

## Kittitas County Regional SMP Update Shoreline Public Access Handout July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Open Houses

Providing public access to public waters is one of the primary goals of the state's Shoreline Management Act. The Act specifies that "the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible."

Public access can take many forms. It can include physical access to the water via public beaches, boat launches, trails along the shoreline, or fishing piers on a lake, for example. Public access can also mean giving citizens' opportunities to enjoy views of the water from parks, rights-of-way and other public spaces. Access sites can be formal areas with paved walkways, signs and interpretive displays, while other access locations have no improvements and may simply consist of a footpath to the river.

As part of the regional SMP update Kittitas County, Ellensburg, Cle Elum and South Cle Elum are compiling information on where and how people view and access shoreline waterbodies. These communities need your help in answering some important questions:

- Where and how do you gain access to rivers and lakes?
- Do you have sufficient opportunities to enjoy rivers and lakes?
- Are there areas where more public access is needed?
- Are there areas where public access conflicts with other land uses?

Many of the existing public access areas are shown on the Public Access Map. If you know of other areas where access is available (officially or unofficially) or could be provided in the future, please let us know. We appreciate your help in making this inventory complete.

If you have other information regarding public access that can help inform our update process, please direct your feedback to project staff at the meeting, provide your information on the Community Visioning questionnaire, or email comments to [SMPupdate@co.kittitas.wa.gov](mailto:SMPupdate@co.kittitas.wa.gov).

