

B.18: Skagit County Public Utilities District (PUD)

www.skagitpud.org



Skagit Public Utility District Number 1 (Skagit PUD) operates the largest water system in the county, providing 9,000,000 gallons of piped water to approximately 70,000 people every day. The PUD maintains nearly 600 miles of pipelines and has over 31,000,000 gallons of storage volume.

Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Sedro-Woolley receive the majority of the PUD's water. Due to public demand for quality water, the PUD also provides service to unincorporated and remote areas of the county. The District's service area includes part of Fidalgo Island at the west end of the county and extends as far east as Marblemount. From north to south, the District's service area starts in Conway and extends north to Alger/Lake Samish.

PUD water originates in the protected Cultus Mountain watershed area east of Clear Lake from 4 streams. Melting snow and season rainfall are diverted from an uninhabited, 9 square mile, forested area, located high about the mountains.

Water from this pristine area is piped to Judy Reservoir, where it covers 124 surface areas and stores approximately 1,500,000,000 gallons of water. The water is then treated and filtered to meet Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, using modern water treatment technologies. In the future, water will also be pumped from the Skagit River to Judy Reservoir during critical periods or when the stream run low.

Skagit PUD is a municipal corporation governed by 3 elected commissioners, who serve 6-year terms. The commissioners represent the same geographical districts as the Skagit county commissioners. The positions are non-partisan and elections are staggered every 2 years.

Resource conservation and stewardship are increasing concerns of the PUD. Recognizing the value of water resources in Skagit County, the PUD is a member of the Skagit Watershed Council and is actively participating in efforts to protect ins-stream flows.

The vision of the PUD - is to be recognized as an outstanding regional leader and innovative utility provider that embodies environmental stewardship and sound economic practices.

The mission of the PUD - is to provide quality, safe, reliable, and affordable utility services to its customers in an environmentally-responsible, collaborative manner.

The values of the PUD are:

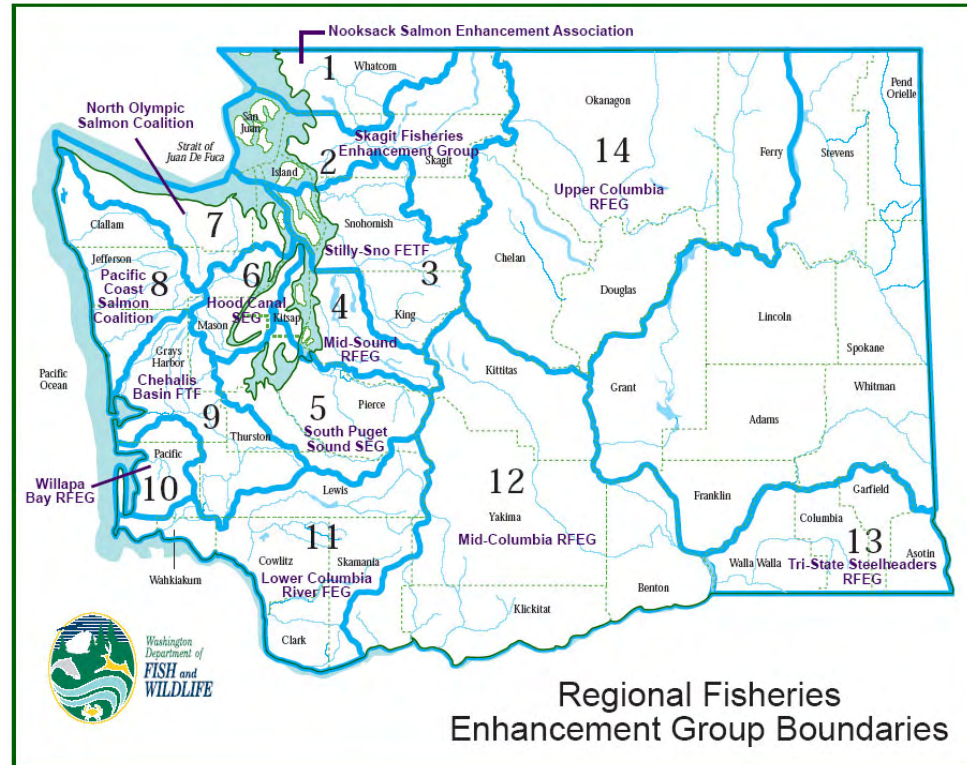
- Quality
- Reliability
- Environmental responsibility
- Response service
- Low cost
- Economic responsibility

Pressure on Skagit PUD water resources comes from many sources, including population growth in-stream flows (protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation), and business needs. Water systems using their water efficiently allow growth in their communities and water for other environmental uses. The efficient use of water helps ensure reliable water supplies are available to PUD customers.

In 2007, The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) established a Water Use Efficiency Program to ensure efficient operation and management of water systems. DOH specified requirements on water suppliers to set conservation goals and report annually on their performance to customers and DOH.

Through a public forum in 2007, the PUD established measurable water-saving goals for the next 6 years for both the supply and demand sides of the PUD distribution system. These goals will provide a benchmark for achievement and play a significant role in defining the success of the PUD's water use efficiency program.





B.19: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFE)

www.skagitfisheries.org



The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFE) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1990 to engage communities in habitat restoration and watershed stewardship in order to enhance salmon populations.

As a non-governmental organization, SFE has unique cooperative relationships with local land owners, conservation groups, government agencies, and tribes. Through the hard work of volunteers and professional restoration crews, SFE has been recognized as a local leader in salmon restoration.

As one of 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in Washington State, SFE is part of a coordinated effort to educate and involve the

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public in salmon enhancement activities across the state at the community level. SFE regional boundaries include the Skagit River watershed, the Samish River, and the watersheds of the San Juan Islands, and North Whidbey Island.

The mission of the SFE - is to build partnerships that educate and engage the community in habitat restoration and watershed stewardship in order to enhance salmonid populations.

Volunteers are the backbone of SFE and are recruited and educated to achieve SFE's goal of increase public awareness for salmon enhancement. All volunteer projects are based on education through

hands-on activities. Opportunities exist for volunteers of all ages and in all seasons.

Community Education

Educational projects and presentations are designed to increase public awareness and the community excited about salvaging salmon resources. SFEG visits schools, community groups, and service clubs to deliver educational presentations and teach the community about salmon.

SFEG partners with many organizations including North Cascades Institute (NCI) to deliver the Skagit Watershed Educational Project to classrooms, sponsor stream clean-ups, and arrange service projects for students of all ages. SFEG is available for speaking engagements including interactive presentations to educate community members about watersheds and salmon restoration.

In partnership with other agencies and organizations, SFEG offers several workshops for adults through the years. At the workshops volunteers learn about stream restoration and ways they can help restore salmon to healthy populations. Volunteers learn to monitor physical and biological components of aquatic ecosystems to help determine their ability to support anadromous fish, or simply learn about things they can do at home to make their backyard stream more "salmon-friendly".

SFEG is also available to visit community groups to give presentations on salmon habitat restoration projects in the local area. Presentations focus on a variety of subject areas including salmon biology and habitat requirements, habitat restoration techniques, and volunteer opportunities.

Restoration projects

Improving salmon habitat is the primary way SFEG seeks to enhance salmon resources. Habitat loss and environmental degradation continue to threaten the clean, healthy, and cool water salmon need to survive.

SFEG projects are designed to improve and protect local watersheds by offering assistance to local landowners. In addition to salmon, SFEGB projects also benefit the other 80% of wildlife species that depend on health watersheds such as frogs, song birds and deer.

Willing property owners make salmon enhancement possible. Without cooperative landowners to lead the way there would be no opportunities for salmon restoration activities in the watersheds. WFEG works with local landowners who are interested in protecting salmon resources to implement restoration projects on their property in a non-regulatory fashion. SFEG assistance is often free and landowner participation is completely voluntary. SFEG works with willing landowners to do the following types of restoration projects:

- Riparian projects including revegetation
- Fencing
- Improving fish passage including culvert replacement, building bridges, and building weirs
- In-stream projects including logs in creeks, channel enhancement, stream bank stabilization
- Nutrient enhancement

Some of SFEG's recent restoration projects include:

- East Fork Nookachamps Creek - SFEG added 6 large woody debris structures to enhance rearing habitat and to restore the riparian zone of this 33-acre Wetland Reserve Program conservation easement site. Other project elements included removing 500 cubic yards of fill, installing perch poles for raptors, and stripping reed canary grass sod flow lower portions of the field.



- ***Deepwater Slough*** – SFEG’s restoration removed invasive plant species and reestablished the dominant scrub-shrub plan, sweetgale of this slough located in the Skagit Wildlife Area of the Skagit River delta.
- ***Thunder Creek*** – SFEG conducted invasive species control on Himalayan blackberry and Japanese knotweed and planted native trees and shrubs in the riparian zone along Thunder Creek and Samish River.
- ***NP Creek*** – SFEG is seeking funds to remove an old bridge and concrete sill and replace it with a bridge and install rock weirs in the 1.5 mile upstream channel of this tributary stream of the upper Samish River near Wickersham.
- ***Day Creek*** – SFEG will host a workshop series with a variety of partners in the watershed in order to engage local landowners in an educational and stewardship program for the 1.25 miles of habitat and 11.25 acres of riparian area.
- ***Iron Mountain Ranch*** – SFEG will partner with Skagit Land Trust, Seattle City Light, Washington Sate Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to protect 2 miles of intact shoreline and 236 acres of wildlife habitat along the middle of the Skagit River. SFEG volunteers will plant trees and shrubs along the riparian zone to stabilize the bank and reduce stream temperatures, and install fences to protect the replanted area from animals and people until it stabilizes.
- ***Finney Creek*** – SFEG placed over a 100 log jams to increase channel roughness and complexity, and sediment storage and gravel sorting, and to accelerate natural pool development in this tributary of the lower portion of the Wild & Scenic corridor of the Skagit River in partnership with the US Forest Service, Crown Pacific Timber Company, and local landowners.
- ***McElroy Slough*** – SFEG will help plant and restore 1 mile and approximately 9 acres of estuary area for anadromous fish use within the slough. It will also help improve access to 5 miles of Colony Creek, a half mile of Whitehall Creek, and 3 miles of

Harrison Creek to potentially recreate at least 24 acres of estuary habitat.

- ***Ennis Creek*** – SFEG will help restore 50 acres of wetland property and plan and build a bridge crossing over Innis Creek Road in this tributary to the Samish River Basin.

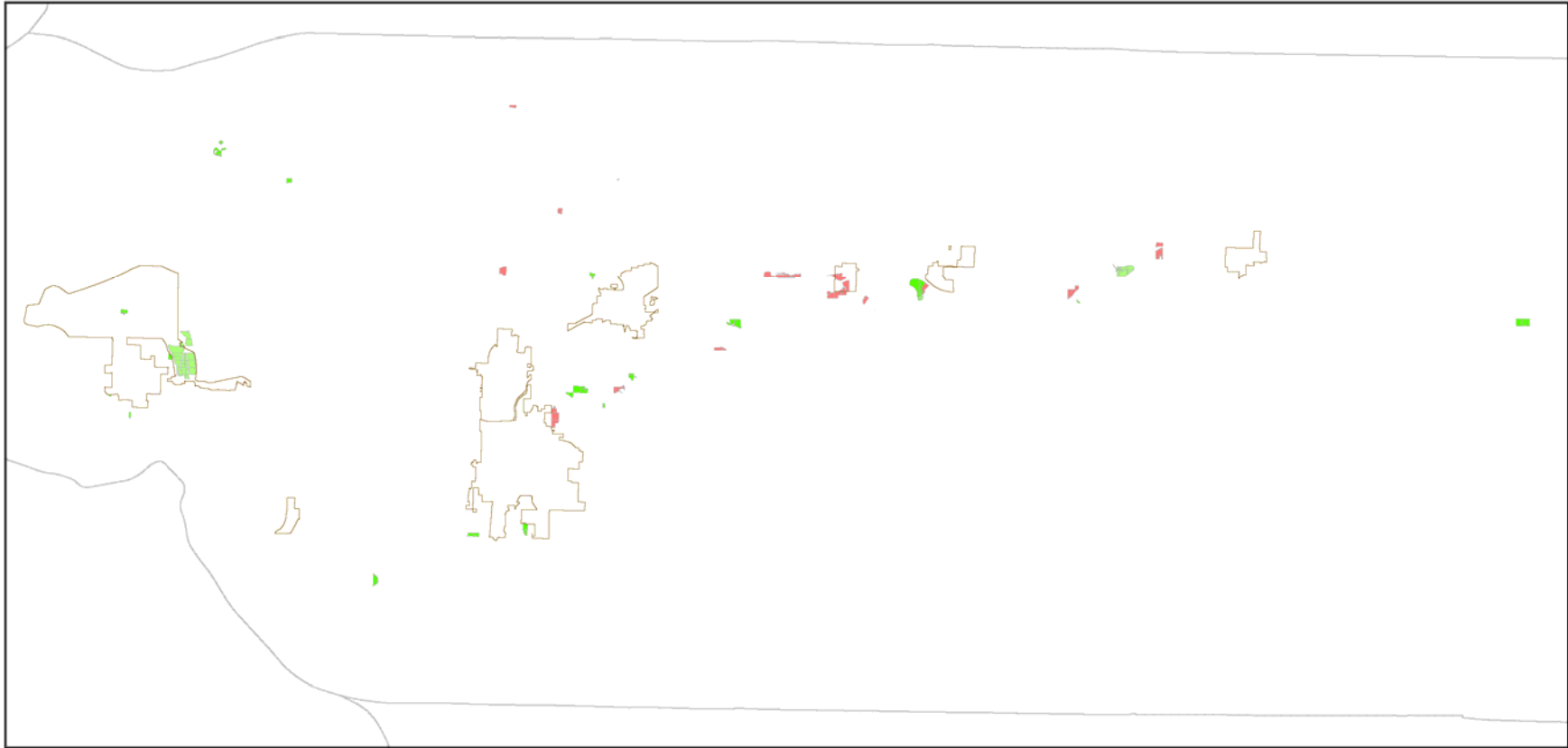
Project monitoring

Monitoring is an essential element of salmon enhancement. The purpose of monitoring programs is to evaluate the effect of restoration work to improve watershed conditions and salmon resources. Volunteers are involved in all SFEG monitoring programs.

Monitoring may involve visiting a restoration site once a week, once a month, or once a year depending on the goals of the study. Results of monitoring programs help guide designs for future restoration projects and document successes to funding entities. SFEG monitoring programs include:

- Stream structure monitoring
- Macro-invertebrate monitoring
- Vegetation monitoring
- Spawning surveys





B.20: Skagit Land Trust (SLT)

www.skagitlandtrust.org



The Skagit Land Trust (SLT) was founded in 1992 by 3 visionary leaders and 31 Charter Members to help protect the scenic shorelines and open space, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural, and forest lands of the mainland and islands of Skagit County for the benefit of current and future generations. The Trust currently has 4 staff, 15 Board members, and 40 active volunteers who are joined by over 550 members.

Skagit Land Trust focuses on permanently protecting all types of natural and resource lands with exceptional conservation value throughout all of Skagit County – and is the only organization within the county that has such a diverse mission. To do so, the Trust works in collaboration with over 20 local and regional organizations to leverage limited resources to achieve common goals.

Staff and volunteer resources

The Trust's professional staff have degrees in environmental planning, economics, and anthropology, among others, and

experience as former public planners for counties and tribes, wildlife rangers, and non-profit corporations.

Trust volunteers monitor properties as part of stewardship programs, as well as plant trees, fix fences, mow fields, clear brush, pull weeds, and otherwise maintain and restore lands, in addition to providing office assistance.

The Trust protects open space in a variety of ways including land or fee simple purchase, purchase of development rights or conservation easements, and through gifts or land donations or land sales in exchange for other conservation properties. The Trust works with a variety of other conservation groups and agencies, and with individual private landowners to do so.

Land Conservation Strategy - 2001

The Skagit Land Trust developed the following land conservation strategy in November 2001 to guide long-term conservation strategies (the strategy is to be updated on an on-going basis):

- **9 critical “values” were identified as deserving protection** - 1) forests, 2) freshwater wetlands, 3) rivers and streams, 4) estuaries and tidelands, 5) rocky shorelines, 6) special species, 7) open space and landscape connectivity, 8) scenic views, and 9) rural landscapes.
- **19 key “landscapes were identified through GIS ranging from** - saltwater islands to the Chuckanut Foothills, Lake Cavanaugh, and the Middle and Upper Skagit River. The landscapes were evaluated and rated according to the condition of, and threat to, the 9 critical values.



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- **6 landscapes were rated high priority** - Middle Skagit, Chuckanut Foothills/Upper Samish, Upper Skagit, Devil’s Mtn/Big Lake, Lower Nookachamps, and Fidalgo Island/Pleasant Ridge though no one area was considered more important than another. The 6 landscapes are the current focus of the Trust’s land

conservation efforts.

- **Other areas in the county** - the Trust will continue to enlarge areas already protected either by Trust or other conservation organizations. The Trust will also continue to respond, as resources permit, to requests from landowners for property protection in other areas of the county.
- **Opportunity assessment** - the Trust uses a second rating procedure to evaluate and assess one potential opportunity against another in order to determine which opportunities to pursue with limited resources.

Evaluation policies

In November 2003 the Trust adopted the following criteria to guide rather than limit the actions of the Trust. The criteria are intended to provide guidance regarding the suitability of proposed projects to the mission and goals of the Trust. The criteria must typically be met for the Trust to consider a property for acquisition as a conservation property, though the Board will consider potential acquisitions not meeting the criteria on a case-by-case basis. The Trust encourages gifts of lands that lack conservation values for resale to generate funds to support the Trust’s mission – these criteria are not appropriate for lands acquired for unrestricted resale.

A. Purpose and goals criteria

To qualify for selection, property should meet all of the following applicable elements:

- (1) The property is located in Skagit County. Acquisitions may be made in Whatcom, Island, and Snohomish Counties if, after consultation with the appropriate land-conservation groups in those counties, it is agreeable with the landowner and the Trust Board deems it appropriate.
- (2) Protection of the property will conserve wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and forest lands, scenic vies, open space or shorelines.
- (3) The property is in relatively undisturbed natural condition or has potentially important conservation values that can be restored.
- (4) The property is of sufficient size that its conservation values are likely to remain intact, even if adjacent property is

developed, or sufficient neighboring property is protected, or is likely to be protected in the near future.

Or

Properties within an urban/urban growth area (UGA) should be considered that have intrinsic natural, scenic, and/or open space values and/or provide connections to existing or planned trails, open space, parks, and other public facilities. These lands will: 1) meet the mission of the Trust, 2) enhance community awareness of the Trust, and 3) provide a public benefit.

In addition, a parcel of land within an urban/urban growth area (UGA) should meet several of the following criteria:

- Allow for public access
- Is consistent with approved public programs and plans
- Protects natural, scenic, and open space values
- Provides for outdoor recreation opportunities
- Provides for outdoor education and interpretive opportunities
- Contains unique features or values within the local or regional landscape
- Preserves or provides for the opportunity to restore local or regional landscape processes
- Will protect a valued parcel of land from an existing or likely threat
- Potential partners and stewards are willing to participate in the management of the parcel

For Conservation Easements only:

- (5) The donor is willing to convey a Conservation Easement on the property through a legally binding agreement that is perpetual and enforceable.
- (6) The proposed acquisition meets the conditions of the Trust's Stewardship Endowment Policy.

B. Public Benefit Criteria

To qualify for selection, a property must meet one or more of these elements:

- (1) It provides habitat for plant or animal species classified by the Federal government as sensitive, candidate, proposed, or listed as threatened or endangered; or state listed priority habitats and species.
- (2) It provides crucial habitat for other important native plants or animals.

- (3) It contains or has the potential to contain ecosystems of educational or scientific value.
- (4) It contains wetlands, floodplains, riparian corridors, or aquifer recharge areas which provide watershed and water quality protection benefits for community water supplies or wetlands habitat.
- (5) It buffers significant wildlife habitat from residential, commercial or industrial land uses.
- (6) It buffers or enhances adjacent existing preserves or recreation areas.
- (7) It provides a corridor that connects parcels with significant wildlife values to other parcels with like conservation value.
- (8) It connects parcels of land or eliminates in-holdings in areas protected for conservation by the Trust of other organizations.
- (9) It protects scenic views that can be seen from public roadways, waterways, or recreation areas.
- (10) It protects significant forest or farmland.
- (11) It contains saltwater shorelines.
- (12) It contains unique or outstanding physical/geologic characteristics.

C. Disqualifying criteria

A property may pass the Purpose and Goals Criteria and the Public Benefit Criteria and still may not be appropriate for Trust involvement. Any one of the following elements would normally ***disqualify*** proposed acquisition.

- (1) The property's values are primarily scenic but are not readily visible or accessible to the general public.
- (2) The property is small and there is little likelihood of adjacent properties being protected.
- (3) The area proposed for protection is part of a development proposal that would, on



- aggregate, significantly degrade conservation value of the land.
- (4) Adjacent properties are being, or are likely to be developed in a manner that would significantly reduce the conservation value of the proposal under consideration.
 - (5) The land or Conservation Easement would likely be unusually difficult to manage or enforce, due to such things as multiple or fractured ownership, boundary disputes, destructive trespassing, fencing restrictions, irregular parcel configuration or difficult access.
 - (6) The landowner insists on provision in a Conservation Easement that the Trust believes would seriously diminish the conservation value of the easement or the Trust's ability to enforce the easement.
 - (7) Acquisition of land or an easement would require unreasonable management or enforcement costs in relation to the conservation value of the land.
 - (8) The property is found to be irreparably damaged or contaminated.
 - (9) Negative ethical or public perceptions exist in connection with the proposal that cannot be adequately resolved.
 - (10) Property may create significant liability to the trust.

Conservation easements

A conservation easement is a recorded, legal agreement between the landowner and the Trust that places perpetual restrictions on the use of the land. The Trust is responsible for enforcing such



restrictions into perpetuity.

Conservation easements range from restrictions limiting residential or commercial use of the land to those that state the land will remain forever wild.

The title stays in the landowner's name and the land may be used as before, leased, sold, or passed along to the landowner's heirs; always, however, subject to the restrictions of the easement.

- Most conservation easements are voluntary donations benefiting the public by protecting valuable land. The value of the restrictions may be considered a charitable gift.
- Each easement is specifically tailored to the needs and desires of the landowner and to protect the identified conservation values of the land.
- Easements are recorded with the title to the land ensuring protection forever.
- The long-term role of the Trust is to assume responsibility and legal right, through a Stewardship Fund, to enforce the terms of the agreement. The Trust usually asks for a tax-deductible contribution from the easement donor to offset the cost of future stewardship expenses.
- The property remains in private ownership, and subject to the conditions of the easement, may be used as before, leased, sold, or passed onto heirs.
- An easement does not grant public access to the property unless agreed to by the owner. *Generally, the Trust tries to keep properties open to the public if possible even though that costs more to monitor and maintain – unless the nature of the property is too sensitive to allow access.*

Cooperative efforts

The Trust teamed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to work with landowners with important salmon habitat in the upper Skagit River area. TNC received a grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to identify and purchase high priority salmon habitat from willing sellers. TNC completed a land inventory and assessment identifying the most important habitat areas, but did not have the staff resources or experience with acquisitions and easements to complete the work. The Trust is providing that resource in the cooperative effort.

Assets

Skagit Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization recognized by the IRS. Over 75% of the Trust's operating budget comes from financial contributions of its more than 550 members. As of March 2006, the Trust owned and protected through easements more

than 4,500 acres including more than 18 miles of shoreline worth more than \$3,559,000. Following are current Trust assets:

Protected acres

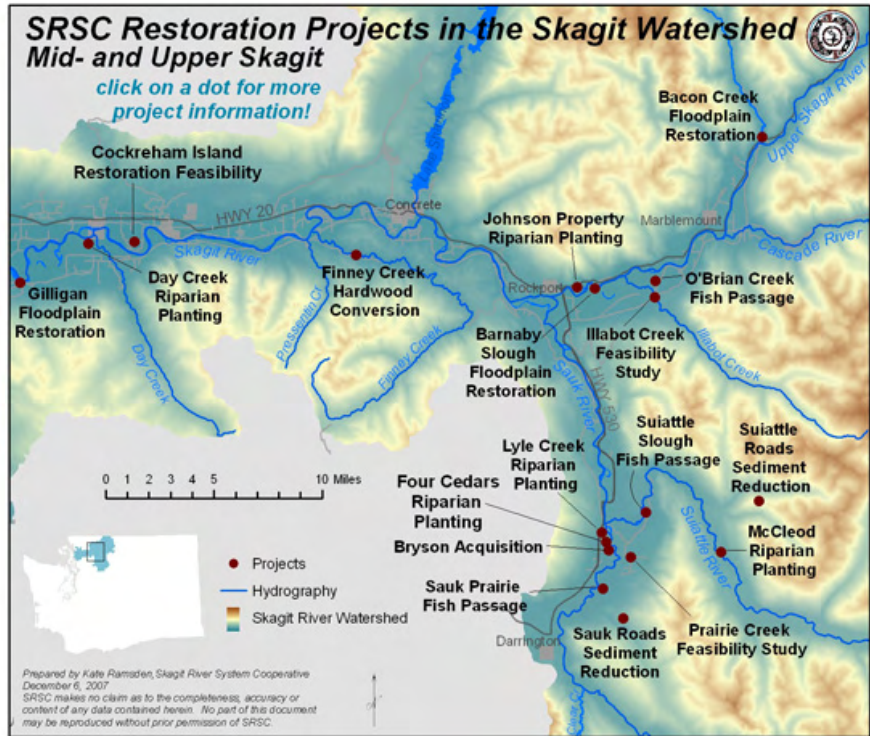
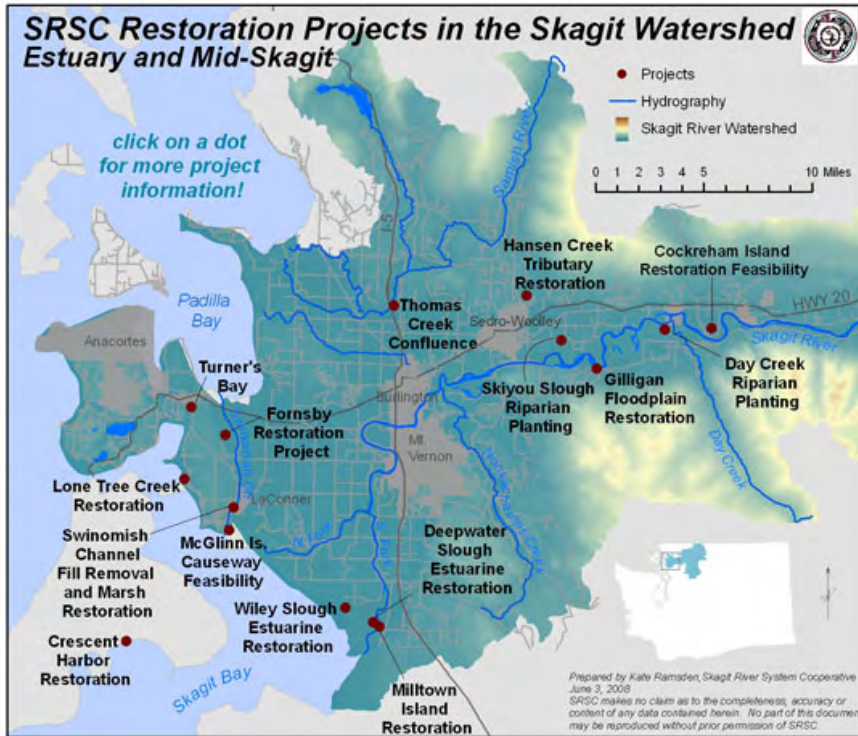
Conservation easements	3,164
Trust-owned lands	849
Trust-assisted projects	1,202

Total protected acres **5,215**

Conservation values protected

Forested habitat	3,390 ac
Agricultural lands	564 ac
Lakes and wetlands	572 ac
Intertidal habitat	532 ac
River shoreline	22 miles
Saltwater shoreline	11,060 lf





B.21: Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) www.skagitcoog.org



The Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) provides natural resource management services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. The SRSC works to actively improve fisheries management within their usual and accustomed fishing areas. These areas include the Skagit and Samish River basins, and were ceded to the US through treaties signed in 1855. Fisheries management carried out by SRSC includes harvest and hatchery management, research, environmental review, habitat restoration, and a range of other activities.

The SRSC is governed by a 6-member Board of Directors 3 of which are appointed by the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe and 3 by the Swinomish Tribe. The

Board elects a member to hold the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Board ensures SRSC follows and adheres to goals, policies, and directives of the member tribes.

- SRSC granting agencies include, but are not limited to:
- Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - US Forest Service
 - Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board
 - Washington State Department of Ecology
 - Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Seattle City Light
- Pacific Salmon Commission
- The Nature Conservancy

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services program at SRSC provides environmental review of activities authorized by local, state, and federal permits that may affect fisheries habitat. Review of off-reservation permits ensures that fish habitat is protected in project designs. Environmental Services staff works with project proponents through permit processes with specific review of project design elements to protect fish and shellfish habitat.

Environmental Services staff also work with local, state, and federal governments on projects undertaken that may affect fish habitat such as roads, bridges, and levees. Program staff work with utilities that operate hydroelectric dams in the Skagit River Basin to implement their Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) licenses and multi-party Settlement Agreements arrived at through FERC relicensing processes to reduce the impact of large hydroelectric dams on fish and fish habitat.

Salmon Recovery

The Salmon Recovery program at SRSC provides the technical analysis for tribal and state fisheries managers to use to negotiate annual salmon fishing plans and long-term salmon recovery and management plans. This is accomplished by developing and negotiating annual forecasted abundances of Skagit River system salmonids.

Salmon Recovery also proposes and oversees the research needed to develop these plans and respond to public misconceptions about Indian fishing.

Research

The Research Department at SRSC works locally and regionally for salmon recovery through rigorously applied research, the Work add to the region's knowledge of salmon, supports the need for habitat restoration, and identifies effective restoration techniques.

Research Department staff collects and analyzes data on fish habitat use, fish response to recovery efforts including habitat restoration, and



linkages between habitat conditions, landscape processes, and land uses. The research efforts are coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as volunteer groups.

A topic of research has been the role of estuaries in recovering the wild Skagit Chinook salmon populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. Chinook populations have declined in part due to estuary habitat loss and degradation, much of it caused by dredging, diking, and shoreline-hardening. Estuaries provide important habitat to feed and protect young salmon from predators. SRSC looks for estuary restoration opportunities in the Skagit River delta and in smaller 'pocket estuaries' located in the Whidbey Basin (the water between the mainland and Whidbey Island, including Possession Sound, Port Susan, Saratoga Passage, and Skagit Bay) and northern Skagit County (Padilla, Samish, and Fidalgo Bays).

Pocket estuaries are heavily used by very young Chinook salmon on the way to the ocean. Research has shown that Skagit delta and pocket estuary habitats are much smaller and more fragmented than historically, which reduces rearing opportunity for salmon.

Restoration

SRSC has a long history of identifying, designing, and implementing projects that strive to recover freshwater and estuarine habitat for salmonids.

The Restoration program's guiding philosophy is focused first on protecting existing functioning ecosystem processes, and second on recovering landscape processes that are not functioning within an expected natural range of variation. The program's habitat restoration approach is firmly committed to implementing the principles of

conservation biology on the landscape scale using both proven and innovative techniques at the site level. SRSC projects have included:

- ***Riparian planting*** – establishing native riparian shrubs and trees to help reduce stream temperature, invasive species, and offer a source of large woody debris in the future.
- ***Dike removal*** – removing selected dikes or portions of dikes to help restore sediment transport processes, and restore natural flow regimes to off-channel habitat.
- ***Road decommissioning and upgrade/culvert and bridge replacement*** – projects help to reduce the risk of mass wasting that inputs sediment into waterways. Culvert upgrade or removal, waterbars, in-sloping, and armoring helps to improve drainage.

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife (TFW)

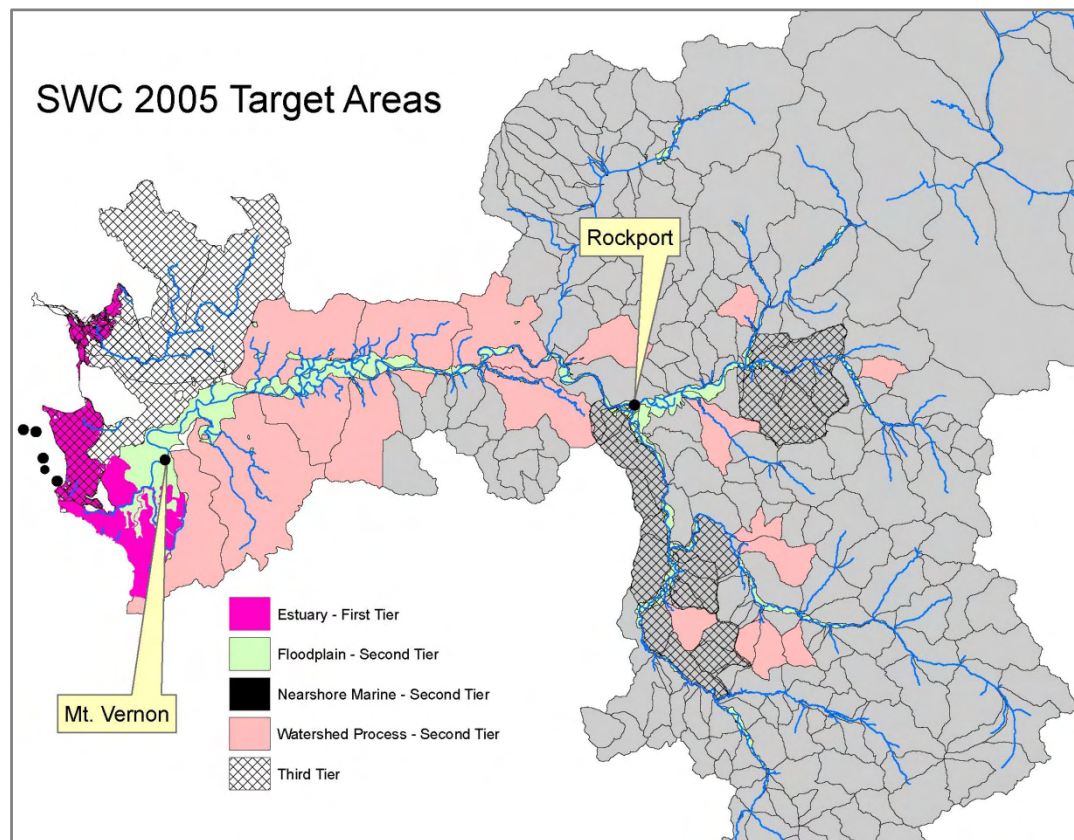
The Timber, Fish, & Wildlife (TFW) program interacts with agencies and forest landowners in the Skagit and Samish River basins to help protect fish and wildlife habitat as well as cultural resources from negative impacts of timber activities. The work is informed by 2 key recognitions:

1. Past timber practices have significantly impacted fish habitat and other resources. Logging and forest road construction have been ongoing for over a century, yet awareness of environmental consequences has only been fully appreciated within the last several decades, during which forest practices and regulations have improved tremendously.

The TFW program strives to ensure that goals of these improvements are met, by providing

- Familiarity with local fisheries resources,
- Technical expertise on relevant watershed processes, and
- Monitoring and applied research.

2. Managed forests, in many cases, contain healthy habitats. Forestry is a less intensive form of land use than agriculture or urban development, and allows many protections as well as decades of inactivity between harvest cycles. SRSC focuses efforts on making sure that high-quality habitats are protected and habitat-forming processes are allowed to continue toward recovery.



B.22: Skagit Watershed Council

www.skagitwatershed.org



The Skagit Watershed Council was formed in 1997 as a community partnership for salmon. The Council supports and endorses voluntary restoration and protection of natural landscape processes that formed and sustained the habitats to which salmon stocks (as well as other native aquatic and riparian dependent species) are adapted. By collaboration, technical assistance, and education, the Council seeks to fulfill the mission of understanding, protecting, and restoring the production and productivity of the Skagit and Samish watersheds in order to support sustainable fisheries.

The Council adopted a 3-point program of restoration, education, and celebration and a defined audience of:

- Member organizations and their constituents;
- Elected and appointed officials,
- Key individuals, and
- The general public.

The Skagit Watershed Council is incorporated in Washington State as a not-for-profit organization and is recognized by the IRS as a publicly supported 501©(3). Governance is through a 7-10-member Board of

Directors who serves 3-year terms. Membership is open to those organizations that support the goals of the Council. Active membership is achieved through regular engagement in the affairs of the Council, at both the committee and Board Levels.

The Skagit Watershed Council is the Designated Lead Entity under Washington State Legislation ESHB 2496, a salmon recovery planning act, and is responsible for submitting a habitat restoration project list to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

The Council's Standing Committees include: Restoration and Protection and its sub-committees Project Review, Combination Project, Protection, feasibility and Monitoring, and Research.

The committees undertake the primary, substantive work of the Council, The Committee Chairperson (or designee) makes committee reports and recommendations regarding specific issue at the regularly scheduled monthly Council meetings. Committee chairs, with the help of staff, ensure that the efforts of their committees are consistent with the mission and goals of the Council.

Membership

The Skagit Watershed Council's current members include:

Fidalgo Fly Fishers
Long Live the Kings
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Cascades Institute
North Cascades National park
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
People for Puget Sound
Public Utility District #1 of Skagit County
Puget Sound Anglers – Fidalgo Chapter
Puget Sound Energy
Seattle City Light
Skagit Audubon Society
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Skagit Land Trust

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Skagit River System Cooperative
Swinomish Tribal Community
The Nature Conservancy
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
WA Department of Ecology
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
WA Department of Natural Resources
Western WA Agricultural Association
Wild Fish Conservancy

Skagit Basin 3-Year Work Plan

The Skagit Basin 3-Year Work Plan identifies a comprehensive list of actions targeted at the recovery of Chinook salmon populations in the Skagit watershed.

The Work Plan and accompanying 3 year list were developed in 2006 by the Skagit Watershed Council, the lead entity, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Skagit River System Cooperative, and Seattle City Light with information provided by The Nature Conservancy, Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Conservation District, Skagit County, US Forest Service, and Western Washington Agricultural Association. The 2007 revision of the Work Plan and List modified only the Habitat Capital Projects section; all other sections remain the same.

The Work Plan takes as its foundation the Skagit Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan, which was developed by the Skagit River System Cooperation (SRSC) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). Additional habitat and research projects, as well as community-building, capacity-building, and outreach programs, have been added. The proposed actions also provide valuable habitat benefits to non-listed species including pink, chum, and coho salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

The fundamental objectives of the Work Plan are to:

- Improve the abundance of those species that are listed under the ESA. This will be achieved by protecting and restoring those areas most important to the survival of these fish during critical periods in their life-history, including migration and foraging habitat in the middle and lower Skagit, and brackish water habitat important to growth and smoltification (i.e., physiological transition from freshwater to

saltwater) provided in the Skagit Delta, Skagit Bay, Swinomish Channel and pocket estuaries.

- Improve the strongest populations of Chinook salmon to sustainable and harvestable numbers.
- Sustain and improve life history variability and genetic diversity of Chinook salmon throughout the watershed. Protecting and restoring rearing habitat in the streams and rivers of the upper watershed areas will improve the abundance of stream-type fish. Restoring a broad range of historically important habitats will improve the life history diversity of Chinook salmon life by providing a wider variety of habitats to these species. Improving habitat diversity is the most important step towards improving life history diversity.
- Develop and implement a set of rapid recovery actions that reduce the extinction risk of the weakest populations in the watershed.
- Build organizational capacity among project sponsoring organizations.
- Develop board-based partnerships and community support for salmon recovery through public outreach and education.
- Improve the watershed's capacity to fund and complete large-scale protection and restoration projects by fostering long-term partnerships among agencies, tribes, conservation groups, and other local stakeholders.
- Support a strong research and monitoring program that will guide the recovery process in the future.
- Implement an adaptive management process that will continually refine and redirect recovery actions.

Recent Skagit Watershed Council SRFB-funding project summary 2000-2003

Only projects on the 3-Year List are funded with Salmon Recovery Funded Board (SRB) monies. The following projects have been funded between 2000-2003 with Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB) monies in accordance with SWC priorities and assessments:

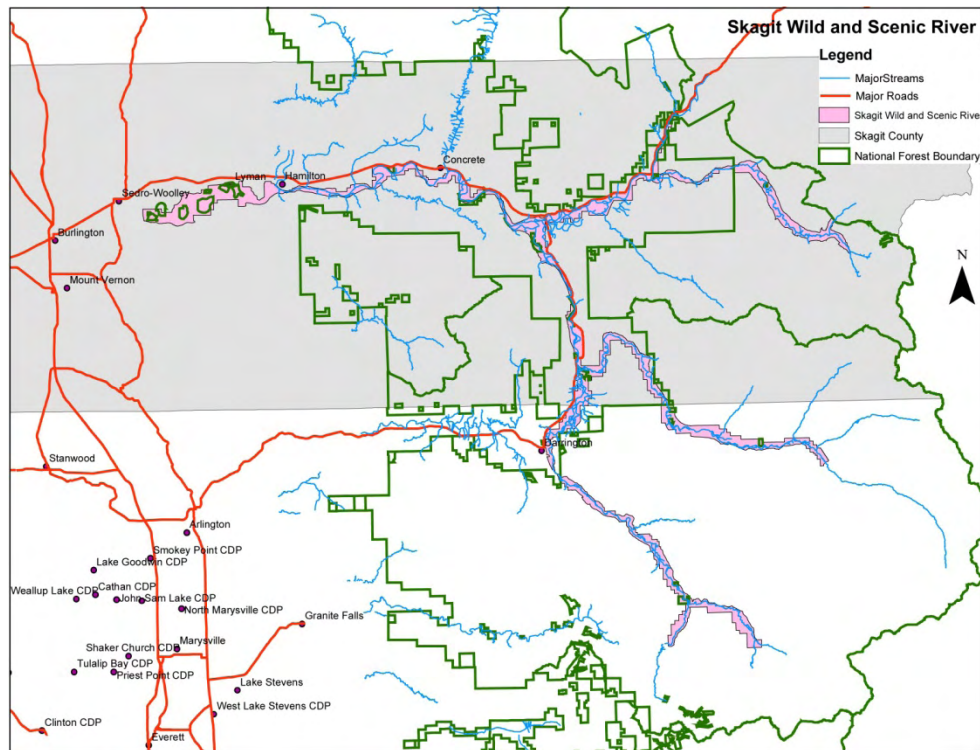
- *Youngs Slough Conservation Easement* - acquisition of permanent conservation easement on 60-acre parcel adjacent to mainstem Skagit River and side-channel habitat sponsored by Skagit Land Trust
- *Dashiell Tract Protection Project* - fee-simple acquisition of parcel adjacent to Sauk River sponsored by The Nature Conservancy
- *Upper Suiattle River Habitat Project* - fee-simple acquisition of 185-acre parcel adjacent to upper Suiattle River sponsored by The Nature Conservancy
- *Nookachamps Riparian Restoration* - riparian restoration at selected locations in Nookachamps basin sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *McElroy Sough Estuary Restoration* - estuarine habitat restoration near Blanchard sponsored by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Guse Acquisition* - fee simple acquisition of 60-acre parcel north of Darrington on the Sauk River sponsored by Seattle City Light
- *Day Creek Acquisition* - fee simple acquisition of 2 parcels (50 acres) adjacent to Day Creek near mainstem Skagit sponsored by Skagit Land Trust
- *Assessing the Willingness of Landowners* - to answer the questions "what is it going to take?" to get landowner participation sponsored by the Skagit Watershed Council
- *Middle Skagit Inventory and Assessment* - identification and analysis of targeted protections projects between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete sponsored by the Skagit Land Trust
- *Bishop Easement and Restoration* - conservation easement and riparian planting on 37-acre parcel adjacent to the middle Skagit sponsored by the Skagit Conservation District
- *Edgewater Park Off-channel Slough Project Study* - study to assess feasibility of side-channel habitat reestablishment at park in Mount Vernon
- *Samish Watershed Riparian* - riparian planting projects in Samish basin based on recent inventory and analysis sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Skiyou Slough Habitat Project* - easement, fee simple acquisition, riparian planting, and fish passage adjacent to and near Skiyou Slough sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Finney Road Phase I Erosion Control* - road upgrades in upper Finney Creek basin sponsored by Skagit Conservation District

- *Nookachamps Restoration Phase II* - riparian planting projects based on inventories area in Nookachamps basin sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Samish Acquisition and Restoration* - easements and riparian planning on 3 parcels (80 acres) adjacent Samish River sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Daniels Acquisition and Restoration* - fee simple acquisition and riparian planting on 85-acre parcel adjacent to Samish River sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Neff Acquisition and Restoration* - acquisitions and riparian/wetland planting on 132-acre parcel adjacent to Samish River sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Wiseman Creek Feasibility Study* - study to assess feasibility of restoration options for degraded Wiseman Creek sponsored by Skagit County
- *Lake Creek Fish Passage* - fish passage to large wetland and tributary to Lake Creek sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Lorenzan Creek Fish Passage* - fish passage to Lorenzan Creek and wetland area near Concrete sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Spartina Management* - removal of invasive species Spartina in Skagit Bay sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Deepwater Slough Invasive Species Removal* - removal of invasive species (blackberry, knotweed) and planting at Deepwater sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Boyd Pond Fish Passage* - fish passage to large pond and small tributaries near Suak River near Darrington sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Shoeshell Road Fish Passage* - fish passage on creek below Bottomless Lake near Sedro-Woolley sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Finney Roads Phase II Sediment Reduction* - road improvements in Finney Creek basin for sediment reduction sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Sauk Sediment Reduction* - road improvements in Sauk Prairie and Dan Creek basins for sediment reduction sponsored by SSC
- *Illabot Alluvial Fan Project Assessment and Feasibility Study* - feasibility study to assess restoration alternatives at Illabot Creek alluvial fan area sponsored by SSC

- *Goodman Road Erosion Control* - road improvements in Dutch Creek area in upper Sauk for sediment reduction sponsored by Skagit Conservation District
- *Middle Skagit Habitat Protection* - acquisition and conservation easements on targeted parcels for permanent protection in middle Skagit (approximately from Sedro-Woolley to Concrete). Priority parcels were identified through Middle Skagit Inventory and Assessment sponsored by Skagit Land Trust
- *Marblegate Slough Floodplain and Passage Improvement* - construct bridge to replace undersized culvert on Marblegate Slough in upper Skagit near Marblemount sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Powerline Channel* - construct and reconnect off-channel habitat in upper Skagit near Illabot Creek sponsored by Skagit Conservation League (SCL)
- *Lower Day Creek Feasibility Study* - feasibility study to assess restoration alternatives in lower Day Creek area sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Upper Skagit Assessment and Acquisition* - acquisition and conservation easements on targeted parcels for permanent protection in upper Skagit sponsored by The Nature Conservancy
- *Prairie Creek Assessment and Feasibility Study* - feasibility study to assess restoration alternatives in Prairie Creek area in upper Sauk sponsored by SSC
- *Lower Finney Creek Instream enhancement* - strategic placement of LWD in section of Finney Creek to improve water quality conditions, channel morphology, and riparian conditions sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Verdoes Reach Restoration* - restoration of degraded section of East Fork Nookachamps and riparian zone sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- *Big Bend Reach Habitat Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study* - feasibility study to assess restoration alternative in section of Skagit River from the Nookachamps to the north and south forks of the river at Fir Island sponsored by the city of Mount Vernon
- *Hart Slough Easements* - permanent conservation easements on about 450 acres adjacent to Hart Slough in middle Skagit sponsored by Skagit County
- *Wiley Slough Restoration Design* - develop 90% design for restoration of tidal and riverine processes at Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife land sponsored by Department of Fish & Wildlife and SWC

- *Vandersar Restoration* - restoration of riparian and wetland vegetation and fish passage in Ross Island Slough area sponsored by Seattle City Light
- *South Fork Levee Setback Acquisitions and Restoration* - acquisition and restoration of 37-acre area of off-channel/wetland and riparian habitat adjacent to mainstem Skagit near Conway sponsored by Skagit County Dike District #3
- *Edgewater Park Off-channel Restoration* - restoration of off-channel Skagit River habitat at park in Mount Vernon sponsored by city of Mount Vernon
- *Fornsby Creek SRT* - reconnection about 5 miles of fish habitat adjacent to Swinomish Channel and restore riparian vegetation to about 1.3 miles of habitat sponsored by Swinomish Tribal Community
- *Minkler Lake Acquisition* - acquire about 107 acres in middle Skagit River floodplain adjacent to Minkler Lake sponsored by Skagit Land Trust

Approximately 41% of Skagit Watershed Council funded projects were for protection, 36% for restoration, 17% a combination of protection and restoration, and 6% for feasibility studies.



B.23: Skagit Wild & Scenic River System

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/skagit-wsr



The Skagit Wild & Scenic River System (SWSRS) was established by Congress in 1978. The system includes 158.5 miles of the Skagit and its tributaries – the Sauk, Suiattle, and Cascade Rivers. Management of the SWSRS is consistent with the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act Section 10(a) direction to protect and enhance the values that caused the SWSRS to be included in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System:

- Free-flowing characteristics and water quality of the 4 rivers; and
- Outstanding remarkable wildlife, fish, and scenic qualities.

The SWSRS flows through a variety of land ownerships of which 50% is privately owned, 44% is National Forest System lands, and 6% is state

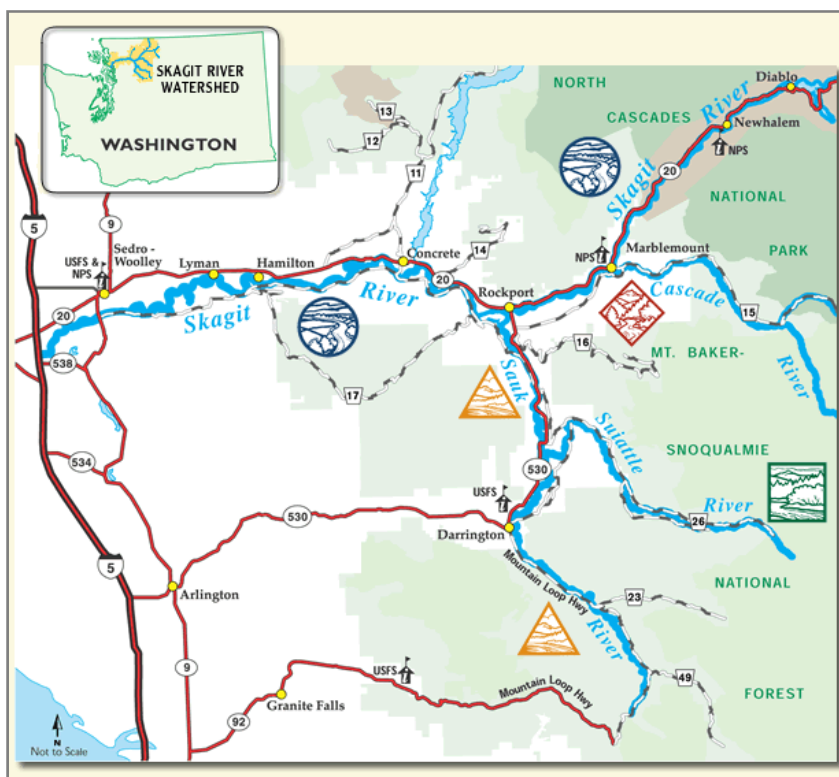
and other public agency ownership. The SWSRS is managed by the US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The SWSRS begins at Bacon Creek near the boundary of the Ross Lake National Recreation Area (RLNRA) in the North Cascade National Park Service complex and extends just east of Sedro-Woolley at the PUD pipeline crossing. Segments of the Sauk, Suiattle, and Cascade Rivers are included in the SWSRS.

The Cascade River segment - is 21.8 miles long, from its confluence with the Skagit River near Marblemount east to the forks: the North Fork (1 mile) to the boundary of the North Cascades National Park, and the South Fork to the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

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Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan



The Sauk River segment - is 50.8 miles long, from its confluence with the Skagit River near Rockport, south to and including the North Fork to the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and the South Fork as far as Elliot Creek.

The Suiattle River segment - is 27.4 miles long, from its confluence with the Sauk north to Darrington, east to the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area at Milk Creek.

SWSRS Facts

- SWSRS corridor is generally 0.25 miles wide.
- The 58.5 miles of the Skagit River are classified Recreational, 100 miles of the Sauk, Suiattle, and Cascade Rivers are classified Scenic.
- The Skagit is the largest river in the Puget Sound Basin.

- 3 special bird species visit the river system each year - the trumpeter and tundra swan, and the majestic bald eagle.
- 5 salmon species are found in SWSRS: chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye.
- 4 Native American tribes live on the SWSRS: the Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, Samish, and Swinomish.
- 10,000,000,000 gallons of water drain every day from over 2,900 streams in the Skagit River watershed making it the largest watershed in the Puget Sound Basin, providing over 20% of the water flowing into Puget Sound. Only the Columbia and Sacramento Rivers are larger on the west coast of the US.
- Mount Baker has an elevation of 10,773 feet, Glacier Peak is 10,541 feet - both are heavily glaciated.
- The entire watershed of the Skagit River Basin covers 3,100 square miles, the Cascade River covers 185, the Sauk-Suiattle River covers 732, the Baker covers 297, and the Skagit covers 1,306.
- 376 lakes and 11 reservoirs are scattered amongst the glaciers and rocky peaks of the Skagit River watershed.
- 394 glaciers feed the entire SWSRS - 177 glaciers feed the upper Skagit, 5 feed the lower Skagit. 57 glaciers flow into the Cascade, 96 drain the Sauk-Suiattle, and 63 feed the Baker River.
- The Sauk-Suiattle used to drain into the Sound by way of the Stillaguamish River until a large mudflow from Glacier Peak blocked the Sauk near Darrington forcing the river to flow north into the Skagit.
- The Skagit watershed is home to 276 wildlife species, 25 fish, 17 amphibians, 10 reptiles, 73 mammals, and 174 birds.

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

In 1968 Congress passed the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act to preserve forever in a free-flowing condition some of the nation's most precious rivers. To qualify, rivers or sections of rivers must be free-flowing and possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable value" such as scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar feature. Congress or the Secretary of the Interior may add rivers to the growing national system.

Rivers in the National System are classified as wild, scenic or recreational, reflecting levels of development and natural conditions. Regardless of their formal classification, these rivers are generally referred to as "wild and scenic rivers". Each river is administered to protect and enhance its free-flowing characteristics, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. The Act's underlying principles are:

- Keep designated rivers free-flowing,
- Protecting outstanding natural and cultural values,
- Allow existing uses of rivers to continue where they do not conflict with river protection,
- Build partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and other levels of government.

The Act may also:

- Improve understanding of river values and processes.
- Deepen the awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of river conservation.

Development has increased significantly since the Skagit was designated in 1978. The convergence of abundant natural resources and increasing demands on those resources creates an environment that is on the one hand passionately prized, and on the other hand threatened.

This climate and the SWSRS designation have provided abundant opportunities for working in partnerships at the watershed scale to fulfill river stewardship responsibilities. Some of the many aspects on SWSRS management are:

- Involvement in basin-wide watershed restoration and protection
- Monitoring of natural and cultural resources and public use
- Management and recovery of threatened and endangered species
- Limited capacity to meet demand for community education and outreach
- Public concern with floodplain management, flood damage, and control
- Increasing demand for recreation opportunities, access, and visitor services and facilities
- Demand for hydropower production
- Need for infrastructure protection

Forest Service involvement – the Forest Service does not have authority to regulate the use of private lands within the SWSRS. As the lands were prior to



designation, nonfederal lands remain subject to state and county laws and regulations.

The Forest Service is only involved in projects on private lands when the proposal is in the river's bed or its banks and is assisted by another federal agency (e.g. technical assistance, funding, or permitting). The Forest Service may also be involved in nonfederally assisted project proposals in the river's bend or its banks or in upland activities (e.g. timber harvesting) if the Service is requested to provide advice to another agency.

The role of the Forest Service on nonfederal lands is to monitor activities within the river corridor and, for any proposed activity that is likely to have adverse impacts on the values of the river system, to work cooperatively with state and local agencies, and landowner(s) to resolve. The Forest Service may provide technical assistance to find ways to alleviate or mitigate the potential threat. If state, county, and local laws and regulations and/or technical assistance fail to protect river values, the Forest Service has the authority for limited purchase of private lands from willing sellers in fee title or a scenic or access easement.





B.24: Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland (SPF)

www.skagitonians.org



Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland (SPF) is a membership-based 501©(3) non-profit organization formed in 1989 by local farmers dedicated to preserving Skagit County's farmers, farming, and farmland. SPF focuses on protecting farmland from competing uses and enhancing the economic viability of farming itself. SPF supports wildlife, fish, water, and land conservation efforts, and builds strategic alliances.

SPF presumes a healthy Skagit Valley agricultural community depends on 4 elements:

- Farmland protection
- Economic viability
- Agricultural infrastructure
- Community support

Cooperation between farm organizations, governmental entities, environmental organizations, and the real estate industry is essential to the long-term success of farming in the Skagit Valley.

SPF Strategic Plan 2005-2010

SPF's mission - is to ensure the economic viability of Skagit County agriculture and its required infrastructure through farmland protection, advocacy, research, education, and public awareness.



SPF values

SPF endeavors are guided by the following 6 principles:

- **Stewardship of the land** – protecting farmland benefits for everyone by leading efforts to protect and

enhance farming and farmlands. SPF supports wildlife, fish, water, and land conservation efforts with a focus on protecting farming from competing uses.

- **Strategic and collaborative leadership** – working with community leaders and policy makers at the local, state, and national levels to demonstrate the importance of building strategic alliances.
- **Responsive, responsible, and persistent** – for the community’s heritage and quality of life for this and future generations.
- **Financial prudent** – conducting business with integrity and fiscal responsibility.
- **Community based, civic minded, and visible** – actively participating in local land use planning processes and in community events to ensure the success of the SPF mission.
- **Economic viability and quality of life** – working for a healthy community that supports farmers as responsible stewards of the land.

SPF goals and objectives

SPF’s goals are to preserve Skagit Valley as a working agricultural region and landscape by protecting farmland through acquisition of permanent property restrictions and by defending farming as an economically viable way of life. SPF seeks to ensure that Skagit farming remains a permanent part of the region’s identity for the benefit of:

- **Local stewards and residents** - whose livelihoods depend on the land
- **Puget Sound citizens and visitors** - who enjoy the natural beauty of a pastoral landscape
- **Waterfowl, raptors, salmon, and other wildlife** - that depend on the managed farm landscape as habitat

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To assure the long-term protection of this regional asset, SPF has operated since 1992 as a land trust, as an advocate for farmland protection, and as an education and community-building organization.

As a Land Trust - SPF’s vision is to permanently secure the critical mass of farmland in the Skagit Valley. The most cost effective way to protect farmland is to acquire rights for development (by purchase or donation) from willing landowners before the properties become too expensive for farming uses. Conservation easements restrict use of the land for farming, in perpetuity.

As an advocate for Skagit farming - SPF participates in maintaining and creating policies at the local, state, and federal level that presume a future for farming; works to implement programs to protect farmland; and creates partnerships for land protection with other conservation organizations, such as Skagit Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, American Farmland Trust, and The Nature Conservancy. SPF is also a key participant in the Skagit Watershed Council.

As a community-building organization – SPF sponsors community education, annual cultural and recreational events (Celebrate Skagit Harvest), informs the public about farmland issues, and builds community support in the Skagit Valley and throughout Puget Sound for Skagit farmland protection.

Farmland Legacy - SPF, using the results of an Elway Research poll commissioned by SPF and the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC), helped convince Skagit County Commissioners to impose a property tax levy to establish

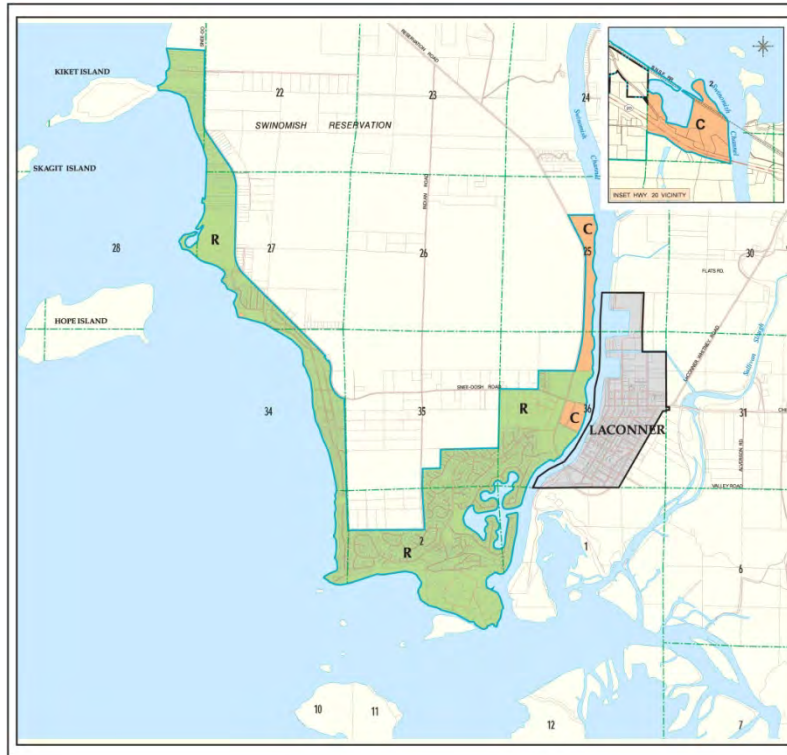


Conservation Futures and the Farmland Legacy program that purchases development rights from willing farmers.

2002 farmland easements

	<i>easements</i>	<i>acres</i>
SPF	10	324
Conservation Futures	36	3,060
Skagit Land Trust	9	79
<i>Total</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>3,463</i>





B.25: Swinomish Nation

www.swinomish.org



The Swinomish were closely related to the Skagit tribe but were a separate people and inhabited portions of northern Whidbey Island and all of the islands in Similk Bay and northern Skagit Bay including Hope, Skagit,

Kiket, Goat, and Ika, as well as Smith Island on the west coast of Whidbey and Hat Island in Padilla Bay. A small related band, the Squinomishes occupied the mouth, estuary, and delta of the Skagit River on the north, forming a buffer between the Swinomishes and the Lower Skagits. The Swinomish spoke the northern Lushutseed dialect of Coastal Salish.

The Swinomish were a marine-oriented people collected as much as 70% of their subsistence from salmon and other fish and marine life. They also gathered berries, and after contact with white fur traders, raised potatoes.

The Swinomish maintained permanent villages composed of longhouses built of cedar planks during winter months. During other seasons, they roamed to outlying fishing and camping sites of various degrees of permanency. The more-or-less contiguous Swinomish villages were relatively independent of each other composed of several families under leaders whose positions were determined by material wealth and standing. None of the leaders had complete control over all of the villages. Potlatch and other ceremonies established social standing and helped maintain social contacts among the villages.

Epidemics in the 1800s seriously reduced the Swinomish populations by as much as 80% in some areas. In 1855 territorial representatives estimated the Swinomish numbered between 150 and 200 people.

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Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

The Swinomish today

The Swinomish Tribal Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and a sovereign nation. The enrolled membership is about 778 and the Indian population living on or near the reservation are approximately 1,000. The executive governing body is the 11-member Swinomish Indian Senate, whose members are elected to 5-year terms.

The Tribe is the principal employer on the reservation, with 175 full time equivalent employees providing the following services:

- Swinomish Office of Planning & Community Development
- Fish rearing and hatchery facility
- Fish processing plant
- Tribal water system
- Police department in cooperation with the Skagit County Sheriff's Department
- Swinomish Northern Lights Casino and concessions
- Social services
- Housing and utility authority
- Northwest Indian College work training program
- Swinomish Tribal Health Center

The Swinomish urban growth area (UGA) population (which includes the Shelter Bay residential community on reservation leased land) was 2,664 in 2000 and is projected to grow to 3,650 by the year 2025.

Swinomish Water Resources Program

The Swinomish Water Resources Program is administered by the Swinomish Office of Planning & Community Development and committed to environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement in order to protect human health and welfare, and the environment.

Water quality monitoring is part of the integrated, Reservation-wide environmental protection effort.

Regulated waters of the reservation support the production, preservation, and enhancement of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic resources. Regulations and enhancement programs aim to increase water quality and quantity that will improve natural fish and shellfish populations and the aquatic resources upon which they depend.

Some of the Tribe's recent water quality improvement and habitat restoration projects include:

- *Fornsby Creek Restoration* – to install self-regulating tidegates and reintroduce saltwater into former estuarine wetlands,
- *Lone Tree Creek Restoration Project* – to remove 2 blocking culverts and replace with a footbridge and arched culvert, and
- *Lone Tree Creek Water Quality Improvement Project* – to study the Lone Creek watershed to determine pollution sources and reduce the pollution by designing an in-channel treatment in conjunction with channel restoration.

The Tribe also works with the Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) on fisheries management and natural resource services, and other agencies in Skagit County on restoration and enhancement projects.

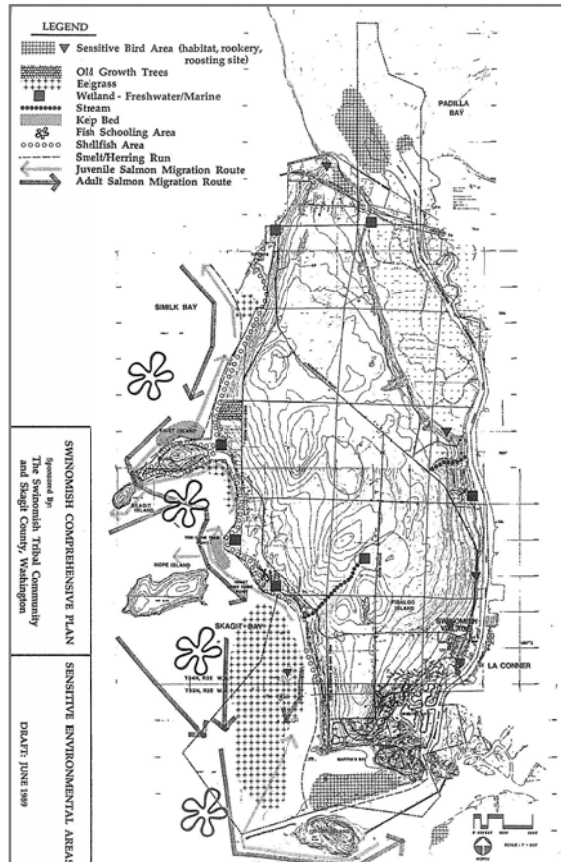
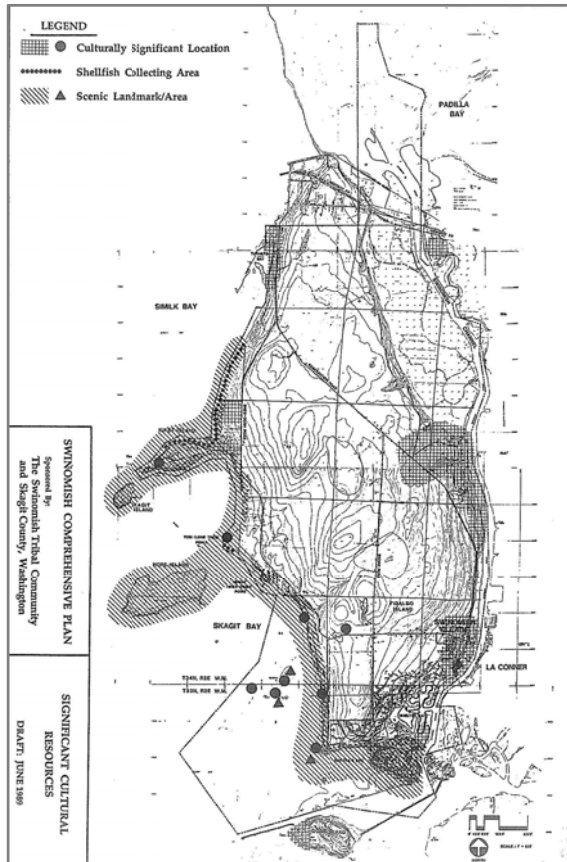
Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails

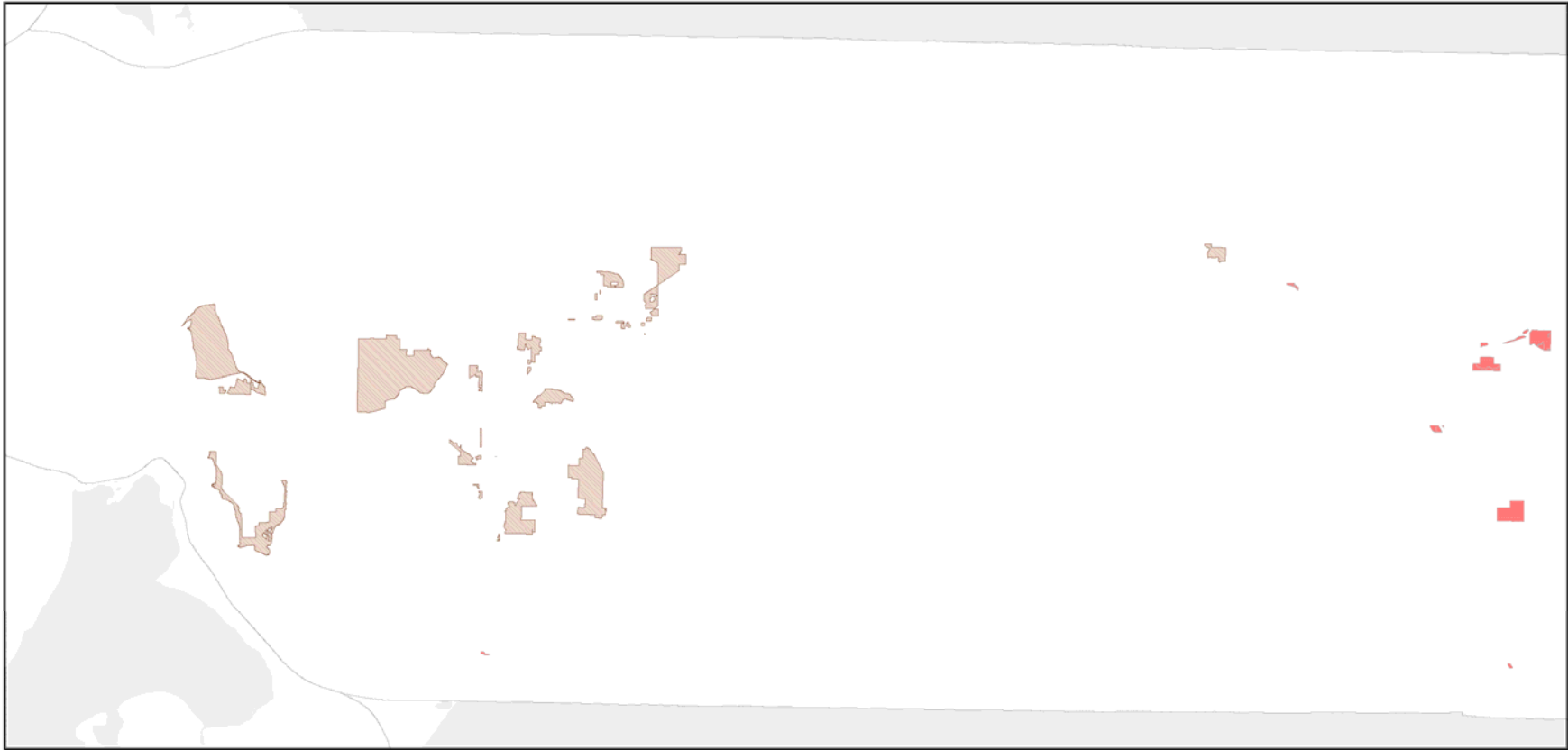
The Swinomish's UGA is defined on the east by the Swinomish Channel, on the south by Skagit Bay, Saratoga Passage, and Kiket Island, and on the northeast by forest resource zoned lands.

Skagit Bay shoreline below Eagle Crest and north of the Swinomish Channel jetty create a sandy and gravel beach under the high bank waterfront during low tides from the jetty through Shelter Bay's Martha Beach to the point of Pull & Be Damned Road along the southern boundary of the UGA. The beach shoreline extends north in Saratoga Passage under mostly high bank waterfront around Hope Island to Kiket Island Road.

The Swinomish Channel defines the east edge of the Swinomish UGA through Shelter Bay marina, which is bordered by residential development on filled lands, the Tribal fish processing plant and marina, log sorting yard, and scattered rural residential developments.

- *The Swinomish Channel Trail proposal* – could be extended from Pioneer Park in La Conner across the channel on Rainbow Bridge and then through Shelter Bay on Shelter Bay Drive to Martha's Beach, and on Reservation Road through the village to access the Tribe's community center, longhouse, and public facilities. The trail could extend back to the channel shoreline on the former Morris Road alignment to the original swing bridge.





B.26: The Nature Conservancy – Washington www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/washington



The Nature Conservancy’s mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

- Since the Conservancy’s founding in 1951, the organization has:
- protected more than 117,000,000 acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide – and operated more than 100 marine conservation projects globally,
 - attracted more than 1,000,000 members,
 - worked in all 50 states and more than 30 countries, and

- addressed threats to conservation involving climate change, fire, fresh water, forests, invasive species, and marine ecosystems.

The Conservancy’s biodiversity approach to conservation has caused the organization to focus on large scale projects and work in partnerships with publicly owned natural areas and working lands.

Core concepts

Ecoregions – are large units of land and water typically defined by climate, geology, topography, and associations of plants and animals – like the Skagit Watershed. Ecoregions, not political

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boundaries, provide the framework for capturing ecological and genetic variation in biodiversity across a full range of environmental gradients.

Conservation by Design

The Conservancy developed a strategic, science-based planning process called Conservation by Design that helps the organization identify the highest-priority places – landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term.



The Conservation by Design concept is relatively straight-forward – set priorities through ecoregional planning and global habitat assessments, develop strategies as multiple scales to address ecoregional priorities and global threats, take direct conservation action, and measure conservation results.

Priorities – are set through global major habitat type assessments and through ecoregional planning. Scientific assessments of major habitat types examine the 30+ major habitat types and establish priorities for conservation at a global scale. Assessments examine biodiversity richness and threats to biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Conservancy also designs portfolios of conservation areas within and across ecoregions. Ecoregional portfolios represent the full distribution and diversity of native species, natural communities, and ecosystems.

Designing ecoregion-based portfolios is an iterative process based on 5 steps:

- Identify the species, communities, and ecosystems in an ecoregion,
- Set specific goals for the number and distribution of these conservation targets to be captured in the portfolio,
- Assemble information and relevant data on the location and quality of conservation targets,
- Design a network of conservation areas that most effectively meets the goals, and

- Identify the highest priority conservations areas wide-ranging targets and pervasive threats for conservation action.

Strategies - are developed with other organizations to meet the goals and priorities considering ecological and critical threats as well as the social, political, and economic conditions in play. The objective is to create solutions that meet the needs of species and ecosystems as well as people.

Actions - are varied, but typically include:

- Investing in science to inform decision-making,
- Protecting and managing land and waters,
- Forging strategic alliances with groups from other sectors,
- Creating and maintaining supportive public policies, practices, and incentives,
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of governments and non-governmental organizations to achieve conservation results,
- Developing and demonstrating innovative conservation approaches,
- Building an ethic and support for biodiversity conservation, such as community restoration projects,
- Generating private and public funding, including debt-for-nature swaps

Success - is measured by how well the biodiversity the maintenance of viable biodiversity, the abatement of critical threats, and effective protection and management of places where action is taken with partners. The results of the measurements are used to guide management actions, resource allocations, and future investments.

In addition to assessing the Conservancy’s conservation impact, the organization also measures its organizational performance including:

- The number of landscapes where the Conservancy is directly engaged,
- The number of other areas where the Conservancy is working to ensure conservation,
- Membership,
- Private fund-raising growth, and
- Public dollars secured for conservation areas.

Conservation methods – private lands conservation

The Conservancy works with landowners, communities, cooperatives, and businesses to establish local groups that can protect land using land trusts, conservation easements, private reserves, and incentives.

Conservation buyers - in recent years, the Conservancy has begun working with private, conservation-minded individuals, or “conservation buyers”, interested in acquiring and protecting ecologically-valuable lands. The Conservancy identifies and purchases target properties within priority conservation areas, or in zones that buffer and surround core natural areas. The Conservancy then widely and publicly markets the property, seeking a buyer committed to protecting the property’s important natural values and willing to ensure the land’s long-term conservation by placing a conservation easement on the land. The value of the land before and after the conservation easement restrictions is established by professional, independent appraisals. The Conservancy prohibits sales of conservation lands to any related parties.

Washington State

In Washington State, the Conservancy is actively working to safeguard 6 landscapes including the Skagit River & Delta, Port Susan Bay, Moses Coulee & Beezley Hills, Ellsworth Cree, South Puget Sound Prairies, and the Tieton River Canyon.

The Conservancy has been working in the Skagit River basin for the past 30 years or since 1976. What started as an eagle sanctuary



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Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

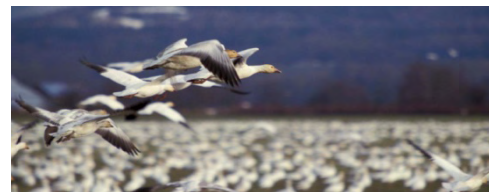
evolved into a watershed-wide, seas-to-summit program with a vision to safeguard an entire watershed and coastal ecosystem in a way where humans and natural communities can thrive.

According to the Conservancy, the Skagit’s salmon runs are the healthiest south of Canada and essential to the watershed’s vitality. The salmon nourish hundreds of wintering bald eagles and dozens of other fish and wildlife species, including the next generation of salmon. Mudflats, estuaries, and brackish marshes in the greater Skagit Delta draw tens of thousands of Wrangell Island snow geese each winter, along with trumpeter swans, black brants, green-winged teals, long-billed dowitchers, and countless other shorebirds. As many as 800 raptors, including the endangered peregrine falcon, also descend on the delta.

Upper Skagit - the Conservancy buys land from willing sellers, whenever that is the most effective strategy to advance the ecological health of the region. Recent acquisitions include 67 acres on the Sauk River that is interconnected with protected areas already owned by Seattle City Light, Washington State DNR, and the Conservancy that contain spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and trout, as well as wintering grounds for bald eagles. However, the Conservancy also recognizes that privately owned, working lands – farms, ranches, forests, also play a key role in ensuring the health and diversity of this ecosystem.

The Conservancy is also involved with more than 100 local landowners over the past 4 years to eliminate patches of knotweed along dozens of miles of the Sauk and upper Skagit Rivers. And, the Conservancy is lending expertise in a collaborative process with some 30 other partners to inform and agreement to improve water flows on the lower 55 miles of the Skagit River.

Skagit Delta - the Conservancy is also focused on the Skagit Delta and recently began an innovative “Farming for Wildlife” program that will test new treatments for farmlands of benefit to farmers



and shorebirds.

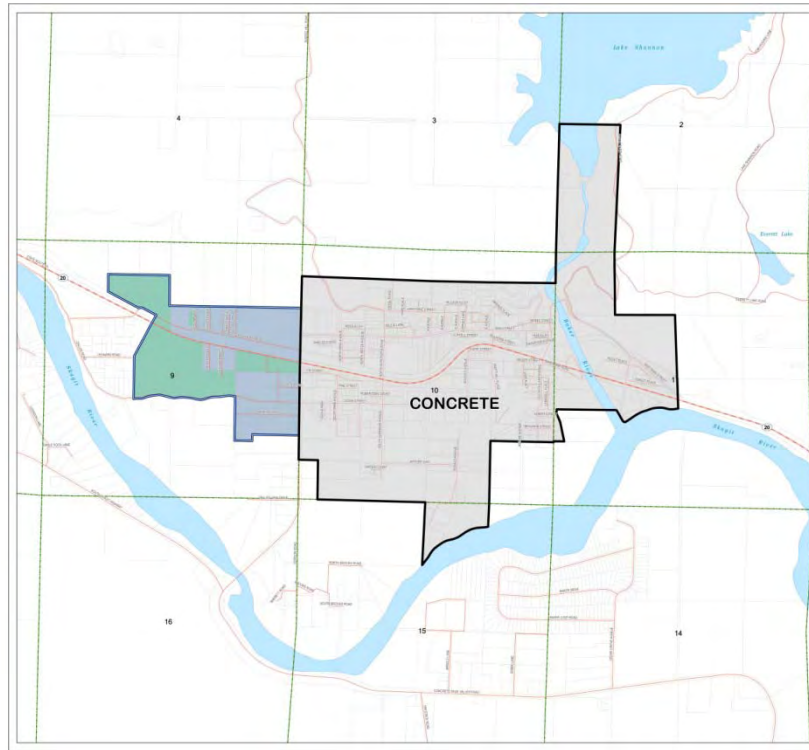
The program leases farmland and pays farmers to plant wildlife-friendly cover crops for a period of up to 3 years – after which, the land may be certified for organic crops since the soils will have been free of fertilizers and insecticides for the leased period.

The Conservancy is also cooperating with the Swinomish Tribe, the Skagit River Cooperative Systems, Western Washington Agricultural Association, Washington State University, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, and Dike District 3 on a restoration plan for Fisher Slough and the Carpenter Creek watershed that could modify field drainage practices to improve fish habitat and drainage efficiency.

Fisher Slough is completely constrained on both banks by levees built decades ago to create farm fields out of tidal marshes. Carpenter and Fisher Creeks occasionally overtop the levees and flood the farm fields destroying the farm crops. The proposed restoration plan may pull the levees back from the slough to create more than 60 acres of tidal marsh and improve flood protection for farm fields located upland of the levees.

The project would acquire 45 acres along the slough, relocate the levee to create an alluvial fan, and replant the fan to create wetland and upland habitat for salmon, shorebirds, waterfowl, and neotropical songbirds.

In 2005 the EPA granted the Conservancy's Skagit Delta Project \$774,000 to help preserve farmland and aid in wild salmon recovery.



B.27: Town on Concrete

www.townofconcrete.com



Settlement was initiated in Concrete - by settlers who came to log the area and operate mills on the Skagit River in a settlement known as Minnehaha.

Amasa Everett, who discovered coal downriver at Hamilton, also found clay and limestone in the Concrete area. Everett carried samples to New York financiers, who formed the Washington Portland Cement Company in 1892 and built the processing plant on the east bank of the Baker River. As a consequence, the settlers of Minnehaha renamed the community Cement City.

The production of cement proved to be so profitable that in 1880 the Superior Portland Cement Company opened a plant on the west bank of the Baker River in a community known as Baker.

B-82

*Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan*

In 1909 the two small communities merged and renamed the town Concrete. The two cement companies also merged although the two concrete silos at each end of town reflect the early division of the companies and communities.

A mile-long aerial tramway from the quarry to the plant carried limestone directly over Main Street, and wayward chunks sometimes fell on pedestrians until the company installed a safety net. Workers were largely immigrants from southern Italy who put in 12-hour days 7 days a week. The plant closed in 1968.

A bridge was constructed over the Baker River in 1916 at the east end of town adjacent to the cement plant. The bridge design called for steel construction since that was determined to be cheaper. However, the cement company donated cement for the construction lowering the

cost enough to make the bridge feasible. The bridge was once of the first reinforced concrete long-span highway constructions and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

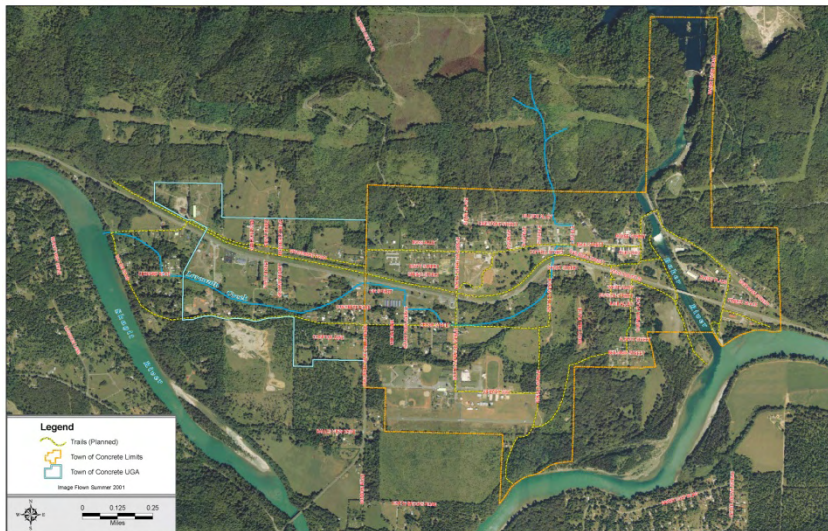
Puget Sound Power & Light Company (PSP&L) built Baker Dam northeast of Concrete in 1924 to supply electricity to the Bellingham area creating Shannon Lake – a major recreational feature. The state’s largest colony of nesting Osprey is located along the shores of the lake.

Concrete had a population of 960 persons in 2000 which declined to 845 in 2008. Concrete is estimated to have a population within the urban growth area of 1,350 persons by the year 2025.

Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails

The Concrete Planning Department maintains land use regulations that protect critical areas including wetlands, floodplains, geological hazards, timberlands, and wildlife habitat. Significant features within the Concrete urban growth area include the buffers along Baker River and below Baker Dam, Lorensan Creek, and the numerous springs and streams on the hillsides above town.

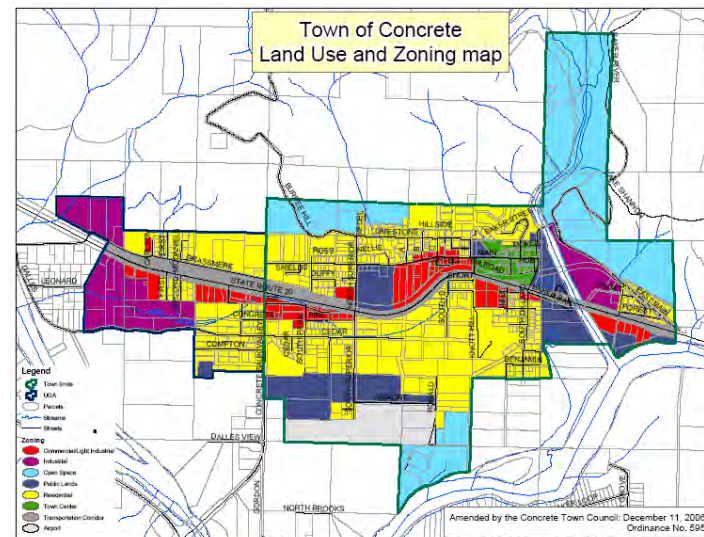
The city owns 11.13 acres of park and open space land including:

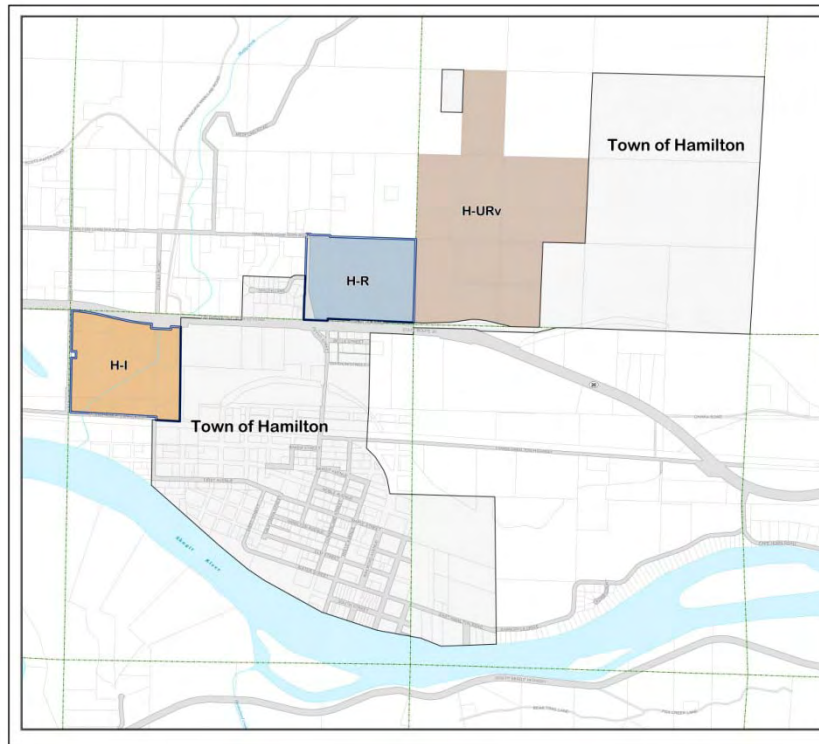


- **Silo Park** – a 10.0-acre parcel located on the west end of town adjacent to SR-20 that was a donation of the Lonestar Cement Company. The park includes one of the original cement company silos.

Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department - owns and maintains a number of significant park, open space, and trail assets within and adjacent to the Concrete urban growth area boundaries including:

- **The Cascade Trail** – a 22.5-mile, 280.0-acre multipurpose county trail parallels SR-20 from the east edge of Sedro-Woolley to Concrete. The rails-to-trails conservancy project is open year round for hiking, biking, and equestrian trail users. The county plans on eventually extending the trail east to Marblemount and the Ross Lake National Recreational Area (RLNRA).





B.28: Town of Hamilton

Settlement was initiated in Hamilton – by Amasa Everett when Everett found coal and iron deposits in the nearby mountains. Everett commissioned natives to haul the coal downstream to Skagit City from which it was shipped by steamer to San Francisco.

Hamilton was platted in 1877 on the north bank of the Skagit River and below Cumberland Creek with Iron Mountain on the east and Coal Mountain on the west. Development of the mines was initially inhibited by the inability of steamers to make the trip up river to the town. By 1890, steamers were able to navigate the river, and in 1891 the railroad arrived, after which serious work was commenced on mining activities attracting a population of upwards of 1,500 persons. The town was incorporated soon after in 1891.

The town, however, suffered serious damage during Skagit River floods in 1892, 1894, and 1896 although it survived and mining continued. A

huge fire in 1925, however, destroyed most of the business district from which the town never fully recovered.

The town's population was 309 in 2000 with a projection of 450 persons by the year 2025.

Hamilton Public Development Authority

The Town chartered the PDA to undertake, assist with or otherwise facilitate authorized activities for the purpose of improving the general living, economic and environmental conditions within Hamilton and unincorporated areas of Skagit County in the vicinity of Hamilton. Please put the floodway habitat restoration component in the context of this larger overall intent.

Based on the Authority's initial work, the Town Council amended the charter in 2006 to specify that:

- Acquired floodway lands were to be used for fish and wildlife habitat, and activities that maintain or restore natural river functions and processes such as channel migration,
- Low-impact public access and hunting be acceptable, but not required, uses for acquired lands, and
- River processes take precedence over other land use activities, meaning that no flood protection will be provided, and fish and wildlife functions will be maintained through permanent legal mechanisms, following acquisition of the property or appropriate easements.

The Authority's scope of work was to include the restructuring of the town's development to move the town site north across SR-20 and out of the floodway including work necessary to:

- Prioritize the acquisition of properties and transfer of development rights to the new town site, if applicable,
- Remove acquired residential structures and outbuildings within the former town site once the properties had been acquired,
- Restore the habitat for the prioritized floodway areas - riverfronts and sloughs,
- Coordinate with a Technical Committee on habitat restoration efforts,
- Develop an implementation plan with funding opportunities and grant applications, and
- Contribute to the permitting and required processing under NEPA and SEPA.

At the present time, the Authority has identified a 157 acre proposed urban reserve and other UGA expansion areas necessary to facilitate the town's relocation, prepared initial grant applications for funding, and initiated acquisition negotiations with the affected property owners.

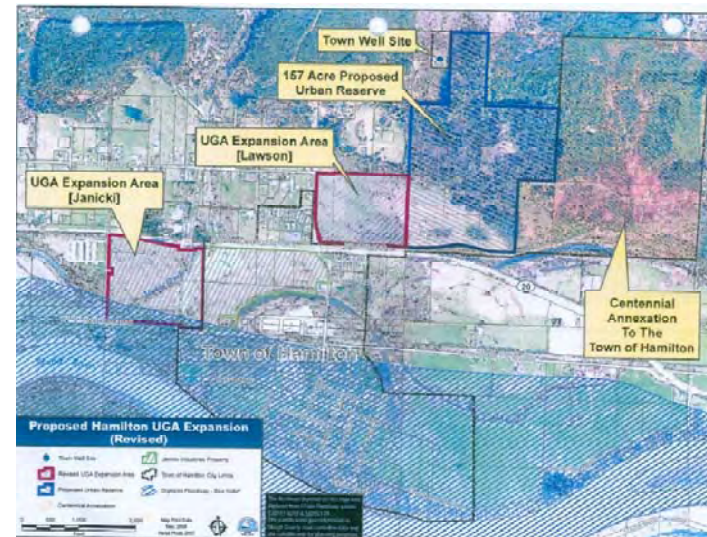
Hamilton's UGA

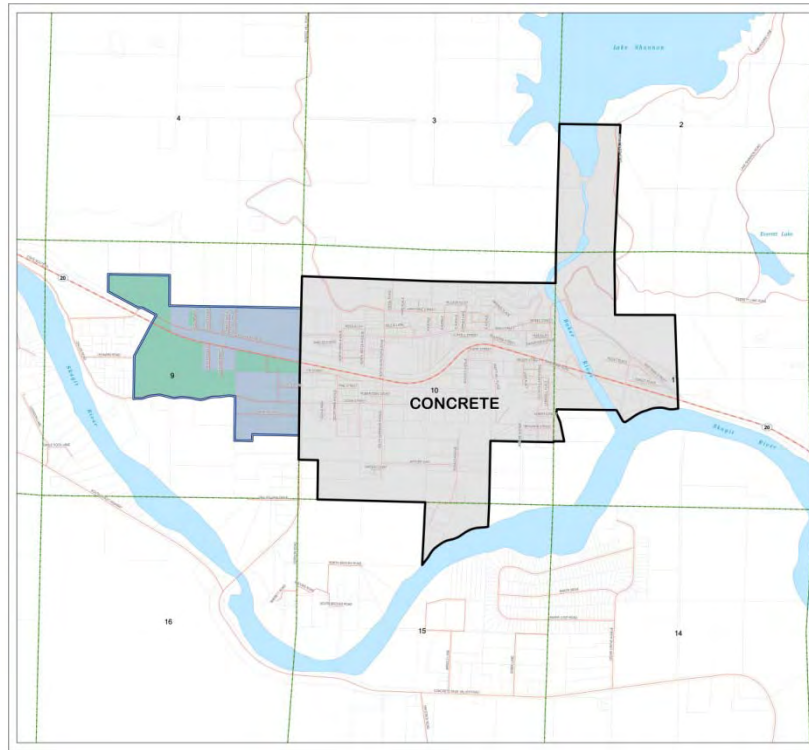
Depending on the final resolution of planning and design studies, the new town's open space system would incorporate critical areas (Muddy Creek, Davis Slough, Carey's lake, and other streams, sloughs, wetlands and their riparian buffers), steep slopes, and a Puget Sound Energy transmission line corridor into the plan.

The plan may also link to the surrounding foothills up Red Cabin, Alder, and Muddy Creeks north of the UGA. The existing town site

will be designated open space and provided public access to the river.

- The Cascade Trail - currently extends from Burlington east through Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, and Hamilton to Concrete on the former railroad right-of-way and track bed. A local trail system may be incorporated into the new town plan and connect to the Cascade Trail and the open space created at the old town site along the river.





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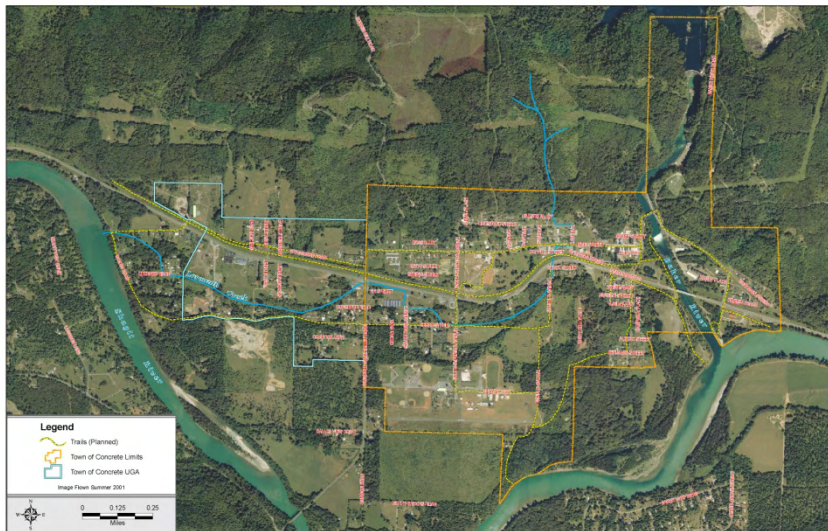
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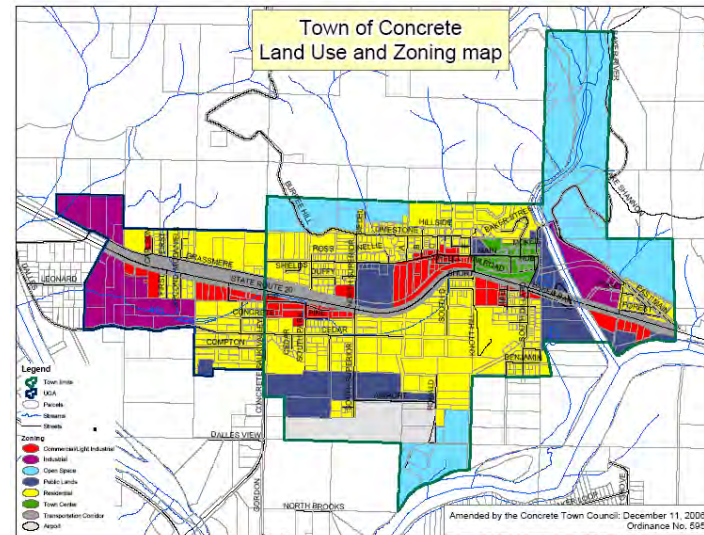
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B.30: Town of Lyman

www.townoflyman.com



Settlement was initiated in Lyman

– as early as 1860 when settlers from the east coast and mid-west traveled up the Skagit River about 30 miles to where the Skagit Indian village was located near the present-day site of Lyman. About 2,000

native Americans of the Skagit Tribe lived in the area until the early 1920's when a smallpox epidemic decimated the tribal numbers by about 80%.

Beginning in 1873, the Lyman area was logged and timber was shipped down river to market. Otto Klement arrived around 1880 and established a trading post consisting of a store, hotel, and saloon. Klement's outpost became a gathering place for hunters, timber cruisers, and adventurers bound from Mukilteo to Lyman. A post office

was included in Klement's trading post in 1881 when a mail route was established by Congress to Lyman.

The Town of Lyman is designated a heritage community since it was founded during Washington's territorial period of 1853-1889.

The town's population was 409 in 2000 with a projected population of 550 persons by the year 2025.

Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails

Lyman is defined on the south by the Skagit River floodplain and floodway, by Childs and Jones Creeks riparian corridors through the UGA, and on the south and west by overlapping agricultural resource zoned lands.

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Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

The wooded shoreline along the bends in the Skagit River are frequently flooded and therefore preserved as natural open space – particularly the western slough.

The open space corridors and buffers along Childs and Jones Creeks extend around the town and across SR-20 into the city’s former watershed at the headwaters and springs of Jones Creek.

- ***The Cascade Trail*** – extends from Burlington east through Sedro-Woolley and Lyman’s town center then east through Hamilton to Concrete. The trail corridor adjoins the area on the west slough and crosses over Childs and Jones Creeks.

Possible local trail systems could extend from the Cascade Trail north adjacent to Jones Creek tributaries north up the hillside into Washington State Department of Natural Resources forestlands.

Minkler Mansion

The Mansion was built by Birdsey Minkler in 1891, who settled in the area in 1877 and became one of the area’s first lumber mill operators. Minkler was elected to represent Skagit County in the first state assembly when Washington State was granted statehood in 1889. In 1906, Minkler was unanimously nominated for the office of state senator, and was re-elected for a second term with a large majority of the vote.

The Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was acquired from the Minkler family to serve as the town’s new city hall and honor the Mansion’s central place in Lyman’s history as the town approaches its 2009 Centennial.



B.31: Upper Skagit Tribe of Indians

The Upper Skagit people are descendants of 4 tribes of 11 tribes that inhabited villages on the Upper Skagit and Sauk Rivers. The Skagit River Valley was home to a number of Native American tribes known as the Coastal Samish, which comprised 2 linguistic groups: The Straits including the Clallam, Lummi, Smaish, and Semiahmoo tribes; and the Lushootseed including the Skagit, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Swinomish, and Upper Skagit.

The Upper Skagits occupied the Skagit River from Diablo to the Skagit River delta. The Upper Skagits had close ties with the Sauks of the Sauk River, a tributary of the Skagit, and the Suiattles of the Suiattle River, a Sauk River tributary. Archaeological digs have revealed evidence of human habitation in the Upper Skagit River basin dating to 8,500 years ago.

The river sustained the culture that inhabited the valley and the tribes flourished using the natural resources including salmon, shellfish, sea mammals, upland game, camus root, and cedar trees. The Upper Skagits built permanent winter villages of cedar longhouses along the riverbanks from Mount Vernon to Newhalem until the tribes were compelled to relocate in the mid-1800s.

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*Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan*

Headmen of the upper Skagit basin were among the signatories to the Point Elliott Treaty in 1855. One who attended but did not sign the document was the prophet-cultist Slaybebt kud, who came from east of the Cascades Mountains to join the Skagits. After the treaty, Slaybebt kud united 10 extended and autonomous village bands of the Upper Skagit River and its tributaries.

Following the Treaty signing and for 60 years afterward, the government claimed the Upper Skagits did not constitute a single tribe since they lived in villages as bands and, therefore, were not entitled to a reservation allotment.

The Upper Skagits today

The Upper Skagits operate under a constitution and bylaws approved the Secretary of the Interior in 1974. They are governed by a 7-member Upper Skagit Tribal Council with the chairperson elected annually from among the tribal members by popular vote.

The tribe operates the following programs:

- Family services programs including outpatient care, public health, nutrition, and mental health,
- Part-time sanitarian services including supervision of contaminated solid waste, food handling permits, health inspections, water quality and sewage management, vector control and solid waste disposal

The tribe filled a claim for land compensation in 1951 which overlapped a similar claim by the Lower Skagit Tribe. The tribe amended the petition in 1958 and officially changed their name to Upper Skagit Tribe of Indians to avoid any duplication with the Lower Skagit Tribal claims. In 1968 the tribe was awarded compensation for the low payment they originally received for their lands under the Point Elliott Treaty.

Tribal members live in numerous scattered public-domain allotments in Skagit County. Between 1977 and 1982, the tribe secured federally funded grants and contracts which it used to purchase a 25-acre tract on Bow Hill north of the former tribal headquarters in Burlington. The land was purchased from tribal members who owned individual allotments in that area.

In 1981 the tribe purchased a 74-acre parcel adjacent to Skagit County's Northern State Recreational Area (NRSA) east of Sedro-Woolley from a private owner, placed the land in trust, and declared it to be Upper Skagit Tribal reservation land along with the Bow Hill land holding. In the years since, the tribe developed a community center, administrative offices, and housing on the Sedro-Woolley reservation property.

The tribe also opened the Skagit Valley Casino Resort at Bow that includes a 103-room hotel and conference center. And, the tribe bought into the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine that includes a hotel, conference center, 2 golf courses, and other amenities.

Natural resources

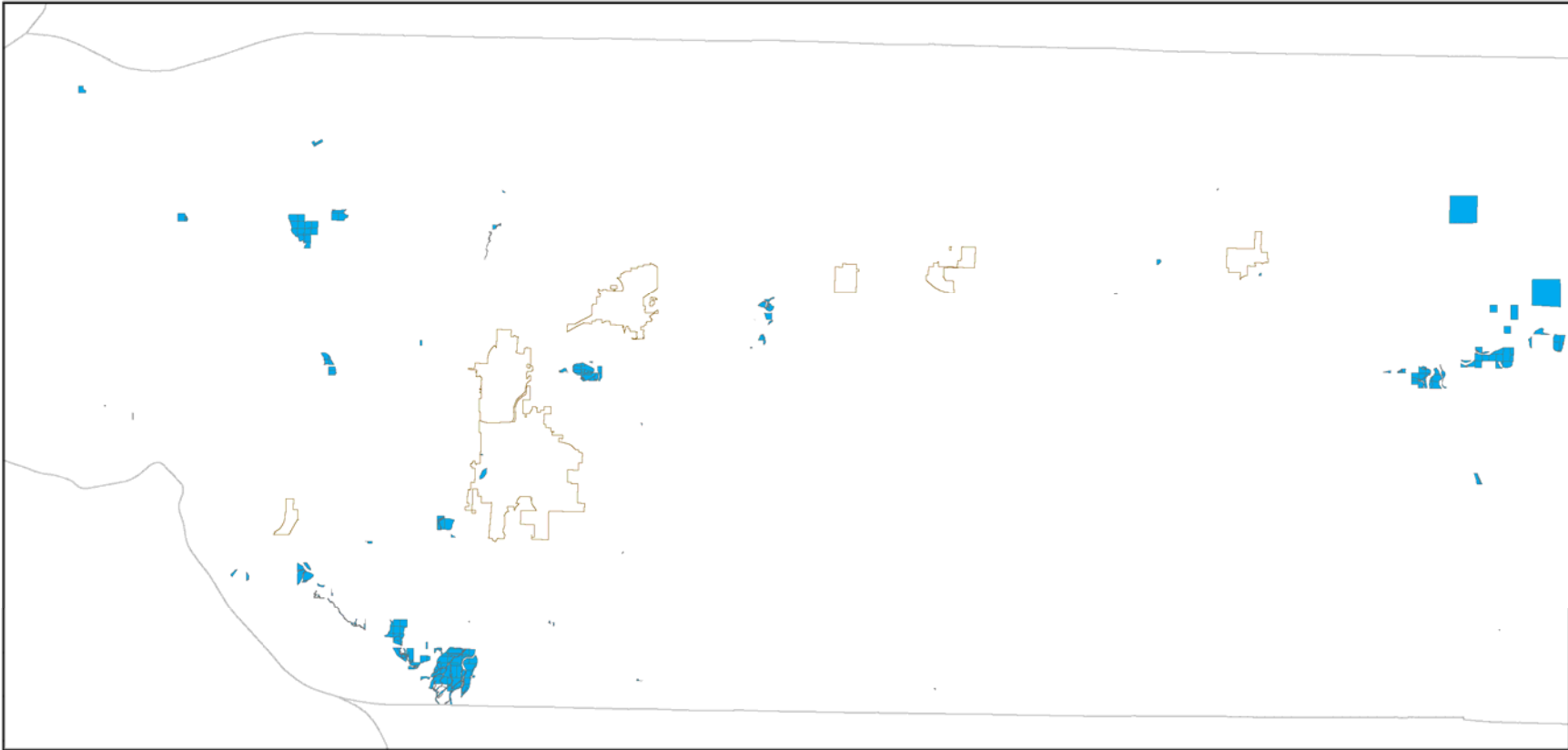
The Upper Skagits are members of the Skagit River Cooperative, which was organized in 1976 to regulate and enhance fishing in the Skagit River system.

The tribe began its chum enhancement program in 1990 to increase harvestable numbers for tribal ceremonial and subsistence use, as well as nontribal fishing in the terminal area of the Skagit River. The tribe built a hatchery consisting of 2 circular tanks that hold adult chum

salmon before spawning. The tanks are also a centerpiece of the tribe's Kids Fishing Days each spring, when they are stocked with rainbow trout for invited preschoolers to catch.

The tribe was recently awarded an EPA grant to upgrade their environmental programs, facilities, and services to comply with federal and state mandates.

The tribe recently optioned and evaluated a site in La Conner on the Swinomish Channel for a fish processing plant. They were unable to proceed with the plant proposal, however, due to poor geological characteristics of the site and property.



B.32: Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

www.wdfw.wa.gov



The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife's (WDFW) mission is to provide sound stewardship of fish and wildlife. The health and well-being of fish and wildlife is important not only to the species themselves, but to humans as well. Often, when fish and wildlife populations are threatened, their decline can predict environmental hazards or patterns that also may have a negative impact on people.

In pursuit of this mission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife strives to achieve these goals:

- Department-wide leadership that is effective, efficient and results in public confidence in department management.
- An environment of respect and trust within the department fostering quality management and decision making.
- Recruitment, development and retention of a diverse, effectively deployed and well-trained workforce.
- An informed public, participating in policy development and contributing to quality decision making.

- Partnerships with public and international entities, tribal leaders, public volunteers and service groups to share responsibility for fish and wildlife.
- Effective practices partnerships with landowners and land use decision makers to maintain and enhance habitat.
- Maximum fishing, hunting and non-consumptive recreational opportunities compatible with healthy, diverse fish and wildlife populations.
- Sustainable management of marine resources to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the state's fishing industry and to enhance recreational and commercial fishing in state and offshore waters.

Department Background:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife was formed in 1994 with the merger of the former departments of Fisheries and Wildlife. In 1995 with the passage of Referendum 45, the vote of the people transferred control of the agency from the Governor to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission includes 9 citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. 3 commissioners are from east of the Cascades, three are from the west side and three are appointed at large.

The Commission appoints the Director and approves the operating and capital budgets submitted to the Governor and Legislature. State law requires the Commission to establish policies that preserve, protect and perpetuate wildlife, fish, shellfish, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. Fishing, hunting, and recreational opportunities must be maximized and compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations. In addition, the Department is charged with maintaining the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry. To do this, it must promote orderly fisheries and enhance recreational and commercial fishing.

Capacity:

WDFW employs approximately 1,800 people on a full-time or temporary basis, including some of the most knowledgeable fish and wildlife scientists in the country. These experts play important roles in interstate and international management organizations, such as the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the Columbia River Compact.

On the wildlife side, WDFW scientists deal with a range of issues from controlling dangerous animals such as bears and cougars, to restoring native species, such as caribou and western pond turtles. Some of these species are in danger of extinction.

Other WDFW employees enforce poaching laws, design culverts friendly to migrating fish, protect fish and wildlife habitat, teach safe hunting, manage valuable public lands, represent the state's interest in international negotiations, and a host of other activities. Employees are assigned to Olympia, regional offices in Spokane, Ephrata, Yakima, Mill Creek, Vancouver, Montesano and 17 field-level watershed teams - including an office in LaConner.

Organizationally, 5 programs headed by Assistant Directors report to WDFW's Director and Deputy Director including: Business Services, Enforcement, Habitat, Wildlife, and Fish. Additionally, the agency has strengthened its Intergovernmental Resource Management Division to better coordinate fish and wildlife needs and values with other governmental entities including counties, states, Native American Tribes, and foreign countries.

The agency manages more than 826,817 acres of land, which offer critical habitat to native animal species, and provides recreational opportunities to state citizens. WDFW also manages some 583 access sites to fresh and salt water, as well as to public lands for hunting, dog training, hiking, hang gliding, and many other popular activities.

WDFW also manages the world's most diverse and complex fish hatchery system organized into 16 complexes with more than 90 rearing facilities. Those facilities, each year, collect more than 300,000,000 fish eggs and produce more than 171,300,000 salmon, 8,500,000 million steelhead, and 25,600,000 million trout, as well as warm water fish such as bass, perch, and walleye.

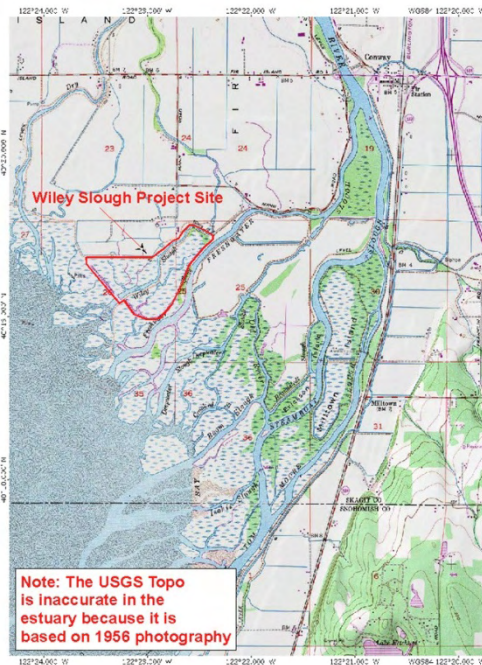
WDFW's total 2003-05 Biennial Budget Request is approximately \$282,100,000. Fishing and hunting license sales and other user fees deposited in the Wildlife Fund supports slightly more than 21% of the operating budget. The State General Fund supports approximately 29% of the Department's budget request. The balance comes from other dedicated state funds, federal and local funds. Federal and local funds are designed to mitigate the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately two-thirds of the funding is

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dedicated to specific uses either by statute or as provisos in the Appropriations Act.

To improve its financial management, WDFW simplified, consolidated, and modernized its hunting and fishing license sales system 4 years ago. The automated system is more customer friendly for persons buying licenses, and brings license accounting practices into the 21st century. The automated system makes it far easier to identify license sales trends as WDFW collects some \$25,000,000 annually from the sale of more than 2,000,000 licenses through 575 vendors throughout the state. During Fiscal Year 2005, the Department will be analyzing the automated licensing system to determine how best to issue recreation licenses after the current contract with MCI runs out on June 30, 2006.

Persons without hunting or fishing licenses are required to purchase and display auto decals when using WDFW facilities. These conservation decals help WDFW recover the true cost of managing its lands used by non-hunting and fishing constituents.



Finding adequate funding to support Department activities is a real challenge. Therefore, WDFW is increasingly turning to partnerships with enthusiastic volunteers who perform a wide array of services for the benefit of fish and wildlife. These services include enhancing and restoring habitat; raising thousands of salmon and other fish species; removing non-native plants, such as Spartina; conducting educational tours at hatcheries and wildlife areas; serving as the eyes and ears of enforcement officers in programs such as Stream

Watch; feeding elk and other wild animals during the winter and clipping adipose fins from salmon and steelhead to distinguish them as hatchery fish for future fisheries.

Wiley Slough Restoration Project

The Wiley Slough Restoration project is a collaboration between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Skagit Watershed Council, the Skagit River System Cooperative, and several Federal agencies and private interests.

The intent of the partnership is to develop a design for restoring an historic tidal and riverine system, thereby benefiting the diversity of fish and wildlife species that rely on estuaries, including salmon and a wide variety of migratory birds.

The partnership will rehabilitate natural processes at the Wiley Slough site that will be largely self-sustaining and in turn will support natural fish, wildlife and vegetative communities common to estuarine habitats in Puget Sound. To this end, the design approach focuses on restoring important physical processes (tidal and riverine flooding). The project will be designed in a way that protects interests of adjacent land owners, promotes wildlife oriented recreational activities consistent with the restoration objectives, and considers the perspectives of stakeholders affected by the project.

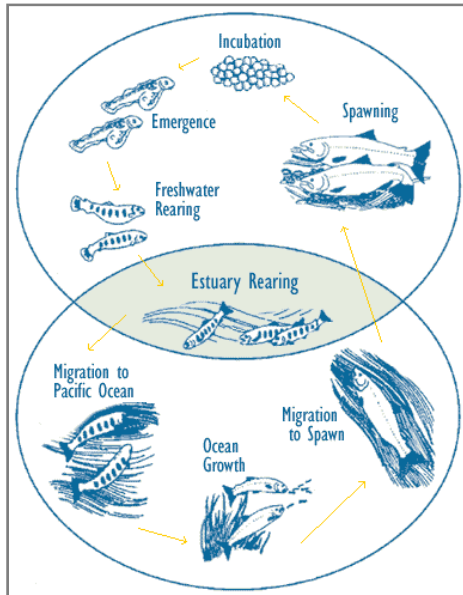
Funding and support for the project is provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Department of Agriculture, the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Puget Sound Coastal Program, the Coastal Wetlands Program, Seattle City Light, and the Intensively Monitored Watershed Project.

The Wiley Slough Project is located directly south of what is commonly referred to as the "Headquarters" area of the Skagit Wildlife Area. The project is completely contained on public land managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Conditions:

Estuarine habitat in Puget Sound has declined dramatically since Euro-American settlement (Bortleson et al. 1980, Collins and Montgomery 2001). In the Skagit delta approximately 60% of tidal emergent habitat has been lost and 94% of tidal scrub shrub habitat has been lost (Hood, unpublished data). These areas provide critical habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife, including shorebirds, ducks, geese, swans, raptors, river otters, beaver, harbor seals, and many fish, most notably juvenile salmonids. Of the salmonids, chinook are the most dependent on estuarine rearing habitat and Puget Sound Chinook are listed as threatened by the Endangered Species Act (64 Federal Register 14308, March 24 1999).

Dikes have isolated the Wiley Slough project area from the key processes of riverine and tidal flooding, thereby altering sediment transport and storage. These processes are crucial to forming and maintaining a variety of estuarine habitat conditions. Construction of the Wiley Slough dikes, to drain and convert the project site to agricultural use, has resulted in direct loss of about 16 acres of tidal channel habitat and approximately 160 acres of intertidal marsh habitat.



However, there have been additional off-site impacts as a result of dike construction: 20 acres of intertidal channel habitat have been lost seaward of the dikes due to sediment deposition resulting from loss of tidal prism landward of the dikes (Hood 2004).

Additionally, the lower reach of Freshwater Slough has lost sinuosity and associated channel habitat diversity, probably due to loss of floodplain area via dike construction, which caused greater confinement of flood flows within

Freshwater Slough (Hood 2004).

These off-site impacts from dike construction indicate that off-site areas will also likely respond to habitat restoration efforts that include significant dike removal. Thus, habitat restoration and project monitoring require a landscape-scale perspective.

The project area is located in a transition zone between forested riverine tidal and estuarine emergent habitats. However, vegetation has been significantly altered from historical conditions. The project area has been diked, drained and converted to agriculture, with cereal grains planted annually. Much of the natural forest, shrub, and herbaceous vegetation have been eliminated. Secondary forested areas exist along dikes and small berms adjacent to vestigial tidal channels.

All native anadromous fish and most native resident fish that would be expected to use the project site are currently excluded from the project site, as are other estuarine organisms dependent on tidal channel habitat. The site is extensively managed for put-and-take pheasant hunting and waterfowl (i.e., cereal grain is produced and seasonally flooded to attract and feed wintering waterfowl), but is also used by passerines.

Off-site (seaward of the dikes) impacts to fish and wildlife have occurred as a result of the loss of 20 acres of tidal channel habitat in lower Wiley Slough and the loss of channel sinuosity and associated habitat diversity in lower Freshwater Slough. Fish and





wildlife taxa likely to have been directly affected by loss of off-site habitat include salmon, bull trout, cutthroat trout, sturgeon (in pool habitat), shorebirds (feeding on sandbars), waterfowl (in channel habitat on low tides), and harbor seals.

Goal:

The proximate goal of the Wiley Slough restoration project is to restore natural processes, conditions, functions, and biological responses to the project area (approximately 175 acres), specifically, by removing dikes to restore riverine and tidal flooding to the project area. Restoration of natural estuarine process will result in the restoration of estuarine habitat for a wide variety of fish, wildlife, and other organisms. This is the ultimate goal of the restoration project. Taxa of particular management interest are Chinook salmon (Federally listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act), other salmonids, and wintering waterfowl. Process-based restoration will provide maximal benefits to a wide variety of estuarine fish and wildlife while incurring little long-term maintenance or costs.

Primary Project Objectives

Specific project objectives for the restored area are as follows:

- Restoration of tidal and riverine flooding (natural process) to the marsh surface to allow unrestricted movement of water, sediments, nutrients, detritus and organisms across the marsh surface (natural function).
- Restoration of channel habitat for juvenile salmonids inside (16.3 acres) and outside (20.5 acres) of the dike to be removed (natural condition).
- Restoration of native marsh vegetation (natural condition/biological response) to the site to support detrital food chains (natural function/process) for juvenile salmonids (biological response) as well as provide food plants for wintering waterfowl (biological response).

All three of these objectives will significantly contribute to improvements in the quantity and quality of estuarine habitat on site and near the site (e.g., downstream portions of Wiley Slough sedimented in due to loss of upstream tidal prism) for a wide variety of native fish and wildlife, including juvenile salmonids and waterfowl.

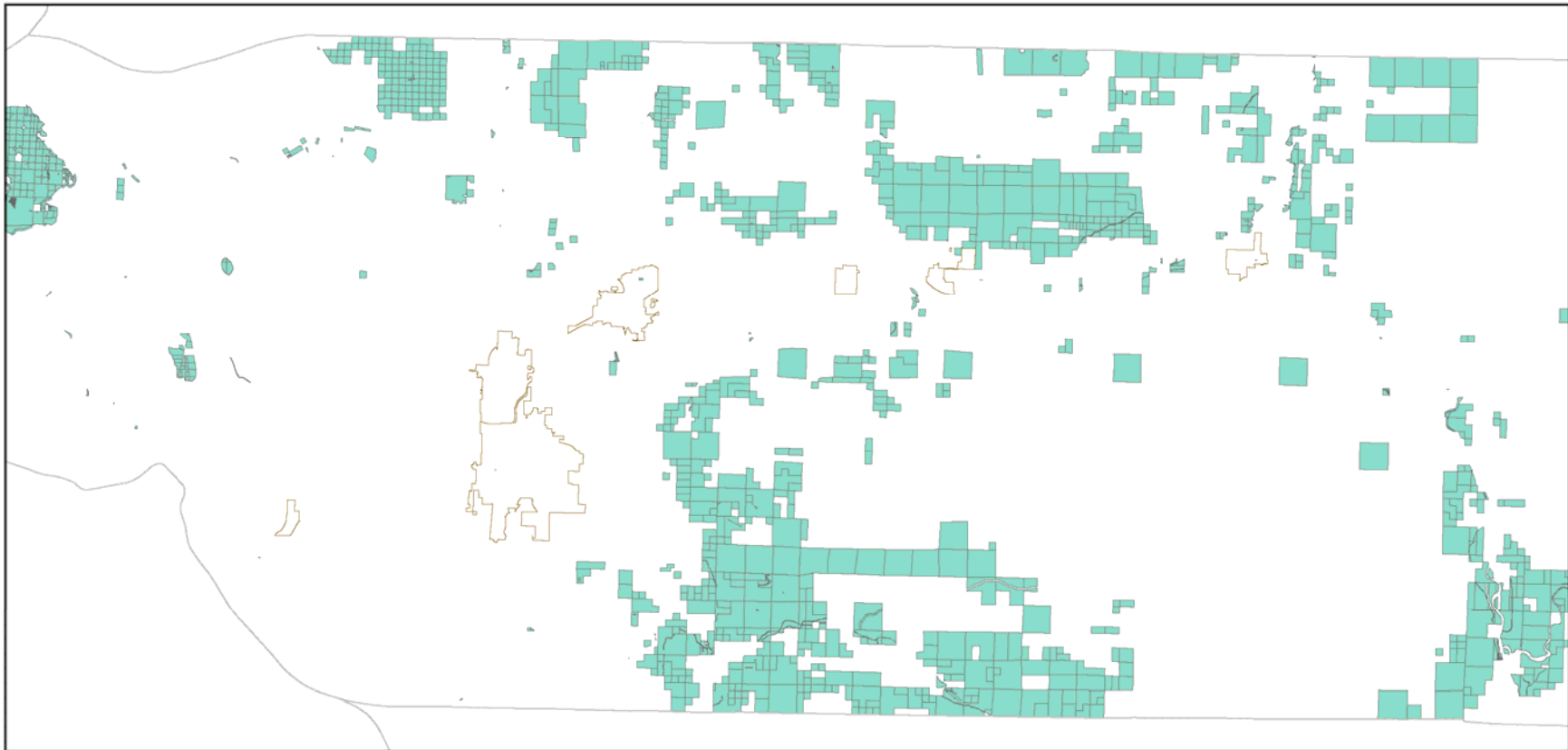
Secondary Objectives

While the primary goals and objectives are concerned with habitat restoration to benefit critical estuarine fish and wildlife, additional objectives related to human use can be compatible with the primary goals and objectives of the project, such as:

- Provide waterfowl hunting opportunities.
- Improve the existing boat launch to reduce current maintenance needs.
- Facilitate public access to the site for watchable wildlife opportunities.
- Provide for agricultural drainage and flood protection.
- Retain the Skagit Wildlife Management Area headquarters in its current location.

These goals are secondary to the primary, habitat-related goals.





B.33: WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

www.dnr.wa.gov

DNR owns 3,000,000 and manages an additional 2,600,000 acres of forest, range, agriculture, aquatic, and commercial lands within Washington State that generate over \$200,000,000 annually to support public schools, universities, prisons and other state institutions, and fund county services such as libraries, firefighting, and hospitals.

DNR revenue producing activities on state trust lands include sustainable management and harvest of timber and forest products, leasing of agricultural lands (for orchards, vineyards, row

crops, dryland crops, and grazing), mineral leases, and leasing of communication sites and commercial properties. Since 1970, DNR-managed “trust” lands have generated \$6,000,000,000 for trust beneficiaries, counties, and the state general fund.

DNR also manages Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs) and Natural Area Preserves (NAPs) that protect unique and threatened native ecosystems, and that offer educational and research opportunities.



DNR manages all state forestlands to provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water, and public recreational access. The Department protects public resources by regulating forest practices (or timber harvests) and preventing and suppressing wildfires on more than 12,700,000 acres of state, private, and federal land. The

Department also collects data about existing native ecosystems and species to provide an objective, scientific basis for determining protection methods and areas.

The management of Washington's State Trust Lands is governed by the Board of Natural Resources composed of the elected Commissioner of Public Lands, the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the UW and WSU Deans of the Colleges of Forest Resources, Agriculture, and Home Economics, and a county representative selected by the counties benefiting from State Forest trust lands.

The Department is organized around 13 Divisions, each focused on a specific business area, and 7 regions including the Northwest Region office in Sedro-Woolley that manages 387,000 acres of state forest lands for forestry, farming, and commercial uses in Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Snohomish Counties. The NW office also manages more than 35,000 acres of natural areas that protect high-quality wildlife and plant habitat and provides low-impact public use at 28 recreational sites and 118 miles of trails for hiking, horseback, and ORV use within the region.

State Forest Lands

The largest state landholdings are state forest tracts of land managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR owns forestlands scattered principally within

the Cascade foothills adjacent to US National Forest holdings, and in tracts located on the San Juan Islands.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) controls and manages a wide variety of property within Skagit County. These holdings include properties designated:

- **urban land** - for urban development or revenue enhancement,
- **school trust lands** - managed for the Washington Common School Indemnity & Escheat (CSI&E) that provide revenue for the state schools building programs, and
- **institutional lands** - held for use by other agencies.

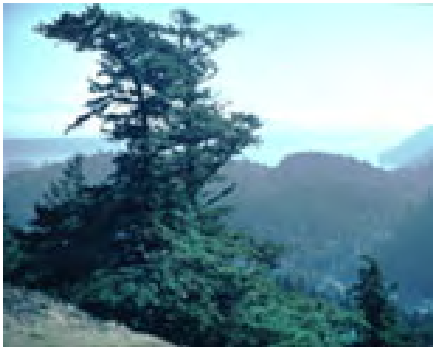
State tidelands

When Washington State was established on 11 November 1889, the state claimed ownership of all beds and shores of navigable waters up to and including the line of ordinary high water (mean high tide) or the tidelands. This claim included the tidelands or beach between mean high tide and mean low tide that had been used for public access for centuries before the federal government granted these lands to the state.

The 1889 Washington State Legislature authorized the sale of public tidelands including the beach rights to private individuals and adjacent property landowners. From 1889 to 1971, when all sales were discontinued, the state sold approximately 60% of all public tidelands in the state to private owners prior to the discontinuance.

Private ownership allows the owners to use the tidelands as private property that at times have included the right to erect structures, bulkheads, and other obstructions to public passage. Under state law, private property owners also have the right to control the use of privately-owned tidelands - particularly for recreational uses such as picnicking, swimming, camping, fishing, clamming, boating, and other activities.

In the early 1970s, the state rescinded the option of selling tidelands and retained tidelands as public property for public use and/or revenue benefit. DNR manages the remaining public tidelands within the state.



Uplands - are parts of the almost always-dry beach area located above the high water tide mark - although portions may be covered by extremely high tides or during storms. Uplands may be barren of vegetation and may consist of sand dunes, gravel bars, tide pools, or log and storm debris covered earthen shorelines. Private parties own uplands except where public agencies

have acquired title for parks, state uplands, road right-of-way, or other public facilities.

Tidelands - are the beach areas alternately covered and uncovered by the rising and falling tide. Tidelands are barren of vegetation and may consist of sand, gravel, or mud deposits and beaches. Tidelands may be publicly or privately owned. However, even when publicly owned, the upland property may be in private ownership - meaning some public tidelands may be landlocked or not be accessed from other public landholdings.

The swash line - or small floating debris that has been left on the beach when the tide is out - usually mark the boundary of the ordinary high tide. On some waterfront properties, however, the upland ownership extends to the meander line - which is some distance offshore from the line of ordinary high tide. In this instance, the property line will be located beyond the area normally indicated by the swash line.

DNR's public saltwater tideland holdings are classified and mapped by the department based on width of ownership and type of use. Generally, department maps include public use beaches, beaches leased to private parties, environmentally sensitive beaches, and beaches otherwise not suitable for public use. The department does not map tidelands less than 200 feet in length or freshwater ownership. DNR maps identify 3 types of tideland parcels around the county shoreline:

- Mean low tide to extreme low tide (which is about +3.0 feet above the mean lower low tide of 0.0 feet and the extreme low

tide which is -4.5 feet below the mean lower low tide of 0.0 feet or a total range of 7.4 feet.)

- Mean high tide to extreme low tide.
- Mean high tide to extreme low tide (which is +13.0 feet above the mean lower low tide of 0.0 feet and the extreme low tide which is -4.5 feet below the mean lower low tide of 0.0 feet or a total range of 17.4 feet.

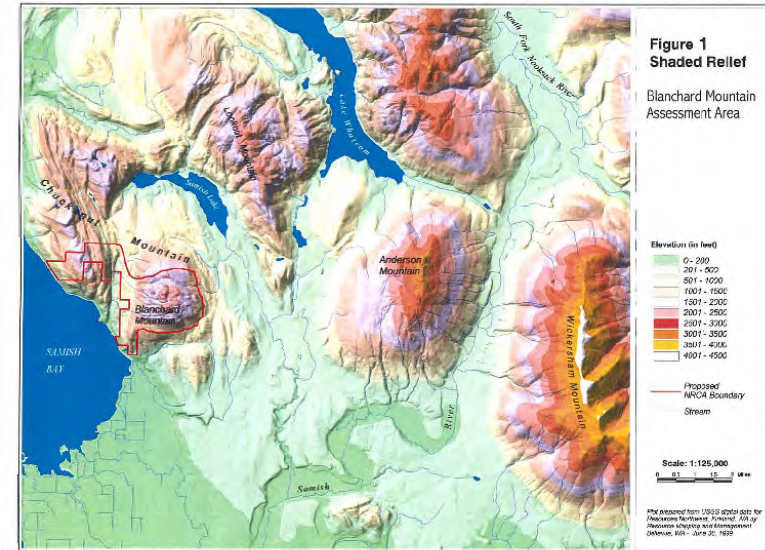
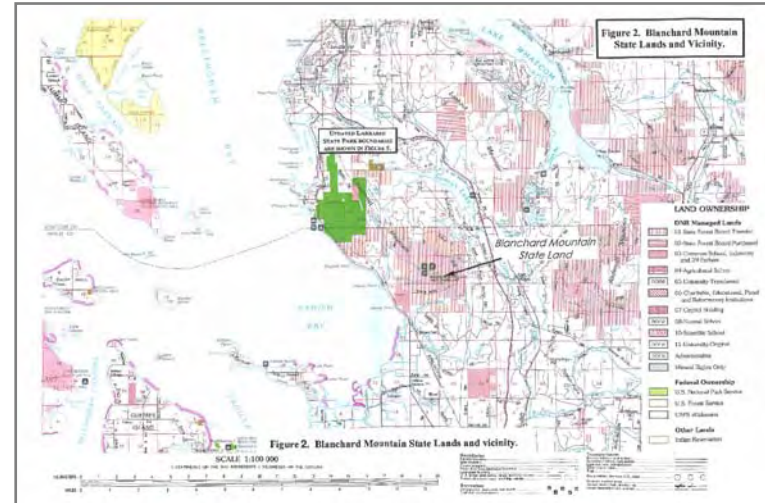
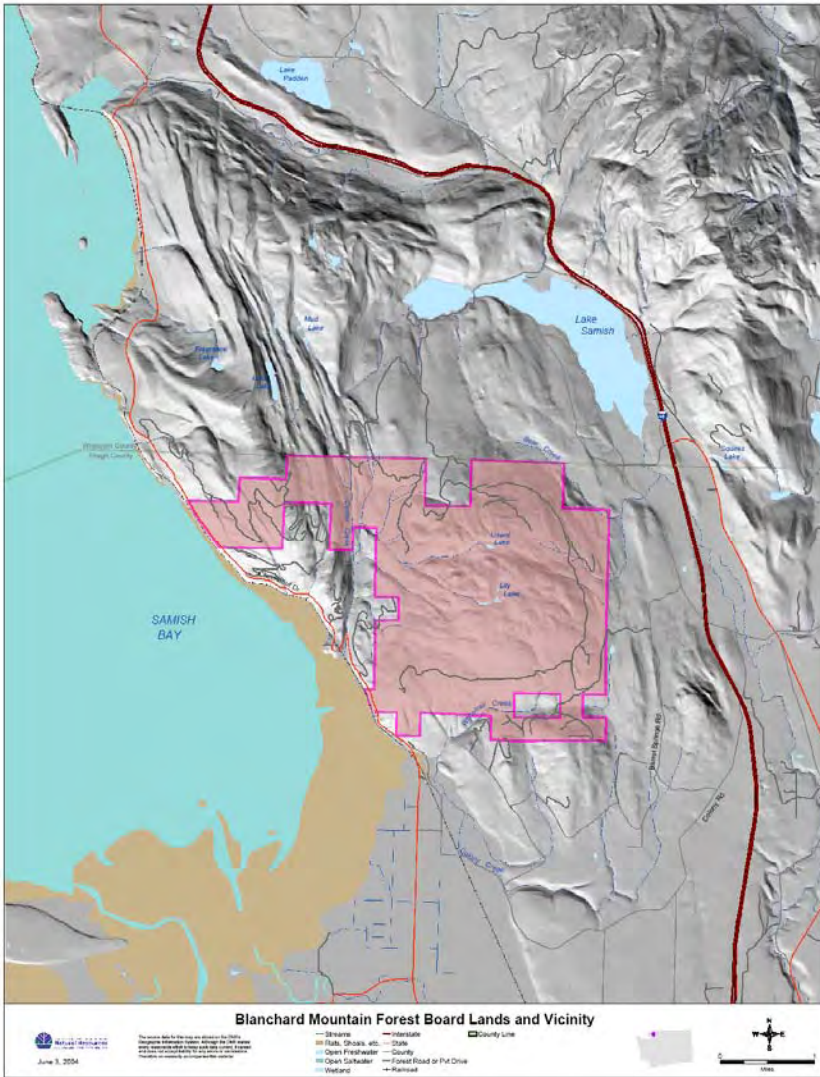
DNR tideland holdings in Skagit County are located in stretches along Samish, Padilla, Fidalgo, Burrows, Similk Bays.

Blanchard Mountain

In 2007, the Commissioner of Public Lands adopted management strategies for the 4,827-acre state forestlands located on the top of Blanchard Mountain on the north border of Skagit County. Blanchard Mountain is an integral part of a forested corridor that extends from Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains and from Skagit farmlands north through the Chuckanut Mountains to Bellingham.

The strategies were developed by a 10-member Blanchard Forest Strategies Group that included representatives from Skagit County, Burlington-Edison School District, along with timber, environmental, and recreational interests. The Group's mission was to formulate a conceptual framework that would blend the continued revenue production of the state trust forestlands with diverse habitats, and different types of experiences for visitors.

The adopted strategies concept will manage a core of about 1,600 acres on top of the mountain for older forest conditions to provide an experience similar to an 'unmanaged forest' as well as scenic vistas for recreational visitors. Trails will link to Larrabee State Park to the north and Samish Bay in the southwest. Working forest interpretive exhibits will be located along different non-motorized trails throughout the mountain to provide education experiences.





B.34: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) www.wsdot.wa.gov



As a partner in regional transportation planning, WSDOT supports Skagit County’s efforts to guide development of multi-modal

links between and through Skagit County communities. Close coordination will be required as open space connection concepts that involve state highways are more fully developed. In order to help define WSDOT’s role in implementation of the *Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space Concept Plan*, the following summary provides general information about WSDOT; describes statewide strategies to improve partnerships and support bicycling and walking as an integrated part of Washington’s transportation network; and describes WSDOT’s role in ongoing planning for non-motorized transportation in Skagit County.

Who we are and what we do

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is the steward of a large and robust transportation system, and is responsible

for ensuring that people and goods move safely and efficiently. In addition to building, maintaining, and operating the state highway system, WSDOT is responsible for the state ferry system, and works in partnership with others to maintain and improve local roads, railroads, airports, and multi-modal alternatives to driving.

WSDOT at a glance

- 18,389 state highway lane-miles
- 3,600 bridges including the 4 longest floating bridges in the US
- 42 safety rest areas
- 23 ferry vessels active in the largest vehicle-ferry system in the world
- 20 ferry terminals
- 24,000,000 ferry passengers annually
- \$15,000,000,000 capital improvement program
- 7,200 full-time employees

Source: www.wsdot.wa.gov/about/

Skagit State Routes

State Routes	Miles in Skagit County
Interstate 5	24.97
SR-9	29.15
SR-11	14.11
SR-20	85.53
SR-20 Spur	7.78
SR-530	14.96
SR-534	5.08
SR-536	5.38
SR-538	3.67
Anacortes Terminal	Marine highway connection
Total	191.63

WSDOT works towards achieving 5 goals: safety, preservation, mobility, environmental quality, and system stewardship. These goals are consistent with the statewide transportation policy goals established by the Legislature. The mission of the Washington State Department of Transportation is to keep people and business moving by operating and improving the state's transportation systems vital to our taxpayers and communities.

In pursuit of this mission, the Department is responsible for developing strategies to improve bicycle and walkway connections; increase state, regional, and local coordination; and reduce congestion. (RCW 47.06.100) We support all modes of transportation to give people transportation choices.

Washington State Bicycle Facilities and Walkway Plan

Plan Web site: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/PDF/BikePedPlan.pdf>

The state law (RCW 47.06.100) calls for the Washington State *Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plan* to provide an assessment of statewide bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs and include strategies for: improving connections, increasing coordination, and reducing traffic congestion. The plan also satisfies the federal requirement for a long-range bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways plan.

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Appendix B: Resources
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

Established goals:

This plan established important goals for reducing bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities by five percent per year, while doubling biking and walking over the next 20 years. Achieving these goals will require Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and local agencies, in particular, to prioritize improving conditions for bicycling and walking. The goals and associated performance measures are as follows:

- **Preservation:** Ensure no net loss in pedestrian and bicycle safety, and mobility.
- **Safety:** Target safety investments toward known risk factors for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- **Mobility:** Increase bicycling and pedestrian transportation choices.
- **Environment:** Walking and bicycling will be part of Washington State's strategy to improve public health and address climate change.
- **Stewardship:** Improve the quality of the transportation system by improving transportation access for all types of pedestrians and bicyclists, to the greatest extent possible.

Plan Summary:

Biking and walking are increasing in Washington, particularly in cities where housing infill is occurring. Bicycle commuting has increased 75% in the past 10 years. Biking and walking currently account for about 6% of statewide commute trips. In the Puget Sound Region, bicycling and walking account for 9% of all trips. In several urban core areas across Washington, bicycling and walking account for 15% of all trips.

Doubling current levels of bicycling and walking is achievable. In Washington State, more than half of all trips are less than 3 miles, yet 80% of these trips are made by car. Commuting to work accounts for about 20% of all vehicle miles traveled, so 80% of all the vehicle miles we drive are for other purposes. Bicycling and walking account for 5-7% of non-commute trips currently and many more of these trips could be accomplished by biking and walking as gas prices rise.

The State's safety record must continue to improve. In the 10 year period between 1997 and 2006, 103 cyclists and 706 pedestrians died on Washington's roads. Walkers and cyclists are killed at a

disproportionate rate. Bicyclists and pedestrians account for 6% of all trips statewide and are involved in 13% of all fatal traffic collisions.

The highest priority investments are connections within cities and urbanizing areas, particularly where housing and employment mix. Based on analysis of the data and information available, the greatest opportunity for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility is improving crossings, connections, and trail systems within cities and urbanizing areas. Higher speed, higher volume arterials within cities often act as barriers to bicycling and walking.

Public support is strong for building safe places to walk and ride bikes. The statewide survey conducted by WSDOT showed that 86% of Washington residents have biked or walked for transportation over the past year. 70% percent of Washington residents surveyed support an increase in spending to create more safe places to bike and walk if current transportation funds are used; over 50% of citizens supported a tax increase.

Washington has limited resources to improve the built environment for biking and walking, for enforcement of biking and walking laws, and for providing public education. Bicycle and pedestrian engineering improvements are approximately 2% of the transportation budget.

WSDOT identified more than \$1,600,000,000 in unfunded bicycle and pedestrian improvements statewide. A review of adopted 6 and 10 year local plans and state highways found \$1,600,000,000 in conceptual solutions to make that transportation system safer and better for bicycling and walking. Of this \$1,600,000,000, approximately 20% has been grouped by WSDOT into the categories of Gap Projects, School Related Projects, and No Net Loss in Safety Projects on state highways.

Washington needs more and better intra-county bicycle and pedestrian connections and links to schools, transit, and ferries. The most frequent comment received during plan development was the recognition of the need for more and better intra-county connections and links to schools, transit, and ferries. This underscores the important role Regional Transportation Planning Organizations play in bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

Washington needs more commitment and better coordination to improve conditions for bicycling and walking. In order to continue to improve conditions for bicycling and walking and help reverse the rising rate of obesity in Washington State, local governments, transit providers, regional and state agencies will have to take coordinated implementation steps.

Next Steps:

WSDOT's *Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plan* lists more than \$1,600,000,000 in unfunded bicycle and pedestrian improvements identified by local communities. Continued coordination with local and regional agencies, transit providers, and developers is needed to secure funding and implement identified improvements. It is important that local comprehensive plans identify bicycle and pedestrian facility needs so they can be addressed when capital programs are developed and included in the cost estimate of these programs.

Regional coordination

There are over 190 miles of state highways in Skagit County that provide important regional connections. The volume and speed of vehicles on these routes sometimes limit safe bicycle and pedestrian access when designated facilities do not exist. It is important to establish appropriately designed crossings and create corridors that safely connect these communities. Many times these routes can be accommodated along state facilities; but sometimes a safer, more cost effective connection could be located on other separated trails, paths and roadways. Multi-modal corridors identified as either needing to adjoin or cross state highways, require that safety standards can be met prior to approval. Several items in the state bicycle and pedestrian transportation plan are focused on these issues.

Community planning undertaken through the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) and the Active Community Task Force (ACT) has focused on a region-wide approach that will facilitate governmental coordination. The cities, Skagit County, WSDOT and Skagit Transit worked together to ensure that strategic corridors are aligned and are included in long range planning. The result of these discussions was the identification of a network of practical corridors that, if fully developed, would increase multi-modal mobility between cities and establish inter-county connections to Whatcom, Snohomish, Island, and

San Juan counties. This process identified areas that were needed to safely complete these corridors. These “gaps” in the system will be the priority for future development. They still need to be fully scoped and included in regional plans so they can be eligible for future public private partnerships.

Regional partners understand that funding is too limited to address all roadways, so the group is focused on routes that provide the greatest connectivity. These improvements would have the greatest impact on future bicycle and pedestrian use, but even these do not have dedicated funding. Partnerships must be established and coalitions must be developed to secure the public and private investments needed for these plans. Skagit County’s Open Space planning is one step towards providing the predictability and guidance necessary to develop appropriate countywide connections. It is expected that this work will be further refined, routes established, scopes of work developed that meet safety and community standards, and that this work will be included in the long-range planning for participating jurisdictions.