

BENTON COUNTY

Shoreline Master Program Update

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

June 2012



**Public Participation Opportunities Related to the Update of
Benton County's Shoreline Master Program.**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Benton County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to comply with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (Act) and current state shoreline master program guidelines. The County's initial SMP was adopted by the Department of Ecology on April 25, 1974, and has not been updated since that time.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Benton County will take to involve the community in decisions regarding the SMP update. The goal is to provide the public with timely information, an understanding of the process, and opportunities to review and comment on update decisions before they are made. Benton County views this Public Participation Plan as establishing the basic public involvement processes that will be utilized during the SMP Update Program. Other public participation activities may be put into practice without changing the plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

To improve and protect state shoreline areas, the Washington Legislature passed the Shoreline Management Act in 1971 (Chapter 90.58 RCW). The public adopted the Act in a 1972 referendum vote.

The Shoreline Management Act applies to rivers with mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), lakes greater than 20 acres, and marine waterfronts, as well as associated shorelands, wetlands, floodways, and portions of floodplains. The law has three main purposes:

- Encourage reasonable and orderly development of shorelines, with an emphasis on water-dependent and water-related uses that control pollution and prevent damage to the natural environment.
- Protect the natural character of Washington shorelines, the land, vegetation, wildlife, and shoreline environment.
- Promote public access and provide opportunities to enjoy views and recreational activities in shoreline areas.

To regulate shoreline development, the state law established a cooperative relationship between local governments and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). The DOE provides shoreline master program guidelines (Chapter 173-26 WAC) to local governments outlining the essential elements their individual shoreline master programs must address to comply with the Shoreline Management Act. The guidelines set minimum procedural and substantive standards for local governments updating their programs. The guidelines now in place resulted from a negotiated settlement between business interests, ports, environmental groups, shoreline user groups, cities, counties, DOE, and the courts.

There are three basic policy areas to the Shoreline Management Act: shoreline use, environmental protection, and public access. The Act emphasizes accommodation of reasonable and appropriate uses, protection of shoreline environmental resources, and protection of the public's right to access and use the shorelines (RCW 90.58.020).

Shoreline Master Programs

Under state law, Washington's 39 counties and more than 200 cities and towns that have shoreline areas covered under the Act must develop these individual, locally-tailored programs to guide construction and development in regulated shoreline areas.

The Legislature appointed Ecology as the agency responsible for ensuring statewide policies are upheld and implemented when local SMPs are adopted. Under the Shoreline Management Act, a locally approved program must meet state guidelines. Once an updated program receives approval at the local and state levels, the state becomes a full partner in defending any legal challenges to the updated program. Ecology is required by law to prepare and adopt master program updates for any local jurisdiction that fails to update their SMP. So, if the County does not proceed with a SMP update much of the opportunity for local determination of how to regulate shoreline areas would be diminished.

Adopted SMPs contain policies and regulations that assure at a minimum that there will be no net loss of ecological functions that are necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources, when permitting new shoreline developments and activities (WAC 173-26-186 (8)). The existing condition and character of the shorelines of the County is established during the SMP update process and used as a basis to assure that new developments and/or uses are designed or mitigated so not to cause further impact or degradation to the existing ecological functions of the shorelines. Shoreline master programs help the County avoid or lessen environmental damage as shoreline areas are developed. The County's challenge is to maintain shoreline ecological functions while allowing appropriate new development, ensuring adequate land for preferred shoreline uses, and providing and enhancing public access.

Development and update of the Benton County Shoreline Master Program begins with an inventory and analysis of all shoreline areas in County jurisdiction. Based on current conditions and long-term needs, SMPs reserve appropriate areas for water-oriented uses. They promote public access opportunities. Shoreline master programs include requirements for new development to avoid environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetland, landslide, and flood areas). More than simply a plan, an SMP combines local plans for future shoreline development and identifies areas for restoration and preservation when appropriate. They include statewide as well as local policies and related specific permitting requirements.

Whenever we build in our shoreline areas, we transform a unique and precious aspect of our natural environment. We clear native vegetation, introduce invasive species, build bulkheads, armor shoreline banks, and put in driveways, roads, roofs and other impervious services. Shoreline master programs are critical because they establish each community's goals for its shoreline areas and implement policies and regulations to:

- Help protect water quality for our river and stream systems.
- Increase protection of lives and property from flood and landslide damage.
- Protect critical habitat as well as fish and wildlife.
- Promote recreational opportunities in shoreline areas.

Benton County Shorelines

The geographic scope and jurisdiction of the County's SMP update includes approximately 411 miles (calculated single banks) of shorelines (Map 1, page 5), principally along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers. These shorelines include rivers and streams with mean annual flow over 20 cfs. The shoreline jurisdiction extends 200 feet landward of these waters and additionally includes associated wetlands, floodways, and up to 200 feet of floodway-contiguous floodplains. The cities of Richland, West Richland, Benton City and Prosser are also in the process of updating their SMPs, with Kennewick completing their update in 2009.

Update of the SMP will include several steps, each of which will require providing the public with information and receiving their input. The major steps will include preparing a shoreline inventory and analysis; analyzing and designating shoreline environments; drafting shoreline policies and regulations; developing a restoration plan for selected areas; assessing cumulative impacts; and completing the required environmental review process. At the conclusion of the update process, all of the draft documents prepared in the earlier steps will be advanced and refined into a Final Benton County Shoreline Master Program.

Funding and Timeline

The Act requires the state to provide "reasonable and adequate" funding for SMP updates. Benton County and its cities have been awarded Update grants in the current state budget cycle. The amount of funding is based on a number of factors including, but not limited to: miles of shoreline in each jurisdiction, number and complexity of kinds of shoreline (streams and rivers), population, and growth rate. Benton County has received a \$250,000 state grant from the Washington Department of Ecology to assist with the SMP update. The grant agreement contract was finalized in February 2012 and the effective period of the agreement is from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. Under the grant agreement, the County has three years (through June 30, 2014) to locally adopt and submit the completed update to Ecology for approval.

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS

Benton County's SMP needs to reflect the long-term desires of the communities residing, doing business in, or otherwise utilizing the shoreline area for the preferred uses and allocation of the County shoreline areas. A SMP has to balance honoring private property use rights with shoreline public access. The guidelines provided by DOE set the standards for what must be included in an SMP, and will be used to evaluate the resulting document relative to the standard of "No Net Loss of Ecological Functions" being achieved. The County actively encourages participation by interested citizens throughout all phases of the SMP development.

Benton County recognizes that early and continuous public participation is critical to the update and ultimately the successful implementation of the SMP. All public outreach and public events related to SMP development will be documented.

The following are Public Participation Goals and Objectives to be used to guide the County's SMP Update.

Goal: Be open and inclusive.

- *To ensure that public input is incorporated into the decision-making process.*
- *Respond to input that is received and demonstrate the use of public comment.*
- *To ensure public opportunities to provide data regarding public access or other local shoreline information.*

Goal: Identify the most effective opportunities for public participation.

- *Provide public input opportunities at specific project intervals, prior to decision-making.*
- *To ensure the best use of the public's time on issues of greatest concern.*
- *Keep current information about SMP development status available to the public for review and comment.*
- *Coordinate public comment opportunities with related laws (e.g. SEPA and GMA).*

Goal: Actively involve and encourage participation of all persons and entities having interest (RCW 90.58.103) early in the process, with continued communication and feedback throughout the process.

- *Broadly and regularly disseminate SMP materials and meeting notices, and seek written and verbal input at the same intervals (RCW 36.70A.140; WAC 365-195-600).*
- *Provide the public with a range of input opportunities.*

Goal: Coordinate the SMP Update Program with cities (Prosser, West Richland, Richland and Benton City) efforts.

- *Identify opportunities to coordinate on mutual processes or projects (UGAs) materials.*
- *Share Program Update schedules, meeting agendas, and feedback received with cities.*

Goal: Consult and consider recommendations from State-wide agencies and tribes, particularly with regard to resources and/or shorelines of statewide-significance.

- *Provide review opportunities to these key parties (WAC 173-26-251).*

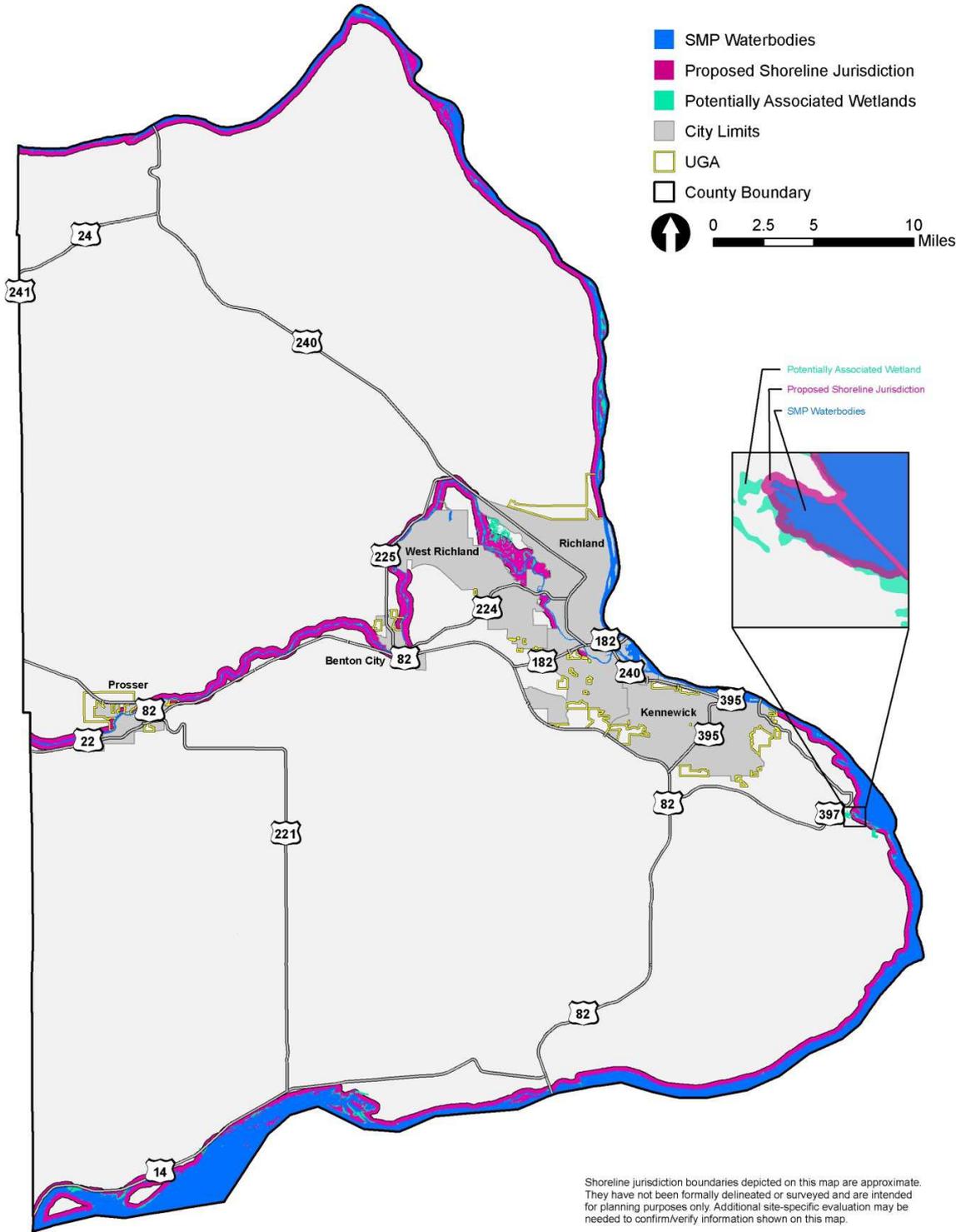
Goal: Promote an understanding about the SMP update requirements

- *Establish a strategy to educate key parties about the SMP update process and requirements.*
- *Demonstrate a clear analysis of issues by providing information and conclusions.*

Goal: Evaluate the public participation process throughout the life of the Program.

- *Ensure effectiveness of the public participation efforts through periodic monitoring of the program.*

MAP 1. BENTON COUNTY PRELIMINARY SHORELINE JURISDICTION



4.0 WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE

The "Scope of Work" for the SMP update consists of five phases which are more specifically described in the Benton County SMA Grant Agreement No. G1200022 and outlined in the following Chapters 4.1 through 4.5. The Phases and required tasks follow the general project timeline shown in Figure 1 (pg.10). Some of the phases and specific tasks included will overlap in time and may be completed simultaneously with other tasks. Some tasks are repeated (e.g., analyzing cumulative impacts, developing regulations) and may involve various steps conducted at different times in the process before they are completed. Figure 2 (pg.11) provides a flow chart of components of the public participation process.

4.1 Phase I – Preliminary Shoreline Jurisdiction & Public Participation Program

Benton County will incorporate public participation in all phases of the SMP process, document public participation efforts (e.g., public meetings, community events) and keep a record of public comments received. The County will prepare quarterly progress reports identifying progress by work task, documentation of public involvement efforts, and identifying completed tasks. Phase I includes the identification of the County's preliminary shoreline jurisdiction. Benton County will define shoreline jurisdiction, which will identify the approximate boundaries where the SMP will apply. This will be shared with the public at open houses held during Phase 1.

Throughout the SMP update process, Benton County will seek to identify and encourage participation of individuals, groups, organizations, and other entities having useful scientific, technical, or cultural information; having interests or responsibilities relating to shorelines of the state; or having any special expertise with respect to any environmental impact.

4.2 Phase II - Shoreline Inventory, Analysis, & Characterization

In 2012, Benton County will collect existing shoreline data from a variety of sources for the shorelines identified on Map 1 (pg. 6). This information will then be analyzed and portrayed on maps, tables, and illustrations in a way that characterizes the shorelines' ecological conditions. The shoreline inventory and characterization will provide the scientific and technical foundation from which the remainder of the SMP update process will evolve. This work will result in preparation of a Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report that includes maps and provides an analysis of the inventory data, ecosystem characterization and shoreline functions, and shoreline use and public access findings to support the update of the SMP.

4.3 Phase III –Draft Shoreline Master Program, Cumulative Impacts Analysis, & Restoration Plan

Once the shoreline inventory and characterization, preliminary restoration planning, preliminary cumulative impacts analysis, and first round of regional public forums (see Section 5.3) are completed, the County will use this information to initiate drafting of preliminary SMP elements (Phase III). This phase is anticipated to start in early 2013 and last for 7-8 months. It

includes drafting goals, policies, shoreline environmental designations, and recommendations related to shoreline uses, environmental protection restoration, and public access.

In addition, an initial review of cumulative impacts of the preliminary SMP elements and draft restoration plans to address state requirements to assure that the SMP will achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. Phase III will culminate in regional public forums scheduled for spring of 2013.

Phase III will include preparation of a draft **SMP Integration Report** to address issues of consistency and coordination between the SMP update and other plans and regulations applicable to shoreline areas including, but not limited to: comprehensive plan and development regulations (e.g., critical areas code, zoning), watershed plans, natural hazard plans, floodplain management plans, park and open space plans, and salmon recovery plans.

4.4 Phase IV – Review and Revise Draft Shoreline Master Program and Reports

In Phase IV, the preliminary SMP update elements and restoration plans will be reevaluated and revised as necessary based on public comment and the findings of the cumulative impact analysis to assure that they are adequate to achieve no net loss of ecological functions. Benton County will prepare a complete draft SMP. The complete draft SMP will be presented and public comment taken at regional public forums (see Section 5.3). Phase IV is anticipated to start by late-2013.

4.5 Phase V – Local Shoreline Master Program Adoption Process

The final phase of the SMP update process includes public hearings by the Benton County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners, and these hearings are anticipated in the spring of 2014. This process will also include a final review of the Draft SMP under the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C). All comments received during the public hearing and public comment period will be compiled. The Board of Benton County Commissioners will adopt an updated SMP by ordinance following a public hearing, consistent with the requirements of WAC 173-26-100. A Notice of Adoption will be published in the local newspaper of record and Benton County will submit the adopted Draft SMP to Ecology for review and approval.

5.0 BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

The Benton County Planning Department, Benton County Planning Commission, and Board of County Commissioners are the primary staff, advisory body, and decision-making body responsible for the SMP update and implementation of this public participation plan. Public meetings and hearings to be held by the Planning Commission, Board of County Commissioners, and Planning Department are described below. Benton County may also hold other public forums, open houses, and meetings as the SMP update process proceeds.

5.1 Planning Commission Public Meetings

The Planning Commission (PC) is designated by the Benton County Code as the responsible citizen panel for advising Benton County on comprehensive plans and land use issues. Accordingly, the PC will evaluate input received from the shoreline advisory committee, conduct supplemental public outreach as part of a legislative process, and develop its own recommendations guiding the SMP Update. Benton County Planning staff and other providers as contracted by the County will perform research and analyses, report preparation, and facilitation of the workshops, meetings and hearings. These meetings will be designed to help the PC with the task of recommending a draft SMP to the Board of County Commissioners and to present information to the public and receive public comment throughout the SMP update process.

Public meetings will occur quarterly when possible and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed, to provide SMP update project status reports and to present work products including:

- Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report
- Preliminary Shoreline Restoration Plan
- Community Visioning Report
- Preliminary Draft SMP Elements (goals, policies, environmental designations)
- SMP Integration Report
- Cumulative Impact/No Net Loss Analysis

Regularly scheduled monthly PC meetings may be utilized for SMP updates throughout all Phases of the program. All PC meetings are open to the public, and a general public comment period will be provided.

PC regular-meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Benton County Planning Department Hearing Room, 1002 Dudley Avenue in Prosser, Washington. Meetings or hearings regarding the SMP can be found on the County's web site at: <http://www.co.benton.wa.us/> by going to the Planning Department page and accessing the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) button. Information may also be obtained from the Benton County Planning Department during normal business hours at 1002 Dudley Avenue in Prosser, or by calling (509) 786-5612.

5.2 Benton County Commissioner Public Meetings

The Board of County Commissioners will hold public meetings throughout the SMP update process. Public meetings may occur quarterly and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to provide SMP update project status reports and information.

The Board meets at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners Hearing Room in the Benton County Courthouse at 611 Market Street in Prosser, WA, 99350. The meetings are open to the public and a general public comment period is provided. The public is also invited to the Board's work sessions, which are scheduled on Wednesdays starting at 9 a.m. These meetings are designed to prepare the commissioners to make decisions on local issues.

FIGURE 1. -

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE TIMELINE
2012-2014 BENTON COUNTY SCOPE OF WORK

Phases	Task Description	Quarter Jan-March 2012	Quarter Apr-June 2012	Quarter July-Sept 2012	Quarter Oct-Dec 2012	Quarter Jan-March 2013	Quarter Apr-June 2013	Quarter July-Sept 2013	Quarter Oct-Dec 2013	Quarter Jan-Mar 2014	Quarter Apr-June 2014
All	Coordination (Ecology, Jurisdictions, Agencies)										
All	Secure Consultant Services										
All	Public Participation										
	Open House (2)										
	Regional Public Forums										
*	SEPA Review Process									*	*
1	Preliminary Shoreline Jurisdiction & Public Participation Plan										
	Identify Preliminary Shoreline Jurisdiction & Map										
	Develop Public Participation Plan										
2	Shoreline Inventory, Analysis, & Characterization										
	Conduct Shoreline Inventory										
	Conduct Shoreline Analysis										
	Characterization of Shoreline Ecosystem Process & Function										
	Conduct Shoreline Use Analysis and Identify public access opportunities										
	Prepare Inventory and Characterization report										
3	Draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP), Cumulative Impacts Analysis (CIA), & Restoration Plan										
	Conduct Community Visioning Process										
	General Goals, Policies, and Regulations										
	Develop Environment Designations										
	Develop Draft Admin. Policies, Regs and Standards for uses and modifications										
	Draft SMP Integration Report										
	Final Administrative Provisions										
	Prepare Draft Cumulative Impact/No Net Loss analysis										
	Final Cumulative Impact/No Net Loss analysis										
4	Review and Revise Draft SMP and Reports										
	Prepare Draft Restoration Plan										
	Final Restoration Plan										
	Revisit draft environment designations, policies, and regs and finalize maps										
	Demonstrate how no net loss (NNL) is achieved										
5	Local SMP Adoption Process										
	Complete SEPA Review and documentation										
	60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt										
	Planning Commission (PC) Hearing										
	Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Public Hearing										
	Public Comment response summary										
	BOCC Final Action										
	Submit Adopted Plan to Ecology										
6	State Approval										July--Sept 2014

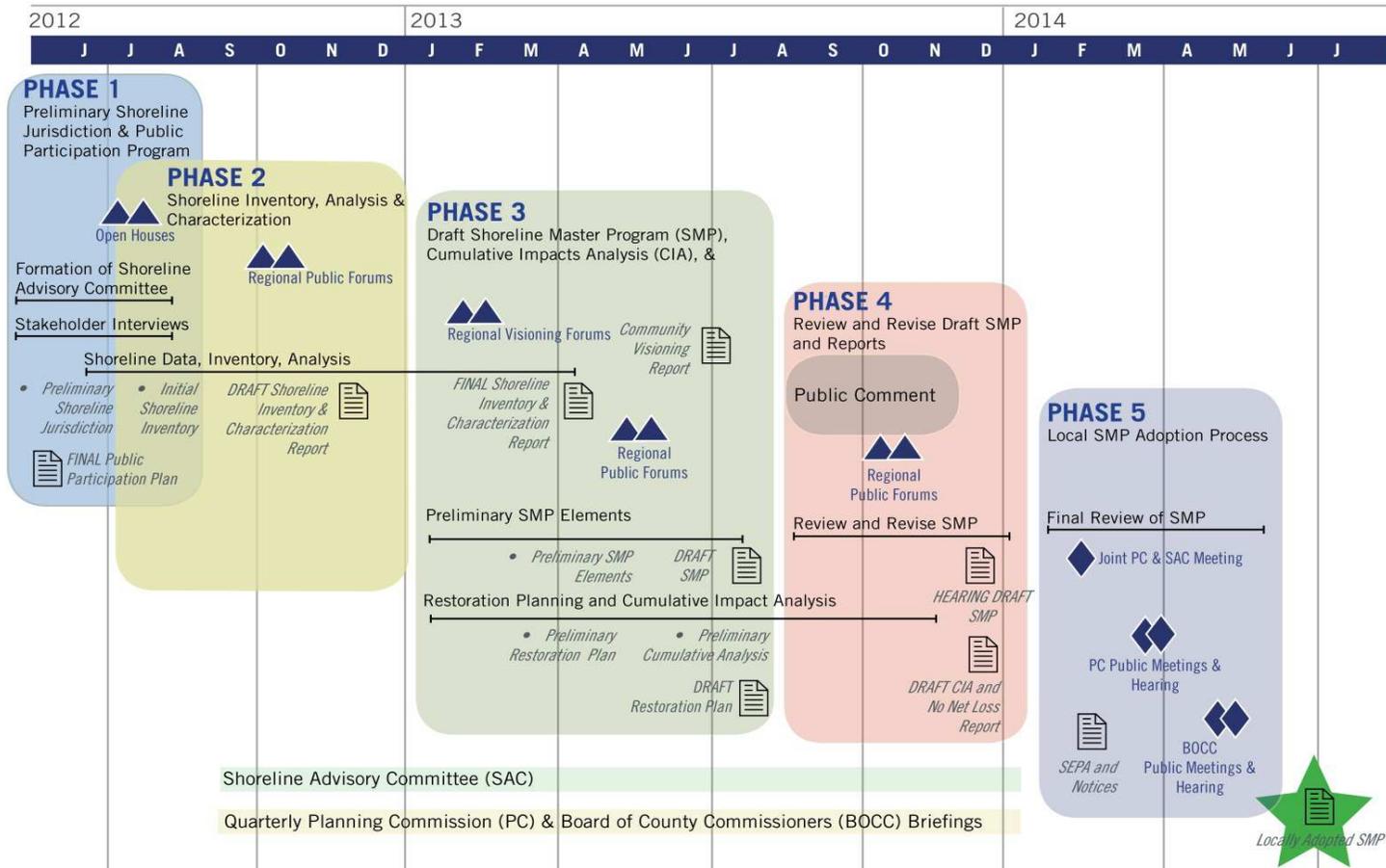
* For a complete SOW see SMA Grant Agreement No. G1200022 between Benton County and Department of Ecology

FIGURE 2 - SMP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN Flow Chart



FIGURE 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM DIAGRAM

Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update Public Participation Approach



Board work session and regular meeting agendas are generally available each Tuesday prior to the following week's scheduled meetings. They are posted on the County's web site at: <http://www.co.benton.wa.us/> or can be obtained by from the Commissioners' Office during normal business hours at the Benton County Courthouse in Prosser or by calling (509) 786-5600.

5.3 Regional Community Shoreline Forums/Open House

Open House

Benton County will host two Open House events to introduce the Shoreline Master Plan Update Program to the County Residents. These venues will be held in east and west Benton County, in the communities of Prosser and Kennewick. The Open House events will be used to familiarize the public with the State requirements of the SMP Update and the Program's schedule and public participation process. Interested parties are encouraged to attend one of the scheduled "Open House" venues where they can gather available information, sign up for advisory group participation, or be placed on email or mailing list for future program products or participation.

Regional Shoreline Forums:

The County will hold regional shoreline forums at key points in the process to present information to the public, answer questions, and collect input. The perspectives gathered from such efforts will be documented and included in discussions with advisory groups, the Planning Commission, or Board of County Commissioners. The regional forums will be held in east and/or, west Benton County, in the communities of Prosser and Kennewick. The Forums will target the rural residents of the five Planning areas of Benton County: Prosser/Whitstran, Benton City/Kiona, Richland West/Richland, Kennewick/Finley and Paterson/Plymouth, with special focus on the County's three Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs): Alkali-Squilchuck; Lower Yakima; and Rock-Glade (Shown on Map 2, pg. 18). The uses, demographics and issues found in each of the County's five planning areas are unique and reflect the diverse views of the rural citizenry. All Forum venue locations, dates and times will be published in the local Tri City Herald newspaper and notices sent out via mail or email to interested parties maintained on the respective SMP mailing lists.

Regional Forums - Community Visioning:

Benton County will hold regional community visioning forums in the spring of 2013 that will invite and encourage citizen participation to help determine goals for future use of the shoreline. This process will be conducted in conjunction with respect to the findings of the shoreline inventory and characterization report. The visioning process will identify shoreline issues and opportunities. It will result in a community visioning report that will contain strategies for shoreline uses, public access, resource protection, and restoration that is consistent with SMA policy and SMP Guidelines objectives.

Regional Forums – Preliminary SMP Preparation:

County will hold regional forums in spring/summer of 2013 on preliminary draft SMP preparation products developed, including presentation of draft goals, policies, designations, regulations, and other recommendations, draft restoration plan elements, and preliminary

cumulative impacts/no net loss analysis.

Regional Forums – Draft SMP:

County will hold regional forums in early 2014 on a complete draft SMP. This will provide opportunities for public review and comment on draft SMP prior to formal hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.

5.4 Public Hearings

Benton County will hold public hearings prior to final adoption of the SMP update. The Planning Commission will hold at least one public hearing on the draft SMP updates and following the public hearing process will make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board will consider the Planning Commission recommendation and public comments received. The Board will hold a public hearing prior to local adoption of the draft SMP. The draft SMP will be made available for public review a minimum of 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing. Public hearings are anticipated to be scheduled in spring of 2014.

All public hearings scheduled before the Planning Commission and Benton County Commissioners will be held after effective notice and include opportunities for oral and written comment. All persons desiring to speak will be allowed to do so, consistent with time constraints. All comments and recommendations of the public will be considered. Adequate time should be provided between the time of any public hearing and the date of adoption to evaluate and respond to public comment. A summary of public comments and an explanation of what action was taken in response to them will be included in the record of adoption of the plan.

5.5 Record of Meetings

Benton County Planning Commission and Board of Benton County Commissioners public meetings and hearings will be audio recorded and meeting minutes prepared.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES

In addition to the Benton County scheduled public meetings and hearings (see Section 5.0), other opportunities for public involvement and comment will be provided throughout the SMP update process. The following steps will be taken to exchange information and to encourage broad and diverse public involvement throughout the SMP update:

6.1 Shoreline Advisory Group

One advisory group will be formed, with representation by local residents and landowners, agricultural, environmental, recreational, business and industrial groups, Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies.

Benton County staff will consult with the advisory group for technical and policy input throughout Phases 1-4 of the SMP update process described in Section 4.0 of this Plan.

6.2 Treaty Tribes

While these governments are often parties to the groups listed in 6.1 above, as separate government entities with treaty rights to the fisheries and may have co-manager roles that include fish habitat concerns, the County will consult with the treaty tribes Yakama

Nation, Umatilla Nation, and others within Benton County on SMP language and notice them of public forums and meetings regarding the SMP.

It is understood that treaty tribes within Benton County have an interest in shoreline protection in their Usual and Accustomed Fishing Grounds and Areas, and should be included in discussions in regard to the SMP update. Treaty tribes will be invited to participate in the Shoreline Advisory Committee.

6.3 Additional Jurisdiction Coordination

Benton County will coordinate the SMP update with the cities of Prosser, Richland, West Richland, Kennewick and Benton City, to promote consistency between County and City shoreline master programs and to establish urban growth area SMPs that are compatible with countywide shoreline goals and with the goals of the respective city.

Benton County will also collaborate with agencies adjacent to the County with shoreline jurisdiction including but not limited to: WA Department of Natural Resources, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA State Parks, Department of Energy (Hanford), and US Army Corps of Engineers.

6.4 Shoreline Property Owners

Shoreline property owners are important stakeholders in the SMP update. Benton County will develop a mailing list of shoreline property owners based on available tax records and landowner requests. The list will be used by the County to notify shoreline owners by mail or email list how they can stay informed, be involved, and provide comment throughout the SMP update process. Shoreline property owners will also be notified of the Benton County regional public forums and public hearings.

6.5 Additional Outreach Strategies

The County will notify, encourage participation, and seek input related to SMP Update phases from other known entities having interests in shoreline use including, but not limited to, recreation, environmental, conservation, realtor associations, private property rights groups, builder associations, and civic organizations. Methods of notification and information dissemination are outlined in Section 8.0 below. A preliminary list of stakeholders is included in Appendix A.

The County will also identify other means of public outreach such as information sharing at local community events to inform residents and interested parties and garner public participation in the SMP Update process.

7.0 WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments are welcome throughout the SMP update process. Send comments to: Benton County Planning, RE: SMP Update, P O Box 910 Prosser, WA. 99350.

8.0 PUBLIC NOTICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Benton County will use a variety of methods to inform the public about upcoming public meetings, availability of maps, relevant planning documents and reports, and important milestones related to the SMP Update including, but not limited to:

1. Internet Website: Benton County will establish and maintain a Shoreline Master Plan

Update web site for the Update Project where interested County residents may go for informational updates; i.e., hearing meeting and adoption notices, agendas, and other project information. The website will provide communication access to staff and will be consistently updated with project details and include current issues and meetings notice information under the "Upcoming Events" section. Follow the SMP Update link on the Planning Department homepage at: <http://www.co.benton.wa.us>

2. **Email List:** Benton County will maintain an email distribution list that will include identified representatives from known agencies, tribes, neighboring jurisdictions, and other organizations that have interests or responsibilities relating to shorelines and any other individual or group that requests to be notified by the email distribution list. Communication via email will be the primary communication used to provide efficient and timely information necessary to allow County Residents and interested parties early and continuous public participation. Periodic project announcements and public notices of upcoming public meetings will be sent out via the email distribution list. Individuals and organizations wishing to be notified by the email should direct their request to: SMP@co.benton.wa.us
3. **Shorelines Mailing List:** Individuals and interested parties may request to be notified via mail by sending their name and address to: Benton County SMP Update, P.O. Box 910, Prosser, WA. 99350, or by calling (509)786-5612 in Prosser, or (509) 783-3086 from the Tri City Area.
4. **News Releases:** Benton County will issue news releases announcing public meetings, hearings, and comment periods to local media including, but not limited to: the Tri City Herald, Yakima Herald and Prosser Record Bulletin Newspapers; TV stations, KNDU, KEPR, KVEW; and radio, National Public (NPR) and KONA radio.
5. **Legal Notices:** Legal public notice of all public hearings will be published under "Legals" in the Tri City Herald.
6. **SMP Update Project File:** An official project file will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 4:30 p.m., except holidays) at the Benton County Planning Department, 1002 Dudley Avenue, Prosser, WA. 99350.

9.0 CONTACTS

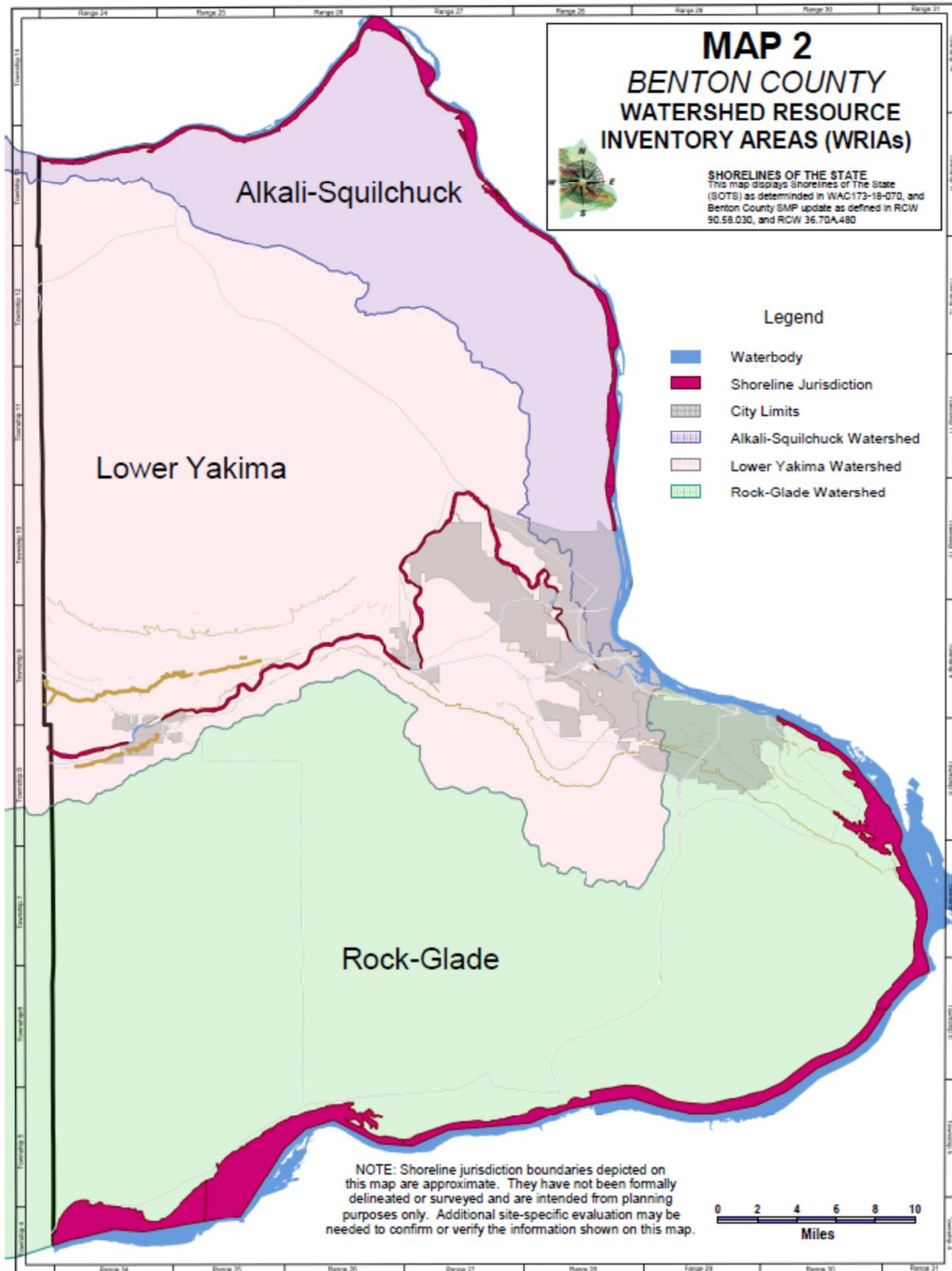
Benton County Planning Department
ATTN: SMP Update Project Team
P.O. Box 910
Prosser, WA. 99350

Michael Shuttleworth, Planning Manager
Susan M. Walker, SMP Project Manager
Valerie M. Smith, Associate Planner

mike.shuttleworth@co.benton.wa.us
susan.walker@co.benton.wa.us
valerie.smith@co.benton.wa.us

Phone (509) 786-5612
Fax: (509) 786-5629

MAP 2. WATERSHED RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA) DESIGNATIONS
 (see Map 1 for more current Shoreline Jurisdiction boundaries)



Appendix A Preliminary Stakeholders List

Rural Residents
Property Owners
Interested Parties
Benton Conservation District (BCD)
Irrigation Districts
Rural Electric/Power
Home Builders Association
NW Indian Fisheries Commission
Recreational Fishing/Hunting Groups
Tribes
Port
Private Business
Agriculture Interests
Nature Conservancy
Rivers to Ridges
Benton County Audubon
WSU Benton County Extension
US Army Corps of Engineers
WA Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
WRIA Watershed Planning Representatives
WA State Parks