

CHAPTER 5: SHORELINES OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

Introduction

The Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (as amended) designated certain shoreline areas as shorelines of state-wide significance. Such shorelines are considered major resources that benefit all people in the state. Within Okanogan County, shorelines meeting the following definition are considered shorelines of state-wide significance.¹

- Lakes, whether natural, artificial, or a combination thereof, with a surface acreage of one thousand acres or more measured at the ordinary high water mark;
- Those natural rivers or segments thereof as follows: any east of the crest of the Cascade range downstream of a point where the annual flow is measured at two hundred cubic feet per second or more, or those portions of rivers east of the crest of the Cascade range downstream from the first three hundred square miles of drainage area, whichever is longer;

Shorelands associated with those rivers and lakes are also considered shorelines of statewide significance.

5.01 Lakes

There is one lake of statewide significance affecting the city of Oroville in Okanogan County. The lake of statewide significance subject to the provisions of this SMP are:

- A. Lake Osoyoos

5.02 Rivers

There are five rivers of statewide significance affecting the cities and towns in Okanogan County. The rivers of statewide significance subject to the provisions of this regional SMP are:

- A. Chewuch (Chewack)—from the point where the mean annual flow reaches 200cfs downstream to the Chewuch River’s confluence with the Methow River;
- B. Methow—from the point where the mean annual flow reaches 200cfs downstream to the Methow River’s confluence with the Columbia River (Lake Pateros);
- C. Okanogan—from the outflow at Zoesel Dam on Lake Osoyoos to the Okanogan River’s confluence with the Columbia River (Lake Pateros—the entire length of the Okanogan River within the United States), except the left bank within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation;

¹ “Shoreline management act of 1971.” 90.58 RCW. Part 030.2.e.
<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.58&full=true>>. Accessed September 15, 2008.

- D. Similkameen—from the Canadian border to the Similkameen River’s confluence with the Okanogan River (the entire length of the Similkameen River within the United States);
- E. Twisp—from the point where the mean annual flow reaches 200cfs downstream to the Twisp River’s confluence with the Methow River.

(Refer to Appendix A and B and Chapter 4 for inventory information surface areas, data sources, and other details about the rivers).

5.03 Columbia River Impoundments

The Columbia River is a river of statewide significance. There is one impoundment on the Columbia River that affect the cities of Brewster and Pateros in Okanogan County. Lake Pateros, is subject to the provisions of this SMP.

(Refer to Appendix A and B and Chapter 4 for inventory information surface areas, data sources, and other details about the Columbia River impoundments).

5.03 Order of Preference

Because shorelines of state-wide significance are major resources that benefit all people in the state, the SMA mandates that the cities of Oroville, Tonasket, Omak, Okanogan, Brewster and Pateros and the towns of Winthrop and Twisp give preference to uses that favor long-range goals and support the overall public interest. The cities and towns in Okanogan County adopt the following guidelines for shorelines of state-wide significance, listed in the order of preference specified by the SMA:

- A. Recognize and protect the state-wide interest over local interest.
 - 1. Solicit comments and opinions from groups and individuals representing state-wide interests by circulating the regional master program and any amendments to state agencies, adjacent jurisdictions, citizen's advisory committees, local officials, and state-wide interest groups.
 - 2. Recognize and take into account state agencies' policies, programs, and recommendations in developing and administering use regulations and in approving shoreline permits.
 - 3. Solicit comments, opinions, and advice from individuals with expertise in ecology, geology, limnology, aquaculture, and other scientific fields relevant to shoreline management.
- B. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline.
 - 1. Designate and administer shoreline environments and use regulations so as to minimize damage to the ecology of the shoreline as a result of man-made intrusions on the shoreline.
 - 2. Upgrade and redevelop those areas where intensive development already exists in order to reduce adverse impacts on the environment and to accommodate future growth rather than allowing high-intensity uses to extend into low-intensity or undeveloped areas.
 - 3. Protect, preserve, and enhance the existing diversity of vegetation, habitat values, and wetlands associated with shoreline areas.

- C. Result in long-term over short-term benefits.
 - 1. Evaluate the short-term economic gain or convenience of developments relative to the long-term and potentially costly impairments to the natural shoreline.
 - 2. In general, preserve resources and values of shorelines for future generations and restrict or prohibit development that would irretrievably damage shoreline resources.
 - 3. Actively promote aesthetic considerations when contemplating new development, redevelopment of existing facilities, or general enhancement of shoreline areas.
- D. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline.
 - 1. Minimize development activity that would interfere with the natural functioning of the shoreline ecosystem, including but not limited to stability, drainage, aesthetic values, and water quality.
 - 2. All shoreline development should be located, designed, constructed, and managed to avoid disturbance of and minimize adverse impacts to wildlife resources, including migratory routes and areas used for spawning, nesting, rearing, and habitat.
 - 3. Public access to natural areas should be based on the ability of the area to support the use.
 - 4. Preserve especially valuable or environmentally-sensitive wetlands for use as open space, and encourage restoration of presently degraded wetland areas.
- E. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline.
 - 1. Where possible, develop paths and trails to shoreline areas and linear access along the shorelines. Associated parking should be upland of the permitted use.
 - 2. Locate development landward of the ordinary high water mark so that access is enhanced.
- F. Increase recreational opportunities for the public on the shoreline.
 - 1. Plan for and encourage development of facilities for recreational use of the shoreline.
- G. Reserve areas for lodging and related facilities on uplands with provisions for non-motorized access to the shoreline.