

An Assessment of Ecosystem Protection

What's Working, What's Not

Appendices

June 2008

Sections:

1. Summary of Education Assessment
2. Summary of Voluntary Protection Programs
3. Summary of Shoreline Owner, Community and Trade Group Research
4. Summary of Permit Review
5. Review of Regulatory Protection Programs

Appendix 1: Summary of Education Assessment

Education is critical to ensuring the long-term health of our shoreline resources.

The San Juan Initiative is interested in understanding how effective current education and outreach resources are in reducing impacts from shoreline modifications.

The San Juan Initiative's Education Assessment first identified organizations in San Juan County that provide information to shoreline property owners and to contractors, builders, excavators and realtors (trade groups) about shoreline health and how changes to the shoreline impact the overall health of marine resources. Staff then interviewed the program managers. From these interviews several key points emerged:

- ~There have been past efforts to provide information about the importance of shoreline stewardship to trade groups and shoreline property owners. But there has not been an ongoing campaign nor are there consistent financial resources or staff to provide information consistently over time to property owners or to trade groups.
- ~Most of the information available to property owners or to trade groups is in the form of evening lectures or brochures. There is a lack of specific technical assistance to property owners or trade groups available on an ongoing basis.
- ~The resources that are available are well-coordinated by the Marine Resources Subcommittee, which includes most of the organizations providing information to landowners.
- ~Current education is focused on native landscaping.
- ~Friends of the San Juans provides most of the technical information to landowners as well as to the trade groups. They have hosted excavator workshops, realtor workshops, and property owner workshops focused on improving shoreline health through best management practices. Several property owners and building professionals question the information provided by the Friends because they are also involved in litigation and contest development permits.

The following organizations were identified and contacted. Organizations with an asterisk have provided detailed information to shoreline property owners or trade groups and were interviewed as part of our study.

Conservation District
WSU Beachwatchers
Friends of the San Juans*

San Juan Nature Institute*
Whale Museum
Washington Builders Association
County Community Development and Planning
Marine Resources Committee*
Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery

Below is a summary of the answers to the interview questions:

What information is provided and what strategies are employed for shoreline owners?

- ~Most education is in the form of brochures, fliers or newsletters.
- ~The Friends of the San Juans sends a newsletter to all box holders in San Juan County. In addition, they have mailed a “Living with the Shoreline” brochure to all shoreline property owners.
- ~In a survey of property owners and in conversations at public meetings, the information provided by Friends of the San Juans has been referenced multiple times.
- ~Much of the information provided to land owners is focused on landscaping or replanting native vegetation on property.
- ~Lectures are another strategy employed by almost all the education groups to educate the community about shoreline issues. The San Juan Nature Institute has hosted evening lectures on specific marine topics like the ecology of eelgrass.
- ~The Friends of the San Juans has also worked with landowners to conduct research on their property. E.g., the forage fish survey.
- ~The San Juan Nature Institute is working with the MRC to create a newspaper insert focused on the Marine Stewardship Area that will be mailed to all newspaper subscribers as well as distributed at the SJC Fair.

What information is provided to realtors/contractors/builders about shoreline health?

- ~Friends of the San Juans has provided workshops for excavators on shoreline issues.
- ~The Marine Resources Committee is funding Realtor workshops this coming fall to educate Realtors about county requirements for septic/buffers/stormwater and other environmental issues.

What technical assistance is provided to property owners?

- ~Friends of the San Juans sent a survey to shoreline landowners asking if they would like technical assistance to address erosion on their property. Twenty property owners took advantage of the technical assistance. They had more people requesting technical assistance than they could provide under the grant.
- ~The Marine Resources Committee is funding technical workshops on native landscaping at the San Juan County Fair for all landowners through the San Juan Nature Institute.

What assessment tools are in use to test the effectiveness of current education and outreach strategies?

- ~None of the organizations providing education felt that they had adequate assessment tools.
- ~All of the organizations track the number of participants.

What are the key partnerships within the education community?

- ~Within the education community, there is a good use of shared resources. For instance, the Conservation District has a folder they developed several years back that is being revised and updated by the San Juan Nature Institute to provide information to property owners. The San Juan Nature Institute is being funded by the Marine Resources Committee to provide this education. Included in that folder will also be the “Living with the Shoreline” document created by the Friends.
- ~The Marine Resources Committee is a central entity for funding outreach and education in San Juan County. They gave money last year to four organizations to provide outreach around marine issues. They also have a part-time staff person to improve education coordination within the County.

What constraints do we have in educating shoreline landowners?

- ~Several groups mentioned that the issue is perceived as political because of the leadership shown by the Friends of the San Juans. This may create challenges for non-advocacy groups to provide information in a way that is perceived as unbiased.
- ~Several groups mentioned that there is a shotgun approach and there isn't a targeted tactic for reaching shoreline landowners.
- ~All groups mentioned the lack of technical assistance for property owners.

Appendix 1: Summary of Education Assessment

- ~Lack of good monitoring of education effectiveness as well as the need for better tactics for reaching target audiences.
- ~Lack of long-term stable funding for education. This lack of funding leads to lower capacity to provide good programming; since staff work on a contract-to-contract basis there is no consistency. This is true for all groups interviewed. In fact, the Beachwatchers program will run out of funds this summer without additional grant money.
- ~Access to property owners is also challenging because they are here only part time or are difficult to contact directly.