



Meeting Invitation

Clark County Cumulative Effects Fund Orientation

Date: March 25, 2009

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA 98666
6th Floor, Board of Clark County Commissioners' Hearing Room

What is a Cumulative Effects Fund?

Land use regulations in Clark County, including the county habitat and wetland ordinances, protect sensitive environmental characteristics and habitats. Mitigation required by the ordinances may not fully protect or replace the habitat impacted by development, resulting in small amounts of habitat and ecosystem functions being lost. The Cumulative Effects Fund helps solve the problem of losing small habits or wetlands without compensation. County ordinances provide the authority for the fund.

The Cumulative Effects Fund restores, establishes, enhances, and preserves natural resources through funds paid to a government. The developer or builder's obligations to mitigate are transferred to a program sponsor who invests the fees in mitigation of priority sites. Priority sites may have essential locations, sizes or other characteristics important to the watershed.

The county still puts the highest priority on avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts. The Cumulative Effects Fund will be used only when the other approaches are not reasonable.

What is planned for this meeting?

This meeting will orient you to the fund and its purpose. Meetings that focus on the details of the proposed program will follow it.

Can I participate if I don't attend?

Yes. Clark County will put all meeting materials on the web, and will give an e-mail address where you can comment. We will accept comments via phone and through e-mail.

For more information, contact Marlia.Jenkins@clark.wa.gov. 360.397.6097 option 6



For an alternate format, contact the Clark County ADA Office at (360) 397-2025; TTY(360) 397-2445; E-mail ADA@Clark.WA.GOV

Cumulative Effects Fund Orientation Meeting

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Meeting purpose and participant's role
3. The problem
4. What is the best available science in this topic
5. Concept for a solution
 - a. Applicant role
 - b. Recipient role
6. Exercise
7. Web and future meetings

Meeting purpose

- a) Introduce the concept of a Cumulative Effects Fund.
- b) Explore your ideas of what a fund should contain.

Participant's role

Provide feedback to the County. The County will use the information to refine a proposal for the Board of Clark County Commissioners.

The problem

Land use regulations in Clark County, including the county habitat and wetland ordinances, protect sensitive environmental characteristics and habitats. Mitigation required by the ordinances may not fully protect or replace the habitat impacted by development. Small amounts of habitat and ecosystem functions are lost.

When we cannot mitigate for the losses, the environment is degraded. Often, individual property owners cannot meet the requirements of the ordinances unless

they spend money far in excess of their impact on the environment.

What is the best available science for solving the problem?

Local, state, and federal agencies look for ways to protect both the function and value of environmental resources. Avoiding and minimizing impacts is the highest priority. Mitigation is the third way to preserve function and value. The Cumulative Effects Fund gives the county another way to mitigate impacts to protect functions and values. It links off-site mitigation to restoration of high-priority sites.

Other areas of science show that on-site mitigation has a low success rate, especially when the mitigation is small and not well monitored. The Cumulative Effects Fund allows the county to avoid small mitigation. Instead, resources are put into larger mitigation projects.

Concept for a solution

The proposed Cumulative Effects Fund helps solve the problem of losing small habitats or wetlands without compensation.

The Cumulative Effects Fund restores, establishes, enhances, and preserves natural resources through funds paid to a government. The developer or builder's obligations to mitigate are transferred to a program sponsor who invests the fees in mitigation of priority sites. Priority sites may have essential locations, sizes or other characteristics important to the watershed.

The county still puts a higher priority on avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts. The Cumulative Effects Fund will be used only when these other approaches are not reasonable.

Applicants

Applicants must submit development proposals that avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts on wetlands and habitats. If biologists find a small impact that cannot be mitigated, the applicant may voluntarily contribute to the fund. A fee is calculated based on a fee methodology. The Hearing Examiner or Planning Manager agrees to the fee. A record of payment and mitigation is placed in the file.

Building applicants may use the Cumulative Effects Fund at the time a building permit application is submitted. The process is the same, except the Chief Building Official approves the use of the fund after the recommendation of the biologist.

Recipient

The county will select a reputable organization to receive the funds. The recipient or program sponsor will use the funds to establish, restore and create habitat and wetland on high-priority sites throughout the county. The recipient is responsible for mitigating the site, long-term care and maintenance, and for monitoring success. The funds will be used to match and leverage other state, local and federal funds, making them go farther in projects.

Example 1:

An applicant avoided .5 acre of habitat impact, but must impinge on .1 acre for a driveway to the house. There are no other alternatives for relocating the driveway without creating greater impact. The applicant contributes to the CEF as mitigation for the .1 acre.

The funds are passed to the program recipient, who uses them to restore stream buffer in a high priority eagle nesting area. When

combined with other funds, the total project restores .3 acres of buffer. The program sponsor monitors the site for 10 years to assure that the plants survive.

Example 2:

An applicant avoided 1.5 acre of wetland impact, but wants to impact .1 acre to create a parking area larger than required by county code. The applicant proposes paying into the CEF as mitigation for the impact. Biologists review the request, and determine that the parking lot is not required by code, and could be located in another portion of the parcel. The request is denied and the applicant must mitigate on the site.

Next Meetings

All meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the 6th Floor of the Public Service Center. Check the Web at www.clark.wa.gov/esa to confirm the schedule.

Program design for applicants
April 8, 2009 and April 15, 2009

Program design for recipients
April 22, 2009 and May 6, 2009

Program review
May 20, 2009

We are trying to minimize paper waste.

All future meeting notices will be distributed via e-mail.

All meeting materials may be downloaded from www.clark.wa.gov/esa.

We take comments via e-mail. Let us know what you think.

Marlia.Jenkins@clark.wa.gov
Joel.Rupley@clark.wa.gov