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**To:** [zzRedistricting Commission Voicemail](#)  
**Subject:** Watershed-bioregional perspective  
**Date:** Saturday, August 06, 2011 12:24:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [HOLISTIC ECOLOGICAL SYNERGY.pdf](#)  
[HES2.pdf](#)  
[Object.pdf](#)

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As a first-wave environmental planner (Huxley/WWU 1974) I played with Map Model GIS and Landsat data as a way to create big picture planning (attached) with nature. While our Congressional Districts reflects our major bio-regions, at the watershed level this is less than ideal. My state district in south Bellingham is separated from "our" district by a mountain range. I know this was defined by politics, instead of reality, but that's just plain stupid. Obviously this doesn't create much trust with a political process that's this divorced from reality. Defining thematic ecological information that citizens can use is technically complex, then throw in random political jurisdictions and there's no way to pursue performance standards for smart planning. A conspiracy nut might say this subversion of an informed democracy is a high crime verging on treason. Given the growing number of angry and frustrated citizens, being just plain stupid isn't much of an excuse. This isn't a rant against your difficult job, it's a comment about a process that better get real, really fast, or suffer the consequences when the crazies take over for good reasons. John C. Ruth