



Skamania County

Community Development Department

Building/Fire Marshal • Environmental Health • Planning

Skamania County Courthouse Annex

Post Office Box 1009

Stevenson, Washington 98648

Phone: 509-427-3900 Inspection Line: 509-427-3922

NOTICE OF INTENT DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

The proposal is a non-project action to update Skamania County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in compliance with the State Master Program Amendment Guidelines (WAC 173-26) and the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). The SMP was last partially amended in 2007. This amendment is a comprehensive change which will bring the SMP up-to-date with State Master Program Amendment Guidelines (WAC 173-26), the Shoreline Master Program, available scientific information. Notable provisions of the new SMP will do the following:

- Require that all new shoreline uses, developments, and activities including those allowed through an exemption or permit process demonstrate that they achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological functions.
- Prioritize water-oriented uses over non-water-oriented use within the shoreline jurisdiction (see chapter 4 of proposed SMP and the shoreline environmental designation maps located in the back of the proposed SMP)
- Protect critical areas including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, flood hazard areas, and geologically hazardous areas be protected to a level of no net loss.
- Require that development proposals provide public access to the shoreline when they create demand or an impact to existing public access, and when it is safe and environmentally feasible to do so. (See section 3.6 of Proposed SMP).
- Require that views of the shoreline be preserved from public areas (see section 3.6 of Proposed SMP)
- Require that native vegetation be preserved along the shoreline, including setting buildings back from the shoreline and requiring mitigations for impacts to native vegetation. (See section 3.7 of Proposed SMP)
- Limiting heights, and the proximity of structures to the shoreline (See Chapter 5 of Proposed SMP)

Require that structural stabilization measures demonstrate they are

needed through a geotechnical analysis, and, when needed, that soft stabilization is prioritized before hard stabilization.

PROPONENT:

Skamania County

FILE NO.

SEP-17-08

**LOCATION OF PRO-
POSAL:**

The updated Shoreline Master Program applies to all shorelines within Skamania County, including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Shorelines in the County are streams and rivers whose mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per second or greater and lakes 20 acres or larger. Collectively, at a minimum, shoreline jurisdiction includes these waters, the lands underlying them, all shorelands extending landward a minimum of 200 feet in all directions, as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM); floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with shoreline streams and lakes. Such associated wetlands may extend beyond the minimum 200-foot distance.

Skamania County is the lead agency.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency, a copy of which is enclosed.

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the publication date below. All comments must be submitted to the Community Development Department within 14 days from the publication date listed below, by 5:30 p.m. This DNS may be withdrawn, modified, reconsidered or replaced with a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance or a Determination of Significance (DS) if the responsible official determines that mitigation or significant adverse impacts are likely.

The issuance of this determination of nonsignificance does not constitute project approval. The application must comply with all applicable requirements of Skamania County Code prior to receiving any permits.

Publication date: [May 17, 2017](#)



Alan Peters, Assistant Planning Director

APPEALS

There shall be no administrative appeals of environmental threshold determinations. Failure to comment on this Notice of Intent shall be determined to deny a party standing to appeal the final determination with the underlying government action to a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Skamania County Shoreline Master Program Update

2. Name of applicant:

Skamania County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

*Skamania County Community Development Department
170 NW Vancouver Avenue
Stevenson WA 98648*

Mailing Address: PO Box 1009, Stevenson WA 98648

Debbie Cazaré, Land Use Planner

cazare@co.skamania.wa.us

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	
Legal description attached: Yes / No	
Date received	Date complete
Receipt #	File #

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 10, 2017

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Skamania County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing June 27, 2017 (Tentative)

Ordinance following Ecology approval anticipated to be between September and December 2017

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This is a non-project action for Skamania County's Shoreline Master Program Update required by RCW 90.58.080. Once the new SMP is adopted, it will apply to non-federal development, uses, or actions on either private or federal properties within the County's shoreline jurisdiction. The new SMP will not apply to federal agency actions on federal lands, such as those that may be undertaken by the Yakama Nation or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)..

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- *Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report -*
- *Shoreline Cumulative Impact Analysis*
- *Shoreline Restoration Plan*
- *This SEPA checklist*

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Not applicable – Non-project action

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

State Agency Review pursuant to SEPA (WAC 197-11)

Washington State Department of Ecology approval (RCW 90.58)

Skamania County Board of Commissioners approval and adoption

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposal is a non-project action to update Skamania County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in compliance with the State Master Program Amendment Guidelines (WAC 173-26) and the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). The SMP was last partially amended in 2007. This amendment is a comprehensive change which will bring the SMP up-to-date with State Master Program Amendment Guidelines (WAC 173-26), the Shoreline Master Program, available scientific information. Notable provisions of the new SMP will do the following:

- *Require that all new shoreline uses, developments, and activities including those allowed through an exemption or permit process demonstrate that they achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological functions.*

- *Prioritize water-oriented uses over non-water-oriented use within the shoreline jurisdiction (see chapter 4 of proposed SMP and the shoreline environmental designation maps located in the back of the proposed SMP)*
- *Protect critical areas including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, flood hazard areas, and geologically hazardous areas be protected to a level of no net loss.*
- *Require that development proposals provide public access to the shoreline when they create demand or an impact to existing public access, and when it is safe and environmentally feasible to do so. (See section 3.6 of Proposed SMP).*
- *Require that views of the shoreline be preserved from public areas (see section 3.6 of Proposed SMP)*
- *Require that native vegetation be preserved along the shoreline, including setting buildings back from the shoreline and requiring mitigations for impacts to native vegetation. (See section 3.7 of Proposed SMP)*
- *Limiting heights, and the proximity of structures to the shoreline (See Chapter 5 of Proposed SMP)*
- *Require that structural stabilization measures demonstrate they are needed through a geotechnical analysis, and, when needed, that soft stabilization is prioritized before hard stabilization.*

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The updated Shoreline Master Program applies to all shorelines within Skamania County, including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Shorelines in the County are streams and rivers whose mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per second or greater and lakes 20 acres or larger. Collectively, at a minimum, shoreline jurisdiction includes these waters, the lands underlying them, all shorelands extending landward a minimum of 200 feet in all directions, as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM); floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with shoreline streams and lakes. Such associated wetlands may extend beyond the minimum 200-foot distance.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. General description of the site

(Circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

Skamania County is located in Southwestern Washington. The Columbia River is the County's southern boarder with Mt. Saint Helens in the northwestern corner of the County and Mt. Adams in the northeastern corner of the County. The topography of Skamania ranges from flat with rolling hills along the Columbia River to Mountainous to the North of the County

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Slopes vary from 0% along the Columbia River to 100% in other areas of the County within shoreline jurisdiction.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soil Types vary throughout the County and in shoreline jurisdiction. There are prime agricultural soils in some areas; silt, clay, sand and gravel in other areas; and in other areas there are wetland and floodplains. The Soil Survey of Skamania County Area, Washington (USDA, 1990) provides site-specific information on the soil types.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Skamania County has a history of unstable slopes and soils due to the geology of the area which include shoreline jurisdiction. Section 3.4.10 requires a Geological Assessment Report and mitigation requirements.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

This is a non-project action to update the County's Shoreline Master Program. Not applicable. All future clearing, grading, filling, in or excavation in shoreline jurisdiction activities will be reviewed under relevant sections of the SMP.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No, this is a non-project action. However, erosion could occur in the steeply sloped areas within the shoreline. The updated SMP has regulations for geologically hazardous areas (erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, and seismic hazard areas, and volcanic hazard areas), environmental protection, vegetation conservation, and water quality in Chapter 3 to help prevent erosion. Geologically hazardous areas critical areas reports are required to address landslide and erosion hazard areas within the Shoreline jurisdiction (Section 3.4.10)

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Not applicable to a non-project action.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The updated SMP has regulations for geologically hazardous areas (erosion and landslide hazard areas), environmental protection, vegetation conservation, and water quality in Chapter 3. Erosion control plans are required in geologically hazardous areas.

2. Air NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable – Non-project action

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable – Non-project action.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Not applicable – non-project action.

3. Water

a. Surface Water: NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Within the boundaries of Skamania County there are many water bodies including year-round and seasonal streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. A number of waterbodies in Skamania County are regulated under this proposed SMP, including the following Shorelines of State-wide Significance.

- *Swift Reservoir*
- *Spirit Lake*
- *Columbia River*
- *White Salmon River*
- *Little White Salmon River*
- *Wind River,*
- *Lewis River,*
- *Lava Creek, and*
- *Trout Lake Creek*

There are many other lakes, streams, and associated wetlands that are within the shoreline jurisdiction of this SMP and shown alphabetically in table B-1 of appendix B of the SMP and shown on the Environmental Designation Maps (Appendix A) of this SMP. Shoreline jurisdiction also includes associated wetlands of shoreline waterbodies.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The proposed SMP specifies uses and activities that are appropriate within 200 feet of all shorelines and within shoreline waterbodies themselves. All future development activities within the shoreline jurisdiction require a shoreline substantial development permit, conditional use permit, variance, or a shoreline exemption within these areas and will be reviewed for compliance with all applicable provisions of the SMP including those for critical areas, the Aquatic environment designation, and in accordance with the shoreline use standards (Chapter 5) modification provisions (Chapter 6) which pertains to many types of shoreline structures that may occur in water (i.e. docks, piers, boating facilities, water-dependent commercial/industrial, shoreline stabilization, etc.).

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Chapter 6 of this SMP contains provisions for all new, altered, or expanded shoreline modifications (see Table 6-1) and specific provisions for dredging and fill.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This SMP contains regulations that specify what alterations are allowed within the aquatic environmental designation (see Table 5.3). Any proposed future surface water withdrawals or diversions proposed by applicants would need to meet all applicable portions of the SMP including general provisions (Chapter 3), specific shoreline use regulations (Chapter 5), and modification provisions (Chapter 6).

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposed SMP includes lands within the 100 year flood plain which are regulated by section 3.4.9.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

All projects within the shoreline jurisdiction are required to implement erosion and stormwater control. Chapter 3 of this SMP contains regulations for shoreline vegetation conservation, water quality and non-point source pollution, and environmental protection with no net loss. Erosion control plans will be required for projects located in erosion hazard areas (see 3.4.10)..

b. Ground Water: NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The SMP update includes a section on Critical Areas (Chapter 3.4) which include regulations for development within aquifer recharge areas and wells.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

All development within Skamania County will require on-site septic systems. This SMP regulates all development activities within shoreline jurisdiction. Regulations regarding septic tanks is contained in various portions of the SMP including "Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas" (section 3.4.7) and "Water Quality and Non-Point Source Pollution (section 3.8).

c. Water runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The primary source of stormwater runoff is impervious surfaces from buildings, roads, and other development improvements that will occur in shoreline jurisdiction. Chapter 3 of this SMP regulates environmental protection and no net loss, vegetation conservation, water quality and non-point source pollution. "Water Quality and Non-Point Source Pollution" (Chapter 3.8) says that stormwater should be collected, dispersed, and infiltrated pursuant to best management practices in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (2014 or as amended).

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

The updated SMP will reduce the probability that materials will enter ground or surface waters with regulations on vegetation conservation, water quality and non-point pollution, and environmental protection and no net loss (Chapter 3).

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, Describe.

No, this is a non-project action. Drainage patterns could be affected by future shoreline development..

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:
Measures to reduce and/or control surface water, ground water, and stormwater runoff are included in this SMP update through critical area protection, vegetation conservation, mitigation requirements, and no net loss.

4. **Plants** - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Vegetation may be removed or altered by future shoreline development. This SMP update discourages the removal of native vegetation within shoreline jurisdiction (see section 3.7).

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Table 3.2 of the Inventory Characterization Report (ICR) lists threatened and endangered species within Skamania County shoreline jurisdiction as determined by Washington State Natural Heritage Program (WNHP).

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The draft SMP, if adopted, will regulate vegetation removal in shoreline jurisdiction. All vegetation removal (non-native or native) will be required to adhere to the vegetation conservation (section 3.7) portion of the SMP. These provisions will require that vegetation removal be avoided and minimized. Where removal is necessary, planting ratios will equal or exceed the amount of area cleared. Native species are required for planting. The vegetation conservation section also regulates the pruning, hazard trees, and removal of invasive/noxious species.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Skamania County Noxious Weed Board adopted the State noxious weed list of which some are located within the shoreline jurisdiction (see attached 2017 Skamania County Noxious Weed List).

5. **Animals** - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds,
Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver,

Fish: bass, salmon, trout,

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Table 3.2 and Section 3.3.4 of the Inventory Characterization Report (ICR) lists threatened, endangered, and priority habitat species as determined by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife within shoreline jurisdiction.

b. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The Columbia River is considered part of the Pacific-Coast Flyway. Multiple Streams under the shoreline jurisdiction are a migratory route for fish. Appendix B of this Shoreline Master Program (SMP) lists all streams within shoreline jurisdiction.

c. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Chapter 3.4 of this SMP (Critical Areas) addresses fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and requires that applicant submit critical areas reports to evaluate impacts and mitigations when located in a defined habitat area. Additionally, other areas of the SMP including regulations for other types of critical areas, vegetation, uses, and modifications are all intended to minimize impacts to shoreline ecological functions and habitat.

d. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Invasive species within the shoreline jurisdiction include amphibians, fish, crustaceans, mammals, molluscs, and reptiles. Attached is a list of aquatic invasive species found in Washington State.

6. Energy and natural resources - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

7. Environmental health - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal?

If so, describe.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
Section 5.3.6 of this SMP regulates industrial and port uses to minimize possible contamination. Section 3.4.7 addresses critical aquifer recharge areas and contamination of groundwater. Map 12 in Appendix A of the Inventory and Characterization Report shows cleanup sites and 303d listed waterbodies (attached).

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. One known site is an underground natural gas pipeline that runs through the shoreline jurisdiction of Rock Creek.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

b. Noise - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Land uses within the shoreline jurisdiction include residential, recreation, commercial, and industrial.

e. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Skamania County has designated forest and agricultural lands of long-term significance that are within shoreline jurisdiction. This is a non-project action which will not convert any lands of long-term commercial significance.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversized equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

This SMP update includes regulations that will affect new agricultural uses (Section 5.3.1). Section 5.3.5 of this SMP update includes regulations for Forest Practice Conversions and Class IV general forest practices where there is a likelihood of conversion.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable – non-project action

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

NOT APPLICABLE – NO STRUCTURES WILL BE DEMOLISHED AS PART OF THIS NON-PROJECT ACTION.

f. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Zoning within shoreline jurisdiction includes residential, commercial, recreation, etc. zones. Residential zones range from 2 acre to 20 acre lot minimums.

g. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Comprehensive Plan designations within the shoreline jurisdiction include:

- *West-End Community Comprehensive Plan Subarea Rural 2 (RL2) to West End Community Subarea West End Commercial Resource Lands 40 (WE-CRL40)*
- *Swift Subarea Comprehensive Plan Mountain Recreational 5 (MR5) to Swift Commercial Resource Lands 40 (SW-CRL40)*
- *Carson Community Subarea Rural Residential and Destination Resort*
- *Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan*
- *Outside of Subareas – Rural I, Rural II, and Conservancy*

h. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Current Shoreline Environmental Designations include urban, natural, and conservancy.

i. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Yes. Skamania County's shoreline jurisdiction covers a large area including over 700 miles of shoreline. These shorelines include all types of designated critical areas including:

- *Geological Hazardous Areas*
- *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas*
- *Wetlands*
- *Aquifer Recharge Areas*
- *Frequently Flooded Areas*

j. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

NOT APPLICABLE - NON-PROJECT ACTION

k. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

NOT APPLICABLE - NON-PROJECT ACTION

l. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

NOT APPLICABLE - NON-PROJECT ACTION

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This non-project action is an update to the County's SMP. The SMP update will comply with new Washington State Guidelines in WAC 173-26. The SMP Environmental Designations are based on the County's zoning, among other factors. In addition, project applicants will still be required to comply with underlying land use plans and zoning regulations of Skamania County.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Areas within the shoreline jurisdiction that are designated as Agricultural lands and Forest lands of long-term significance area located within the Rural Conservancy Environmental Designation of this SMP update. Chapter 5 of the SMP update includes regulations for new agricultural uses and regulations for forest practices within shoreline jurisdiction. The SMP will not change underlying agriculture and forest zoning and, therefore, will help ensure compatibility with areas in these zones.

9. Housing - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

10. Aesthetics - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The standard height limit within shoreline jurisdiction is 35 feet as regulated by section 5.2 of the SMP. Certain uses are allowed to go above this height limit including water-dependent and water-related industry in the High Intensity environment, transmission towers and lines, masts, aerials, temporary

logging equipment, flag poles, and livestock, farm and agriculture buildings or structures (barns, silos, horse arenas). To exceed 35 feet or the specific height limit specified for the above uses, a shoreline variance permit is required.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

VIEW ALTERATIONS OR OBSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE PROJECT DEPENDENT.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

This SMP update places an emphasis on preserving visual access to shorelines in compliance with State guidelines. Regulations in section 3.7.1 of the SMP mitigations for view impacts from public properties or substantial numbers of residences include the administrators ability to development standards (setbacks, landscaping, building massing) or require mitigation for view impacts including viewing decks.

11. Light and glare - NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The following activities occur within the County's shoreline jurisdiction to name a few

- Boating
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Rafting
- Wind Surfing
- Hunting
- Hiking

Water-dependent recreation activities such as those listed above are priority shoreline uses and are encouraged by the SMP.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not applicable – non-project action.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The SMP update will encourages improvements to existing recreational opportunities and the development of new recreational opportunities. In addition, development of non-water-dependent uses take a lower priority and are allowed where water-oriented uses are inappropriate (see section 5.2).

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

Because Skamania County's shorelines cover a larger area, there are a number of structures that are 45 years or older within shoreline jurisdiction that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Washington state register. A complete list can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/nr/research/> for federal resources and <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/find-a-historic-place> for state resources.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation, material evidence, artifacts, and areas of cultural importance occur within Skamania County's shorelines.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

This is a non-project action. The location of archaeological and cultural information is protected. The County sent notices of significant SMP update project milestones, the release of work products and public meetings were to six separate Native American Tribal representatives.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Chapter 3.3 regulates development in known sites and includes an inadvertent discovery plan for unknown sites. Proposed regulations require that applicants who propose developments within 500 feet of known archaeological, cultural, or historic sites (based on information provided by the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation or documentation provided by a native American tribe) complete an archaeological site inspection and evaluation. After the site inspection and evaluation, an archaeological survey may be required, if recommended by an archaeologist. Cultural resources management plans for development of a site that would impact an archaeological, cultural, or historic resource are required. Both surveys and cultural resources management plans must conform to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's standards.

If inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources occurs during site development or ground disturbance, all work must stop and contacts be made to appropriate agencies and affected tribes. Applicable federal and state permits must be secured and development cannot proceed until County approval is issued. If human skeletal remains are discovered, the Department is contacted and handles all coordination with tribal governments.

The provisions in the SMP for archaeological, cultural, and historic resources meet the requirements of WAC 173-26-221(1) and furthermore, require that applicant use the best information available from DAHP and the tribes as to the presence and location of known archaeological resources.

14. Transportation NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

State Route 14 and a wide variety of County Roads, Forest Service roads, and private roads are within shoreline jurisdiction.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

There is no public transit available within shoreline jurisdiction

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Not applicable – non-project action.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not applicable – non-project action.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

BNSF railway and State Route 14 runs along the shoreline of the Columbia River. The Columbia River is a major navigable waterway used by all types of watercraft to transport products.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Not applicable – non-project action.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No, this is a non-project action.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Section 5.3.12 regulates transportation and parking facilities within the shoreline jurisdiction. This section does not regulate the number of parking spaces or traffic loads on roads, but, rather minimizes the impact of transportation facilities on shoreline ecology. Measures used to minimize impacts include alternatives analyses

required to demonstrate that there are no alternative locations for roads, an outright prohibition on primary (pay) parking facilities in shoreline jurisdiction, and placing accessory parking lots landward of primary uses.

15. Public services NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

16. Utilities NOT APPLICABLE – NON-PROJECT ACTION

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, and septic systems are available within developed areas of the shoreline jurisdiction

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No, utilities are proposed as a result of this non-project action. Section 5.3.13 of the SMP update regulates new, repair, maintenance, and replacement of utilities within the shoreline jurisdiction.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Name of signee Debbie Cazaré

Position and Agency/Organization: Skamania County

Date Submitted: _____

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposal will not likely increase discharge to waters, emission to air, or production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances. The intent if the SMP update is to protect shoreline functions to a no net loss level including aquatic areas.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The draft SMP contains provisions regulating critical areas (including wetlands and aquifers) and promotes the use of stormwater best management practices in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington as a way of controlling impacts to water and release of toxic or hazardous substances.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The SMP update protects shoreline areas which provide habitat for plants, animals, wildlife, and fish.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

The SMP update contains regulations pertaining to:

- **Vegetation Conservation:** *regulations require that all impacts to vegetation be mitigated including avoiding and minimizing where possible. Impacts to vegetation must be compensated by new plantings at ratios of 1:1 or more with native vegetation.. The SMP encourages the removal of invasive and noxious species and planting of native vegetation in its place.*
- **Protects Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas:** *Critical areas provisions in section 3.4.8 of the draft SMP require that fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas be identified and protected through the submittal of critical areas reports for development actions within 300 feet of identified areas. New structures and land alteration is prohibited in fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, except as specified by the SMP. All development in these areas must mitigate for impacts, including adhering to in-water work windows, placing the development or conducting the activity elsewhere, minimize impacts where they do occur, and the application of buffers where recommended by a qualified professional in a critical areas report.*

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The SMP protects ecological functions in shoreline areas and makes energy or and natural resource extraction projects more difficult. Therefore, the proposal will not likely deplete these resources, but protect them to a greater degree than is currently the case.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Energy extraction uses are not specifically allowed by the SMP and thus would require that a conditional use permit be obtained before such a use could be developed. Mining regulations are contained in section 5.3.8 of the SMP require that: (1) applicants demonstrate that a shoreline location is necessary for the mining activity (2) mining uses be designed and constructed to result in no net loss including water quality considerations (3) state permits be obtained (4) a reclamation plan be submitted with the shoreline permit (5) prohibits aggregate washing and ponding of waste water and (6) disposal of overburden in comply with fill polices of the program.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The SMP protects critical areas, such as wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, geological hazardous areas, historic and cultural sites, and floodplains. The White Salmon River is a wild and scenic river and wilderness areas in the County include Indian Haven Wilderness Area and Trapper Creek Wilderness Area. Both wilderness areas and the White Salmon River will be better protected through the application of environmental, use, and modification standards of the SMP. Existing shoreline parks will be protected through use preferences which do not allow non-water-oriented uses to develop unless there is no other feasible location for the use. The fish and wildlife habitat critical areas regulations provide protections for threatened and endangered species habitat. The SMP contains a section protecting known and inadvertently discovered cultural and historic sites.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The SMP will better protect such resources and avoid or reduce impacts than the current SMP through the application of critical areas, vegetation, archaeological, use, and modification provisions which generally require that shoreline ecology, habitat, and resources be protected or impacts mitigated to a level of no net loss and in compliance with more recent scientific findings for critical areas.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The SMP proposes regulations that will apply in addition to those in other County codes and plans. Project applicants will be required to demonstrate compliance with the County's comprehensive plan and zoning standards, in addition to the SMP. Therefore, the SMP will not promote land uses which are not compatible with the County's existing plans or codes.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

As stated above, the SMP will promote uses consistent with existing County plans and codes since development applicants in shoreline areas will continue to need to comply with both the SMP and the County's other regulations (comprehensive plans and zoning regulations). Land uses will be more compatible with the shoreline

environment and impacts to the shoreline environment will be reduced. As compared with the County's existing SMP, new shoreline uses will generally be required to be setback further from shoreline waterbodies, less vegetation will be removed or replanting will occur to offset clearing resulting in better riparian functions, and there will be greater limitations on the development of critical areas including larger wetland buffers. Shoreline stabilization structures will be less frequent and only allowed through a demonstration of need. Thus, shoreline land uses will better preserve ecological functions and better offset for their impacts to shoreline resources.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

As compared with the existing SMP, development and new land uses under the new SMP would not result in increases in demand on transportation, public services, or utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Demand on transportation, public services, and utilities likely would not be measurably different under the new SMP as compared with the existing SMP. Transportation and Utilities regulations are located in sections 5.3.12 and 5.3.13, respectively, of the SMP and promote facility designs which minimize impacts on the shoreline environment.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The County wrote the draft SMP to be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and the Shoreline Master Program Amendment Guidelines in WAC 173-26. The County is not aware of any conflicts with local, state, or federal laws. During the SEPA notice period and County's 30-day public comment period, state agencies were noticed and given an opportunity to respond. Once the draft SMP is submitted to Ecology, the Department will issue another 30-day public comment period state and federal agencies will be given another 30 days to respond and comment on inconsistencies, if present. In the instances where a conflict may occur between this SMP update and other laws, regulations, codes, or rules, Section 2.14 states that whichever requirement most supports the purposes and provisions of the Shoreline Management Act shall apply.