

Memorandum

March 6, 2023

To: Asotin City Council

From: Sara Noland and Josh Jensen, Anchor QEA; Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting

Cc: Jeremy Sikes, Washington State Department of Ecology

**Re: City of Asotin Shoreline Environment Designations:
Southeast Washington Coalition Shoreline Master Program**

As part of our review of the City of Asotin's existing Shoreline Master Program (SMP), the consultant team is recommending shoreline environment designations (SEDs) for the City's shoreline areas on the Snake River and Asotin Creek. We believe these SEDs will be consistent with actual conditions on the City's shorelines and help to streamline administration of the SMP for the City and future project applicants. In addition, these SEDs will be consistent with those of the other Southeast Washington Coalition (Coalition) SMP members, providing for more consistency. The purpose of this memorandum is to document the consultant team's analysis and recommendations regarding these SEDs.

Designation of SEDs

Article II of the Coalition SMP divides shorelines into seven SEDs. In accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 173-26-211, the SMP criteria used to classify shoreline areas into these SEDs are based on existing use patterns, biological and physical character of the shorelines, local comprehensive plans, and other factors. Table 1 following this memorandum lists the purpose and designation criteria for the upland SED types that are present within the city (excluding Aquatic), as described in Article II of the Coalition SMP. Attachment 1 provides maps of the proposed SEDs for the City's shorelines, which include the following:

- **Conservancy** for relatively undeveloped shorelines along the Snake River and Asotin Creek.
- **Shoreline Residential** for developed residential parcels along the Snake River and Asotin Creek.
- **Recreation** for parks, other established recreation sites, and the riverfront trail.
- **High Intensity** for the City's wastewater treatment plant, the commercial parcel to the northwest of the main city area, the city's developed downtown area, and another commercial parcel on Asotin Creek.

We believe the proposed SEDs proposed as shown in Attachment 1 are consistent with the criteria in Table 1. It is important to note that the SMP accommodates existing legal uses of the shorelines. Changes to SEDs will potentially affect proposed new shoreline development or expansion of existing development in the future. New shoreline permits will need to demonstrate compliance with

all applicable standards of the SMP, including critical areas protections and no net loss of ecological functions, regardless of which SED applies.

Table 1
SED Purpose and Designation Criteria Within Article II of Coalition SMP

SED	Purpose of SED	Designation Criteria for SED
Conservancy	Protect shoreline ecological functions and conserve existing natural resource-based uses such as lower intensity agriculture, forestry, and valuable historic and cultural areas in order to provide for sustained resource use, achieve natural floodplain processes where applicable, and provide recreational opportunities. In addition to existing low-intensity agriculture or rangeland uses, examples of uses that are appropriate in a Conservancy shoreline environment designation include low-impact recreation, natural resource-based uses, and low-intensity residential development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline is not highly developed, and most development is related to forestry, low-density residential, federal habitat management areas, and rangelands used for livestock grazing and harvesting non-cultivated crops; • Water-oriented recreation and water-enjoyment uses where ecological functions can be maintained or restored, or; • The shoreline has high scientific or educational value or unique historic or cultural resources value.
Recreation	Provide for water-oriented recreational uses with potential opportunity for commercial and/or residential (mixed) uses to support recreational uses while protecting existing ecological functions, conserving existing natural resources, and restoring ecological functions in areas that have been previously degraded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline has low to moderate ecological function with low to moderate practical technical and logistical feasibility for ecological restoration. • The shoreline is highly developed, and most development is recreation-related with potential for additional recreation and recreation-related commerce or is suitable and planned for water-oriented uses. • The shoreline has existing recreation uses or moderate to high potential for public and private, water-oriented recreation where ecological functions can be maintained or enhanced.
High Intensity	Provide for water-dependent public and private commercial and industrial uses. The preferred use emphasis is on water-dependent or water-oriented commerce and industry. Examples of uses that are appropriate in a High Intensity shoreline environment include hydro-electric power generation, irrigation water supply diversion or conveyance, transportation, navigation uses, grain elevators, fish hatcheries, barge and conveyance facilities, marinas, hotels and restaurants (when designed with water-enjoyment features), and similar uses. This environment may also provide for recreation, while protecting existing ecological functions and restoring ecological functions in areas that have been previously degraded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline is significantly degraded with low opportunity for ecological enhancement or rehabilitation. • The shoreline is highly developed, and most development is related to public utility, infrastructure, navigation, industry, or commerce with potential for additional related development, facility rehabilitation, or upgrade modifications. • The uses depend on proximity to water, including high-intensity uses related to industrial production, conveyance, transportation, wastewater treatment, or navigation.

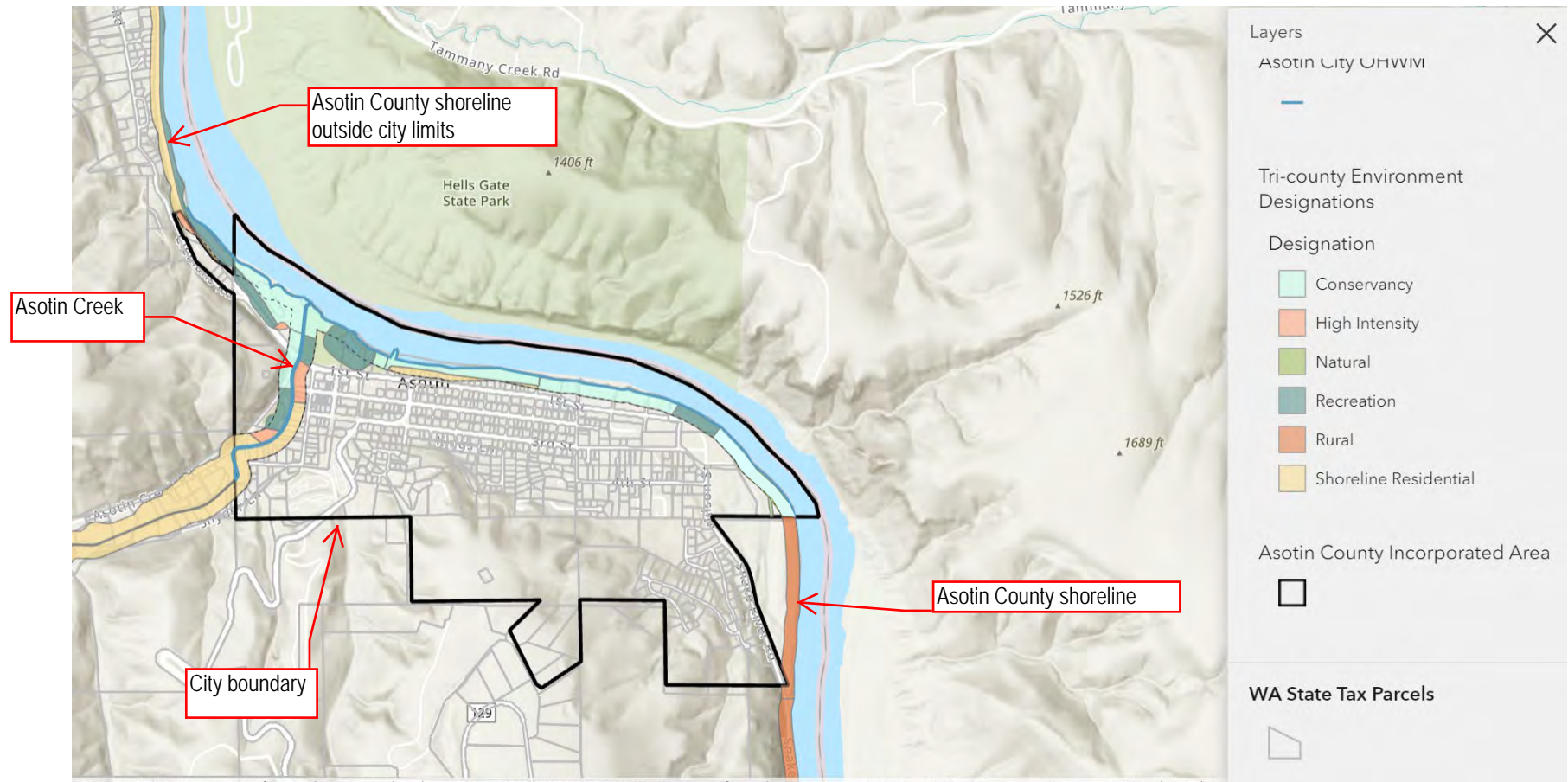
SED	Purpose of SED	Designation Criteria for SED
Shoreline Residential	Accommodate primarily residential development and appurtenant structures but also to allow other types of development consistent with this section. An additional purpose is to provide appropriate public access and recreational uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The shoreline has low to moderate ecological function with low to moderate opportunity for restoration.• The shoreline contains mostly residential development at urban densities or in clusters in rural setting.• The shoreline has low to moderate potential for low-impact, passive, or active water-oriented recreation where ecological functions can be restored.

Notes:

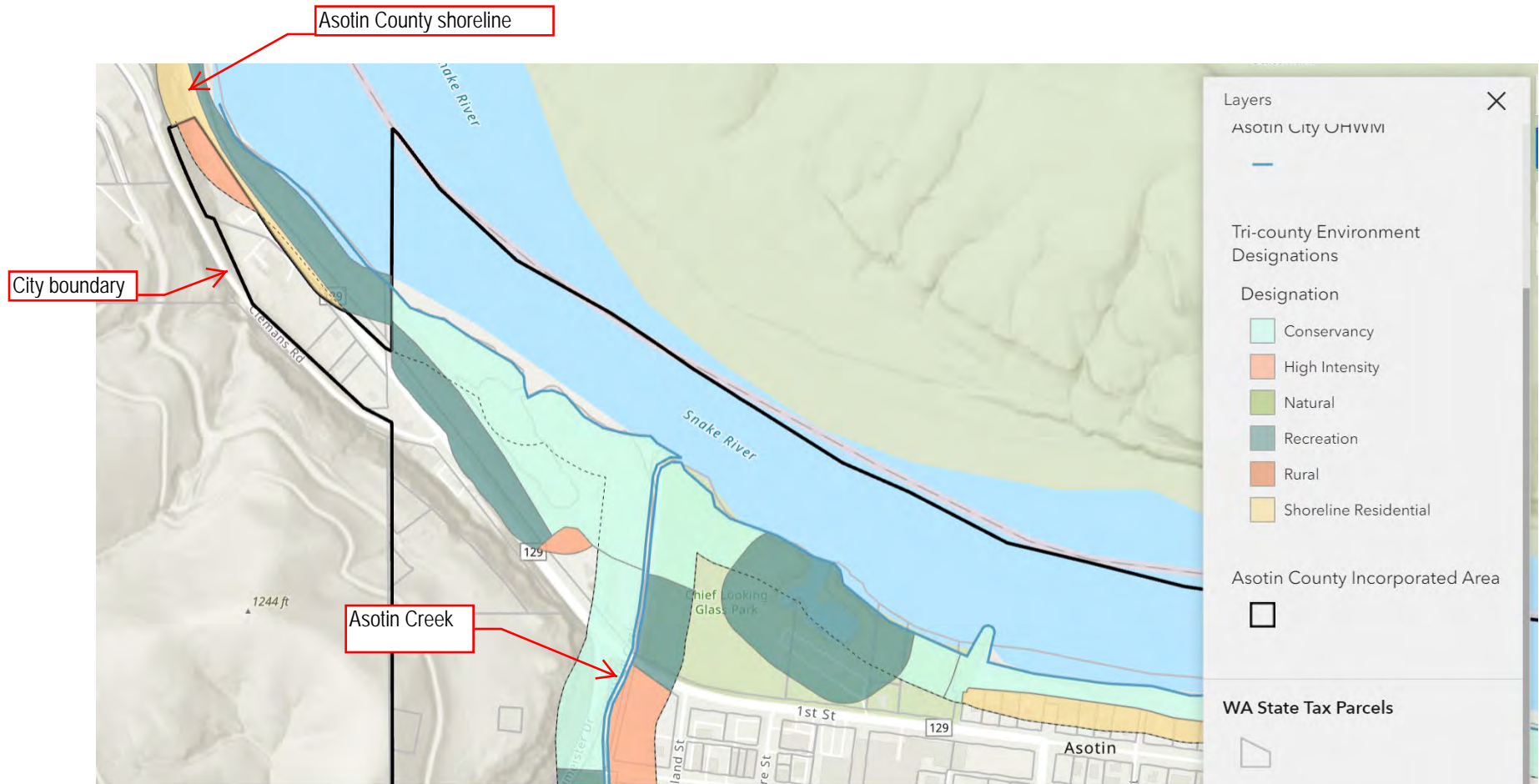
*OHWM means ordinary high water mark.

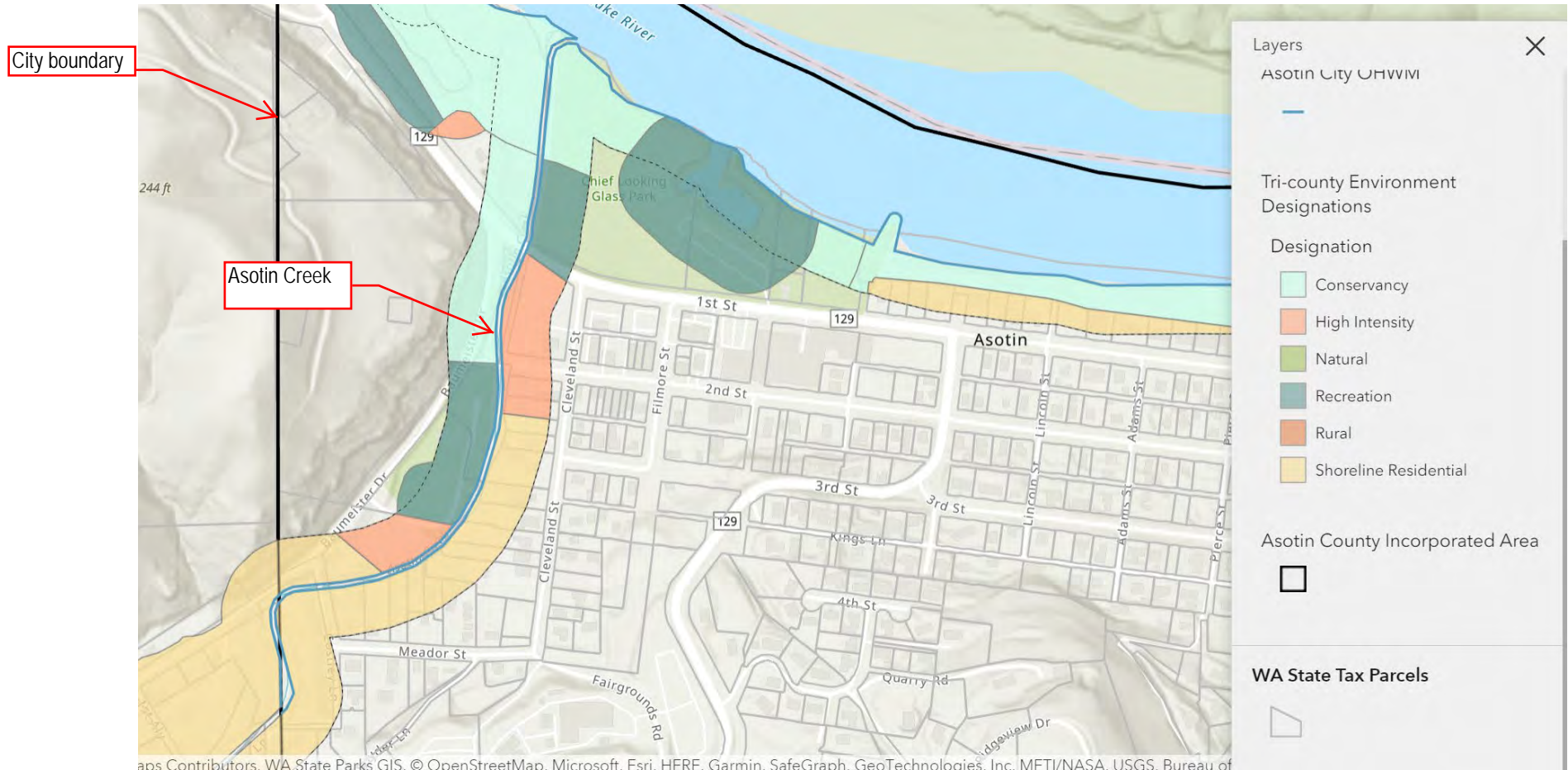
Attachment 1

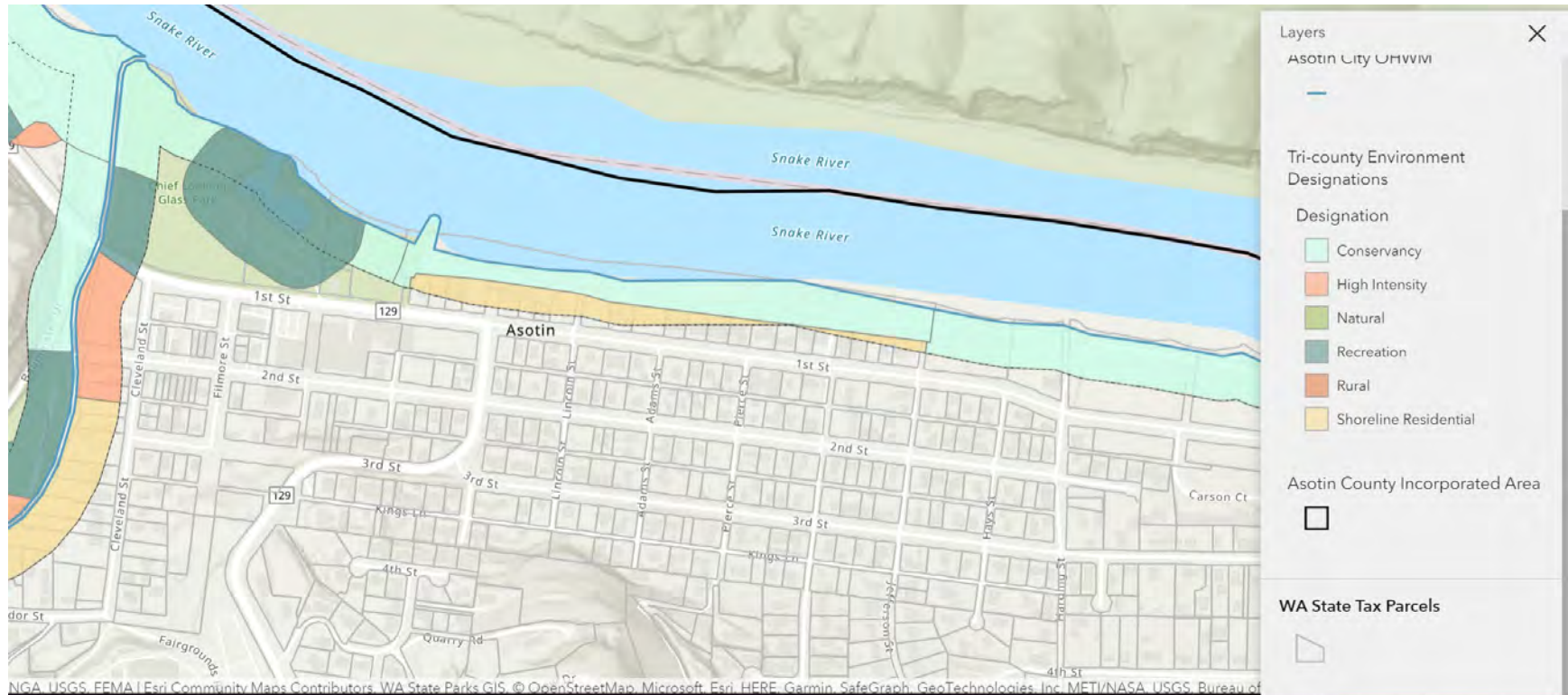
Proposed City of Asotin Shoreline Maps



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