



# SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP) PERIODIC REVIEW JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 23, 2023

# BACKGROUND

- State Law requires the County's Shoreline Master Program be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule

*DUE DATE: JUNE 30, 2023*

- Ecology has prepared a checklist of all laws and rules to be adopted
- Where gaps exist, draft amendments have been prepared



# SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ACT

- State law passed in 1971 and affirmed by voters in 1972
- State legislature issued new rules in 2003
- Governs the use and development of state shorelines
- Three policies:
  1. Protect environmental resources of state shorelines
  2. Preserve and enhance public access and enjoyment opportunities
  3. Give priority to uses that require a shoreline location



# SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

- Implements the Shoreline Management Act (SMA)
- Serves as County and State's plan for managing shoreline areas
- Establishes goals, policies, and regulations for shoreline protection, use, and development
- Establishes a plan for restoring shoreline in those areas where it has been degraded



# LOCAL AND STATE ROLES

## Adams County:

- Leads shoreline planning within the unincorporated areas of the County
- Prepares, adopts, oversees, and enforces the SMP
- Updates and keeps program current

## Ecology:

- Provides state “guidelines,” financial support, and technical assistance
- Approves each local SMP before it can take effect



# KEY CONCEPT: “NO NET LOSS”

- “No net loss of ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources”
- No net loss is measured from the existing baseline documented in the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report
- New impacts must be avoided or mitigated
- More stringent development controls in areas of high ecological function
- Restoration plan will help restore and improve functions through non-regulatory approaches



# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SMP

1. Minor typographical edits
2. Specifying that “development” does not include dismantling or removing structures
3. Updating Definitions: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas definition (to match RCW), native vegetation, and priority species
4. Adding Definitions: anadromous fish, bog, shoreline management buffer, wetlands forested
5. Adding exceptions for: *Remedial Actions, Boatyard Improvements (to meet NPDES requirements), certain WSDOT improvements, Projects with environmental excellence program agreement, or authorized via RCW 80.58 (Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council process)*
6. Removing the text stating a requirement that the County prepares a no net loss report every 8 years (not required)
7. Reproduced maps with updated aerial imagery



# WHAT *ISN'T* CHANGING

- Previous update effort was extensive; Proposed changes are narrow in scope; consistent with Ecology
- Ecology is not funding any additional scientific analysis of shorelines
- No changes to floodplain mapping or shoreline designations
- No changes to development standards (setbacks, height, width, lot coverage, etc.)





# COMMENTS - SUMMARY

Comment	Response
<p><b>DNR – Tricia Sears</b></p> <p>I looked at the entire proposal and focused on areas related to WGS work.</p> <p>There are no revisions to geologically hazardous areas text except for one minor change. There are no revisions to text that includes mineral resource lands in the SMP.</p> <p>If you have not checked our interactive database, the WGS Geologic Information Portal, lately, you may wish to do so. <a href="#">Geologic Information Portal   WA - DNR</a></p> <p>If you have not checked out our Geologic Planning page, you may wish to do so. <a href="#">Geologic Planning   WA - DNR</a></p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p>

# NEXT STEPS

- Planning Commission to hold the Joint public hearing,
  - Recommended action: forward a preliminary recommendation of approval, provided that no new substantial comments are submitted prior to the conclusion of the public comment period on Monday, April 27, 2023
  - If new substantial comments are submitted, the recommendation will be revoked, and the new comment(s) will be brought to the Planning Commission for consideration



# NEXT STEPS

- Planning Commission forwards a recommendation
- Board of County Commissioner Public Hearing and **Adoption**
  - **SMP is not effective until accepted by Ecology**
- Submit materials with request for final determination from Ecology
- Obtain final Ecology Approval



# SUGGESTED MOTION

“I move that the Planning Commission take revocable action to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the SMP periodic update package, including the draft amendments that the Commission has reviewed and forward the recommendation with the suggested findings of fact.

I further move that if the County receives additional substantial comments between now and the end of the comment period which extends to March 27, 2023, the Planning Commission will instead hold an additional meeting to review the comments and reissue a recommendation.”

