

Island County Shoreline Master Program Update

November 16, 2011 Public Access Workshop Summary of Comments

Attendance: 18 - signed in

Meeting Goals: Collect community input on:

- 1) Public access needs in the County; and
- 2) Suggested policy changes needed for the SMP update.

The following comments were recorded at the workshop. They are organized under the following three categories:

1) Public Access Needs:

- The County should verify and map publically (County and other agency) owned properties that access the shoreline.
- Beverly Beach on Holmes Harbor should be improved and signage should be improved.
- Lagoon Point – DNR should replace/maintain white markers. Signage is mostly obscured.
- A kayak pull out is needed along Holmes Harbor, particularly on the west side.
- The access sites along the NW Camano Island (94-98) require improvement including parking.
- Access at Irenella Lane (road end) should be improved including parking.
- Stair at Baby Island needs repairs. Access by land should be provided.
- Bathrooms and garbage cans at public access areas are locked up most of the time due to budget cuts.
- Marissa Lane signage needs clarification regarding what part of tideland is actually public.
- Parking should not be allowed near the bluff at Saratoga.

2) Policy Changes Needed:

- Levels of service (LOS) measures should be developed for various aspects of access, such as *1 boat launch per x population within x mile radius*. Also need this for walking distance to a public access point, kayak launches.
- The County planning staff should coordinate with the Sheriff regarding private encroachment on to public shorelines and harassment by hostile neighbors.
- Obtaining public access to all public tidelands should be a priority.
- Finding ways to connect trails to establish longer continuous trails should be a priority (e.g. Swan Lake to Admiralty Bay). (This opinion was expressed by several attendees but also disputed by one attendee who said no one walks 14 miles or more on the beach at one time).

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- State in the SMP that inventory is considered a working document that will be improved and updated over time.
- For each access location, develop a management plan based on environmental status, probable use, safety considerations.
- All public access locations should be signed appropriately, including an indication of what parts of the shoreline are public and which are not.
- Coordinate with local public transit providers regarding access to road ends and other public access points.
- Provide parking and turn-arounds at all public road ends.

3) Requested Data/Mapping Updates:

- Add Section/Township/Range grid to Map 16 (Public Access) as a convenient locator.
- Do not include private community beaches on Map 16. Instead, prepare a separate map showing community beaches.
- Remove Site 64 (Wilkinson Rd.) from Map 16 as it does not provide public access (only potential).
- Incorporate sites from DNR WA State Public Lands Quadrangle Maps (1:100,000) (Port Townsend and Seattle).
- On Map 16, re-label “unknown” road ends as “unconfirmed”.
- Map the DNR – Heritage Division public tidelands and public access data.
- Mileage of shoreline access would be more informative than number of access points.
- Review and update tideland ownership, if necessary.
- Verify public access at Harrington Lagoon and Race Lagoon.
- Identify DNR shoreline/tideland north of Lagoon Point North/West Cliff Drive.
- Several additional potential access sites and road ends were identified in Mutiny Bay, including Mutiny Bay Vista.
- The area north of Libby Beach Park may be publically owned (land trust?).
- The Saratoga Woods Park property is not shown.
- Use the County Road Atlas data (Matt Nash) to obtain more street ends.
- Add boat ramp at Fort Casey.