



# Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update

Regional Forums

Shoreline Analysis Report: January 9/10, 2013



## Agenda

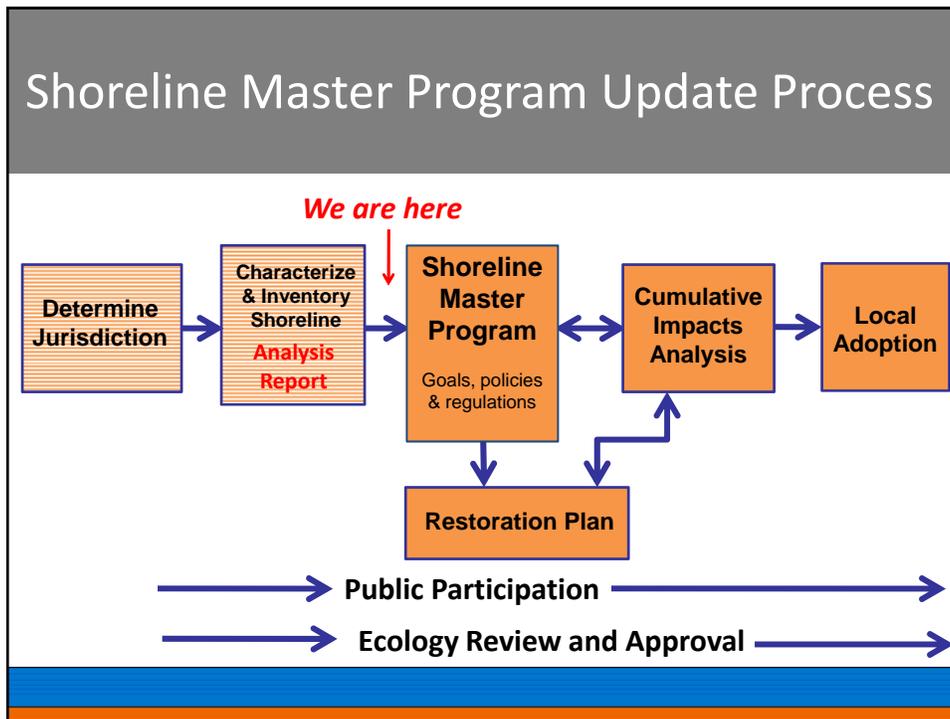
- Open House
- Presentation
  - Shoreline Master Program Overview
  - *Draft* Shoreline Analysis Report
- Group Q & A Session
- Open House

## Shoreline Master Program Overview

### Why Update the SMP?

- 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
- Ecology rules passed in 2003
- County SMP developed in 1974
- Address changed conditions





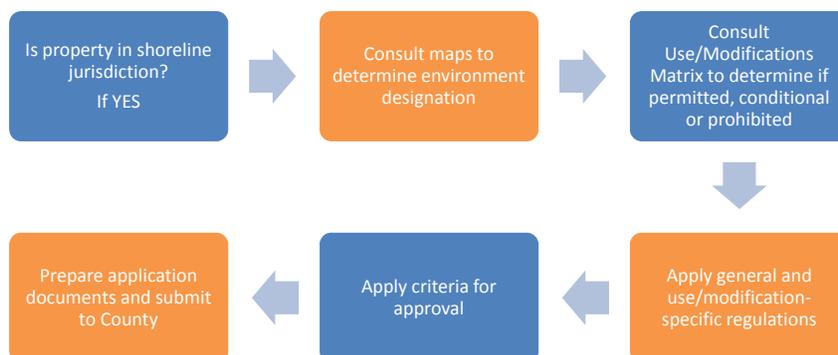
## Where Does this Apply?

- Minimum Shoreline Jurisdiction
  - Stream  $\geq$  20 cfs
  - Upland areas 200 feet from OHWM
  - Floodways and 200 feet of adjacent floodplain area
  - Associated wetlands
- NEW Uses
  - Existing shoreline uses and activities may continue

## Jurisdiction Illustration



## How to use the SMP

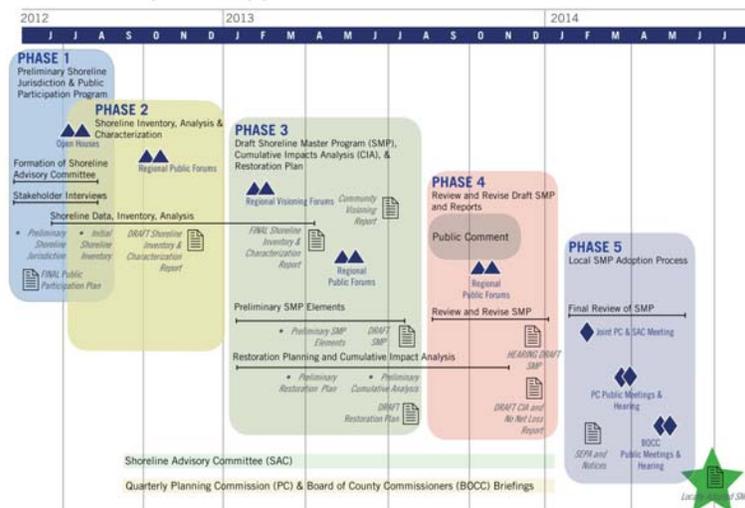


# Important Notes

- County has had its SMP in place since 1974
- SMP policy and regulation development will start this month and take a year
- SMP adoption not anticipated until June 2014
- Extensive public process during SMP development



## Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update Public Participation Approach



## Shoreline Advisory Committee

- Volunteer panel of 15 members
- Includes waterfront property owners and managers, business/agricultural interests, state and federal agencies, and Yakama Nation



- Monthly meetings open to public
- All materials posted on SMP website

## Draft Shoreline Analysis Report

## Draft Shoreline Analysis Report

- Purpose
- Key Findings
- Opportunities for your comments
- Next Steps



## Analysis Report Purpose



### Set the baseline condition

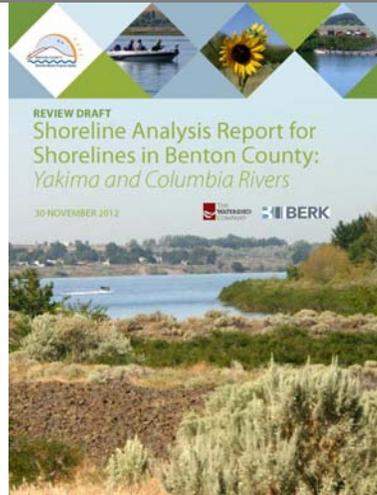
- Shoreline ecological functions
- Potential restoration opportunities
- Land use
- Public access

### How will findings be used?

- Guide development of environment designations
- Provide shoreline management recommendations
  - Consider in SMP goals, policies & regulations
- Starting point for the restoration plan and measurement of “no net loss of ecological functions”

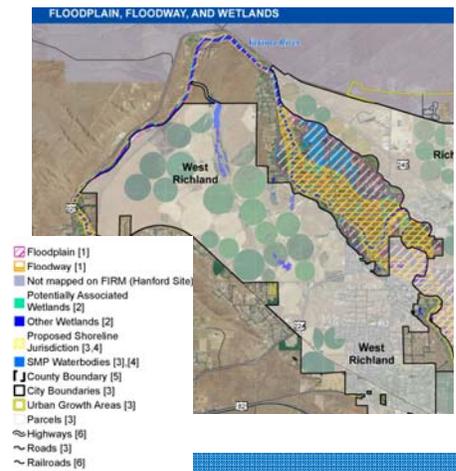
# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Current Regulatory Summary
3. Summary of Ecosystem Conditions
4. **Shoreline Inventory**
5. **Analysis of Ecological Functions**
6. **Land Use Analysis**
7. **Shoreline Management Recommendations**



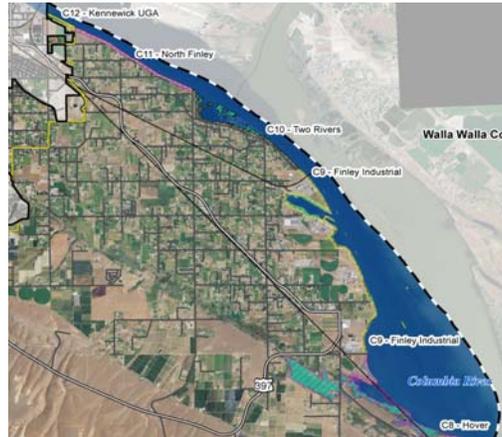
## 4. Shoreline Inventory Topics

Full Range of Natural & Built Environment Data Inputs



## 5. Analysis of Ecological Functions

- Breaks the rivers up into discrete reaches
  - Land use very important
- 15 reaches on the Columbia
- 12 reaches on the Yakima



## Function Analysis Approach

- Synthesize all inputs
  - Evaluate hydrologic, habitat, vegetation, hyporheic functions
  - Consider functions at a reach-specific scale
  - Provide quantitative and qualitative results to score functions
  - Treat Yakima and Columbia shorelines separately

## Function Analysis Approach (cont.)

- Identifies which ecological functions are
  - healthy, significantly altered, adversely impacted, or missing

|                    |
|--------------------|
| High - natural     |
| High- altered      |
| Moderate - natural |
| Moderate - altered |
| Low - natural      |
| Low - altered      |

## Example Reach Description

- Assesses functions in each reach
- Identifies primary alterations in each reach

### Reach Y5 – Horn Rapids

| Process/Function | Function-Cause   | Notes              |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| Hydrologic       | Moderation of sediment transport                                 | Moderate - altered |
|                  | Development and maintenance of in-stream habitat features        | Moderate - altered |
|                  | Attenuating flow energy  | Low - altered      |
| Vegetation       | LWD and organic matter recruitment                               | Moderate - natural |
|                  | Filtration of upland inputs                                      | Moderate - natural |
|                  | Bank stabilization   | Moderate - natural |
| Habitat          | Wetland/riparian habitat   | Moderate - natural |
|                  | Species and conditions supporting wildlife including PHS species | High - natural     |
| Hyperheic        | Water storage, cool water refugia, and filtration                | Low - natural      |
|                  | Support of vegetation  | Moderate - altered |

**Key Environmental or Land Use Factors Affecting Processes/Functions:**  
 Horn Rapids Dam is the primary modification affecting the reach hydrology. Much of the reach is in open space, but limited agricultural and residential uses are also present, and vegetative functions are more altered in these areas.



## Examples of Alterations

- Dams
- Irrigation withdrawals and returns
- Levees
- Land ownership (public/private)
- Land use
- Roads and railroads



## Columbia River Ranking Results

| Reach Number/ Name |                          | Rank | Hydrologic                       |                            |                         | Vegetative                         |                             |                    | Habitat                  |  | Hyporheic                    |                       |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                    |                          |      | Moderation of sediment transport | In-stream habitat features | Attenuating flow energy | LWD and organic matter recruitment | Filtration of upland inputs | Bank stabilization | Wetland/riparian habitat | Space and conditions supporting wildlife | Water storage and filtration | Support of vegetation |
| C3                 | UNWR                     | 1    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| C10                | Two Rivers (Park)        | 2    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| C14                | Hanford                  | 3    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| C8                 | Hover                    | 4    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| -----              |                          |      |                                  |                            |                         |                                    |                             |                    |                          |  |                              |                       |
| C10                | Two Rivers (Residential) | 13   | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Orange                      | Orange             | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| C11                | North Finley             | 15   | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Orange                      | Orange             | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| C12                | Kennewick UGA            | 15   | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Orange                      | Orange             | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |

## Yakima River Ranking Results

| Reach Number/ Name |                      | Rank | Hydrologic                       |                            |                         | Vegetative                         |                             |                    | Habitat                  |  | Hyporheic                    |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                    |                      |      | Moderation of sediment transport | In-stream habitat features | Attenuating flow energy | LWD and organic matter recruitment | Filtration of upland inputs | Bank stabilization | Wetland/riparian habitat | Space and conditions supporting wildlife | Water storage and filtration | Support of vegetation |
| Y3                 | Barker               | 1    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| Y10                | Prosser UGA Chandler | 2    | Green                            | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Green                    | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| Y11                | Prosser UGA West     | 3    | Orange                           | Green                      | Green                   | Green                              | Green                       | Green              | Orange                   | Green                                    | Green                        |                       |
| Y7                 | Benton City UGA      |      | Yellow                           | Yellow                     | Yellow                  | Yellow                             | Yellow                      | Green              | Yellow                   | Yellow                                   | Green                        |                       |
| -----              |                      |      |                                  |                            |                         |                                    |                             |                    |                          |  |                              |                       |
| Y6                 | River Road           | 9    | Yellow                           | Yellow                     | Yellow                  | Yellow                             | Yellow                      | Orange             | Orange                   | Yellow                                   | Green                        |                       |
| Y5                 | Horn Rapids          |      | Yellow                           | Yellow                     | Orange                  | Yellow                             | Yellow                      | Yellow             | Green                    | Orange                                   | Yellow                       |                       |
| Y2                 | Riverside            | 11   | Yellow                           | Yellow                     | Yellow                  | Yellow                             | Yellow                      | Orange             | Orange                   | Yellow                                   | Orange                       |                       |
| Y12                | Byron Road           |      | Yellow                           | Orange                     | Yellow                  | Orange                             | Orange                      | Yellow             | Orange                   | Yellow                                   | Orange                       |                       |

## Questions?

- Do the findings reflect your understanding of the area shoreline?
- Are there areas that warrant a second look?
- Are there other areas that you think should be protected or restored?



## 6A. Land Use Analysis

- Future demand for shoreline space
- Characterize current shoreline use patterns and projected trends including public access.
- Approach
  - Review Zoning and Assessor Use Map
  - Estimate housing and job capacity of vacant lands
  - Review subdivision potential of large lots
  - Review permit trends



## Columbia River Land Uses



- Current Uses: Most of shoreline is in Hanford use, Pasture / Rangeland, Agriculture & Parks
- Future Uses: Each reach differs
  - Public, GMA Agriculture, Industrial, Residential
  - More varied zoning than Yakima River



## Columbia River Development Potential

- Future Development
  - Less vacant residential land and less land to be subdivided compared to Yakima River
  - Some industrial development potential

## Yakima River



- Current Use:
  - Mostly Pasture / Rangeland, Agriculture
  - Much more in Residential use than Columbia River
- Future Use: More uniform zoning in reaches, more Residential



## Yakima River Development Potential

- Greater development potential for residences compared to Columbia River



## Questions?

- Do the findings reflect your understanding of the area shoreline?
- What future shoreline uses would you
  - Like to see more of?
  - Like to see less of?



## 6B. Public Access Analysis

- Identify public access needs and opportunities
- Explore actions to enhance shoreline recreation facilities
- Approach
  - Map existing facilities
  - Review adopted parks and recreation plans



## Columbia River Public Access

### Current

#### **Parks & Open Space**

~4,100 acres

#### **Trails**

~1.9 miles

#### **Recreation Facilities**

- 5 boat launches
- 2 campgrounds

### Proposed

#### **County Park Improvements**

- Hover Park
- Two Rivers
- Wallula Gap Preserve

#### **County - Added Trails**

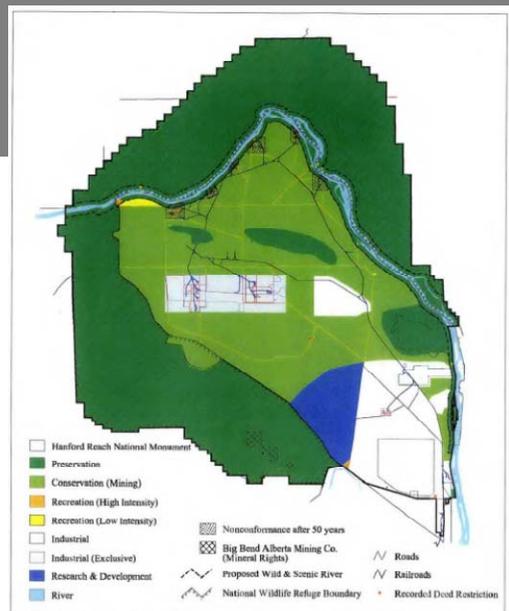
- Columbia Park to Two Rivers & Hover
- Water Trail

*Future Population + about 1,230 in/near shoreline. Future tourism possible at Hanford.*

## Hanford Reach

### Comprehensive Land Use Plan Promotes

- Preservation
- Conservation
- R&D
- Industrial
- Recreation particularly along the River



## Yakima River Public Access

### Current

#### **Parks & Open Space**

~123 acres in jurisdiction

#### **Trails & Other Facilities**

- Boat launch at Horn Rapids
- WDFW water access points
- Tapteal Greenway (in progress)

### Proposed

#### **County Plans**

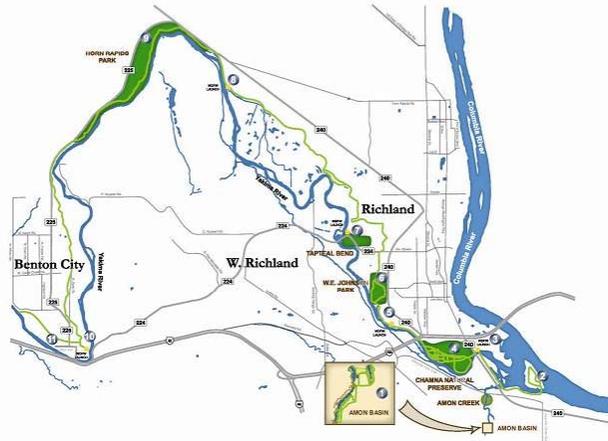
- Horn Rapids Master Plan
- Water trail at riverfront parks
- Red Mountain AVA Plan

#### **Other Plans**

- Tapteal Greenway
- Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail

*Future Population + about 3,170 in/near YR shoreline. Future tourism possible at Red Mtn.*

# Tapteal Greenway



# Red Mountain AVA Master Plan



## Questions on Public Access?

- How do you currently use the Columbia & Yakima Rivers?
- In what locations should additional or improved public access be provided?



## 7. Shoreline Management Recommendations

- Analysis Report findings linked to next step
  - Would influence development of the Shoreline Master Program policies & regulations
  - Also important are State SMP Guidelines
- There will be much more review and public input to come on SMP goals, policies and regulations

## Status and Comment Opportunities

- Discussion Draft Shoreline Analysis Report Available Online Now – Please provide comment by **February 1**  
**All materials are available at [www.BENTONCOUNTYSMPUPDATE.com](http://www.BENTONCOUNTYSMPUPDATE.com)**  
**E-mail: [smp@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:smp@co.benton.wa.us)**
- Revised Draft Shoreline Analysis Report will be submitted to Ecology by **April 5**
- SAC monthly meetings will focus on SMP development – first meeting on **January 17**
- SMP Public Visioning forums will be held in **Spring**

Forum Q & A