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www.pilchuckaudubon.org

August 2015

# The Heat Rises on County Growth Issues

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

Snohomish County is in the throes of a heat wave, both with the weather and with land use issues. The County Council adopted their 2015 Comprehensive Land Use Plan in June which will guide growth and development for the next 20 years. The plan is not set in stone, however, as the council can amend it every year and another full update is required in 2023. We were very pleased that the majority on the Council voted to adopt the Alternative 1 growth scenario. This adds more population to Everett, Lynnwood and existing cities, keeps growth in our rural areas to 8 percent, and keeps growth in existing Urban Growth Areas (UGA) to a level that will not prematurely push development into our rural lands. Still, with another 200,000 people expected to arrive in Snohomish County in the next 20 years, we will continue to have many challenges to our transportation systems and to protecting our environment.

Many of our recommendations on those two issues were not entertained by the County Council. We were disappointed that a Council majority weakened the countywide Transfer of Development Rights program. Now single family homes and townhomes are exempt from having to use development credits which save farmland. In addition, the developers are trying to convince the Council to change multi-family zoning along heavily-used transit corridors such as Highway 99. Their alternative would allow more single-family housing development. This makes it easier to justify UGA expansions which eat up more rural land. The hearing to consider this ill-advised change will resume on August 12th. You can send in written comments to the County Council asking them not to weaken our Multi-Family regulations. The county would most benefit from transit-oriented, mixed-use development that adds walkability, affordable housing and good access to transit systems. You can reach all the council members at contact.council@snoco.org. The subject line should read: Comment for Multi-Family Code Amendments for Public Hearing, August 12, 2015.

The county has started to build wiser with better zoning and standards. However, the City of Everett seems opposed to the higher growth target for Everett the County Council just adopted. Everett's hearings begin in September with the Planning Commission and in October with the City Council. It will be equally important to let the leaders of Everett know that accommodating more growth will help ensure better protection of rural lands, wildlife habitat, and water quality. It will provide opportunities for redevelopment, infill and a more vibrant city. Everett is working toward providing more multi-family housing in the downtown core but needs more connectivity in other parts of the city, especially the Everett Transit Station. You will be hearing more from me on this.

Also on August 12th, the Snohomish County Council will have a hearing on the update to the Critical Areas Regulations (CAR). While county planners have determined that only certain areas need refinement, we have offered an array of changes to CAR that will better protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and safety of people and property. After the Oso Mudslide tragedy, we

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# OUR ANNUAL PICNIC IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 16



Langus Riverfront Park
Picnic Shelter
400 Smith Island Road, Everett

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bird walk on Spencer Island

> 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Potluck picnic

Pilchuck Audubon will supply the meat and paper products. Please bring a side dish to share, and a beverage (no alcohol allowed in city park)

Questions? Leave a message at 425-610-8027

# Pilchuck Audubon Mission Statement Revision

At the July board meeting, the PAS board voted to expand the mission statement of our organization to better reflect where our energies are directed. The statement now reads (change in red):

The mission of Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity. Education, advocacy, community activism, and *citizen science* are the major avenues we will use to achieve our goal to protect and enhance the natural environment in Snohomish County, Camano Island and the State of Washington

#### In This Issue

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THIS MONTH'S PROFILE HAS BEEN SHORTENED TO ACCOMMODATE OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE.

WE'LL BE BACK TO THE REGULAR PROFILE IN SEPTEMBER!

# The Heat Rises on County Growth Issues...

(Continued from page 1)

believe the County needs to take strong measures to ensure nothing like it ever happens again. The current regulations being proposed for landslide areas do not go far enough to provide for the safety for county residents. I will be sending out an action alert soon asking you to urge the County Council to adopt stronger regulations.

My Smart Growth page on Pilchuck's website (www.pilchuckaudubon.org) has a letter of recommendation for CAR. I also will post letters of recommendation for the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update for Snohomish County and for the City of Everett.

In addition to these three important land use issues, the county's planners are pushing for other changes to the codes that could have negative impacts. These issues are changes to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements, vesting of building permits, and parking and zoning for commercial and industrial zones. While space prevents me from getting into the details of these issues with you, I will continue to keep you apprised of important land use issues.

Yes, it's been a hot summer. And it might not cool down until the end of the year!

#### YOU'RE INVITED!

# **BARN DANCE FOR SMART GROWTH**

Sunday, August 2 from 5:00-9:00 PM

Craven Farms, 13817 Short School Road, Snohomish

\$20, kids under 12 are free! Pay at the door!

Fabulous live music from the CD Woodbury Band -- www.cdwoodbury.com

Includes food, beer, wine & non-alcoholic beverages

All proceeds support the PAS Smart Growth Program

RSVP to Kristin Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org

### About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon

for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization

incorporated in the state of Washington.

#### Newsletter submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

#### To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at

www.pilchuckaudubon.org



#### **Board of Directors**

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Smart Growth

## **Trip Calendar**

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

#### Tuesday, August 4

#### **Snoqualmie River Valley, Monroe to Carnation**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

#### Tuesday, August 11

#### Fir Island

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd, and next to I-5. Expect almost anything. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

#### Tuesday, August 18

**Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, Cranberry Lake** Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd, and next to I-5. Maybe seabirds, shorebirds, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

### Tuesday August 25

**Samish Flats** 

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park next to I-5. Want to see what this area offers in Summer? Come along. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

# Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

## Port Susan Bay Day August 1

Stanwood

You are invited to The Nature Conservancy's preserve at Port Susan Bay to learn from scientists about conservation, wildlife, estuaries, climate change, as well as bird watch with professionals, and enjoy family-friendly games, prizes, face painting and ice cream. Don't miss a bird walk led by a representative from The Nature Conservancy beginning at 1:15. For more information: washingtonnature.org/portsusanbayday.

# Be Wild: Capturing the Spirit of the Sagebrush Sea August 12 Seattle

Conservation photographer Dave Showalter will share photos and stories from the most iconic—and imperiled—landscape in the American West - the Sagebrush Sea. You'll encounter strutting sage-grouse, shy Burrowing Owls, and more than thirty other species of sagebrush.

Visit https://www.mountaineers.org/about/locations-reservations/seattle-program-center/events/dave-showalter-capturing-the-spirit-of-the-sagebrush-sea-bewild-2015-speaker-series and use the code AUDUBON-HALFOFF where you see "Enter promo code" for 50% percent off the regular ticket price. 7:00 PM Mountaineers Program Center -- 7700 Sand Point Way NE

#### 29th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival September 4 – 6

Charleston, OR

The Oregon Shorebird Festival's 29th year will include a full weekend of activities planned for birders of all skill levels. The

festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. Activities include expertly guided land based field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, New River and the Coos Bay area. There is a pelagic trip on Saturday for those who want to experience birding on the water. http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm

# HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE RESEARCH

Do you have concerns about the aerial application of herbicides and fertilizers onto commercial forest land in Washington? A fellow non-profit conservation organization, the Washington Forest Law Center, is doing research on impacts of forest chemicals. Please contact Wyatt Golding atwgolding@wflc.org to follow up. More details on our website.

# PUGET SOUND BIRD FEST IN EDMONDS

SEPTEMBER 11 – 13 REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 1 http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org/

This three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults. Plan to spend the weekend in Edmonds, birding and meeting other birders, naturalists, photographers, and people engaged in fascinating bird research projects.

## **SWIFTS NIGHT OUT**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 4:00PM-DUSK http://monroeswifts.org/

Come witness an amazing natural event occurring in our community!

Celebrate the arrival of the 2nd largest roost of Vaux's Swifts in America!

Watch thousands of these birds swirl into a 4-ft.-square.

Watch thousands of these birds swirl into a 4-ft.-square chimney in just minutes!

Wagner Center --639 West Main St --Monroe



### Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

ID number is 91-6183664.
☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
☐ Lifetime Member
■ 10 monthly payments of \$100
☐ 4 quarterly payments of \$250
☐ 1 payment of \$1,000
□ Donation
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☐ Profile Newsletter ☐ Program Announcements ☐ Action Alerts
Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Secretary of State's office. Your contributions are tax deductible.

# GO BIRDING AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Want to contribute to vital seabird science in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca? The ninth season of Seattle Audubon's Puget Sound Seabird Survey kicks off on October 3rd, 2015 and we are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute seabird survey.

Training on survey methodology will be provided at the end of September. If determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with

Learn more, including training dates at www.seabirdsurvey.org and email Toby Ross, Science Manager (tobyr@seattleaudubon.org) if you would like to learn more or take part.

more knowledgeable surveyors.