Seattle Shoreline Master Program Update

Presentation on the Shoreline Management Act, Seattle's Current SMP and the New Washington State SMP Guidelines

Shoreline Background

- **1971** – State Shoreline Management Act
- **1972** – City of Seattle adopts its first Shoreline Management Program (SMP)
- **1987** – Most recent update of Seattle SMP (currently in effect)
- **2003** – State adopts new Shoreline Guidelines
- **2007** – City of Seattle initiates a comprehensive SMP update as required by the State

What is a Shoreline Master Program?

- A planning and regulation document that is used to implement the Shoreline Management Act (SMA)
- Serves as the local jurisdiction's plan for the management of shoreline areas
- Establishes goals, policies and regulations for shoreline use and development

What are the Policies of the SMA?

- Protect and restore ecological function
- Provide for “water-dependent uses” (uses that depend on proximity to the shoreline)
- Preserve and enhance public access

Where does the SMP Apply?

- Marine shorelines
- Stream segments with mean annual flow of 20 c.f.s. or more
- Lakes greater than 20 acres
- Lands extending 200-feet landward from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM)
- Associated floodplains, wetlands and river deltas

Seattle Shorelines Under SMP Jurisdiction

- Puget Sound
- Shilshole Bay
- Elliott Bay
- Duwamish River
- Ship Canal/Lake Union
- Lake Washington
- Green Lake

Shoreline Master Program Components

- Shoreline environmental designations
- General development regulations
- Specific development regulations for each shoreline environment

Current SMP Regulations

Regulate aspects of shoreline development including but not limited to:

- Allowed uses
- Bulk and dimensional characteristics
- Overwater coverage including piers
- Shoreline stabilization
- Public access
- Views

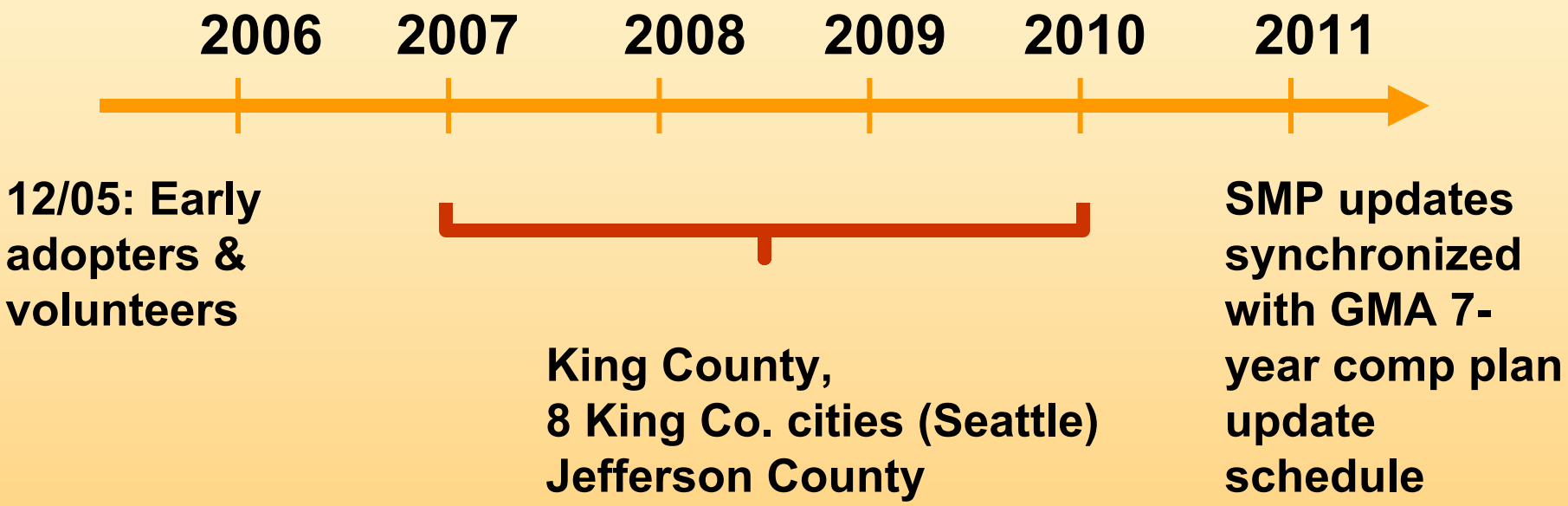
Shoreline Exemptions and Permits

- Statement of shoreline exemption
- Development is regulated through the shoreline permitting process
- Shoreline permits include:
  - Shoreline substantial development
  - Shoreline conditional use
  - Shoreline variance

New Shoreline Master Program Update Timeline

- Seattle required to complete SMP update by December 1, 2009
- Last legislative session RCW 90.58.080 was revised to allow one additional year to the local jurisdictions original due date

Deadlines for adoption



Required Components of New SMP Update

- Shoreline Inventory and Characterization
- Public Participation Plan
- Shoreline Vision and Intent
- Shoreline Environmental Designations
- Develop Policies and Regulations
- Cumulative Impact Analysis
- Restoration Plan

Shoreline Inventory

- Ecological
- Land Use
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Public Access
- Historical/Archeological Sites

Shoreline Ecological Characterization

- Identify ecosystem-wide processes and ecological functions
- Determine relationship between ecosystem-wide processes & ecological functions
- Identify which ecological functions are healthy, altered, or previously existed
- Identify measures to protect and/or restore the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.

Shoreline Characterization Indicator and Metrics Table

- Determine the indicators and the metrics that will be used to measure whether the shoreline ecological processes are functioning
- Example of indicators and metrics:

  Process: Sediment (delivery, movement, loss)

  Indicators and metrics:

  - Linear feet of bank armoring
  - Presence of stream mouth piped/open?
  - Presence of in-water structures (#/lf of shoreline)
  - Presence of over-water structures (#/lf of shoreline)

Public Participation Plan

- Jurisdictions must prepare a public participation plan
- Opportunities for participation throughout the process
- Documented

Shoreline Environment Designations

- Discrete shoreline areas
- Recognizes specific characteristics of different geographic areas
- Provides a system for determining allowed uses

Current Shoreline Environments

- Conservancy Navigation
- Conservancy Preservation
- Conservancy Recreation
- Conservancy Management
- Conservancy Waterway
- Urban Residential
- Urban Stable
- Urban Harborfront
- Urban Maritime
- Urban General
- Urban Industrial

Policies and Regulations

- Establish use preferences:
  - Water-dependent
  - Water-related
  - Water-enjoyment
- Ensure ecological protection (“No Net Loss”)
- Provide for public access
- Provide shoreline views
- Protect cultural/historic/archeological resources

Cumulative Impacts Analysis

- Build-out analysis – demonstrates that SMP regulations will accomplish “no net loss” of ecological functions
- Activities that can be influenced by SMP policies and regulations
- Concentrate on areas not already built out and areas where redevelopment is likely

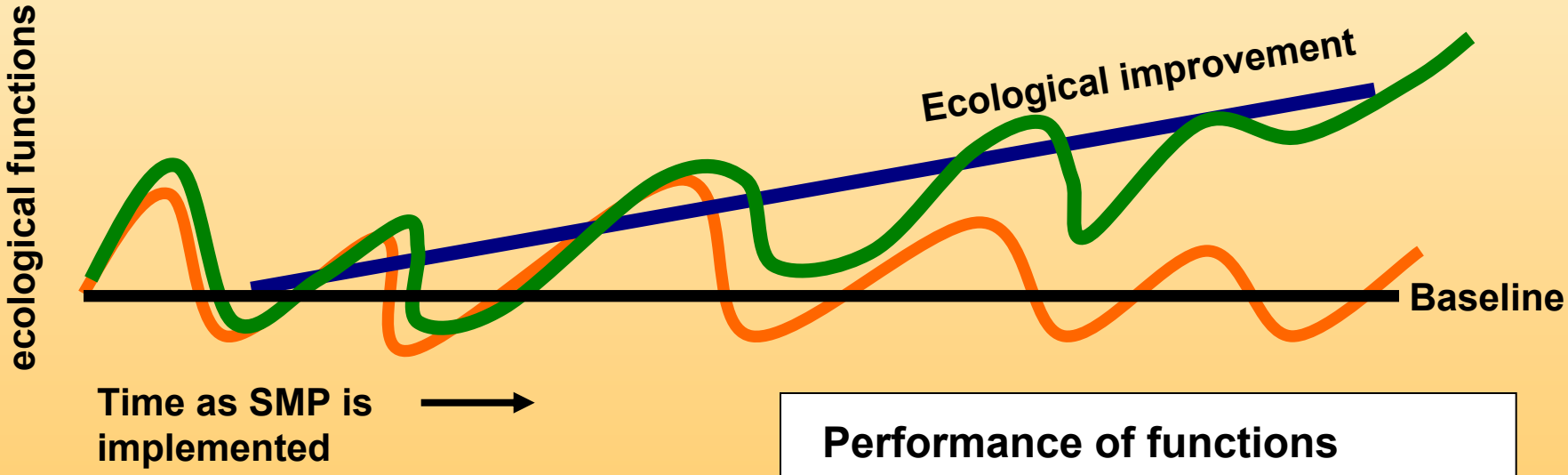
Restoration Planning

- Does not apply to private development
- Areas identified in characterization report where shoreline ecological functions are impacted
- Identify existing non-regulatory efforts:
  - Watershed plans (WRIA 8 and 9)
  - City Capital Improvement Projects
  - Public lands
- Develop strategy for future restoration implementation

"No Net Loss"

"No net loss of ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources" = avoid, mitigate new impacts

Restoration plan: restore and improve functions through non-regulatory approaches



Project Deliverables

- 2007 – Shoreline inventory and characterization work completed first part of 2008
- 2008 - Planning analysis and policy/ code development.
- 2009 - Conduct restoration planning and cumulative impact analysis, revise code as needed
- 2010 - Adopt new regulations

Process to Date

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Public Participation Plan
- Shoreline Inventory – Environmental
- Shoreline Inventory – Land Use

Public Participation Plan

- Public Meetings
- Citizen Advisory/Stakeholder Committees
- Survey
- Vision and Intent for different Shoreline Areas
  - Puget Sound North and South
  - Elliott Bay
  - Duwamish River
  - Lake Washington
  - Lake Washington Ship Canal and Lake Union
- Public Comment on Draft and Final Ordinance
- Website
- List Service and Mailing list

SMP Guidelines Summary

- Shoreline Inventory and Characterization
- Public Participation Plan
- Shoreline Vision and Intent
- Shoreline Environmental Designations
- Develop Policies and Regulations
- Cumulative Impact Analysis
- Restoration Plan