



Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update

Community Visioning Survey Summary
April 11, 2013

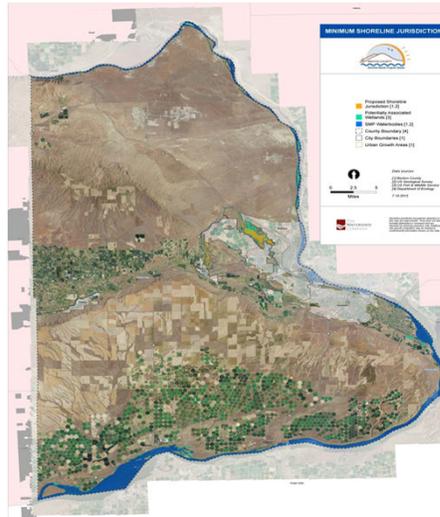


BENTON COUNTY
Shoreline Master Program Update



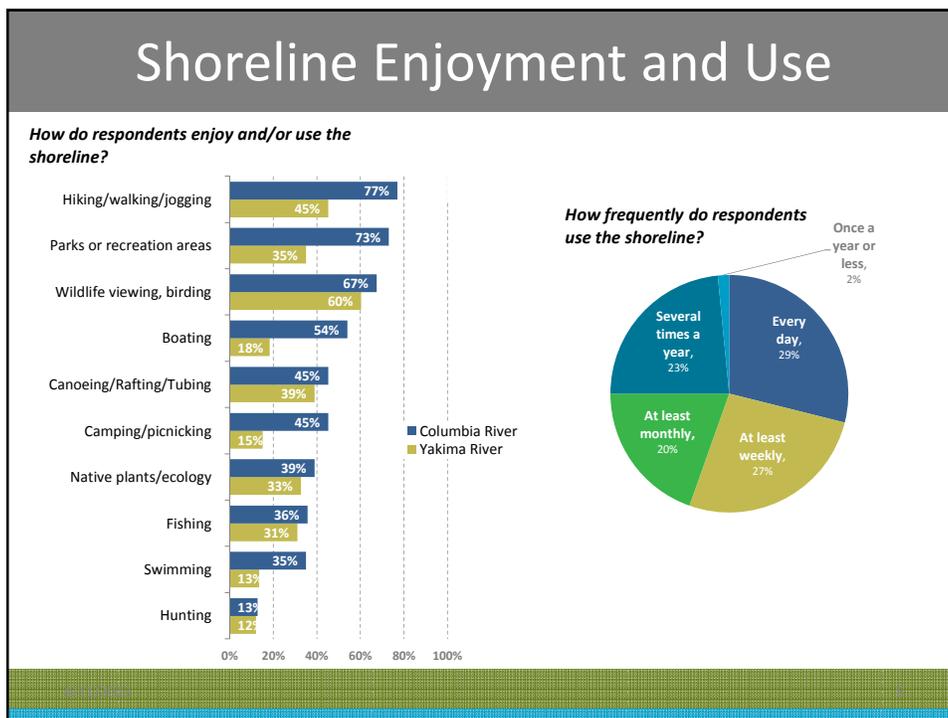
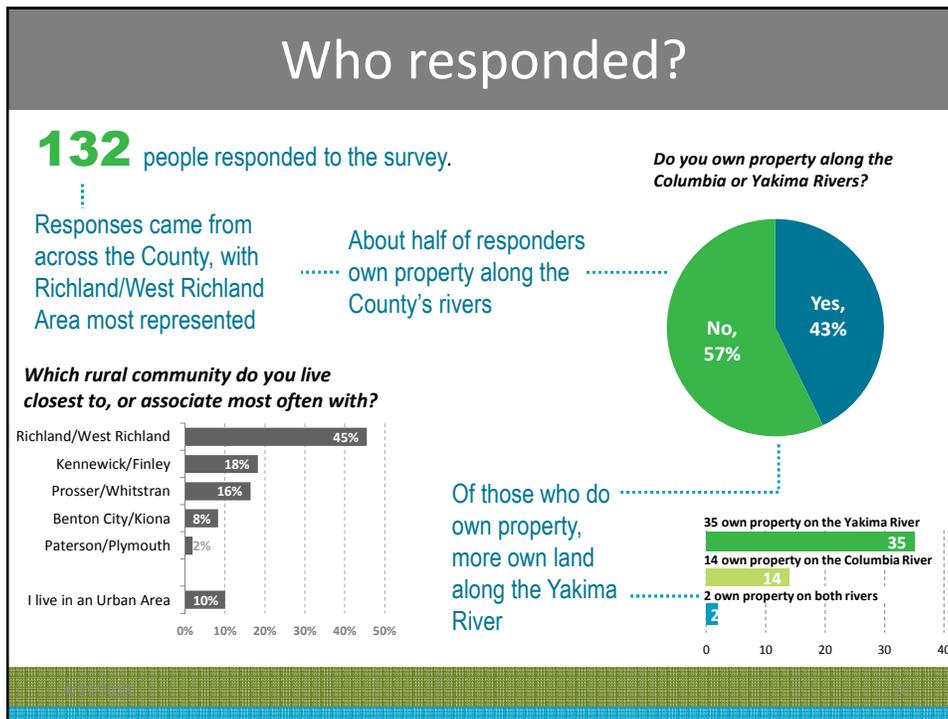
Where does the SMP apply?

- 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



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.”

Desired Future Uses

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

Trails for walking and hiking	73%
Areas and viewpoints for wildlife viewing or bird watching	42%
Shoreline public access points	40%
Parks or designated swim areas	30%
Within urban growth areas, commercial developments along the shoreline that have views, access, or trails to	26%
Boat ramps or road access to the water	22%
Camping and day use facilities	18%
Residential uses developed with common open space or recreation	15%
Concessions (food and/or recreation oriented businesses)	13%
Port, marina, or other water-oriented businesses	11%

Desired future uses match today's most common uses.

- Recreation-focused

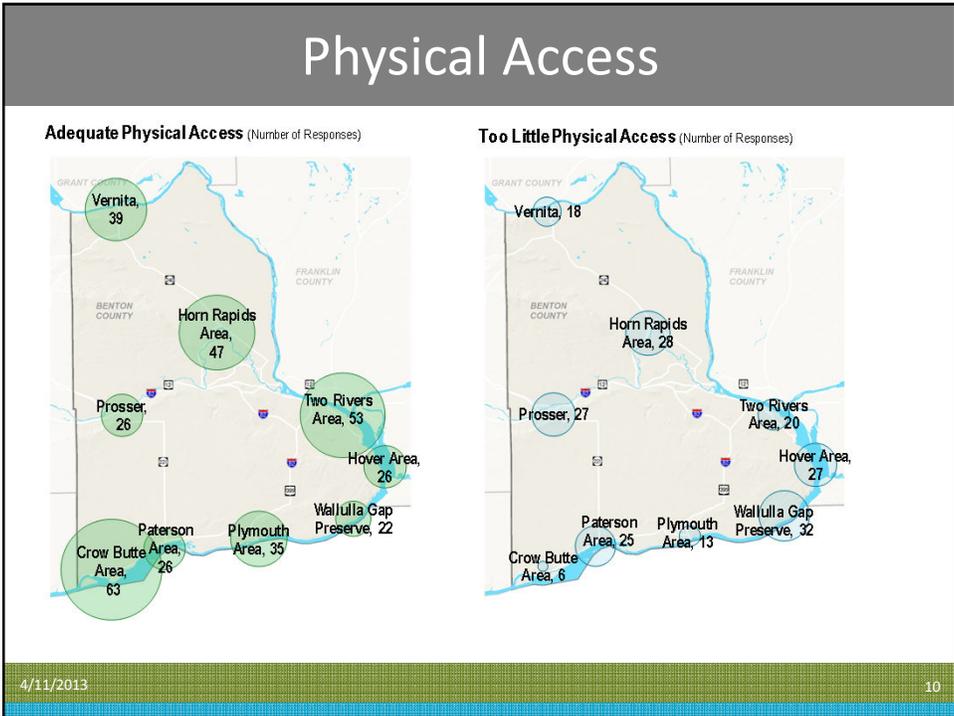
More intense uses are desired by a smaller percentage of responders

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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

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Perspectives on Access

Too Much Physical Access (Number of Responses)



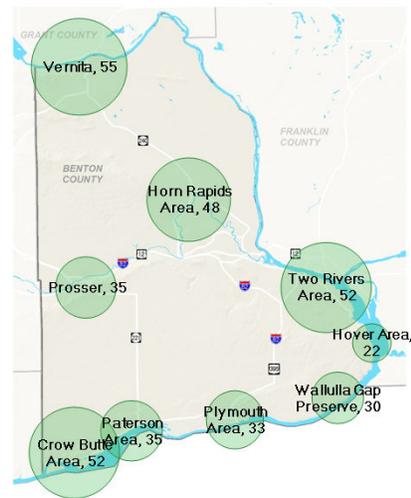
“Van Giessen and Duportail Yakima river access needs to be more completely developed or use needs to be prevented... If we are going to develop the river for tubing then there needs to be money for trash collection, restrooms and most importantly law enforcement on motorized boats going up and down the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

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Visual Access

Adequate Visual Access (Number of Responses)



Too Little Visual Access (Number of Responses)



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Visual Access

Too Much Visual Access (Number of Responses)



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

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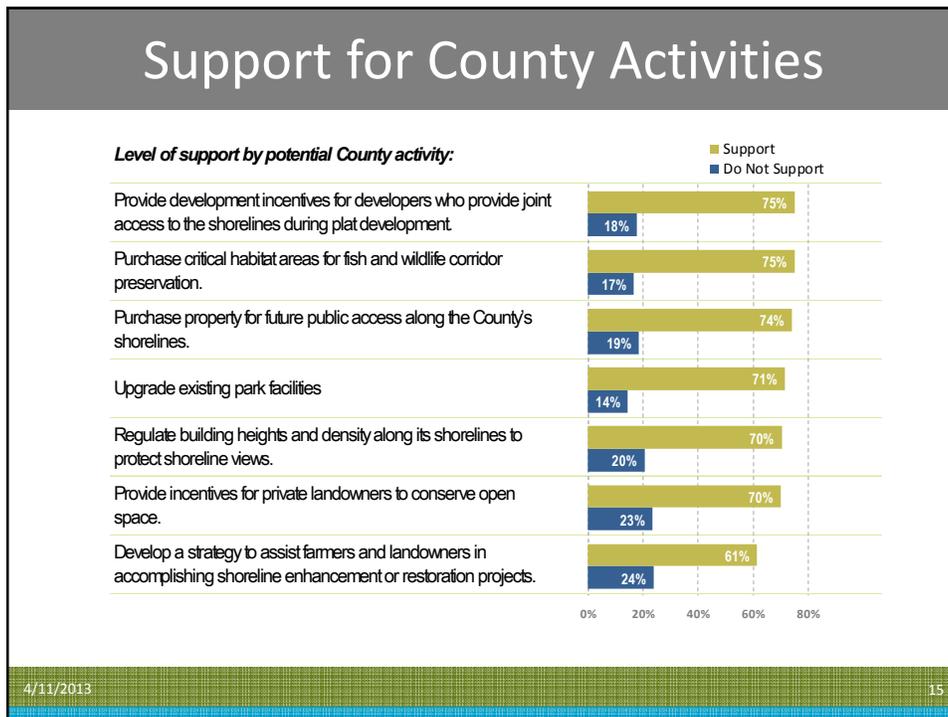
Additional Public Access

- 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.”

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Areas in Need of Restoration

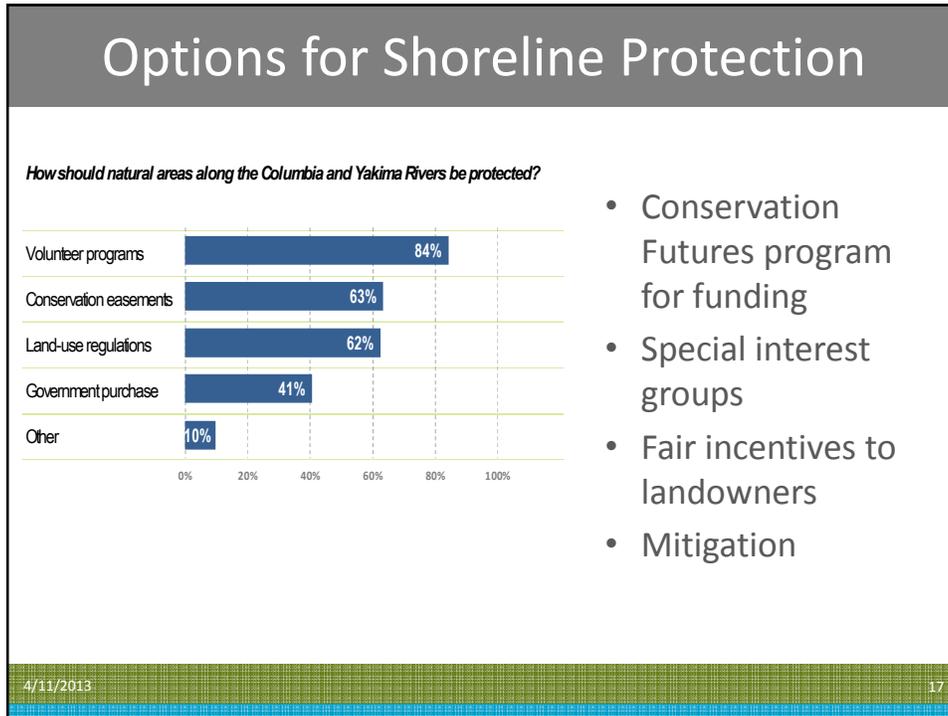
- County areas specifically identified:
 - Hover Park – Paterson
 - Prosser – Plymouth
 - Wallula Gap
- Comments on restoration
 - Manage use to prevent damage
 - Concerns about trash
 - Concerns about invasive species

“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.”

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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

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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

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