



# Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update

Board of County Commissioners Hearing  
June 3, 2014

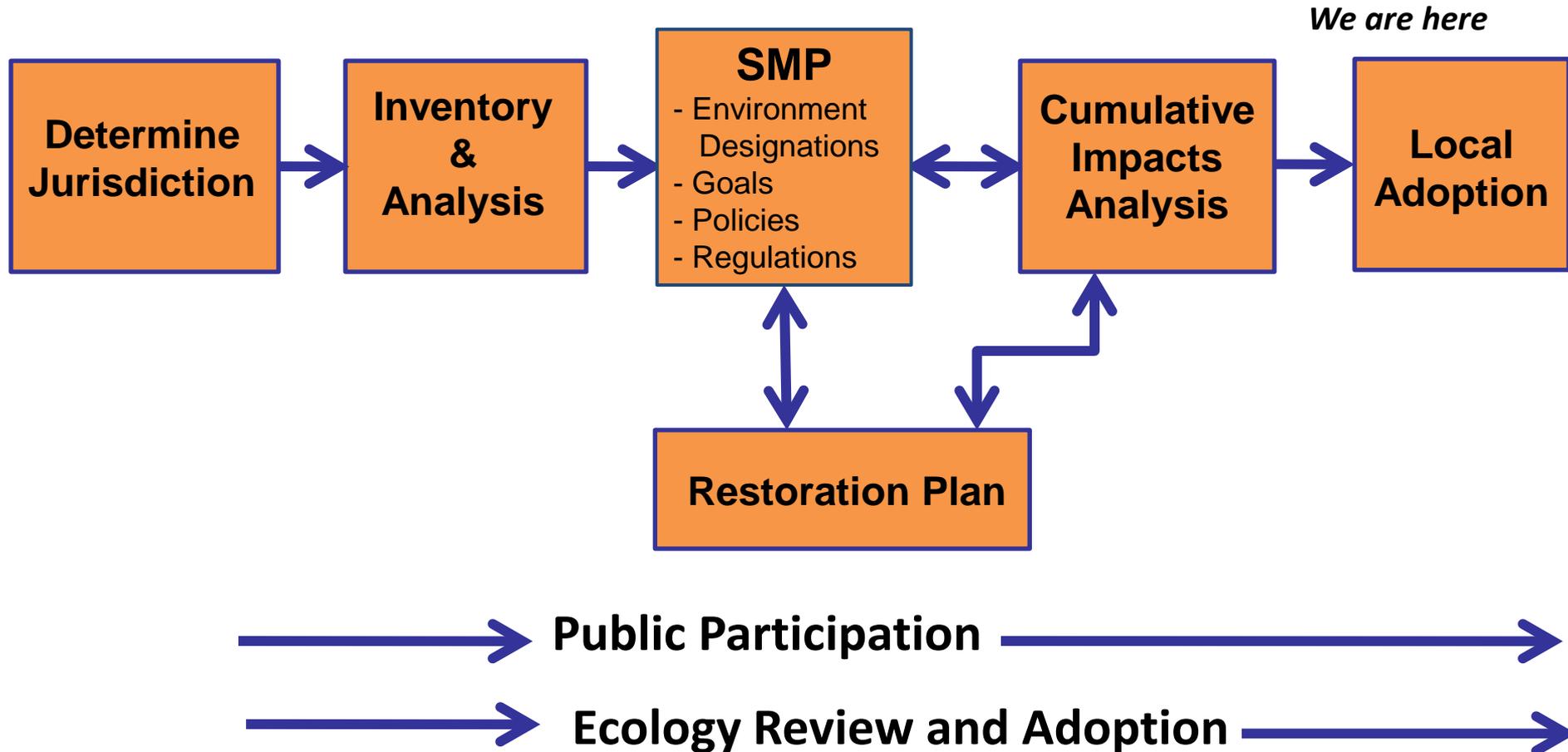


# Why Update the SMP?

- County SMP developed in 1974
- Ecology rules passed in 2003
- The Shoreline Management Act requires all local governments to update
  - RCW 90.58 080 requires Benton County be complete by December 2013
  - Ecology funding allows completion by June 2014
- Address changed conditions and reflect current science



# What is the Update Process?



# How has the Public been Involved?

- ✓ Open Houses & Forums (3 sets)
  - Inventory & Analysis
  - Revised Draft SMP
  - Draft SMP
- ✓ Rural Visioning Survey
- ✓ Shoreline Advisory Committee
- ✓ Public Access Focus Group
- ✓ Planning Commission Meetings & Hearing
- ✓ BOCC Workshop
- **BOCC Hearing**



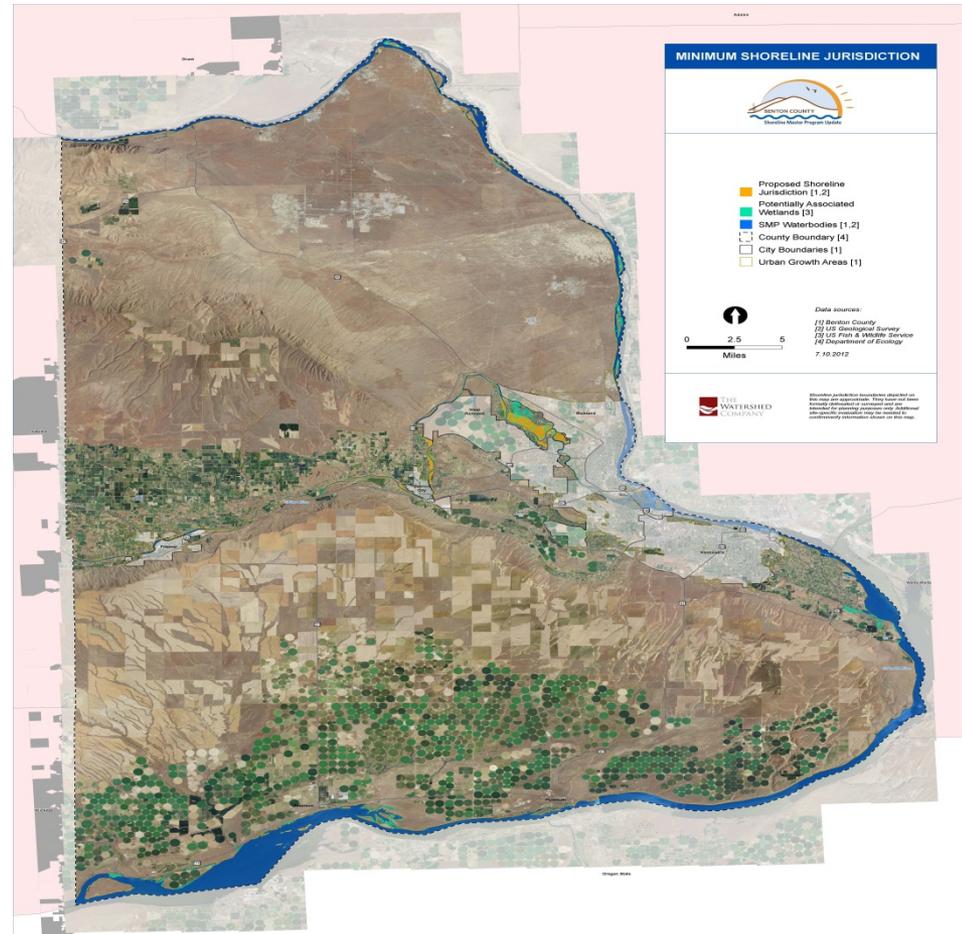
# Shoreline Advisory Committee

- 14 volunteers from the community, approved by BOCC
  - Shoreline property owners
  - Shoreline property managers
  - Agri-business interest
  - Economic development interest
  - Environmental interest
  - State and federal agencies
  - Yakama Nation
- 14 regular meetings
- Highly interactive, with SAC input reflected in SMP



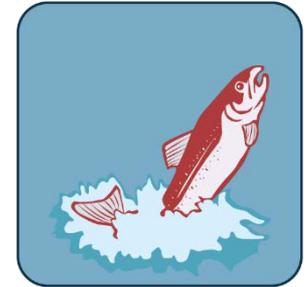
# Where Does the SMP Apply?

- Minimum Shoreline Jurisdiction
  - Stream  $\geq 20$  cfs (Yakima and Columbia Rivers)
  - Upland areas 200 feet from OHWM
  - Floodways and 200 feet of adjacent floodplain area
  - Associated wetlands



# What are the Basic Principles of the SMA?

- Balance
  - environmental protection
  - water-oriented uses
  - public access
- Preferred Uses
  - Water-oriented uses
  - Single-family residences
- No Net Loss of Ecological Function



# Key Features of County SMP

- Recognizes existing conditions
  - Environment designations
  - Shoreline buffers
- Special attention paid to agriculture, single-family residential uses, and private property rights
- Consistent with relevant state and federal regulations
- Flexible, clear and concise



# Summary of Next Steps

- Board of County Commissioners
  - Hearing, 3 June 2014
- Submittal to WA Department of Ecology (6 months)
  - Ecology Review and Public Hearing
  - County Responds to Ecology/Public Comment
  - Ecology approves, approves with conditions, or denies
  - SMP Effective 14 days after Ecology approval