CHAPTER 13. SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

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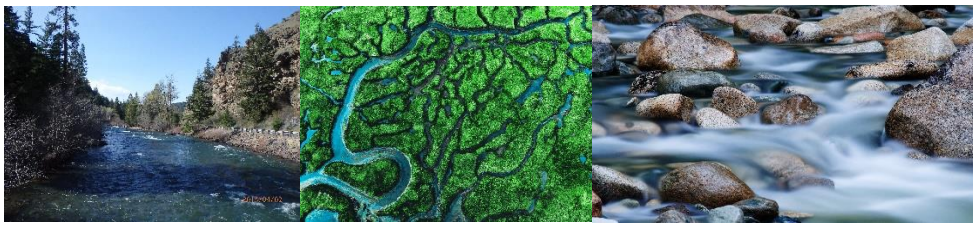

13.1 INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

Washington State's citizens voted to approve the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) of 1971 in November 1972. The adoption of the Shoreline Management Act recognized:

> *"...that the shorelines of the state are among the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources and that there is great concern throughout the state relating to their utilization, protection, restoration, and preservation" and that "coordinated planning is necessary in order to protect the public interest associated with the shorelines of the state while, at the same time, recognizing and protecting private property rights consistent with the public interest" (RCW 90.58.020).*

The Act seeks to provide environmental protection for shorelines, preserve and enhance shoreline public access, and encourage appropriate development that supports water-oriented uses. Under the Act, shoreline master programs are created and implemented based on a cooperative program of shoreline management between local government and the state (RCW 90.58.050). Local government has the primary responsibility for initiating planning and administering the regulatory program, while the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) acts primarily in a supportive and review capacity.

The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a **required element** under the Growth Management Act (GMA) for Yakima County. The SMP serves as the County's comprehensive use policy and regulatory framework for shoreline areas, establishing goals, policies, and regulations that guide development and activities within shoreline jurisdiction. As the population continues to increase, the pressures upon our shorelines will also increase. The goal of the Shoreline Master Program is to protect the shorelines of the state while balancing the need to protect sensitive shoreline environments with appropriate economic development and public access.

This SMP has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58), the implementing State rules codified as Chapter 173-26 and Chapter 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) "State Master Program Approval/Amendment Procedures and Master Program Guidelines," and other applicable local, state, and federal laws. The SMP is developed locally but must meet the Shoreline Management Act and implementing State rules, and is subject to approval by Ecology before it can be implemented.

This Chapter establishes the goals and policies that guide the Shoreline Master Program (Yakima County Code Title 16D), ensuring consistency with both the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act. The detailed regulations implementing these policies are codified separately in Title 16D of the Yakima County Code.

13.2 GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) requires that comprehensive plans include goals and policies consistent with and implementing the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). Per RCW 36.70A.480, the goals and policies of a shoreline master program approved by Ecology shall be considered an element of the comprehensive plan. The SMP shall not be subject to the appeal procedures under RCW 36.70A, but shall be governed by appeals procedures under the Shoreline Management Act.

Per WAC 173-26-186(3), all relevant policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act must be addressed in the planning policies of master programs. The GMA planning goals most directly addressed by the Shoreline Master Program include:

- Protection of the environment by protecting the quality and functions of the natural environment, including air and water quality and the availability of water
- Protection of critical areas as required by RCW 36.70A.170, with critical areas in shoreline jurisdiction protected under the SMP
- Open space corridors and networks within and between urban growth areas, including lands useful for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and connection of critical areas
- Economic development through providing adequate and suitable waterfront land for water-dependent and water-related uses

13.3 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

13.3.1 Integration with Chapter 2 - Natural Settings Element

The Shoreline Master Program is closely integrated with the Natural Settings Element (Chapter 2), which establishes the comprehensive framework for critical areas protection throughout Yakima County. The Shoreline Management Act at RCW 90.58.020 contemplates protecting against adverse impacts to "...the land, its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life." Thus the standard for protecting existing ecological function, expressed in fish and wildlife and their habitats, is more comprehensive than the Growth Management Act alone.

Key linkages between Chapter 13 and Chapter 2 include:

- **Critical Areas Protection:** Chapter 2 Goals NS 8, NS 15-19 establish the framework for critical areas protection that applies within shoreline jurisdiction. The SMP incorporates these protections by reference.
- **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Chapter 2 Goals NS 15-16 address fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, stream corridor protection, and the maintenance of hydrologic connections. These goals directly support SMP requirements for ecological protection.
- **Wetlands Protection:** Chapter 2 Goal NS 18 establishes no net loss of wetland functions and values, wetland buffer requirements, and mitigation standards that apply within shoreline jurisdiction.

- **Water Quality:** Chapter 2 Goals NS 13-14 address stormwater management and water quality protection, which directly support shoreline ecological functions.
- **Best Available Science:** Chapter 2 Goal NS 24 establishes requirements for using best available science in critical areas protection, consistent with RCW 36.70A.172.

13.3.2 Integration with Chapter 3 - Natural Hazards Element

The Shoreline Master Program must be closely coordinated with the Natural Hazards Element (Chapter 3), which addresses flood hazards, channel migration zones, and other geologic hazards that significantly affect shoreline areas. The SMP regulatory framework implements the hazard mitigation goals established in Chapter 3 within shoreline jurisdiction.

Key linkages between Chapter 13 and Chapter 3 include:

- **Flood Hazard Management:** Chapter 3 Goals NH 1-4 establish the framework for flood hazard mitigation, Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans (CFHMPs), and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The SMP implements these goals within shoreline jurisdiction.
- **Frequently Flooded Areas:** Chapter 3 provides the regulatory framework for the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, and the floodway. These designations directly overlap with shoreline jurisdiction and are regulated through the SMP.
- **Channel Migration Zones:** The SMP Floodway/Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) Environment designation implements Chapter 3 policies protecting dynamic river systems and acknowledging the river's need to move within its floodplain.
- **Geologic Hazards:** Chapter 3 Goal NH 6 (referencing Chapter 2 Goal NS 19) addresses geologic hazards including landslides, erosion hazards, and steep slopes that affect shoreline stability.
- **Multi-Hazard Planning:** Chapter 3 establishes the Yakima County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan framework, which the SMP supports through development standards in hazard areas.

13.4 CRITICAL AREAS IN SHORELINE JURISDICTION – INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Critical areas within shoreline jurisdiction are protected pursuant to WAC 173-26-221 and RCW 36.70A.480(4), which requires that critical areas in shoreline jurisdiction be protected using standards at least as protective as the County's Critical Areas Ordinance. Yakima County Code Title 16D Chapter 16D.08 establishes the critical areas regulations for shoreline jurisdiction, incorporating the protections from the County's Critical Areas Ordinance (YCC Title 16A) while adding shoreline-specific requirements to ensure no net loss of ecological functions.

Per WAC 173-26-221(2)(c)(i), the SMP shall include policies and regulations to protect critical areas within shoreline jurisdiction. The following critical area types are addressed within shoreline jurisdiction, with detailed regulations in YCC Title 16D Chapter 16D.08:

13.4.1 Wetlands (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 2, Goal NS 18; YCC 16D.08.03)

Wetlands are an economically, biologically, and physically valuable resource. They are the most biologically productive ecosystems in nature, even though they constitute only a small percentage of the total landscape. They provide important nursery and spawning areas, which in turn support a strong commercial and recreational industry. Wetlands also play an important function in local and regional hydrologic cycles.

The goals and policies for wetlands protection established in Chapter 2 Natural Settings Element (Goal NS 18 and Policies NS 18.1 through NS 18.6) are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element. The SMP regulations in YCC 16D.08.03 implement these goals and policies within shoreline jurisdiction, including:

- Wetland delineation using the federal wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements
- Wetland rating system based on Washington State Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington
- Standard wetland buffer widths based on wetland category and land use intensity
- Building setbacks from wetland buffers
- Mitigation sequencing (avoid, minimize, compensate)
- Compensatory mitigation ratios, performance standards, monitoring, and long-term protection requirements

13.4.2 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 2, Goals NS 15-16; YCC 16D.08.02)

Yakima County contains some of the most diverse and unique fish and wildlife habitat found anywhere in Washington State, including habitat for ESA-listed salmonid species. Stream corridors, lakes, ponds, wetlands, flood plains and other areas subject to flooding perform

important hydrologic functions including storing and slowly releasing flood waters, reducing floodwater velocities, settling and filtering of sediment and nutrients, shading surface waters, and other functions. These areas also provide natural areas for wildlife and fisheries habitat, recreation areas and rich agricultural lands.

The goals and policies for fish and wildlife habitat protection established in Chapter 2 Natural Settings Element (Goals NS 15 and NS 16, and associated policies) are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element. The SMP regulations in YCC 16D.08.02 implement these goals and policies within shoreline jurisdiction, including:

- Stream typing using Washington Department of Natural Resources water typing system
- Riparian buffer widths based on stream type and land use intensity
- Protection of Priority Habitats and Species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Fish passage requirements for stream crossings and other in-water structures
- Protection of spawning areas and anadromous fish habitat
- Hydrologically Related Critical Areas (HRCA) recognition linking wetlands, streams, and floodplains

13.4.3 Frequently Flooded Areas (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 2 Goal NS 17, Chapter 3 Goals NH 1-4; YCC 16D.08)

Frequently flooded areas constitute a significant critical area type within shoreline jurisdiction, as most shorelines of the state are associated with floodplains. Development in these areas diminishes their natural functions and values and can present a risk to persons and property on the development site and/or downstream from the development. Building in frequently flooded areas also results in high costs for installing flood protection measures to protect life and property and to repair flood damages.

The goals and policies for frequently flooded areas established in Chapter 2 Natural Settings Element (Goal NS 17 and associated policies) and Chapter 3 Natural Hazards Element (Goals NH 1 through NH 4 and associated policies) are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element. The SMP implements flood hazard regulations consistent with:

100-Year Floodplain (Base Flood): The area subject to flooding by the base flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Development within the 100-year floodplain is subject to:

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements and eligibility per 44 CFR Parts 59 and 60
- Base flood elevation requirements for structures
- Floodproofing standards
- Restrictions on critical facilities

500-Year Floodplain: The area subject to flooding by a flood having a 0.2-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Development within the 500-year floodplain is subject to:

- Prohibitions or conditions on critical facilities (schools, hospitals, emergency services)
- Disclosure requirements for property owners
- Climate adaptation considerations for increased flood risk

Floodway: The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. The SMP Floodway/Channel Migration Zone Environment designation applies to floodway areas. Development within the floodway is subject to:

- Prohibition of new residential, commercial, and industrial development
- Prohibition of encroachments that would cause any increase in flood levels
- Preference for nonstructural flood hazard reduction measures
- Discouragement of modifications that harden or fix stream banks and channels

13.4.4 Channel Migration Zones (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 3; YCC 16D.08)

Channel Migration Zones (CMZs) are areas along rivers within which the channel(s) can be reasonably predicted to migrate over time as a result of natural and normally occurring hydrological and related processes. The SMP Floodway/Channel Migration Zone Environment acknowledges the river's need to move within parts of its floodplain, and emphasizes the preservation of the natural hydraulic, geologic and biological functions of the county's shorelines that are constrained by severe biophysical limitations.

Channel Migration Zone protections established in Chapter 3 Natural Hazards Element are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element. Per WAC 173-26-221(3)(b), new development shall not be established when it would be reasonably foreseeable that the development or use would require structural flood hazard reduction measures within the channel migration zone. The extent of the Floodway/Channel Migration Zone Environment shall never extend beyond the 100-year flood plain.

13.4.5 Geologically Hazardous Areas (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 2 Goal NS 19, Chapter 3 Goal NH 6; YCC 16D.08.04)

Geologic hazards pose a threat to the health and safety of County citizens when incompatible development is sited in areas of significant hazard. Many geologically hazardous areas occur within shoreline jurisdiction, including erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, and steep slopes associated with river bluffs and canyon walls.

The goals and policies for geologically hazardous areas protection established in Chapter 2 Natural Settings Element (Goal NS 19 and associated policies) and Chapter 3 Natural Hazards Element (Goal NH 6 and associated policies) are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into

this Shoreline Master Program element. The SMP regulations in YCC 16D.08.04 implement these goals and policies within shoreline jurisdiction.

13.4.6 Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (Incorporation by Reference – Chapter 2 Goals NS 9-12; YCC 16D.08.05)

Critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) are areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, or areas where a drinking aquifer is vulnerable to contamination. Shoreline areas frequently coincide with groundwater recharge zones due to the permeable alluvial deposits associated with river valleys.

The goals and policies for critical aquifer recharge area protection established in Chapter 2 Natural Settings Element (Goals NS 9 through NS 12 and associated policies) are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element. The SMP regulations in YCC 16D.08.05 implement these goals and policies within shoreline jurisdiction.

13.10 RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

This section establishes the comprehensive framework for addressing climate change impacts on shoreline resources through resilient and sustainable planning practices. Pursuant to Second Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1181 (2023), which amended the Growth Management Act under RCW 36.70A.070(8) to require mandatory climate change planning, Yakima County must integrate resiliency and sustainability principles into comprehensive planning, including the Shoreline Master Program. This section expands upon the foundational policies established in Goal SMP 12 (Climate Change) by providing detailed implementation guidance and additional policy direction.

13.10.1 HB 1181 Climate Planning Requirements

House Bill 1181 added climate change and resiliency as a goal of the Growth Management Act. Comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies must now: adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice. The resiliency subelement required by HB 1181 must include goals, policies, and programs that identify, protect, and enhance natural areas and communities to foster resiliency to climate impacts and address natural hazards created or exacerbated by climate change.

For shoreline areas, this requirement is particularly significant because shorelines are among the most vulnerable natural systems to climate change impacts. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, increased flood intensity, extended drought periods, and wildfire risk all directly affect shoreline ecological functions, water quality, habitat viability, and the safety of shoreline development.

13.10.2 Climate Context for Yakima County Shorelines

Yakima County is situated within the Yakima River Basin, a 6,150 square-mile watershed draining the eastern slopes of the central Washington Cascade Mountains. The basin's hydrology is characterized by strong seasonal variability, with 61 to 81 percent of annual precipitation falling during the cool season (October through March), much of it stored as mountain snowpack. This dependence on snowpack as a "sixth reservoir" creates significant vulnerability to climate warming. Research conducted by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group indicates that 78 percent of the Yakima River Basin lies within the elevation "transition zone" where winter precipitation frequently transitions between rain and snow, making the basin exceptionally sensitive to even modest temperature increases.

Observed and Projected Changes: Analysis of historical observations demonstrates that climate change is already affecting the Yakima Basin. Declining April 1st snowpack, earlier snowmelt timing, and shifts in streamflow patterns have been documented across the Washington Cascades. Climate projections indicate substantial warming throughout the 21st century, with annual temperatures projected to increase by 2.0-3.5°C by the 2080s depending on emissions scenarios. Critically, warmer temperatures cause an increasing proportion of winter precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow, fundamentally altering the timing and magnitude of streamflows that shoreline ecosystems and water users depend upon.

13.10.3 Cumulative Natural Hazards Affecting Shorelines

Climate change does not occur in isolation but rather compounds and intensifies multiple natural hazard risks within shoreline jurisdiction:

Flood Hazards: Climate change increases flood risk through multiple pathways: more intense precipitation events, rain-on-snow events that accelerate snowmelt, reduced infiltration capacity in drought-stressed soils, and post-wildfire conditions that dramatically increase runoff. These changes affect the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, channel migration zones, and floodways within shoreline jurisdiction. (See Chapter 3, Goals NH 1-4)

Drought and Water Supply: Drought conditions, intensified by climate change, affect shoreline water levels, stream temperatures, aquatic habitat viability, and the ecological functions that shoreline buffers and wetlands provide. The shift from snow-dominant to rain-dominant precipitation reduces summer baseflows critical for fish passage and spawning. (See Chapter 3, Goals NH 3-4)

Wildfire Impacts: Wildfire risk is increasing throughout Yakima County due to extended fire seasons, drier fuels, and more extreme fire weather. Post-fire conditions dramatically alter watershed hydrology, increasing erosion, debris flows, and sediment loading into shoreline waters, while reducing riparian shade and habitat complexity. (See Chapter 3, Goal NH 5)

Geologic Hazards: Climate change exacerbates landslide and debris flow risks through intensified precipitation events, altered groundwater conditions, and post-fire slope instability. Many geologically hazardous areas occur within shoreline jurisdiction, including erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, and steep slopes associated with river bluffs and canyon walls. (See Chapter 3, Goal NH 6; Chapter 2, Goal NS 19)

13.10.4 Integration with Comprehensive Plan Elements

The Shoreline Master Program's resiliency and sustainability provisions are closely coordinated with Chapter 2 (Natural Settings Element) and Chapter 3 (Natural Hazards Element) of the Comprehensive Plan. Climate considerations must be integrated across all comprehensive plan elements, including Land Use (directing growth away from high-risk areas), Housing (ensuring climate-resilient building standards), Transportation (designing for extreme heat and flooding), and Utilities (water supply reliability, stormwater management).

Chapter 2 Integration: The Natural Settings Element establishes the Climate Resiliency and Sustainability framework (Goal NS 20 and associated policies) that applies to critical areas protection, including those within shoreline jurisdiction. Best available climate science must inform critical area protections, with climate projections incorporated into analysis of wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, channel migration zones, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

Chapter 3 Integration: The Natural Hazards Element provides detailed climate resiliency planning (Section 3.5) aligned with Washington State's Climate Resilience Strategy. The Climate Resiliency Element's four goals—Communities, Infrastructure, Natural and Working Lands, and Governance—directly support shoreline management objectives by fostering healthy, safe, equitable communities; advancing infrastructure that supports natural systems; protecting and restoring natural systems; and developing efficient processes for collaboration and accountability.

13.10.5 Incorporation by Reference – Climate Resiliency Policies

The following climate resiliency and sustainability provisions from the Comprehensive Plan are hereby **INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** into this Shoreline Master Program element:

- **Chapter 2, Goal NS 20 and Policies NS 20.1 through NS 20.10:** Climate Resiliency and Sustainability policies including best available climate science requirements, vulnerability assessments, nature-based solutions, climate-resilient development standards, and coordination with tribal and regional partners.
- **Chapter 3, Section 3.5:** Yakima County's Strategy for Resilient and Sustainable Growth, including climate projections, cumulative natural hazards analysis, multi-hazard planning, and adaptive management frameworks.
- **Chapter 3, Goals NH 1-6:** Natural Hazard Mitigation goals and policies addressing flood hazards, stormwater management, wildfire hazards, drought, multi-hazard planning, and recovery, as they apply within shoreline jurisdiction.
- **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP):** The County supports implementation of the YBIP as a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation in water resource management, recognizing its integration of water supply, fisheries enhancement, and ecosystem restoration.

13.5 SHORELINE JURISDICTION

Shoreline jurisdiction in Yakima County includes all waters of the state meeting statutory thresholds, shorelands extending 200 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), wetlands associated with shoreline waters, floodways, and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways. Pursuant to RCW 90.58.030, shoreline jurisdiction includes:

- Streams and rivers with greater than 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) mean annual flow
- Lakes larger than 20 acres
- Upland areas (shorelands) extending 200 feet landward from the OHWM of these waters
- Wetlands associated with shoreline rivers and lakes
- Floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from floodways
- River deltas associated with shoreline streams and rivers

The Yakima River and Naches River systems, along with numerous lakes and reservoirs, constitute the primary shorelines of the state in Yakima County. Shorelines of statewide significance in Yakima County include portions of the Yakima River meeting the statutory flow thresholds for rivers east of the Cascade crest (1,000 cfs mean annual flow). These shoreline areas receive heightened protection and preferential use considerations under the SMA per RCW 90.58.020.

13.6 SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS

Shoreline areas are classified into environmental designations based on the existing and future land use pattern as well as the biological and physical character of the shoreline. These designations provide a system for categorizing shoreline areas according to management objectives and development intensity. Per WAC 173-26-211, the SMP establishes environment designations, each with purpose statements and management policies defining allowable uses and development standards.

Urban Environment: For the most intensely developed areas where intensive development is desirable or tolerable, emphasizing quality development in harmony with the shoreline and optimizing utilization while maintaining public access.

Rural Environment: For undeveloped shoreline areas where intensive development might interfere with agricultural operations, maintaining open spaces and providing compatible recreational opportunities.

Conservancy Environment: For areas where maintenance of existing character is desirable, allowing sustained-yield resource use while protecting areas with biophysical limitations.

Natural Environment: For shoreline areas considered unique by virtue of their natural integrity, protecting them for the benefit of present and future generations. Prime targets include lands owned or controlled by federal and tribal wildlife management agencies.

Floodway/Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) Environment: For protecting water areas, associated vegetation, islands, overflow channels, and channel migration areas, acknowledging the river's need to move within parts of its floodplain. This designation applies to shoreline areas within mapped Channel Migration Zones and/or within a designated FEMA Floodway and shall never extend beyond the 100-year flood plain.

Urban Conservancy Environment: For protecting and restoring ecological functions of open space, floodplain, and sensitive lands within urban and developed settings while allowing compatible uses.

13.7 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Purpose: Establish comprehensive policy direction for administering the Shoreline Master Program consistent with the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and implementing WAC guidelines.

Goal: Guide development and land use activities within shoreline jurisdiction to protect ecological functions, provide public access, and support appropriate water-oriented uses.

The following goals and policies implement the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and the SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26). Per WAC 173-26-186(3), all relevant policy goals must be addressed in the planning policies of master programs. These goals and policies guide the development and application of the detailed regulations in Yakima County Code Title 16D.

GOAL SMP 1:	**Goal SMP 1:** Shoreline Management Act Implementation Purpose: Translate state statutory requirements into local shoreline management policies. **Goal:** Implement RCW 90.58.020 and WAC 173-26-176 policy goals, giving preference to environmentally protective and water-dependent uses while maintaining public access and protecting private property rights. Implement the policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act as established in RCW 90.58.020 and WAC 173-26-176.
POLICIES:	
SMP 1.1	Give preference to uses that are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or that are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's shoreline.
SMP 1.2	Provide for public access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline and increase recreational opportunities for the public along shorelines.
SMP 1.3	Protect and restore the ecological functions of shoreline natural resources, including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality.
SMP 1.4	Protect the public right of navigation and corollary uses of waters of the state.
SMP 1.5	Protect and restore sites having historic, cultural, scientific, or educational value.
SMP 1.6	Coordinate shoreline management with other relevant local, state, federal, and tribal programs and plans.
SMP 1.7	Prevent and minimize flood damages through appropriate floodplain management. (See also Chapter 3 Goals NH 1-4)
SMP 1.8	Recognize and protect private property rights consistent with the public interest.
SMP 1.9	Preferentially accommodate single-family residential uses along shorelines.

SMP 1.10	Apply SMA protection principles in order of preference: (1) recognize state-wide interest over local interest; (2) preserve natural character; (3) result in long-term over short-term benefit; (4) protect the resource and ecology; (5) increase public access; (6) increase recreational opportunities.
GOAL SMP 2:	**Goal SMP 2:** Ecological Function Protection **Purpose:** Ensure shoreline development maintains ecological integrity through the no net loss standard. Goal: Protect and restore shoreline ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes, implementing Chapter 2 Goals NS 8 and NS 15-19 through mitigation sequencing and cumulative impact evaluation. Implements Chapter 2 Goals NS 8, NS 15-19)
POLICIES:	
SMP 2.1	Protect all shorelines of the state so that there is no net loss of ecological functions from both individual permitted development and cumulative impacts of exempt development.
SMP 2.2	Require that new development and uses result in no net loss of shoreline ecological functions through avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts using mitigation sequencing.
SMP 2.3	Protect critical areas within shoreline jurisdiction using standards at least as protective as the County's Critical Areas Ordinance, as required by WAC 173-26-221 and RCW 36.70A.480(4).
SMP 2.4	Maintain vegetative buffers along shoreline streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands to protect water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitat, reduce erosion, retard surface runoff, reduce siltation, shade surface waters, and provide other ecological functions. (See also Chapter 2 Policies NS 15.1, NS 16.5, NS 18.1)
SMP 2.5	For existing agriculture, encourage through voluntary means the maintenance of permanent vegetative buffers between tilled areas and associated water bodies. For new agriculture, apply buffer requirements.
SMP 2.6	Encourage protections that incorporate substantive fish habitat elements or follow Stream Bank Protection Guidelines. (See also Chapter 2 Goal NS 16)
SMP 2.7	Evaluate cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable development and establish measures to ensure no net loss of ecological function.
GOAL SMP 3:	**Goal SMP 3:** Fish and Wildlife Habitat **Purpose:** Conserve aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats supporting fish and wildlife populations. Goal: Maintain and protect fish and wildlife habitat areas, with special emphasis on anadromous fisheries and ESA-listed species, implementing Chapter 2 Goals NS 15-16.Provide for the maintenance and protection of fish and wildlife habitat areas within shoreline jurisdiction. (Implements Chapter 2 Goals NS 15-16)
POLICIES:	

SMP 3.1	Encourage the protection of aquatic, riparian, upland and wetland fish and wildlife habitat, ensuring the best representation and distribution of habitats remains to protect natural values and functions. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 15.1)
SMP 3.2	Direct development away from areas containing significant fish and wildlife habitat, especially undeveloped areas or areas dominated by low intensity land uses.
SMP 3.3	Development projects shall not be authorized if they obstruct fish passage or result in unmitigated loss or damage of fish and wildlife resources. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 16.1)
SMP 3.4	Protect spawning areas designated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife from conflicting uses.
SMP 3.5	Give special consideration to conservation and protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 16.4)
SMP 3.6	Coordinate fish and wildlife protection efforts with state and federal agencies and the Yakama Nation to avoid duplication, ensure consistency across boundaries, and take advantage of available assistance.
GOAL SMP 4:	**Goal SMP 4:** Wetlands Protection **Purpose:** Preserve wetland functions including flood storage, water quality improvement, and habitat provision. Goal: Achieve no net loss of wetland functions and values through classification, buffer requirements, and compensatory mitigation, implementing Chapter 2 Goal NS 18
POLICIES:	
SMP 4.1	Preserve, protect, manage, and regulate wetlands for purposes of promoting public health, safety and general welfare by conserving fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 18.1)
SMP 4.2	Apply a clear definition of regulated wetland and method for delineating regulatory wetland boundaries consistent with federal wetland delineation standards.
SMP 4.3	Classify regulated wetland areas to reflect their relative function, value and uniqueness using the Washington State Wetland Rating System.
SMP 4.4	Require wetland buffers and building setbacks around regulated wetlands to preserve vital wetland functions and values.
SMP 4.5	Manage and mitigate human activities or actions which would have probable adverse impacts on the existing conditions of regulated wetlands or their buffers.
SMP 4.6	Require mitigation for any regulated activity which alters regulated wetlands and their buffers, including ratios, performance standards, monitoring, and long-term protection.
GOAL SMP 5:	**Goal** SMP 5: Flood Hazard Prevention

	Purpose: Reduce flood-related risks to life and property within shoreline jurisdiction. **Goal:** Prevent flood damages by restricting development in channel migration zones and floodways, preferring nonstructural measures, and maintaining NFIP eligibility, implementing Chapter 2 Goal NS 17 and Chapter 3 Goals NH 1-4.
POLICIES:	
SMP 5.1	Do not allow new development that would require structural flood hazard reduction measures within channel migration zones or floodways. (Implements WAC 173-26-221(3)(b))
SMP 5.2	Allow structural flood hazard reduction measures only when necessary to protect existing development, when nonstructural measures are not feasible, and when impacts can be mitigated to ensure no net loss of ecological functions.
SMP 5.3	Conduct additional analysis and mapping of frequently flooded areas where FEMA 100-year floodplain maps do not adequately reflect risk levels or geographic extent. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 17.2)
SMP 5.4	Direct new critical facility development away from areas subject to catastrophic, life-threatening flood hazards where hazards cannot be mitigated. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 17.3)
SMP 5.5	Plan for and facilitate returning shoreline rivers to more natural hydrological conditions, recognizing seasonal flooding as an essential natural process. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 17.5)
SMP 5.6	When evaluating alternate flood control measures: (a) consider removal or relocation of structures in the FEMA 100-year floodplain; (b) give preference to nonstructural measures; (c) ensure structural measures are consistent with the County's Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 17.6)
SMP 5.7	Restrict subdivisions in areas subject to flooding. Maintain coordination with NFIP requirements for eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.
SMP 5.8	Discourage modifications that harden or fix stream banks and channels in the Floodway/Channel Migration Zone Environment.
GOAL SMP 6:	**Goal SMP 6:** Public Access **Purpose:** Enhance public enjoyment of shoreline areas while balancing ecological and private property concerns. **Goal:** Protect and expand public access to shorelines through public lands, linear trail connections, and development conditions, prioritizing ecological protection where conflicts arise.
POLICIES:	
SMP 6.1	Utilize publicly owned shoreline lands, including federal, state, and tribal holdings, as the primary means of providing public access to shorelines.

SMP 6.2	Require public access as a condition of shoreline development for public projects, except where infeasible due to safety, security, environmental impact, or constitutional limitations.
SMP 6.3	Promote diversified types of public access accommodating intensified use without significantly impacting fragile natural areas or infringing on rights of private ownership.
SMP 6.4	Encourage linear access connections linking shoreline parks and public access points through trails and bicycle paths.
SMP 6.5	Protect existing views from public property and provide scenic corridors, viewpoints, and rest areas where appropriate. Where aesthetic impacts are not avoidable, provide mitigation.
SMP 6.6	When conflict exists between public access and ecological protection, prioritize ecological protection except where significant impacts can be mitigated.

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GOAL SMP 7:	**Goal SMP 7:** Shoreline Use Consistency **Purpose:** Match land uses to shoreline character and support water-oriented economic activities. **Goal:** Ensure uses are compatible with shoreline physical limitations, giving preference to water-dependent and water-oriented uses while accommodating agriculture, recreation, and appropriate residential development.
POLICIES:	
SMP 7.1	Give preference to uses with minimal impacts that are dependent on shoreline location or use of the water.
SMP 7.2	Reserve adequate shoreline area for water-dependent and water-oriented commercial and industrial uses.
SMP 7.3	Allow lawfully established agricultural activities to continue on agricultural lands consistent with RCW 90.58.065. New agricultural activities on land not currently used for agriculture shall meet shoreline requirements.
SMP 7.4	Consider aquaculture a preferred use when consistent with environmental protection and prevention of damage to the environment.
SMP 7.5	Assure the preservation and expansion of diverse recreational opportunities along public shorelines consistent with the capacity of the land.
SMP 7.6	Locate mining activities away from sensitive shoreline areas and require reclamation to restore ecological functions.
SMP 7.7	Limit residential development in shoreline areas to densities and configurations that protect ecological functions and public access.
GOAL SMP 8:	**Goal SMP 8:** Shoreline Modifications **Purpose:** Minimize structural impacts to shoreline processes and ecological functions. **Goal:** Design and locate shoreline modifications to avoid adverse impacts, preferring soft stabilization over hard armoring and limiting fill, dredging, and overwater structures to essential purposes.
POLICIES:	
SMP 8.1	Allow shore stabilization only when necessary to protect existing primary structures and when designed using the least impactful methods feasible.
SMP 8.2	Prefer soft stabilization approaches (beach nourishment, bioengineering) over hard armoring (bulkheads, riprap) where feasible.
SMP 8.3	Design and locate piers, docks, and other overwater structures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to ecological functions.
SMP 8.4	Allow dredging only for navigation and flood control purposes when ecological impacts can be minimized and mitigated. Permit deposit of spoils in water areas only to improve habitat or when the alternative is worse.
SMP 8.5	Prohibit fill waterward of the OHWM except for water-dependent uses, public access, cleanup of contaminated sites, or habitat restoration.

SMP 8.6	Avoid flood protection and stabilization measures which result in channelization or other modifications that may cause net erosion.
GOAL SMP 9:	**Goal SMP 9:** Water Quality Protection **Purpose:** Maintain and improve surface and groundwater quality in shoreline areas**.** **Goal:** Protect water quality through stormwater management, pollution control, stream temperature protection, and critical aquifer recharge area standards, implementing Chapter 2 Goals NS 9-14.
POLICIES:	
SMP 9.1	Require all development to comply with applicable stormwater management requirements. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Goal NS 13)
SMP 9.2	Control and reduce both point source and nonpoint source pollution affecting shoreline water quality, including agricultural runoff and stormwater.
SMP 9.3	Protect and restore stream temperatures to support cold-water fish habitat through riparian shade, flow management, and cooling strategies.
SMP 9.4	Prohibit sanitary landfills along shoreline areas and ensure proper disposal of solid waste.
SMP 9.5	Use Critical Aquifer Recharge Area protection measures to protect groundwater quality within shoreline jurisdiction. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Goals NS 9-12)
GOAL SMP 10:	**Goal SMP 10:** Archaeological and Cultural Resources **Purpose:** Preserve sites of historical, archaeological, and cultural significance. **Goal:** Protect archaeological and cultural resources through pre-development consultation, stop-work protocols, and recognition of tribal treaty rights per RCW 90.58.350.
POLICIES:	
SMP 10.1	Encourage consultation with professional archaeologists, historians, and affected tribes to identify areas containing potentially valuable resources prior to development.
SMP 10.2	Require developers to immediately stop work and notify appropriate agencies and tribes if archaeological or historic resources are uncovered during construction.
SMP 10.3	Allow delay of development to permit purchase of sites or recovery of data when development could destroy significant resources.
SMP 10.4	Recognize that the provisions of the SMP shall not affect treaty rights of Indian Nations or tribes, per RCW 90.58.350.
GOAL SMP 11:	**Goal SMP 11:** Geologic Hazards **Purpose:** Protect public safety from landslides, erosion, and slope instability in shoreline areas. **Goal:** Ensure land use practices in geologically hazardous areas do not endanger lives or property, implementing Chapter 2 Goal NS 19 and Chapter 3 Goal NH 6.

POLICIES:	
SMP 11.1	Ensure that land use practices in geologically hazardous areas do not cause or exacerbate natural processes which endanger lives, property, or resources. (Incorporates Chapter 2 Policy NS 19.1)
SMP 11.2	Locate development within the most environmentally suitable and naturally stable portions of the site.
SMP 11.3	Classify and designate areas on which development should be prohibited, conditioned, or otherwise controlled because of danger from geological hazards.
SMP 11.4	Prevent the subdividing of known or suspected landslide hazard areas, side slopes of stream ravines, or slopes 40 percent or greater for development purposes.
GOAL SMP 12:	**Goal** SMP 12: Resiliency and Sustainability **Purpose:** Build shoreline resilience to changing climate conditions. **Goal:** Address climate change impacts through adaptive management, updated development standards, protection of climate refugia, and support for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.
POLICIES:	
SMP 12.1	Incorporate climate change projections into shoreline planning and permitting decisions, particularly regarding water temperature, flow patterns, and flood risk.
SMP 12.2	Update shoreline development standards and buffer requirements as needed based on observed and projected climate impacts.
SMP 12.3	Prioritize protection of climate refugia and areas likely to maintain suitable conditions for sensitive species under changing climate conditions.
SMP 12.4	Review and update shoreline management policies during each Comprehensive Plan periodic review cycle using best available science on climate impacts. (See also Chapter 2 Goal NS 24)
SMP 12.5	Support implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan as a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation in water resource management.
GOAL SMP 13:	**Purpose:** Ensure effective and consistent SMP implementation. **Goal:** Administer shoreline permits consistent with state requirements, coordinate with Ecology and the Yakama Nation, monitor cumulative impacts, and update the SMP every eight years using best available science.
POLICIES:	
SMP 13.1	Administer shoreline permits consistent with the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act, WAC 173-27, and the local SMP.
SMP 13.2	Coordinate with the Department of Ecology on conditional use permits, variances, and SMP amendments.

SMP 13.3	Coordinate shoreline management with the Yakama Nation on matters affecting treaty resources and tribal interests.
SMP 13.4	Monitor implementation of the SMP and track cumulative impacts to shoreline ecological functions.
SMP 13.5	Update the Shoreline Master Program at least once every eight years as required by RCW 90.58.080, incorporating best available science and lessons learned.
SMP 13.6	When other State or Federal agency standards would be more restrictive and more protective of ecological function, those standards shall apply.

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13.8 IMPLEMENTATION

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Purpose: Establish the regulatory framework for implementing Chapter 13 policies through development regulations.

Goal: Implement shoreline goals and policies through YCC Title 16D, addressing environment designations, general regulations, use-specific standards, nonconforming provisions, permit procedures, and critical areas protection consistent with RCW 90.58, RCW 36.70A.060, and NFIP requirements.

The goals and policies of this Chapter are implemented through the detailed regulations contained in Yakima County Code Title 16D - Shoreline Master Program. YCC Title 16D is established pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060 (GMA development regulations), RCW Chapter 90.58 (Shoreline Management Act), RCW Chapter 43.21C (State Environmental Policy Act), RCW 86.16 (flood control), and federal requirements for eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to 44 CFR Parts 59 and 60.

The SMP regulations address:

- Shoreline environment designations and their permitted uses (16D.03)
- General regulations for archaeological resources, ecological protection, public access, vegetation conservation, and water quality (16D.04)
- Standards for specific shoreline uses and modifications (16D.05)
- Nonconforming uses, structures and lots (16D.06)
- Permit procedures including exemptions, substantial development permits, conditional uses, and variances (16D.07)
- Critical areas in shoreline jurisdiction (16D.08)

Appendices to Title 16D include maps of shoreline environment designations, lists of shoreline lakes, ponds, and streams with their environmental designations, and wetland rating criteria. The County maintains a Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report that provides the scientific basis for shoreline environment designations and development standards.

13.9 SUMMARY OF INCORPORATIONS BY REFERENCE

The following provisions from other Comprehensive Plan chapters are incorporated by reference into this Shoreline Master Program element:

Critical Area Type	Chapter Reference	SMP Implementing Section
Wetlands	Ch. 2, Goal NS 18	YCC 16D.08.03
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Ch. 2, Goals NS 15-16	YCC 16D.08.02
Frequently Flooded Areas	Ch. 2, Goal NS 17; Ch. 3, Goals NH 1-4	YCC 16D.08
100-Year Floodplain	Ch. 3, Goals NH 1-4	YCC 16D.08, 44 CFR 59-60

500-Year Floodplain	Ch. 3, Goals NH 1-4	YCC 16D.08
Floodway	Ch. 3, Goals NH 1-4	YCC 16D.03.04 (CMZ Env.)
Channel Migration Zones	Ch. 3	YCC 16D.03.04 (CMZ Env.)
Geologically Hazardous Areas	Ch. 2, Goal NS 19; Ch. 3, Goal NH 6	YCC 16D.08.04
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Ch. 2, Goals NS 9-12	YCC 16D.08.05
Best Available Science	Ch. 2, Goal NS 24	YCC 16D.08.01
Climate Resiliency & Sustainability	Ch. 2, Goal NS 20; Ch. 3, Section 3.5	Goals SMP 12, 14-16; Section 13.10
HB 1181 Climate Planning	RCW 36.70A.070(8); E2SHB 1181	Section 13.10.1
Yakima Basin Integrated Plan	Ch. 2, Section 2.5.2	SMP 12.5; Section 13.10.5

13.10.6 Resiliency Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies expand upon Goal SMP 12 (Climate Change) to implement HB 1181 climate resiliency requirements within shoreline jurisdiction:

Purpose: Implement HB 1181 climate resiliency requirements within shoreline jurisdiction, expanding upon Goal SMP 12 (Climate Change) to address comprehensive climate adaptation and sustainability.

Goal: Integrate mandatory GMA climate change planning requirements into shoreline management through coordinated policies addressing resilience, sustainability, and adaptive management.

GOAL SMP 14:	**Purpose:** Prepare shoreline resources and communities for climate-related hazards including increased flooding, drought, wildfire, and thermal impacts on aquatic habitat. **Goal:** Ensure the resilience and sustainability of shoreline resources, ecological functions, property, life, health, and the economy through preparation for, survival of, and recovery from extreme weather events and cumulative natural hazards created or exacerbated by climate change. Implements HB 1181; coordinates with Chapter 2 Goal NS 20 and Chapter 3 Section 3.5.
POLICIES:	
SMP 14.1	Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Identify and map shoreline areas most vulnerable to climate impacts, including areas subject to increased flooding, drought stress, wildfire, post-fire debris flows, and thermal impacts on aquatic habitat. Use vulnerability assessments to prioritize restoration efforts and guide development away from high-risk areas. (Implements Chapter 2 Policy NS 20.2)
SMP 14.2	Climate-Informed Flood Standards: Incorporate forward-looking precipitation and streamflow projections into flood hazard analysis within shoreline jurisdiction. Design standards for development in frequently

	flooded areas shall account for projected increases in flood magnitude and frequency. (Implements Chapter 3 Policy NH 2.4)
SMP 14.3	Nature-Based Solutions: Prioritize nature-based solutions for shoreline stabilization, flood attenuation, and habitat protection. Green infrastructure approaches provide multiple co-benefits including flood reduction, aquifer recharge, water quality improvement, temperature moderation, carbon sequestration, and habitat enhancement. (Implements Chapter 2 Policy NS 20.4)
SMP 14.4	Riparian Shade and Stream Temperature: Protect and restore riparian vegetation to maintain stream shading and moderate water temperatures essential for cold-water fish species. Climate change projections for stream temperature impacts shall inform riparian buffer requirements and restoration priorities.
SMP 14.5	Post-Wildfire Shoreline Protection: Require enhanced protections for shoreline development and ecological functions in watersheds affected by wildfire, including increased erosion control, sediment management, and stormwater standards sized for post-fire conditions. (Implements Chapter 3 Policy NH 2.6)
SMP 14.6	Infrastructure Resilience: Ensure that shoreline infrastructure, including utilities, stormwater systems, and flood control structures, is designed for projected future climate conditions, not solely historical conditions. Critical facilities within shoreline jurisdiction shall incorporate climate resilience standards.
SMP 14.7	Environmental Justice: Ensure that climate adaptation measures within shoreline jurisdiction do not disproportionately burden overburdened communities or vulnerable populations. Prioritize climate resilience investments that provide co-benefits for frontline communities. (Implements HB 1181 environmental justice requirements)

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GOAL SMP 15:	**Purpose**: Promote long-term ecological, economic, and community viability while reducing contributions to climate change through sustainable practices. **Goal**: Promote sustainable shoreline management practices that support long-term ecological, economic, and community viability while reducing contributions to climate change. Implements HB 1181; coordinates with Chapter 2 Goals NS 8-24 and Chapter 3 Goals NH 1-6.
POLICIES:	
SMP 15.1	Carbon Sequestration: Recognize and protect the carbon sequestration functions of shoreline wetlands, riparian forests, and floodplain ecosystems. Restoration projects should consider carbon storage as a co-benefit.

SMP 15.2	Low-Impact Development: Require low-impact development techniques for new development within shoreline jurisdiction to minimize stormwater runoff, protect water quality, and enhance groundwater recharge.
SMP 15.3	Sustainable Agriculture: Support climate-smart agricultural practices within shoreline areas, including irrigation efficiency, cover cropping, riparian buffers, and integrated pest management that enhance farm resilience while protecting shoreline ecological functions.
SMP 15.4	Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Prioritize green stormwater infrastructure including bioretention facilities, permeable pavements, tree canopy preservation, and rainwater harvesting that provide multiple climate adaptation benefits. (Implements Chapter 3 Policy NH 2.5)
SMP 15.5	Climate-Adaptive Restoration: Design shoreline restoration projects to be resilient under projected climate conditions, using climate-adapted native species, accounting for changing hydrologic regimes, and building in adaptive management provisions.
SMP 15.6	Multi-Benefit Projects: Prioritize shoreline projects that achieve multiple objectives including ecological restoration, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, public access, and climate adaptation.

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GOAL SMP 16:	**Purpose:** Establish monitoring, coordination, and adaptive management frameworks to ensure climate-resilient shoreline management across jurisdictional boundaries. **Goal:** Implement adaptive management and regional coordination for climate-resilient shoreline management. Implements HB 1181; coordinates with Chapter 2 Goal NS 24 and Chapter 3 Section 3.5.
POLICIES:	
SMP 16.1	Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Establish monitoring protocols to track climate impacts on shoreline ecological functions, including water temperature, streamflow timing, wetland hydrology, vegetation community shifts, and species distribution changes. Use monitoring data to inform adaptive management of shoreline regulations. (Implements Chapter 2 Policy NS 20.9)
SMP 16.2	Regional Coordination: Coordinate climate adaptation planning with the Yakama Nation, adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and regional partners to ensure consistency across boundaries and maximize effectiveness of adaptation strategies. (Implements Chapter 2 Policy NS 20.6a)
SMP 16.3	Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge from the Yakama Nation and long-term land managers in climate adaptation planning for shoreline resources, recognizing the value of multi-generational observations of environmental change.
SMP 16.4	Emergency Response Coordination: Coordinate shoreline management with Yakima Valley Emergency Management, the Multi-Jurisdictional

	Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans to ensure integrated response to climate-related emergencies.
SMP 16.5	Funding Coordination: Pursue state and federal funding opportunities for climate-resilient shoreline projects, including those identified in Washington State's Climate Resilience Strategy, conservation technical assistance programs, and habitat restoration grants.
SMP 16.6	Public Education: Provide education and outreach to shoreline property owners, developers, and the public regarding climate impacts on shoreline resources and the importance of climate-resilient development practices.

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