

READER'S GUIDE

A. The Shoreline Management Act and the City of Colfax's SMP

Washington State's citizens voted to approve the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) of 1971 in November 1972. The SMA seeks to provide environmental protection for shorelines, preserve and enhance shoreline public access, and encourage appropriate development that supports water-oriented uses. The City developed and adopted its first Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in 1974 as part of a regional effort with Whitman County. That SMP was developed almost 40 years ago and since then there has been some change along the City's shoreline. In addition, knowledge of best development and conservation practices has evolved. There have also been changes in State laws and rules. Therefore, in accordance with the SMA, the City has prepared this SMP to guide and manage its shoreline.

The City of Colfax SMP contains goals, policies, regulations, and a shoreline environment designation map that guide the development of shorelines in accordance with the SMA (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 90.58), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) SMP Guidelines (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 173-26), and Shoreline Management Permit and Enforcement Procedures (WAC 173-27).

The goals and policies of Colfax's SMP, approved under chapter 90.58 RCW, create a framework for the regulations of the SMP. They provide guidelines for future decision making and future development of lands within the City's SMP jurisdiction boundaries.

All regulatory elements of this SMP, including, but not limited to, definitions and use and modification regulations, are considered a part of the City's development regulations.

B. Shoreline Jurisdiction

In accordance with state laws and rules, the jurisdiction of the City of Colfax's SMP encompasses the Mainstem, North and South Forks of the Palouse River; land within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM); any floodway; contiguous 100-year floodplain extending up to 200 feet inland of the floodway; and any associated wetlands.

C. Applicability and Exemptions

The SMP applies to all proposed uses and development occurring within shoreline jurisdiction. This SMP does not apply to certain activities that do not alter structures or properties, such as interior building changes or routine gardening. It also does not apply to legally established uses already on the land such as existing agriculture, existing residences, and other existing uses, structures, and activities. See Section 1.5 for a complete description of SMP applicability.

There are also activities that are exempt from the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit system. These activities are subject to the standards of the SMP, but are not required to submit fees and other materials associated with Shoreline Substantial Development Permits. Common exemptions include, but are not limited to:

- Normal maintenance or repair of existing structures or developments
- Bulkheads common to single-family residences
- Emergency construction necessary to protect property from damage

- Construction and practices normal or necessary for farming, irrigation, and ranching activities including agricultural service roads and utilities, construction of a barn or similar agricultural structure, and the construction and maintenance of irrigation structures
- Construction of a single-family residence

Exemptions are fully described and listed in WAC 173-27-040 and RCW 90.58.030(3)(e), 90.58.140(9), 90.58.147, 90.58.355, and 90.58.515, as amended. See Section 7.6 for additional information on exemptions.

D. How to Read and Apply this SMP

When reading the SMP, it is useful to consider the definitions of the following terms that are based on definitions in the SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26-020):

- Shall or must: means a mandate; the action must be done.
- Should: means that the particular action is required unless there is a demonstrated, compelling reason, based on policy of the Shoreline Management Act and shoreline master program, against taking the action.
- May: means the action is acceptable, provided it conforms to the provisions of this SMP and the Act.

In general, this SMP uses the word “should” in goals, objectives, and policies, and “shall” in the regulations. Additional definitions are located in Appendix A.

For informational purposes, the flow chart below (Figure RG-1) illustrates how an applicant could navigate the regulations to determine if and how they apply to a particular project and property. In addition to approval from the City of Colfax, any shoreline development or construction project may also require a permit or approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology, and/or the Washington Department of Natural Resources, among others.

E. Document Organization

The SMP establishes long-term planning goals and policies; specific development standards and use regulations; and permitting and administrative procedures. As such, the SMP is linked to other City planning documents such as the City of Colfax Comprehensive Plan and the Colfax Municipal Code (CMC). The organization of the SMP and the purpose for each chapter is explained below.

- Chapter 1. Introduction: provides background, purpose and legal authority.
- Chapter 2. Shoreline Vision and Goals: provides the SMP vision statement and enacting goals.
- Chapter 3. Shoreline Jurisdiction and Environment Designations: Establishes the shoreline jurisdiction and includes the purpose, designation criteria and management policies for specific areas within the shoreline jurisdiction.
- Chapter 4. General Policies and Regulations: Provides general policies and regulations that apply broadly to uses and developments in all shoreline areas.
- Chapter 5. Shoreline Use Policies and Regulations: establishes policies and regulations for specific uses in shoreline jurisdiction.

- Chapter 6. Shoreline Modification Policies and Regulations: Establishes policies and regulations for shoreline modification activities and structures.
- Chapter 7. Administration and Permitting: provides procedures and process for permit applications associated with shoreline development.
- Appendix A. Definitions: provides definitions for terms used throughout the SMP.
- Appendix B. Shoreline Critical Area Policies and Regulations: contains policies and regulations for developments and uses in shoreline critical areas.

