

Risks of Plowing Ahead with Incomplete Understanding of the Watershed

Is there a choice?

- 💧 Washington State population has doubled since 1970.
- 💧 Puget Sound Area Population is Projected to Grow by more than 1,000,000 by 2020.
- 💧 The Legislature has established the Goal of a Healthy Puget Sound for the same year.

Goals of ESSB 5372

Puget Sound Partnership

- **A health human population supported by a healthy Puget Sound that is not threatened by changes in the ecosystem;**
- **A quality of human life that is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem;**
- **Healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web;**
- **A healthy Puget Sound where freshwater, estuary, near shore marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained;**

Goals of Puget Sound Partnership (continued)

- **An ecosystem that is supported by ground water levels as well as river and stream flow levels sufficient to sustain people, fish, and wildlife, and the natural functions of the environment;**
- **Fresh and marine waters and sediments of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region.**

Objectives of ESSB 5372 Puget Sound Partnership

- **Protect existing habitat and prevent further losses;**
- **Restore habitat functions and values;**
- **Significantly reduce toxics entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters;**
- **Significantly reduce nutrients and pathogens entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters;**

Objectives of Puget Sound Partnership (continued)

- **Improve water quality and habitat by managing stormwater runoff;**
- **Provide water for people, fish and wildlife, and the environment;**
- **Protect ecosystem biodiversity and recover imperiled species;**
- **Build and sustain the capacity for action.**

And the Choice is.....

**“That is our challenge.
Now is our time to meet it.”**

(Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair PSP, September 2007)

What is the Choice?