READERS GUIDE

The main purpose of this report is to provide information about shorelines in Pacific County.

As the County works to update its Shoreline Master Program, the broad-scale overview of shoreline conditions provided in this report should help the County to make decisions about how to manage its shorelines in the years to come. This report should help provide the County with answers to questions such as:

- What kind of land uses occur along shorelines? What kind of land uses might be expected in the future?
- Where can County residents and visitors access shorelines? Are more locations for public access planned?
- What issues threaten the environmental quality of shorelines in the County? What actions can be taken to improve the quality of shorelines?

It is also important to mention what this report is not intended to do. This report is not intended to provide an assessment of shoreline conditions on specific properties. It is also not intended to be used in the future to provide a specific numerical figure of shoreline improvements or losses. Given the complexity of ecological interactions, existing gaps in ecological metrics, and potential ecological tradeoffs that may occur in the future, this report is not intended to provide a quantitative baseline from which to compare future change. Instead, this report describes shoreline conditions through a combination of qualitative and quantitative metrics (as available), and provides a common starting point for development of the SMP.

A brief description of the organization and content of the report is provided below.

- **Section 1** provides more detail about the purpose of this report and discusses the basics of how the County manages its shorelines under the Shoreline Management Act.
- **Section 2** reviews what laws and agencies are particularly important in shoreline areas.
- **Section 3** takes a big-picture look at County shorelines. Topics include climate, geology, topography, drainage patterns, key species and habitats, and major land use changes that have affected, or in some cases, have a potential to affect, shoreline functions in the County.
- **Section 4** (Shoreline Inventory) summarizes available data mapped in the Inventory Mapfolio (Appendix B). The shoreline inventory synthesizes available data and identifies data assumptions, limitations, and data gaps.
• **Section 5** (Characterization of Ecological Functions) describes characteristics of shoreline reaches, with specific attention to the extent of existing human disturbance. This section also includes brief descriptions of voluntary restoration opportunities for the shorelines of Pacific County.

• **Section 6** (Land Use Analysis) summarizes current land use and planned future land use.

• **Section 7** makes recommendations for shoreline management based on the contents of the previous chapters. This section includes a comparison of existing Shoreline Environment Designations and those recommended by the Washington Department of Ecology. The results of this report may prove useful in reviewing the consistency of existing Shoreline Environment Designations with existing conditions and uses, and establishing new or revised Shoreline Environment Designations, where appropriate.