WHERE THE WILD THINGS WANT TO BE: HABITAT PROTECTION REGULATIONS

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WHY WORRY ABOUT WILDLIFE?

• Alarming loss of habitat
• Major population growth in West
• Federal/state pullback
WHY PROTECT?

1. Attracting/Retaining Businesses
2. Direct Expenditures (e.g., tourism)
3. Curbing Sprawl Costs
4. Green Infrastructure Value
5. Avoiding Natural Disaster Costs
6. Enhanced Property Values
7. Health And Social Benefits
8. Public’s Willingness to Pay
Public’s Willingness to Pay

814 conservation measures proposed at local level from 1999-2003

- 631 passed (78%)
- $15 billion total funds approved
- $8.7 billion specifically for land conservation

Polls continue to show bipartisan support for open space and habitat protection.
Five Basic Biological Principles For Wildlife Conservation At Site Level

#1: Maintain buffers between human activity and core areas of habitat

#2: Facilitate wildlife movement across areas dominated by human activities

#3: Minimize human contact with large native predators

#4: Control number of mid-size predators (e.g., pets)

#5: Mimic features of natural landscape in built areas
Key Elements of Successful Habitat Protection Programs

• LESSON #1: REGULATIONS ARE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT

“In the West, a six-shooter and a smile are more persuasive than a smile alone” --Teddy Roosevelt
Key Elements of Successful Programs

REGULATORY:

1. Zoning/Subdivision/PUDs:
   location, density, uses

2. Targeted Development Standards (e.g., riparian setbacks, wildlife-friendly fencing, vegetation protection)

3. Mitigation Requirements (e.g., on- and off-site, mitigation banks)
ALTERNATIVE REGULATORY TOOLS \textit{NOT} EXAMINED
LESSON #2: NEED A WELL-ROUNDED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY.

“If the only tool you have is a hammer, everything begins to look like a nail” — Mark Twain
Key Elements of a Successful Program

PROGRAM STRUCTURE/ADMINISTRATION:

1. Staffing (e.g., biologists)
2. Coordination - internal
3. Partnerships with other organizations
4. Intergovernmental relationships
Key Elements of a Successful Program

PLANNING:
1. Inventories/mapping of resources
2. Comp plan elements
3. Measurable results (acres protected, habitat acquired)
4. Regional coordination
5. Capital improvements related to plan
Supplemental Elements

**ACQUISITION/ FUNDING:**

1. Dedicated funding for acquisition
2. General revenue track record
3. Code provisions for land dedication or impact fees
4. TDR/PDR program
RESTORATION

1. Habitat Restoration
2. Exotic Species
3. Mitigation Programs
Supplemental Elements

LANDOWNER OUTREACH

LEADING BY EXAMPLE
Key Elements of Successful Habitat Protection Programs

Lesson #3: An “Inside” Game Plan:

1. Designated growth areas and pro-infill development policies
2. Affordable housing programs
3. Urban natural area activities for lower-income residents
IMPLEMENTATION

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR
DIFFERENT FOLKS—TAILORING
TO COMMUNITY SIZE, NEEDS,
AND POLITICS