



Smart Growth Report: The Beat Goes On

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

By the end of June 2015, Snohomish County must update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan Policies and Regulations as well as their Critical Areas Ordinance. Each city in Snohomish County must also update its comprehensive plan. Cities have been doing their own meetings and hearings so if you live in a city, it is advisable to find out what those changes may be. Updating comprehensive plans for the next 20 years of growth can include a number of development regulation changes which can affect zoning and building standards.

For Snohomish County, this includes planning for growth in our county's urban growth areas, urban centers, and rural areas. The public process for the county's comprehensive plan update has not been finalized but as meetings and hearings become scheduled, it will be important for me, to help our Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) members understand the implications of new plans, policies and regulations so that more people can be involved. Please become part of our email action alert system, if you are not already, by emailing me at Kristin@futurewise.org. This system allows for emails from you to be sent directly to commissioners or council members to ensure your voice is heard.

There are three alternatives that the county will be considering. We are supporting Alternative One which would allow the least amount of growth in our rural areas and urban growth areas, directing most of the growth into the cities, especially the largest cities of Everett and Lynnwood. This growth pattern is consistent with the goals of the Growth Management Act, Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040, and the Multi-County Planning Policies which all Snohomish County cities accepted as part of the "Snohomish County Tomorrow" process.

Alternative One will best protect our rural and resource lands as well as our water quality and water supply. Compact higher density urban growth brings significant benefits, such as reducing the cost of public facilities and

(Continued on page 4)

July Program Meeting Friday, July 11, 7 PM

Birds of Camano Island

The moderate climate of the Pacific Northwest and its location in Puget Sound make Camano Island an ideal destination for birds and for the people who enjoy watching them. The diversity of habitat types includes fields and forests, wetlands and tidelands which attract an equal diversity of resident and migratory bird species.

Joe Meche, writer/photographer and past president of the North Cascades Audubon Society in Bellingham, will take us on a virtual tour of the island, focusing on its natural beauty and some of the birds that can be found here during different times of the year. Joe has been watching birds for more than 60 years and captures their beauty on film and video tape to share with others. His monthly column, *Beaks and Bills*, has been a staple for a Bellingham paper for over 12 years. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

Special location – July only!

**Stanwood Library Meeting Room
9701 271st Street NW, Stanwood**



Save the Date!

**PAS Annual Bird Walk
and Picnic**

Sunday, August 17

In This Issue

About.....	2	Smart Growth.....	1,4
Conservation	2	Trip Calendar.....	3
Festivals.....	3	Trip Report.....	5
President's Message .	4		

Conservation Report: Ban On Toxic Shotgun Shot

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

This is one of several key issues in the WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) draft six-year game management plan for 2015–2021. The draft plan has been in circulation for public comment several times during its development. The public meetings were held in June but final comments on the draft plan are welcome through July 18. The comment form is in a easy to fill out survey and can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gmpobjectives>.

You don't have to respond to all of the 100-plus proposals about game management. The non-toxic shot item is around item 130. So scroll (click on "next" at the bottom of each screen) to around "Objective 120." Then advance slowly until you see the non-toxic item in the "upland birds" section. There is only one line on this topic. If you want only to comment about requiring non-toxic shot for all upland game birds that is fine. Consider also commenting on other topics. There are proposals throughout the survey about land acquisition for habitat purposes, about relationships with tribes and private landowners; research, law enforcement, and compensation to livestock owners whose animals are killed by predators.

You can scroll back and forth between screens of the survey as much as you want. Once you exit the survey, you cannot return to the survey to make changes, and

you cannot fill out more than one online survey. The non-toxic shot item recommends the commission develop proposals for use of non-toxic shot when hunting upland birds. It does not specifically mention lead. There are other toxic materials used in shot. Non-toxic shot is required by the federal government in hunting of waterfowl. In Washington State, non-toxic shot is now required by WDFW on all WDFW wildlife areas, and all pheasant release sites including on lands other than WDFW owned. If you think that non-toxic shot should be required for hunting of all game birds, this is a great opportunity to say so. You may want to recommend developing proposals to use only non-toxic ammunition in all hunting and target practicing in the state, and to phase in over some years. This is similar to the new ban of lead ammunition in California.

Key issues in the draft plan include promoting hunter recruitment and retention, managing predator/prey relationships, maintaining hunter access to timberland, managing wolves after they are no longer classified as an endangered species, and possible new rules requiring the use of non-toxic shot. Final recommendations for the 2015–2021 six-year plan will be presented to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission for a public hearing in Olympia in August. The commission will be asked to adopt the plan at its September 2014 meeting in Olympia.

Contact me if you have any questions about this or other conservation topics.

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 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, nonprofit 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 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The monthly *Profile* is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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Trip Calendar

Check our calendar at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information

Tuesday, July 1

Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Scenic locations we may bird are Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and Cama Beach State Park. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 8

Anacortes

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. So many beautiful birding places; lakes, beaches, marinas, and even a mountain. Pack a lunch

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 15

Stevens Pass Area

Meet at 7 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one-half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway, and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, July 19

Anacortes

We will be hiking the Juniper Point Loop Trail in Washington Park; this park comes highly recommended. The Anacortes parks we have visited so far are all extraordinarily lovely but I have not been to this one yet. It will be about two miles and should feature breathtaking views over the water in many directions.

Meet at 8 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. We will probable stop on the way home for a little socializing over a late lunch.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, July 22

Blue Stilly Park

Meet at 8 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. Virginia is going to show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch for Virginia will provide food at her place.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 29

Snoqualmie River Valley

Meet at 7:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Let's bird the areas we never seem to have time for on our usual route by reversing direction from Carnation towards Monroe, starting at the desired finishing point. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

Saturday, August 2

Kubota Garden

Meet at 8 AM at Everett Station at 3201 Smith Ave. Park in the northwest corner of the parking lot, across Smith Avenue from the Everett Station building. We'll carpool to South Seattle and tour the Kubota Garden, a historic, 20-acre Japanese-style garden. There will be some elevation gain. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots and foul weather gear just in case. This is a half-day event.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Community Events, Classes, and Festivals

Quietside Flamingo Festival

July 12-15

Southwest Harbor, Maine

Though a non-birding event, the flamingo theme of this quirky summer festival will bring a smile to any birder's face. Event schedule at <http://www.harborhousemdi.org/events-schedule>.

Everett Family Fun Event

July 26

Everett

Family friendly activities including music, games, art projects and food from 1-3 PM at the Evergreen Arboretum, Legion Memorial Park, 145 Alverson Blvd. This free event is sponsored by Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens. Pilchuck Audubon will be hosting a kids' craft table.

Butterflies of Field and Garden

July 27

Breazeale Interpretive Center

Join naturalist, Libby Mills, for a close-up look at butterflies (Lepidoptera) in western Washington. Learn the host plants to encourage caterpillar success of your favorite "leps", which flowers encourage butterfly success and how to go butterfly watching in Washington. The program runs from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Registration is required at <http://www.padillabay.gov/calendarofevents.asp>.

Southwest Wings

July 31-August 3

Sierra Vista, Arizona

The longest running nature festival in the state, the Southwest Wings festival has been a highlight of summer birding in Arizona for more than 20 years. Along with more than 40 field trips, the festival includes a keynote presentation, owl prowls, bat walks, an evening pontoon cruise and more than 50 educational presentations on birds, natural history, regional mammals, dragonflies, gardening and other related topics. Event info at <http://www.swwings.org>.

Smart Growth...

(Continued from page 1)

services and controlling the costs for local government, taxpayers and ratepayers. It also allows higher-density zoning in our cities which helps provide much needed affordable housing. In fact, the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County has a goal of 22,000 new affordable housing units over the next 20 years. More compact urban growth areas protect working farms and working forests from development. We need to ensure that no more of our best agricultural land is lost to urban development.

As the percentage of urban development and impervious surfaces increase within a land basin, water quality and biotic integrity decline. So focusing development within urban growth areas helps maintain water quality and protects drinking water.

Snohomish County is also required to update their Critical Areas Ordinance (or CAO) as well. CAO's are policies and regulations that protect wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, streams, rivers, lakes, aquifer recharge areas, and geologically hazardous areas. Snohomish County planners believe there will only need to be "tweaks" to the current CAO that was updated in 2007; however since the tragic Oso Mudslide, there will now be more work to update the geologically hazardous areas, something that before the mudslide was not being considered.

We have been in discussions with county staff regarding some of the "tweaks" we believe need to happen for the best protection. They include the following:

- Ensuring that rural residential development and agriculture do not continue to pollute our limited ground water supplies. Nitrate pollution of surface and ground water is a known problem in Snohomish County from agricultural practices and failing septic systems.
- Addressing measures to reduce upland impacts to agricultural lands and floodplains. History has shown that upland development has impacted farmers with increased flooding and delivered other negative impacts to rivers, fish and wildlife habitat. As more development continues in our upland areas, these impacts will increase.
- Adopting measures that will identify forest cover trends in both our urban and rural areas. That will help to maintain trees and their many benefits including reducing storm water peak flows, reducing the effects of high temperatures, and increasing property values.

- Ensuring that the functions and values of all wetlands are protected and eliminating exemptions that have allowed our agricultural lands to be developed into homes.
- And establish that best management practices are implemented on all farms to protect water quality, wetlands, rivers, streams, fish and wildlife habitat.

President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

Not many members are aware that PAS owns two pieces of property in Snohomish County. The first is actually two lots of triangular shape adjacent to the new Riverview Wildlife Refuge in the town of Snohomish. One parcel was given to us by Betty and Heinrich Janssen; the other we purchased from the bankrupt Chicago, Milwaukee, St Paul and Pacific Railroad Company for \$500 in 1985. With the creation of the Refuge and the city's purchase of adjacent wetlands, our four acres are set to remain excellent wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

The other piece of property is four acres of undeveloped land on Jim Creek in Arlington. It was given to us in 1988 by Carleen Adams. After her passing, she wanted her land to remain a wildlife sanctuary and kept as natural as possible. As I investigated the history of this property, I found that there is a conservation easement on it and that native plants were installed in the mid 1990s. At the end of June, PAS board and committee members will visit this sanctuary and make a start of clearing a trail from the road to the creek. While there, we will imagine ways in which we can better enhance Carleen's gift to wildlife.



Kathy Johnson, Jay Ward and Jim Beneteau clearing trail at PAS property on Jim Creek

Speaking of gifts, PAS is in need of the gift of volunteer time from members. We are looking for someone to send out thank you receipts to our donors, someone to train to be our next treasurer and people who enjoy teaching children about nature. If you would like more information, please call me at 425.438.1505.

Weekend Bird Walk at Tumwater Falls

By Terry Nightingale, Pilchuck Audubon Vice President

On Saturday, June 8, five birders made the journey south to Tumwater, just south of Olympia. Full credit goes to my colleague Jonathan Blubaugh for suggesting this destination and it worked out quite nicely. The Tumwater Falls park includes a nice close-up view of the Tumwater Falls Dam and Deschutes River, and a riverside trail. The trail follows the left bank of the river, crosses over, and loops back along the right bank. Of historical interest is that next door is the former site of the Olympia brewery. So much for geography, and now for the birds!

The first birds we noticed were fly catching near the falls. Quickly enough, we identified Violet-green Swallows among the aerial stunt artists. But a few of the birds were a little too big and not quite the right shape to be swallows. A quick look through the binoculars revealed a crest, a black mask across the face, and a beautiful yellow-edged tail: **Cedar Waxwings!** After observing this riverside fly catching in Monroe a few years ago, it was not surprising, but still fun to see in action. Another bird we hoped to see near water was also present: a **Belted Kingfisher**, who made his or her presence known via a shrill, distinctive call. As we made our way down the river, the forest birds made their presence known: **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. Your humble trip leader learned something when Paula astutely identified the kinglets by voice, singing a high-pitched, lilting song that ends with a chickadee-like sound. Something I love about birding is that there is always more to learn!

Under a road bridge, we saw what we thought might be an American dipper, because it was about the right size and was dipping its tail. However, when it flushed and flew past us, we realized it was too lightly colored to be a dipper, and one of our birders pegged it for a **Spotted Sandpiper**. Further examination confirmed that spots were indeed present on the breast.



Spotted Sandpiper (photo by Dave Menke)

After a quick drive half a mile to the north, we explored the adjacent Tumwater Historical Park. This was Tumwater's first public park, which was built in 1980. In contrast to the falls, this park was mostly open space, with a small forest at the northern end. Upon exiting our cars, the pleasing song of a **Swainson's Thrush** greeted us from across the river. **Mallards**, including two ducklings, were swimming on the river, which was flowing much less swiftly here than near the falls. We heard a **Belted Kingfisher**, perhaps the same one as from the park to the south. A flock of **Bushtits** gave away their presence with their "phit, phit" calls coming from the bushes just a few feet away. And just a few feet of elevation above the open spaces, the swallows were evident: a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Barn Swallows**, and more Violet-green Swallows were all doing their characteristic bug snatching above the extensive lawn. On the lawn itself, a flock of over 100 **European Starlings** were foraging. A walk on the forest trail led us closer to the marsh at the edge of the river, where **Red-winged Blackbirds** were singing, as was a **Marsh Wren**. The bigger birds we saw included a **Great Blue Heron** flying through, as well as a **Red-tailed Hawk** circling above the playground. Unfortunately for the hawk, but happily for the families, the children at play were far too heavy to carry off for lunch.



A Marsh Wren bringing a fatty meal back to its nest (photo via USFWS Digital Library)

Speaking of victuals, our group split up at this point, half of us hitting the highway back north, and the other half stopping in at the Terrace Falls Restaurant for a tasty brunch. It was another fun day of birding at a destination I can highly recommend!

If you enjoyed reading this report, I also recently wrote one for the May 31 trip to Rotary Park in Everett. It has been posted to our web site for your viewing pleasure. Be sure to check out the PAS calendar for upcoming trips.



Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

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.

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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

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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.

HELP WANTED

If you like working with numbers, please consider the Assistant Treasurer position. We need someone to help our treasurer for the next year with the intent of becoming Treasurer in the future.

The time commitment would be about four hours per month now and eight to ten hours per month later. Please contact Kathleen at 425.438.1505 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org.