

# *Planning Ahead*

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Featuring Spokane County Planning Issues

June 2007

## **Critical Areas Ordinance**

**Draft 2007 Update**  
**Now Available!!!**

State statutes require all counties and cities in the State of Washington to adopt development regulations to protect Critical Areas. The statutes also require periodic review, and if needed, update of a jurisdiction's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) to ensure consistency with state law, use of Best



Available Science, and implementation of Spokane County's Comprehensive Plan goals and policies in the Natural Environment chapter. Spokane County's CAO was last updated in 2003 and is due for update this year.

Spokane County has long recognized the importance of protecting its Critical Areas which provide the important ecological functions and values to sustain the high quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Spokane County.

Wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geological hazardous areas are Critical Areas which contribute to the protection of drinking water, provide flood prevention and natural storm water control, improve water quality, protect aesthetic values, and offer recreational opportunities.

Spokane County has a comprehensive Critical Areas protection program which includes the following: a Comprehensive Plan - Natural Environment chapter with goals and policies for the protection of Critical Areas; a state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) containing the most current data layers used to identify,



map, and analyze Critical Areas; the Best Available Science of local data, references, and scientific processes to evaluate and protect Critical Areas; non-regulatory stewardship programs provided by private groups and landowners; and Spokane County's own Conservation Futures Program which also provides Critical Areas protection.

The draft CAO has just been circulated to nearly 60 agencies for review, along with a request for comments, to be submitted to the Spokane County Department of Building and Planning by June 22, 2007. Agency comments and the draft CAO will be provided to the County Planning Commission at a public workshop on June 28, 2007.

Consistent with Spokane County's Public Participation Program, the draft CAO is also available for public review and comment on the Building and Planning website at [www.spokanecounty.org/bp](http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp) on the "Documents and Ordinances" page.

The draft CAO is also available for review in all County Libraries as well as the Main Downtown Library in the City of Spokane. Comments can also be sent by email to Bruce Hunt, Senior Planner at [bhunt@spokanecounty.org](mailto:bhunt@spokanecounty.org) or sent by regular mail to: Spokane County Department Building and Planning, 1026 W. Broadway Ave., Spokane WA 99260 (attn. Bruce Hunt, Senior Planner).



A public hearing with the Planning Commission for the draft CAO is tentatively scheduled for July 26, 2007. Official notice of this public hearing will be published in the Spokesman Review newspaper prior to the hearing.

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## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

The Spokane County Shoreline Advisory Committee and Department of Building and Planning have prepared a Draft Revised Shoreline Master Program (hereinafter referred to as the RSMP) on behalf of Spokane County. The RSMP will effect all properties within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of all streams having a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet per second or greater and all lakes 20 acres or larger in size.

The RSMP is intended to replace the current Shoreline Master Program applicable to streams and lakes subject to the Shorelines Management Act within the unincorporated area of Spokane County. The Spokane County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft RSMP on March 2, 2006. Based on public testimony, the Planning Commission revised the draft RSMP and recommended it to the Board of County Commissioners. Interested persons may review copies of the following documents related to the Draft RSMP in the Department of Building and Planning located on the first floor of the Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA, 99260, Monday through Friday, 7:30

AM to 4 PM, and on the Department's website at [www.spokanecounty.org/bp](http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp) then prompt 'Documents and Ordinances' then prompt 'Shoreline Management Program'

Draft of the RSMP consisting of 12 Sections

Proposed RSMP Shoreline Designations Map

Summary of the most significant changes proposed in the Revised Shoreline Master Program

Background report explaining the reason the SMP is being updated

SEPA environmental checklist and Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

**A public hearing on** the proposed RSMP will be conducted by the Spokane County Board of Commissioners in its hearing room located in the lower level **of the Public Works Building**, 1026 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA on the following date and time:

**Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 5 pm**

The hearing will conclude on this date with the conclusion of the last speaker. The Board of Commissioners may continue the hearing or comment deadline if all persons wishing to comment have not been heard at the conclusion of the hearing. The Board's consideration of the RSMP Shoreline Designations Map is limited to the shorelines of the state located in the unincorporated area of Spokane County.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow interested persons to present oral and written comment on the RSMP. Any person may appear at said hearing and present testimony verbally or in writing in support of or in opposition to the RSMP. To ensure that everyone attending has an opportunity to speak, testimony will be



limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to adjust the time frame allotted to speakers, as well as hearing procedures, during the hearing. The Board of Commissioners encourages and will accept written testimony at the hearing. Comments may also be submitted on the web at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp> Click on Contact Us.

Following conclusion of the public hearing the Board of Commissioners may:

1. Adopt the Planning Commission's recommended RSMP incorporating minor revisions based on comments received from the public and forward the document to the Department of Ecology for approval or denial as required by the Shoreline Management Act.
2. Decide to make major revisions in the RSMP based on public comment and hold an additional public hearing on the revisions and adopt and forward to the Department of Ecology.
3. Based on public comment, remand the Draft RSMP to the Planning Commission with instructions to consider specified revisions and report a recommendation back to the Board of Commissioners.



For further information relative to this notice or to inquire as to how this proposal will affect an individual parcel, you may contact the Department of Building and Planning at (509) 477-7228 or email [jfalk@spokanecounty.org](mailto:jfalk@spokanecounty.org) .

[www.spokanecounty.org/bp](http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp)

# Planning Commission Public Meetings

## Public Meetings

The meetings are held in the Public Works Building at 1026 West Broadway, beginning at 9 a.m. The meeting dates are:

**July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Additional meetings may be scheduled**  
meeting agendas are available on our website:

**[www.spokanecounty.org/bp](http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp)**



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