

**For Immediate Release** – February 23, 2007

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### **Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee to Meet March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Shoreline protection and development continue to be hot topics not only in Jefferson County. The Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) will meet with County staff and consultants Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 p.m. in the Spruce Room at WSU in the Shold Business Park in Port Hadlock. The public is welcome to attend.

“The group will review and discuss two interim work projects that support the restoration planning component of the comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update,” said Michelle McConnell, project coordinator for the SMP Update in Jefferson County. “Both the Department of Ecology and Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory specialists have assisted the project by developing GIS data analysis tools. These help to identify and differentiate the relative restoration potential for various watershed and marine shoreline areas.”

Combined with knowledge of historical conditions, site-specific conditions and current community values, these tools can help prioritize local restoration opportunities.

These analyses look at both the status of ecological functions and the level of alteration that affect natural functions. The idea is that a heavily degraded site within a healthy watershed may have a better chance of restoration success than a moderately degraded site in a heavily stressed watershed. This is because of the importance of the connections between a specific site and its surrounding ecosystem.

The Shoreline Master Program addresses a wide range of natural functions, physical conditions and a variety of development activities along freshwater and marine shoreline areas. Part of the method for local government to account for different shoreline characteristics is to assign an environment designation to distinct shoreline sections. The environmental designation assignments provide the framework for implementing shoreline policies and regulatory measures.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Fort Worden Commons Company B Room, John Cambalik will present the Puget Sound Action Team’s *2007 State of the Sound* report as part of the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting. The public is welcome to attend at no charge.

March 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a traveling “Road Show” about the SMP Update will visit key locations around Jefferson County. Anyone interested to learn more can contact Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or by e-mail at [mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us)

to join an e-mail distribution list for meeting announcements and periodic project updates. Advisory committee meetings are open to the public. More detailed information is available at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm).

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