

Regional Shoreline Master Program Update Public Information Meeting October 29, 2013

Agenda

Overview Presentation– 20 minutes

General Questions and Answers – 25 minutes

Open House – Until 8:30

- Preliminary maps available to review
- Staff available for more information and questions



What is the Regional Shoreline Master Program Update?

- Joint effort by all four jurisdictions (intergovernmental agreement)
- Update of **existing** shoreline regulations for Walla Walla County and the Cities of Waitsburg and Walla Walla
- First shoreline regulations for the City of Prescott due to annexations



Why do an SMP Update now?

- State regulations changed in 2003
- State mandate for all counties and cities to update their SMP regulations
- Washington State Department of Ecology grant funds available to update SMPs for all of Walla Walla County by June 2016



Which bodies of water are Shoreline Master Program (SMP) waters?

Current SMP Regulations

- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Touchet River
- Walla Walla River
- Mill Creek
- Dry Creek
- Lakes 20 acres or larger

Updated SMP Regulations

- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Touchet River
- Walla Walla River
- Mill Creek
- Dry Creek
- Whetstone Hollow Creek
- Lakes 20 acres or larger



What basic Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) policies apply to SMP waters?

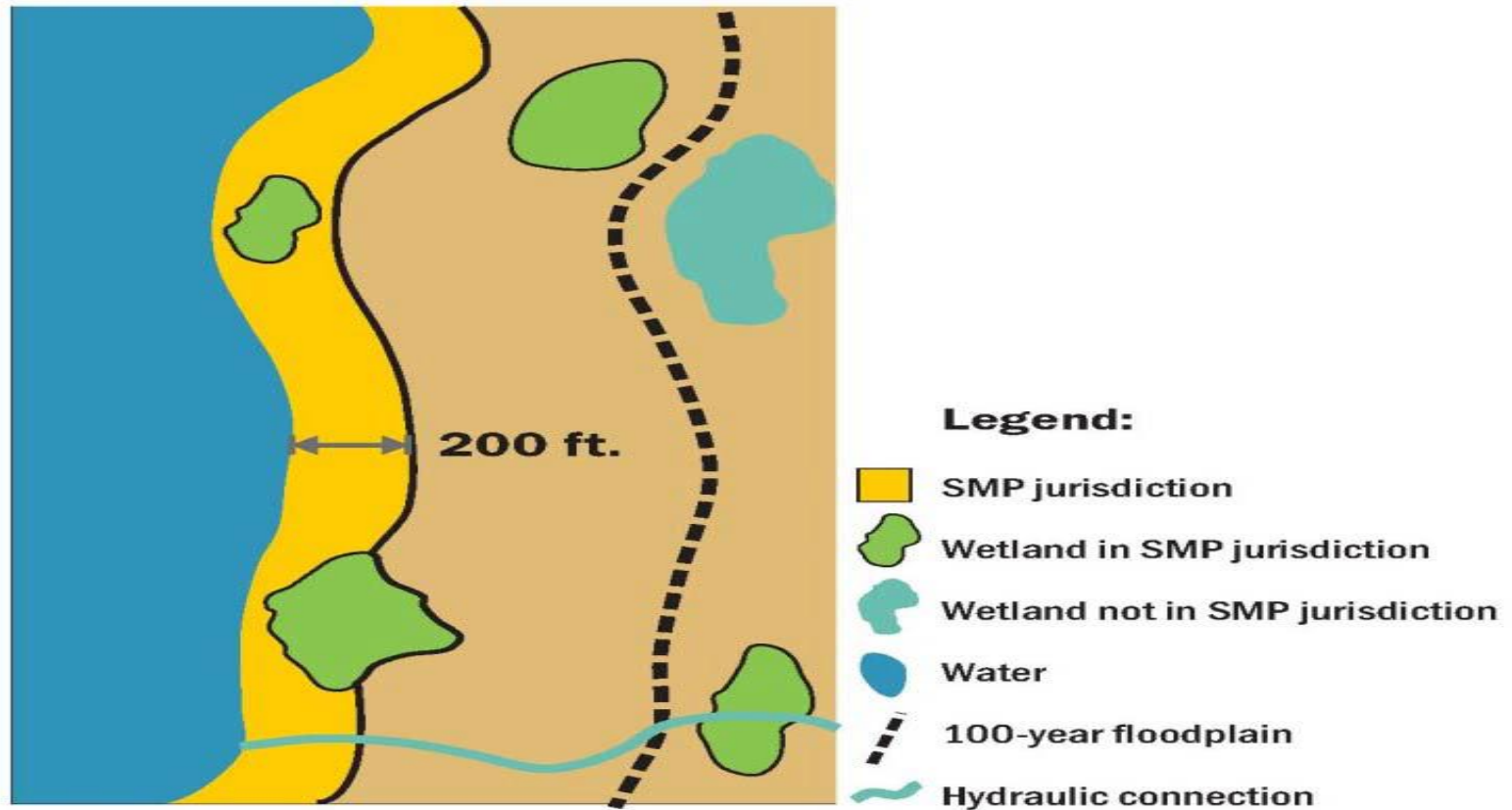
- Protect the environmental resources of state shorelines
- Give priority to uses that require a shoreline location
- Promote public access and enjoyment opportunities



What areas are subject to the SMP regulations?

- SMP waters
- Areas within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of SMP waters
- Floodways
- Contiguous floodplains 200 feet landward of a floodway
- Associated Wetlands

What areas are subject to the SMP regulations?



What can happen in areas subject to the SMP regulations?

- SMP areas are like zoning districts; they list the allowed uses and standards
- Existing uses and structures can remain
- Existing agricultural activities **cannot** be limited or modified by SMP regulations
- New agricultural and non-agricultural uses and activities are allowed

Key SMP Requirements Added in 2003

- “No net loss” of ecological functions
- Planning for restoration opportunities
- Assessment of “reasonably foreseeable” cumulative impacts



What is the SMP update process?

2013-June, 2014

- Conduct research to update the shoreline inventory and characteristics

June 2014-June 2015

- Hold community meetings
- Prepare the preliminary draft SMP update

June 2015-June 2016

- Hold community meetings
- Prepare draft SMP update
- Conduct local adoption process

How Do I Find Out What's Going On?

- Go to the Regional Shoreline Master Program link on the Walla Walla County homepage (www.co.walla-walla.wa.us)
- Include your email address on the sign-in sheet tonight
- Attend regional working group meetings
- Attend community meetings
- Attend county or city meetings and hearings



How can I comment on the SMP Update?

- Send comments to the project email address: shorelines@co.walla.walla.wa.us
- Fill out a comment sheet tonight and leave it with staff or email/mail it
- Offer comments at regional working group meetings
- Offer comments at county or city hearings

