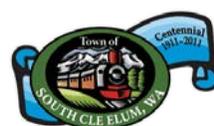
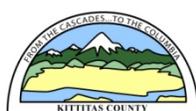




Community Visioning Open House Meeting Summary

Kittitas County Regional Shoreline Master Program Update



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Kittitas County Regional Shoreline Master Program Update

Kittitas County
City of Ellensburg
City of Cle Elum
Town of South Cle Elum

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1. Introduction

On July 18th and 19th 2012, the County hosted two open house public meeting events on behalf of the multi-jurisdictional regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. These events kicked-off the community visioning process. Developing a community vision for the shoreline is part of the public participation process for SMP updates. The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) directs local governments and the Department of Ecology to “actively encourage participation” by all interested parties in the shoreline management planning process (RCW 90.58.130).

As described in Ecology’s SMP Handbook, the purposes of the community visioning task is to:

- Gain an understanding of the common shorelines interests held by the public.
- Give the public an opportunity to review and understand the framework for the SMP update. This includes the shoreline conditions discussed in the Inventory and Characterization report, the statewide interests expressed by the SMA, and the requirements of the SMP Guidelines, including the standard to achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological conditions.
- Identify community goals and aspirations for local shorelines within this framework.
- Help to develop shoreline environment designation criteria, policies, uses and regulations.

2. Open House Details

The SMP [Technical Advisory Committee](#) has been convening regularly since April, and these meetings are open to the public. However, the community visioning open houses were the first events specifically intended to engage the public and decision makers in the shoreline planning process. The five objectives for the two open houses were:

1. To introduce the shoreline planning process to the citizens of Ellensburg, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, the unincorporated County, and any other parties interested in the update.
2. To provide information on the status and next steps in the regional SMP update, including ways the public can participate.
3. To present preliminary findings from the June 2012 draft Inventory and Characterization Report (ICR), and to gather public comments on the text, reach sheets, and maps.
4. To introduce shoreline planning topics such as shoreline environment designations, public access, and restoration.
5. To solicit feedback through the Community Visioning Questionnaire.

3. Meeting Materials and Layout

The meeting materials and layout for the two open house public meeting events were the same. Before and after an introductory presentation by Environmental Science Associates (ESA), open house attendees were invited to visit a series of subject-matter tables where information on the SMP update was provided. Table 1 below describes the subject-matter tables.

Table 1: Subject-matter Tables at Open House Events

Table	Description	Resources Available
Sign-In and Information	Attendees were able to sign-in and pick up a packet of general SMP information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign-In Sheets • Ecology's SMP Citizen Guide brochure • Regional SMP newsletter • Community Visioning Questionnaire • Timeline of SMP update • Press release regarding formation of shoreline Citizens Advisory Committee • Printout of Regional SMP "Welcome" and "Contact" webpages
Jurisdiction Tables	Kittitas County, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, and Ellensburg each had a table with jurisdiction-specific information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning code • Comprehensive plan • Printout of relevant "Reach Sheets" from Inventory and Characterization report • Maps showing the shoreline environment designations from 1975 countywide SMP • 1975 countywide SMP (at Kittitas County table only)
Inventory Characterization Report and Shoreline Environment Designation Table	At this table attendees were able to review the recently completed draft Inventory and Characterization report and learn about upcoming preliminary shoreline environment designations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft ICR with map folios • Preliminary Jurisdiction map • Preliminary Shoreline Reach map • ICR handout describing how to access document and what to consider when providing comments • Shoreline environment designation handout describing existing shoreline environments and Ecology's guidance for shoreline environments • Poster with photos of countywide shorelines
Public Access, Restoration, and Shoreline Protection and Enhancement	Information on the SMA's public access and restoration requirements was provided in handouts and posters, as well as maps where attendees could discuss with staff how they used shorelines and where additional access, protection or restoration was needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline public access Handout and poster • Shoreline restoration and protection handout and poster • Preliminary Public Access map • Preliminary Restoration map
Computer Mapping Station	Specific corrections to the public access map were made to electronic maps using Google Earth. The mapping station also let attendees view specific parcels and their relationship to shorelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffed laptop running mapping software.

An introductory PowerPoint presentation provided background on the Shoreline Management Act requirements, including local Shoreline Master Program updates, and summarized the June 2012 draft Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report (ICR).

Additionally, all attendees were encouraged to complete the Community Visioning Questionnaire. Handouts that were at the open houses were made available for download from the Regional SMP update project webpages: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/meetings.asp>.

4. Public Notice

The following methods were used to notify the public and interested parties about the open houses. In each case, notice identified the open houses as being part of the Regional SMP update, and gave the dates, times, and locations of the events.

- **Press Release:** a press release was distributed to media outlets and posted on the County's website June 26, 2012.
- **Email:** an email was sent to the County's SMP email group (12 recipients) on June 26, 2012, and to an email list provided by the City of Ellensburg (120 recipients) on July 3, 2012.
- **Postcards:** a postcard was sent to the SMP update mailing list and a list of contacts provided by the Kittitas Chamber of Commerce. A total of 584 postcards were mailed on June 27th 2012.
- **Website:** information and handouts related to the open house public meeting events were posted on the Regional SMP update Meetings/Materials webpage the week of the events: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/meetings.asp#CV>
- **Newspaper:** an article providing details of the open house public meeting events called "County asks public for shoreline input," was published in the Daily Record on July 17, 2012.
- **SMP TAC:** the SMP Technical Advisory Committee was also told about the open houses at their July 13th meeting.

5. Attendance

The Ellensburg open house on July 18th was attended by approximately 11 people. The Cle Elum open house on July 19th was attended by 3 people. Meeting organizers attributed the low turnout, particularly in Cle Elum, to competition with other events taking place at the same time elsewhere in the community and the early state of the SMP update process.

6. Results

The information available at the two open house events introduced the shoreline planning process, provided information on the status and next steps in the regional SMP update, presented preliminary findings, and introduced shoreline planning topics. Total attendance at the

open houses was 14 people, and 5 attendees submitted a completed questionnaire. Eight additional public access points were identified and added electronically at the computer mapping station.

The comments gathered through the questionnaire and computer mapping station are summarized below.

A. Community Visioning Questionnaire

The community visioning questionnaire contained a mix of 13 multiple choice and written response questions aimed at gathering public comment on issues related to shoreline use, values, restoration, public access, and opportunities for the future.

Shoreline Use

The questionnaire asked respondents to indicate where they lived, whether they lived near a designated shoreline, and how they used designated shorelines in the county, cities, or town. Of the 5 respondents, 3 lived in the City of Ellensburg, and 2 lived in unincorporated Kittitas County. One respondent indicated they lived near Coleman Creek and used shoreline areas for residential and utility use. All respondents indicated they used shorelines for recreational uses, including hiking/walking, swimming, snowmobiling, fishing, viewing nature, horseback riding, hunting, boating, and cross country skiing.

Two respondents used shorelines for agriculture, three respondents use shorelines for water diversion (e.g. irrigation or drinking water), and two used shorelines for boating facilities.

Shoreline Values

Respondents were asked to describe what they valued most about the region's shorelines. Responses included recreation opportunities and open spaces. One respondent said, "To this point in time [shorelines are] not overused by large numbers of people seasonally, making accessibility possible with ease. But [there may be] future problems in the making."

Restoration

Respondents were asked how they would describe the success of fish recovery efforts and which shorelines were in need of additional enhancement or restoration. Responding to the question on fish recovery efforts, one respondent said that blue ribbon trout had very much improved; however salmon habitat and passage has been stagnant. Another respondent said there had been "slow but gaining success for salmonids," and another answered restoration had been, "moderately successful, but in need of a more defined plan and leadership."

Shorelines identified as in need of enhancement or restoration were: lower Teanaway, Yakima River along I-90 (mentioned twice), Yakima River Canyon, and upper reach of Yakima River tributaries.

Public Access

The average response to the question regarding satisfaction with physical shoreline access was 2.75 out of 5, while the average response to the question regarding satisfaction with visual shoreline access was 3.25 out of 5. These results are preliminary and based on only 4 responses.

Future Hopes and Opportunities

Below is a summary of items respondents said they would change about the region's shorelines:

- Flood risk reduction
- Less development in floodplains and flood prone areas
- Leadership and deliberate master planning for wider scale restoration/preservation of shorelines
- Less regulation
- Improved fish habitat
- Reduction of levees and improved hyporeic connectivity
- Set structures back further

Responses to questions regarding desires for shorelines in the next 5-10 years included improvements to public access, less "dramatic" irrigation control, removal of dams in the Yakima River, allowing rivers to use floodplains, and cooperation with Cities and County.

The final question asked how public outreach for the regional SMP update could be improved. One respondent suggested using signage or having a booth at the Farmers Market.

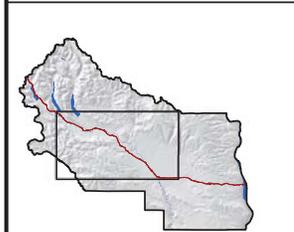
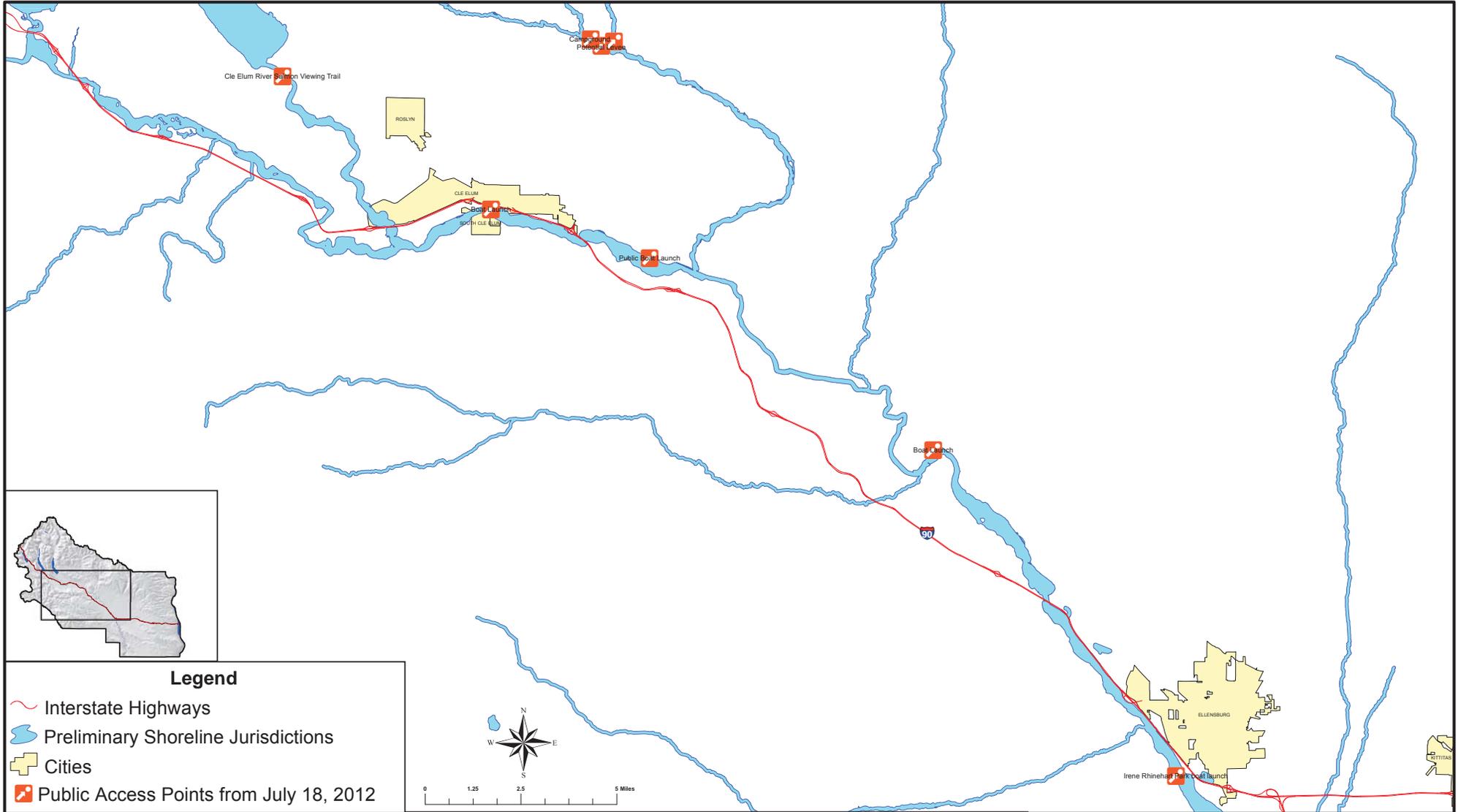
B. Computer Mapping Station

July 18th meeting attendee's identified 8 additional public access points that had not been included on the draft maps. These points were added electronically to maps using Google Earth and will be added to the Inventory and Characterization Report maps. The newly identified shoreline public access points included 4 boat launches, 3 campgrounds, and a salmon viewing trail. See also attached map: Public Access Points from July 18, 2012 Open House.

7. Next Steps

For future public meetings, it will be important to watch the calendar for competing events scheduled to take place at the same time. The County, as SMP project lead, will target outreach in Cle Elum and South Cle Elum, in particular, to improve turnout in those communities. A packet of outreach and informational materials, including the questionnaire, was given to county, city, and town representatives at the open house events, with instructions to place those materials at a publically accessible locations, such as the front desk of City Hall or the Community Development Department.

Additional methods of outreach may be more successful than traditional evening meetings; for example, a County representative will be attending regular meetings of existing community groups (for example, the Field and Stream Club, the Kiwanis, Rotary, or the Chamber of Commerce) to provide an update on the SMP process, to invite participation in the Citizen Advisory Committee, and to distribute the questionnaire.



Regional Shoreline Master Program Update

Comments on draft ICR maps
 Public Access Points from
 July 18, 2012 Open House