



Planning & Development Services

Notice of Availability

including notice of SEPA threshold determination, public comment period, and public hearing

Proposal Information

Publish date:	April 22, 2021
Proposal name:	Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review
Documents available at:	www.skagitcounty.net/smp
Lead Agency:	Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Contact Person:	Betsy Stevenson, AICP, Senior Planner, Team Supervisor
SEPA Responsible Official:	Hal Hart , AICP, Director
Public hearing body:	Skagit County Planning Commission
Public hearing date:	Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 6 p.m.
Written comment deadline:	Monday, June 7, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Proposal Description

Skagit County is proposing a Comprehensive Update to the County's Shoreline Master Program ("SMP"), which has not been comprehensively updated since its adoption in 1976. Skagit County, along with all other local governments containing shorelines of the state is required to update the SMP. The SMP is a combined planning and regulatory document that contains policies, goals, and specific land-use regulations for shorelines, shoreline environment designation maps, and it is intended to balance development, public access, and protection of natural resource and shoreline areas. State law considers the goals and policies of an SMP an element of the county comprehensive plan, and the SMP use regulations are considered a part of the county's development regulations. The comprehensive update of the SMP began in 2010 and was put on hold in September 2016. We are behind schedule in completing this update.

SMPs are required by the state Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58), which was approved by Washington voters in a 1972 referendum. The SMP is intended to be a cooperative program between local government and the state. The Skagit County Shoreline Master Program jurisdiction includes all marine waters, rivers with a flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second, lakes 20 acres or larger, upland areas within 200 feet of these water bodies and portions of the floodplains and

wetlands associated with these shorelines. It only applies to lands outside cities and towns, in unincorporated areas of the county.

The proposed comprehensive update is a complete rewrite of the current SMP to comply with new state rules and the best available science, and to integrate the shoreline policies into the Comprehensive Plan and the shoreline development regulations into the Skagit County Code.

Subsequent periodic review of the SMP is required by the State Department of Ecology every eight years. The first periodic review of Skagit County's comprehensive SMP update is due June 30, 2021. The purpose and scope of the 2020-2021 periodic review is to keep the SMP current with amendments to state law, changes in local plans and regulations, and new or improved data and information.

Skagit County, in partnership with the Towns of Lyman and Hamilton, is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in accordance with the State Shoreline Management Act. This SMP update is intended to satisfy the statutory requirements of RCW 90.58.080(2)(a)(iv) to comprehensively update the County's SMP and the statutory requirements of RCW 90.58.080(4)(b)(ii) to take action to review and, if necessary, revise the County's SMP.

Skagit County has combined the completion of the Comprehensive Update and the Periodic Review into the current SMP document. Changes in the Draft SMP since August 2016 are noted within the margin of the document.

SEPA Threshold Determination

Skagit County has determined that this proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement is not required under the State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(C). This determination was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency and is available upon request.

This determination is issued pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2). Skagit County will not act on this proposal during the public comment period. Written comments regarding this Determination of Nonsignificance must be submitted by the comment deadline above and in the same manner as other comments. Pursuant to SCC 16.12.210, no administrative appeal process is available for this legislative action.

How to Comment

Skagit County is accepting comments on the SMP Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review, proposed under RCW 90.58.080), WAC 173-26-090 and WAC 173-26-100 (SMA and Guidelines), RCW 36.70A.480 (GMA), RCW 43.21C and WAC 197-11(SEPA) and Skagit County Code 14.26 and 16.12.

Comments are accepted via the online open house or on paper. All comments must be received by the deadline and include (1) your full name, (2) your mailing address, and (3) the proposal name ("Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review") in the subject line. Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered.

Submitting comments via the online open house is preferred and must be sent to <https://www.skagitsmpopenhouse.com/> Include your comments in the body of your email message rather than as attachments.

Paper comments must be printed on 8½ x 11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update & Periodic Review
Skagit County Planning and Development Services
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon WA 98273

You may also comment at the public hearing being held virtually before the Skagit County Planning Commission. Public hearing testimony is usually limited to three minutes, so written comments are preferred. Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in (audio only) +1 323-553-1010 United States, Los Angeles | Phone Conference ID: 898 073 841#.

This information will also be available on the project website: www.skagitcounty.net/smp

Anyone who plans to attend the public hearing and has special needs or disabilities should contact Planning and Development Services at (360) 416-1320 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.