

# Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS) Executive Committee Meeting Summary

## Welcome & Introductions

**Nancy Rottle (Director, Green Futures Research & Design Lab)** highlighted the importance of our local landscape and the aims for the ROSS project in “conserving, enhancing, healing and helping to make available its restorative, environmental, recreational and resource benefits for many generations to come.” She provided an introduction to the project, welcomed participants, and outlined the agenda items to be discussed.

**Steve Whitney (Program Officer, The Bullitt Foundation)** expressed the importance of coming together to support open space planning at a time when there is a lull in development pressures and highlighted why The Bullitt Foundation is supporting the ROSS: “By creating a large and multi-jurisdictional table, highlighting the true value of open space, and setting meaningful regional priorities that will allocate public resources efficiently, the project has the potential to help set an open space protection agenda that will be widely supported and funded by the region’s residents.” Mr. Whitney highlighted the importance of advancing on the implementation of previous visions (Vision 2040 and the Cascade Agenda) and he expressed how the ROSS provides an opportunity to establish a venue for true collaborative governance among a broader group of regional leaders, noting “while open space is essential in terms of creating livable neighborhoods, it also protects critical natural capital and the ecosystem goods and services that sustain our economy, our communities, and the health of our people.” He introduced Ron Sims as ROSS Executive Committee Chair.

**Ron Sims (PSP Leadership Council & ROSS Executive Committee Chair)** highlighted the significant standing of the group and the diversity of representation gathered. He underscored the importance of open space to regional economic stability and the uniqueness of the Pacific Northwest within his national experience, suggesting that the ROSS presents the Committee with an opportunity to develop a national model.

## Participant Introductions – Additional Summaries Available Upon Request

### 1. ROSS Project Background & Scoping – Presentation Attached

**John Owen (Makers Architecture & Urban Design)** provided a background summary on the formation of the Regional Open Space Strategy and the activities already conducted as part of this work.

### 2. Open Space Planning in Portland – The Intertwine Alliance – Presentation Attached

**Mike Wetter (Executive, The Intertwine Alliance)** presented on The Intertwine Alliance, a broad coalition of public agencies, private businesses and nonprofits dedicated to open space planning in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. The Intertwine Alliance has two primary goals: increase investment and engage the public in a new way. It is visually represented by five petals of a daisy flower with each petal dedicated to an individual component of open space planning (Conservation, Acquisition, Active Transport, Regional Systems (public lands), & Conservation Education).

Mr. Wetter outlined how the initiative began and highlighted lessons learned for the Puget Sound region. He discussed how those involved came to understand that visions for trail development could not be achieved for another 190 years at existing investment levels. The concept for the Alliance was to “make the pie bigger” and serve as a forum for synchronized efforts rather than creating a new organization. The alliance now has over 57 partners, working as a team to acquire additional federal resources. This meant that over 28 agencies currently managing parks and trails needed to come together. He also highlighted the importance of private sector leadership alongside a broad group of leading organizations. An important element of the project was to “shift

paradigms" and engage with residents more deeply, create a brand, find a way to "go viral", as well as finding on-the-ground constituencies.

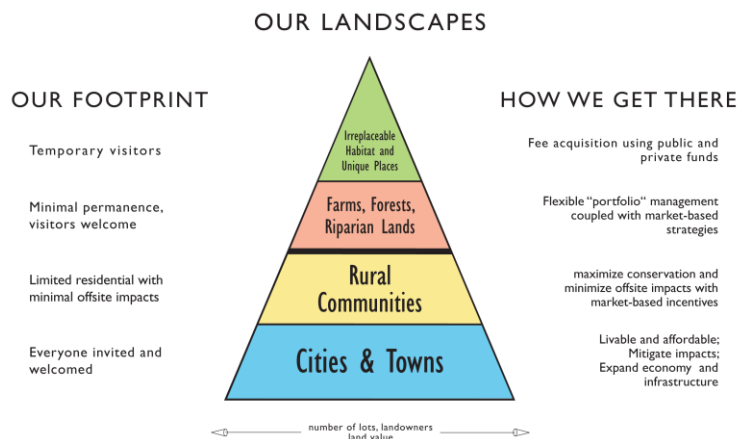
### 3. Existing Open Space Activities & Partnerships

**Ron Sims (ROSS EC Chair)** introduced two key partners to describe recent activities associated with open space and how the ROSS project might be designed to support their initiatives or directives. He commented on how the Pacific NW has grown because of open space linkages and quality of life as this attracts talent and jobs.

**Rocky Piro (Program Manager, Puget Sound Regional Council)** highlighted how Vision 2040 incorporates a frame for regional landscape conservation with objectives to link regional systems in the natural & built environment to achieve better outcomes. He highlighted how Vision 2040 contains both policies and a directive 'implementation action' to establish a regional open space strategy and PSRC is in need of support in carrying these directives forward. There is an intentional focus on people, housing, jobs and open space. In this vision, open spaces serve as urban separators, linkages, attractions, and components of transportation in addition to providing habitat, species migration, and improved water quality.

**Gene Duvernoy (President, Forterra)** highlighted how Forterra is concentrating on forming 'complete communities' and conserving the rest of the landscape, both as means to decrease sprawl and conserve land. He described how different approaches are needed in different landscapes and pointed to a diagram – Forterra's 'golden triangle' (see below) with cities as the foundation and unique places as the delicate tip. He highlighted how the ROSS can be particularly supportive in addressing open space in cities and towns.

## FORTERRA Agendas at a Glance



### 4. Workplan & Milestones – Presentation Attached & Most Recent Documents Available Upon Request

**Jeffrey W. Raker (ROSS Project Lead, Green Futures Lab)** briefly presented a two year workplan for the Regional Open Space Strategy, including the proposed organizational structure, communication strategy, and funding opportunities.

### 5. Discussion

The Committee discussed its enthusiasm regarding the initiative with Ron Sims reiterating the opportunity to establish a national model, highlighting the importance of addressing food policy as a good way to connect rural

lands and urban centers, and expressing the need to seek additional involvement from the development and business community, as well as other partner organizations/individuals that might be included in the process.

**Participants:**

Dean Howie Frumkin (UW School of Public Health)

Kelly Mann, (ULI Seattle)

Barb Culp (Bicycle Alliance of Washington)

Christie True (King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks) – Alternate for Executive Constantine

Mike Wetter (The Intertwine Alliance)

Ron Shultz (Washington State Conservation Commission)

Dr. David Fleming (Public Health Seattle-King County)

Cynthia Welti (Mountains-to-Sound Greenway)

Rod Mace (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest, United States Forest Service)

Rocky Piro (Puget Sound Regional Council) – Alternate for Bob Drewel

Steve Whitney (The Bullitt Foundation)

Ryan Dicks (Pierce County Office of Sustainability) – Alternate for Executive McCarthy

Thatcher Bailey (Executive Director, Seattle Parks Foundation)

Scott Wyatt (Washington Chairman, The Nature Conservancy)

Kjristine Lund (King County Flood Control District)

Skip Swenson (Forterra) – Alternate for Gene Duvernoy

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido (Kitsap County)

Joanna Grist (Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition)

Mike Deller (The Trust for Public Land)

Gerry O'Keefe (Puget Sound Partnership)

Gwendolyn High (Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition)

Eric Nelson (American Farmland Trust) – Alternate for Dennis Canty

Kaleeen Cottingham (Washington Recreation & Conservation Office)

Craig Partridge (Washington State Department of Natural Resources) - Alternate for Commissioner Goldmark

STAFF: Fritz Wagner, John Owen, Nancy Rottle, Jeff Raker, Leann Andrews, Leslie Batten

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