

Envision Skagit 2060

Preserving our heritage, shaping our future



Envision Skagit 2060 seeks to engage county residents in planning for the future. The project is a partnership among Skagit County, local citizens, and numerous local and regional organizations, including conservation groups, tribes, local farmers and foresters, cities and towns, economic development organizations, colleges and universities.

The project is using a sophisticated land use model called *Envision* as a tool to help the community evaluate and visualize the long-term impacts of different policy choices on the landscape. For instance:

- How should our cities and towns expand or redevelop to handle future population and employment growth?
- What actions should we take now to maintain farms and farmland, and to ensure healthy salmon runs into the future?

By looking ahead several generations, we're working to develop and implement a broadly-supported, 50-year vision to protect the Skagit and Samish watersheds' many environmental values, maintain our highly productive farm, forestry and shellfish industries, and accommodate anticipated population growth in livable, walkable, and economically vibrant communities.

The project will ultimately recommend changes to the County's and other jurisdictions' comprehensive plans and policies addressing land use planning, community and economic development, environmental protection and natural resource conservation.

Envision Skagit 2060 is a collaborative community effort involving cities, agencies, tribes, agricultural and forestry interests, conservation groups, businesses, Skagit County, colleges and universities, and the community at large. Project funding is provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency agreement P000J08201, with substantial in-kind contributions from Skagit County and other project participants.



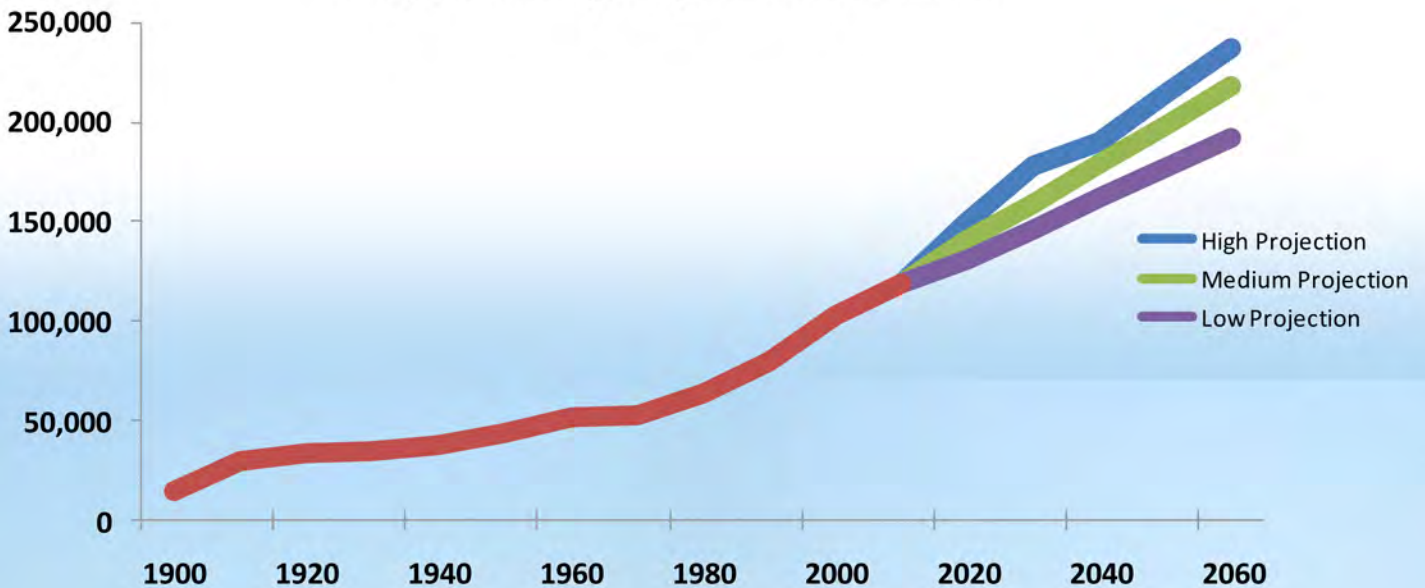
Creating a Preferred Future

By 2060, Skagit County's population is expected to reach almost 218,000 – an increase of 83% from 2010 – or 98,600 new residents. With population growth and development coming our way, it is essential to look ahead, work together, and find creative solutions to protect the vitality, appeal, and character of Skagit County for many years to come.

The Skagit County Commissioners and City and Town Mayors have appointed a 13-member Citizen Committee to help develop and recommend a "Preferred Future" for Skagit County. The committee will learn about challenges and opportunities facing the County through field trips, information sessions, and community workshops intended to solicit broad public input. The Citizen Committee will use the *Envision* model as a tool to consider the impacts of various policy choices as it develops its Preferred Future recommendations. When it completes its work, the Citizen Committee will forward its recommendations to the County Commissioners, Mayors, and other elected officials for further consideration and possible implementation.



Skagit County Population Growth



Projected Future Scenarios

To date, the project's Steering and Technical Committees have developed future "scenarios" to analyze how different policy choices related to environmental conservation, growth management planning, natural resource industry protection, and economic development might play out in Skagit County over the next 50 years.

These scenarios will be evaluated using the Envision landscape modeling program. The model will populate the Skagit landscape with new people, jobs and services. It will also model varying levels of farm and forest land protection, and environmental conservation and restoration, based on the specific policies in each scenario. For each of these scenarios, the model will simulate the Skagit landscape after 50 years' time. The Envision model

will project those future landscape conditions in three-dimensional form, making them more understandable to the general public.

No scenario is a forecast of *actual* future conditions—nor is any a candidate for the "Preferred Future." Except for the Plan Trend, which represents current policy carried out over 50 years, the scenarios are intended to illustrate the effects of different policy choices. The Citizen Committee will work with the model, and may choose to combine parts of different scenarios, to develop its preferred future recommendations. These recommendations will then be considered by elected officials and the broader community for possible future implementation.

Change happens fast...

1910

1960

2010

2060...?



TECHNICAL Committees

There are multiple technical committees: Agriculture; Forestry; Growth Management; Ecosystem; Housing and Development.

The technical committees contribute their technical knowledge to the development of the future scenarios and analyzing modeling results.

STEERING Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall guidance for the Envision Skagit 2060 project. Its 18 members represent diverse and influential community organizations.

Members: Gary Christensen, Skagit County; Jan Ellingson, Better Homes and Gardens Realty; Margaret Fleek, Burlington; Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District; Paul Kriegel, Goodyear Nelson; Ryan Larsen, Anacortes; Rebecca Bradley-Lowell, Mount Vernon; Patsy Martin, Port of Skagit County; Jack Moore, Sedro-Woolley; Kevin Morse, The Nature Conservancy; Rebecca Ponzio, Puget Sound Partnership; Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farm-

land; Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agricultural Association; Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council; Margaret Studer, Futurewise; Dr. Gary Tollefson, Skagit Valley College; Larry Wasserman, Swinomish Indian Tribe.

CITIZEN Committee

The Citizen Committee helps to ensure broad public engagement in the project. Working with the Envision model, it will develop and recommend a “preferred future” for Skagit County through 2060. The 13 committee members were selected for their broad interest in the community, not because they represent a specific organization or interest.

Members and their home community: John Cheney, Mount Vernon; Kerri Cook, Alger; Cory Ertel, Anacortes; Peggy Flynn, Anacortes; Jim Meyer, Rockport; Kim Mower, Hamilton area; Grace Popoff, Concrete area; Gustavo Ramos, Jr., Mount Vernon; Doris Robbins, Edison; Tim Rosenhan, Samish Island; Ryan Sakuma, Burlington; Gary Thor, Mount Vernon; Nate Youngquist, west of Mount Vernon.

