

BUFFER ADVOCATES CALL FOR HUGE MANDATORY BUFFERS ON ALL STREAMS AND DITCHES



MASSIVE STREAM BUFFERS WOULD DECIMATE OUR CITIES

Riparian buffers are important for salmon. Buffer advocates are calling for massive, inflexible buffers on all streams and ditches in our state, even those which have no connection to salmon. But, strangely, they exempt the streams where these buffers could actually help salmon.

Urban streams are the main problem

Runoff of oil and pollutants from city streets are one of the biggest habitat problems for salmon. So, it would make sense that buffer advocates would start with the streets and paved areas in our cities.

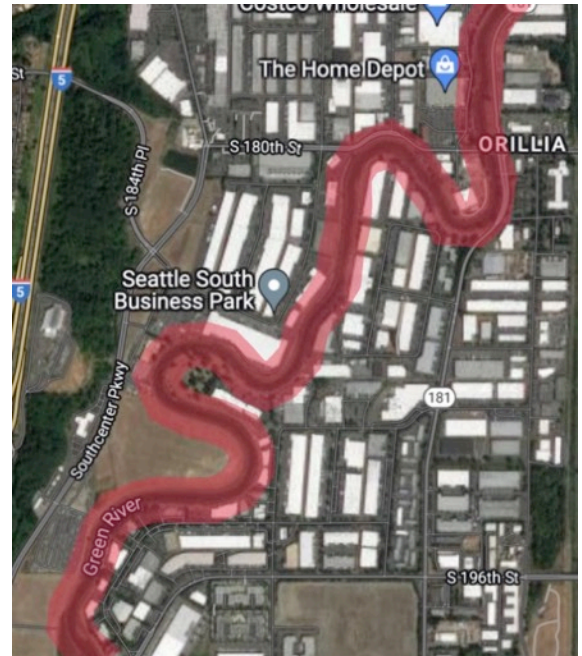
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is calling for massive buffers measured from the edge of possible flooding and the width based on 200 year old trees. That means most buffers would be hundreds of feet wide, a number over a thousand feet.

Imagine the Department's recommendations applied to all the streams, ditches, stormwater systems in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bellevue, Tri-Cities, Spokane, Bellingham — every city and town. The map shows what just 200 foot buffers would do to the Southcenter area. Look at the nearest stream to you. Chances are your home, business, apartment or favorite hot spot would have to go. *No one would be paid for their loss of property.*

Only farmland targeted

Laws written to require these buffers have exempted the streams where they would do the most good. Instead, they target farmers, proposing to take about 30% of the remaining farmland. Puget Sound farmers would hit hardest, but all affected. Farmers already provide buffers. Losing this farmland would result in losing hundreds or thousands of farmers. Only the largest could survive and that by getting bigger.

Advocates say science supports their claims. Actually, science supports keeping our farms and farmland, not destroying them.



The Duwamish Waterway becomes the Green River and flows through much of southeast Seattle. It is a productive salmon stream today. Lack of buffers in our cities harm salmon. Some fish advocates say massive buffers on both sides of all streams and ditches are needed to restore salmon. The map shows the buildings near Southcenter that would have to be removed. Based on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Management Recommendations, the buffers would have to be much wider than shown here. The cost and displacement would cost billions and greatly harm the economy. Yet, Governor Inslee and others believe that taking valuable land without compensation is what needs to happen to save salmon.

You can help this nonsense!

www.savefamilyfarming.org

