

CHAPTER 4

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR AREA OF COVERAGE

Given a history of flooding problems and known potential flood problem areas and damage potential, a strategy should be developed to address the County's flooding problems. A specific area must be identified over which the strategy will apply for comprehensive analysis. Goals and objectives for the specific area of coverage have been determined as part of this plan.

The previously stated regulations discussed in Chapter 3 of this plan each had purposes, goals, and objectives related to the mitigation of flood damages. A compilation of these purposes suggests that the objective of the comprehensive flood control management plan should be to promote public health, safety, and general welfare by providing a comprehensive plan which addresses flood control problems and solutions in Skagit County consistent with existing policies and regulations. To attain this objective, the following short- and long-term goals should be achieved with the program.

FLOOD CONTROL PLAN GOALS

Short-Term Goals

1. Reduce threat to life and property. Attend to all known imminent flood hazards to the extent possible. Keep stream channels free from debris. Provide immediate spot improvements in areas of serious flood problems which cannot wait for comprehensive changes in the system.
2. Protect economic base. Maintain flood control works which enable agricultural lands and industries to function effectively. Retain viability of agricultural land and provide for winter crop cultivation.
3. Provide effective emergency response. Ensure emergency vehicle movement and emergency service access. Train and mobilize response teams. Provide timely repair and maintenance of damaged structures and services.

4. Maintain existing flood control structures. Develop and continue to improve program of scheduled maintenance of levees, riprap dikes, pump stations, and tide gates. Prevent failure during high water periods.
5. Maintain local control of flood control works. Encourage development of sub-flood control zone and diking districts. Continue cooperation and assistance programs with the districts. Maintain districts' independence and contract for services.
6. Efficient use of public dollars. Public and project benefits are to exceed costs. Favor inexpensive, low-tech, and non-structural solutions. Apply for grants and funds for eligible projects which provide matching funds.

Long-Term Goals

1. Increase integrity of flood control facilities. Uniform flood protection based on elevation and integrity is the County's long-term priority. A 25-year flood frequency protection is the desired goal.
2. Reduce and prevent flood damage. Reduce average annual expenditures for flood control maintenance and capital improvement projects.
3. Maintain instream uses and resources. Retain wetlands and stream corridors to maximum extent possible. Preserve national streams and lakes as public amenities. Mitigate impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality, existing recreation, scenic, aesthetic, and historic resources.
4. Use equitable and stable financing. Develop equitable financing to pay for ongoing flood control work and capital improvements. Funding should be simple and easy to administer. Should charge according to contribution to problem. Create a pool for capital improvements.
5. Maintain safe transportation. Reduce traffic hazards. Enhance emergency vehicle movement. Provide safe, adequate, diversified, and compatible means of travelling and transporting goods and services during high water periods.
6. Develop systematic approach to flood control work. Provide consistent guidelines, adhering to all regulations, to meet communities' desires. Coordinate agencies, policies, and programs to best serve private and community concerns. Improve efficiency and implementation processes, updating when necessary.

7. Provide County-wide protection. Strive to provide equal flood protection for all portions of Skagit County. Avoid measures that will severely impact other areas in the county.
8. Pursue and support any feasible existing or future large scale flood control projects. This would include major projects such as additional upstream storage, major levee improvements, and diversion by artificial channel.

These goals and objectives best describe the County's approach to floodplain management. Proposed in-stream flood control work should be consistent with these goals and objectives.

AREA OF COVERAGE

In order to effectively accomplish these goals and objectives, a specific area of coverage must be identified over which flooding problems are evaluated comprehensively. The County and FEMA recognize that the majority of flooding problems occur in the 100-year floodplain, as established on the flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) and presented in Figure 3-1. All of the documented flooding problems discussed in Chapter 2 occur within this boundary. For this reason, the area the comprehensive plan will cover includes the 100-year floodplain as established by FEMA in the Skagit and Samish watersheds.