



SHEILA ROARK MILLER, DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

PLEASE ATTEND A LOCAL Clallam County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Public Forum!

The *draft* Clallam County Shoreline Master Program document will be presented at four (4) Public Forums:

EVENT	Day/Time	Place
SMP PUBLIC FORUM #1	Tuesday—April 24, 2012 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Sekiu Community Center, Lower Level 42 Rice Street, Sekiu
SMP PUBLIC FORUM #2	Wednesday—April 25, 2012 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Pioneer Memorial Park, Sequim Prairie Garden Club Bldg. 387 East Washington Street, Sequim
SMP PUBLIC FORUM #3	Wednesday—April 25, 2012 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Clallam County Courthouse, BOCC Room 160 223 East 4 th Street, Port Angeles
SMP PUBLIC FORUM #4	Thursday—May 10, 2012 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Forks Community Center, Main Dining Room 91 Maple Avenue, Forks

- Clallam County invites you to attend, learn more about, and comment on the Shoreline Master Program Update. Forums begin with a half hour Open House, followed by a presentation of the *draft* SMP Update, and end with time for public comment.
- The updated *draft* SMP Update incorporates information from the existing SMP. It proposes new policies and regulations intended to achieve the goals of the Shoreline Management Act and the community's vision for shoreline management.
- The *draft* Shoreline Master Program Update document is located on the following webpage: http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/html/draft_smp.htm or in the *Clallam County SMP Key Documents* binder at the Clallam Bay, Forks, Port Angeles, and Sequim public libraries (reference section).
- Comments will be taken at the Forums. Also, comments may be sent via email to SMP@co.clallam.wa.us; by mail to *Clallam Co. DCD, 223 E. 4th St., Suite 5, Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015*; or via the comment box at the bottom of the County SMP website page: http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/html/shoreline_management.htm
- The Clallam County Shoreline Master Program Committee has been meeting regularly and providing the County feedback since April 2011.
- Once the Forums are held and comments received, the Clallam County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners will review the proposed SMP revisions and hold formal hearings to solicit additional public comment. Once the new SMP is adopted, it must be approved by the State Department of Ecology before it can take effect. Your review and input will help improve and enhance the final version.

BACKGROUND INFO:

The WA State Shoreline Management Act, adopted by voters in 1972, ensures that all of us—the public, interest groups, local, state and tribal governments—work together to ensure our shorelines:

- Are kept safe and unpolluted.
- Are developed and managed fairly.
- Give our children and future generations that special “sense of place” we cherish in Washington.

The mechanism for putting new shoreline development regulations and policies in place is called a “Shoreline Master Program.” The Act requires local governments to regularly review and revise their shoreline regulations and policies. The last revision of the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program was in 1992. Many changes have occurred along Washington’s lakes, rivers, and marine waters over the years and our shoreline master program needs to be modernized, reviewed, and updated to:

- Address current shoreline conditions.
- Apply new scientific information about managing and protecting our shorelines.
- Accommodate future development while protecting the ecological functions of our shorelines.
- Align better with current environmental and land-use laws such as salmon recovery and watershed management plans, state Growth Management Act and critical areas ordinances, port development plans, park and trail systems, etc.

MORE:

The County website http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/html/shoreline_management.htm has important background information on the Shoreline Master Program Update process. Briefly, a Shoreline Master Program is a regulatory document that promotes and enhances public access, water dependent uses, and ecological functions. Shorelines are where the land meets state waters. The balance to accommodate necessary and appropriate new development requires that we manage our limited shoreline resources wisely.

Shoreline Master Programs contribute to local and statewide economic vitality by:

- Protecting lives and property by keeping development out of unstable or unsafe areas.
- Helping communities fulfill their vision for future waterfront development and uses in our shoreline areas.
- Providing more certainty to the development community through more consistent shoreline building ordinances and permitting requirements.
- Providing for public access and recreational opportunities in shoreline areas.
- Giving preference to water-dependent uses that rely on shorelines for economic viability.

Shoreline Master Programs also contribute to local and statewide environmental vitality by:

- Helping protect our marine waters, lakes, and stream systems from pollution.
- Protecting the overall health and functions of shorelines and public waters for both public and private use.
- Protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat.
- Restoring unhealthy shorelines and increasing the health of public waters.