



# Comprehensive Plan Policy or Development Regulation Amendment Suggestion

Planning & Development Services · 1800 Continental Place · Mount Vernon WA 98273  
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Per RCW 36.70A.470(2), this form is intended for use by any interested person, including applicants, citizens, hearing examiners, and staff of other agencies, to suggest amendments to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan policies or its development regulations, which are contained in Skagit County Code Title 14. Please do not combine multiple unrelated Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation amendments on a single form. This form is for policy or development regulation amendments; use the Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment Request form for changes to the land use/zoning map.

## Submitted By

Name	<u>Randy Good</u>	Organization	<u>Friends of Skagit County</u>		
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## Proposal Description

Please answer all of the questions below that are applicable to your suggestion.

1. Describe your proposed amendment.

Amendments sections of the CP to reflect the County's policy of no loss of agricultural lands.

2. Describe the reasons your proposed amendment is needed or important.

Skagit County is allowing conversion of agricultural lands to non-ag uses with no method of determining cumulative loss, economic loss and effects of such loss. These losses permanently affect the ability of farmers to continue to farm as well as challenge the County's ability to function as a center for future food supply and security.

3. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of the Comprehensive Plan, please identify which section(s):

Sections of the CP address Ag-NRL zoned lands and lands in rural zones that are used for farming and food production.

4. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision create inconsistencies with existing sections of the Comprehensive Plan? If so, please list those sections:

We do not anticipate the addition to be inconsistent with the CP.

5. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision require corresponding amendments to the County's development regulations?

Yes.

6. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of Skagit County Code Title 14, please identify which section(s).

Any section addressing farming, agricultural product production, food production and distribution and/or ancillary supporting industries for agriculture.

7. If you are suggesting this development regulation amendment as a result of a particular project or permit application, please identify which project or application:

N/A.

8. If you are suggesting specific language as part of your amendment, please attach that specific language. Specific language is not required.

Language must include ways to identify the amount of economic loss created by the loss of farmland, cumulative effects to the

economy as well as the environmental functions lost. For example, flooding farmland with saltwater should not be permitted when the land has been in food production in the past years as this permanently removes the acres from food production and any contribution to the local economy.

9. *Describe why existing Comprehensive Plan policies should not continue to be in effect or why they no longer apply.*

Existing CP policies regarding Ag-NRL and rural zoned lands with farms would continue and be strengthened.

10. *Describe how the amendment complies with the Comprehensive Plan's community vision statements, goals, objectives, and policy directives.*

Skagit County's policies emphasize rural economic activities, including farm and food production and distribution, but do not have mechanisms to address ag acres lost. The concept of "no net loss" is not an option as there is no replacement land available with appropriate soils.

11. *Describe the anticipated impacts to be caused by the change, including geographic area affected and issues presented.*

The impacts affect all Ag-NRL and rural zoned lands with farms.

12. *Describe how adopted functional plans and Capital Facilities Plans support the change.*

These plans support conservation of farmland.

13. *Describe any public review of the request that has already occurred.*

We are not aware of any requests.

## Notices

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**Fees.** No fees are required for a policy or code change suggestion, per SCC 14.08.020(6).

**Docketing.** SCC Chapter 14.08 governs the process for docketing of Comprehensive Plan amendments; suggestions for changes to the development regulations are docketed following the same process. Docketing of a suggestion is procedural only and does not constitute a decision by the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the amendment will ultimately be approved. Amendments are usually concluded by the end of the year following the request. State law generally prohibits the County from amending its Comprehensive Plan more than once per year.

**Submission deadline.** Suggestions must be received by the last business day of July for docketing. Suggestions received after that date will not be considered until the following year's docket.

**How to Submit.** Submit your suggestion via email (preferred) to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us) or to Planning & Development Services at the address above.