



## Monthly Public Information Meeting

January 21, 2021

# Goals for this meeting:

1. Provide background of the shoreline master program (SMP) update, including project history, purpose, and framework
2. Provide an update on the recent work conducted by the County and upcoming steps in the process
3. Provide resources for more information
4. Provide an opportunity to ask questions of County staff



# What is a Shoreline Master Program?

An SMP is a set of policies and regulations required by state law that has three basic principles:

- Protect the environmental resources of state shorelines
- Promote public access and enjoyment opportunities
- Give priority to uses that require a shoreline location

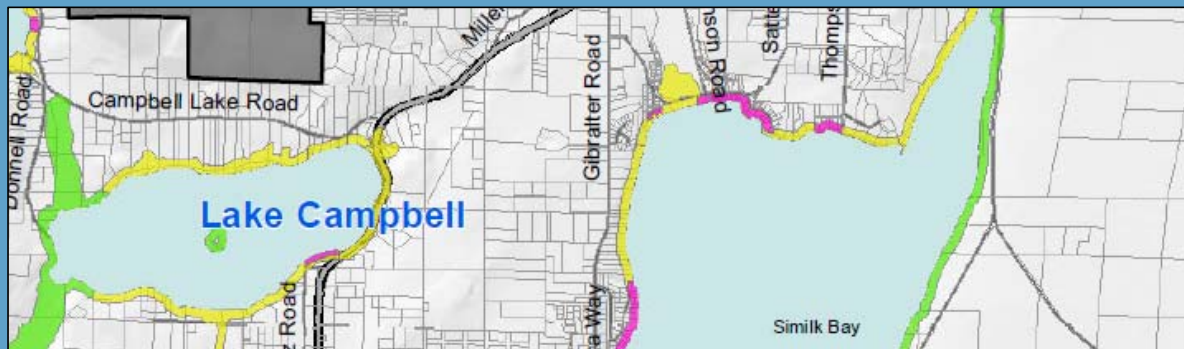
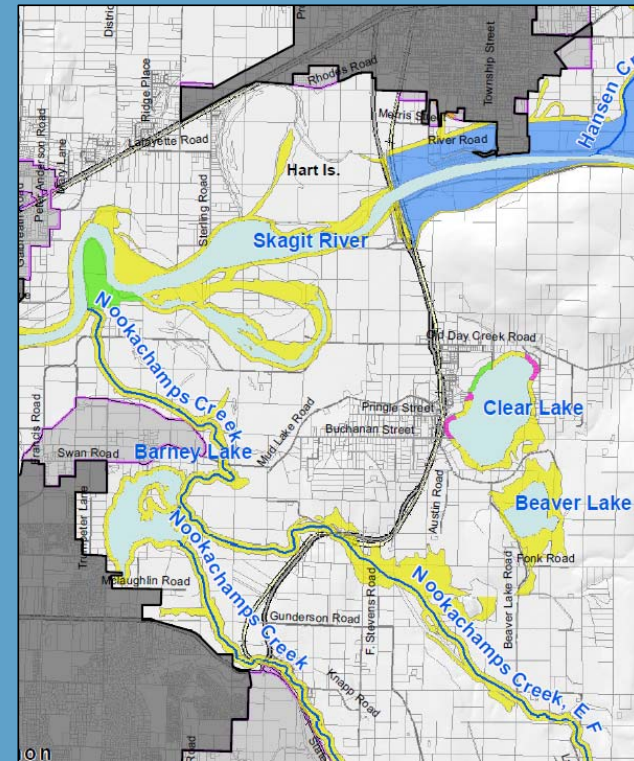
## Still must:

- Protect Critical Areas
- Ensure No Net Loss of Ecological Functions
- Encourage preferred uses



# Where does an SMP apply?

1. Applies to “Shorelines of the State,” which are waterbodies that meet certain criteria
  - Marine Shorelines
  - Lakes equal to or greater than 20 acres
  - Watercourses with a mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second
2. 200 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark
3. Also includes shoreline associated wetlands, floodways, and up to 200 feet of floodplain when contiguous with the floodway



# What is an SMP comprehensive update?

## Documentation

- Shoreline Inventory and Characterization (2014)
- Complete update to the Shoreline Master Program Policies and Regulations (2016)
- Mapping of environment designations (2016)
- Cumulative Impacts Analysis (2016)
- Shoreline Restoration Plan (2016)
- No Net Loss Evaluation (2016)

## Public Process

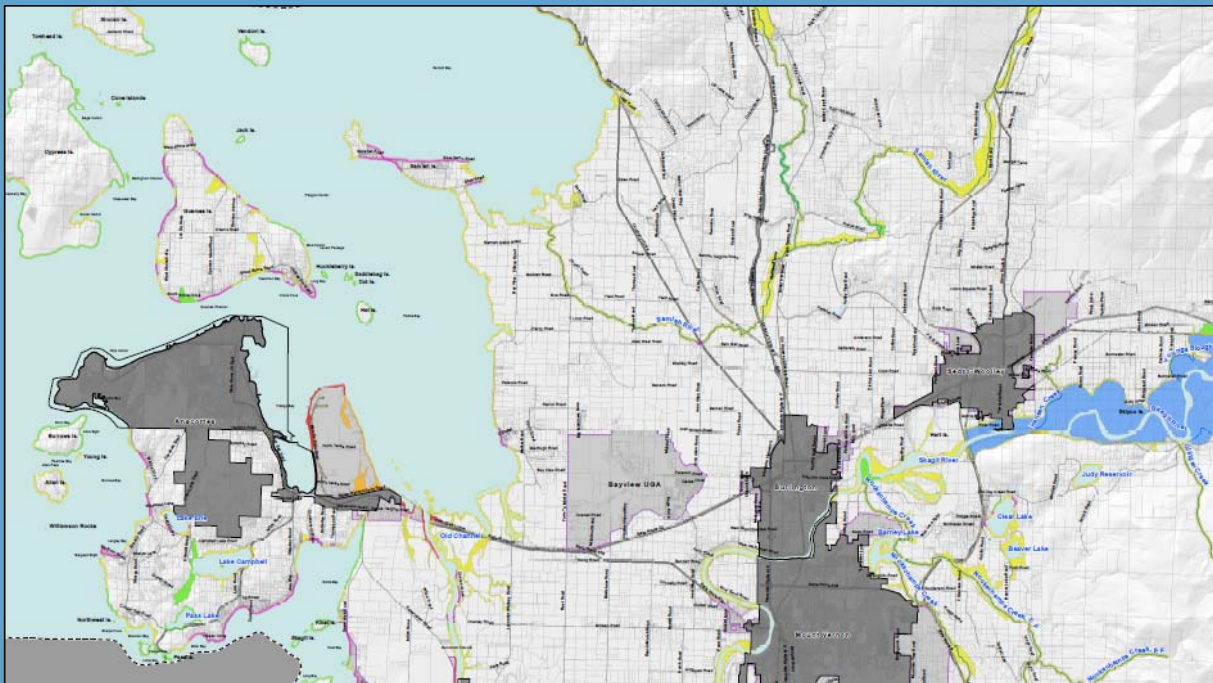
- Visioning Open Houses
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Open Houses
- Planning Commission review



# Shoreline Environment Designations

Based upon:

- Criteria in the Guidelines
- Ecological condition per Inventory/Analysis
- Existing and planned land use

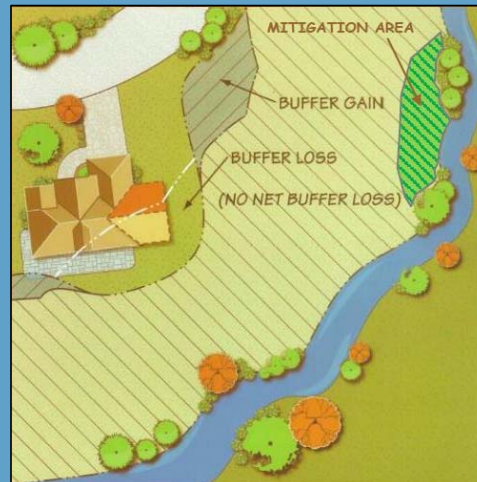


## Environment Designation\*

- High Intensity
- Natural
- Rural Conservancy
- Rural Conservancy - Skagit Floodway
- Shoreline Residential
- Urban Conservancy
- City Boundaries
- UGA Boundaries

## Key SMP Issues Addressed in 2016 PC draft

1. Non-conforming Uses/Structures
2. Overwater Structures (piers/docks)
3. Mapping of shoreline environment designations
4. Shoreline Armoring
5. Buffers and Setbacks
6. Vegetation Conservation
7. CAO integration



# Where We Started

## 2011

Visioning Workshops  
Shoreline Advisory Committee Meetings

## 2012

Shoreline Advisory Committee Meetings  
Planning Commission Meetings

## 2013

Preliminary draft SMP released  
Planning Commission Meetings  
Public Open Houses

## 2014

Planning Commission Meetings

## 2015

Planning Commission Meetings  
Final review draft of SMP released

## 2016

Planning Commission Meetings  
Revised SMP draft released  
Public hearing and comment period  
Planning Commission issues recommendation  
Recommendation presented to Board of County Commissioners



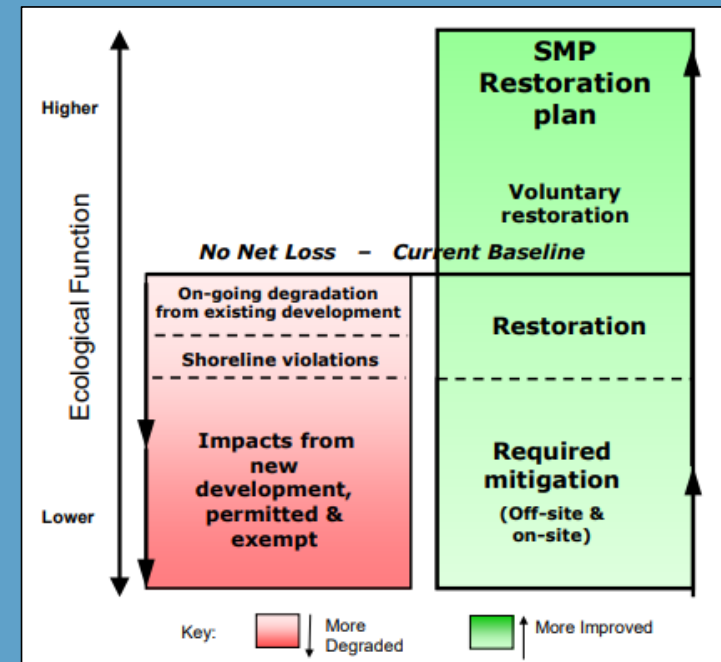


## What is an SMP periodic update?

1. The state requires all SMPs to be reviewed every eight years
2. Periodic review is intended to keep SMPs current with:
  - Amendments to state law (WAC, RCW)
    - *Consistency with Ecology's periodic review checklist*
  - Changes in local plans and regulations
    - *Consistency with Comp Plan and development regulations*
  - New or improved data and information
    - *Consistency with latest Ecology guidance, science, and other improvements to the SMP's overall use and function*

# The SMP periodic review will not:

1. Re-evaluate the ecological baseline which was established as part of the comprehensive update
2. Extensively assess no net loss criteria other than to ensure that any additional proposed amendments do not result in degradation of the baseline condition

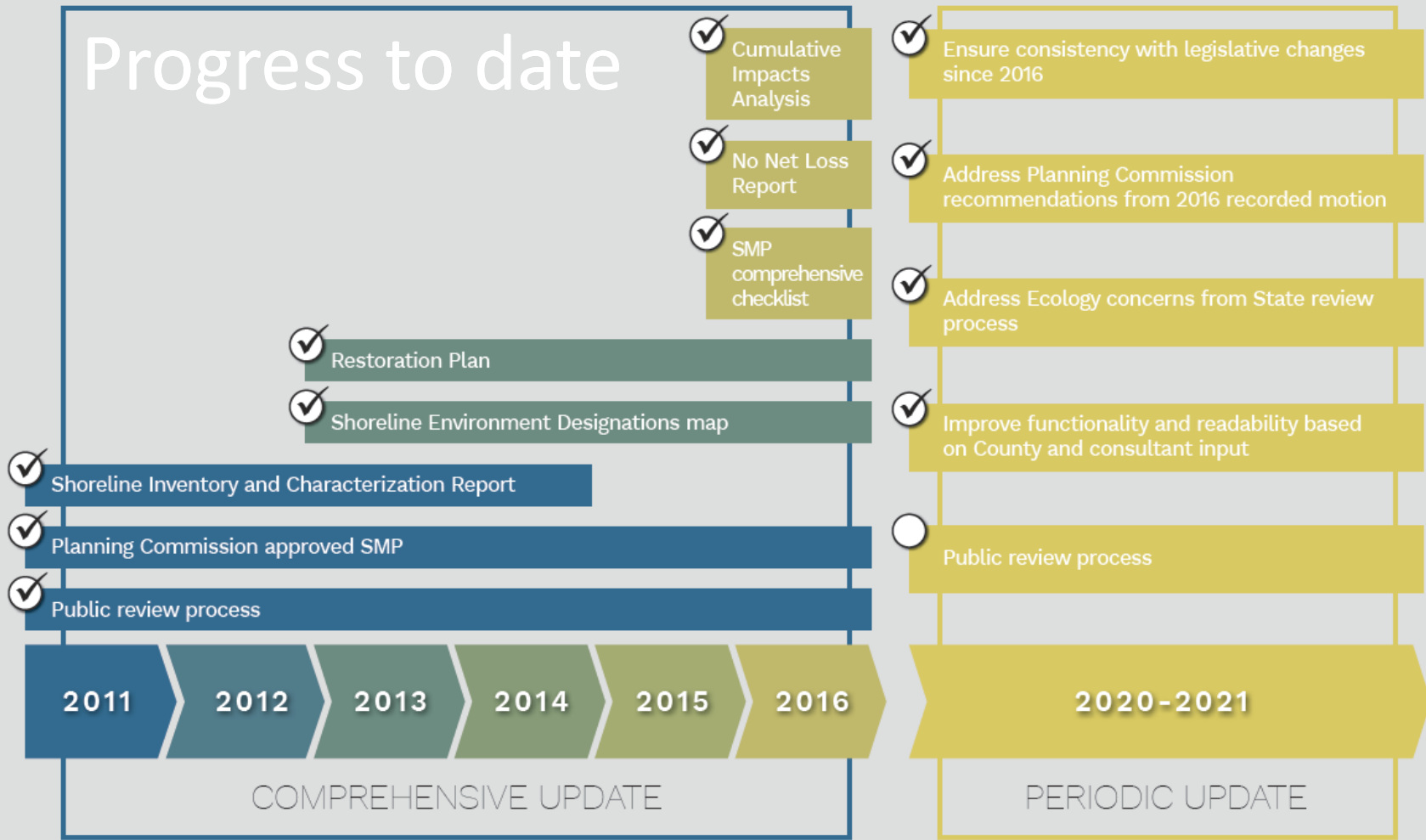


## Anticipated Amendments to 2016 draft

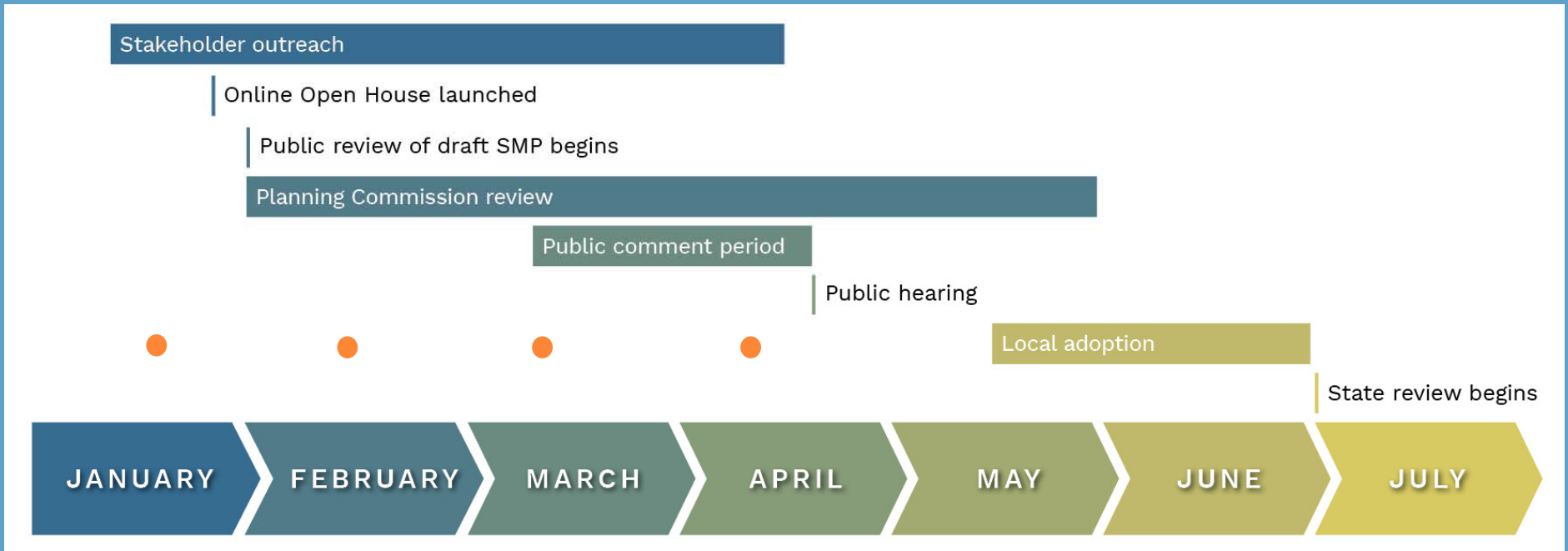
- Elements from the periodic review
  - E.g. review of exemption thresholds, definitions, WAC consistency
- Formatting adjustments to align policy sections
- Addition of hyperlinks to improve electronic use
- Addresses Planning Commission recommendations in the 2016 recorded motion
- Addresses Ecology comments to address consistency with WAC requirements
- Integration of most current CAO
- Complete listing of waterbodies to be included



# Progress to date



# Next Steps



2021 →

● Monthly public information meetings

# How to get more involved?

- Visit the SMP Online Open House

[www.SkagitSMPopenhouse.com](http://www.SkagitSMPopenhouse.com)

- Attend monthly public information meetings
- Stay informed: sign up for email notifications
- Participate in the public review process

The screenshot shows the website for the Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Online Open House. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Overview, Frequently Asked Questions, Next Steps, and Get More Involved. The main heading is "Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Online Open House". Below this, a paragraph explains that the county is updating its SMP and that the open house provides easy-to-digest information and ways to get involved. A "Get More Involved" section is highlighted, containing two columns: "Attend monthly virtual public info meetings" and "Subscribe to receive email updates". The "Attend monthly virtual public info meetings" section includes a "MEETING SCHEDULE" button. The "Subscribe to receive email updates" section includes a "SUBSCRIBE NOW" button. At the bottom right, there is an "Overview" section with text about the Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review. The Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Overview Frequently Asked Questions Next Steps Get More Involved

## Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Online Open House

Skagit County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The updated SMP will represent a major overhaul of the County's existing SMP. This Online Open House will provide you with easy-to-digest information and ways to get involved, and will continue to be updated until approval of the SMP. Visit [Skagit County's official SMP website](#) to learn more.

### Get More Involved

#### Attend monthly virtual public info meetings

The County will be hosting monthly meetings that will feature a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. Each meeting will be progressive and include the latest updates, so feel free to attend more than one.

[MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

#### Subscribe to receive email updates

The County will be sending out emails at key points during the SMP update process. If you'd like to receive these emails, please subscribe!

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

### Overview

Skagit County is in the process of completing both the **Comprehensive Update** and **Periodic Review** of its SMP.

Both the Comprehensive Update and the Periodic Review are required for compliance with the state's Shoreline Management Act.

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

# Additional information

Project website:

[www.skagitcounty.net/smp](http://www.skagitcounty.net/smp)

Staff contact is Betsy Stevenson, AICP, Senior Planner

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- *SMPPDS@co.skagit.wa.us*

**Thanks for listening**

**Questions?**

