

# SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS

## Shoreline Environment Designations Summary

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) Guidelines [WAC 173-26-211(2)(a)] require local shoreline master programs (SMPs) to "classify shoreline areas into specific environment designations. This classification system shall be based on the existing use pattern, the biological and physical character of the shoreline, and the goals and aspirations of the community as expressed through comprehensive plans" as well as the criteria in WAC 173-26-211.

The following are the Purpose statements for each of these Designations:

### Natural:

To protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence or which include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions intolerant of human use. In order to maintain ecological processes and functions, restrictions on the intensities and types of uses permitted in such areas are required. Restoration of degraded shorelines should be planned within this environment.

### Rural Conservancy:

To protect ecological functions, conserve existing natural resources and valuable historic and cultural areas in order to provide for sustained resource use, achieve natural floodplain processes, and provide recreational opportunities. [To accommodate residential uses, but subject to environmental limitations, such as properties that include or are adjacent to steep banks, feeder bluffs, or flood plains or other flood-prone areas.]

### Urban Conservancy:

To protect and restore ecological functions of open space, floodplain and other sensitive lands where they exist in urban and developed settings, while allowing a variety of compatible uses.

### Shoreline Residential:

To accommodate residential development and appurtenant structures which are consistent with this Program [unless further development would be restricted by sensitive environments or safety]. An additional purpose is to provide appropriate public access and recreational uses.

### High-Intensity:

To provide for high-intensity water-oriented commercial, transportation, and industrial uses [in the UGA or LAMIRD] while protecting existing ecological functions and restoring ecological functions in areas that have been previously degraded.

### Aquatic:

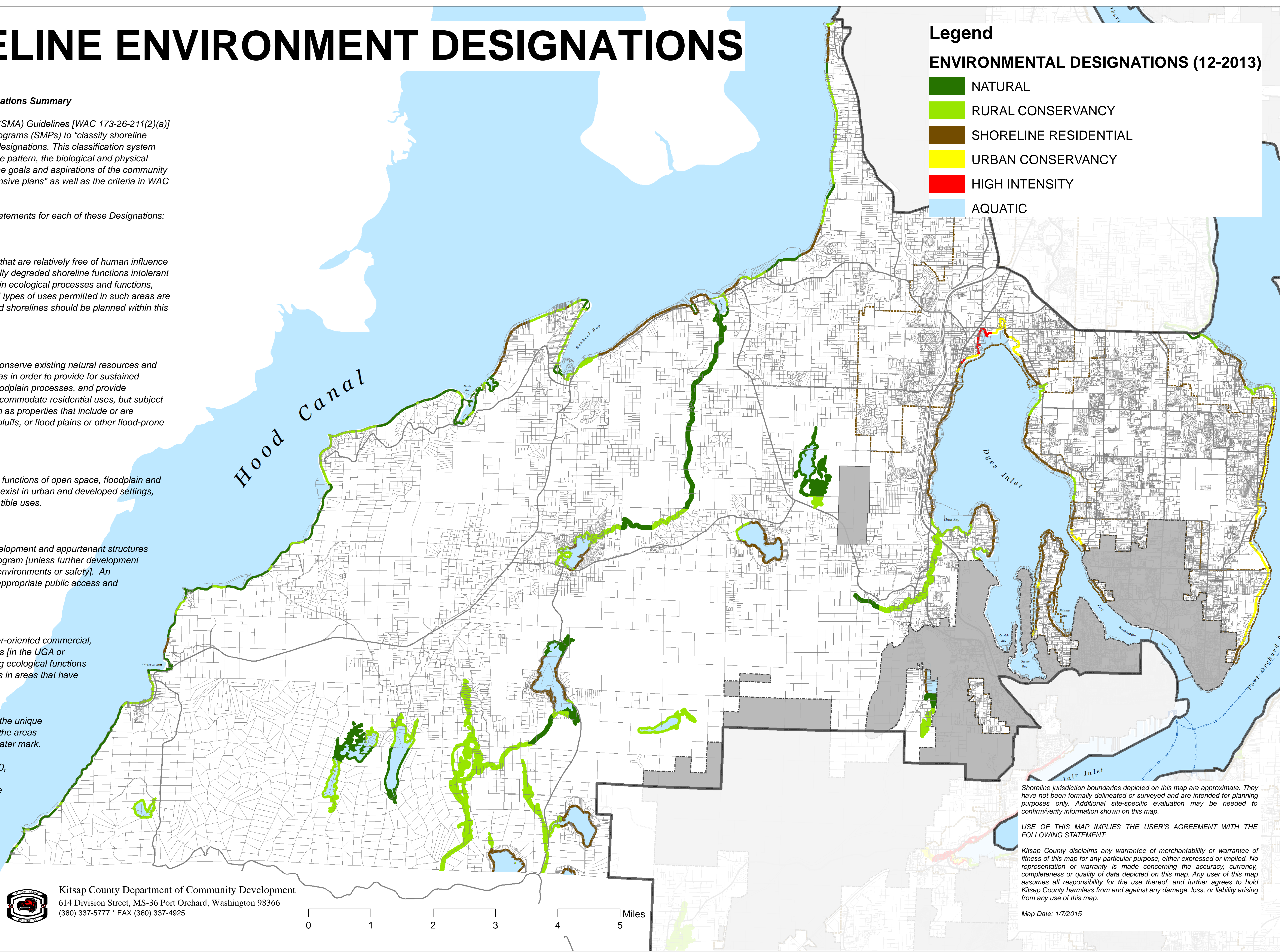
To protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.

Please refer to Chapter 22.200, Shoreline Environment Designations, for the complete purpose statement, selection criteria and management policies for each Shoreline Environment Designation.

## Legend

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATIONS (12-2013)

- NATURAL
- RURAL CONSERVANCY
- SHORELINE RESIDENTIAL
- URBAN CONSERVANCY
- HIGH INTENSITY
- AQUATIC



Shoreline jurisdiction boundaries depicted on this map are approximate. They have not been formally delineated or surveyed and are intended for planning purposes only. Additional site-specific evaluation may be needed to confirm/verify information shown on this map.

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