

Shoreline Master Program  
SAG Meeting March 26, 2008

Caucus Representatives

John Umberger- Property Owners  
Jerry Barnes – Agriculture  
Absent Raleigh Chinn – Business/recreation  
Lee Bernheisel – Environment / Conservation  
Absent Jon Wyss – Natural Resources  
Absent Wendy Witt – Homeowners / Property Owners  
Chris Johnson – City of Okanogan  
Absent George Brady – Town of Pateros  
Chris Branch – Cities of Tonasket and Oroville  
Dolores Castillo – Colville Confederated Tribes  
Vicky Welch – Methow Watershed Council  
Dave Acheson – Town of Winthrop  
Ralph Malone - City of Omak  
Absent – Town of Brewster  
Don Willson – Town of Twisp

Guests: Roy Webster ,Jason Paulson

Staff: Angie Hubbard, Okanogan County; Jeremy Pratt, ENTRIX, Inc. (facilitator);  
Kurt Danison, Sandra Strieby and Sarah Schrock, Highlands Associates

**Member reports**

None

**Questions raised in February**

Staff distributed a handout addressing questions raised during the last SAG meeting, and reviewed the answers. Bernie clarified that he is not asking that the SMP address water quantity, but that it be added to the list of shoreline ecological resources in Overall Development Policy (I.).

**Discussion During Presentation of Draft Shoreline Characterization given by Mike Parton of ENTRIX.**

- Mike presented preliminary results of ENTRIX's analysis of science factors. The characterization does not yet include planning factors
- Questions and comments regarding inventory, data sources
  - Chris J noted that heat is considered a pollutant for the sake of water quality assessment. (Implication: elevated water temperature may result in a low score for water quality. Water temperature may be naturally high in some streams that run north-south.)

- ENTRIX may want to look at the riparian vegetation data developed by PBI for a more complete and accurate picture of vegetative conditions
  - Subbasin planning database is a good source of information
- Questions and comments regarding analysis
  - Does the characterization account for variation in development impacts based on differences in biophysical factors? For instance, a house at Lost River has a greater impact that would one on stable ground
  - How will channel migration be accounted for? We need to know what the river wants to do as far as Channel Migration, then we can plan what should be allowed in that area to keep the public safe. A Levy levee would have a different effect on an area that would be considered a Channel Migration Zone than it would on a stable section of the river. The County is working toward adoption of a Comprehensive Flood hazard Management Plan that will address channel migration.
  - Bernie asked how development along the shoreline had been assessed. Mike replied that ENTRIX used the County Assessors' use code to identify current land use. Kurt noted that Highlands will look at development in more detail during analysis of planning factors.
- Bernie would like hard copies of the preliminary draft maps, knowing that there will be final maps later.
- Summary of discussion of environment designations
  - Ecology recommends six shoreline environments. In Okanogan County, the consultant team will propose a suite of shoreline environments based on the recommended environments and the characterization findings, and may propose additional environments.
  - Characterization establishes a baseline condition that is to be maintained or improved (no net loss of shoreline ecological function). Environment designations need to be linked to characterization findings to be defensible
  - How will aesthetic and shoreline-enjoyment factors be addressed?
  - Local knowledge as well as best available science will be important to consider in the designation process. Where designations that are not consistent with analysis findings are proposed, need to justify the deviation
  - A draft designation framework will be presented at the next SAG meeting.
  - SAG members may suggest that the framework include one or more designations to accomplish a specific shoreline purpose, based on characterization findings
  - A user-friendly description of the designation process, with graphics and hypothetical examples, will be helpful.

- Subdivision in shorelines will be addressed after the shoreline environment designation framework has been discussed
- Be cognizant that some stakeholders believe the SMP will be a regulatory document to implement the SBP
- Fine to encourage restoration, but be careful to distinguish between incentives, voluntary actions, and requirements
- Cumulative impacts of three or four levels of government on property rights and land owners have yet to be assessed

### **Housekeeping**

Jeremy reminded SAG members of the ground rules established when the SMP update began. All members are asked to cooperate in following the rules so the group can complete its work efficiently. There will be a public comment period at the beginning or end of each meeting; otherwise, discussion will be limited to SAG members. Between now and the May meeting Jeremy and Angie will review attendance and notify caucuses whose representatives have missed two or more consecutive meetings. Replacement representatives may be sought for inactive caucuses.

The ventilation system combined with the layout of seating in the room is making it difficult for all to hear what's being said. Angie will look for an alternative meeting location.

Take April off, our next meeting will be May 28, 2008. Highlands will present draft Shoreline Environment Designations. The draft text will be sent to SAG members a week in advance so all will have time to review the material and formulate comments and questions in advance of the meeting.

# OKANOGAN REGIONAL SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

## Response to questions posed during the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 SAG meeting

March 26, 2008

**Question:** How will the SMP address newly-created shorelines (e.g., shorelines that would be created by inundation if the Shanker's Bend project is built)?

**Answer:** The SMP guidelines provide for automatic designation of shorelines that are not designated when the SMP is developed. The guidelines (WAC 173-26-211(2)(e)) state:

The map and the master program should note that all areas within shoreline jurisdiction that are not mapped and/or designated are automatically assigned a "rural conservancy" designation, or "urban conservancy" designation if within a municipality or urban growth area, or the comparable environment designation of the applicable master program until the shoreline can be re-designated through a master program amendment.

In the case of the Shanker's Bend project, the newly-created shorelines would be designated "Rural Conservancy" as soon as they were created. They would then be mapped, and, once mapped, assessed using the designation criteria in the SMP. The assessment would determine whether the "Rural Conservancy" designation was appropriate or should be changed. Once the correct designation was determined, the SMP would be amended to include the new shoreline areas.

**Question:** How will the SMP address water quantity?

**Answer:** The SMP will not address the withdrawal of ground water or diversion of surface water. Those issues are being addressed through watershed planning. The SMP will address water quantity as specified in the SMP guidelines. As the paragraphs quoted below show, the definition of water quantity is limited in the context of shoreline management.

173-26-020(39): "Water quality" means the physical characteristics of water within shoreline jurisdiction, including water quantity, hydrological, physical, chemical, aesthetic, recreation-related, and biological characteristics. Where used in this chapter, the term "water quantity" refers only to development and uses regulated under this chapter and affecting water quantity, such as impermeable surfaces and storm water handling practices. Water quantity, for purposes of this chapter, does not mean the withdrawal of ground water or diversion of surface water pursuant to RCW 90.03.250 through 90.03.340.

173-26-201(3)(E)(vii): Water quality and quantity. Identify water quality and quantity issues relevant to master program provisions, including those that affect human health and safety. At a minimum, consult with appropriate federal, state, tribal, and local agencies.

**Question:** Participants in the February SAG meeting asked the following three questions related to critical areas language:

- How was the critical areas language developed (what were the sources)?
- What definition of wetlands is being used?
- Must critical areas be addressed at such a high level of detail?

**Answer:** The SMP will not directly address critical areas, but will refer to the critical areas regulations of each jurisdiction. Those regulations will apply to critical areas within shoreline areas. The critical areas language in the current draft of Chapter 7 will be deleted.

**Question:** What are people allowed to do once they reach the shoreline (e.g., via a public access easement)?

**Answer:** There is no simple straightforward answer; each case must be assessed independently. *Generally speaking*, in the case of navigable waters, the land below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) is publicly owned and members of the public may use the area. *Generally speaking*, in the case of waters that are not classified as navigable, lands below the OHWM may be privately owned.

Okanogan County  
Shoreline Characterization

Mike Parton  
Jenner McCloskey  
Heather Moran

March 26, 2008



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Presentation

What did we propose to do?

What did we actually do?

What did we find?

What do we do next?

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Scientific Foundation

- Analysis units (AUs) based on geomorphic classification
  - Processes that govern function
  - Slope classes
  - Stream order
  - Sinuosity
- For lakes and impoundments
  - Bathymetry and vegetation signature

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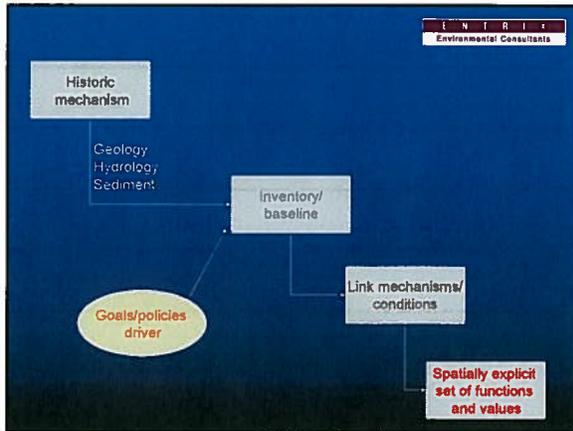
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- ### Analysis Unit Stressors
- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Bank hardening       | Bridges                      |
| Levees               | Overwater structures         |
| Water quality        | Rail                         |
| Permitted facilities | Roads                        |
| Agricultural         | Culverts                     |
| Residential          | Geologically hazardous areas |
| Industrial           | Flow                         |
| Mines                | Boat ramps                   |
- ENTRI Environmental Consultants

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- ### Analysis Unit Resources
- Aquatic Species
  - Riparian Species
  - Upland Species
  - Salmon spawning/rearing habitat
  - ESA critical habitat
  - Wetlands
  - Riparian vegetation
  - Potential Channel Migration Zones

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## 4 Levels of Analysis

1. **Site scale:** conditions vs. resources
2. **Watershed:** compares AUs by watershed
3. **Site scale:** condition/resources screened by economic and demographic constraints
4. **County scale:** Cumulative effects  
Accumulate effects of designations and restoration

Just starting

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## Analysis Unit Analysis – Generating data from data

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## Scoring Stressors – Class Size I Example

AU Stressor	Scoring	
Water quality class	0	No 303(d)-listed waterbodies
	0.5	50% or less listed to a 303(d)-listed waterbody or unit containing a confluence with a 303(d)-listed stream
	1	Entire unit 303(d)-listed
Facilities – Permitting	0	No permitted facilities in unit
	0.5	1 permitted facility in unit
	1	2 or more permitted facilities in unit
Bridges	0	No bridges in unit
	1	1 or more bridges in unit
Overwater structures	0	No overwater structures in unit
	0.5	10 or less overwater structures in unit
	1	11 or more overwater structures in unit
Culverts	0	No culverts in unit
	1	1 or more culverts in unit

Remember, AUs with high stress have low condition indexes, and vice versa.

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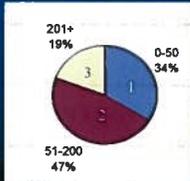
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## AU Size Classes

- Class 1 5 to 50 acres, 76 AUs
- Class 2 50 to 200 acres, 106 AUs
- Class 3 Greater than 200 Acres, 44 AUs



Environmental Consultants

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## Weighting Examples

AU Stressor	Weighting score/100	Weighting	Rationale
Bank hardening	70	0.072	Limits riparian function, disconnect floodplain, limits lateral movement of channel
Levees	80	0.082	Limits riparian function, disconnect floodplain, limits lateral movement of channel
Water quality	80	0.082	Generally summer temp conditions, limits species (fistage use)
Permitted facilities	10	0.010	Permitted facilities have known or suspected environmental impact as defined by the Washington Department of Ecology
Agricultural development- Dispersed	30	0.031	Low to moderate effect on riparian vegetation. Extensive effect generally dealing with grazing & forestry

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## Functional Index

- $\sum$  Weighted Stressor Scores = Inverse of function
- $\sum$  Weighted Resource Scores = function
- Both of the AU scores are needed to tell the story
- Spare the math, let's look at the real world

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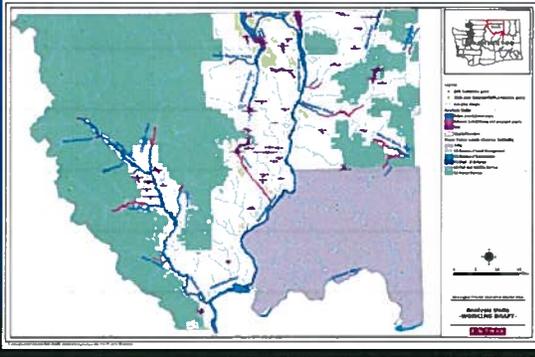
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# Okanogan County Analysis Units




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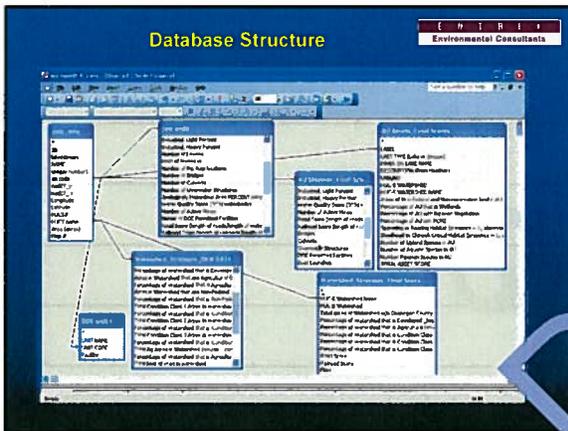
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# Database Structure



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# Data Catalog

226 Analysis Units

Unit Name	Area (Acres)	Water	Forest	Grassland	Barren	Urban	Other
Aggregates	110	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Urban	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Urban	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren - Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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# Results

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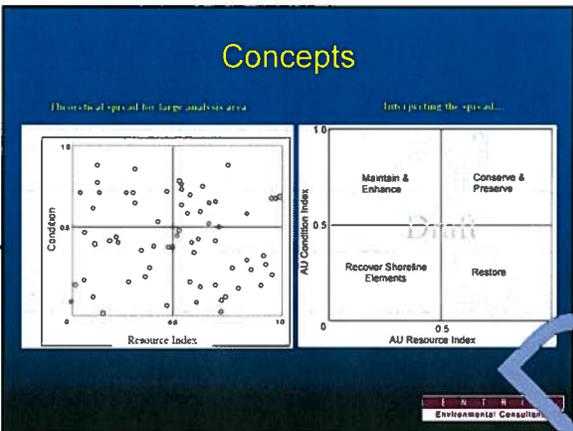
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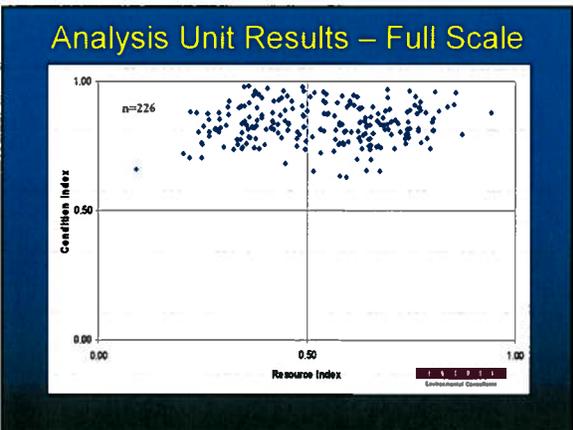
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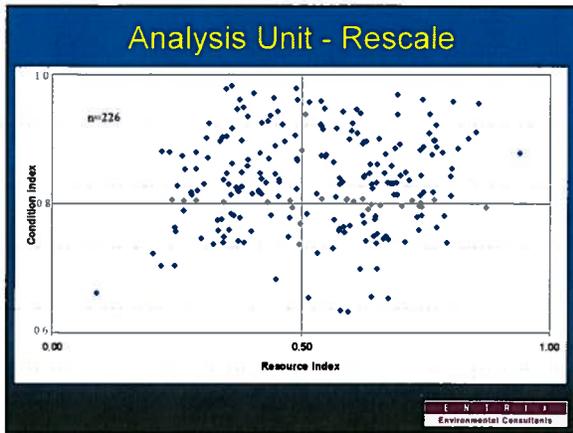
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### Quadrant Interpretation by AU Class

Size Class	QUADRANT			
	Recover Shoreline Elements	Restore	Maintain and Enhance	Conserve and Preserve
<b>1</b>	13	14	28	21
<b>2</b>	11	19	32	44
<b>3</b>	4	9	13	18

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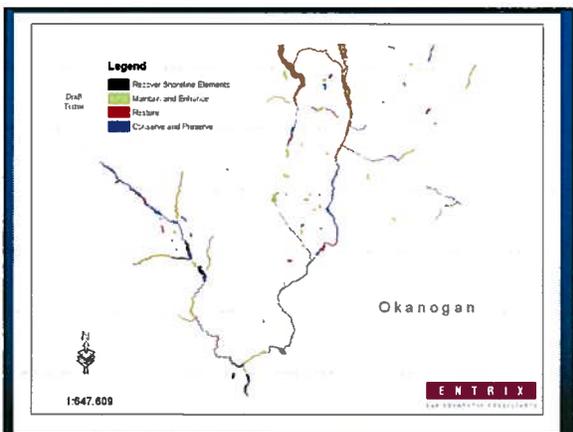
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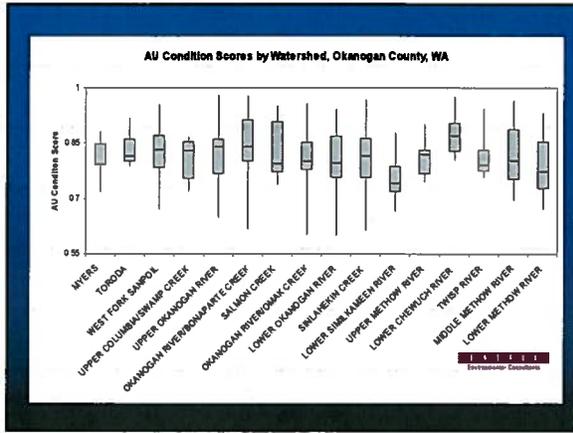
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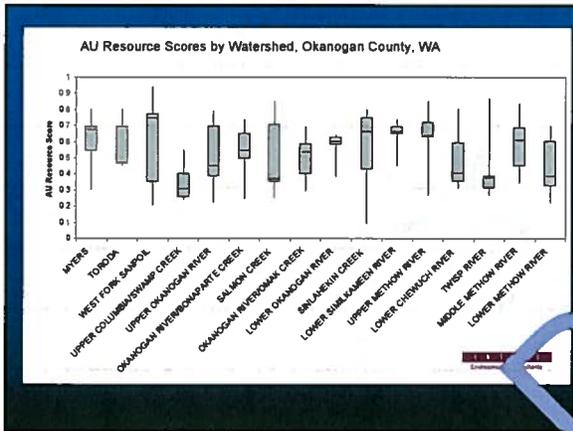
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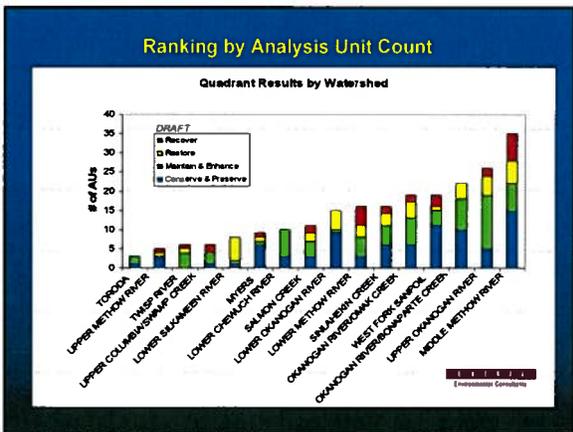
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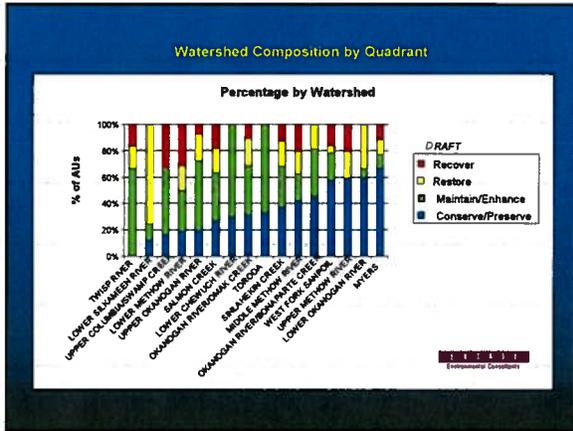
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**What does it all mean?**

- A "significant" amount of shoreline area may be retaining function
- The average character by watershed for all AUs is relatively even across the County
- Distinctions between AUs are evident
- We have an objective, multiple-scale basis for planning and assigning environmental designations
  - Can plan AU → AU → AU, or group them
  - Or AUs could be grouped by watershed
  - Quadrant approach, validate, I.D. patterns

Environmental Consultants

Draft

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**NEXT STEPS**

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### Integrating the Characterization and Designation Processes

Local expert review of functional analysis

- Characterization is objective, within data limits

Linkage with planning and designation process

- Support
- Analysis
- Formatting
- Monitoring for Cumulative Effects analysis



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### Restoration Planning

- Why?
  - Required under the SMA
  - Complements designation process
- Results intend to answer these questions:
  - Where are the restoration opportunities?
  - What stressors might be investigated?
  - What restoration actions are already underway?



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### Cumulative Effects

Why?

To assess the effects of SMA planning on legislative intent for shoreline opportunities and function

How?

Assess function with potential future designations



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