

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City of Gold Bar, Washington

The City of Gold Bar is conducting a periodic review of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for the City's shoreline along Skykomish River, Wallace River, and May Creek. The SMP determines the types and uses of shoreline development, provides for public access, and increases opportunities for restoration. The SMP was last amended in 2014 and must be revised by June 30, 2019, in order to keep the SMP current with the most recent rules and guidelines of the Department of Ecology.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

The proposed changes to the SMP are largely clerical in nature. In addition to minor grammatical edits to enhance readability, the purpose of these clerical amendments is generally to support the document's regulatory power by ensuring that all references to local, state, and federal plans and regulations associated with the administration of the SMP are consistent and up-to-date. Proposed amendments of this nature include the following:

- The cost threshold for substantial development has been revised for conformance with the Office of Financial Management.
- The definition of "Development" has been revised to clarify that dismantling or removing structures do not count as development.
- The City's 2016 Critical Areas Ordinance has been adopted by reference.
- The SMP has been revised to reference wetlands critical areas guidance updated in 2014, replacing the former "Guidance for Small Cities, Western Washington version."
- Retrofitting an existing building to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act has been added to the list of substantial development permit exemptions.
- The definition of "Comprehensive Plan" has been expanded for precision.

A final amendment is proposed in order to revise the structure of the SMP for clarity and precision:

- There are two new sections to complement the existing section, *Shoreline Substantial Development Permit Exemptions*. The newly added *Exclusions from the Shoreline Management Act* and *Exclusions from Local Permit Review* will minimize confusion about the administration of the SMP for each of the three categories of exemption and exclusion.

Please note that these are the only suggested amendments to the SMP. No changes have been proposed to the Shoreline Environment designations or any maps.

You Can Provide Informal Comments Now!

Coordinating with the Department of Ecology, the City has prepared initial draft SMP amendments to keep the SMP current with changes in state law, changes in other City plans and regulations, and other changed local circumstances. This information is presented on the City website (<http://cityofgoldbar.us/city-services/reports/shoreline-master-plan/>) in multiple formats:

- A poster,
- A draft Periodic Review Checklist of proposed SMP revisions (dated February 2019), and
- A draft SMP Amendments document with annotated revisions (dated February 2019).

Last month, we announced that the City is seeking informal input on these initial draft documents from all residents, property owners, and other stakeholders regarding the proposed amendments. Hard copies of the proposed amendments are available for public viewing at Gold Bar City Hall, 107 5th St, Gold Bar, WA 98251. You may continue to send informal comments by mailing them to the above address, calling the City of Gold Bar at 360-793-1101, sending an email to City Clerk Denise Beaston at d.beaston@cityofgoldbar.us, or sending an email to Project Lead Talia Tittelfitz at talia.tittelfitz@bhccconsultants.com.

The Formal Comment Period Begins Soon!

The draft Periodic Review Checklist and SMP Amendments have been released for formal review under the Growth Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. The City is coordinating with the Department of Ecology to hold a formal public comment period from March 1 to April 2. During that time, all comments sent to the City will be forwarded to the Department of Ecology.

Your participation is encouraged at all City Council meetings, which are open to the public. Each meeting will provide information about the progress of the work. City Council meetings are held at 7 PM in Gold Bar City Hall.

Join the Mailing List

If you would like to be included on the email list for the Gold Bar Shoreline Master Program periodic review, please mail your contact information to:

**City of Gold Bar
Shoreline Master Program
107 5th Street
Gold Bar, WA 98251**

You may also email your contact information to d.beaston@cityofgoldbar.us. Please provide your name, stakeholder affiliation, mailing address, and email address.

Important Dates

- ***March 1*** – The formal joint public comment period opens.
- ***March 5*** – The revised draft checklist and SMP amendments are presented to City Council at the regular bimonthly meeting at 107 Fifth Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251.
- ***April 2*** – The formal public comment period closes. The City and the Department of Ecology host a joint public hearing to review the draft SMP amendments at City Council's regular bimonthly meeting at 107 Fifth Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251.
- ***April 16*** – The City's response to public comments is presented to City Council at the regular bimonthly meeting.
- ***May 18*** – The Department of Ecology issues an initial determination on the proposed SMP amendments.
- ***May 21*** – Considering the Department of Ecology's determination, City Council is asked to take action on approving the amendments to the SMP by ordinance.
- ***June 30*** – Final submittal to the Department of Ecology.