

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely a reservoir or lake. In the foreground, there is a dark blue area of water. In the middle ground, a large island is covered in dense green trees and has a small structure. To the left of the island, there is a smaller, curved peninsula with a paved area and some trees. In the background, a large vineyard with rows of green grapevines is visible, surrounded by brown and tan fields. The sky is not visible.

DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Prepared for
Franklin County

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Franklin County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in compliance with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and adopted state shoreline management guidelines. This work is funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The County, in coordination with Ecology, will work to develop common SMP elements, share outreach materials, and obtain technical input from Native American tribes, and local, state, and Federal agencies. Through this concerted effort, the County will develop a tailored SMP consistent with shoreline conditions, local policies and plans, and state requirements in order to provide for environmental protection, appropriate shoreline use and development, and public access. It is expected that Ecology will be able to approve the SMP provided to them by the County due to the collaboration and communications that will occur during development of the SMP elements.

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) is intended to provide a guide to proactively encourage public participation throughout the SMP update process. This PPP describes strategies, characterizes opportunities for public input during the planning process, and explains how to engage policymakers and key stakeholders. Roles and responsibilities for County staff (including consultant staff) are also provided.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The County recognizes the importance of early and continuous public participation in order to adequately reflect the County's preferred uses and allocation of waterfront lands, while also addressing state shoreline requirements. It is the goal of the County to ensure public input is incorporated into the decision-making process, in order to accomplish the following goals:

- Establish a strategy to educate the public and stakeholders about the SMP update process and requirements.
- Ensure available SMP information is current and accessible to the public.
- Clearly identify opportunities for public comment and participation, and provide adequate time for review of SMP materials and amendments prior to decision-making.
- Encourage and maintain open lines of communication among the County, the public, and stakeholders through meetings, open houses, and workshops.

STRATEGIES

Described below are key strategies that have been developed to encourage outreach and public involvement throughout the SMP update process. Implementation of these strategies is expected to generate meaningful public participation.

Develop and Maintain an Interested Parties List

A list of interested parties will be developed and maintained throughout the SMP update process. Organizations and individuals on this list will be notified of education and input opportunities and decision points. This list will likely include: members of the public and business community; environmental stakeholders; Native American tribes; local, county, state, and Federal officials and departments; and other applicable constituents. Any organization or individual expressing a desire for involvement in the SMP process will be added to this list.

An initial list of potential interested parties has been developed. These and others, as identified, will receive targeted communications on the SMP process and opportunities for participation. The preliminary list includes the following agencies and organizations:

- Benton-Franklin County Health District
- Big Bend Electric
- City of Connell
- City of Kahlotus
- City of Mesa
- City of Pasco
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
- Ducks Unlimited
- Franklin County Conservation District
- Franklin County Cattleman's Association
- Franklin County Farm Bureau
- Franklin County Natural Resource Advisory Committee
- Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Franklin County Open Space Advisory Board
- Franklin County Public Utility District

- Franklin County Public Works Department
- Franklin County Water Conservancy Board
- Franklin County Wheat Growers
- Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
- Nature Conservancy (Arid Lands Initiative)
- Pheasants Forever-Columbia Basin Chapter
- Port of Pasco
- South Columbia Basin Irrigation District
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Parks and Recreation
- Washington State University Extension Office-Pasco

Workshops and Open Houses

The Franklin County Planning Commission will host a series of open houses, workshops, and public meetings to communicate SMP information, including SMP requirements, findings and draft work products, opportunities for comments, and local government and Ecology decision points. The County, Ecology, and a consultant team will be available at these events to present information, field questions, and obtain input from the public and interested parties. These events are scheduled to coincide with the drafting of key deliverables and are planned as shown in Table 1. Exact dates, times, and agendas for these events will be announced prior to workshops and public meetings. Additionally, dates in the later part of the schedule could be expedited if additional grant funding becomes available in the current state biennium, which ends June 30, 2015.

Table 1
General Meeting Plan by SMP Update Task

Tasks	Public Outreach Efforts	Date(s)
Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain email and direct mail distribution lists • Develop project outreach materials 	Ongoing from December 2013 to April 2016
Preliminary Assessment of Shoreline Jurisdiction		
Shoreline Inventory, Analysis, and Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information public meeting/Planning Commission workshop on SMP process; Draft Shoreline Inventory, Analysis, and Characterization Report, and next steps 	February 2014
Develop Draft SMP	Quarterly Board of County Commission briefings	May, August, and November 2014
	Visioning Workshops – goals, policies, and uses	May and June 2014
	Two Planning Commission meetings on preliminary Draft SMP elements (goals, policies, environmental designations, and public access)	September and October 2014
	Two Draft SMP public meetings	November and December 2014
	Planning Commission meeting on public input and updated Draft SMP	February 2015
Cumulative Impacts/ Restoration Plan, Final Draft SMP	One Planning Commission meeting – revisit Restoration Plan, Draft SMP, and Cumulative Impacts Analysis	November and December 2015
Local SMP Adoption Process	One Planning Commission hearing/County Commission approval (County staff lead with Consultant support)	March and April 2016

Technical Agency Workshops

Technical workshops will be held to obtain input on information related to streams, lakes, wetlands, and other areas regulated by the SMA. These workshops will facilitate detailed analyses and discussions on key elements of the SMPs and include representation from Native American tribes, and local, and state and Federal agencies. Two technical workshops are tentatively targeted for the following quarters:

- Second Quarter of 2014 – Shoreline Analysis and Characterization Report
- Fourth Quarter of 2014/First Quarter of 2015 – Development of Shoreline Environment Designations and other SMP provisions

Formal Public Review

Prior to final adoption of the updated SMP, a formal public review will be conducted under the State Environmental Policy Act (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 43.21C), including a public hearing and public comment period (WSL 2012a). All comments received during the public hearing and public comment period will be compiled, and an updated SMP will be developed consistent with the requirements of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-26-100 (WSL 2012b).

Email Communications

An email distribution list will be maintained for individuals and groups that request to be placed on the distribution list. Periodic project announcements, public notices of upcoming public meetings, and other information related to the SMP update will be sent to this list. Individuals and organizations interested in being included on the email distribution list should contact Greg Wendt, Franklin County, Planning and Building Department, by email at FranklinSMPUpdate@anchorqa.com or visit the SMP update website at: <http://www.FranklinCoSMPUpdate.com>.

SMP Update Mailings

A mailing list of property owners within the shoreline jurisdiction will be maintained. Periodic project announcements and notices of upcoming public meetings related to the SMP update will be mailed directly to the property owners.

Website

A website is being maintained to provide a public forum for obtaining SMP information, including status updates, reports, public meeting notices and agendas, and other project information. The website will be updated on a regular basis and is available at:

<http://www.FranklinCoSMPUpdate.com>

Other websites applicable to the SMP update process will be provided as links on the County website, including the Ecology SMP website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/toolbox.html>

Libraries and Town Halls

A hardcopy of SMP work products will be available at the County Planning and Building Department or other suitable location(s). The SMP update website (listed above) will be updated with documents as they become available, and hardcopies will be circulated at applicable locations.

Documentation

All public outreach efforts and the results of those efforts will be documented in the administrative record maintained by the County. Documentation will include: invitation letters and responses; meeting and hearing notices; meeting materials; meeting notes with attendance and comments received; draft and final work products; and other information as applicable.

Legal Notifications

Legal notifications for dates and times of open houses, public hearings, and comment periods will be distributed to the public via email, U.S. Postal Service mail, newspapers, flyers, and other public postings. Notices will also be provided on the County website.

Other Public Outreach Approaches

Other outreach approaches may be employed. The County will also periodically evaluate the effectiveness of outreach approaches and adjust these as necessary, and within budget constraints, to continue providing appropriate opportunities for public input to the SMP update process.

CONTACTS

Key contacts for the SMP update are provided in Table 2. These contacts will also be provided on the SMP update website address provided above.

Table 2
Key Contacts

Jurisdiction	Primary Contact	Email	Phone
Franklin County	Greg Wendt, Assistant Planning Director	gwendt@co.franklin.wa.us	509-545-3521
Franklin County	Jerrod MacPherson, Planning Director	jmacpherson@co.franklin.wa.us	509-545-3521
Consultant Team Project Manager	Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA	bfloyd@anchorqea.com	509-491-3151

REFERENCES

WSL (Washington State Legislature), 2012a. Chapter 43.21C RCW. State Environmental Policy. Cited: January 13, 2014. Available from:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.21C>.

WSL, 2012b. Chapter 173-26-100. Local process for approving/amending shoreline master programs. Cited: January 13, 2014. Available from:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-26-100>.