



Snohomish County Panel Discussion Summary
Hosted by Everett Area Chamber of Commerce and South Snohomish County
Chamber of Commerce
June 23, 2004
Noon – 2pm
Everett, Washington

Facilitator:

Charles Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:

Bob Bolerjack, The Herald

Deborah Knutson, Economic Development Council of Snohomish County

Peter Jackson, Henry M. Jackson Foundation

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

There is a growing awareness that our natural landscapes define us, connect us, and provide the basis for the quality of life that we value.

We recognize the challenge that population increases and development pressure places on us to enhance the economic vitality of our region while maintaining natural resources and quality of life.

Our community realizes that we need to find balanced and inclusive solutions that bridge economic, environmental, and community interests. We are hopeful that community discussions, like the Dialogues will create new partnerships and solutions for creating a livable regional community.

We acknowledge that the health of every person in our community is connected to our local and regional environment. We must maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community by creating healthy, natural, vibrant, and affordable communities. In one word – Livable!

Dramatic Changes

We can only expect dramatic increases in population and development pressure as we move into the future.

Conservation and community planning need to be aware of and incorporate changing economics and global markets.

We are open to the possibility that changes in our governance and structure of our communities may be required to meet the needs of our changing society and environment.

Planning

Cooperative:

In the past, the gulf between economic and environmental perspectives has inhibited our ability to find effective solutions. We must come together and create a shared long-term vision for our region and then cooperate and compromise to find the means to achieve that vision.

Enhancing the civic awareness of young people in our community is the first step toward tackling these complex issues. We must invest today and engage our youth.

Comprehensive and Inclusive:

We should take a comprehensive look at the many planning efforts currently underway in our region to find the best opportunities to work together toward our common goals.

Our community values a diverse population. Any conservation or economic plan for our region should therefore provide options for livable communities for everyone and not just the elite.

Regional:

Although it is a challenge to balance local and regional needs, we understand that decisions about natural resources, economic, and community development often impact us as a region. We therefore have a responsibility and need to share and coordinate our planning efforts and decisions.

We need to understand our personal connections to our communities and to our natural landscapes in order to better plan for our future. We need a view of ourselves in our own landscape.

Creative:

Solutions will only be effective if creatively formed at the junction of community, economic, and conservation interests.

A real opportunity exists to engage the private and public sectors behind community and conservation planning using self-interest incentives that go beyond value driven and philanthropic actions to benefit us all.