



Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update

Shoreline Advisory Committee
SMP Basics & Public Participation: October 18, 2012



BENTON COUNTY
Shoreline Master Program Update

Agenda

- SMP Basics
 - Why update the SMP?
 - What is the process?
 - Where does this apply?
 - What are the basic principles of the SMA?
- Public Participation
- Next Steps



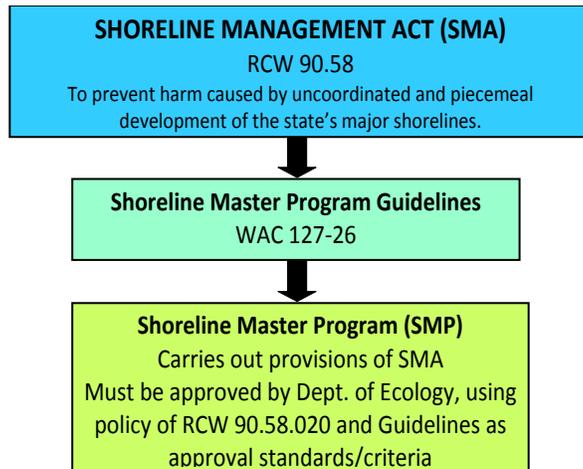
SMP Basics

Why Update the SMP?

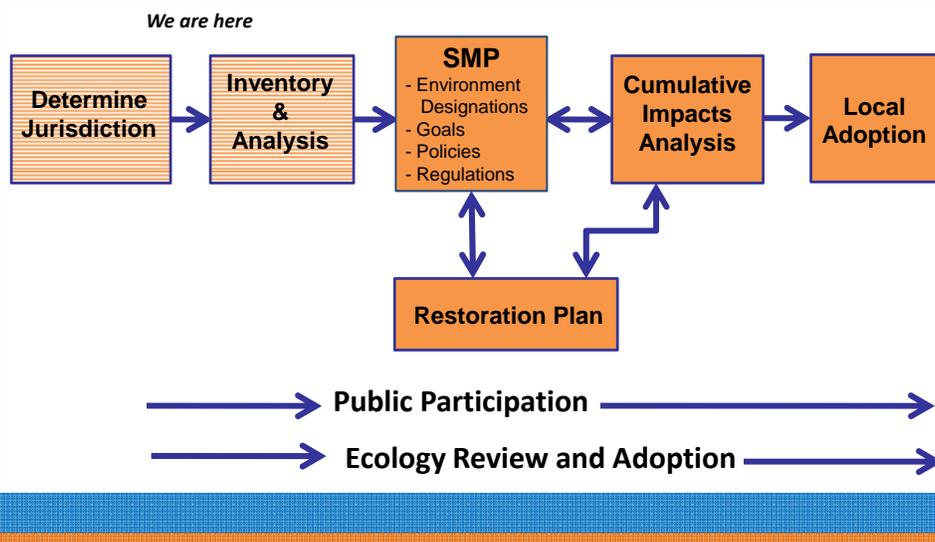
- The Shoreline Management Act requires all local governments to update
 - RCW 90.58 080 requires Benton County be complete by December 2013
 - Ecology funding allows completion by June 2014
- Ecology rules passed in 2003
- County SMP developed in 1974
- Address changed conditions



Shoreline Laws and Rules



What is the Process?



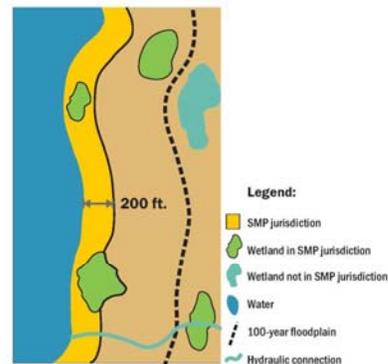
Where Does this Apply?

- 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



Shoreline Jurisdiction

- Shoreline Jurisdiction - Elements reviewed
 - Floodway
 - Floodplain
 - OHWM +200 feet
 - Associated wetlands
- Why protect the activities within 200 feet?



What are the Basic Principles of the SMA?

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



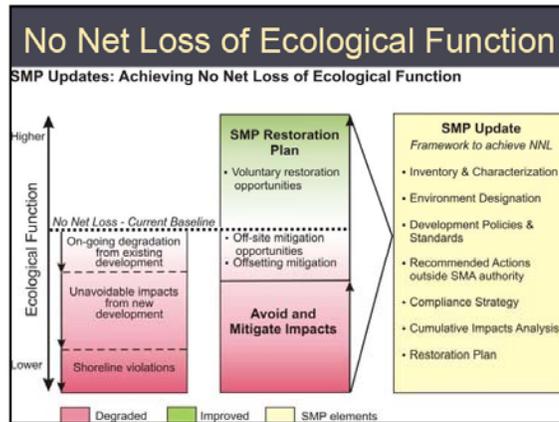
Ecological Functions & Values

- SMA Environmental Goals for Shorelines of Statewide Significance
 - Preserve the natural character of the shoreline
 - Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline
- SMP will address shoreline vegetation, setbacks
- Process includes developing a Shoreline Restoration Plan



No-Net-Loss of Ecological Function

Key SMP Principle: No Net Loss of Ecological Function



Water-Oriented Uses

- Water Dependent
 - Uses that can only exist in a shoreline location
 - E.g. ports, marinas
- Water Related
 - Support water-dependent use
 - Has a functional requirement for a waterfront location
 - E.g. arrival or shipment of materials by water
- Water Enjoyment
 - Recreational or other use that provides for public access or aesthetic enjoyment of the shoreline



Public Access

- Waters of the state are a public resource for all citizens for the purposes of navigation, conducting commerce, fishing, recreation and similar uses
- Trespassing on private property is not allowed
- SMP will address public access policies and standards



Agriculture

- Existing agriculture activities can continue – not subject to the SMP
- SMP will allow new agricultural activities



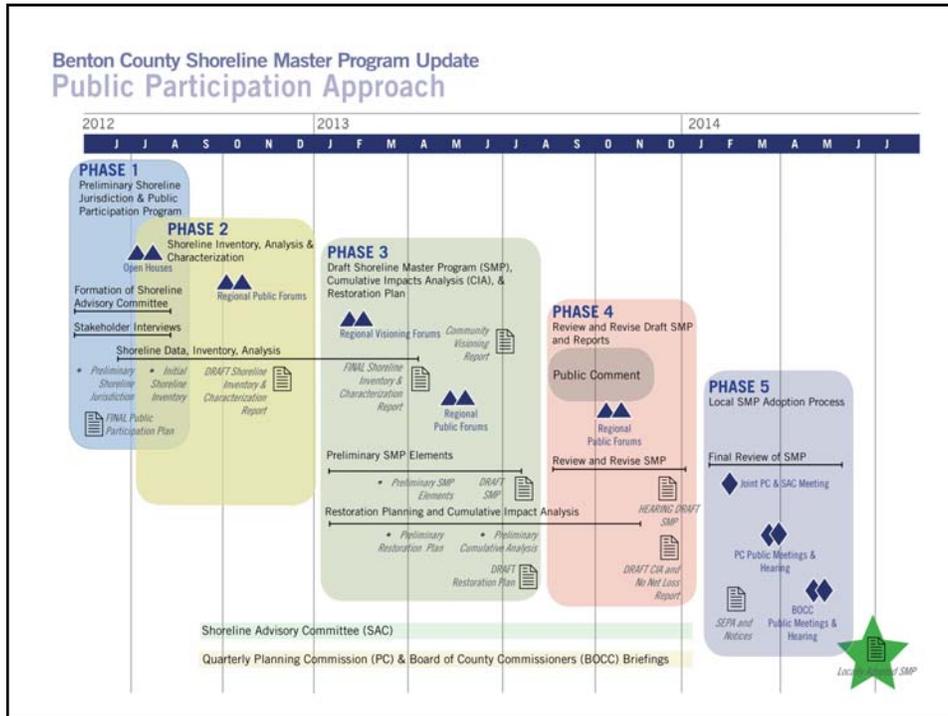
Public Participation



What are the planned Public Involvement Opportunities?

- Open Houses & Forums
 - Inventory & Analysis
 - Visioning
 - Draft SMP
 - Revised Draft SMP
- Shoreline Advisory Committee
- Planning Commission Meetings & Hearing
- BOCC Meetings & Hearing





Public Participation and SAC Role

- Have regular opportunities for public comment on agenda
- Understand and articulate the SAC's purpose, responsibilities, and work plan to the broader community
- Communicate and coordinate with stakeholders
 - represent the group's perspective on key issues
 - convey information from the SAC back to stakeholders
- Attend, or host, 4 Public Forums that will be held in Prosser & Kennewick (total of 8 Forums)

Summary of Next Steps

- Fall 2012
 - Form Shoreline Advisory Committee
 - Revise Inventory Maps
 - Develop Shoreline Analysis Report
- Spring 2013
 - Conduct Shoreline Visioning
 - Develop Draft SMP, Restoration Plan & Cumulative Impacts Analysis
- Fall 2013
 - Revise Draft SMP
- Winter & Spring 2014
 - Local Adoption Process
- Summer & Fall 2014
 - Formal Ecology Review