

March 12, 2009

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Jeroldine Hallberg  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Comments on the proposed Open Space Plan

Nearly 2 years ago when the Skagit County UGA survey results were published, there was overwhelming concern that Skagit County's scenic resources were being degraded. Those surveyed worried that access to open spaces or connectivity between currently unprotected spaces were not valued highly enough by some city and county jurisdictions to secure these places into the future.

Of value to me were the graphic illustrations that drew in the wider view of the entire county and its conservation potential. This more coordinated approach allows real participation from all citizens to understand the importance of open spaces and our sense of place. These places nourish our need to travel quietly, to explore, and connect our kids to healthy places of imagination and wonder.

I support the hard work and dedicated interest behind the UGA open space plan and the ongoing desire to restore and enhance the natural systems we depend on. Future cooperation between urban and rural communities will require effective planning and smart design to prevent visual blight and the barriers to genuine open spaces in our future.

I am asking for your support of the proposed Open Space Plan. Our economic and social health depends on it. Our sense of community depends of it.

Sincerely,



Cynthia McGuinness  
3807 Seneca Drive  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273