



CITY OF WHITE SALMON SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: 2022-2023 PERIODIC REVIEW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The City of White Salmon (City) is undertaking a Periodic Review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the State Legislature. The City is concurrently undertaking an update to its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). These reviews ensure the SMP and CAO stay current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information, and improved data.

One of the key features of the review and update process for the SMP and CAO is a plan for public engagement and participation. Through the Public Participation Plan, the City will strive to engage with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the update process. From this early stage through the final adoption of revised regulations and rules, input from the community will be vital in shaping the updates to the SMP and CAO.

This Public Participation Plan describes the specific steps that the City of White Salmon will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as City contact information and web addresses.

The Shoreline Management Act requires the County and Cities to “not only invite but actively encourage participation” by people and agencies interested in SMPs (RCW 90.58.130). Implementing rules (WAC 173-26-090) also direct the County and Cities to execute a robust public participation process that informs, involves, and encourages participations of persons and agencies:

... the department and local governments... shall make all reasonable efforts to inform, fully involve and encourage participation of all interested persons and private entities, and agencies of the federal, state or local government having interests and responsibilities relating to shorelines of the state and the local master program.

Counties and cities planning under chapter 36.70A RCW, shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program ... Such procedures shall provide for early and continuous public participation through broad dissemination of informative materials, proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion, and consideration of and response to public comments.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP and CAO.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as the City's contact information. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by the City. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to ensure the greatest and broadest public participation.

1.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP and CAO.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners, and stakeholders about their concerns, questions, and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The City is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. The City will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage participation, including, but not limited to the following:

2.1 City Website

The City's website will be updated with information related to the SMP Periodic Review and Critical Areas Update including status updates, draft documents, official notices, and other project information. The website will be the primary repository of all information related to the Period Review process. The site will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

The City's webpage can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or using this web address: <https://www.white-salmon.net/planning>.

2.2 Mail and Email notifications

Notices on the City's website and other public notices will invite members of the public to join an email list for interested parties. The list will be maintained by the City Administrator and will be used to notify interested parties about Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities, including the public comment period.

Interested parties can be added to the list by contacting the Planning Department at 1-509-493-1133 or planner@ci.white-salmon.wa.us.

2.3 Joint Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the City Council. The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on public notification of comment periods and hearings to take advantage of Ecology's optional SMP amendment process

that allows for a combined state-local comment period (WAC 173-26-104). Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission Public Hearing and/or City Council adoption proceedings.

Notices for all hearings will be emailed to those that have requested to be part of the City's email notification list, posted on the City's website, and published in the classifieds section of the local newspaper. All joint-hearing notices with the City and Department of Ecology for the SMP Periodic Update will provide information on the duration of the comment period, and the time and location of any joint-public hearing. Notices will be published as required in City code and will comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. All notices will be provided to the Department of Ecology.

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to the City by letter or via email. All comments will be provided to the Planning Commission and City Council. The City's website will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review at the City's Development Services Department by appointment only, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

Currently, all public meetings and hearings can either be attended either in-person or virtually via telephone and/or video-conferencing formats, subject to unforeseen changes in state COVID-19 protocols.

2.4 News media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

3.0 STAKEHOLDERS

The PPP is designed to reach all audiences that may have an interest in the SMP update process. It will also be designed to reach out to other groups and individuals—those that may not yet have an interest—to encourage their awareness, understanding, and involvement in the process. The following particular audiences are important to contact and engage:

- **General public:** Interested citizens within City limits.
- **Property owners and businesses:** Property owners in the shoreline and affected commercial business interests.
- **Agricultural** interests
- **Environmental groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs):** Organizations with expertise and/or interest in shoreline and critical area issues, such as those interested in conservation or recreation
- **Tribes:** Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- **Governmental Agencies:** Port of Klickitat, and Underwood Conservation District, state and federal agencies with expertise such as Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Land Management, US Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and others.
- **Media:** Local news outlets: Columbia Gorge News and White Salmon Enterprise; White Salmon Facebook page.

4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. An updated timeline will be posted on the City's website as additional information becomes available.

2022-2023 PRELIMINARY SMP & CAO UPDATE SCHEDULE	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Participation Plan sent to Ecology
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email notification sent to stakeholders and interested parties• Review SMP and other relevant City codes and policies• SMP Update Periodic Checklist and CAO Review Memo available on website
Early January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post amendments on website• Planning Commission to review draft SMP & CAO Amendments• Propose draft amendments
Late February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edits and revisions suggested by Planning Commission are made to draft
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental review (SEPA) and notice to Commerce
March-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30-day public comment period on draft revisions• Public Hearing before Planning Commission during 30-day public comment period (April 12)• Respond to public comments• Submit to Ecology for initial determination (up to 30 days)
May-June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive Ecology's Initial Determination• City Council SMP and CAO adoption