

Public Participation

Statutory Requirements

The Shoreline Management Act, RCW 90.58.130 requires that local governments make reasonable efforts to inform the people of the state about the shoreline management program and actively encourage participation by all persons and private groups and entities showing an interest in shoreline management programs. The act also requires that the local government encourage participation by all agencies of federal, state, and local government, including municipal and public corporations, having interest or responsibilities relating to the shorelines of the state. The WAC 173-26-090, 173-26-100, and 173-26-201(3)(b), offers additional guidance that local governments consult with and solicit comments from all persons, groups, agencies, and tribes interested or with jurisdiction or expertise in shorelines. Conduct at least one public hearing to consider draft proposal and publish the notice of the hearing in the official county newspaper and comply with the State Environmental Policy Act.

Shoreline Advisory Group (SAG)

The development of the Stakeholders Advisory Group consisted of a representative of Okanogan County, and of each city and town, a representative from the Colville Confederated Tribe, a representative from each of the watershed planning units in the County, a representative of each of the following interest groups: agriculture, natural resources, business and recreation, conservation and the environment. The role of the SAG members is to review draft documents and guide staff and consultants in developing an SMP that will be acceptable to stakeholders as well as meeting the statutory requirements of the County, cities, and towns.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Agencies including the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, the Methow Conservancy, and the Okanogan Conservancy, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Ecology attended meetings to help in the development of environment designations, and regulations. The TAG along with the Methow Restoration Council and the Okanogan Restoration Council provided valuable input on the results of the inventory and analysis. All of the agencies and area organizations were invited to the TAG meetings throughout the process.

Outreach

Okanogan County has a website dedicated to the news and information for the Shoreline Master Program Update. As the draft documents were updated they were not only emailed to the SAG and TAG but were also updated on the website. Meeting notes from the SAG were also placed on the website. All of the project maps could be found on the website. A newsletter was periodically distributed to the SAG and TAG and posted on the website. Briefings were held with

the city and town councils and the Okanogan County Planning Commission. All hearing notices and revised drafts were also placed online.

Public Hearings

There were numerous public hearings from 2010 to 2015 for the drafting this SMP. Public comment was taken and considered in the drafting of this revised SMP.