NATURE’S VALUE IN THE SALISH SEA
The Salish Sea basin provides critical ecosystem goods and services – like supplying fresh water and reducing flood risk – that are threatened by human activity. Earth Economics will identify, quantify, and value aquatic- and land-based ecosystem services throughout the basin. These values will be used to assess the effect of landcover and zoning changes over 25 years within Island County, its surrounding waters, and their contributing drainages.

What we’re doing
Salish Sea Basin Ecosystem Services Valuation
- Identify, quantify, and value the aquatic and land-based ecosystem services within the basin.
- Provide an updated estimate of the ecosystem services values provided by the lands and water of the Puget Sound basin.

Island County Case Study
- Assess the ecosystem services value gained, protected, or lost in response to changes in landcover and zoning policies between 1992 and 2016.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT
The Salish Sea basin ecosystems and the benefits they provide are threatened by pollution, development pressures, and unsustainable land management. By conducting an ecosystem services valuation, Earth Economics will work to improve understanding of the economic and social benefits provided by ecologically important lands. This will help decision makers identify and rank policies and projects by their cumulative impact on those public goods.

ABOUT EARTH ECONOMICS
Established in 1998, Earth Economics is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Tacoma, Washington. Earth Economics helps communities, businesses, tribes, and government agencies take nature into account by providing data and analyses to support improved decision making. Our vision is a future where communities, nature, and industry all thrive together.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Help raise awareness in your community about the substantial economic benefits that nature provides. Visit www.eartheconomics.org to learn more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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