

Skagit County is updating its shoreline regulations, and we need *your* input to make sure the SMP reflects our community's values and goals...



Get involved!

- Visit the County SMP webpage at www.skagitcounty.net/SMP
- Attend SMP workshops and advisory committee meetings
- Sign up to receive email updates on the process
- Talk to your neighbors and friends

For more information:

Visit the County SMP webpage at www.skagitcounty.net/SMP

Or contact:

Betsy Stevenson

Skagit County Planning & Development Services

(360) 336-9410 ext. 5879

betsyds@co.skagit.wa.us

1800 Continental Place

Mount Vernon, WA 98273



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Guiding shoreline development,
environmental protection,
and public access





What is a Shoreline Master Program?

Shoreline Master Programs (SMP) are a combination of rules and planning practices developed by local governments to guide the development of stream, lake, and marine shorelines in accordance with the State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). SMP goals include environmental protection for shorelines, preserving and enhancing public access, and encouraging appropriate development that supports water-dependent uses.

What are shorelines?

Shorelines are special water bodies that meet certain size of flow criteria under the Shoreline Management Act, including adjacent uplands. They specifically include marine waters, lakes greater than 20 acres, streams with a mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), lands within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark, floodways, some floodplains, and associated wetlands.

What is the process?

- **Public and stakeholder involvement:** encourages review and input throughout the process through shoreline advisory committee, public meetings, website information and other outreach activities
- **Shoreline inventory:** compiles and maps relevant physical, biological and cultural features
- **Analysis and characterization:** assesses shoreline ecological functions and provides recommendations for SMP development and restoration planning
- **Environmental designations:** based on the analysis, identifies appropriate shorelines where certain uses/activities are allowed, prohibited or conditioned
- **Polices and regulations:** creates development guidelines and standards for specific uses (e.g. marinas) and modification activities (e.g. bulkheads and piers)
- **Cumulative impacts:** the State requires the SMP be evaluated to ensure no net loss of ecological function under a reasonably foreseeable future
- **Restoration planning:** provides goals and priorities, benchmarks and implementation strategy to ensure gradual restoration of impaired shorelines
- **Approval:** required at both local (Board of County Commissioners, Town Councils) and State (Ecology) level

2011

Shoreline Inventory & Analysis

2012

Public Outreach & Involvement

Shoreline Management Recommendations / Community Visions

Advisory Committee & Planning Commission Review of Draft Policies and Regulations

Restoration Plan & Cumulative Impacts

2013

Public Approval Process