ARTICLE 5 – SHORELINES OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

1. Adoption of Policy

A. In accordance with RCW 90.58.020, the County shall manage shorelines of statewide significance in accordance with this section and in accordance with the Program as a whole. Preference shall be given to uses that are consistent with the statewide interest in such shorelines. Uses that are not consistent with this section or do not comply with the other applicable polices and regulations of this Program shall not be permitted on shorelines of statewide significance.

B. In managing shorelines of statewide significance, Jefferson County shall:

1. Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
2. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
3. Seek long-term benefits over short-term benefit;
4. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
5. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline;
6. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline; and
7. Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58.100 deemed appropriate or necessary.

2. Designation of Shorelines of Statewide Significance

A. In accordance with RCW 90.58.030(2)(e), the following Jefferson County shorelines are designated shorelines of statewide significance:

1. Shorelines of natural rivers or segments thereof, including portions of the Bogachiel, Clearwater, Hoh, and Quinault Rivers, downstream from a point where the mean annual flow equals 1,000 cubic feet per second or more; and
2. The waters of Hood Canal between the ordinary high water mark and the line of extreme low tide south of the line between Tala Point and Foulweather Bluff; and
3. Those areas of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and adjacent salt waters north to the Canadian line and lying seaward from the line of extreme low tide.

3. Use Preference

A. To ensure that statewide interests are protected over local interests, the County shall review all development proposals within shorelines of statewide significance for consistency with RCW 90.58.030, this Program, and the following policies, which are not listed in priority order:

1. When shoreline development or redevelopment occurs, it shall include restoration and/or enhancement of ecological conditions if such opportunities exist;
2. State and federal resource agencies, co-managers, and tribes, shall be consulted for development proposals that affect anadromous fish, shellfish, marine birds, and other shoreline resources;
3. Areas that are subject to commercial timber harvest pursuant to the Forest Practices Act and RCW 90.58.150 should be reforested as soon as possible and in accordance with the Forest Practices Act and the Forest and Fish Report;
4. Uses that are sustainable, that do not deplete natural resources, and that are compatible with other approved uses shall be preferred over uses that do not have these qualities;
5. Uses that provide long-term benefits shall be preferred over uses that provide only short-term gains;
6. Uses that preserve aesthetic qualities shall be preferred over uses that impact aesthetic qualities;
7. Uses that require a shoreline location shall be preferred over non-water-related uses. Non-water-related uses should be located outside the shoreline jurisdiction or in areas where they will not interfere with or displace preferred uses or public access;
8. Commercial shellfish beds, areas that support recreation and tourism, and other economic resources of statewide importance shall be protected;
9. Uses that have the potential to cause significant erosion and sedimentation due to excavation, land clearing, or other activities shall be strictly regulated to prevent adverse impacts to shoreline functions and processes;
10. All public access and recreation use and development shall be designed to protect the ecological resources upon which such activities depend; and
11. Public and private development shall be encouraged to provide trails, viewpoints, water access points and water-related recreation opportunities where conditions are appropriate for such uses.