

**Walla Walla County Shoreline Master Program Update
Informational Open House – Lower Yellowhawk Creek
TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2**

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Walla Walla County Public Health & Legislative Building
314 W Main Street, 2nd Floor
Walla Walla, WA 99362

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP) UPDATE?

Walla Walla County, and the cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla, are working cooperatively to update their existing SMP's as a partnership coalition. The State updated its guidelines for SMP's in 2003. The County and the three cities are updating their SMP's to be consistent with the new State requirements and reflect current information about Walla Walla County's shorelines.

WHY IS LOWER YELLOWHAWK CREEK PART OF THE WALLA WALLA COUNTY SMP?

As part of a shoreline analysis required in the update process, it was determined that the portion of Yellowhawk Creek from Cottonwood Creek to the confluence with the Walla Walla River met the mean annual flow criteria for inclusion in the County's SMP. Consequently, the following property along this portion of Yellowhawk Creek is subject to the SMP update: land within two hundred feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with the streams and lakes which are subject to the State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58).

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM DOES NOT APPLY TO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS. ADDITIONALLY, EXISTING RESIDENCES, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION, ARE PERMITTED USES.

WHAT IS A SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP)?

A Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a locally prepared set of policies and regulations, required by State law, that govern development in shoreline areas. SMP's give preference to uses in the following order:

- Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
- Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
- Result in long term over short term benefit;
- Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
- Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline;
- Provide for any other element as defined in RCW [90.58.100](#) deemed appropriate or necessary.

Learn more at the informational open house.

This meeting is an informal opportunity to learn more about the SMP and how it applies along lower Yellowhawk Creek. Staff and consultants will make a brief presentation on the shoreline master program update, provide information about how it applies to lands along lower Yellowhawk Creek, and answer general as well as specific questions.

Can't attend this meeting?

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can find information about shoreline master programs in general and the Walla Walla County SMP update at the Regional Shoreline Master Program link on the county's website at <http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us>. You also can email questions or comments to: shorelines@co.walla-walla.wa.us or contact Bill Stalzer, the SMP project team leader, through that email address or by phone at 206-264-1150. There also will be additional informational open houses prior to the County Planning Commission meetings in March and April followed by public hearings tentatively planned for April and May before the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.