

# TOWN OF HAMILTON

## Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerability Assessment & Mitigation Strategies

The purpose of this section of the plan is to assess the vulnerability of the Town of Hamilton in regards to the various natural hazards previously identified in SECTION II of this plan. In addition, mitigation strategies that are currently in place relating to these natural hazards as well as newly proposed mitigation strategies have been included in this section of the plan.

To complete the vulnerability assessment process, various town staff utilized a series of locally developed forms as well as forms available in the 20/20 Mitigation Software that was provided to Skagit County by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division. The information collected with these forms is included in this portion of the plan.

Critical facilities were identified and analyzed as part of the plan-development process.

There are 31 repetitive loss properties in the Town of Hamilton but due to confidentiality reasons, specific information regarding these properties may not be included in this plan. More information may be obtained from the specific jurisdiction in which the repetitive loss properties are located.

The Town of Hamilton or other public entity will acquire land out of the flood plain for the purpose of a) annexation to the Town of Hamilton, and b) relocating residential housing units from the Skagit River floodway/floodplain, through a program involving land acquisition and transfer of development rights of land in the Skagit River floodway/floodplain to the new residential area. The program will involve a variety of planning tools, including sub-area planning, re-allocation of population, acquisition of development rights, land trusts, low income housing programs, construction of public infrastructure, etc., to dovetail (FEMA) funding for flood damage prevention/mitigation with Growth Management Act compliant planning tools. While the Town of Hamilton is a primary focus of the project, it will be designed to accommodate the transfer of development rights and population allocations from portions of the Skagit River floodway/floodplain located outside the Town Limits to the annexed residential area, as well.

Representatives from Town of Hamilton government worked closely with other jurisdictions, agencies, Indian tribes, and the Skagit Natural Hazards Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive, coordinated mitigation plan intended to reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards within the Town of Hamilton.

The information contained in this document presents the results of this effort to identify the specific natural hazards threatening the Town of Hamilton, to characterize the vulnerability of the Town of Hamilton regarding these hazards, and to identify current as

well as proposed mitigation strategies, projects and/or programs to address those vulnerabilities.

The analyses conducted by Town of Hamilton staff were based on the best currently available information and data regarding the characteristics of the neighborhoods identified, the natural hazards that threaten the people, property, and environment of these neighborhoods as well as the impacts these neighborhoods have suffered in past disasters. This information includes, when available, United States Census data, local tax records, local and national geographic information system data, Flood Insurance Rate Maps, hazard specific analyses, and other environmental and demographic facts. However, very often authoritative or current information simply was not available for the planning effort. In these cases, the experience, knowledge and judgment of local officials representing Town of Hamilton government were used in the planning, including assumptions and approximations that were believed to be reasonable. In addition, straight-forward, simplified technical analyses were used for tasks such as estimating property values, determining the size of populations affected, and so forth. The reliance on the judgment of knowledgeable officials and simplified analyses is considered acceptable at this stage to allow the participating organizations to complete the tasks needed to develop this multi-jurisdictional natural hazards mitigation plan. As the planning continues in future years, or at the time when a proposed mitigation initiative is intended to be funded and/or implemented, the participating organizations/jurisdictions recognize that additional information and analyses may be required.

Town of Hamilton government is committed to the implementation of the mitigation-related projects/programs described in this section of the plan when and if resources become available. Town of Hamilton government is also committed to continuing the mitigation planning process that has resulted in the development of this document, and to the ongoing cooperation with other agencies, organizations, Indian tribes, and jurisdictions to make the Town of Hamilton County more resistant to the damages and hardships that could otherwise be the result of future natural disasters.

### **Town of Hamilton Overview:**

<u>Contact Information:</u>	Margaret Fleek, Town Planner Town of Hamilton P.O. Box 528 Hamilton, WA 98255 Telephone: (360) 826-3983
<u>Population of Jurisdiction:</u>	309 (2000 Census)
<u>Estimated Geographical Size:</u>	.94 square miles (over 50% located in Floodway)
<u>Principal Economic Base:</u>	Business and Industrial
<u>Economic Characteristic:</u>	Median Household Income is \$31,500

Current Hazard Mitigation Codes/Plans/Ordinances:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Zoning Code
- Uniform Building and Fire Code (updating to International Codes 2004)
- Capital Facilities Plan
- Comprehensive Water System Plan
- Critical Areas Ordinance
- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- Participation in NFIP Program