



**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Project Name:** Shoreline Master Program and Sensitive Areas Update  
**Issuance Date:** March 16, 2016  
**Publication Date:** March 16, 2016  
**Applicant:** City of Snoqualmie  
38624 SE River Street  
P.O. Box 987  
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

**Description of Proposal:** The proposal consists of a non-project action SEPA for the adoption of the City of Snoqualmie's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) 2016 Update and the City's Sensitive Areas Update (SAO).

**Location:** City of Snoqualmie

**Threshold Determination:** After a review of the environmental checklist, and subject to the mitigation conditions set forth in the Snoqualmie Municipal Code and below, the City of Snoqualmie, (lead agency for these proposals) has determined pursuant to RCW 43.21C.240 that the proposed adoption of the SMP and SAO will not have any probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required under RCW 42.21.030(2)(c).

**Responsible Official:** Mark Hofman **March 16, 2016**  
Mark Hofman, Community Development Director. Date

This decision was made after a review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the City. This information is available to the public upon request. This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-350; the lead agency will not act on these proposals for 14 days from the date of publication, allowing time for public comment.

**Comments on the Threshold Determination:**

If you would like to comment on this Threshold Determination, written comments should be sent to P.O. Box 987, Snoqualmie WA, 98065, Attn: Mark Hoffman, Community Development Director, by March 30, 2016, at 5:00 PM. The City will not take final action on this proposal until after the end of the comment period. The issuance of this DNS should not be interpreted as acceptance or approval of this proposal as presented. The City of Snoqualmie (City) reserves the right to deny or approve said proposal subject to conditions if it is determined to be in the best interest of the City and/or necessary for the general health, safety, and welfare of the public. This DNS may be appealed, pursuant to WAC 197-11-680.

## Findings:

1. This is a governmental action involving decisions on policies, plans, or programs (non-project action) that contain standards controlling use or modification of the environment and subject to review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW.
2. SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-158(2)(d), directs a lead agency to place the following statement in the threshold determination if all of a project's impacts are addressed by other applicable laws and no conditions will be required under SEPA: "The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158. Our agency will not require any additional mitigation measures under SEPA."
3. The comprehensive update to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) has been prepared consistent with Department of Ecology guidelines (WAC 173-26-201). The proposed Shoreline Master Program is a non-project action that affects activities and developments along the shoreline of Borst Lake, Kimball Creek and Snoqualmie River within City boundaries.
4. The provisions of the updated SMP would apply to all shorelines of the state and shorelands as defined in RCW 90.58.030. In Snoqualmie these include: The Snoqualmie River and Kimball Creek within the City's municipal boundary; upland area landward 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Snoqualmie River; All associated wetlands; The mapped floodway areas associated with the River; contiguous floodplain areas within 200 feet of the mapped floodway and Borst Lake.
5. The SMP substantially updates the City's general SMP goals and policies for several elements including: Shoreline Use; Environmental Protection and Critical Areas; Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources; Restoration and Enhancement; Water Quality; Shoreline Vegetation Conservation; Clearing and Grading; and View Protection.
6. The SMP updates the City's shoreline environment designations to: Urban Riverfront Environment, Urban Floodplain Environment, Hydropower Environment, Urban Conservancy Environment, Natural Environment and the Aquatic Environment. The shoreline environment designations are applied to different portions of the shoreline based on their ecological and land use characteristics. Shoreline environment designations function as an overlay to provide additional policies and regulations in addition to the development standards and protections afforded in underlying zoning classifications.
7. The SMP updates Chapter 19.08 Shoreline Management Regulations that regulates each shoreline environment. This includes setbacks, height limitations, buffers, and design guidelines or preferences. "Use regulations" refer to the allowance or prohibition of specific uses (such as industrial, commercial, or residential development) in each shoreline environment. The standards and regulations address shoreline modifications (such as bulkheads and shoreline stabilization structures, land clearing and grading, etc.) and specific shoreline uses (such as commercial, residential, and recreational development). The SMP development standards also address management and protection of sensitive areas (wetlands, steep slopes, fish and wildlife habitat, etc.) located in the shoreline. The proposed SMP updates the administrative provisions for reviewing development proposals in the shoreline and issuing shoreline substantial development permits, shoreline conditional use permits, shoreline variances or approvals of exemptions in accordance with current state rules.
8. The updates to the Sensitive Areas regulations will replace Chapter 19.12 Sensitive Areas. The update for the Sensitive Areas regulations uses best available science by following the Department of Ecology's Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version) and using findings from the City's Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Analysis. The SAO is developed to reduce impacts to the natural environment outside the shoreline jurisdiction. The proposed regulates the impacts to geologically hazardous areas, channel

migration and erosion hazard zones, frequently flooded areas, streams, wetlands, fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas.

9. Revision to the Sensitive areas regulations and the SMP included using Washington State Department of Ecology wetland rating system found in the Washington State Wetlands Rating System (Western Washington, Ecology Publication No. 14-06-029) and water typing system located in WAC 222-16-030.

