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Jefferson County Seeks Consultants for Shoreline Master Program Update

Port Townsend, WA—Jefferson County is pursuing development and adoption of an updated Shoreline Master Program by the end of the 2005-2007 biennium. The State Department of Ecology has awarded the County funds to develop a new Master Program under amendment rules adopted by Ecology in December 2003. A master program contains the goals, policies and regulations created and implemented by local governments to administer the 1971 Shoreline Management Act in cooperation with Ecology. Jefferson County's last comprehensive update of its Master Program was in 1989. "Shorelines" include saltwater, larger rivers and streams, and larger lakes, and the upland "shorelands" adjacent to those water bodies. The overarching goal of the Act is "to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines."

"The process for developing the proposal will begin with technical work and proceed to policy discussion," explained Josh Peters, senior planner with the County. "Meetings of technical and policy advisory committees in 2006 will be noticed on our 'shoreline planning' webpage and the public is welcome to attend. In the first part of 2007, a proposal will be going through the formal public process with our Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners." According to the Act, Ecology has the authority to approve or reject a master program adopted by local government.

The County is soliciting assistance from consultants for the project. Statements of qualifications are due September 15. For more information, including a copy of the request for qualifications and the scope of work, visit the Department of Community Development webpage dedicated to shoreline management at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm> or call or email Peters at (360) 379-4466 or jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us.

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