

Randy Good

Skagit County Planning &
Development Services. Planning Commission
March 12, 2009

RE: Comments on Open Space and Trails Plan

Copy of June 2007 - Skagit County Open Space and Trails Plan Survey-

Note: front page of survey states "open space and trail opportunities and finances" clearly identified as trail plan also.

At first public meeting on plan at Mt. Vernon Train Depot, planning dept official thanked a pro trail group and Parks Dept officials for helping put this draft trails plan together. From the start GMA requirements for this plan were never addressed. Final draft is still identical trail plan.

2.2 UGA Open Space Requirements "requires counties with urban growth areas (UGA's) to designate and develop open space separators or greenway plans with which to distinguish cities and urban areas from each other - and to prevent urban sprawl into the rural landscape."

GMA requires the county to develop standards that will protect permanent open space and greenbelts contained within the UGA, from expanding into rural areas. GMA requires the county to identify already existing permanent open spaces. GMA does not require public access and does not require interconnection between UGA's. This proposed open space trails plan only encourages and promotes growth and development in rural agricultural areas outside of UGA's with connective trails.

RCW 36.70A.040- "such regulations shall assure that the use of lands adjacent to agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands shall not interfere with the continued use, in the accustomed manner and in accordance with best management practices, of these designated lands for the production of food, agricultural products, or timber, or for the extraction of minerals." County adopted policy in Comp Plan- Any potential acquisition that may be proposed by such a program will not include any condemnation actions, but instead will be achieved by voluntary donation, CARD subdivision, or mutually agreeable sale.

RCW 36.70A.165- "Therefore, a party shall not acquire by adverse possession property that is designated as a plat greenbelt or open space ..."

RCW 9A.52.010- Burglary and Trespassing (copy attached)

Adverse effects of interconnecting UGA's through rural and agricultural lands by trails.

1. All landowners will be forced to fence and install signs for no trespassing to meet Sheriff and court requirements. RCW 9A.52.010.
2. Insurance rates increase for landowners and homeowners due to increases in residential burglary.
3. Landowners and farmers subject to unjustified complaints on normal farming activities, noise, dust, odors etc. and biosecurity issues become major concern.
4. Landowners, homeowners and businesses under constant threat of criminal trespassing, vandalism, robberies and vehicle prowling cases.
5. Unleashed dogs chasing killing and injuring pets and farm animals.
6. Constant repair of fences and picking up garbage.
7. Sheriff and patrols unable to patrol what is already present.

Page 14 - 3.3 of proposed plan; Hamilton Urban Growth Area- states " The Existing town will be designated open space and provide public access to the river." This area contains many acres of valuable private farmland that must be preserved for agriculture. Concern is that efforts are being made to reroute part of the Skagit River through Alder Creek which will ruin the agriculture land throughout this area.

We do not support a self governing park district to generate more taxes for this trail proposal. 60% of the county's land is already in permanent open space and not taxed. Utilize what we already have. We encourage the Planning Commission to reject this plan as written. Encourage your support of the Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board comments; Develop a standard that says, "New development within a UGA shall include a greenbelt or open space buffer toward the rural side of the UGA, but contained within the UGA." and develop a standard that says " Urban Growth Areas shall not be closer X feet/miles from another UGA." Thank You

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RCW 9A.52.010
Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this chapter:

- (1) "Premises" includes any building, dwelling, structure used for commercial aquaculture, or any real property;
- (2) "Enter". The word "enter" when constituting an element or part of a crime, shall include the entrance of the person, or the insertion of any part of his body, or any instrument or weapon held in his hand and used or intended to be used to threaten or intimidate a person or to detach or remove property;
- (3) "Enters or remains unlawfully". A person "enters or remains unlawfully" in or upon premises when he is not then licensed, invited, or otherwise privileged to so enter or remain.

A license or privilege to enter or remain in a building which is only partly open to the public is not a license or privilege to enter or remain in that part of a building which is not open to the public. A person who enters or remains upon unimproved and apparently unused land, which is neither fenced nor otherwise enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders, does so with license and privilege unless notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner of the land or some other authorized person, or unless notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner. Land that is used for commercial aquaculture or for growing an agricultural crop or crops, other than timber, is not unimproved and apparently unused land if a crop or any other sign of cultivation is clearly visible or if notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner. Similarly, a field fenced in any manner is not unimproved and apparently unused land. A license or privilege to enter or remain on improved and apparently used land that is open to the public at particular times, which is neither fenced nor otherwise enclosed in a manner to exclude intruders, is not a license or privilege to enter or remain on the land at other times if notice of prohibited times of entry is posted in a conspicuous manner;
- (4) "Data" means a representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts, or instructions that are being prepared or have been prepared in a formalized manner and are intended for use in a computer;
- (5) "Computer program" means an ordered set of data representing coded instructions or statements that when executed by a computer cause the computer to process data;
- (6) "Access" means to approach, instruct, communicate with, store data in, retrieve data from, or otherwise make use of any resources of a computer, directly or by electronic means.

[2004 c 69 § 1; 1985 c 289 § 1. Prior: 1984 c 273 § 5; 1984 c 49 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 260 § 9A.52.010.]

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RECORDED MOTION

OPEN SPACE CORRIDORS BETWEEN UGAs AND GREENBELTS WITHIN UGAs

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.110(2) requires that each Urban Growth Area (UGA) shall include green belts and open space areas, and in 36.70A.160 that open space corridors shall be identified within and between UGAs; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County provided a discussion of open spaces and greenbelts in its Comprehensive Plan and a map depicting Potential Greenbelts and Public open Space Areas Overlay and was appealed by Friends of Skagit County; and

WHEREAS, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board (WWGMHB) in its Final Decision and Order dated February 6, 2001, found the County out of compliance in that the "generalized discussion in the CP, plus city maps (that do not show green belts in unincorporated UGAs) and County parks plan maps (which do not show open space corridors between UGAs), do not adequately meet the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110(2) and .160." The WWGMHB gave the County 180 days to complete this RCW requirement; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County proposed an August 9, 2001, draft map and accompanying text for open space corridors between UGAs and greenbelts within UGAs and circulated a DNS on August 9, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 4, 2001, and continued the hearing to September 18, 2001, to take comments on the August 9, 2001, draft proposal and then deliberated on October 9, 2001; and

WHEREAS, upon deliberating, the Planning Commission made the following findings:

1. RCW 36.70A.160 states that open space corridors within and between urban growth areas "shall include lands useful for recreation..." (emphasis added) and the term recreation implies a public use. Therefore, the open space corridors and greenbelts should be limited to only public lands.
2. Because corridors and greenbelts have an implied meaning of public access and because dikes are not open for public access, dikes do not qualify as open space corridors and greenbelts.
3. That roads within designated Natural Resource Lands (including those that have been put into open space taxation) should not be considered as areas of open space corridors because this would result in numerous roads in resource lands throughout the County being identified as open space corridors. Also, agricultural lands should be kept out of any reference to open space because they are privately owned. Skagit County is virtually an open space county due to the amount of land designated both Rural and Natural Resource Lands since their allowable density can not be more than 1 unit per 10 acres.
4. RCW 36.70A.160 does not say that there needs to be a connection of corridors between the UGAs, only a requirement to identify open space corridors within and between UGAs. RCW 36.70A.160 requires only the connection of critical areas.
5. To connect the Critical Areas, such as wetlands and riparian streams, within the County would be impossible since there are so many and critical areas are not generally public lands so should not be included as open space corridors and greenbelts except for the following rivers; Skagit, Samish, Sauk, Suiattle and the Cascade.

6. Maps identifying floodplain and floodway identify political open spaces and can therefore be included.
7. That in light of the September 11, 2001, attack on the USA we cannot continue planning for trails without giving due consideration to personal safety.
8. That the civil litigator, Mr. Paul Reilly, was not correct in stating that the County had won in the Good et al vs. Skagit County lawsuit (Case No. 45436-6-1) even though the State Court of Appeals found "(a)ny taking that may have occurred in this case, occurred by operation of an act of Congress not by subsequently authorized use by Skagit County," and further stated that "(b)y enacting Section 1247(d) and authorizing state and local agencies or private organizations to develop inactive rail corridors for recreational use, Congress preempted state courts from entertaining a compensation claim arising out of the operation of the Trails Act." Because the litigation is not finished the County has not shown that it has met the requirements of Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Policy 9A-9.3 for the Cascade Trail. This policy states that "Rail corridors should be preserved through the use of rail banking programs after affected property owners and their rights are first adequately and legally addressed."
9. That the "John Moffat Memo" dated October 16, 1992 and attached to Randy Good's comment letter dated August 30, 2001, demonstrates how the County was trying to undermine the landowners in its creation of public trails.
10. Cities have done a "beautiful" job with their transportation plans within their UGAs, so the County does not need to consider corridors inside the UGAs.
11. Highway 20 from Deception Pass all the way through Skagit County is designated as a scenic and recreational highway and because it is recreational it is considered an open space corridor under RCW 36.70A.160. This highway bisects the County and goes between and in some cases within the following UGAs; Anacortes, Burlington, Sedro Woolley and Concrete.
12. Mount Vernon and Burlington have the Skagit River between the two UGAs.
13. The Town of LaConner has the Swinomish Channel along its boundary and the Channel intersects Highway 20, which is a scenic and recreational highway and therefore an open space corridor.
14. The August 29, 2001, Staff Report and maps were inconsistent with the Planning Commission findings and need to be amended.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission voted 6-0 to amend the proposed open space corridor and greenbelt map and accompanying text to that contained in Attachment 1, and Attachment 2, respectively which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of County Commissioners amend the August 9, 2001, draft proposed open space corridors and greenbelts map and accompanying text to that attached as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

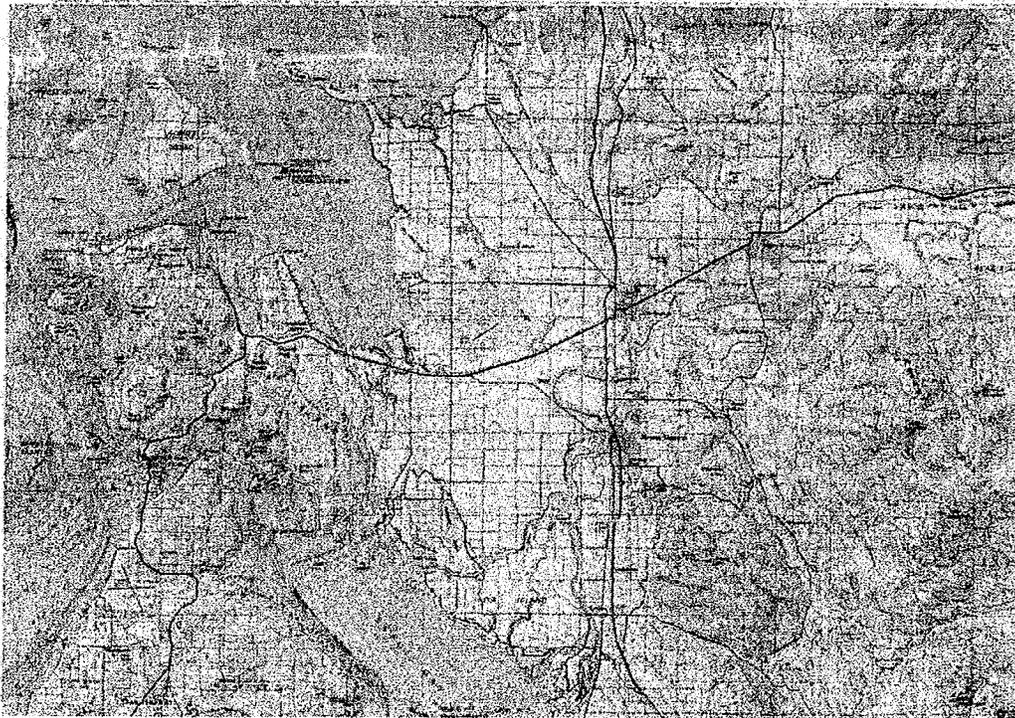
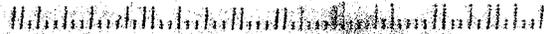
submitted by
Randy Good



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Survey clearly identifies
plan as Open Space & Trails
Concept.

6026487965 RC06



This is your chance to let us know your opinions and priorities.
Please review the enclosed materials and complete the telephone survey to
indicate your priorities about Skagit Countywide UGA open space and trail
opportunities and finances. Help us create a long-range plan for Skagit
County and the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).

X

June 2007

Dear Survey Participant

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your opinions will help the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) fashion a final plan and financing strategy that reflects the desires of Skagit County residents.

Survey - we enclose this copy of the telephone survey along with graphics depicting the major proposals of the draft plan. Please review the survey questions and the graphic materials identifying proposals corresponding to the question numbers.

Survey phone call - the survey team will call to determine your survey responses in about 1 week. In the meantime, please mark this copy to indicate your response to each question. **You will greatly assist the telephone survey team, and shorten the length of the phone call, if you have completed the answers and can read your responses to the survey caller.**

To obtain the survey accuracy desired by the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG), phone surveys must be completed for 200 registered county voter households. Therefore, we need your response if the survey is to be an accurate reflection of Skagit County resident opinions. **We will call the persons participating in the survey until we have completed 200 responses. Consequently, please be prepared so that you may be included within the final sample.**

Note - please do not mail your survey - this will slow the response time and could also jeopardize survey reliability.

Please contact Jeroldine Hallberg, Senior Planner, at 360-336-9410 x 3175 or jeroldineh@co.skagit.wa.us if you have any questions about the plan or this survey.

Note - the survey and graphics (in color) can also be viewed on the Skagit County website - www.skagitcounty.net/openspace

Sincerely,

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SCOG)

Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space & Trails Plan

X

Private conservation initiatives

Numerous private organizations in Skagit County are actively involved in conserving open space assets including wildlife habitat, working farmlands, unique forestlands, scenic landscapes, and recreational activities including on and off-road trail systems.

In fact, Skagit County has more organizations involved in open space conservation than is common of any other area in Washington State or the surrounding Pacific Northwest region. A conservation focus has emerged over time in Skagit County due to: 1) the Skagit River's habitat value (the most productive river west of the Mississippi), 2) the Skagit Valley's agriculture potential (one of the largest remaining viable farming areas in the region), and 3) the county's overall scenic, cultural, and historical diversity, among others.

By and large, these groups have accomplished a great deal through their efforts to conserve important county open space assets through property owner use agreements, conservation easements, and outright land purchases. These groups have also been actively involved in the management, restoration, and enhancement of the natural features that once existed on these conserved lands and which provide their unique ecological, environmental, scenic, and cultural values.

In general, these organizations have been able to obtain the minimum funds necessary to implement their basic conservation missions - which are unique to each entity. These groups have been adept at raising monies through grants, donations, fund-raising drives, and other enterprises - primarily from residents of the county and surrounding region.

However, most of these organizations and their efforts have been focused in the more rural areas outside of the existing cities and proposed urban growth areas (UGAs). A rural focus has been followed for a variety of reasons including: 1) higher land costs within or next to the urban areas, 2) increased land management requirements, 3) greater coordination requirements with other public and private parties, and the 4) the potential for conflict with local city land use objectives and priorities.

As a consequence, some of the most threatened remaining open spaces are located within or adjacent to the designated urban growth areas (UGAs) of the county.

Growth Management Act (GMA) initiatives

Critical Area Ordinances (CAOs) - the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) mandated counties and cities to conserve and protect sensitive environmental features including streams, wetlands, steep slopes subject to landslide hazard, and floodplains from urban developments that would increase risk to the landowner (or adjacent properties) and degrade the environment.

Skagit County and the cities have enacted critical area ordinances (CAOs) that protect these features and the buffered areas from urban development. By and large, CAOs have protected significant and critically sensitive areas in the county and within and adjacent the urban growth areas (UGAs) from inappropriate urban development. Most of these lands remain in private ownership subject to private land use activities that do not impose an environmental risk.

While CAOs protect, and thereby conserve these significant open space resources, the CAOs do not restore, enhance, or manage these resources for wildlife, forest, farm, or scenic purposes for which they were once suited, nor to achieve UGA open space or public access benefits.

Resource and rural zoning districts – have been established by Skagit County to conserve productive and working farm and forest soils and properties – and to distinguish urban from rural settlement patterns. The county's resource zoning districts require minimum 40 acre lots – the minimum considered necessary to sustain working forests and farms.

The rural zoning districts provide a transitional density and lot definition that increases from 5 to 40 acre lots with which to provide a graduated settlement pattern between the urbanizing areas and UGAs with the rural landscape.

While the resource and rural zoning districts conserve the ownership pattern that is compatible with working farms and forests, and with a graduated urban to rural settlement pattern – zoning alone does not guarantee that the land will be used for farm and forest production, or that developments on the rural sized lots will actually reflect a rural or scenic pattern or appearance.

Differential tax assessments – have been established by Skagit County to provide an additional incentive to maintain resource properties in active farm and forest use. Considerable lands within the county are provided this tax incentive and are maintained in working farm and forest use for this purpose.

Conservation Futures – is a county tax levy that generates funds on a countywide basis for the acquisition of easements or properties for open space purposes. The tax proceeds are allocated on an annual basis for the conservation of critical and threatened open space resources within the county and the UGAs. While the program is important for the conservation of open space, the funding levels have not been sufficient to protect the most threatened open space areas within and adjacent to the UGAs.

By and large, these GMA related efforts have been successful at protecting critical environmental areas and their open space attributes, conserving large and potentially productive farm land property parcels, maintaining a graduated land ownership pattern between the most urban and rural areas, and acquiring some significant and threatened open space parcels.

However, these initiatives have heretofore not been sufficient, even when complemented by private organizational conservation efforts, to establish open space corridors within and adjacent to the most urbanizing areas of the county.

UGA open space separator or greenway requirements

In addition to protecting critical areas and providing incentives for rural resource protections, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) also requires counties with urban growth areas (UGAs) to designate and develop open space separator or greenway plans with which to distinguish cities and urban areas from each other – and to prevent urban sprawl into the rural landscape.

GMA's intent is to determine and protect significant and important open spaces and corridors that define the edges of an urban area – and that can provide interpretive and recreational opportunities to be accessed by urban area residents.

A principal purpose of this SCOG planning effort, therefore, is to define concepts and strategies by which to define UGA open space and greenway separators that can also link with the other open space initiatives being carried out in the more rural areas of the county by public governments and private organizations.

A secondary purpose of this SCOG planning effort is to devise a UGA open space separator and greenway strategy that will complement existing open space efforts by other public and private governments and organizations in a manner that will benefit and enhance rather than duplicate or compete with these on-going and successful efforts.

Existing UGA open space and trail conservation conditions

How would you rate the following open space conservation and public trail access conditions within and adjacent to the urban growth areas (UGAs) in Skagit County in general on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poorest and 5 the best condition possible?

<i>UGA open space conservation efforts</i>		<i>poorest / best</i>				
5	Conservation of wildlife habitat - especially within the Skagit River and its tributaries as they flow through the urban areas?	1	2	3	4	5
6	Preservation of woodlands - particularly mature, older forest stands within the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
7	Protection of prime agricultural soils and working farmlands adjacent to urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
8	Protection of scenic areas and landscapes including viewpoints and vistas from hilltops and along entry roads into urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
9	Identification and preservation of historical and cultural landmarks, sites, and features within and adjacent to urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>UGA public access trail systems</i>		<i>poorest / best</i>				
10	Interpretive markers, exhibits, trails, and centers located in open spaces within or adjacent to urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
11	Public access trails for hike, bike, and horse (including handicap accessible) to or through open spaces in the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
12	Waterfront access for fishing, swimming, kayaking, and canoeing in open spaces in the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
13	Picnic grounds, shelters, and other day use activity areas in open space systems in the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5

Open space trends in urbanizing Skagit County

The following statements were made during workshops with open space organizations concerning trends that may be affecting the conservation of open spaces and trail developments within the UGAs of Skagit County. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

<i>Open space trends</i>		<i>disagree/ agree</i>				
14	Skagit County has some of the most valuable and productive wildlife habitats, woodlands, and farms in the region if not the country?	1	2	3	4	5
15	An unacceptable amount of these valuable open space assets (wildlife, woodlands, and farms) are rapidly being lost to urban development within the UGAs?	1	2	3	4	5

16	An unacceptable amount of these valuable assets are also being lost to rural type land uses including roadside stands, hobby farms, big box houses, and other developments adjacent to the UGAs?	1	2	3	4	5
17	Open spaces that are being created are often small, landlocked preserves within new residential developments that are not linked to a continuous open space network for the surrounding city or its residents - or between cities and urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
18	Open spaces within the UGAs should be interconnected to flow through the cities into the surrounding countryside in a manner that conserves important assets and provides some logical and visible corridor networks?	1	2	3	4	5
19	Open space conservation efforts must do more than just preserve land - conservation programs should also restore, enhance, and manage the land to provide the valuable natural and ecological functions it once did?	1	2	3	4	5

Scenic resources

disagree/ agree

20	Skagit County has some of the most diverse and scenic resources in the region including mountain, valley, waterfront, and farm landscapes and viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5
21	"The view from the road", however, is rapidly disappearing or being blocked or replaced with roadside clutter consisting of advertising signs, rural commercial uses, hobby farms, and/or inappropriate buildings or developments?	1	2	3	4	5
22	Rural roads and byways, especially the entry roads into and out of the urbanizing areas should retain an open and rural character ("rural by design") that is not cluttered with commercial uses, advertising, and other urban characteristics?	1	2	3	4	5

Public access

disagree/ agree

23	Skagit County public access trail systems and park activities could extend from open space corridors within the urbanizing areas out into the countryside to access some of the most diverse and scenic features in the county and region?	1	2	3	4	5
24	Major existing public trail corridors, however, are located within park boundaries or on former railroad corridors and dikes located in rural areas that are not easily accessed by residents of the urbanizing areas on a daily basis?	1	2	3	4	5
25	Public access trail systems and park activities should extend from the inner most urban areas out into the countryside within and through natural open space corridor networks to provide easy access to urban and rural residents alike?	1	2	3	4	5

Population growth impacts

In the next 20 years the Skagit County population is projected to increase by another 51,600 people or 46% more than the existing population of 113,100 persons.

26	In your opinion, will <u>existing UGA open space and public access trail conditions, trends, policies, and programs</u> be enough to conserve and protect Skagit County's UGA related open space resources?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> don't know
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UGA open space and public access trail priorities in general

In light of the preceding, how would you rate the importance of the following open spaces within and adjacent to the urbanizing areas (UGAs) of the county in general whether such areas are protected by critical area ordinances, land use agreements, conservation easements, or land purchases by public or private organization efforts?

<i>UGA open space conservation needs</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
27	Wildlife habitat and migration corridors within and through the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
28	Mature and older growth forestlands within and adjacent the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
29	Productive and working farmlands adjacent the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
30	Scenic landscapes and roadside views entering and leaving the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
31	Historical and cultural landmarks and sites within and adjacent the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5

<i>UGA public access trails and activities</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
32	Interpretive trails, exhibits, and centers within open space corridor networks that extend outwards from the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
33	Public access trails and facilities that extend through and outwards from the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5
34	Fishing, swimming, car-top boating, picnicking, and other day use activities within open space corridor networks in and adjacent the urbanizing areas?	1	2	3	4	5

UGA open space and trails plan proposals

Under the proposed UGA open space and trails plan, public and private governments and organizations may jointly conserve and restore wildlife, forests, farms, scenic areas, historical, and cultural sites within and adjacent to the UGAs of the county. How would you rate the following proposals - as shown on the attached preliminary concept graphics on pages 10-18?

<i>UGA open space corridors - see pages 10-17</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
35	<u>Countywide UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Skagit River from Concrete through Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon, on the Swinomish Channel to LaConner, and on the Community Forests and State Park through Anacortes? As shown in the graphics, these corridors could extend from the cities outward into the most rural landscapes and features linking the UGAs into continuous greenway systems?	1	2	3	4	5
36	<u>Concrete UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Skagit River around the UGA and extend through the city on Lorenzan Creek and the Baker River, then north to Lake Shannon linking with the downtown, schools, parks, and other assets?	1	2	3	4	5

37	<u>Hamilton UGA open space corridors (not shown in the graphics)</u> - could focus on the Skagit River around the UGA? Depending on the final resolution of planning and design studies currently being accomplished for the city, the open space system could extend up Alder and Mud Creeks to link with local trails and other facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
38	<u>Sedro-Woolley UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Skagit River, Hart Slough, and Skiyou Island around the UGA and extend through the city on Brickyard and Hansen Creeks to link with Northern State Hospital County Park as well as the downtown, city trails, parks, schools, and other assets?	1	2	3	4	5
39	<u>Burlington UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Skagit River and Hart Slough around the UGA and extend through the city on Gages Slough to link with Burlington Hill as well as the downtown, city trails, parks, schools, and other assets.	1	2	3	4	5
40	<u>Mount Vernon UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Skagit River, Nookachamps Creek, Barnes Lake, and Britt Slough around the UGA and extend through the city on Maddox and Carpenter Creeks to link with the Kulshan Trail, Beaver Pond, Little Mountain as well as the downtown, city trails, parks, schools, and other assets.	1	2	3	4	5
41	<u>Bayview UGA open space corridors</u> - could incorporate the lands surrounding the runways and storm retention areas and extend through the UGA to link with Padilla Bay and Burlington?	1	2	3	4	5
42	<u>LaConner UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on the Swinomish Channel, Sullivan Slough, and Skagit Bay through and around the UGA and extend into the city, Swinomish Village, and Shelter Bay to link with the downtown, schools, trails, and parks?	1	2	3	4	5
43	<u>Arlington UGA open space corridors</u> - could focus on Cranberry Lake and Community Forests, and Deception Pass State Park through the UGA and extend into the city to link with the Tommy Thompson Trail, Cap Sante and Washington Parks, the downtown, marinas, city trails, schools, and other assets.	1	2	3	4	5

UGA public access systems - major trails and activities - see pages 10-17

lowest / highest

44	<u>Cascade Trail</u> - could extend through the Skagit River open space corridor from Rockport through Concrete, Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington? An eastern extension of the trail could link with the Ross Lake National Recreation Area?	1	2	3	4	5
45	<u>Centennial Trail</u> - could provide access from Snohomish County trail systems past Lake McMurray, Big Lake, the Nookachamps, Skagit River, and Northern State Hospital to link with Whatcom County trail systems to Lake Whatcom, Bellingham, and the Canadian border?	1	2	3	4	5

46	<i>Skagit-Snohomish Trail</i> - could extend from the Nookachamps south through Mount Vernon and Britt Slough then along the South Fork of the Skagit River to link with Fir Island, Conway, Stanwood and the Snohomish County trail systems.	1	2	3	4	5
47	<i>PNW/Interurban Trail</i> - could extend south from the Interurban Trail in Whatcom County through Bayview to the Swinomish Channel then west through Anacortes to Deception Pass and Whidbey Island?	1	2	3	4	5
48	<i>Swinomish Channel Trail</i> - could extend north from LaConner along the Swinomish Channel to the PNW Trail and provide access to the estuaries and wetlands in Padilla and Fidalgo Bays.	1	2	3	4	5
49	<i>Anacortes-Burlington Trail</i> - could extend west from Burlington along SR-20 through the proposed Bayview UGA to link with Swinomish Channel and PNW Trails to LaConner and Anacortes? The Anacortes-Burlington Trail would create a countywide trail linkage with all of the other major trail systems?	1	2	3	4	5
50	<i>Interpretive centers and day-use parks</i> - be installed where appropriate along the trail corridors identified above to increase interpretive opportunities and open space related day-use park activities?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Scenic corridors - see page 18</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
51	<i>"Rural by Design" scenic overlay districts</i> - be established to conserve the "rural by design" scenic aspects (but not change land use allowances) for major roadway entries into and between the UGAs including SR-9, SR-11, SR-20, Old Highway 99, and other significant rural county roads?	1	2	3	4	5

Role and responsibility alternatives

The county and cities could conserve UGA open space and trails proposed above under different policy priorities. How would you prioritize the ***following functions that could be pursued by the county and cities for the conservation of open space and trails within and adjacent to the UGAs?***

<i>Role and responsibility alternatives</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
52	<i>Regional conserver</i> - the county and cities be the principal agents to conserve, restore, enhance, and manage <i>regional UGA related</i> open spaces and public access trails and activities to the benefit and use of all residents on a countywide basis?	1	2	3	4	5
53	<i>Coordinator</i> - the county and cities create plans, financing strategies, and implementation programs but may be an active agent as well as a facilitator involving as many other public, non-profit, and private organizations as possible to conserve, restore, enhance, and manage <i>regional UGA related</i> open spaces and public access trails and activities?	1	2	3	4	5

Joint venture opportunity and partner options

Besides Skagit County and the cities - the federal and state governments, tribes, ports, public utility and dike districts, non-profit organizations, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and maintain open spaces and trails

within the county. How would you rate joint venture projects to conserve open spaces and trails within and adjacent to the UGAs with the following organizations?

<i>UGA open spaces and public access trail systems</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
54	<i>With other public agencies</i> - like federal and state agencies, tribes, ports, utility and dike districts?	1	2	3	4	5
55	<i>With non-profit organizations</i> - like the Nature Conservancy, Skagitonians for Farmland Preservation, or Skagit Land Trust?	1	2	3	4	5
56	<i>With for-profit organizations</i> - like Puget Sound Energy (PSE), wetland mitigation developers, and private recreational facility developers and operators?	1	2	3	4	5

Financing alternatives

Skagit County and its cities, like all jurisdictions in Washington State must structure fiscal policies to reflect recently adopted restraints on the use of property, license, and other taxes for the financing of general governmental services including the conservation of UGA open spaces and trail networks.

The following questions outline a number of alternative methods for conserving, restoring, and enhancing open space and trails within and adjacent the UGAs for your evaluation. The Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) could adopt some, most, or all of the following ways and methods for structuring the way the county and cities deliver and finance UGA open spaces and trails depending on the results of this survey, and in some cases subsequent voter approvals.

Real estate excise, fuel tax, license fee, and sales tax options

Subject to voter approval, the Skagit County Commissioners could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be dedicated exclusively to the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and management of UGA open spaces and public access trail systems on a countywide basis. How would you rate each of the following optional approaches?

<i>Optional UGA open spaced dedicated fees and taxes</i>		<i>lowest / highest</i>				
57	<i>Real Estate Excise Tax (REET-3)</i> - an additional 0.25% assessment of the sales price of all real estate property (equal to \$250 per \$100,000 of sale price) paid by the purchaser to be dedicated <u>exclusively</u> to the acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management of UGA open spaces and public access trail systems on a countywide basis?	1	2	3	4	5
58	<i>Local Option Vehicle License Fee</i> - an additional \$15.00 per vehicle license registered in the county to be dedicated <u>exclusively</u> to UGA open spaces and public access trail systems on a countywide basis?	1	2	3	4	5
59	<i>Local Option Fuel Tax</i> - an additional \$0.023 per gallon sales tax to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated <u>exclusively</u> to UGA open spaces and public access trail systems on a countywide basis?	1	2	3	4	5
60	<i>Local Option Sales Tax</i> - an additional 0.1% sales tax (equal to \$0.10 for a \$100 purchase) to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated <u>exclusively</u> to UGA open spaces and public access trail systems on a countywide basis?	1	2	3	4	5

Property tax levy

As an addition or as an alternative to any of the above tax and fee options, the Skagit County Commissioners could institute a limited duration property tax levy as a means of financing the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and management of UGA open spaces and trails on a countywide basis. A countywide approach would share revenues between the county, cities, and/or other public or non-profit agencies that provide regional UGA related open space and public access trail system conservation projects and programs. How would you rate this method?

		lowest / highest
61	<u>Countywide UGA approach</u> - where revenues are shared between county, cities, and/or other public and non-profit agencies that provide <u>regional UGA related</u> open space and trail projects and programs?	1 2 3 4 5

		Amount per year
62	If a levy were to be put on the ballot <u>to finance regional UGA related open space and trail projects and programs on a countywide basis</u> , how much, if anything, would your <u>household</u> be willing to pay <u>per year</u> for this source of funding?	\$ <u>0</u> No Tax

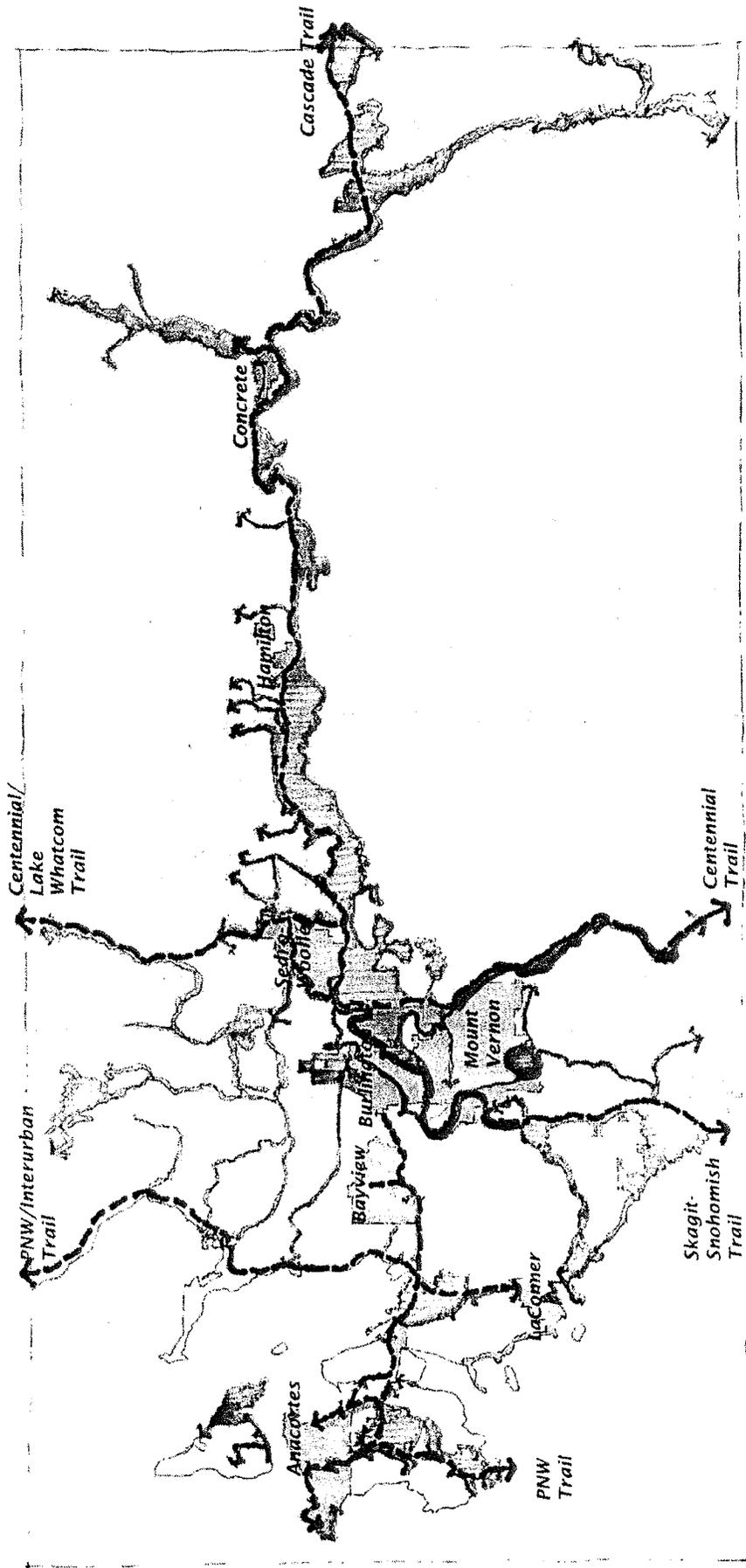
Your characteristics

63	Which area of the county do you live in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Anacortes area <input type="checkbox"/> LaConner area <input type="checkbox"/> Bayview area <input type="checkbox"/> Burlington area <input type="checkbox"/> Mount Vernon area <input type="checkbox"/> Lyman area <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton area <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other county area
64	How long have you lived in the county?	0-1 2-5 6-10 10+ years
65	What type of housing do you live in?	own rent
66	What age group are you in?	18-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65+

Comments

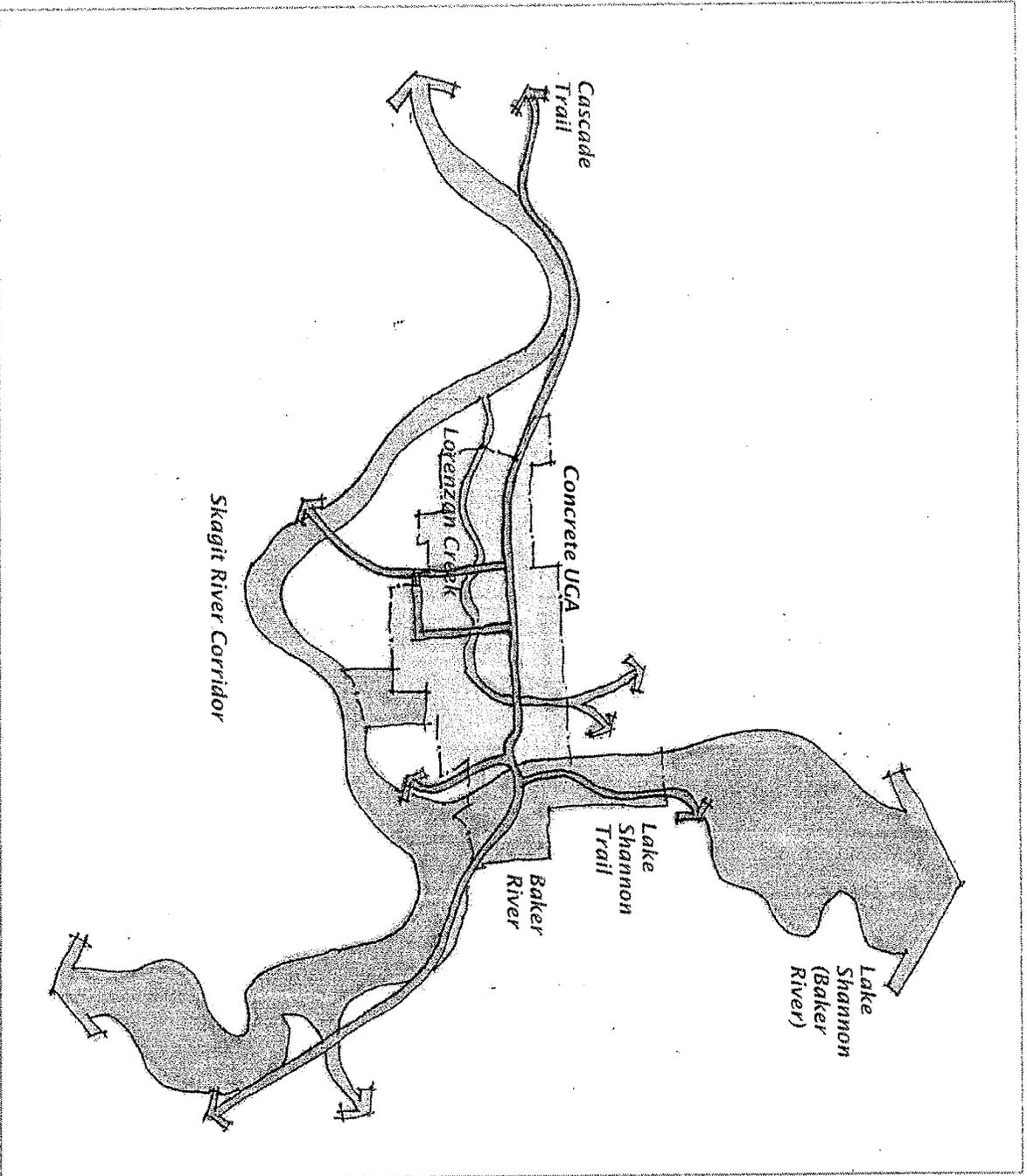
67	Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about the proposed UGA open space and public access trails plan or this survey?
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Please contact Jeroldine Hallberg, Senior Planner, Skagit County Planning & Development Services at 360-336-9410 x 3175 or jeroldineh@co.skagit.wa.us if you have questions about the plan or this survey.

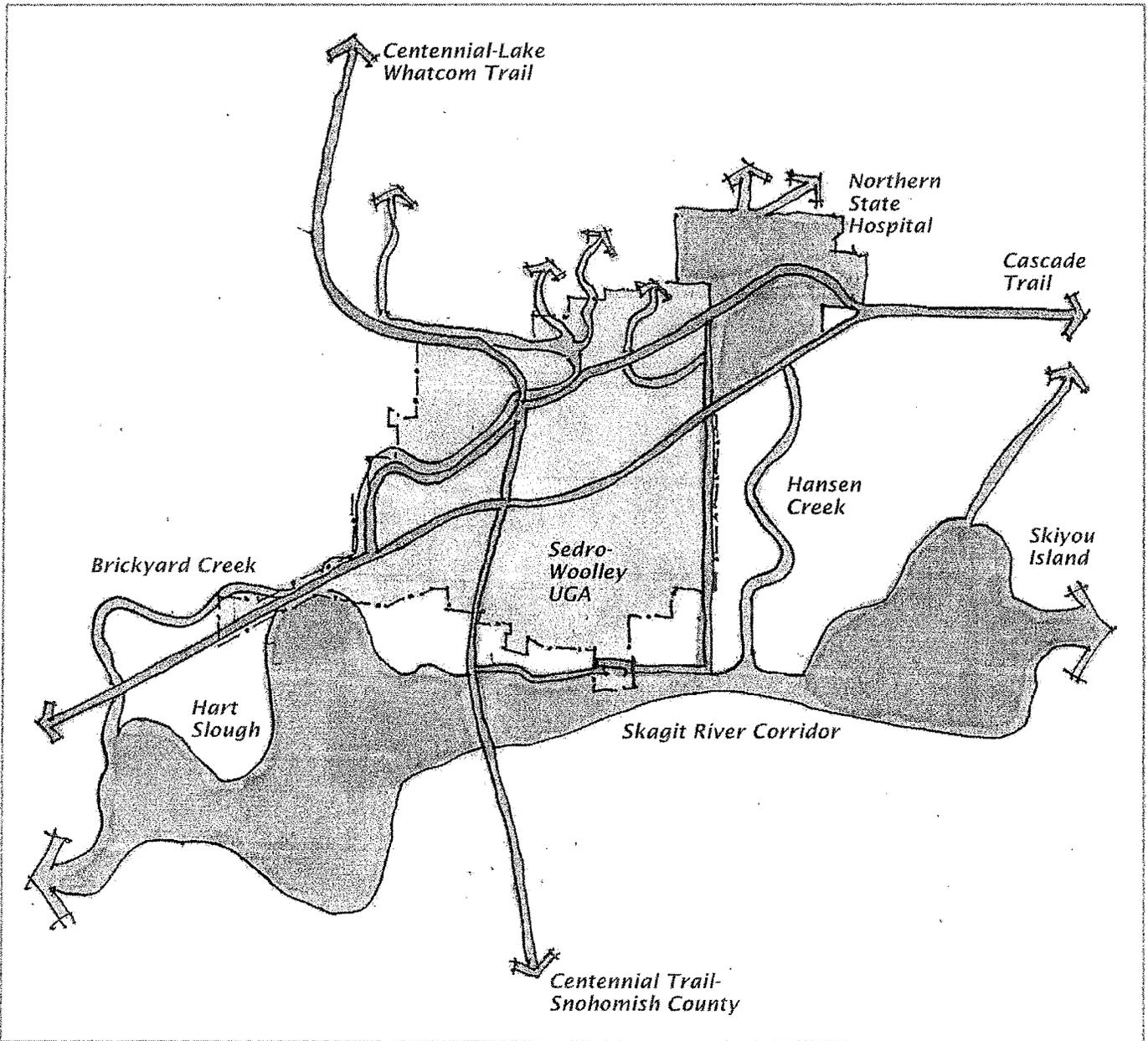


Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space & Trails Concept - Draft

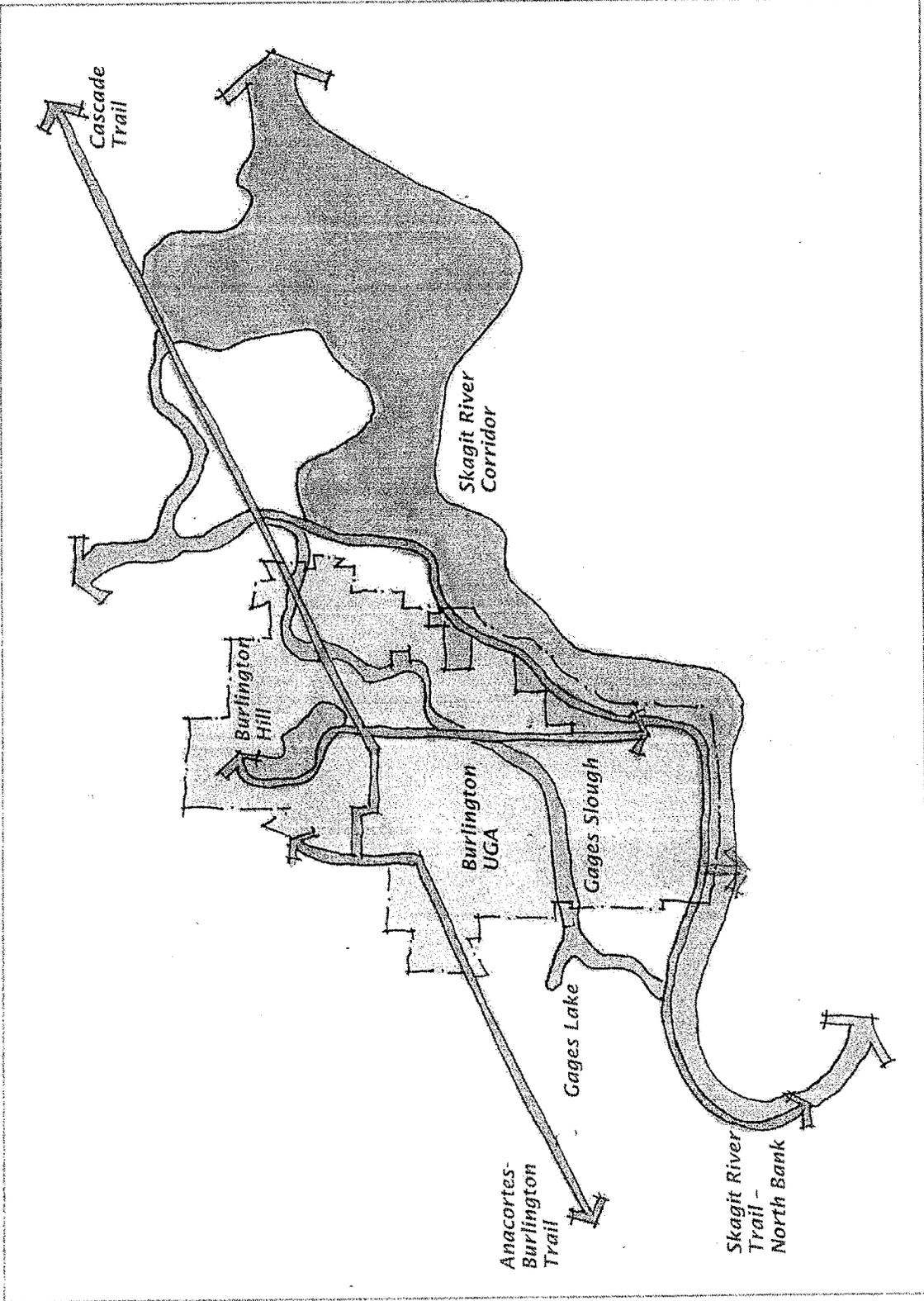
25 May 2007



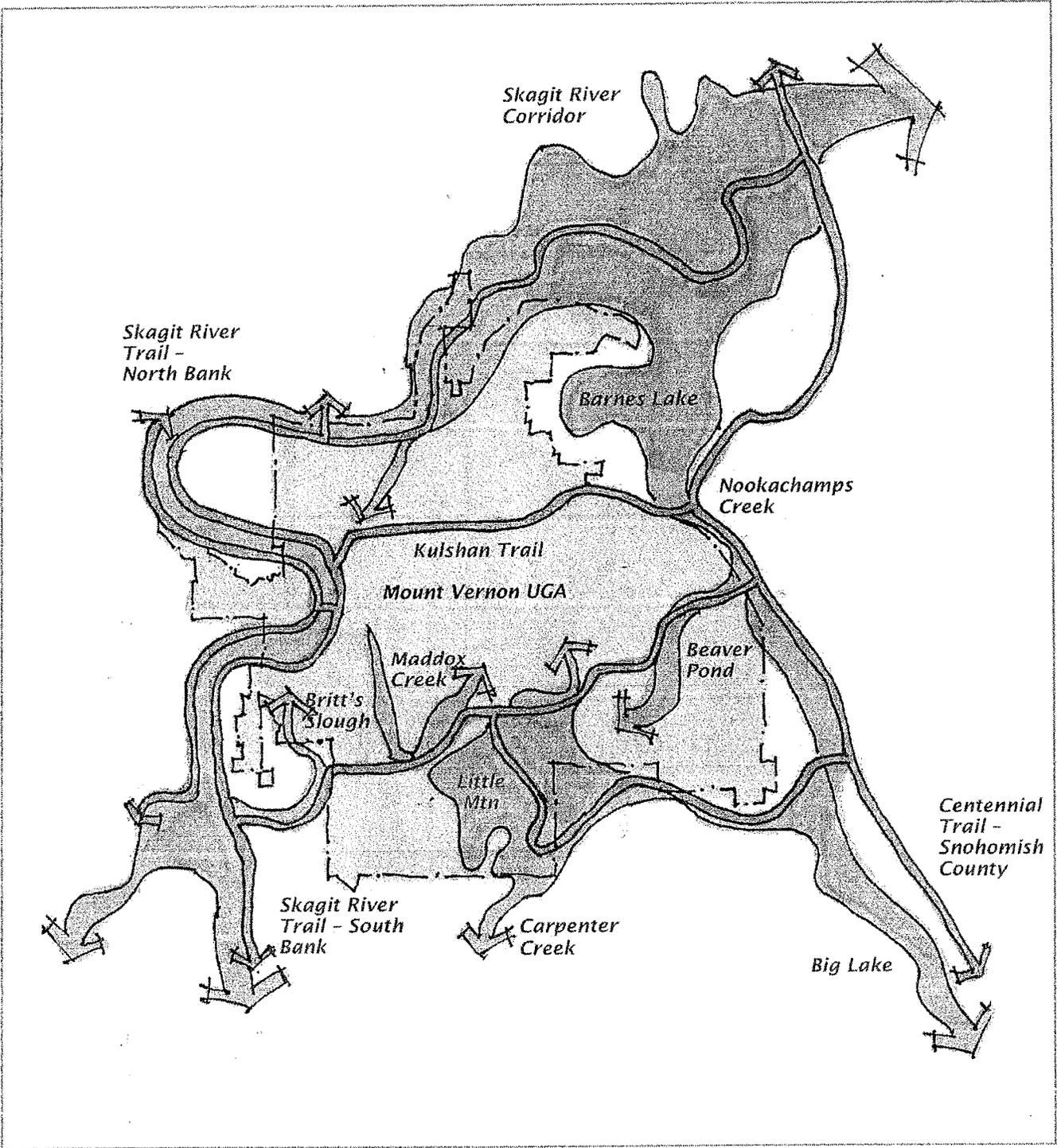
Concrete UGA Open Space & Trails Concept
 Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007



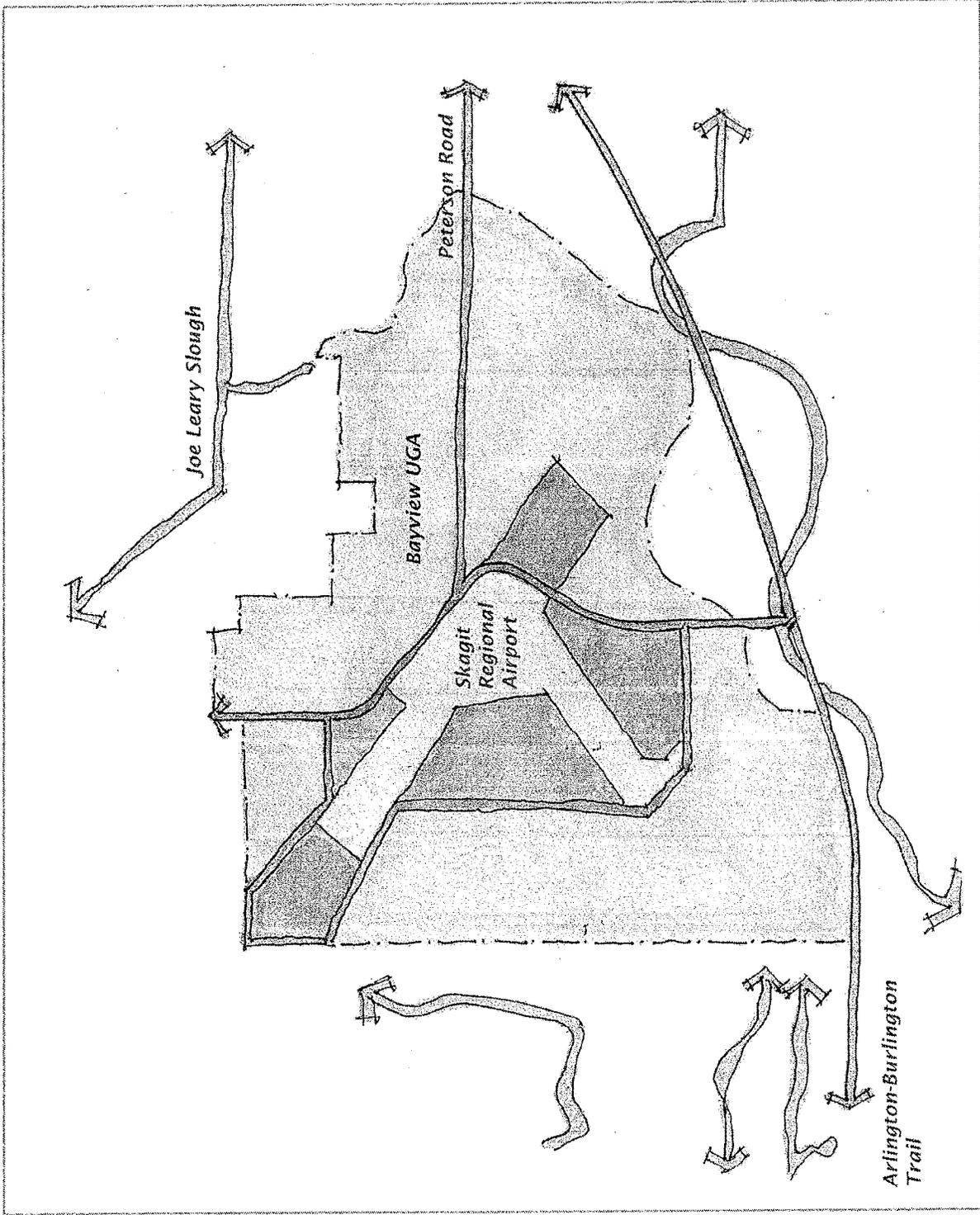
Sedro-Woolley UGA Open Space & Trails Concept
 Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007



Burlington UGA Open Space & Trails Concept
 Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007

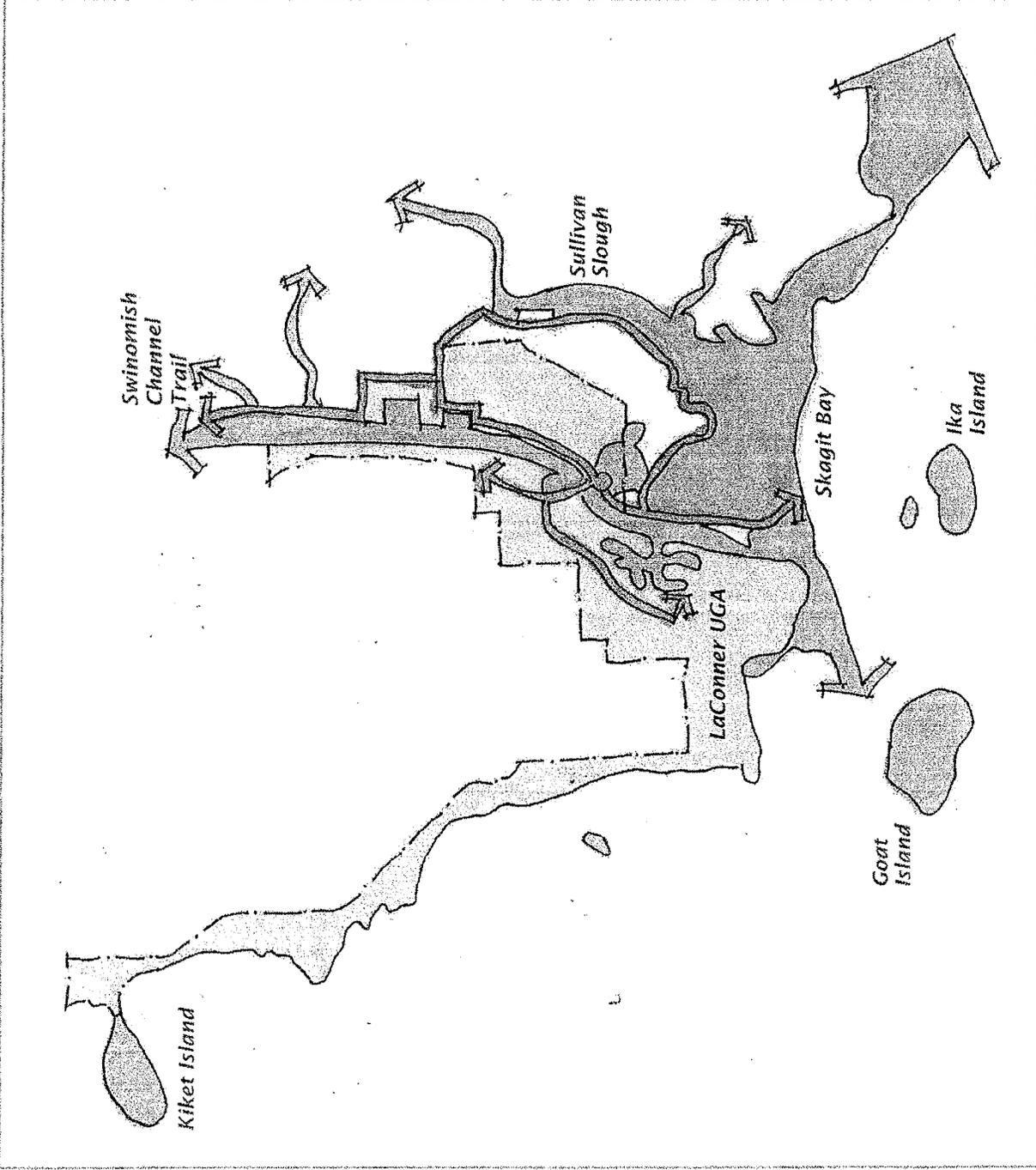


Mount Vernon UGA Open Space & Trails Concept
 Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007



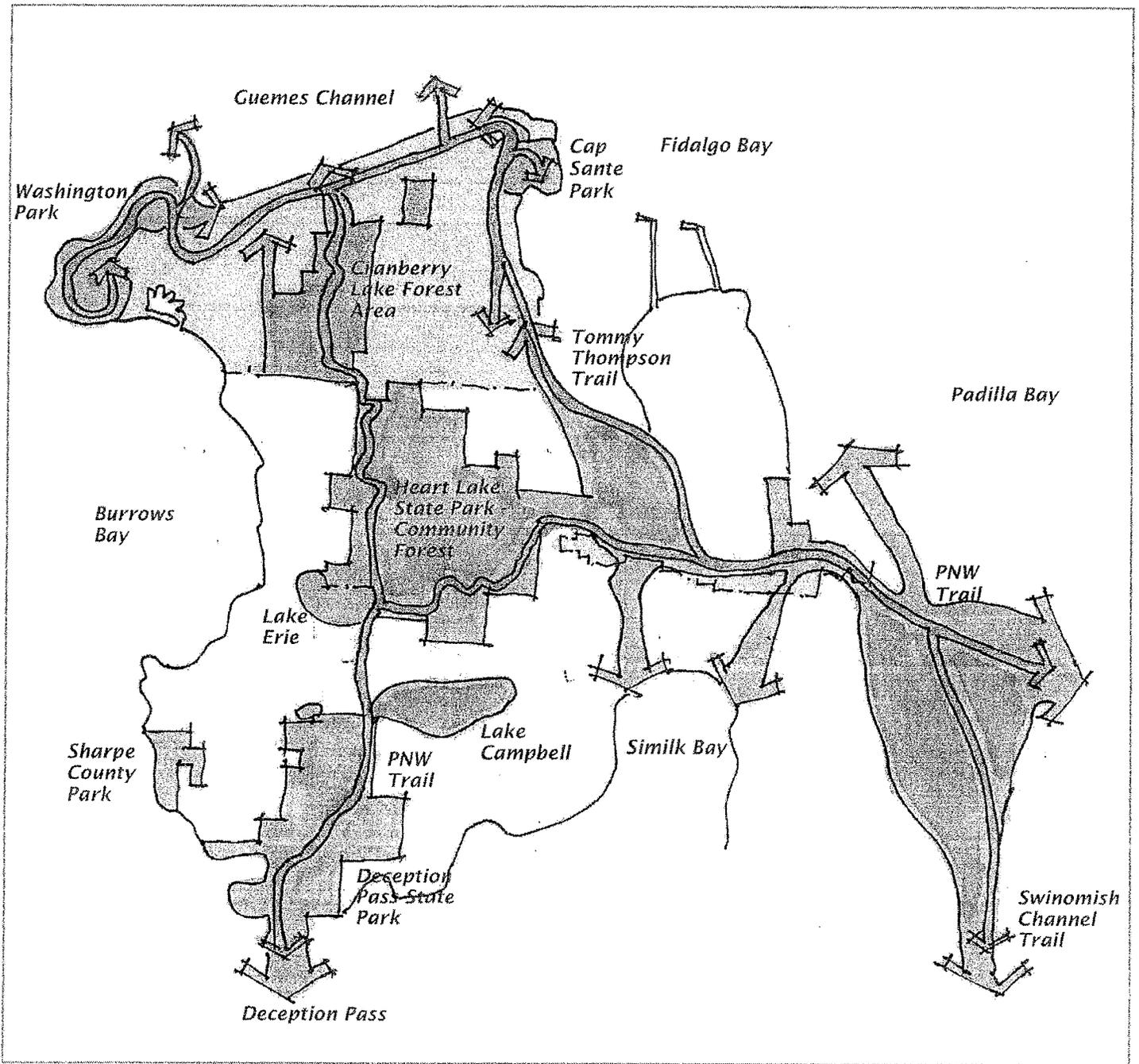
Bayview UGA Open Space & Trails Concept

Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007

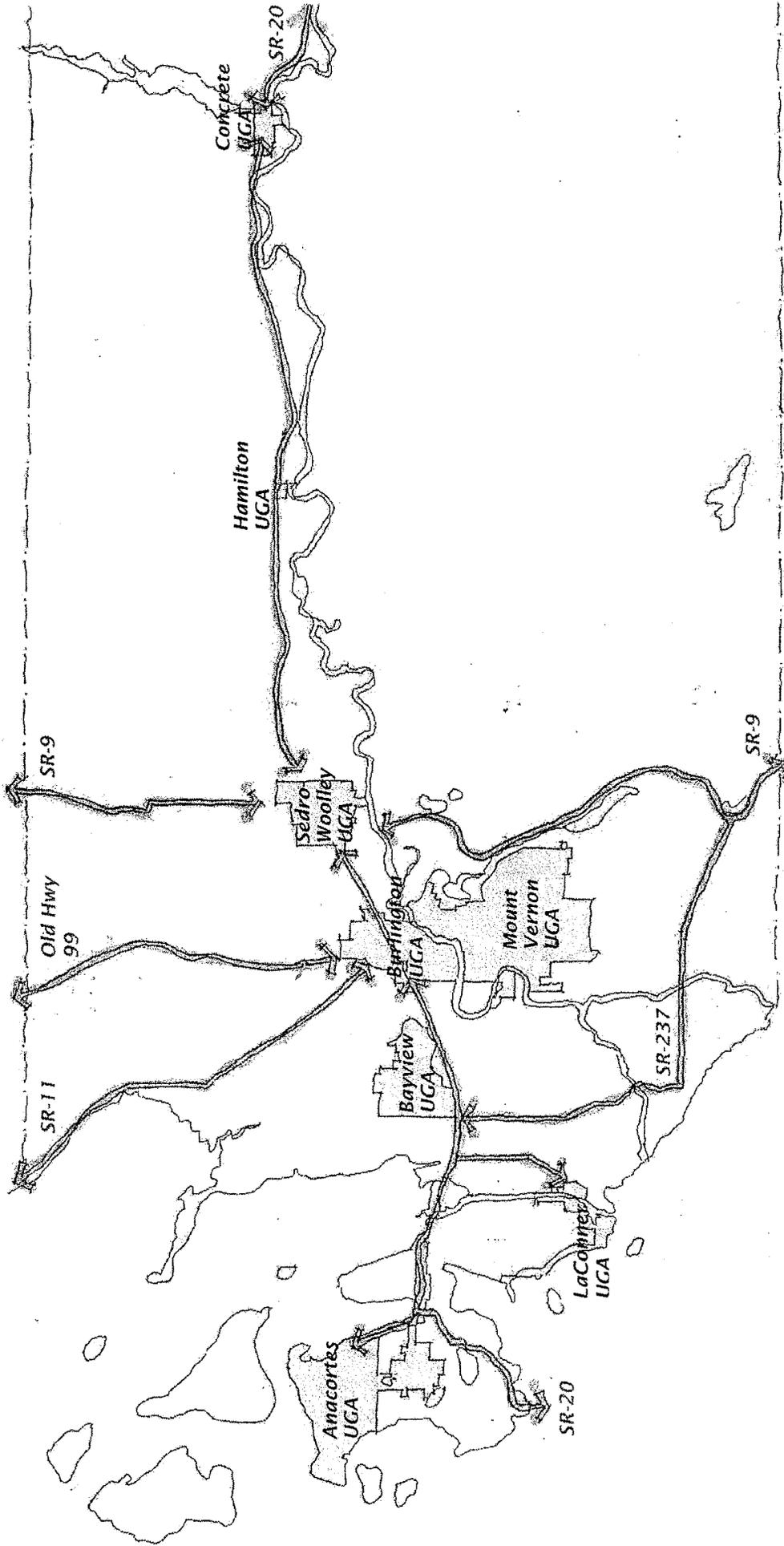


LaConner UGA Open Space & Trails Concept

Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007



Anacortes UGA Open Space & Trails Concept
 Preliminary Schematic - 5 June 2007



Scenic Roads
 Preliminary Schematic – 5 June 2007