



# Whitman County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Periodic Update

## 2022-2023 Timeline & Public Participation Plan

### Introduction

Whitman County is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other Whitman County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how Whitman County will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP. This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Whitman County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment.

This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Whitman County Code. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

The purpose and intent behind the Whitman County's Periodic Update to its Shoreline Master Program include the following:

- Encourage reasonable and orderly development of shorelines, with an emphasis on water-dependent and related uses that control pollution and prevent damage to the natural environment.
- Protect the natural character of Washington shorelines, including the land, vegetation, wildlife, and shoreline environment.
- Promote public access and provide opportunities to enjoy views and recreational activities in shoreline areas.

### 1.0 Public Participation Goals

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input (including a minimum of one public hearing) at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.

- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

## 2.0 Public Participation Opportunities

Whitman County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the SMP periodic review and update process.)

### 2.1 Website

Whitman County will host a page on its existing website dedicated to updates and documents related to the Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review. The site is as follows:

<https://whitmancounty.org/598/Shoreline-Master-Program>

This page will include information such as status updates and materials, draft documents, official notices, minutes and other project information. This webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. In addition, the page will include Whitman County Planning staff and/or consultants to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

### 2.2 Stakeholder Meeting

An email or mailing list of interested parties will be established by Whitman County. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. The County will host an agency/stakeholder meeting to discuss the master program, updates, and any suggested changes in addition to the periodic update.

### 2.3 Comment

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Whitman County by letter or email. All comments will be forwarded to the Whitman County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners at the time of their respective formal reviews. The SMP Periodic Review & Update webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration.

Documents will be available for review at the Whitman County Planning Department, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost. In addition to sharing comments in written form, the public is also invited to participate in public meetings. Prior to adoption of the SMP by the Department of Ecology, at least one public hearing will be held in accordance with RCW 90.58.120.

### 2.4 City and Town Outreach

Whitman County and the following cities and towns are participating in the joint periodic update: (Albion, Colfax, Palouse, Pullman, Rosalia, Tekoa)

The consultant team will engage each community in two parts as described in the following bullets:

- The first outreach effort is an introduction to the periodic update process, overview of required elements, and take a pulse of the community on how the master program is working for them or not. The first meetings will take place from in the fall after harvest.
- The second will be a review of the draft, additional changes, and a formal recommendation to the Planning Commission as well as Board of County Commissioners for adoption. The second meetings in local jurisdictions will occur after harvest in late fall.

## 2.5 Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission deliberations and/or workshops, hosted open house, or public hearing. Official notices will be published as established in the County's policy.

## 2.6 Board of County Commissioners

The consultant team and County staff will present an update to the SMP in accordance with recommendations from local jurisdictions, County staff, agencies, stakeholders, and as recommended by the County Planning Commission.

## 2.7 News media

The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

## 3.0 List of potential stakeholders

Through the focused public participation process, Whitman County will provide opportunity for engagement from the following stakeholders:

- Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee
- Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
- Palouse Water Conservation Network
- Palouse Audubon Society
- Palouse Prairie Foundation
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
- Whitman County Farm Bureau
- Whitman County Association of Realtors
- Futurewise
- Daily Evergreen
- Daily News
- Whitman County Gazette
- Neill Library
- Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Ecology
- Port of Whitman County
- Palouse Conservation District
- Whitman Conservation District
- Pine Creek Conservation District
- Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District
- Whitman County Environmental Health
- Whitman County Parks & Recreation
- WSDOT
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Department of Commerce
- City of Pullman
- Town of Albion
- City of Colfax
- City of Palouse
- City of Rosalia
- City of Tekoa
- State Dept. of Health, Drinking Water
- USACE
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **4.0 Public Comment Periods and Hearings**

Whitman County Planning staff will conduct a joint public workshop with local Washington State Department of Ecology staff to provide an overview of the process and provide initial information about where parties may comment. The Whitman County Planning Commission will hold one anticipated public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. Depending on interest and testimony during the Planning Commission public hearing, Whitman County may elect to hold one or more additional public hearings before final adoption. Recommendations of the Planning Commission, following a public hearing, will be forwarded to the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for final review and consideration. The BOCC may elect to make a decision with or without additional public hearings prior to forwarding its final decision to the WA State Department of Ecology for final approval.

Whitman County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on public notification of comment period(s) and hearing(s) to take advantage of Ecology's optional SMP amendment process that allows for a combined state-local comment period (WAC 173-26-104).

Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official County policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the contact list (above) as amended, and the Department of Ecology.

## **5.0 Whitman County and Ecology Combined Timeline with Public Participation**

The following is the timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. Whitman County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

## Summary Timeline

| 2022     |   |   |   |   | 2023  |  |   |                            |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|----------------------------|---|
|          | May   | June  |   | September   | November - December   | January  | March-May   |                            | June  |
| Outreach | Whitman County, SCJ, & Ecology  | Whitman County Planning Commission Workshop                   | Agencies & stakeholder outreach                                     | Local jurisdiction outreach #1                                | Local jurisdiction outreach #2  | Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt / Public Hearing Notices | Planning Commission / Ecology Joint Public Hearing    | BOCC Meeting               | SMP adopted by County & submitted for final approval to Ecology                     |
| Details  | Project virtual kickoff meeting   | June 1, 2022, Virtual meeting with Commission                 | SMP virtual meeting   | Meetings with each community at local council/ board meetings | Meetings with each community at local council/ board meetings                       | GMA: 60 day notice<br>Ecology/County: 30 day notice      | Public and stakeholder Input for draft SMP amendments | Discussion and Motion      | Submittal to Ecology  |
| Action   | Discuss and confirm project scope, timeline, and public engagement plan | Discuss periodic review, process, amendments and gather input | Engage, agencies and civic groups in SMP compliance update process. | Discuss periodic review, process, amendments and gather input | Present draft SMP amendments, periodic review checklist, and request recommendation | NOI to Commerce, Ecology, all stakeholders               | Recommendation to BOCC of adoption of SMP amendments  | Adoption of SMP amendments | Prepare responsiveness summary from public hearing, submit adopted draft to Ecology |

\*Continuous updates with Planning Commission and County Commissioners, all meetings publicly noticed

\*On-going project updates on County Website

## Local Jurisdiction Meetings:

- **Albion** - TBD
- **City of Colfax** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, at 7 p.m.
- **City of Palouse** - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month
- **Pullman Planning Commission** – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- **Rosalia City Council Meetings** - 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm
- **Tekoa Council Meetings** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- **Whitman County Planning Commission** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.