

# **Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerability Assessment & Mitigation Initiatives**

## **Planning Process**

Swinomish Resolution No. 2003-03-020, as adopted by the Swinomish Senate on March 4, 2003, authorizes Tribal participation in the development of the 'Skagit County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.' Pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, pre-disaster mitigation planning must be completed for jurisdictions to be eligible for disaster mitigation funding.

To complete the planning process, Swinomish staff utilized management tools available in the 20/20 Mitigation Software that was provided to jurisdictions by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division. The information collected on these forms is included in the plan. Swinomish staff worked closely with other jurisdictions, agencies, Indian tribes, and the Skagit Natural Hazards Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive, coordinated mitigation plan intended to reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards for all within unincorporated Skagit County.

The planning process consisted of profiling the jurisdiction, identifying critical facilities, assessing vulnerabilities, and choosing mitigation initiatives. The plan constitutes the beginnings of an on-going process to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards through planning, implementation of mitigation initiatives, and regional cooperation and response.

## **Swinomish Indian Tribal Community**

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (SITC) is a political successor in interest to tribes, bands, and groups of Indians, including those known as the Lower Skagit, Kikiallus, Swinomish, and Samish, that were signatories to the Treaty of Point Elliot of January 22, 1855, as ratified by Congress on March 8, 1859. The Tribe is federally recognized and operates under Constitution and By-laws adopted in 1936 pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Tribe is governed by an 11 member Senate led by the Tribal Chairman. The Tribe's administrative structure includes a Planning and Community Development Department, Social Services Department, Utility Authority, Housing Authority, Police Department, Tribal Court, and Fisheries Office.

The Tribe's land base is the Swinomish Indian Reservation located west of the Swinomish Channel near La Conner, Washington, approximately 70 miles north of Seattle. The Reservation occupies the Southeast peninsula of Fidalgo Island encompassing 7,169 acres of land area and 2,900 acres of Tribally owned tidelands. Ownership of the Reservation uplands consists of 49.7% alienated fee land (3,690 acres), 39.5% individual trust land (2,930 acres), and 10.8% tribal trust land (800 acres).

The Reservation population is approximately 3,245, of which approximately 25% are enrolled Tribal members or of other Indian nationality. The non-Indian majority principally occupies 725 homes on leased Tribal trust land in the Shelter bay residential area. Five hundred Tribal members live in the Swinomish Village housing complex, with

remaining Tribal members living throughout the Reservation. Additional residential areas are clustered throughout the shoreline zone, and forestry and other low-density land uses occupy the uplands.

### **Plan Jurisdiction**

<u>Contact Information:</u>	Charlie O'Hara, Director, Planning Department Swinomish Indian Tribal Community P.O. Box 817 La Conner, WA 98257 Telephone: (360) 466-7280
<u>Neighborhood Characterization:</u>	Reservation boundaries (Figure 1) define plan neighborhood limits. Figure 3 illustrates zoning, Figure 4 provides aerial view, Figure 5 illustrates buildings, roads and topography
<u>Population of Jurisdiction:</u>	3,245 and growing slightly
<u>Geographical Size:</u>	7,169 acres + 2,900 acres tidelands
<u>Economic Characteristic:</u>	Economically disadvantaged <i>*Economically distressed as per the State</i>
<u>Current Adopted Hazard Mitigation Codes/Plans/ Ordinances:</u>	Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 1997 Uniform Building Code, 1997 Uniform Fire Code, Forestry Plan, Transportation Plan
<u>Critical Facilities:</u>	Social Services/ Police Station, Medical Center, Dental Clinic/ Senior Center, Tribal Administration Office, Planning Department, Housing Department, Gymnasium/ Daycare/ Community Center, SSC, Sewage Treatment System, Casino, Fish Plant, Water System (Figure 2)
<u>Primary Hazards:</u>	Earthquake, High Winds, Winter Storm
<u>Secondary Hazards:</u>	Wildfire, Volcano, Tsunami

### **Mitigation Initiatives**

1. Seismic Retrofitting of Critical Facilities
2. Assessment and Provision of Emergency Power Supplies
3. Development of Warning and Evacuation Plan, and Infrastructure Implementation
4. Public Emergency Preparedness Education Program Development and Implementation