



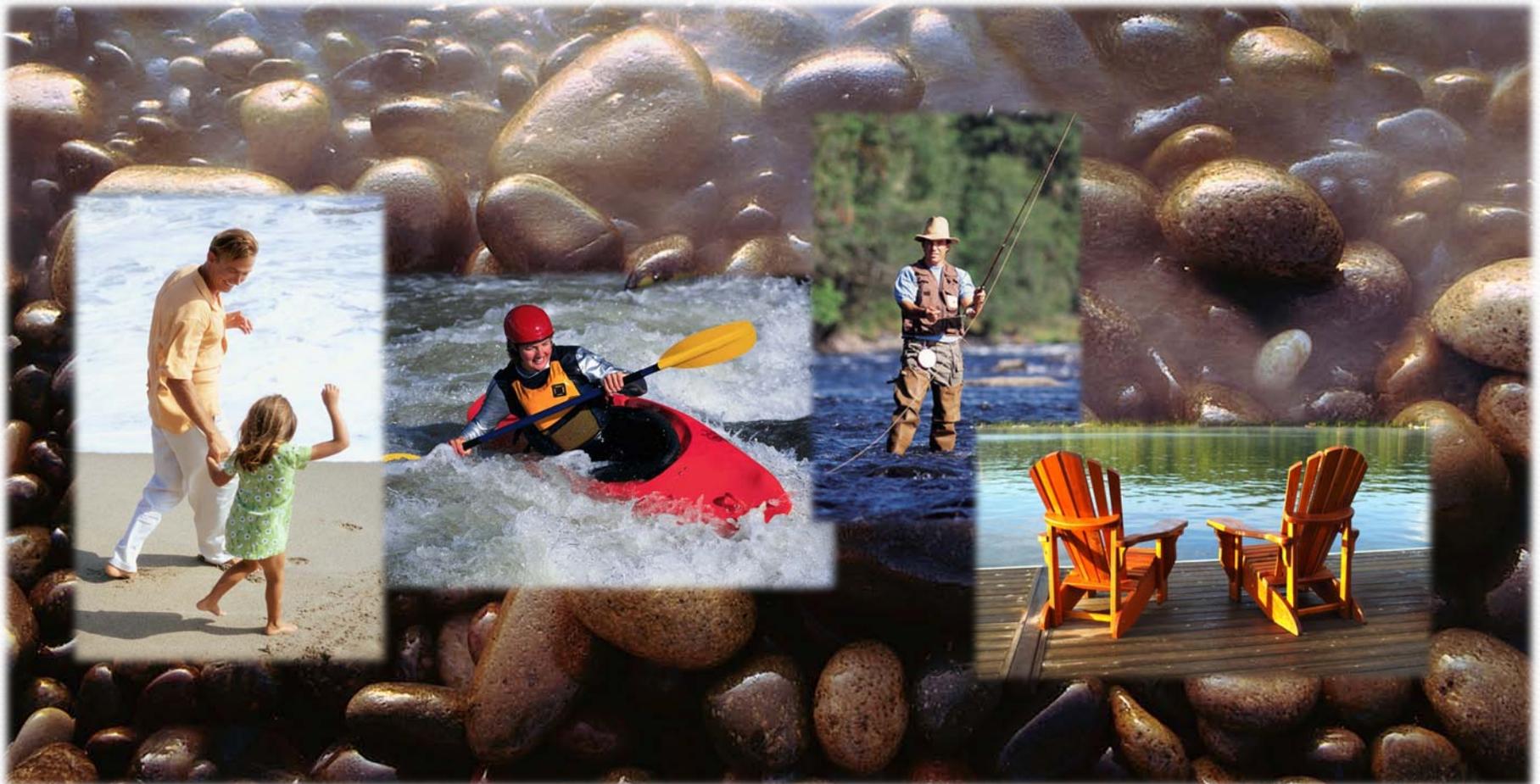
# Shoreline Master Programs

Defining our  
future together

Viewer Tip: Press your space bar to move to next slide.

# Shorelines...

where the land and water meet



# What are SMPs?

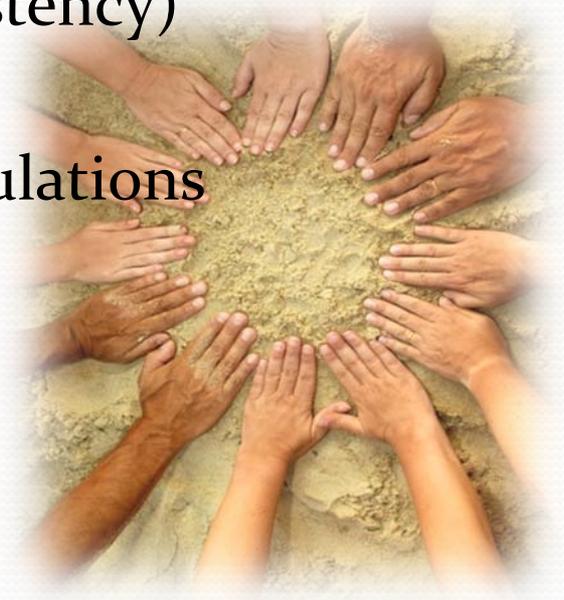
- Local implementation of the Shoreline Management Act
- Manage development and use of Washington's shorelines



- environmental protection
  - public access
- water-dependent uses

# SMP Partnership

- **State Dept. of Ecology**
  - Provides 'sideboards' to meet state law
  - Protects the broad public and statewide interests (cumulative impacts, consistency)
- **Towns, cities and counties**
  - Writes and enforces policies and regulations
  - Permits development and uses
- **Interested parties**
  - Define a future vision
  - Provide input on program content
  - Review and comment on permits



# SMP shorelines

- Lakes larger than 20 acres
- Streams/rivers with flow greater than 20 cfs
- All marine shorelines – Puget Sound, Pacific Coast
- Associated wetlands and shorelands (typically within 200 feet of water, with exceptions)
- Special preference for shorelines of statewide significance

# SMP updates underway

- About 260 cities and counties; all counties
- Deadline 2014 (29 done – Whatcom Co., Jefferson Co., Port Townsend)
- Takes 2-3 years



# SMP update steps

- Year 1:
  - Write public participation plan; convene citizens committee
  - Conduct science-based shoreline inventory and characterization that forms foundation of decisions
- Year 2-3:
  - Designate land use overlay that reflects community vision
  - Write restoration plan
  - City or county council adopts
  - Ecology reviews and adopts



# Economic benefits

- Protects lives and property by keeping development from occurring in unstable or unsafe areas.
- Helps cities and counties realize their vision for future waterfront development and uses.
- Provides for public access and recreational opportunities.
- Avoids costly future restoration of degraded shorelines.

# Environmental benefits

- Protects overall health of shorelines and public waters
  - no net loss of ecological functions
    - Helps protect water quality.
    - Reduces how often floods and landslides occur, and how much damage is caused by them.
    - Protects critical habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Restores unhealthy shorelines and increase the health of public waters.

# Citizen engagement tips

- Find out if your town, city or county is currently updating your local SMP – sign up for notices.
- Provide input early and often – serve on committees, comment on drafts, attend meetings.
- Ongoing: Review and comment on shoreline development permits.



# Resources

- Your local planning department
- Ecology's
  - [Citizens Guide to Shoreline Master Programs](#)
    - [SMP overview, frequently asked questions, publications](#)
    - [find your local program](#)
    - [Shoreline blog](#)
  - [Shoreline Planners Toolbox](#)
    - [Data and Information](#)
    - [Planning Process](#)
  - [Ecology's regional planners](#)

