

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

Sound Choices Checklist Update

Rebecca Brown, DNR, HSIL

Straits ERN LIO, September 29, 2023



Overview

- Background
- Sound Choices Checklist
- Implementation
- Questions & Discussion

Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (HSIL)



Convene & create collaborative partnerships, Address technical & policy barriers



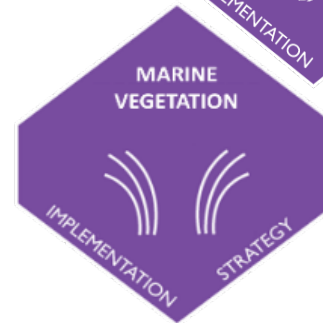
Catalytic & Strategic Investments of NEP Funds



Strategic Planning – Integration across Scales



Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

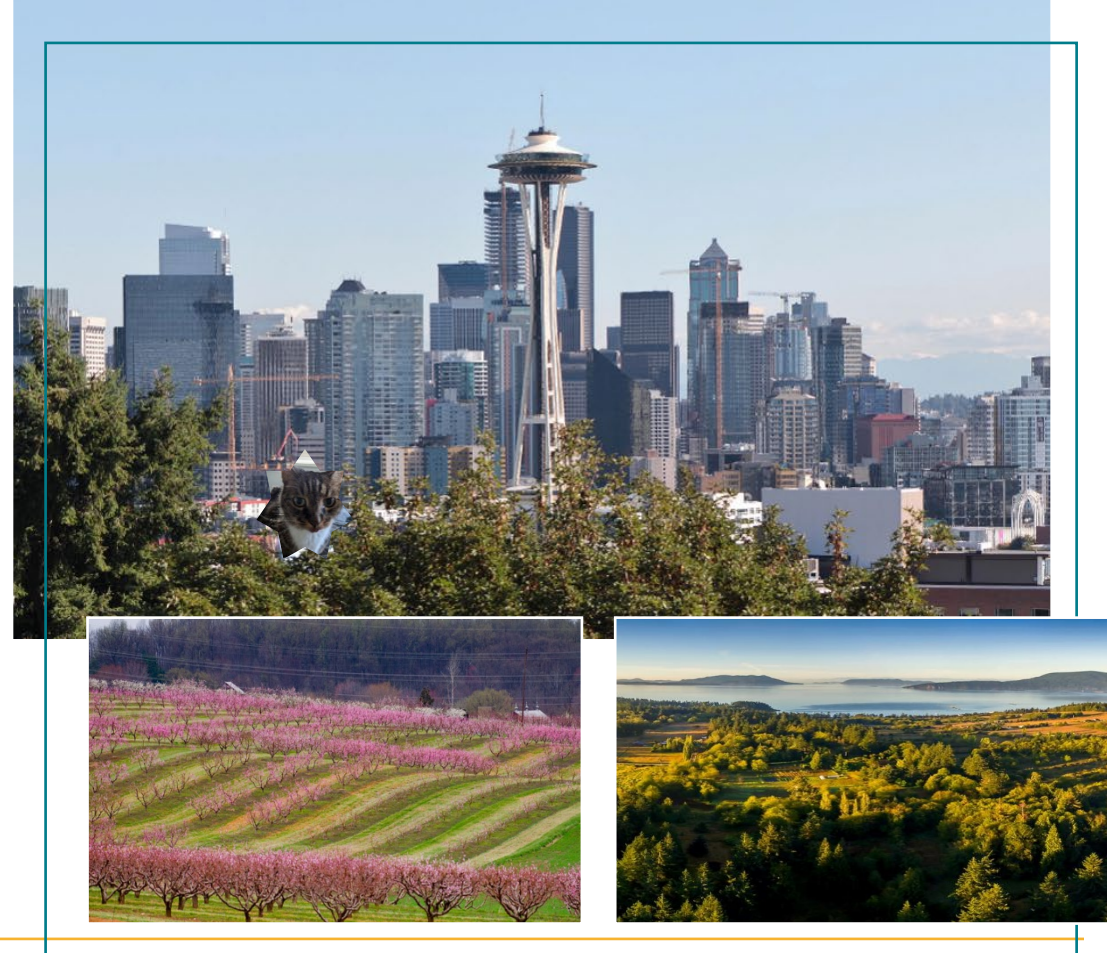


Land Development and Cover Implementation Strategy

Reduce conversion of “Ecologically Important Lands” for development in Puget Sound.

- Build Puget Sound-wide support to prevent the conversion of ecologically important lands.
- Reduce barriers to infill and redevelopment in high-growth areas.
- Support long-term viability of agricultural lands and working forests.

By 2050, 1.7 million more people will live in the Puget Sound area.



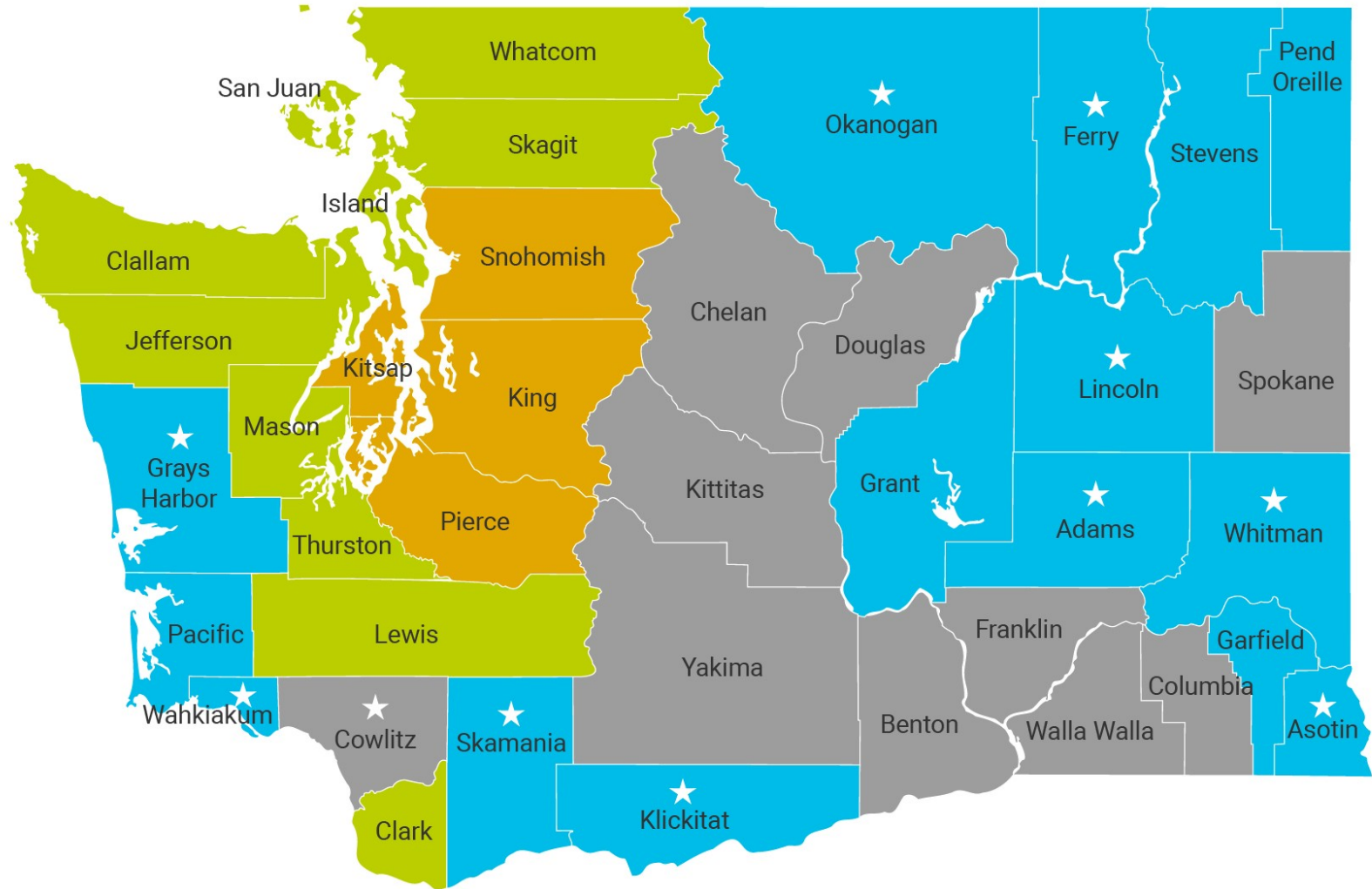
Action Agenda
Strategy 1:
Smart Growth

Improve the Growth Management Act (GMA) and local land use planning to effectively channel growth and prevent conversion of ecologically important lands.

Land
Development
and Cover
Implementation
Strategy

Significantly improve the implementation of the GMA within local jurisdictions land use planning and decisions, and across jurisdictions, to include the protection of natural areas and working lands.

GMA Periodic Update



■ **2024** Due December 31st ■ **2025** Due June 30th ■ **2026** Due June 30th ■ **2027** Due June 30th

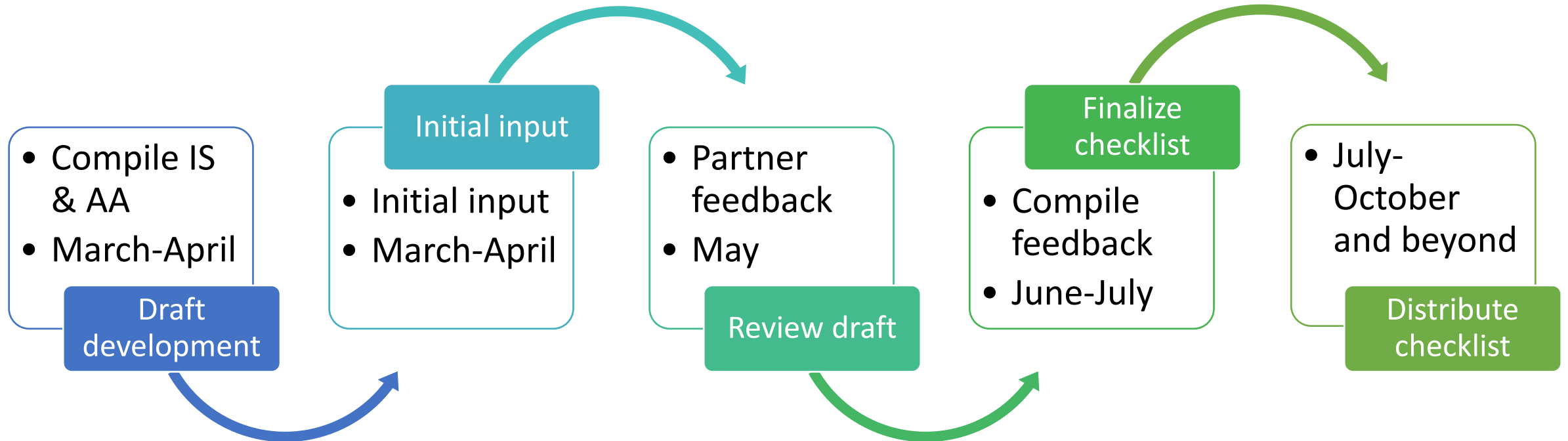
★ Starred counties are partially planning under the Growth Management Act



Sound Choices Checklist Purpose

1. Encourage local jurisdictions to align their comprehensive plans with the Action Agenda and Implementation Strategies.
2. Help jurisdictions recognize how their decisions and planning policies are advancing Puget Sound recovery.
3. Provide the Puget Sound recovery community with a resource for to use when engaging in local Comprehensive Plan updates.

Process Overview



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Sound Choices Implementation Checklist

About this Checklist

The intent of this checklist is to help local jurisdictions make “Sound Choices”—updates to their comprehensive plans that align with the Puget Sound recovery community goals of improved habitat, stormwater management, and shellfish bed recovery.

Local jurisdictions make decisions that help protect and recover the Puget Sound. The [2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda](#) calls for improving Growth Management Act¹ implementation, which includes comprehensive plan updates. Many Puget Sound Action Agenda strategies relate to required and optional elements in the Growth Management Act framework for comprehensive plans. Comprehensive plans set local land use policies under the Growth Management Act. Puget Sound basin counties and cities are due to update their plans in 2024 and 2025.

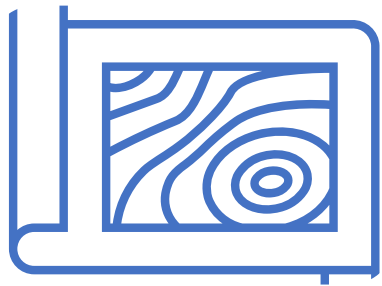
This checklist pulls from actions and strategies from the 2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda and [Implementation Strategies](#).

How to Use This Checklist

Local jurisdictions can use this checklist as a self-assessment. You can use this checklist to understand whether your jurisdiction has the tools it needs to make Sound Choices. Every affirmative answer in this checklist builds the backbone of planning and regulations that helps protect Puget Sound. Recommendations are categorized by comprehensive plan elements and then voluntary topic areas. The checklist includes links to resources with additional information.



Checklist Sections



Land Use



Housing



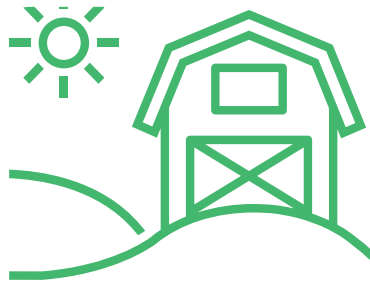
Capital Facilities



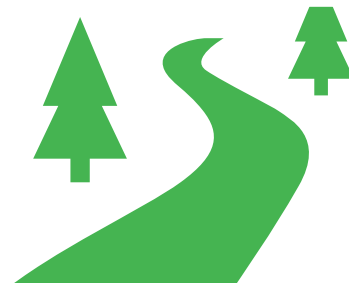
Transportation



Utilities



Rural



Shorelines



Parks and Recreation

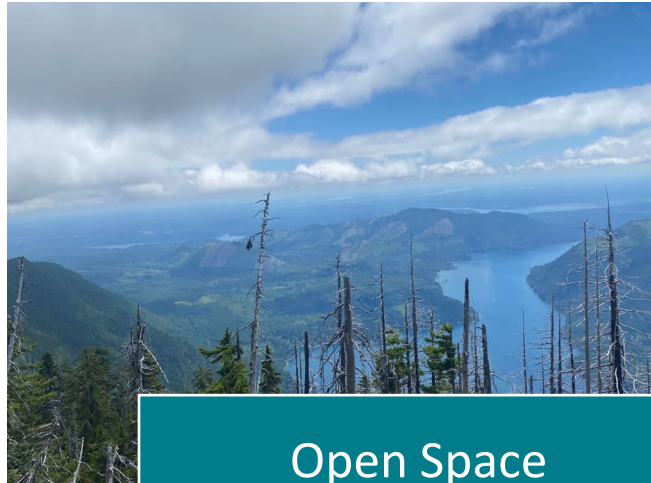


Climate Change

Additional Topics



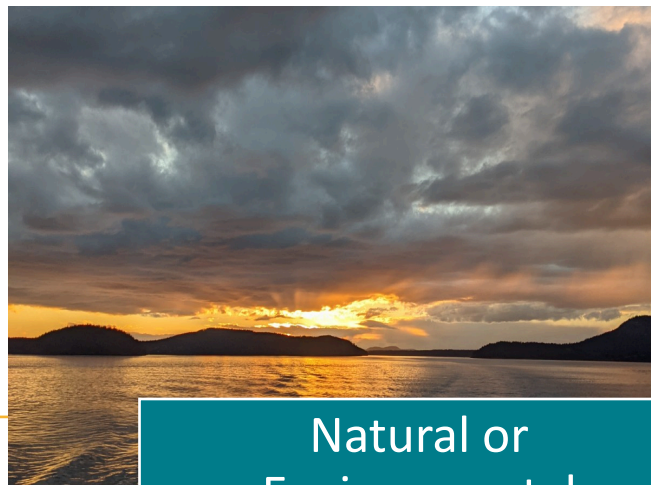
Stormwater



Open Space



Fish and Wildlife



Natural or
Environmental



Surface Water
Management



County Feedback

- Kitsap, Island, and Skagit County planners evaluated their comp plans against the checklist.
- The checklist was received positively and was seen as a useful tool.
- Some items were urban focused and did not apply to more rural counties.
- Some items would be challenging to implement because of the amount of resources or staff capacity required.



Implementation

- ❖ Addressing barriers
- ❖ Funding
 - ❖ Stormwater SIL Investment Plan

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Habitat SIL Resources

Sound Choices Checklist: <https://pspwa.box.com/v/SoundChoicesChecklist2023>

Habitat SIL Website: <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/habitat-strategic-initiative/>

Commerce NEP Website: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/growth-management-topics/watershed-grants/>

Puget Sound Action Agenda: <https://www.psp.wa.gov/2022AAupdate.php>

Questions: Rebecca.brown@dnr.wa.gov

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Thank you!

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