

# Cumulative Impacts

## Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater

Local master programs are required to evaluate and consider cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable future development on shoreline ecological functions. While some impacts are immediate and can be directly addressed through avoidance and mitigation, other impacts are cumulative in nature. Individually, the action may not result in a significant impact, but the composite of many similar actions over time may lead to a significant cumulative impact to the ecosystem. Examples of this may be shoreline bulkheads or docks.

Under shoreline guidelines, the evaluation of cumulative impacts should consider:

- Current circumstances affecting the shorelines and relevant natural processes
- Reasonably foreseeable future development and use of the shoreline
- Beneficial effects of any established regulatory programs under other local, state, and federal laws

A cumulative impacts analysis is required to assess the effects of actions allowed under the proposed policies and regulations. The rule states that:

*“To comply with the general obligation to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological function, the process of developing the policies and regulations of a shoreline master program requires assessment of how proposed policies and regulations cause and avoid such cumulative impacts.”*

In the Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater urban area, many of the shorelines are already developed, so emphasis in the shoreline master program update is placed on:

- Removing lawns and restoring native vegetation over time as redevelopment occurs
- Moving away from hard armoring (bulkheads) to alternatives
- Requiring a higher standard of review for new docks
- Increasing shoreline setbacks
- Continuing to find funding for restoration projects identified by local planning partners



Docks and bulkheads lead to cumulative impacts on lake health. Long Lake, Lacey