



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Seattle District

# Notice of Preparation

Environmental Resources Section  
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ATTN: Nicolle Rutherford (PM-PL-ER)

Public Notice Date: October 31, 2007  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2007  
Public Notice Number: PL-08-02  
Name: Shoalwater Bay Shoreline  
Erosion Project, Willapa Bay, WA

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) plans to prepare, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the final environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Shoalwater Bay Shoreline Erosion Project.

As a result of new information and issues identified in comments on the draft EA, which was circulated for review and comment from January 24 through February 28, 2007, the Corps has revised its preferred project alternative as described below. The Corps proposes to reflect the scope of the new preferred project alternative in the final EA.

## AUTHORITY

The project is authorized by Section 545, Willapa Bay, Washington, of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541).

## PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located on North Cove on the north side of the entrance to Willapa Bay near Tokeland, Pacific County, Washington. The project will be located on and adjacent to the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's Reservation on the northern edge of Willapa Bay, between Cape Shoalwater/Washaway Beach and Toke Point.

## PROPOSED CHANGE IN PROJECT SCOPE

The new preferred alternative would involve only work to restore the barrier dune that forms the southwestern edge of North Cove. The project would place approximately 600,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand dredged from the entrance to Willapa Bay along the crest of the existing dune offshore of the Shoalwater Reservation. The sand placement is intended to rebuild and maintain the now-deteriorated dune system. The restored dune would be 12,500-feet-long, with a top elevation of +25 feet MLLW, a top width of 20 feet, and a side slope of 1V on 5H. The dredged sand would be graded and, on the dune crest and North Cove side, planted with native dune grass. The ocean side of the restored dune would remain unplanted to provide habitat for Western snowy plover, a threatened bird species.

The Corps would maintain the barrier dune approximately every five years by dredging approximately 250,000 cy from the Willapa Bay entrance and placing the dredged material on the restored dune. Each time maintenance is required, the dredged material would be placed in an alignment corresponding to the dune crest at that time. The original program of grading and planting would be repeated with each periodic nourishment cycle for the barrier dune.

Unlike the preferred alternative in the draft EA, the new preferred alternative would not include flood berm extensions along the shoreline of the Shoalwater Reservation or the Tokeland Peninsula. It also would not include relocation of the channel draining the southeastern end of North Cove. For reference, the draft EA is available on-line under "Shoalwater Bay Erosion Project" at [http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc\\_table.cfm](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc_table.cfm).

Because the new preferred alternative would not include an extended flood berm along the shoreline, dune maintenance would be more frequent (250,000 cy at five-year intervals with the dune alone vs. 500,000 cy at ten-year intervals with dune plus the flood berm extension). Increased maintenance frequency would replace sand lost to coastal erosion and maintain the barrier dune width and height necessary to protect the Shoalwater Reservation from coastal flooding and erosion.

#### EVALUATION

The Corps invites submission of factual comments on the impacts of the change in project scope that we describe above. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice.

#### COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Submit comments to this office, Attn: Nicolle Rutherford, Environmental Resources Section, **no later than November 30, 2007** to ensure consideration. In addition to sending comments via mail, comments may be e-mailed to [nicolle.r.rutherford@usace.army.mil](mailto:nicolle.r.rutherford@usace.army.mil).

Requests for additional information should be directed to Ms. Rutherford at telephone 206-764-6716 or the above e-mail address, or to Steve Babcock, Plan Formulation Section, at 206-764-3651, [steven.d.babcock@usace.army.mil](mailto:steven.d.babcock@usace.army.mil).