



Clallam County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

Public Forums
April 2011





Presentation Overview

- Introduction and meeting format
- Overview of SMP update process
- Shoreline conditions and context for discussion topics
 - Marine Shoreline Development
 - Public Access
 - Floodplain Development

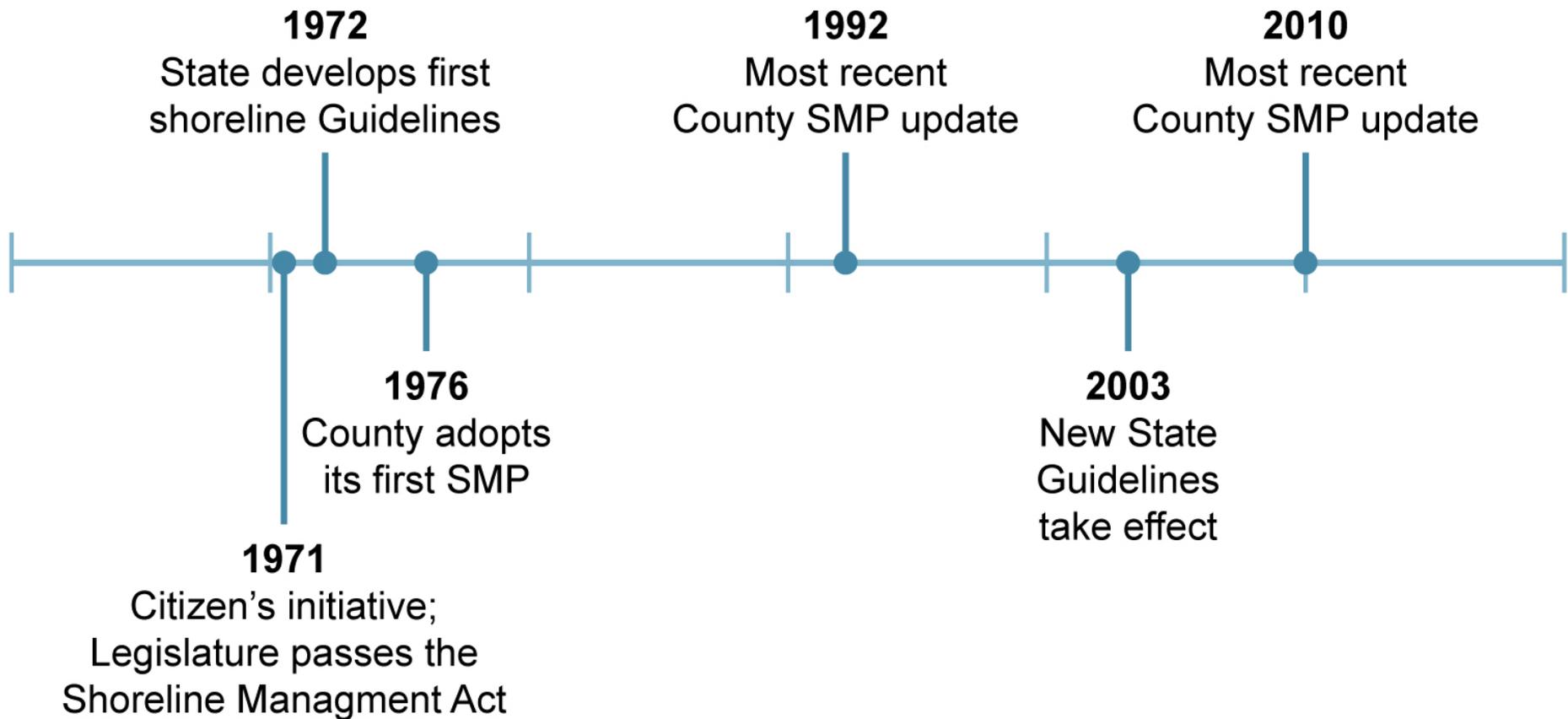


Shoreline Management Act of 1971

“...prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state’s shorelines.”



40 Years of Shoreline Management



Policy Goals of the Act



Encourage water-dependent & priority uses

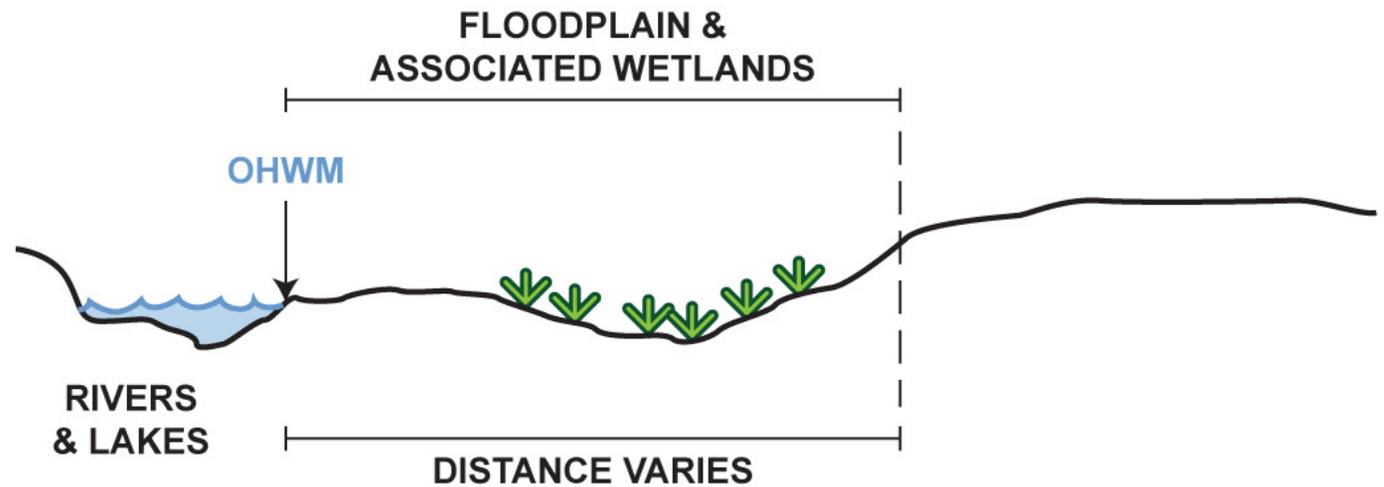
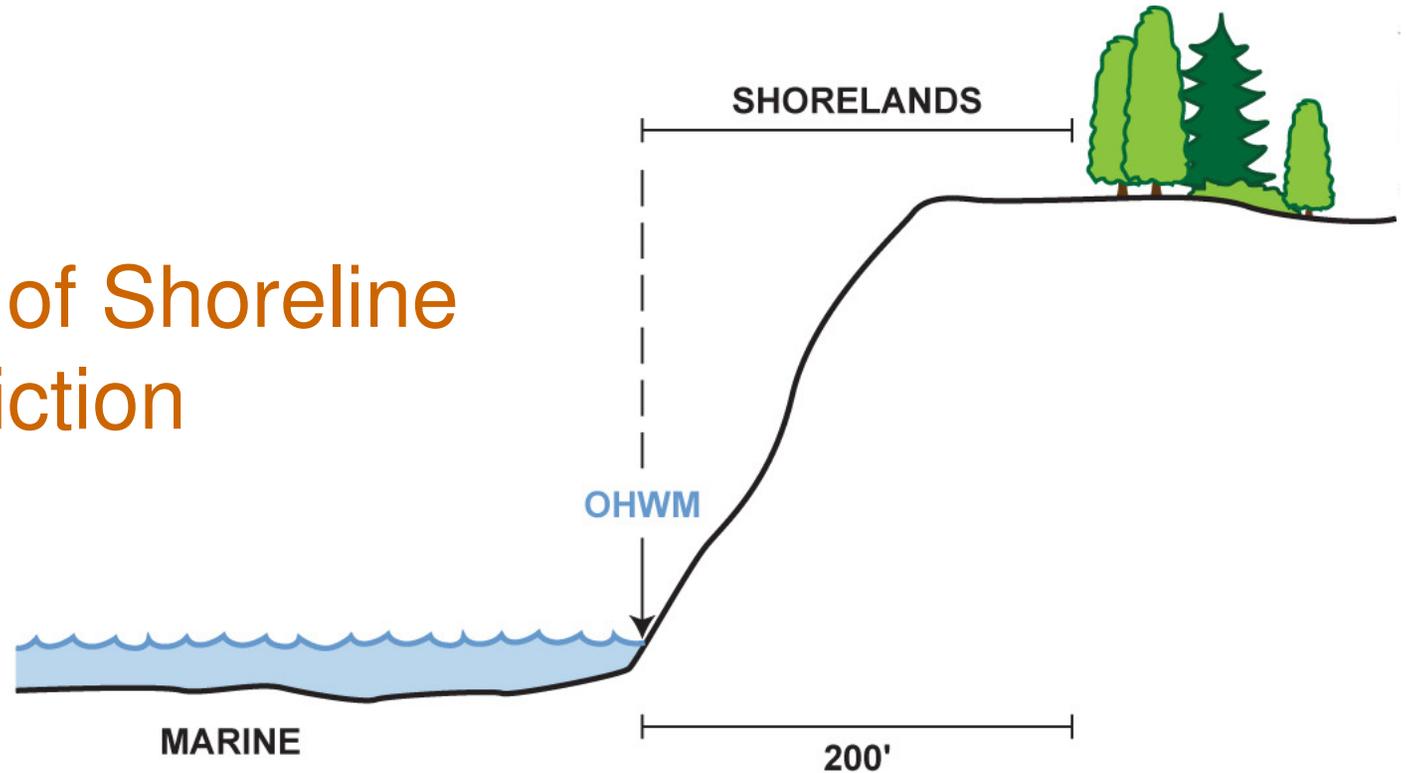


Protect natural resources



Promote public access

Limits of Shoreline Jurisdiction



What is an SMP?

- Goals – *what we want*
- Policies – *what we should do*
- Regulations – *how we achieve goals and implement policies*



Steps to updating an SMP





Approval Process

- Advisory committee and citizens weigh-in on strategies
- Planning commission reviews recommendations and holds hearing(s)
- County Commissioners review recommendations and holds hearing(s)
- Ecology reviews and holds hearing



Why update the SMP?

- Because conditions have changed (existing SMP 35 years old)
- Population has more than doubled since the SMP took effect
- We want to accommodate new residents without damaging lands and waters
- We understand the dynamics of shoreline environments better than before



More reasons...

- The current SMP is cumbersome and difficult to interpret
- The SMP is missing some important elements (e.g., public access)
- The Legislature is requiring all jurisdictions to update their SMP to comply with current state rules

Realities shoreline planning

Opportunities

- Take a fresh look at shoreline conditions
- Define a new vision for the future
- Build on past successes; correct problems

Constraints

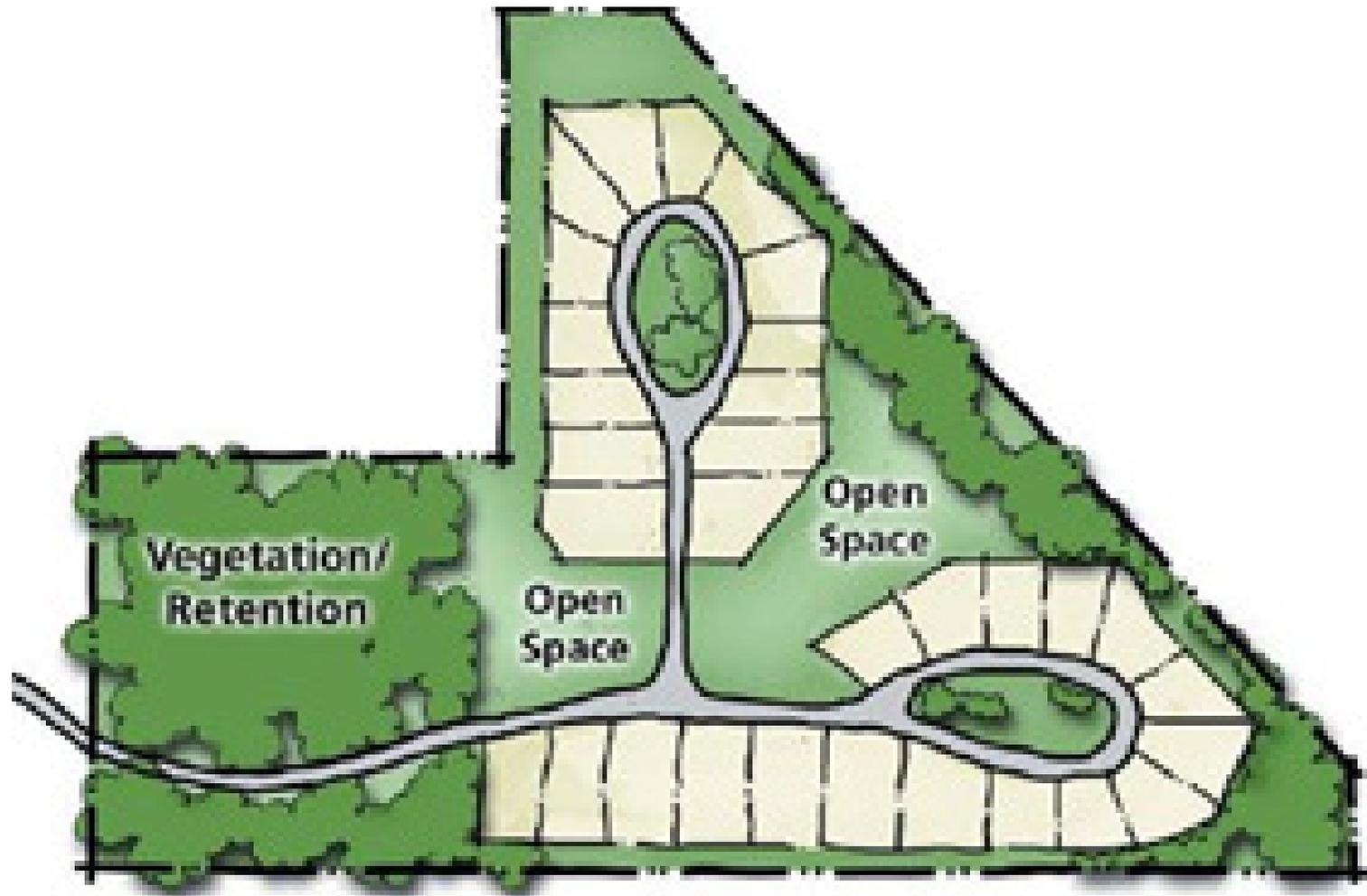
- Limited County resources for implementation
- Focus is limited to shoreline areas/issues
- Must balance community needs with environmental protection and economic development



No Net Loss

- Post-development conditions are no worse than pre-development conditions
 - Avoid & mitigate development impacts
 - Consider cumulative effects of development
 - Implement restoration projects to repair past ecological damage

SMPs regulate new use and development



Existing developments are not affected unless:

- New clearing or grading
- Expansion
- New/replacement structures
- Redevelopment



How the SMP affects different uses

Regulated

- New residential development
- Some recreational uses
- Moorage
- Shellfish cultivation & harvest
- New agriculture
- Bulkheads
- Other uses

Not Regulated

- Timber harvest
- Normal maintenance of structures or vegetation
- Existing agriculture
- Recreational shellfish harvest
- Boating, fishing



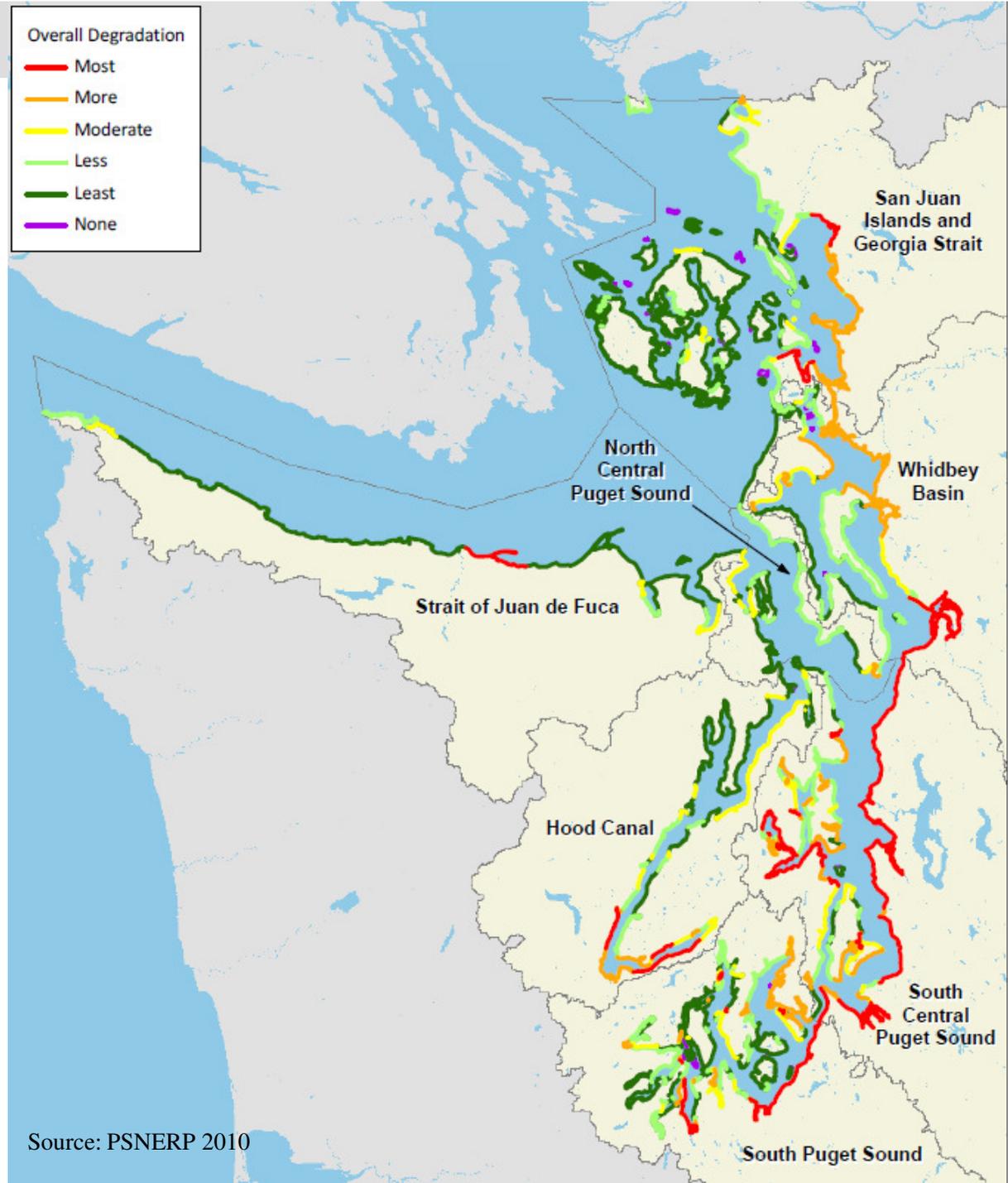
How healthy are your shores?

Who owns the shorelands?

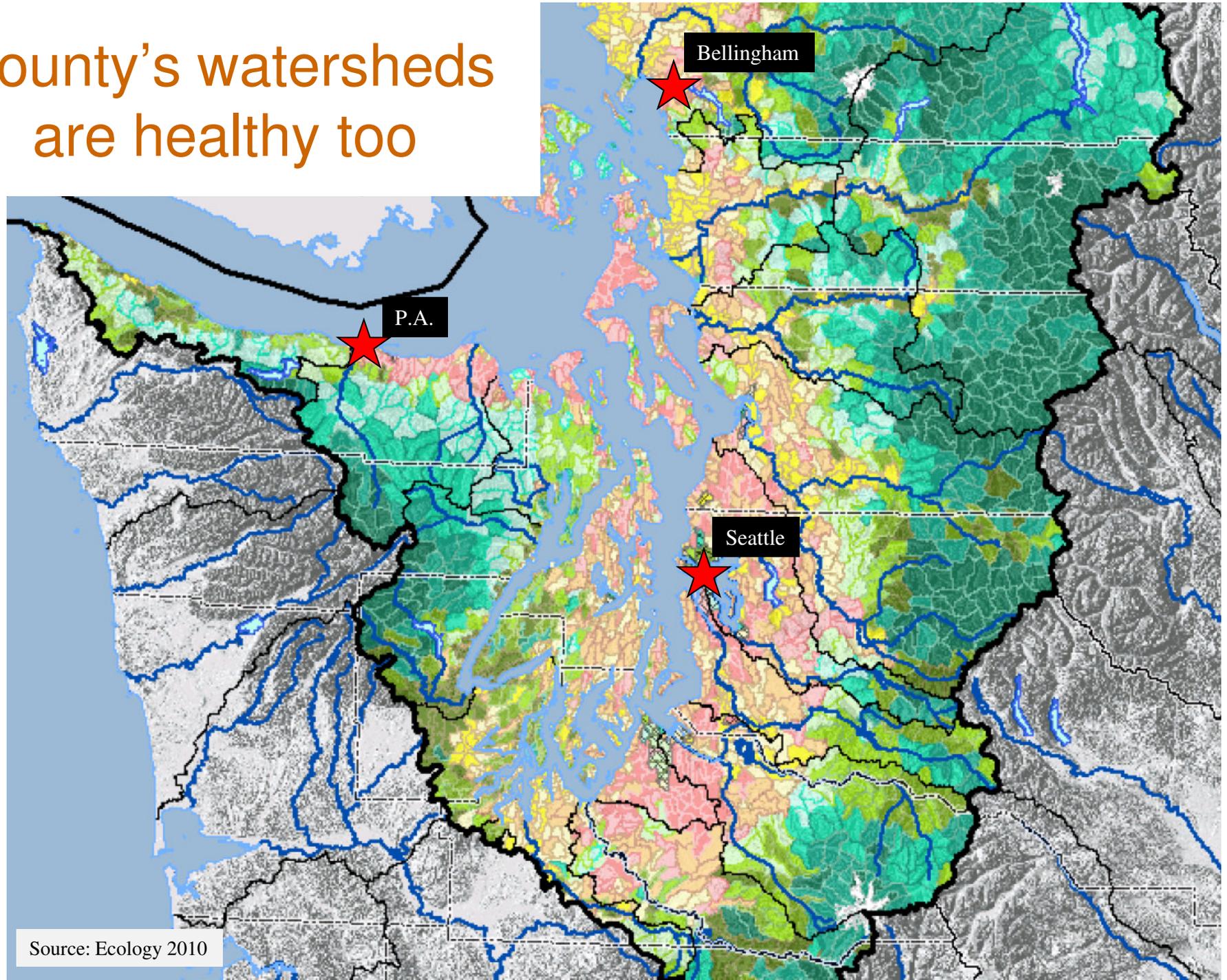
What types of development occur on the shorelines?



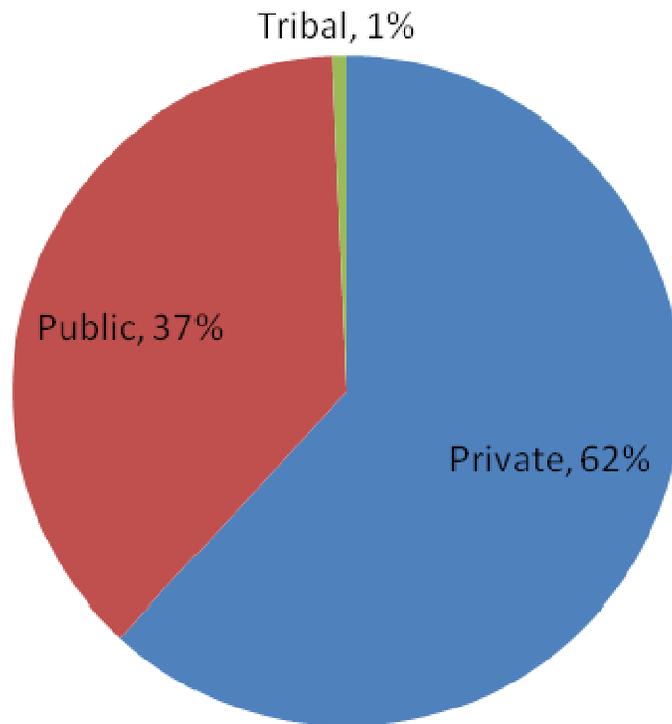
County's shores are healthy compared to most of Puget Sound region



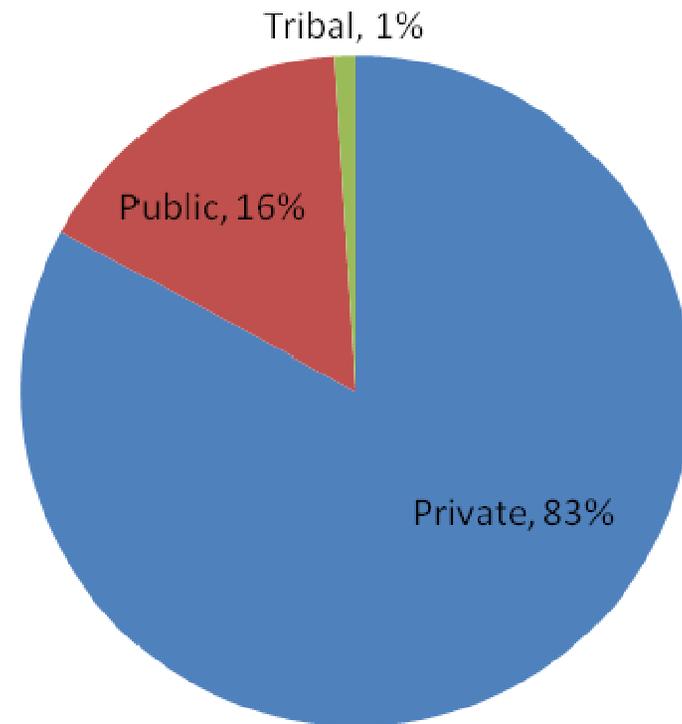
County's watersheds are healthy too



Majority of the shorelands are privately owned

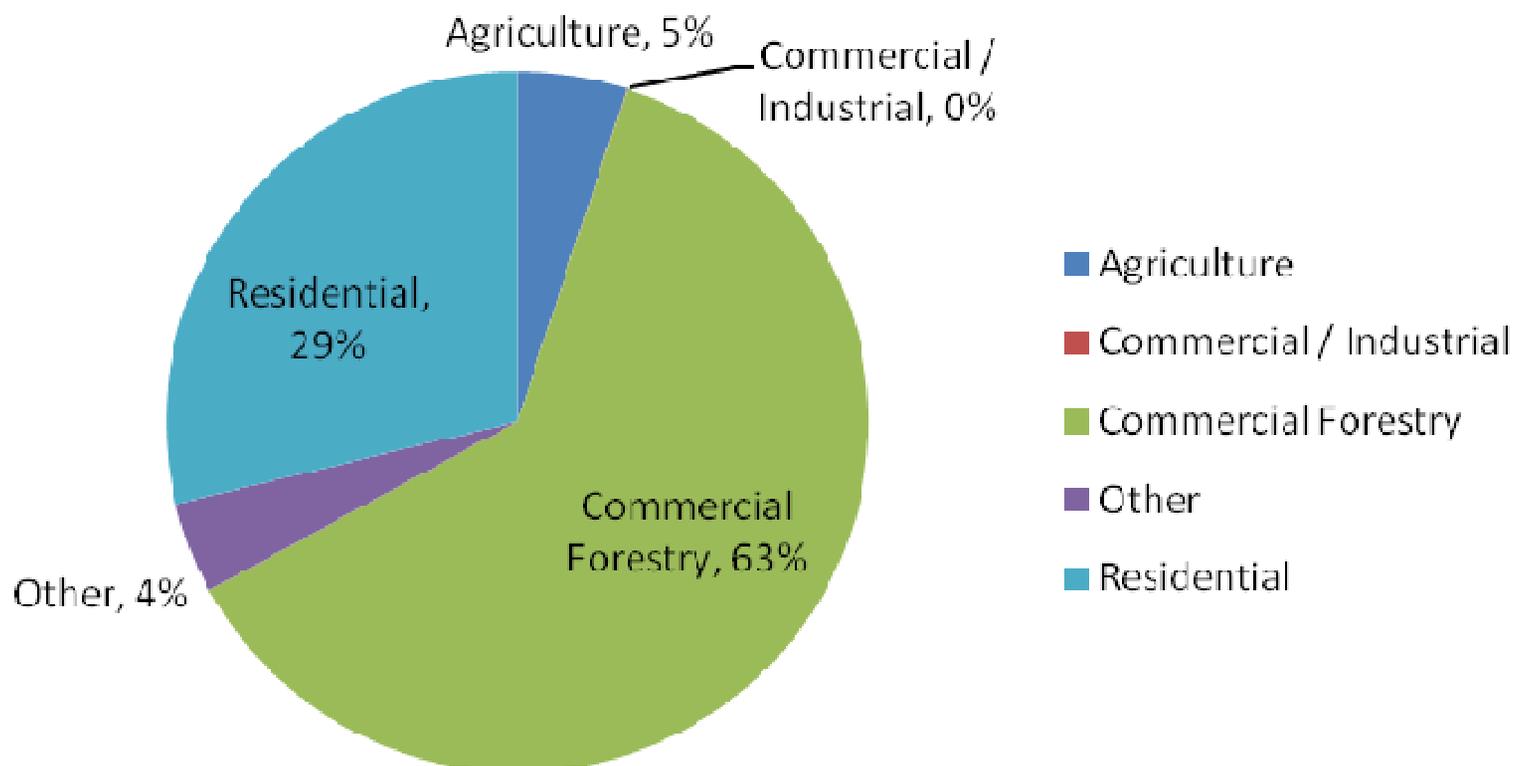


Lake and River
Shorelines

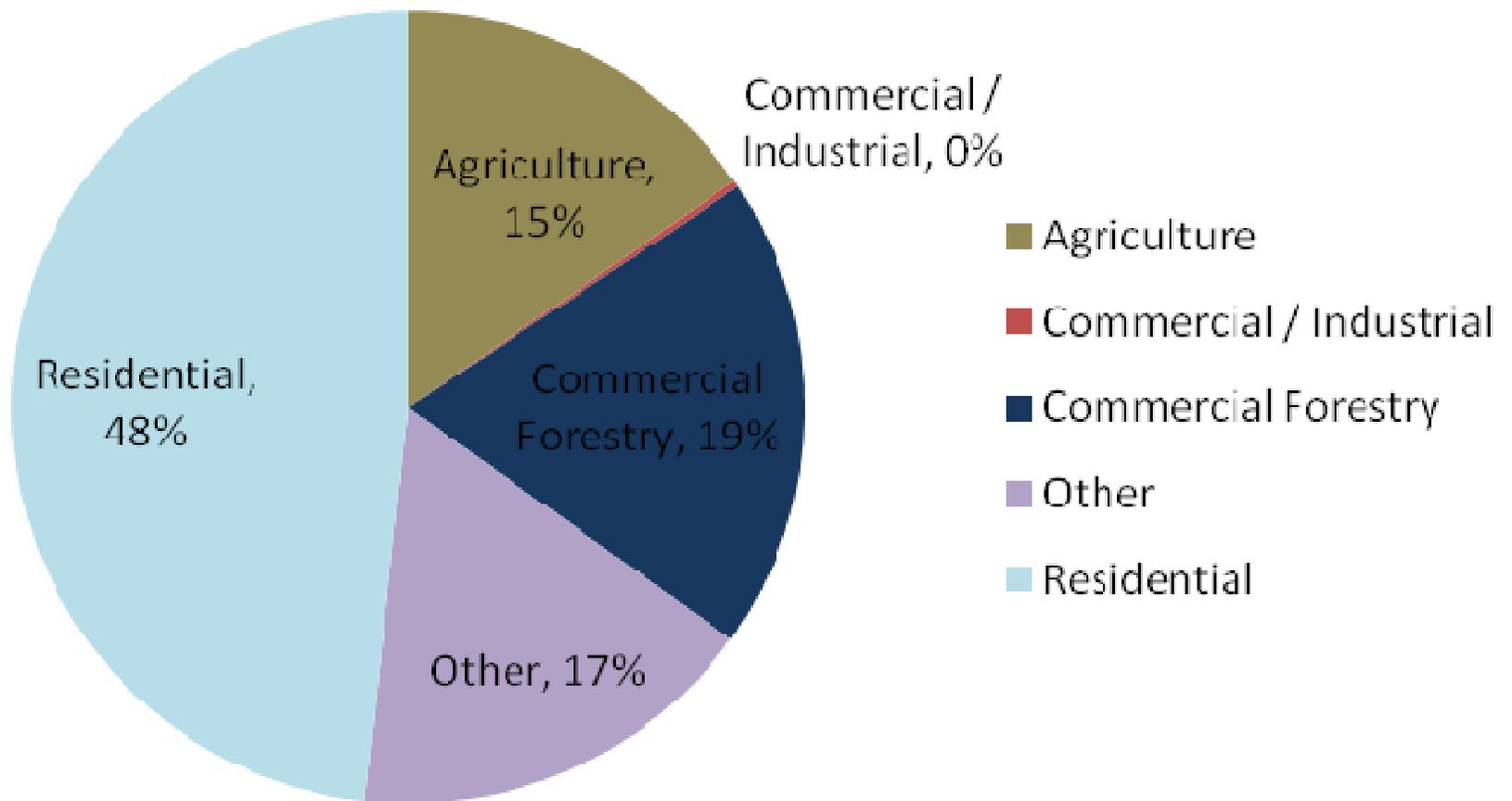


Marine
Shorelines

Types of Land Use along Rives and Lakes



Types of Land Use on the Marine Shore





Topic #1 - Marine Shoreline Development

- Key questions:
 - how do we deal with existing homes in hazardous areas?
 - Where/under what circumstances do we allow new development in hazardous areas?
 - How do we balance protection of property with environmental protection?
- Key considerations:
 - allowances for bulkheads
 - setbacks
 - vegetation management

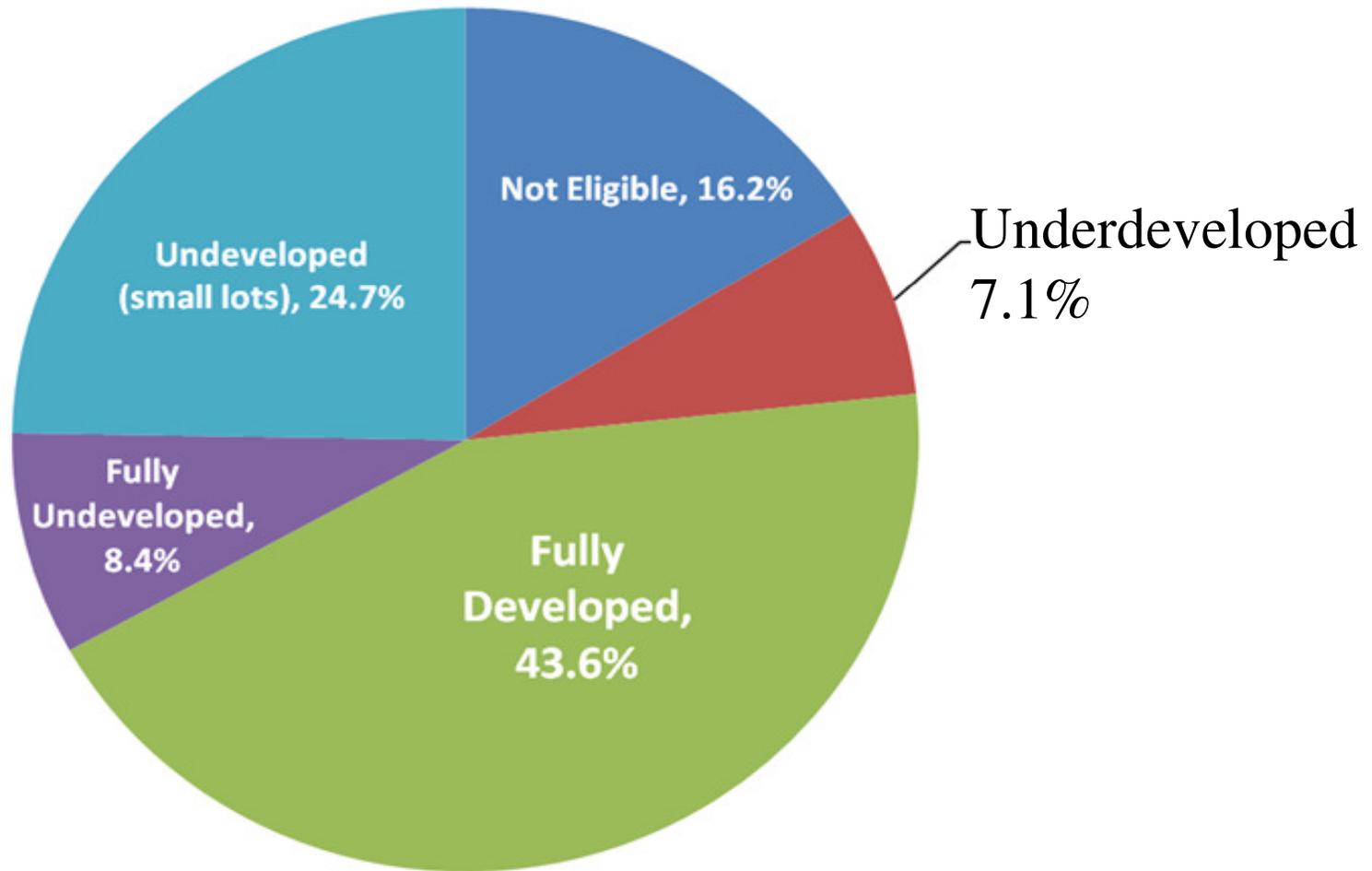


Near Green Pt. (Lands End - Tyler View Place)



Near Three Crabs Road

More Development will Occur



Understanding the Marine Environment



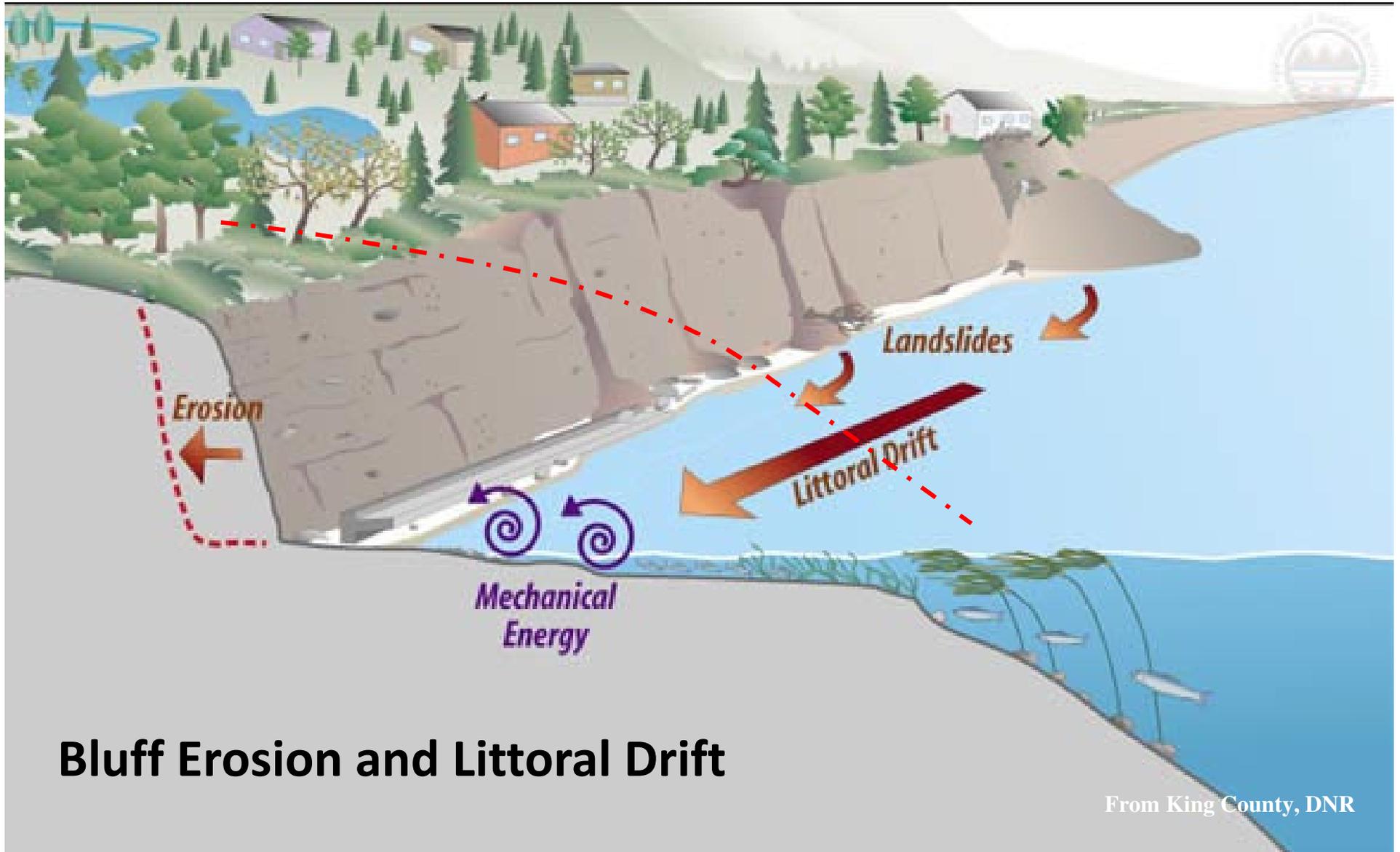
Photo: A. MacLennan

- Eroding coastal bluffs fronted by narrow, mixed sand and gravel beach
- Bluff erosion/bluff failure = major source of beach (~90%)
- River/stream sediment is only locally significant (at major river deltas)
- Beach material depends on exposure to wave energy and available sediment sources

Clallam's Marine Shoreline

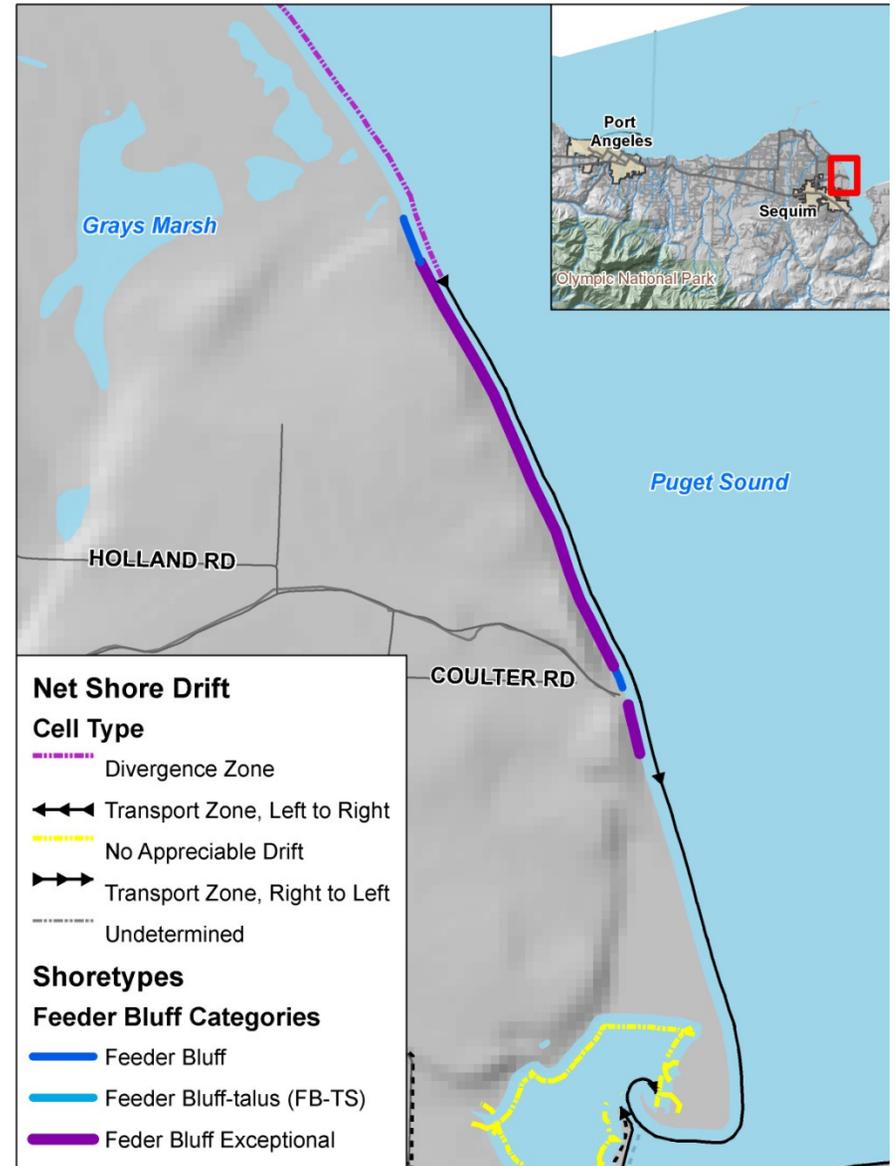
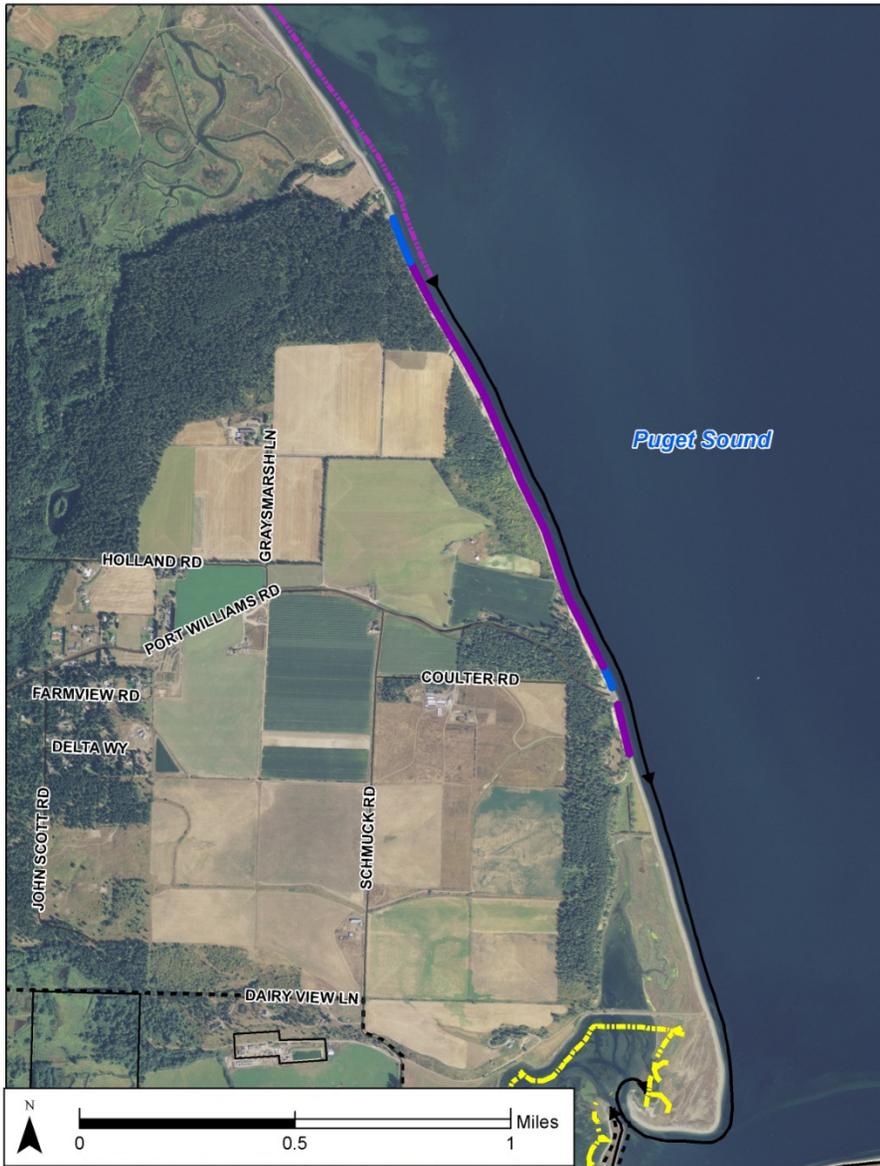
- We are making a detailed inventory of shoreline conditions
- Shore is divided into 18 segments or “reaches”
- Each reach represents a “drift cell”





Bluff Erosion and Littoral Drift

From King County, DNR



Bluff erosion is a natural process, but people have an influence

- Geology
- Bluff height
- Wind / wave exposure
- Toe erosion
- Precipitation
- Drainage
- Clearing & development

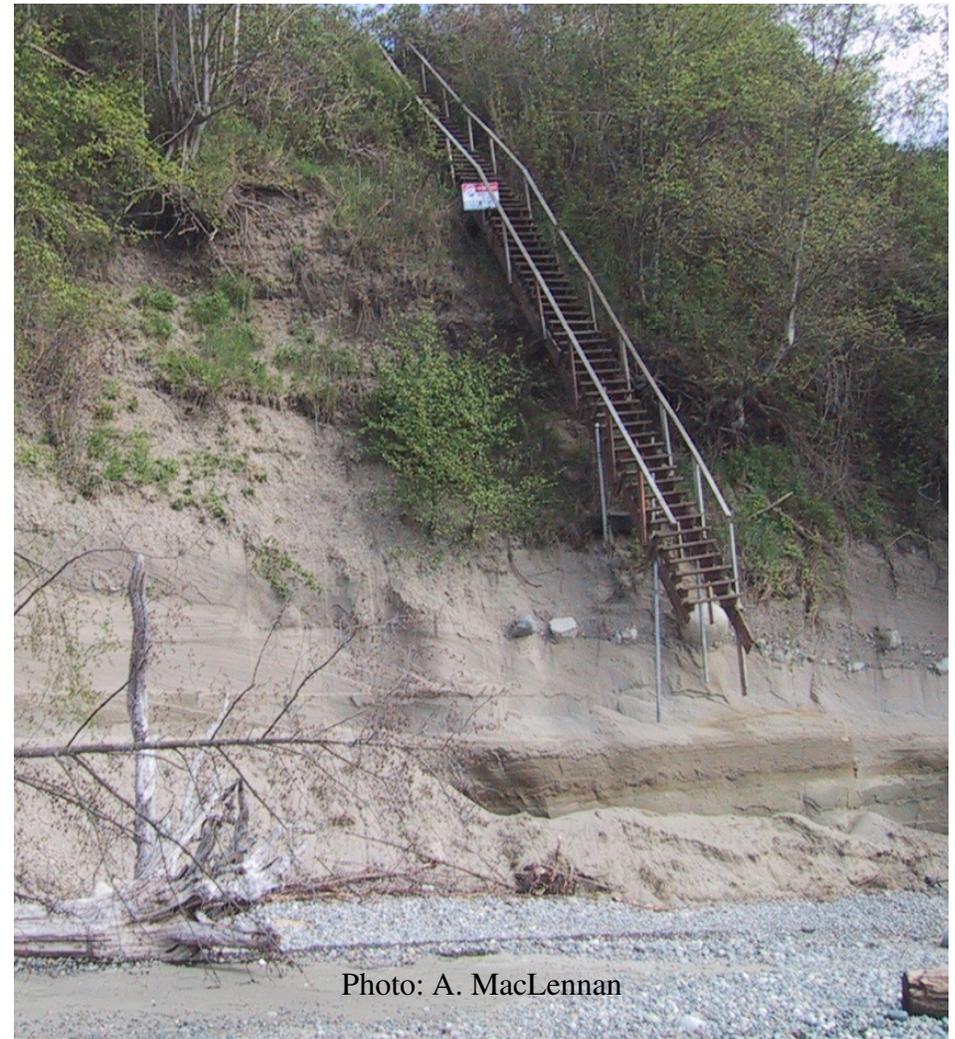
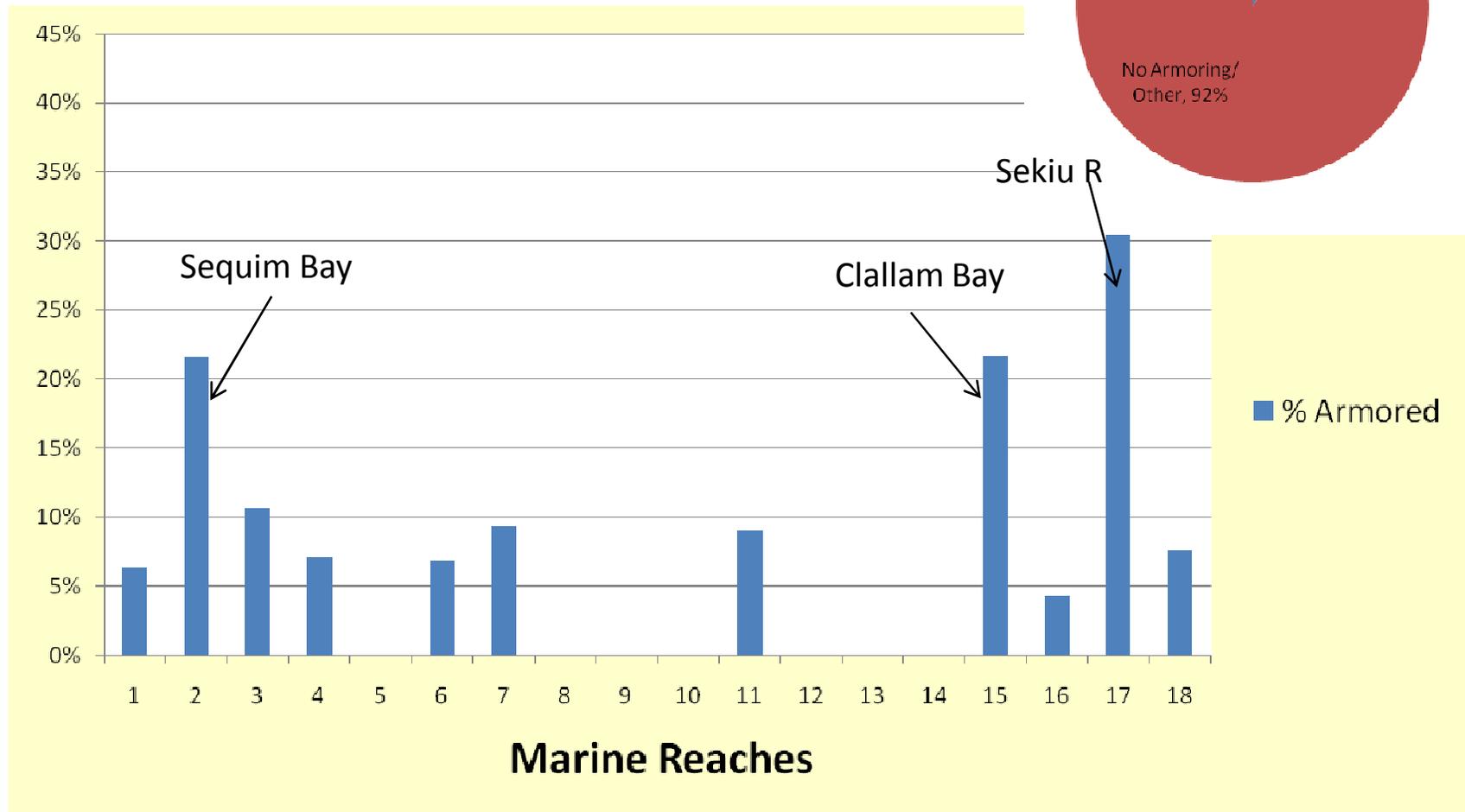
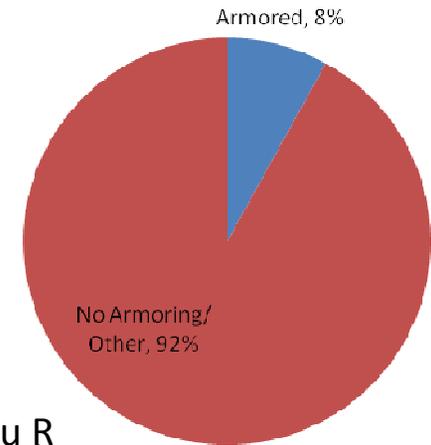


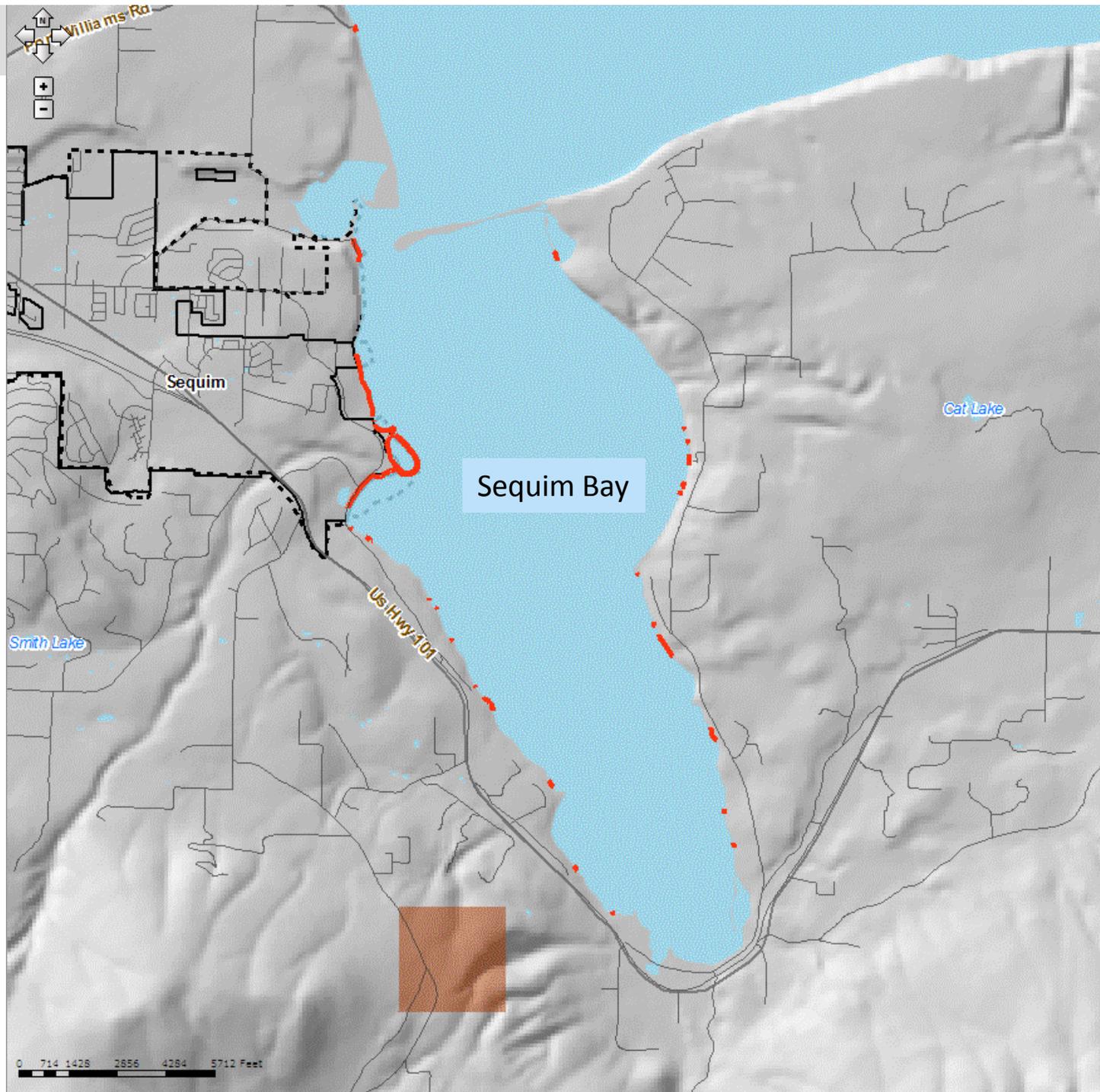
Photo: A. MacLennan

Most of the shoreline is not armored





Existing Bulkheads



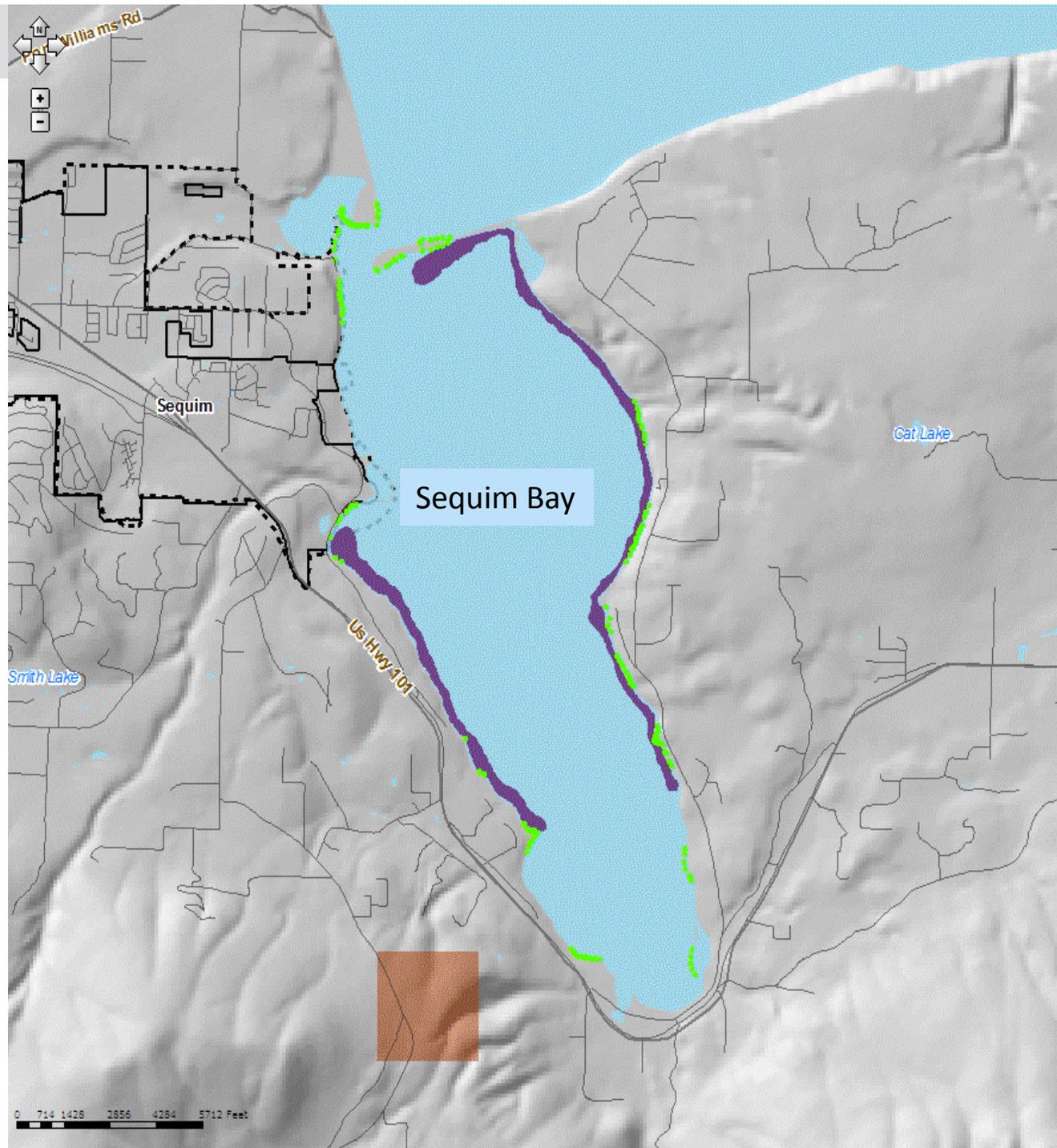


Important Habitats

Herring



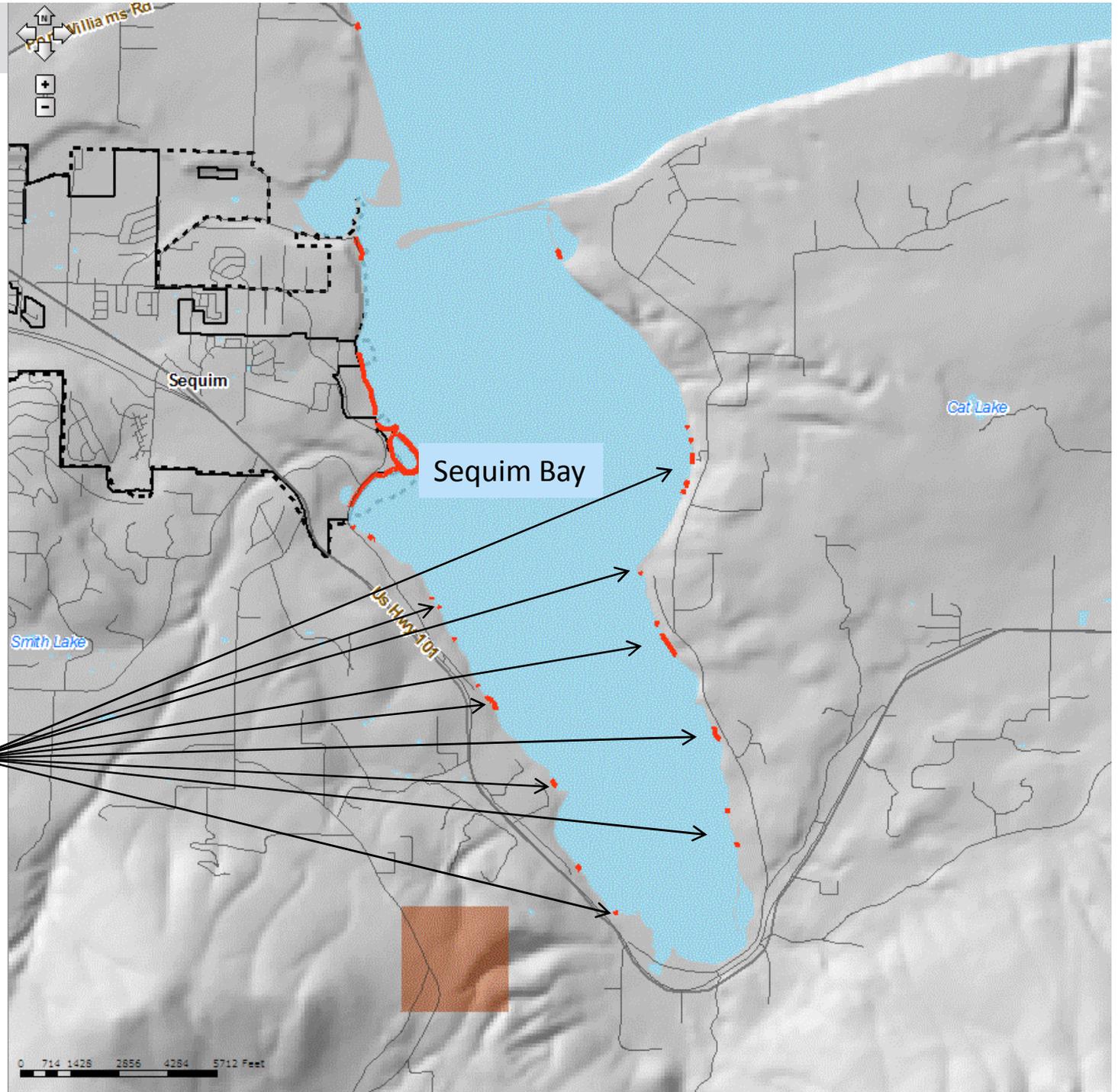
Sand lance





Bulkheads

Impacts
on forage
fish

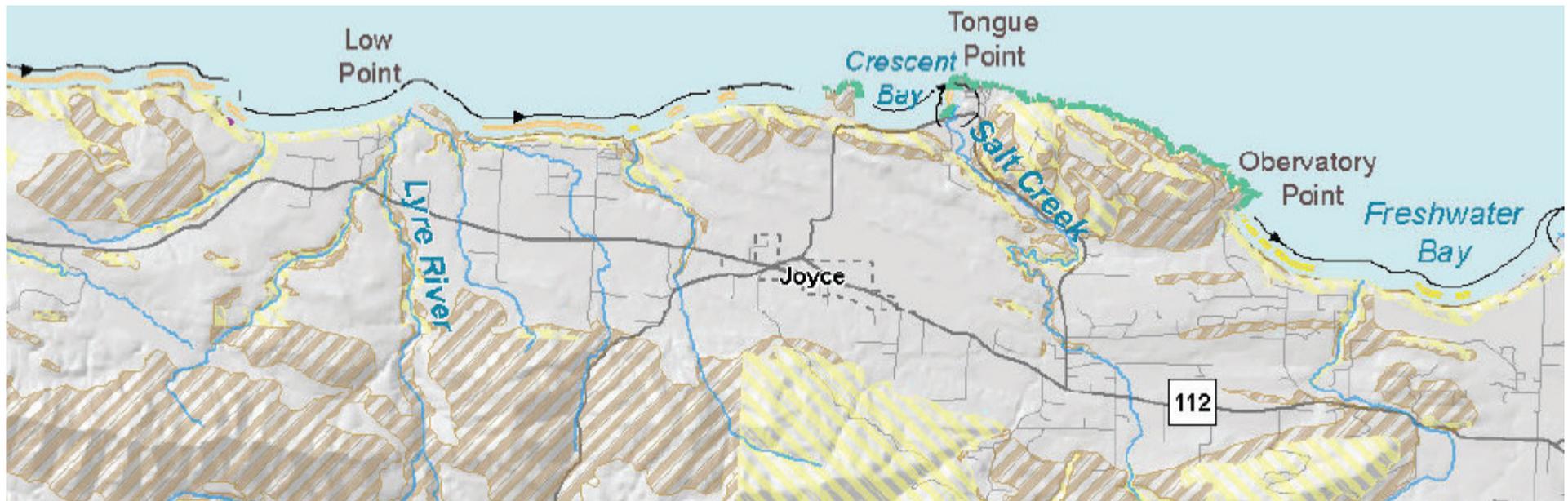




Existing rules - are they working?

- Bulkheads must be landward of high water line
- Only allowed when there is “extraordinary erosion” or to repair existing installations
- May require a geotechnical report for building in landslide areas per the critical areas regulations
- Must not unduly impede littoral drift, nor affect adjacent shores...

Places where bulkheads could impair littoral drift are ubiquitous



What do we do in places where bulkheads don't work?





Topic #2 - Public Access



Public Access

- Key questions:
 - Where are there opportunities to increase access
 - Where are there access issues that can be addressed via the SMP?
 - Where should access not be pursued?
- Key considerations:
 - Opportunistic versus proactive approach

What we heard?

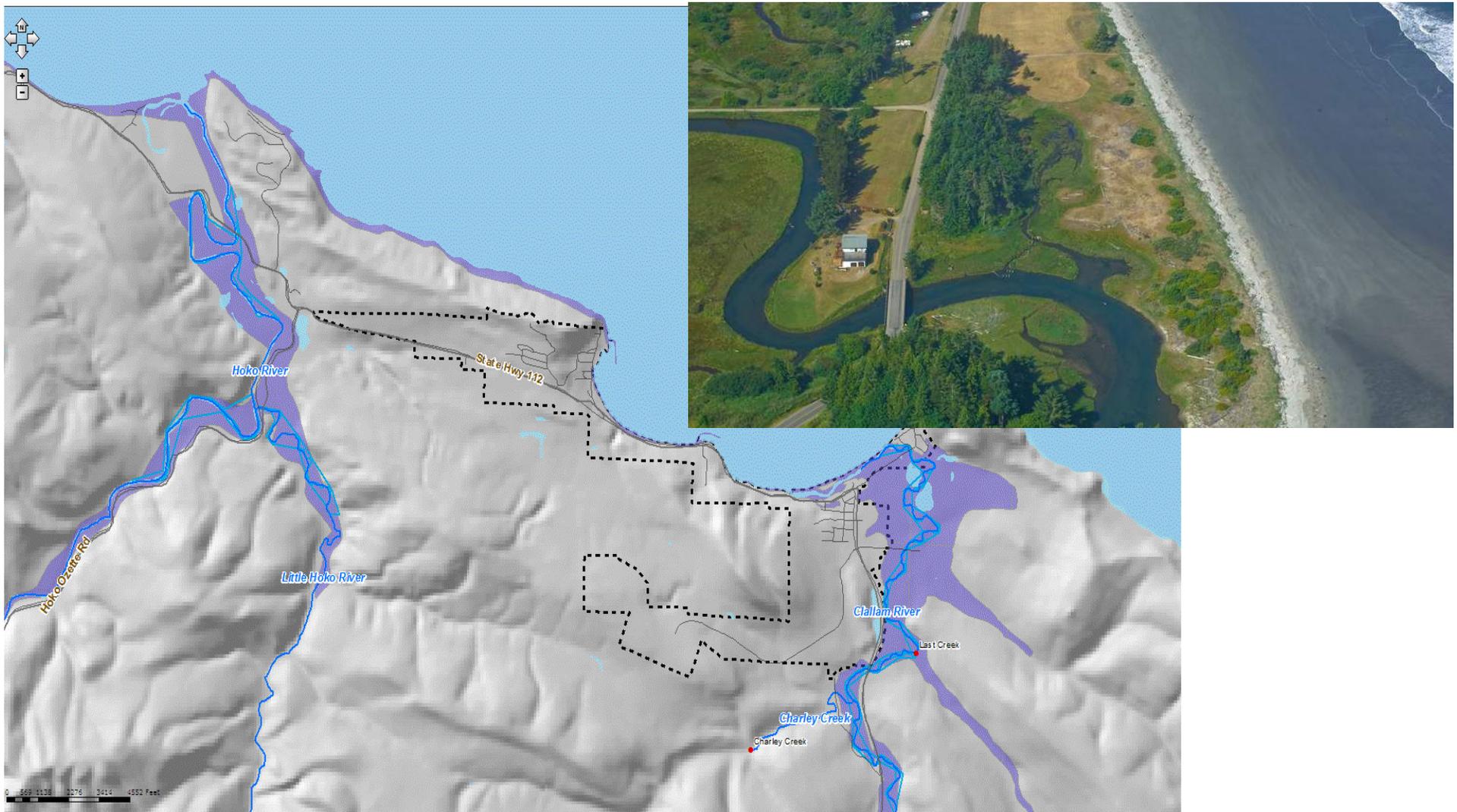
- Access has decreased, pressure has increased
- Concerns about vandalism, garbage, traffic, liability, etc.
- Access vital for tourism / business
- River mouths draw public -- mostly private lands
- Steep bluffs limit access to marine waters



Current SMP Requirements

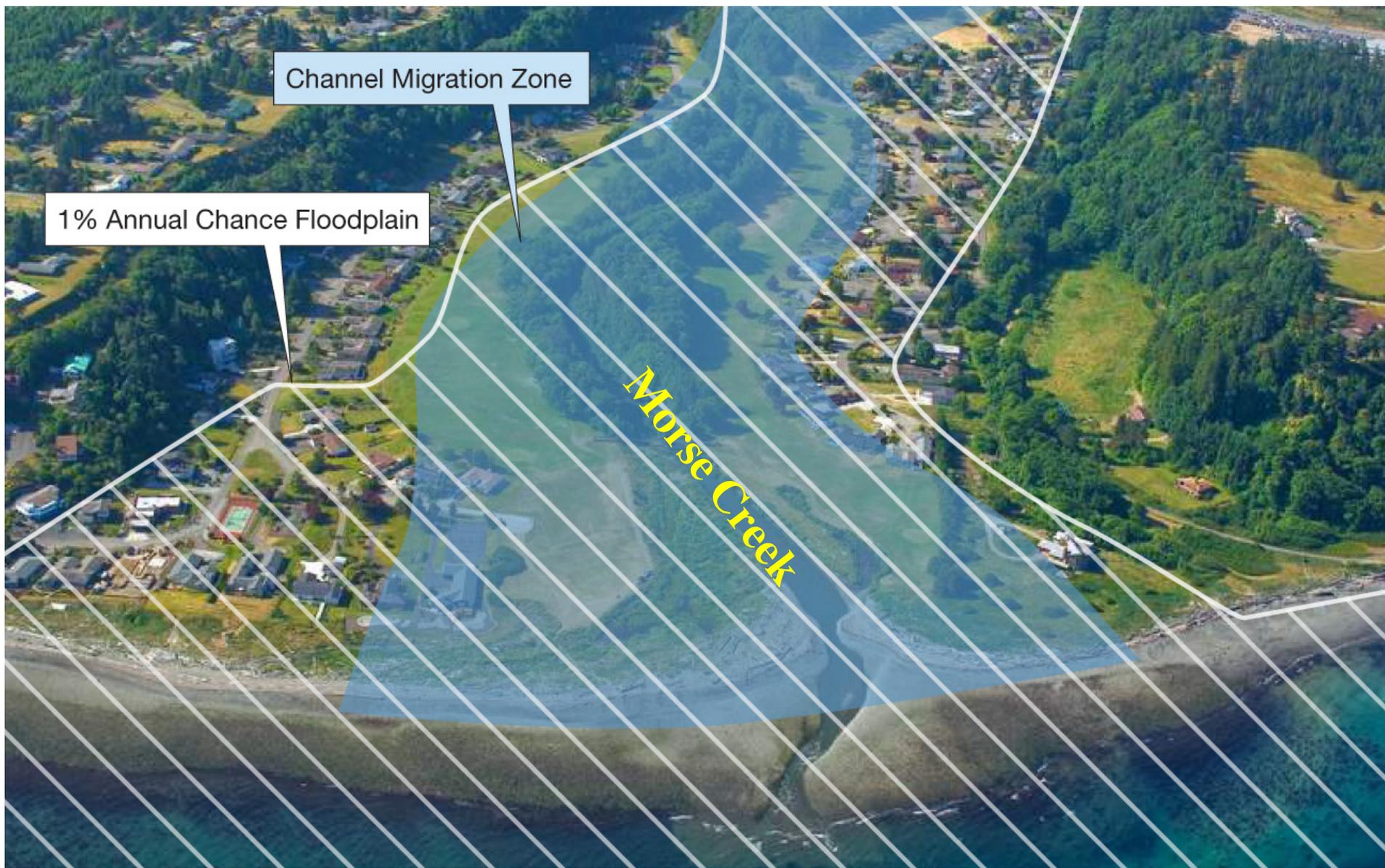
- Provide access to publicly owned beaches
- Preserve and enlarge recreational activities
- Promote right to access waters while protecting property rights/public safety
- Protect rights of navigation and space needed for water-dependent uses
- Protect public opportunity to enjoy shorelines.

Topic # 3 - Floodplain Development

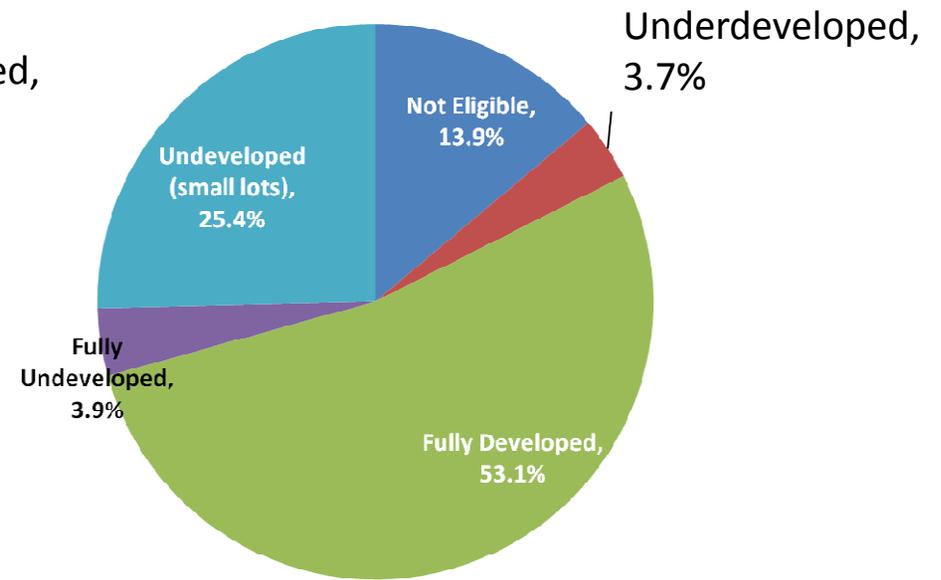
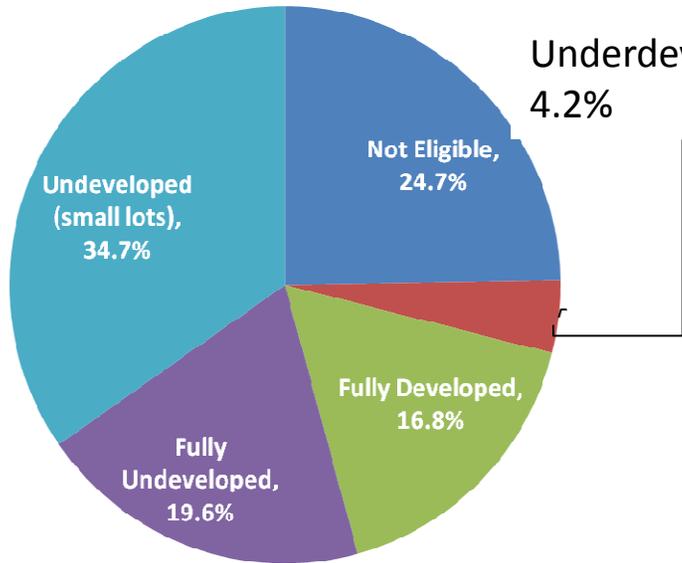




Dungeness R, just downstream of Hwy 101



More floodplain development will occur





Questions and Considerations

- Key questions:
 - how do we deal with existing homes in floodplains/CMZs?
 - When/under what circumstances do we allow new development in floodplains/ CMZs?
- Key considerations:
 - setbacks
 - allowances for bank armoring
 - vegetation management



Existing rules - are they working?

- Development is occurring in the floodplain and Channel Migration Zone
- Floodplain development can impact threatened species such as salmon
- Floodplain development could jeopardize County's eligibility for National Flood Insurance Program