

CHAPTER 8. SHORELINE USES

One of the primary policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act is to ensure utilization of shorelines for economically productive uses that are particularly dependent on shoreline location or use. Such so-called “water-dependent” uses cannot exist or be viable unless they are located adjacent to shoreline waterbodies. “Water-related” uses are similar to water-dependent uses in that they have a functional requirement for a waterfront location or they provide a necessary service supportive of the water-dependent activities and the proximity of the use to its customers makes its services less expensive and/or more convenient. Water-dependent and water-related uses are collectively referred to as water-oriented uses. Examples of water-oriented uses include marinas, fish hatcheries, hydroelectric generation plants, wastewater treatment plant outfalls, and some recreational facilities such as boat launches and campgrounds. Potential, new water-oriented uses that may occur on shorelines within Kittitas County are briefly described in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1. Description of Shoreline Uses

Uses	Description
<i>Fish Hatcheries</i>	Fishing is an important recreational use on the Yakima River and its tributaries, and there are efforts underway to restore anadromous salmon runs within the Yakima River basin. As such, there could be future demand for new fish hatcheries within the basin.
<i>Campgrounds/Shoreline Recreation Access</i>	Kittitas County shorelines attract thousands of visitors every year, and recreation is an important component to the economy of the area. As demand for shoreline recreational access continues to grow, there is significant potential for the development of new access facilities such as campgrounds, trails, boat launches and the like, particularly on Yakima basin shorelines.
<i>Marinas</i>	In general, there are limited suitable locations for new marinas on Kittitas County shorelines, with the exception of the larger lakes/reservoirs. There has been a steady increase in residential development on Kachess Lake and Cle Elum Lake, which could lead to future demand for new marinas on these shorelines.
<i>Aquaculture</i>	There are currently no aquaculture facilities located within Kittitas County waterbodies. However, there may be potential for new aquaculture within the County, such as rainbow trout farms.
<i>Hydropower</i>	The development of new large-scale hydropower dams on Kittitas County shorelines is unlikely. However, there is potential for new small-scale hydroelectric power projects on river and stream shorelines. Typical small-scale hydroelectric facilities are “run-of-the river” systems, in which a portion of the river’s water is diverted to a water conveyance, which then delivers the water to a power-generating turbine. The diverted water is then fed back into the stream at a downstream location.