



SKAGIT COUNTY

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

UPDATE

Visioning Workshops Summary September 2011



Skagit Shoreline Master Program (SMP)

Visioning Workshops Summary

September 2011

Introduction

To initiate the public process for updating the County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP), Skagit County hosted four SMP vision workshops in June and July 2011. The purpose of the workshops was to kick off the public involvement process, share information about the update program and schedule, and engage participants in a visioning process for the future of Skagit County shorelines. The workshops were held on the following dates and locations:

- Tuesday, June 7 – Concrete, 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8 – Lyman, 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 15 – Mount Vernon, 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 13 – Anacortes, 4-6 p.m.

Initially, Skagit County planned three visioning workshops, at the first three locations – Concrete, Lyman and Mount Vernon. After considering attendance challenges for west County residents, the County added a fourth workshop in Anacortes. Due to ferry schedules, the Anacortes workshop was scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m.

Public Outreach & Workshop Notification

Skagit County conducted the following outreach to notify County residents about the SMP vision workshops:

- **SMP Workshop Poster Distribution** – the County developed and distributed posters announcing the first three workshops. Posters were distributed to Shoreline Advisory Committee (SAC) members to post in their communities, and distributed by County staff at locations throughout the County.
- **SMP Mailer Distribution** – The County developed and distributed (via US postal service bulk mail) to approximately 25,000 addresses in the County. The mailer was distributed to all landowners in the County's unincorporated areas.

- **SMP Website Updates** – The County posted information about the upcoming workshops on the SMP Website, www.skagitcounty.net/SMP
- **SMP News Releases** – Two news releases were developed and distributed to the local media; one focused on the three workshops in Concrete, Lyman and Mount Vernon; and one focused on the Anacortes workshop.
- **Skagit County Planning and Development Services (PDS) email updates** – A PDS email update about the upcoming workshops was distributed to all individuals who signed up to receive PDS news. This list includes 464 email addresses.
- **SMP Brochure** – The County developed a tri-fold SMP brochure, providing a description of a Shoreline Master Program, information about the project schedule and key principles to be considered through the SMP planning process. The SMP brochure was made available at the vision workshops and is also available at the County offices and the SMP Website.

Workshop Attendance*

Meeting	Date	Number of Sign-in Attendees
Concrete	June 7, 2011	28
Lyman	June 8, 2011	41
Mount Vernon	June 15, 2011	64
Anacortes	July 13, 2011	48

*This reflects the number of individuals who signed the workshop sign-in sheet but doesn't include additional community members who came in late or chose not to sign in.

Workshop Format

All workshops followed the same format including an open house where attendees could view displays about the SMP planning process, update schedule, and key shoreline planning principles. The open house displays included preliminary "shoreline jurisdiction maps" for the entire County, identifying the specific areas of the County where shoreline regulations will be considered.

Presentation & Vision Workshop

After a welcome from County Commissioners, meeting attendees were welcomed by Skagit County SMP Project Manager, Betsy Stevenson. Betsy introduced SAC members who were present and informed participants about the purpose and membership of the SAC. SAC members were selected after submitting letters of interest and r consideration by the County Commissioners. The SAC represents diverse and varied interests including individuals that own shoreline property, own businesses that may

be affected by shoreline regulations, are commercial shellfish growers, are involved in agricultural activities, and represent timber, environment and other natural resource issues. A roster of current SAC members is included on the SMP Website.

After introductions, Facilitator Melinda Posner opened the meeting with a description of the agenda including presentation, time for questions and comments, and a structured visioning process. Melinda then introduced Dan Nickel, Consultant Project Manager from The Watershed Company. Dan presented an overview of the SMP planning process, highlighting the key shoreline planning principles, adoption process, schedule, future public outreach opportunities, and preliminary Shoreline Inventory and Analysis results. A copy of the slideshow presentation is included in the appendix. Dan responded to questions and then turned the meeting back to Melinda to lead a “vision workshop.” Melinda reminded participants about the purpose of a vision statement, shared examples of tangible, demonstrable vision elements and outlined the steps in the vision workshop. Melinda noted that a vision statement was created at each of the vision workshops. These will be reviewed by the SAC and considered in the SMP update process.

Participants engaged in individual and team brainstorming to identify key vision elements, which were posted on the front board. As all ideas were presented, participants worked together to group similar ideas, eventually creating a vision statement of priority vision elements. Most vision elements also included supporting bullets to more fully describe the content of the vision element. Vision statements from each of the workshops are included in the appendix.

Comments & Questions

Comments and questions from each of the four vision meetings are included below. Questions and comments will be used to develop Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will be available on the SMP Website.

Concrete – June 7, 2011

- Floodways/Floodplains/Flood maps
 - What is a floodway vs. a floodplain?
 - Lots of different maps cover the same area with regard to floodway. Which map will be used?
 - When will we know which maps to use? Often we find out about things too late and they are too late to change.
- How does the Wild and Scenic River designation on the Skagit River affect what happens in the SMP? Does it limit options? In what way?
- Will the SMP consider sea level rise and other impacts of climate change?
- What does restoration mean? Does it apply to land and water?
- How can the SMP address logjams and silt buildup in rivers?
- The river is taking over private property – this is an issue.
- Will SMP regulations and shoreline management activities be the same along all stretches of waterways?
- What is the most direct link to the Web site?

Lyman – June 8, 2011

- Definition of ordinary high water mark?
- What regulations apply within 200 feet?
- What if a property is only 200' wide and a structure exists within that 200'?
- What are in-water activities? Upland activities?
- What happens when 200' is designated and then the river moves?
- Buffers and setbacks result in property owner impacts. Property owners are compromised by streams and yet are required to comply. How do property owners benefit?
- Are agricultural lands exempt from the SMP?
- Isn't it true that a 200-foot buffer takes out approximately five acres of agriculture land every quarter mile?

Mount Vernon – June 15, 2011

- Has the 1970s inventory been used for the current inventory and analysis? Specifically, the rate of change and the types of change that has occurred would be helpful to look at
- Who is the consultant team? Where are they from?
- Is there an implementation component to the SMP?
- Vagueness so far – what about specifics? E.g. mooring buoys not allowed? Even those that have been here already?
- Where did the map information come from?
- How was the data gathered? Apparent inaccuracies are a concern.
- Is the Shoreline Advisory Committee already selected? Are they volunteers? Are they all property owners? Affected by regulations?
- What are the goals for public access?
- Expand on the idea of no net loss.
- What is the name of the grant that is funding this effort? Is it a federal grant? Does it cover staff time and consultant time?
- Noted acceptable uses include residential. Are current residential uses acceptable or is this changing? Will it affect existing agricultural uses?

Anacortes – July 13, 2011

- If there are errors found on the SMP maps, is there a process to correct them?
- What is a restoration plan?
- What is the floodway vs. the floodplain?
- For future meetings, put meeting locations with address on the Website
- What are we restoring to? In regards to restoration plan?
- Helpful to have examples of restoration projects
- The postcard that was mailed only announced the first three meetings. Thank you for adding a meeting in Anacortes
- What does no net loss mean?
- Who pays for restoration on private property?
- No net loss has a nebulous definition – difficult for property owners to understand how it affects them.

- Restoration is not defined well, conflicting information.
- Why do the [restoration] plan if you don't plan to implement?
- What is the state's motive to revise the SMP?
- Did state get a grant? Did it come from federal government?
- Are you being paid by the state?
- Concerned about growth of trees that block views. You're limited to modify – not fair – not reasonable to not have it like it was when we bought it. Understand mitigation can help? How?
- Do you use models from other counties of the state for examples? Would be helpful to see? (Whatcom County)
- Good to add SMP checklist to Website
- Cypress Island – Clean Water Act required certain actions, supposed to be all encompassing, 3 years ago. Additional cost of \$20K in our community to test and purify our water

Vision Statements

The following Vision Statements were created at each of the vision workshops and are differentiated by the date and location at the top of each table.

Concrete Vision Statement Skagit County Shoreline Master Program, Shoreline Vision Workshop, June 7, 2011							
What is the shared vision for Skagit County Shorelines?							
PLENTIFUL PUBLIC ACCESS	UNIFORM RULE ENFORCEMENT	VALID SCIENTIFIC ACCOUNTABILITY	HOLISTIC WATERSHED VIEW	PROTECTION OF ALL PROPERTY	CLEAR AND CONSISTENT REGULATIONS ACROSS JURISDICTIONS	ACCURATE FLOOD MAP	LANDOWNER INCENTIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for preventing further degradation of shorelines • Use valid science • Measurable change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think watershed • Clean water • Wildlife protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property rights • Develop policies and regulations that allow property owners to protect structures • Mitigation that doesn't impact private property owners • Clear logjams and dredging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency and fairness in regulations • Tie together the many regulations so they can be understood and effective • Rules clarification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodway defined by hydraulic activity • Develop a single flood map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological services net gain gets credit

Lyman Vision Statement

Skagit County Shoreline Master Program , Shoreline Vision Workshop, June 8, 2011

What is the shared vision for Skagit County Shorelines?

IMPROVED ENHANCED RECREATION	SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN BUFFERS	FINANCIAL FAIRNESS TO LANDOWNER	MORE FISH	FLOOD PREVENTION FOR UPPER SKAGIT	LOCAL CONTROL OF DECISIONS	ENHANCED FARMLAND USE	NO NEW DEVELOPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More parks on river • More public access to shorelines • More public access (fishing and boating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible buffers • Scientific determination made under WAC requirements • Non native species plant and critter • More owner input for buffer zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant to owners for restoration • Compensation for loss of land – remove from tax rolls • Adjust taxes accordingly • Financial aid to meet new regulations • Buy-out option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon restoration • Less water pollution (protect drinking water) • Preserve pristine ecosystem • Less upland (state land?) clearing • Preservation of nature • Return salmon • Eliminate hatchery vs. native (fish) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood control on Skagit dike repair and log removal • Dredge river • Better flood control, environment protected • Repair dike, Cockreham Island • No flooding of land for prevention downriver • Clearing debris • Erosion control • Flood control and prevention • Clean streams and rivers • No changes to Cockreham Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can veto our visions • Gov. stewards need to be accountable • Kinder, gentler regulation • Agency cooperation • Everybody plays by the same rules (no good old boys club) • Freedom to build • Greater freedom in building, remodel in floodway – Skagit • Respect property owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain ag exemption from SMA • Create more farmland in floodways • Ag plan exemption • Retain agriculture tax exemption 	

What is the shared vision for Skagit County Shorelines?

SIMPLE FLEXIBLE COMMON SENSE REGULATIONS	FLEXIBLE SETBACK REQUIREMENT	LESS GOVERNMENT AND MORE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY	MAINTAIN FUNCTIONAL INTEGRITY OF NATURAL HABITAT	PROTECT INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS	IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PUBLIC ACCESS	REAL ACCURATE SCIENCE	PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency between zoning code and SMP • Simplicity and affordability for permitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setback based on actual property conditions • Setbacks changing? Waterfront setbacks to build house • We already have regulated setbacks. No need to increase regs beyond that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cumulative regs • Coordination with federal policy – CWA, FEMA • No duplication among agencies • State agencies should be under control by the legislature • Moratorium on new regulations • Less regulation not more • Make government responsible to the public • Interpretations made by elected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain functional integrity of natural habitat • Preserve forage fish spawning beaches • No net loss of clean water • Improving biodiversity of native species • No invasive plants and animals • Encouraging natural meandering flow • Encourage natural processes, esp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation for small or narrow properties • Protect private property rights • Empower property owners • Protect private property values • Private property rights • Docks – both private and public – are a good thing • No taking or restriction without compensation • Individual property rights • No net loss of private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added public access – rivers, streams, lakes, bays • More public access to waterways • More public restrooms on shores or bays • Expanding recreational access • No garbage and litter on public lands • Kayaker retreat on Burrow’s Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Q decided by real science • Mitigation metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain our ag lands • No net loss to farmlands

		official at local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full disclosure of aims 	geological <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited development along shoreline • Wetland mitigation follow-up • Protect shoreline from septic runoff • Restore or address Samish Island Slough 	property rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the mooring buoys alone • Private property rights, concerns • Those who live there decide 			
UNNAMED CLUSTERS Note: The group did not name these clusters. There was some discussion about whether these vision elements belonged with the named clusters on the first page but no agreements were reached.							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new taxes • Land trusts should pay property taxes like private land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an agricultural landscape to view • Setbacks to maintain views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood control • Maintain drainage, FEMA involved in requirements, bioswale? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jet skies coming too close to shore – restrict hours 				

What is the shared vision for Skagit County Shorelines?

RETURN TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT	IMPROVE AND DEVELOP PUBLIC ACCESS	ADAPTIVE, COMMON SENSE REGULATIONS	PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS		RESPECT NATURAL PROCESSES	BALANCED NATURAL VIEWSCAPES	INTER-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program cost/benefit be understood and approved by the people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow ramps • Improve access use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow customized instead of “one size fits all” • Flexible regulations to accommodate local situations • Site specific regulations • Endangered critters can be moved • Effective maintenance and fair maintenance rules of the shoreline area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of private rights • Protect private property rights • Protect private property • Protection of private property rights • No “net loss” to property owners • Respect waterfront owners’ privacy • Regulations are constitutional • Maintain access to private property (buoys, beaches) • Protect residential zone under SMA • Provide protection for grandfathering & nonconforming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more regulations • Adhere to US Constitution with regard to inverse condemnation, eminent domain • Retention of private property control of shoreline. No public access on individual parcels • No cost to private land owners • Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness for individuals • When taking property usage the gov. should pay • Ability to control growth of vegetation on private property to retain view, facilitate drainage and ease of maintenance • Economic impact to affected parties considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan accommodates long-term climatic change • Allow normal geologic processes to occur • Diversity of ecosystems • Protect natural vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more high rise building on waterfront • Maintain natural viewscapes, re: billboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate City of Anacortes and Island regs. SMA requires industry & commerce in the city • Protect existing marine zoning

ADDITIONAL VISION ELEMENTS			
SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT	IF APPLIES TO ME MUST APPLY TO COUNTY	NO NET COST TO TAXPAYER	ENFORCE CLEAN WATER REGULATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require development by County/State of adequate drainage to Sound 			



Comment Cards

Concrete – June 7, 2011
After all is said and done, will Fed-State-County & City be consistent in the application of a single rule and will they have the same or different rules?
Informative. With all of this “vision” planning, discussion, etc. I couldn’t help but wonder and hope for follow through that would make a difference. I have been through so many meetings like this (in my career as a teacher for 42 years) and we discussed, planned, did a lot of brainstorming, made charts, etc., and then when it was all over, we went back to our everyday activities and nothing was achieved! Will the overall result really reflect what the people in this area really want or will it only reflect what the committee wants?
Lyman – June 8, 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flood plain pertaining to whole town of Hamilton.- Will Hamilton be where it is now in 20 years? No longer exist as it is now.- Would like town to exist.
Please email updates
Looking forward to more public input
State water; clean streams
Mount Vernon – June 15, 2011
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Require setbacks to buildings on shorelines that will prevent “wall-to-wall” construction that will obstruct the view.2. More public beaches like in Oregon.3. Protection [of] native vegetation, protecting spawning areas for fish.4. Public access on private beaches/tidal lands <p>Will you be using the Rapid Shoreline Inventory (RSI) data for Skagit County? Maps should be corrected; several errors with respect to zoning and wetlands on Guemes Island</p>
Not understand woman in brown sweater – or hear. Repeat [question] and comment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- If possible develop more public beaches.- Have more protected beach areas.- Private property of tidelands should be changed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Keep property rights- Allow tree clearing for safe building area- Access by boat to property via boat

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairness of rules/regulations, same rights as other property owners - A good program with public views
<p>Anacortes – July 13, 2011</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water levels of Lake Campbell and other lakes – I suspect State F & Wildlife & D.O.E. would like to see more wetlands, so they let the beavers do their thing, which results in high water levels and flooded property & docks, and other financial hardships. I have seen washed out roads, due to beaver, costing hundreds of thousands to repair – Why can't the beaver dams be effectively removed, inc. dynamite if needed, like in the old days? 2. View obstruction by unregulated growth of trees on the shoreline buffer – we paid a lot of money for view property and the regulators are slowly taking it away, unfairly, I believe 3. Bird poop! Why can't the geese be controlled as they are by regulators in other areas, parks, etc. I have seen our grass carp die off, with no marks from the heron or otter. I suspect the fecal count by the goose overpopulation is poisoning the lakes for the fish.
<p>Does recorded existing OHWM stay with property?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We received no letter. Use P.O. Box. - Use language that Q-public can understand. - Make definitions more clear.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waterfront properties are very valuable & represent a large disproportionate share of the total taxable property base. Any substantial impositions or setbacks, limitations on use, restoration, etc., will [markedly] reduce the value of these properties. This will constitute a taking and may be grounds for inverse condemnation, consider this prior to any such impositions 2. Notification process to date <u>very</u> inadequate. 3. If your scope of work task [requirements] 1 & 2 have been met, the reports and maps due should have been made available for study prior to this meeting
<p>It would have been a good idea to have an information session first and separate day from visioning to explain basic questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is SMP? - How does it affect private property rights? - What is the purpose (not just state requirement) <p>Most people seemed very unclear about the existing SMP and what it actually does. Also, the 4-6 p.m. time excludes the majority of the working class.</p>
<p>Public, safe, clean swimming areas on some lakes on Fidalgo Island.</p>
<p>Does existing OHWM get grandfathered in?</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable property owners to protect private property from salt water intrusion. 2. Ensure clean water in streams, lakes, oceans by regulation enforcement.

<p>3. Protection of private property rights.</p>
<p>Regarding marine shorelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum protection of natural values - Severe penalties for degrading those natural values - Increase public access for minimum/low impact use - Incentives for private landowners to protect/restore natural values - Ban plastic bags in retail establishments in the County - Ban plastic pick-up-after-your-pet bags in public dispensers within 1 mile of all shorelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adjust floodplain levels to allow for rise in water due to climate change. - Increase distance for waterfront building setbacks – climate change - Adhere to scale of buildings to be compatible with lots size – do not block water views.
<p>I'm concerned about shoreline character especially with single family development on exempt lots. The tendency to "clear the view" needs to be tempered to protect marine and freshwater habitat as well as upland shoreline resources. Clearing should be limited to a view corridor narrowed by vegetation to create view lanes. Setbacks from the OHW should be increased to 100' and side yard setbacks especially on older narrow lots should be increased to avoid a wall of housing and enable water views from rural? roads. The profile of shoreline structures should be less blocky as well.</p> <p>More work is needed to secure public access to shorelines. A method should be developed (maybe part of the TDR program) to compensate landowners owning tidelands in desirable places.</p>
<p>I want my property rights!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See past shoreline structures to water - No clearing – view corridor instead - Lots of salmon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate vegetation - Protect water and upland habitat - Restored degraded shorelines - More water access

Appendix

- Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Vision Workshops Posters
- SMP Vision Workshops Mailer
- SMP Brochure
- Agenda
- PowerPoint Presentation



Join us at one of three Shoreline Visioning Workshops!

Skagit County and the Towns of Lyman and Hamilton are kicking off the Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP). Come share your ideas about meeting three SMP goals:

- Protecting the environment
- Preserving and enhancing public access
- Accommodating water-oriented and other preferred uses

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Concrete Senior Center
45821 Railroad Street, Concrete WA

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Old Lyman Town Hall
8334 South Main, Lyman WA

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Skagit County Commissioners Administrative Building
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon WA

All meetings will be from **6-8 p.m.** and follow the same format. Please attend the meeting that's most convenient for you.

What are shorelines?

Shorelines are defined as 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 a Shoreline Master Program?

A Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is 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).

To learn more, visit www.skagitcounty.net/SMP or contact Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning and Development Services, at (360) 336-9410 ext. 5879 or betsyds@co.skagit.wa.us.



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- Protecting the environment
- Preserving and enhancing public access
- Accommodating water-oriented and other preferred uses

EXTRA MEETING ADDED

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Anacortes City Hall

6th and Q Streets

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

What are shorelines?

Shorelines are defined as 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.

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www.skagitcounty.net/SMP



Why did I receive this mailer?

The County is providing notice to landowners in unincorporated Skagit County and the towns of Lyman and Hamilton that the **Shoreline Master Program Update** process has started and is kicking off with three visioning workshops in June. We want to introduce you to the process, tell you how to get involved and stay informed, and make sure that you attend one of the shoreline visioning workshops scheduled in June.

We want to hear from you now as we look at the future of our Skagit County Shorelines.

Skagit County Planning and Development Services
1800 Continental Place
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

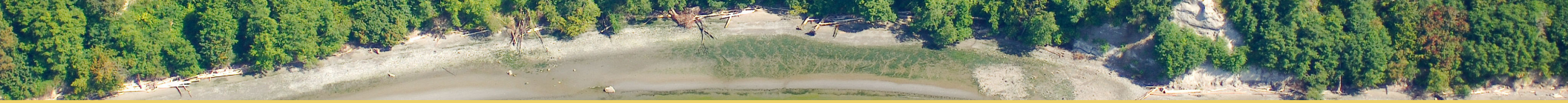
SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Guiding shoreline development,
environmental protection,
and public access

SMP
Visioning
Workshops in
June – details
inside

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM
UPDATE





What is this all about?

Skagit County is just starting the process to update its shoreline regulations. The County is committed to a proactive public involvement process that informs and engages residents, businesses and other stakeholders that are affected by or have an interest in shorelines.

What is a Shoreline Master Program?

Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) are 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 (SMA).

What are shorelines?

Shorelines are water bodies that meet certain flow criteria under the SMA, including adjacent wetlands. They 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.

How long will the update process take and who else is involved?

The SMP update will take approximately 2.5 years to complete and will include input from a Shoreline Advisory Committee, the general public, other interested stakeholders, and committees. The Skagit Planning Commission will review and provide recommendations, with ultimate approval and adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

Who can I contact with questions or comments about the SMP update?

- Visit www.skagitcounty.net/SMP to view updated information and to **sign up for SMP updates** by mail or email
- Call **Betsy Stevenson** at (360) 336-9410 x5879 – she welcomes your direct calls!
- Email **Betsy** at betsyds@co.skagit.wa.us

When and where are the visioning workshops?

The meetings will be held on the following dates, from 6-8 p.m.:

Tuesday, June 7

Concrete Senior Center
45821 Railroad Street, Concrete, WA

Wednesday, June 8

Old Lyman Town Hall
8334 South Main, Lyman, WA

Wednesday, June 15

Skagit County Commissioners Admin. Building
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

What will happen at the workshops?

County staff and consultant team will share information about the SMP update, including the results of a watershed characterization study, which outlines the current environmental conditions of Skagit County shorelines. A key purpose of the workshops is to identify the community's collective ideas about a vision for County shorelines. That vision will guide the development of the Shoreline Master Program.



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

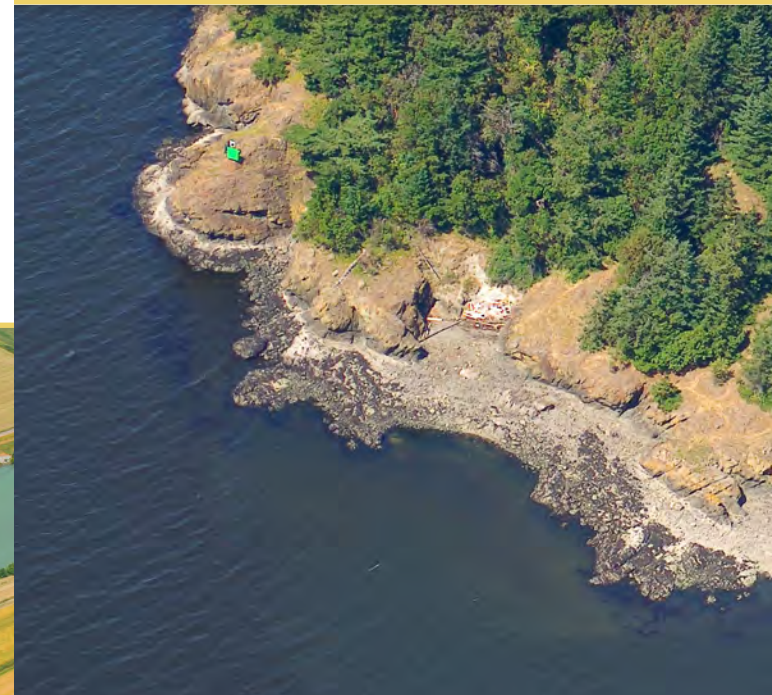
Skagit County Planning & Development Services
(360) 336-9410 ext. 5879

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



Skagit County Shoreline Master Program
Shoreline Visioning Public Workshops
AGENDA

Tuesday, June 7, Concrete
Wednesday, June 8, Lyman
Wednesday, June 15, Mount Vernon
Wednesday, July 13, Anacortes
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Topic	Owner	Time
Open House	All	6:00 p.m.
Welcome	Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County	6:15 p.m.
Presentation	Dan Nickel, Consultant Team	6:20 p.m.
Shoreline Vision "Workshop"	Melinda Posner, Consultant Team All	6:45 p.m.
Wrap-up	Melinda	7:55 p.m.

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update

Visioning Workshops

Concrete - June 7, 2011
Lyman - June 8, 2011
Mount Vernon - June 15, 2011



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE


Agenda

- Key SMP Principles
- SMP Process
- SMP Development and Key Issues
- Public Participation
- Inventory and Characterization
- Next Steps



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Key SMP Principles




SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

SMA adopted in 1972 → **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ACT (SMA)**
RCW 90.58
To prevent harm caused by uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's major shorelines.

Mutually adopted program between State and Local → **Shoreline Master Program Guidelines**
WAC 127-26

↓

Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
Carries out provisions of SMA
Must be approved by Dept. of Ecology, using policy of RCW 90.58.020 and Guidelines as approval standards/criteria



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Why Update the SMP Now?

- County's last major update 1995
- New State SMP rules adopted in 2003
- All local governments must update
- Due in Skagit County by 2013
- State grant is funding the process



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

What is an SMP?

A comprehensive shoreline land-use plan that includes policies and regulations for the use and development of the shoreline



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

What an SMP is not

The SMP will apply to future development. It will not retroactively apply to past actions.

It will not require modifications to existing land uses or developments.



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Balance



- environmental protection
- public access
- water-oriented uses
- private vs public interest

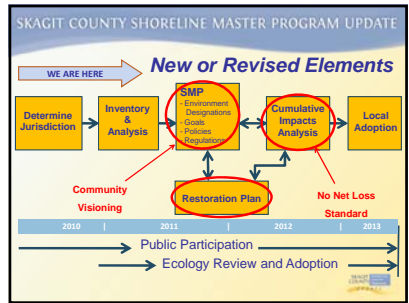
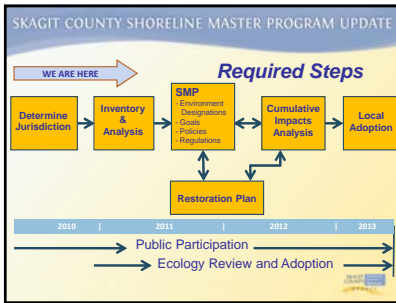
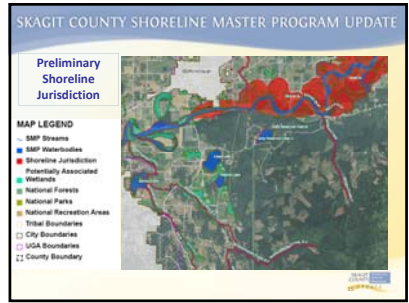
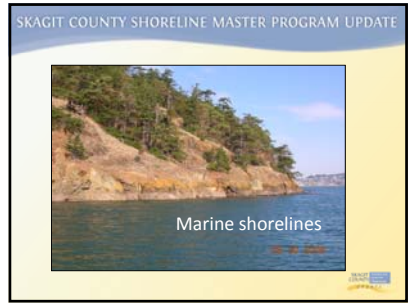
– Still required to protect Critical Areas
– No Net Loss of Ecological Function
– Preferred Uses

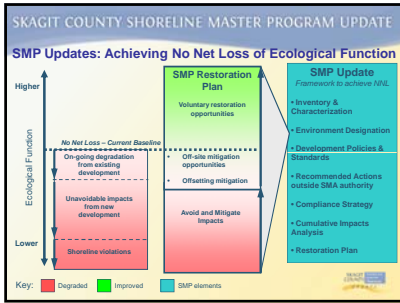



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

What Is A Shoreline?





SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

SMP Development

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Shoreline Master Program Includes

- Goals
- Policies
- Environment designations
- Regulations

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Regulatory Content

- Public Access
- Shoreline Uses and Modifications
- Vegetation Conservation
- In-water Activities
- Upland Activities

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Environment Designations Based On:

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

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Development of the SMP

- Builds upon:
 - Community Visioning
 - SMP Guidelines & Consistency Analysis
 - Inventory/Analysis Report
- Shoreline Advisory Committee to provide assistance with SMP development
- Policies and Regulations developed in collaboration with Planning Commission
- Eventual recommendation to BOCC

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Key SMP Issues

- Non-conforming Uses/Structures
- Overwater Structures (piers/docks)
- Shoreline Armoring
- Buffers and Setbacks
- Vegetation Conservation

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Public Involvement

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Public Involvement

- Open House Events
 - Visioning in summer 2011
 - Review of Draft SMP mid 2012
- Shoreline Advisory Committee
- Community Outreach – fliers, fairs, etc.
- Information Sessions for Planning Commission
- County meetings with planning commissions and elected officials

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Ways of Reaching Out

- SMP Webpage
 - FAQs
 - Public involvement timeline
 - Document postings
- Meetings with community groups
- Posters, fliers, booths, etc.
- Post card to all landowners

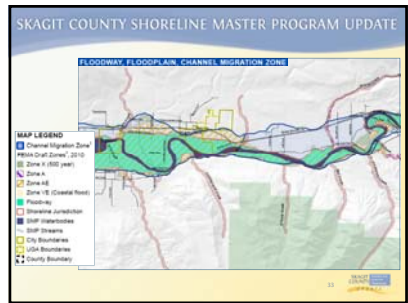
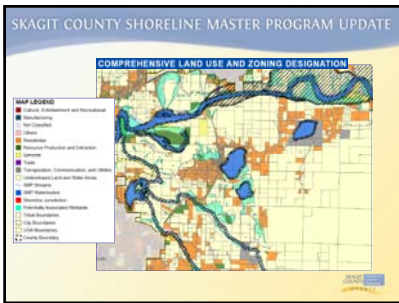
SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Draft Shoreline Inventory and Characterization

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Inventory Elements

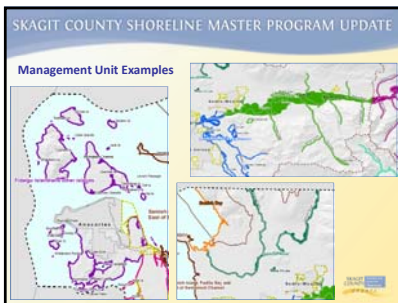
Current Land Use	CARA
Land Ownership	Geologic Hazards
Marine Public Access	Floodplains and Wetlands
Septic Systems	Land Cover
Surface Water System	Habitats and Species
Impervious Surfaces	Drift Cells
Geologic Units	Shoreline Modifications
Marine Shoreforms	Water Quality
Soils	Environmental Cleanup Sites



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Management Units

1. Samish Bay
2. Samish Island, Padilla Bay, and East Swinomish Channel
3. Swinomish Tribal Reservation
4. Fidalgo Island and Other Islands
5. Skagit Bay/Delta
6. Lower Skagit River- Diking Districts
7. Samish River
8. Middle Skagit River
9. Upper Skagit River
10. Nooksack Watershed (WRIA 1)
11. Stillaguamish Watershed (WRIA 5)



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Shoreline Analysis

- Develops current baseline condition from which future impacts will be measured
- Analyzes existing shoreline ecological functions
- Analyzes current land use and identifies likely future changes
- Identifies potential restoration opportunities

SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Next Steps

- Draft Shoreline Analysis – under review
- Community Visioning (Open House) - June 2011
- Begin Drafting of SMP - Fall 2011
- Public roll out – Summer 2012



SKAGIT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Contact Information

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