

# Growth Management Planning in the Central Puget Sound Region

New Partners for Smart Growth

Denver, CO

January 2006



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## Today's Presentation

- Regional growth management in central Puget Sound, WA
- Regional geographies
- Scenario planning process to update region's framework growth management strategy



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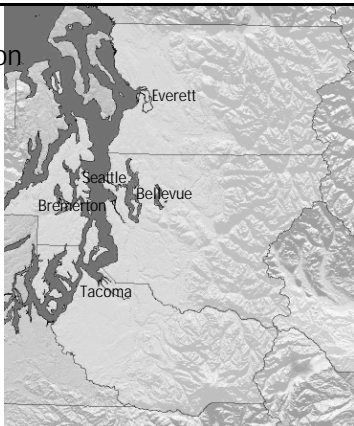
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## Puget Sound Region

- Snohomish, King, Kitsap and Pierce Counties
- 5 Central Cities
- 6,300 Square Miles
- 3.5 Million People
- 1.9 Million Jobs



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## Puget Sound Regional Council

### Membership

- King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties
- 70 cities
- 3 Ports
- Tribes
- 2 State agencies
- 7 transit agencies
- Associate members



### Key Responsibilities

- Long range growth, economic and transportation planning
- Transportation funding
- Economic development coordination
- Regional data

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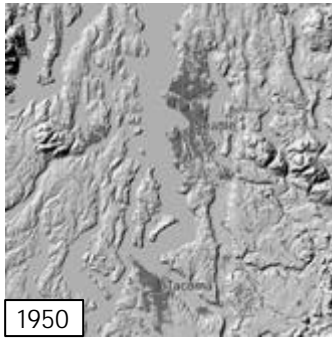
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## The Central Puget Sound's Growing Urban Footprint

Washington State  
2.4 million people

Central Puget Sound  
1.2 million people



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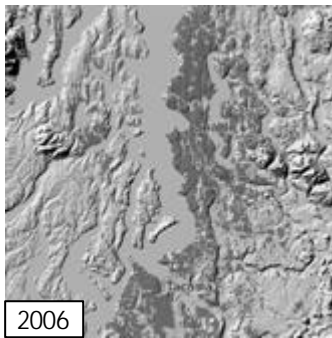
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## The Central Puget Sound's Growing Urban Footprint

Washington State  
6.3 million people

Central Puget Sound  
3.5 million people



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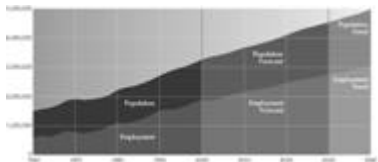
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## 2040 Growth Forecasts

- 1.6 million **more** people
- Another 1.1 million jobs



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## 1990 VISION 2020



Growth – Create system of urban centers framed by open space

- First regional growth management strategy
- Extensive public participation and review between 1987 – 1990
- Contain growth in urban areas, framed by rural land and open space
- Preserve natural resource areas
- Link centers with a multimodal transportation system

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## Washington State Growth Management Act (1990)

### Landmark Change

- Protect resource lands & critical areas
- Establish urban growth areas to curb sprawl
- Coordinated planning required, including regional policies (MPPs and CPPs)
- Bottoms up approach, with standard requirements for local comprehensive plans and development regulations



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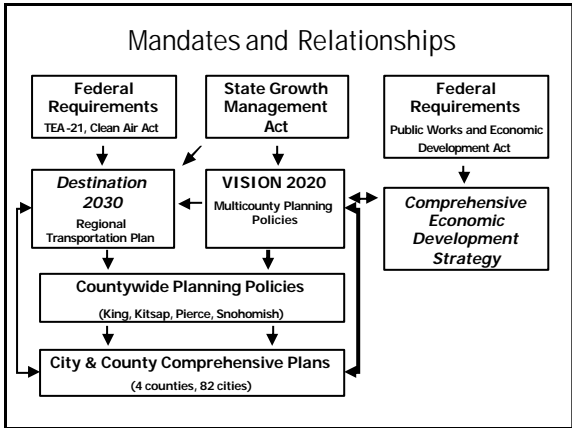
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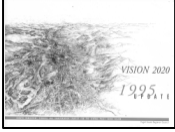

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### 1995 VISION 2020

- Overarching vision integrating growth management, economic and transportation goals
- Growth in UGA, centers focus
- Support economic development
- Provide efficient transportation
- Environmental responsibility
- Preserve rural and resource lands

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### Destination 2030




- Region's long-range metropolitan transportation plan
- Detailed 10 year action plan & long range goals
- Financing plan
- Regional project list

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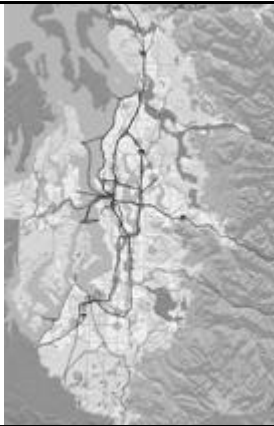
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## Prosperity Partnership



- Regional Economic Strategy (2005)
- *Foundation Initiatives* – redevelop region's economic foundations
- *Cluster Initiatives* – address needs of specific industry clusters  
[Aerospace, Clean Technology, Information Technology, Life Sciences, Logistics & International Trade].




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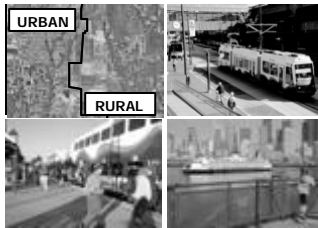
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## Progress in Planning and Coordination

- UGAs designated
- Critical Areas Ordinances adopted
- Local growth targets
- GMA Comprehensive Plans and development regulations adopted
- Local and regional growth centers identified
- Significant transportation investment
- Stronger regional relationships




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## Why Update VISION 2020?

- Region has changed
- Remain visionary
- Build on successes, address challenges we've faced




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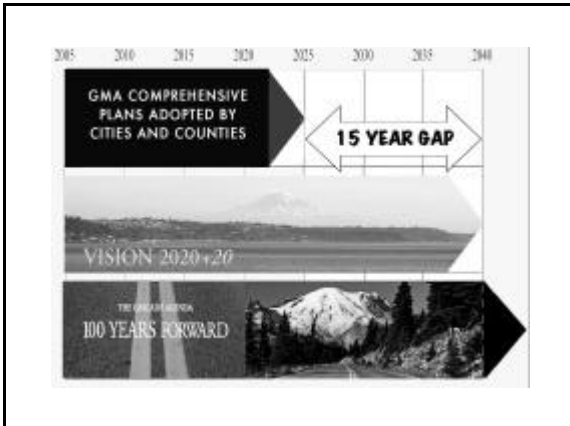
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### Project Scoping

Extensive, 8-month public outreach period with surveys, workshops, public meetings

Received over 1,200 Comments, contact with over 2,000 people:

- Conduct aggressive and thorough update
- Build on current VISION
- Think long range
- Be bold –provide leadership
- Broaden vision to cover other important regional issues
- Be more specific

SCOPE												ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT											
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC						
			Scoping Comments Period Begins		Planning Workshop (L2B)			Regional Planning Workshop (L2B) Public Comment Period Begins				Final Scope of Work and Detailed Work Proposals											
2003						2004																	

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### Scenario Analysis under SEPA Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Statements evaluate alternatives & options for decision-makers
- Examine range of options, evaluate and compare merits of choices
- Action chosen need not be identical to any single alternative, but must be within range of impacts discussed
- EIS should contain sufficient environmental analysis to provide basis for future decisions
- EIS should highlight primary environmental options that would be preserved or foreclosed by action

(Washington Administrative Code 197-11-786, 197-11-440(5); SEPA Handbook, pp.53-56, 73-86, Washington Department of Ecology, 2003)

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### 3- Step Approach

#### Scenarios

Conduct sensitivity tests. Assess ability of redevelopment & increased density in existing urban areas to accommodate growth



#### Alternatives

Narrow to a refined group of alternatives for environmental analysis in EIS



#### Preferred Alternative

Develop preferred regional growth alternative

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### Developing Scenarios and Alternatives

- Guidance from Scoping
- Units of analysis – use Regional Geographies, Counties, Cities
- Consider other geographies (Regional Growth Centers, Town Centers, Redevelopment Corridors)



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### Regional Geographies

#### ☐ Forest & Agriculture

Lands designated as resource areas under GMA

- Urban Lands (RCW 36.70A.110)
- Resource Lands (RCW 36.70A.170)

Issue Paper on Subregional Centers, Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors, (PSRC, March 2005)

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**Regional Geographies**

Rural Areas

Lands outside Urban Growth Areas not designated as resource areas under GMA

(RCW 36.70A.070(5))

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors, (PSRC: March 2005)*

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**Regional Geographies**

Metropolitan Cities

Region's largest cities containing designated Regional Growth Centers. Serve as key framework for region's adopted long-range multimodal transportation system.

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors, (PSRC: March 2005)*

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**Regional Geographies**

Core Suburban Cities

Region's inner suburbs containing designated Regional Growth Centers. Serve as key framework for region's adopted long-range multimodal transportation system.

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors, (PSRC: March 2005)*

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### Regional Geographies

#### Larger Suburban Cities

Suburban Cities over 22,000 combined population and Employment. Important subregional transportation facilities and connections.

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors. (PSRC: March 2005)*

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### Regional Geographies

#### Smaller Suburban Cities

Region's smaller cities and towns. Wide variety, including historic stand-alone rural cities, bedroom communities, growing suburban cities.

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors. (PSRC: March 2005)*

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### Regional Geographies

#### Unincorporated UGA

Areas within designated urban growth areas not within boundaries of incorporated cities and towns.

*Issue Paper on Subregional Centers: Town Centers, Secondary Centers, Activity Nodes, Redevelopment Corridors. (PSRC: March 2005)*

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## Regional Growth Scenarios

First Step: Sensitivity Tests of 8 Scenarios created using INDEX analysis tool

Range from most concentrated growth, to least concentrated

- Current Trends
- Current Comprehensive Plans Extended
- Major Regional Growth Centers
- All Regional Growth Centers
- Regional Growth Centers and Major Town Centers
- Major Town Centers
- All Town Centers
- Small Cities and Towns



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## New Analysis Tool



- GIS-based software
  - Visual, user friendly
  - New unit of analysis – 5,5 acre grid cells (750,000)
  - 25 Land Uses
  - 26 Indicators
  - Compare scenarios
  - Display results in maps, charts, tables
- One technical tool to develop growth alternatives

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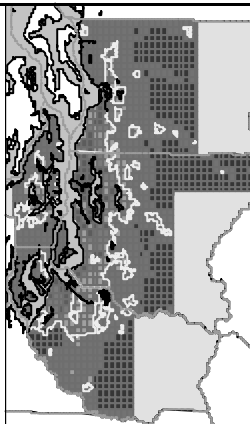
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## Sensitivity Tests

- Many impacts imperceptible at regional scale. Subarea analysis important.
- Benefits and impacts varied across region
- Generally, scenarios with greater concentration showed some benefits
  - Reduced VMT, lower air pollutants
  - More transportation choice
  - Growth aligned with regional hubs
  - More support for centers
  - Less pressure on rural/resource areas



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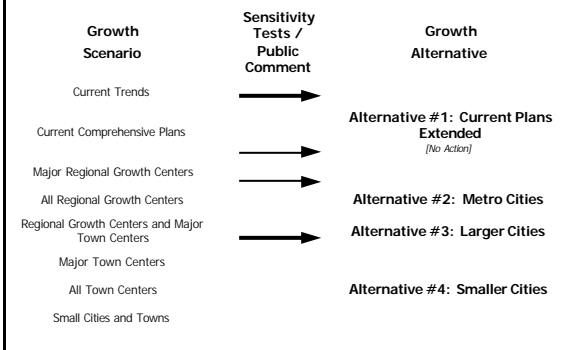
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## From Scenarios to Alternatives




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### Alternative #1: Extend Current Plans

- Concept:** Extend current adopted comprehensive plans and growth targets to year 2040. No Action Alternative.
- Result:** Current planned distribution of growth maintained. Population and employment focused in Metropolitan Cities, Core Suburban Cities, Unincorporated UGA and Rural Area.
- Comparison:** Falls in middle of alternatives in terms of dispersal of growth. Has most amount of growth in outlying and rural areas.



	Metro. Cities	Core Suburban Cities	Larger Suburban Cities	Smaller Suburban Cities	Uninc. UGA	Rural Area
<b>Population</b>	26%	17%	9%	11%	24%	14%
<b>Jobs</b>	45%	28%	7%	9%	8%	3%

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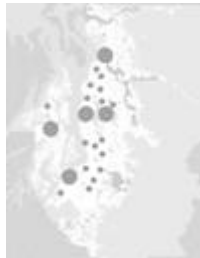
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### Alternative #2: Metropolitan Cities

- Concept:** Centrally focused growth. Much larger share of growth in Metropolitan Cities and Core Suburban Cities.
- Result:** Planned growth shifted from outlying areas to Metropolitan Cities and Core Suburban Cities, which nearly double amount of planned growth. Today's conditions for outlying areas remain largely the same, while Metropolitan Cities and Core Suburban Cities become much more dense.
- Comparison:** Alternative with the most centrally focused growth.



	Metro. Cities	Core Suburban Cities	Larger Suburban Cities	Smaller Suburban Cities	Uninc. UGA	Rural Area
<b>Population</b>	40%	25%	15%	10%	5%	5%
<b>Jobs</b>	45%	30%	10%	5%	5%	5%

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### Alternative #3: Larger Cities

- Concept:** Multiple urban centers. Focus large amount of growth in region's Larger Suburban Cities, Core Suburban Cities, and Metropolitan Cities.
- Result:** Planned growth shifted from outlying areas to Metropolitan Cities, Core Suburban Cities, and Larger Suburban Cities. Core Suburban Cities and Larger Suburban Cities nearly double amount of planned growth. Outlying areas remain relatively unchanged from today, while Metropolitan Cities continue on course of current plans.
- Comparison:** Growth more centrally focused than Alternative #1, but not as much as Alt. #2.



	Metro. Cities	Core Suburban Cities	Larger Suburban Cities	Smaller Suburban Cities	Uninc. UGA	Rural Area
<b>Population</b>	20%	30%	30%	5%	10%	5%
<b>Jobs</b>	20%	30%	30%	5%	10%	5%

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### Alternative #4: Smaller Cities

- Concept:** Dispersed growth within the UGA. Focus large amount of growth in Smaller Suburban Cities and Unincorporated Urban Growth Areas.
- Result:** Smaller Suburban Cities have six times planned growth, and Unincorporated UGAs have significantly more growth than current plans. Metropolitan Cities, Core Suburban Cities, Larger Suburban Cities and Rural Areas remain relatively unchanged from today.
- Comparison:** Alternative with the most dispersed growth, and the most growth at the edge of the urban area.



	Metro. Cities	Core Suburban Cities	Larger Suburban Cities	Smaller Suburban Cities	Uninc. UGA	Rural Area
<b>Population</b>	10%	10%	5%	30%	35%	10%
<b>Jobs</b>	10%	10%	5%	30%	35%	10%

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### Alternatives Comparison

Population and Job Growth Distribution by Geography

	Metropolitan Cities	Core Suburban Cities	Larger Suburban Cities	Smaller Suburban Cities	Uninc. UGA	Rural Area
<b>Alternative #1: Extend Current Plans</b>	(p) 26% (j) 45%	17% 28%	9% 7%	11% 9%	24% 8%	13% 3%
<b>Alternative #2: Metropolitan Cities</b>	40% 45%	25% 30%	15% 10%	10% 5%	5% 5%	5% 5%
<b>Alternative #3: Larger Cities</b>	20% 20%	30% 30%	30% 30%	5% 5%	10% 10%	5% 5%
<b>Alternative #4: Smaller Cities</b>	10% 10%	10% 10%	5% 5%	30% 30%	35% 35%	10% 10%

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## The Work Ahead

<i>September – March 2006</i>	Develop Draft Environmental Impact Statement
<i>April 2006</i>	Release DEIS
<i>April – May 2006</i>	Public Outreach / Public Comment
<i>Summer 2006</i>	Develop Preferred Alternative and Draft Supplemental EIS
<i>Fall 2006</i>	Release DSEIS and Draft Document
<i>Fall 2006</i>	Public Outreach / Public Comment
<i>Winter 2006 - 2007</i>	Develop Final Draft Document and Final EIS
<i>Winter 2007</i>	Release Final Draft Document and FEIS
<i>Winter – Spring 2007</i>	Board Review and Action
<i>Summer 2007</i>	General Assembly Action

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## Environmental Impact Statement

### **Regional Environmental Baseline**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

- Population and Employment
- Land Use and Housing
- Transportation
- Ecosystems, Plants and Animals
- Air Quality
- Water Quality and Hydrology
- Public Services and Utilities
- Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Health
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Historic, Cultural Resources
- Visual Quality/Aesthetics
- Earth
- Noise

#### **Environmental Justice**

### **Supporting Issue Papers:**

- Growth Targets
- Health
- Urban Geographies & Centers
- Rural Lands
- Environmental Planning (including Energy and Sewer)
- Housing
- Growth Trends & Demographics
- Social & Environmental Justice
- Economy
- Transport

### **Additional Supporting Information:**

- Regional Conservation Plan Proposals
- Cost of Sprawl Paper
- Paper on Vested Development Rights
- Environment and Human Health

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## Preferred Alternative

PSRC Boards consider information published in EIS, apply evaluation criteria to select a Preferred Alternative

- Environmental Quality
- Economic Prosperity
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Social Justice
- Public Health
- Efficiencies in Providing Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Services




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## VISION 2020+20

- More Complete
- More Measurable
- Clear Implementation Actions



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## VISION 2020+20 Update

*For more information contact:*

Puget Sound Regional Council  
Growth Management Planning  
206.464.5815  
[v2020update@psrc.org](mailto:v2020update@psrc.org)  
[www.psrc.org](http://www.psrc.org)



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