

APRIL 2007

OKANOGAN REGIONAL SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Okanogan County is leading development of a regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for shorelines both within and outside cities and towns. The County, cities and towns all have Shoreline Master Programs in place. The regional SMP will update the existing ones. It will address shorelines in the context of the watershed as a whole as well as the unique needs and interests of each community.

Where are we in the process?

Draft copies of a preliminary shoreline map book were made available to Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members at their March 27th meeting. Draft definitions have been given to both the Shorelines Advisory Group (SAG) and TAG for review and revision. We plan to present draft goals and policies to members of the SAG in May.

A few definitions from the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58):

- Shorelines – means all of the water areas of the state, including reservoirs, and their associated shorelands, together with the lands underlying them; except (i) shorelines of statewide significance, some examples of shorelines of statewide significance are Palmer Lake and Lake Osoyoos and the Okanogan River; (ii) shorelines on segments of streams upstream of a point where the mean annual flow is twenty cubic feet per second or less and the wetlands associated with such upstream segments; and (iii) shorelines on lakes less than twenty acres in size and wetlands associated with such small lakes.
- Wetlands – means areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscaping amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands.
- Substantial Development – shall mean any development of which the total cost or fair market value exceeds five thousand dollars, or any development which materially interferes with the normal public use of the water or shorelines of the state.



Analysis and characterization: County staff and science and planning consultants are considering how best to analyze the data that have been collected about Okanogan County's shorelines. ENTRIX, Inc. staff have developed models that can evaluate ecological function and the effects of various uses and activities on shoreline health. The next step in analyzing data and characterizing the County's shorelines will be adapting components of one or more models so that they can be used to inform us about the current condition of the shorelines and how development might affect shoreline and aquatic ecosystems.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG): The TAG met March 27th to review the draft map books, definitions, proposed SMP outline and anticipated science approach to the analysis and characterization.

Updates for participating cities: County staff and consultants will schedule update sessions in each of the participating cities over the next two months, to brief local officials and interested stakeholders on the progress of the SMP update.

How can I participate?

Okanogan County has formed a Shorelines Advisory Group (SAG) to identify issues of local importance and review and comment on draft elements of the SMP. The SAG is scheduled to meet eight times in 2007. Please visit our website for a schedule and more information about the SAG. All stakeholders are welcome to attend the SAG meetings and participate in caucuses.

Generally, SAG meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, however, it's important to know that:

- The SAG will not meet every month
 - Meetings may be re-scheduled if they conflict with holidays
 - Additional meetings may be scheduled. Please contact us to confirm meeting dates!
- Public comment will be entertained at the beginning or end of each meeting, at the chair's discretion. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd. Most meetings are held in the Okanogan County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 123 North 5th Avenue, Okanogan. Please check with us if you plan to attend since we occasionally have to hold meetings in another location! Three public comment periods are planned in 2007 and 2008.

For more information about Shoreline Management planning in Okanogan County

Visit the Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development's web site at <http://okanogancounty.org/planning/index.html>. At the left hand side of the screen, click "Shoreline Master Program"

Visit the Department of Ecology's Shoreline Management web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/index.html>.

- Call Char Beam at 509/422-7113

Okanogan County will publish this newsletter from Fall, 2006 until Spring, 2008. To add your name to or remove your name from the mailing list, please contact Okanogan County Natural Resources: by phone at 509/422-7113; or by email at cbeam@co.okanogan.wa.us.

