

## Overview: 2008 Plan Update

The process followed in accomplishing the 2008 update of the **Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan** essentially mirrored the process that was followed in developing the plan in 2003. Throughout this process, every effort was made to comply with the requirements of 44 CFR, Part 201.6 of the Interim Final Rule as well as National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System requirements. The Skagit Natural Hazards Steering Committee reviewed the original plan in late 2007 and early 2008. The steering committee determined that it was important to retain much of the original plan to maintain a historical perspective.

The Skagit Natural Hazards Steering Committee determined that revisions to SECTION I would reflect changes in plan participants and committee membership; document the plan update and adoption process; and provide information as to the successes and failures encountered in maintaining the plan over the previous five years. In addition, the steering committee elected to add this chapter to SECTION I to provide information specific to the 2008 update of the plan.

The Skagit Natural Hazards Steering Committee determined that revisions to SECTION II would note occurrences of natural hazard events since the original plan was written. The steering committee also determined that revisions to the Flood and Tsunami/Seiche chapters would incorporate any and all new studies, maps, and other known information pertaining to these hazards. It was decided to revise the Fire chapter to streamline the fire hazard assessment information and note recent efforts to develop a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Due to public request, the steering committee also decided to include possible effects of sea level rise due to climate change in the Flood and Severe Storm chapters of SECTION II.

The Skagit Natural Hazards Steering Committee directed Skagit County Department of Emergency Management staff to revise SECTION I and SECTION II of the plan in accordance with the conditions noted above; the Skagit Natural Hazards Planning Committee provided oversight throughout the update process and reviewed and approved all revisions as part of the plan update process.

The Skagit Natural Hazards Planning Committee reviewed SECTION III of the plan in June, 2008. The planning committee revised the Multi-Jurisdiction/Multi-Hazard Mitigation Goals and also revised and approved a list of Multiple-Hazard Mitigation Action Items for the 2009-2013 cycle of the plan.

SECTION IV of the plan was reviewed and revised separately by each participating Indian Tribe, jurisdiction, and special purpose district. The Samish Indian Nation and the Fidalgo Park and Recreation District became participants of the plan during the update process; their hazard vulnerability assessments and proposed mitigation strategies are included as part of the updated plan.

SECTION V of the plan was modified by Skagit County Department of Emergency Management staff to comply with revisions made to the remainder of the plan.

A synopsis of the revisions made to the various sections of the plan is listed below:

## SECTION I: THE PLANNING PROCESS

### Introduction

- The Samish Indian Nation and the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness District were added.

### Overview: 2008 Update

- This chapter was added to the plan to provide general information regarding the revisions that were made as part of the 2008 plan update process.

### Special Requirements

- This chapter was added to the plan to provide information regarding new FEMA requirements pertaining to Tribal mitigation plans and how these requirements were incorporated into the 2008 plan update.

### Plan Methodology

- The Steering Committee decided to retain a majority of the original information to provide a historical perspective to the plan.
- 2008 Steering Committee and Planning Committee members were identified.
- The Skagit County Flood Control Zone District was described.
- Recognition was given to the *Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan* as well as the *Sauk River Erosion/Flood hazard Management Plan*.
- Reference was made to the completion of the tsunami-modeling project for the eastern portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca including a tsunami inundation map for Skagit County.
- It was noted that due to new FEMA regulations, local and Tribal mitigation plans now have slight content differences and that the Samish Indian Nation, the Swinomish Indian Tribal community, and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe would address these content differences within their individual portions of the plan.

### Plan Development Process

- Key contributors to the 2003 plan development process were deleted; key contributors to the 2008 plan update process were listed.
- The Public Meeting Process table was revised to reflect the 2008 plan update public meeting process.
- All important dates and elements in the 2008 plan update process were listed by date.

### Plan Adoption

- It was noted that participating entities would formally re-adopt the plan following approval by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### Plan Maintenance

- The Plan Evaluation and Update Schedule was revised to reflect the 2009-2013 time-line.
- Plan maintenance activities from 2003-2008 were listed; successes and failures were noted.
- Verbiage was added pertaining to the fact that the 2008 plan update process followed the requirements of 44 CFR, Part 201.6 of the Interim Final Rule rather than the plan update process that was proposed in the 2003 version of the plan.
- The Samish Indian Nation office was added to the listing of locations where copies of the plan will be kept and made available for public review.

## SECTION II: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

### Fire

- Minor revisions were made to include the 2007 Burpee Hill Fire that occurred near the Town of Concrete in eastern Skagit County as well as a fire that occurred at Sares Head on Fidalgo Island.
- Information regarding recent efforts to begin development of a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan was added.
- The Skagit County Code reference was changed to reflect the current code.

### Flood

- Minor additions were made to reflect the 2003, 2006 flood events as well as efforts by various Skagit County jurisdictions to increase flood storage within the Puget Sound Energy Baker River Project.
- An updated Skagit River Recorded Discharges 1815 to 2006 chart was inserted into the plan.
- It was noted that the revised Skagit River Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) have not yet been released therefore the vulnerability assessment, probability and risk, and conclusion portions of the chapter were not revised.
- Possible effects of sea level rise due to climate change were added.

### Land Movement

- Minor revisions were made to include the 2007 Hard Creek Slide (Cascade River watershed) that occurred following the 2007 winter storm event that affected much of western Washington.

### Severe Storms

- Minor additions were made referencing the February 2006 storm surge event affecting La Conner.
- Minor revisions were made to include the 2007 winter storm event that affected much of western Washington.
- Possible effects of sea level rise due to climate change were added.

### Tsunami and Seiche

- A complete revision was performed of this chapter.
- Changes and additions were made regarding tsunami history.
- The hazard identification, vulnerability assessment, probability and risk, and conclusion portions of the chapter were revised to incorporate recently completed tsunami inundation mapping efforts affecting Skagit County.

## SECTION III: MULTI-JURISDICTION/MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION

### Mitigation Goals

- Existing mitigation goals were re-affirmed and minor revisions were made.

### Multiple Hazard Mitigation Action items

- Accomplishments and deficiencies were noted.
- Revisions were made based on current mitigation priorities.

### Stakeholder/Citizen Suggested Mitigation Strategies and Projects

- Revisions were made based on comments and suggestions received by various stakeholders and citizens as part of the 2008 plan update public meeting process.

## SECTION IV: JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Revisions to this section of the plan were completed by each of the participating entities; the Samish Indian Nation developed their section as part of the 2008 plan update process. Typically, revisions were made to the following:

- Contact information was revised to reflect any changes made since 2003.
- Current data was entered into the 20/20 program to revise vulnerability and risk information, as needed.
- Information regarding critical facilities was revised to reflect changes made since 2003.
- Maps were changed to reflect current jurisdictional boundaries and to remain consistent with updated information contained in the plan.
- If appropriate, mitigation strategies were revised to meet current needs, especially with regards to flooding and tsunami hazards.
- Possible mitigation projects were revised, as needed.

## SECTION V: APPENDICES

Revisions to this section of the plan were made by Department of Emergency Management staff.

- Appendix B and C were deleted from the plan.
- The remaining appendices were re-lettered to accommodate the deletions listed above.