



PEOPLE  
FOR  
PUGET  
SOUND

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# **Puget Sound and Water Quality**

## **An Agenda for a Clean, Healthy Ecosystem**

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# People For Puget Sound

Mission: to protect and restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits--our living waters, the land and our common future.



# Stormwater Focus Group Results

- 80% of participants didn't think they lived in a watershed
- They didn't grasp the connection between water quality and land use



# Focus Group results (more)

- But they do understand the connection between paved surface and pollution
- Mixed reactions to the role of government depending on how it was presented



# View of Region

- Pride in the region and quality of life healthy environment plays
- Want the region's water sources protected
- Recognize the successes in cleaning up point source pollution
- Build and reinforce pride in success will help align them with supporting more work

# Chesapeake Bay Struggles

- Lack of accountability
  - federal and state governments routinely missed deadlines and never faced consequences for it
- Annual reports too rosy (not telling the truth)
- Lack of focused spending
  - EPA money was not directed to most important needs



We are NOT normal

# We CAN do it





# Puget Sound Partnership's Job

- Set ecosystem targets that result in clean water and restored Sound
- Build strong action agenda with the specific steps for recovery. Examples:
  - 1,2,3 to eliminate pollution from stormwater
  - 1,2,3 to eliminate pollution from sewage
- Build strong outreach program that helps educate and motivate the public

# It's a partnership

- Federal agencies
- Tribes
- State agencies
- Local agencies
- Consultants
- Businesses
- Industry
- Nonprofits



# People For Puget Sound

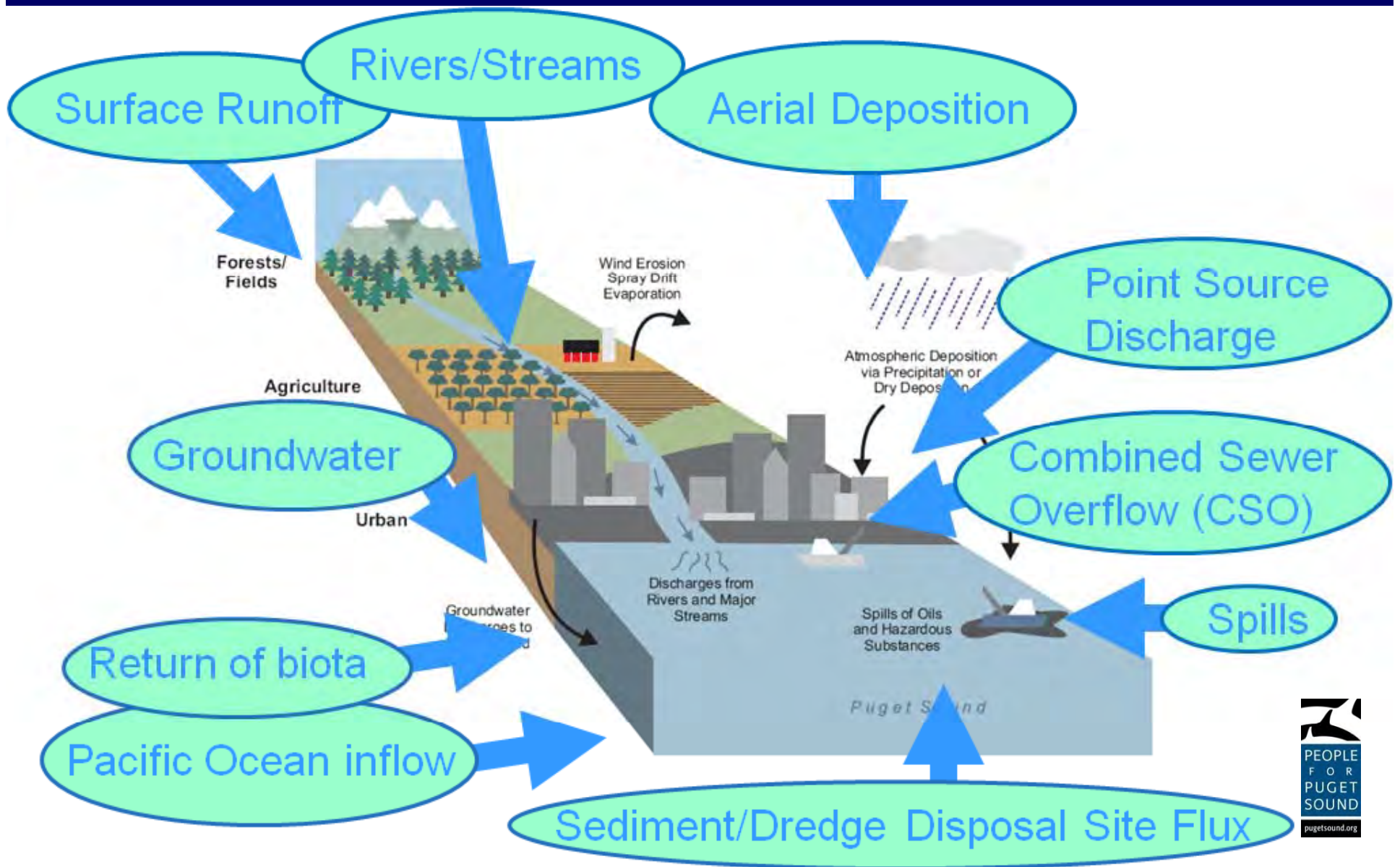
- Restoring clean water
- Recovering species
- Linking people



# Dog Poop Slide

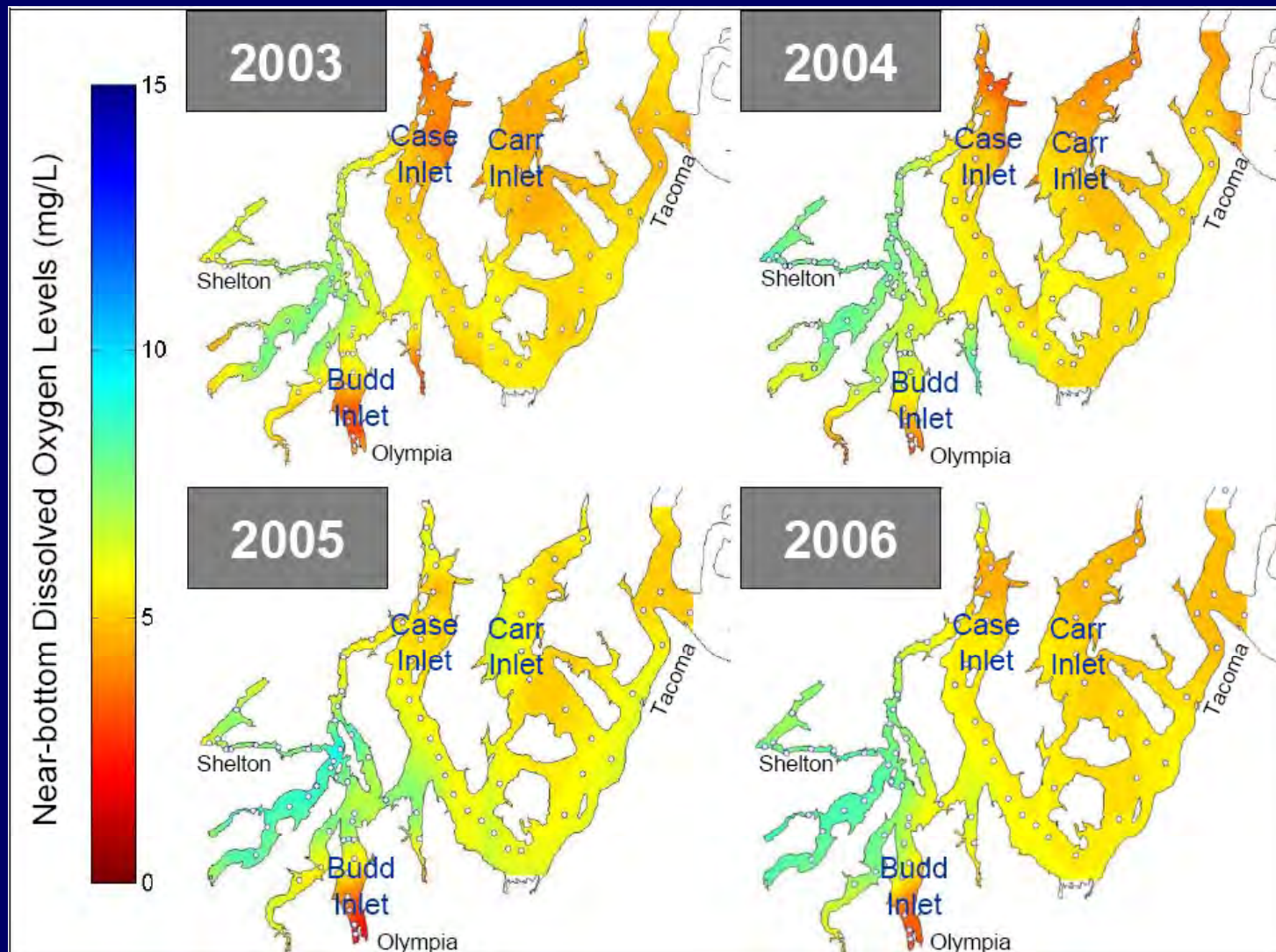


# 10 Pathways: Pollutants to Puget Sound



Sewage treatment  
plants =  
135 billion gallons per  
year

# Near-bottom dissolved oxygen levels (mg/L) for S. Sound in September



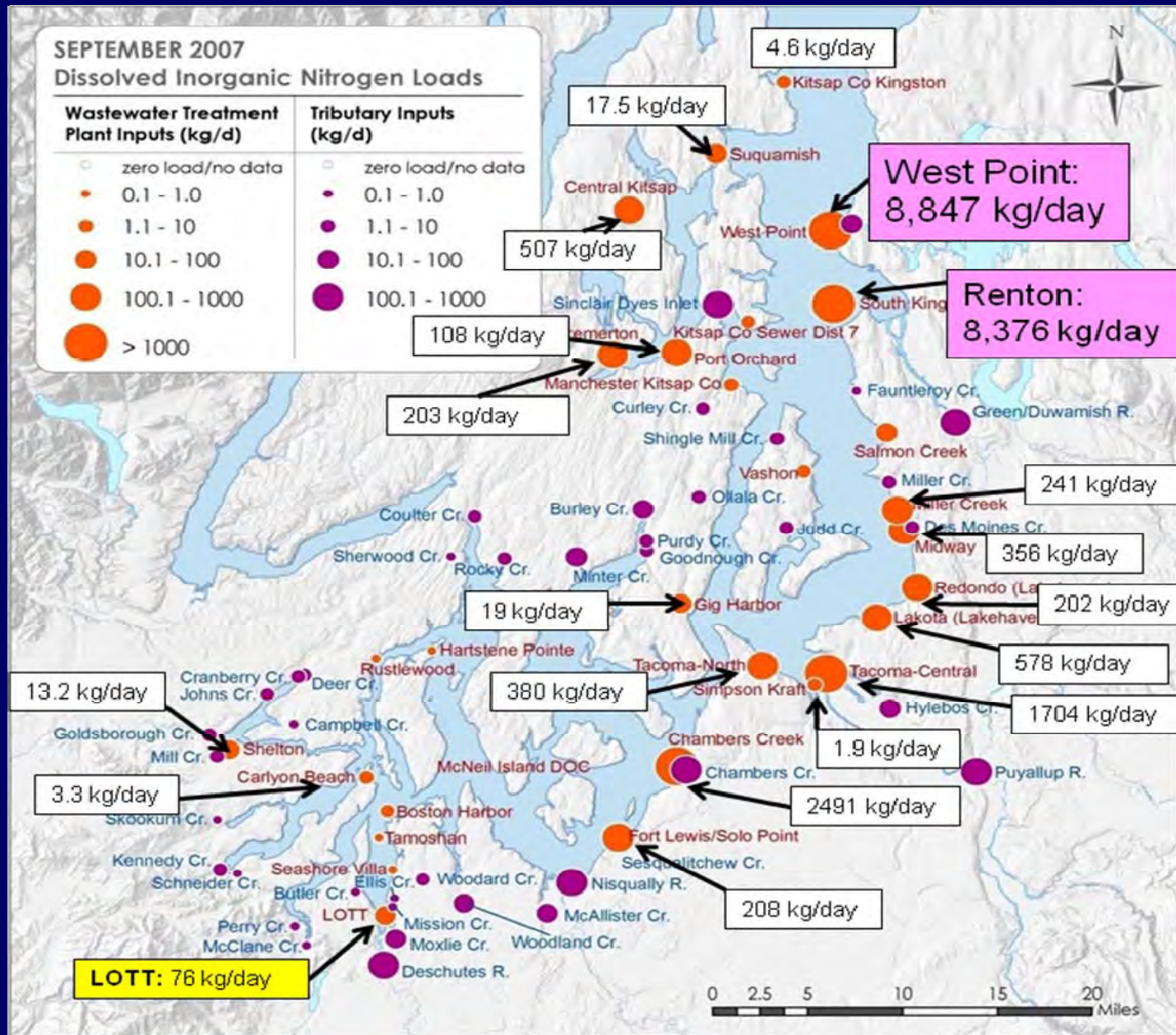
# Dissolved Oxygen

Hundreds of Dead Fish





# S Sound Dissolved Oxygen Study: Nitrogen Loads



Billions of dollars

# Polluted Runoff



*Photo Credit: Paul Joseph Brown/Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

# Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit

Will determine how, when, and where developers should use low-impact development (LID) on individual building sites



# What the permit needs

There are three legs to the LID stool

- ~~• Reduction of impervious surfaces~~
- ~~• Retention of vegetation~~
- Engineered techniques (rain gardens, green roofs, etc)

We need all three!



# Cost effective

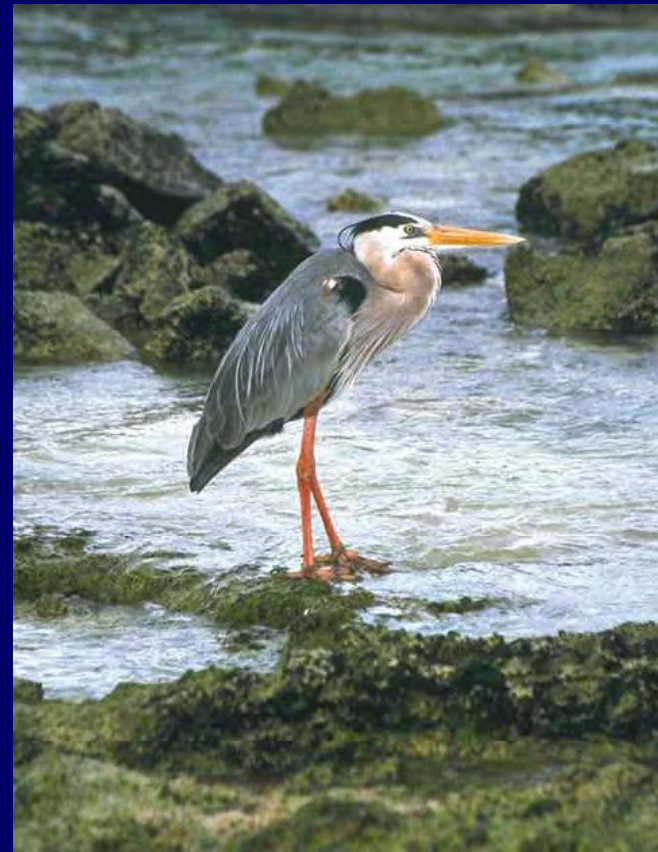
We think it is more cost effective to do LID than conventional solutions like detention ponds

- Pilot projects all around the Sound are proving successful



# Saving Puget Sound

- Accountability for results
- Sustained effort
- Political will
- Serious money



# We aren't normal. We can do it!



Photo: Jeremy Lucas



# Thank you



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# Toxic Pollution--Historic and Ongoing

PCBs, PBDEs and other toxic chemicals move up the food chain

