



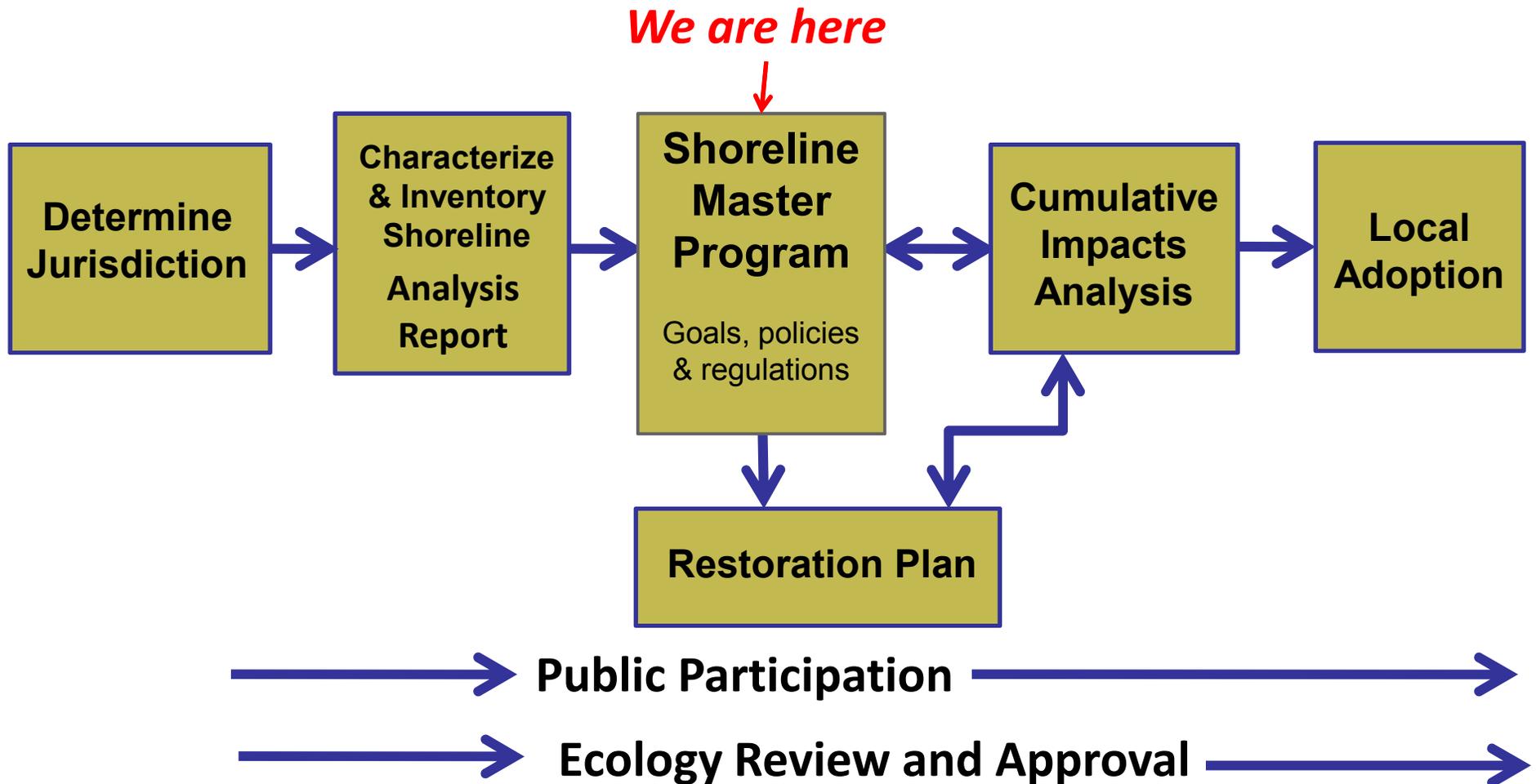
# Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update

Community Visioning Survey Summary

May 1, 2013



# Shoreline Master Program



# Where does the SMP apply?

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



# Why a vision for the shoreline?

- Build a local consensus for the desired future
- Ensure the SMP reflects the long-term desires of the rural community
- Survey Topics:
  - Current shoreline use
  - Desired future use
  - Physical and Visual Access
  - Preservation and restoration options and tools

# Who responded?

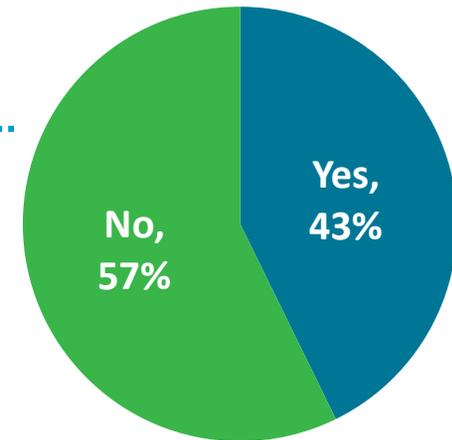
**132** people responded to the survey.



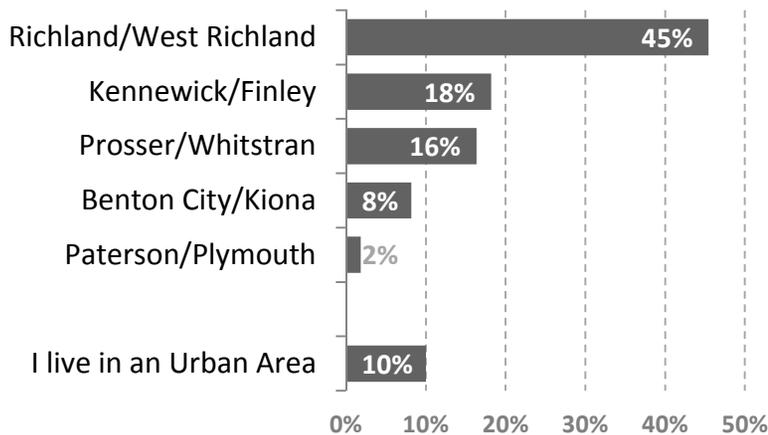
Responses came from across the County, with Richland/West Richland Area most represented

About half of responders own property along the County's rivers

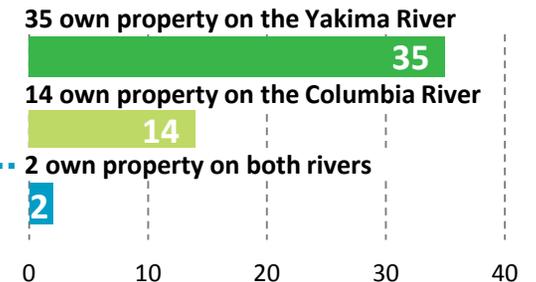
*Do you own property along the Columbia or Yakima Rivers?*



*Which rural community do you live closest to, or associate most often with?*

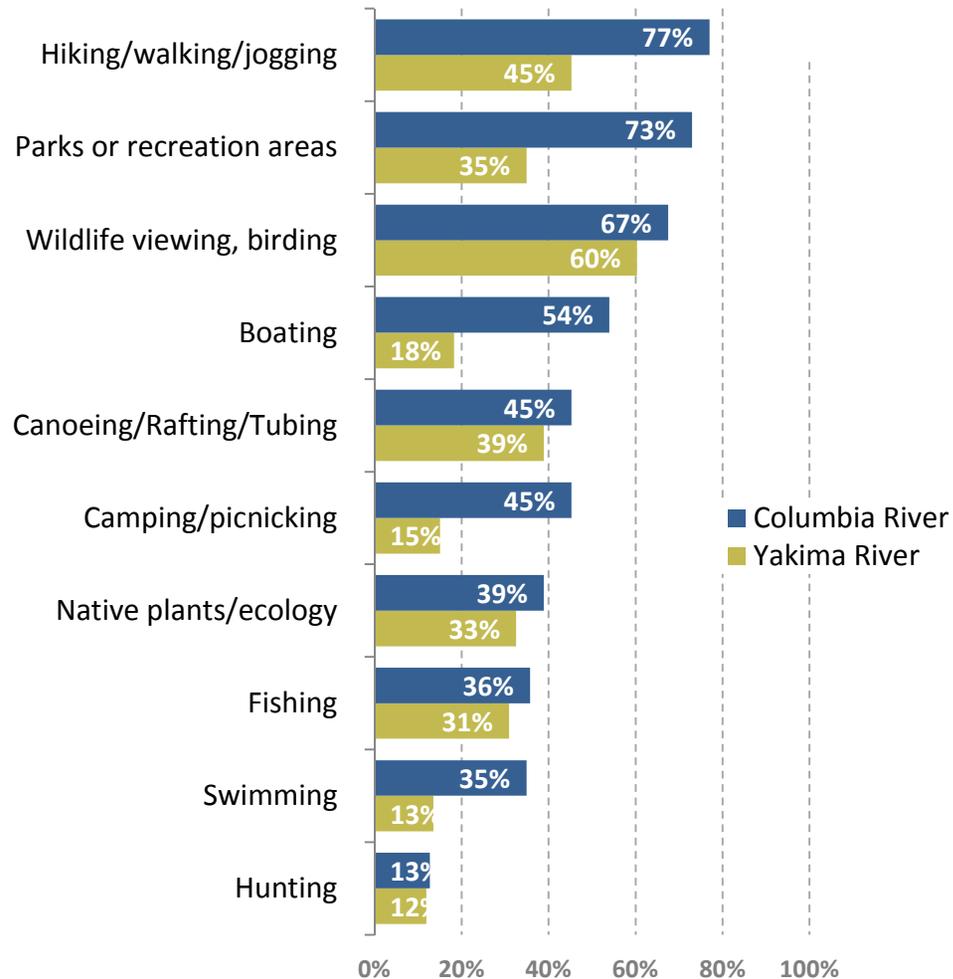


Of those who do own property, more own land along the Yakima River

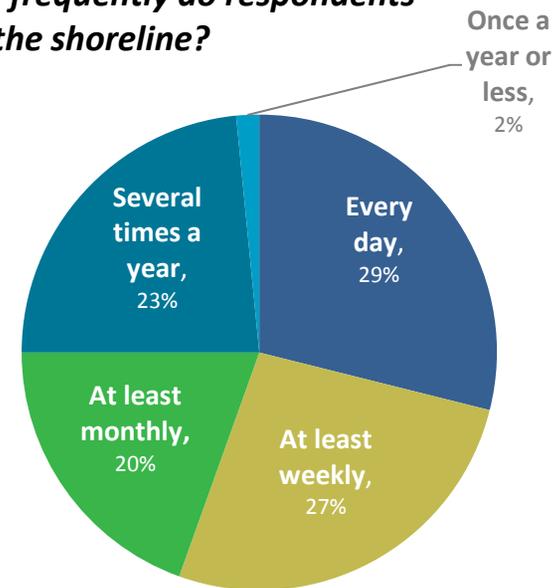


# Shoreline Enjoyment and Use

*How do respondents enjoy and/or use the shoreline?*



*How frequently do respondents use the shoreline?*



# Shoreline Enjoyment and Use

- Other Uses
  - Biking (both mountain biking and along the riverside paths)
  - Enjoying the quiet and peacefulness of the river
  - Dog walking
  - Enjoying the views
  - Photography

*“We live along the Yakima and enjoy the peacefulness of the river and the wildlife. Very few motorized boats on the Yakima keeps it peaceful.”*

# Other Use Comments

## Comments

Bicycling on riverside paths

Mountain biking

Cycling

Bike riding along the bike paths in Pasco, Richland, Kennewick.

Bicycling where there are trails.

Biking

Jet skiing, view, water skiing,

Walking our dogs

Horseback riding

We live along the Yakima and enjoy the peacefulness of the river and the wildlife. Very few motorized boats on the Yakima keeps it peaceful.

Contemplation and quiet prayer, walking the dog, socializing with friends and meeting new people.

Just like to listen to the water

Restaurants

Enjoying the view, which is getting harder to access. Franklin County side is getting less and less attractive to look at from the Benton County shoreline (while we're aware that this is the Benton County SMP, coordination between the counties on their shorelines would be beneficial to both).

Photography

Kayaking

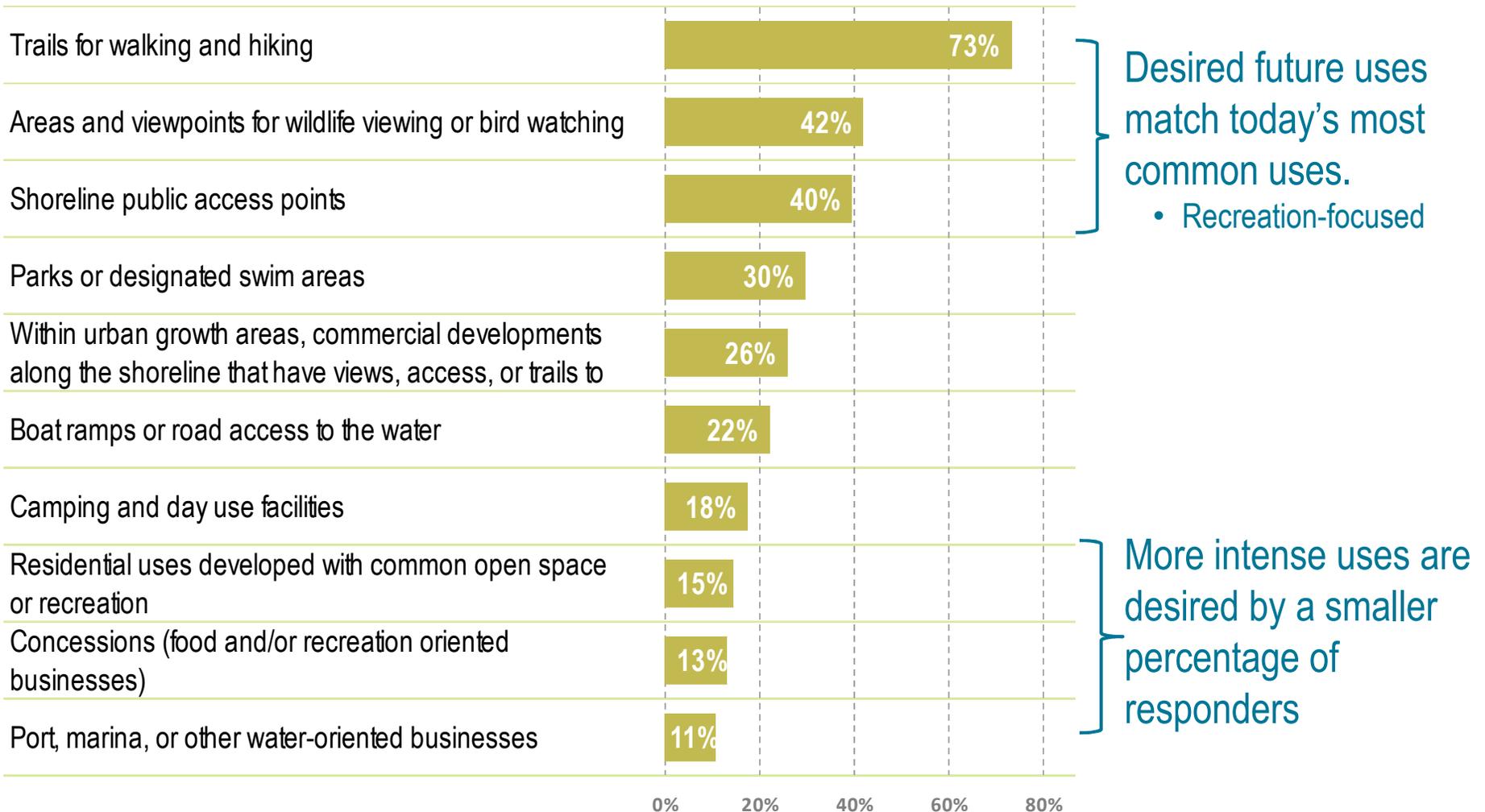
Desperately need mosquito control in Plymouth!!!

Riparian owner

Collecting garbage and debris left by shoreline users listed above.

# Desired Future Uses

**What are the desired future uses of Benton County's Shorelines?**



# Other Future Uses

- Protection and conservation
  - Wildlife
  - Open space
- Comments on commercial uses
  - No commercial use
  - Well-planned along the Columbia, limited along the Yakima
- Other preferences for the future:
  - Trash receptacles at all public access points
  - Improved walking trails along dikes and other areas

# Other Future Use Comments

## Comments

No commercial activities

Uses for Yakima shoreline and Columbia shoreline are similar but different. Columbia already has commercial use. Future development along Columbia should be well planned. Limit commercial development along Yakima.

Lower or grass the dike on the riverside --miles of dike with no useable public use --ROCKS ROCKS ROCKS BE GONE

Shoreline redevelopment in Kennewick, tear down lots of buildings on Columbia Ave, build wildlife parks.

Please lower and widen the Hains Ave levee trail in Richland. This levee trail is heavily used. Really needs to be wider.

Wildlife preserves

Natural open space preserved

A dredged river to create a river walk similar to San Antonio, Texas

More protection for the Chamna area which is often abused, especially in summer.

It is being farmed

I would like to leave the shoreline as natural as possible with some native plant restoration and habit restoration.

Public maintained trash receptacles at all public access points.

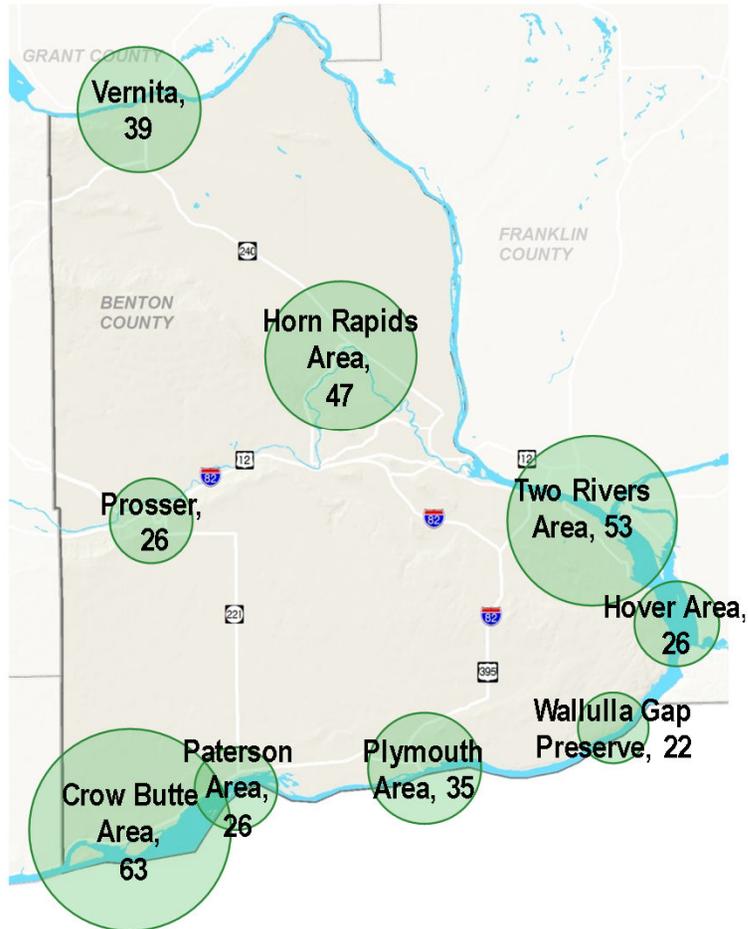
LARGE PERFORMING ARTS THEATER

I'm good with what we have

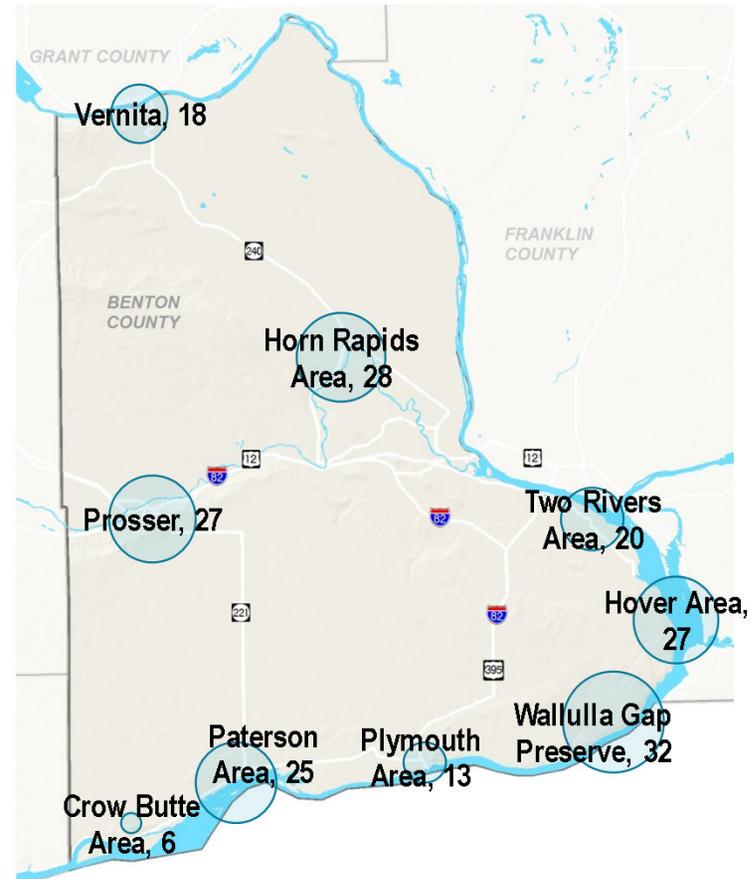
I would like to see the river run clean loaded with salmon

# Physical Access

**Adequate Physical Access** (Number of Responses)



**Too Little Physical Access** (Number of Responses)



# Perspectives on Access

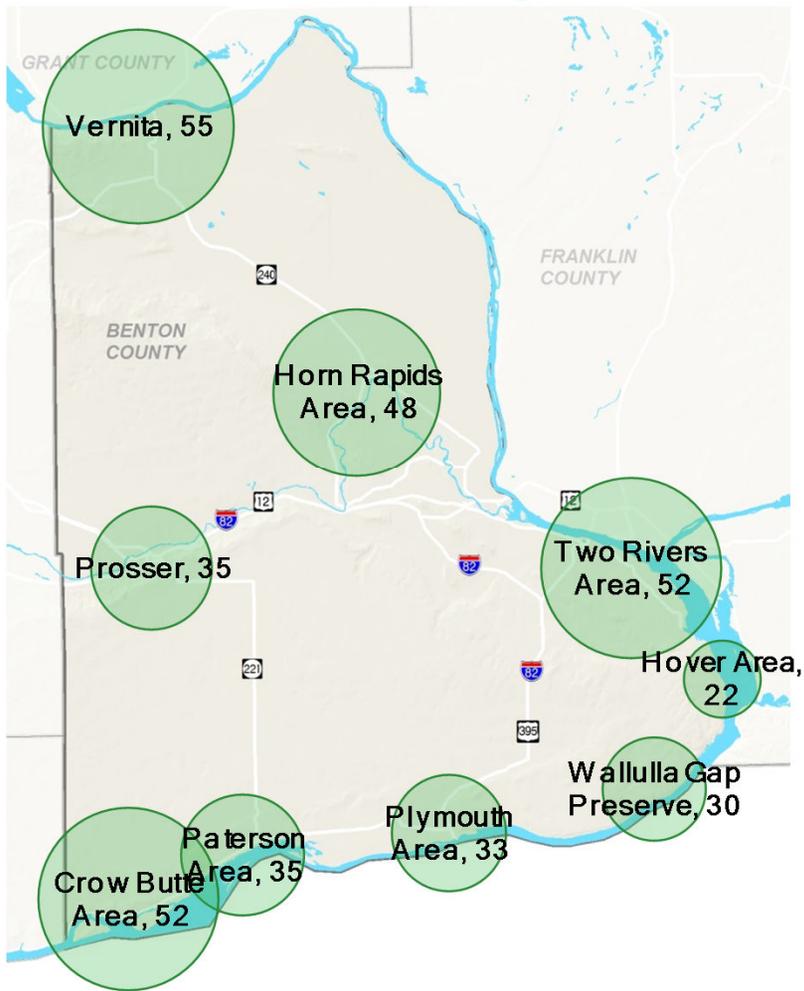
## Too Much Physical Access (Number of Responses)



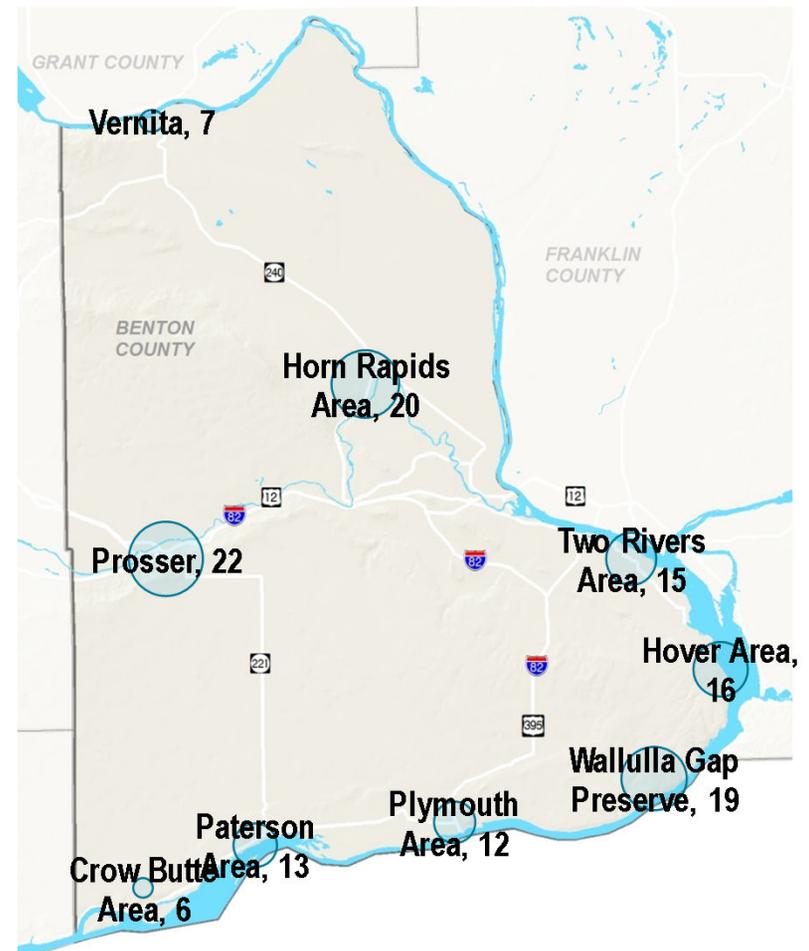
*“Van Giessen and Duportail  
Yakima river access needs to be  
more completely developed or  
use needs to be prevented... If we  
are going to develop the river for  
tubing then there needs to be  
money for trash collection,  
restrooms and most importantly  
law enforcement on motorized  
boats going up and down the  
river all day long during the  
heavy use months.”*

# Visual Access

**Adequate Visual Access** (Number of Responses)



**Too Little Visual Access** (Number of Responses)



# Visual Access

## Too Much Visual Access (Number of Responses)



- Few people felt there was too much visual access to the shoreline.

# Additional Public Access

- Many locations within city boundaries.
- Additional locations in Benton County
  - Between Benton City and Prosser
  - Between Benton City and Horn Rapids
  - Hanford Reach
  - Crow Butte
- Comments on areas of heavy use (Vernita area, Horn Rapids area)
- Other areas and comments

*“In my opinion, there is unprecedented access to the shorelines in Benton County. The Yakima River shorelines should be conserved with limited development and public access. It is too small and will be destroyed quickly. The Columbia river shoreline should be the focus of public facilities, access, etc. It is already developed more so the emphasis should continue on it rather than destroying the Yakima.”*

*“We own a home at the end of Grosscup and the amount of "floater" traffic over the summer has decimated the wildlife in our neighborhood and is ruining the safety of our neighborhood.”*

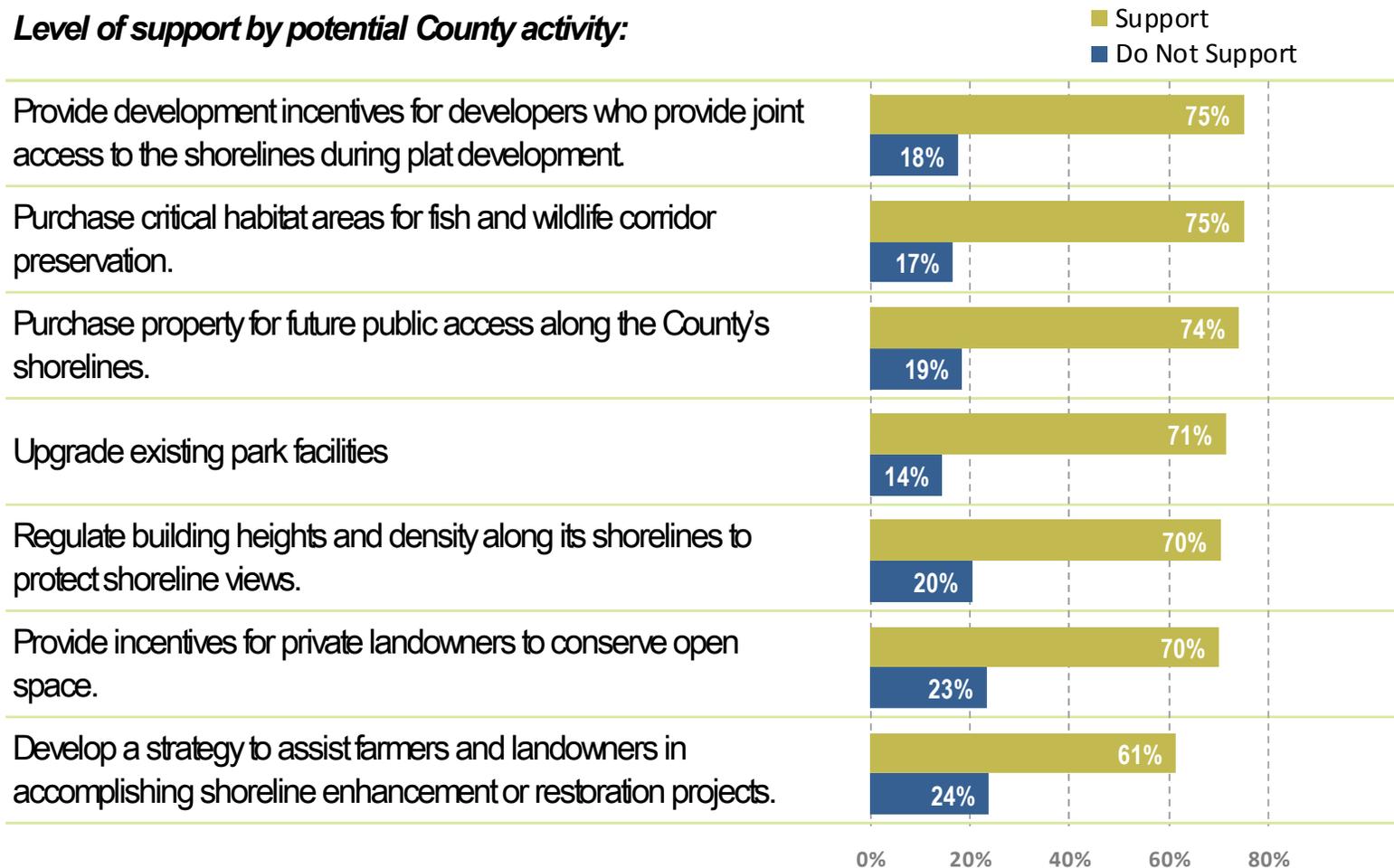
# Suggestions for Additional Public Access

| Area                            | Count |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Benton City                     | 7     |
| Prosser                         | 6     |
| Yakima Delta                    | 5     |
| Hanford Reach                   | 5     |
| Between Benton City and Prosser | 4     |
| Richland                        | 4     |
| Columbia Park                   | 3     |
| Yakima                          | 3     |
| West Richland                   | 3     |
| Hover                           | 3     |
| Horn Rapids                     | 3     |
| North Richland                  | 3     |
| Two Rivers - comment            | 2     |
| TriCities                       | 2     |
| Crow Butte – Comment            | 2     |
| Kennewick                       | 2     |
| Two Rivers                      | 2     |
| Bateman Island                  | 2     |
| Wallulla Gap                    | 2     |
| Vernita - Comment               | 2     |
| Ringold                         | 1     |
| Chamna                          | 1     |
| Howard Amon                     | 1     |
| Amon Basin                      | 1     |
| Islands                         | 1     |
| Vernita                         | 1     |

| Area                            | Count |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Toppenish                       | 1     |
| Horn Rapids - Comment           | 1     |
| Twin Bridges                    | 1     |
| Wapato Area                     | 1     |
| Chandler                        | 1     |
| Chandler Pump Return            | 1     |
| Richland - comment              | 1     |
| Plymouth                        | 1     |
| Wanapish Dam                    | 1     |
| Columbia Point                  | 1     |
| Columbia Park                   | 1     |
| Repeat                          | 1     |
| Edison Street                   | 1     |
| Combia Park                     | 1     |
| Between Benton City and Prosser | 1     |
| Pasco                           | 1     |
| Patterson                       | 1     |

# Support for County Activities

***Level of support by potential County activity:***



# Areas in Need of Restoration

- County areas specifically identified:
  - Hover Park
  - Paterson
  - Prosser
  - Plymouth
  - Wallula Gap
- Comments on restoration
  - Manage use to prevent damage
  - Concerns about trash
  - Concerns about invasive species

*“Protect them before it is too late. Once the areas are destroyed, it costs more to restore than protecting in the first place.”*

*“Preservation of open space is critical, both along the rivers and the ridges. This is the identity of our community and how we preserve (or don't preserve) the area will be our lasting legacy.”*

*“We are fortunate to have the two rivers in Benton County. We need to have policies in place to protect and perpetuate its health and existence.”*

# Suggested Additional Restoration Areas

| Area                           | Count |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Columbia Park                  | 6     |
| Hover Park                     | 4     |
| Prosser                        | 3     |
| Bateman Island                 | 3     |
| Richland, north end            | 2     |
| Columbia                       | 2     |
| Pasco                          | 2     |
| Columbia Point                 | 2     |
| Richland                       | 2     |
| Duportail                      | 2     |
| Van Giesen Bridge              | 2     |
| Horn Rapids                    | 2     |
| Yakima                         | 2     |
| Between Blue and Cable Bridges | 1     |
| Hover area                     | 1     |
| Remove dike                    | 1     |
| Kennewick                      | 1     |

| Area             | Count |
|------------------|-------|
| Two Rivers       | 1     |
| West Richland    | 1     |
| Wallula Gap      | 1     |
| Yakima Delta     | 1     |
| Benton City Park | 1     |
| Chamna           | 1     |
| Ringold Launch   | 1     |
| Crow Butte       | 1     |
| Two Rivers Park  | 1     |
| Patterson        | 1     |
| Vernita          | 1     |
| Plymouth         | 1     |
| Invasive species | 1     |
| Clover Island    | 1     |
| Kennewick dike   | 1     |
| none             | 1     |
| North Richland   | 1     |

# Restoration and Protection Comments

## Comments

The Yakima delta, Bateman Island, and Columbia Point areas have fantastic potential for public participation in cleanup and restoration. These areas could very easily be restored, made into conservation areas, and with public access. They'd have to be patrolled consistently, however, because there are lots of shit people in the TriCities who can't be trusted on public property.

While kayaking, I spend many hours each year cleaning trash from the Yakima Delta (near the Richland Wye), the lower Yakima river, Bateman island and the Columbia River near Richland. There are many large objects (old tires and barrels for example) on the shoreline and in the water in the Yakima Delta and lower Yakima that are too large for me to retrieve in my kayak. I would appreciate some assistance in removing such trash.

Location of #8 is a highly used, much abused area.

I strongly support more limitation of vehicle access on the upstream end of Horn Rapids Park. This area is regularly used for "off-roading" and partying. As a result it has become littered and in many places unsanitary. Personally, I think access should be limited to horses, dogs, people, and bicycles. Last year there were several extended stays, not recreational campers or fishermen, in that area of the park.

Do not allow trails to be built out to the island in Duffy's Pond.

Van Giessen and Duportail Yakima river access needs to be more completely developed or use needs to be prevented. Generally the crowd of people that go tubing on the Yakima are not an environmentally conscious group. Alcohol, tobacco, public urination, littering, unsafe floatation devises, trespassing, and noise pollution seem to be the norm for this crowd. If we are going to develop the river for tubing then there needs to be money for trash collection, restrooms and most importantly law enforcement on motorized boats going up and down the river all day long during the heavy use months.

If we took better care of the habitat along the rivers we would have no need for restoration. Access to volunteer programs for homeowners.

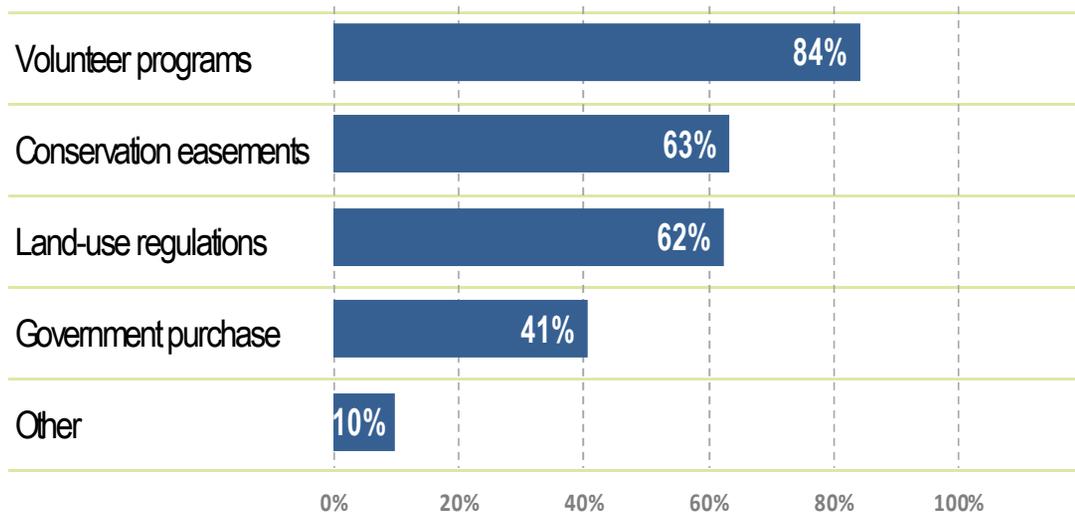
A general clean-up of the selected garbage along entire river.

There are too many areas where access and view are obstructed because of the Russia Olive trees.

I would like to leave the shoreline as natural as possible with some native plant restoration and habit restoration.

# Options for Shoreline Protection

*How should natural areas along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers be protected?*



- Conservation Futures program for funding
- Special interest groups
- Fair incentives to landowners
- Mitigation

# Comments on Protection Options

## Comments

Depends if the natural areas are on private or public lands.

Benton County Commissioners should implement Conservation Futures program to provide funding

SIGs help

Land use regulations seem like a good idea but my experience is that it is the people making the rules are not in touch with the population of the area they are making rules for. Again, involve the current landowners in development of plans. This can be a tough process but compliance, attitude and assistance will be better if you get local buy-in.

Whatever works consistent with democratic government

Fair incentives to landowners

Mitigation by developers and farmers that use the shoreline or water

KEEP GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE PICTURE

# Additional Shoreline Comments (1)

## Comments

There should be a balance of residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities on the shoreline. There is enough shoreline on the Columbia River for all. The departments of Fish and Wildlife have too much control of our shorelines!

A balance is needed between economic development and shoreline protection.

Columbia park needs a beach along the river. Richland does a much better jobs with it's river front parks than Kennewick does

Create Beaches for access to river. Promote Commercial/Retail/recreational development

Development of Columbia Point south should be extremely limited and not within 200 feet of the shoreline.

There is not enough boat accessed business locations. Better river shore development of businesses to take advantage of the river and allow boat access to restaurants, bars and other businesses.

I am opposed to commercialization and retail development along the shorelines, except that which will support recreational activities. I am opposed to building any structures that restrict open views of the shoreline from recreational areas and which damage or destroy the shoreline habitat.

Protect them before it is too late. Once the areas are destroyed, it costs more to restore than protecting in the first place.

Preservation of open space is critical, both along the rivers and the ridges. This is the identity of our community and how we preserve (or don't preserve) the area will be our lasting legacy.

That which belongs to nobody will soon be gone - the tragedy of the commons. So act now!

Make conservation a priority, and collaborate with developers on that priority.

As population of this region grows, and with it housing and other development, the preservation of natural open spaces for the enjoyment of this and future generations should be a priority. There is huge public demand for access to trails and open spaces as evidenced by the extent of use of the Badger Mountain trail system. As the population grows, so will the demand.

We are fortunate to have the two rivers in Benton County. We need to have policies in place to protect and perpetuate its health and existence.

The general "theme" of county parks is natural beauty and limited development. I would like to see that theme continued with limited natural trail development along the shoreline and access points, rather than trying to develop more park-like amenities near the shore such as already exists at Two Rivers.

dams have maded dikes out dated --make them useful

I totally believe in Dams and do not think any current Dams should be breached for fish or any other reason. Dams provide electricity, jobs, and many acres of water recreation area for boating, fishing etc. However, the current free flowing area of the Columbia is nice and I would like to see that retained, but not OVER regulated!!

Stop allowing private gun owners to shoot the hell out of the area near Wallulla Gap and Hover Park. It is dangerous for hikers and others wanting to see the area.

KEEP THE FEDS AND STATE OUT OF THE PICTURE. ALLOW ONLY THE COUNTY AND THE CITIES TO HAVE A VOICE AS TO THE AREA IN ISSUE.

# Additional Shoreline Comments (2)

## Comments

I'd like to ban PWC (jet skis) altogether. Noisy, obnoxious gadgets and the operators tend to be even more so. They don't seem any more likely to behave than ATV or dirt-bike operators, apart from generally not shooting at everything in sight.

I appreciate the access that I have to the Yakima and Columbia river. Thanks!

In my opinion, there is unprecedented access to the shorelines in Benton County. The Yakima River shorelines should be conserved with limited development and public access. It is too small and will be destroyed quickly. The Columbia river shoreline should be the focus of public facilities, access, etc. It is already developed more so the emphasis should continue on it rather than destroying the Yakima.

When is Grandview going to be in complete compliance with all clean water requirements? Water comes across the county line and impacts my property.

I would like to see more clean up on the Yakima River. There is wonderful wild life that is effected by the pollution. There is also lack of public use ie..swimming, boating, fishing on the Yakima because of pollution.

Just that the staff at Benton County has been very helpful with me as I try to learn and understand all the rules and regulations regarding the riverfront regulations. It would be nice if there was a pamphlet or something in writing that explains the setbacks, laws, contact people/departments/addresses etc and expectations of the regulating authorities who oversee the shorelines.

The Yakima River within the city of Richland is often abused. i.e. drinking,camping, parties especially at night. Some teaching, oversight, patrol presence is needed especially in the summer.

The river-front access along the Tri-Cities shorelines played a major role in our decision to move to here and to stay. The paved bike path along both shorelines throughout the Tri-Cities is a major asset that should be maintained and expanded. Likewise, unpaved hiking trails could be expanded in some areas near the river.

Provide more connectivity for land trails.

large trash dumpsters at boat ramps and primitive parks

For people who do own lands on the rivers support them for people who litter and destroy shore line natural folage and growth

We own a home at the end of Grosscup and the amount of "floater" traffic over the summer has decimated the wildlife in our neighborhood and is ruining the safety of our neighborhood. The County MUST do something to address this huge issue to the safety of our neighborhood and allow for better access at the Snively Boat Launch, which is just up river from where these individuals are currently accessing the river. We've asked that a sign directing floaters to Snively be put in place, but no action has been taken (though we were told it would be taken care of).

we need to use the full advantage of the river and shoreline

No. good job.

# How Will the County Use the Results?

- Results of the questionnaire will help the County to:
  - Develop shoreline use, public access, and recreation policies and regulations
  - Identify topics where more information or discussion is needed
  - Consider protection and restoration priorities for the voluntary restoration plan

# Opportunities to Participate

- Monthly Shoreline Advisory Committee Meetings
  - **Second Thursday** | 3:00-4:30 P.M.
- Regional Public Forums & Meetings
  - **June 2013** | Preliminary Shoreline Master Program elements
  - **Fall 2013** | Draft Shoreline Master Program
  - **Winter/Spring 2014** | Planning Commission Public Meetings
  - **Spring 2014** | BOCC Public Meetings & Hearing
- Review Draft Shoreline Master Program
  - **Preliminary SMP Elements** | Available Summer/Fall 2013
  - **Draft Restoration Plan** | Available June 2013