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Subject:

Floodplain and Public Access

Date:

Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:38:33 PM

I have two points I need to express regarding the SMP and they are one the floodplain issue and two the Public Access issue.

A whole lot of the unincorporated Clallam County has families that have grandfathered their homesteads within areas that boarder critical habitat or have seasonally high river flooding. That is the way it's been and I feel the county was not proactive in shoreline management on the west end even after the vote in 72'. There are also those who had the opportunity in earlier years to purchase from the timber companies prime shoreline real estate parcels (i.e. beach front) right down the West End of the county up to the Makah reservation.

Floodplain management encompasses a wide variety of regulatory, planning and structural measures aimed at reducing the risk of loss of property and human lives in the event of a flood. Flood management measures include zoning, flood proofing, building standards, and warning systems just a few examples.

More importantly the fundamental components to floodplain management is controlling developments on floodplains not to place people in flood tolerant lands but in areas with relatively lower flood risk (i.e., land at higher elevation or greater distance from the river). This could explain why those more recent property owners are buying and building outside of flood tolerant areas and locating themselves at higher shorelines nearest to the potential erosion sites because they have the money to do so.

We are still suffering under the Good Ole Boys mentality out here because in Clallam bay one property owner is using his lands for staging a scrap metal yard right next to Charlie creek and the county has never sent their consult out for a community meeting to discuss that ecological mess. On this first point I feel it's time the county consider kicking itself a little harder and don't expect anything other than hearing what several of us have to put up with on the West End.

My second and final thought is the concerns of Public Access. I know I would wish there to be ample areas for parking with handicap access and signage and inroad speed bumps. Our community is beginning to sense the tourist interests for being at our shorelines. We walk with our elders; children and pets out on these back streets and need to know there is going to be this compliance to the traffic congestion and privacy around our homes and streets. I am somewhat concerned as to what is going on down on the beaches but I'm more concerned about the vehicular traffic bustling around our streets most hours of the week days and weekends.

Thank you

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