

Town of Twisp
Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review
Public Participation Plan 2021-2023

Project Description

Twisp is conducting a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and is seeking to engage with the public and stakeholders for input and comments. The SMP helps our community plan for the future, balancing shoreline development with environmental protection, and provide for access to public shores and waters. The Town wants to know what YOU value about shorelines and any issues YOU would like the SMP to address.

What is the SMP?

The SMP is a tool to plan and regulate the use of Washington shorelines. The SMPs are local land use policies and regulations that guide the use of Washington shorelines, public and private. The SMP's aim is to protect the shoreline for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for shoreline use. The Town's SMP includes our community's goals, policies, regulations, and programs focused on development, conservation, use, and restoration of our shorelines.

Why Do We Care About Shoreline Management?

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) is intended to prevent inherent harm in developing Washington's shorelines. The SMA requires all counties and most cities and towns with shorelines to develop and implement a SMP.

What is a Periodic Review?

The Periodic review is meant to look at what has changed in the community and in the rules and bring our SMP, from August 27, 2012, up to date. It is required every eight years, under RCW 90.58.080(4) to make sure the Town stays current and complies with the requirements of the SMA. The Periodic review includes this public participation plan.

Why Is Public Participation Important?

Since public use and enjoyment is the primary purpose of the SMA, the public needs an opportunity to participate. A Public Participation Plan (Plan) is required to describe how the Town will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP. This Plan describes the steps that Twisp will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment.¹ This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

Public Participation Goals

- Provide the public, all generations, including school age children, with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP. Provide translated materials.

- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners, and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the process.

- Encourage the public to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.

- Provide online workshops, meetings and hearings for both informal and formal public input at project

¹ This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Twisp Municipal Code.

milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.

- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, the County PUD and Native American tribes.

The following is a general timeline that includes anticipated public participation opportunities. An up-to-date timeline will be posted and maintained on the Town's website:

SMP Periodic Review Timelines and Process

Tasks

PHASE 1: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND INITIATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

January 2022 – March 2022

March 9, 2022 PC meeting

- Identify shorelines
- Develop public participation plan
- Launch website
- Complete consistency analysis
- Engage with public and stakeholders
- Online open house kick-off
- Survey

PHASE 2: SHORELINE INVENTORY AND CHARACTERIZATION

April – June 2022

May 11, 2022 PC Meeting

- Review inventory and characterization report of shorelines
- Engage with public and stakeholders

PHASE 3: DESIGNATION, POLICY, AND REGULATION DEVELOPMENT, CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS

July – October 2022

August 10, 2022 PC Meeting

- Complete draft SMP
- Draft code amendments
- Cumulative impacts analysis
- Online open house refresh with draft code amendments

PHASE 4: RESTORATION PLAN November 2022 - January 2023

January 11, 2023 PC Meeting

- Review restoration plan
- Revisit and revise
- Session with Planning Commission
- Engage with public and stakeholders

PHASE 5: LOCAL APPROVAL February – May 2023

PC Public Hearing April 12, 2023

- Final draft SMP
- Public hearing and comment period

PHASE 6: STATE APPROVAL & ADOPTION

May - June 2023

Town Council Public Hearing May 23, 2023

- Submit draft amendments and checklist to Ecology for review
- Revise documents as needed
- Approval and adoption
- Submit final draft and checklist to Ecology for final determination

Opportunities for Community Input - Outreach

Twisp is committed to providing multiple opportunities for community input throughout the process. The Town will use a variety of outreach approaches to inform the community and encourage their participation, including the following:

Website	The Town's website will include an SMP webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, links to online workshops, meetings and hearings, minutes and other project information. The webpage, expected to go live on March 9, 2022, will be the primary repository of all information related to the SMP process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.
Survey	A community survey will be conducted during the months of February and March 2022 to solicit specific feedback from interested parties and results will be posted on the webpage.
Open House	Twisp will initiate the SMP process with an online community open house on March 9, 2022. Public comments received during the Open House will be posted on the webpage.
Mailing Lists	An email list of interested parties will be created, advertised and maintained by the Town. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding SMP progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties will be added to the list by contacting the Clerk's Office.
Comments	Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Twisp by letter, email and/or participation in online meetings. All comments will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Twisp Town Council. The webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review on the Town's webpage and at Town Hall with advance notice and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.
Planning Commission	The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Twisp Town Council. Interested parties are encouraged to attend online workshops, meetings and hearings and provide comments during Planning Commission review and deliberations and/or Town Council workshops and public hearings. Official notices will be published as established in Town policy.
Town Council	The Town Council will receive monthly updates on the update process, proposed revisions and timelines.
News Media	The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the process and receive copies of all official notices.
Field Trips	Interested parties, such as seniors, community centers, Tribes, recreationalists, and schools will be invited on sponsor led field trips. Provide comment forms for instant feedback.

Festivals, Fairs, Farmers Markets	Set up information tables or booths to distribute information and speak with community. Provide comment forms for instant feedback.
Social Media	Engage with community via blog, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
Workshops/Presentations	Make presentations to stakeholder groups, community organizations, and neighborhood associations. Provide comment forms for instant feedback.

Stakeholders

Twisp will engage, at a minimum, with the following stakeholders:

Shoreline Property Owners	Individual Shoreline Users
Home and residential property owners Homeowner associations Business and industry owners Railroads Public property owners Public and private utilities	Shoreline area residents Shoreline users – those who fish, swim, paddle, boat and walk Residents generally interested in local planning Non-English speaking populations Tourists and visitors
Shoreline User Groups	Local and Regional Organizations
Boating and paddling organizations Swimming clubs Fishing groups Beach watcher organizations Research, academic and educational institutions Sporting groups	Business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce Environmental organizations Conservation organizations Restoration and enhancement organizations Land use organizations Property rights organizations Ethnic organizations Neighborhood associations Real estate associations tourism agencies
State Agencies	Tribes
Department of Ecology Department of Fish and Wildlife Department of Natural Resources Department of Commerce Puget Sound Partnership Department of Health Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Department of Transportation	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Yakama Indian Nation Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Federal Agencies	Local Officials
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Neighborhood planning advisory groups

NOAA Fisheries U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Planning Commission SMP advisory groups Appointed Officials Elected officials
Neighboring Jurisdictions	
Okanogan County	

Public Hearings

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the SMP prior to submittal of a draft plan to the Town Council for its review prior to submittal to the Department of Ecology in November 2022. The Town Council will hold one public hearing before final adoption in June 2023.

The Town will publish notices of all hearings that will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (above) and the Department of Ecology.

Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholders have various roles in the SMP planning and reviewing process. For example, the public's role is to attend meetings and provide oral or written comments. User groups may develop position papers that they present to the planning commission. State and federal agencies may provide technical expertise and information about laws and regulations. The Town of Twisp Planning Commission will act as the Shoreline Advisory Committee for this planning effort. The Commission may engage a technical committee, with members requested to provide suggestions and review scientific studies and other data about the local shoreline, analyze the inventory and characterization information, and provide science-based recommendations about shoreline issues. Providing there is an interest, the Commission may also form a citizens committee to review the public participation plan, shoreline policy issues, inventory and characterization, and recommends goals, policies and regulations. This committee also may help organize and conduct public participation events.

Appointed and elected officials also are stakeholders. A planning commission usually reviews all available information and recommendations from advisory committees, hears public comment at workshops and public hearings, and makes a recommendation to the Town Council. The Council considers available info and the planning commission recommendation, then decides whether to adopt that recommendation or make changes to it. The Council's decision is sent to Ecology for review and approval.

The SMA is a cooperative partnership between local and state government. Twisp has the primary responsibility for initiating planning, updates, and administering the regulatory program. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) acts in a support and review role and provides assistance to make sure the SMP complies with the SMA. Ecology approves and adopts SMPs.

The primary contact for the Town of Twisp SMP update is:

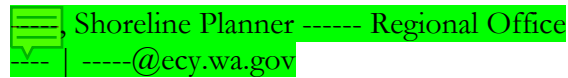
Kurt Danison, Contract Planner
509-322-4037, kdanison@ncidata.com

The primary contact for the Town is:

Amy Grennell, Deputy Clerk

509-997-4081, deputyclerk@townoftwisp.com

The Washington State Department of Ecology is responsible for providing technical assistance to the Town and must approve the Town's updated SMP. The primary contact person at Ecology is:

 Shoreline Planner ----- Regional Office
-----@ecy.wa.gov

The Town Council's role is to review the draft SMP update, gather public input, make changes as desired, and locally adopt the final SMP, if needed.

What Happens at the End of the Periodic Review?

At the end of the review, we will know whether we need to revise our SMP. The final steps will include the adoption of a resolution, motion, or ordinance following notice and a public hearing. This includes, at a minimum, findings that a review and evaluation has occurred and identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and the reasons therefore.

What Happens If You Don't Like the SMP?

An interested party may file an appeal with the Washington State Shorelines Hearings Board within 60 days of the publication date of the written notice of the final action.