

Merrill, Hannah

From: Jo Anne Estes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 9:32 AM
To: zSMP
Subject: Shoreline Master Program

To: SMP@co.clallam.wa.us

This message was sent via the Clallam Website Email Form 10-18-2011.

Name: Jo Anne Estes

Email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Shoreline Master Program

Comments: There are 3,289 shoreline property owners in Clallam County about to be subject to further regulation and restriction on the use of their land. If you own property within 200 feet from rivers, lakes, streams, and marine shores in Clallam County, you need to participate now in the Shoreline Master Program update.

Washington is governed by the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), passed by the State legislature in 1971. It was enacted to regulate private property development along the shorelines of Washington. According to the Department of Ecology (DOE), more than 200 cities and all 39 counties in Washington have Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs), plans specific to these jurisdictions.

All 239 plans in Washington require periodic update and Clallam County's is now underway. Further restrictions and regulations are now being formulated as a result of this mandated update.

All non-federal and non-tribal shorelines of the state as defined in RCW 90.58.030, including "shorelines" and "shorelines of statewide significance", and related "shorelands" in Clallam County are governed by the update.

The overwhelming majority of private citizens believe in protecting our natural resources. But with ever increasing regulations being added, Washington property owners are losing their private property rights. I believe we are grossly out of balance.

When I moved to Clallam County 21 years ago, my first job was with Clallam County Physicians Service, the now defunct Blue Shield medical plan. I was a city girl, and moved to our region by choice, taken with the natural beauty. As I got to know my co-workers, I was struck by their living off and enjoying the land attitude. I recall hearing stories of fishing, hunting, hiking and harvesting fruits and berries in our county. Loaded log trucks rumbled down the highway in front of our Port Angeles office.

Fast forward to today. The insurance plan is gone; fishing and hunting so highly regulated that individuals don't know when it is legal to cast their line. Log trucks on the road today are few. I believe our individual freedom to live off and prosper from our land is being taken from us, one environmental regulation at a time.

Citizens must tune in now. Although the update process is supposed to be driven by local residents who know their land best, Clallam County is assisted in the process by Consultant ESA Adolphson of Seattle. ESA was awarded a \$599,930 contract on September 21, 2010 to prepare the SMP update for Clallam County. Further funding in Clallam

County comes from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to “focus on refining the implementation of the Shoreline Master Program.” See

<http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/html/smp-rfp.htm> .

It is private citizen taxpayers who pay for these updates.

The Clallam County Department of Community Development is tasked with administering the update and has convened a 29 person Shoreline Advisory Committee. Members include some private Clallam County citizens, but most members of the committee represent environmental and other advocacy groups or are paid staff of the Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Partnership.

See

<http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/assets/applets/CCSACmemberList5-2011.pdf>.

The consulting company issued a Draft 359-page SHORELINE INVENTORY AND CHARACTERIZATION REPORT for Portions of Clallam County Draining to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Public comment on this report is urgently needed.

When the draft Characterization becomes final, the private property land designations will establish definitions, policies, regulations, environment-specific regulations, and special regulations for 22 shoreline uses and activities. (Ch. 5 of the SMP.) Private property along Clallam County shorelines and rivers will become severely restricted and owners may face non-conforming use of their property.

This makes selling property so characterized very unlikely. There is no provision for government mitigating or compensating property owners once characterization is final.

Clallam County plans an approximate summer 2012 adoption of the updated SMP. Once enacted, it will regulate land use and development within 200 feet from rivers, lakes, streams, and marine shores in Clallam County. What it means to individual property rights must be addressed now by local citizens who will lose the use of their private property.

Review the Characterization report. It can be found online

http://www.clallam.net/RealEstate/html/shoreline_management.htm or in printed form at the Sequim library or Port Angeles library.

The Department of Community Development has asked for final public comment on the report by October 31, 2011. Send comments to smp@co.clallam.wa.us or 223 E. 4th Street, Suite 5, Port Angeles, WA 98262. You can also contact Department staff by phone at 360-417-2563.

Shoreline Advisory Committee meetings are open to any member of the community. The next meeting is slated for November 15,

2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the County Commissioner Chambers in Port Angeles.

I believe our community is after a reasonable, appropriate, effective and fair shoreline management strategy. But let's get back in balance.

Jo Anne Estes

Sequim, WA 98382