

Comprehensive Management Plan

Best Available Science





Applications &
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Amendments

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2046
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Best Available Science

HORIZON 2046 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Best Available Science 2026 Update

Critical Areas Ordinance · Shoreline Master Program
Flood Hazard Management · Environmental Change - Resiliency and
Sustainability Science

Yakima County is conducting a comprehensive update to its Best Available Science (BAS) documentation as required by Washington State's Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.172) and the Shoreline Management Act. This collaborative effort incorporates over two decades of scientific advances since the 2004 baseline report, addressing climate change impacts, updated wetland science, and emerging research on habitat conservation.

Report Content (subchapter examples)

Chapter 1: Introduction

Example Subchapters:

1.2 Document Organization, 1.3 The BAS Portal, 1.9 Science Advisory Group, 1.10 Federal, State and Tribal Coordination

Chapter 2: Stream Corridor, Shorelines, Riparian and Flood Management Zones

Example Subchapters:

2.2 Shoreline Management Designations, 2.4 Stream Corridor Functions, 2.7 Flood Hazard Areas, 2.8 Stream Connectivity and Migration

Chapter 3: Wetlands and Management Zones

Example Subchapters:

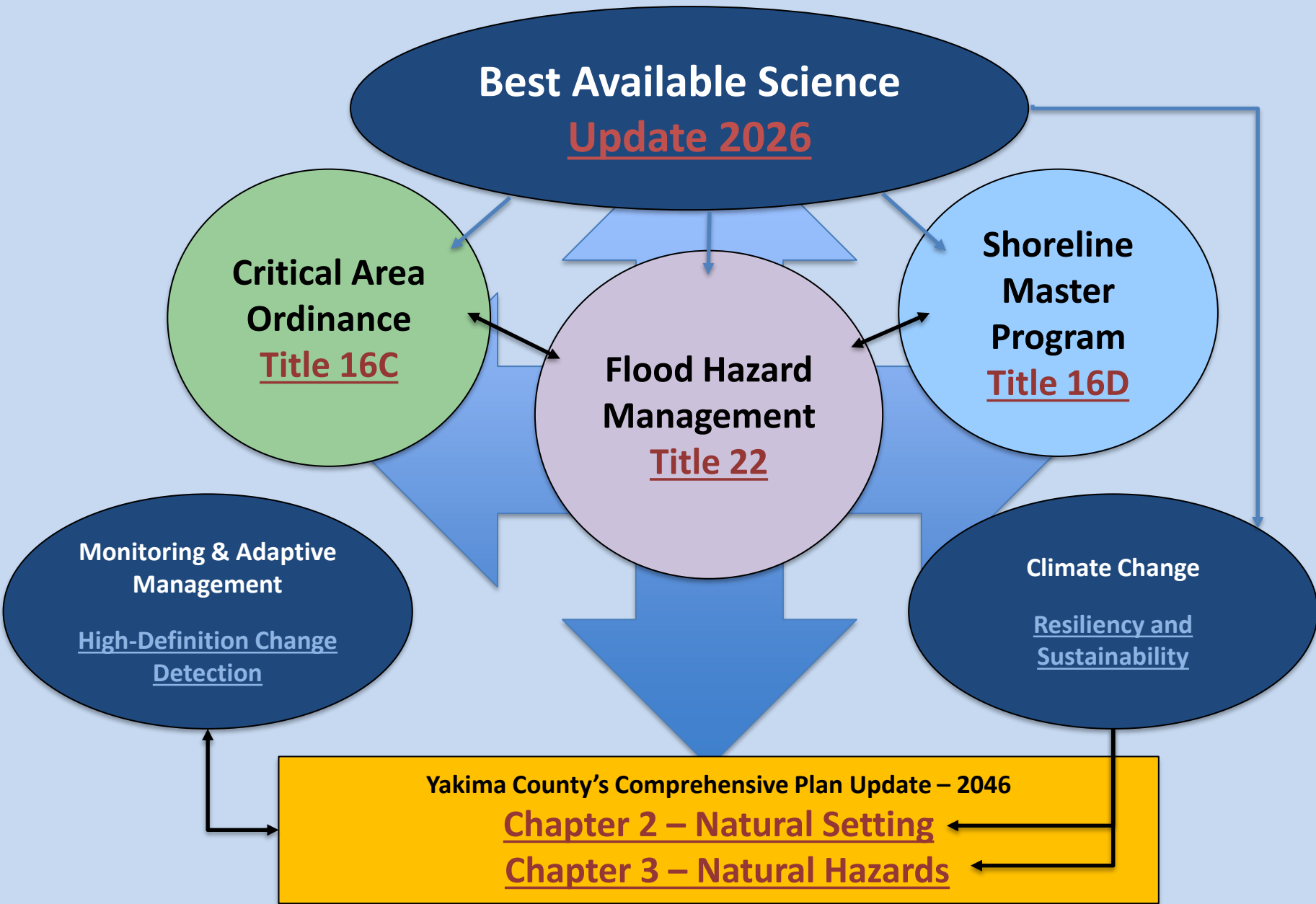
3.2 Wetland Types and Classification, 3.4 Wetland Rating System, 3.5 Wetland Functions and Values, 3.6 Wetland Management Zones

Chapter 4: Critical Aquifer Recharge, Surface and Groundwater

Example Subchapters:

4.2 Hydrogeology, 4.4 Recharge Areas, 4.5 Groundwater Surface Water Connectivity, 4.6 Managed

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/3112/46178/Best-Available-Science-Update-2026>



Best Available Science

The “Why?”

GMA, SMA and CFR Requirements

The 2004 BAS Report has served Yakima County for two decades. In that time, the scientific understanding of critical areas has advanced substantially, climate change has emerged as a central planning concern, and the regulatory landscape has evolved with new requirements including HB 1181. The 2026 Update will bring Yakima County's critical areas protections into alignment with current science and law, supporting both the Horizon 2046 Comprehensive Plan and the Critical Areas Ordinance revisions.

- **Best Available Science (BAS)** applies to both GMA and SMA – Standalone
- **Climate Change (i.e., Resiliency and Sustainability)** adaptation now required across all frameworks – Chapter 3
- **Monitoring and Adaptive Management** applies to SMA and VSP, GMA through, and in, BAS

And now, for the rest (18 pages) of the story...(Paul Harvey)

- <https://integrated> GMA SMA Flood BAS Climate Integration and Compliance

Yakima Basin - Best Available Science - Update, 2026

Submitter*

Please choose

Group

Role

Affiliation*

Target Table of Contents - Level 1 Main BAS Chapter*

Please choose

Table of Contents Level 2 and 3 Subsections (can choose multiple, if applicable)*

1.1 Introduction
1.2 Peer Review and Quality Assurance
1.2.1 Acquisition and Integration of Best Available Science
1.2.2 Science Update Process

[Direct Research Links](#)

Click to access Best Available Science Resources

Research Title/Study Name (Citation format, APA preferred)*

ABSTRACT from publication*

Submitter Annotation (comments, summary, relevance)

Research Source*

Please choose

Geographic Relevance*

Please choose

Overall Confidence*

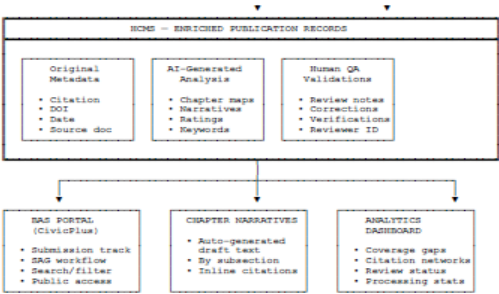
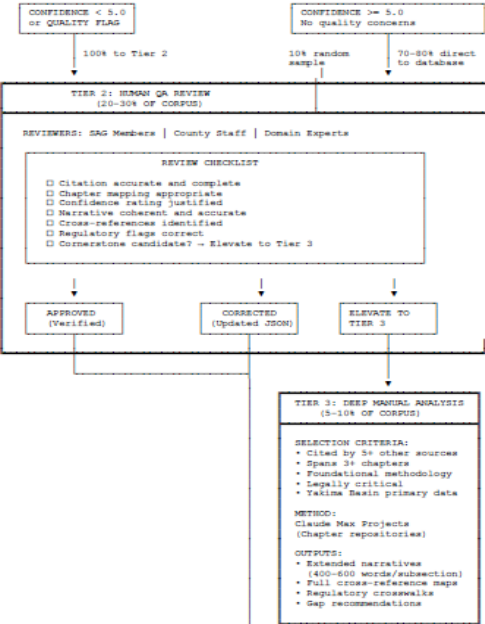
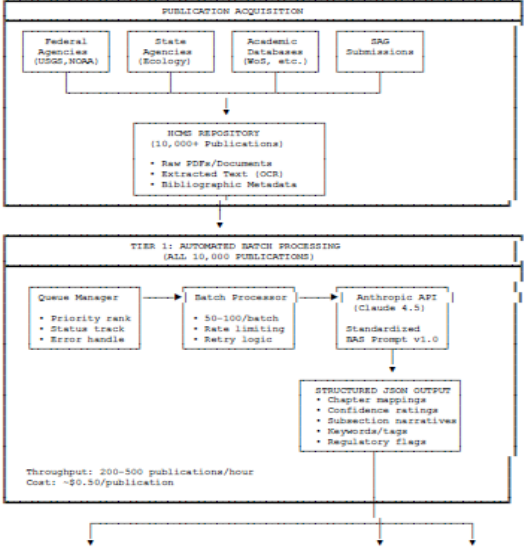
Upload Files (.pdf, docx)

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/3112/46178/Best-Available-Science-Update-2026>

6. Detailed Workflow Diagrams

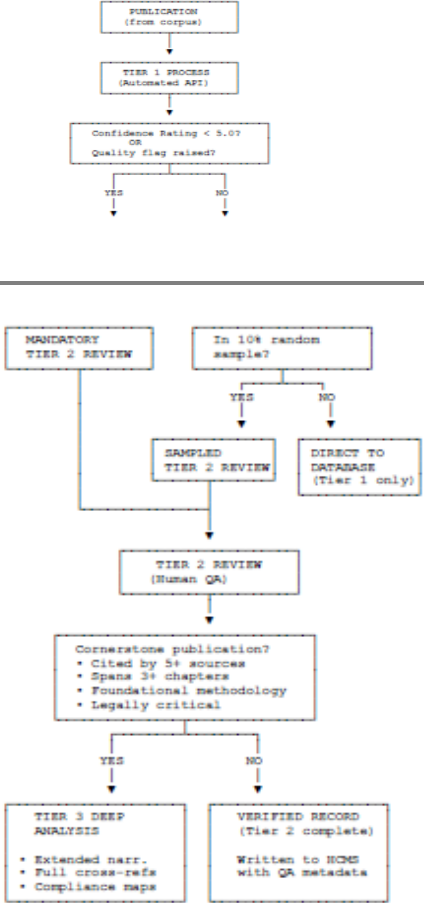
6.1 Complete Processing Flow

The following diagram illustrates the complete publication processing workflow from acquisition through final integration:



6.2 Tier Selection Decision Tree

The following diagram shows how publications are routed to appropriate tiers:



Analysis Depth

Tier 3 publications receive the full 6-phase Chapter Analysis treatment:

1. Comprehensive bibliographic and methodological documentation
2. Extended subsection narratives (400-600 words per subsection)
3. Complete cross-reference mapping across all 13 chapters
4. Inline citation integration for direct quotation support
5. Regulatory compliance crosswalk (GMA, WAC, HB 1181)
6. Gap identification and acquisition recommendations

REVIEW CHECKLIST |

- ☐ Citation accurate and complete
- ☐ Chapter mapping appropriate
- ☐ Confidence rating justified
- ☐ Narrative coherent and accurate
- ☐ Cross-references identified
- ☐ Regulatory flags correct

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE

Automation assists the BAS Update process; it does not control it. All scientific analysis, findings, narratives, and source selections are directed and approved by the Science Advisory Group and Long-Range Planning. The entire project is overseen and directed by Yakima County.

QUESTIONS?

