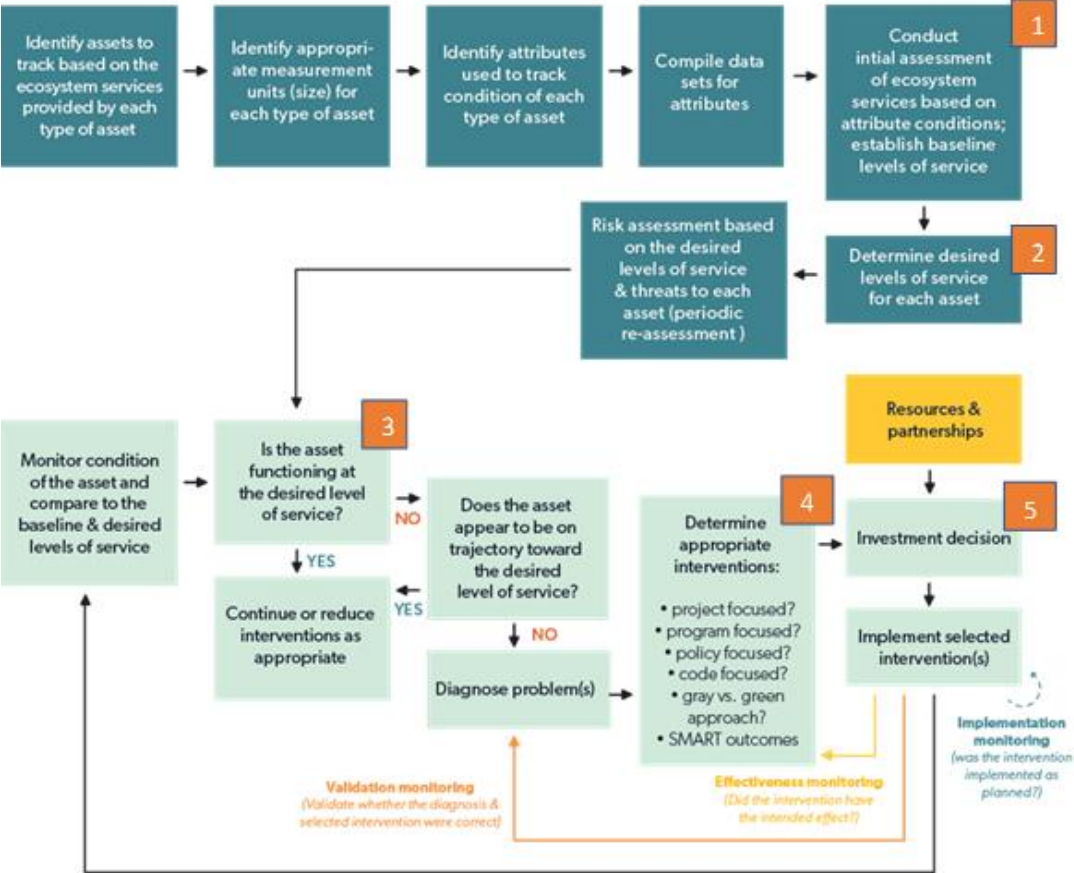
- Kitsap County is currently working on aspects of the Comprehensive Plan update, involving a large team of staff and eventually consultants. This is a 10-year periodic update, that will also include 6 & 20 year capital facilities plans, an environmental review, public participation, and updates to development regulations.
- Key areas the update process will consider include: housing affordability; region and countywide centers; the goals & policies of com plan chapters; subarea plans; development regulations (e.g., title 16, title 17, title 18, title 21); UGA size and composition and the buildable lands report; land use reclassification requests; essential public facilities; climate change, equity, and displacement.

- Climate resilience assessment and green house gas inventory will be evaluated for incorporation into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Some of Kitsap County's staff is new to Comprehensive Planning and are learning how Transportation Improvement Planning and Stormwater Capital Facility planning works. Exploring opportunities to plug other environmental program projects and ideas into these processes.
- The environmental chapter from the Kitsap County Comprehensive Planning will include goals and policies. The Comprehensive Planning will be finalized in December 2024.
- The group will further coordinate with Kitsap County to provide information about KNRAMP to inform the Comprehensive Planning update. The group agreed to continue working together to determine how to include aspects of KNRAMP, like desired levels of service, into the Comprehensive Plan update. For example, the update could include a list of potential protection and restoration projects that are needed, but it is uncertain if KNRAMP can help identify these at this stage.
- In addition to the environmental chapter of the Comprehensive Planning update, the group discussed that other chapters could also include objectives that are in alignment with KNRAMP, e.g., transportation, storm water, capital facilities plan, and the importance of not negatively impacting natural assets through implementing other elements of the com plan.
- The Kitsap County lead for the Comprehensive Planning update could also be invited to a future KNRAMP workshop (potentially the June workshop).
- Key questions asked: How do we align natural asset management similarly to how TIP and Stormwater Capital Facility planning is adopted? Does there need to be a list of projects and how does that align with funding? Can we use the level of service to help direct alternative scenarios for transportation or stormwater?

#### **Updates from Core Team Members**

- West Sound Partnership for Ecosystem Recovery is working on updating their Ecosystem Recovery Plan. The KNRAMP project has overlap with their recovery planning. Matt will be plugging into their meetings
- WDFW sent a final list of inventoried fish passage barriers to Kitsap County for county owned roads.
- Matt is working with Kitsap County DCD's long range planners to discuss opportunities for KNRAMP in Comprehensive Planning.
- City of Port Orchard is working on their Stormwater Action Plan, which identified prioritizing watersheds for stormwater projects and watershed assessments.
- Wild Fish Conservancy continues to work on water typing in Kitsap County and Pierce County and updating hydrography data with DNR to update the state maps. These data are available online.
- Kitsap County Parks is starting to deal more with restoration and fish passage issues.

# Discussion Material for Shoreline Targets & Interventions



## 1. Current Level of Service of Marine Shorelines

Shorelines in Kitsap County provide many valued benefits, like harvestable shellfish, habitat for juvenile salmon forage fish and other fish and wildlife, and a suite of benefits related to cultural values, scenery, and sense of place. To assess the current level of service of marine shorelines, KNRAMP uses a simple index of three important shoreline attributes to approximate shoreline condition and the services supported by shoreline areas. This approach assumes that shorelines in better ecological condition based on three indicators (armor, riparian vegetation, and SGA classification) are providing a higher level of service than shoreline areas where condition is degraded. This is a generalized approach that does not assess specific shoreline benefits, and may not capture some benefits like access or sense of place values. The map below and linked here shows the assessment of current level of service.

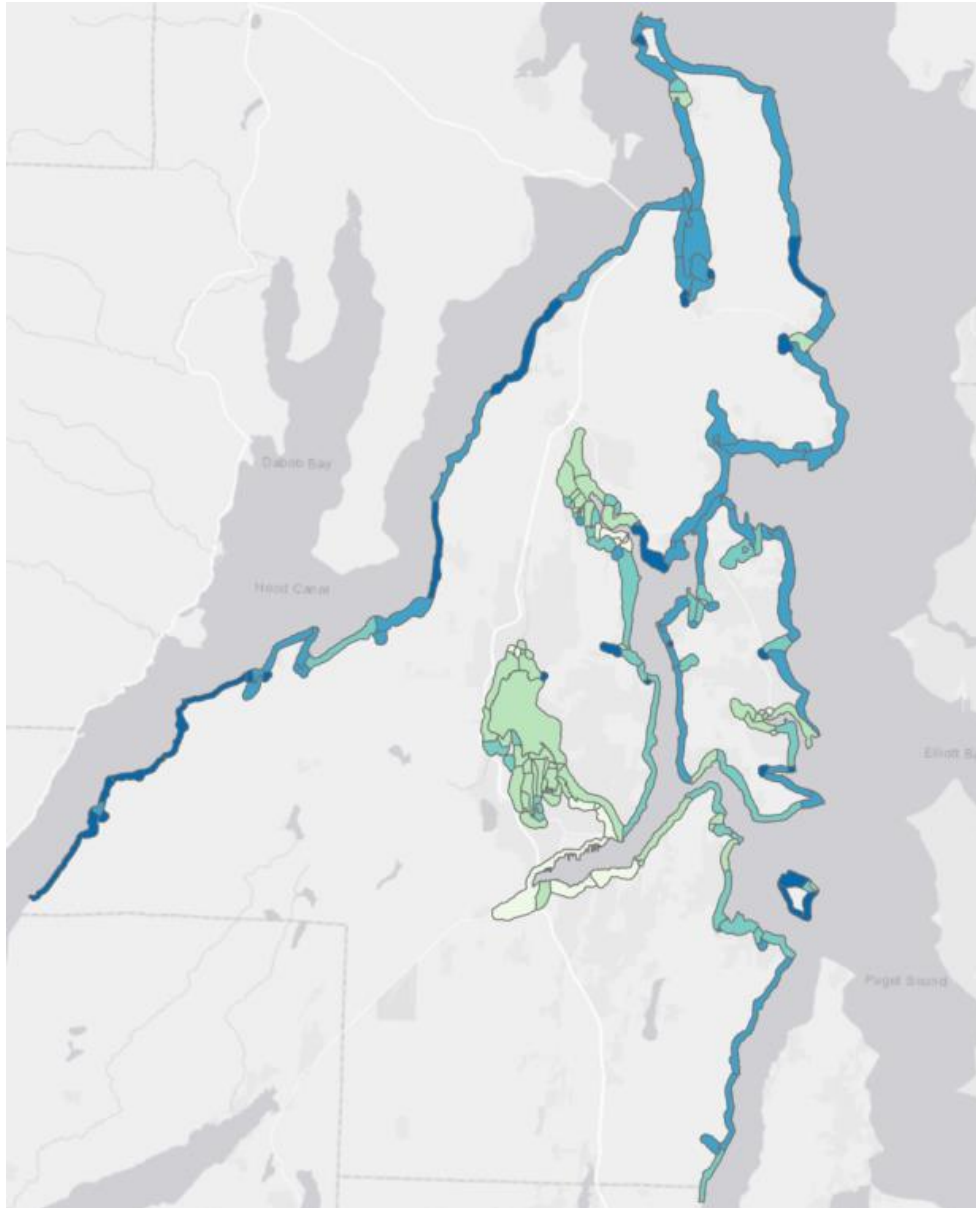


Figure 1. Map of shoreline management units and current level of service. Darker shades show a higher level of service and lighter shades show a lower current level of service, based on the index/metric used.

## 2. Desired Level of Service and Possible Targets

### Questions for discussion from workshop agenda:

- Which targets are promising for delivering results and over what timeframe?
- Are there any targets that are not viable at this stage, or targets that need to be revised?
- Is there a preferred sequence or order for working towards these targets?

**Possible “desired” level of service for shorelines:** Marine shorelines in Kitsap County support healthy habitat, abundant fish populations, and opportunities for shellfish harvest.

Possible Level of Service Targets	Indicator
<b>Objective M1. Protect and restore natural shoreline processes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M1.1. Prevent new armoring of natural marine and estuarine shorelines</li> </ul>	% armor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M1.2. Remove or soften armor on priority marine shorelines and estuaries (i.e., reduce armor by 20% in drift cells with feeder bluffs)</li> </ul>	% armor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M1.3. Improve compliance with buffer and setback regulations and other measures to allow for natural bluff recession</li> </ul>	<i>No indicator in KNRAMP</i>
<b>Objective M2. Protect and restore marine shoreline vegetation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M2.1. Restore shoreline riparian areas to a minimum of 70% forest cover in less developed drift cells</li> </ul>	% tree cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M2.2. Protect shoreline riparian vegetation in areas with high forest cover</li> </ul>	% tree cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M2.3. Increase riparian forest cover in developed drift cells by at least 10%</li> </ul>	% tree cover
<b>Objective M3. Address pollution and contamination so shorelines are safe for shellfish harvest</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M3.1. Open conditional and prohibited commercial shellfish growing areas</li> </ul>	SGA status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M3.2. Maintain status of approved shellfish growing areas</li> </ul>	SGA status
<b>Objective M4. Protect important ecosystem elements and assess possibilities for setting targets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M4.1. Sites with increasing eelgrass area outnumber sites with declining eelgrass area</li> </ul>	<i>No indicator in KNRAMP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M4.2. Increase area of high-quality forage fish spawning habitat</li> </ul>	<i>No indicator in KNRAMP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target M4.3. Identify areas where historical kelp forests have been lost, research drivers, and opportunities for recovery</li> </ul>	<i>No indicator in KNRAMP</i>

### 3. Gap Analysis

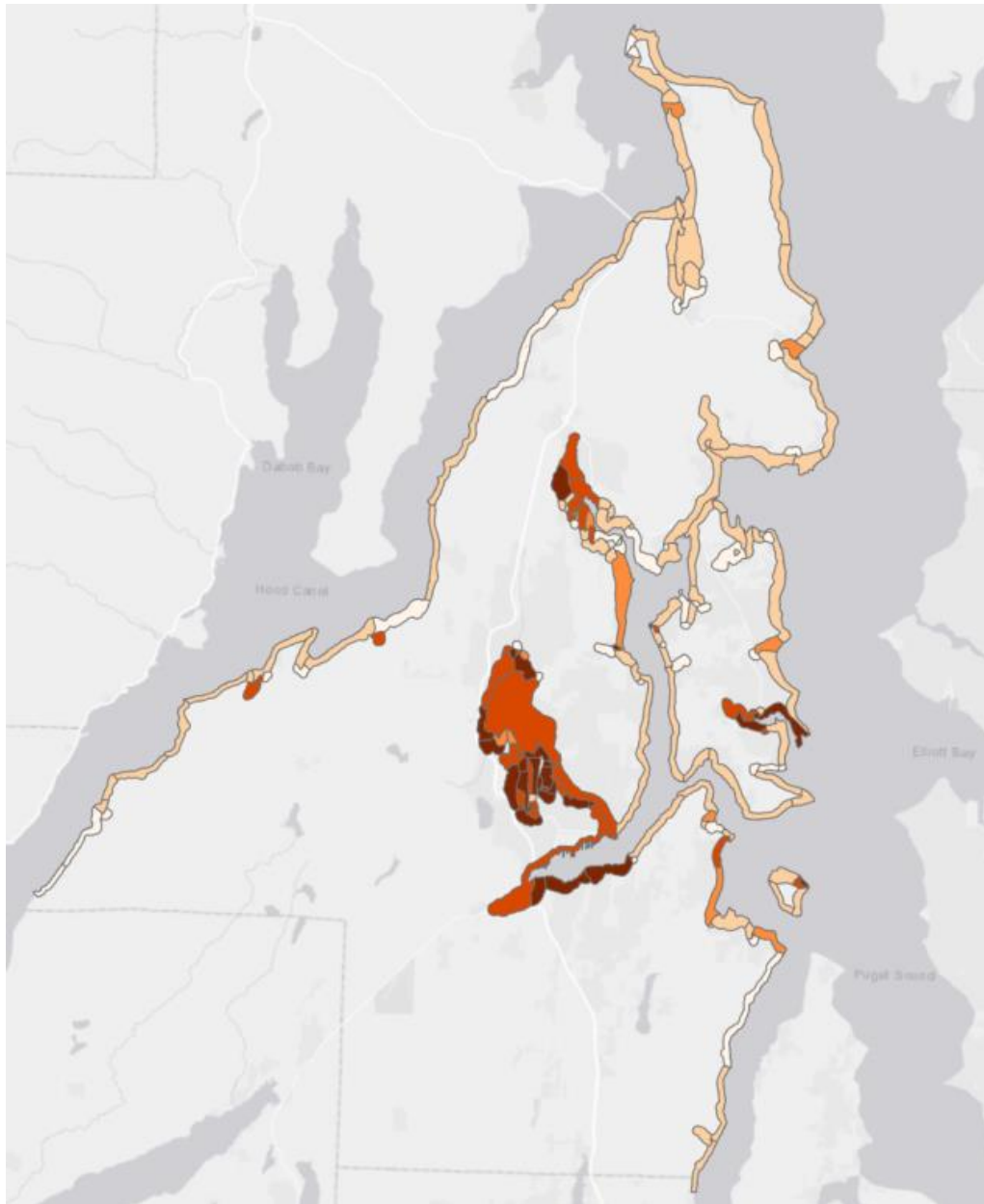


Figure 2. Map of shoreline management units and gap between current and desired level of service, based on LOS metrics and potential LOS targets in the table above. Darker shades show a larger gap.

### 4. Interventions

**Question for discussion from workshop agenda:** Based on your experience, what strategies/actions can improve shoreline condition in the County?

The table below is a starting list of possible interventions to maintain and improve the condition and level of service of marine shorelines in Kitsap County. This is not a comprehensive list and we hope to



work together to identify additional needs and opportunities, determine if interventions are/are not relevant for Kitsap County, and add specificity if needed.

	Intervention	Type	Notes
<b>M1 - armor</b>	Expand Shore Friendly Kitsap’s pace and scale	Program/Incentive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase technical assistance (e.g. GeoTech, permit review)</li> <li>• Maintain or increase marketing to landowners</li> <li>• Implement effectiveness monitoring to adaptively manage soft shore designs</li> </ul>
	Improve effectiveness of Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Ordinance Permitting	Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase compliance monitoring and enforcement</li> <li>• Increase access to technical experts</li> <li>• Educate contractors or consultants on Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines</li> </ul>
	Direct investment of federal, state and local funds/grants	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate fish barrier projects into Transportation Improvement Project selection criteria based on priorities</li> </ul>
<b>M2 - Vegetation</b>	Direct investment of federal, state and local funds/grants	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire natural shorelines for protection that provide multiple benefits (e.g. access, ecological, etc.)</li> </ul>
	Leverage Transfer Development Rights, Current Use or other incentive programs	Programs/Incentive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase marketing to landowners with high priority shoreline</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	Incentives, assistance, and outreach to shoreline riparian landowners	Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See AA for riparian actions, consider those most appropriate for marine shorelines</li> </ul>
<b>M3 – SGA status</b>	Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Programs, Shellfish Protection Districts	Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing need to fund and implement these programs, including outreach, inspections, implementing BMPs</li> </ul>
	WSCC Shellfish Program (Kitsap Conservation District)	Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs/opportunities associated with this program?</li> </ul>
	Address specific sanitary issues	Programs/projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E.g., inadequate access to sanitary services, impacts from pets and recreational users</li> </ul>
	Storm and wastewater management efforts	Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to integrate with these ongoing efforts</li> </ul>

Additional notes:

- Could be specific projects, new or existing programs, policies, code, etc. Need to understand where the needs are – more support for existing interventions? New interventions to fill gaps?

- There are many strategies for improving shoreline conditions identified through PSP Action Agenda and Implementation Strategies – what are most relevant to KNRAMP? How specific do we want/need to get to identify actions/interventions needed?

## 5. Sequencing Interventions and Investing in Natural Assets

**Questions for discussion:** Are there shoreline areas that you think should be addressed first? From those areas, which ones should be targeted for protection and which ones for restoration?

### To consider:

- Core Team recommendations, particularly priority areas for each Tribe (e.g., Chico Bay, Big Beef Creek estuary, etc.)
- KNRAMP LOS analysis (note – this is an assessment/monitoring framework, not a prioritization framework)
  - High LOS metric = currently better condition, likely supporting higher level of ES (protect?)
  - Low LOS metric = currently worse condition, ES likely diminished (restore?)
  - Locations of valued ecosystem components not directly incorporated into metrics – armored and unarmored feeder bluffs, forage fish habitat, eelgrass meadows
- Risk assessment work (part of KNRAMP logic model, but has been a light touch so far)
- Other sources of prioritization information (below)

### Prioritization Information and Analyses

#### [Kitsap Nearshore Prioritization Framework](#)

- Area of Interest: West Central Sound from Foulweather Bluff to North of Gig Harbor, including Bainbridge Island.
- Assessment Scale: Parcel
- Date of publication: Oct 2016
- Criteria for prioritization: Parcel scale projects were prioritized based on project type restoration activities (sediment supply and transport, cross-shore connectivity, tidal flow, fish passage) and protection project types (sediment supply and transport, cross-shore connectivity, and tidal flow).
- Example: Point No Point restoration project prioritized for sediment transport, cross-shore connectivity, tidal flow, and fish passage

#### [Hood Canal Landscape Assessment and Prioritization Tool](#)

- Area of Interest: Hood Canal (Mason, Jefferson, Kitsap Counties, Port Gamble S'Klallam and Skokomish Tribes)
- Assessment Scale: Parcel
- Date of Publication: 2020 (Pilot Phase Completed)
- Criteria for Prioritization: Identifies high priority ecological areas and projects future land use change in order to further prioritize parcels for protection or restoration.
- Example: 37 parcels in the Big Beef Creek area prioritized because of projected development and chum salmon habitat

## Beach Strategies Phase 2

- Area of Interest: WRIA 15
- Assessment Scale: Shore form
- Date of Publication: 2020
- Criteria for Prioritization: Sediment Supply, Forage Fish Spawning, and Pocket beach restoration or enhancement management options ranked from high to low.
- Examples: Big Beef Creek area prioritized for a high need of restoration to sediment supply and a moderate restoration need for Forage Fish Spawning.

## Watershed Characterization

- Area of interest: WRIA 15
- Assessment Scale: Sub-watershed (Assessment Units)
- Date of Publication: 2019 (on-going updates)
- Criteria for prioritization: Uses a normalized sum of marine shoreline components (species, species groups, and habitats) to get the average conservation value.
- Example: The outlet of Chico Bay is assigned the highest index value (20) for conservation value based on marine shoreline components.