



CHELAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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INTERPRETATION NO. 20-003
Stairs waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan

1. Scope

The Chelan County Shoreline Master Program (CCSMP) does not outright address whether stairs are permitted to be located waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan. CCSMP Section 5.16 B. 7. addresses residential development of trails, ramps, and stairs when placed within the shoreline buffer and landward of the OHWM. CCSMP Section 5.18 F. 5. address stairs that may be incorporated into the shoreline stabilization, but is specific to state that they shall not extend waterward of the OHWM.

Both sections only address standards for stairs landward of the OHWM. Chelan County has historically permitted stairs waterward of the OHWM for access in Lake Chelan. It is not the intent of the County to restrict access to water by omission of addressing stairs waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan.

2. Purpose

The purpose behind this interpretation is to clarify for staff that stairs waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan are allowed and should be reviewed to be consistent with the intent of the CCSMP.

3. Interpretation

CCSMP Section 5.16 B. 7. And 5.18 F. 5. should be applied to the review of stairs waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan. These sections, in addition to sections 4.4 Public Access Regulations and 5.14 Private Moorage Facilities Regulations, are not to be interpreted to exclude the development of stairs waterward of the OHWM in Lake Chelan for access.

This interpretation was made in consultation with the WA Department of Ecology consistent with WAC 173-26-140.

Approved by:


Deanna Walter
Interim Director of Community Development


Effective Date