

# CLARK COUNTY COALITION SMP UPDATE

BATTLE GROUND | CAMAS | CLARK COUNTY | LA CENTER  
RIDGEFIELD | VANCOUVER | WASHOUGAL | YACOLT



## SHORELINE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

June 2010  
City of Vancouver  
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Task 3.10 Conduct Community Visioning Process





## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction.....	1
Public Involvement.....	1
Open House Meetings .....	1
Open House Questionnaire Results.....	1
Visioning Meetings .....	2
Visioning Questionnaire Results.....	3
Summary of Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report Findings.....	4
Summary of Management Recommendations.....	9
Shoreline Management Strategy.....	10
Economic Development Element.....	10
Public Access/Recreation Element.....	11
Shoreline Use Element.....	13
Conservation/Restoration Element.....	14
Resource Protection.....	16
References.....	17



## INTRODUCTION

Battleground, Camas, Clark County, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt have joined efforts to update their respective Shoreline Management Programs (SMPs) to be consistent with the state Shoreline Management Act (SMA; RCW 90.58) and WAC 173-26. The SMP Update Project Management Team (PMT) consists of representatives from each of the participating jurisdictions. The City of Vancouver is administering a Department of Ecology (Ecology) grant provided for this countywide effort.

The purpose of this report is to set a strategy for development of the updated SMP by identifying overarching policy goals of the Act for shoreline uses, public access, resource protection, restoration, and economic development. It will synthesize the shoreline inventory and characterization findings and management recommendations with public input.

In order to achieve this primary objective, the PMT has provided opportunities for the community to share their vision on public access, habitat restoration and water-dependent uses. This report documents the community's vision for the shorelines in Clark County by describing the results of two questionnaire forms distributed at public meetings. A summary of the shoreline inventory and characterization findings and management recommendations is also provided.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### Open House Meetings

Open house meetings were hosted by the PMT to introduce the shoreline master program update to the general public. The meetings occurred in October 2009 and were held in Vancouver, Battleground and Camas. Notification for the meetings included mailing notices to 7,500 shoreline property owners and 1,400 interested parties. The open house meetings began with a presentation on the SMP update process and timeline for preparing Ecology grant deliverables. Approximately 150 people attended the meetings. (See Clark -County Coalition Public Participation Plan for detailed documentation of public communication.)

### Open House Questionnaire Results

A questionnaire was distributed at each of the three open house meetings and was made available on-line (See Appendix A for questionnaire form.). A total of 41 questionnaires were filled out and submitted at the open house meetings or via post-office mail. The following is a list of questions with summarized results included immediately after:

1. ***Property where I live is subject to a Shoreline Master Program. Other property I own is subject to a Shoreline Master Program.*** The majority of respondents lived on property that was subject to a SMP. Almost half of the respondents (including "N/A" responses) did not own other property that is subject to a SMP.
2. ***I came to the open house because:*** The reason most people attended the open house was to learn about the SMP update process. Other reasons mentioned included finding out

what regulations would be placed on private property, owning/living on property near a shoreline, and environmental concerns.

3. ***Water-dependent uses are those that require a waterfront location, such as a port, marina or boat ramp. What other uses do you consider to be dependent on a waterfront location?*** Two other uses frequently mentioned as dependent on a waterfront location are wildlife habitat and recreational activities (e.g., fishing, swimming, etc). Less than half of the respondents answered this question.
4. ***Are shorelines of the cities and the county being adequately protected? What do you think is the best way to protect shoreline resources?*** There was almost an even split between people considering the shorelines adequately protected and those that felt there was not adequate protection. Two suggestions for protecting shoreline resources were to enforce regulations and to develop additional restrictions.
5. ***Is there adequate public access to shorelines? What should the cities and the county do to maintain or increase public access to shorelines?*** The majority of respondents felt that there was adequate public access to shorelines. Some suggested approaches to providing and managing public access are: guaranteed access points, publishing maps of access points, providing parking at access points, and using volunteers to maintain access areas.

## Visioning Meetings

The PMT hosted three visioning open house meetings to garner public input on shoreline management. The visioning meetings occurred in March 2010 and were held in Battle Ground, Camas, and Vancouver. Notification for the meetings included mailing notices to 7,730 shoreline property owners and 869 interested parties; posting information on the coalition jurisdictions' websites and the shoreline project website; sending a press release to various media outlets including newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations; and placing an ad in the Columbian, Camas-Washougal Post Record, and the Battle Ground Reflector . The meetings were staffed by members of the PMT, technical and stakeholder advisory committee members, and the consultant team ESA Adolfson. The meetings began with a presentation that reviewed the following topics:

- Required steps to update shoreline master programs
- Public involvement process that had occurred to date
- Purpose of shoreline inventory and characterization report
- Approach to characterizing the shorelines in the report
- Data sources used to develop the report
- Preliminary findings of shoreline conditions within the north, southeast and southwest portions of the County



After the presentations, the public was asked to share their vision for the shorelines by filling out a questionnaire and discussing their ideas with the technical and stakeholder advisory committee members. There were maps on display that showed the shorelines regulated by the Shoreline Management Act within various areas of the County. There was also a GIS Station that assisted residents in determining their home's location relative to regulated shorelines. A Historic Station was made available to document memories of shorelines activities. Approximately 75 people attended the meetings.



### **Visioning Questionnaire Results**

A questionnaire was distributed at each of the three visioning meetings. People in attendance were asked to fill out one questionnaire for each of the maps on display. The intent was to obtain answers to questions that would be directly related to the shorelines conveyed on each map. (See Appendix A for questionnaire form.) A total of 50 questionnaires were filled out. The following is a list of questions with summarized results included immediately after:

1. ***Do you own property on this shoreline?*** About half of the respondents were property owners and the other half were not.
2. ***How do you use this shoreline (Viewing; Fishing; Walking/Hiking; Biking; Boating; Other)? How often do you use this shoreline for each of these activities? Please share some details about your use of this shoreline.*** The top two most popular activities along the shoreline are viewing and walking/hiking. Fishing and boating are the next most popular types of activities. Almost all answered by checking two or more activities. Other activities that occurred along the shoreline included birding, swimming, and picnicking. The frequency in which these activities occurred typically ranged between weekly and monthly visits.
3. ***What do you value most about this area of the shoreline? (views, public access opportunities, water quality, wildlife habitat)*** People valued all four listed examples almost evenly with wildlife habitat and public access opportunities in the lead.
4. ***What is your vision for this area of shoreline? (i.e., more or less public access, restoration, water-enjoyment uses, residential, commercial, industrial development)? Please share some details.*** Most respondents were interested in seeing more public access and restoration although there were concerns expressed about unregulated public access.
5. ***What is your greatest concern, if any, about this area of shorelines and its future?*** The most common concern cited was the negative impact development could have on the environmental condition of the shorelines. Residential development was a specific type of development that was mentioned in several instances. Another major concern was a lack of public access. Additional concerns mentioned were enacting too many regulations, eroding shorelines, and incompatible recreational activities (wakeboard boats versus hand-powered boats).

## **SUMMARY OF SHORELINE INVENTORY AND CHARACTERIZATION REPORT FINDINGS**

The Draft Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report is a technical report that describes the existing conditions of shorelines in Clark County from a watershed scale to a reach scale, and includes a map folio. The draft report summarizes the ecosystem-wide processes and the land use and existing conditions at the reach scale.

Waterbodies meeting the definition of “shorelines of the state” or “shorelines of statewide significance” were identified in the inventory. A total of 59 waterbodies were identified, with 42 rivers and streams and 17 lakes, representing a total of nearly 370 miles of shoreline. These waterbodies were further divided into 96 reaches to allow for easier study.

The county is divided into two water resource inventory areas, or WRIAs: the Salmon-Washougal River (WRIA 28) and the Lewis River Watershed (WRIA 27).

WRIA 28 covers 494 square miles that includes the southern portion of Clark County (Wade, 2001). Approximately 75 percent of WRIA 28 lies within Clark County. WRIA 28 does not include a single drainage system, but includes a collection of smaller drainages that are tributary either directly to the Columbia River or to Lake River. Major surface water resources include: Washougal River, Salmon Creek, Lacamas Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Lake River, and several smaller streams east of the Washougal that are directly tributary to the Columbia River.

WRIA 27 covers 1,310 square miles that includes the northern portion of Clark County. WRIA 27 is focused on the Lewis River drainage, tributary to the Columbia River near River Mile (RM) 87. Major surface water features include: North Fork (also referred to as the mainstem) Lewis River (including middle and upper reaches), East Fork Lewis River, and Kalama River. The East Fork Lewis River and the lower reach of the mainstem Lewis River are the primary features within Clark County.

Landforms within Clark County generally consist of stair-stepped terraces extending up from the Columbia River toward the Cascade foothills. Surface water is focused on the major rivers, including the Columbia, Lewis, and Washougal Rivers and their tributary streams. Groundwater resources include several aquifers that have sufficient yield to serve as the primary sources of supply to the larger water purveyors, industrial users, and others in Clark County (McFarland and Morgan, 1996).

Swanson et al. (1993) identified a system of eight hydrogeologic units that include significant aquifers in southwest Clark County. The units with greatest yields include the sand-and-gravel aquifer near the bottom of the Troutdale formation, upper, coarser elements of the Troutdale formation, the Troutdale gravel aquifer, and the upper unconsolidated sedimentary aquifer. The upper unconsolidated aquifer occurs in outburst flood deposits and can be very productive. This aquifer is an important source of water, and is also the most susceptible to contamination, given its relatively shallow depth and lack of upper confining layer (Wildrick et al., 2002). Primary critical aquifer recharge areas (Category 2) have been mapped for large portions of Clark County. Category 2 consists of the unconsolidated sedimentary aquifer and the Troutdale gravel aquifer.

The land forms, other landscape features, and the flow of water affect shorelines in each watershed. According to the *Watershed Characterization and Analysis of Clark County* (Washington State Department of Ecology, 2009) the eastern portion of WRIA 27 (Lewis River) has the greatest percentage of “high importance” areas for hydrologic processes within the study area. This is due to the frequency of rain on snow events in the upper watershed. The watersheds draining to the East Fork Lewis River have significant areas of importance due to highly permeable soils (Washington State Department of Ecology, 2009). The Characterization also identified the majority of WRIA 28 to be of high importance for maintaining hydrologic processes, due to the relatively high levels of precipitation (Washington State Department of Ecology 2009). Other important areas were on the upper terraces of WRIA 28 where surface water is slowed by wetlands. Along the Columbia River, several areas scored high for hydrologic processes due to large unconfined floodplains, permeable soils, and high levels of either groundwater discharge or recharge (Washington State Department of Ecology, 2009).

A variety of characteristics were analyzed by waterbody for the shoreline characterization including: flood hazards, priority habitat and species use, instream and riparian habitats, water quality, existing and proposed land use patterns and zoning, existing public access, and historical and cultural resources. Several of these parameters are discussed below:

**Water Quality & Quantity:** Thirteen of 30 SMA waterbodies in WRIA 28 are listed on the Ecology 303(d) list for impaired water quality including the Lower Columbia River, Lake River, Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, Vancouver Lake, Lacamas Creek and Lacamas Lake.

- The Lower Columbia River has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. There are also listings for impaired sediment including PCBs and sediment bioassay.
- Lake River has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of fecal coliform bacteria and temperature, as well as impaired sediment including Dieldrin, 4-4' DDE and 2,3,7,8, - TCDD.
- Burnt Bridge Creek has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of fecal coliform, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature.
- Salmon Creek has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature.
- Vancouver Lake has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of total phosphorous, fecal coliform bacteria, 4,4-DDE (in tissue), Toxaphene (in tissue), 2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD (in tissue), PCBs (in tissue), and dieldrin.
- Lacamas Creek has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, pH, and temperature.
- Lacamas Lake has Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of total phosphorous, PCB, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, pH, and temperature (Ecology, 2008).

The Washougal River in the eastern portion of WRIA 28 is not listed as exceeding state water quality standards within Clark County; however, just upstream of the county line from RM 12-13 the river is listed as impaired for pH and fecal coliform.

Twelve of 29 waterbodies in WRIA 27 are listed on the Ecology 303(d) list for impaired water quality. The East Fork Lewis River in WRIA 27 has several reaches with Ecology listings for exceeding acceptable levels of fecal coliform bacteria and temperature.

Critical aquifer recharge areas are located throughout both WRIs and water withdrawals are identified in many areas as contributing to low instream flow conditions and impairing water quality. Groundwater levels declined five feet or more throughout the western portion of WRIA 28, and larger declines have occurred in the unconfined and upper Troutdale gravel aquifers within the Burnt Bridge and Salmon Creek drainages (Wildrick et al., 2002). These reductions in groundwater levels signal that consumptive use of groundwater has exceeded the natural recharge of groundwater in these areas. The Troutdale aquifer system, which encompasses the majority of Clark County, is an EPA-designated sole source aquifer (EPA, 2006).

**Priority Habitats and Fish Species:** The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species List is a catalog of habitats and species considered to be priorities for conservation and management. *Priority species* include State Endangered, Threatened,

Sensitive, and Candidate species; animal aggregations (e.g., heron colonies) considered vulnerable; and species of recreational, commercial, or tribal importance that are vulnerable. *Priority habitats* are habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species.

A majority of priority habitat areas or priority species (based on overall area in acres) are located along the Lower Columbia River, Vancouver Lake, East Fork Lewis River, Lake Merwin, Yale Lake, Lacamas Creek, Lake River, and Salmon Creek. Anadromous fish concentrate in Cedar Creek, East Fork Lewis River, Salmon Creek and the Washougal watercourses.

**Land Use:** Land uses throughout WRIA 28 are mainly single-family residential and vacant lands, with some mobile homes and parks and open space/recreation. Commercial/industrial uses are concentrated in the port areas. Land uses throughout WRIA 27 are managed forest lands, single-family residential, and vacant lands. The remaining land uses mainly include mobile homes, and a variety of land uses including parks and open space/recreation. The following table summarizes major land uses in Clark County by WRIA.

**Table 1. Major Land Use Categories in Clark County by WRIA**

	Forest Lands	Single-family Residential	Vacant	Mobile Homes
WRIA 28	2%	30%	35%	11%
WRIA 27	28%	27%	30%	8%

Note: The percentages do not add up to 100 since this table only represents major land uses.

The majority of impervious area in the county can be found in the Camas, Vancouver and Washougal areas. Other urban areas also have a prevalence of impervious surfaces, including Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center and Yacolt.

**Water-dependent uses and market trends<sup>1</sup>:** *An Assessment of Water-dependent Commercial, Industrial, and Recreational Uses for Clark County Coalition SMP Update Final Draft Report* was prepared in May 2010 by BST Associates that evaluated commercial, industrial, and recreational waterfront uses in Clark County. BST Associates assessed supply and demand for marine terminals, boat/ship yards, and recreational boating facilities and upland support activities. According to the report, a variety of water-dependent uses are currently located on the Columbia River in Clark County or are being planned, including cargo terminals, industrial sites, marinas, private moorage, parks, and mixed use developments. According to BST Associates there may be a shortage of auto, drybulk (potash, clay, bentonite) and breakbulk (agriculture and forest products) cargo storage along the Lower Columbia (including Oregon jurisdiction) (BST Associates, 2010).

<sup>1</sup> The evaluation of trends and future demand for shoreline uses is based on the technical report prepared by BST Associates (2010).

The existing supply of marina moorage in Clark County is approximately 650 slips, spread between four marinas: McCuddy's Marina in Ridgefield, Kadow's Marina between Vancouver and Ridgefield, Steamboat Landing Marina in east Vancouver, and the Port of Camas-Washougal Marina. The BST forecast suggests that there will be demand for an additional 410 wet moorage slips by 2030, or approximately two-thirds more than currently exist (BST Associates, 2010). Hand-launch and boat ramp facilities are also in demand. Forecasting the demand for boat ramp space is difficult because usage data is not available. However, generalizations on the need for space can be based on the growth in boat ownership. BST forecasts an addition of more than 1,000 boats that fit in the trailerable boat size range (this includes all the boats in the 16 to 20-foot range and a portion of the boats in the under 16-foot and 21 to 30 foot ranges) (BST Associates, 2010).

**Public Access:** The *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROs) Plan* (Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation, 2007) establishes a vision for Vancouver and Clark County's park system. The Plan identifies present and future needs for additional public facilities. The needs assessment examined six major park types: neighborhood parks, community parks, natural areas and open space, regional parks, trails and greenways, and special use areas. Based on the standards and guidelines recommended by the PROs Plan, there is a current deficiency of 20 acres of neighborhood parks, 139 acres of community parks, and 61 acres of urban open space within Vancouver and its UGA. There is a 1,684 acre-deficiency of regional parks within Clark County and Vancouver and its UGA. The PROs Plan does not specify standards for regional open space, trails and greenways, or special use area.

Trail expansion was identified as a priority during public involvement efforts conducted as part of the Plan's development. Trails along rivers were identified as the most important trail type. Given the popularity of trail-related activities the *Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan* (Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, 2006) has proposed to make significant additions to the existing trail network. When the trail plan is realized, there will be 240 miles of trail within Clark County.

In addition to trail needs, the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan* recommends increasing boat launching facilities throughout the County. The Plan recommends that boat launch access points be distributed throughout the County along major waterways,

In addition to the park plans, the Clark County Legacy Lands Program was consulted to identify protected lands and proposed projects. The program focuses on lands that provide for habitat protection, scenic corridors, and low impact recreation.

**Habitat Restoration:** Riparian and instream habitat is generally degraded within the incorporated areas of the County from residential and industrial development and in some unincorporated areas from resource-based land uses. However, steps are being taken to restore these habitats for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Several entities are currently supporting restoration within Clark County. These include the following:

- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
- CREST
- Clark Public Utilities
- Vancouver-Clark County Parks
- Columbia Land Trust
- Fish First
- Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Salmon Creek Watershed Council
- Watersheds Stewards Program
- Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership Technical Group
- Lower Columbia River Watershed Council
- USFWS

Habitat restoration currently underway typically targets listed salmonid species and is designed to benefit fish habitat specifically.

## **SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based upon the inventory and characterization report, several preliminary draft management recommendations have been developed for shorelines in Clark County and partnering cities. These are broad recommendations which will be considered in future management decisions for shorelines of the state including the development of shoreline environment designations, goals and policies, and shoreline regulations. Draft management recommendations provided in the inventory are identified as follows:

- a) Rivers with high value for salmonid habitat and demonstrated use by multiple salmonid species (determined by EDT Modeling) should be considered for the highest levels of protection to remain in an unaltered condition (these include Tier 1 and 2 priority reaches) or should be targets for restoration;
- b) Lakes that support high-value habitat or associated wetlands that are identified as Category I wetlands should be considered for the highest level of protection to remain in an unaltered condition;
- c) Vegetation conservation measures, setbacks and buffer requirements should be continued and in some cases reconsidered for multiple types of new shoreline development including water dependent facilities such as boating facilities, water play areas, bank fishing, etc.;
- d) Consider requirements for new development to provide an analysis of impacts to shoreline functions in order to adequately mitigate impacts during permit approval;
- e) Water pollution should be prevented at its source. Continue efforts to retrofit existing stormwater management facilities to improve water quality and require low

- impact development strategies or higher levels of water quality improvement for new development within Clark County and partnering cities;
- f) Continue encouraging joint-use docks prior to construction of single-use residential docks to minimize dock proliferation;
  - g) Consider regulations that encourage and facilitate levee setback projects (e.g., pulling back an existing levee to allow for a larger floodplain area contiguous to a waterbody) and other shoreline enhancement projects;
  - h) Consider establishing enforcement procedures for ensuring septic tanks and drain fields meet setbacks, maintenance and operation regulations to address fecal coliform bacteria levels exceeding water quality standards.
  - i) Develop master plans that include specific restoration and management practices for large public ownerships to maximize the potential benefits including mitigation for public projects that impact the shoreline environment;
  - j) Restoration efforts should consider a focus on floodplain reconnection where rivers are confined by levees;
  - k) Consider requirements for soft-shore armoring techniques where new armoring or retrofits cannot be avoided;
  - l) Participate in efforts to prevent the introduction of non-native invasive species and allow for their rapid eradication;
  - m) Consider building an implementation, monitoring and adaptive management plan at the County level in order to track changes in the shoreline jurisdiction and determine successes, failures and corrective actions; and
  - n) Regulatory language should be written in a manner that is easy to understand and provides options for compliance.
  - o) Consider the importance of confluence areas (areas where tributaries join the mainstem Columbia) for juvenile salmonid rearing when developing goals, policies, and regulations.

## **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Based on the results of the inventory and characterization report, and input received from the community, the following is the overall approach for addressing the required elements for the SMP Update: economic development; public access/recreation; circulation; shoreline uses, conservation/restoration, cultural/historic and flood damage prevention.

### **Economic Development Element**

The approach to Economic Development will be to rely heavily on the *Assessment of Water-dependent Commercial and Industrial Uses* (BST Associates, 2010) report as a guide to determine areas that are appropriate for continued water-dependent economic development. Jurisdictional land use comprehensive plans and other economic development plans will also be consulted.

***The following are sample goals that could be considered to guide economic development:***

1. Ensure healthy, orderly economic growth by allowing those economic activities which will be an asset to the local economy resulting in the least possible adverse effect on the quality of the shoreline and downstream environments.
2. Protect current economic activity (e.g., shipping, marinas, agriculture, etc.) that is consistent with the objectives of this SMP.
3. Develop, as an economic asset, the recreation industry along shorelines in a manner that will enhance the public enjoyment of shorelines, consistent with protection of critical areas and cultural resources.
4. Ensure that any new industrial and commercial activities along the shoreline are water oriented uses and that they will not harm the quality of the site's environment or adjacent shorelands.
5. Encourage new shoreline industrial and commercial development which is water-dependent, water-related, or water-enjoyment, consistent with protecting the functions of critical areas and maintaining or improving water quality.
6. Recognize existing non-water-oriented commercial and industrial activities located in shoreline jurisdiction and encourage them to protect watershed processes and shorelines functions.
7. Consider the impact of uses proposed on lands adjacent to but outside of immediate SMA jurisdiction and whether they are consistent with the intent of this SMP.

## **Public Access/Recreation Element**

Public access to the shoreline is one of the three main goals described in the Shoreline Management Act (SMA). The State requires local governments to provide opportunities for shoreline recreational development (WAC 173-26-241(3)(i)) and to increase public access to publicly owned shoreline areas within Shorelines of Statewide Significance (RCW 90.58.020, WAC 173-26-191(1)(b)1).

The approach for public access will be to identify gaps in public access opportunities by reviewing public access facilities proposed in City and County Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) and parks, recreation, and open space plans, incorporating recommendations from the shoreline inventory and characterization report and the general public. If it is determined that large gaps in public access facilities exist, then a comprehensive assessment of access opportunities may need to be developed.

The *Assessment of Water-dependent Commercial and Industrial Uses* (BST Associates, 2010) report provides a long-term forecast for recreational boats and facilities, including demand for boats, wet moorage, boat ramps, and guest moorage. As shoreline environment designations, policies and regulations are developed, the report will be consulted to ensure an appropriate amount of opportunities are provided for installation of recreational facilities and that shoreline regulations provide a reasonable means for jurisdictions to provide public recreation and access

in the shorelines within Clark County. Other reports will be consulted (e.g., PROs plans) that have identified needs for additional or expansion of existing facilities to determine public access needs.

***The following are sample goals that could be considered to guide the approach to public access:***

1. Provide, protect, and enhance a public access system that is both physical and visual, utilizes both private and public lands, increases the amount and diversity of public access to the State's shorelines and adjacent areas, consistent with the shoreline character and functions, private rights, and public safety.
2. Encourage development within the shoreline area that is visually coherent, provides visual and physical linkage to the shoreline, and enhances the waterfront and associated riparian corridors.
3. Long-range planning for the shoreline should include the development of integrated trail systems throughout the county which connect to trail systems in the metropolitan area.
4. Increase and diversify recreational opportunities by promoting the continued public acquisition of appropriate shoreline areas, and influence the use of these sites in a manner which will preserve the natural characteristics and functions of the shoreline. This approach should be balanced with providing infrastructure necessary to support a suitable number and type of facilities. Facilities should provide a balanced diversity of recreational opportunities.
5. Integrate recreational elements into public access and conservation planning consistent with the natural characteristics of the shoreline and good stewardship practices.
6. Encourage federal, state, and local government to acquire additional shoreline properties for public recreational uses.
7. Discourage shoreline uses which curtail or reduce existing free movement of the public unless such restriction is in the interest of the environment, public health, and safety, or is necessary to a proposed beneficial use.
8. Where feasible, relocate existing transportation facilities, such as rail lines or freeways, that are disruptive to public shoreline access or other shoreline uses or convert such rights-of-way to new public access routes.
9. When new transportation facilities are developed in shorelines, acquire and develop physical and visual public access where topography, view, and natural features warrant.
10. Acquire and develop recreation facilities so that they are distributed throughout the community to foster convenient access, and are located in a manner that encourages variety, accessibility and connectivity, and promotes systematic use of appropriate shorelines and waterways.

## Shoreline Use Element

Applying shoreline environment designations to shorelines of the state will set the framework for approaching shoreline uses. Designations will be applied based on existing ecological functions and processes, existing and proposed land uses, and the visioning process. Once the designations have been proposed, a list of allowed and prohibited uses will be developed for each designation. The uses will be consistent with the purpose statement and policies of each designation.

***The following are sample goals that could be considered to guide the approach to shoreline use:***

1. Uses in shorelines and water areas in priority order are (1) water-dependent, (2) water-related and (3) water-enjoyment.
2. Establish and implement policies and regulations for land use consistent with the Shoreline Management Act. These policies and regulations should ensure that the resulting land use patterns in shoreline areas are compatible with the shoreline environment designation and will be sensitive to and compatible with ecological systems and other shoreline resources.
3. Identify and reserve shoreline and water areas with unique attributes for specific long term uses such as commercial, residential, industrial, water, wildlife, fisheries, recreational and open space.
4. Ensure that uses, activities and facilities are located on the shorelines in such a manner as to retain or improve the quality of the environment as it is designated for that area.
5. Ensure that proposed shoreline uses do not infringe upon the rights of others or upon the rights of private ownership.
6. Encourage shoreline uses which enhance their specific areas or employ innovative features for purposes consistent with this program.
7. Encourage shared uses and joint use facilities in shoreline developments.
8. Encourage master planning for projects within shoreline jurisdiction.
9. Preserve and/or restore, to the maximum reasonable extent, the shoreline's natural features and functions in conjunction with any redevelopment or revitalization project.
10. Encourage that any under-utilized area not suitable for preservation of natural features be redeveloped based on its shoreline environment designation with an emphasis on public access and public use.
11. Ensure that all redevelopment and revitalization projects satisfy all the goals of the Shoreline Management Master Program.
12. Provide safe, reasonable, and adequate circulation systems to shorelines where routes will have the least possible adverse effect on unique or fragile shoreline features and existing

ecological systems, while contributing to the functional and visual enhancement of the shoreline.

13. Protect, manage, and enhance those characteristics of shoreline roadway corridors that are unique or have historic significance or aesthetic quality for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.
14. Acquire historical/cultural sites, so as to insure their protection and preservation.
15. Encourage projects and programs that foster a greater appreciation of shoreline management, local history, maritime activities, environmental conservation, and maritime history.
16. Designated shorelines of state-wide significance (SSWS) are of value to the entire state and should be protected and managed in order of preference, the priorities are to:
  - a. Recognize and protect the state-wide interest over local interest;
  - b. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
  - c. Result in long-term over short-term benefit;
  - d. Protect the resources and ecology of shorelines;
  - e. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
  - f. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline;
  - g. Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58. I 00 deemed appropriate or necessary.

## **Conservation/Restoration Element**

The Ecology Watershed Characterization method (Stanley et. al., 2005) will be applied to sub-basins in Clark County to determine relative restoration potential and priority. The Ecology Watershed Characterization for Clark County (Washington Department of Ecology, 2009) will be consulted as part of this process. Each sub-basin will be rated in terms of its level of *importance* (High, Medium, and Low) in performing freshwater water flow processes and the extent to which each watershed is *altered*. The “importance rating” will then be compared to the “alteration rating” so that each watershed could be assigned to a category based on its relative suitability for restoration, protection, or development. This method will rank sub-basins based on restoration and preservation priorities. The rankings will then be compared with comprehensive plan and zoning designations to identify inconsistencies with planned land use types and land use intensities. The rankings will also be used to inform the process of identifying appropriate shoreline environment designations and goals and policies.

***The following are sample goals that could be considered to guide the approach to conservation/restoration:***

1. Ensure that impacts to critical areas are first avoided, and where unavoidable, minimized and mitigated to result in no net loss of watershed processes and shorelines functions.
2. Reclaim and restore areas which are biologically and aesthetically degraded to the greatest extent feasible while maintaining appropriate use of the shoreline.
3. Preserve and enhance the scenic aesthetic quality of shoreline areas and vistas to the greatest extent feasible.
4. Identify, protect, preserve, and restore important archaeological, historic, and cultural sites located in shorelands of the State for educational, scientific, and enjoyment of the general public.
5. Encourage cooperative restoration actions involving local, state, and federal public agencies, tribes, NGOs, and landowners.
6. Continue to survey and monitor invasive species, including noxious weeds and nonnative invertebrates (e.g., nutria), and initiate eradication programs as needed.
7. Educate property owners about proper vegetation/landscape maintenance and negative impacts of shore armoring and over-water structures. Educate boaters about proper waste disposal methods, anchoring techniques, and other best boating practices.
8. Restore ecosystem processes so that restoration strategies are sustainable and successful in the long-term.
9. Restoration projects should have adaptive management techniques including adjusting the project design, correcting the problems (barriers to success), and implementing contingency measures.
10. Establish regulatory and incentive programs for the protection and conservation of wildlife habitat areas. Emphasis should be given to policies and standards to protect and conserve critical areas as larger blocks, corridors or interconnected areas rather than in isolated parcels.

## Resource Protection

The approach to protecting resources such as fisheries, mining, forestry, and agriculture would be to gather additional information that addresses the following questions:

1. Where are the resources concentrated in Clark County?
2. Is there demand for expanding resources (e.g., new agricultural fields)? If so, is there land that is appropriate for that resource-use? What type of protections should be instituted to reserve such land for resource-based businesses?
3. Is there development pressure to convert resources to other land uses (e.g., development pressure to subdivide agricultural land to single-family lots)? Are there other types of land uses that surround the resources?
4. Are there existing County or City codes and programs that provide protection for resources?
5. What protection measures should SMPs include that ensure continuation of resources? Potential protective measures that could be instituted include:
  - a. Creating a unique environment designation system for resources. Policies, allowed uses, and regulations could then be designed to protect resources.
  - b. Developing programs that provide assistance to resource-based businesses.
6. How can the SMP reduce conflicts between protecting the environment and allowing resources?

Comprehensive plans, sub-area plans, and resource protection programs will be consulted to identify goals and policies that pertain to resource protection. For example, the Clark County Comprehensive Plan 2004-2024 has a Rural and Natural Resource Element that establishes how future land use needs within rural and resource lands will be met (Clark County, 2009).

***The following are sample goals that could be considered to guide the approach to conservation/restoration:***

1. Develop and implement management practices for natural resources (including agriculture, timber and mining) in shoreline areas that will assure the preservation of non-renewable resources, including unique, scenic and ecologically sensitive features, wetlands and wildlife habitat.
2. Ensure that impacts to critical areas are first avoided, and where unavoidable, minimized and mitigated to result in no net loss of watershed processes and shorelines functions.
3. Preserve and enhance the scenic aesthetic quality of shoreline areas and vistas to the greatest extent feasible.

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