

**For Immediate Release** – February 28, 2007

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### **Shoreline Master Program Update Goes “On the Road”**

**Port Townsend, WA**—In early March, Jefferson 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 and to gather citizen input.

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 most locations are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. except 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Clearwater.

“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 Michelle McConnell, SMP project coordinator for Jefferson County. “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 comments.”

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 protection and 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 State’s 1971 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](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm).

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