

Planning and Development Services recommends the following policy amendments:

Natural Resource Policies

Recommendation # 1. Remove policy amendments proposed within the Natural Resource Lands Element and retain the 2016 Natural Resource Element policies with the following exceptions (noted in track changes).

Recommendation is based on public comments: 28, 64, 54, 59, 29, 36, 26, 70, 71, 74, 76

policy 4A-1.1 Agricultural Resource Lands Designation Criteria: The following criteria, together with the Washington Department of Commerce Minimum Guidelines to Classify 118 Agricultural Lands in WAC 365-190-050, shall be considered when designating Agricultural Resource Lands: (a) Generally, all lands in unincorporated Skagit County which are parcels 5 acres or greater, and that contain “prime farmland soils” as determined by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, shall be identified (see the narrative for a description of prime farmland soils). The County may also consider unique farmland soils and farmlands of statewide importance. (b) Then those lands meeting the parcel size and soils shall be retained in Agricultural Resource Lands designation, provided that a majority of the area falls within the 100-year floodplain as adopted by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (c) Parcels meeting both (a) and (b) above shall be further evaluated for inclusion or exclusion in Agricultural Resource Lands based upon the following additional factors: (i) (ii) The land is in a current-use tax assessment program derived from the Open Space Taxation Act, RCW 84.34 as it pertains to agriculture. The land is currently in agricultural use or has been in agricultural use within the preceding ten years. (iii) Existing land uses are primarily agricultural and minimal financial commitment to non-farm uses has been made. (iv) The area includes special purpose districts (such as diking and drainage districts) that are oriented to enhancing agricultural operations, including drainage improvement and flood control. (v) Adjacent lands are primarily in agricultural use. (vi) Land use in the area demonstrates a pattern of landowner capital investment in agricultural operation improvements such as irrigation, drainage, manure storage, barn refurbishing, enhanced livestock feeding techniques, agricultural worker housing, etc. (vii) The land is not already characterized by urban growth, and designation considers the effects of proximity to population areas. (d) Parcels that may not meet any of the criteria described in (a), (b), and (c) above may nonetheless be included to provide logical boundaries to the Agricultural Resource lands designation and to avoid small “islands” or “peninsulas” of conflicting non-resource

land uses in the midst of resource lands. Similarly, parcels that meet some or all of the criteria described in (a), (b), and (c) above may be excluded to provide logical boundaries to the Agricultural Resource lands designation and to avoid conflict with existing land uses. (e) Site-specific proposals to de-designate natural resource lands must be deferred until a comprehensive countywide analysis is conducted.

Policy 4A-3.1 Long-Term Designation of Agricultural Lands: Designation of Agricultural Lands is intended to be long-term. De-designation is discouraged, but may be considered only when compelled by changes in public policy, errors in designation, new information on resource lands or critical areas, circumstances beyond the control of the landowner, or an overriding benefit to the agricultural industry. Evaluate de-designation requests with the same criteria under policy 4A-1.1 used for designation of Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands, after a countywide analysis is completed.

Policy 4A-4.6 ~~Habitat Restoration Projects: Prohibit h~~Habitat restoration projects ~~are a permitted use~~ on agricultural lands except through a hearing examiner special use permit process to ensure so long as it is shown through project review that the proposed restoration project ~~does~~ not have an adverse impact on hydrologic functions, drainage infrastructure or the ongoing agricultural use of adjacent properties.

Policy 4B-1.1 Industrial Forest Land Designation Criteria: The following criteria together with the Washington Department of Commerce Minimum Guidelines to Classify Forest Resource Lands in WAC 365-190-060, shall be considered when classifying Industrial Forest lands: (a) All lands in unincorporated Skagit County shall be screened for Industrial Forest designation based on an average parcel size of 40 acres or greater, with one or more of the following characteristics: (i) The area contains WA State Department of Revenue – Private Forest Land Grade (PFLG) soils 1-5. (ii) The area includes lands which are primarily devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber. (b) Lands meeting (a), located in blocks of contiguous parcels approximately 160 acres and larger, shall be designated Industrial Forest. (c) Parcels meeting both (a) and (b) above shall be further evaluated for inclusion or exclusion in Industrial Forest Lands based upon the following additional factors: (i) (ii) The parcel is enrolled in a current-use tax assessment program under the provisions of RCW 84.33 and 84.34 as it pertains to forestry. Such current-use tax assessment status is not, by itself, a sufficient determining factor for inclusion or exclusion, but is only part of the relevant characteristics to be considered. The area has limited public services and facilities (although the area may be located within a

public water district). (iii) The land is not already characterized by urban growth, and designation considers the effects of proximity to population areas. (d) Parcels not meeting any of the criteria above in (a), (b), or (c) may still be included to provide logical boundaries to the Industrial Forest lands designation and to avoid small “islands” or “peninsulas” of conflicting nonresource land uses in the midst of resource lands. Similarly, parcels that meet some or all of the criteria above in (a), (b), or (c) may be excluded to provide logical boundaries to the Industrial Forest lands designation and to avoid conflict with existing land uses. For example, areas with pre-existing conditions such as vested subdivisions and rural development, other than isolated pre-existing single-family homes, where commercial forestry is not being practiced, and islands surrounded by multiple sized parcels with existing residences, shall not be classified as Industrial Forest lands. However, isolated, pre-existing residences shall not preclude the adjacent forest land areas from being classified Industrial Forest. (e) Conduct a comprehensive countywide analysis consistent with WAC 365-190-040(10), and do not review forest resource lands designations solely on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

Policy 4B-1.3 Secondary Forest Resource Land Designation Criteria: The following criteria shall be considered when designating Secondary Forest lands: (a) Secondary Forest lands are derived from initially designated Industrial Forest lands, and are located primarily within a ¼ mile band at the perimeter of Industrial Forest lands which contain one or more of the following characteristics: (i) (ii) The area contains WA State Department of Revenue – Private Forest Land Grade (PFLG) soils 1-5. The area includes lands which are primarily devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber. (b) The above-described parcels shall be further evaluated for inclusion or exclusion based on the following additional factors: (i) The parcel is enrolled in a current-use tax assessment program under the provisions of RCW 84.33 and 84.34 as it pertains to forestry. Such current-use tax assessment status is not by itself a sufficient determining factor for inclusion or exclusion, but is only part of the relevant characteristics to be considered. (ii) The area has limited public services and facilities (although the area may be located within a public water district). (iii) Secondary Forest lands need not be designated adjacent to Agricultural lands. (c) Parcels that do not meet any of the criteria described above in (a) or (b) may still be included or excluded to provide logical boundaries to the Secondary Forest lands designation and to avoid small “islands” or “peninsulas” of conflicting non-resource land uses in the midst of resource lands. Isolated, pre-existing residences shall not preclude the adjacent forest land areas from being classified Secondary Forest. (e) Conduct a comprehensive county-led, countywide analysis

consistent with WAC 365-190-040(10), and do not review forest resource lands designations solely on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

Policy 4B-2.5 Healthy Forest Initiative: Skagit County should continue to support a countywide initiative to promote fuel-reduction and forest restoration projects in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and other federal and state agencies.

Policy 4B-3.3 Long-Term Designation of Forest Lands: Designation of Forest Lands is intended to be long-term. De-designation is discouraged, but may be considered only when compelled by changes in public policy, errors in designation, new information on resource lands or critical areas, or other circumstances beyond the control of the landowner, or an overriding benefit to the forest industry. Evaluate de-designation requests with the same criteria under 4B-1.1 and 4B-1.3 used for Industrial Forest Resource Lands and Secondary Forest Resource Lands. Consider the development of mitigation measures and criteria for the loss of productive lands.

Goal 4D-1 Designate and map long-term commercially significant mineral resource lands as an overlay to the Comprehensive Plan Map. In classifying, designating and de-designating mineral resource lands, counties and cities must conduct a comprehensive countywide analysis consistent with WAC 365-190-040(10), with the exception of owner-initiated requests for designation. The County should not review mineral resource lands designations solely on a parcel-by-parcel basis. The County may de-designate mineral resource lands without a comprehensive countywide analysis if mining operations have ceased and the site reclaimed.

Recommendation # 2. Revise and add new policy to continue addressing wildfire resilience and development in wildland urban interfaces.

Recommendation is based on comments: 39, 38, 76, 51, & 59 requesting additional language to reduce development pressure around Wildland Urban Interface.

New Policy 4B-2.13 Identify and implement strategies for reducing residential development pressure in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Recommendation # 3. Add new policies and revise 4D-4.1 for continued education and resources for mineral overlay administration.

Recommendation is based on comments 5 & 48 requesting additional education around mineral overlay zones and statewide resources and data.

New Policy 4D-3.8 Incorporate Mineral Resource Overlay education and resources to the Planning and Development Services Natural Resource Lands website that provides education on mineral resource lands.

New Policy 4D-3.9 Utilize existing statewide resources for natural resource administration like the Department of Natural Resources Geologic Information Portal (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/geologyportal>).

Policy 4D-4.1 Coordinate State and Local Regulations: Development regulations for mineral resource lands in the county shall be consistent with applicable Washington State mining regulations ~~and including the Washington~~ Department of Natural Resources rules. Overlap in the regulatory authority between Skagit County and the DNR may occur to ensure public health and safety in matters not under the DNR’s jurisdiction.

Recommendation # 4. Revise Policy 4B-2.12 to address evacuation routes.

Recommendation is based on comment 65 requesting identification of evacuation routes.

Policy 4B-2.12 Develop a county-wide comprehensive wildfire resilience strategy planning program to increase public safety and awareness regarding forest fire dangers, and establish the means of managing, reducing and suppressing catastrophic wildfires. Including developing evacuation zones and bi-annual review of evacuation routes.

Recommendation # 5. Add new goal with policies to NRL Element under the Forest Resource Lands section for forest operations and carbon sequestration. Insert on page 147 after policy 4B-7.4

Recommendation is based on comment 1.

Subheading: Forest Carbon Sequestration

New Goal 4B-8: Continue to promote and support sustainable working forestry operations and recognize the benefits that forestry has for sequestration and storage of carbon.

New Policy 4B-8.1 Promote and encourage sustainable forest management actions that consider the life cycle of carbon storage over time, across all pools, including but not limited to, soil, green biomass, harvested wood products, reuse, recycling, and end of life fate.

New Policy 4B-8.2 Acknowledge the vital role that forest management plays in wildfire risk reduction, carbon storage, and carbon sequestration.

New Policy 4B-8.3 County actions should conform to and support RCW 70A.45.090, which stipulates, “Washington's existing forest products sector, including public and private working forests and the harvesting, transportation, and manufacturing sectors that enable working forests to remain on the land and the state to be a global supplier of forest products.

New Policy 4B-8.4 Retain the value of working forests by ensuring the long-term maintenance of an intact and synergistic industrial sector, as an integral component of the state’s contribution to the global climate response and efforts to mitigate carbon emissions.

New Policy 4B-8.5 Promote and encourage forest management and forest sector practices that do not create unintended negative impacts on greenhouse gas benefits or other environmental outcomes that occur outside the area where a forest practice is implemented, potentially offsetting or reducing the intended positive effects.

New Policy 4B-8.6 Support local, state, and federal programs that promote sustainable forest management practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by minimizing wildfire risk.

New Policy 4B –8.7 Support local mills using regional wood supplies minimizing the carbon footprint from outsourced wood products.

New Policy 4B-8.8 Continue to review best available science on working forests as an effective method of carbon sequestration and update policies as needed to support sustainable forest management as a method of carbon sequestration.

Land Use Policies

Recommendation # 6.

Revise 2G-1.1 to include Secondary Forest Natural Resource Lands.

Policy 2G-1.1 Allow the separation of an existing house from the larger parcel where it is located on lands designated Agricultural-Natural Resource Land, Secondary Forest – Natural Resource Land, and Rural Resource-Natural Resource Land in order to encourage long-term protection of agricultural land. Establish conservation easement on the separated resource land in perpetuity.

Transportation Policies

Recommendation # 7. Revise Goal 8A to identify Washington Department of Transportation.

Recommendation is based on comment 4

Goal 8A Plan and maintain a safe and efficient, ~~and equitable regional~~ transportation system for the movement of people and goods in partnership, where appropriate, with the cities, tribes, transit agencies, Washington Department of Transportation, and the Skagit Council of Governments

Recommendation # 8. Add new policy to improve coordination for development related permitting adjacent to state facilities.

Recommendation is based on comment 4

New Policy 8A-1.1 Review development projects near or adjacent to state facilities to coordinate local access and address transportation needs for all users.

Recommendation # 9. Add new policies to address better administration of traffic circulation.

Recommendation is based on comment 4

New Policy 8A-1.2 Encourage use of existing and new public roads to maximize internal circulation within Skagit County and promote economic development and community connectivity.

New Policy 8A-1.3 Develop the local internal road network to increase local circulation at the rural service centers/ areas of rural commercial development/ LAMIRDs.

Recommendation # 10. Add new policy to coordinate with organizations for non-motorized projects.

Recommendation is based on comment 35

New Policy 8A-1.4 Work with Skagit Council of Governments Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee (NMAC) to coordinate non-motorized transportation projects.

**Climate Element, Resilience Subelement, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Subelement
Forest Resiliency Goals and Policies (in Resilience Subelement)**

Recommendation # 11. New goal 12 K with new policies in Resilience Subelement

Recommendation is based on comment 1 requesting policies to be established for forest resilience.

New Goal 12 K Promote climate resilience through ensuring healthy resilient forests that are sustainably managed.

New Policy 12K-1.1 Ensure a resilient, operable and viable forest product sector by promoting and ensuring the well-being of timber communities.

New Policy 12K-1.2 Support the forestry industry in active forest management and retaining the critical infrastructure.

New Policy 12K-1.3 Support the Forest Practice Rules, which are vetted through the Adaptive Management Program, and the DNR Sustainable Forest Policies adopted in 2005 and amended through 2024.

New Policy 12K-1.4 Promote forest road system, which includes road building and maintenance to access forested landscape to promote fire resilience.

New Policy 12K-1.5 Build the Good Neighbor Authority relationship with the USFS to promote and foster crucial forest management to aid in fire resilience and promoting carbon sequestration.

Recommendation # 12. New goal 12L with policies in Resilience Subelement

Recommendation is based on comment 1 requesting policies to be established for forest resilience.

New Goal 12L Encourage forest management practices which minimize the size, scope, and impact of future wildfires.

New Policy 12L-1.1 Promote Forest Health by ensuring a viable industry and performing good forest practices management practices outlined in the CWPP and NFPA codes and standards manuals: (1140 – Wildland Fire Protection, 1141 – Infrastructure for Land Development, 1142- Water Supplies, 1143 – Wildfire

Management, 1144 – Reducing Structural Ignition). Support active vegetation management as prescribed in the CWPP home ignition zones to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.

New Policy 12L-1.2 Educate on the importance of reducing excessive fuel loading.

New Policy 12L-1.3 Educate in developing fuel breaks where appropriate to protect infrastructure and high value ecosystems.

New Policy 12L-1.4 Support bolstering wildland fire fighting capacity of rural fire districts.

New Policy 12-1.5 Incorporate best management practices outlined in the CWPP and NFPA codes and standards manuals: (1140 – Wildland Fire Protection, 1141 – Infrastructure for Land Development, 1142- Water Supplies, 1143 – Wildfire Management, 1144 – Reducing Structural Ignition). Support active vegetation management as prescribed in the CWPP home ignition zones to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.

Non-policy Recommendations

All references to page numbers are based the Planning Commission public hearing labeled version 2 on the [Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Update website](#).

Recommendation # 13. Page 126 include the following language: “For WA DNR/Washington Geological Survey maps you can also cite the Washington Geological Survey’s Geologic Information Portal.”

Recommendation is based on comment 5 & 47

[For WA DNR/Washington Geological Survey maps you can also cite the Washington Geological Survey’s Geologic Information Portal.](#)



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4: Natural Resource Lands
 ↳ Soils Used in Designating Agricultural and Forest Resource Lands

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Mineral Resource Overlay

Skagit County designates, as Mineral Resource Overlay, the following geologic formations, subject to consistency with other land-use designation criteria. Exclusionary criteria may result in some, otherwise qualified mineral resources undesignated. Refer to U.S. Geological Survey and Washington State Department of Natural Resources survey maps for explanations of the classifications used below. **These maps are available for viewing at Skagit County Planning & Development Services.**

Sand and Gravel Deposits

Qa	Quaternary Alluvium
Qa(s)	Holocene Alluvium – Sand
Qaf	Holocene Alluvial Fan Deposits
Qga	Advance Glacial Outwash
Qgas	Advance Glacial Outwash – Sand
Qgdm(e)	Everson Glaciomarine Drift
Qgo	Glacial Outwash
Qgo(e)	Everson Interstade – Glacial Outwash
Qgo(es)	Everson or Sumas – Glacial Outwash
Qgo(i)	Ice-Contact – Recessional Outwash
Qgo(s)	Glacial Outwash – Sumas Stade
Qgoc	Glacial Outwash, silt and clay – Vashon Stade
Qgom(s)	Glacial Outwash, marine – Sumas Stade
Qoa	Older Alluvium
Qoa(s)	Older Alluvium – Sand Facies

Bedrock Formations

JTRu(ts)	Dunite
JMV(u)	Greenstone
Jl(f)	Greenstone
PMPms(c)	Limestone

Recommendation # 14. Page 122 after NRL existing conditions include references statewide data and reference including: DNR aggregate resources, geologic information portal, and geologic planning website.

Recommendation is based on comment 5 & 47 requesting greater education actions around natural resource lands specifically mineral resource overlay.

[For more resources regarding geologic planning or mineral overlay information visit the Washinton Department of Natural Resources Aggregate Resources website \(https://www.dnr.wa.gov/aggregate-resources\), geologic information portal](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/aggregate-resources)

(<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/geologyportal>), or geologic planning website (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/geology/geologic-planning>).



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4: Natural Resource Lands
Natural Resource
Land Support
Mechanisms

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During the 2005-2007 update of the Mineral Resource Overlay, Skagit County conducted an in-depth review of geologic formations and potential mineral resource deposits. This mapping update confirmed many known mineral resources and identified new mineral resources. A very few currently conforming mining operations did not meet the criteria for mineral resource land overlay designation as applied during this mapping review. Due to the economic conditions of these operations and their beneficial access to markets, Skagit County will consider these existing operations as conforming uses within the provisions of the Mineral Resource Overlay.

It is important to ensure that mining policies and regulations, in addition to protecting the resource and its related activities, also protect public health, safety and the environment. These policies and their implementing regulations work in concert with other federal and State laws to ensure that mining operators and surrounding land owners remain good neighbors.

The Natural Resource Lands Element also establishes Right-to-Manage Natural Resource Lands goals and policies to promote a clear mandate for mineral extraction activities as a priority on lands designated as Mineral Resource Overlay. The vitality of the mineral industry is also promoted in the Natural Resource Lands Element by integrating support and information services in a Natural Resource Lands Clearinghouse and allowing support services and businesses to encourage development of 'value-added' products.

Natural Resource Land Support Mechanisms

Right to Manage Natural Resource Lands

Where non-natural resource land uses (primarily residential uses) extend into natural resource areas or exist side-by-side, natural resource management operations are frequently subject to nuisance complaints. When complaints relate to the undesired effects of properly regulated and conducted natural resource lands activities, natural resource land managers are required to set aside time and financial resources in order to respond.

Right-to-Manage Natural Resource Lands policies are intended to promote a good neighbor policy between natural resource lands and non-natural resource land property owners by advising purchasers and users of property adjacent to or near natural resource land management operations of the inherent potential difficulties associated with such purchase or residence. It is essential that neighbors and residents of natural resource lands better understand and be prepared to accept attendant conditions and the natural result of living in or near natural resource lands and rural areas. The Right to Manage Natural Resource Land goals and policies

Recommendation # 15. Pages 358, 376, 382, 385, 404, 426 Change all references to “Economic Development Association of Skagit County” to “Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County”.

Recommendation is based on comment 51



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11: Economic Development

Demographic Profile

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The Economic Development Element of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan is a companion to the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* that is maintained by the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG). The Council is a regional government body charged with a number of activities including the coordination of local economic analysis and planning. The *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* is updated periodically by the Skagit Council of Governments in partnership with the **Economic Development Association** of Skagit County to address requirement of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Community Economic Development Strategy provides information on trends, needs, problems and opportunities, and identifies strategies for implementing the goals in this Element.

[The SCOG Board of Directors adopted the revised CEDS at their meeting in December 2024. Visit the SCOG website to review the adopted 2024 Comprehensive Plan Economic Development Strategy and the 2024 Landscape Assessment and Data Profile.](#)

Demographic Profile

[Skagit County has seen steady growth in population over the past three decades with the population growing by 52,000 since 1990, mostly driven by in-migration. Urban areas grew faster than rural areas; Burlington grew the fastest while Mount Vernon accounted for the highest share of countywide growth since 2000. Skagit County’s population growth was mostly in line with the Countywide Planning Policies \(CPP\) projections for 2036. According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management’s \(OFM\) most recent projections, the county is projected to accommodate an additional 28,800 residents by 2045 – a growth rate of 0.9% per year on average for the next two decades¹⁴. Since 1990, total housing units in Skagit County have increased by over 23,000 units, with approximately 16,600 of these, or 71%, single family homes – versus 57% in the Puget Sound region. The overall mix of housing unit types in the county has remained mostly stable over time, with single family homes accounting for 73% of the housing supply in 1990 and 72% in 2023, again higher than the region, state, and neighboring counties. Housing production in Skagit County has slowed down in the past decade, and the overall availability of housing has not kept pace with growth in the number of households¹⁵.](#)

¹⁴ OFM Growth Management Act County projections, Medium Scenario, 2022. Among the OFM projections, the Medium scenario is considered the most likely future.

¹⁵ SCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2024.

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[policy 11A-1.4](#) Implement permitting procedures that are understandable, predictable and can be accomplished within time periods that meet or exceed statutory requirements. Procedures for permitting that require approvals of both the County and other jurisdictions should be consistent.

[policy 11A-4.1](#) Encourage local business investments that provide economic and employment opportunities for all county residents.

[policy 11A-4.2](#)[policy 11A-1.5](#) Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions, the Skagit Council of Governments, the **Economic Development Association** of Skagit County, the ports of Skagit and Anacortes, and federal and state agencies to promote economic development and employment opportunities consistent with countywide economic development policies.

Attachment C – For review by the Planning Commission

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~~policy 11E-1.2~~ policy 11D-1.10

upgrade skills required for employment, advancement and entrepreneurship.

policy 11D-1.9 Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions, the Skagit Council of Governments, the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, the ports of Skagit and Anacortes, and federal and state agencies to promote economic development and employment opportunities consistent with countywide economic development policies.

Cooperate with education providers and employers to ensure the availability of facilities and programs necessary to meet the needs of K-12, college, vocational and continuing education levels.

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	policy 11G-4.1 policy 11E-3.1	Link County capital facility planning and programming to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to sustain a high quality of life and attract business investment.
	policy 11G-4.2 policy 11E-3.2	Monitor and evaluate constraints to economic development caused by regulations and permitting procedures and implement revisions, if necessary, as part of annual or periodic comprehensive plan and development regulation updates. Coordinate with other (federal and state) permitting agencies to simplify procedures.
	policy 11G-4.3 policy 11E-3.3	Maintain a growth management indicators monitoring program to measure progress in economic development initiatives in coordination with the Skagit Council of Governments and the Economic Development Association of Skagit County. The indicators program report should be updated at least every 3 ½ years to coincide with the periodic GMA update schedule.
	policy 11G-4.4 policy 11E-3.4	Consider as part of the County's budgeting process outside funding sources such as grants, as well as careful fiscal needs analyses in order to ensure that tax revenue generation is competitive with other jurisdictions.
	policy 11G-4.5 policy 11E-3.5	Support the work program of the Skagit Council of Governments to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as least every three years to identify needs and solutions for transportation, human services, environmental protection, community development and other elements that support improvements to the location economy
		impact for Skagit County.

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		avenues for public and property owner input.
		Implementation Themes
		The County's role in the overall regional growth management implementation process involves several major activities, all of which are discussed further in various sections of the Plan:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ City/County coordination: <i>Within an agreed-upon framework, the County works with the cities and towns to address growth and development in the Urban Growth Areas through the coordination of public infrastructure investment and permitting activities, and the forecasting and monitoring of growth to ensure that adequate land is available for future urban needs.</i> ■ Regional economic development: <i>The County is a partner with the Skagit Council of Governments and the Economic Development Association of Skagit County in maintaining a program for retaining and attracting businesses that generate revenue and jobs.</i> ■ Regional transportation planning: <i>The County is a partner in the Skagit Council of Governments Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the Metropolitan</i>

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13: Implementation and
Monitoring

Acronyms

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Appendix A Acronyms and Definitions

Acronyms

ADT	average daily traffic
BMP	best management practice
CAC	Citizen Advisory Committee
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
CFP	Capital Facilities Plan
CIP	capital improvement program
CaRD	Conservation and Reserve Development
CCR	Conditions, Covenants, and/or Restrictions
CPP	Countywide Planning Policies
CWSP	Coordinated Water System Plan
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement (see also FEIS, DEIS, SEIS, DSEIS)
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (State of Washington)
DOE	Department of Ecology (State of Washington)
DSEIS	Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (see also FEIS, DEIS, SEIS, DSEIS)
EDASC	Economic Development Association of Skagit County
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (see also FEIS, DEIS, SEIS, DSEIS)
ELF	extremely low frequency
EMF	electric and magnetic fields or electromagnetic field
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement (see also FEIS, DEIS, SEIS, DSEIS)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Recommendation # 16. Page 450 delete section title “Linking Past to the Present”

Recommendation is based on comment 41 expressing concern that the section is misrepresenting history of Skagit County.



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13: Implementation and Monitoring

Linking the Past to the Present

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Linking the Past to the Present

The Skagit Valley was inhabited for thousands of years before the arrival of settlers in the 19th Century. The cession of tribal lands through the Point Elliot Treaty of January 22, 1855 greatly changed traditional Native Americans' ways and beliefs. Land titles and surveys were alien ideas to the customs of Native Americans, but were basic to the farmers settling in the valley. A fern-covered prairie on March's Point seems to have been the site of the first white settlement. By 1870, other new settlements were located elsewhere in the Flats, although there was still very little development. Construction of dikes enabled the growth of farming on the rich delta land. By 1890 railroads were instrumental in supporting the farming, logging, and mining industries, featuring a line from Portland, Oregon, to Anacortes. During the 1890s, two north-south lines were completed through the county, connecting it with Seattle and Vancouver. By 1901, the east-west line was extended from Hamilton through Concrete and into Rockport. The Skagit River has played an important role in the history of Skagit County. Tribal settlements were located near salt water and along the rivers. For new settlers in the logging business, the Skagit provided the means to transport timber, although logjams hindered activity until 1889. By 1890, most of the land next to water had been logged off, and operations moved further inland using animals and machines to transport timber. The River and Sound also furnished an abundance of resources. Salmon provided an important food source for the early tribal peoples. Commercial fishing by new settlers began in the 1890s with the building of fish-processing plants and by 1900, clams and oysters were also being canned. By the turn of the century, however, over-fishing had reduced available stocks and experiments with fish hatcheries sought to supplement dwindling fish runs. Over the next thirty years, canneries continued to be productive in Anacortes. When the commercial fishing industry declined, other marine industries emerged, such as boat-building and recreational boating. Today, the Anacortes and La Conner marinas are among the largest in the State of Washington. Skagit County separated from Whatcom in 1883. In 1884, La Conner was established as the temporary county seat with its established port and considerable population. The county's first newspaper, the Skagit News, garnered sufficient support to make Mount Vernon as the county seat and a vote later in 1884 confirmed the change.

Comprehensive Planning Timeline

Following is an overview of Skagit County's comprehensive planning between 1965 and the adoption of its first comprehensive plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA):

- March 1965 Skagit County adopts its first Comprehensive Plan.
September 1968 Comprehensive Plan is amended.

Recommendation # 17. Page 118 change sentence include citations to RCW

Recommendation is based on comment 29

Agricultural Resource Lands are those lands with soils, climate, topography, parcel size, and location characteristics that have long-term commercial significance for farming. Skagit County designates agricultural lands primarily based on the presence of prime agricultural soils following RCW 36.70A.070 and 36.70A.170.

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■ Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO)

Agricultural Natural Resource Lands

Agricultural Resource Lands are those lands with soils, climate, topography, parcel size, and location characteristics that have long-term commercial significance for farming. Skagit County designates agricultural lands primarily based on the presence of prime agricultural soils. These lands are concentrated in the fertile floodplain of the Skagit River as it flows into the Puget Sound. There are also agricultural lands designated along the upper Skagit Valley in areas of rich alluvial soils. Based on the designation criteria presented in Chapter Element 4, Natural Resource Lands, Skagit County has designated an estimated 88,50688,564 acres of land as Agricultural lands, although significantly fewer acres are in full agricultural production in any given year. Designating valuable agricultural soils protects the resource for future use, regardless of current farming conditions. Designating also ensures a cohesive and distinct agricultural area within Skagit County, and limits the extent to which non-agricultural uses can conflict and interfere with farming.

Primary crops and agricultural products in Skagit County include apples, berries, floriculture and sod, potatoes, peas and other vegetables, vegetable seeds, dairy, and ornamental nursery stock. Skagit County’s annual Tulip Festival brings in over \$60 million in economic activity, adding to the

Recommendation # 18. Page 18 & 387, change sentence to explain GHG icon.

Recommendation from consultant – technical error

This GHG icon appears throughout the Comprehensive Plan and represents policies that support or contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions through land use and transportation solutions, reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled, or prioritizes reductions that benefit overburdened communities.



Comprehensive Plan
202516-
204536

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non-resource industry diversity, promoting a range of commercial retail and service businesses, increasing tourism, conserving natural resources and open spaces and fostering a healthy public-private cooperative partnership in support of diverse business operations and investment.

Chapter 12: Climate and Resiliency with Resiliency Sub-Element and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sub-Element

This element addresses how Skagit County can address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, enhance natural areas for the purposes of hazard protection, enhance community resiliency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities and promote environmental justice.

The Skagit County climate and resiliency element and sub-elements are integrated across all elements through policies. Policies that promote climate, resiliency, and GHG reductions are noted across the whole comprehensive plan will the following icons.



This resiliency icon appears throughout the Comprehensive Plan and represents policies that help address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, protect natural areas, and enhance community resiliency.



This GHG icon appears throughout the Comprehensive Plan and represents policies that help address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, protect natural areas, and enhance community resiliency.

Chapter 13: Implementation and Monitoring

This element describes the concepts involved in putting a plan into action, how this Plan is updated and amended, and how the Plan is monitored and evaluated. This chapter-element also addresses how the Plan and its development regulations will be applied at the community level, through the community planning process.

Appendices

- Appendix A contains definitions and a list of acronyms used within this document. [Acronyms and Definitions](#) [Definitions and Acronyms List](#): Provides a list of key definitions and acronyms used throughout this document.