

December 21, 2007

Department of Development & Environmental Services
ATTN: Harry Reinert
900 Oakesdale Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98057-5212

RE: Public Comment on 2008 Shorelines Plan

Dear Mr. Reinert:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shorelines Plan for King County.

The PRKC Policy Committee supports the proposed revisions to the Shorelines Plan for King County. The general thrust of the revisions minimizes conflict or overlap with several other sets of regulations in order to make life simpler for stakeholders in rural King County without compromising the County's strong commitment to environmental preservation.

We strongly support the use of State guidelines for forestry harvests under Washington Department of Natural resource Permits, which we believe provide adequate environmental protection. We also support the strong support for the preservation of wild and scenic areas and the fostering of stewardship throughout rural King County. While we would like to see "No Loss" policies in the environmental provisions, the "No Net Loss" provisions are a step forward.

We do have keen interest in proposed development of public access to the Raging River. We have consulted with the Preston Community Club and several stakeholders along the River. We all agree that visual access to any shoreline should not in any way compromise ecological function. Trees, shrubs and understory might be trimmed or thinned for visual access, but only lightly and not so as to jeopardize habitat or ecological function.

We do have a question about physical access to the Raging River adjacent to the Raging River Natural Area. It appears from Map B4 in the Shoreline Map Folio that physical access to Raging River Natural Area will be difficult to impossible due to lack of parking, steep slopes, and private property. The Preston Mill Site and future community park on the other hand, could potentially accommodate both parking and physical access in the future.

Thank you very much for your work on the Plan. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bigley
PRKC Policy Committee Chair