



University of Washington

PORTS, PEOPLE & PUGET SOUND

We are faced with unprecedented growth in the Puget Sound basin as the population is predicted to exceed five million people by 2020 – more than a 50% increase from 1991.

The economic and environmental consequences associated with this urbanization grow more significant as we look at the effects of globalization and the use of Puget Sound for transporting goods both locally and globally. To provide economic prosperity and ensure beneficial growth, the urban communities and industries around the Sound will need to reduce their overall environmental impacts, streamline and restructure how they manage environmental issues, and anticipate and be prepared for future environmental regulation.

An integrated effort involving all three UW campuses will be a significant asset to the region as we develop. A future of vibrant urban coastal communities is dependent on sophisticated human capital and technological and policy transformations based on solid science and economics that promote business innovation within functioning environments and with a full appreciation of environmental costs and services.



Tacoma



Cruise Ship in Puget Sound



Everett



Bellingham

FY2009 Request: \$2,115,000

UW Match: \$720,000 (one-time start-up costs associated with faculty recruitment)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON - PORTS, PEOPLE & PUGET SOUND

State funding will be used to support

- targeted new faculty hires at the Bothell, Seattle and Tacoma campuses to strengthen ties between the University, industry and government agencies in areas of invasive species, water quality, and wetlands management;
- placed-based professional staff with critical scientific expertise who catalyze measurable local responses for sustaining a cleaner Puget Sound by engaging and educating coastal communities, city/county governments and industries;
- applied science and policy analyses through university/industry/government collaborations to address time-sensitive environmental issues
- advanced information technology and visualization products that synthesize integrated environmental models and real-time observations to develop scenarios of the region's development and growth for improved decision making;
- integration and web-presence of a comprehensive monitoring plan to evaluate the success of local and regional environmental policies and investments that is accessible to all; and
- a feasibility study for an environmental engineering science program at UW Tacoma.

This proposal complements the UW budget request for funding to develop an e-Science framework to support projects that involve a tremendous amount of environmental data and information. We are focused on research, monitoring and the dissemination of information and knowledge and not on regulatory and administrative actions to clean up Puget Sound. The timeliness of the request is determined by our interest in and underlying capacity to support the Puget Sound Initiative. We believe that with a true collaboration and a solid scientific underpinning, Puget Sound monitoring and decision-making processes can be a model for national and international export.

