



ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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~ MEMORANDUM ~

TO: David Pater, Department of Ecology Shoreline Planner

FROM: Karen Stewart, Shoreline Master Program Coordinator

DATE: February 20, 2013, *revised February 27, 2013*

SUBJECT: Proposed Addendum to Island County Shoreline Restoration Plan

To address comments in your letter of January 30, 2013 we propose the following revisions (*italicized wording*) to the December 27, 2012 locally adopted version of the Island County Shoreline Restoration Plan.

Add this list of acronyms to the bottom of Table 3 (pg. 12)

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|--------|--|
| MRC | <i>Island County Marine Resource Committee</i> |
| NRCS | <i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> |
| NOAA | <i>National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration</i> |
| NWSC | <i>Northwest Straits Commission</i> |
| SRFB | <i>Salmon Recovery Funding Board</i> |
| PSNERP | <i>Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project</i> |
| USFWS | <i>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</i> |
| WA DNR | <i>Washington Dept. of Natural Resources</i> |
| WDFW | <i>Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife</i> |

Add new Section 7: Monitoring and Adaptive Management Strategies (pg. 26)

The SMP guidelines for restoration planning state that local programs should "...appropriately review the effectiveness of the projects and programs in meeting the overall restoration goals" (WAC 173-26-201(2)(f)). Monitoring the progress of any restoration plan is an important step in documenting progress and managing change in the shoreline environment. Under the Shoreline Management Act, the shoreline master program must result in "no net loss" of shoreline ecological functions.

Island County-- with assistance from the Island County Marine Resources Committee and the Island County Beach Watchers—will monitor the results of future restoration projects. Monitoring will include the type of development activity and shoreline permit type as well as the following key environmental metrics where applicable to the site and the specific project:

- 1. sediment deposition*
- 2. large woody debris*
- 3. eelgrass*
- 4. water quality*
- 5. native vegetation converted to lawn or impervious surface areas*
- 6. number of new or replaced pilings and overwater structures*
- 7. lineal feet of bulkheads, seawall or levee removed*
- 8. restored wetland (acres)*
- 9. restored coastal lagoon (acres)*

On-going monitoring of critical areas within shoreline jurisdiction will also be conducted and evaluated by county biologists.

As part of a valid reassessment of the shoreline conditions following restoration activity, adaptive management will be undertaken based on the results of monitoring changes in relevant ecological functions. Through systematically documenting the process of restoration and the results achieved, the county intends to maximize effectiveness and avoid repetition of faulty approaches. Others in the conservation community can benefit from this information as they can use the monitoring data to design and manage better projects and avoid some of the hazards and failures of previous efforts that are well documented by practitioners.

In addition, Island County will review shoreline processes and functions at the time of periodic updates of the shoreline master program to validate the effectiveness of the overall regulatory measures. This review will consider what restoration activities actually occurred compared to the stated goals and priorities, and whether restoration projects resulted in a net improvement of shoreline resources. Project mitigation will also be monitored using evaluation of current aerial photos and site visits. Based upon the results of this monitoring, ecological processes and functions that demonstrate a downward trend of impairment will need to be elevated for priority action to prevent loss of critical shoreline resources.

Evaluation of shoreline conditions, permit activity, GIS mapping, policy and regulatory effectiveness will occur at varying levels of detail consistent with the comprehensive SMP update work program that is scheduled to occur every eight years. Through this adaptive management approach, the County will seek to improve the effectiveness of restoration efforts through better design and installation of projects and monitoring their impacts.

Revise the legend on Map 2 to identify the shoreline restoration opportunity indicated with a green dot as *Protect/Restore*. Add the following description to Section 4, page 14:

The Island County Clean Water Utility adopted by the Board of Island County Commissioners on December 20, 2010 to address concerns related to surface and groundwater quality and quantity will be a key mechanism to facilitate restoration activity in shoreline areas. The Island County Public Works Department is currently responsible for overall coordination of the Clean Water Utility with 42% of the funding used for installation and repair of drainage projects outside of the right-of-way. In addition, approximately 4.5% of the funding will be used to promote low impact development and 12% for water quality monitoring and on-site sewage repairs. Approximately, 2-5% will be allocated specifically for habitat restoration and preservation projects including recreational shellfish harvesting. The County will consider increasing this percentage, but in the near term project selection will be strategically focused on restoring key ecosystem processes where we have significant scientific knowledge and local commitment. Through this project selection process we will continue to engage local citizens. Where data gaps (scientific, community, and economic) exist, it will be important to work with local and regional partners to fill these gaps in our knowledge. Partial restoration should be considered when full restoration is not feasible.