

Yellowhawk Creek Public Information Meeting

February 2, 2016



Agenda

Overview Presentation– 20 minutes

General Questions and Answers

Open House

- Online map available to review
- Staff available for more information and questions



What is the Walla Walla Regional Shoreline Master Program Update?

- Joint effort by Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla to update existing Shoreline Master Programs (legal agreement)
- Regional Working Group meetings from November, 2013 – November, 2015



New for lower Yellowhawk Creek

- First shoreline regulations for lower Yellowhawk Creek (Cottonwood Creek to Walla Walla River)
- Mean annual flow exceeds State criteria for inclusion in the County's Shoreline Master Program

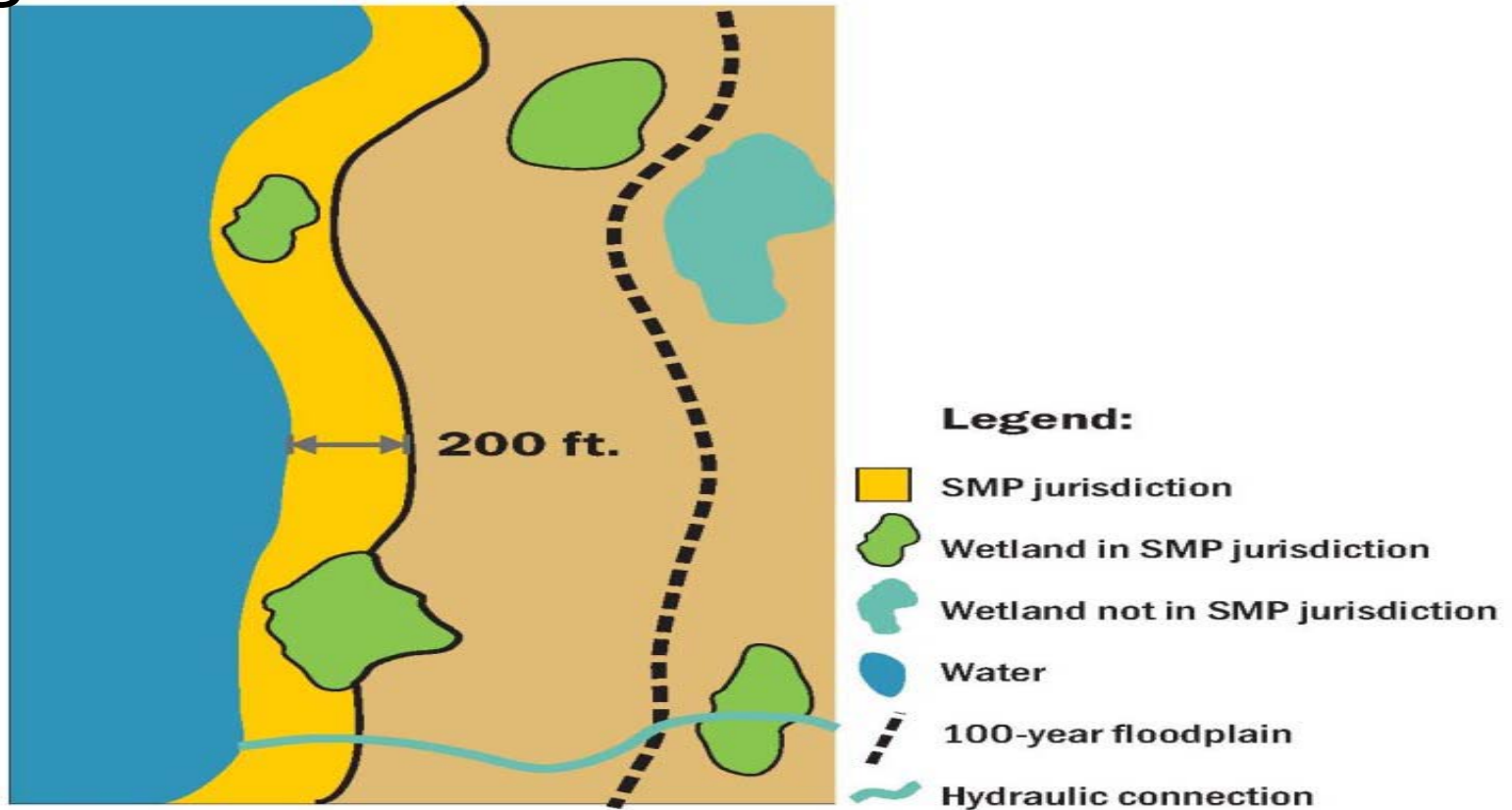
What can happen on property within SMP jurisdiction?

- Existing agricultural uses and activities **cannot** be limited or modified by SMP regulations
- Other existing uses and structures can remain
- New residential, agricultural and non-agricultural uses and activities are allowed subject to the County SMP regulations

What property along lower Yellowhawk Creek is within SMP jurisdiction?

- Yellowhawk Creek
- Areas within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Yellowhawk Creek
- Adjacent floodways
- Contiguous floodplains 200 feet landward of a floodway
- Associated Wetlands

What areas are subject to the SMP regulations?



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

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

Lower Yellowhawk Creek SMP Critical Area Buffer Requirements

- Different than the County Critical Area buffers
- Existing uses and structure can remain
- Width of 75-100 feet from ordinary high water mark with a buffer study or
- Width of 100 feet from ordinary high water mark without a buffer study; buffer reduction and buffer averaging allowed

What is the 2016 SMP process?

- Review the draft County SMP (Jan-May)
- Public information meetings prior to County Planning Commission Meetings (Feb-May)
- County Planning Commission Meetings (Feb-May)
- County Public Hearings (Apr and May)
- Board of County Commissioners act on the draft County SMP (June)



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)
- Put your email address on the sign-in sheet
- Attend county planning commission meetings in February, March, April and May
- Contact the Project Team Leader or County Community Development Department staff



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 County public hearings planned for April and May