



MASON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Planning Division
426 W Cedar St, Shelton, WA 98584
(360)427-9670

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE
(WAC 197-11-340)

SEP2016-00015 **Corrected**

Description of Proposal: Mason County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (the regulations in Title 17.50 MCC and the policies in Chapter IX of Mason County's Comprehensive Plan). This action implements the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW), which governs the development of shorelines in Washington State. Local jurisdictions are required to update their SMP's in accordance with the guidelines in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-26, which were revised in 2003 to reflect current knowledge regarding shoreline management and science.

This SMP Update consists of revisions to the following Mason County Codes (MCC):

- " Shoreline Master Program regulations (Title 17.50 MCC)
- " Shoreline Master Program policies (Chapter IX of the Comprehensive Plan)
- " Resource Ordinance (Title 8.52 MCC)
- " Development Code (Title 15 MCC) (administrative process)

The update includes moving the SMP policies from the Comprehensive Plan to the SMP (MCC 17.50). The draft SMP references the Resource Ordinance (as revised per this update) for buffers/setbacks and other critical area regulations.

Proponent: MASON COUNTY
Location of Proposal: MASON COUNTY
Parcel Number: MASON COUNTY
Legal Description: All of Mason County
Directions to Site:

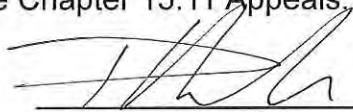
Lead Agency: Mason County

The Lead Agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the Lead Agency. This information is available to the public upon request.

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE
(WAC 197-11-340)

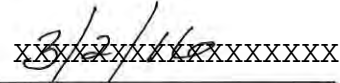
SEP2016-00015

Please contact Rebecca Hersha at ext. 287 with any questions. This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The Lead Agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date shown below, when the determination is final. ~~Comments must be submitted to Dept. of Community Development, P.O. Box 270, Shelton, WA 98584 by 3/17/2016.~~ Appeal of this determination must be filed within a 14-day period following this final determination date, per Mason County Code Chapter 15.11 Appeals.



Authorized Local Government Official

3/4/2016



Date

Please submit comments to:

rebeccah@co.mason.wa.us

or

Mason County Community Services Department

ATTN: Rebecca Hersha

615 W Alder St.

Shelton, WA 98584

Mason County

Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

SEPA Environmental Checklist: *Non-Project*

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Mason County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

2. Name of applicant:

Mason County Community Services Department (*formerly Dept. of Community Development*)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Rebecca Hersha, Planner 360-427-9670 x 287
Mason County Community Services Department
Planning Division
615 W Alder
Shelton, WA 98584

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 26th, 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Mason County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Mason County intends to locally adopt the updated SMP in August 2016.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Under RCW 90.58.080, shoreline master programs are required to be updated periodically. The next SMP Update for Mason County is scheduled to occur by 2024. Supplemental amendments may be adopted prior to 2024, although none are planned at this time. The Shoreline Master Program Update will affect future development proposals within the shoreline jurisdiction of Mason County.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- Mason County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report, Final Draft October 2012 with June 2013 Errata.
- Mason County SMP Restoration Plan, Draft April 2013 with September 2015 Errata.
- Mason County SMP Cumulative Impacts Analysis, draft February 2016.
- Channel Migration Zone Report and Map for Mason County, Department of Ecology, Draft December 2011.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No, this non-project action applies to the SMP, Resource Ordinance, and administrative regulations and is not specific to a particular property.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The proposed document will be reviewed by the Mason County Planning Commission and would need to be adopted by the Mason County Board of Commissioners to become law; the Department of Ecology has final authority to review and approve local master programs.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Mason County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (the regulations in Title 17.50 MCC and the policies in Chapter IX of Mason County's Comprehensive Plan). This action implements the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW), which governs the development of shorelines in Washington State. Local jurisdictions are required to update their SMP's in accordance with the guidelines in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-26, which were revised in 2003 to reflect current knowledge regarding shoreline management and science.

Mason County's SMP was first adopted in 1975, and last updated in 1988, with minor amendments made in 2002 and 2006. The current update effort began in 2010, with the establishment of a SMP Citizen Advisory Committee and a Joint Technical Advisory Committee in 2011. The Planning Advisory Commission's review of the first draft (January 2013 draft) began in January 2013 and is projected to hold the public hearings on their recommended draft in June 2016. Afterwards, the Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the updated SMP is intended to accommodate appropriate shoreline development while also achieving no net loss of existing shoreline ecological functions. Legally established existing development would generally be considered grandfathered under this Program.

In addition to revising the SMP regulations and policies, this non-project action includes revising other codes as necessary to ensure consistency with the revised SMP (Title 17.50). Furthermore, during the review and update process, revisions were made along the way that improve upon outdated references and issues with clarity, readability, and internal consistency.

This SMP Update consists of revisions to the following Mason County Codes (MCC):

- Shoreline Master Program regulations (Title 17.50 MCC)
- Shoreline Master Program policies (Chapter IX of the Comprehensive Plan)
- Resource Ordinance (Title 8.52 MCC)
- Development Code (Title 15 MCC) (administrative process)

The update includes moving the SMP policies from the Comprehensive Plan to the SMP (MCC 17.50). The draft SMP *references* the Resource Ordinance (as revised per this update) for buffers/setbacks and other critical area regulations.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

Mason County.

Mason County is situated along the southwestern portion of Puget Sound, and encompasses roughly 968 square miles. It borders on Jefferson County to the north, Grays Harbor County to the west and southwest, Thurston County to the southeast, Pierce County to the east, and Kitsap County to the northeast. Mason County remains a predominantly rural county. The City of Shelton, the only incorporated area in Mason County, includes approximately 4.77 square miles, or less than one percent of the County's total land area. Two native american tribes, the Skokomish and the Squaxin Island Tribes, have reservations within the boundaries of Mason County.

Mason County includes 217 miles of marine shoreline, 330 miles of river (greater than 20 cfs) shoreline, and 150 miles of lakeshore (greater than 20 acres). As required by 90.58 RCW, the Mason County Shoreline Master Program regulates the use and development of these waters as well as the associated 'shorelands,' which are lands within two hundred (200) feet of the OHWM and associated wetlands.

This SMP does not directly regulate areas under tribal ownership within reservation boundaries or areas outside of reservations that are in Tribal Trust. In addition, this SMP does not regulate National Forests or National Parks, except for non-federal uses and developments undertaken on federal lands.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site

Three geological provinces combine to form Mason County. They include the Puget Sound Lowland, the Olympic Mountains, and the Black Hills. Additionally, seven watersheds exist within Mason County. They include Case Inlet, Chehalis, Lower Hood Canal, Oakland Bay, Skokomish, Totten-Little Skookum, and West Hood Canal.

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

All of the above.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Slopes range from horizontal (0% and 0 degrees) to vertical (200% or 90 degrees).

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

All of the above general soil types occur along the County's shorelines.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Yes, several landslides have occurred within Mason County's shoreline jurisdiction. Per the "Mason Watershed Landslide Hazard Zonation Project" (Isabelle Y. Sarikhan and Timothy J. Walsh, 2007), the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recorded over 900 mass wasting events between 1965 and 2003 in the Mason watershed administrative unit.

Much of the County's shorelines are mapped as high hazard by DNR and by Ecology's Coastal Atlas.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, however the draft SMP and RO do regulate and may limit future grading within the shoreline jurisdiction.

The following shoreline Stabilization regulations limit fill and the creation of dry land:

- Locate structural stabilization measures at or above the OHWM unless a Shoreline Geotechnical Assessment demonstrates a need based on safety, or where a Habitat Management Plan demonstrates a net benefit to shoreline functions.

- When an existing bulkhead is being repaired or replaced, construction shall occur no further waterward of the existing bulkhead than is necessary for construction of the new footing.

The draft SMP and Resource Ordinance regulate fill upland of the OHWM by providing minimum buffers and setbacks for non-water-dependent development, by requiring Conditional Use Permits for most grading proposals, and by prohibiting sanitary landfills within shoreline jurisdiction.

After fill material is deposited and/or graded, the Grading Chapter of the SMP requires that it be monitored for a minimum of three years for weeds that are on the Mason County Noxious Weed List. Additional protection is provided in the policies and regulations that address impacts to critical areas.

See (3)(a)(3) below for fill/grading waterward of OHWM.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, however the draft regulations (mostly unchanged) do require the following:

Stormwater and erosion control and treatment is required during both project construction and operation. Erosion control methods require compliance with the provisions of MCC Chapter 14.48 (Stormwater Management) and 17.80 (Low Impact Development).

The existing language in the Landslide Hazard Areas chapter and the Erosion Hazard Areas chapter of the Resource Ordinance also regulates development activities in areas that are more likely to erode.

Maximum impervious coverage for residential development in the Conservancy and Natural shoreline environment is limited to ten percent (10%) or 2,550 square feet, whichever is greater. Also, the new Appendix B to the Resource Ordinance discourages large development footprints on lakes and saltwater by requiring mitigation for residential development that is waterward of the standard 100 foot buffer, whereas before mitigation was only required when the development could not meet the reduced common line or 35 foot minimum setback.

2. Air

- a. **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

- b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

3. Water

- a. **Surface Water:**

- 1) **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

Yes, Mason County contains total of 697 miles of shoreline along Hood Canal, South Puget Sound, 63 rivers/streams, and 45 lakes. In addition, there are countless wetlands and creeks and small lakes that are not classified as shorelines.

- 2) **Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Although this non-project action pertains to shoreline regulations, it will not require any work over, in, or adjacent to these waters. The draft SMP includes policies and regulations guiding development in the shoreline jurisdiction and incorporates provisions to protect shoreline resources.

- 3) **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected.**

Indicate the source of fill material.

This non-project action will not require any filling or dredging. However, the draft SMP does regulate fill and dredging.

The Draft SMP only allows fill to be placed below the OHWM for shoreline restoration and for the following with a Conditional Use Permit:

- water dependent uses where no upland or structural alternative is possible;
- public access where no other upland or structural alternative is possible;
- cleanup and disposal of contaminated sediments as part of an interagency environmental clean-up plan;

- disposal of dredged material considered suitable under, and conducted in accordance with the dredged material management program of the Washington Department of Natural Resources;
- expansion or alteration of transportation facilities of statewide significance currently located on the shoreline, upon a demonstration that alternatives to fill are not feasible; and
- mitigation actions.

Beach nourishment is allowed and regulated per the Restoration Chapter of the SMP. A Shoreline Exemption or Substantial Development Permit is required as well as a restoration plan prepared by a qualified professional.

Dredging is only allowed for restoration/clean-up, flood management, maintenance of existing uses, to support a water dependent priority use, or for public access and essential public facilities.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, which will regulate an array of future uses and development in the shoreline jurisdiction, but does not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, which will regulate an array of future uses and development in the shoreline jurisdiction. Although there are 100-year floodplains within most of these shorelines, this non-project action does not regulate floodplains directly.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, which will regulate an array of future uses and development in the shoreline jurisdiction. Although this does not involve discharges of waste materials to surface waters, the draft SMP does limit discharges of waste materials per the following:

- Marinas are prohibited from discharging wastes to the water.
- Discharges from new sewage treatment plants shall not be allowed into surface waters unless no feasible alternative is available.
- Permits are required directly from the Department of Ecology for discharge into surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to

groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action that does not involve withdrawing groundwater nor does it affect water rights. The revisions will not involve the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas chapter of the Resource Ordinance, nor will it involve the County's health codes.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action that does not involve discharging waste into the ground. The revisions will not involve the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas chapter of the Resource Ordinance, nor will it involve the County's health codes.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

No, the proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action. The proposed revisions will not involve the codes that directly regulate surface runoff and groundwater contamination (such as the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas chapter of the Resource Ordinance, the Stormwater Management Code, and the health or building codes).

However, the draft does include the following stormwater provisions:

- The Commercial chapter and the Marina chapter of the draft SMP require that parking and loading areas are designed to ensure that surface runoff does not pollute adjacent waters or cause soil or beach erosion.
- The Mining chapter prohibits excessive sedimentation and siltation from entering shoreline waters.

- Proposed residential subdivisions and other land uses and developments which may impact aquaculture operations are required to provide facilities to prevent any adverse water quality impacts to such operations and meet or exceed any stormwater design requirements in MCC 14.48 and 17.80 to avoid any risk of decertification of shellfish beds.
- Stormwater and erosion control and treatment methods during both project construction and operation are required for all shoreline uses and activities. At a minimum, erosion control methods shall require compliance with the provisions of MCC Chapter 14.48 (Stormwater Management) and 17.80 (Low Impact Development).

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☐ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

Mason County contains many different species of native and non-native trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, rushes, etc.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program lists the following threatened or endangered plant species for Mason County:

- Pacific lanceleaved springbeauty
- Water lobelia
- Adder's-tongue

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, however the draft does include several regulations that restrict vegetation removal in critical areas and their buffers:

- Mitigation sequencing (including a Habitat Management Plan or a Biological Evaluation) is required for development activities in critical area and buffers.
- The design of boat launches, docks, and other overwater development to avoid or if that is not possible, to minimize and mitigate unavoidable impacts on riparian vegetation and submerged aquatic vegetation such as eelgrass beds.
- The draft now limits the portion of docks upland of OHWM to the minimum necessary.
- A Common Line Mitigation Manual (Appendix B to Resource Ordinance) has been prepared for residential development that is proposed within the 100 foot buffer.
- The SMP restricts development more in the more natural areas per Shoreline Environmental Designations.
- Non-structural shoreline stabilization such as vegetation enhancement is preferred over structural armoring.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

A few of the non-native weeds known to be a problem in Mason County include knotweed, knapweed, scotch broom, purple loosestrife, tansy ragwort, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, yellow archangel, eurasian watermilfoil, and reed canary grass.

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: _____

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: _____

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: _____

Several types of birds, mammals, fish, and other animals are found in Mason County.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The following are listed as Threatened or Endangered (state or federal) that are located in Mason County:

Western Pond Turtle	Killer Whale (Orca)
Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly	Hood Canal Summer Chum
Marbled Murrelet	Steelhead
Streaked Horned Lark	Puget Sound Chinook
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Canary Rockfish
Spotted Owl	Yelloweye Rockfish
Stellar Sea Lion	Bull Trout
Pacific Fisher	Western Pocket Gopher
Humpback Whale	

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Many migratory birds use the general vicinity of Mason County as a migration route. Pacific salmonids migrate between their natal streams and Hood Canal or Puget Sound. Local wetlands associated with Shorelines of the State are located along the Pacific Flyway.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The proposal includes provisions for "no net loss" of shoreline ecological functions consistent with the new SMA guidelines. Specifically, the adoption by reference of the Mason County Resource Ordinance (MCC 8.52), including those pertaining to wetlands and to fish & wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCA). A Habitat Management Plan demonstrating avoidance/preservation, minimization of impacts, and mitigation for impacts is required for encroachment into wetland and FWHCA areas and their buffers.

The Shoreline Restoration Plan is a tool for preserving, enhancing, and restoring wildlife habitats. Also, the draft SMP is structured to restrict development in the more intact and complex environments by prohibiting many uses and by requiring Conditional Use Permits for most of the uses that are allowed in the Natural and Conservancy Shoreline Environmental Designations.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Japanese Oyster Drill (snail), Asian or European Gypsy Moths, Wood Boring Beetle, and Tunicates are some of the invasive species that have been observed in Mason County.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Probably not. The 35 foot height restriction for buildings might reduce the likelihood that one neighbor could shade out another's. On the other hand, the shoreline setbacks would reduce the areas on properties where a solar panel could be located without a Variance. However, the proposed revisions do not increase shoreline setbacks in areas that are designated as Rural, Residential, or Commercial shorelines.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

None. The proposal is a county-wide legislative action.

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

No. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action to update the County's SMP.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

None. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

None. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

None. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

None. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

None. The proposal is County-wide non-project legislative action. However, the buffers and setbacks for development do serve to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and septic wastewater that enters surface and ground waters.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

None. This proposal is a County-wide non-project legislative action to update the County's SMP.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Noise will not be created by this non-project action.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

None. This proposal is a non-project legislative action. However, the Commercial, Mining, Aquaculture, and Industrial & Marine Terminal chapters in the SMP each contain a policy and/or regulation requiring that noise impacts be minimized.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

Mason County shorelines are predominantly used for single family residences. Vacant and forestry land uses are also common. Much of the tidelands are farmed for shellfish. There are also several public parks and areas used for agricultural, commercial, and other purposes.

The proposed non-project action will not affect current land use, except where a property owner chooses to expand or proposed new development at some point in the future. At that time their proposal will be reviewed to the provisions in the SMP (and Resource Ordinance).

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe.**

Yes. Several areas within Mason County's shoreline jurisdiction are utilized for agriculture or for forestry.

How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any?

None is expected.

If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or non-forest use?

None is expected.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:**

No, the proposal recognizes the state mandated exemptions from new regulations for existing and ongoing agricultural operations, however new agricultural activities and non-agricultural development on existing agricultural lands would be reviewed under the SMP.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Since this proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action, it affects several thousand parcels, many of which contain various types of structures.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

No, this proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

The current zoning classifications within Mason County are as follows:
Rural Residential 2.5, 5, 10, 20; Rural Multi Family; Rural Tourist; and Rural Industrial)

Long Term Commercial Forest Lands, Inholding Lands, Mineral Resource Lands, Agricultural Resource Lands, and National Parks/Forests

Shelton UGA

"NR" Neighborhood Residential

"MU" Low Intensity Mixed Use

"GC" General Commercial

"CI" Commercial Industrial

"I" Industrial

"PI" Public Institutional

"AI" Airport Industrial – N/A There are no shorelines in this zoning.

Allyn UGA

"R-1" Single-Family Residential District

"R-1R" Residential - Recreational District

"R-1P" Residential - Platted District

"R-2" Medium Density Multifamily Residential District

"R-3" High Density Multifamily Residential District

"MHP" Mobile Home Park Overlay District

"VC" Village Commercial District

"POS" Public Open Space Overlay District

"HC" Highway Commercial District (N/A none on shoreline)

"BP" Business Park District (N/A none on shoreline)

"PD" Planned Development Overlay District (N/A none mapped)

"PF" Public Facility Overlay District (N/A none mapped)

"T" Tourist Commercial Overlay District (N/A none mapped)

Belfair UGA – N/A virtually no Belfair UGA in shoreline.

"LTA" Long Term Agricultural

"R-4" Low Density Residential District

"R-5" Medium Density Residential District

"R-10" High Density Residential District

"FR" Festival Retail District

"MU" Mixed Use District

"GC" General Commercial District

"BI" Business Industrial District

Zoning classifications would not be changed by this proposal.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

This is a county-wide non-project legislative action. The shoreline jurisdiction includes each of the comprehensive plan designations: Rural Lands, Resource Lands, and Urban Growth Areas.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The proposed designations within the County are Aquatic, Natural, Conservancy, Rural, Residential, and Commercial.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Much of the shoreline jurisdiction is composed of critical areas such as floodplains, streams/rivers, lakes, marine waters, wetlands, landslide/erosion/seismic hazard areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This is a county-wide non-project legislative action. The proposed SMP update is not expected to directly result in any increase or decrease in the number of people who live or work in Mason County.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. This is a county-wide non-project legislative action. The proposed SMP update is not expected to displace any people.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable. The proposal is a county-wide non-project legislative action. The proposed SMP Update is not expected to result in displacement impacts, therefore no specific mitigation measures are proposed.

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposed SMP update is consistent with policy direction contained in the Mason County Comprehensive Plan and other County plans. The proposed SMP update provides new substantive standards to ensure that future development and redevelopment of regulated uses and improvements is compatible with the shoreline environments.

The policies and regulations are intended to ensure that Mason County retains and strengthens its unique character while meeting the state requirements of the Shoreline Management Act and administrative guidelines.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The proposal recognizes the state mandated exemptions from new regulations for existing and ongoing agricultural operations. It also recognizes that long term commercial forest practices (as opposed to conversions) are primarily regulated by WA Department of Natural Resources' Forest Practice Rules rather than the SMP.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None. The proposal involves a County-wide non-project legislative action. No housing units would specifically be provided by this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None. The proposal involves a County-wide non-project legislative action. No housing units would be eliminated by this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

The proposed SMP includes policies and regulations guiding development within the shoreline jurisdiction and includes new shoreline environmental designations that reflect the shoreline character, including ecological functions and shoreline development. The shoreline environmental designations in coordination with the policies and regulations have been designed to reduce impacts resulting from residential and other development within the more natural environments.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No development is specifically proposed as part of this County-wide non-project legislative action. In accordance with the Shoreline Management Act, height limits are limited to 35 feet or less, excluding power poles and transmission towers associated with allowed uses and developments. Television antennas, chimneys, and similar appurtenances shall not be used in calculating height, except where such appurtenances obstruct the view of the shoreline of a substantial number of residences on areas adjoining such shorelines.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No development is specifically proposed as part of this County-wide non-project legislative action, therefore no views will be altered or obstructed. The 35 foot height limits and other policies and regulations related to protecting shoreline views both from land and from the water would regulate new shoreline development.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

The program implements the 35-foot height restriction as detailed above. A Variance would be required for any structures that exceed such height. The SMP, together with the Resource Ordinance, also reduces aesthetic impacts by implementing regulations and criteria for site planning, development setbacks, screening, vegetation conservation, sign restrictions, appropriate development siting, and the maintenance of natural vegetative buffers.

Public access (including view access) is required for non-water oriented substantial developments when feasible, excluding single family residential. The following views and aesthetics regulations are found in the Public Access chapter of the General Regulations:

- When physical public access is deemed to be infeasible, the proponent shall provide visual access to the shore where site conditions make visual access possible.
- Where commercial, industrial, multifamily and/or multi-lot developments are proposed in locations that would interrupt existing shoreline views, primary structures shall provide for reasonable view corridors.
- Public access easements and permit conditions shall be recorded on the deed of title and/or the face of a short or long plat. Recordation shall occur at the time of final plat approval or prior to final occupancy.

11. Light and glare

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

None. No development is proposed. The proposal a county-wide non-project legislative action.

- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No. The proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

No. The proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]**

The draft SMP includes aesthetic and general policies and regulations in order to preserve the character of the shoreline environment such as the following:

- Proposed aquacultural developments are required to make adequate provisions to control nuisance factors such as excessive lighting. Conditional Use Permits for geoduck aquaculture allows for work during low tides at night or on weekends but can require conditions to reduce impacts from lighting upon adjacent existing uses.
- New covered moorage in marinas must minimize adverse impacts caused by lighting.
- The County is tasked with assuring that commercial development proposals include provisions to mitigate light or glare impacts.
- Artificial lighting on new overwater structures such as docks shall be the minimum necessary for the proposed use and be designed to minimize glare.

12. Recreation

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Various recreation opportunities exist throughout the Mason County shoreline. Walking, jogging, and bicycling occur on County right-of-ways and in parks. Fishing and boating occur in fresh and salt water. Several state and local parks are located along County shorelines. Beach combing occurs on tidelands. Wildlife viewing occurs throughout the County.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No. The proposal involves a County-wide non-project legislative action and is not expected to result in the displacement of any existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Dock lengths are limited to 15 percent of the fetch or to within 200 feet of the opposite shore in order to protect boating uses and aesthetics. The total length is also limited for residential docks depending on the number of property owners and whether it is on a lake or saltwater. In addition, in saltwater, residential docks are not to exceed a length that reaches out farther than a depth of seven (7) feet of water as measured at mean lower low water, unless otherwise required by DNR use authorization or Hydraulic Project Approval. Although there is no maximum length for commercial, public, and industrial docks (aside from fetch), the proponent must submit a needs analysis projecting the future needs for dock space as justification for pier design, size, and construction.

The proposed SMP also reduces the number of residential docks that will be constructed by requiring the applicant to demonstrate that they have contacted adjacent property owners and none have indicated a willingness to share an existing dock or develop a shared moorage in conjunction with the applicant. Except in the Commercial SED, a Conditional Use Permit which assesses cumulative impacts are required for single use docks on Puget Sound and required for any dock proposed in Hood Canal. Subdivisions of more than 4 lots are limited to a community dock, rather than individual docks for each parcel. With fewer docks being permitted crossing tidelands, impacts to the recreational use of public people can use a kayak or other small boat to access more of the complex habitats along the edges of the lakes.

The Public Access regulations also serve to both protect existing physical public access sites and to provide for public access to the shoreline when proposing a non-water oriented, non-residential substantial development. Private water-dependent or water-related use or development are required to provide public access if they interfere with existing public access or increase demand for public access.

In addition, the no-net-loss provisions in the proposed SMP and the habitat provisions in the Resource Ordinance are meant to preserve the conditions necessary for many recreational uses such as fishing, beach combing, crabbing, swimming, and wildlife viewing.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

Historical sites are known to occur within County shorelines such as the following:

Dalby Water Wheel, Mason County Courthouse, McReavy House, Allyn church, Telephone Building, Sol Reed and Frank C. Reed Houses, Malaney O'Neal House, Shelton City Hall, the Harstine Island Community Hall, the North and South Hamma Hamma Bridges, the Treasure Island Bridge, the High Steel Bridge, Schafer State Park, the Oakland Townsite, and the Cushman No. 1 Hydroelectric Power Plant.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site?

Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Historic and prehistoric native communities such as Twana, Coast Salish, and the Sawamish depended on Mason County's natural landscape for fishing, harvesting shellfish, digging roots, gathering berries, hunting game, commerce, recreation, spiritual ceremonies, and building canoes and longhouses. Shell middens, glyptic records, evidence of old cemeteries, and other artifacts are known to exist, especially near Hood Canal, Puget Sound and the Skokomish River. Most known cultural resources are on file with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), but some are only known to the existing local tribes.

In addition, there are sites and structures that remain from western pioneers.

Professional studies have been required for several private and public development proposals within the shoreline jurisdiction. Public road improvements that receive state or federal funding undergo consultation with DAHP and the local tribes, which often results in an archaeological survey.

- c. **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

The *existing* SMP contains only 5 regulations, and they all refer to procedures required *after* an archaeological resource is found and reported. The draft SMP has revamped the chapter so that it aligns with Ecology guidelines and DAHP's rules and expectations.

The draft language requires a cultural resources site assessment (prepared by a archaeology/historic preservation professional) for development with a ground breaking or ground covering component within 500 feet of a known, documented archaeological area or within 100 feet of a known, documented historic structure.

The County will forward the site assessment to DAHP and the applicable Tribe, who will have 14 days to provide comment. DAHP or the tribe has found that the site assessment submitted by the applicant is not complete, the permit will be placed on hold by the County until 14 days after the County forwards the *revised* assessment to DAHP and the applicable Tribe. The County may condition the permit so that the applicant obtains any necessary DAHP permits under RCW 27.53, or implements any avoidance, minimizing, or mitigating factors recommended by the author of the report, DAHP, and/or the applicable Tribe. The County may also condition the permit so that the applicant notifies applicable Tribe prior to proceeding with development.

In addition, for all permit applications (not just the ones that the county has required a site assessment for), Mason County will provide on their website a link that will generate a table of permit and exemption application case numbers, dates received or entered into the database, project locations, and project descriptions. The Tribes and DAHP will have 14 days from the date the application information is available on the website to recommend that the County require the applicant to submit a cultural resource site assessment. However, if the project requires SEPA review, and if the County is the lead agency, the comment period is extended to include the SEPA comment period.

- d. **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

For permit applications that needed to submit a site assessment as detailed above, the recommendations in the assessment as well as any conditions added by DAHP or the tribe should serve to avoid, minimize, and compensate for disturbance of resources.

If, during any grading or construction resources are found within Mason County, the draft SMP requires the following:

- If items of possible historic, archaeological or cultural interest are inadvertently discovered during any new shoreline use or development, the proponent shall immediately stop work and notify the County Planning Department, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the affected tribe. The stop work order shall remain in effect until DAHP has authorized that the proposed development may proceed.
- If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity shall cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find shall be secured and protected from further disturbance. The finding of human skeletal remains shall be first reported to local law enforcement and the county medical examiner/coroner in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains shall not be touched, moved, or further disturbed.
- The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they shall report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains.

14. Transportation

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

The proposal involves a county-wide non-project legislative action. Public streets and highways within Mason County are shown in the SMP maps/figures.

- b. **Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Yes. Nine routes are offered on weekdays and eight routes on Saturdays. These routes serve the core areas of Mason County (Shelton, Hoodport, Union, Allyn, and Belfair), provide express service between Olympia and Bremerton, and make connections to neighboring transit agencies at the Olympia Transit Center, the Bremerton Transportation Center and Brinnon at Triton Cove State Park, which provides access to ferries, AMTRAK and Greyhound services. Dial-A-Ride (DAR) and LINK service is also available in Mason County.

- c. **How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?**

None. No development is specifically proposed. The proposal involves a county-wide non-project legislative action that will not change the number of parking spaces that new or modified development is required to provide.

- d. **Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No. This proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- e. **Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No. This proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

None. This proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- g. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No. This proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

No direct measures are proposed because this proposal is a non-project legislative action. However, future development in shoreline jurisdiction will need to meet the following requirements for road or parking lot design:

- Design of parking and loading areas shall ensure that surface runoff does not pollute adjacent waters or cause soil or beach erosion. Design shall provide for stormwater retention.
- Perimeters of parking areas shall be landscaped to minimize visual impacts to the shorelines, roadways, and adjacent properties.
- Parking facilities for shoreline uses shall be designed to provide safe and convenient pedestrian circulation within the parking area and to the shorelines.
- Parking and road projects need to be planned to fit the existing topography as much as possible, thus minimizing alterations to the natural environment.
- New or expanded roads in Conservancy, Natural, and Aquatic designated shorelines will need Conditional Use Permits.
- Pervious materials and low impact development techniques shall be used to manage stormwater runoff where feasible and where conditions are appropriate. The design shall protect the adjacent shoreline from erosion, uncontrolled or polluting drainage.

- It must be shown that no reasonable alternative exists outside of shoreline jurisdiction. Parking as a primary use is prohibited within shoreline jurisdiction.
- That the project will avoid adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and the process of channel migration, and will mitigate for any unavoidable impacts.
- Private road subgrade widths shall be the minimum commensurate with the intended use, generally not more than 20 feet for single lane roads. Erodible cuts and filled slopes shall be protected by planting or seeding with appropriate ground cover or by matting immediately following construction.

15. Public services

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

This proposal is a non-project legislative action. It will not increase any need for public services.

- b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

None. This proposal is a non-project legislative action.

16. Utilities

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site:**

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project legislative action.

- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

None. The proposal is a non-project legislative action.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Print Name of Signee: _____

If applicable, Position and Agency/Organization: _____

Date Submitted: _____

D. Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Not likely.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Required minimum vegetated buffers and structural setbacks, mitigation for future project impacts, and the policies and regulations proposed for this non-project legislative action are intended to result in no net loss of ecological function.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Not likely.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Required minimum vegetated buffers and structural setbacks, mitigation for future project impacts, and the shoreline use and development policies and regulations proposed for this non-project legislative action are intended to result in no net loss of ecological function.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not likely.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Retaining vegetated buffers,

The proposed SMP reduces the number of residential docks that will be constructed by requiring the applicant to demonstrate that they have contacted adjacent property owners and none have indicated a willingness to share an existing dock or develop a shared moorage in conjunction with the applicant. Except in the Commercial SED, a Conditional Use Permit which assesses cumulative impacts are required for single use docks on Puget Sound and required for any dock proposed in Hood Canal. Subdivisions of more than 4 lots are limited to a community dock, rather than individual docks for each parcel. The restrictions on docks numbers and on dock dimensions as well as WDFW's and DNR's standards for design and construction (such as grating) are intended to reduce impacts to aquatic habitats resulting from changes to light/shade patterns, aquatic vegetation and substrate, littoral drift, and water quality.

The SMA and existing and proposed SMP also limits overwater construction overall to water dependent uses.

Limiting the proliferation of hard shoreline stabilization by requiring the applicant demonstrate need.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

There are several state and local parks within Mason County, all of those which are within shoreline jurisdiction are regulated by the draft SMP and Resource Ordinance to prevent a net loss of shoreline ecological functions. Careful consideration has been given to assure that the environmental designations assigned to park shorelines are compatible with the existing scope of development so that they may be maintained and improved without needing to first acquire variances.

Mason County contains several wilderness areas, which are owned by the US Forest Service and are permanently protected and not governed by the draft SMP: Olympic Wilderness, Wonder Mountain Wilderness, Buckhorn Wilderness, the Brothers Wilderness, and the Mount Skokomish Wilderness areas. There are no rivers in Mason County designated as 'wild and scenic.'

The Draft SMP, in conjunction with the Resource Ordinance, includes broad environmental protection policies and regulations including those for the protection of wetlands, marine waters, freshwater, and riparian habitats and shoreline ecological processes. Mitigation sequencing is required for development proposed within the habitat buffers of lakes, saltwater, wetlands, or rivers. Furthermore public or joint use of shoreline structures is preferred over individual, piece meal development. And while incremental impacts may result in a cumulative impact over time, the SMP's restoration plan provides strategies for restoring the shoreline environment to result in a net ecological improvement.

The Draft SMP includes designations and use regulations that are intended to fully protect environmentally sensitive areas from new development related impacts. Generally, the most sensitive ecological areas have the most restrictive shoreline designations assigned to them. Feeder bluffs and other sensitive upland areas landward of Ordinary High Water are proposed to be designated Natural, which allows for only a minimal amount of alteration. Other sensitive areas are proposed to be designated Conservancy, which allows for limited development that is consistent with environmental protection and restoration.

Historic or cultural sites are protected, as described in part 13 of the above SEPA Checklist.

Most of the farmland within shoreline jurisdiction is located in river valleys. Existing agricultural uses are recognized as a conforming use in the SMP and therefore are not encumbered with shoreline permitting.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The proposal to update the County's SMP is not expected to result in significant impacts to these resources. Generally, the proposed shoreline environments are consistent with existing zoning, existing Comprehensive Plan designations, and existing uses.

The most restrictive designations, *Aquatic* and *Natural*, are proposed for areas with critical habitat, sensitive natural features, and little existing development.

The *Conservancy* designation is to protect and restore ecological functions and conserve existing natural resources such as forestry and protect valuable historic and cultural areas in order to provide for sustained resource use and recreational opportunities.

The *Rural* designation is intended to protect agricultural land from urban expansion, restrict intensive development along undeveloped shorelines, function as a buffer between urban areas, maintain open spaces and floodplains, and allow for opportunities for recreational uses compatible with agricultural activities. Most of the lands zoned Rural Residential 10 and 20 and the agricultural resource lands are designated Rural, except where they meet the criteria for a Natural or Conservancy designation.

The *Residential* designation is to accommodate residential development in areas already developed with or planned primarily for residential uses on relatively small lots. Intensive recreational uses and public access are appropriate, provided impacts to ecological functions are mitigated or avoided.

The *Commercial* designation is to ensure optimum utilization of shorelines that do not qualify for a Natural or a Conservancy designation and that have a commercial zoning or that contain commercial development.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The draft SMP is not expected to increase any demands for public roads, utilities, and other services. However, it could lead to an increase demand for boat launches and other shoreline amenities at public parks, which would also result in an increased use of the roads leading to these waterfront parks. This potential effect is due to the draft SMP's increased restrictions on proposed single use residential docks and its prohibition of single use docks in some areas. Along with an increase in the future population in Mason County, the proportion of property owners utilizing public ramps and docks could increase.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

None.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposal does not conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Any project proposed under this draft SMP must comply with state guidelines including "no net loss" of shoreline ecological functions. The regulations, especially pertaining to docks, have also have been updated to be compatible with state and federal regulations. Final adoption of the SMP will require approval of the state Department of Ecology.