Shoreline Master Program
Update

Draft Shoreline Environment Designations

May 19, 2010
Planning Commission Work Session
Staff - Cynthia Wilson & Molly Levitt
wilsonc@co.thurston.wa.us
levittm@co.thurston.wa.us
http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting/shoreline-master-program/index.html
SMP Update Status

• Task 4 - Inventory, Analysis, and Characterization of Shoreline Conditions
  - First draft available on website for comment
  - Second draft under revision based on comments received from Ecology and the STAG

• Task 5 - Shoreline Environmental Designations (SEDs) and Shoreline Regulations
  - Focus of this work session
• Task 5 – Shoreline Environmental Designations (SEDs) and Shoreline Regulations
  – SEDs similar to zoning
  – SEDs are assigned based on the existing use pattern, the biological and physical character of the shoreline, and the comprehensive plan
  – Each SED has specific shoreline policies and regulations
  – Assign an SED to each distinct segment of shoreline
  – SED assignment must assure the protection of existing shoreline ecological functions with the proposed pattern and intensity of development
Shoreline Environment Designations

- Ecology’s 2003 guidelines recommend following six basic designations – TC using five of these
- Local governments can establish a different SED system, provided it is consistent with Ecology’s
  - Parallel SEDs allowed
  - Critical area protections in shorelines must be consistent with CAO
- Thurston County is proposing using seven SEDs
  - Aquatic*
  - Natural*
  - Rural Conservancy*
  - Urban Conservancy*
  - Shoreline Residential*
  - Resource Conservancy
  - Mining
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SED</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic</td>
<td>Protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence, and/or that include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions intolerant of human use. Only very low intensity uses are allowed in order to maintain the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Conservancy</td>
<td>Provide for sustained resource use, public access, and recreational opportunities while protecting ecological functions, and conserving existing ecological, historical, and cultural resources,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Conservancy</td>
<td>Protect and restore ecological functions of open space, floodplain and other sensitive lands where they exist in urban and developed settings, while allowing a variety of compatible uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline Residential</td>
<td>To accommodate residential development and appurtenant structures and provide appropriate public access and recreational uses in areas where medium and high density residential developments and services exist or are planned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Conservancy</td>
<td>To protect shoreline ecological functions in areas zoned long term forestry. To provide sustained resource use, and protect the economic base of those lands and limit incompatible uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>To protect shoreline ecological functions in areas with mining activities within shoreline jurisdiction. To provide sustained resource use, and protect the economic base of those lands and limit incompatible uses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General SED Assignment

- Each SED has specific criteria to inform SED assignments
- **Natural** - high quality habitat characteristics and/or minimal shoreline modification
- **Shoreline Residential** - platted and/or developed for relatively high-density residential development and showed signs of more intense modification/use
- **Resource Conservancy** - Lands designated as “forest lands of long-term significance” - Zoned Long Term Forestry
- **Mining** - Reaches that contain shorelines created by mining activity
- All other shorelands upland of the Ordinary High Water Mark received an **Urban or Rural Conservancy** designation.
- **Aquatic** - all areas waterward of ordinary high water mark
- Sometimes multiple designations per reach
Assigning SEDs to each reach

- Draft SEDs have been assigned to each reach
  - Based on Inventory and Characterization data
    - 1st - Ecological processes and functions
    - 2nd - Existing and planned land uses
  - Maps created of Draft SEDs
  - Planning to add a “Public Preserve” SED
  - Comments requested on Draft SED assignments
  - Policies and Regulations for each SED are in progress – will be discussed later
What’s Next?

• PC provides comments on Draft SEDs
  - Email questions and comments to us (in next 2 weeks?)
  - Will discuss questions and comments at next PC meeting (June 16)

• Future Planning Commission Work Sessions on:
  - Reviewing comments and questions on SEDs
  - 2nd Draft Inventory and Characterization Report
  - Draft Policies and Regulations Report