

From: pat milliren
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 1:42 PM
To: zSMP
Subject: Draft Shoreline Management Plan

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. A strong Shoreline Management Plan is very important to me for many reasons: I see the potential for people and corporations of wealth to take over the beautiful and soul-healing shorelines of our country, leaving them unavailable for the many poorer of our country; I see the potential for corporations and commerce (as well as individuals) to abuse and degrade the critical shoreline places/functions that maintain the biological world we are part of; I see the potential for the increasing population of the world to love the shorelines to death; I see the potential for the affects of climate change to greatly change these shorelines and even endanger those who would live near them. While the above comments address the world and its functions, these potential concerns also affect our local county: our safety, our mental health and public health, the beauty and very real physical environment we are part of locally. I love to walk the Hook and other local shorelines looking for shells, for birds, listening to the sound of the waves on the beach. Our Shoreline is an incredibly beautiful and precious resource for our sanity, as well as an economic benefit. It is not replaceable, should we lose it. Our SMP must protect this precious resource.

THEREFORE!

- we need to safeguard critical habitats for native fish and wildlife and human restoration of spirit;
- we need to retain and protect natural vegetation and encourage native plants along our shores;
- we need to protect and increase public access while not allowing our human activities to degrade functioning ecosystems;
- we need to protect ecological function over private desire or gain; the shoreline belongs to all of us and we all depend upon the ecological functions it performs;
- the county needs to acknowledge and plan well for the effects of climate change, for example:
- new development must be kept well back of the shoreline by buffer zones of at least 200 feet;
- all those who contemplate building near the shore must be warned of the possible adverse consequences of ocean rise and other climate change possibilities; there are many places in the draft Plan where this needs to be inserted or emphasized;
- "hard structure" barriers should be limited or not erected at all as they change the dynamics of the ocean's energy and function and cause increased erosion in other places.

I understand that there is a new report due out in the draft form in June and in final form in August, funded by the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council, that addresses planning for climate change locally. It seems well worth waiting for that report to become available before finalizing our new Shoreline Management Plan.

Again, my thanks for the opportunity to comment.
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