

Kittitas Regional SMP Update

Issue No. 2— Community Visioning and Shoreline Environment Designations

October 2012

Community’s Shoreline Vision Emphasizes Public Access and Recreation

Developing a community vision for the shoreline is part of the public participation process for Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates. The Shoreline Management Act 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).

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Shoreline community visioning workshop, September 12th.

Preliminary Shoreline Environments Available for Public Comment

Similar to zone classifications in a zoning code, shoreline environment designations will be used to apply the Shoreline Master Program’s regulations to specific segments of the shoreline. The environmental designation applied to a specific shoreline area reflects the conditions and resources of that particular segment.

The Department of Ecology provides guidelines for assigning environment designations (see WAC 173-26-201). The guidelines provide direction on basic statutory requirements, how to be consistent with the local

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Citizen Advisory Committee Holds its First Meeting

The first meeting of the shoreline Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) took place on October 17th. This group of volunteers will meet regularly through the end of 2014 to finalize staff and Technical Advisory Committee recommendations on shoreline environment designations and goals, policies and use regulations. The group includes representatives from the County, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg, and is actively seeking a representative from the Town of South Cle Elum.

All meetings of Citizen Advisory Committee are open to the public. For more information, please visit the SMP project webpage: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/meetings.asp#CAC>.

Upcoming Open House November 15th

When: Thursday November 15th from 6:30-8:00

Where: Hal Holmes Community Center, Ellensburg

Topics: Draft shoreline environment designation maps; draft shoreline use regulations; status update.

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On behalf of the participating jurisdictions, the County hosted a series of community visioning events in the summer of 2012. Two open houses were held in July in Ellensburg and Cle Elum, and a community visioning workshop was held in September in Ellensburg. Along with these events a community visioning questionnaire was distributed widely throughout the County and was available on the SMP project website <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/default.asp>.

At the community visioning events participants were given an opportunity to review and understand the framework for the SMP update, including shoreline conditions discussed in the Inventory and Characterization Report, the statewide interests expressed by the Shoreline Management Act, and the requirements of the Department of Ecology’s Shoreline Master Program Guidelines. The goal of the community visioning events was to introduce the SMP update process to residents and interested parties and to identify community goals and values for local shorelines. These goals and values will be used in the SMP updates to develop shoreline environment designation criteria, policies, uses, and regulations.

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. A total of 25 responses were received.

Based on feedback gathered at the community visioning events and through the questionnaire, the following vision statements were developed:

- Shorelines should continue to be used and enjoyed in the many ways the community uses and enjoys them today.
- Shorelines should continue to provide recreational opportunities for boating, hiking, fishing, and other types of recreation.
- The shorelines should play an important role in flood hazard prevention; and regulations guiding development should minimize development in flood prone areas.
- Successful fish recovery efforts should continue, and the region’s lakes and streams should have thriving populations of fish that will support recreational fishing opportunities for all ages.

The following goals and strategies are a sample of those generated by the community as ways to achieve the community shoreline vision.

Shoreline uses

- Respect private property rights in the development of shoreline regulations to ensure regulations are fair and easily understood.
- Provide guidance to citizens on how local shoreline regulations relate to other agency rules, such as the Department of Ecology or the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Recognize the importance of agricultural activities in shoreline use regulations.

Public access

- The County/City/Town shall maintain existing shoreline public access points, including parks, trailheads, and boat launches, to support public use and enjoyment of shorelines.
- Establishing additional boat launches and picnic areas along the Yakima River is a priority for future recreation planning.

Resource protection

- Continue to support fish recovery efforts aimed at increasing populations of native fish species.
- Explore ways to reinitiate recreational fishing on local streams and lakes, particularly in locations easily accessed by families.
- Cultural resources located near or along shorelines should be identified and inventoried to prevent inadvertent disturbances.

Restoration

- Encourage coordination between wildlife and agricultural interest to prevent damage to shorelines from cattle and other livestock.
- Restore natural river geomorphology and floodplains to improve flood management functions.
- Create signage or other means of information to notify the public of their responsibility to remove all trash and other items used during recreation along shorelines.

A community visioning report has been prepared to summarize all the feedback gathered through public meeting events and the questionnaire. This document can be downloaded from the SMP project webpage at: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/meetings.asp#CV>.

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comprehensive plan, and how to create appropriate management policies and designation criteria. The guidelines recommend a classification system with six shoreline environments: High Intensity; Shoreline Residential; Urban Conservancy; Rural Conservancy; Natural; and Aquatic; however, local governments can choose to include different or additional classifications than those recommended, as long as the environment designations are consistent with Ecology’s guidance and cover the breadth of environments existing in the shoreline area.

The existing 1975 Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program includes four shoreline environments: Urban, Rural, Conservancy, and Natural. Since these criteria were first assigned to the County’s shorelines, there have been significant changes in shoreline conditions and regulatory requirements. Based on the results of the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report (<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/reports.asp>), and after reviewing the existing shoreline environments for consistency with the Department of Ecology’s guidelines, the County and Cities/Town determined that the existing environmental designations needed to be

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Stay Up-to-Date with the SMP Status

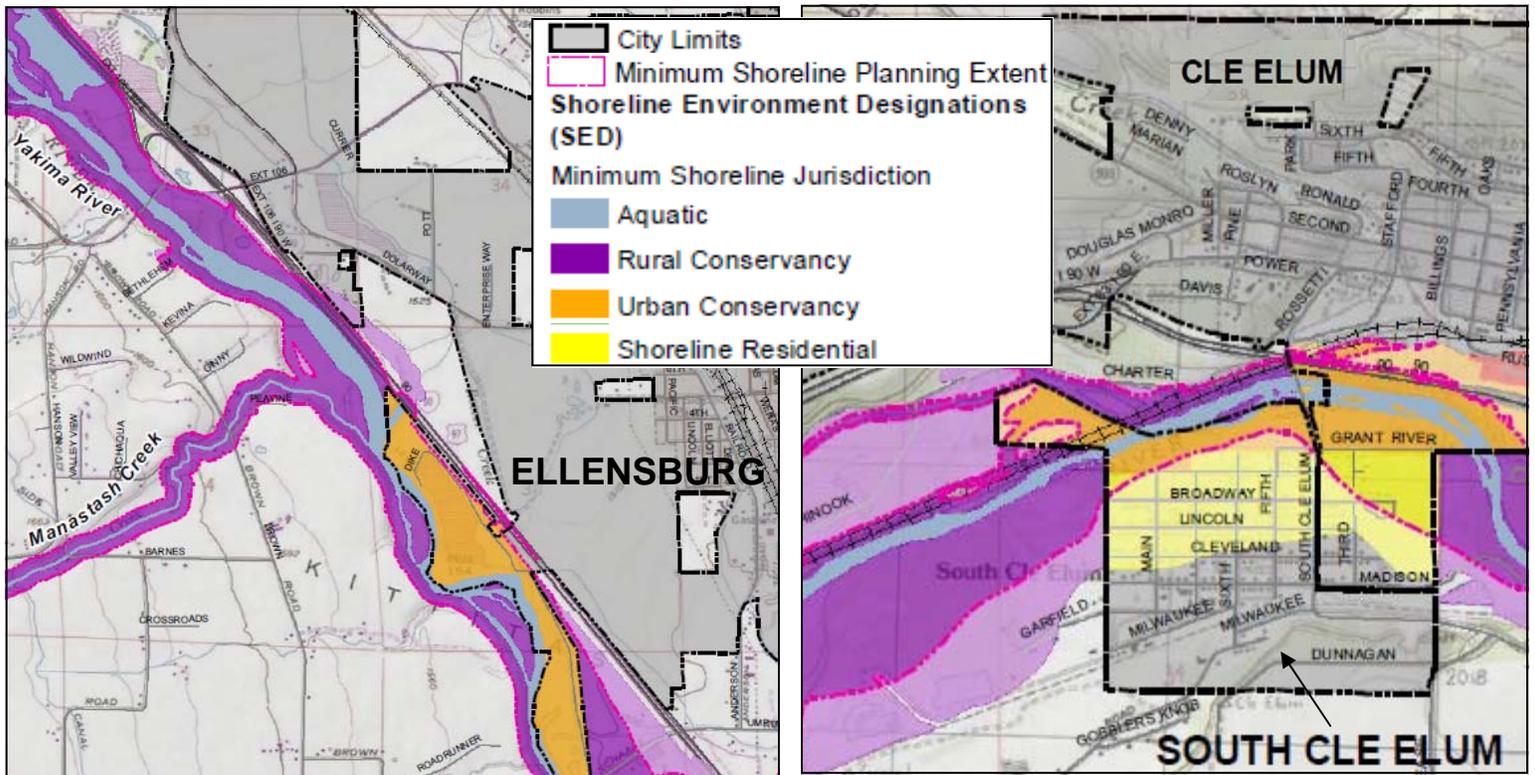
You can stay up-to-date on the status of the Regional Shoreline Master Program by signing-up to receive email notifications. Email notification will be sent before all public events and when major SMP website updates take place. To sign-up to receive SMP-related emails go to:
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/default.asp>

Click the “Get Email Updates” link on the right-hand side to create a user account.

Upcoming Open House

Below is a tentative schedule of future SMP newsletter topics:

- January 2013: Goals, policies, and regulations
- April 2013: County, Cities, and Town draft SMPs
- July 2013: Cumulative impacts and no net loss
- October 2013: SMP restoration plan
- January 2014: SMP Adoption process
- April 2014: Features of the completed regional and local SMPs



Draft shoreline environment designations maps for Ellensburg, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, and surrounding areas. The “Minimum Shoreline Planning Extent” shows the area where SMP regulations will apply. Lighter-colored areas outside the minimum planning extent are optional under the SMA. Gray areas are outside SMP jurisdiction. A full set of maps is available on the SMP project webpage at: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/maps-text.asp>

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revised to reflect changing shoreline conditions and to be consistent with state law. The draft SMP is proposed to contain the six environment designations recommended by the Department of Ecology. The proposed designations were discussed with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) at their October meeting. A draft narrative describing the process of assigning the designations was provided to the CAC for review and comment and is available on the project website: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/meetings.asp#CAC>.

Maps showing the draft shoreline environment designations are available for viewing on the SMP project website: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/maps-text.asp>. Examples are provided on the previous page.

The following is a description of how the existing shoreline environments are proposed to be redesignated.

- **Urban:** may be redesignation as either shoreline residential, urban conservancy, or high-intensity.
- **Rural:** may be redesignated as either natural, rural conservancy, or shoreline residential, or high intensity.
- **Conservancy:** may be redesignation as either natural, rural conservancy, or urban conservancy.
- **Natural:** could remain “natural,” or may be redesignation rural conservancy or urban conservancy.

A combination of environment designation and development regulations will determine how new development can occur in shoreline areas. Draft shoreline use regulations for each shoreline environment are in the process of being prepared and will be reviewed by the CAC at their November and December meeting.

STAY INFORMED!

For more information about the Regional SMP update, including dates for public meetings and to sign-up for email alerts, visit the Regional SMP update webpage: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/smp/default.asp>

Also see information from the Department of Ecology: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/citizen.html>



Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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