

**CHAPTER 10**  
**ANALYSIS OF NEEDS**

No single level of determining need is perfect. To determine Skagit County Parks and Recreation program and facility needs, the following methods of determining need were combined. The score derived from these combined elements will be used in establishing project priorities. In this chapter, “park type” is analyzed first, followed by “programs and facilities”.

1. **Survey Results**, which provide a statistically valid means of distinguishing the needs of Skagit County residents.
2. **Level of Service (LOS) Standards**, which provide service levels from other Washington Counties and provide guidance in establishing LOS standards for Skagit County.
3. **Use Patterns**, which provide fundamental information from those who use or oversee facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need.
4. **Public Input** and other Factors, which provides valuable information as to the needs of Skagit County citizens. Input comes in many forms: park advisory board meetings, informal conversations, letters addressed to county staff, field experience, and special meetings and all provide forums to listen to the concerns and vision of County residents. Geographic dispersion of facilities and financial constraints are recurring concerns with the public and are factored within this category.

The analysis is based on the following formula:

1. Needs as expressed in the comprehensive plan **survey**.
  - a. Highest level of need (5 points)
  - b. Some need (3 points)
  - c. Low level of need (1 point)
2. Skagit County **Level of Service** as compared to Snohomish, Whatcom, and Spokane County (SWS) aggregate.
  - a. SCPR service levels are below those of the aggregate (5 points)
  - b. SCPR service levels are essentially the same as the aggregate (<10%) (3 points)

- c. SCPR service levels exceed the aggregate (1 point)
- 3. **Use Patterns** based on Skagit County’s existing programs and facilities.
  - a. Use Patterns consistently exceed capacity of facility/program. (5 points)
  - b. Use Patterns generally accommodated by facilities/programs. (3 points)
  - c. Facility/program can handle additional use. (1 point)
- 4. **Public Input** and other factors
  - a. Factors warrant significant increase. (5 points)
  - b. Moderate increase is necessary. (3 points)
  - c. No current need to increase capacity. (1 Point)

### **ELEMENT SCORES**

The scores will be combined and averaged to make a final determination of need for facilities and/or programs. The scores will indicate the needs based on the following levels of need:

4.0-5.00	High level of need.
2.0-3.99	Moderate level of need
1.0-1.99	Low level of need

### **ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS**

For the survey analysis, results from three separate surveys were used to arrive at the score. The LOS score was derived by comparing current Skagit County service levels with those of comparable counties. Use patterns were scored based on knowledge of current facility and program deficiencies and/or sufficiency. Public Input was factored by utilizing the information not accounted for under the other elements. With this information, a consensus driven process made up of a planning team consisting of SCPR Staff and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members analyzed the aforementioned need components to derive at a score which will represent SCPR priorities. The scores for park types are listed in Table 10.1.

### **ANALYSIS OF “PARK TYPES”**

Skagit County parks are currently made up of four different “park types” as defined below. These parks are analyzed as to how they rank according to the data available. The rankings will help determine priorities.

**Table 10.1**  
**Point Rankings of Park Needs**

Park Type	LOS	Survey	Use Patterns	Additional Factors	Total	Average
Regional	5	5	5	5	20	5
Community	5	3	3	3	14	3.5
Neighborhood	5	3	3	1	12	3
Open Space	1	5	3	5	14	3.5

**Point rankings of park needs:** According to the analysis, there is a high level of need for increasing the LOS of regional parks in Skagit County. There is a moderate to high need for community parks and open space. Neighborhood park rankings indicate a moderate need. Open Space acquisition may become of further importance if land currently listed as open space becomes developed.

### **REGIONAL PARKS**

**Average Score: 5.0**

**Level of Need: High**

Regional Parks are generally larger sites, that offer a variety of unique features or recreational experiences that serve the entire county population. These may include one-of-a-kind natural, cultural, or historic features, water access, or a concentration of facilities that can accommodate large-scale events.

**1) Level of Service:** The current LOS in Skagit County is 5.14 acres/1000 people and the LOS of the tri-county aggregate is 10.45 acres/1000 people. In acreage, the Skagit County Regional Park deficit calculates as 557 acres in 2003 and 755 acres in 2010. Northern State Recreation area would increase the county regional park system by over 200 acres and greatly reduce the anticipated 2010 LOS deficit. The addition of a community center, a park in the Bayview Subarea, and the Frailey Mountain Shooting/Training Range could further reduce the anticipated deficit.

**2) The Survey:** The survey shows a high level of need for regional park type by specifying needs which are generally accommodated by such a facility. This regional park need includes trails, shoreline access, boat launches, indoor recreation facilities, and ball courts/fields. The survey shows a clear need for a public recreation center and gymnasium space in a central location of Skagit County. Over 80% of the respondents reported a public recreation center was somewhat to extremely important to Skagit County inhabitants (Applied Research Northwest, 2003).

Respondents also stressed a high need for an aquatic facility. In an earlier survey, when survey respondents were asked to list their most desired recreational facilities or programs, five of the top

seven answers were programs/facilities provided at regional type parks. These desired facilities/programs included swimming pools, campgrounds, bike trails, and a recreation center (1998 Comprehensive Plan). These facilities would fit well within the definition of a Regional type park.

**3) Use Patterns:** Use patterns at current regional parks indicate a facility need in Skagit County to accommodate athletic fields, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, recreational vehicle camping units, and trails. Use Patterns at current Regional Parks leave obvious gaps in program offerings. Local gymnasiums are occupied to full capacity in the winter months, reducing program services for basketball and volleyball programs. This deficiency also limits SCPR's ability to obtain important revenues.

**4) Public Input and Other Factors:** The East Skagit community has stressed the importance of drawing tourists off of the Highway 20 scenic corridor. This would increase the economic benefit to Sedro-Woolley, Concrete and other communities along the North Cascades Highway. Tourists often drive the corridor on their way east of the mountains. Adding destinations on the west side of the mountains increases the amount of economic gain from an increased tourist base. A regional park could help an economy that suffered a setback when the timber industry declined during the 1970's and 1980's. Other contributing factors lead Parks Staff/Board to advocate strongly for a regional park which could accommodate indoor recreational facilities. The declining source of gymnasiums is creating a greater need with increasing populations and enrichment type recreational opportunities such as yoga and dance are becoming a greater demand by County residents.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

**Score: 3.5**

**Level of Need: Moderate+**

Community Parks are generally bigger than Neighborhood Parks, and host a larger number and type of ball fields, facilities and a variety of activities such as open space, BBQs and picnic areas for larger gatherings.

**1) Level of Service:** The current LOS of Skagit County Community Parks is .45 acres/1000 people. By comparison, the aggregate county LOS is .60 acres/1000 people. This leaves a 14 acre deficit in Skagit County for 2003 and a 46 acre deficit for 2010. Skagit County service levels are 25% below the aggregate.

**2) The survey:** The survey showed a moderate level of need for community parks by demonstrating needs for facilities/programs that are generally provided for at this type of park. Surveys have shown a strong need for multi purpose sports fields, racquet sport courts, playgrounds,

walking trails, picnic areas and other community park type accommodations (1998 Comprehensive Plan).

**3) Use Patterns:** Unincorporated urban growth areas are increasing a need for parks for relatively high-density areas. The Bayview Subarea has increased a need for services in that region of the county.

**4) Public Input and Other Factors:** The citizens of Skagit County are in need of parks within short driving distances of their homes. Community Parks are distributed poorly throughout the county leaving service inequality in several areas. The uneven distribution of Community Parks is an issue in areas which are deficient of facilities and/or programs.

## **OPEN SPACE**

**Score: 3.5**

**Level of Need: Moderate+**

Open Space Parks and Undeveloped Parks are identified as available for passive outdoor recreation, offering trails for viewing, parking, and other limited improvements. Open Space and undeveloped Parks often allow for passive recreation in the form of wildlife viewing via trails as well as day-use activities.

**1) Level of Service:** The aggregate LOS of comparable counties indicates current open space acreage in Skagit County is sufficient. These numbers may change as Skagit County develops land currently listed under open space.

**2) Survey:** The surveys show a strong desire to acquire open space lands in Skagit County. The most recent survey shows 79% of respondents advocating the acquisition of land.

**3) Use Patterns:** Open Space lands with trails are used consistently in Skagit County.

**4) Public Input and Other Factors:** Open Space Lands with dissecting trails serve an important need of Skagit County residents. Recent community support to purchase open space lands show how important open space acquisition is to county residents. The acquisition of open space lands in Skagit County has many avenues. Local non-profit agencies such as the San Juan Preservation Trust, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmlands, The Skagit Land Trust, and others have been involved with acquiring open Space Lands. Partnerships reduce or eliminate the burden of Skagit County taxpayers while still allowing Skagit County citizens to reap the benefits of the acquired open space lands. Because of these factors, SCPR staff and Board will carefully evaluate each potential acquisition as to the cost/benefits to County residents.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Score: 3.0

Level of Need: Moderate

Neighborhood Parks are generally small, pedestrian oriented and situated to serve residents of an immediate area. Recreational activities may include both passive and active uses as well as multipurpose facilities such as basketball, tennis or play equipment. Passive uses include open play areas. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding neighborhood should be emphasized as a neighborhood park.

Neighborhood parks may also feature natural or conservation areas. Passive recreational development includes boardwalks, nature trails, picnicking facilities, shelters, park benches, picnic tables, environmental, cultural or historic interpretive facilities, and parking. Natural areas include streams, wetlands, forestlands, or even a unique natural feature. Such neighborhood parks may also function as a greenbelt or view shed on which there is no public access. Skagit County recognizes the provision of neighborhood parks ultimately being the responsibility of local cities.

**1) Level of Service:** The LOS shows Skagit County to be 3.2 acres deficient (>10%) in neighborhood park land in comparison to the aggregate service level. Although most county governments continue to have neighborhood parks within their inventories, most are not looking to add more. Municipalities are better situated to provide neighborhood parks than are counties.

**2) The Survey:** The survey shows Skagit County residents like playgrounds and a moderate need for neighborhood parks is warranted.

**3) Use Patterns:** Skagit County neighborhood parks are used moderately.

**4) Public Input and Other Factors:** SCPR recognizes that provision of neighborhood parks will ultimately be the responsibility of cities. SCPR is reluctant to add neighborhood parks to county inventories unless they can be accommodated within regional or community parks.

However, SCPR will remain receptive to helping guide small communities in developing neighborhood parks. A vehicle to assist citizens in Urban Growth Area's may be needed to obtain park land. Once UGA's have been annexed, the land and park construction would be the responsibility of the city.

## ANALYZING PROGRAM AND FACILITY NEEDS

Park types serve as the vessel for programs and facilities. For the purpose of analyzing program and facility needs, a similar formula used for measuring the need for "park type" was used for establishing more specific park needs. LOS comparisons for programs and facilities were

inventoried by the counties with which SCPR is making comparisons. Due to data insufficiencies in regards to comparable county service levels, SCPR ranks program/facility need by evaluating public input, use patterns and survey results.

**Table 10.2  
Point Rankings of Facility/Program Needs**

Facility Type	LOS	Survey	Use Patterns	Public Input	Total	Average
Boat Launches	N/A	5	5	5	15	5
Indoor Recreation Center	N/A	5	5	5	15	5
Non-motorized Trails	N/A	5	5	5	15	5
Public Shoreline	N/A	5	5	5	15	5
Regional Parks	5	5	5	5	20	5
Camping - RV and Tent	N/A	5	3	3	11	3.7
Group Picnic	N/A	3	3	5	11	3.7
Softball Fields	N/A	3	5	3	11	3.7
Community Parks	5	3	3	3	14	3.5
Swimming Pools	N/A	5	5	3	13	4.3
Open Space	1	3	3	5	12	3
Shooting/Training Facility	N/A	1	5	3	9	3
Neighborhood Parks	3	3	3	1	10	2.5
Adult/Junior Soccer Fields	N/A	3	1	3	7	2.3
Motorized Trails	N/A	1	3	3	7	2.3
Equestrian	N/A	3	1	3	7	2.3
Senior Baseball Fields	N/A	3	3	1	7	2.3
Youth Baseball Fields	N/A	5	1	1	7	2.3
Youth Soccer Fields	N/A	3	1	3	7	2.3
Football Fields	N/A	1	3	1	5	1.7
Golf Course	N/A	1	3	1	5	1.7
Skateboard Parks	N/A	1	1	1	3	1

**Senior Baseball Fields Score Derivation**

1. **Survey:** Survey respondents indicate a moderate long-term need for adding Senior Baseball fields.
2. **Use Patterns:** Skagit County currently provides three senior sized baseball fields. Allen and Burlington-Edison Regional Park (BERP) fields are used moderately because of their limitations. Allen is adequate only for practices and BERP, which is used primarily by Burlington School District, is closed in July for maintenance. Skagit Dream Field has a high use request but is somewhat limited because of the lack of field lights.

3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Field lights at the Skagit Dream field would increase the amount of use by extending operation time. Field needs will arise and should be provided in central locations. Municipalities have traditionally been the major providers of baseball facilities.

#### **Youth Baseball Fields Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Indicate a continual need for additional youth baseball fields.
2. **Use patterns:** The needs are being adequately met in Skagit County.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Little League size fields are traditionally provided for by municipal park departments.

#### **Softball Field Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** surveys indicate a moderate need for additional softball fields in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** The Skagit Valley Playfields are a regional draw for league play and tournaments. The fields are used to capacity the summer months. The number of leagues and teams are showing trends of increase.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** The five softball fields planned at NSRA would ease the pressure at SVP and satisfy a need for additional softball fields. SCPR is a primary provider for regional softball tournaments and league play.

#### **Adult/Junior Soccer Field Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Soccer field surveys indicate a moderate to high need.
2. **Use Patterns:** SCPR currently runs four soccer camps. The current supply of soccer fields is adequately accommodating the demand. Burlington recently added several fields which satisfied a prior deficiency.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Although soccer fields are relatively abundant, a field with spectator seating and lights has been requested by soccer enthusiasts. There is quite a bit of support at public meetings for soccer fields. Also, compared to baseball fields, soccer fields are relatively inexpensive to provide. Hispanics are the largest growing ethnic group in Skagit County. Soccer is popular with the Hispanic population and demand increases as their local numbers increase.

#### **Youth Soccer field Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Soccer field needs rated moderately in the surveys.
2. **Use Patterns:** The current number of soccer fields is adequately satisfying the need in Skagit County.

3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Although soccer fields are relatively abundant, a field with spectator seating and lights has been requested by soccer enthusiasts. There is quite a bit of support at public meetings for soccer fields. Also, soccer fields are relatively inexpensive to provide. Municipalities have traditionally been the local providers of soccer fields.

### **Football Fields Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys have shown no or little indication of a need for a SCPR provided football field.
2. **Use Patterns:** Practice fields with goalposts are in demand. The game fields are adequately meeting the needs of County residents though no one facility is of high school “playoff” caliber. In 1999, the Mount Vernon School District attempted to link with SCPR and other county school districts to build a county-wide football stadium. The plan was tabled due to a lack of support from the other schools.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** The grandstands at some game fields are in need upgrades. Football Fields are being provided by the School Districts. Recreational football is generally not played beyond the high school level. SCPR has provided a flag football program with moderate success.

### **Camping: RV and Tent Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys point to a consistent desire for additional full hook-up campgrounds in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** There is a deficiency in the amount of sites in Skagit County, but this deficiency is mitigated by the amount of primitive camping opportunities there are in the thousands of acres federally/state managed lands in Skagit County. RV and cabin camping are one of the faster growing recreational demands in Washington State (SCORP 2002). Currently, Skagit County provides no camping cabins, yurts, or any other fully enclosed fully camping units. There is a need for adequate camping facilities at Lake Shannon to accommodate anglers. Camping arrangements at Lake Shannon are deficient.
3. **Public Input and Other factors:** Although there is an abundance of primitive camping opportunities, RV camping is less available. Also, ready-made facilities such as yurts and camping cabins are being provided for in neighboring counties with great success. Campgrounds provide more than just recreational opportunities. They also attract tourism and help the local economies. Camping opportunities situated along the Highway 20 corridor attract tourists who may otherwise make a non-stop trip through Skagit County on their way to the east side of the mountains.

### **Day-Use/Group Picnic Areas Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys indicate a moderate desire for group picnic areas.
2. **Use Patterns:** There are 18 group picnic areas in Skagit County. Skagit County operates three which are often reserved to capacity during the summer.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** The residents of Skagit County like to see picnic shelters as a part of their regional and community park facilities. There is also a need for shelters with “kitchen type” cooking capabilities. The growing Hispanic population is increasing the need for picnic shelters.

### **Motorized Trails Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys show a low need for motorized trails.
2. **Use Patterns:** Motorized trails are available in The Anacortes Community Forest Lands and Walker Valley. The current trails adequately provide for the users. Motorcycle use is declining over the past ten years (SCORP 2002). The SCPR grooming program grooms for winter recreational enthusiasts. The primary beneficiaries of the grooming are snow-mobilists although cross-country skiers and snow shoers also use the groomed trails. The program adequately fulfills the needs of these recreationalists.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Walker Valley shut down trails for motorized use for part of 2003. If the trails are permanently closed to County residents, a void will be created and the County may need to find a way to help accommodate for this need. Motorcycle/ORV use is constrained by the availability of desirable land and facilities. Much of the public trail inventory, for example, is closed to motorcycle/ORV use. A state grant pays for the grooming program with grant monies coming from snowmobile licensing fees. Conflict between non-motorized and motorized users often arises and the two groups have asked for separate trail systems. Because monies come from snowmobile licensing fees, SCPR can only provide a shared system. The snowmobilists are interested in warming huts.

### **Non-motorized Trails Score Derivation**

1. **Survey Results:** The survey shows a strong desire for the addition of trails in Skagit County. The surveys consistently rate trail facilities as the highest need.
2. **Use Patterns:** Loop trail systems are the most popular form of recreation for County residents (Draggoo 1998). Trails provide opportunities for wildlife viewing s, bike riding, hiking, photography, walking pets, transportation, etc. Although existing trail systems are not over utilized and the number of trails in Skagit County is adequate, county residents enjoy a variety of trails to choose from.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Trails continue to be the number one park need of both Skagit County and Washington State residents. People like to have an array of trail choices

throughout the County. Linear Trails often provide connectivity from parks, towns, resources, and other locations. With adequate widths, they can also provide important wildlife corridors. Additional ADA trails are needed in Skagit County.

### **Boat Launch Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** surveys show a strong demand for additional boat ramps.
2. **Use Patterns:** There are a total of 35 boat launches in Skagit County. This includes river, lake, and saltwater ramps. Access is limited on many of the County lakes. Saltwater launching opportunities have improved since Skagit County renovated the Swinomish Site. River access is declining as many sites have become inoperable. The sites that do exist are distributed sporadically.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Puget Sound boating for fishing, wildlife viewing, and general pleasure is increasing in popularity statewide. As the state age trends move towards an older and retired population, the demand for this type of recreation is going to increase further. The San Juans are especially popular and launching sites can be used to capacity at peak season. River access is becoming scarce as previous sites are in poor condition, and improvements are difficult due to current permit requirements. Lake access is also declining as development around the lakes increase and access sites that were once thought to be public but were actually privately owned are becoming more restrictive.

### **Golf Course Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys show a low need for the addition of golf courses.
2. **Use Patterns:** Privately owned golf courses are used to full capacity four months of the year, used to approximately 50% capacity four months, and utilized under capacity for four months.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Golf courses are being adequately provided for by the private sector.

### **Public Shoreline Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** According to the Draggoo survey, the Padilla Bay Trail, a shoreline amenity, was the most visited county site. When survey respondents were given a choice of seven types of park areas, lake, river, and saltwater shoreline access finished first, second, and third respectively.
2. **Use Patterns:** Currently there are almost 50 miles of public shoreline in Skagit County. Of the fifty miles, about 30 are saltwater, 5 miles are lake, and 13 miles are River/Creek. Most of the public shoreline is in the western portion of Skagit County, and along the Skagit River

in the eastern portion of the County. There is a deficiency in the amount of public shoreline access in Skagit County, especially in regards to lakes and rivers

3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Overall, Skagit County participation in shoreline activities is about 6% higher than the Northwest average (Draggoo 1998). Shoreline access is a popular subject with workshop participants. During river fish are running, the SCPR department is inundated with phone calls and visits from concerned recreationalists about the deficiency in regards to river access.

### **Skateboard Parks Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** Surveys have shown a low need for skate park facilities.
2. **Use Patterns:** Mount Vernon, Burlington, LaConner, and Anacortes provide Skateboard parks for their youth. Sedro Woolley has a temporary skateboard park. The facilities adequately provide for those areas. There is a need for a permanent skateboard park in Sedro-Woolley. Skateboard Parks are generally best located around urban centers. A need in the unincorporated area has not been accounted for.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Since the municipalities have provided parks, SCPR has received very little public pressure to create skateboarding opportunities. Skagit County has provided support of skate board facilities by providing Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds towards their construction.

### **Swimming Pools Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** The survey shows a high desire for a large indoor pool with 79% residents indicating an indoor aquatic facility is needed “somewhat to a great deal”. All available surveys rank swimming as a preferred activity. Swimming is ranked within the top five preferred activities in all available surveys.
2. **Use Patterns:** A centrally located indoor swimming pool has been a long-term existing need in Skagit County. The Fidalgo Pool in Anacortes is not accessible to users in the central and eastern portions of the county. The YMCA Pool in Mount Vernon is used by three high school swim teams and has programs starting at 5am and going until 9pm daily. Current participation in swimming is about 35% lower than other regions surveyed. Much of the difference is likely due to the lack of facilities.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** The YMCA Pool was built many years ago and is aging rapidly. Other pools are privately owned or require monthly memberships. The state SCORP shows swimming to be the second most popular participant sport. Swimming pools are often forced to depend on levies and history shows a fluctuation in community support.

### **Indoor Recreation Center Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** The survey consistently indicates a strong desire for an indoor recreation center with a multi purpose room. Over 80% of respondents reported that a public recreation center was somewhat to extremely important to Skagit County inhabitants. Respondents expressed interest in attending youth activity & enrichment classes offered at a proposed indoor recreation facility.
2. **Use Patterns:** There are currently no indoor recreation centers in Skagit County. Gymnasium space is used to full capacity and the lack of space has limited SCPR's ability to run basketball and volleyball programs at desired levels. The ability to provide for enrichment programs is also very limited. Historical partnerships between the County and local school districts have provided the majority of enrichment opportunities to Skagit County youth. However, access to school facilities has become more limited due to the County's growing population and the increased scheduling constraints of the facilities.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** The gymnasiums that currently exist for county programs are in disrepair and many participants are dropping off because of this. A recreation center with multi purpose rooms would provide space for enrichment programs when schools are not available. Workshops and meetings indicate a strong desire for an indoor community center. A regional space for basketball/volleyball tournaments would establish Skagit County as a destination and assist the economy. The longstanding 8 week enrichment program known as Best SELF has been reduced to a 7 week program offering due in large to the need for facility and school year faculty preparation time. Parent comments have most notably inquired about the availability of a longer program that offers services for the entire summer. Without facility space Skagit County Parks has been unable to respond to this need.

### **Shooting/Training Facility Score Derivation**

1. **Surveys:** The surveys indicate a low need for a shooting/training facility in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** SCORP shows that 6.1 percent of the Washington State population participates in shooting/hunting. These percentages are generally much higher in rural counties. Without a safe public facility for shooting/training, many County residents are forced to use private timberlands and quarries, public open space, and residential properties to accommodate their recreational interest.
3. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Local law enforcement has an interest in the establishment of a training facility in Skagit County. A shooting range may help alleviate safety concerns that currently exist as local gun enthusiasts practice their sport in unsanctioned areas.