

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 ~  
“WE’RE LIVE – WE’RE ABOUT LIBERTY – WE’RE FOCUSED ON YOU!”

**Today’s Show:**

Host Kris Halterman discusses the recently released Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Report with Ed Kilduff. How does this report and its recommendations benefit or threaten the already precarious property rights of Whatcom County residents?

**LIBERTY ALERTS:**

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Voter Information Forum**

County Council and Port of Bellingham Candidates Meridian High School. Doors open at 6:15 PM. Event begins at 7:00 PM and ending at approx. 9:00 PM.

Event Sponsors:

WBA, BIAWC, 4<sup>th</sup> Corner, Whatcom Farm Bureau, Ass. Gen. Contractors, WC Cattleman’s Assoc., Whatcom Farm Friends, WC Assoc. of Realtors, WC CAPR, and CTNW.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Pre-Release Premier Showing of**

**“Same Kind of Different as Me.”** Starring Jon Voight, Greg Kinnear, Rene Zellweger, and Djimon Hounsou. The event is sponsored by the Lighthouse Mission Ministries. **Pre-sales can be purchased at this link.**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Wake-Up Whatcom Event**

A **WakeUp Whatcom County**, event. Guest Speakers: Tim Eyman, Glen Morgan, and Lars Larson are confirmed to entertain and inform the audience on issues affecting Whatcom County and Washington State.

Event location - Meridian High School.

Doors open at :15 PM. Event begins at 7:00 PM and ending at approx. 9:00 PM. Event Sponsor: CTNW

**Recommended Reading:**

**Hirst White-Paper** and **Fall of Fed Indian Law** links

**COMMON CENTS:**

**Hello! Is This Gordon's Pizza?... It may surely be coming to this sooner than later. Thank You to Maddie.**

Hello! Is this Gordon's Pizza?

No sir, it's Google Pizza.

I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.

No sir, Google bought Gordon’s Pizza last month.

OK. I would like to order a pizza.

Do you want your usual, sir?

My usual? You know me?

According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

OK! That’s what I want ...

May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten free thin crust?

What? I detest vegetables.

Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

How the hell do you know?

Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drugsale Network, 4 months ago.

I bought more from another drugstore.

That doesn’t show on your credit card statement.

I paid in cash.

But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

I have other sources of cash.

That doesn’t show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

WHAT THE HELL?

I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago.

**Saturday Morning Live Show Sponsors:** **ASSET ADVISORS**; Contact Dick Donahue to talk to him about your long term financial outlook... **VALLEY PLUMBING AND ELECTRIC**; HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR PLUMBING OR ELECTRICAL CALL VALLEY PLUMBING AND ELECTRIC, locally owned and operated since 1965...**ACCURATE LOCK AND SECURITY**; Located on PROSPECT STREET across from the WHATCOM MUSEUM or ONLINE at [AccurateLock.net](http://AccurateLock.net)

### Today’s Show:

Host Kris Halterman discusses the recently released Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Report with Ed Kilduff. How does this report and its recommendations benefit or threaten the already precarious property rights of Whatcom County residents?

Introduction of Ed Kilduff.

Did you have an opportunity to read their report?

Are you familiar with or do you know any of the Wildlife Advisory Committee Members?

At first blush...what did you think?

Was it well researched and published?

Beneficial information within the report?

Troubling, vague, or inaccuracies found in the report?

[What is GIS?](#) Graphic Information System or Graphic Information Science. Which are they referring to here? Are they interchangeable? Are they reliable?

**From Wikipedia:** *In general, the term describes any information system that integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, & displays [geographic](#) information. [GIS applications](#) are tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information edit data in maps, and present the results of all these operations.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Geographic information science is the science underlying geographic concepts, applications, and systems.<sup>[5]</sup>*

Did you find the language within the report to be neutral or demonstrate any biases towards the non-Indian residents of the County?

Do you have any argument for or against the habitat connectivity issues presented in the report?

Is this report weighted more to Northwest Tradition, aka Tribes, or does it look at the current resident population as-a-whole and the importance of wildlife to their everyday lives?

Any issues on how the data was collected for this report?

They used local watersheds as a method of organizing the report. Why?

CAO’s or Critical Areas Ordinances were considered in evaluating the ecosystem for wildlife sustainability. Any comments?

The study not only speaks to every environmental, wildlife, watershed, critical areas, endangered species regulations...it is also focused on Indian tribal cultural identities; each having a say in a proposal to develop or re-develop land within Whatcom County.

### Excerpts from the Report:

#### Point Elliott Treaty of 1855

“The preservation and protection of the Ecological Systems within Whatcom County are vital for maintaining tribal cultural Identity. It is imperative that the tribes be timely notified and included in meaningful discussions in land use proposals that the county is or may consider in order for the tribes to ensure that any such actions will not have any negative impacts on natural resources that are vital for tribal cultural identities.” ***Point to the [US vs. Winans case law to support their finding here.](#) [Wikipedia reference to same.](#)***

#### Findings

“Given the rapid rate of development and population growth, habitat condition across the County has generally degraded for the past two centuries. This is evident throughout the landscape but is most stark given the disappearance of lowland forests and the near-loss of old-growth forests throughout the County. This report provides a cross-section of current conditions in Whatcom County and identifies current habitat types, conservation values, canopy heights, identified fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and the current regulatory backdrop. To get a full sense of current

habitat and species conditions, refer to appendices A (Species) and B (Habitats).”

Does the language in this study concern you? Is it reminiscent of the Growth Management Act and Instream Flow (or Nooksack Rule) that are being used to sue and regulate land owners from the ability to use their land productively?

The report itself refers to deficiencies in the studies accuracy and ability to gather data. Within the report they identify different species within Watershed’s Ecosystems. Within each Watershed they refer to levels of wildlife found there, such as:

Biotic Detection, Nest, Winter Range, Breeding Colony, Nest, Concentration, Single, Pair, Historic, Haulout, Breeding, Communal Roost, Communal Night Roost, Colony, Staging Area, Territory, Presence, and Wintering Area.

Comments on the descriptive language used for scientific purposes and why?

### Stressors of Wildlife and Habitat

Loss of habitat through loss of land quality, water quality, road mortality, invasive non-native species of wildlife and vegetation.

These stressors point to human causes. Land clearing, landscaping, removal of undesirable trees, drainage infrastructure, urban and rural construction of homes, buildings, fences, paving of roads and driveways, disease, nutrients, pesticides and herbicides, barriers and increased length to travel from one safe habitat to another, and of course *climate change*.

The report focuses on maintaining connectivity to habitat wildlife landscapes.

### Recommendations

#### Landscape:

- Maintaining large, undeveloped and connected patches of native vegetation by designating growth and development areas in other locations.
- Maintaining low-density zoning or using other land use mechanisms within and immediately adjacent to high-value habitat areas to encourage larger, undisturbed tracts as well as encouraging maintenance of native vegetation.
- Avoiding fragmentation of habitat by minimizing the number of new roads and other barriers to important animal movement corridors, and restore wildlife crossings between habitats.
- Requiring infrastructure to be designed for safe wildlife passage and not create a barrier to migration.
- Restoring the structure, function, and spatial extent of floodplains (refer to Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan). 45 Whatcom County 2017 Ecosystem Report.
- Adopting in the Critical Areas Ordinance terrestrial wildlife habitat buffers and management recommendations for biodiversity areas and corridors.
- Protect and restore mature forest stands that form connected habitat blocks from the Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains (e.g., Chuckanut Wildlife Corridor, Nooksack River and associated tributaries).
- Protecting wetlands, riparian areas, and associated buffers from logging and other exempt stressors.

#### Recommended Programs – Action Plan:

- Adopt recommendations contained within this report into Whatcom County Code, as applicable.
- Develop a Whatcom County Ecosystem Conservation Plan or Program that ensures habitat connectivity, protects important remaining habitats, restores degraded or important habitat areas, and develops the programmatic support within Whatcom County government to enact the Plan. This Plan would build upon the work of the many ecosystem reports including, but not limited to:
  - Cascades to Chuckanuts Conservation Plan (2004)
  - Shoreline Restoration Plan (2008)
  - State of the Watershed Report (2010)
  - Bellingham Technical Assessment (2015)

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- Ecosystem Report (2017)
- Protect high-value habitat and corridors for animal movement through purchase of development rights, land acquisition, open space tax assessments, conservation easements, land use restrictions, and/or a comprehensive wildlife and habitat program.
- When land use application proposals are submitted, a comprehensive Natural Resource ecosystem assessment must be completed that includes consideration of watershed conditions with regards to terrestrial wildlife, requiring maintenance of habitat connections, and considering impacts to nearby important habitat areas. 46 Whatcom County 2017 Ecosystem Report
- Develop management recommendations for identified Habitat Conservation Areas that currently lack management recommendations such as wildlife corridors and biodiversity areas.
- Incorporate terrestrial wildlife crossing structures in new road design or during culvert replacement and/or road improvements.
- Encourage the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to maintain mature forest habitats and habitat connectivity for protection of biodiversity beyond the minimum fish bearing stream and wetland buffer requirements when approving forest practice applications within and adjacent to Whatcom County.
- Minimize new road construction in important habitat areas and restore habitat connections fragmented by roads.
- Improve resolution for whole county habitat mapping, including marine areas, through continued GIS data recruitment, organization, and incorporation, as well as the collection of on-the-ground field data.
- Incorporate climate change projections into the Ecosystem Plan and Critical Areas Ordinance and develop an adaptation plan.
- Perform a Countywide Ecosystem Functions and Values Study that should include:
  - Hiring of a consultant to design a baseline analysis, develop data architecture, develop data assessment forms, and train field crew (Whatcom County staff)
  - Expand County-sponsored citizen science programs, such as the Marine Resource Committee's programs, to terrestrial ecosystems and develop a working relationship with Western Washington University to support these efforts.
  - Complete Rapid Habitat Assessments for various habitats and wildlife
  - Complete GIS Vegetation Change Analysis
  - Develop an effective habitat and wetland banking, in-lieu fee, and/or mitigation program.
  - Determine whether there are any locally important species and habitats for extra protection under the CAO.
  - Budget for additional staff time to support ongoing wildlife and habitat planning efforts.

Wrap up: What is your professional opinion of this study and how, if the recommendations are accepted and adopted into Whatcom County Planning Documents, will it affect future development in Whatcom County?