

CHAPTER 5 SHORELINES OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

Sections 5.01 General

5.02 Shorelines of Statewide Significance for Skagit County

5.03 Policies for Shorelines of Statewide Significance

5.01 General

The Washington State legislature designated certain shorelines as shorelines of statewide significance from which all of the people of the state derive benefit and that these shorelines should, therefore, be managed with the interest of all of the people in mind. The Act requires that the Master Program give preference to uses and developments which are consistent with the principle of statewide over local interest.

5.02 Shorelines of Statewide Significance for Skagit Count

The legislature has designated the following shorelines of Skagit County as having statewide significance:

1. Lakes - Lake Shannon
2. Rivers -
 - a. Skagit River - upstream from Skagit Bay to the Skagit-Whatcom County line.
 - b. Cascade River - upstream from its confluence with the Skagit River to the mouth of Boulder Creek (Sec. 15, T. 35 N, R 11E).
 - c. Sauk River - upstream from its confluence with the Skagit River to the Skagit-Snohomish County line.
 - d. Suiattle River - upstream from its confluence with the Sauk River to the Skagit-Snohomish County line.
 - e. Baker River - upstream from its confluence with the Skagit River, through Lake Shannon to the Skagit-Whatcom County line.
3. Marine-
 - a. Skagit Bay and adjacent area from the Skagit-Snohomish County line to Yokeko Point, Fidalgo Island.
 - b. Padilla Bay - from March-Point -to William Point, Samish Island.
 - c. All other marine waters, water column, and beds seaward of the extreme low tide line.

5.03 Policies for Shorelines of Statewide Significance

The legislature determined that in order to fulfill the goal of statewide public interest in shorelines of statewide significance, local Master Programs shall give preference to uses that are consistent with the policies applied in the following order, pursuant to RCW 90.58.020:

1. The statewide interest should be recognized and protected over the local interest.
2. The natural character of shorelines of statewide significance should be preserved.
3. Uses of shorelines of statewide significance should result in long-term benefits to the people of the state.
4. The natural resources and ecological systems of shorelines of statewide significance should be protected.
5. Public access to publicly owned areas in shorelines of statewide significance should be increased.
6. Recreational opportunities for the public should be increased on shorelines of statewide significance.