BLACK LAKE BASIN

COMMUNITY WATERSHED WORKSHOP

Thurston County Long-Range Planning & TRPC

October 30, 2014

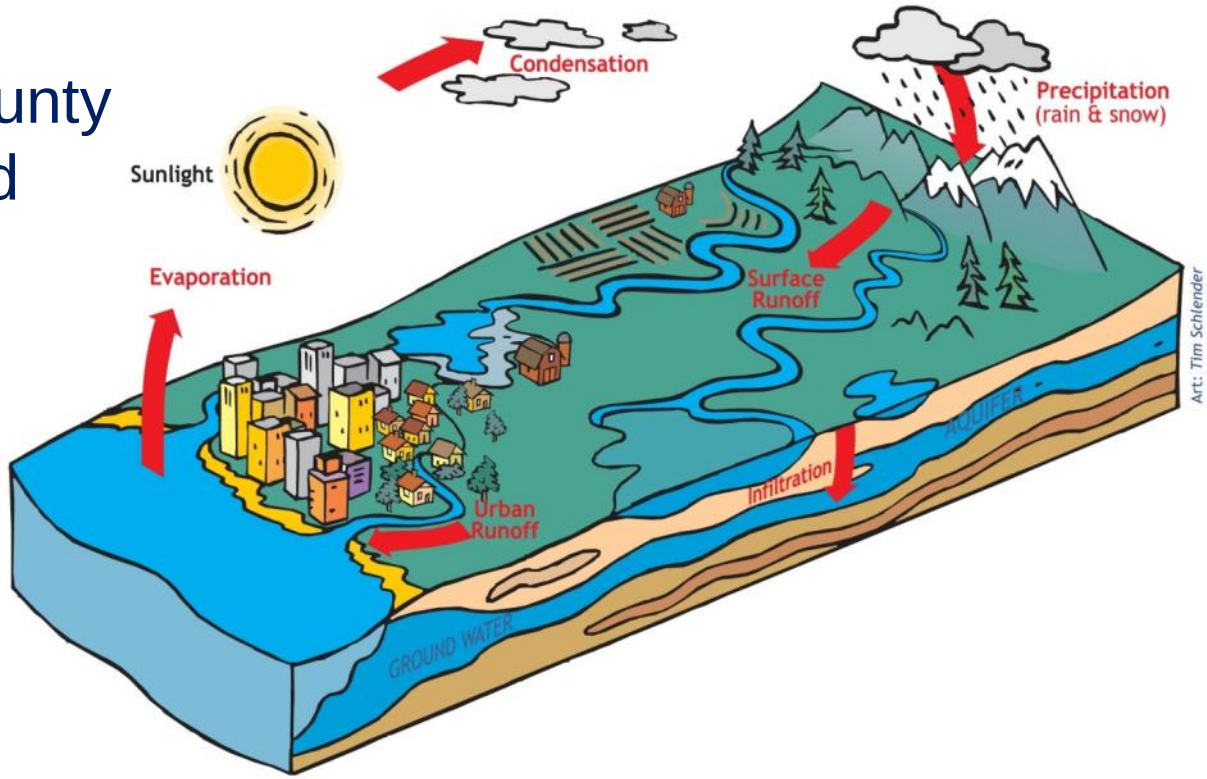
Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome
- *Presentation*: Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Project
  - Background
  - Alternative Land Use Scenarios
  - Next Steps
- Table Discussions

Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Project Background

- Thurston County is one of the fastest growing in Western Washington – How do we best protect water resources as our region grows?

- 2009: Thurston County and TRPC received a grant from EPA to conduct watershed-based planning

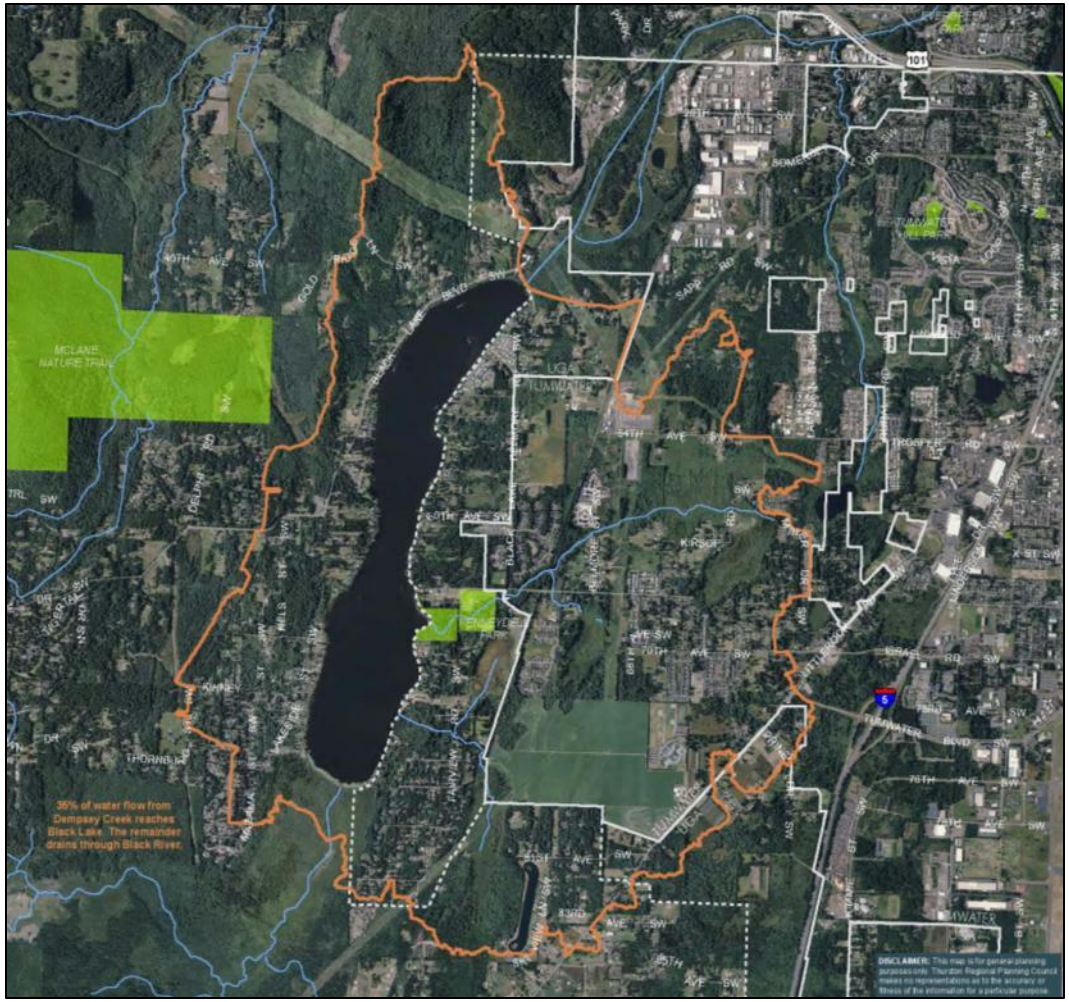


Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Project Background

- Assessed current conditions for 69 basins
- April 2013: Selected 3 basins for focus
  - McLane Creek (October 9 workshop)
  - **Black Lake**
  - Woodard Creek (October 22 workshop)
- 2013/2014: Gathered information and conducted analyses on each basin
- Now: Developing recommendations for future management

Where is the Black Lake Basin?

- ~ 5,000 acres (additional area occasionally drains to Black Lake)
- Jurisdiction
  - Rural Thurston County
  - Tumwater City and UGA
- Low density residential land use, open space and parks



What is the current condition of Black Lake Basin?

44% Tree Canopy

8% Total Impervious Surfaces

Water Quality Ranking: *Fair*

Elevated nutrient levels; blue-green algae blooms in lake

Fish Pond Creek fails fecal coliform standard

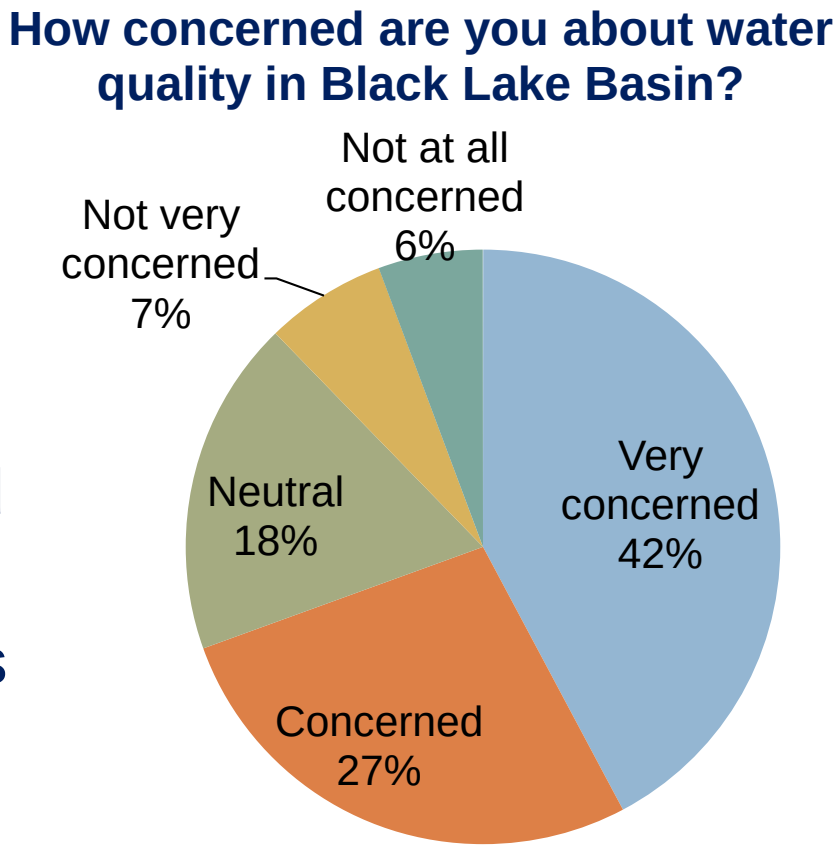
Habitat & Species
Oregon Spotted Frog

What are the water resource concerns in Black Lake Basin?

- Population growth & development
- Water quality and algal blooms
- Nuisance aquatic species
- Shoreline vegetation & tree cover

Public Opinion Survey: Black Lake

- Summer 2013: Public survey sent by mail
- April 2014: Public meeting
- High level of concern about water quality
- **Important**:
  - Clean drinking water
  - Puget Sound WQ
  - Swimmable lakes and streams
  - Private property rights
  - Healthy salmon runs



Public Outreach

- Key Themes and Values
  - Balancing urban growth while preserving less dense, rural lifestyle
  - Protecting habitat for wildlife
  - Improved water quality in lake
  - Improved access to lake

- How would you hope to describe the Black Lake basin in thirty years?
  - Much the same character as today, but improved water quality

Black Lake Basin: Draft Goals

- Maintain basin-wide ecological functions
- Protect (and improve) water quality
- Protect habitat for fish and wildlife
- Restore stream and shoreline functions where degraded
- Increase recreational opportunities

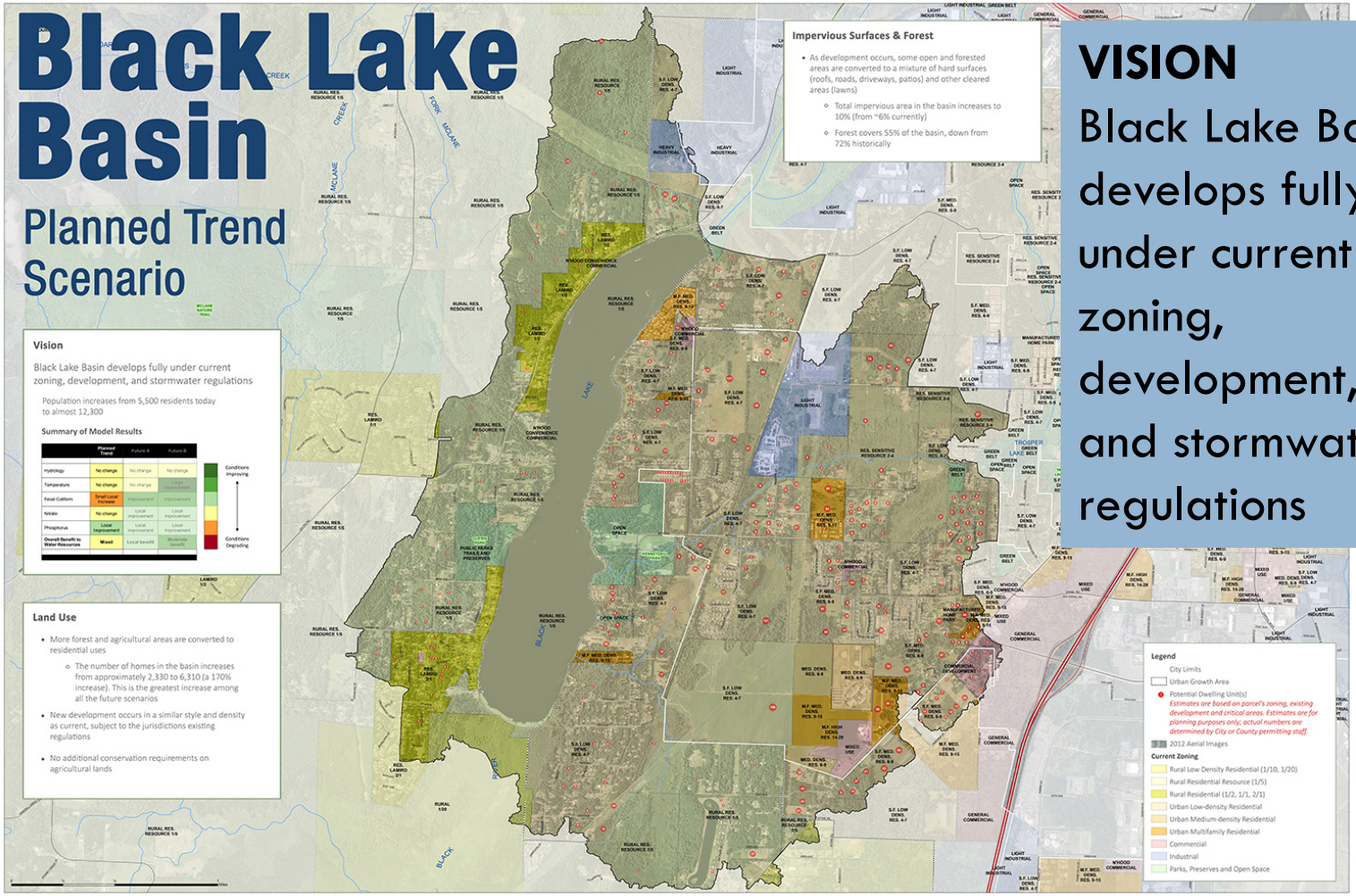
Alternative Land Use Scenarios

1. **Historic Conditions**
   - Forested, with some prairie and wetlands
2. **Current Conditions**
   - Current development, impervious surfaces, and stormwater
3. **Planned Future Trend**
   - Current regulations carried out into the future
4. **Alternative Futures**
   - Changes to land use and development regulations
   - Restoration of riparian areas and wetlands
   - Stormwater retrofits for older development

Alternative Land Use Scenarios

- Historic → Current
  - More than 15% Forest cover lost
  - Some loss of wetland areas
  - Changes from historic to current conditions greater than from future growth

Planned Trend Scenario



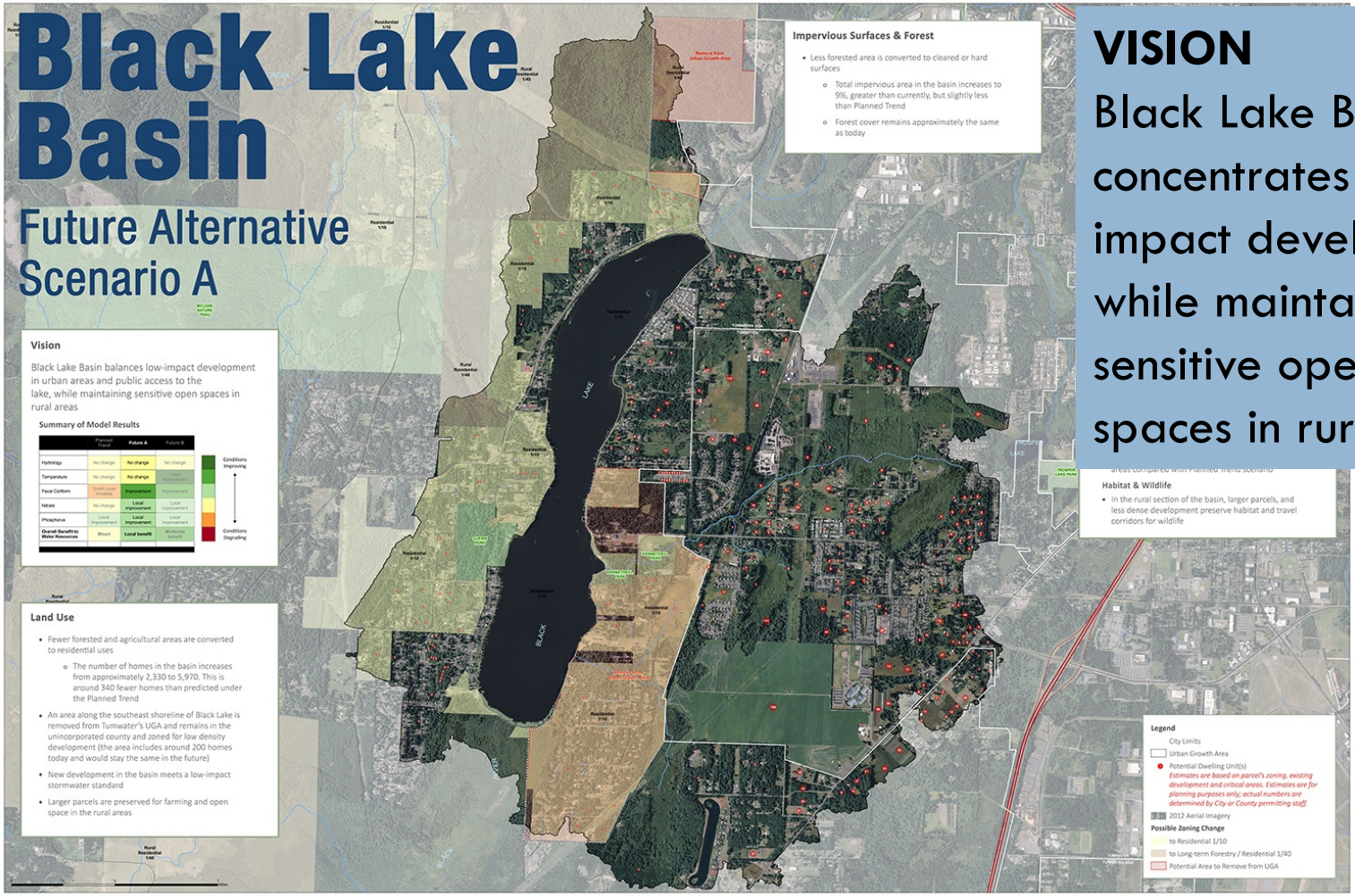
VISION

Black Lake Basin develops fully under current zoning, development, and stormwater regulations

Planned Trend Scenario: Outcomes

- **Land Use**
  - More forest and agricultural areas are converted to residential
    - ~4,000 additional dwelling units
    - Total impervious area increases to 10%
    - Fewer septics in higher risk areas as sewer lines are extended to urban areas
- **Environmental Outcomes**
  - Bacteria levels in streams remain elevated and get worse in some areas
  - Nutrient levels improve, as more homes are connected to sewer
  - Habitat is fragmented by development

Future Alternative A



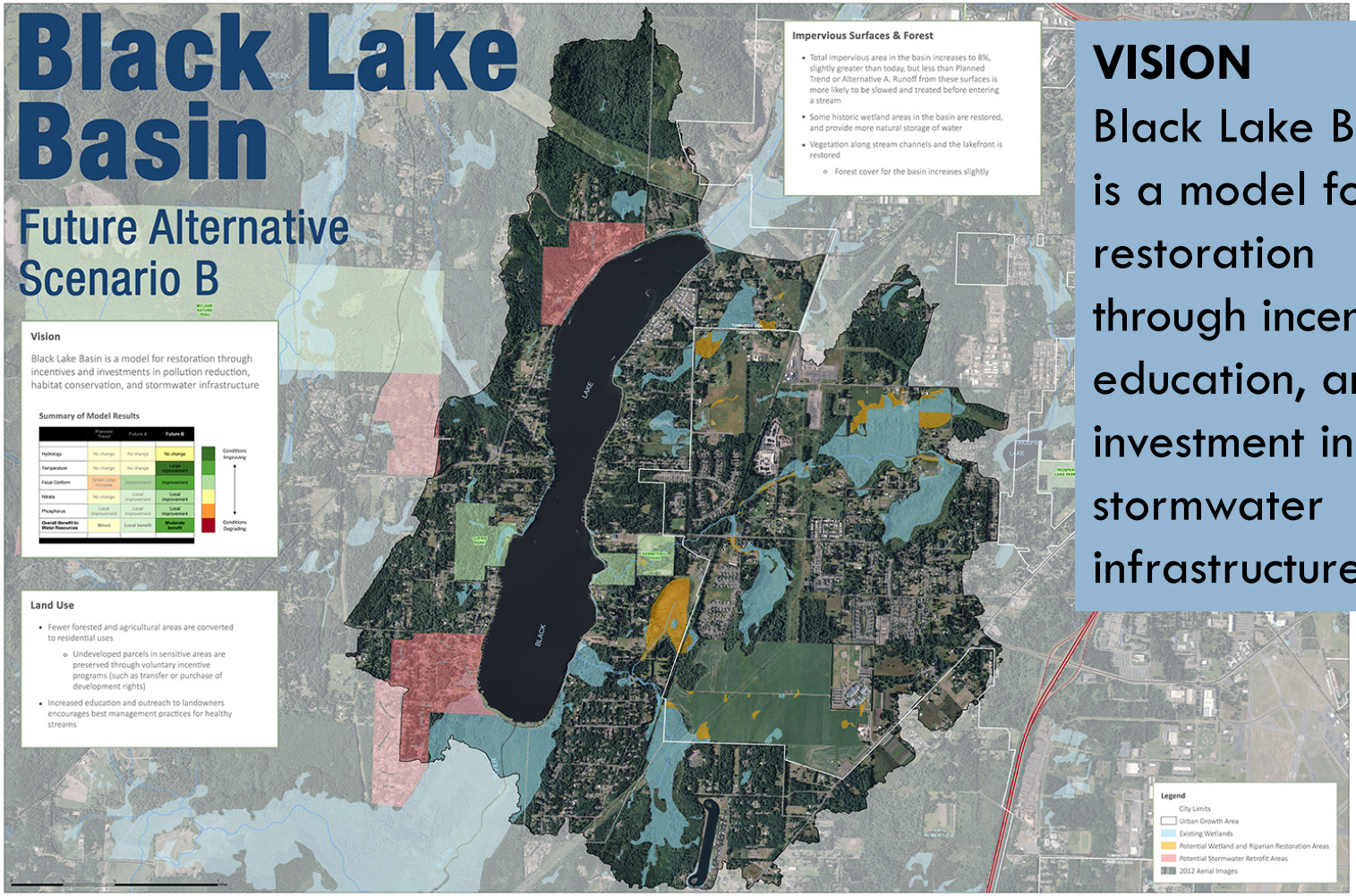
VISION

Black Lake Basin concentrates low-impact development, while maintaining sensitive open spaces in rural areas

Future Alternative A: Outcomes

- **Land Use**
  - Fewer forest and agricultural areas are converted to residential
    - ~340 fewer new dwelling units than Planned Trend
    - Larger, undeveloped parcels zoned at lower density
    - More protective policies along shorelines
    - Impervious area slightly lower than Planned Trend
- **Environmental Outcomes**
  - Stream temperatures and nutrients remain mostly the same as current conditions
  - Bacteria and nutrient levels reduced in some areas
  - Habitat connectivity better preserved

Future Alternative B



VISION

Black Lake Basin is a model for restoration through incentives, education, and investment in stormwater infrastructure

Future Alternative B: Outcomes

- **Land Use**
  - Undeveloped parcels preserved through incentive programs, purchase of development rights
  - Vegetation along shorelines restored
  - Some wetland areas restored
  - Education and outreach on pollution-reducing practices increased
  - Total impervious area increases, but less than Planned Trend or Alternative A
- **Environmental Outcomes**
  - Stream temperatures reduced significantly
  - Bacteria and nutrient levels improved
  - Benefits for a variety of aquatic species

Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Next Steps

- Preferred Recommendations

  can include one of the future alternatives, mix and match from all three, or list new alternatives

- Final Report – Winter 2015
  - Public comment period
  - Planning Commission
  - Board of County Commissioners

Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Next Steps

- Tonight
  - Question & Answers
  - Break for Table Discussions
  - Dot voting

Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Table Discussion Questions

- What goals and strategies are the most important to include in a final list of recommendations?
- What features in the alternatives would you want to see included?
  Which would concern you?
- What could be added?

Guiding Growth – Healthy Watersheds Contact

Questions? Comments?

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