

Rec. 2-18-09
from Tom B.

Beach Access Structures

1. Dept. of Ecology only identifies one concern: erosion.

Washington's **Shoreline Management Act** (SMA) was adopted by the public in a 1972 referendum "*to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines.*" The SMA has three broad policies:

1. **Encourage water-dependent uses:** "uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or are unique to or dependent upon use of the states' shorelines..."

2. **Protect shoreline natural resources,** including "...the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the water of the state and their aquatic life..."

3. **Promote public access:** "the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally."

2. The Cumulative Impact Analysis document does not:

- a. indicate the proposed policy enhances any shoreline processes, or

- b. indicate the current policy impacts any of the natural processes of the shoreline

3. The current JCC 18.22.170, Protection Standards, provides that:

- (1) General. Application for a project on a parcel of real property containing a designated geologically hazardous area or its buffer shall adhere to the requirements set forth below.

- (2) Drainage and Erosion Control.

- (a) An applicant submitting a project application shall also submit, and have approved, a drainage and erosion control plan, as specified in this chapter, when the project application involves either of the following:

- (i) The alteration of a geologically hazardous area or its buffer; or

- (ii) The creation of a new parcel within a known geologically hazardous area.

- (b) Drainage and erosion control plans required under this chapter shall discuss, evaluate and recommend methods to minimize sedimentation of adjacent properties during and after construction.

(c) Surface drainage shall not be directed across the face of a marine bluff, landslide hazard or ravine. The applicant must demonstrate that the stormwater discharge cannot be accommodated on-site or upland by evidence of a geotechnical report, unless waived by the administrator. If drainage must be discharged from a bluff to adjacent waters, it shall be collected above the face of the bluff and directed to the water by tight line drain and provided with an energy dissipating device at the shoreline, above OHWM.

(d) In addition to any erosion control methods specified in the drainage and erosion control plan, the administrator may require hydroseeding of exposed or disturbed areas or other BMPs.

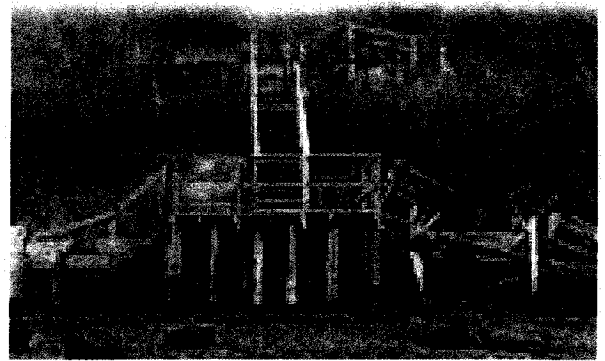
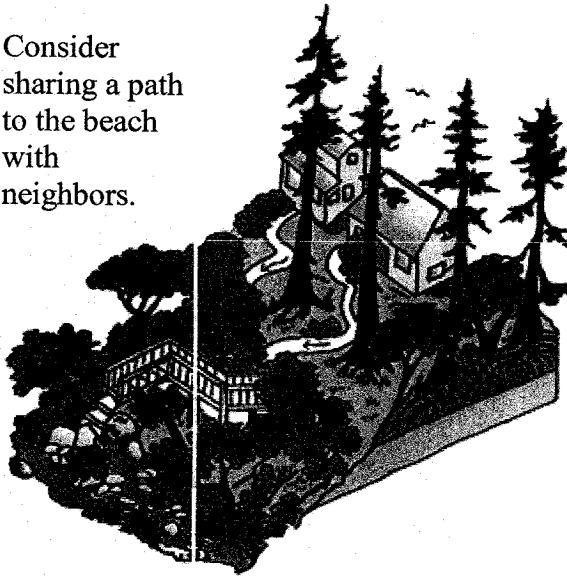
Beach Access

Before you build trails or stairways to the beach, think carefully about how you may be affecting the stability of your property and the health of the beach.

Paths Can Increase Erosion

Clearing a path may create a new corridor for water to drain creating gullies and slope instability. Generally, you will not be permitted to build a bulkhead in the future to protect a beach structure from erosion.

Consider sharing a path to the beach with neighbors.



Beach Access: What to Consider

- Where is the best site for access?
- Are there options for shared access?
- How much clearing will be involved?
- Will it cause negative impacts to the beach?
- Will it be safe?
- What permits will be needed?
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Construction of a structure to access the beach requires a Building Permit.

All structures and paths providing beach access must stop above and landward of the OHWM.

You do not need to get a permit to make a walking path to the beach unless:

- ❖ Any trees are removed, or
- ❖ Impervious materials are used to surface the path