

SMP FACT SHEET #1

Overview of Proposed Changes

Clarity in Codes & Regulations

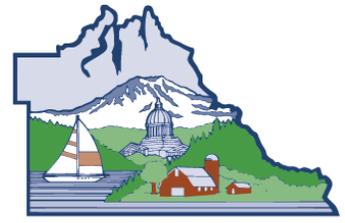
- Protections have been updated to be clearer and easier to understand.
- Confusing requirements (such as rules for determining 50 percent loss) have been removed.

Greater Flexibility

- Property owners have more options to rebuild structures within existing footprint.
- New options to expand existing legally non-conforming structures.
- New options for storage structures within buffers.
- Proposed buffers tailored to individual shoreline characteristics.
- Reduced buffer requirements proposed in some shoreline designations.

Simplified Processes

- Remodeling and/or rebuilding legally non-conforming structures on shoreline properties (without critical areas) is easier with proposed updates.
- Streamlined permitting processes with proposed updates.



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

Shoreline Master Program (SMP)

***NOT YET ADOPTED - OPEN FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT.**

ASK STAFF

Thurston County's SMP covers most shoreline building projects.

Contact Us about your site and which permits may still be required.

READ THE CODE

Title 19

Current Shoreline Codes

FIND IT ONLINE

**Shoreline Master
Program Webpage**



Updates to Shoreline Environmental Designations

- Shoreline Environmental Designations (SEDs) are assigned to water bodies within the SMP. Shoreline buffers and other protections in the SMP are unique to each SED.
- SEDs were revisited as part of the SMP update, applying fresh inventory and characterization of Thurston County shorelines.
- Proposed SMP updates use SEDs recommended by the Washington State Department of Ecology that are applicable in Thurston County.
- Find more information on SEDs in Fact Sheet 3.

Potential Changes to Buffers

- Proposed mitigation options may allow buffer reduction in some cases while still protecting water quality (subject to standards).
- 250 ft. marine buffer and other buffers may be reduced specific to shoreline designation.
- Find more information on Buffers in Fact Sheet 6.

Permitting Process Updates

- SMP permits align with other County permits (Type I - Type IV permits).
- The updated SMP draft includes an option for some shoreline permits to be processed administratively (by staff, instead of the Hearing Examiner).
- Updated SMP draft features a table showing permits required based on proposed activity.
- Combined shoreline/critical area permitting eliminates the need for separate critical area permits in many cases.

*Specific requirements vary depending on the parcel and project proposed. Contact staff for more detailed information.