



# KLICKITAT COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: 2022-23 PERIODIC REVIEW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

## Introduction

Klickitat County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP). SMPs must be updated in accordance with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and SMP Guidelines adopted in 2003 (WAC 173-26). The County's current SMP is the 1996 Klickitat County Shoreline Master Plan which was adopted in 1998 and last amended in 2007. The County began working to comprehensively update its SMP in 2016 with assistance from a Citizen and Technical Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission. The goal is to develop an SMP that reflects existing and future planned uses of the County's shorelines, protects shoreline ecosystems, and provides public enjoyment and recreational opportunities. The draft SMP has undergone extensive review and development over the past seven years, with an initially completed draft in 2018. However, this draft was not adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. The County has committed to complete this update by June 2023, including compliance with the State's periodic review process. The periodic review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

The SMP's jurisdiction in Klickitat County (also referred to as shoreline jurisdiction) includes lakes at least 20 acres in size, and streams with a flow of 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater, together with shorelands within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark, associated wetlands, floodways, and contiguous 100-year floodplain extending up to 200 feet inland of the floodway (RCW 90.58.030).

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan (PPP) is to describe how the County will encourage early and continuous public input throughout the SMP review process, including the steps that the County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as contact information and web addresses.

## 1.0 Project Oversight

The SMP Update will be overseen by the County's Planning Department. The County's Director of Planning will serve as Project Manager. Throughout the project, the Consultant (The Watershed Company) will coordinate with Klickitat County (County), the Department of Ecology, and other state agencies, tribes, etc. The Project Manager will lead the SMP Update in close coordination with the County Planning Commission. The Project Manager will review products for consistency and appropriateness and will direct the Consultant in the fulfillment of its duties. The Planning Commission will serve as a review body and sounding board for SMP products.

## 2.0 Public Participation Objectives

The following objectives and project themes will guide the overall PPP implementation and be promoted through communication materials and outreach opportunities facilitated by the Project Manager and Consultant.

- **Encourage public involvement:** Public involvement is a state requirement and key component of the SMP update (WAC 173-26-090 and 100). Public involvement will be important through all phases of the SMP update. Ultimately, the Board of County Commissioners will decide the final SMP outcome on behalf of their citizens, but will desire the assurance that the SMP update has been developed with community input.
- **Meet State Laws and Rules:** The SMP is required by the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and is subject to Ecology SMP Guidelines. The SMP is a partnership between local governments and Ecology. The SMP must be developed and approved by the County.
- **Inform the community:** The Project Manager and Consultant will communicate the SMP update purpose, process, and progress as early as possible and throughout the project. Easy and convenient access to project information is essential to the process. County staff, elected and appointed officials, and Consultant will ensure that information is easy to obtain, useful, timely, and pertinent.
- **Invite the community to participate in a variety of ways:** The Project Manager and Consultant will provide a variety of public participation activities and venues, both online and face to face, and will provide appropriate notices of meetings, comment periods, questionnaires, and other activities.
- **Engage Stakeholders:** The Project Manager and Consultant will seek and engage stakeholders to ensure that all interested or responsible parties are involved in the update.
- **Link Input to SMP Products:** The Project Manager, Planning Commission, elected officials, and Consultant will collect and review public comments and show how the feedback is linked to SMP products.
- **Create a Balanced Plan:** The goal of the SMP is to create a balanced plan for shoreline utilization and protection (WAC 173-26-176(2)).
- **Reflect Klickitat County's Vision:** State law dictates what shoreline elements are required; however, there is a degree of latitude in several elements that can and should be crafted with particular attention to the County's vision for its shoreline.
- **Recognize Existing, Pertinent Information and Plans:** Locally determined land uses and critical area regulations and watershed plans will be factored into the SMP. The County intends to incorporate appropriate information and relevant policies and regulations where consistent with the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26).

### 2.1 Ongoing Methods to Accomplish Objectives

The ongoing methods used throughout the process to accomplish these objectives may vary, but will include:

- Holding meetings of the County Planning Commission, which will serve as the body that hosts public meetings, takes public comment, and reviews SMP products.
- Creating and maintaining a project website to share information and solicit comments throughout the update process.
- Providing ongoing project updates broadcasting events through email distributions and strategic posting in the community.
- Working with the local media (newspapers) to issue news releases, letters, and announcements.
- Conducting an on-line open house to inform and obtain community input at key stages of the SMP project.
- Holding meetings and hearings with the Planning Commission and, at certain points in the process, the Board of County Commissioners.

### 3.0 Outreach Tools

The County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. The County will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage participation, including, but not limited to the following:

#### 3.1 Stakeholder Database

The Project Manager will maintain a list of stakeholders, community members, and organizations interested in receiving SMP public meeting announcements. Notice will be provided either by mail or email. The Project Manager will update the database with information after each public outreach activity to reflect individuals and organizations that attended each meeting and to inventory and respond to project comments as appropriate.

#### 3.2 Outreach Materials

Interest parties identified in the County’s stakeholder database will be notified of the SMP update process.

Prior to each public meeting, the Project Manager will notify stakeholders, community members, and organizations about Workshops, Open Houses, Planning Commission meetings, and Board of County Commissioners meetings – through one or more of the following:

- Notification of the media through press releases, notices, letters, or fliers;
- Email to interested community members, stakeholders and organizations;
- Fliers posted at public buildings and other community locations;
- Website postings; and/or
- Other jurisdiction-specific methods.

Public hearings will also be noticed through legal notices.

### 3.3 Project Website

A project website will provide interested community members with access to project updates, reports, meeting notices and agendas, and links to the Washington State Department of Ecology's Shoreline information. A County's SMP website address is <https://www.klickitatcounty.org/1237/Shorelines-Master-Plan-Update>.

### 3.4 Online open house

The County's consultant will develop an online open house (a website) independent from the County website to launch the SMP Periodic Review process. This website will inform the public about the SMP review process, the key topics being amended, the project timeline, and future opportunities for public comment engagement. The Consultant will work with the County to develop notification materials including public notices, email notification, and social media advertisements to ensure broad participation from target stakeholders.

The online open house will kick-off with a virtual public meeting in early 2023 hosted by the County and facilitated by the consultant team. During the virtual public meeting, community members will learn about the content on the online open house and have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions directly to County staff and the consultant team.

Public feedback on the topics of concern will be collected through the online open house in 2023. The public feedback will be compiled and posted on the County's SMP Periodic Review webpage.

### 3.5 Periodic virtual drop-in sessions

The County, with support from the Consultant, will hold periodic virtual drop-in sessions to informally connect with the public and provide them with information throughout the SMP review process. Each drop-in session will follow a similar format, including: a brief presentation on a topic related to the SMP process; a Q&A to respond to questions related to the topic; and open time for members of the public to drop-in and ask questions more broadly about the SMP Periodic Review.

Meetings will be held at a predictable time and topics for meeting presentations will be posted ahead of time on the County's project webpage. Meeting materials will be posted to the project webpage for people who were not able to attend.

Topics for drop-in sessions could include: public participation plan overview; review of the SMP webpage and online open house; overview of the required periodic update elements; how to write and submit a public comment; or the County's steps to finalize SMP documents.

### 3.6 Legal Notification

Legal notice of all public hearings and decisions related to the SMP review and update will be published in the County's newspaper of record. Notification of all hearings will be provided in accordance with County notice requirements. The notice will include the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing.

### 3.5 Public Record

Copies of the PPP, SMP products, decision documents, staff reports, and other project-related information will be made available locally for public review at the County offices and on the County website, as appropriate. Relevant meeting summaries will be made available to the community via the

project website; Planning Commission and County Board of Commissioners minutes will be made available to the community via the County’s website as appropriate.

## 4.0 Audiences

The PPP is designed to reach all audiences that may have an interest in the SMP update process. It will also be designed to reach out to other groups and individuals—those that may not yet have an interest—to encourage their awareness, understanding, and involvement in the process. The following particular audiences are important to contact and engage:

- **General Public:** Interested citizens across the county.
- **Property Owners and Businesses:** Property owners in shoreline jurisdiction and affected commercial business interests.
- **Agricultural** interests.
- **Environmental Groups and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOS):** Organizations with expertise and/or interest in shoreline issues, such as those interested in conservation or recreation.
- **Tribes:** Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe.
- **Governmental Agencies:** State and federal agencies, with expertise such as Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Land Management, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Local Watershed Management Entities; Conservation Districts; and others.
- **Media:** Local news outlets: The Goldendale Sentinel, The White Salmon Enterprise.

The following agencies, stakeholder groups, and individuals are considered a sample of potential audiences for the SMP Update (Table 1). The County will maintain a complete list of interested parties throughout the update process.

**Table 1. Audiences**

General Public, Property Owners, and Businesses	Agricultural Interests, Recreation, Environmental Groups, NGOs, Education	Tribes and Governmental Agencies	Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline property owners</li> <li>• Email list serves of persons interested in county planning</li> <li>• BOCC, and Planning Commission email list serves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Adventures Rafting Inc.</li> <li>• American Rivers</li> <li>• American Whitewater</li> <li>• Columbia Gorge Audubon</li> <li>• Columbia Gorge United</li> <li>• Colombia River United</li> <li>• Columbia Riverkeeper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities of Bingen, Goldendale, and White Salmon</li> <li>• Benton, Yakima and Skamania Counties</li> <li>• Nez Perce Tribe</li> <li>• Yakama Nation</li> <li>• Umatilla Indian Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Goldendale Sentinel</li> <li>• The White Salmon Enterprise</li> </ul>

General Public, Property Owners, and Businesses	Agricultural Interests, Recreation, Environmental Groups, NGOs, Education	Tribes and Governmental Agencies	Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Goldendale Area Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Mount Adams Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Bickleton Community Council</li> <li>• Centerville Community Council</li> <li>• SDS Lumber Company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Klickitat Conservation District</li> <li>• Klickitat County PRD #1</li> <li>• Columbia Land Trust</li> <li>• Columbia River Gorge Commission</li> <li>• Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission</li> <li>• Federation of Fly Fishers</li> <li>• Friends of the Gorge</li> <li>• Friends of the White Salmon River</li> <li>• Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group</li> <li>• Northwest Steelheaders Association</li> <li>• Trout Lake Community Council</li> <li>• Trout Unlimited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Resources Conservation Service</li> <li>• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</li> <li>• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</li> <li>• US Bureau of Land Management</li> <li>• Washington State Department of Ecology</li> <li>• Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife</li> <li>• Washington State Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• WA Department of Commerce</li> <li>• WA Department of Transportation</li> <li>• Washington State Conservation Commission</li> <li>• Bonneville Power Administration</li> <li>• East Klickitat Conservation District</li> </ul>	

## 5.0 Public Outreach Phases and Activities

This PPP is based on the SMP tasks, which are divided into phases generally including analysis of the shoreline conditions; planning and evaluation; and local adoption. In addition to the ongoing methods, at each phase there are further outreach activities as listed below.

### **Meetings**

#### **Planning Commission**

The planning Commission will meet to review and provide input on:

- Draft SMP update goals, policies, and regulations
- Draft SMP Environment Designations
- Supporting documentation
- Public comments

All Planning Commission meetings will be open to the public. Attendees will be offered the opportunity to provide input during a public comment period at such meetings.

#### **Board of County Commissioners**

The Board of County Commissioners will be briefed at their quarterly meetings as needed throughout the update process. The Board of County Commissioners will review the SMP through the legislative process and will conduct study sessions/workshops, hearings, and deliberations, as needed. The Board of County Commissioners will be invited to all public meetings and activities. Following Planning Commission recommendations, the Board of County Commissioners will consider the SMP Update and hold a public hearing prior to taking action.

### **Timeline**

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. The County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. An updated timeline will be posted on the County's website as additional information becomes available.

## 2022-23 KLICKITAT COUNTY SMP UPDATE SCHEDULE

July – August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop draft Public Participation Plan</li> <li>• Review SMP and other relevant County codes and policies</li> <li>• Draft SMP Update Periodic Checklist</li> </ul>
September - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation Plan developed and sent to Ecology</li> <li>• Draft amendments prepared by County and Consultant</li> </ul>
December-February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email notification sent to stakeholders and interested parties</li> <li>• Launch online open house and update County’s project website</li> <li>• Begin public information meetings (virtual)</li> <li>• Meetings with Planning Commission</li> <li>• Draft amendments posted on County website</li> </ul>
March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental review (SEPA) and notice to Commerce</li> <li>• 30-day public comment period on draft revisions</li> <li>• Public Hearing before Planning Commission during public comment period</li> </ul>
May - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of County Commissioners review and adoption</li> <li>• Submit locally adopted SMP to Ecology</li> </ul>