



Memorandum

Date: 3/11/2009
To: Skagit County Commissioners
County Planning Commission
Planning & Permit Center
From: Curtis Miller, ASLA
360.445.4238
RE: UGA Open Space Plan

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SKAGIT COUNTY
PDS

I am writing in support of the UGA Open Space Plan. I have followed this process since its inception through attendance and participation at meetings and on the County web site. The process has been thorough, thoughtful and responsive to the many jurisdictions, organizations and individual voices that have participated and commented. Several groups, particularly agriculture and forestry, expressed their parochial concerns and the County and consultant did a commendable job at responding to and addressing those issues, which should now be put to rest.

It should be remembered that this plan is not meant to address all the issues in the County, rather it sets a framework for future open space and community connectivity activities. It is a plan that is meant to start the conversation and will require further study, coordination and clarification. It does, however, start to address an important and larger issue – that being - what are the intrinsic qualities that make Skagit County unique and a desirable place to live. Open Space is one of those qualities, along with the river, wildlife and fish habitat, agricultural lands, forested hills, mountains and livable communities. What is required of us to protect and steward these qualities?

I commend the County for starting this process; the report sets the groundwork and framework for future activities. The communities, the County and each of us need to do what we can to start implementing the plan.

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