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Shoreline Master Program Update Goes “On the Road”

Port Townsend, WA—In early March, County staff, advisors and consultants for the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update, will deliver a “traveling road show” around Jefferson County. The purpose of the SMP Road Show is to bring Jefferson County residents up-to-date on the activities being done for the comprehensive SMP Update project.

Dates and locations for the Road Show are as follows: *March 12 – Chimacum*, at the Tri-Area Community Center; *March 13 – Port Ludlow*, at the Beach Club; *March 14 – Brinnon*, at the Brinnon School in their gym; and *March 15 – Queets/Clearwater* at the Queets-Clearwater School in the cafeteria. The times for each location are from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

“We’re really looking forward to talking with people who live all across Jefferson County, telling them about the work we’ve been doing and getting their input,” said McConnell. “The plan for each evening’s meeting is to start with an open house from 6:30-7:00 p.m., then give a half hour overview presentation and finish with an audience participation activity to gather public input.”

Both technical and policy advisory committees have been meeting as needed with County staff and project consultants, ESA Adolfson and Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory. A major milestone is the Draft Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report that is now being finalized. This assessment serves as a “snapshot” of current conditions for shoreline ecology and surrounding ecosystem influences. The main purpose of the report is to support the SMP and to provide a scientific baseline for preparing policies and regulations that include restoration of our shoreline habitat and no net loss of ecological function, as required by the State.

Jefferson County received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to update its Shoreline Master Program in compliance with the 1971 State Shoreline Management Act and the 2003 SMP Guidelines. All jurisdictions in the state must update their SMPs by 2014.

More information is available by calling Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or on the County’s Web site at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm.

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